

Patterson

Troop 440



Parent's Guide

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to welcome your son as a member of the Boy Scouts of America and of Patterson Troop 440. This membership makes you a Scout parent and your family a Scout family. We hope that your son and your whole family will enjoy and benefit from this association as over 100,000,000 boys have since 1910.

Our troop strives to achieve the Scouting program's goal of developing each boy into an adult who is physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. We can only achieve that goal with your help and support. We encourage you to read and review this packet and keep in mind that Scouting is a values-based program where boys are taught leadership skills that will serve them through life.

It is exciting to participate in the development of young men into responsible contributors to the community. We feel that a child must grow from the early stage of complete dependence on his family to an eventual state of self-dependence. Along the way, he must be given ever increasing opportunities to make responsible decisions test his abilities. The boy's development typically begins with tight family control that must gradually evolve into family support for appropriate conduct on his own and with his peers.

You can use our program to help guide your son in this developmental process. Our program uses outdoor adventure and the troop structure to teach skills, social responsibility and how to live the Scout Law to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. We will support your moral values and decisions in all aspects of your son's developmental process in accordance with BSA guidelines.

Here are some ways that you can maximize the effectiveness of the Scouting program to help your son develop and grow:

- Encourage your Scout to have perfect attendance at troop meetings and planned activities (camping, service projects to the community, etc.).
- Be interested in and encourage your son's personal Rank Advancement.
- Let your Scout plan and prepare for activities. Guide him; support him in his efforts. But let him do it! There is no way he will learn and grow if you do it all for him.
- Attend all family activities and events to demonstrate your support.
- Offer assistance where possible and when asked, be it in providing transportation to troop activities or helping to organize and run them. Our troop is a 100% volunteer

organization, and we depend upon the parents of our current scouts for assistance to the troop.

Best wishes as you move into the exciting experience of helping your son develop and grow. Let scouting help both you and your son enrich your lives.

Troop 440 Committee

SCOUT MEETINGS

Regular troop meetings are held every Tuesday evening from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM at the Patterson Community Church on 1062 Route 311 in Patterson, NY. Troop meetings are not held in July and August. Scouts are encouraged to attend all meetings. If a scout cannot attend a meeting, he should notify his Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, or Senior Patrol Leader before the meeting. After the meeting, he should contact his Patrol Leader or Assistant Patrol Leader to find out what went on at the meeting and information about any upcoming events. If a Patrol Leader is absent, he should call another Patrol Leader, the Senior Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster for the information.

Each scout is required to wear the designated class "A" uniform and bring his handbook, a pen/pencil, \$1 dues and a good attitude to each meeting.

PATROL METHOD

A Boy Scout Troop functions under the Patrol System where Scouts are formed into groups of no more than 8 Scouts called Patrols. The Scouts lead their patrols, and through the patrol structure, lead the Troop.

As the Troop leadership gains experience, the Patrols will plan and run meetings and events. Patrol members elect one of their own to serve as Patrol Leader (PL). The Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) is made up of the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), who is elected by the entire troop and presides over the meetings; the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL), all PLs and the Troop Guide(s) for the new Scout patrol(s). The PLC plans the yearly troop program at the annual troop program planning conference. It then meets immediately after regular Troop meetings to fine-tune the plans for the upcoming month. Adult leadership will monitor activities to insure reasonable safety and soundness in decision making.

REGISTRATION

The Troop will provide you with the following documents/forms, which must be completed at the time of registration:

- Registration Form from BSA (be sure to fill in dates of immunizations on back of form)
- Medical Authorization Form Class 3 (be sure to fill in dates of immunizations on back of form)
- Troop Resource Survey with Driver's Information
<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34437.pdf>
- Parental Consent Authorization
- Internet Photo Release

All parents are requested to take Youth Protection training.

All the above must be submitted to our Membership person.

ANNUAL FEE

The annual registration fees and dues to be a member of Patterson Troop 440 is \$50.00.

* Boys Life Magazine is required for all scouts and is included in the registration fee. However families with more than one son in the Troop may elect to receive only one copy per family. Please notify the Membership coordinator when you register or re-register.)

In general, payments in the form of checks are to be made payable to Patterson Troop 440. In addition to the annual fee, \$1.00 in dues is collected at each meeting. Scouts are responsible for paying the \$1 dues regardless of whether he attends a meeting or not. This amount should be the responsibility of the Scout; he should be responsible both for earning it and for bringing it to the meetings.

Fees for individual events/trips are collected prior to each event (see below).

INSURANCE PROTECTION

Each registered member of the unit is covered by an accident insurance policy, adults included. Your individual family insurance is primary; the Boy Scout insurance is excess. The Boy Scouts of America have a Liability Policy to cover automobile and other related situations as excess to your personal insurance. This coverage is provided through Mutual of Omaha.

