

BOY SCOUT TROOP 333

Avon United Methodist Church

37711 DETROIT ROAD, AVON, OHIO 44011

www.avontroop333.org

THE SCOUTING PROMISE

Scouting promises you the great outdoors. As a Scout, you can learn how to camp and hike without leaving a trace and how to take care of the land. You will study wildlife up close and learn about nature all around you. There are plenty of skills for you to master and you can teach others what you have learned.



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Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful,
Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient,
Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean,
Reverent

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WEEKLY MEETINGS:
Sundays, 7:15–8:15 PM at the Avon United Methodist Church
(in the “Barn”)

Welcome

Welcome to Troop 333! This handbook was created for you, to help you understand Scouting and how Troop 333 functions as a boy-led troop. It will provide you with important information about Troop 333 that will help you and your family enjoy all the wonderful things that Scouting has to offer. This handbook is not a replacement for the Official Boy Scout Handbook or other literature or policies of the BSA (which super-cede this document in any case of discrepancy). This handbook is a supplement to explain how our specific troop works. We hope that you and your son have an outstanding Scouting experience with Troop 333!

Mission of the Boy Scouts of America

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath & Law.

Vision Statement of the Boy Scouts of America

The BSA is the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training. Scouting offers young people responsible fun and adventure. It instills in young people lifetime values and helps them develop an ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath & Law. BSA trains young people in citizenship, service, and leadership. And, it serves America's communities and families with its quality value-based programs.

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Contact Information

One of the core values of Boy Scouts is responsibility. To that end, Boy Scouts are expected to obtain information about troop events from their patrol leaders and by listening or taking notes at troop meetings. If parents have questions about an activity, they should ask their son first, and remind their son to ask his patrol leader. If they need additional information, families should refer to the troop website www.leaguelineup.com/avontroop333. If questions remain, parents can contact the Scoutmaster:

Matt Wendling, Scoutmaster
 Phone: 440-934-6864
 Email: wendlimt@energizer.com

Information can also be obtained from these websites:

www.avontroop333.org
www.meritbadge.com
www.manatoc.org

PARENTS AND SCOUTS: PLEASE CHECK THE TROOP WEBSITE WEEKLY FOR THE CALENDAR OF TROOP EVENTS, FORMS, PERMISSION SLIPS, & OTHER INFORMATION.

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A Brief History of Scouting

Lord Baden-Powell began the Boy Scout movement in England in 1907. Baden-Powell created the movement so that boys would have the opportunity to learn by doing. He wanted them to develop good character, good physical fitness, & leadership skills. Baden-Powell felt a classroom setting was inadequate for these learnings, so he developed a program focused on the outdoors with many challenges. He used the patrol method to keep things organized & to develop leadership skills & relationships.

The Boy Scouts of America were founded in 1910 after Chicago publisher W.D. Boyce encountered an unknown Scout. Boyce was lost on a foggy London street when this Scout came to his aid, guiding him to his destination. The Scout refused Boyce’s tip explaining that he was a Scout & was merely doing his daily good turn. Boyce, after meeting with Baden-Powell, incorporated the Boy Scouts of America upon his return home.



How Are Boy Scouts Different From Cub Scouts?

There are a number of differences between the Boy Scout and Cub Scout programs. Boys can join Boy Scouts when they are at least 10 years old and have earned their Arrow of Light Award, or have completed the 5th Grade and are at least 10 years old. Young men 18 and older cannot join Boy Scouts as scouts, but may join as adult leaders.

Cub Scouting is centered on the home and neighborhood for the boys. The Cub Scout program is also reliant on parents being actively involved with their boys. Cub Scouting uses the boy's school grade level as the primary entry requirement into a particular rank. Cub Scouting is a year-round family program.

