Welcome to

Scouts BSA Troop 899

A patch with a white flower and trees

Description automatically generated



Unit Guidebook

Table of Contents

**Introduction ..**………………………………………………………………………………………… ………………………………………………………….………………………….…..3

**What does a Scout do in Troop 899**……………………………….………………………………………………………………………………….………………………….…….3

Weekly Troop/Patrol Meetings ..………………………………….……… …………………………………………………... ………….…………………….………3

Monthly Campouts…………….………………………………………………………………………………….…..………….……………………………………….……..4

Service Projects……………………………………………..……………………………………………………………………….…………………………………….……….4

Training .....…………………………………………………….…………………………………………………………. ………….…………………………………….……….4

Courts of Honor ………………………………………………………………………………………..………………………….…………………………………….……….4

Non-Traditional Camping Opportunities …..….…………………………………………………………………………….……………………….………….…….5

Fundraising………………………………………………….………………………………………………………………….………….……………………….………….…….5

Order of the Arrow …………………………………….…………………………………………………………………..………….…………………………………….…..5

**What does a parent do in Troop 899**………………………………………………………………………………………….………….……………………………………………6

**Outdoor Program**…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………….…………………………………….……..7

Troop 899 and the outdoor program…..………………………………………………………………………….………….…………………………………….……7

Commitment for campouts ……………………………………………………………………………………………..…….….…………………………………….……7

What to bring on a campout ………………………………………………………………………………………….….……….…………………………………….…..8

Cancellations.……………………………………………………………………………………………………………..………….……………………………………….…….8

**BSA and Troop 899 Organization**……………………………………………………………………………………………….………….…………………………………….……..8

Troop Committee…………………………………………………………………………………………………………..………….…………………………………..……..9

Scoutmaster…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..………….…………………………………..……..9

Assistant Scoutmasters…………………………………………………………………………………………………..………….……………………………………….…9

Senior Patrol Leader……………………………………………………………………………………………………….………….…………………………………….……9

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader………………………………………………………………………………………..………….………………………………………..10

Patrol Leaders………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..………….………………………………………..10

Patrol Leaders Council (“PLC”) ……………………………………………………………………………………….………….…………………………………….….10

Patrols ..…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….………….……………………………………….……10

**Advancement .**………………………………………………………………….……………………………………………………………….………………………………………….….11

Advancement through First Class **.**………………………………………………………………….………………………………. ………………………….………11

Advancement from First Class to Eagle**.**………………………………………………………………….……………………… ………………………….……….12

Merit Badges**.**………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………………………….. ……………………….………….12

Merit Badge Procedures**.**………………………………………………………………….……………………………………………. ……………………….………….12

Scoutmaster Conferences…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….13

Boards of Review**.**………………………………………………………………….…………………………………….…………………. …………………………….……13

Courts of Honor**.**………………………………………………………………….……………………………………………………………… ……………………………..13

**Scout Uniform.**………………………………………………………………….……………………………………………………… ………….………………………………………....13

How the uniform can help a Scout**.**………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………………….…………….14

How the uniform can help the Troop .**.**………………………………………………………………….…………………………………….……………….……..14

Required Uniform and Materials**.**………………………………………………………………….……………………………………. ………………………………14

**Troop Finances, Health Forms, and Troop Website.**………………………………………………………………….………………………………………..……………15

Dues..………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………… ………….……………………………………………15

Health Forms ..………………………..………………………………………………………………………………… ………….……………………………………………15

Troop Website..……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………15

**Youth Protection**..…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….………….……………………………………………16

Parents’ Guide/Youth Protection Program..……………………………………………………………………...……….……………………..…………………16

Introduction

Welcome to Scouts BSA Troop 899! By becoming a parent of a Scout, you are setting your son out on the grand adventure of Scouting! This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with your Scout. What is it all about? What will you be expected to do? What does it cost? We have prepared this booklet to answer these questions.

