

Parent Guide

2019



Troop 23 Brooklyn is sponsored by our chartered organization

Our Lady of Angels Church

73rd St. Between 3rd & 4th Ave

Brooklyn, NY 11209

[Facebook: Troop 23 The Pride of Bay Ridge](#)

Troop 23 Brooklyn, NY
Lenape Bay District
Greater New York Councils
Boy Scouts of America

Welcome to the Scouting family where we help enrich the lives of boys and endeavor to make a positive impact in the kind of men they become. By becoming a parent of a Boy 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 him.

Troop 23 is an active troop that engages in monthly camping activities from September to June. We also participate in fundraising activities, service projects, and activities within the community. The success of the Troop includes the leadership of the troop leaders, committee members, and parents!

A note about adult supervision - at least two registered adult leaders are present at all Troop meetings, trips or outings. This is a Boy Scouts of America requirement.

Meetings

Troop Meeting: The Troop Meeting is held every Monday, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the OLA pine room. Weekly meetings run between September to June. Scouts should wear Class A to all meetings and bring their handbooks. Scouts work on rank advancement, Scout skills and prepare for outdoor activities.

Patrol Leaders Council: Each month the Patrol Leaders' Council meets with the Scoutmaster to plan the next month's Troop Meetings, events and review past meetings and events. The Patrol Leaders Council is made up of the Patrol Leaders and lead by the Senior Patrol Leader.

Camping Trips

The Troop participates in monthly weekend camping trips. Trips include fun activities like hiking, visiting caverns, cooker-ees, and more. It is expected Scouts attend all camping trips. This offers the Scouts time to work as a unit, learn different skills, and foster comradery.

The Troop camps at one of our three our home camps: Ten Mile River @ Aquehonga (TMR), Alpine Scout Camp, or Camp Pouch. In addition to our home camp the Troop takes advantage of camps at other Boy Scout Camps, County Parks and State Parks. Camp costs varies between \$15-60 depending on the trip, food and number of scouts attending. There are specialty trips like going to Washington D.C. where there will be more costs. Note: Trips occur during the Winter (February) and Spring (April) school breaks. Please plan accordingly.

The Troop typically leaves on Friday night and returns around Sunday at noon. When there's no school, the schedule may change. The Troop leaves as a unit and Scouts wear Class A uniforms when traveling. Scouts should bring their handbooks as well.

Permission slips are required for every camping trip. If one parent attends the camping trip, we require the other parent to complete the permission slip. Permission slips are available through the Troop 23 weekly newsletter.

Scouts should pack all camping gear in one backpack. Duffel bags are not permitted. Scouts should wear backpacks so they have two available hands to carry camping equipment.

Cell phones are not permitted on trips. Leaders will contact parents as needed.

Service Projects

In addition to weekly meetings and monthly activities, Troop 23 Scouts develop a sense of citizenship and strengthen their community by participating in special Service Projects throughout the year.

Courts of Honor – Parent's Night

Troop 23 conducts Parent's Night four times a year to recognize Scout advancements and awards. The Court of Honor is a public ceremony, and is a chance for the Scouts to be recognized for their achievements. Families and all other interested individuals are strongly encouraged to attend.

Fundraising

The Troop plans to do two to three major fundraising activities a year to supplement camping trips and Troop equipment. Two main fundraising activities: 1) Wreath fundraiser for Christmas; and 2) Flower sale in the spring for Easter. All Scouts are **expected** to participate in the fundraisers rain or shine.

Summer Camp

The Troop spends one or two weeks at summer camp each year usually in July. Camp runs from Sunday to Saturday. Space is limited and advance sign up is mandatory with camp deposit fees due around March 1st. Costs are approximately \$400-\$450 per Scout per week, however, needs-based financial assistance is available. Meals are included in this fee - snacks are not. Transportation is usually provided by parent volunteers. Duffel bags are permitted for summer camp trips since they're longer.

The emphasis in summer camp is fun and fun. Scouts typically sign up to work on merit badges and attend daily classes to complete the badges by week's end. First year Scouts typically focus on basic camping skills, including cooking, wilderness survival, and craft merit badges. Experienced Scouts focus on waterfront and other outdoor badges as well as high adventure activities. Initial merit badge sign ups take place in March and April.

A minimum of three registered adult leaders is needed.

In addition to summer camp, the Troop offers 5-day High Adventure trips during the summer such as a 200-mile bike camping trip and 50-mile backpacking trip.

Uniform and Handbook

Each Scout is required to have the Boy Scout Handbook and brought to each Troop Meeting.

