



IMPORTANT TROOP INFORMATION FOR NEW SCOUTS

Welcome to DeWitt Boy Scout Troop 77. The following information is intended to provide you, the parents, with a working knowledge of the troop. Please feel free to contact an adult leader if you have questions or concerns.

1. THE AIMS OF SCOUTING

The Scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "Aims of Scouting." They are character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. Specifically, the Boy Scouts of America endeavors to develop American citizens who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit; have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness; have personal values based on religious concepts; have the desire and skills to help others; understand the principles of the American social, economic, and governmental systems; are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand our nation's role in the world; have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people; and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to American society.

2. THE METHODS OF THE SCOUTING PROGRAM

The methods by which the aims are achieved are listed below in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each.

Ideals: The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. The Boy Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and, as he reaches for them, he has some control over what and who he becomes.

Patrols: The patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in-group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

Outdoor Programs: Boy scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and humankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Boy Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Advancement: Boy scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

Personal Growth: As Boy Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is so successful in developing a basis for personal



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growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Boy Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development: The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Uniform: The uniform makes the Boy Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Boy Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Boy Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth that believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Boy Scout activities and provides a way for Boy Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

3. MEETINGS

3.1. Troop

Meeting Day: First 3 Wednesdays of the month (September – June)
Meeting Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Meeting Location: Memorial Building
Troop Sponsor: DeWitt Lions Club

3.2. Required meeting items

Uniform
Boy Scout Handbook
Pencil & paper

3.3. Committee

The committee is a support organization for troop activities. The Troop Committee consists of Committee Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Fundraising Chairman, and registered adult leaders.

Meetings are held the last Wednesday of September, November, January, March, and May. All adults are welcome to attend these meetings. Only registered committee members may vote, but anyone may express an opinion.

4. UNIFORM

Troop 77 encourages a complete uniform. The Scout will receive a blue neckerchief (after obtaining the rank of Tenderfoot) and patrol emblem from the troop. The BSA khaki shirt is essential and should be worn to all meetings and activities unless otherwise instructed. Green BSA shorts and/or pants are available and should be purchased new or used as soon as possible. Please refer to the Boy Scout Handbook for more information on uniform items and placement of insignia.