The following pages describe the organization of our Troop and the advancement pattern that each Scout is required to follow. Reading this Unit Guidebook will help Scouts and parents understand how your Scout can progress through the ranks with your help. It will help you understand how you can assist and what the various adult volunteers are doing to help the troop.

What does a Scout do in Troop 899

**Weekly Troop/Patrol Meetings**

* Every Monday, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Meetings start and end on time.
* Meetings are held at Ocean Bay Middle School (905 International Dr. Myrtle Beach, SC 29579) or at the Moose Lodge #1959 (479 Burcale Rd. Myrtle Beach, SC 29579) – We will announce several weeks ahead of time which location we will meet.
* Scouts work on rank advancement, merit badge activities and preparing for campouts.
* Class A uniforms shall be worn to troop meetings, unless otherwise designated by the Scoutmaster. One meeting a month, Scouts are required to wear their merit badge sash and report for uniform inspections.
* A Scout is expected to live their life by the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The Scout is an example to those around them of the values, character, and leadership of the Scouts BSA. This personal code of conduct is taken very seriously within Troop 899.
* All Scouts should come to troop meetings prepared with their Scout Handbook, notebook, and pencil or pen. Your Scout has been provided with a bag to store and transport these items.
* At the end of each meeting, the Senior Patrol Leader or Assistant Senior Patrol Leader will make brief announcements to remind Scouts of upcoming events. We encourage you to follow our Facebook group as well for additional information.

**Monthly Campouts**

* Troop 899 is a very active Troop. We camp 9 months of the year.
* Campouts are announced during meetings, on our Facebook page, and reminders are sent through Scoutbook. You can also see up to date calendar information on our Troop website [www.bsatroop899.org](http://www.bsatroop899.org)
* Campouts typically cost $20 per Scout but may vary based on the location/activity
* Campout fees are due no later than two Monday’s prior.
* We have several campers with Food Allergies. There are different strategies and prices put in place so that they can still participate but also have their nutritional needs met.

**Service Projects**

In addition to weekly meetings and monthly camp activities, Troop 899 Scouts develop a sense of citizenship and strength in their community by participating in service projects throughout the year. Troop sponsored service projects that are approved for rank advancement, are announced in the same way we announce our monthly events. For service projects outside of Troop sponsored events, the Scout must obtain Scoutmaster approval prior to working on the project if he wants to apply it towards a rank advancement requirement.

**Training**

One of the goals of Scouting is to develop trained youth leaders. The unit and council provide leadership training opportunities. The Troop hosts a yearly “Introduction to Leadership Training for Troops” and the Indian Waters Council hosts a regular National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). Once a Scout achieves the rank of First Class, they are required to hold a leadership position in the troop to continue to develop leadership skills.

**Courts of Honor**

Troop 899 conducts a Court of Honor three times per year to recognize Scout advancements and awards. We typically host these events in May, August and December. The Court of Honor is a public ceremony where we recognize the Scout for their achievements. Families are strongly encouraged to attend. Eagle Scout Courts of Honor are special ceremonies designed to recognize the Eagle Scout separately from the Troop Court of Honor and is hosted by the family of the Eagle Scout.

**Non-Traditional Camping Opportunities**

Each summer Troop 899 will attend a weeklong summer camp. All Scouts are invited to attend. Troop 899 will continue the tradition of attending Camp Bowers in White Oak, North Carolina. Scouts who are 13 years of age and have achieved the rank of First Class and First Aid Merit Badge have the opportunity to attend “High Adventure Activities”. Most recently, our older Scouts went backpacking in Uwharrie National Forest near Asheboro, North Carolina. High adventure activities are explained as events that require a Scout to be more than 30 minutes from any easily accessible point for emergency medical personnel.

**Fundraising**

Additional funds are raised by the Scouts through various fundraising activities. The Troop plans to do one major fundraising project a year: Selling *Popcorn*. We will also participate in smaller fundraising activities geared towards reducing the cost of Scouting as a Troop. Each Scout may receive a portion of the profits for their personal scouting account as a result of their fundraising participation. This account can be used towards the cost of Scouting programs and, with prior written approval of the Scoutmaster, to purchase necessary gear for the Scouting program.

