



Troop 7

Orientation Notes

Troop History

Troop 7 was chartered on February 14, 1914, and is the longest continually-chartered Troop in Nassau County. The United Methodist Church of Port Washington (UMC) is our Chartered Organization, and has been for the Troop's entire existence.

Troop Structure

- The Troop is overseen by the Troop Committee (adults), which supports the Scoutmaster.
- The Scoutmaster selects and trains Assistant Scoutmasters.
- The Scoutmaster represents the Green Bar on the Troop Committee.
- The Green Bar consists of the boy leadership of the Troop, and includes the following:
 - Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) Elected by the Scouts
 - Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) Appointed by the SPL
 - Senior Patrol members Appointed by the SPL
 - Patrol Leaders (PL) Elected by the Patrol

It is the Green Bar's job to plan and run the Troop program. The Green Bar meets once per month under the direction of the Scoutmaster.

- **THE TROOP IS RUN BY THE SCOUTS, FOR THE SCOUTS!!**

Patrol Organization

Every Boy Scout Troop is made up of patrols. A patrol is a group of six to ten Scouts who work together as a team. Each Scout counts. Each patrol should have its own program of hikes, meetings, and other activities. Each Scout must get involved, as each Scout is a critical component of his patrol and has a role to play on that team.

Note those words: "votes" • "represents" • "elects" • This is the vocabulary of democracy, and the democratic way of doing things together. Every Scout in the Troop, through his elected patrol leader, has a voice in deciding what the Troop does.

This is what we call the "Patrol Method." - **"TRAIN 'EM, TRUST 'EM, AND LET 'EM LEAD!"**

Meetings

Troop meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. SHARP every Wednesday at the United Methodist Church, and end at 9:00 p.m. unless otherwise announced. We share our facilities with many other groups at the Church, so things may come up when we have to change or cancel a meeting with very short notice. We will notify you ASAP through the Troop email distribution. All Scouts are to remain for the entire meeting, and are to remain in the meeting area at all times. Parents should arrive at 8:50 p.m. for announcements and for pickup. All Scouts are to leave the Church promptly after the meeting.

Camping Trips and Activities

The Troop will generally plan at least one camping trip or other weekend activity every month during the school year. There is no better place or opportunity for our Scouts to advance than on a camping trip. Troop dues usually cover the cost for the trip or activity. Patrol food is covered by each patrol member – usually about \$10/weekend. Each camping trip has a specific program focused on advancement, training, leadership, and most of all fun.

Summer Camp

Each year, usually in early July, the Troop attends Summer Camp at Onteora Scout Reservation in Livingston Manor, NY. The fee is less than \$500/week and includes a full program and all meals. As the boys get older, there are more advanced camping and summer program opportunities including working at Onteora, attending Philmont Scout Camp, Florida Sea Base or a National Jamboree, etc.

Conduct at Meetings/Troop Activities

In order to maintain control at any meeting (Patrol or Troop) or Troop activity, a certain level of discipline must be adhered to. Discipline starts with respect. It is expected that parents will support their sons regarding the proper conduct when visiting the Patrol Leader's home and the Troop's meeting place. We are visitors and can be asked to leave at any time. As each young man joins Scouting, he is told that being a Scout is not a right, but a privilege. You as a parent need to also be aware of this and be in full agreement with all Troop policies in order for your son to remain a member of this Troop.

At meetings and activities, the first level of discipline will be the responsibility of the Patrol Leader. If necessary, he will be assisted by either the ASPL or the SPL. Final recourse will be the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster may ask to have a meeting with the Scout and his parents in order to rectify a problem situation. Discipline and respect of rank will be required of every member of the Troop. Any reasonable request made by a Patrol Leader shall be acted upon. Any Scout failing to perform assigned tasks shall be required to explain his non-performance. **The Scout Oath & Law are our operating guidelines. Insolence, apathy, and laziness will not be tolerated.**

Troop Communications

The Troop utilizes three primary means of communication:

- **Website:** The Troop's website can be found at www.troop7bsa.com. The website is continually evolving, and includes access to information and forms that parents and Scouts need, as well as a recap of trips and activities that the Troop has participated in. Put it in your favorites, and refer to it often!
- **Email:** The Troop operates a group email distribution list, which is open to parents as well as Scouts (with the parent's permission). Make certain to provide all email addresses that you'd like to receive Troop communications.
- **Calendar:** The Troop maintains a Google calendar that anyone can access. [View Troop 7 Port Washington, NY calendar](#) (if you are reading this electronically). Or, you can search for "Troop 7 Google calendar." You can also access the calendar through the Troop website.

Over-Riding Guidelines

In wrapping up this discussion, we'll leave you with this final thought: To be a Boy Scout in Troop 7 is to live by the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. These are our governing principles.

Scout Oath

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.

Scout Law

A Scout is
Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind,
Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR CONCERNS?

Scoutmaster

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