

# Troop 49- An Overview

## *General Information*

- Scouts BSA Troop 49 is part of the Potawatomi Area Council in the Western Trails District.
- Troop 49's Charter Organization is the Delafield American Legion.
- Scouts meet at Troop meetings held on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Thursdays of every month.
- If there is a 5th Thursday in a month, it may be a Cantina Night with a special activity.
- Troop meetings are from 6:30– 8:00PM and are currently held at the Kettle Moraine Middle School.
- We will be meeting at the Delafield American Legion's new meeting space starting in April 2023.
- Troop 49B was founded in 1978; Troop 49G was founded in 2020.
- T49B and T49G begin and end meetings together, and meet in their unique patrols during Patrol Corners.
- The 1st Thursday of each month is the Troop Committee meeting, starting at 6:30pm. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend, share ideas, and hear about the business side of running the Troop, upcoming activities, and from each SPL. Adult support and transportation are needed for activities.
- There is no fee to join Troop 49; each scout is expected to participate in a minimum level of fundraising.
- New Scouts receive a Scout Book, Troop 49 neckerchief, and membership in the Boy Scouts of America.
- Visit our website [www.troop49summit.com](http://www.troop49summit.com) to learn more about Troop 49, our activities, and our leadership.

## *How is Scouts BSA Troop 49 run?*

**Scout Led:** Troop 49 is a scout-led troop. The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) oversees the Troop and leads the troop meetings, accompanied by an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL). The scouts are split into Patrols, each led by a Patrol Leader. The scouts in the patrols vary in age and rank. New scouts start out in the New Scout Patrol, which facilitates the guidance they need during the early months of Boyscouting. The New Scouts join one of the other patrols when they reach the rank of First Class or have been in the troop for one year. At Troop 49, we focus on the leadership opportunities presented in a scout-led troop. The Scoutmaster has goals and expectations for the scouts who hold positions of responsibility, and mentors and challenges them to fulfill their responsibilities. Elections are held and assignments are made for positions of responsibility in Fall and Spring. Positions of responsibility are required for rank advancement. The Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Librarian, Troop Guide, Troop Instructor, Den Chief, Quartermaster, and Chaplain's Aide are all positions of responsibility.

**Attendance:** A Scouts BSA Troop is different from a Cub Scout Pack. It is up to the scouts to take the time to earn new ranks and merit badges; the parents do not determine the timing of advancement. The scouts must get the required work done and seek an adult leader or higher ranked scout authorized to sign off on rank requirements. There are adults and scouts available at the Troop meetings to support the scout. Attendance at meetings is critical to a scout's success; however, the Troop recognizes that scouts may have academic and/or sports activities that can affect their ability to attend meetings. That is why the Troop has a liberal attendance policy of a minimum of 12 meetings a year. If scouts cannot regularly attend meetings or need a period of time off they can do so. They should notify their Scoutmaster, SPL, and Patrol Leader, check in with each on a regular basis, and continue to work on rank advancements, merit badges, and service outside of the troop meetings.

**Scout Meetings and Activities:** In a Scouts BSA Troop, the scouts plan and run the meetings, choose activities, and organize most events. The T49B SPL and the T49G SPL alternate in running the meetings and choosing the Game. At meetings, the SPL and ASPL talk about upcoming events before scouts go into Patrol Corners for further discussion and planning. Scouts can also work with a Troop Guide on their rank advancement requirements. Then the entire group gathers for scout-led instruction and games. For most outings, a Senior Patrol Leader is selected to run an activity or camp. The SPL of the outing works with other scouts to plan the food and transportation for the outing. Adults guide and support the scouts' planning endeavors. The Adult Event Leader of an activity helps by registering the scouts and coordinating payments. Adults are encouraged to help the Troop where they can.

**Committee Meetings (Adults):** The Troop Committee consists of a Committee Chairperson for each Troop, a Secretary, Treasurer, Outdoor Activities Chair, Advancement Coordinator, Fundraising Chair, Court Of Honor Coordinator, Recruitment Chair, Training Coordinator, Equipment Chair, and other registered committee members. These volunteer positions require some level of training and registration with the Council. The Troop Committee tracks troop finances, recruitment, troop equipment coordination, advancement for the scouts, and handles the legal paperwork for camps and trips. COR, Scoutmasters, and SPLs attend the meeting as well as any adults & parents.

