

Boy Scout Troop 137

St. Joseph's Parish



Welcome Package
And
Information

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Welcome Letter

Dear Boy Scout Family,

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 137 of St. Joseph's Parish, Warrington, PA! We are looking forward to having you in our Troop and hope you enjoy your experience with us and return for many future years.

We have designed this packet of information to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about Scouting. This packet is NOT all inclusive. The single most important Scouting document in your son's possession (and in yours) is his **Scout Handbook**. The Handbook contains everything you will need to know about Scouting. This packet contains most of the information you will need to understand OUR TROOP and what we expect of your son and of you. Please take a moment to read both this packet and your son's **Scout Handbook**.

Many of your sons became Boy Scouts after spending several years as a Cub Scout. There are many differences between Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. The biggest difference is that in Boy Scouts the boys do most of the trip planning and execution. The adult leaders provide guidance, but the boys do the work. Scouts have designated positions in the troop and each position has designated responsibilities to the troop. These positions often involve meetings over and above the scheduled weekly troop meetings. Please make every effort to have your son attend as many meetings as possible, both the regular troop meetings and his special positional meetings.

The second difference is in the method of advancement. In Cub Scouts the boys advanced automatically according to their grade. In Boy Scouts the boys advance by merit at their own pace, though higher ranks involve being a member of, and participating in, the troop for a designated length of time.

The ranks in Boy Scouting are Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle. The requirements for each will be discussed briefly in the package and are explained in detail in the **Handbook**.

The Troop is always looking for adult volunteers. There are many ways to help out. These include Assistant Scoutmasters, Troop Committee, merit badge counselor, organizing a fundraiser, or attending trips and driving.

Again, welcome to Troop 137!

Troop 137 Scoutmaster and Committee

Introduction

Welcome to the family of Scouting. Since 1910 it has been the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to prepare young men to make ethical choices over their life time by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Boy Scouting works toward three aims; moral strength and character, participating citizenship and the development of physical, mental and emotional fitness. Scouting uses eight methods to achieve these aims; ideals, patrols, the outdoors, advancement, adult association, personal growth, leadership and development and the Scout uniform. Many of these will be further explained in this package.

The Scouts have also developed special programs to educate our youth regarding drugs, child abuse, literacy, the new world of careers and hunger in America. Further information about these programs is available through your Scout Master.

Dues

Our troop dues are \$50 for first year Scouts, \$40 per year for returning Scouts. This cost goes to defray the cost of the handbook and any badges the Scout earns during the year. Dues for Scouts crossing over from Webelos in the middle of the year is \$10.

Uniforms

Our troop uses two Scout uniforms, the Class A and the Class B.

The Class A uniform is the official uniform for all Scout activities unless otherwise told by the Scoutmaster. The Class A uniform is a long or short sleeved khaki shirt and green shorts or long pants. All parts of the uniform must be official Boy Scout items and can be purchased at the Scout Store in Doylestown. To save some money on the uniforms, it is okay to wear the short-sleeved shirt over a sweatshirt in winter. It is not necessary to buy both the long and short-sleeved shirt. Uniforms may be purchased at the Scout store in Doylestown or at Rose Uniforms in Willow Grove. The Scout store is also a good source for any Scout related item.

The Scout store is located in Doylestown on Scout Way. Traveling north on Route 611, turn right onto Bridge Street, turn right onto Green Street, turn left onto Scout Way. The office is on your right.

The Class B uniform is a blue t-shirt that is available from the Troop. This shirt is generally worn during the summer, as authorized by the Scoutmaster or Senior Patrol Leader, because it is more comfortable in the heat. These cost approximately \$10.

Meetings

Troop Meetings

Our Troop meetings are on Thursday nights. There will generally not be a meeting on the second Thursday because the Scoutmaster attends the district Scouting round table meeting this day. The meetings start at 7:00. Please be a few minutes early for the meetings. The uniform for the meetings will be Class A unless otherwise notified beforehand. If a particular merit badge is being offered, that session will normally precede the Troop meeting for anyone working on that merit badge.

The meetings will start with the Senior Patrol Leader forming the Scouts in patrol formation. The Troop will come to attention and the flag will be paraded in (hence the reason for being on time – reverence to the flag as it is brought in). The Troop will recite the Scout Oath or Law. The Senior Patrol Leader will then dismiss the Scouts and the meeting will begin.

Several things occur at meetings. Information on upcoming trips and activities is discussed (talk with your son after the meeting – he will almost always have information for you). The Troop meeting just before a trip will be devoted to inventorying and prepping equipment for the trip. Parents are encouraged to stay for the meetings and observe activities and hear for themselves what information is presented.

After the scheduled activities, the Scouts may play football or any other activity if time permits. The Senior Patrol Leader will again assemble the Scouts in patrol formation and recite the Scout Oath or Law (whichever did not start the meeting). He will then see if the Scoutmaster has anything to add and will then dismiss the Scouts.

The meetings will end at 8:30.

Patrol Meetings

The second Thursday of the month is available for Patrol Meetings. These meetings may be held at the Patrol Leader's home or other place as decide by the Patrol. At the patrol meetings the Scouts discuss upcoming events and plan for upcoming trips. They will plan meals, plan a meal duty roster and shopping list, determine who will do the food shopping or plan any patrol activities on the trip.

Patrol Leader Meetings

Patrol Leader meetings are held monthly before a Troop Meeting. The scoutmaster meets with the patrol leaders to discuss upcoming events.

Trips and Summer Camp

The troop tries to do at least one troop activity per month. The Patrol Leaders' Council meets in early September to draw up a tentative trip schedule. The Troop is always looking for adult volunteers to drive and help monitor the Scouts during the trips.

