

Troop 380 Family Guidebook

Troop 380
Louisville, KY
Seneca District
Lincoln Heritage Council

March 26, 2023

Dear Scouts and Parents,

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 380! We are excited to have you join us.

One of the major factors contributing to our continued success is the active cooperation and participation of Scouts and parents like you.

When a boy joins the troop, his parents join the troop as well. Experience has taught us that your son's interest and accomplishments will be in direct proportion to your participation with him. You will find that time spent in Scouting is quality time between parent and son. We encourage you to become involved somehow in the troop, whether in a leadership or support role.

This handbook is meant to smooth your transition into Boy Scouting and Troop 380. The following pages will answer many questions you may have. Please review this handbook together and save it as a reference during your son's scouting career.

This handbook is not a replacement for the official Boy Scout Handbook. **Not all national BSA policies are covered here.** The information in this handbook is meant to supplement the Boy Scout Handbook and to provide specific information on our troop. Every Scout who joins Troop 380 will get a copy of this Troop Handbook and will be expected to know what it says. If you don't understand something, please ask.

Welcome to Troop 380! We are glad you're joining us!

Sincerely,

David Buckingham
Scoutmaster
502-594-5633
david.buckingham@outlook.com

Rick Paulin, Jr.
Committee Chair
502-494-7860
rpaulin@twc.com

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	5
Quick Checklist	6
Boy Scouts of America	7
Mission Statement	7
Vision Statement	7
The Aims and Methods of Scouting	7
What do I Need?	9
Uniform	9
Troop Supplied Items	9
Troop 380 Swag	10
Personal Camping Gear	10
How Can I Get Involved?	11
Scoutmaster / Assistant Scoutmaster	11
Committee Chair / Committee Member	12
Scouter Reserve	12
Merit Badge Counselor	12
Notes	13
How is Scouts BSA different from Cub Scouts?	13
Troop Meetings	13
Monthly Outings	13
Summer Camp	13
High Adventure	14
Advancement	14
Troop Organization - Scouts	14
Other Family Considerations	14
Medical Forms	14
Troop Dues	15
Troop Communications	15
Appendix	16
Terms and Abbreviations	16
Scout Oath	19
Scout Law	19
Scout Motto	19
Scout Slogan	19
Resources	19

Quick Checklist

- ☐ Introduce yourself to the Scoutmaster
- ☐ Introduce yourself to the Senior Patrol Leader
- ☐ Complete a Youth Application
- ☐ Pay Dues
- ☐ Add Scout to Troop 380 Mailing List
- ☐ Add Parent(s) to Troop 380 Mailing List
- ☐ Receive Handbook from Advancement Chair
- ☐ Visit Scout Shop and purchase Uniform.
- ☐ Attend Family Orientation
- ☐ Complete Youth Protection Training
- ☐ Complete SAFE Environment Training
- ☐ Add Scout to Scoutbook
- ☐ Connect Parents to Scout in Scoutbook
- ☐ Complete the Annual Health and Medical Record

Boy Scouts of America

Mission Statement

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Vision Statement

The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

The Aims and Methods of Scouting

The Scouting program has specific objectives, commonly referred to as the “Aims of Scouting.” They are **character development, leadership development, citizenship training, and personal fitness**. Leadership development is also one of Scouting's eight methods contributing to both good character and good citizenship.

The methods by which the aims are achieved are listed below in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each.

Ideals – The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. The Scout measures themselves against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and, as they reach for them, they have some control over what and who they become.

Patrols – The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches Scouts how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

Outdoor Programs – Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and humankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Advancement – Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Scout plans their advancement and progresses at their own pace as they meet each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps them gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

Association with Adults – Scouts learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. Scout leaders can be positive role models for the members of their troops. In many cases a Scoutmaster who is

willing to listen to the Scouts, encourage them, and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives.

Personal Growth – As Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Young people grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with their Scoutmaster help each Scout to determine their growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development – The Scouting program encourages Scouts to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership and becoming a servant leader helps a Scout accept the leadership role of others and guides them towards participating citizenship and character development.

