

**Boy Scout Troop 79
Robbinsville, NJ**



Information for New Scouts and Parents

August 2009

Introduction

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 79! The purpose of this booklet is to provide new Scouts and their parents with basic, but important, information about our Troop, how we function, and our Scouting program. We aim provide our Scouts with a program that meets or exceeds the goals and objectives set by the National Boy Scout Council as well as our local district. Please visit our web site at <http://www.robbinsvilletroop79.org> for additional information, including an updated calendar of events.

Key contact information

Troop website: <http://www.robbinsvilletroop79.org>
Email:
Scoutmaster scoutmaster@robbinsvilletroop79.org
Committee committee@robbinsvilletroop79.org
Everyone all@robbinsvilletroop79.org
Phone: See Roster

Troop Organization

For your reference, a copy of the current Troop Roster is attached. Your Scout will be provided with an updated version as necessary. Please let the Troop Committee Chairman or Scoutmaster know of any changes related to your son’s listing.

Chartering Organization (sponsor)

Each Scout Troop has a sponsoring or chartering organization. Troop 79’s chartering organization is the Friends of Washington Township. Our charter with this organization is renewed annually.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee consists of parents of Scouts in the troop and non-parents with an active interest in Scouting. Its purpose is to administer the affairs of the troop (including finances) and to provide support to the adult leaders (e.g., Scoutmaster and Asst. Scoutmasters) of the troop. The committee approves the appointment of all adult leaders and monitors their performance. The Troop Committee meets on a monthly basis, including the Scoutmaster and Asst. Scoutmasters, to review finances, any emergent issues, and Troop progress in executing the annual program plan. The Troop Committee is headed by the Committee Chair, who conducts the monthly committee meetings and prepares the Troop Charter. Other Committee members include the Treasurer, the Advancement Chairperson, the Fundraising Chairperson, the Community Service Chairperson, and the Eagle Advisor. All parents are encouraged to attend and participation is welcome.

Currently the committee consists of the following members.

| | | | |
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| Chartered Organization Rep: | Jeff Sikora | | |
| Committee chair: | Diane Normandin | | |
| Treasurer: | Hoda Bahgat | | |
| Community Service: | Karen LaRochelle | | |
| Advancement: | Janet Sprang | | |
| Troop Eagle Advisor: | Jeff Sikora | | |
| Fund Raising: | Karen LaRochelle | | |
| Committee Members: | John Sprang | Doug Lapp | Norm Kurzeja |
| | Tim Dring | Sean McMurtry | Steve Hildebrandt |
| | Ted Jones | Bobby McNamara | |

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Board of Review – When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he appears before a Board of Review composed of members of the Troop Committee. The purpose of the review is not an examination. Rather it is to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals; to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement, to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program, and to encourage him to keep working towards advancement. A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a boy about his lack of progress toward advancement. The following people currently sit on review boards.

| | | | |
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| Tim Dring | Norman Kurzeja | Bobby McNammara | Jeff Sikora |
| John Sprang | Doug Lapp | Ted Jones | Don Roberts |
| Steve Hildebrandt | Sean McMurtry | | |

Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the actions of the troop. His functions include:

1. Training and guiding boy leaders.
2. Working with other adult leaders and the Troop Committee.
3. Helping boys to grow by encouraging them to learn for themselves.
4. Using Scouting methods to achieve the Troop's goals and objectives.
5. Ensuring that Troop activities are carried out in a safe and responsible manner.

The Scoutmaster is backed up by Assistant Scoutmasters who help in running the program and work with the patrols during the meetings.

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| Scout Master: | Mike Normandin |
| Assistant Scout Masters: | George Gother |
| | James Kelly |
| | Dan Roberts |

Senior Patrol

The troop program and its execution is primarily the responsibility of the Troop's boy leadership, which resides in the Senior Patrol. It is made up of the following positions: Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Asst. Senior Patrol Leader(s) (ASPL), Troop Instructor (TI), Troop Guide (TG), Troop Quartermaster (QM), Troop Scribe (TS), Troop Historian (TH), Troop Librarian (TL), and Den Chief. The SPL is the highest Scout position in the troop, and it is his duty to: 1) assign tasks; 2) make sure adequate planning and preparation takes place for program execution; 3) provide leadership and supervision of Troop activities; and 4) instill Scouting spirit into the Troop. The SPL reports directly to the Scoutmaster.

