



Boy Scout Troop 173
Yorktown Heights, NY



New Parent Guide



Troop 173 Yorktown Heights is sponsored by our chartered organization

St. Patrick's Church

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Yorktown Heights, NY 10589

<http://www.Troop173-yorktown.org/>

Troop 173 Yorktown Heights

Manitoga District

Westchester-Putnam Council

Boy Scouts of America

Westchester-Putnam Council
Boy Scouts of America



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Welcome to Troop 173!

Welcome to the Scouting family where we help enrich the lives of boys and endeavor to make a positive impact in the kind of men they become. By becoming a parent of a Boy Scout, you are setting your son out on the grand adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him.

Mission of the Boy Scouts of America

Since 1910, it has been the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people in order to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

The Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country, obey the Scout Law; help other people at all times; and keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

The Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Aims and Methods of Boy Scouting

A Boy Scout works toward three aims:

- Growth in moral character
- Participating citizenship, and
- Development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness

Scouting uses the following 8 methods to accomplish these aims:

- **Ideals** - The ideals are spelled out in the Scout Oath and Law
- **Patrols** - Teaches group living and participating citizenship
- **Outdoors** - Place where Scouts learn to live with each other and share responsibilities
- **Advancement** - Overcoming challenges and helping a boy gain self confidence, self reliance and the ability to help others
- **Adult Association** - Scouts will learn from examples set by their adult leaders
- **Personal Growth** - A Scout works toward his goals through a "Good Turn Daily" and participating in service projects. The religious emblem program is part of his development.
- **Leadership Development** - Each Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared leadership and total leadership situations.
- **Uniform** - The uniform makes a Scout Troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community and shows his commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting.

Goals of Troop 173

Troop 173 is dedicated to fulfilling the Mission of the Boy Scouts of America by providing a safe and fun program of service to the community, leadership development, and outdoor adventure to its youth members, based on the values contained in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Using the Patrol Method of organization, the Troop is “boy run” with adult Scouters serving as coaches and advisors.

What Does a Scout Do in Troop 173?

There are several different types of activities the Troop participates in throughout the year. A note about adult supervision - at least two registered adult leaders, or one adult leader and a Scout parent, one of whom must be at least 21 years of age, are present at all Troop meetings, trips or outings. This is a Boy Scouts of America requirement.

Meetings – Troop, Patrol Leaders’ Council and Patrol

Troop Meeting: Each week the entire Troop gathers for a Troop Meeting. The Troop Meeting is held every Monday, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The Troop Meeting is held at the St. Patrick’s School gym.

At the weekly Troop Meeting Scouts work on rank advancement, Scout skills and prepare for outdoor activities.

The first Monday of the month’s meeting is called “fun night.” The meeting starts with a brief news update followed by adult supervised games such as basketball, dodge ball or other games as determined by the Scouts.

Weekly Troop Meetings are not held during the summer break.

Patrol Leaders Council: Each month the Patrol Leaders’ Council meets with the Scoutmaster to plan the next month’s Troop Meetings, events and review past meetings and events. The Patrol Leaders Council is made up of the Patrol Leaders and lead by the Senior Patrol Leader.

Patrol Meeting: Each Patrol should be meeting outside of Troop Meetings. At a patrol meeting the members of the patrol prepare for upcoming events, review past events and also simply get together to have some fun.

Campouts and Activities

September through June, each month features a weekend campout or other activity. The Troop camps at our home camp, The Agatha Durland Scout Reservation at Clear Lake in Putnam County, NY. The camp is often referred to as Durland or Clear Lake. In addition to camping at Durland the Troop takes advantage of the camping the region has to offer and camps at other Boy Scout Camps, County Parks and State Parks.

Service Projects

In addition to weekly meetings and monthly activities, Troop 173 Scouts develop a sense of citizenship and strengthen their community by participating in special Service Projects throughout the year.

Courts of Honor

Troop 173 conducts a Court of Honor four times a year to recognize Scout advancements and awards. The Court of Honor is a public ceremony, and is a chance for the Scouts to be recognized for their achievements. Families and all other interested individuals are strongly encouraged to attend.

Summer Camp

The Troop spends one or two weeks at summer camp each year, with many Scouts opting for an additional week with a provisional Troop. Generally, the Troop spends the first week in July at Henderson Scout Reservation, Otschodela Council (located near Cooperstown, NY) and a mid August week at Curtis Read Scout Reservation, Westchester Putnam Council (located near Lake George, NY). Links to the websites for these Scout camps are on the Troop 173 website.