The Boy Scouts assist the boy to develop character, citizenship, and personal fitness. Boy Scouts is also a year-round program but it centers around the Scout, and not the family. Scouts meet once a week and have more frequent campouts/outings. Scouts can also attend a weeklong summer camp, with overnight tent camping. In addition, there are a variety of high adventure programs available for older Scouts. These may involve mountain hiking, rafting, scuba diving, and other adventures.

In general, the entire Scouting program is a family-centered program. Boy Scouts, however, are more independent and self-reliant. They advance in rank based upon completion of rank requirements, not their school grade. Boy Scouts are responsible for their own merit badge work and advancement.

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Basic Scouting Information

In Boy Scout terms, you are in:

Boy Scouts of America (BSA)
Central Region (C4)
Lake Erie Council (440)
Great Frontier District (GFD)
Troop 333

The Sponsor (Chartered Organization) for Troop 333 is:
Avon United Methodist Church (AUMC).

Our chartered organization recruits adult leaders, oversees troop operation, and provides a place to meet. Per national BSA guidelines, every Scout unit must be sponsored by an organization, or it cannot exist.

The Boy Scout program has the following ranks, which are earned in the following order:

Scout
Tenderfoot
2nd Class
1st Class
Star
Life
Eagle

Requirements for these ranks are found in the Boy Scout Handbook and on www.meritbadge.org. Record of each scout's advancement through the ranks is recorded in the back of his Boy Scout Handbook, so every scout must own a handbook. If the handbook is lost, its prompt replacement is the responsibility of the scout's family. Reconstruction of lost records is not guaranteed and is the responsibility of the scout. Periodic photocopies are advised.

Troop Meetings

Troop 333 regularly meets at Avon United Methodist Church in the “Barn” – 37711 Detroit Rd., Avon, OH

Weekly Troop meetings: Sundays from 7:15-8:15 pm (PLC arrives 15 minutes earlier and departs 15 minutes later).

Monthly Patrol Leader Council (PLC) meetings: One Sunday each month from 6:00-7:00 p.m. (before the regular troop meeting)

Troop Committee meetings: 1st Thursday of every month from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

There is also an annual planning meeting in which the Scouts get to plan the Troop’s annual activities.

Troop Campouts and Activities

The Troop has a campout or other event every month of the year. These campouts involve overnight camping in different areas of Northeast Ohio and out of the state. The Troop also participates in the Heart of Ohio Council’s various camporees throughout the year. The Troop camps year-round!

The Troop also goes to summer camp every year during the first week of July. Summer camp is a week-long event where the Scouts live in the outdoors while learning new skills and earning rank advancement and merit badges. This experience is critical to success in Boy Scouts, so it is very important for every Scout to attend to summer camp.

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How to Get Involved as a Parent

The more involved and interested a parent is in their son’s Scouting activities, the more he will want to be in Scouting. The simplest way to be involved with the Troop is to support to your Scout. Ask about when his next campout is, and what rank requirement he needs to complete next. This support also includes providing timely transportation to meetings and other events. (The saying goes, “If you’re on time, you are late!”)

Also, the troop needs parents to volunteer to help run the “business side” of Scouting (fundraising, equipment purchases, etc). This “business” is done by a body called the “Troop Committee”. If you could help as a Troop Committee member, please contact April Bearer, Troop Committee Chair: 440-396-8376 or bearer73@gmail.com.

If you have skills, hobbies, or a vocation that you can share, please consider becoming a Merit Badge Counselor. If you can help in this way, contact Matt Wendling, Scoutmaster, at 440-864-3264 or wendlimt@energizer.com for more information about becoming a merit badge counselor.

If you want to take a more active role in your Scout’s experience, become an Assistant Scoutmaster! You will participate in fun training activities to become an Asst. Scoutmaster. Please contact Matt Wendling, Scoutmaster, for more information.

The most important part is that your Scout enjoys his Scouting experience! And, he would enjoy this experience most with you by his side.



