



# MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK

OCTOBER 2007

Boy Scouting, one of three membership divisions of the Boy Scouts of America (the others are Cub Scouting and Venturing), is available to boys who have earned the Arrow of Light Award or have completed the fifth grade, or who are 11 through 17 years old, and subscribe to the Scout Oath and Law. The program achieves the BSA's objectives of developing character, citizenship, and personal fitness qualities among youth by focusing on a vigorous program of outdoor activities.

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# WELCOME

Parents & Scouts,

Welcome to Troop 209!

This is a troop with a long, proud history of adventure, fun, and service. The flags, streamers, and plaques that line the walls of our troop room tell only part of the story of over 80 years of Boy Scouting in Troop 209. Now, you are going to be part of that history. Troop 209 is Scout-run, with adult supervision and assistance. As part of that, we have put together some basic troop procedures and policies to make our program more fun, healthful and safe. If you have any questions, please ask.

## TROOP OPERATIONS

At all times, Scouts are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Boy Scout Oath and Law:

At troop meetings, campouts and all other Scout activities, Scouts will show respect to all adults (uniformed or not), and respect to all other Scouts. Disrespect, mocking, mean-spirited teasing, harassment, fighting or any violation of campsite rules will not be tolerated. Scout leaders and trained Scouters (adults) are empowered to stop such situations, take appropriate corrective measures, and report all such incidents to the Scoutmaster, Acting Scoutmaster, or Assistant Scoutmasters.

### **Adult Leadership**

Quality adult leadership is important in the training of youth as members of the Boy Scouts of America. In a Boy Scout troop or in any position in a district or council—adult participation is a service to the community and helps youth become better citizens.

Parents wanting to participate as a troop leader -- whether as a Troop Committee member, assistant scoutmaster, or merit badge counselor -- should discuss their wishes with the Troop Committee Chairman or Scoutmaster. Each applicant must possess the moral, educational, and emotional qualities that the Boy Scouts of America deems necessary to afford positive leadership to youth. The applicant must also be the correct

age, and subscribe to the precepts of the Declaration of Religious Principle, and abide by the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.

All applicants must complete a BSA Adult Application, complete Youth Protection training (available online), and serve for one year as a Troop Committee member before being assigned to a position that works directly with scouts.

### **Troop Meetings**

Troop meetings are Thursday evenings beginning at 7:30 p.m. Please be prompt. Meetings will be over by 9:00 p.m.

A typical troop meeting consists of a short gathering time or informal game in the gym, an opening segment with the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Scout Oath and Law, an evening program (campout preparation, merit badge work, knots, guest speaker, etc.), an organized game, and closing announcements.

During troop meetings, all Scouts & adults are to stay inside the Scout Room, the gym or the connecting hallway. Exceptions to this are outdoor meetings, Boards of Review and small group meetings.

Our troop meetings traditionally end with the following, recited by all present:

“May the Great Master of all Scouts be with us.  
May we run the race at the Great Scout’s pace,  
over the trail, till we meet again. Good Night.”

### **Patrol Competition**

We are a Scout-led troop, organized into patrols. Each patrol has an elected leader and appointed assistant. We have a Patrol Competition Point System. Scouts and patrols win points for attendance, advancement, participation, uniforms, games, and other categories. Patrol competition will be updated on the troop bulletin board. Winners will be announced at Courts of Honor.

### **Troop Committee Meetings**

All adults in the troop are welcome to join registered members at Committee meetings, held once per month during the Scout year (Sept.-August), usually on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the troop room. It is important that parents attend to stay informed.

## **REQUIRED ITEMS**

All new scouts will need the following.

- Boy Scout Handbook
- Boy Scout Class A Uniform
- Appropriate outdoor gear (See below)

### **Class A Uniform**

The uniform makes the Boy Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Boy Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Boy Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Boy Scout activities and provides a way for Boy Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

This uniform must be worn at Courts of Honor, Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review, all Scout travel (camping, etc.), and when directed by the Scoutmaster. The Class A may also be worn for troop meetings – it shows Scout Spirit!

The class A uniform consists of the following.

