

Welcome to Troop 23

TROOP 23 BROOKLYN · [HTTPS://WWW.T23B.ORG/WELCOME](https://www.t23b.org/welcome)



Welcome to Troop 23. I'm Dmitry Vorobyev, the Scoutmaster, and I'm glad your Scout is here.

The first weeks in a troop can feel like a lot at once: a health form, an application, a handbook, a uniform, an app, a calendar, and a first trip that seems to come with its own list of deadlines. Our job is to make your Scout's path simple, clear and exciting, and this page is where that starts. It puts everything a new family needs in the order you will need it. Each step is a sentence or two and a link to the page that explains it in full, and at the bottom there is a printable copy with a code that brings you back here.

If you read only one part, read the next one.

Before Your Scout's First Trip

- **Health form, Parts A and B.** Every Scout needs one for every trip, overnight or not. Fill it in at home on the official form, attach a copy of both sides of your insurance card, and hand it on paper to me or any assistant Scoutmaster. We keep it on paper only, so please don't email or text a photo of it. Each trip's page lists it with the other deadlines. It is good through the end of the 12th month after its date. Summer camp also needs Part C, a physical on the Scouting form; a school or sports physical does not count.
- **Permission slip, on paper.** We try to hand your Scout a slip with the trip details already filled in; you can also fill in a blank one yourself, from Scoutbook. Either way, sign it and send the paper back with your Scout.
- **RSVP and trip fee by the date on the trip's page,** usually the Monday two weeks before the week of the trip. Fees are paid in cash or by check to an adult leader at a Monday meeting. Food, cars and campsites are planned for the Scouts who are in by that date, so a Scout whose payment and slip come late may not be able to go.
- **A parent who wants to stay overnight** needs to be a registered adult with current Safeguarding Youth Training, and a health form of their own. Registration takes time, so start weeks ahead, not the week of the trip.

Your First Four Weeks

The order matters more than the weeks. If your Scout's first trip comes sooner, the health form and the trip papers simply move up.

Week 1 — The first Monday

- Come to a meeting at Our Lady of Angels, in the Cavanaugh Room. We meet on Mondays from mid-September to mid-June. Arrive by 6:45 pm; we start at 7:00 sharp and finish at 8:30. No uniform is needed the first time.
- Apply to join. How to Join has the application and who can join; questions about joining go to Sherman Wong or Tom Kramer, through our contact page.

Week 2 — Get connected

- A day or two after your Scout is registered, sign in to Scoutbook Plus or the Scouting app with the same my.scouting account you registered with. You should see your Scout there. If you don't, write to us: the council registrar makes that connection, not the troop.
- Add our calendar to your phone.
- Get the handbook and start on the uniform (see Uniform and Handbook below).

Week 3 — Paperwork and a talk at home

- Hand in the health form, Parts A and B.
- Do the parent part of the first rank with your Scout. Requirement 6a of the Scout rank asks you and your Scout to do the exercises in the pamphlet *How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*, which is also in the front of the handbook. Requirement 6b is the Personal Safety Awareness videos; Scouting America suggests Chrome or Edge, because they may not play in Safari.
- Read the Parent Guide, sign its last page, and hand it to me or Mr. Kramer.

Week 4 — The first trip

- Find the next trip in the calendar or in What's Due on our home page, and read its page: what to bring, what is due and when.

What You Pay For

Troop dues	Once a year, paid to Troop 23. Covers badges and awards, troop equipment, and a new Scout's neckerchief, troop cap and one Class B T-shirt.
Registration	Once a year, paid online when you register. It is two fees in one payment: Scouting America membership and the Greater New York Councils program fee.
Scout Life magazine	Optional, on the same online form.
Trips	Each trip has its own fee, due by the date on the trip's page.
Summer camp	One week, usually in July, and the biggest cost of the year. The deposit is due at the start of March.

The amounts are in the Parent Guide, under Costs and Summer Camp. Help with summer camp is available based on need, and a Scout who wants the troop's help takes part in our fundraisers. Outside the troop, Scouting America waives its national membership fee for military families (active duty, Reserve or National Guard) who register online, and Greater New York Councils offers camperships toward summer camp, with applications in the winter.

Uniform and Handbook

Scouts wear the **field uniform** (the tan shirt, often called Class A) to meetings and when we travel to a trip, and the **activity uniform** (the troop T-shirt, Class B) in camp. A new Scout doesn't have to have it all at once, but the sooner the uniform comes, the sooner your Scout looks and feels part of the troop; by the time your Scout joins a patrol, we expect it. Your Scout's dues already pay for the neckerchief, the troop cap and one Class

B T-shirt. Before you buy the rest, ask us: there are gently used uniforms in the troop. New pieces are sold at scoutshop.org and at the council's Scout shops at Pouch Camp on Staten Island and at Alpine Scout Camp, both places the troop goes on trips.

The handbook comes to every meeting. The current one is the 2026 Scouts BSA Handbook, also sold in Spanish, bilingual English–Spanish and Chinese editions. A used older handbook is fine for learning skills, but its rank requirements may be out of date, so check them in Scoutbook. More in the Parent Guide.

How a Trip Works

The troop camps about once a month. We usually leave Friday evening from the OLA parking lot and come back Sunday around midday. Every trip has its own page on this site with the times, the place on a map, what is due and by when, and what to bring; a few trips need an extra form of their own, such as the shooting sports waiver at Ten Mile River. Read that page with your Scout, and let your Scout do the packing: it is part of learning to camp. The rules for trips are in Procedures: Events.

Who to Ask

A Scout's first question goes to their patrol leader, then to the senior patrol leader, and then to me. That order is on purpose: the troop is run by its Scouts. A parent's question about joining goes to Sherman Wong or Tom Kramer, and anything else to the troop's email, troop23ola@gmail.com; both are on our contact page. When we write to you, please answer within two days (why that matters).

Photos from our trips are in the troop's photo archive, which is for members only; that page explains how to get access.

What Parents Do

Monday meetings are for the Scouts, so you don't need to stay. What helps most is simple: get your Scout to meetings and trips, take an interest in what they are learning, and come to our Courts of Honor, where awards are presented in front of families four times a year. Any adult who comes to a campsite, even for a day, takes Safeguarding Youth Training first. If you would like to camp with us or help run the troop, start with registering as an adult; the Parent Guide has the rest.

Coming from Pack 23 or Another Unit

For a Scout already registered with a Cub Scout pack or another troop, the old unit starts a transfer, and the troop then accepts it the same way it accepts a new application. Tell us when you ask them. Whatever your Scout earned in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA advancement starts again with the Scout rank, the first of seven.