

A Note to Parents

Parents, we appreciate that you have entrusted your child to Troop 49. We hope you will enjoy this journey as much as your child does. Below are just a few notes for you to consider.

Scout-led. Troop 49 is a “Scout-Led” and “Scout-Run” Troop that utilizes the Patrol Method to empower the Scouts to realize their individual potential, while embracing the outdoors in many different activities and programs, following the guidelines of the Boy Scouts of America. With the Scoutmaster’s direction, the scouts themselves develop the Troop’s program and take responsibility for figuring out how to achieve their goals. In order for the Troop’s youth leaders to be able to make everything happen, the Troop relies upon Scouts serving in positions of responsibility. One of the Scoutmaster's most important responsibilities is to provide the direction, coaching, and training that empowers each scout with the skills needed to lead.

Parent’s Role. While we consider Boyscouting to be the scout's journey, you play an important role in your child's journey in scouting. Your child will need the encouragement of parents. Your child will need help, at first, navigating rank advancements, contacting merit badge counselors, choosing camps and activities, and communicating with the Troop. We recommend that scouts take time each week to read the Scout Handbook, complete a step or two in ranks, and work on a portion of a merit badge. Successful scouts always have something in the hopper on which to work. There may be times that family commitments, school or extracurricular activities, or sports or clubs, take precedent over coming to Troop meetings. A scout can still be active in scouting by continuing to work on scouting while absent, and show their progress when they return.

Communication. Most of the Troop's communication is by email. This communication will usually be directed to the scout and sent to both scout and parent emails. Activities are announced at Troop meetings and then announced by email. Patrol leaders are expected to contact the scouts in their patrol and this is often done by email or phone. Successful scouts take charge of their own communication - reading or listening to messages and then replying on their own, after consulting with parents. This is a very important part of the Boyscouting program. All parties benefit from this communication when the scouts take ownership of their participation. **The scout should reply to every communication.**

Fun. Please keep in mind that, to adults some of what goes on at the troop meetings, particularly during game time, looks less structured than one might expect. Scouting needs to be fun too, and the games the troop plays together are intended to develop trust and friendships.

Parent Participation. For adults, scouting can be fun too. It is fun, and amazing, to watch your young child build on the values already in one's life, and develop leadership, character, and the life-long skills available through scouting. Adults can participate in the troop through a variety of ways. Help is always needed at camps, organizing events, driving scouts, or pulling the trailer. Adults who receive advanced training can work with the scouts as a Merit Badge Counselor or an Assistant Scoutmaster. And the Committee is always looking for adults willing to commit their time to fundraising or the business end of the troop. All adult members of the troop have current Youth Protection Training and actively participate when needed. We encourage you to consider where you will help the troop. Check the Help Wanted section of the website or talk to one of the adult leaders for more information. We expect at least one adult from each family to help out during the year. Check the Adult Training tab for information on upcoming classes or training opportunities.

Adult Leadership. The most important advice to remember is to trust the adult leadership of the Troop. The adult leaders have received training in working with scouts, and have experience in helping scouts develop the leadership and character traits that reflect the core values of the Boyscout program. The safety and wellbeing of the scouts is always a priority. We mandate and strictly follow BSA Youth Protection guidelines. If you have questions, please talk to one of the adults in the troop. If your child has questions, please encourage them to ask one of the adults or older scouts. Communication is key. It is part of our leadership

development program.