- Boy Scout pants, long or short (a close substitute is ok)
- Boy Scout shirt, short sleeves or long, with all required patches (Council, troop and patrol)
- Boy Scout socks
- Boy Scout web belt (the new cargo-type BSA pants come with their own belt)
- Neckerchief slide (Boy Scout or substitute)
- Troop 209 neckerchief (presented to the Scout at his Joining Ceremony)
- Boy Scout hat
- Boy Scout registration card

The required items are available at the National Capital Scout Shop at 9190 Rockville Pike in Bethesda or at Ranger Surplus at 2549 Ennalls Avenue in Wheaton, MD. Note: We have a closet of “experienced uniforms.” You can borrow what you need and recycle the item when it’s outgrown.

### **Class B Uniform**

The Class B uniform is worn at troop meetings (other than mentioned above) and in-camp. It consists of a Troop 209 T-shirt (preferred) or any Boy Scout

shirt (not Cub Scout); any shorts or long pants are acceptable, but scout-style pants preferred; and sneakers or hiking boots, depending on what’s appropriate.

The troop has T-shirts for sale in the Troop room. All these items carry the troop logo.

## **MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

All Scouts in Troop 209 are expected to be active participants in Scouting.

### **Participation**

In order to maintain membership, Scouts must participate in all the following ways.

- Attend weekly troop meetings as frequently as possible. One meeting per month is an absolute minimum.
- Participate in at least two service projects per year.
- Participate in monthly camping trips. A minimum of two weekend trips per scouting year are required.

If a Scout with a Saturday scheduling conflict arrives at the camping site by 3 p.m., then that camping trip will still qualify. Alternately, a Scout with a Sunday conflict may leave by 6 a.m. (but not both). The expectation is that the Scout must participate in at least one cooked meal and the overnight stay in order to get credit for the camping trip.

Summer camp, high-adventure trips and day-only trips do not qualify towards the two camping-trip minimum.

### **Advancement**

Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others. Scouts are expected to advance regularly.

Credit towards advancement for a camp-out will consist of an overnight stay and participation in the preparation of at least one meal. (See above.)

Failure to maintain minimum participation requirements or to advance at least one rank per year through First Class may result in a Scout being dropped from Troop membership. The Scoutmaster may waive any of the above requirements, if circumstances warrant.

Note: The Scouting year begins September 1 and ends August 31. Annual dues are due by the last troop meeting in October.

## **Leadership**

The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

When Scouts earn their First Class rank and begin the second half of the trail towards Eagle, expectations change. Scouts working towards Star, Life, and Eagle are now senior Scouts and are expected to be leaders. This requires a greater amount of participation and involvement.

Senior Scouts are expected to:

- Attend at least two weekly troop meetings each month.
- Participate in at least five weekend camping trips each year.
  - Allowances for scheduling conflicts as described above also apply.
  - Summer camp or a high-adventure trip can qualify for two such camping trips. A Scout cannot count both towards the minimum of five, however.
- Participate in at least two service projects.

Leadership positions are required for senior advancement. The Scoutmaster in conjunction with the Senior Patrol Leader will assign a position or confirm an elected position.

Although Scouts are expected to make regular progress towards advanced rank, there is no time requirement specified. Scouts who do not meet these requirements may not advance in rank past First Class, even if they have the proper number of merit badges, etc.

As in the basic membership section, the Scoutmaster may waive any of the above requirements if circumstances warrant.

## **TROOP SERVICE PROJECTS**

When a Scout takes the Scout Oath, he is promising “to help other people at all times.” For Troop 209 Scouts, this means performing service projects within our community and beyond. Each fall, the troop, along with Scouts across the region, collects food for distribution to the needy in our community. Other troop service activities include hosting parties for needy children in Langley Park lower income apartments; participating in the Walk for the Homeless; helping with the clean-up in Sligo Creek; and serving the community at other times when needed. Each Scout of Troop 209 is encouraged to look within his community and find ways of meeting the Scout promise of service.

## **OUTDOOR PROGRAM**

Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and humankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Boy Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Our outdoor program consists of a campout or hike one weekend per month (except in August and December). For overnights, we normally leave the church parking lot early on Saturday morning (sometimes on Friday evening), and depart from the campsite at around Noon on Sunday.

### **Grub (Food)**

On weekend outings, Scouts should bring a bag lunch for Saturday, unless directed otherwise. The Scouts will cook dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Jobs will be rotated and assigned on the Duty Roster. Food for the camping trip will be purchased by the patrol Grub master appointed for that trip. Parental guidance is requested in purchasing food. The Grub master collects money at the meeting designated for “campout prep”.