ASPLs assist the SPL in the planning and execution of Troop activities. The TI has primary responsibility for the organization, coordination, and conduct of the various training programs and lectures held for the Scouts. The Troop Guide's provide senior-level, experience-based guidance and mentoring to the younger Scouts, as well as to members of the Senior Patrol, which may include providing training lectures. The QM is responsible for the inventory, maintenance, and issuance of Troop equipment for campouts, hikes, etc. The TS is responsible for any Troop correspondence as well as monitoring Scout attendance at functions. The Troop Historian responsible for recording and archiving important and historically relevant troop activities and functions, including appropriate photographs. The Troop Librarian is responsible for the inventory, loaning, and storage of troop-owned training materials and booklets, including the merit badge book collection. The Den Chief is the troop's representative to the designated Cub Scout Pack's Webelos den(s), providing support, guidance, and training for Webelos Scouts in accordance with national council recommendations, as well as Troop 79 objectives for Webelos Scouts interested in continuing with Boy Scouting in our troop.

Patrol Organization

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Troop 79 is comprised of two or more Patrols, each having about 5-8 member Scouts. Patrol leadership resides with a Patrol Leader and an Asst. Patrol Leader. Scouts are assigned to a Patrol based on age and experience.

Patrol Leader Council

The Patrol Leader Council (PLC) is comprised of the entire Senior Patrol, as well as the Patrol Leader from each of the Troop's patrols. The PLC meets on a regular basis to review and plan upcoming Troop meetings and activities. At these meetings, the Scoutmaster and Asst. Scoutmaster serve in an advisory role. The PLC's recommendations for Troop activities are reviewed and approved by the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee.

Parents

The role of parents within Troop 79 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

1. Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scout
2. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
3. Help your son keep track of his Scout book. The Scout's progress is recorded in the Scout book and is used at each Board of Review.
4. Help keep all membership cards, blue cards, and certificates in a binder. Plastic baseball card collection sheets work great for this purpose.
5. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
6. Assist, as requested, in all Troop fund-raisers and other such activities. All such assistance lowers the cost of the program we offer to the Scouts and, therefore, lowers each family's cash outlay for their Scout(s).
7. Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar check the website <http://www.robbinsvilletroop79.org> .
8. Drive to or from a campout if required.
9. Attend / chaperone (for the day or night) at least one campout per year. This is a great opportunity to spend time with your scout.

Troop Meetings

Troop 79 meets each Thursday evening from 7:30 to 9:00PM at the Washington Township Senior Center (behind the Washington Township library). The meeting agenda is the responsibility of the Senior Patrol Leader, with input from the Patrol Leader Council and Scoutmaster. The focus of the meeting is usually determined by upcoming activities, such as campouts and hikes. Emphasis is always placed on learning Scout skills and completing basic advancement requirements, but may include appropriate games and merit badge studies.

Court of Honor

Twice a year, Troop 79 will hold a Court of Honor, which may or may not be on the same day as a regular meeting. The purpose of a Court of Honor is to publicly recognize our Scouts for achievements in rank or other actions. Parents are always invited and are encouraged to attend.

Activities/Outings

Prior to the start of each Scouting year (around late Summer), the Scoutmaster and Asst. Scoutmasters, working in conjunction with the SPL and the PLC, will develop an activity plan and schedule for the next 12 month term, which is reviewed and approved by the Committee and shared with all Troop members.

Besides weekly meetings, Troop 79 schedules one outdoor activity every month, with the exception of December (because of the holiday season). Typically, in a 12-month period, Troop 79 will conduct the following outdoor activities:

- January: Pre-Klondike Winter Campout, a weekend campout as practice for Klondike Derby.
- February: Klondike Derby weekend Camporee.
- March: Weekend backpacking campout/day hike (backpacking for older Scouts/hike for younger Scouts).
Ski Trip.
- April: Back to Basics campout Robbins house. Designed to teach new scouts basic camping skills.
Spring Camporee
- May: Beach Jam at Morey's Pier in Wildwood, NJ.
- June: Washington Township festival fundraiser.
Weekend campout, may include canoeing or rafting trip.
- July/August: Summer Camp at NO-BE-BO-SCO, week long.
High Adventure trip.
- September: weekend campout (may include canoeing or rafting trip)
- October: Fall Camporee
Fall backpacking trip.
- November: Weekend campout with Webelos.
Thanksgiving pie sales.
- December: Holiday Greenery fundraiser at the Holiday Bazaar.

For each of these type outings, a permission slip signed by the Scout's parent or guardian is required.

Troop 79 also engages in community service projects, which may include maintenance of the Tantum Park nature trail, and the Little Red Schoolhouse, and the Robbins House. We also participate in the Scouting for Food program, which occurs in December. Collected food is donated to the Senior Center for distribution locally.