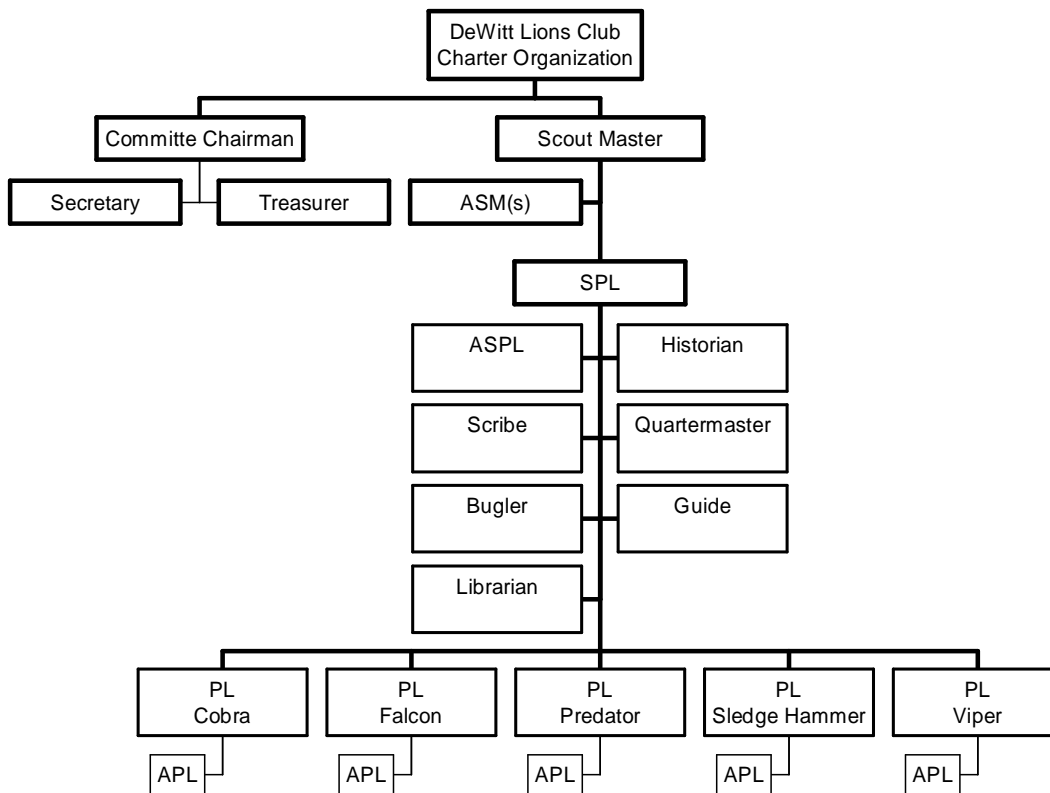


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5. TROOP STRUCTURE

A Boy Scout troop is made up of patrols of six (6) to ten (10) boys led by a senior Scout who is the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) aids him. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters help oversee troop meetings. The Scouts in the troop elect the SPL. He chooses the ASPL. Each patrol also elects a Patrol Leader (PL). Other leadership positions your son may hold are: Troop Scribe, Historian, Quartermaster, Librarian, Chaplain's Aide, and Bugler. He may also decide to work with a Cub Scout Pack as a Den Chief. The SPL, ASPL, Scribe, Patrol leaders, and Assistant patrol leader meet the last Wednesday of the month in October, December, February & April to plan the troop meetings and campouts. There are also short meetings following the weekly meetings to discuss how things went.

Each May there is a planning meeting to set the calendar for the next 12 months beginning in September. All scouts and parents are invited to participate to help setup this calendar.



NOTE: Assistant patrol leader is not considered a leadership position for purposes of advancement.



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6. DUES

\$60 per year, payable in October of the new scouting year. The money helps to cover the cost of a Troop 77 "Class B" T-shirt and Troop 77 hat, registration, insurance, advancement awards, activity badges, and basic operating supplies for the troop. The Scout will receive an annual membership card from Boy Scouts of America (BSA) through the Chief Okemos Council, and a newsletter, and Boy's Life, BSA's official Scouting magazine.

7. FUNDRAISERS

Several groups are responsible for supporting Boy Scouting: the boy and his parents, the troop, and the chartered organization. The Boys are encouraged to earn money whenever possible to pay their expenses. The Troop obtains additional income by working on approved money-earning projects. When these are held, you will be notified ahead of time and asked to participate with your son. Funds raised are used to help fund Summer Camp, Troop supplies (like tents), and other troop activities.

8. CAMPING:

Troop 77 goes camping approximately once a month. We will provide cooking utensils, stoves, lanterns, etc. Tent/sleeping arrangements are scheduled at the troop meeting prior to a campout. A small fee covers the cost of food and the campsite or cabin.

The Scout must provide:

- Signed permission slip (provided prior to the activity)
- BSA Class 1 Personal Health and Medical History Health Form
- Scout Handbook
- Sleeping bag
- Backpack or duffel bag
- Mess kit with a knife, fork & spoon
- See page 224 in the Scout Handbook for a complete list of items.

Occasionally, you may be asked to help provide transportation or be available as the emergency contact for a campout or other Troop activity. You may transport only the number of Scouts for which you have seatbelts.

9. SUMMER CAMP:

This is an annual event. Troop 77 normally attends a week of summer camp during the end of June or beginning of July. Funding is through fundraising events and/or monthly deposit to the Troop Treasurer. Camp is six nights long (starts on Sunday, ends on Saturday). Activities include crafts, swimming, rank advancement, merit badges, and optional boating or high adventure (usually for older Scouts). The location is determined each year.

Each Scout must have BSA Class 3 Personal Health and Medical Record Health Form completed and on file with the troop. The physical examination is good for three years, but should be reviewed annually for any changes/corrections.

10. ADVANCEMENT:

All requirements for advancement are tracked using the Boy Scout Handbook. The information is then maintained by the Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM) in charge of Advancement. The Scout must bring his handbook, paper, and pencil to all meetings and activities in order for



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requirements to be initialed and dated ("Be Prepared"). Advancement cards, received upon completion of requirements for rank and for merit badges, should be kept in a binder or other safe place. These can be used to recreate a record of advancement.

Scouts start by earning the Scout rank. The requirements can be found on page 4 of the Boy Scout Handbook. These skills must be demonstrated to the Scoutmaster (SM) or Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM) who will then initial and date the Scout's handbook. The initials or signature and date are required for the badge to be awarded. Many new Scouts, who have earned the Arrow of Light as a Webelos Cub Scout, can complete these requirements within the first few meetings.

The ranks of Tenderfoot Scout, Second Class Scout, and First Class Scout require skills learned at campouts, hikes, and troop meetings, and service hours (given to the community or religious institution). Please ensure all service hours are documented if not done as a Troop activity. The SM or ASM will initial and date requirements as they are completed. A Scout may work on the requirements for all three ranks in any order, but will receive the ranks in order (i.e., Tenderfoot before Second Class, Second Class before First Class).