Uniform – The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Scout activities and provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

More information about the Boy Scouts of America's Mission, Vision, Aims, and Methods can be found by visiting the Boy Scouts of America's website (<https://troopleader.scouting.org/scoutings-aims-and-methods/>)

What do I Need?

Uniform

- ☐ Official “tan” Field Uniform shirt (short-sleeve or long-sleeve)
- ☐ Green Epaulets
- ☐ Official uniform shorts/pants (any variety)
- ☐ Official Scouts BSA belt.
- ☐ Official Scouts BSA socks (crew-length or low-cut)
- ☐ Neckerchief (*)
- ☐ Neckerchief Slide
- ☐ Merit Badge Sash (**)
- ☐ Insignia for the uniform:
 - ☐ U.S. Flag Emblem
 - ☐ Patrol Emblem (***)
 - ☐ Lincoln Heritage Council shoulder emblem
 - ☐ Veteran Unit Bar (***)
 - ☐ Troop 380 Unit Numerals

If the scout chooses to wear a hat, it must be a Scouting-related hat, such as the Official Scouts BSA Cap, or a hat from a Scouting event such as summer camp, NYLT, Philmont, etc.

(*) You do not need to purchase a neckerchief. Your scout will be furnished with an official Troop 380 Neckerchief when he is recognized for earning his Scout Rank at the Court of Honor.

(**) Typically worn during ceremonies, the merit badge sash is not immediately necessary until the Scout begins earning merit badges.

(***) See the [Troop Supplied Items](#) section below.

Troop Supplied Items

The troop will supply the following items to your Scout: handbook, patrol emblem, veteran unit bar, and neckerchief.

Shortly after completing the Youth Application, the troop will provide your scout with the Official Scouts BSA Handbook. The Handbook will help guide him throughout his scouting career. It is to be used to record completed Rank requirements, camping nights, service hours, leadership positions, and miles hiked. As your scout's patrol begins to form, they will select a Patrol Name and a Patrol Emblem. The troop will supply your scout with the chosen Patrol Emblem.

To recognize the tenure of our troop, each scout will be provided a Veteran Unit Bar signifying that Troop 380 has remained a chartered troop for greater than 25 years! You may choose to return your Veteran Unit Bar to the troop and upgrade to a customized Troop 380 25-year Veteran Bar and Numeral. The upgrade does cost \$5.

Lastly, when your scout is awarded his Scout Rank at the Court of Honor, the troop will supply him a Troop 380 neckerchief. Upon earning First Class, he will trade this neckerchief for a new Troop 380 neckerchief that is trimmed in yellow.

Troop 380 Swag

During the summer months, as well as during some activities, Scouts wear a “Class B” uniform. Rather than wearing the “Class A” or Field Uniform, the Scouts may wear a Troop or Scouting-related shirt, such as a shirt from summer camp, Philmont, Sea Base, NYLT, OA, etc.

Once each year, the troop will provide the opportunity for families to purchase Troop 380 t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, hats, etc. Be on the lookout for when the online store opens!

Personal Camping Gear

Each Scout is responsible for supplying their own gear for our activities. An example list of Personal Camping Gear can be found on page 268 of the Scout Handbook.

How Can I Get Involved?

Scouts learn and grow in Scouting when they have the resources they need and the guidance from adult advisors and mentors. Adults may volunteer in many ways to help support the Troop.

All registered leaders (e.g. Committee Member, Assistant Scoutmaster, Treasurer, etc) require an adult leader application to be submitted to council for vetting and background check.

Starting in September 2023, a new BSA rule states that any adult who plans to camp overnight with the troop must be a registered leader in a paid-registration role.

Adults who will be around scouts for overnight events will require Youth Protection Training. This is currently advised for all parents.

SAFE Environment Training is offered periodically by the Diocese of Louisville for adults involved in their youth programs. Find more information at the following address:

<https://www.archlou.org/about-the-archdiocese/archdiocesan-policies-guidelines-and-handbooks/restoringtrust/description/>

Scoutmaster / Assistant Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters are responsible for the Scouting program, such as monthly outdoor activities, an annual long-term camping opportunity (summer camp), and high adventure. Additionally, the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters act as mentors to the youth leaders in the troop.