Generally, trips will normally leave Friday night, usually around 7:00 PM and return Sunday afternoon. The Scouts will generally meet at the rectory unless a different meeting place is specified. The Scouts will begin loading Troop and personal equipment into the cars of volunteer drivers. The parents should go to the rectory basement to fill out the permission releases and pay for the trip. They may include food (if the troop is providing a troop meal aside from the patrol arrangements), rental cost for any special equipment needed (skis, backpacks, canoes, etc.), and any lodging expenses. Typically it is about \$10-15 for food. This is paid to the patrol member that purchased food. The cost of the trips normally run from \$10-\$35, depending on the activity. Adults are generally not charged to go on trips. This may change per trip if there are rental fees for canoes, horses, etc. Activities such as canoeing, rafting, horseback riding etc are generally more expensive because we have a rental fee. Other activities may be less expensive. The scouts will normally help load the trailer with equipment, coolers, personal gear, and any other supplies needed for the trip. This process normally takes 30-60 minutes. If a parent is not going on the trip it is recommend the parent leave as soon as the paperwork is completed, especially the parents of new Scouts. Sometimes the longer the goodbye, the harder it is for the young Scout to go on the trip.

License and insurance information is required for all drivers. All scouts must have a seatbelt.

It is important to the Troop that all Scouts going on the trip be available for the entire trip. It is important for all Scouts to learn how to pack for the trip as well as how to breakdown from the trip. For this reason, we urge the Scout to commit to the entire trip. The Scoutmaster may excuse a Scout early or permit a late arrival, but these occasions should be rare.

Sample trips include ski trips to the Pocono Mountains, hiking trips on the Appalachian Trail, horseback riding, white water rafting, and several others. If anyone has a suggestion for a unique trip, you are welcome to suggest it to your son, who will then pass it to his patrol leader for consideration at the next PLC.

It is the Scout's responsibility to tell parents about upcoming trips. These details will include when and where to meet, what to pack, how much the trip will cost, emergency contact information, and when and where to return.

At the end of each trip, each scout must return with the troop to the rectory, to assist with unloading of the trailer. The trailer gets unpacked and equipment returned to the storage room in the basement. Each tent used on the trip must be cleaned and dried (they're normally wet from dew or rain when taken down on Sunday morning). It is the responsibility of the scouts that someone who slept in each tent on the trip, takes home that tent and cleans it, then brings it back to the Troop meeting the following week.

For most trips it is also responsibility of each patrol to provide their own food. Each patrol usually decides on a trip menu during the patrol meeting just prior to the trip. Generally, a member of the patrol is chosen to purchase the food, and the Scout must bring the receipt on the trip to divide up the cost among the patrol. The patrols will normally cook a hot breakfast on Saturday (eggs, pancakes, etc.) , have a cold lunch (hoagies, sandwiches, etc.), and a hot dinner

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which should contain meat, vegetables, a starch, and desert. Some examples of dinners can be thinks like stew, chili, tacos, steak sandwiches. Sunday breakfast is normally a cold breakfast of bagels, donuts, pop-tarts, cereal, etc. The troop will provide any cooking equipment needed including grills, propane stoves, dutch ovens, pots, pans, etc.

The Troop normally has a family party in December. This is generally held at Camp Okanickon in Bucks County. The Troop will camp at Okanickon for the weekend. On Saturday night parents and siblings are invited for a turkey dinner.

The year always ends with summer camp. This can be at Ockanickon or any other Scout reservation. This is a full week trip and a physical form WILL be required for it. In fact, three copies of the form will be required for it. This is an excellent opportunity for the Scouts to earn merit badges. The whole purpose of summer camp is to expose the Scouts to merit badge counselors not normally available within the troop. Summer camp is normally in the \$250-\$350 range. Please be aware that **THE EARLIER YOU PAY FOR CAMP THE LESS YOU PAY!!!** There is a discount for early payment. The cost can be deferred by fundraisers held by the Troop over the course of the year.

Camping Supplies

Scouts will need some or all of the following gear for regular weekend camping trips:

Class A Uniform – scouts should arrive for all trips wearing their Class A uniform.

Class B uniform

Sleeping bag

Sleeping pad

Waterproof boots

Extra clothes

Scout handbook

Personal supplies (toothbrush, paste, soap, towel)

Camping pillow

Sunscreen

Sweatshirt or jacket

Mess Kit

Duffel bag for personal gear – this will be packed and unavailable to the scouts during the drive to the campsite

Backpack for personal items – the scout should keep this with them during the drive. Items to include in a backpack are-

Raingear

Flashlights – a headlamp is useful as scouts usually setup in the dark.

Snacks for the ride

Pocketknife (Only if they have completed the Totin' Chit safety course) – no sheath knives.

Water bottle

Money

All items should have the scouts name on them. Scouts should pack rain gear and something for colder weather. It always rains, and we often camp areas where it gets colder at night. A sweatshirt or hoodie is always useful even in warm weather at home. Scouts should leave all electronics at home. It often rains on trips, we often leave the campsite unattended during the day during our activities, and items like ipods, video games, cell phones etc. are best left at home. Leaders can provide a cell phone for any scout that needs one.

The troop normally stops for lunch on the way home from trips on Sunday, so scouts should have money for lunch (\$6-\$7). The troop does not supply any food on Friday nights, so scouts should eat dinner before meeting for the trip.

The troop will supply tents and cooking equipment for all scouts.

Adults going on a trip are organized as a patrol for food. Volunteers are needed for each trip to bring breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. Costs for adult food will be reimbursed by the troop.

Fundraisers

Each Scout will have a savings account set up in his name in the troop. This is a paper account only – he cannot go to a bank and withdraw money from it. The troop committee treasurer keeps track of how much money is in each Scout's account. The Scout gets money deposited into his account by participating in the fundraisers. A portion of each sale goes into his account. The more he sells, the more he gets in his account. He can then use the money in the account to pay for trips.

The typical fundraisers are:

- Fall popcorn sale – generally starts in September/October time frame
- Christmas wreath sale – generally starts in October and wreaths are generally delivered over the Thanksgiving weekend.
- Joe Corbi Pizza sale in early February

The Scouts may sell items individually to family members and friends. The Boy Scouts do not recommend allowing Scouts to go door to door. The troop also sets up booths at various locations to boost sales. If a Scout participates in a booth sale he shares the proceeds with others he sold with. The Scout can also volunteer to deliver sale items when they come in for extra credit sales.

Distributions of proceeds from fundraisers are determined by the Troop committee, but normally 95% or higher are deposited directly into scout accounts. The scout account can be used to pay for any troop activities including summer camp or monthly camping trips. Occasionally, if the troop has a particular financial need, a fundraiser may be used.

Medical Requirements and Permission Slips

For trips less than 72 hours, every Scout must have a parental permission release. These are signed the night or day that the trip is scheduled to begin.

