



BSA Troop 221
Roanoke, VA

Mar-02

To all Scouts of Troop 221:

We are very proud to present you with this Orientation Guide to our Troop. In it you will find very important information that defines the way the Troop works.

There are important points that you should be aware of:

- Section 1- Uniform requirements:
 - Uniforms are required during meetings, Scoutmaster Conferences, and Boards of Review.
- Section 2- Requirements for holding Troop Officer positions and formation of the Troop Leadership Corps:
 - Please review carefully the responsibilities and requirements for holding office.
 - Only “Trained” Scouts may hold certain offices.
 - Officers will be reviewed by the Scoutmaster and SPL.
- Section 3- Advancement methods and requirements:
 - Only “Trained” Scouts may sign off on Junior ranks.
 - “Scout Spirit”, fulfillment of leadership requirements, and participation in Troop Patrol are defined as attending a percentage of meetings and Troop activities
 - “Service Time” is clearly defined
 - Requirements for Order of the Arrow are clearly defined
 - “Partials” and reviews of Merit Badges are clearly defined

It is our hope that this Orientation Guide provides you with the information you need to have a successful and gratifying Boy Scout experience. Please keep it for future reference.

Yours in Scouting,

The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, and Patrol Leaders Council of Troop 221



Boy Scouts

Of America



Boy Scout Troop 221 Orientation Guide

The High Adventure Troop

Troop 221 meets every Monday night, year round, from 7:30-8:30 p.m.
at the Cave Spring United Methodist Church
4505 Hazel Drive
Roanoke, Virginia

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Introduction

Welcome to Troop 221, Roanoke's *High Adventure Troop*!

Why, you may ask, are we called the *High Adventure Troop*? Read on, and you'll see that our activities and our dedication to getting outdoors in our fantastic valley and surrounding areas allow us to wear this title with pride. We are a boy-led Troop, stressing the involvement of the boys in all stages of planning and executing the annual program. Only through doing, can learning truly take place.

Troop 221 is proud to be a BSA Quality Unit, meaning we have met National criteria for Scout rank advancement, retention of Scouts, providing a quality annual program and events, training among adult and boy leaders, and the percentage of Scouts receiving *Boys Life* magazine.

Our Mission

The leaders of the Troop- adults *and* boys- are dedicated to providing each Scout with a safe and supportive environment where he can learn the skills and values necessary to become a positive force in the community. We will help a Scout advance to whatever rank he wishes to achieve. We will provide a program of activities to challenge, develop, and grow boys into young men and achievers. We accept all boys of all races, creed, and religion. We ask only that they dedicate themselves to living the Scout Oath and Law as we recite them at every meeting. We encourage parental participation and visitation.

Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal,
helpful, friendly, courteous, kind,
obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave,
clean, and reverent.

Our Values



Scout Oath or Promise

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,

mentally awake, and morally straight.

It is very important that the Scouts understand the importance of what they recite each week. These aren't just words to repeat, but rather promises and ideals by which we live. As part of the joining requirements all new Scouts must demonstrate that they understand the Oath and Law before obtaining their Scout rank.

We expect the Scouts of Troop 221 to apply these promises and ideals in all that they do, making them a part of their daily lives.

Scouting is a challenging, exciting and fun trip, with many rewards and lessons. If you work hard enough, you face a lifetime of recognition and a brotherhood of fellowship. So welcome to our shared adventure!

Joining The Troop

When a boy reaches 11 years old or has completed fifth grade, whichever comes first, he is eligible to join Boy Scouts. A boy can join at any time before the age of 18. Upon joining, be sure to get a Boy Scout Handbook- it will be critical for understanding the ways of Boy Scouting!

Crossing Over From Cub Scouts

Cub Scout Packs usually have ceremonies in the spring for 'Crossing Over' their 2nd year Webelos from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. During your last year of Cub Scouts, you should visit several Scout Troops and find one that meets your needs. Look carefully at the size of the Troop, talk with the adult leadership and gauge the involvement of the boy leaders. Evaluate the activities that are planned for the year, and determine if they are the kind in which you would like to take part. There are as many different Troops as there are Scouts, so make sure you find a fit!

Upon joining Troop 221, a Scout is assigned to a New Scout Patrol and introduced to a Troop Guide, an older Scout who will help you learn the way our Troop works. He will be your 'big buddy' for the first few months, helping you to adjust to the 'Boy Scout Way' of doing things.