**Order of the Arrow**

Troop 899 participates in the Order of the Arrow. Serving as the “National Honor Society” of Scouts BSA, the purpose of the Order of the Arrow is fourfold:

1. To recognize those Scout campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their daily lives,
2. To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit,
3. To promote Scout camping, and
4. To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Entrance into the Order of the Arrow is by selection only. Scouts must meet specific eligibility criteria and be voted in by the members of their Troop. Elections for the Order of the Arrow occur between April 1 and May 31 of each year.

What does a parent do in Troop 899?

The role of parents within Troop 899 is to be supportive of the Troop’s efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

* Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting.
* Actively follow their Scout's progress and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
* Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor and parent meetings.
* Assist in Troop fund-raisers and other such activities.
* Be aware of the Troop Events Calendar.
* Consider serving as Merit Badge Counselor in areas in which they have specialized knowledge and skills. See www.scouting.org for the 135 merit badges.
* Consider volunteering to be a member of the Troop Committee (see below).
* Consider volunteering to be an Assistant Scoutmaster
* Complete Online Youth Protection Training

**Parents and social media**

We hope you will join and support Troop 899 through our Facebook group, follow our Facebook page as well as our Instagram account. We use these tools to market our unit to potential Scouts and families who don’t know as much about Scouting as our current members. However, it is aggressively discouraged that parents in our unit interact with any Scout, other than their own, through social media outlets. Leaders have been asked to deny “friend requests” from the Scouts and we ask that parents follow the same wish due to the BSA Youth Protection policies. The Troop uses social media as an information sharing resource and for the enjoyment of the unit to share images from events to look back on and relive memories from events. Any concerns from parents will be addressed under the Parental Concerns section of this guidebook.

**Parental Concerns:**

If a parent has a concern regarding anything Troop related, they are encouraged to reach out to the Scoutmaster and/or Committee Chair directly. As we strive to follow the Youth Protection Training standards to the letter, parents are not allowed to engage in conversation with Scouts regarding any concerns. Failure to abide by this requirement can be grounds for dismissal from the unit. The Scoutmaster and Committee Chair for Troop 899 are required to complete special trainings and will handle all concerns directly. Thank you for adhering to this policy.

Outdoor Program

Scouting is effective whenever we take advantage of its truth: The place where Scouting works best is also the place the Scouts want to be the most.

**Troop 899 and the outdoor program:**

Troop 899 has a very active outdoor program, and all Scouts are encouraged to participate. Our program includes monthly weekend campouts, annual long-term summer camp (1 week), day hikes, and other activities. These are done by the patrol method. For the older Scouts, we host annual high adventure trips, and the older Scouts also have access to the Order of the Arrow.

Parents who wish to participate in Troop 899’s outdoor program must register with the BSA, pass the background check, provide a health form, successfully complete the Youth Protection Training and fulfill weekly meeting commitments. If a parent meets the requirements and joins the Troop on a campout, they are expected to behave as an Adult Leader. They should follow the example set by the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters. Unless requested by the Scoutmaster, adults are not to interfere with Scout or Patrol activities. Scouts do not learn when a parent constantly interferes, provides assistance or makes recommendations. Adults are required to bring their own food, cooking equipment and camping gear. Adults that camp with the Troop are required to follow all BSA policies during events and set the proper example for the Scouts. Failure to do so, will see the privilege of serving as a leader and camping with our unit revoked.

**Commitment for campouts:**

Scouts are required to commit to and pay for the campout at least two Mondays before the event, unless otherwise noted. Details about the campout will be posted on the Troop Website, Facebook page and in Scoutbook. The Scout is required to sign up for the campout and submit payment by the deadline. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO KNOW AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE WHO IS ATTENDING. LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS OR WITHDRAWALS MAKE PLANNING AND EXECUTION VERY DIFFICULT AND MAY RESULT IN A LOST OPPORTUNITY FOR A SCOUT. Menu planning and grocery shopping is contingent on the number of people attending. There needs to be adequate adult supervision.