Camp runs from Sunday to Saturday. Space is limited in the camp, and advance sign-up is mandatory, with total camp fees (approximately \$ 250-350 per Scout per week) due around March 1st. Meals are included in this fee (but snacks are not). Each Scout is responsible for his own transportation to and from the camp. Needs-based financial assistance is available.

In addition to the standard Summer Camps weeks mentioned above the Troop participates in High Adventure weeks (Florida Sea Base, Cape Cod Trek, Adirondack Canoe Trek) or special events like the National Scout Jamboree.

The emphasis in summer camp is fun and fun. Scouts typically sign to work on merit badges, and attend daily classes, with evening homework, to complete the badges by week's end. First year Scouts typically focus on basic camping skills, including cooking, wilderness survival, and craft merit badges. Experienced Scouts focus on waterfront and other outdoor badges as well as high adventure activities. If a badge has requirements that cannot be done in the week at camp, Scouts are strongly encouraged to complete those requirements in advance of arrival at camp. Initial merit badge signups take place in March for Henderson and April for Read.

The Troop looks for parental support during part or all of the camp weeks. A minimum of three adults (two being registered leaders) are needed for each week at camp.

Fundraising

Additional funds are raised by the boys through various fundraising activities. The Troop plans to do two to three major fundraising projects a year. Fundraisers are designed to supplement the annual dues to allow the Troop to meet its budget. All Scouts are expected to participate in the fundraisers, since all Scouts benefit from the funds.

Costs

How much does Boy Scouting cost? The annual registration fee is a nominal fee paid each fall to officially enroll the Scout in the local Troop and the National Boy Scouts of America organization. Other costs through the course of Scouting include fees for special activities and uniform purchases.

Annual Dues

The Annual Dues of \$75.00 for each Scout in Troop 173 is applied by the Troop toward:

- Registration for the Boy Scouts of America membership
- Boy Scouts of America Insurance
- Troop membership costs:
 - including badges
 - awards
 - Troop-supplied materials
 - equipment
 - adult leadership training
 - other operating expenses incurred by the Troop
- The annual *Boys Life* magazine subscription. *Boys' Life* is a monthly magazine popular with Scouts, and filled with ideas for activities and outings. Subscriptions are processed with the annual registration.

Fees for Outings / Activities

Fees for Outings / Activities – varies. Here are some approximate costs of special events in a typical year:

Fees generally covered by the Troop:

- Monthly weekend campout - for food and supplies, \$7-10 per Scout/day
- Camporees - district-wide weekend events, \$10-\$15 per scout in addition to the food and supplies fee

Fees generally covered by the Scout:

- Summer Camp - one week at Camp Henderson, approximately \$250
- Summer Camp - one week at Camp Read, approximately \$350
- Read High Adventure Trek approximately \$350 - 850 plus Travel
- Special Weekend Campouts/Trips that are outside of our usual camping locations, approximately \$35 - \$65

Other than Summer Camp and Special Campouts/Trips, the Troop's Treasurer will generally reimburse reasonable fees/expenses incurred by the Scouts when participating in previously approved activities.

Uniform and Handbook

Each Scout is required to have the Boy Scout Handbook, and the Boy Scout Field Uniform (unofficially called the "Class A") items:

- Tan Boy Scout shirt with insignia and patches
- Boy Scout pants or shorts
- Boy Scout socks required with Scout shorts
- Boy Scout belt
- Neckerchief slide (can be purchased or made by Scout)
- Troop 173 neckerchief (Troop 173 provides each new Scout with a required Troop 173 neckerchief)
- Baseball-style Scout Caps are optional

As an optional uniform for Scouts the Activity Uniform (unofficially called the "Class B"):

- Current Troop 173 T-shirt with the Troop 173 emblem, available for purchase only from Troop 173.
- Scout pants or shorts
- Scout belt

In addition to the Troop 173 T-Shirt you may purchase a Troop 173 Hoodie Sweatshirt.

Organization

Troop 173 is part of the Manitoga District of the Westchester-Putnam Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop's organization consists of the Troop, a Chartered Organization, a Troop Committee, Uniformed Adult Leaders and the Troop's Parents.

The Troop

The Troop is a group made up of several Boy Scout patrols. Each Patrol usually consists of a Patrol Leader and four to eight Scouts. The boys in a patrol elect their Patrol Leader who in turn appoints the Assistant Patrol Leader.

The Patrol Leaders, with the Senior Patrol Leader as their head, form the Patrol Leaders' Council, which plans the activities and runs the Troop meetings.

