



Scouts BSA Troop 36

Informational Guidebook

www.troop36LakeStevens.org



Welcome!

We are thrilled to welcome you to our Scouting family! Whether you're brand new, crossing over from Cub Scouts, or transferring from another Troop, this guidebook is designed to help familiarize you through your child's Scouting journey with Troop 36.

The amount of information regarding how Scouts BSA Troops operate, how they form leadership, etc., can be overwhelming, to say the least. Please do not worry and never hesitate to ask questions. We are here to help!

Take some time to familiarize yourself with our Troop and let the Scouts take care of the rest.

Troop 36 Info

A Brief History

Troop 36 was founded in 1982 and is celebrating over 40 years of continued service in our community. We began as part of the KLaHaYa District and are now part of the greater Pilchuck District, within the Mount Baker Council.

The Calvary Chapel of Lake Stevens is our Chartered Organization. What we do together as a Troop (and as individuals) while in uniform, reflects directly on them and Scouting, in general.

Our Program

Troop 36 is focused on camping, hiking, and backpacking. It is a full-time, year-round program, and Scouts should expect plenty of hiking, four or more weekend camping trips a year, a week-long summer camp, and—for older Scouts—opportunities for high adventure camps and/or 50-mile treks.

The program is enjoyable because it allows Scouts to develop character and leadership through outdoor play. We strive to create opportunities for Scouts to be self-reliant, to accomplish challenging tasks, to be leaders among their peers, to serve others, and to grow into the future citizens we all want in our communities.

Meeting Time & Location

- The Troop meets at the Calvary Chapel of Lake Stevens "Upper Room" (building located at the south end of the parking lot), 9428 4th St SE, Lake Stevens, WA 98258
- Troop meetings are from 7:00pm - 8:30pm on Mondays
- Optional activities for merit badges and/or rank advancement may occur before Troop meetings
- PLC (Patrol Leaders' Council, the Troop's youth leadership) replaces one Troop meeting per month, usually the third or fourth Monday each month
- Troop Committee meetings are the third Thursday at 6:30pm
- Outings occur monthly, generally the fourth weekend of the month
 - Hikes are usually within an hour drive and campouts typically stay within WA state.
 - Summer camp is voted by the Scouts, so the location will vary.

Communications

Upon joining Troop 36, you and your Scout will be registered in Scoutbook, the BSA's advancement tracking system. There you will be able to send messages directly to the Troop's leadership, and view all advancement (awards, badges, etc.). This is also where leadership sends out emails about upcoming events, sign up lists, and other general announcements to the Troop. Our Troop also utilizes the mobile app "Slack" for real time communication between Scouts, leaders, and parents.

Troop Uniform

Field uniforms (sometimes called the class A) are an important part of the Scouting program. It gives Scouting an identity and Scouts a sense of belonging. Scouts are expected to wear a field uniform to meetings and ceremonies.



Field uniforms consist of a tan shirt, neckerchief, green pants or shorts, and optional hat, belt, socks, and sash. Clean and presentable pants or shorts can substitute for the green pants until a Scout achieves the rank of First Class. Troop 36 understands the cost of the full uniform and asks that you try to acquire as complete a uniform as possible.

Activity uniforms (sometimes called the class B) are worn to meetings during the summer and during outings. The Troop may order t-shirts and sweatshirts as needed throughout the year.



Equipment & Gear

Scouts should expect to camp or hike every month and, as such, gear is important for safety, comfort, and morale. Scouts should initially acquire basics like a good sleeping bag, hiking shoes, and a mess kit. Other gear may often be borrowed or shared. Cotton or cotton-blend garments (including jeans, t-shirts, socks, and underwear) are discouraged on outings because they dry slowly, often causing chafing and discomfort. Be aware that clothing may be outgrown or damaged, so consider secondhand items until your Scout is through that growth spurt and mature enough to care for that expensive gear.

Annual Cost Breakdown

Items in **red** are specific to new families only.

Basic Expenses (expected costs):

Troop 36 Join Fee (provides partial uniform)	\$75
BSA National Registration Fee	\$85
Council Activity Fee	\$85
Troop 36 Dues (billed quarterly)	\$60
Campouts & Outings	\$200 (approx.)

Summer Camp (optional, but encouraged):

\$550 (approx.)

Supplies & Extras (optional):

Uniform expenses	\$50
Troop 36 t-shirt	\$15
Camping gear (if needed)	\$100
Scout's Life magazine	\$15

Paying for Scouting

Troop 36 participates in the popcorn fundraiser every fall. The goal of popcorn sales is for Scouts to be self-sufficient and “pay their own way.” A year of Scouting expenses can be paid for with a small investment of time. In 2022, 17 Scouts (out of 20 that participated) earned enough to pay the basic expenses outlined above and 10 Scouts also earned enough to pay for summer camp.