Every camper must have a BSA Medical Form for any trip longer than 72 hours. There is a standard Boy Scout Form 34605 for this purpose. The form is available from the Troop or can be downloaded from the web. It can be found at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Media/forms.aspx>, and searching for "Medical Form." The Medical Form requires a physical exam and must be signed by a health professional. A parent must also sign the form. The form is good for one year. The Troop requires three copies of the form and keeps copies of the most current form and will advise parents when a new form is

needed. In addition to the medical form, a copy of the medical insurance card, front and back is also needed.

Adults over the age of 40 and any Scout participating in high adventure activities must have a Medical Form. The same form is used, and requires a physical signed by a health care professional. It must be renewed annually. The form is available from the Troop or can be downloaded from the web. Three copies are required.

Each medical form MUST have:

- Doctor signature
- Parent/guardian signature (for Scout)
- Date of physical
- Inoculations
- Health insurance and emergency information

Scout Sunday

Each year the Scouts celebrate Mass together at either St. Joseph's, St. Robert's or St Catherine of Sienna Church. The Scouts wear their uniform and may participate in the Mass in a manner agreed to by the Pastor. Breakfast follows the Mass. Generally, the Friends of Scouting will visit the Troop. The Friends of Scouting is an organized fundraiser that raises money for Scouting. All proceeds go to the Scout district central revenue fund.

Website

The Troop has a website. It is <http://www.bstroop137.com>. This website will have current news, announcements, and the troop event calendar.

Photos from recent trips are available at <http://picasaweb.google.com/Troop137BSA>

If you took photos on a trip and would like to post them on our website, contact the Scoutmaster.

EMails

Emails with important Troop information are sent out to every member of the troop, normally on a weekly basis from September through June. Provide one or more email addresses to the Scoutmaster to make sure you are included on these important messages.

Organization

The basic organization of Boy Scouts of America is:

National Council Boy Scouts of America
Local Council
District
Chartered Organization
Troop Committee
Troop

The duties and responsibilities of each organizational level are explained in the **Scout Handbook**. A more detailed description can be found in the Troop Committee Guidebook, available at the Scout Store.

National Council

The National Council is led by a volunteer board of directors, the National Executive Board. The administrative duties are handled by a paid professional staff. The National Council is located in Houston, Texas. This council:

- Develops programs
- Sets and maintains quality standards in training, leadership, uniform requirements, registration records, and advancement requirements
- Publishes *Boys' Life* and *Scouting* magazines
- Charters the local councils.

Local Councils

The United States is divided into more than 300 local councils. Each local council has a headquarters city from which it administers the Scouting programs within its geographic boundaries. The local council is also led by a board of volunteers with a paid professional staff handling administration. The senior volunteer is the council president and the senior professional is the Scout executive. The local council's main duties are:

- Granting charters to community organizations
- Registering unit and council personnel
- Providing facilities and leadership for a year-round outdoor program
- Offering training to adult leaders.

Our Troop is in the Bucks County Council. The headquarters is in Doylestown. The Bucks County Council owns and operates Camp Okanikon and Camp Kirby, two of the main facilities we use for our summer and fall camps.

Scouting District

A Scouting district is a geographical area within a local council. Each district has a district committee, composed of volunteers, that works through chartered organizations to assure the success of troops. The district:

- Trains adult volunteers
- Provides programs such as camporees
- Assists in forming new troops
- Coordinates the Friends of Scouting fundraising program.

Our Troop is in the Lenape District.

Chartered Organization

Each troop is “owned” by a Chartered Organization. This organization receives the charter annually from the National Council. Generally the Chartered Organization is an organization, such as a church, school, or civic group, that has goals similar to those of Scouting. The Chartered Organization:

- Provides a meeting place
- Provides a Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster
- Approves all adult leaders
- Appoints a committee of at least three adults
- Chooses a Chartered Organization representative

Our Chartered Organization is St. Joseph’s Parish. The Pastor of St. Joseph’s signs and holds our charter. We hold our meetings in the rectory basement.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee is the troop’s “board of directors”. The committee must have at least three adults. When you think troop committee, think adult guidance and leadership. The committee meets monthly to discuss success (or failure) of previous events and discuss upcoming events.

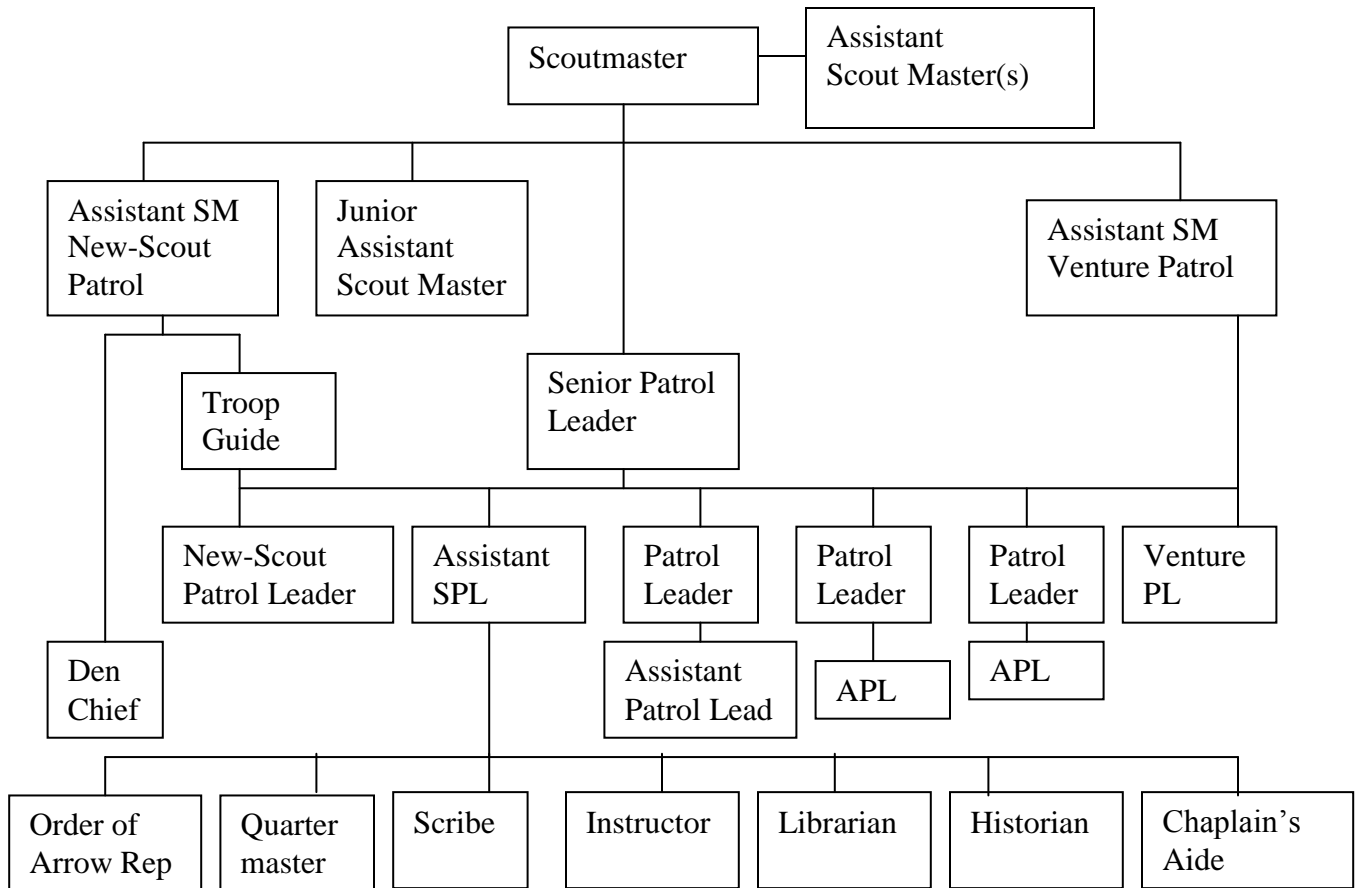
The duties include:

