

Introduction

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 88! Boy Scout Troop 88 is a *boy run* organization, supported and guided by trained adult leaders and parents. Youth Protection is a top priority and all adult leaders are required to adhere to the principals of this program.

Updated troop information may be found on the web at www.troop88.org

Troop Meetings (Location/Schedule/Structure)

Troop 88 meets at Parker Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 9100 E. Parker Road in Parker. The church is on the south side of East Parker Road (Mainstreet) approximately 2 miles east of Highway 83. It shares a driveway with Ave Maria Catholic Church.

The meeting on the **1st Tuesday of the month** is set aside to facilitate **Rank Advancement** following announcements. Scouts that are ready to advance in rank will need a Scoutmaster Conference and a Board of Review **before** they may advance. *Reservations through the Advancement Chairman for conferences and reviews are not required. However, a reservation increases the chances that sufficient adult leaders will be available if you wish to do a Scoutmaster Conference and a Board of Review in the same evening.* This meeting starts at 6:30pm and has a scheduled close of 8:00 pm.

The 2nd Tuesday of the month is the **Troop Committee Meeting** night. The Troop Committee consists of the Scoutmaster, the Committee Chairman, the Advancement Chairman, the Treasurer, the Eagle Coordinator, the Activities Chairman, general Assistant Scoutmasters, other adult leaders. All parents are strongly encouraged to attend the Committee Meetings (**no youth please.**) The Committee deals with troop management issues that are a level above those dealt with by the scouts, as well as reviewing Eagle Project proposals. This meeting starts at 6:30pm and has a scheduled close of 8:00 pm.

A **Patrol Leader's Council**, commonly known as the **PLC**, is held during the **3rd Tuesday meeting of the month**. The Senior Patrol Leader or SPL leads this meeting of Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders. Guided by the Scoutmaster, this group of Boy Scouts discusses upcoming troop activities and other scout-level issues that may come up. The Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders are expected to disseminate the information from this meeting to their respective patrols. This meeting starts at 6:30pm and has a scheduled close of 8:00 pm.

The **4th Tuesday of the month** at 6:30 pm, we have a **regular Scout meeting**. It starts with an opening flag ceremony with the scouts lined up in patrols. We then have scout announcements, followed by brief adult announcements. (Have your scout take notes and have a calendar handy

so he will be able to plan and keep track of events. This may be the only way of knowing “who, what, where, when”. The “Troop Program” for the evening then begins. The Troop Chaplin delivers the “Chaplin’s Corner” followed by the closing flag ceremony. These meetings are scheduled to end at 8:00 pm.

When a month has a **5th Tuesday**, this night is reserved for **optional activities** such as a troop “Fun Night”, usually at a locale other than the church.

On any Tuesday where the troop does not have a regular meeting scheduled, the patrols may meet individually (or with other patrols) to do an activity of their choice. (Note: patrols can meet on their own at any time that there is not a scheduled general troop meeting, although one of the patrol leaders must attend the PLC.)

Parents are welcome at these meetings and at least two from each patrol should be in attendance at the general meetings. Please remember “Two Deep Leadership” is required. We have found it useful to have a “Patrol Parent” for each patrol to help monitor the scouts and make sure that they stay on task- especially the first year. It’s very helpful to have a list of parents, boys, email addresses, home addresses and phone numbers.

See the Quick Reference for an abbreviated description of troop meetings and times.

Basic Requirements to Get Your Scout Started (Uniform/Book/etc.)

New boys need to obtain their **Scout Badge** and start working on the **Tenderfoot Rank**. (**Purchase Scout Book and read!**) The Patrol Leader should plan the meetings to accomplish these things first.

Books and uniforms/patches can be purchased online or at the Scout Shop, 10455 West 6th Ave, Suite 125, Denver, CO 80215. The minimal uniform that all scouts need is the traditional khaki shirt, also known as the “Field Uniform” shirt. Most troops issue their own “Class B” shirt to be worn during strenuous activity so that the Field Uniform shirts can stay clean a few minutes longer.

At the weekly Troop Meetings, the Field Uniform shirt and Troop issued neckerchiefs as well as Scout pants/ shorts or blue jeans are required.

See Appendix A for diagrams showing proper uniform and patches

Calendar

Near the first of the year, a special meeting called **Junior Leadership Training** or **JLT** convenes to plan troop activities for the next calendar year.

See Appendix B for the current Troop Calendar

Troop Structure (Patrol/Troop/PLC/Committee)

All regular Boy Scout Troops have a charter organization. Troop 88 is chartered through Parker Evangelical Presbyterian Church. (PEPC) The top individual leader in the troop is the Scoutmaster. When you join Troop 88, your son will be assigned to a **Patrol**. There are usually 4-8 scouts in a patrol and the status will change as scouts come and go throughout the life of the patrol. However, the scouts need to learn to work together to accomplish goals. The patrol can meet at different times and locations in addition to the regular scout meetings if they would like to accomplish some goals, as the Tuesday troop meetings are often too short to accomplish everything.

