

Troop 1887

New Parent Quick Reference

Things You Need To Know

The purpose of this Quick Reference is to give new parents a primer on what to do in the first few months of your son joining Boy Scouts. Our Troop Handbook has more details.



Welcome to Troop 1887 at the American Legion, Post 177 in Fairfax

All of us at Troop 1887 welcome you, the parents of boys who have chosen our troop as your Scouting home. This moment marks a very important first step on the Scouting journey. We look forward to helping you and your son gain a wonderful experience in Scouting and keeping his desire to reach Eagle burning brightly in the next few years as a Scout.

In smaller troops like ours, we strive to do numerous camping trips each year and one high adventure trip per summer. We offer exceptional equipment, deep adult leadership involvement and encourage parents to get involved. The intention of the Troop 1887 Scout and Adult leadership team is to do everything possible to make the Scouting experience rewarding for your son(s) and to assist them along their journeys of becoming the very best Scouts they can be and future good citizens.

Table of Contents

Page 2	What It Is All About
Page 3	Fast Start Checklist & Expectation for Parents
Page 5	Expectations for Scouts
Page 6	Troop Organization
Page 8	Camping!
Page 9	Merit Badges
Page 10	Rank Advancements & Tips from Eagle Scout Parents



Scout Motto is: BE PREPARED

What It Is All About at 1887

Following the purpose of Boy Scouting worldwide, our Troop aims to teach our boys good leadership and values. Unlike Cub Scouting, with which you may already be familiar, Boy Scouting is a **youth-led, adult supervised** organization. The boys learn how to organize and lead the Troop. After training, and with adult supervision, the boys run the show.

The new Scouts of Troop 1887 work towards their First Class rank in their first year. As they travel on the trail to Eagle and beyond, they will not only experience personal accomplishments, they will lead teams of Scouts in challenging situations. Boy Scouting provides for growth of moral strength and character, teaches citizenship, and enhances the development of physical, mental and emotional fitness.

This is all done safely, in the spirit of fun and adventure.



**American Legion Post 177
is the sponsor organization
for Troop 1887**

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Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell

(22 February 1857 – 8 January 1941) also known as Lord Baden-Powell, was a lieutenant-general in the British Army, and was the founder of the Scout Movement and first Chief Scout of The Boy Scouts Association.

It was during the Boer war that Baden Powell wrote down a guide to Scouting. Initially meant for military purposes, after the war he felt it could be used as a focus for young boys to give them more meaning in life.

His philosophies on life, values and leadership principles are the foundation of Boy Scouts today.

Fast Start Checklist:

For parents, you will need:

- The troop scout and adult application forms
- Troop permission form
- Vehicle information form (necessary for when you drive scouts to/from activities (also need license numbers for any driver)
- The committee chair will provide a parent resource form.
- The family will need to complete BSA required medical forms
- Go to MyScouting.org to complete Youth Protection Training
- Get access to Troop 1887 Scoutlander.com website. This is where all reference information is maintained, announcements made, and calendars updated

Troop 1887 supplies the following uniform items to our new Scouts:

- Neckerchief
- Neckerchief Slide
- Troop number patch
- Shirt shoulder tabs

The Scout is responsible for the following:

- Shirt
- Shirt patches (except for Troop number and optional Patrol patch)
- BSA Pants
- BSA Socks
- Scout Handbook
- Register with Troop 1887
- Pay Dues
- Attend Troop Meetings



Expectations of Parents:

Our success in delivering the promise of Scouting to the boys of our troop is due to the involvement of parents. The Troop expects the parents of its members to be involved in making the troop work. This may be membership on the committee, volunteering as a uniformed adult leader (assistant Scoutmaster), providing transportation from time to time or something else. Without your assistance the troop and, therefore, your son will not be as successful as can be.

We realize there are considerable demands on your time. However, one cannot make a better investment of this time than into the operation of your son's troop and the greater community it serves. Just some of the ways you can help include:

- Be a merit badge counselor in your job discipline, hobby subject or other interest.
- Provide rides to or from campouts and other activities.
- Provide transportation for equipment to or from a campout.
- Be the extra adult on a campout or other activity.
- Help organize refreshments for Courts of Honor.
- Be a guest speaker on an advancement related subject at a troop meeting or other event.
- Help supervise walking or bike hikes.
- Supervise a fund raising activity.
- Help build or maintain patrol boxes. (Wood working skills and tools required.)