- Ensure quality adult leadership is recruited and trained.
- Advise Scout Master on policies relating to Scouting
- Support leaders in carrying out programs
- Responsible for finances, including fund raisers and purchases
- Ensures the troop has an outdoor program (minimum of 10 nights per year)
- Serves as board of review and court of honor (see later under advancements)
- Supports Scout Master in dealing with individual problem boys
- Provides for special needs if required
- Helps with Friends of Scouting fundraising program (see later under fund raisers)

Our Troop Committee members are listed on the Officers and Leaders page. To become a Troop Committee member, you must complete the required BSA training (offered on-line) and have a police background check, a child abuse clearance, and attend Virtus training.

The Troop

The troop is the basic organizational component of Scouting. It is your local group of Scouts doing its thing independent of any other troop, but united with all other troops under the Boy Scout organization. It is assigned a number when it is chartered. We are Troop 137. The typical Boy Scout Troop is organized as follows:



The duties and responsibilities of each Scout position are explained in the **Scout Handbook**. A more detailed description can be found in the Junior Leader Handbook, available at the Scout Store. Not all Troops have every position. Troop 137 does not have a Venture Troop, so we have no Venture Assistant Scout Master.

Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of the troop. He and his assistant scout masters work directly with the scouts. The Scout Master can be male or female, but must be at least 21 years old. The duties include:

- General
 - Train and guide the scout leaders
 - Work with other adults to bring Scouting to as many boys as possible.
- Meetings
 - Meet regularly with patrol leaders' council for training and coordination and planning of troop activities
 - Attend all troop meetings, or, when necessary, arrange for a qualified adult substitute
 - Attend troop committee meetings
 - Conduct parent sessions to share the program and encourage parent participation and cooperation
 - Take part in annual membership inventory, charter review meeting and charter presentation
- Guidance
 - Conduct Scout Master conferences for all scout advancements
 - Design recruiting plan
 - Delegate responsibilities to other adult leaders
 - Supervise troop elections for the Order of the Arrow
- Activities
 - Assure each scout has at least 10 nights of camping per year
 - Participate in council and district events

Assistant Scout Master

The Assistant Scoutmaster helps the scoutmaster run the troop. The troop may have as many assistant scoutmasters as it needs or wants. At least one must be 21 years old so he can stand in at a function when the scoutmaster cannot attend. Others must be at least 18 years old. Typical roles would be the leader of the New-scout patrol and Venture Scout patrol. Our Troop ASMs do not have specific responsibilities. They help the scoutmaster as needed.

Scouts

The Scouts are the members of the troop. They are the ones who actually plan the troop activities and do most of the actual work. Boys must either be at least 11 years old or in sixth grade to be a Boy Scout. All Scouts are expected to hold special leadership positions, which will be explained in the next section. Some of these positions are appointed by the Scoutmaster. Others are elected by the Scouts. Proper performance of the duties inherent in these positions is a prerequisite for rank advancement.

Troop Youth Leaders

Patrol Concept

The Scout troop is made up of Patrols. A patrol is a group of 4 to 8 Scouts who work together on troop activities. The patrol is the Scout family circle. The boys elect their own patrol leader, who then appoints an assistant patrol leader. The patrol plans its own part of an overall troop activity. For example, the troop plans to go on a camping trip, but the patrols plan their own meals and sleeping arrangements. The members of a patrol must learn to work together to assure the success of any Scouting activity. The new-Scout patrol is for new members who have not yet entered seventh grade. Other patrols are made up of experienced Scouts grouped by interest or experience.

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)

All of the Scouts vote to elect a senior patrol leader for the coming year. The SPL reports directly to the Scout Master. His duties include:

- Running all troop meetings, events, activities, and the annual program planning conference
- Running the patrol leaders' council meetings (See below)
- Appoint other troop junior leaders and assign their duties
- Assists Scout Master

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)

The SPL will appoint his ASPL. Similar to the assistant scout master, the ASPL helps the SPL run the troop and fills in for the SPL at events the SPL may not be able to attend.