Scouts MUST check in with a unit leader upon arrival.

The Camping Fee (per participant) varies depending on the event and location. It will cover the cost of the weekend, including food. Please see the event calendar, or Scoutbook Calendar for details.

For each campout, one Scout from each Patrol will be responsible for purchasing the food for the patrol and bringing it to the campout. The Troop will provide coolers with ice for any items that require refrigeration. In order to be reimbursed, the Scout is required to present the receipt for the campout food to the Scoutmaster upon arrival Friday night at the campout. The reimbursement can be placed into the Scout’s account, or a check can be issued to the parent.

**What to bring on a campout:**

The Scouts BSA Handbook tells us what is needed for each type of camping event and the troop has provided information on our Facebook page and website. If you need further assistance, please have your Scout speak with their Patrol Leader, or contact the Scoutmaster via email. DO NOT WAIT UNITL THE NIGHT BEFORE THE EVENT.

**Cancellations**

If your Scout becomes ill, another unforeseen circumstances that preclude attendance for a campout for which your Scout has registers, there are some people that must be notified. Scouts should email their Patrol Leader and the Scoutmaster. 50% of your Campout fee will be forfeit with the remaining 50% placed into the Scout’s account if notification is provided after the meal plan and shopping list have been created. Failure to notify the Scoutmaster before the start of the event, will result in forfeiture of event fees paid. Showing up to and event without registration by the deadline may result in the Scout being asked to leave.

BSA and Troop 899 Organization

Boy Scouts of America - National Council

↑

National Service Territory 15

↑

Local Council (Indian Waters Council #553)

↑

District (Chicora)

↑

Chartered Organization (Moose Lodge #1959)

↑

Charter Organization Representative (William Keane)

↑

Committee Chair (Michelle Malcolm)

↓----------------------↑----------------------↓

Scoutmaster (Adam Riedel) Troop Committee

↓----------------------↑----------------------↓

Assistant Scoutmasters Senior Patrol Leader

↑

Patrol Leaders

↑

Scouts

**Troop Committee:**

The Troop Committee meets as part of every meeting and also holds bi-annual planning meetings to discuss the direction of the troop and actively seek comments, insights and/or concerns regarding the Troop’s program from parent’s and Troop Leaders. The success of the Troop largely depends on the support of parents and adult leadership. Therefore, Troop 899 encourages all parents to seek out the necessary training to become an active participant, Moms and Dads. Participation is greatly appreciated at any level: from attending Troop meetings, becoming committee members, becoming a merit badge counselor, or becoming a uniformed leader. If a parent is interested in becoming a merit badge counselor or becoming a uniformed leader you will need to submit a request to the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair discussing your intentions as well as your willingness to complete all necessary BSA trainings. All candidates will be voted upon by the committee. Only uniformed leaders get the opportunity to stand in the congratulatory line during a Troop Court of Honor, but we have many behind the scenes needs that need to be fulfilled.

**Scoutmaster:**

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of the Troop. The Scoutmaster and their Assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. The general responsibilities of the Scoutmaster include:

* Train and guide Youth Scout Leaders
* Work with other adult leaders to bring Scouting to potential Scouts
* Use the Methods of Scouting to achieve the Aims of Scouting

**Assistant Scoutmasters:**

Assistant Scoutmasters are recruited by the Scoutmaster and approved by the Troop Committee to assist the Scoutmaster in the operation of the Troop. Assistant Scoutmasters are assigned program tasks by the Scoutmaster and provide guidance to the Youth Leadership. He or she also provides the required two deep leadership (two adult leaders present at every Troop activity). Assistant Scoutmasters are required to complete Scoutmaster Fundamental training and the IOLS training. Personal Scouting experience is not a requirement for this role.