Upon joining Troop 36, our treasurer will create an account for each Scout to track dues and monies from fundraisers. Money earned from fundraising will be credited to a Scout’s account with the Troop and can be applied against costs incurred throughout the year. If a family purchases uniforms or gear, receipts can be submitted to the Troop’s treasurer for reimbursement. Contact the treasurer any time to help you find the balance of your Scout’s account.



About Scouts BSA

Basics

Scouts BSA? I thought this was Boy Scouts. Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is the name of the organization founded in 1910. They offer several programs, several of which have been co-ed for decades. The flagship program was renamed Scouts BSA in 2018 when it, too, became co-ed. Troop 36 is for boys ages 11-17 and our sister, Troop 136, is for girls of the same age. BSA will become Scouting America in February 2025.



Leadership & Structure

A Scout Troop should be led by the Scouts.

For observers, this may mean that meetings and activities don't always run smoothly. Scouts may be unprepared or struggle to run meetings effectively. They may be challenged to teach others a skill, or to prepare their own food at a campout.

The responsibility of adult leaders is to mentor and guide Scouts through these challenges rather than do the tasks for them. Because youth leadership is so important to a successful Scouting program, this section is a bottom-up review of a Troop structure and how a Troop is led.



Patrol Method

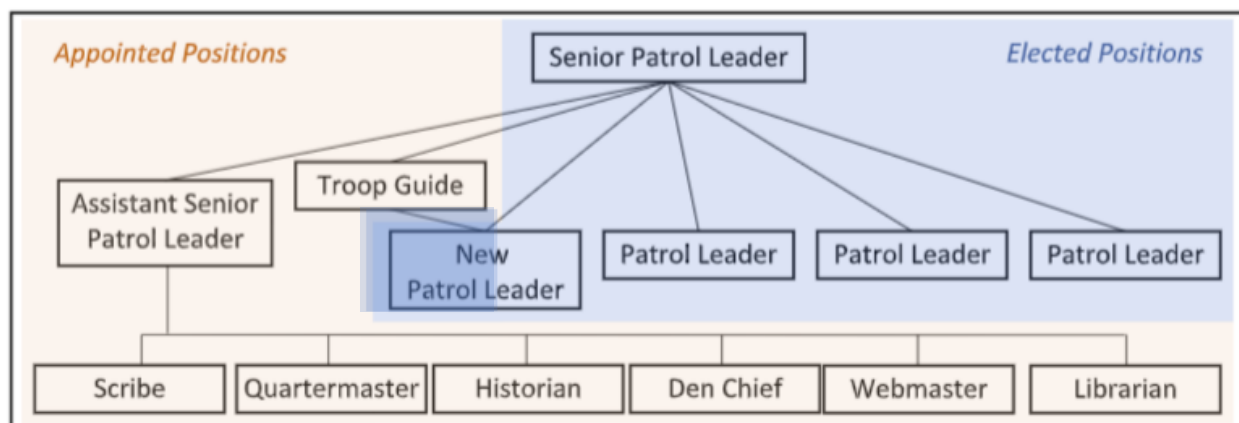
Scouts work together in small groups called Patrols, which are led by a Scout they elect—their Patrol Leader. A Troop consists of multiple Patrols. This Patrol method is vital to learning Scouting skills, teamwork, and leadership.

Senior Patrol Leader

The Troop elects a Senior Patrol Leader, or SPL, whose responsibilities include presiding at all Troop activities, appointing certain youth leader positions, working with the Scoutmaster to train youth leaders, and setting a good example.

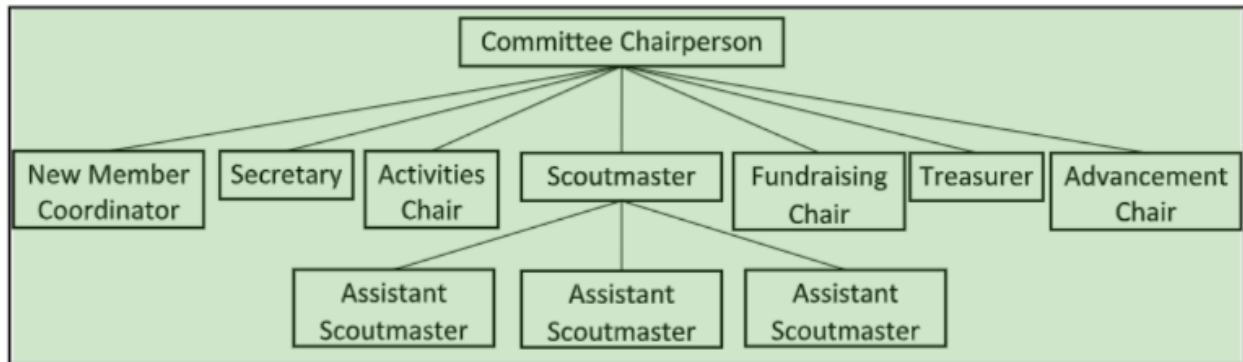
Patrol Leaders' Council

The senior Patrol Leader, his appointees, and the Patrol Leaders, comprise the Patrol Leaders' Council, or PLC. The PLC is responsible for planning details of Troop meetings and activities.