The last two requirements for each of these ranks are a Scoutmaster's Conference and Board of Review. At the Scoutmaster's Conference, the Scout and SM review the requirements for that rank and any previous ranks. If the SM feels confident that the Scout demonstrates the knowledge and skills required, he will initial and date the handbook and arrange for a Board of Review for the following meeting.

The Board of Review consists of a minimum of three adults. The SM, ASM, and the Scout's parents can not be on the Board. The Scout must present himself in a neat, clean uniform (as complete as possible) and have his handbook. The Board will ask him questions about Scouting, the troop, activities he has attended, and advancement requirements pertaining to the rank he is completing. The Board announces the results to the Scout and SM after conferring. All awards, including rank and merit badges, are presented at the meeting following completion of the requirements or the next Court of Honor. A Court of Honor is held once or twice a year. Recognition is given for advancement and any special awards that have been earned.

11. SERVICE

Service to others has been a hallmark of the Boy Scouts of America since its beginning. Good turns and service projects involving the troop and patrols will encourage each scout to seek ways to help others. Periodically, the troop will organize a service project to help our community. Each scout is expected to help out whenever they can. In addition, each scout will have the opportunity to help another scout who is working toward the rank of Eagle. For Eagle a scout must plan, develop, and provide leadership to others in a service project that benefits the environment, community, or a religious group, school, or other worthy group.

12. MERIT BADGES

12.1. Counselors

Counselors are adults who work with Scouts individually or in-groups to learn skills and obtain knowledge in a specific area. After completing the requirements for a particular Merit Badge, the Scout receives a badge, which is worn on his Merit Badge Sash, and a card, which should be retained as proof of completion of the requirements. There is no registration fee to register as a Merit Badge Counselor.



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12.2. Working on Merit Badges

Once the rank of Scout has been earned, the boy may begin working on Merit Badges. A list of all available merit badges is near the back of the Boy Scout Handbook. Requirements are updated as pamphlets are revised. These up-to-date requirements are available in one book that is published every two or three years.

Work on a merit badge may be done at troop meetings, in a group outside meetings, on an individual basis, or at summer camp. All badges require a Merit Badge Counselor. The troop maintains a complete list of available counselors. Please ask the Advancement Chairman to see these lists when looking for a counselor outside the troop. No more than four merit badges should be earned from any one counselor.

When working as an individual with a Merit Badge Counselor, another person must be present to protect the Scout and the Counselor. This can be another Scout, a parent, friend, or sibling.

An Application for Merit Badge (Blue Card) must be obtained, personal information completed, and a SM or ASM signature included prior to working on the Merit Badge. The Blue Card is presented to the Merit Badge Counselor at the first meeting. Upon completion of the requirements, the counselor initials and dates each one. When all requirements have been finished, the counselor will sign and date the card and return it to the Scout. The card is then given to the SM at the next meeting. He should list it in the Scout's handbook (used for senior ranks: Star, Life, and Eagle), and initial and date that requirement. The Advancement Chairman will then process the blue card and obtain the merit badge. The scout's portion of the blue card and the badge will be presented at the next meeting or Court of Honor.

Requirements for the ranks of Star Scout, Life Scout, and Eagle Scout are listed near the back of the Boy Scout Handbook, just before the Merit Badge Listing. A more detailed packet is given to the Scout before working on the Eagle requirements.

13. CODE OF CONDUCT

Along with the opportunities that scouting offers comes to each Scout the obligation to conduct himself during troop meetings and activities in a manner that is consistent with the characteristics called for in the Scout Law. Among other expectations of the Scout will be a display by him of courtesy and helpfulness to others and obedience to Junior and Adult Leadership. Also, compliance with safety and troop operation rules will be emphasized and required.

Parents are encouraged to remind their Scouts that his behavior during scouting activities will reflect on his Patrol, Troop, his family and all who contribute their time and attention in support of the Troop. If a Scout finds he is unable to obey the Scout Law during Troop Meetings and activities, his parents will be notified and expected to pick him up at the activity location. His opportunities to participate in future activities will be restricted and require a Parent meeting prior to attending any further troop activities.

14. WEB SITE

Troop 77 maintains a website to distribute information about meetings, fundraising activities, service project and campouts. Forms such as permission slips, order forms, health forms and waivers can be found on the web site as well.

Web site: <http://www.leaguelineup.com/troop77dewitt>