

# TROOP 22 PARENT HANDBOOK



# TROOP 22

## PARENTS' HANDBOOK

Boy Scout Troop 22  
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
 4141 Mormon Coulee Road  
 La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

### Meetings

Troop 22 Scouts meet every Tuesday night from 6:45 - 8:15 pm, from September to May. Some exceptions apply and are included in the calendar. If the La Crosse Public Schools are closed (snow day) on a Tuesday, then there will be no meeting that night.

The Troop Committee meets the first Monday of every month at 6:30 pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. All parents and interested adults are welcome.

Website: <http://www.troop22lacrosse.org/>

### Troop 22 Registered Leaders:

Position	Name	Phone	E-mail
Scoutmaster	Allan Johnson	(608) 788-6799	alboldlygo@centurytel.net
Committee Chairperson	William (Bill) Dunn	(608) 797-7636	brgs@charter.net
Treasurer	Aaron Holten	(608) 406-4404	aaron.holten@gmail.com
Advancement Chairperson	"NawT" (Kathy) Johnson	(608) 788-6799	nawtstamps@centurytel.net
Popcorn Chairperson	Jeff Richgels	(608) 784-3533	JJRichgels@centurytel.net
Assistant Scoutmaster	Richard Amundsen	(608) 787-5262	lcsd124@yahoo.com
Assistant Scoutmaster	Harvey H Geary	(608) 781-1015	deoneg@yahoo.com
Assistant Scoutmaster	John Geary	(608) 781-1015	loghlaim@gmail.com
Assistant Scoutmaster	Michael Kendhammer	(608) 788-6907	dillerdog1@centurytel.net
Assistant Scoutmaster	Troy Nedegaard	(608) 787-0805	tnedegaard@centurytel.net
Assistant Scoutmaster	Bob Paiva	(608) 767-4061	bobandjan@tds.net
Assistant Scoutmaster	Jim Paquette	(608) 782-0820	trihulljimp@aol.com
Assistant Scoutmaster	Paul Schutzkus	(608) 782-1265	pkschutz@centurytel.net
Committee Member	David Dahl	(608) 787-2474	lxwis2@gmail.com
Committee Member	Julie Dahl	(608) 788-8592	lxwis@centurytel.net
Committee Member	Gary Thurk	(608) 787-0651	garyt58@gmail.com
Webmaster	Gordon Powell	(608) 787-4386	lax_eagle@yahoo.com

## WELCOME !

Hi! Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 22. The leaders of the troop have prepared this handout as a way of introducing you and your son to the adventures of Boy Scouting. The leaders of the troop would like your son to get the most out of his Scouting adventure.

Troop 22 is part of the Seven Rivers District. There are three districts that make up the Gateway Area Council. They are Winding Trails, Soaring Eagle, and Seven Rivers. We are all part of over 1 million boys that make up the Boy Scouts of America. The Council has over 1500 adult volunteers, an executive board with over 50 members, and a professional and support staff who provide direction, guidance, and training.

Our council owns and operates Camp Decorah in Holmen, Wisconsin. We are able to provide an outstanding outdoor recreation and environmental education program for youth and adults.

The professional staff operates the Council Service Center and Scout Shop here in La Crosse, Wisconsin at 2600 Quarry Road (near Hixon Forest), 784-4040. The Scout Shop enables scouts and volunteers to purchase their scout equipment and uniform supplies in one convenient location.

Boy Scouting has three aims. They are: growth in moral strength and character, as found in the Scout Law; participator citizenship; and development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness (including the body {well-tuned and healthy}, the mind {able to think and solve problems}, and emotions {self-control, courage, and self-respect}). You can read more about these in your Troop's copy of "Troop Committee Handbook," or better yet, your sons' copy of "The Boy Scout Handbook."

### **Registration**

It is important that each scout fill out a Scout application when he joins the Troop. Until the application form is received along with his registration fee your son is not officially a member of the Troop and will not be able to attend any Troop functions. Please remember to fill out the health form on the back of the application.

Our Troop has been blessed. Our Chartering organization, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, provides us with an excellent place to conduct all of our meetings, and a place to store our equipment and troop trailer. We are very appreciative of the members of Good Shepherd, its Pastor, and staff for providing us with our meeting place and support for our Troop with some financial help and prayers.