Advancement

Scouts are encouraged to actively seek advancement through the Scout ranks. Requirements are detailed in the Scout Handbook. On each outing, opportunities are provided for Scouts to demonstrate outdoor Scout skills and get signed-off by an appropriate leader. Parents are usually not allowed to sign off on their son's Scout achievements.

For advancement in rank once the individual tasks are signed off, Scouts are required to first schedule a Scoutmaster's conference. Once this has been successfully completed, the Scout can then request and schedule a Board of Review, comprised of at least three adult leaders or Troop Committee members, which determines the Scout's eligibility for advancement based on Scout skill knowledge and adherence to the Scout Oath and Law. If completed successfully, the Scout is advanced in rank, with notification provided to the council office. As mentioned previously, advancements are formally recognized in a Court of Honor.

Scout Uniform Requirements

Troop 79 Scouts are required to have a complete "Class A" uniform as described in the Scout Handbook. In addition, Scouts should also have what is termed a "Class B" uniform, consisting of a Troop 79 T-shirt (or other official Scout T-shirt), Scout pants/shorts (other khaki- or forest green-colored pants/shorts are

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acceptable), and either sneakers or hiking boots with socks. Scouts are expected to attend weekly meetings wearing the Class A uniform unless instructed otherwise by the Troop leaders (e.g., in case an activity is planned where the uniform may get too soiled). For campouts or other outdoor activities, wearing the Class B uniform is appropriate. Troop 79 T-shirts and ball caps are available for purchase from the Troop for a nominal cost. At all times, no open-toed shoes should be worn.

What to buy:

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| Short sleeve scout shirt | If you have long sleeves from Webelos wear that. Otherwise get double duty from a short sleeve shirt. It is acceptable to wear a plain colored long sleeve shirt under the uniform shirt in colder weather. |
| Patches: | 7 & 9 Troop numerals CNJC Council shoulder patch WorldCrest |
| Scout switch-back zip off pants | Provides the benefits of both summer and winter use. |
| Belt | |
| Scout socks | Worn with scout shorts |
| Neckerchief and Slide | Troop standard is Green with Yellow stitching |

Available from the troop

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| Troop Cap | \$10.00 |
| Troop Class B t-shirt | \$5.00 |

Provided by the troop

Book

Green Epaulet tabs (presented at bridge crossing)

Medical Requirements

Certification of a Scout's medical condition must be provided annually by a physician if a Scout intends to participate in Summer Camp. Scouts will be provided with the specific form for this purpose. Each permission slip will also have space for the parent/guardian to record what medical conditions the leaders need to be aware of, as well as what medications are to be taken by the Scout. If necessary, an adult leader can maintain custody of a Scout's medication and ensure that it is properly administered.

Parents are required to notify the Troop of any medical condition that may affect the Scout's ability to participate in Troop Activities, including the regular Troop meetings. Failure to do so may impact the safety of the Scout and other members of the Troop. This is the responsibility of the Scouts parent or guardian.

Dues

Troop 79 does not assess member Scouts weekly or monthly dues. Instead, a once per year charge is assessed (currently \$55) in January/February in conjunction with the Troop's charter renewal, which covers the Scout's membership renewal, subscription to Boy's Life, and insurance. In addition, for each outing, a reasonable fee will be charged that covers any actual outing costs, plus provides a small surplus that is saved toward Troop equipment purchases (e.g., tents, camp kitchen equipment, lanterns, etc.)

Personal Equipment

Scouts should possess the personal equipment recommended in the Scout Handbook, to include at a minimum the following:

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- Appropriately-rated sleeping bag - a bag rated for 20 or 30 degrees is a good all round 3 season bag. Look for a bag with synthetic fill (no down) under 4 lbs.

Some suggested brands/models

Sumberjack <http://www.slumberjack.com/>

Ultimate +20

Superguide +30

Coleman

Coleman Exponent Grey Fox

- Extra blanket (or fleece sleeping bag liner)
- Closed-cell foam mattress (goes under sleeping bag)
Plain blue pad is available at Wal-Mart. This is to provide a layer of insulation from the ground.
- Rain gear – 2 piece rain suit is best or a full size poncho.
- 1-2 quart water bottles (nalgene type) start out each trip with water in the bottle as we may not have water available during camp set-up.
- Flashlight – LED headlamp, extra set of batteries.
- Mess kit, including washable drinking cup, eating utensils and plastic bowl. Aluminum mess kits aren't necessary they will make your food cold very fast. Cooking is done as a group.
- Large Gym-bag or Duffle for gear. Don't invest in a backpack the first year.
- Small day pack for carrying trail lunch, water bottle. Most boys have a school backpack or a dedicated one where they can always have mess kit, compass, flashlight water bottle etc ready to go.
- Change of clothing (especially socks, underwear, and pants)
Boys need to have one set of clothes which is non-cotton. Nylon zip off type pants are a good option (the new scout pants). Wicking type shirt + warm fleece. These provide insulation even when wet. Cotton does not.
- Toiletries – toothbrush etc.
- Hiking socks – 2 pairs of good wigwam, thorlo, Columbia, Smart wool - wool socks.
Liner socks polypropylene or nylon dress socks help prevent blistering.
- Hiking boots or hiking shoes (**not** sneakers)