**Senior Patrol Leader:**

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is the top Youth Leader in the Troop and is elected by his peers. He leads the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) as well as all Troop activities and meetings. All SPL candidates must be at least First Class, have completed the Introduction to Leadership for Troops training (ILST), and must have served at least one term as a Patrol Leader.

**Assistant Senior Patrol Leader:**

The assistant senior patrol leader (ASPL) fills in for the SPL in his absence. He is also responsible for training and giving direction to the quartermaster, scribe, historian/librarian, and troop guides. Depending on the size of the Troop, our unit may elect a second Scout into this role. Responsibilities will be split between the Scouts.

**Patrol Leaders:**

The patrol leaders (PL) are responsible for giving leadership to the members of their patrols and are elected by their patrol members. They are the patrol’s representation on the patrol leaders' council.

**Assistant Patrol Leaders:**

Assistant patrol leaders help the PL run the patrol and fill in for him in his absence.

**Patrol Leaders Council (“PLC”):**

The patrol leaders' council, not the adult leaders, is responsible for planning and conducting the troop's activities. The patrol leaders' council is composed of the following voting members: Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s), Scribe, Troop Guides, members of the Leadership Patrol and patrol leaders.

**Patrols:**

Troop 899 is a Scout-run Troop. Leadership is one of the methods of Scouting. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps the boy accept the leadership of others and helps the Scout to grow into a more responsible adult.

**New Scouts:**

New Scouts are placed into patrols based on personality and experience. Troop 899 Patrols consist of 8-10 scouts. The Scouts will have ample opportunity to interact with Scout in other patrols. The Scoutmaster, Committee Chair and SPL are responsible for placing new Scouts into the proper patrols. New Scouts will learn skills, camp, cook and grow by following other members from their patrols. Troop 899 relies on the Patrol Method to develop every Scout into the best possible Scout and leader. All new Scouts should bring any issues, problems, or questions to the attention of the Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, or Scoutmaster.

Advancement

There are many definitions of advancement, but the Scouting definition might well be, simply, "the art of meeting a challenge." For that is exactly what the Scouts BSA advancement program asks the Scouts to do. The Scouts BSA advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a Scout climbs at their own pace. As they acquire these skills they move up through a series of ranks, for which they are awarded badges: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher they climb the more challenging the tasks -- and the more rewarding.

**Achievements include:**

* Learning skills that qualify for Scouting’s more rugged and exciting outdoor challenges.
* Developing body and mind, growing self-confidence, and helping younger Scouts climb the advancement ladder.
* Discovering how it feels to go further -- in so many ways -- than he ever though he could.

**Advancement is NOT a goal**, but instead a natural outcome of properly planned, quality Troop programing. There are four steps of advancement:

1. The Scout Learns.
2. The Scout is Tested.
3. The Scout is Reviewed.
4. The Scout is Recognized.

**Advancement through First Class:**

From the time a Scout enters the Troop through the time they earn advancement to First Class, they are learning basic scouting skills to enable them to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, perform other tasks in the outdoors, and to work as a member of a team. With those first steps the Scout begins to build themselves physically, mentally, and morally. They will start to live with the Scout Oath and Law. Soon they will learn the symbolism inherent in the Scout badge; they will learn that there are three points of the trefoil which stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath: Duty to God and country, duty to other people, and duty to yourself. The goal of this Troop is for the Scout to achieve the rank of First Class by the end of their second year in the Troop. This is a sign that the Scout has mastered the fundamentals of scouting and can begin to start the long process of learning to lead others, refining the learned skills and learning additional skills. This requires repetition and consistency. It is important to understand, that advancement is NOT our goal, but instead the natural outcome of properly planned, quality Troop programming.

**Advancement from First Class to Eagle:**

From the achievement of First Class through Eagle, the Scout will be demonstrating leadership, performing service projects, earning merit badges and using the skills learned while achieving the rank of First Class. The next ranks he will earn are Star and Life. These ranks are harder to obtain than the earlier ranks but are also more interesting for the older scouts. Upon completion of all the requirements for Star and Life the Scout will be eligible to work for Eagle. The original principals, the Scout Oath and Law now have fuller meaning for the Scout and their understanding of them is much greater. The final steps towards Eagle are filled with leadership experiences. Life Scouts will work closely with the Scoutmaster and Advancement Chair to complete all aspects of the Eagle Scout journey.