### **Discipline**

Boys will be boys. Have you heard that one before? We don't expect them to be angels, but we do expect their behavior to be within the bounds of safety and good judgement. Unruly Scouts take away from the other Scouts and this simply isn't fair to the rest of the Troop. Our policy is that unruly Scouts are warned three times to correct the behavior. On the third time (or earlier if deemed necessary by a leader), the parent will be asked to come and pick him up. His parents must accompany him to the next meeting and/or event. Also, any use of alcohol, tobacco, or any sort of illegal drugs at Scouts is strictly prohibited. This policy was designed by the boys themselves, with the guidance of the Troop Committee and Scoutmaster. Remember:

A Scout is Friendly - no fighting.

A Scout is Trustworthy - no stealing.

A Scout is Courteous - disrespect to any Scout, adult leader, or parent is not tolerated.

## **Adult Leaders**

Troop 22 has been successful in delivering a quality program for many years. One of the reasons is the adult leadership--all volunteers. Being a leader is fun, challenging, and rewarding. You'll find your life enriched, so join the fun and fellowship. You have the opportunity to help make a difference.

The Troop Scoutmaster is the adult leader (male or female) responsible for the image and the program of the Troop. He will work to train and guide boy leaders, and work with responsible adults to bring Scouting to the boys. He will use the methods of Scouting, which he learned through Scoutmaster Fundamental Training, to achieve the aims of Scouting.

Assistant Scoutmasters (male or female) will assist the Scoutmaster to help the boys run the meetings/activities and work on advancements and merit badges. It is BSA policy that we have two leaders at every Boy Scout event. We will provide each patrol (small group of boys) with an advisor. BSA training (Scoutmaster Fundamentals) is recommended by the committee. There are opportunities for all adult leaders to take advantage of this training through our council.

The Troop Committee acts as a quality control unit for the troop. It steers projects like the annual popcorn sale fundraiser, Scouting for Food drive, and highway cleanup. It takes a lot of adults to keep a troop of our size going.

Positions on the Troop committee are Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Advancement, and Outdoor Activities Director or Quartermaster. We have BSA job descriptions for all.

We need parent involvement as committee members for rank advancement Boards of Review. These Board are composed of at least three and not more than six committee members, whose purpose is:

1. To make sure that the work the boy have been doing has been learned and completed.
2. To find out what kind of experience the boy is having in his patrol and the Troop.
3. To encourage the Scout to progress further.

Drivers are always needed for campouts and activities away from our meeting place. It is a Troop 22 policy that no Scout under the age of 21 may drive younger Scouts to activities. This policy was made for safety reasons.

We also need merit badge counselors. Look over the list of merit badges. If there is an area in which you have a special skill or interest, think about becoming a merit badge counselor. This can be a short time commitment. A brief training about youth protection is the only requirement to be a merit badge counselor.

## **The Basic Equipment**

**Scout Handbook:** Each Scout is required to have his personal copy of the Boy Scout Handbook. They are available at the Scout Shop. The scout handbook is modified and published every 4 years or so. The book needs to be changed because requirements change with time. The National BSA makes changes to requirements to fit our current society and to keep up with new technology, but attempts to keep the basic fundamentals of scouting. It is best to have a current handbook, but a book purchased when a boy joins scouts will usually suffice, understanding that some requirements may change as the scout advances and ages.

Scout Uniform: Every Scout is required to wear a Boy Scout shirt. You may purchase one at the Scout shop, or look for them at yard sales. Older scouts may have ones they have outgrown, so ask another parent. Once your Scout has earned merit badges, he will need a sash (the larger size will allow for his growth) to display them on. The rest of the uniform (pants, shorts, socks, belt, hat, etc.) is optional. We promote pride in the uniform and everyone is encouraged to dress appropriately. A uniform shirt, worn untucked, is not considered respectful of the uniform or scouting.

Troop 22 is unique in our uniform requirements. We are one of very few troops who does not have a scarf or neckerchief as part of its uniform requirements.

Camping Gear: Fun in Scouting means a lot of camping, and we do. There is a list of suggested camping gear in the Boy Scout Handbook. Your Scout won't need a lot of expensive stuff. Much can be found around the house, but he will need to be prepared. There are many useful items that can be given for birthdays and Christmas. Also, please make sure his name is clearly marked on all equipment.

