

TROOP 729 Handbook

American Legion Post #22

125 York Road, Towson Maryland 21204

Changes

Revision	Date	Comments
1.0	14 March 2024	Initial publication of Handbook Document
1.01	12 May 2024	Added adult camping requirements and notes on reimbursements to Adult Participation and Commitment
1.02	16 August 2024	Updated overnight adult camping requirements per national guidelines. Updated district fees.
1.03	16 August 2024	Electronics policy update.
1.04	24 August 2024	Added committee approved members and hardship notes.
1.05	05 January 2025	Added 2nd class recommendation to leadership positions. Food standards added.
1.06	09 June 2025	Updated election requirements and nylt/brownsea expectations. Clarified food budget and new scout fees. Class A uniform details.
1.07	08 September 2025	Updated Critical Positions leadership requirements, scout rank processes and elected positions
1.08	08 December 2025	Added registration requirements and deposit forfeiture details and Inclement Weather Policy and photo policy.
1.09	11 February 2026	Adjusted for family troop approval and formatting fixes.
1.10	25 May 2026	Updated language about Troop meeting cancellations
1.1	09 August 2026	Defined committee roles. Added adult participation fee guidance.
1.2	13 October 2026	Added Court of Honor Details.

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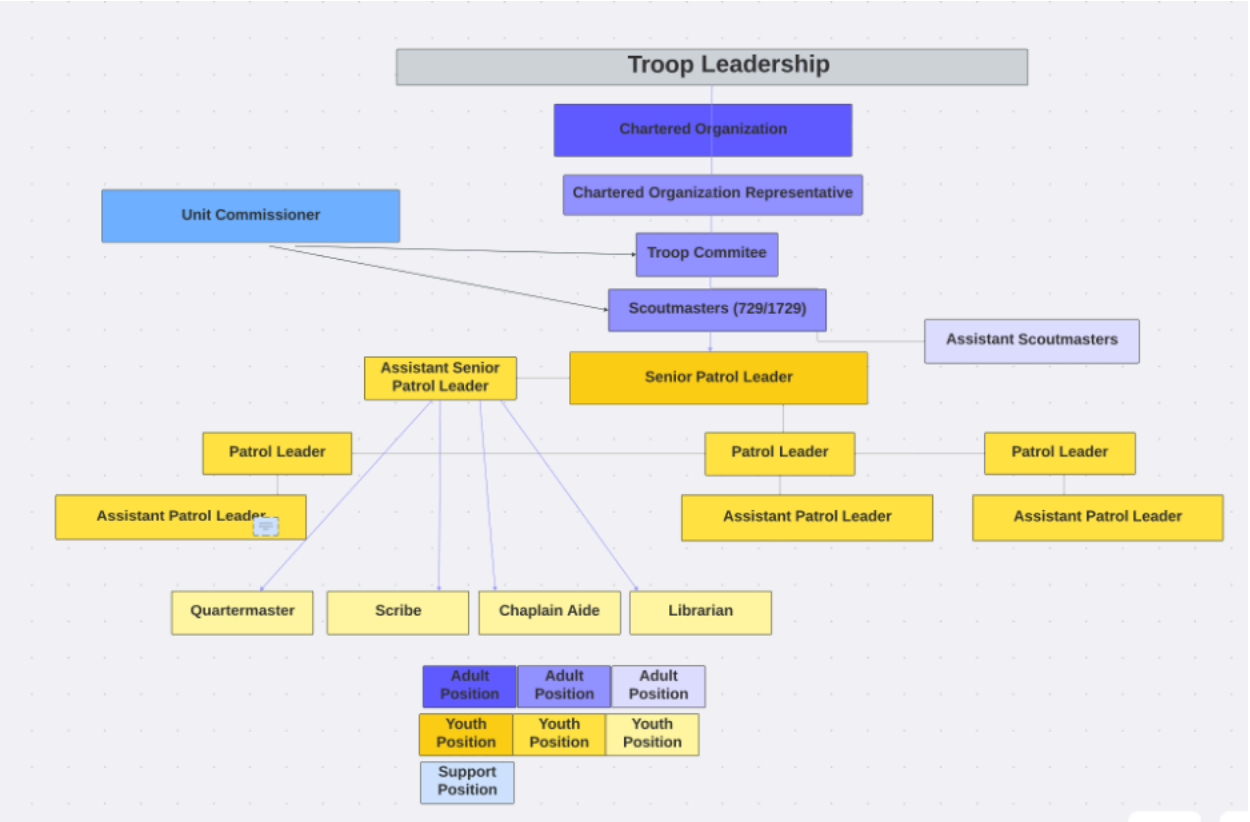
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Troop Organization