### **Equipment**

Patrol leaders will check out the necessary troop camping equipment (stoves, etc) from the Quartermaster before the campout. Equipment must be checked back in at the following meeting. While the troop has some additional

camping equipment for loan, Scouts are encouraged to have their own backpacks, sleeping bags, etc.

## ***Needed Outdoor Gear***

Each scout will need personal camping gear.

Some essential items should be taken on all outings, even day hikes; others are only needed on campouts. There is a good guide in the Scout Handbook starting on page 217, but the basics are listed here:

### **Outdoor Essentials:**

First aid kit  
Rain gear  
Water bottle or canteen  
Flashlight  
Matches  
Sun protection  
Pocketknife (when qualified)  
Compass

### **Overnight Gear**

Seasonal clothing  
Backpack  
Sleeping bag  
Sleeping pad  
Eating kit  
Toilet kit  
Toilet paper  
Tent\*

\*Most Scouts share tents, so immediate purchase may not be necessary. The Troop also has several to lend until you decide on the right one for you.

The troop provides patrol cooking and other major equipment.

## ***Buddy System***

During all activities outside of the troop meeting, we will use the “Buddy System”. This includes travel to sites, while at camp, and during any scheduled activities. No Scout should go off on his own. Whether it’s a trip to the bathroom, or gathering firewood... a Scout must be accompanied by a buddy and have the permission of his Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader or one of the Scoutmasters/Scouters to leave the immediate campsite.

## ***Team Sport Conflicts***

Scouts playing sports are encouraged to come to the camp-out after their Saturday games, or they may leave early. DROP-OFF: parents/guardians should plan on walking directly to the campsite with their Scout(s) and report to the Scoutmaster. PICK-UP: ditto...meet directly with the Scoutmaster before leaving with Scout(s).

## ***Travel***

Scouts are responsible for getting their own transportation to our events. This is usually done through organized car pooling prior to events.

IMPORTANT: All adults must have their car make, model, and insurance information on-file with the Troop Committee. A parent driving other Scouts home should leave them at the Scout’s house, waiting to be sure the Scout is in the house before leaving.

## ***Summer Camp***

The troop attends Boy Scout summer camp for one week each year at Goshen Scout Camp or another official Boy Scouts of America summer camp facility. This extended camping experience is a learning and bonding experience for the Scouts. They learn and improve Scout skills, earn merit badges and have fun. This is an invaluable Scouting opportunity and we encourage all Scouts to attend.

For summer camp, with the exception of first year Scouts, Scouts must have participated in at least two overnight camping trips during the preceding year. Cycling, canoe, Lenhok’Sin Trail, and other high-adventure trips also have prerequisites (e.g. canoe and cycling training) which will be specified in advance.

## ***High Adventure***

The Troop also takes another one- to two-week long camping trip each summer. These trips are more physically demanding and require more Scout skills and maturity and therefore usually have some age, rank, or experience restrictions. Examples of recent High Adventures include a 50-mile canoe trip on the Shenandoah River; a 180-mile bike trip along the C & O Canal; mountain biking and backpacking in Pine Creek Gorge in Pennsylvania; a lake canoe trip in Algonquin Park in Canada; a week-long sailing adventure at SeaBase, and a 52-mile, 12-day trek at Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

Boy Scout Troop 209 recognizes that certain parents may be unable to meet the full costs of all Scouting activities. The troop has limited financial resources, but is willing to provide supplemental funds to parents with financial need, under guidelines as specified below.

At the present time, the troop can provide financial assistance only for the cost of summer camp (at Goshen or another BSA one-week camp of the Troop's choosing). No financial assistance will be provided for dues, uniforms, equipment, or for other trips such as High Adventure, National Jamboree, etc.

All decisions on troop financial assistance will be made by a 3-person Financial Aid Committee. The members of this committee are the Troop Committee Chairman, the Scoutmaster, and one other person designated by the other two individuals.

The Financial Aid Committee will meet on an as-needed basis to discuss financial aid applications and other related matters. It will report periodically to the Troop Committee about its decisions, although specific information about family names will be kept confidential.

Parents who wish to apply for troop financial assistance must first submit a completed National Capital Area Council (NCAC) Campership Request Form to the NCAC by the April 1 due date. A copy of this form must be given to the Financial Aid Committee at that time. The committee will not consider any request for financial assistance without this form or after the April 1 date.