The following items will need to be put together or purchased within the first few months as the scout is thought to use them.

- Pocket-size personal first aid kit
- Hand-held compass
- Pocket knife (can only be used if Scout has Totem Chit)
- Matches in waterproof container (can only be used if Scout has Fireman Chit)

Campmor <http://www.campmor.com/> is a good resource for camping gear at reasonable prices. While top of the line gear can be very expensive for the most part quality gear can be obtained without spending a lot of money.

For winter campouts, Scouts should also have a wool cap or other warm headgear, warm gloves that are waterproof or at least water-resistant, thermal underwear – polypropylene preferred (at least two sets), and a winter-weight overcoat. Temperatures at night on these campouts can be near zero, with wind-chills below zero. Any clothing, therefore, that gets wet from snow or rain cannot usually be dried out on the campout, and to prevent frostbite or hypothermia, a fresh/dry change of clothing is necessary. The boys will discuss winter camping preparation and equipment at several meetings.

Because your Scout will experience significant growth during his years in the Troop, it is not recommended that too much money be spent on higher quality or specialized equipment (such as a backpacking pack and

frame and backpacking-type sleeping bags) until the Scout has reached his mid- to older teenage years and intends to stay in the Scouting program.

Purpose, Goals, and Objectives of Scouting

Goals and Objectives

The four primary goals of Scouting are:

1. Building personal character
2. Reinforcement of our roles and responsibilities as citizens of our home, community, and nation
3. Encouraging and maintaining personal fitness
4. Training our youth to be leaders

Character is defined in terms of a boy's personal qualities, his values, and his outlook. Scouting builds a boy's character by emphasizing belief in a religion, respect for others, and respect for nature. Scouting teaches citizenship in the home, community, and nation by emphasis on the need to serve others, and on the need to fulfill our responsibilities as good citizens. Scouting promotes personal fitness, mental as well as physical, through safe, well-supervised outdoor activities such as swimming, hiking, and recreational athletics. The Scouting program provides an ideal setting for a boy to learn and practice leadership skills. Scouting is a boy run program and can be a boy's first experience in dealing with peer supervision and leadership.

The ideals of Scouting are stated in the Scout Oath, Law, Slogan, and Motto. Each Scout in Troop 79 is encouraged to strive for these ideals and understand them to begin his advancement program. The outdoor experience develops physical fitness, allows a Scout to develop new skills, allows a series of new, demanding, and unique challenges that are fun, emphasizes conservation and ecology, and demonstrates the magnitude of God's handiwork and improves the Scout's appreciation of it.

Troop 79 has as its goals the following:

1. Operate in a manner true to the purpose of Scouting.
2. Provide a program that is fun and challenging through: a) weekly meetings run by the boys; b) outdoor activities, including a minimum of 12 days and nights of camping each year; c) an annual one week summer camp; and d) at least one outing per year oriented towards Scouts who are First Class rank or higher and at least 13 years old.
3. Provide an advancement program and recognize achievement through formal Courts of Honor.
4. Have a boy-planned and boy-run troop program with appropriate adult guidance.
5. Provide leadership development for personal growth and to ensure continuity of boy leadership for the troop.

Troop 79 follows the patrol method of Scouting, which emphasizes the importance of teamwork, camaraderie, community environment, individual responsibilities, required performance, and the practice of leadership skills. Troop 79's advancement program is designed to present a series of increasingly difficult challenges for the Scout to master. Advancement rewards individual effort and accomplishment, while the patrol method teaches group skills and rewards group effort. Advancement criteria are set forth by the national Boy Scout council. For each rank advancement and merit badge, a Scout must appear before a trained adult and present his work. A parent is not allowed to approve advancement of his own child. This ensures that every Scout has an equal opportunity to succeed. Advancement is not mandatory in Troop 79; however, it is strongly encouraged at every opportunity.

