



Scouts BSA Troop 36

Informational Guidebook



troop36scouts.org



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[troop36lakestevens](https://www.facebook.com/troop36lakestevens)

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 is a Family Troop, meaning we are welcoming to youth aged 11-17, regardless of gender. We were founded in 1982 and are proud to be 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

- Troop Meetings are on the 1st and 4th Mondays each month from 7:00pm - 8:30pm.
 - Calvary Chapel's "Upper Room" (building located at the south end of the parking lot)
 - 9428 4th St SE, Lake Stevens, WA 98258.
 - Group merit badge classes or opportunities for advancement sign-offs may occur directly before Troop meetings.
- Patrol meetings are on the 2nd week of the month, day/location may depend on family availability.
- PLC (Patrol Leaders' Council, youth leadership only) are on the 3rd Monday of the month.
- Troop Committee meetings are the 3rd Thursday at 7:00pm.
- Outings occur monthly, generally the 3rd or 4th weekend of the month.
 - Hikes are usually within an hour or two drive and campouts typically stay within WA state.
 - Summer camp is voted by the Scouts, so the location will vary and may be out of state.

Communication

Upon joining Troop 36, you and your Scout will be registered in Scoutbook. Please do not download the app, as it does not function correctly and Scoutbook was designed to be a mobile website. There you will be able to view all advancement, the Scout's fund account, and the calendar. General announcements and reminders will be sent out via Scoutbook, however, as a main form of communication, the Troop utilizes the mobile app "Slack" for real time communication between Scouts, leaders, and parents. If your Scout doesn't own a phone, this is a computer website as well.

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. T-shirts and hoodies are available for purchase through our online store.

Equipment & Gear

Scouts should expect to camp and/or hike regularly, and as such, gear is important for safety, comfort, and morale. They should initially acquire basics like a good sleeping bag, hiking shoes, and a mess kit. Other gear may often be borrowed or shared.

Clothing made from cotton or cotton-blend fibers (including jeans, t-shirts, socks, and underwear) are discouraged on outings because they dry slowly, often causing chafing and discomfort. Be aware that some items may be outgrown quickly or become easily damaged, so consider secondhand items until your Scout is through their rapid growth spurt stage and mature enough to care for expensive gear.

Annual Cost Breakdown

Required Expenses

- One-time Troop 36 Join Fee (provides partial uniform & handbook) - \$75
- Scouting America National Registration & Mount Baker Council Activity Fees - \$185
- Troop 36 Dues - \$60 (billed as \$15 quarterly)

Optional Expenses

- Summer camp (highly encouraged to attend) - \$550 (estimated cost, dependent on camp)
- Scout's Life magazine - \$15
- Campouts & other Troop activities - costs are divided equally amongst those who attend

Paying for Scouting

Troop 36 participates in a popcorn fundraiser every fall. The goal 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 required expenses outlined above, and 10 Scouts also earned enough to pay for summer camp.

Upon joining, our Treasurer will create an account for each Scout to track dues and monies from fundraisers; this can be viewed in Scoutbook. Commissions earned from fundraising will be credited to a Scout’s account and can be applied towards costs incurred throughout the year. If a family purchases uniforms or gear, receipts can be submitted to the Treasurer for reimbursement. Contact them at 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) was the name of the original organization founded in 1910, which offered a handful of programs, several of which had been co-ed for decades. In 2018, the Scouts BSA and Cub Scout programs opened membership to both boys and girls. After a successful pilot run, it prompted the BSA to rename the organization, Scouting America, in 2025 to reflect the inclusivity of the program it had evolved into. In 2026, Troop 36 proudly became a Family Troop, which is welcoming to all youth aged 11-17, regardless of gender.