Role	Name	Email
Committee Chair	Jake Bucksbaum	committee@troopawesome.com
Scoutmaster – 729	Phil Baker	Scoutmaster@troopawesome.com
Unit Commissioner	Chuck Starkey	

Roles And Responsibilities

Chartered Organization Representative (COR)

- Ensures continuity of the troop over time
- Mentors Troop Committee and Scoutmaster

Scoutmasters (SM) and Assistant Scoutmasters (ASMs)

- The Troop's primary Guides and facilitators
- Teach 'Scout skills' and merit badges
- Organizes Scouts to plan monthly outings
- Responsible for Scouts wellbeing, safety and learning path

Troop Committee

- Annual Rechartering and Membership Registration
- Troop Finances and Fundraising
- Scout Rank Advancement review/approvals, to include Eagle project review/approvals
- Adult Volunteer Training: Annual Youth Protection Training, Scoutmaster Training, Committee Training
- Other Administrative Support: Medical Forms, Tour/Activity Plans, etc.
- Management of Assets and Equipment
- Interface to the charter organization and parents

Unit Commissioner

- Interface to the BSA District (Gunpowder Falls District) and Council (Baltimore Area Council)
- Manages multiple Cub Scout Packs and Boy Scout Troops

Patrol Leaders Council (PLC)

The PLC Meets Monthly for Planning purposes for at least the next 30 days. These meetings are held on the 1st Monday of each month @6:00PM. Pizza is provided for all attendees.

- Youth-led leadership of the Troop
- Plans and runs weekly meetings

- Holds functional responsibilities - the Scouting program is youth-led, to give Scouts the freedom to succeed and make mistakes, learning from both experiences

PLC Appointees

- Scoutmaster
- Assistant Scoutmasters
- Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader
- All individual Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders
- Scout Leadership: Scribe, Quartermaster, etc.
- All Scouts and leaders are welcome to attend

Meetings

Troop meetings are held every Thursday from 7pm to 8:45PM in the Blue Room (downstairs). We follow the Baltimore County Public School schedule for winter and spring breaks. Meetings are run by the Scouts. Typical meeting includes:

- Scout Skills/Merit Badge teaching
- Planning and preparation for upcoming outings
- Game
- Leadership, Character and Skills Development

Monthly Trips

Monthly trips are a cornerstone of the Scouting experience. They are planned and scheduled in advance by the PLC with help from adult leadership. Details of the trips will be posted on the troop website www.troopawesome.com and Scoutbook. Scouts must RSVP to each trip via Scoutbook generally 2 weeks prior to an event. Monthly trips run from September through June. Examples of past trips include: caving – Laurel Caverns (PA), biking – C&O Canal (MD), camping – Lum's Pond (DE), whitewater rafting (WV) .

Operated on a pay-as-you-participate basis. Scouts pay for each camping trip as they sign up. Fee covers food and campsites and every effort is made to keep costs low. A few points on outings:

- Scouts cook in patrols, with adult supervision for proper sanitation during cooking and clean up. Adults who attend/volunteer during trips split the responsibility for their meals.
- Scouts share tents, not more than two-year age difference.

- Groups carpool from the American Legion for all trips. Scouts help with Troop gear heading into trip and upon return and take turns bringing gear and patrol boxes home to clean and organize.

Inclement Weather Policy

Troop 729 generally follows BCPS for inclement weather closures but reserves the right to hold a meeting if schools are closed. In such a case the meeting status will be posted via all communication channels and attendance will be optional. Monthly trips are generally not impacted by weather and will only be cancelled in extreme circumstances.

Scout Ranks

Scouts earn their way individually through ranks as they level up: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle. Rank advancement is one beneficial aspect of Scouting and can be highly motivating for some, but it is not a requirement to participate. Rank work is individual to each Scout and therefore each Scout works independently through their requirements. Any Scout who attends most meetings and campouts, as well as Summer Camp, should have no difficulty in meeting rank requirements.

Scouts typically advance one rank each school year, sometimes two. Earlier levels focus upon basic Scout skills and safety, while higher ranks emphasize service work and leadership roles and the completion of merit badges. Troop 729 follows the Scouting America, 'Guide to Advancement' for all requirements from Scout to Eagle and believes the below points are crucial for success of a Scout and the Troop:

- A Scout will complete the items required for each level and have their work signed off. Any Scout of First Class rank or higher may sign requirements.
- Patrol Leaders should be checking their Scout's books every month.
- Ranks (except for Scout) are officially earned upon the successful completion of the Board of Review (BOR) and awarded at a Court of Honor.
- Scouts entering Life Rank are invited to attend a Life-to-Eagle training to learn more about the special process of earning Eagle Rank.
- Rank Advancement information can be found on Scoutbook online and in the paperback Scout book, which should be brought to all meetings and campouts.