The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters are expected to attend and be active participants during weekly troop meetings. Assistant Scoutmasters may attend monthly committee meetings.

Scouting's Barrier to Abuse requires "Two Deep Leadership": Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including meetings.

To become an Assistant Scoutmaster, complete the following steps:

1. Complete Adult Leader Application.
2. Complete Youth Protection Training Training at <https://training.scouting.org>.
3. Complete SAFE Environment Training
4. Complete the Scouts BSA - Scoutmaster Position Specific Training course at <https://training.scouting.org>.
5. Attend Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS) More information can be found at <https://lhcbasa.org/introduction-to-outdoor-leader-skills-training/>.

Committee Chair / Committee Member

The Troop Committee and Committee Members handle the troop administration, and support the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters in delivering a quality Scouting program.

Committee members are expected to attend monthly committee meetings and may also serve in specific role, such as Treasurer, Advancement Chair, Equipment Coordinator, Popcorn Coordinator, etc.

To become a Committee Member, complete the following steps:

1. Complete Adult Leader Application.
2. Complete Youth Protection Training Training at <https://training.scouting.org>.
3. Complete SAFE Environment Training
4. Complete the Scouts BSA - Troop Committee Position Specific Training course at <https://training.scouting.org>.

Scouter Reserve

More information to come in the future.

1. Complete Adult Leader Application
2. Complete Youth Protection Training Training at <https://training.scouting.org>.
3. Complete SAFE Environment Training

Merit Badge Counselor

Merit Badge Counselors work as subject matter experts who mentor scouts as they work on specific merit badges. Only Merit Badge Counselors, not Parents, Adult Leaders, or other Scouts, can sign off that a scout has completed the merit badge requirements.

To become a Merit Badge Counselor, review the list of merit badges at <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/>, and then complete these steps.

1. Complete Adult Leader Application.
2. Complete Youth Protection Training Training at <https://training.scouting.org>.
3. Complete SAFE Environment Training
4. Complete the Scouts BSA - Merit Badge Counselor Position Specific Training course at <https://training.scouting.org>.
5. Complete the [Merit Badge Counselor Information](#) form and submit it to the Committee Chair.

Notes

How is Scouts BSA different from Cub Scouts?

In Cub Scouts, your son was part of a den with an adult den leader who planned meetings, organized outings, and decided what adventures to focus on.

Scouts BSA Troops are **scout-led organizations**! With the troop, your son will be part of a patrol organized with boys their age. These boys will elect a patrol leader and assistant patrol leader, and will work as part of that unit to plan skill instructions and outings for the troop.

Because the troop is scout-led, parents take a much less active role in their son's scouting experience. They will learn to properly pack and prepare for campouts, meetings, and merit badges. They will do all their own cooking and set up their own tents. As a wise scouter once said "Adults are welcome in Scouts BSA, parents are not!"

Troop Meetings

Troop meetings are weekly and occur the entire year.

The troop currently meets Sunday nights from 7 - 8:30 in the St Patrick Cafeteria. These meetings are essential for allowing the scouts to meet and plan together as patrols, and for passing knowledge during skill instructions and announcements.

While it is understandable that a family has conflicting events and must miss meetings, we urge you to attend as many meetings as possible. It is during this time that the scouts really learn to work together, to lead, and to plan effectively.

Each quarter, the Troop holds a Court of Honor during which we recognize all of the Scouts' hard work and award their Ranks, Merit Badges, and other awards and recognitions. Typically, a small potluck reception is held immediately following the Court of Honor.

Monthly Outings

The troop endeavors to plan outings together monthly, which generally involve some level of camping. Patrols take turns planning these campouts, including coordinating the campsite, activities, and assigning meal patrols.

Do you have a truck and a hitch? We are always in need of help to pull our trailer to/from our camping trips!

Summer Camp

Summer Camp is an annual tradition, and a big exciting part of the Scouts BSA experience. Our troop often camps for a week at Camp Crooked Creek, but any BSA camp is an option.