Chartered Organization (Sponsor)

Every Troop is sponsored by an organization that receives a charter from the Boy Scouts of America, allowing that organization to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop. The Chartered Organization for Troop 173 is the St. Patrick's Church, Yorktown Heights, NY. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and insures that there is adequate, trained leadership. A Chartered Organization Representative acts as the liaison between Troop 173 and St. Patrick's Church.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee functions as an administration and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of non-program issues surrounding the Troop. For example: newsletters, Troop funds, fund raising activities, membership drives and Troop coordination, activity permits and coordination, advancement records, procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment. The Committee meets on the first Monday of the month.

Uniformed Adult Leaders

The Uniformed Adult Leaders are adult volunteers, usually parents of Scouts, who work directly with the Scouts. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters make up the Uniformed Adult Leaders. All Uniformed Adult Leader are expected to complete the formal *Scoutmaster & Assistant Scoutmaster Specific Training* course (conducted by the Westchester-Putnam Council)

Troop Parents

The role of parents within Troop 173 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. As with any volunteer youth organization, the Troop needs the active support of the Parents to be successful. If we have 30 Scouts in the Troop, we have 30 listings on the "job chart." These functions include Assistant Scoutmasters, merit badge counselors, fundraising committees, advancement committees and boards of review, and people to plan courts of honor, picnics, trips, etc. The list goes on. When your son joins the Troop, we will ask each family to volunteer for at least one job with the Troop. Also, each year in September, we will again ask for volunteers. Unless we get 100% support of the Parents, we will be unable to provide the quality Scouting programs that our sons deserve and may have to reduce the roster of active Scouts in the Troop.

There are two mandatory parent meetings where parents will meet with Troop Committee and Uniformed Adult Leaders. The first is in October with the primary purpose to review the Troop calendar for the coming year and the second in February for Friends of Scouting among other agenda items.

In addition to volunteering time to the Troop, Parents should:

- Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting;
- Actively follow their Scout's progress and offer encouragement and a push when needed;
- Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor;
- Be aware of the Troop Events Calendar.

Advancement

Scoutmaster Conference and Boards of Review

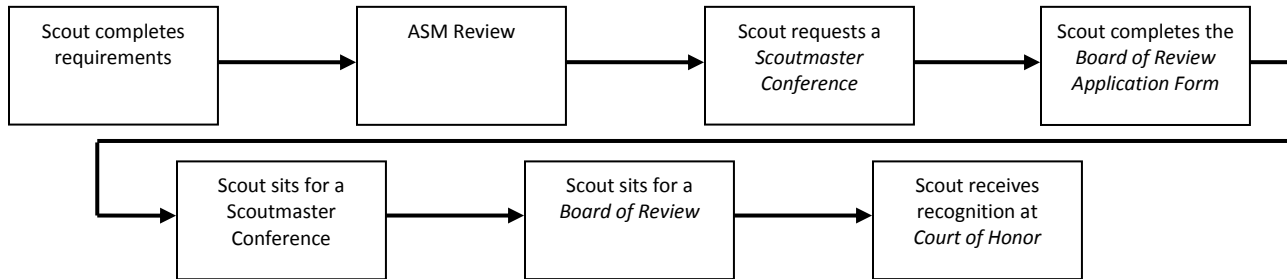
When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he must meet with an Assistant Scoutmaster or the Scoutmaster who will review the requirements with the Scout to ensure that all the requirements have been met. Thereafter, a Scout appears before a Board of Review composed of members of the Troop Committee and Scout parents. The purpose of the review is not an examination. Rather it is to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals; to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement, to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program, and to encourage him to keep working towards advancement. A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a boy about his lack of progress toward advancement.

Ranks

The Boy Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a Scout climbs at his own pace. As he acquires these skills he moves up through a series of ranks, for which he is awarded badges – Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks – and the more rewarding. Details for advancement are contained in the Boy Scout Handbook, which every Scout should obtain as soon as possible after joining the Troop. Take a look at Chapter 1. This short chapter has an advancement summary through First Class.

Rank Process Flowchart

There are a few steps a Scout must follow to be able to complete the Rank. Here at Troop 173 we've established a formal process for Rank progression. The following flowchart depicts this process.