Patrol Leader (PL)

Each patrol elects a patrol leader. The patrol leader's job is recognized as the hardest in Scouting. This is the level where all the action is and where all of the planning takes place. The patrol leader reports to the Senior Patrol Leader. The patrol leader's duties include:

- Appointing the assistant patrol leader
- Maintaining patrol discipline
- Holding patrol meetings as necessary to
 - Advising patrol members of upcoming events
 - Finding out which patrol members will attend given events
 - Plan meals for events
- Help the members of the patrol advance
- Know the abilities of his patrol members
- Represent the patrol on the patrol leaders' council (see below)

Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)

The patrol leader will appoint his APL. Just as the ASPL helps the SPL run the troop, the APL helps the PL run the patrol and fills in for the PL at events the PL may not be able to attend.

Troop Guide

The Troop Guide is an experienced Scout who is assigned to work with the new-Scout patrol, helping each new Scout to learn how the troop operates, what the troop expects of him and what he can expect from the troop. He explains terminology and routines. The troop guide will be at least a first class Scout (explained later in Ranks). He is appointed by the scoutmaster with the advice of the assistant scoutmaster for the new-Scout patrol. He reports directly to the assistant scoutmaster for the new-Scout patrol. His duties are:

- Introduce new Scouts to troop operations
- Guide new Scouts through early Scouting activities
- Shield new Scouts from harassment from older Scouts
- Teach basic Scout skills
- Coaches new Scout patrol leaders on their duties
- Works with the new Scout patrol leaders at the patrol leaders' council (see below)
- Assists assistant scoutmaster in training the new Scouts

Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC)

The patrol leaders' council, not the adult leaders, is responsible for planning and conducting the troop's activities. The PLC is composed of the following voting members:

- Senior patrol leader
- Assistant senior patrol leader
- Patrol leaders
- Troop Guide

The PLC will meet early in the Scout year to schedule the trips and events for the year, with input and advice from the scoutmaster and the troop council. At the monthly meetings, the PLC updates the calendar and organizes and assigns activity responsibilities for upcoming trips and events.

Venture Scout Patrol Leader

Venture Scouts are senior experienced Scouts who take part in advanced outdoor activities such as mountain climbing. We do not currently have a Venture Scout Patrol in Troop 137.

Other Troop Positions

In addition to the elected troop leaders, there are several other positions, both at the patrol and troop level that Scouts can hold. Each position has its specific set of duties and each is important to a successful Scouting event and year. Each position is not necessarily used by every Troop.

Quartermaster

The quartermaster is elected by the Scouts. He keeps track of the troops equipment and sees that it is in good working order. This is one of the most important positions to our Troop. He reports to the SPL. His duties are:

- Keeps records of patrol and troop equipment
- Makes sure equipment is in good working condition
- Issues equipment as needed and assures it is returned in a timely manner and in good condition
- Makes suggestions on equipment upgrades or replacement
- Works with troop committee member responsible for equipment

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster

The junior assistant scoutmaster is appointed by the scoutmaster based on leadership ability. He must be at least 16 and but not yet 18. He serves in the same capacity as an assistant scoutmaster except where legal age is required. He reports to the scoutmaster. Troop 137 does not currently have an appointed junior assistant scoutmaster.

Chaplain's Aide

The chaplain's aide works with the troop chaplain to meet the religious needs of the Scouts. He also promotes the religious emblem program. He reports to the assistant senior patrol leader.

His duties are:

- Assist troop chaplain at religious services
- Makes sure religious holidays are considered during troop planning sessions
- Helps plan for religious observances

Scribe

The scribe keeps the patrol or troop records. He reports to the assistant senior patrol leader. His duties are:

- Attend and keep log of PLC meetings
- Record individual Scout attendance and dues
- Record individual Scout advancement progress
- Works with troop committee member responsible for records and finance

Instructor

The instructor teaches Scouting skills. He reports to the assistant senior patrol leader. This position is not used in Troop 137.

Order of the Arrow (OA) Troop Representative

The troop OA representative is elected by the Scouts. He enhances the image of the Order of the Arrow (see later under OA) by serving as a liaison between the troop and the local OA lodge or chapter. He reports to the assistant senior patrol leader. His duties are:

- Serve as link between troop and OA lodge or chapter
- Encourage community service
- Encourage Arrowmen to assume troop leadership positions

Den Chief

The den chief works with the Cub Scout or Webelo Scout pack to encourage them to carry on into the Boy Scout troop. He is appointed by the scoutmaster and reports to the den leader in the pack and to the assistant scoutmaster for the new-Scout patrol. His duties are:

- Know the purpose of Cub Scouting
- Help Cubs advance through Cub ranks
- Encourage Cubs to join Boy Scouts
- Assist with den activities
- Works with den leaders as needed

Librarian/Historian

The librarian takes care of patrol or troop literature and keeps a historical record or scrapbook of activities. He reports to the assistant senior patrol leader. Troop 137 separates this position into two parts. The Librarians duties are:

- Establish and maintain troop library
 - Keep records of books and pamphlets owned by the troop
 - Adds new or replacement items as needed
 - Keeps a system for checking material in and out
 - Follows up on late returns

Our Historian takes care of the following:

- Gather pictures and facts about past troop activities and keeps them in a file or scrapbook
- Takes care of troop trophies, ribbons, awards, etc.
- Keeps information about former members of the troop

Ranks and Advancement

Ranks are a means to an end, not ends in themselves. Everything a Scout does to advance and earn his ranks is designed to help him have an exciting and meaningful experience. Education and fun are functions of Scouting and they are the basis of the advancement program.

Recognition is gained through leadership in the troop, attending and participating in activities, living the ideals of Scouting, and developing a proficiency in outdoor living and useful skills.

Advancement is a four step process:

- Learn – The Scout studies and learns the requirements for the next rank
- Test – The Scout is tested on the requirements by the PL, SPL, scoutmaster, assistant scoutmaster or other accredited person
- Review – After the Scout has completed all requirements, he will go through a scoutmaster conference. This is to assure he is ready for the board of review. After the scoutmaster conference, he has a board of review with the troop committee.
- Recognition – When the board of review has certified a boy's advancement, he will be awarded the certificate of rank at a court of honor held during the next scheduled troop meeting.

The ranks in Boy Scouting are:

- Scout
- Tenderfoot
- Second Class
- First Class
- Star
- Life
- Eagle

A Scout may continue working toward eagle until his 18th birthday unless unusual circumstances can be demonstrated. After the Scout is 18 years old, no more advancement will be authorized.