Safe Scouting

New Scouts and their parents are encouraged to access the National Council's website, where the Guide to Safe Scouting manual is available for viewing. The information presented below is derived from that reference.

Principles and Procedures

Troop 79 strictly adheres to the requirements for safe Scouting, including ensuring that qualified adult supervision is available for all activities, as well as proper preparation and equipment. Troop 79 engages only in activities that are age-appropriate for the Scouts. All new Scouts and a parent or guardian are required to complete a Code of Conduct form, which summarizes the behavioral expectations that the Troop maintains for all Scouts and outlines the consequences for any misbehavior. Failure to complete this form will terminate your aspiring Scouts registration with the Troop.

Youth Protection

The Boy Scouts of America has adopted a number of policies aimed at eliminating opportunities for abuse within the Scouting program. These policies focus on leadership selection and on placing barriers to abuse within the program. The Boy Scouts of America takes great pride in the quality of the adult leadership. Being a leader in the BSA is a privilege, not a right. The adult application requires background information that is checked by the Troop Committee before accepting an applicant for unit leadership. While no current screening techniques exist that can identify every potential child molester, we attempt to reduce the risk of accepting a child molester by learning all about an applicant for a leadership position.

The BSA has adopted the following policies to provide additional security for our members. These policies are primarily for the protection of our youth members; however, they also serve to protect our adult leaders from false accusations of abuse.

Two-deep leadership: Two registered adult leaders, or one registered leader plus a parent of a participant (one of whom must be 21 years of age or older), are required on all trips and outings.

No one-on-one contact: One-on-one contact between adults and youth members is not permitted. In situations that require personal conferences, such as a Scoutmaster's conference, the meeting is to be conducted in view of other adults and youths.

Respect of privacy: Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp, and intrude only to the extent that health and safety require. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations.

Appropriate attire: Proper clothing for activities is required. For example, skinny-dipping is not permitted as part of Scouting.

Separate accommodations: When camping, no youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than his own parent or guardian. Separate shower and latrine facilities will be provided for female leaders. When separate facilities are not available, separate times for male and female use will be scheduled and posted for showers.

No secret organizations: The Boy Scouts of America does not recognize any secret organizations as part of its program. All aspects of the Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders.

Constructive discipline: Discipline used in Scouting will be constructive and reflect Scouting's values. Corporal punishment is never permitted.

Hazing prohibited: Physical hazing and initiations are prohibited and may not be included as part of any Scouting activity.

Junior leader training and supervision: Adult leaders monitor and guide the leadership techniques used by junior leaders and ensure that BSA policies are followed.

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Open lines of communication are important so that children are encouraged to bring any troubles to their parents for advice and counsel. Parents need to be involved in their sons' Scouting activities, and need to review the booklet, How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide, inserted in every Boy Scout handbook. The information in this booklet should be the subject of discussions between Scouts and their parents prior to joining any Troop. Parents also receive important information concerning the Scouting program printed on their son's membership application. This information is provided so that parents can detect any deviations from the BSA's approved program. If any deviations are noted, parents should call these to the attention of the Troop Committee. If the problems persist, parents should contact the Central New Jersey Council for assistance.

Allegations by a Scout concerning abuse in the program must be reported to the Scout Executive.

Since these reports are required, the child should be told by the parent that the parent has to tell the proper authorities but that no one else will be told. It is important that the parent not tell anyone other than the Scout Executive or a child protective services agency about allegations of abuse.

Scouting is a values-based, youth development program that helps young people learn positive attributes of character, citizenship, and personal fitness embodied in the Scout Oath and Law, including appropriate behavior. All Boy Scouts are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Law. Misbehavior by a single member in a Troop may constitute a threat to the safety of the individual who misbehaves as well as to the safety of other Troop members. Physical violence, hazing, bullying, theft, verbal insults, drugs, and alcohol have no place in the Scouting program and may result in the revocation of a Scout's membership in the Troop. If confronted by threats of violence or other forms of bullying from other youth members, Scouts should seek help from their adult leaders and parents.

Troop 79 adult leaders are responsible for monitoring the behavior of Scouts and interceding when necessary. Parents of Scouts who misbehave will be informed and asked for assistance in dealing with it. The BSA does not permit the use of corporal punishment by unit leaders when disciplining Scouts. The Troop Committee will review repetitive or serious incidents of misbehavior in consultation with the child's parents to determine a course of corrective action, which may include revocation of the youth's membership in the Troop. If a Scout's membership is revoked, the Central New Jersey Council will be promptly notified. In addition, Troop 79 will separately inform the Scout Executive about all incidents that result in a physical injury or involve allegations of sexual misconduct.