

Welcome

To

Troop 167

The Eagle Makers



Introduction to

Boy Scouts

3/30/08

Introduction:

Congratulations and welcome to Boy Scout Troop 167 of Macedon NY!

The following pages contain cover several “things you should know” about the troop and how it operates.

Who We Are

We are a member of the Finger Lakes Council and Iroquois District. Our charter organization is Drumlin Square Lodge # 1180-Free & Accepted Masons.

The troop Scoutmaster is Dennis Friedl. There are also Assistant Scoutmasters, Junior Leaders, and other adults that help with Troop 167. A complete roster is included at the back of this booklet. Additional assistance is appreciated with running this organization.

When We Meet

We meet as a troop on Monday Nights from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the Macedon Center Methodist Church on Macedon Center Road. Our active calendar runs from the first Monday after school starts in the fall until mid July when the troop attends a weeklong summer camp activity.

A detail of the year’s activities is available in a separate document. Feel free to contact any leader regarding this information.

Goals

The goal of our Troop is to prepare our scouts for adulthood through an adventure and advancement process that helps them recognize and value diversity and the strength they gain from achieving a common goal. In the process of learning Scouting adventure, citizenship and leadership skills, We (PARENT HELP IS ESSENTIAL) hope to develop Scouts prepared to meet future challenges and proudly wear the badge of Eagle.

NOTE:

Before becoming an official member of Troop 167, you must complete the chart on page 4 of your Boy Scout Handbook. If you are entering Boy Scouts from Cub Scouts and have received your Arrow of Light Award, you know most of the requirements to join (your Scoutmaster or an assistant Scoutmaster will review this process with you.) Once you have completed this, you will receive a red BSA neckerchief. You will receive the official Troop 167 Eagle Makers neckerchief upon earning the rank of Tenderfoot.

Troop Organization

Leadership

The Troop runs under the leadership of the Senior Patrol Leader with the advice and counsel from the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters. Support functions and Scoutmaster selection are handled by the Troop Committee, which consists of parents and other interested adults. Any parent who is interested in becoming a committee member is welcome to join -- just contact us (the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairperson can give you necessary information). All leaders are approved by the Chartered Organization Representative, an official of our sponsoring organization, Drumlin Square Lodge # 1180-Free & Accepted Masons and by the Finger Lakes Council. All organizations that sponsor Scouting in the four county Finger Lakes area form the Finger Lakes Council, BSA. The council provides us with program assistance, identifying camping locations, training, and professional and support services. The council office is located at 3685 Pre-Emption Rd, Geneva, NY 14456. Telephone 315-789-1166. Adult volunteers also help at the district level (Wayne County is in the Iroquois District of Finger Lakes Council) to provide service to all units and encourage inter unit activities (Camporees, Klondike Derby, and so forth).

Patrols

As a Cub Scout, you had an adult den leader to help you through your advancement. This person planned activities and made sure that you received your advancements and recognitions from the pack. In Boy scouts, it is a little different. The boys, with adult guidance, run the troop. The scouts are responsible for making sure they complete each requirement to advance to the next level. When you first begin, you will have more interaction with an adult leader to get you started. This is generally coordinated by one of the assistant scoutmasters.

As a new scout, you will be placed into a new scout patrol. There are several patrols in Troop 167. If a new patrol is created, the scouts will decide on a name for that patrol. Each patrol will have a **Patrol Leader (PL)** and an **Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)**. The positions are elected twice a year by the scouts in the individual patrols. The troop also has a **Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)** and an **Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)**. The Senior Patrol Leader is the top scout in the troop who with the guidance of the troop leadership, runs the troop meetings, the Patrol Leaders Council and helps the patrols succeed. All the scouts elect these positions. For more information on a boy scout patrol, troop and leadership, look on page 17 of your Boy Scout Handbook.

Participation

As a Boy Scout, you are required to wear your Official BS Uniform (field dress, sometimes called class A) **and neckerchief** to all scout functions, unless otherwise instructed to wear your Activity Uniform (scout t-shirt, sometimes called class B) When you join Troop 167, you will be given a plain red neckerchief and Boy Scout Handbook. **You should bring your handbook to every troop and patrol meeting.**

We recognize that a Scout cannot make every meeting and that sports may erase whole blocks of time. However, if a Scout really wants the rewards offered by Scouting and to be part of the activities we hold, we will make the adaptations necessary to make it so. Scouts only need to learn to speak up and organize their ideas and help put together a program that fits their needs. Scouting is a team event as much an individual event. Much of what they do beyond the basic skills is open for them to pursue.

Activities

Each year the scouts do several activities. These include fundraisers, campouts, service projects and summer camp. The troop may also take trips if the scouts show interest. During the year, we may also take a trip for white-water rafting, skiing in Vermont or some other trip that the troop is interested in taking. These are all things the scouts plan with the troop leadership's guidance. Parent involvement is encouraged.