\*\*\*Important note regarding requirements for Position of Leadership/Service. In order for Scouts to receive credit for the position requirements for Star, Life and Eagle, the Scout must maintain a 75% attendance rate to campouts, activities, and meetings during their tenure. Scouts are encouraged to submit themselves for positions of Service or Leadership during the bi-annual Troop elections. If a Scout is unsuccessful in their election attempt, the Scout may be appointed to a position by the Senior Patrol Leader with the approval of the Scoutmaster.

Details for advancement are contained in Chapter 1 of the Scouts BSA Handbook, which the Troop typically gives to each incoming Scout. This short chapter has an advancement summary through First Class.

**Merit Badges:**

The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a Scout's areas of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. Merit badges are earned by a Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor. The Scout is required to contact the counselor to arrange for times and places to meet with the counselor in following with youth protection guidelines. When the Scout completes the work on the merit badge he and/or the counselor will inform the Scoutmaster that the Scout has completed the requirements for that badge. Merit Badges earned will be presented to the Scout during the Troop's semi-annual Court of Honor. Parents of Troop 899 Scouts are encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors. If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, please contact the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair. Our Troop has several Merit Badge Counselors already in place, but adding more helps create new opportunities for our Scouts.

If a Scout wishes to pursue a merit badge, that Scout must first seek permission from the Scoutmaster. If a Patrol chooses to pursue a merit badge, the Patrol Leader must request permission from the Scoutmaster and report in detail after every meeting what was completed and how it was completed directly to the Scoutmaster. To assist our Scouts in their pursuits, our Troop Historian/Librarian has some merit badge books that can be checked out and returned. If you purchase a merit badge book and no longer have use for it, the Troop will gladly add it to our collection.

In the event that a Scout is pursuing a merit badge that we do not have access to a counselor, that Scout can work directly with the Scoutmaster.

**Scoutmaster Conferences:**

When a Scout has completed the requirements for a rank, the Scout is required to meet with the Scoutmaster for a Conference. The Scout is required to ask for this conference. The Scoutmaster will schedule the conference for the following week and provide the Scout a Conference Form to help them prepare. The goal of the Scoutmaster Conference is for the Scoutmaster to gauge the Scouts’ progress, gather feedback, assess needs and help plan. A Scoutmaster Conference may also be held to counsel a boy about his lack of progress toward advancement.

**Boards of review:**

After completing the Scoutmaster Conference, the Scoutmaster will notify the Troop Committee that the Scout is ready for their Board of Review. The purpose of the review is not an examination. Rather it is to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals; to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement, to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program, and to encourage him to keep working towards advancement. The board of review is composed of members of the Troop committee.

**Courts of Honor:**

When a Scout advances in rank, they should be recognized as soon as possible – If possible, Troop 899 will recognize the Scout at the next unit meeting. He is recognized a second time at a public ceremony called a Court of Honor. The main purposes of the Court of Honor are to formally recognize achievement and to provide incentive for other Scouts to advance. Troop 899 has formal courts of honor at least three times a year: in the Spring, Summer, and Fall. All families are asked to attend. Every Scout who advances deserves to be recognized before his family. The Court of Honor is the Scout’s special time.

Scout Uniform

**How the uniform can help a Scout:**

It is not the purpose of the Scout uniform to hide the differences between the Scouts or make them feel that they are all the same. But there is one way in which all Scouts are alike. Whenever a Scout sees another person in a Scout uniform, he knows they are both committed to the principles of the Scout Oath and Law. The Scout Oath and Law bind together all Scouts of the world in a common purpose. Further, wearing the

uniform gives Scouts strength and support. Finally, Scouts wearing the uniform declare their faith and commitment to important beliefs that bind them to all people. The uniform is a manifestation of their belief in God, their loyalty to our country and their commitment to helping others.