The scouts will need to vote on a Patrol Leader and an Assistant Patrol Leader. This leadership post changes every six months. All of the scouts in the troop vote on a SPL (Senior Patrol Leader) from the older scouts and this position changes every six months too (usually Mar. and Sept)/ The SPL and his staff preside over the troop meetings.

Collectively, the patrols and the adult leadership combine to form a **Troop**.

Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders need to attend monthly PLC (Patrol Leader Council) meetings during the third Tuesday meeting, to discuss troop issues and activities, after which they need to disseminate that information to their patrol members. The SPL presides at this meeting with guidance from the Scoutmaster. The PLC is usually the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

There is a **Committee** Meeting the second Tuesday of the month, where the parents meet to plan and discuss issues and events. The Committee Meeting is run by the Committee Chairman. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend. These meetings are especially helpful to new parents... you can meet a lot of people and you get a better perspective on how and why things happen. You do not need to be a committee member to attend, but it is easy to join and only costs \$10/year to be a registered adult.

See Appendix C for a flow chart showing troop structure and Troop 88's relationship to the Boy Scouts of America, See Appendix D for a list of current adult leaders.

Rank Advancement/Path to Eagle

The Scout rank is the first rank to be earned and is discussed under "Basic Requirements to Get Your Scout Started". The ranks that follow are Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle.

The Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks deal largely with the basics of Scouting. Star, Life and Eagle ranks place more emphasis on leadership and merit badges. The Eagle rank requires 21 merit badges, 12 of which are “Eagle Required”. (Scouts do not have to wait until they achieve the Star rank to begin working on merit badges.)

Campouts are a great way to earn “rank”, as this is the time older scouts plan to do skill teaching and sign off books. Only scouts who are the “Star” rank and above can sign off on your new scout. **Parents who are registered** can also sign your scout off on rank advancement. **You may not sign off your own son** and you should try to work with more than just one scout if possible on achievements. This is very different from Cub Scouts! Generally, it is recommended that the scout advance in rank every six months.

When your scout is ready to advance in rank, he will first need to schedule a Scoutmaster Conference. After successful completion of the Scoutmaster Conference, your scout will need to pass a Board of Review. Rank advancement is normally reserved for the first Tuesday of the month. **Reservations for conferences and boards of review should be scheduled through the Advancement Chairperson whenever possible.**

See Appendices A and E for a list of Eagle Required merit badges.

Merit Badges

Merit Badges are fun and all the scouts want to earn them. There are Merit Badge Counselors for many of the Merit Badges. The scouts need to contact the Merit Badge Counselor for the Merit Badge they want to obtain if they want to earn a particular badge. If there is no counselor, then the scout needs to find one.

There is a box of Merit Badge books in the church Scout cabinet that can be signed out through the Troop Librarian. The local libraries have some books and they can be purchased through the local Scout Shop. The Advancement Chairperson needs to be contacted to obtain a “Blue Card” and to have him/her sign it. **Again, it is strongly recommended that the Merit Badges be done with more than one scout, and you cannot sign your own son off without special permission or special circumstances.**

Usually there is a weekend offered twice a year, for the scouts to attend a Merit Badge College where they can get a good head start on 1, 2, and sometimes 3 badges on a weekend. Also, different badges are offered throughout the year. Summer Camp is another way to earn badges and rank.

See Appendix E for a list of merit badges.

Special Awards and Recognition

In addition to badges of rank and merit badges, Scouts are eligible to earn a number of other awards that reflect their achievements.

See Appendix F for a list of special awards.

Camping/ Summer & Winter Camps/ Equipment/ Tips

The troop usually plans a monthly “troop” campout where only Troop 88 is involved. The exceptions to this usually happen when there is a month in which district-wide or council-wide campouts are scheduled and during the month when summer camps are held.

Planning for troop, district, or council campouts include: **a menu, who will purchase the food** (reimbursed before leaving on the trip), **who will sleep in whose tent** (no one sleeps alone – and scouts sleep with scouts, parents with parents / or alone), **who will cook and clean up, and whose parents will drive and / or stay will be worked out by the scouts.** The adults arrange for their own menus, purchasing, and cooking.

While in transit to and from a campout, the scouts are required to wear their Class A uniform. We usually meet at the church at 5pm Friday and then eat fast food somewhere. The scouts usually return to the church by 11 am on Sunday. It is the **parent’s responsibility** to either be there when they arrive or make delivery arrangements. It is very poor manners to make the parent returning with your child wait for you at the end of a long weekend. The patrol should have their parents responsible for their patrol scouts during a campout. If that is impossible, and only a few scouts are going on the campout, then other arrangements may be made. Don’t wait until Friday night to find out whom your son is going with!