Parents (cont):

Advance Notice of Upcoming Events

The Troop publishes a calendar of upcoming events each year as Scouts chose what they want to do at an annual meeting. The end of weekly meetings is devoted to announcements about upcoming events. Parents can see the calendar also on the Troop Scoutlander website.

Driver Information for Trip Permits

The Troop is required by BSA to file a Tour Permit when we sponsor a campout or trip, which includes the license tag numbers/letters and a make/model description of each vehicle to be used. A space is provided to record this information on every Event Permission Form, but is only required if you are a designated driver for the event/activity.

BSA Health and Medical Forms for Troop Events

BSA Health and Medical Records form are required by Troop 1887 for all members (Scouts, and parents) participating in scouting activities. BSA Health and Medical Record forms are valid for a one calendar year period of time. Be sure to maintain a copy for your family records.

BSA Health and Medical Forms for Summer Camp

Participation in activities at many district or council Scout facilities including Summer Camp will require a completed BSA Medical forms A, B and C. Get these done early.

Handling Prescription and Critical Care Medication

Scouts taking prescription medications requiring them to carry critical care medications (such as Epipens or inhalers) on Troop outings must report these conditions to the ASM organizer for each Troop event.

When the event is sponsored by Troop 1887, parents are expected to provide adequate doses of critical care medications. Unused medication will be returned to the Scout at the end of the trip.

Fund Raising Opportunities

The Troop offers several sponsored fundraising opportunities for Scouts interested in earning money to paying for Scouting activities. Popcorn sales are very popular each fall.

Individual Scout Records

Database accounts are used to keep track of advancement progress, which the Scout must report, and a separate record for dues or money Scouts earn/spend on fund raising.



Youth Protection

A safe, harassment-free environment for Scouts is our pledge:

- The Two-Deep Youth Protection policy is strictly enforced at Troop functions
- Current Youth Protection Training certification is required for all registered adults affiliated with the Troop and of all adults participating in High Adventure activities or other troop sanctioned events.
- Parent participation is highly encouraged. Adults seeking to become Registered Scouters with the Troop are screened by the Troop Committee and must undergo a BSA background check as part the BSA Adult Leader application process.
- Adults should complete Youth Protection Training online at [MyScouting.org](https://my.scouting.org)

Expectations for Scouts:

Scouts are expected to attend troop functions (meetings, outings, etc.). For Scouts to be considered active, Troop 1887 expects at least 60% attendance at the weekly scheduled Tuesday meetings and 50% of the scheduled outdoor camping activities.

- The Class “A” uniform is the Scout shirt (Long or short sleeved with all authorized patches), Scout pants or Scout shorts (if wearing shorts must have Scout socks), Scout belt and Scout cap (cap is optional for meetings unless standing for an advancement conference or Board of Review).
- The full Class “A” uniform must be worn for all inspections, Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review, Courts of Honor, when representing the Troop at another organization, and when directed by the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) or Scoutmaster. The full Class “A” uniform is the same as the Class “A” but includes the neckerchief, neckerchief slide (official BSA or Scout made acceptable), merit badge sash (for Scouts who have achieved rank of First Class) and BSA cap.
- Activity Uniform (Class “B”) consists of the Troop 1887 green T-shirt, Scout pants (if Scout shorts are worn Scout socks must be worn), Scout belt and green 1887 Ball Cap.

Scouts will maintain the high standards that we ascribe to under the Scout Oath and Scout Law:

Scout Oath

“On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.”

Scout Law

A Scout is: “Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.” There are 12 points to the Scout Law. At 1887, we try to dedicate each month to the understanding and teaching of a point at Troop meetings. Consider doing this at home, to reinforce each value.