Fundraising

A Scout is Thrifty! We encourage each Scout to take every fundraising opportunity available because it will help him pay for his own costs. The Troop conducts a number of fundraising activities throughout the year that help pay for the Scout's expenses & Troop equipment.

Annual Boy Scout Popcorn Sale – This is sponsored by the BSA. By participating in the popcorn sale, the Scout can earn money to be used toward with fees, activities, and campouts/outings. Some Scouts have been able to pay for a significant portion of annual Scouting costs with money earned from the popcorn sale.

Camp Cards – This is an annual fundraising event sponsored by the Heart of Ohio Council. Camp Cards are discount cards for local businesses that can be purchased for \$5.00 each. The cards have a variety of discounts for a variety of local businesses. Scouts earn a portion of each \$5.00 Camp Card sale that can be used to pay for fees, outings, etc.

Camperships – Numerous community organizations have camperships available that can help cover the cost of summer camp. Applications are usually due around April 1st, and community service is often a requirement.

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Advancement

The advancement program provides a framework for guiding the development of boys and for recognizing their accomplishments. The learning experiences through the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class teach the core outdoor skills and values of the Boy Scouts. Learning experiences for the Star, Life, and Eagle ranks focus on personal growth and exploration, leadership, and responsibility, with a strong reinforcement of Boy Scouts values.

In order to earn a rank, a Scout should follow these steps:

1. All the requirements for the rank being earned must be completed by the Scout. The requirements for each rank are found in his Boy Scout Handbook. All requirements must be signed off in the Scout's handbook after they have been completed. An Assistant Scoutmasters, or another Scout who is Star, Life, or Eagle rank, and one rank higher than the one being earned can sign off the requirements.
2. When all requirements are met to the Senior Patrol Leader's satisfaction, the Scout will meet with the Scoutmaster for a Scoutmaster conference. The Scout should ask the Scoutmaster to schedule a conference during a Troop meeting or campout.
3. After completing a successful Scoutmaster conference, the Scout will be interviewed by a committee of least three non-Scoutmaster adults for a Board of Review. The Scout should ask the Advancement Chair to schedule a Board of Review during a Troop meeting.
4. Upon successful completion of the Board of Review, the Scout will have earned the rank. All rank badges are presented at a quarterly Court of Honor. NOTE: in order to receive a rank badge at a Court of Honor, the Scout must schedule the Board of Review no later than two weeks before the Court of Honor.





Merit Badges

Merit badges provide opportunities for Scouts to explore new skills that prepare them for life. Merit badges can introduce a Scout to a life-long hobby or provide inspiration to pursue a career. Merit badges give a Scout the confidence achieved through overcoming obstacles, improving social skills, and developing self-reliance.

Earning merit badges is part of the rank advancement process. A Scout is required to earn at least 21 merit badges to achieve the Eagle rank; 8 of these can be any elective and 13 must be chosen from a list of required badges. Of course, a Scout is welcome to earn as many merit badges as he wishes! The process for a Scout to earn a Merit Badge is:

- 1. Pick a Subject:** The Scout will talk to the Scoutmaster about his interests. The Scoutmaster will give the Scout a list of Merit Badges and Counselors and a “blue card” that authorizes the Scout to contact a Counselor and begin working on a merit badge.
- 2. Read the Pamphlet:** The BSA publishes an informative pamphlet for every one of the 130 merit badges that are available. These pamphlets include all the information that a Scout needs to earn the badge. Merit badge pamphlets can be borrowed from the public library, from the troop library, or purchased at the Scout Shop.
- 3. Contact the Counselor:** The Scout should contact the counselor and inquire whether and when he or she is available. The Scout works on the counselor’s schedule. The counselor can answer any questions the Scout has regarding the content or requirements of the merit badge.
- 4. Show Your Stuff:** When the Scout is ready, he can contact the counselor to arrange for a time for him to demonstrate his completion of the requirements.
- 5. Get the Badge:** Once the counselor is satisfied that the Scout has met all requirements, he/she will sign the “blue card”. The Scout will then turn in the “blue card” to the Scoutmaster. The Scout will be recognized and receive the badge at the next Court of Honor. The merit badge should be sewn onto his merit badge sash.