You and your parents or adult guardians will have to fill out a Boy Scouts of America application and Troop information forms- medical information and areas of interest.

If you have earned your Webelos badge and Arrow of Light award- congratulations, you qualify for the Scout rank upon entering our Troop! All you need is a Scoutmaster Conference (described later) and you'll be on your way to your next rank!

Transferring from another Troop

If you've already started on your Scouting adventure- welcome to ours! Again, please make sure that our program meets your needs and ask as many questions as you need to; we're here to get you where you want to be!

Please fill out an application and get it back as soon as possible- and have your old Troop send us your records including dates of camping in tents, miles hiked, canoed or biked, and any Troop-specific awards you have earned. Upon joining Troop 221, you will be assigned to a Patrol. Welcome!

Troop 221 will provide a transcript for any Scout who must leave for another Troop.

Dues and Fees

Dues are \$54 per year. We use a January to December calendar, and we will pro-rate dues to the month you actually fill out an application. The \$10.00 annual registration fee is included as a part of the dues. You will also receive a subscription to *Boys Life*, the monthly magazine of the Boy Scouts of America.



Each activity throughout the year will have a fee associated with it. These fees cover the cost of food, admission fees and transportation. They can range from \$5.00 to over \$100.00. You are asked to make a decision on your commitment to the trip prior to the cut-off date (usually two weeks prior) and **you may be charged for any purchased supplies if you have not cancelled (by calling the designated trip leader) prior to their purchase.** Scouts are encouraged to earn their own portion of any trip fees. If you sign up, be sure you're going!

Uniforms

The wearing of a uniform demonstrates a willingness to belong to a group and a respect for the group's rules and regulations. In Troop 221, we wear the BSA uniform with pride. When traveling to and from activities and when touring, we always wear our uniforms so that the general public knows that they can count on us to be upstanding citizens.

Each Scout is expected to have a full Boy Scouts of America uniform, as described in chapter one of the *Boy Scout Handbook*. Placement for all patches is described in the front and back covers of the *Handbook*. Uniforms are available at the Scout Service Center.

Troop 221 *requires* the following parts of the uniform:

- Khaki Scout shirts, with proper Council patch and Troop numerals on the left shoulder as well as any badge of office. The rank patch belongs on the left pocket. The Patrol patch belongs on the right shoulder.
- A 'class B' T-shirt, as offered for purchase by the Troop. This is used at summer camp and on trips when we want to be less formally dressed.
- Scout pants or shorts and a Boy Scout belt. The wearing of swimsuits, cut-off jeans, and athletic pants (baseball pants or soccer shorts) is discouraged. Occasional wearing of jeans is

permitted.

- Sneakers or footwear appropriate to the activity is required. Bare feet will not be allowed.
- A red Scout neckerchief, with either white or black lettering. This will be used for formal occasions and for Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review.
- A merit badge sash for all the awards you'll earn!

You will be told which parts of the uniform are required for a specific activity. For our weekly meetings, your shirt, pants and shoes are required. There will be occasional uniform inspections!

Parental Involvement

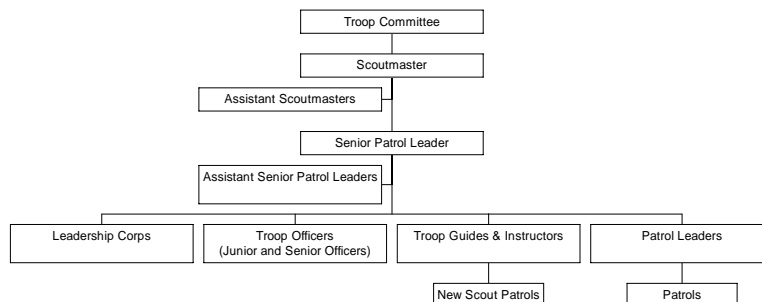
One of the great things about Troop 221 is the amount of parental involvement. We have over 40 registered adult volunteers, more than most Troops have registered Scouts!

This doesn't mean we don't need *your* involvement! Please consider being a registered leader. Registering as an Assistant Scoutmaster or Committee member means that you can help us out on trips (driving and leading a trip) and that you can take part in the education and evaluation of the Scouts. We DO have turnover in our adult ranks, so we need new participants! It is a great way to stay involved in the program with your son.