The Financial Aid Committee will not normally require any other financial information or forms (such as tax forms, bank statements, etc.) The committee will assume that the parents' statements of financial need are genuine and will not question them.

No decision will be made on troop financial assistance for summer camp until the NCAC responds with its decision.

The troop's contribution, if any, towards a Scout's summer camp costs will vary, depending on the amount of funds available, the total number of families requesting assistance, the amount of the Scout's NCAC grant, if any, and the amount requested by the family. In all cases, the amount of troop financial assistance will be less than the full summer camp fee for the Scout. The family and the individual Scout will each be expected to make a contribution, which will be specified. The Scout's contribution can be satisfied at least in part through troop fundraising activities such as the car wash.

Financial aid decisions made by the Financial Aid Committee will be final.

## **DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

Troop 209 welcomes all youth interested in the goals of Scouting and is committed to recruiting adult leaders of the highest caliber. We support an inclusive Boy Scouts of America.

The Troop Committee affirms that Troop 209 will not discriminate in its membership or in its selection of unit leaders on the basis of race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, beliefs, disabilities, or gender.

Our Troop Committee fully supports the tenets of the Scout Oath, including the phrase "to keep myself...morally straight". We believe sexual orientation is a private issue. We do not believe it to be relevant in the participation of boys in Scouting or in the awarding of the Eagle Scout rank. We are supported in this belief by our Chartered Organization, Woodside United Methodist Church, which has advised us that the Boy Scouts of America's policy of discrimination against homosexuals conflicts with the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church adopted by the Church's General Conference.

Parents have the ultimate responsibility to decide whether to enroll their sons in Scouting and to join Troop 209 rather than another. Continued active parental participation is our strongest check on unacceptable conduct of any kind.

# NEW SCOUT PACKET

Return the following four items to join Troop 209.

- **Boy Scouts of America Youth Application** – This form collects information about the new Scout and one parent or guardian. Information on a second parent or guardian should be included on the Troop 209 Information and Permission Form.
- **Troop 209 Information and Permission Form** -- Please include:
  - contact information for any second parent or guardian,
  - hobby and areas of interest for both parents or guardians, and
  - licensing and vehicle information for the family.
- **BSA Personal Health and Medical Record, Class 1 and Class 2** –
  - The Class 1 portion of this form provides the troop leadership with personal health information, a medical history, and emergency treatment permission. It must be filled out annually by all participants.
  - The Class 2 Medical Examination portion is needed for summer camp and any activity lasting longer than 72 consecutive hours. A new examination is required once every 36 months for all participants under 40 years of age.
- **Dues Payment** – Payable to “Boy Scout Troop 209,” the amount due at joining varies, so please check with the Troop Committee Chairman for exact amount. The current annual amount is \$50.00. It covers BSA and troop dues, and a subscription to Boy’s Life magazine. Annual dues for each troop year (September through August) are due by the last troop meeting in October.

New scouts transferring from a Cub Scout Pack between February and August will not be charged dues for the partial year.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Board of Review** – Required for every rank advancement, a board of review is a conversation with the Scout about to advance, providing an opportunity for members of the troop committee to learn how well the troop is delivering the Scouting program, and to encourage the Scout to continue growing through advancement.

A Scout can, however, be found to have not adequately met the requirements of the rank for which he is being reviewed, in which case the board is obligated by BSA policy to provide that Scout with specific items or areas that are to be addressed, and a definite timeline for a review to follow.

**Camp Liberty** – See Heritage Scout Reservation

**Camp Marriott** – See Goshen Scout Reservation

**Camp Snyder** -- The 350-acre Camp William B. Snyder, located in Haymarket, Virginia is the latest and greatest camping experience offered by the National Capital Area Council and the Boy Scouts of America. Camp Snyder serves as a multi-functional camp that can meet the needs of troops with:

- Off Season Camping for Scouting Units Sept 1 - May 31
- Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE)
- Swimming Pool & activity pavilions
- On Site Chapel & Outdoor Amphitheater
- Training & Conference Centers
- Merit Badge weekends
- SCUBA Certification Course
- Multiple District & Council Training Courses

**Camporee** – A gathering of many scout troops. It brings troops and patrols together to do things they could not do individually. Camporees, often structured around themes, are most often hosted by a local scout district. But they can be larger (multi-district or council-wide), or smaller (just a couple troops). Traditionally the Rock Creek District Camporee is held in the fall.