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Fees

A full explanation of fees can be found in the troop policy document published in January 2014. This policy is available on the troop website. www.leaguelineup.com/avontroop333

Recharter Fee is determined annually by the Troop Committee. It is presently \$90 per Scout (approximately \$36 goes to Council and \$64 stays with the Troop to pay for expenses such as equipment and awards).

Summer Camp is approximately \$275 per Scout for an entire week of camping. This includes meals, sleeping accommodations, and activities. There may be additional fees depending on the merit badges your Scout decides to complete.

Campouts/Outings - Costs vary, but most campouts/outings are between \$15-\$25 per person to cover food and site rental. Some campouts/outings may include special transportation or activities which will increase the cost. These events are voluntary and a Scout can choose which campouts/outings to attend; however, participation is key to rank advancement.

Uniform – prices will vary, depending on where uniform items are purchased. Please see the uniform section for more information.

Equipment - Varies to personal needs. The Troop provides tents and all kitchen equipment for cooking meals. Each Scout is required to provide his own mess kit, utensils, cup, water bottle, sleeping bag and pad, hiking boots, etc. The Boy Scout Handbook describes what equipment/clothing Scouts will need for each campout/outing.



Scout Uniform

At all troop meetings and while en route to all campouts or outings, each Scout (and registered adult) is required to properly wear the Scout uniform. The uniform consists of a shirt with appropriate insignia and a neckerchief. At regular Troop meetings, Scouts may wear jeans, casual pants (like khakis), or shorts. However, no athletic shorts or pants (i.e., nylon pants or shorts, or sweatpants) may be worn. Socks and closed-toe shoes must be worn at all times.

For formal troop events, such as Scoutmaster conferences, Boards of Review, and Courts of Honor, Scouts should also wear a merit badge sash. The larger sash is recommended so the Scout can grow into it. In addition, Scouts should wear official Boy Scout pants. These pants have zip-off legs, and can be used as official Boy Scout shorts for summer camp and other warm weather events. All uniform items can be purchased at any of the Scout Shop in the area.

The Troop provides a patrol insignia (if patrols are reorganized) and the troop neckerchief. The Troop also provides insignia for all awards earned by each Scout (like rank and merit badges). The Scout is responsible for all other patches/insignia, as well as uniform shirt, pants, merit badge sash, slide, etc. Please refer to the Boy Scout Handbook for insignia placement and how to properly wear the Scout uniform.

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Troop Organization

Patrols and Scout Leadership

As members of Troop 333, the Scouts lead the Troop under the *guidance* of registered adults: the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Committee members, and parents. The Troop is actually *led* by the boys: the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) who is elected semiannually by the Scouts is the leader of the Troop. The SPL appoints a staff including an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL), Quartermaster, Scribe, Librarian, Instructor, and other officers to assist him.

Each Scout is assigned to a Patrol by the Scoutmaster with input from Assistant Scoutmasters. Patrols are the functional unit of the troop. They are groups of 6-12 boys, organized by age, experience level, or a combination of both. Patrols may be reorganized annually, if warranted by changes in membership or participation level.

The members of each Patrol hold elections every 6 months to elect a Patrol Leader (PL), Assistant Patrol Leader (APL), and other Patrol positions. The Scouts that hold a position of leadership are members of the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC), and are required to attend a PLC meeting each month (see the Troop Meetings section) to plan troop events.

Troop 333 is managed by the Troop Committee. The Committee Chair supervises the Scoutmaster and Committee. The Troop Committee serves as a resource for the Scouts. Committee members also execute specific tasks as assigned by the Committee Chair including accounting, fundraising, and equipment acquisition. All parents are welcomed and encouraged to join the Troop Committee.