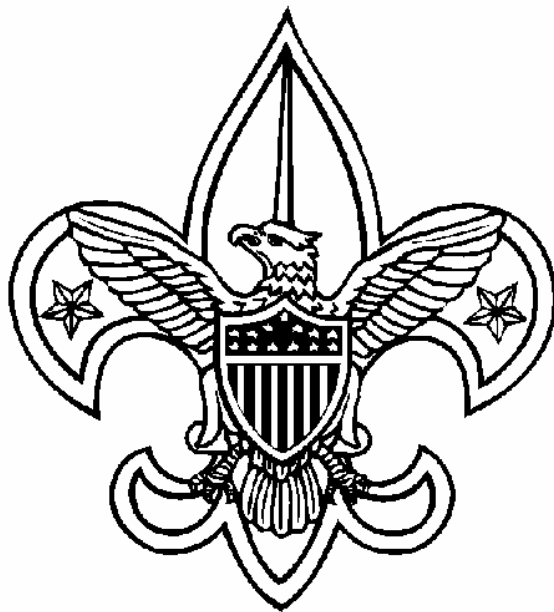


Troop 123



Information Packet

St. Michael's Church

Worthington

[http:// www.troop123.org](http://www.troop123.org)

Troop 123



Dear Parent and Scout;

I would like to welcome you to Troop 123 and the adventure of Boy Scouting. If your son is like most boys he is excited about joining the Troop and is looking forward to the camping and the Troop activities that are planned. This booklet was put together to help you and your son understand the rules and guidelines of Troop 123. Please sit down with your Scout and go over the rules.

Each year the Youth leadership of Troop 123, with adult guidance, put together the Troop calendar. This is the Troop's event schedule for the year. We try extremely hard to follow this and hope that your Scout will attend as many events as possible. It is through these events and Troop meetings that your Scout forms lasting friendships and begins learning about how to follow the Scout Law and how to lead. Your Scout will be part of a Patrol, which is lead by an older Scout. He will be asking your Scout to help his patrol and showing him the ways of Scouting. As your Scout grows he will be taking on more responsibility and larger jobs. Soon you will see your Scout advancing in rank, becoming a leader and showing new Scouts the ways of Scouting, just as he was shown. He will be given the opportunity to go to Summer Camp, special events, and Junior Leader Training. All of these activities are Fun and Exciting and will help your Scout on his trail to Eagle. Encourage your Scout to participate to the fullest and to have Fun.

How do you fit into this picture? With your encouragement and support your Scout will learn new skills, grow and become an Eagle Scout. Along the way he will show others what he has learned and give back to Scouting. We also need your skills. If you have any interest or skills from your occupation talent that would be beneficial to the Troop you could be a merit badge councilor or help with a meeting or campout. We always need adults to help out. It doesn't have to be as an Assistant Scoutmaster, we need adults in the background support positions too. Let anyone on the committee or myself know so that we may utilize as many resources within our group as possible. Your entire family is welcome at the Court of Honor ceremonies to see your son recognized for his achievements. We have these 4 times a year and they are family events. If you have any concerns or questions feel free to talk with me. With your help his dreams of Boy Scouting will come true.

Sincerely,



Steve Canini
Scoutmaster

Troop 123

Uniforms

Uniforms play an important role in our Troop. Our uniform identifies us as to who we are and how we should act. Our badges show our achievements earned, both in skills and leadership. We are proud to be members of the Boy Scouts of America.

Required Uniform Attire

Khaki Boy Scout Shirt (short or long sleeve)
Shoulder Loops - red- shoulder top
Simon Kenton Council Strip - top left shoulder
123 patch - either individual or group numbers, left shoulder
American Flag patch - top right shoulder
Patrol patch - right shoulder
Any other earned patches
Embroidered Neckerchief - red neckerchief with black embroidery
Neckerchief Slide
Bolo may be worn if earned
Dark Olive Green Scout Pants / Shorts and green Scout Web Belt
(Scout pants or shorts are required for all Court of Honors and Boards of Review)
Merit Badge Sash
Boy Scout Handbook and Writing pen

