

Troop 123 Guide

for New Scouts and Parents

Charter Organization

Heritage Baptist Church

Colorado Springs, CO

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 123

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Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to explain the operation of Troop 123. It is written for both the parents and the Scout. This guide will set forth basic guidelines of the Troop so the new Scout and his family can quickly become involved. The Guide will also serve as a reference for established families. **It is important to note that this is not a legal document and is open for change at any time.**

About the Troop

Troop 123 is one of the newest – and one of the oldest – Troops in Colorado Springs.

We were originally chartered by Cimarron Hills Fire Department over 25 years ago. Several years ago the Troop folded. It was re-opened 4 years ago to give the Cub Scouts from Pack 123 a Troop in the area they could transfer to.

Presently, Troop 123 has a dedicated Scoutmaster and three adult Assistant Scoutmasters. Most of the adult leadership has been trained in Scouting Fundamentals and has received Youth Protection training.

Presently, the Troop has about 20 registered Scouts ranging in age from 11 to 17. They attend different schools in the area and represent different nationalities and religious backgrounds. Attendance for most activities generally averages above 75%.

Scouting Philosophy

Scouting is a youth organization that uses a fun program to promote character development, citizenship training and awareness, and mental and physical fitness for every member.

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) makes Scouting available to our nation's youth by chartering community organizations to operate Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops and Explorer Posts.

The chartered organization provides an adequate and safe meeting place. It must adhere to the principles and policies of the BSA. The BSA local council provides unit leader training, program ideas, camping facilities, literature, and professional guidance for volunteer leaders. Scouting's adult volunteers provide leadership at the Unit, District, Council and National levels.

History of the Boy Scouts of America (Boy Scout Handbook, 11th Edition, Chapter 19, pg. 431)

Scouting came to America because a boy did a *Good Turn* – an act of kindness for which he expected no reward. It happened many years ago on the foggy streets of London, England, when an American named William D. Boyce lost his way. A boy walked up and asked if he could be of assistance.

Mr. Boyce explained where he wanted to go. The boy led him to his destination, but when Mr. Boyce offered to give him some money, the boy said, "No, thank you, sir. I am a Scout. I won't take anything for helping."

William Boyce was so impressed by the boy's kindness that he met with Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts in Great Britain. He liked what Baden-Powell told him, and he knew that boys in the United States would want to be Scouts, too.

On February 8, 1910, Mr. Boyce and a group of businessmen, educators, and political leaders founded the Boy Scouts of America. Scouts celebrate February 8 as the birthday of the BSA.

No one knows what happened to the boy who guided Mr. Boyce through the London fog, but he will never be forgotten. Like many acts of kindness, what was done proved to be far more significant than who did it. The boy's Good Turn helped bring Scouting to America.

Information Distribution

Newsletter and Calendar

While Scouts usually hear details of Troop events at meetings, this important information is usually not passed along to parents. The Troop newsletter is a key way for the parents to stay informed about the Troop and become involved in activities (some activities are more popular with the parents than with the Scouts!). The newsletter provides specific information on upcoming activities, Scoutmaster's comments, calendar updates and changes, requests for help, and many other interesting and important bits of information regarding the Troop. Newsletters will be e-mailed to parents – there will be some hard copies available at Troop meetings about once a month. Newsletters should be reviewed carefully.

An annual calendar, of tentative events, is made available to anyone wishing a copy. The calendar is available after the annual planning meeting in August. Please remember that this calendar is not etched in stone. Many things, such as weather, school functions and vacations, etc. can alter the calendar. Some Scouting events that remain the same year in and year out are –

Fall Camporee – September
Popcorn Sales – October/November
Troop Elections – November
Scouting for Food – November
Scout Sunday – February
Freezoree – late January/early February
Summer Camp – late June/early July

Internet Web Site

http://www.angelfire.com/co4/troop_123/index.html

Finances

Troop Dues

The Troop's 'business operating year' begins February 1 and ends the following January 31.

Troop dues are \$5.00/month. Dues will cover the following:

Boys Life	.75	=	9.00
Registration	1.75	=	21.00
Miscellaneous*	<u>2.50</u>	=	<u>30.00</u>
Total	\$5.00/month		\$60.00/year

(*miscellaneous can include, but is not limited to, awards, camping supplies, **training**, etc.)

A Scout transferring from another Troop will pay \$5.00 for the first month's dues, \$6.00 for a scarf and 2 patches and a \$1.00 transfer fee for a total of \$12.00 (if the Scout does not have a Boys' Life subscription that will be added to the sign up fee).

A new Scout will pay, upon joining the Troop, \$5.00 for the first month's dues, \$6.00 for a scarf and 2 patches, \$5.00 registration fee and \$ 4.00 towards a Boys' Life subscription for a total of \$20.00.

Monthly dues are collected at the beginning of each month.

It may be necessary to collect additional fees for the various activities that Scouts participate in through out the year – camping, field trips, increased registration costs from Council, etc.

Fundraisers

Dues do not entirely cover the cost of running the Troop nor do they cover the cost to replace equipment.

All funds donated to Council remain with Council.

The Troop provides its own operating funds. We do this through the collection of monthly dues and various fund raisers. To be successful the fund raisers need the support of all Scouts and their families.

Unless specified before the fund raiser is held all money raised will be placed in the account of the boys participating. The Troop receives 28% - 38% of all popcorn sales. This is distributed to the boys selling popcorn based on their total sales, with 50% of the total funds being held by the Troop.

The Troop continuously raises money by recycling pop cans. The money raised from the pop cans goes directly to the Troop.