Each patrol should have its’ own “box” in which they bring their camping food and misc. consumable supplies. The troop has “patrol boxes” that everyone uses so you cannot leave “leftovers” from one camping trip and count on it being there the next time. These boxes have reusable items, such as pots, pans, cooking spoons, propane stoves etc., but it is recommended that each patrol provide its’ own eating utensils, including plate, bowl and silverware. We try to limit disposable products.

Summer Camps usually last at least 1 week (long-term camp), whether they are local camps or not. It is recommended that every new scout attend a local general camp (such as Peaceful Valley or Alexander) at the first opportunity. These gives the new scout a major camp experience that is not too far from home and allows for significant progress on rank and select merit badges. Long-term camps always require submission of a current **Medical Form and Release.** **Winter Camps** usually last a weekend and require proper equipment and knowledge for camping in the cold.

Completion of a local general camp may be required before the Scout is allowed to attend a camp that requires extensive travel such as Cherry Valley (California). Some camps may require a minimum age and/or rank such as Sea Base, RAMS, or Philmont.

*See Appendix G for a list of basic **camping equipment**, cold-weather gear, **camping tips**, and survival techniques and preparedness.*

Finances

Troop 88 has monthly dues of \$5. It can be paid monthly to the treasurer, or in a lump sum(s) (\$60 / yr, \$30 / twice a year). These dues are used primarily for the purchasing of rank and merit badges. Dues are not optional and the failure to keep current on dues may prevent a Scout from reserving a spot for a special camp. Also, by Feb. 1 of each year, each Scout and Parent member must reregister and pay district dues (\$20 for new and returning Scouts and \$10 for Adults)

Scouts can earn money for their “Scout accounts” by participating in the various fundraising activities that occur during the year. Parents can contribute to the scout accounts by purchasing grocery store coupons from the troop, whereby a small percentage of the purchase is credited to the account. Some parents find it convenient to ask the treasurer to automatically deduct monthly dues from the scout account.

It is the policy of Troop 88 that no scout should be denied the opportunity to participate in Scouting due to financial reasons. If such a problem exists, it should be brought to the attention of the Scoutmaster or the Committee for case-by-case consideration.

Adult Leadership Opportunities / Training

To be registered you need to obtain a registration form and pay a nominal fee. It is strongly encouraged to have more than one parent from a patrol be registered. Also, it is highly recommended that you obtain some further scout training and attend committee meetings to ensure you do things properly. A parent can become a Merit Badge Councilor by registering. If the parent is already a member of Troop 88, then the parent’s name needs to be added to the Merit Badge list.

There are numerous opportunities to serve as an adult leader. Some are “long-cycle” positions, such as Treasurer, Advancement Chairman, Committee Chairman, Chaplain and Eagle Coordinator. Some are “short-cycle” and last until the conclusion of a major activity, such as chairing a fundraiser or a summer camp. Last, but not least, adults are needed to lead regular monthly campouts and be Merit Badge Counselors.

Adult leader training is available at many levels. It is recommended that new parents take basic training as soon as possible. Some certifications, such as shooting sports, require activity-specific training.

Quick Reference

Troop Meetings: Parker Evangelical Presbyterian Church 9100 E. Parker Road, Parker, CO 80138

- 1st Tuesday: Rank Advancements, starts at 6:30PM
- 2nd Tuesday: TCM, starts at 6:30PM
- 3rd Tuesday: Meeting with PLC, starts at 6:30PM
- 4th Tuesday: Regular Meeting, starts at 6:30PM
- 5th Tuesday: Troop Fun Night/Optional Activity

Basic Requirements: Boy Scout Handbook and standard khaki shirt, also known as the “Field Uniform” shirt, Troop issued neckerchief. The “Field Uniform” shirt is to be worn at all Scout functions unless the Scoutmaster or Committee deems otherwise. It is an honor to be a Scout and should be proud to wear the uniform. The uniform is a requirement for Scout Spirit.

Troop Structure: Troop 88’s charter organization is PEPC. The head of the troop is the Scoutmaster. The head of the scouts in the troop is the Senior Patrol Leader, or SPL. The head of the Committee (adults) is the Committee Chairman.

Rank Advancement: When a Scout is ready to advance in rank, he should make a reservation for a Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review through the Advancement Chairman.

Courts of Honor: Two times a year, usually in August and February, the troop holds a special meeting to honor the achievement of its’ scouts.

Eagle Courts of Honor: Special Court of Honor for a new Eagle Scout, usually held shortly after the Scout passes the Eagle Board of Review. It is an honor to attend one of these ceremonies and it is a highly recommended experience.

Camping: Regular troop campouts once a month, unless a special camp takes precedence. Special camps include Camporee, Klonderee, and summer camps.

Summer Camps: All new Scouts are highly encouraged to attend a local general summer camp at the first opportunity after joining.

Finances: Annual registration fees of \$20 for first time Scouts, \$20 for re-registration of Scouts, \$10 for Adults. Monthly dues are \$5 for Scouts.