Uniform Pieces not Required but Nice to Have

Boy Scout Cap (mesh is cooler in summer)
(Caps / hats are not required; however, if a Scout desires to wear a hat, it must be either an official Boy Scout Cap or Hat)
Red long sleeve turtleneck
T-shirts and Sweatshirts with Boy Scout designs
Boy Scout Field Book

Uniforms are worn:

At all meetings (unless specifically announced)
Travel - both to and from activities
Camp - dinner and other designated activities

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Meetings

Our meetings are held weekly on Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the undercroft of St. Michael Church. Our schedule is posted in our monthly newsletter and our calendar. During the school year, we have general troop meetings three Mondays a month. The fourth Monday the patrol leaders (PLC) meet to plan the next month's activities. During the summer, we meet about twice a month. Our Troop understands that school activities and studies, family activities, and sports participation may interfere with meetings. Scout meetings are not mandatory; however, it is important to keep up to date with troop news and merit badges. If a Scout misses a meeting he should contact his patrol leader to find out what he missed.

Advancements

Court of Honor Ceremonies are held four times a year, in the fall, winter, spring and summer on Monday evening. It is a time to honor our Scouts for their accomplishments. Scouts receive merit badges, rank advancements, and other recognition's at these ceremonies. We invite friends and family members to share in this special evening.

A word about advancements. How do Scouts earn Merit Badges? Merit badges are awarded to Scouts for fulfilling requirements in specific fields of interest. There are more than a hundred merit badges a Scout can earn, in subject areas that include careers, sports, hobbies, and Scouting skills. The Boy Scout Handbook explains how to earn Merit Badges on page 185. How are Rank Advancements earned? Rank advancements encourage Scouts to learn and advance at their own speed. As a Scout acquires skills he moves through a series of ranks; Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher a Scout climbs the more challenging the tasks. Scouts learn skills that prepare them for Scouting's more rugged and exciting outdoor challenges. Scouts develop in body and mind, grow in self-confidence, and help younger Scouts climb the advancement ladder. Most of all, a Scout discovers how it feels to go further - in so many more ways than he ever thought he could. Advancement encourages a Scout to learn, to achieve, and to mature.

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Campouts and Outings

Campouts are planned each month. Personal gear is the responsibility of the Scout. Make sure you bring the gear listed on the "Personal Gear List". Most important are: personal aid kit, rain gear, appropriate clothing, and a change of shoes. Tents, lanterns, cooking stoves, and patrol boxes are supplied by the Troop.

A fee for food, lodging, and activities is deducted from the Scout's account. Additional spending money is the Scout's responsibility.

A current health/permission form must be on file with the Troop prior to a Scout attending any outing.

Please note: If your son has any medical problem the leaders should be aware of (allergies, illness, etc) please make sure you discuss this with the leader in charge of the campout. If there are any needed medications, the Scout must carry them in his personal first aid kit as we are not allowed to administer medication. If the leaders are aware of a medical problem and the proper medication is not brought to an outing it may be necessary for you to either bring it to camp or for us to send the Scout home. We need to be aware of any possible medical emergency we may encounter and be as prepared as possible to handle it.

Equipment

All scouts are responsible for troop equipment. If equipment or supplies are lost or damaged by a Scout, the Scout will be held responsible to replace or arrange for repair of the damaged items. Each patrol is responsible for their own Patrol Box.

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Dues

The initial cost to join Troop 123 for a boy who is *not* registered with the Boy Scouts of America is:

National membership fees	
Annual dues	\$ 10.00
Boys Life Magazine	12.00
One time Troop 123 equipment fee	25.00
Initial Troop 123 dues	<u>25.00</u>
	\$ 72.00

The initial cost to join our Troop for a boy who is already registered with the Boy Scouts of America (Cub Scout Pack, Boy Scout Troop, or Explorer Post) is:

National transfer fee	\$1.00
One time troop 123 equipment fee	25.00
Initial Troop 123 dues	<u>25.00</u>
	\$ 51.00

Dues are then collected according to the following schedule:

October

National Membership fees	
Annual dues	\$ 10.00
Boys Life Magazine	12.00
Troop 123 dues	<u>25.00</u>
	\$ 47.00

April

Troop 123 dues	\$ 25.00
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Finances

Troop 123 is self-funded. Our Troop is financed through Scout Dues, fundraising activities and donations secured by Scout families

The treasury is divided into separate accounts, with an account for the Troop and individual accounts for each Scout. The treasurer is available at the beginning of each weekly meeting for Scouts to make deposits or request payment of specific Scout activities from their account. If a Scout brings money to a weekly meeting to pay for a specific activity, it is first deposited in that Scouts account, then deducted from his account for the specific activity. This method enables the treasurer to track funds accurately. Rarely is money accepted in the parking lot before leaving for an activity for fear of loss or inadequate record keeping. Most Scouts maintain a balance in their accounts for dues, activities, campouts, summer camp, the summer trip, and high adventure trips.

Expenses that are paid out of the troop account include merit badges, rank advancement badges, troop library, program materials, mailing supplies, troop tents and group camping gear, trailer license and insurance, and other expenses as approved by the Troop Committee. Scout Dues, fundraising activities, and donations fund the Troop account.

Each Scout is responsible for his own uniform, personal gear, troop dues, and national membership fees. Dues and national membership fees remain the same, regardless of how many meetings the Scout attends. Other expenses will depend on the Scouts interests and activities he chooses like field trips, weekend campouts, summer camp, summer trip, and high adventure. If a Scout has trouble meeting the dues/fees collection date he should speak to the Scoutmaster or Treasurer.

Fundraising activities are divided into two categories - those that support the general troop account and those that support the Scouts individual accounts. Troop fundraisers have included the Annual Pancake Breakfast and Garage Sales. We ask that all parents and Scouts help with the Troop fundraising activities. It is a fun way to meet other Scouts and their parents, do a good turn, and support your son's troop. Scouts are provided opportunities to raise funds for their own account such as the annual popcorn sale. We feel allowing the Scout an opportunity to raise his own funds puts some responsibility on the Scout and gives him a sense of pride at earning his own way. Fundraising for individual Scout accounts it totally voluntary and not required by the Troop.

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Rules of Conduct

- **Follow the Boy Scout Laws, oath and motto at all times.**
- **No abusive language or “dirty” talk.**
- **Keep areas neat and clean.**
- **Only boys and their sleeping bags are allowed in tents. All other gear should be stored in packs outside.**
- **No electronic games, radios, or boom boxes allowed on outings.**
- **One 2 Liter of pop / scout on campouts. No drinks high in caffeine allowed (Mountain Dew, Surge, Jolt, etc.)**
- **Any liquid fuel camping equipment (stoves, heaters, etc.) will be used under the supervision of the leaders.**
- **Follow any and all reasonable orders given by leaders.**

Altercations

One of the goals of Scouting is the building of fellowship, and the development of teamwork. There is no provision within Scouting guidelines for fighting, therefore, fighting amongst Scouts will not be tolerated. The individual Scout should realize that fighting could lead to expulsion from the Troop at the discretion of the Troop Committee.

Parent Expectations

Prior to going on a campout be sure your Scout has notified his patrol leader or troop leader of his attendance.

Please try to be on time for all meetings and outings. This aids the leaders in getting out on time and ensures that your Scout does not miss important announcements.

Information will be sent home with your son for various reasons. Ask him if anything was handed out at the meeting. Many times the Scout gets the information and it remains in his book, pocket or whatever and you may never

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receive it. The Troop newsletter is sent home at the beginning of each month. Each Scout receives a copy and a copy is mailed, faxed or e-mailed to each Scout family. Please take the time to read it and review that month's activities with your Scout.

There may be times when the leader requires the assistance of a Scout's parent at an activity for the safety and benefit of the Scout. Parents cooperation will be expected.

We request that you stress the importance of proper behavior to your Scout. When he is in uniform or participating in a Scouting activity he represents Scouting and his actions reflect directly on Scouting. Any variation from the Scout Oath or acceptable behavior, will be dealt with at the discretion of the Scoutmaster and if warranted, by you. The Troop Committee will handle any severe problems.