Meetings

Troop Meetings

Troop Meetings are held every Monday from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Heritage Baptist Church except the last Monday of the month.

Committee Meetings

Committee Meetings are held monthly. Unless otherwise noted, meetings will be held the last Monday of the month. Meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m. Troop meetings are for adult leadership and all parents are welcome.

Patrol Leader's Council (PLC)

PLCs will be held the last Monday of the month. All Youth Leaders are expected to attend the PLC. This is the meeting where the Scouts decide their activities for the coming month.

Attendance

Attending functions is an integral part to the Scout's advancement. It will be hard for a Scout to advance if they don't attend meetings and campouts. Scouts are expected to attend all Troop meetings and activities. If a Scout is going to be absent for an activity he should notify his Patrol Leader.

Camping

Camping is a key element of Scouting. The Troop plans to camp at least once a month through out the school year as well as 1 long-term (minimum of one week) camping trip each year. Scouts plan the entire trip – from where to camp to their menu for the weekend. Troop 123 requires 3 adults on all camping trips.

Camping is an outdoor experience, please, no CD players, Game Boys, etc. on camping trips

Courts of Honor

All Scouts and at least one parent should attend the Court of Honor. This meeting acknowledges the Scout for his achievements and rank advancements. Courts of Honor are held approximately every 3 months.

Uniforms and Insignia

Two things a Scout needs right away – his uniform and his handbook.

The handbook, as well as the uniform, can be purchased at the Hibbard Scout Shop. The handbook is used to track the Scout's progress from the beginning of his Scouting Trail. The Scout's uniform consists of a Scout shirt all with the proper insignia. (Enclosed in this handbook is a page that outlines the insignia and how it should be placed on the uniform).

We know that the cost of the uniform can be expensive. The parents of older Scouts will sometimes donate shirts that have been outgrown to the Troop. Before you go to the expense of purchasing a new shirt feel free to check with the Scoutmaster to see if there are any used uniforms available.

The formal uniform shall consist of the Scout shirt with proper insignia, solid colored (blue jeans are acceptable) pants or shorts (that can support a belt) in good repair, scarf and Scout belt. Scout hat is optional. Scout pants/shorts are encouraged but not required. The formal uniform is required at all District and Council events, Courts of Honor, fundraisers. **The formal uniform must also be worn whenever the Troop is traveling.** For events other than those listed the Scoutmaster can determine proper attire. The uniform must be worn in a respectful manner.

Youth Protection

Troop 123 follows all BSA Youth Protection guidelines. Parents are responsible for covering the pamphlet "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse – A Parent's Guide" located in the front of the Boy Scout Handbook.

Troop 123 will periodically conduct Youth Protection training for all Scouts and their parents or guardians. Parents and Scouts will be notified in advance when the training will be conducted and are encouraged to attend.

Additional training is available for adult volunteers. This training will prepare the adult leaders for Scouting activities in accordance with Youth Protection guidelines.

Advancement

Troop 123 follows the advancement program designed to encourage Scouts to participate in a progressive series of learning experiences. The program provides a specific means of measuring and recognizing achievement in these experiences. There are four steps that a Scout must go through to advance – 1) Learn by Doing; 2) Be Tested; 3) Participate in a Scoutmaster's Conference; and, 4) Appear before the Board of Review

New Scout Program

The goal of Troop 123 is to have New Scouts work with an Assistant Scoutmaster and Troop Guide to learn skills needed to advance to First Class within their first year. Scoutmasters and older Scouts are always available to assist the New Scout on his road to First Class.

Merit Badges

Scouts will be offered many opportunities to work on merit badges. For more information see the Boy Scout Handbook.

Leadership

Parental Involvement

Parental involvement includes but may not be limited to:

Assistant Scoutmaster
Adults on campouts
Merit Badge Counselors
Assist with transportation
Assist with fund raisers
Be Committee members
HAVE FUN!!

The more the parents are involved, the more success their son will find in Scouting, which, in return, benefits the entire Troop. We hope you will take an active part in encouraging your son. Your help will make the difference.

National BSA rules require at least two adults at every meeting and three adults on all activities.

Youth Leadership

Youth leaders are elected by their peers twice a year. The highest youth position is Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). The SPL leads the Troop meetings with the assistance of the Patrol Leaders following the plans decided at the monthly PLC

Committee

A Committee should include the following positions:

Committee Chairperson, Advancement Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer, Chartered Organization Representative, Outdoors/Activities Coordinator, Training Coordinator, Chaplain and Equipment Coordinator

Scouting Spirit

All Scouts and their Parents are expected to live and act by the precepts as established by the "Scout Law" when attending any Scout function. A Scout should be:

TRUSTWORTHY – LOYAL – HELPFUL – FRIENDLY – COURTEOUS – KIND – OBEDIENT –
CHEERFUL – THRIFTY – BRAVE – CLEAN – REVERENT

Discipline

Most minor discipline issues will be handled by the Troop's PLC. However, serious discipline problems, such as problems that endanger the health and/or safety of a Scout/Scouter, theft, etc., will be handled by a panel to include the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster and 2 Committee Members. Prior to the meeting of the panel the Committee Chairperson will inform the Chartered Organization Representative of the issue at hand. The panel will inform the Committee Chairperson (if not on the panel) of any determination reached. Again, the Committee Chairperson will inform the Chartered Organization Representative of any determination reached prior to notifying the Scout/Scouter and/or parents of the Scout. The Scout/Scouter and/or parent of the Scout has the option to dispute any determination with the entire Committee.