Some camporees have lots of patrol competition, where patrols test their teamwork and scout skills against each other. Other camporees are less competitive, but are still structured around scouts doing things in patrol groups.

**Chartered Organization** -- Chartered organizations partner with local Scout councils to provide the support necessary for troop operations. These groups, which have goals compatible with those of the BSA, include religious, educational, civic, fraternal, business, and labor organizations; governmental bodies; corporations; professional associations; and citizens' groups. Troop 209's Chartered Organization is the Woodside United Methodist Church.

**Circle Up** – A gathering for announcements in the church gym that concludes each troop meeting.

**Commissioner** -- Commissioners are district and council leaders who help Scout units succeed. They coach and consult with adult leaders of Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, and Venturing crews. Commissioners help maintain the standards of the Boy Scouts of America. They also oversee the unit charter renewal plan so that each unit reregisters on time with an optimum number of youth and adult members.

**Council** – The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) operates through more than 300 local councils that provide program materials and literature, outdoor camping facilities, leadership training and field support, assistance in recruiting members, liability insurance, record keeping, and supplies such as uniforms, insignia, and awards. Troop 209's council, the National Capital Area Council (NCAC), covers the District of Columbia, and portions of Maryland and Virginia adjacent to the District.

**Court of Honor** -- Each time a Scout advances in rank, he is recognized on two occasions. The first, as soon as possible after a Scout has been approved by a board of review. This ceremony involves not much more than presenting the Scout with his new badge of rank.

The second occasion is a court of honor, a public ceremony to furnish formal recognition for achievement and to provide incentive for other Scouts to advance.

Formal courts of honor are conducted at least three times a year. All Scouts who have advanced or earned awards since the previous court of honor are honored. Their parents and friends are invited to attend the ceremony.

**District** – The NCAC is divided into 29 districts. Troop 209 is served by the Rock Creek District. Members of a District Committee are responsible for:

- starting new units;
- assisting with recruiting youth and adult members;
- raising funds for recruiting, training and camping facilities;
- providing recruiting, training and camping opportunities;
- providing opportunities for unit fund raising; and
- arranging district-wide activities such as the Klondike Derby and Fall Camporee.

**Goshen Scout Reservation** – Goshen is the National Capital Area Council's long-term resident summer camp area located on 4,000+ acres in the mountains of southwestern Virginia. There are six separate camps on the shores of 450-acre Lake Merriweather. The Boy Scouts use three of the camps for troop camping. During a one-week stay Scouts can participate in a number of merit badge programs.

- **Aquatics:** Canoeing, Rowing, Kayaking, Swimming, Lifesaving, Waterskiing (min. 14 years old), BSA Lifeguard, Sailing (min. 13 years old), Motor boating (min. 13 years old), Kayaking BSA and Snorkeling BSA (min. age 14 years old).
- **Scoutcraft:** Orienteering, Camping, Pioneering, First Aid, Emergency Preparedness, Backpacking, Hiking, Fire Safety, Leave No Trace, and Cooking demonstrations.
- **Field Sports:** Rifle, Archery, Shotgun, Fishing.
- **Handicraft:** Leatherwork, Basketry, Woodcarving, and Indian Lore.
- **Ecology:** Environmental Science, Mammals, Reptiles & Amphibians, Nature, Astronomy, Forestry, Geology, Weather, Soil and Water Conservation, Space Exploration, Archaeology, Citizenship in the World, Energy, Engineering, Fish and Wildlife Management, Oceanography, and Nuclear Science.

Troop 209 has used **Camp Marriott** on Lake Merriweather because patrol cooking is a feeding option at the camp. Youth sleep in two man tents with cots. Aquatics and Ecology are the featured programs at Camp Marriott. An introduction to Kayaking and Snorkeling is available.

**First-Year Camper Program** – A program offered at summer camp primarily designed for the Scout who has recently registered and has not been introduced to the Tenderfoot through First Class advancement requirements yet. Topics include the Fire'n' Chit, Totin' Chip, knots and lashings, map and compass work, five-mile hike, and native animals to name a few.

**Jamboree** -- The BSA conducts a national Scout jamboree every four years and participates in world Scout jamborees (also held at four-year intervals). Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, was the site of the 2005 National Scout Jamboree.

**Grub Master** -- After the patrol has approved a menu for a campout or outing, the grub master buys the items needed and packs them for safe transport. When your son is Grub Master, he will be fulfilling a first class requirement.