Scouting  America



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



Patrol Method

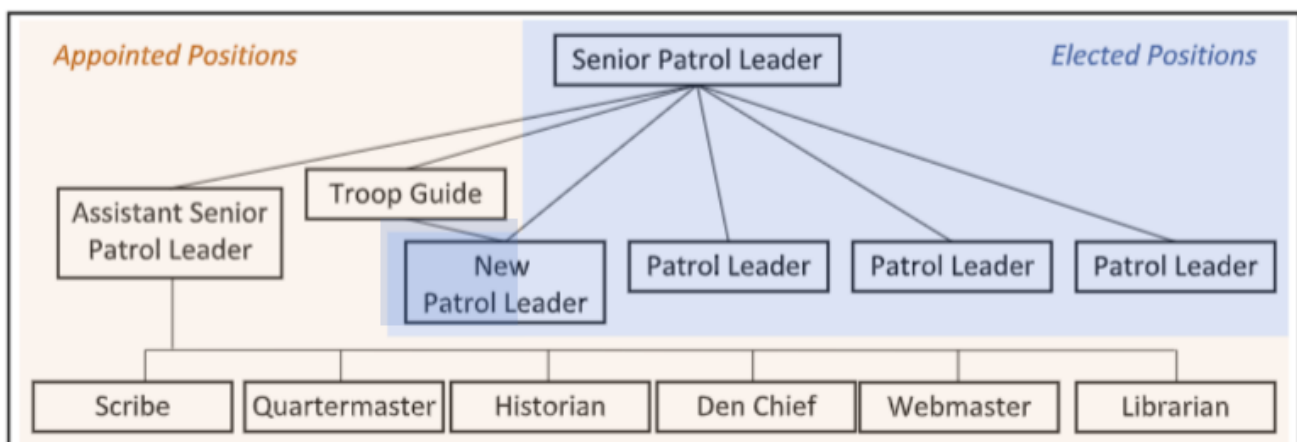
Scouts work together in small groups called Patrols, which are led by a Scout they elect—their Patrol Leader. A Troop consists of multiple Patrols. The Patrol method is vital to learning Scouting skills, teamwork, and leadership.

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.

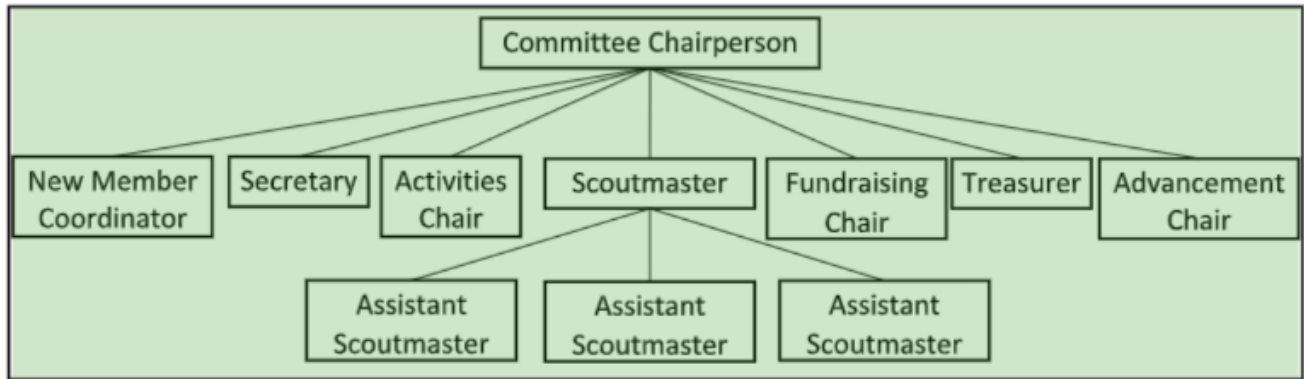
Patrol Leaders' Council

The Senior Patrol Leader, their 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, whereas the Scoutmasters provide program and hands-on support.



Chartered Organization Representative

David Wright

Committee Chair

Andrew Vonderau

New Member Coordinator

Joey Loreman

Troop Secretary

Michelle Vonderau

Fundraising Chair

Hannah Sharpe

Treasurer

Anna Foster

Advancement Chair

Keith Giacobozzi

Committee Members At-Large

Aaron Dunsdon

Sarah Adams

Unit Scouter Reserve

Jennifer Bontrager

Kevin Beck

Brian DeBoer

Linda Wright

Unit Commissioner

Brent Moss

Scoutmaster

Corwin Loreman

Assistant Scoutmasters

Tristin Stormo

Justin Johnson

Chad Adams

Tom Rovik

Brant Brookie

Anna Foster

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster

Riley Walrod

Youth Protection



All registered leaders are required to pass a background check and complete Safeguarding Youth 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 digitally, must be conducted with the knowledge of and in view of others.

Council and District

Scouting America divides the country into regions called councils. We are in the Mount Baker Council, which administers the Scouting programs in Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties. The council is then divided into smaller regions called districts. Troop 36 is in 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, they learn 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.



Scout



Tenderfoot



Second
Class



First
Class



Star
Scout



Life
Scout



Eagle
Scout

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 committee members, 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

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 child, and then encourage and support their pursuit of other ranks and merit badges. 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.