Safety First

Adults participating in Troop activities are expected to enforce safety rules, intervening whenever unsafe conditions are observed. Violations of safety rules must be reported to the Scoutmaster or designated Trip Organizer when conditions permit. BSA Guide to Safe Scouting is what our Troop uses and can be found here: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS/toc.aspx>

Safety Policies

Troop 1887 places special emphasis on BSA safety guidelines and policies. The most important of these are listed below. A complete listing for event safety checklist can be found at BSA http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/event_checklist.pdf

Buddy System

This means the Scouts will always be with at least one other designated Scout and not wander off on their own. Scouts are responsible for telling designated leaders where they are going and when they will be back before they leave the Troop campsite or location. This also applies at the meeting site.

Prohibited Activities

The following actions and activities are prohibited:

- Scouts will never use profanity, smoke, drink alcohol, gamble, or use drugs.

Scouts or adults breaking this rule will be asked to leave the activity and face further discipline at the discretion of the Troop Committee.

Troop Organization:

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters

While Troop 1887 operates on the principle of active youth leadership of the Troop, adults guide, mentor, coach, and perform tasks to support the boys and contribute to their success. This is done through two separate groups of adult parent volunteers:

- The daily direct support of the boys is through the Scoutmaster, the senior adult leader responsible for the youth program, and a number of Assistant Scoutmasters
- The Troop Committee recruits and approves the Scoutmaster and conducts the business of the Troop, setting policy and help the Scoutmaster and Scouts with outdoor programs and planned activities.

Troop Leadership

Troop 1887 conducts elections every six months to elect new Scout leadership. All Scouts in good standing are eligible to vote. All newly elected Senior Patrol Leaders and Patrol Leaders and newly appointed Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders must attend Junior Leader Training (JLT) for their positions.

Patrol Leaders

Patrol leaders are responsible for organizing and conducting Patrol meetings, and for leading their Patrols in planned Troop activities and planning Patrol activities. The Patrol Leader communicates information about upcoming deadlines and events to all Patrol members.

Patrol Leaders Council (PLC)

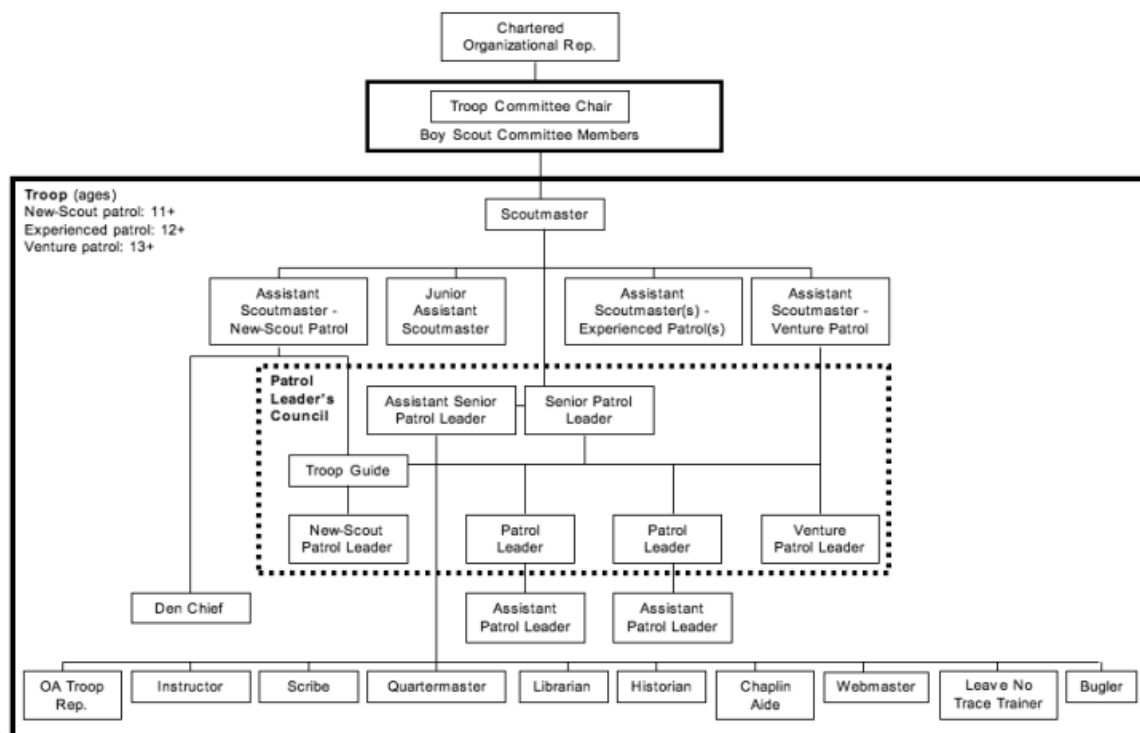
The Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meetings will be held once a month. The Senior Patrol Leader is responsible for scheduling, planning, organizing, and chairing PLC meetings. It is imperative that the all Patrol Leaders (or the assistant patrol leader in their absence) and other youth leaders be prepared for and attend the PLC.