He must keep the food from being cross-contaminated by putting raw meat in Ziploc bags. The packaging it comes in is not enough to keep meat juices away from other food. The grubmaster is providing food for many Scouts and it is his responsibility to make sure the food is safe to eat. E-coli and salmonella are always a threat with raw meat. Likewise, refrigerated items need to be kept cold.

**Heritage Scout Reservation** – Heritage reservation is the Pittsburg Council's long-term resident summer camp area located on 1,700 acres in the laurel highlands of western Pennsylvania. Every campsite is carefully nestled among the trees in Camp Freedom and Camp Liberty. The activity areas offer 33 merit badges along with six special older Scout programs.

With its 270-acre lake and six miles of shoreline, Heritage reservation offers unlimited aquatics adventure, including all the water related merit badges -- Swimming, Fishing, Rowing, Motor boating, Water-skiing, Canoeing and Small Boat Sailing. White Water merit badge is available on the nearby Youghiogeny River.

Heritage is much more than just aquatics. In the field sports area, Scouts can test their marksmanship abilities on the .22 rifle range, in addition to the target and action archery ranges. In the Ecology-Conservation area, Scouts learn about the natural world in which they live. The Scoutcraft area offers Scouts the opportunity to hone skills in camping, hiking, axemanship, backpacking, wilderness survival and pioneering.

The Handicrafts area offers instruction in basketry, leatherwork, woodcarving and model rocketry as part of the Space Exploration merit badge. Handicrafts is also popular as the area for the exciting Heritage Reservation belt program, where Scouts can make their own customized belts and earn "brands" for various accomplishments during the week.

Troop 209 has used **Camp Liberty** because it has been the best in "patrol cooking" with everything provided for successful campsite cooking. It has 14 troop sites, a central area, waterfront, rifle and archery ranges, 2 troop showers, leaders' and staff shower and a campfire area. The central area consists of the Program Hall (adult centered), Commissary, and Quartermaster/Trading Post building (boy centered), parade ground with flagpoles, and a staff dining/lounge building. The waterfront has both swimming and boating areas. The boating area is equipped with canoes, motor boats, rowboats, and sailboats. Water-ski boats arrive at the camp for merit badge instruction.

**Klondike Derby** – This is a winter campout organized at the district level. During this week-end campout the scouts compete in sled races, two-man saws, and other events to hone scout skills.

**Lenhok'sin** – Operated by the NCAC at the Goshen Scout Reservation, the mission of Lenhok'sin High Adventure is to offer older Scouts and Venturers and their adult leaders high adventure opportunities they will enjoy and remember forever. This includes activities where they may test and expand their outdoor backpacking and camping skills through trail crew teamwork.

There are over 50 miles of trails which will give each crew a true mountaintop experience. Crew will have the opportunity to select outposts that may include Foxfire, Lumberjack, Rock climbing, Mountain Man, Kayaking, Native American, Mountain Biking, Caving, and Fishing during their treks. Trail food at Lenhok'sin is prepared by each crew on the trail.

**Merit Badge** -- There are more than 120 merit badges. While earning them, Scouts can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business and future careers. A Scout must earn 12 of 15 specified merit badges plus 9 optional badges (21 total) for the rank of Eagle Scout.

**Mr. Cade's Cabin Campout** – A winter weekend campout at a hunting lodge owned by a friend and supporter of Troop 209, Mr. Glen Cade, is coupled with a day of skiing at the Whitetail Ski Resort in Pennsylvania.

**Northern Tier** -- This Boy Scouts of America high adventure program provides wilderness canoe trips to crews of Scouts and leaders. These trips range from seven to ten days. The base provides full outfitting and a trained and experienced staff member, called an Interpreter, to act as a resource to the crew. These Interpreters are trained in nature, route finding, area history, canoeing, cooking, and many other wilderness skills. Their role is to act as a resource and to ensure that the crew has a safe and fulfilling adventure.

**Order of the Arrow** – This honor society of the Boy Scouts of America recognizes older scouts in their teens who best exemplify the scout virtues of cheerful service, camping, and leadership. To be inducted into the Order of the Arrow, a Boy Scout must:

- Be at least First Class rank;
- Have at least 15 nights of camping, including a 6-day long-term camp; and
- Participate in the "Ordeal" and induction ceremony, after election by his Boy Scout troop.