Fundraising

Popcorn: In the fall, the boy scouts sell popcorn. This usually takes place the end of September (same time as cub scouts.) A percentage of the total sale that a scout sells will go into his campership account (similar to cub scouts). This money can be used to pay for camping, troop dues, summer camp or other related scouting trips or equipment.

Christmas Tree Sale: The weekend after Thanksgiving, the Troop sets up and starts the Christmas Tree Sale. This is the biggest fundraiser. The sale goes until the last weekend before Christmas. The trees are sold at McLouth Chevrolet in Macedon.

Each scout and a parent are expected to participate in what are usually 3 shifts during the tree sale. An open signup sheet is available at the troop meetings so that the scouts can select the dates and times they are available. Additional information will be provided early in November at the meetings and also by Email.

All scouts are expected to help with set up and tear down.

Spaghetti Dinner: The troop also has a Spaghetti Dinner in March. This is held at the Macedon Center Methodist Church on a Saturday. There are two shifts. Each scout and a parent will take one of the shifts. Each family is also asked to make a desert to go with the meal.

Rose Sale: In the spring, the troop sells roses for Mother's Day. A percentage of the money sold by the scout will go into his campership account (similar to cub scouts).

Dues

Our Dues are \$25 per year (depending upon needs). This covers registration (\$13.00), Boys Life (\$12), awards, and some of the costs toward adult registrations and training. Fundraisers are used to help cover the cost of camp fees and supplies. Typically our fundraisers include the BSA Trails-end popcorn sale, a Troop Christmas Tree sale and spaghetti supper in mid March (just before or renewal date). Dues are reduced when a family has more than one Boy Scout (they don't all need Boys Life for example). Scouts are encouraged to participate in fundraisers to have money in their accounts for dues and camp.

Scout Accounts

The troop's treasurer maintains scout accounts. Money is added from dues and fund raisers and withdrawn for Scout gear or activities such as camp or fun nights and Reregistering (\$25-35) as part of renewing our Charter before March 31st. Inactive Scouts may elect to have their money held in account in case they return to Scouting, transferred to the Troop account, or donated to Camp Babcock Hovey. If no election is made, the money will be held until it is clear they are not returning or their 18th birthday and then either transferred to the Troop account or donated to camp as decided by the Troop committee. *An updated method for accessing this information is being discussed.*

Safety and Emergencies

In order to ensure the safety of all, and for everyone's peace of mind, please note the following.

1. At least two and preferably three adult leaders must be in attendance for any Troop activity.
2. The ratio of adults to Scouts at any activity must be at least two adults per eight Scouts.
3. Finger Lakes Council carries an accident insurance policy to pay for expenses not covered by family insurance coverage.
4. Each Scout needs a medical form on file with the troop. For Scouts and leaders under 40 medical examinations are required once every three years for camp. Leaders over 40 require physicals every year. In addition, we must be made aware of any special medication and behavior (i.e. sleepwalking) considerations in order to provide a safe environment for the Scout.
5. Any time a parent has any question concerning the handling of discipline or any other problems, he or she should contact the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chairman Immediately.
6. Disruptive and disorderly conduct is not tolerated and subject to review by the troop committee and safety advisor regarding any action that may be needed.

Service Projects:

Scouting for Food: In November, the troop goes door to door through the community collecting canned goods for delivery to the local food pantry. After the food is collected the troop sorts the various items into collective groups (soups, sauces, noodles etc) and places them in labeled boxes. Once sorted and the boxes marked these boxes are then delivered by the troop to the food pantry as a part of this activity. The scout's parental assistance with this activity is needed. A representative of the troop will organize this activity and information will be given at that time.

There may be other service projects throughout the year. These may include assistance with Eagle projects or special requests from the community.

Camping

Most campouts are held from Friday night until Sunday afternoon. The scouts will take turns planning the meals and schedule for each campout. Part of each scout's advancement is to attend and participate in these activities. This includes pitching the tent, cooking and cleanup as a patrol. Normally these are assigned activities organized by the patrol leader and agreed to by the patrol members.

The troop has tents for the scouts to use. Additionally, they have the cooking utensils necessary for preparing meals while camping. When attending some summer Boy Scout camps, tents will be provided by the camp.

Each campout is attended by at least two adult leaders. The boys sleep in their own tents with the leaders in separate tents at every campout.

The cost for a typical weekend campout is usually \$15.00. There may be times when additional money is needed for the scout to spend at their discretion.