Even if you choose to remain "just an involved parent", we invite you to come to the meetings, go on our trips, and help out in any way possible. One of the most gratifying aspects of having a Boy Scout in the house is dedicating yourself to sharing in the activities. Come, and be young again!

Throughout the year, we will have family activity nights. Our Courts of Honor, spaghetti suppers and Scout Equipment Extravaganza nights are fun and informative, and all families are encouraged to attend. Watch your calendars!

Troop Structure



Troop Committee

The Troop Committee is responsible for the logistics of the Troop and ensuring that it is in compliance with BSA regulations. The Committee and its Chairperson work closely with the Scoutmaster to ensure that the Troop has the equipment, funds, and resources necessary to execute its program. The Committee is responsible for reviewing the applications of all adult members, and is the liaison to the Troop's Charter Organization, Cave Spring United Methodist Church.

Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters

The Scoutmaster is responsible for working directly with the youth leaders of the Troop and ensuring the successful execution of the Troop's program. The Scoutmaster organizes the efforts of the youth, providing leadership and guidance during planning stages and seeing to the individual developmental needs of the Scouts.

Assistant Scoutmasters take on specific roles within the Troop, volunteering to work as Merit Badge counselors, guides to youth Officers, coordinators for Troop activities and outings, or to work on weekly meetings. There are a myriad of jobs that keep a Troop going, and the efforts of the Assistant Scoutmasters are key to a successful Troop.

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)

The Senior Patrol Leader, or SPL, is the youth leader of the Troop, elected by the Scouts as their leader. He serves a term of one year, and is a Scout with Star rank or above. In order to hold this position, a Scout **MUST** have completed Junior Leader Training, and Foxfire (described later) is **HIGHLY** recommended.

In Troop 221, the SPL has the ultimate responsibility for setting the tone of the program, making sure that the program is designed to meet the needs of the Scouts, and then to properly delegate responsibility to ensure that the program is successfully executed. Sounds like a big job, right? It is! That is why the Scoutmaster works closely as a guide to the SPL. A Scout who aspires to Eagle rank is encouraged to hold this position or that of Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPLs)



The Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders serve as 'seconds in command' to the SPL. There can be as many as three ASPLs; they are assigned to oversee various aspects of the Troop's functions to ensure a successful execution of the program. They serve a term of one year, are Scouts of Star rank or above, and are appointed by the SPL and the Scoutmaster. Junior Leader Training or Foxfire is required to hold this position.

Troop Leadership Corps (TLC)

The Troop Leadership Corps is an elite group of Scouts who have been recognized for their ability to educate and lead other Scouts. Scouts who are over the age of 14, have attained the rank of Life and are actively working on their Eagle rank are eligible to be nominated to the Leadership Corps. Members are approved by the SPL and the Scoutmaster, and serve until they reach 18 years of age. They are assigned as mentors to other youth officers or groups of Scouts, and may serve on specific projects as assigned by the Scoutmaster.

Patrol Leaders (PLs) and Assistants (APLs)

The Patrol is the heart and soul of the Troop, and its leadership is critical to a successful Troop. The PLs and APLs are Scouts holding a rank of First Class and higher, are elected by the Patrol, and serve for a term of one year. Junior Leader Training or Foxfire is required for these positions.

The PLs are responsible for seeing to the needs of the individual Scouts, making sure that they are advancing through the ranks, receiving the education they need to advance, and providing exciting and interesting activities. A good PL will stay in constant contact with the Patrol members, and represent their needs to the SPL and the rest of the Troop at the monthly **Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC)**.

The PLC is where program decisions are made, where the youth leadership plans activities and learning experiences, and where the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters provide guidance and advice. The PLC meets the last Monday of the month, and all Officers must attend.

The SPL works closely with the PLs to ensure that the individual Scouts are receiving the maximum benefit from the Troop's program. The SPL evaluates the performance of the PL and provides coaching and counseling when necessary. An ineffective PL can be dismissed and replaced only after consultation between the SPL and the Scoutmaster.

Troop Officers

Troop Officers and office holders are those Scouts who have been assigned by the SPL to specific roles within the Troop. A **Senior Officer** is a Scout of First Class rank or above, and the office has significant responsibility and outcomes that are critical to the function of the Troop. This position has a term of one year.