These camps are planned by the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) a year in advance, and deposits are generally due in early spring.

High Adventure

BSA maintains four high-adventure camps, which are designed for older, more experienced scouts to test their limits and experience all that scouting has to offer. These are Philmont Reserve in New Mexico, Sea Base in Florida, Northern Tier in Minnesota, and Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia.

Historically our troop has tried to send a contingent to one of these camps every summer. Planning and reservations start almost a year and a half before these treks are set to depart.

Advancement

- Rank Requirements
 - Rank requirements vary from rank to rank, and can be found in the BSA handbook
 - As a scout masters a skill, he can ask an adult leader or an older scout (star and above) to review the requirement with him and sign off
- Merit Badges
 - Merit badges allow scouts the opportunity to experience a breadth of activities
 - Some merit badges are designated as required for Eagle Scout rank

Troop Organization - Scouts

- Patrols
 - Scouts are grouped into patrols according to age
 - These patrols have a Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader, who help coordinate patrol activities
 - These positions are elected every six months
- Patrol Leaders Council (PLC)
 - This is the council led by the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)
 - It is made up of all patrol leaders as well as the scouts elected to other positions within the troop
 - These positions include Guide, Scribe, Quartermaster, and others
- Troop Elections for both troop-wide as well as patrol leadership are held every six months

Other Family Considerations

Medical Forms

Medical Forms (Part A and B) are required to participate in outings with the troop. These expire after one year, so be sure to keep them up to date. Additionally, a copy of the health insurance card (front and back) must be on file with the Medical Form.

Part C of the Medical Form is required to be signed by the scout's doctor if they plan to attend activities that are 72-hours or longer (summer camp, high adventure, etc.) Like Parts A and B, Part C expires each year.

Medical Forms can be found on the troop website (under the Resources menu), or <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/>.

Troop Dues

Each year, the Troop collects dues for each Scout. Dues are used to pay for annual registration with the Boy Scouts of America ("rechartering"). Dues are collected beginning in September/October each year. Currently, annual dues are \$125 per Scout.

Troop Communications

The Troop relies heavily on email for communication. It is recommended that each Scout have a personal email address and learn to check it regularly to stay informed about Troop activities. Of course, having a personal email address is certainly a family-decision. If your Scout does not have a personal email address, please allow them to send email and read Scouting-related email with your account.

- Email
 - To email the entire troop, you can email bsa380@googlegroups.com
 - As always, please remember to stay YPT-compliant and keep at least one other adult on copy if you email a scout directly
- Website
 - You can find information about events on the troop's website, <https://bsa380.org>

Appendix

Terms and Abbreviations

APL - Assistant Patrol Leader; boy leader appointed by the Patrol Leader, assists Patrol Leader.

ASM - Assistant Scoutmaster, adult leader that assists the Scoutmaster.

ASPL - Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, boy leader appointed by, and helps Senior Patrol Leader.

Blue Card - (Merit Badge card) A 3-part card used to keep track of requirements met while working on a merit badge. It is the Scout's responsibility to keep track of this card and incomplete requirements. Blue Cards are signed by Scoutmaster prior to beginning Merit Badge.

Board of Review (BOR) - a panel of Troop Committee registered adults that assesses the Scout's progress on his path through rank advancement. Scouts must wear their Class A uniform during a Board of Review.

BSA - Boy Scouts of America

Chartered Organization - The group that has a charter of agreement with the Boy Scouts of America. This organization will also approve all adult Leader applications. Our Charter org. is St. Patrick Catholic Church.

Class "A" uniform - Full and complete Scout uniform including pants/shorts, socks, belt, t-shirt, tan button down shirt, and neckerchief. Merit badge sash should be worn for more formal occasions (Court of Honor, Eagle Scout Court of Honor, Scout Sunday, etc.)

Class "B" uniform - Scout pants/shorts, socks, and Troop/BSA/camp t-shirt.

Council - The Boy Scouts of America is composed of councils. Each council operates over a geographic area. Troop 380 belongs to the Lincoln Heritage Council.