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Personal Items That Should Be Brought To Every Meeting

Red notebook w/paper (notebook supplied by Troop)
Pencil/pen
Boy Scout Handbook
Pocketknife
Personal first-aid kit
A BIG SMILE AND LOTS OF ENTHUSIASM

PERSONAL GEAR LIST

The following is a list of personal gear necessary for campouts. Please make sure your name is on every item. Waterproof medical tape is great for tagging items. We will provide an engraver at one of the meetings in the future for permanent marking.

Frame backpack
sleeping bag (type depends on time of year)
ground pad (always)
pillow (optional)
pocket knife
mess kit (and eating utensils)
canteen or water bottle
day pack
personal first aid kit (be sure to include mole skin)
waterproof matches
fire starters
stuff bag
3 plastic trash bags
flashlight with extra batteries
rain poncho
toilet kit (soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, washcloth)
insect repellent
pen & paper (small spiral notebook works well)
Boy Scout Handbook

small rope suitable for tying things down with
cheap watch

CLOTHING:

class A uniform
at least 3 pairs of socks
extra pair of shoes
change of pants, undershorts, shirt
sleeping items (sweats work great)
jacket or hooded sweatshirt
STURDY shoes or hiking boots
as needed:
boots, hat, gloves, long underwear

MISC:

trail mix or snack bars (it seems to be a long time between meals)
pack of playing cards (good for in tent if raining)
spending money (should be limited to no more than \$6.00)

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Dear Scout Parent,

A Boy Scout wants to camp and Troop 123 is a camping Troop. We camp monthly, rain or shine, hot or cold. Trained Scout Leaders accompany our Scouts on all Troop 123 campouts and outings, and we feel that this is very important. You are very important to us and we need your assistance, but there are important guidelines for you to know if you camp with Troop 123.

Scouting is a growth experience. Scouts need to learn to rely on their fellow scouts and adult leaders. It is very difficult for the Scouts not to go to their parents if the parent is available. It is also very difficult for the parent not to want to be the disciplinarian rather than allowing the troop leaders to administer any necessary guidance and discipline. Troop policy is to have our sons go to another leader for help and our boys know that any leader can administer discipline.

In planning Troop Outings we try to plan activities geared toward the Scout and his individual level of achievement. Each outing should be a step closer to moving up in rank, fulfilling merit badge requirements, and teaching leadership skills, as well as having fun. Our leaders have had extensive training by the Simon Kenton Council, BSA. They have been trained to use specific guidelines and to follow certain rules and policies whenever the Troops meets. Any parent who would like to become a registered leader and complete the training is welcome. With this training you will be called upon to attend meetings, outings and follow the Boy Scout Laws. As a trained leader you make a commitment to the Troop.

Please do not feel that we are trying to discourage your participation in your son's Scouting experience. There are many, many ways that he needs your help and support. There are also many ways that you can help the Troop. We are in need of assistance in driving Scouts to campouts and activities. Should you drive and accompany our Scouts camping or on an outing, please remember that you are a guest of the Troop. With the exception of a dangerous situation, please refrain from disciplining your child or another. Making decisions - including how one behaves, is part of growing. If you have a concern, please do not hesitate to contact one of the adult leaders. Our Scouts know that the leaders will administer any necessary guidance and discipline.

If you have ideas that you would like the committee to look at, please bring them to a committee meeting. Please feel free to ask that a problem or suggestion be brought up at this meeting. We try to meet monthly. We are in constant contact with each other during the month as well. Our strategic planning session for the year will take place in late July or early August. We try to plan 6 months or more of Troop activities at our planning session.

If you would like to join us, we encourage you to complete either Blackfoot or Okama Training. These programs are designed to teach you about Boy Scouts and give you a chance to be a Scout and live the program through their eyes. If you are interested please see our Scoutmaster for further details.

If you have any further questions, or would just like to discuss any of the above please call Patty Vandewalle, the Committee Chairman in the evening at 889-1875 or email her at PVandewalle@columbus.rr.com.

Sincerely,

TROOP 123 COMMITTEE