The Boy Scout earns his rank advancements through his own merits and at his own pace. Nothing is automatic in Boy Scouting.

Typically, a boy will join a Scout troop at the end of fifth grade after completing his Cub and Webelos years. When he first joins the troop he is a Scout. He then goes through his first summer camp. At camp he will go through the Dan Beard Program. This is a program specially designed to take the new Scouts through their first advancement. After summer camp he should be able to advance to Tenderfoot. This is about as automatic as advancement gets in Boy Scouting. After Tenderfoot, the Scout is on his own to seek advancement at his own pace.

Alternatively, we have boys who never went through the Cub Scout program and join Boy Scouts in sixth grade. These boys will earn Tenderfoot on their own at their own pace at troop meetings.

It must be noted that “on their own” and “at their own pace” does not mean the Scout receives no help in advancement. Most of the troop meetings are devoted to teaching what is needed for advancement and all of the senior Scouts are willing to help the new Scouts advance. Their own advancement to higher ranks can depend on how active they are in teaching the new Scouts. But it is up to the individual Scout to take advantage of the opportunities presented to him.

All of the requirements for rank are clearly listed and explained in the **Scout Handbook**, so they will not be reprinted in this package. The basic theory behind each rank advancement consists of:

- Time in current rank
- Merit badges earned (see next section)
- Knowledge of requirements
- Ability to learn and use scouting skills
- Service projects (see next section)
- Leadership demonstrated in troop

Merit Badge Program

Star, Life and Eagle ranks require the Scout to earn a certain number of merit badges. Merit badges are awarded to Scouts for fulfilling requirements in specific fields of interest. There are over 100 merit badges available for a Scout to earn.

Certain merit badges are required. These are:

- Camping
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communications
- Environmental Science
- Family Life
- First Aid
- Personal Fitness
- Personal Management
- Emergency Prep./Lifesaving
- Swimming/Hiking/Cycling

All of the other badges are optional and a Scout may earn as many of these elective badges as he wants. He must earn a certain number of elective badges to compliment the required ones to fulfill a rank requirement. For example, to earn the rank of Star a Scout must earn four of the above merit badges plus an additional two elective ones.

To earn a merit badge the Scout works with an approved merit badge counselor to finish the requirements for that badge. Because the Boy Scouts of America does not permit a Scout to work alone with an adult, at least two Scouts must want to earn the badge.

The troop is always looking for qualified adults to become merit badge counselors. The requirements to be a counselor are;

- Be 18 years of age or older and be of good character
- Be recognized as having sufficient skills and education in the subject
- Be registered as an adult member of the Boy Scouts of America.

More information on becoming a merit badge counselor is available from the scoutmaster.

A listing of current merit badge counselors available to the troop is available from the Troop

Service Projects

Second Class, Star, Life and Eagle ranks require the Scout to perform a service project. The length of the project varies from one hour for Second Class to six hours for Star and Life. The project may be done as individuals or several Scouts can work together on a project. Star and Life projects may be approved for Scouts assisting on an Eagle project. The projects must be approved by the scoutmaster before it is begun. Typical projects for Second Class may be working at Parish events or other programs, and Troop 137 offers regular opportunities to earn service time on projects such as cleaning up the Troop's adopted highway.

Eagle Projects

For the Eagle service project the Scout must plan, develop and give leadership to others in a service project for any religious institution, school or community while he is a Life Scout. The project provides the opportunity for the Eagle candidate to demonstrate the leadership skills he has learned. The project must be outside of the sphere of Scouting. All Eagle projects must be approved by the district or council advancement chair and the organization that the project will benefit.

Order of the Arrow (OA)

The Order of the Arrow is the "national honor society" of Scouting. It is an integral part of the council's program. The members are Scouts who have best exemplified the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. The Scouts vote to determine who, if anyone, should be elected to the OA.

Our OA Lodge is Lodge 33 "Ajapeu". It is affiliated with the Bucks County District and headquartered in Doylestown.

Required Adult Training

In order for an adult to participate in Troop 137 activities with the scouts (including attending ANY camping trips), our sponsoring organization, St. Joseph's, requires several things. These are all requirements by the church for **all** adults working with youth including scouts, CYO athletic teams, teachers and aides. These are NOT BSA requirements, but rather requirements of St. Joseph's, who sponsors Troop 137.

Each adult must take Virtus Youth Protection training. This is a one evening class held at various churches around the region. It lasts approximately 2 ½ hours. There is no charge for this training. See below for information on registering for this class.

Each adult must get a police background check. This can be completed using the PATCH (Pennsylvania Access to Criminal History) website. Go to <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>, payment can be made via credit card and the certification will be received immediately. Select New Record Check as an unregistered user and follow the directions on the website.

Each adult must get a Child Abuse clearance. The form for this can be downloaded from <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/Resources/Documents/Pdf/FillInForms/DPWchildabuse.pdf> or by searching for "pa child abuse clearance." This form should be filled out, and sent directly to the PA Dept of Public Welfare. You must attach a copy of the police background check from the previous step, and include a \$10 money order. This normally takes several weeks to be returned to you.

After receiving both background checks back, please provide the original documents to the Troop. They will be turned in to St. Josephs, where copies will be kept and the originals will be returned to you.

For any other questions on filling out these forms, please contact a member of the Troop Committee or the Scoutmaster.

Required BSA Youth Protection Training for Registered Adults - The Boy Scouts of America offers on-line training called Youth Protection. This training can be done on-line in less than 30 minutes and covers all of the BSA rules and policies regarding youth and child abuse. This training can be accessed by going to www.scouting.org and following the links under MyScouting. Registered adults leaders should enter their BSA ID number during the registration process. The BSA ID number is not required if you are an unregistered adult taking this class. This class is required for registered leaders, any adults attending a camping trip, and optional (but recommended) for other adults.

After completing the BSA Youth Protection training or the Virtus training please notify the Troop Committee or the Scoutmaster.