A **Junior Officer** is usually a Scout of Second Class or First Class rank. These positions are less critical in their nature, yet provide the opportunity for leadership and notoriety. They have a term of one year. These Scouts may be speaking in front of groups for the first time, or gaining valuable experience in giving directions and working with others.

Officers' Responsibility

All officers are expected to show initiative in their positions, making it better for the person who follows by improving the processes, making physical improvements where appropriate, and creating or improving a procedures manual upon leaving office. Twice during the Officer's tenure in office, a review will take place with the Scoutmaster and the Senior Patrol Leader. At that time, job performance will be reviewed and the Officer will be coached on performance issues. The Scoutmaster and the SPL may replace an Officer after a review with the Patrol Leader's Council. The PLC may ask for such a review to take place.

The Troop provides Junior Leader Training programs twice each year. All Scouts must complete this course prior to holding office. The Council holds a week-long Junior Leader Training course called "Foxfire" once each summer. Senior officers are encouraged to attend a session to gain valuable leadership skills.

Junior Officer Positions

APL

Troop Scribe

Troop Historian

Troop Librarian

Bugler

Chaplain Aide
Den Chief

Senior Officer Positions

SPL

ASPL

Troop Leadership Corps

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster

Patrol Leader

Troop Guide

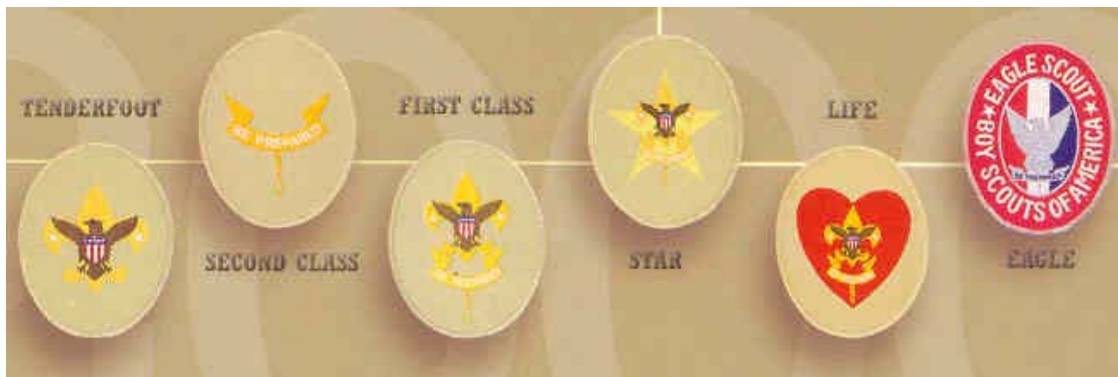
Quartermaster

Troop Newsletter Editor

Troop Spring Trip Coordinator

Outdoor Activities Coordinator

Troop OA Representative



Advancement

Purpose and Pace

Highly personal achievement and individual goal setting and attainment characterize Boy Scout advancement. Unlike Cub Scouts, where the pace of advancement is dictated by a schedule and is usually completed as a group, Boy Scouts are expected to work independently toward their goals under the guidance of adult leaders. Together, we set the appropriate pace and the proper sequence of events. It is a system that has worked for nearly 100 years!

For some Scouting parents, allowing the Scout to take control over his own destiny is a very difficult thing. It is hard to believe that a youth of 12, 14 or even 17 can have his priorities straight enough to attain lofty goals. Trust us- we adult leaders have our own Scouts too, who are challenging us with their procrastination and excuses. But please feel secure that we leaders *are dedicated to the success of each and every Scout*. If there is an honest effort on the part of the Scout to complete the advancement requirements, we will ensure that rank, reward, and recognition are attained.

Please feel free to call any time to ask for information and a consultation, **but please do not take over the Scout's advancement for him, dictating pace and activities**. In the end, your Scout will learn volumes more about himself and feel the satisfaction of accomplishment if you allow him to work independently. We only have to let him experience fully the pleasure and anguish of successes and failures that are a part of accomplishing goals in everyday life. Encourage him, stimulate him, and discuss with the Scout Leaders your concerns; but avoid being the driving force behind his achievement. Eagle rank *must* come from within.