- **Senior Patrol Leader** – The SPL is elected by the Scouts to represent them as the top junior leader in the troop. The SPL reports to the Scoutmaster.
- **Assistant Patrol Leader** – The Assistant Patrol Leader is the Scout ready to step in and assume the duties of the Patrol Leader when the Patrol Leader is not present. The elected SPL chooses him.
- **Scribe** – Is the Troop's secretary. Attends the PLC and keeps record of discussions. He records attendance and publishes minutes of meetings.
- **Historian** – Collects and preserves Troop photographs, news stories, trophies, flags, scrapbooks, awards, and other memorabilia and makes materials available for Scouting activities, the media, and Troop history projects.

Troop Organization (cont):

- **Quartermaster** – Is the Troop's supply boss. He keeps an inventory of Troop equipment and sees that the gear is in good condition. He works with Patrol Quartermasters and reports to PLC on the status of equipment and the need of replacement or repair. An Assistant QM is appointed by the SPL to learn the QM job and take over after six months.
- **Troop Guide** – Is both a leader and a mentor to the members of the new-Scout Patrol. He helps the Patrol leader of the new-Scout Patrol in much the same way that the Scoutmaster works with the SPL.
- **Librarian** – Oversees the care and use of Troop books, pamphlets, magazines, and audiovisuals. He checks out materials and ensures that everything is returned.
- **Instructors** – A member proficient in scouting skills that has the ability to teach others.
- **Chaplain Aide** – Assists in serving the religious needs of the Troop. He ensures that religious holidays are considered during the Troop's program planning process and promotes the BSA's religious emblems program.
- **Order of the Arrow Troop Representative** – Serves as the communication link between the Troop and the local OA lodge. He assists with leadership skills training.

Boy Scout troop organization chart



Camping!

Troop Campouts

Troop 1887 is a camping troop and as such we plan camping trips or outings almost every month of the year! During the school year, there are numerous opportunities for your son (and parents) to experience Troop 1887 campouts.

Troop campouts are open to all members of Troop 1887 and adults. The Scouts plan these trips at the end of the previous year so they are on the Troop calendar featured on the Troop's Scoutlander website. During most Troop campouts, Scouts camp and cook together as Patrols.

Summer Camp

Summer camp is open to Scouts at every age and rank. At Troop 1887, we typically choose a different camp location each year. Summer Camp is one week long and offers Scouts the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, earn Merit Badges, and work on their rank advancements. For new Scouts, we emphasize working on their rank advancements so they can get a jump on earning their First Class rank as soon as possible.

Depending on the camp our Troop chooses, Scouts will either cook as Patrols, or eat in the facilities. Scouts and adults who are attending Summer Camp at Goshen, for example, are required to have a completed and up to date BSA Health Form submitted to the Troop. This form requires the completion of sections A, B, and C. Section C requires completion by a medical professional. Prior to returning the form, please ensure all appropriate fields are signed.

Troop-owned camping equipment

The Troop camping and backpacking equipment is intended for shared use by Scouts involved in Troop-sponsored camping and backpacking activities. Equipment includes tents, dining flies, lanterns, cook stoves and cookware.

Troop-owned equipment is intended for use by Scouts on Troop-sponsored activities. All other uses must be approved, in advance. Troop-sponsored activities must always take priority over personal or outside group requests for Troop-owned camping equipment.

Scouts are responsible for proper use, cleaning and return of equipment to the QM. Reasonable wear and tear is expected and equipment damaged in the course of normal use will not be charged to Scouts.