Virtus Training

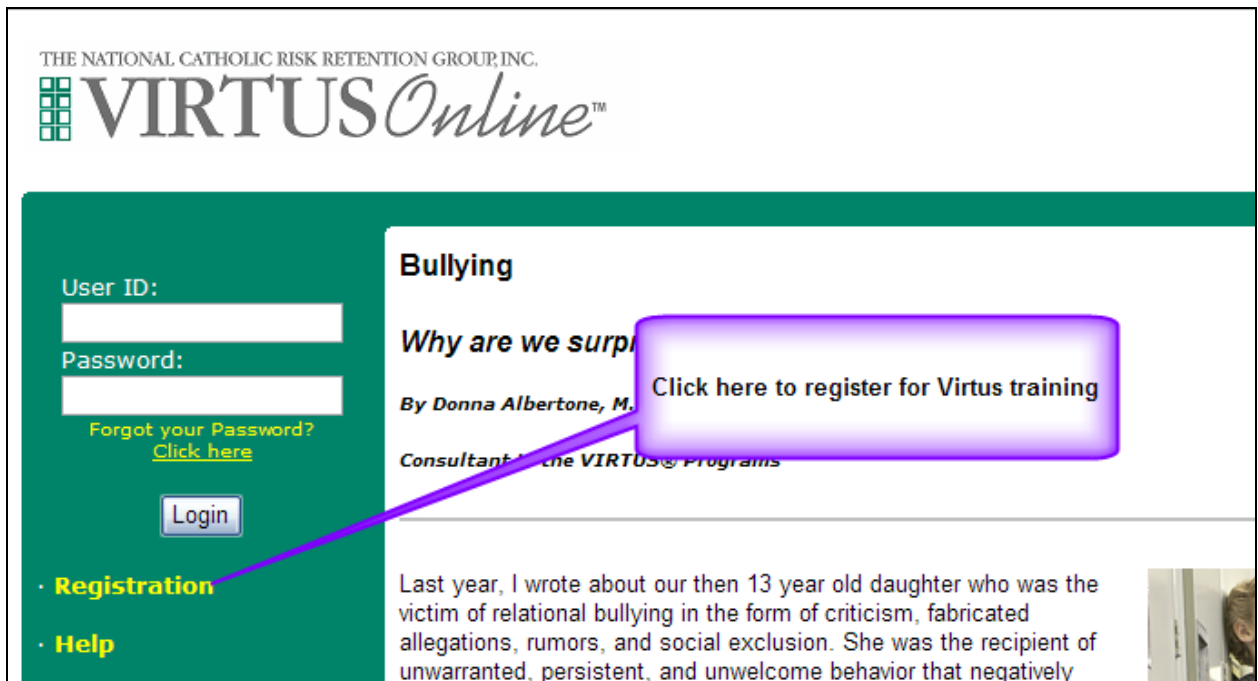
What is Virtus & why do I need it?

Virtus is the name of the program put together by the Catholic Church to recognize and prevent abuse of children. Attendance at a Virtus training session is required for all adults working with youth in the Philadelphia Archdiocese. St. Joseph's requires that all adults that work directly with scouts attend this training. This would include anyone attending scout activities such as hikes or camping trips, working as merit badge counselors, or troop leaders.

This is a program offered around the region, in the evening for about 2 ½ hours. To register for this course, go to the www.virtusonline.org website and follow these instructions.

Registration

Go to www.virtusonline.org and click on Registration



THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.
VIRTUS Online™

User ID:

Password:

Forgot your Password?
[Click here](#)

Login

Bullying

Why are we surprised?

By Donna Albertone, M.A.
Consultant for the VIRTUS® Programs

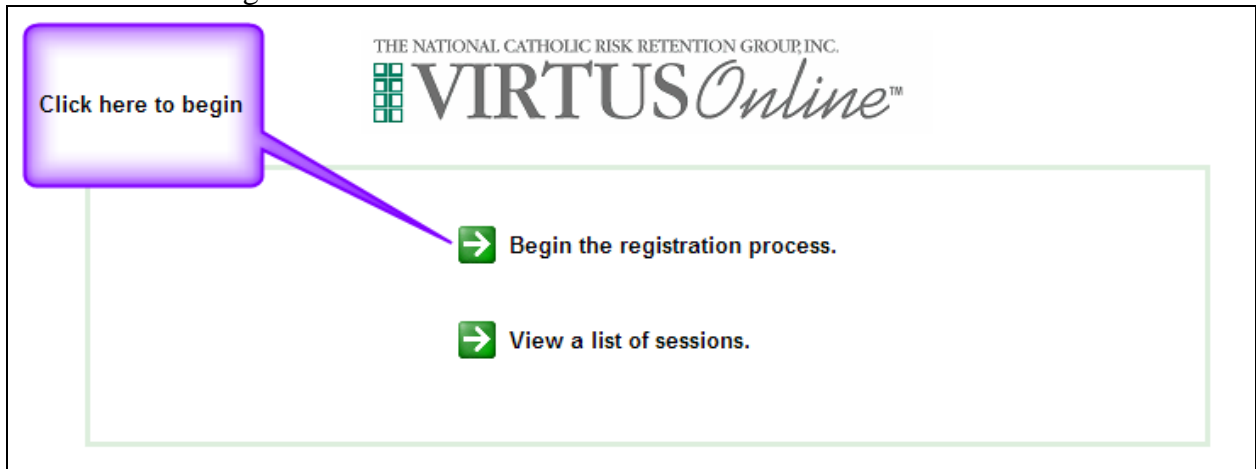
[Click here to register for Virtus training](#)

· **Registration**

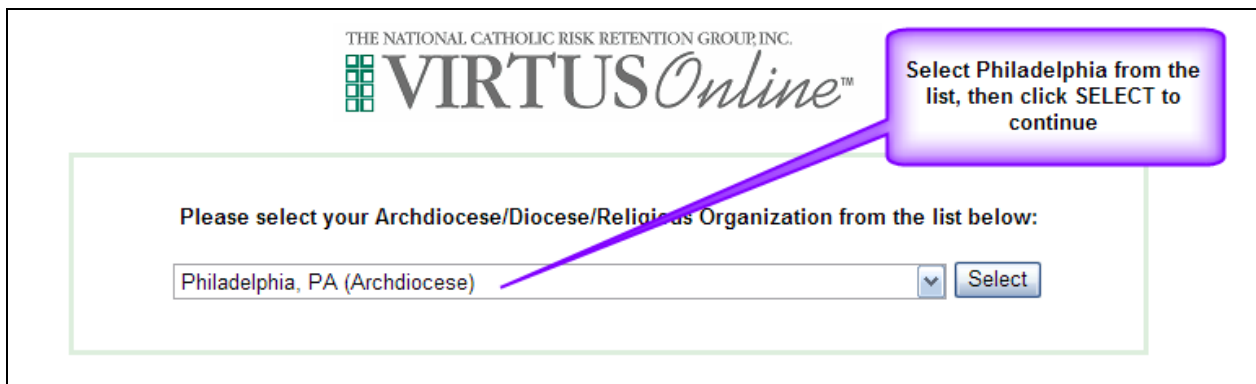
· **Help**

Last year, I wrote about our then 13 year old daughter who was the victim of relational bullying in the form of criticism, fabricated allegations, rumors, and social exclusion. She was the recipient of unwarranted, persistent, and unwelcome behavior that negatively