Scoutmaster Conferences & Boards of Review

All advancement concludes with two interviews, the *Scoutmaster's Conference* and the *Board of Review*. These can be stressful for the Scout, but they are by no means a form of inquisition. Rather, they are intended as a checking point to ensure that the Scout is getting what he needs to develop into a good and contributing citizen.

In the *Scoutmaster's Conference*, the Scout receives personal attention from the Scoutmaster and reviews his progress in Scouting. A check on skills and information may occur, but not an in-depth comprehensive quiz. The Scout is given an opportunity to air personal feelings about his Scouting experience and the Troop.

The *Board of Review* is conducted by a panel of Senior Scouts and adult Leaders that checks for and reinforces the need for skills, reviews participation and fulfillment of duties, identifies

opportunities for advancement, and helps the Scout to set new goals. This is a formal presentation of the Scout's ability to apply what he has learned, and the Board has every right to ask the Scout to demonstrate any of those skills at any Board for any rank advancement. Remember, the BSA motto is "*Be Prepared*"! Do NOT take the Board of Review lightly. The Board has the right to deny any Scout the privilege of rank advancement; the Scoutmaster will review all decisions and reserves the right of final approval on all advancement issues.

All Scouts presenting themselves for a Scoutmaster's Conference or a Board of Review should be in Class A uniform, including merit badge sash and neckerchief. All badges (especially those of rank and office) should be current and in the proper position on the uniform. An improperly attired Scout should not request nor expect a review.

A Scoutmaster's conference can be requested at any time, but Boards of Review must be scheduled and generally are held on the second Monday of the month, prior to the general Scout meeting.

Advancement is granted when the Board of Review passes the Boy Scout. Three times a year the Troop holds a **Court of Honor** during which all rank advancement and awards are recognized in front of family and friends.

Advancement Methods

All rank requirements are listed in the *Boy Scout Handbook* that serves as a guide and a record of accomplishment. **Every Scout should have a copy of the Handbook.**

The PLC has recommended and approved the following levels of participation as the necessary standards to measure "Scout Spirit", fulfillment of leadership requirements and determination for the requirement of "...being active in your Troop Patrol." These standards will be used when evaluating a Scout for advancement to a higher rank during a Board of Review:

- Attending weekly meetings (must attend 65% of meetings)*
- Attending Troop activities away from meetings like trips, campouts and Troop service projects (attend 55 % of all activity days available)*
- Attending Patrol Leaders Council meetings (for all Troop officers)(must attend 90% of meetings, unless excused by SPL)*

***These percentages were recommended and approved by the Patrol Leader's Council.**

Certain special situations may occur that cause deviation from these percentages; the reason for the absences should be involuntary and the SPL and the Scoutmaster will consult with the Scout. For extended leaves that are voluntary- i.e. sport seasons- the Scout will need to attend enough meetings, activities, or PLCs when his Scout activity resumes to meet the appropriate percentages.

Junior Ranks (Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class)

The Junior ranks of Boy Scouting are well structured and have very specific requirements. These occur at a time of transition (usually from Cub Scouting) in a Scout's life, and the structure provides for smoother adjustment to Troop life. The Scouts accomplish the requirements as they take part in Troop meetings and attend the trips and activities. The requirements cover skills and information that will make the Scouts better citizens and more self-sufficient.

Troop 221 provides a booklet of requirements that mirrors those in the BSA Handbook. It is a

smaller, easier to handle (and potentially to lose- be responsible!) record of the Scout's progress toward rank. The Scouts should be encouraged to keep this booklet **and a pen** with them at all times; they never know when a requirement might be completed!

Requirements are completed after review by a Troop officer. The officer must have completed Junior Leader Training and have attained First Class Rank. An Officer may NOT sign off a requirement for a Scout of equal rank.

It is the responsibility of the individual Scout to present himself to a Troop officer for review and "signing off" on a completed requirement. The Patrol Leader should be aware of each Scout's progress, and provide or arrange for opportunities to learn skills and information. Sometimes the entire Troop will learn together during the meetings. But the Scout can always forge ahead and seek out help from older Scouts, Troop officers, or adult Leaders to advance at his own pace. Attending the Brownsea Island Adventure program at summer camp can complete many of the requirements for these ranks.

Senior Ranks (Star and Life Scouts)

Once a Scout attains a senior rank, two significant factors change. First, there is less structure in terms of requirements, with more reliance on individual merit badges. The second change involves the Scout's actions as a citizen; more time is spent giving back to the community in the form of service projects, and more time giving back to the Troop as a leader.