Scouts should wear the Boy Scout Field Uniform (unofficially called the "Class A") for all Troop meetings and outings unless otherwise noted. Class A items include:

- Tan Boy Scout shirt with insignia and patches
- Boy Scout pants or shorts
- Boy Scout socks required with Scout shorts
- Boy Scout belt
- Neckerchief slide (can be purchased or made by Scout)
- Troop 23 neckerchief (Troop 23 provides for new scouts) Replacements=\$10

NOTE: All shirts should be buttoned and tucked in.

Activity Uniform (unofficially called the "Class B"):

- Troop 23 T-shirt with the Troop 23 emblem (Extra shirts available for purchase only from Troop 23)
- Baseball-style Scout Caps (Troop 23 provides for new scouts) Replacements=\$5
- Scout pants or shorts
- Scout belt

Donating gently used uniforms: Scouts outgrow their clothing – feel free to pass on gently worn uniforms to the Troop. Before purchasing new items, ask the Troop if there's any articles that may suit your need.

Costs

Annual dues: \$150.00 Dues are applied toward:

- Registration for the Boy Scouts of America membership
- The annual *Boys Life* magazine subscription
- Boy Scouts of America Insurance
- Troop membership costs:
 - Badges
 - Awards
 - Troop-supplied materials and equipment
 - Other operating expenses incurred by the Troop
 - Neckerchief
 - Troop cap
 - One class B T-shirt

- Some day trips

Chartered Organization (Sponsor)

Every Troop is sponsored by an organization that receives a charter from the Boy Scouts of America, allowing that organization to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop. The Chartered Organization for Troop 23 is Our Lady of Angels Church, Brooklyn, NY. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and provides direction on program guidelines. For example, the Sponsor provides available days the Troop may use the space.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee functions as an administration and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of non-program issues surrounding the Troop. For example: newsletters, Troop funds, fund raising activities, membership drives and Troop coordination, activity permits and coordination, advancement records, procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment.

Uniformed Adult Leaders

The Uniformed Adult Leaders are adult volunteers, usually parents of Scouts, who work directly with the Scouts. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters make up the Uniformed Adult Leaders. All Uniformed Adult Leader are expected to complete the formal *Scoutmaster & Assistant Scoutmaster Specific Training* course (conducted by the Council)

Parents

We are a volunteer-led program. Parent involvement is absolutely necessary. We require parents to assist with the following:

- Drive Scouts (not only your child) to two camping trips or activities
- Attend fundraising events
- Participate in Troop activities

In addition to volunteering time to the Troop, parents should:

- Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting;
- Encourage scouts to progress;
- Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor;
- Be aware of the event calendar usually provided in September (subject to change).

Youth Protection Training (YPT):

GYNC requires YPT for all adults participating in events with the Troop even if it's driving the Scouts on a trip. All parents should complete the YPT course to ensure the safety of our Scouts. The Troop will offer an in person one-hour training course the end of September. Otherwise, you can complete the Youth Protection Training course through my.scouting.org. Once completed, submit a copy of the YPT certificate to the Troop Leader. The YPT expires after two years.

Behavior and Discipline

Scouting activities are meant to be learning experiences in an atmosphere that is fun for everyone involved. The rules of Scouting can be found in the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. Troop specific rules are listed in this guideline. The spirit of Scouting dictates high expectations for the behavior of Troop members both during scouting events and outside of scouting events.

Self-control and self-discipline are attributes expected from all Scouts. In order to ensure the health and safety of Troop members and the effective operation of the Troop, disciplinary actions may be necessary. Discipline and control must be treated as an individual matter, realizing that basic discipline is preventative in nature rather than regulatory or restrictive. Scouts will receive positive reinforcement when exhibiting inappropriate behavior. Troop adult leaders are ultimately responsible for the behavior of Troop members and therefore will be expected to enforce a fair and

consistent disciplinary plan. If a youth has an issue or complaint against an adult leader they are to report such complaint to the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair for action.

Advancement

Scoutmaster Conference and Boards of Review

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he must meet with an Assistant Scoutmaster or the Scoutmaster who will review the requirements with the Scout to ensure that all the requirements have been met. Thereafter, a Scout appears before a Board of Review composed of members of the Troop Committee and Scout parents. 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. A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a boy about his lack of progress toward advancement.

Ranks

The Boy Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a Scout climbs at his own pace. As he acquires these skills he moves up through a series of ranks, for which he is awarded badges – Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks – and the more rewarding.

Details for advancement are contained in the Boy Scout Handbook, which every Scout should obtain as soon as possible after joining the Troop. Take a look at Chapter 1. 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. A Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor earns merit badges. All parents of Scouts are encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors. Speak to a Troop Leader for more information.

Merit Badge Process Flowchart

There are a few steps a Scout must follow to be able to complete a Merit Badge. Here at Troop 23 we've established a formal process for earning Merit Badges. The following flowchart depicts this process.