Then select the Begin button --



Then select the Philadelphia Archdiocese to see available locations for the training



Enter a username and password that will be used on this website then click CONTINUE

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.


Please create a user id and password that you will use to access your account

Common names like Mary and John are not good choices as they are most likely already in use.
Common abbreviations like 'jsmith' and 'mjones' are also likely to already be in use.
We suggest using your full name (without spaces) or email address as they are more likely to be unique.

Create a User ID:

Create a Password:

Your user id is case sensitive. We recommend that you use all lower case letters and avoid spaces and punctuation. Email addresses are ok. Your user id must be at least 4 characters long.

Your password must be at least 4 characters long.

[Important note about selecting passwords](#)

Continue the registration process, following the steps on this website. You will be shown a list of locations where the training can be taken. You may select any location you want. The training is the same no matter which location you pick.

An example location is listed below.

Protecting God's Children for Adults

Where: Mary, Mother of the Redeemer (North Wales)
1325 Upper State Road

When: Thursday, May 22, 2008
7:00 PM

Estimated time: 2 hrs 30 min

Spaces remaining: 185 of 200

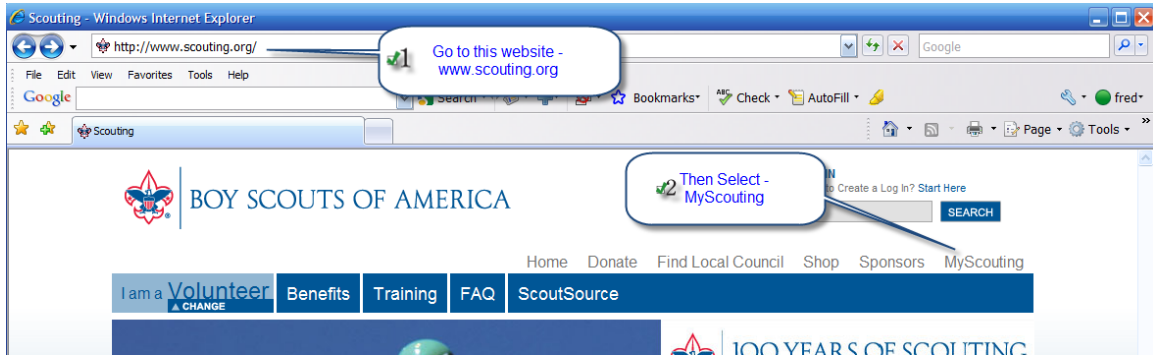
Language: This session will be conducted in English

Notes: This session will be held in the church. No children under the age of 18 should attend this session. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of the session to sign in and pick up materials used in the training.

At some point you will be asked who should get a record of your attendance. Please answer with St. Josephs, Warrington.

BSA Youth Protection Training

Start by going to the BSA website at www.scouting.org – then follow the steps listed below to complete the Youth Protection training class online. This training should take less than 30 minutes.



Create a MyScouting account

MYSCOUTING LOGON

3 - If you haven't done so - create an account otherwise log in

Have an existing account?
Enter your e-mail address and your MyScouting ID to log in.

If you need a new account:
e-mail myscouting@netbsa.org with your council name, e-mail address and contact information. Please include your council name and headquarters city.

Our representatives are available between 7 AM and 7 PM CT Monday through Friday and will respond to you as quickly as possible.

Forgot your password?
If you have forgotten your password, [click here to retrieve it.](#)

Need an account?
If you are a new user to this site or a returning user for e-learning, [click here to create an account.](#)

When creating a new account, BSA members may provide Member ID and Council Name. This information may also be entered at a later time.

E-Mail Address *

Password *

reviewed by
TRUST.e
site privacy statement



- MYSOUTING
- MY ACCOUNT
- MY PROFILE
- E-LEARNING
- RECHARTERING
- ADVANCEMENT
- LOG OFF

4 - After logging in, select E-Learning

portal for to the

Tour Permit Applications

MYSOUTING

E-LEARNING COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Select one of the tabs below to view a list of all courses available in

NOTE: Some Courses require you to have the latest version of Flash plug-in available from Macromedia (Adobe). [Click here to download version.](#)

- Cub Scout
- Boy Scout
- Venturing
- General

Orientation Training

- Staffing the District Committee [Take Course](#)

Basic Training

Supplemental Training

- Safe Swim Defense [Retake Course](#) [Review Course](#)
[View Certificate](#)
- Safety Afloat [Take Course](#)
- Weather Hazards [Take Course](#)
- Youth Protection Training [Retake Course](#) | [Review Course](#)
[View Certificate](#)

5 - Click Take Course under Youth Protection - check out the other on-line courses for General and Boy Scouts too

Course Status ● - Not Started ● - In Progress ● - Completed

Useful websites

Troop 137 - <http://www.bstroop137.com/>

Troop 137 Pictures - <http://picasaweb.google.com/Troop137BSA>

Bucks County Council - <http://www.buckscountybsa.org/>

National BSA website - <http://www.scouting.org/>

Scout Supplies (online store) - <http://www.scoutstuff.org/>

BSA Rank Requirements -

<http://www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards.aspx>

Other Rank requirement information –

<http://www.usscouts.org/advance/boyscout/bsranks.asp>

Merit Badge information

<http://www.usscouts.org/usscouts/mb/mbindex.asp>

Ockanickon Scout Reservation - <http://www.ockanickon.org/>