Leadership Service Time- required for these ranks- shall be spent in meaningful service not normally expected of a Scout as a part of his school, religious, or community activities. Volunteering to sort books at the library or stock food at the local food shelter are good examples of service time. Staying to help clean up after a Cub Scout meeting is not; as a Scout, you're expected to help other Scouts. Only the Scoutmaster can grant service hours.

The requirements for these ranks are meant to help the Scout explore the world through more mature eyes. Only adult Leaders comprise the Boards of Review for these ranks, and they focus on levels of participation and commitment to and completion of the responsibilities of the Scout's office.

The reviewers will make every effort to help the Scout understand the importance of doing a good job; advancement frequently hangs on the Scout's commitment to the Troop. It is not unusual for a Scout to be held back for a number of months if a proper level of commitment and maturity are not shown.

Eagle Rank

Less than 4% of all Boy Scouts attain the rank of Eagle, and the Scout who does is a special individual. He has demonstrated leadership qualities, commitment and a level of citizenship that goes far beyond his peers. He is a fine example for the rest of the Troop.

The requirements for Eagle Scout are very specific, and are mandated from national BSA headquarters. They center around the *Eagle Service Project* which must be conceived by the Scout, must be led by the Scout, and it must benefit a portion of the community. Approval by the Council Eagle Scout Board must be gained, and the Scout must pass an Eagle Board of Review before attaining the rank. **A Scout must hold the rank of Life before he can begin to consider an Eagle Service Project.** The Troop assigns an Eagle Advisor, an adult Leader who will assist in getting the Scout from Life to Eagle.

Order of the Arrow (OA)

The Order of the Arrow is a National Honor Society of Boy Scouts. Both youth and adults belong to the OA, but it is the world's largest youth-run organization.

Membership in the OA is a great honor. Their peers elect Scouts for membership. They are nominated and recognized for living the Scout Oath and Law every day, and for setting an exemplary standard for their peers.

To qualify for OA nomination, a Scout must:



- Be of First Class rank or higher.
- Have 15 days and nights of camping in a 2-year period, including a 6-day and 5-night camping experience at a BSA facility.
- Be elected by his peers, following approval by the Scoutmaster.

Merit Badges



Merit badges provide the Scout the opportunity to explore careers and areas that they might otherwise choose to ignore. Some can be very challenging and there are 12 that are required for the Eagle rank. A Scout may work alone or in a group, but the choice for merit badge is strictly personal.

When a Scout wants to begin a merit badge, he asks the Scoutmaster or assigned Assistant Scoutmaster for permission. Their job is to make sure that the merit badge is within the ability of the Scout, and is appropriate for him to attempt at his rank. The Scout is given a **'blue card'** registration and record form, and then is assigned a merit badge counselor.

Adult Leaders act as the merit badge counselors, helping the Scout to perform the requirements

and learn the skills necessary to be competent in his chosen area. Each counselor has his or her own way of conducting a Scout through the merit badge, and it is important to follow instructions carefully so the Scout gains full credit.

Upon completion, the Scout returns the blue card to the Scoutmaster or Assistant; he will be presented with his newly earned merit badge at the next Court of Honor.

Partials occur when a Scout does not complete his merit badge in an allotted time, or at a specific event, such as Summer Camp or a Jamboree.

Summer camp and *Jamboree/Camporee* merit badges are earned away from the Troop at a specific event. Troop 221 adult Leaders will review the requirements with the Scout, to ensure that his education is retained and relevant. The Scout may be asked to repeat something done in camp if it is not demonstrated or explained properly.

Troop Outings



Camping and Hiking

Each month, Troop 221 plans at least one backpacking/camping trip and one day-hiking trip. There is ample opportunity for the Scouts to take part in a trip that meets their skill level and their interests. The Troop has backpacked along the Appalachian Trail, canoed for two days on the James River, and biked along the New River Trail. If it's out there, you can bet the Troop has plans to do it!