First Aid and CPR

Scouts want to camp! Take advantage of camping activities and encourage your new Scout to go, especially to their first summer camp. It is a time to learn to be away from home and to learn from other adults. BSA requires units planning wilderness camping and travel activities to demonstrate that these activities will be supervised by trained adults and conducted in compliance with wilderness camping and travel requirements. The Troop endorses and enforces these requirements.

- The Troop Committee may require First Aid and CPR certification for registered Scouters and parents participating in High Adventure wilderness activities.
- Registered Scouters and parents interested in training and certification should contact the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman.

Merit Badges:

There are roughly 120 possible Merit Badges. Most first year Scouts finish at least 4-6 merit badges, and more if they are enthusiastic. Sometimes a Scout while at Summer Camp (or another activity) cannot complete all the requirements of a particular badge, and he will then receive a **partial** and should try to complete the badge with a Troop counselor upon return as soon as possible.



How the Merit Badge Process Works

It is up to the individual Scout to make the first contact with a Merit Badge counselor. The Scout obtains a “blue card” from the Scoutmaster. Each Merit Badge has a booklet that describes the requirements and provides additional reading materials or information. The Troop has many books to check out from the librarian. Many websites, such as www.meritbadge.org, provides basic information regarding merit badges.

When the counselor is satisfied that the requirements have been mastered, the blue card will be completed. The Scout keeps his portion, and gives the card to the Scoutmaster who then records the Merit Badge as having been completed and arranges for the badge to be awarded at the next Court of Honor.

Counselors

Even though the Scout works at his own pace, he does not work alone. There is always a Merit Badge counselor who has special training or skills to assist the boy. All new parents can at least be merit badge counselors. You have experience and skills to contribute. Our troop has a number of adults who are registered as merit badge counselors.

Tracking Rank Advancements and Merit Badges

You should help your son maintain a permanent record of merit badges and rank advancements earned. While it is up to your Scout and you to create a system that works best for you, it is imperative to have a system in place before too much time passes and blue cards are lost or misplaced.

To make Eagle, the Scout must earn a total of 21 merit badges including 13 required for Eagle. See this page for more about requirements for Eagle:

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

Scout Rank Advancement

Scoutmaster Conference

Upon completion of the requirements for a rank advancement, and prior to the Board of experience during which the Scout can discuss with his Scoutmaster his accomplishments and set new goals for himself. During the conference the Scout will obtain approval from the Scoutmaster that he is ready for the Board of Review. After the conference, the Scout is responsible for scheduling a Board of Review.

Board of Review

When your Scout has completed all of the requirements for a rank, he appears before a Board of Review composed of at least three, and not more than six, Troop Committee members. All parents are qualified and invited to volunteer to sit on Boards of Review.

Court of Honor

Four times a year the Troop holds a Court of Honor. At these occasions rank advancements and merit badge completion is formally recognized.



Scout
Tenderfoot
Second Class
First Class
Star
Life
Eagle

Tips From Parents of Eagle Scouts:

It is proud day for the Scout, parents and Troop when one of our own has their Eagle Court of Honor. Not all Scouts make it, and that is ok, but use the below tips from parents of Eagle Scouts as a primer of what has worked for others, and get to know parents of senior Scouts to share more insights:

- Get involved, good Troops produce good Scouts
- Go to summer camps
- Become an ASM to share the journey
- It really is a team effort
- Be patient and trust the process
- Make scouting values your family's
- Keep meticulous records
- Scouting is about adventure, focus on achievement as fun
- Celebrate every merit badge and rank along the way
- It is supposed to be hard, so sometimes they need a push
- Discuss incentives/rewards for progress
- Support High Adventure camps as they get older
- Set goals, make a plan for each year
- As your Scout advances, give back
- Never give up!

Bottom line: Achieving Eagle will yield a lifetime of returns. That said, your son can be plenty successful without being a Scout or becoming an Eagle, but they won't get very far in life by doing things only halfway. If your son is in Scouts, then at some point decide together to commit to Eagle, or move on to something else where he can excel. Eagle takes years to achieve, is hard work and can't be done alone. They will learn that this is true for everything worthwhile.