Equipment for Camping:

Part of a scout's advancement to First Class is preparing for a campout and having the proper equipment. Each scout will need certain items to go camping. These include:

Sleeping Bag	Underwear
Pillow	Hiking Boots
Extra Blanket	Pencil/Pen and Notebook
Clothes for Sleeping	Boy Scout Handbook
Official Scout Uniform (field Dress)	Mess kit for meals –plate, utensils, cup
Activity Uniform (Activity Dress) T-Shirts	Personal First Aid Kit
Pants or Shorts	Seasonal needs (bug spray, gloves, coat, hat, rain gear)
Socks	

Activities during campouts:

Some campouts like the Trophy Challenge and Camporee will have planned activities and schedules for the scouts to follow. Other campouts that the troop take on their own, will be more open and each scout will have a choice as to what he wants to do. But no matter which camp you are attending, a scout is expected to behave in a proper manner and follow all Boy Scout camping rules.

A scout should **NEVER** wander off by himself. The buddy system is **always** in effect when leaving camp. Scouts are responsible to ensure that a leader is aware of who is going and when they expect to return to camp.

A scout should **NEVER** leave the camping area with out permission from the Scout Leaders (adults) who are supervising the campout.

Pocketknives: There are very specific rules in Boy Scouting about using and carrying pocketknives. There are specific rules regarding the type of knives allowed in scouting. If you are in doubt, check with a leader prior to carrying any knife. A scout must get his “Toten Chip” to carry and use a pocketknife at any camp outing. He must **NEVER** take the pocketknife off the camping grounds unless he is leaving camp with his parents or guardian and not coming back.

Scout Campouts

These are just some of the campouts the troop might participate in during the year.

Long Acres: In September, the troop camps at Long Acres Farm during the Civil War Reenactment weekend. During the campout, the scouts will do various activities to help with the reenactment. In the past, they have built towers, help with crowd control and cleaned up after the battle. There are also fun activities like the scouts against the leaders Maze race.

Brotherhood Campout:

This International Camporee supports the International Brotherhood of Scouting with our Canadian neighbors. The location alternates between Welsey Island in the Thousand Islands and a Provincial Park in Canada near Cornwall. The idea is to get to know our fellow Scouters through activities and patch trading.

Spring / Fall Camporee: Each Troop in the district will take a turn planning and running the Fall Camporee.

Trophy Challenge: This campout is held at Camp Cutler south of Bristol in the fall and is run by our neighbor Otetiana Council (Rochester region).

Klondike Derby: You may have participated in the activities as a cub scout. Now, as a boy scout, you can camp during the weekend. Held in Jan- Feb timeframe. The troop has not camped recently for this activity but can consider it for a future activity.

Winter Camping: There are different locations that the troop might go, Camp Cutler and Webster Park. This is a great opportunity to learn to cross-country ski, snow shoe, or just have fun.

Summer Camp: There are several summer camps available to the troop. Each year, the schedule will come out before the spring. The scouts will decide which camps they are interested in attending.

Summer camps usually last from Sunday afternoon to Friday evening. Scouts may camp in tents or their maybe tents provided at the camp. (Sabattis runs Saturday or Sunday to the following Saturday)

There are activities for all the different ranks of scouting. If you are new, there will be a First Class program to help you advance. If you are already First Class, there are many merit badges to choose from. Some of these may include an extra fee or there may be an age requirement. All the necessary information will be given to you by the troop when you register for camp.

The fee for summer camp can be expensive, about \$220 - \$280. The troop has two fundraisers (popcorn and rose sale) so that a scout can raise funds to help off set the cost.

The following are some of the summer camps that the troop has gone to:

Babcock-Hovey: This is the summer camp run by the Finger Lakes Council. It is located in Ovid on Seneca Lake.

Sabattis: Most recent summer camp attended by the troop for the past two years.

Extra Events

Some of the other events that the troop may do during the year are:

Bristol Ski Nights: These are usually held the week of Christmas break and the week of winter break. This gives scouts an opportunity to ski or snowboard at Bristol Mountain at a reduced rate. Money from a scouts campership account can be used to pay for this activity.

Smuggler's Notch Ski Trip: If there is interest and parent will to plan the event, the troop takes a trip to Vermont for skiing at Smuggler's Notch Resort.

Gettysburg: If there is interest by the troop, a summer camping trip can be planned for Gettysburg.

White-water Rafting Trip: In the past, the troop has taken a rafting trip to Lehigh Valley, PA.

Merit Badge Field Trips: Topic specific as requested by the boys. The bicycle shop in Fairport is one example.

Cooperstown Baseball Hall of Fame, Clark Sports Center, Howe's Cavern and Vroman's Nose (weekend trip). Herkimer diamond mines is another possibility.

Parent Involvement in Boy Scouts

The leaders of Troop 167 are always looking for parent volunteers. There are a variety of positions in troop leadership that a parent can fill. These positions would take a commitment of a year or more.