**Patrol** – A patrol in a Boy Scout troop is a small group of boys under their own leadership who plan and carry out meetings and activities. The patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

**Patrol Leader (PL)** – Elected by members of his patrol, the PL represents the patrol at the patrol leaders' council (PLC), takes a leading role in planning and conducting patrol activities, encourages patrol member advancement, and sets a good example.

**Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC)** – Made up of the key boy leaders of the troop (senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leaders, patrol leaders, and others), the PLC runs the troop's program and activities and gives long-range direction with an annual program planning conference. The Scoutmaster attends PLC meetings as a coach and informational resource.

**Philmont** -- Philmont Scout Ranch, the Boy Scouts of America's premier high-adventure base, challenges Scouts and Venturers with more than 200 square miles of rugged New Mexico wilderness. Backpacking treks, horseback cavalcades, and training and service programs offer young people many ways to experience this legendary country.

**Scouter** – Registered and trained adult volunteers that provide scouting leadership that includes a wide variety of activities, outings, training, and fun.

**Scoutmaster** -- The adult leader responsible for the image and program of the troop. The Scoutmaster and his assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. Among others, his or her duties include the following.

- Train and guide boy leaders.
- Meet regularly with the patrol leaders' council (PLC) for training and coordination in planning troop activities.
- Attend all troop and troop committee meetings.
- Conduct Scoutmaster conferences for all rank advancements.
- Make it possible for each Scout to experience at least 10 days and nights of camping each year.
- Participate in council and district events.
- Conduct all activities under qualified leadership, safe conditions, and the policies of the chartered organization and the Boy Scouts of America.

**Scoutmaster Conference** – Required prior to every rank advancement, the Scoutmaster's Conference is NOT a "grilling session" in which the Scout proves that he's met all of the requirements for the rank for which he's going to be boarded (see Board of Review). This is the Scoutmaster's time to get to know the Scout for who he is. It's a time to get to know and develop a working relationship with the Scout and to gauge how good or bad a time he's having being a Scout and a Scout in Troop 209.

**Sea Base** -- The BSA Florida National High Adventure Sea Base offers a complete variety of water activities from SCUBA diving to sailing "Tall Ships". All of the participants have the opportunity to swim, snorkel, and fish among the most beautiful coral reefs in the northern hemisphere.  
<http://www.bsaseabase.org>

**Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)** – The youth leader with the most responsibility in the troop, he is elected by all members of the troop. The SPL is in charge of troop meetings and chairs the patrol leaders' council (PLC) as it plans troop activities and programs. In short, he sees that the troop runs in an orderly and timely manner. The Scoutmaster mentors and encourages him, and provides him with the tools to succeed.

**Troop Committee** – The "board of directors" for the troop, responsible for:

- Selecting quality troop leaders,
- Developing community service projects,
- Arranging transportation for outings,
- Planning and assisting in fund-raising,
- Serving on boards of review and courts of honor,
- Providing for special needs and assistance for individual scouts,
- Maintaining troop financial and advancement records,
- Assisting in the charter renewal process, and
- Helping with the Friends of Scouting (council fund-raising) campaign.

Members are often parents or guardians of boys in the troop and interested parties from the chartered organization.

**Youth Protection** -- As a major youth-serving organization, the Boy Scouts of America has a unique opportunity to help protect the youth of our nation. In addition to helping families address the problem of child abuse, the BSA has adopted a comprehensive set of policies and procedures designed to ensure that Scouting continues to be safe for all participants. The BSA is exemplary among youth-serving agencies in recognizing the potential threat that child abuse poses to young people

All volunteers (adult leaders) are expected to complete Youth Protection training. It is available online on the Web site <http://olc.scouting.org> and each local council provides training to leaders on a regular basis throughout the year. Adult leaders are expected to complete the training within 90 days of assuming a leadership position.

## WEBSITES

### Boy Scouts of America

National Council -- <http://www.scouting.org/>

National Capital Area Council -- <http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/>

Rock Creek District -- <http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/rockcreek/>

Troop 209 -- <http://www.troop-209.org/>

Scout Shop – The online Scouting catalog --  
<http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsasupply/>

**U.S. Scouting Service Project** – The unofficial Scouting website for Scouters by Scouters. This site covers all BSA programs and provides links to other Scouting sites -- <http://www.usscouts.org/>

**Scout Parents** – The unofficial Scout parent’s website --  
<http://www.scoutparents.org/>