YOUTH PROTECTION

Each new Scout is to complete the Youth Protection Booklet in the front of the Scout Handbook within 30 days of joining the Troop.

Scouting adheres to "two-deep leadership" guidelines: At least two registered adult leaders are required for all camping trips or outings. If we lack two adults for an event, the event will be cancelled. (Note that for several reasons, it is highly desirable to have more than two registered adult leaders on any outing.)

One registered adult and one adult parent of a participating Scout, one of whom must be at least 21 years of age, are required for local fundraising and local community service activities.

There are a few instances, such as patrol activities, when no adult leadership is required.

Scout regulations require a Youth Protection meeting be held a minimum of once every three years. In addition, a video designed to empower our youth against abuse is shown annually (with parents' permission). Advance notification will be provided and the parent can determine if they want their scout to attend.

CHARTER ORGANIZATION

Patterson Troop 440 is chartered to our sponsoring organization, Patterson Community Church.

LEADERSHIP

All troop leaders (including Committee members) are volunteers. All leaders must complete a BSA application and Youth Protection training, which is an online video-based course. In addition, other training is required. (See Training section).

All active registered adult leaders have input into troop policy, training, etc. and are expected to attend committee meetings. Registered committee members have final voting privileges on all issues.

TRAINING

All registered adult leaders – including merit badge counselors – are required to maintain current Youth Protection Training certification. All other adults are encouraged to take such training as well. All uniformed adult leaders are required to complete formal training classes appropriate to their registered position. Registered troop committee members are required to complete Committee Challenge training. Please speak with the troop Training Coordinator for further information.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Parents are encouraged to assist the scout program by participation in any of the various committee positions. Committee meetings are usually held monthly. Meeting time and location is determined by the committee.

COMMUNICATION

Communication within the troop will be as follows:

- 1) Information is given out at each scout meeting.
- 2) Event information will be emailed to all troop members.
- 3) Web site (www.pattersontroop440.org)
- 4) Parents are welcome contact the Scoutmaster or any Committee member for clarification or additional information.

If a scout misses a meeting, he should contact his PL, ASPL or PL. (Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or a Committee Member may be called only if the PL, APL and SPL cannot be

reached). Being in a particular patrol does not prohibit you from calling anyone in the troop to get information!

The troop calendar is set in August and posted on www.patterson440.com.

Occasionally, things come up at the last minute. We will let you know of any changes and/or additions to the schedule as soon as possible. Permission slips are emailed or made available at the meetings. Please complete these forms immediately placing the responsibility back on the Scout to return them along with payment to Troop 440 in a timely manner. The Outdoor Activities Coordinator is responsible for collecting permission slips and payments.

Upcoming activities can also be seen on our troop website, www.pattersontroop440.org. Permission slips can be downloaded from our website. (If a permission slip for the specific upcoming event is not there, you can print out the generic permission slip and fill in the event name and details.)

INTERNET

As the majority of the troop is online, e-mail is used frequently to communicate with the troop membership. The Scoutmaster or troop committee members will e-mail you as well as your son. It is our goal to maximize the use of electronic communications and minimize the use of telephone. Pictures of events are posted to the Patterson Troop 440 Facebook page. Individual scout names do not appear on this site or as photo captions. While we are very sensitive to the dangers of posting our children's photos on the open internet, we have decided to do so only if a parent or guardian has agreed to do so.

UNIFORMS

Each Scout is expected to have a complete Class A uniform. This is defined as a BSA uniform shirt, BSA Uniform pants or shorts, neckerchief, and slide. Optional but strongly suggested uniform items are a troop hat, and scout belt. The uniform should follow the specifications for insignia provided by the BSA, and be kept current to reflect the scout's ranks and leadership position. Scouts are expected to wear this uniform at all troop functions and events where a Class A uniform is specified. All scouts are expected to attend regular troop meetings in their Class A uniform, except that the scout may elect to substitute other pants or shorts. For many events, the Scouts will be permitted to wear a "Class B" uniform consisting of a scout related tee-shirt or hooded sweatshirt available from the troop. Scouts will be frequently inspected for uniform compliance.

UNIFORM EXCHANGE

Uniforms that have been outgrown or no longer needed can be donated to the troop uniform exchange. Donations should be in reasonable condition. Currently, scout shorts are available in a limited number of sizes

TROOP EQUIPMENT

The troop has a limited quantity of tents & cookware, which is available to patrols when we go camping. Any scout assigned troop equipment shall be held responsible for that equipment and its proper use. All issued equipment must be returned at the next scheduled meeting – as good as or better than when received.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

In order to fully participate in troop activities, each scout should obtain, at minimum, the following:

1. Sleeping bag – “zero degree”
2. Sleeping pad
3. Backpack – Day pack and a frame backpack (internal or external) for hiking.
4. Canteen/water bottle
5. Mess kit
6. Personal first aid kit
7. Flashlight
8. Raingear/poncho
9. Compass
10. Fire starter
11. Toiletries
12. Small roll of bathroom paper
13. Pocket knife
14. Scout Handbook (make sure name is on it!)