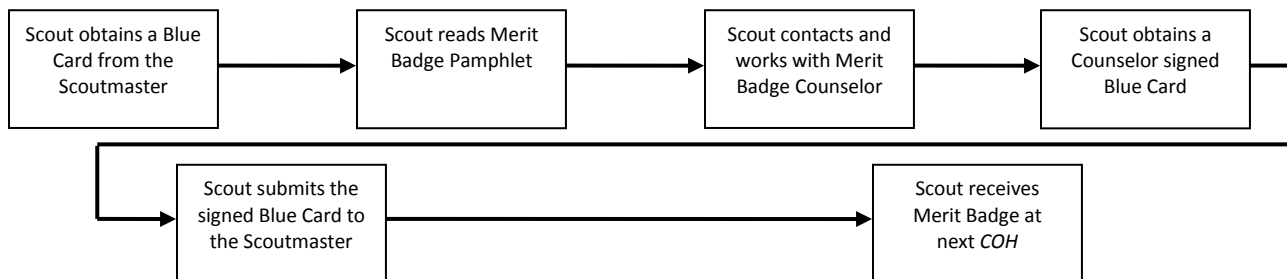
1. Scout completes all requirements for rank with the exception of:
 - *Demonstrate Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life. Discuss four specific examples of how you have lived the points of the Scout Law in your daily life.*
 - *Participate in a Scoutmaster Conference.*
 - *Complete your Board of Review*
 These will be completed later in this process.
2. Assistant Scoutmaster reviews handbook to confirm all requirements are signed off
3. Scout requests a *Scoutmaster Conference* from the Scoutmaster in advance of the next scheduled date. (See Troop Calendar for dates). ***(If this Scoutmaster Conference is for the SCOUT Rank then the process jumps to step 7)***
4. Scout completes the *Board of Review Application Form* for the rank he is pursuing. (See Troop website for the *Board of Review Application Forms*)
5. Scout sits for the Scoutmaster Conference in full Field (Class A) Uniform with completed *Board of Review Application Form*
6. After passing the Scoutmaster Conference the Scout will then sit for the next scheduled Board of Review in full Field (Class A) Uniform. (See Troop calendar for dates).
7. After passing the Board of Review the Scout has completed his rank. He may begin working on his next rank. The Scout will receive his Rank Badge at the next scheduled Court of Honor.

Merit Badges

The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a Scout's areas of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. A Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor earns merit badges. All parents of Scouts are encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors. Please fill in a Troop Resource Survey form (attached) and return it to a Troop Leader.

Merit Badge Process Flowchart

There are a few steps a Scout must follow to be able to complete a Merit Badge. Here at Troop 173 we've established a formal process for earning Merit Badges. The following flowchart depicts this process.



1. Scout identifies a Merit Badge he wishes to work on and request from the Scoutmaster a Blue Card to begin work. *(The Scoutmaster may not permit a Scout to work on a Merit Badge if the Scoutmaster believes the Scout is not prepared or ready to take on the Merit Badge at that time)*
2. Scout obtains and reads the Merit Badge Pamphlet for the Merit Badge he wishes to work on. Pamphlets may be in the Troop Library and are available for purchase from the Scout Shop or online at www.scoutstuff.org.
3. Scout contacts a Merit Badge Counselor and schedules time to meet. **The Scout must meet the counselor with a Buddy or Parent. Scouts are NEVER to meet a counselor alone, One-On-One.** Names and contact information for Merit Badge Counselors can be obtained from the Scoutmaster. *(For Summer Camp or Merit Badge Seminars the Counselor will be provided.)*
4. Scout completes all the requirements for the Merit Badge and demonstrates or presents completed work to the Merit Badge Counselor. Upon completion the Merit Badge Counselor will sign the Blue Card.
5. Scout presents the signed Blue Card to the Scoutmaster
6. Scout is presented his Merit Badge at the next Court of Honor

Troop Discipline Policy

Every Scout is expected to understand and comply with the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto, Scout Slogan, the Outdoor Code, and the policies of the Troop. Scouts having difficulty following these rules will be given an opportunity to correct their behavior. Counseling of Scouts will be based on the severity of the discipline violation. Additional occurrences will initiate another level of leadership to counsel the Scout about the problem.

Every effort is made to have the Scouts, through the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader resolve any conflict between Scouts or eliminate any unruly behavior by a Scout by counseling the Scout. In appropriate cases, the matter may be brought before the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster, or the Troop Committee. Multiple infractions by a Scout may result in removal from an event, loss of leadership position for all or part of the term, or for serious infractions or continued unruly behavior, suspension or expulsion from the Troop.

Additional Information

You can find additional information about Troop 173 by accessing our website which is located at <http://www.Troop173-yorktown.org>

St. Patrick's Church website is located at <http://www.stpatricks-yorktown.org/home.html>

Information on the activities of the Westchester-Putnam Council, BSA and Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation may be found at <http://www.wpcbsa.org/>

You can find more information regarding activities at Henderson Scout Reservation at <http://www.otschodela.org/boyscoutcamp/hendersonscoutreservation.htm>