Adult Leadership

Each Scout unit is supported by two groups of adult leaders. The Troop committee provides administrative and long-range planning support to the Scouts. The Scoutmasters provide programmatic support.



Committee Chair

Ryan Walrod

Scoutmaster

Corwin Loreman

Assistant Scoutmasters

Tristin Stormo
Justin Johnson
Jose Matthews
Tom Rovik
Brant Brookie

Troop Admin.

Sandra Holler

Treasurer

Anna Foster

Advancement Chair

New Member Coordinator

Joey Loreman

Troop Committee Members

Jennifer Bontrager
Kevin Beck
Trenton Fairbanks
Andrew Vonderau
Chris Giddens
Clint Herman
James Weeks
Jerry Holler

Chartered Organization Representative

David Wright

Unit Commissioner

James Monroe

Youth Protection



All registered leaders are required to pass a background check and complete Youth Protection training both prior to joining and annually thereafter. Further, Scouting abides by the rules of two-deep leadership and no one-on-one contact. This means at least two registered, background-checked, and trained leaders must be present at all Scouting events; and that communications, whether in-person or by email, must be conducted with the knowledge of and in view of others.

Council and District

Scouting America divides the country into councils. We are in the **Mount Baker Council**, which is headquartered in Everett and administers the Scouting programs in Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom County. The council is divided into districts. Our district is the **Pilchuck District**, which serves North and East Snohomish County, Camano Island, and Skykomish. Mount Baker Council also owns and operates Fire Mountain Scout Camp, located just outside of Mount Vernon



Advancement

As a Scout progresses through the program, he learns valuable skills and provides increasing levels of leadership to the Troop. Being awarded a new rank serves to both recognize the achievement and motivate the Scout to continue the path to Eagle Scout.

Ranks



The first four ranks are focused on developing the skills necessary to be safe and successful in Scout's outdoor program: camping, knots, first aid, lashings, orienteering, cooking, personal fitness, and citizenship. By the time a Scout begins to work toward Star Scout, the focus shifts toward personal development and leadership skills. Finally, for Eagle Scout, the Scout will develop and complete a capstone project to give back to the community.

Four Steps to Advancement

The Scout Learns.	At Troop meetings and outings, Scouts learn and practice skills required for advancement.
The Scout is Tested.	When a skill is mastered, a Scout is tested by an adult leader or appointed youth. If successful, the requirement is “signed off” in the Scout’s handbook and in Scoutbook.
The Scout is Reviewed.	When all the rank’s requirements are complete, the Scout appears before a Board of Review (BOR) , composed of parents or community leaders, which will review the requirements and discuss the Scout’s next steps.
The Scout is Recognized.	A Scout is awarded the badge for the next rank, and publicly recognized at the Troop’s next Court of Honor (COH) .

Merit Badges



Merit badges provide opportunity for and recognition of a Scout’s mastery of skills or areas of learning. Scouts work with merit badge counselors, which may or may not be adult leaders within the Troop, to earn these badges. A Scout must earn 21 merit badges for Eagle Scout, including 14 required merit badges.

Expectations of Scouts & Scout Families

A Scout’s Role

How wonderful would the world be if everyone simply took and upheld the **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.

In addition to upholding the Scout Oath and obeying the Scout Law, Scouts should:

- Show Scout spirit
- Follow all safety guidelines
- Wear and honor the Scout uniform
- Actively participate in meetings and activities
- Show rank advancement progress
- Have fun

A Parent’s Place in Scouting

For Your Scout: As Scout-led as we desire the Troop to be, Scouts cannot be successful without their parent’s support. Ensure your Scout attends as many meetings and outings as possible.

Earn the Scout rank (the first rank) alongside your Scout, and then encourage and support their pursuit of other ranks and merit badges. But let your Scout do the work while you coach from nearby.

*For the Troop: **Volunteer.*** While the Troop may survive with just a couple involved parents, your Scout's experience and success in the program will be enhanced the more that step up and take on one small task. Attend committee meetings, work on projects, go on campouts, get trained, and become a merit badge counselor or registered leader. Create great memories for and with your Scout.