Court of Honor - Quarterly ceremony where boys are recognized for awards earned. These are family functions and all families are highly encouraged to attend. Often, a Court of Honor is followed by a potluck banquet.

Cracker Barrel - Snack brought by Scouts to share on Friday night after setting up camp. All food brought is to be stored in the trailer with other food. No food is to be kept in tents with Scouts.

Cush Patrol - The group of adults that meal plan, prepare meals, and eat together during weekend camping trips.

District - Councils in the Boy Scouts of America are further divided into smaller geographic regions called Districts. Each district has both professional and volunteer resources to help the local Scouting community. Troop 380 belongs to the Seneca District of the Lincoln Heritage Council.

Meal Patrol - The group of scouts that meal plan, prepare meals, and eat together during weekend camping trips. Meal Patrols may not reflect a Scouts actual patrol in the troop. Meal Patrols provide scouts of varying age and experience to work together.

Merit Badge - A program on a particular topic to educate the Scout; requirements are completed with a registered BSA Merit Badge Counselor (expert on the subject).

Order of the Arrow (OA) - Considered the honor society for the Boy Scouts of America, the Order of the Arrow promotes cheerful service and camping programs among units. Each year, Scouts elect eligible members from the Troop to join the OA.

Patrol Box (“Kitchen”) - A patrol box contains all cooking equipment a patrol should need minus a Dutch oven..

Patrol Coach - An Assistant Scoutmaster assigned to a patrol and acts as a mentor for advancement, activity planning, etc.

PL - Patrol Leader - Boy Leader elected by his Patrol.

PLC - Patrol Leader Council – Composed of the Troop officers and Patrol Leaders who meet monthly to plan activities for the Troop.

Patrol - A small (4-12) group of boys who work as a unit within the larger confines of the Troop on skills for advancement and to achieve an objective such as a campout. Comparable to Cub Scout Den, but boy led rather than adult led.

Patrol Method - The method of Scouting where the small unit of boys camp, cook, and learn together.

Quartermaster - The adult and youth position in charge of Troop equipment.

Rank - The level of achievement by which a Scout progresses in skills and learning, and is promoted on the path to Eagle Scout.

Rechartering - Done annually in November/December; time when new yearly dues are paid to National BSA. The Treasurer and Committee Chair generally do this with information gathered from Parents.

SAFE Environment Training - Training required by the Archdiocese of Louisville for volunteers who have regular contact with children or youth. All registered adult leaders are required to take, and maintain, SAFE Environment Training. Please visit the Archdiocese of Louisville’s web site to learn more:

<https://www.archlou.org/about-the-archdiocese/archdiocesan-policies-guidelines-and-handbooks/restoringtrust/description/>

SM - Scoutmaster - adult leader of the troop.

Scoutmaster Conference - Discussion between the SM (or delegated ASM) and the Scout. A Scoutmaster Conference is required for each Rank.

Scouts BSA - the traditional program offered by the Boy Scouts of America.

SPL - Senior Patrol Leader - the boy "in charge"; an elected position, minimum requirement is First Class or higher and the capability and willingness to assume a leadership role among peers in a manner reflecting the precepts of the Scout Oath and Law.

Ten Essentials - Items all scouts need for all Outdoor activities including Knife, Personal first aid kit, extra clothing, rain gear, 2 water bottles (32oz), flashlight, trail food, Matches/fire starters, sunscreen, map/compass.

Troop - The group of registered scouts that meet regularly for the purposes of the advancement of the goals of Scouting.

Troop Committee - A group of adults, registered in BSA, that is responsible for the overall welfare of the Troop. The committee meets at the Committee Chairs discretion, usually the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

YPT - Youth Protection Training - Online training required by ALL BSA volunteers, and any adult who wishes to participate in Troop activities..

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
Reverent

Scout Motto

“Be Prepared”

Scout Slogan

“Do a Good Turn Daily”

Resources

Boy Scouts of America - <https://scouting.org>

Lincoln Heritage Council - <https://lhcbasa.org>

Scoutbook - <https://scoutbook.scouting.org>