Summer Camp

Each year, Troop 221 attends the first week of summer camp at the Blue Ridge Council's Camp Powhatan in Pulaski County. This is the nation's largest locally-owned camp, and offers many experiences depending on the skills and interests of the Scouts:

- Base Camp Powhatan- merit badge classes, swimming, Brownsea Island Adventure program, sleeping in two-man tents- the typical summer camp experience.
- High Knoll- backpacking for six days over the trails that cover the 17,000+-acre camp.
- Fish camp- love to fish? How does six days of nothing *but* fishing sound to you? Learn all about the methods and tricks that make fishing a great sport.
- Claytor Lake Aquatics camp- Sailboats, motorboats, water skiing, snorkeling and SCUBA diving- all the things a Scout who loves the water needs!

- Camp Ottari- a rustic camp that provides basic needs but leaves a lot that needs to be done by the Patrols.
- Mountain Man- live in the hills and learn to survive on your wits and the land.
- New River Adventure Camp- Rafting, biking, hiking, climbing- all in a week!
- Voyager Trek- float down the New river in a canoe, just like an explorer of old!

There are minimum age and skill requirements for all camps except Powhatan and Ottari, and all camps require fees. Information on the camps is provided in January, with fees and medical forms turned in before May 1st. Medical forms must be current (within two years) for a Scout to attend summer camp.

Touring Trips

Each year during spring break the Troop takes a 3-5 day touring trip. We have been to Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Gettysburg, and Charleston, South Carolina among other places. We try to stay on military bases, take historical hikes that result in earning patches, and cover as much ground as we can. Scouts are eligible only after they have been through one year of Scouting to ensure they understand the Troop's expectation for behavior and requirements for traveling as a group.

National Scout Jamboree

Once every four years, over 35,000 Scouts get together for ten days and nights of camaraderie, merit badging and fun Scout stuff. Scouts who hold First Class rank and are over the age of 13 may attend, and those over 16 may work. It is a sight that will never be forgotten, and Scouts are encouraged to attend. Troop 221 always sends contingents of workers and attendees, and visits for two days for those who can't make the full commitment.

BSA National High Adventure Camps

Philmont in New Mexico, Seabase in the Florida Keys, and Canoebase in Minnesota- these camps provide a ten-day experience of intense adventure for Scouts. Troop 221 has sent many crews to Philmont, to Seabase and Canoebase. The trips are usually planned two years in advance, and involve intense planning and fund-raising.

Many Scouts come back from these trips as 'changed individuals'; they can be very challenging and personally gratifying. Imagine being with ten or twelve of your friends, alone on top of a 12,000 foot mountain as the sun rises, knowing that you just completed a three hour hike in the dark to get there. Many of our Scouts who have been to Philmont or Minnesota describe their visit as the 'adventure of their lives' and strive to get back. This is the experience of "High Adventure" that we strive for as a Troop, and we encourage our Scouts to seek through the BSA High Adventure Camps.

Equipment

So, what equipment does your Scout need? How big an investment should you make? Troop 221 recommends that you do NOT go out and purchase hiking and backpacking, canoeing and biking equipment; at least not until the Scout demonstrates a significant interest in a particular activity. What you will need to purchase are some bare essentials that a Scout can use on every trip.

Below is a list of typical equipment:

BASICS

Sleeping bag (20 degree), stuffsack and bedroll
Flashlight and batteries
Knife or multi-purpose tool
Compass
Whistle
1-quart canteen
First aid kit
Daypack
Boy Scout Handbook

COOKING & EATING

Drinking cup
Plastic flatware
Dish or mess kit

CLOTHING

Light rain jacket (Gore-Tex or heavy nylon)
Poncho (especially if jacket is not waterproof)
Hat or cap
Stocking cap
Gloves
Tennis shoes or water shoes for wading
Swimsuit
Good Hiking Shoes

PERSONAL GEAR

Soap
Toothpaste

Toothbrush
Toilet paper
Towel
Washcloth
Suntan lotion
Hand lotion
Insect repellent
Comb
Sewing kit
Notebook and pencil
Chap stick

Now, buying the equipment can be a chore, particularly if you don't want to spend a significant amount of time researching. That is what the adult Leaders are for! We have a vast amount of knowledge among us, and if there is one thing we love to do it is talk equipment! We can tell you what's good, what's bad, and where to look for it, so please consult us!

Your Scout can also borrow from the Troop reserves. We have tents, backpacks and some of us have extra sleeping bags and other gear. So please don't be shy about letting your son borrow gear and try an activity before you invest a significant amount of money in gear that may only be used once.