There are fundraising activities and service projects that always need parent volunteers. These positions would only require a commitment during a certain time of year. The length of the commitment would depend on the activity.

During certain activities, a parent and scout are required to volunteer to help run the activity (example, selling Christmas trees, Spaghetti dinner).

The troop always needs parents to help during the campouts. Even though the scouts run the troop, they still require adult supervision. During a campout, the troop needs leaders to stay at camp. Any help with equipment preparation, food purchase (take the boys to the store for pickup).

The leaders and scouts appreciate any help parents can give. If you are interested, please contact any of the leaders.

The Trail to Eagle Scout

Now that you are an official member of a patrol in Troop 167, you will work on your advancement towards the highest Boy Scout rank of Eagle Scout. There are six ranks in boy scouts (*Scout is a joining recognition*). They are: *Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle Scout*. You may move at your own pace to reach each rank, but you must reach the rank of Eagle Scout by your 18th birthday. **It is not like cub scouts where you completed a rank each year and move up as you move up a grade level in school.** In boy scouts, you may advance faster or slower than the other scouts your age or in your patrol. If you are an active member of your troop, attend the troop meetings, go on campouts, participate in the service and fundraising projects and attend summer camp, you should be able to move along the ranks fairly quickly.

You may also work on the advancement requirements for more than one rank at a time, though you must first earn them in order. Note that if requirements overlap (i.e. campouts) you have to do them more than once.

At the end of each rank, you will need to have a scoutmaster conference and a board of review. The scoutmaster conference is a meeting between the scout and the scoutmaster where they review the rank the scout has just completed to make sure he understands all the activities and requirements. A board of review is a panel of adult leaders of the troop and the scout. They will ask the scout questions about the rank he has completed and then decide if he is ready to move on to the next rank. **It is the responsibility of the SCOUT to let the scoutmaster know he is ready for these steps so that the meetings can be scheduled in a timely manner.**

The **Scout recognition** has many of the same requirements as the Cub Scout “Arrow of Light” award. A new Scout should earn this almost immediately after joining. The requirements are in your Boy Scout Handbook.

The first rank is **Tenderfoot**. Most scouts receive this rank after **6 months** of being an active Scout with the troop. All the requirements for this rank are in your Boy Scout Handbook starting on page 31. **It is important that you bring your handbook to the troop meetings and campouts so that the scoutmaster and assistant scoutmasters can keep track of your progress and check you off when you have completed a requirement.** An assistant scoutmaster and your PL will guide you through the processes. Because this is your first experience, you will need a little more guidance and adult supervision, but it is still the responsibility of the scouts to make sure the troop is giving them what they need to advance.

Your next rank is **Second Class**. It can take you another **6-8 months** to receive this rank if you are active. All the requirements for this rank are in your handbook starting on page 63. You will notice that each rank has more requirements and may take a little longer to complete than the Tenderfoot requirements.

Next, you will work on your **First Class**. This is more involved than the previous ranks, but if you stay active, you should receive this rank by the end of your second year or beforehand. The requirements for First Class begin on page 111 of your handbook.

Star, Life, and Eagle Scout

Once you have achieved the rank of First Class, you will have learned the basic camping and preparedness skills of Scouting and you will be ready for the next phase of Boy Scouts. The leadership phase teaches you to be responsible and to make plans for yourself and others. Your Scoutmaster will help you set specific goals. Approved Scout leadership positions are: Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant SPL, Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Den Chief, Quartermaster, Scribe, Librarian, Historian, Instructor, Chaplain Aide, Order of the Arrow Representative (honor campers elected by the Troop), and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster). Star and Life also give you the opportunity to move in a direction that interests you by working on a variety of merit badges. You may have earned a few in the previous ranks, but the majority of activities and requirements were spent on learning skills that will help you earn your *merit badges*. Page 185 of your handbook starts the section on merit badges. Now you will begin working with Merit Badge councilors. These councilors are there help guide you through the requirements for a specific merit badge. They will check to make sure you have completed everything to receive your merit badge. There are some merit badges that are required for you to advance through the ranks. They are found starting on page 188of our handbook.

You may also earn merit badges at summer camp. When you register, you will be given a form to select the merit badges you would like to work on during camp. The scoutmaster and assistant scoutmasters can answer any questions you may have.

You will also use the ideas behind the Scout Oath and Law to advance in these ranks by doing more to help yourself become a better person and your community a better place. The goals for measuring your leadership progress and other requirements for Star, Life and Eagle Scout begin on page 167 of your handbook. Your Eagle project is approved by your Scoutmaster, the Troop Committee and by the Finger Lakes Council. Approval of a project shows that you are ready to complete the finals tasks to reach Eagle.