Personal electronic devices are restricted at scout events. If the Scoutmaster sees it, he will confiscate it!

TRANSPORTATION

The uniformed adult staff cannot transport the entire troop. Parents must drive and, in some situations, stay over with the troop. If your son's patrol does not have adequate transportation both to and from an activity, they may not be able to attend the event or worse yet, we may be forced to cancel the activity. Drivers are not permitted to transport more people than there are seat belts in their vehicle. Passengers are not permitted to ride in the bed of pick-up trucks. We must complete tour permits, listing drivers and vehicles, prior to a trip. This is why we request the following information on the data forms; License number, Insurance (carrier and limits), Make/Model of Car, License Plate and number of seats.

ACTIVITY / EVENT REFUNDS

All events are required to be prepaid. If a scout signs up for an activity and he does not show up he will be responsible to pay the fees for the activity. Refunds may be made, when possible, but are not guaranteed. Some events require pre-registration with a minimum attendance and/or non-refundable deposits; in these cases a refund cannot be made. However, if the scout cancels sufficiently in advance of the event, prior to the time expenditure is made, he may be able to receive a refund for that portion of the fee.

FUNDRAISING

All Scouts are expected to participate in Troop fund-raising activities. Troop funds are used to maintain and update equipment, offset activity expenses and cover troop operating costs. Starting in 2013, Scouts will receive credits towards the cost of scout events in accordance with their assistance with fundraising. These credits will be predetermined by the Committee. Credits may only be used to offset the cost of troop events. Unused credits will revert back to the Troop's general funds.

ADULT FEES FOR EVENTS

Adult volunteers cover the cost of their food for local or BSA events (ie Appalachian Trail hikes, Camporees, BSA camping events). Adult volunteers are required to cover the cost of external scouting events where there is a fixed fee for each participant plus the cost of food (ie West Point, Beach Jam, Gettysburg, Howe Caverns, etc.)

Fees for registered adult volunteers attending summer camp with the troop will be wholly or partially covered by the troop depending on the number of attendees and the available funds.

MERIT BADGES

Merit badges are an important element of the scouting program. The Troop will loan merit badge pamphlets from our library for study and review. Books are to be returned promptly so

that other boys can have access to them. Parents are encouraged to review the merit badge opportunities and volunteer to be a counselor in a field they have significant knowledge or interest. Boys wishing to work on a merit badge should notify the Scoutmaster who will provide a "Blue Card" and the name and telephone number of an approved Merit Badge Counselor. Donations of current merit badge books to the library are greatly appreciated.

SUMMER CAMP

Summer camp is a highlight of the scout's year. All scouts are strongly encouraged to participate for at least one week. Summer camp may be held at a number of different Scout camps in order to provide the Scouts with a variety of experiences. Currently, the Troop is going to Camp Trexler <http://www.trexlercamp.org/> and has gone to Camp Read in previous years. While in camp, each Scout sleeps in a two-person tent set on platforms with cots and mattresses. A great deal of information on summer camp will be made available to scouts and parents as the Troop makes plans for camp in the late-winter and early-spring.

DISCIPLINE

All Scouts are expected to guide their behavior according to The Scout Oath and the Scout Law. As a boy-run troop, the Troop's scout leadership -- SPL, ASPL, and PL -- provide the initial level of discipline. This can range from verbal counseling to barring attendance at an event (i.e. camping). Hazing or physical punishment of any kind are expressly forbidden. The Scoutmaster is allowed to issue an immediate consequence at an event because it is a safety issue. Further disciplinary action is determined by the Committee.

Continued problems will involve the Scout's parent(s) or guardian. In the event this fails to improve behavior, the Scout will be asked to leave the troop, either temporarily (a suspension) or permanently. There shall be no refund of fees from a scout who leaves the troop for disciplinary reasons. Decisions about suspension and revoking membership are made by the committee.

The Troop Committee has a Zero-Tolerance policy towards any illegal activity of any kind and this will be made clear to the scouts on an annual basis.

Once it has been determined that an offense has occurred the following actions will be taken:

- 1) The Advancement Chair (or designee) is responsible for assembling a BOR to discuss the issue with the scout(s).
- 2) The BOR and the Committee meeting will be closed and the parents of the scout(s) will not be included until the last step regardless of their position on the Committee.
- 3) The BOR reports to the Committee.
- 4) The Committee reviews and decides the action.

- 5) The Committee Chair schedules a meeting with the Committee, the Scout and the parents to review consequences.

Troop volunteers will be informed that an incident has occurred and that it is being addressed. No further information will be forthcoming until the matter has been addressed and resolved by the committee.