### **Medical Issues**

Physicals: Your Scout will need a physical every year, which must be completed on the Boy Scouts of America medical form (available on our website). Take a copy with when he gets his school physicals. The Scoutmaster keeps a copy on file for any medical emergencies which may arise during outings or meetings. All adults require physicals that are less than one year old if they attend (sleep over) at summer camp. The same form is used for adults.

Medications: If your son is on any type of medication when we go on a Troop outing, the container needs to be labeled with his name and proper dosage instructions and given to the Scoutmaster or designated adult. While at summer camp, the camp medic collects the medications. The boys need to go to the designated area for them to be dispensed.

Parents please fill in allergies, or special instructions. Remember, campouts are usually away from the cities. Forgotten medications, especially inhalers, can be critical.

Please do not decide to change medications or decide to cut back on medications before an outing or summer camp, unless it is necessary and is recommended by your doctor. Be sure to inform the scoutmaster of any changes in medication that may affect your son's attitude, performance or well being at an outing or activity.

### **Activities**

We have several traditional activities, such as summer camp, and service projects for the community, like Scouting for Food and Highway Clean-Up. We also provide for at least ten separate troop/patrol activities, which are required for the first three scout rank advancements. Our meeting activities are decided on by the Scouts as part of their patrol. There are many camping opportunities. It is a must that the scouts learn the skills in their rank advancement so we can have safe and fun activities.

### **Camping**

The Troop provides basic equipment (tents, cook stove, and when necessary, a general cook box, with pots, pans, and cooking utensils) which needs to be returned cleaned and in good working condition following each camping event.

Menus for campouts are made by the boys in their patrols and approved by their adult advisor. It is up to designated scouts to purchase the food for their patrol. They will be given an allowance by the treasurer and need to bring the receipt to the Treasurer.

We discourage the boys from bringing additional snacks (especially candy and pop) on campouts for two reasons: it takes up valuable space and attracts animals. The patrol will plan for enough food and drink for everyone. The troop also has a box with basic food staples, including peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, and any extra non-perishable food left over from previous campouts.

Please no battery operated video-type games, ipods, MP3 players or Cell phones except when approved prior to the campout. The Troop takes no liability of any personal gear that is brought on campouts by Scouts. If a scout brings an un-approved electronic device to an outing or summer camp, he may be subject to discipline.

Lastly, we always leave for campouts and return wearing our Class A uniforms.

### **Scout Advancement**

There are seven ranks of advancement in Scouting: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. Each has its challenges and requirements. As a Scout masters the individual skills for each rank, he qualifies for even more exciting activities and adventures. We celebrate this with him at the next Court of Honor.

Over 100 merit badges are available. Some are required for rank advancement, while others are elective. When the Scout is ready, the Scoutmaster will sign the blue merit badge card giving the Scout permission to begin work on the badge. We have a list of approved merit badge counselors.

It is at the Courts of Honor that the Troop publicly recognizes the Scout for his advancements of the last few months. Parents are invited and encouraged to come. They are usually held in the Mattes Center at Good Shepherd, with fellowship and refreshments following. The Scout comes in uniform, wearing his merit badge sash.

8-27-2000

### **A message to Parents from a parent**

The Boy Scout emphasis is on the Scouts being their own leaders, with guidance from adults. We have a good group of adults. Each adult leader signed a volunteer form, and was approved by the Troop Committee, Chartered Organization head, and your District Executive. We are all volunteers and have pledged to do our best. Please join us in whatever capacity you can.

If you were a Cub Scout leader you are familiar with Scouting in general. In Boy Scouts the emphasis is now on the boy taking the initiative. The Scouts are basically responsible for the program. He's now starting to work independent of his parents. You can't do the work for him but you can help him do it for him. Encourage your son to keep himself organized and his records up to date. His Scout Handbook should go with him to every meeting and campout. He will be asked to bring his book to Board of Reviews.

Well, we've covered a lot of ground here, but really we've only just begun. Come join us for one of the greatest adventures around. This is a time in yours and your sons' life that will never be able to be repeated. Watching and assisting them in learning new skills, seeing them face and master new challenges, deciding what is important for himself, and growing in moral strength and character, this is the legacy we wish to pass on.

Sue Larson, Former Committee Chairman

3/31/99

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