**Merit Badges:** With over 130 to choose from, the Merit Badge Program is a vital part of the BSA advancement program. Earning merit badges is part of Rank Advancement. A scout must earn 13 Eagle Rank required merit badges and an additional 8 elective merit badges to qualify for Eagle Scout. Through participation in the program, a Scout acquires the kind of self-confidence that comes from working hard and overcoming obstacles to achieve a goal. Each merit badge subject is outlined in a merit badge booklet and worksheets are available online. The scout works with a Merit Badge Counselor to learn and hone the skills and to document the achievement.

**Fund Raising:** Troop 49 does not charge yearly registration fees. Instead, it raises funds through product sales. For each product sale fundraiser, a portion of the sales is put in the scouts' Individual Scout Account and another portion goes to the Troop General Fund. The Troop Sales Policy requires that each scout participate in the product sales and/or Troop Fundraisers and, over the year, bring in at least \$175 in profit to the Troop. If a scout is short of this goal at the end of the year, the scouts' Individual Scout Account is billed. Individual Scout Account can be used by the scout to pay for scout activities such as campouts and merit badge clinics; but, due to new IRS rules, not for personal camping equipment. The Troop funds are used to pay for expenses such as yearly membership fees for all adults and scouts, trailer insurance and storage, rank badges and merit badges, equipment, necessary adult camp fees, training, and other troop expenses. Troop 49 participates in the following fundraisers: SCRIP, Fall Wreath and Popcorn sale, Brat Fry, and Spring Flower & Kringle sale. New ideas are welcome!

**Campouts:** The Troop schedules at least one activity each month, usually a campout. Scouts have the opportunity to make suggestions by talking with their Patrol Leader or their Senior Patrol Leader. Currently we go to a weeklong camp at Camp Long Lake, Devil's Lake Fall Camp-O-Ree and Hike, Home Improvement Camp, Outdoorsman Camp, Creeporee at CLL, and have recently gone to USS Cobia, Hanna Winter camp, Rock River Canoe Trip, Wisconsin River Trip, and camped locally. We are always looking for new ideas and adventures.

**High Adventure:** Troop 49 aims to schedule one High Adventure Camp each year. They are planned at least a year in advance. They can be costly, which is why it is important for scouts to fund-raise. Scouts must be 14 years old at the time of most BSA High Adventure camps. We have recently gone to Philmont, Florida Sea Base, Glacier National Park in Montana, Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and Yellowstone. New ideas are welcome here too.

**Basic Camping Equipment Needs:** Our Troop Trailer holds most of what the Troop needs while camping. The Troop owns several 3-man tents, dining flies, patrol boxes, cooking equipment, Dutch Ovens, etc. Scouts need some basic supplies for camping including a backpack, sleeping bag, sleeping pad (no cots), hiking shoes, flashlight, water bottle, mess kit, etc. We encourage scouts to be self sufficient and responsible for their items. Garbage bags are not acceptable camping equipment. As skills build and scouts move to High Adventure camping, additional equipment may be needed, including a larger backpack and better hiking shoes. The Boy Scout Handbook is a good place to find information and suggestions for camping equipment.

**Basic Uniform Needs:** Troop 49 supplies a Scout Handbook to each Scout after registration with the Troop. Scouts wear the tan Scouts BSA uniform with green numerals 49. The Scout uniform shirt should be worn to meetings, activities, and to and from campouts. Proper pants and shorts are expected- gym shorts and sweats are not acceptable. Scouts wear a custom Troop 49 neckerchief. The Troop buys rank and merit badges as they are earned. A sash will be needed to hold merit badges and camp patches, and should be worn at Court of Honor ceremonies. Class B activity shirts are ordered each year for scouts to wear to service projects.

**Troop Service:** The Troop performs community service such as event help for the Delafield American Legion, Legion grounds clean up, Lad Lake Kettle Classic opening flag ceremony, dining fly set up and take down at Oconomowoc Art Fair, Scouting for Food, Eagle Scout projects, buckthorn removal, and other opportunities.

**Adult Leadership:** All adults registered with Troop 49 have Youth Protection Training through the BSA. Certain adult leadership positions require additional training. We strongly encourage Oak Leaf Training through PAC. Oak Leaf Training is required of adults leading a camp and preferred for all other adults camping with the Troop.

**Troop 49** is dedicated to the character development of our scouts. Scouts will use the Patrol Method, learn from each other, and seek help from their senior leaders when needed. Adults are present for mentorship and safety. We welcome the opportunity to work with your child- we offer opportunities for growth and achievement as well as a lot of fun. When your family joins our Troop, you join a larger Scouting family- You Matter Here!

Troop 49 Website: [www.troop49summit.com](http://www.troop49summit.com) Boy Scouts of America website: [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)