**How the uniform can help the Troop:**

1. When smartly worn, the uniform helps build troop spirit.
2. By investing in a uniform, a Scout and his parents are making a commitment to take scouting seriously.
3. The uniform makes the troop visible as a force for good in the community.
4. Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive, youth image in the neighborhood, thus helping to counteract the negative feeling some adults have about youth.

**Required Uniform and Materials:**

Class “A” Uniforms: New scouts are expected to wear a full Class "A" uniform within one month of joining the troop. The PLC has set the following policy for uniforms: unless otherwise directed, Class "A" uniforms are to be worn at all regular indoor troop meetings, during designated campout activities or meals, at Courts of Honor, and at the Scoutmaster’s request.

**The following is Troop 899’s Class A uniform and materials:**

* Shirt (official tan Scouts BSA shirt)
* Green Shoulder Epaulets
* Troop Neckerchief
* Neckerchief slide
* Appropriate Council Strip, Troop numbers
* Merit Badge Sash
* Scouts BSA Handbook

Official placement of insignia may be found inside front and back cover of the Scouts BSA Handbook.

Troop 899 also has an official Class “B” uniform that consists of the Troop approved T-Shirt.

Class “A” uniforms and Class “B” uniforms are to be worn with khakis, jeans, or shorts. Scouts should not wear gym shorts, basketball pants or sweatpants with their Class “A” or Class “B”.

Troop Finances, Health Forms, and Website

**Dues:**

Troop 899 dues are evaluated annually to meet the needs of national and council registration fees as well as the needs of the Troop. This is due by the end of November each year or when a Scout joins the unit. Additional information concerning Troop dues and fees should be addressed with the Committee Chair. Annual dues may be extracted from a Scout’s account if sufficient funds are present. Payments towards annual dues can be made at any time.

**Health Forms/Medical Requirements:**

Each Scout will complete and return the BSA Health Forms with a copy of medical insurance card at the time of their registration and again yearly prior to June 1. There is a direct link to these forms on the Troop website or on the BSA website. The Health Form is used by the Troop for all excursions and regular campouts. It includes emergency contact, insurance, and medical information. Further it provides authorization to provide medical treatment. If no emergency contact can be made, Troop Leadership will make the best decision possible for the Scout based on the needs of the situation. For long-term camping, such as Summer Camp, or for high-adventure activities, Scouts must have a physical completed by a medical professional and then submit form C of the BSA Health Form. These forms are to be updated yearly. A physical is required yearly. Please note that Part A of the BSA Health Form contains a photo release.

**Anaphylactic Reaction:**

For our Scouts that are required to carry a prescribed Epi Pen, the Scout must carry it in a dedicated and labeled pouch strapped to the outside of their backpack. Scouts should be carrying the pen with them at all times.

**Troop Internet Site:**

The Troop’s website [www.bsatroop899.org](http://www.bsatroop899.org) is routinely updated with announcements, information regarding upcoming events, forms, event information, Scouting resources. Please check it regularly – it provides invaluable information. Our website serves as a recruiting tool for new Scouts. We also have a Facebook group, Facebook page, and Instagram page all of which contain important information.

Youth Protection

**Parents’ Guide**

The Boy Scouts of America has developed materials for use in the Scouting program that provides essential information to members and their families. A detachable booklet in the front of The Scouts BSA Handbook, "How to Protect Your Child from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse: A Parent’s Guide," provides information to help families to increase self-protection skills.

**Troop 899 and the Youth Protection Program:**

Troop 899 consistently achieves the annual BSA Quality Unit award, which among other things, requires that Youth Protection policies are followed and that all chartered leaders are BSA trained. Troop 899 is committed to following all guidelines of the Youth Protection Program. "Two deep" leaders and the "buddy" system are always enforced at troop and patrol activities. Parents are always welcome and are encouraged to participate in our activities but must complete adult troop training, BSA Youth Protection and BSA Fast Start Training before attending any overnight activities.