Advancing

To streamline and prevent missed rank advancements the following has been instituted.

- The Scout Master (SM) must record all SM conferences in Scoutbook as soon as it is completed or request the committee to enter. SM will then alert the committee to schedule Board of Reviews (BORs). The committee will record successful completion at the end of that review.
- SM Conferences and BORs will be requested and scheduled at least 2 weeks ahead of time once all requirements for that rank are met. 2 of each SM Conferences and Committee BORs are allotted per meeting.
- All conferences and BORs to be scheduled during game time 7-7:30.
- All conferences must be run by the SMs or delegated ASMs.
- Exceptions can be made to allow conferences outside of scheduling meeting times with advanced requests and approval by the Scoutmaster and committee.
- All board of reviews must be completed by a minimum of 3 adults. A majority must be committee members. Families not of the scout being reviewed are welcome to serve on the board for all ranks except eagle which must be filled with committee members.

Merit Badges

Only the scoutmaster can approve the start of a merit badge. The troop manages MBs in scoutbook but does accept blue cards. The troop will attempt to coordinate badges but scouts can and are encouraged to find unique opportunities for all MBs as long as the SM is coordinated with prior. Approved/started badges will be recorded in SB.

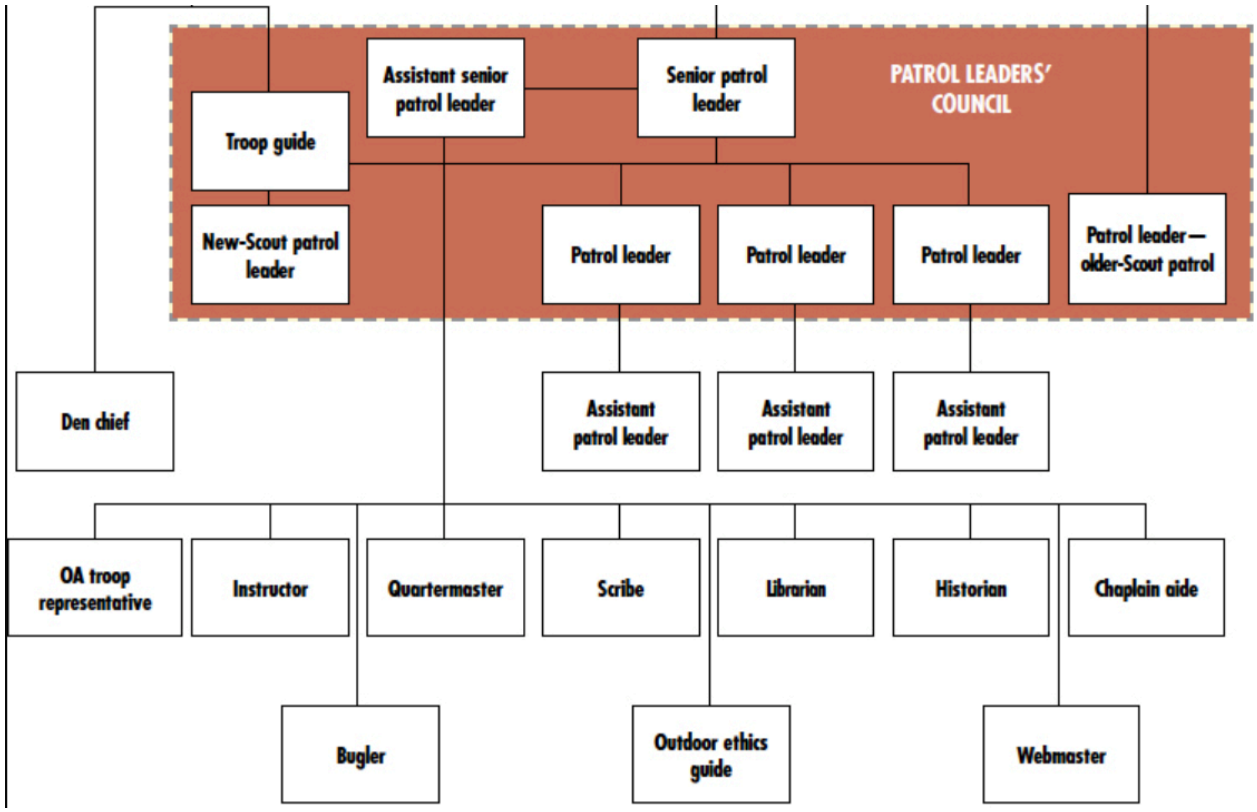
Courts Of Honor

The Troop holds two Courts of Honor each year, typically in November and June. Parents/families are invited to all Courts of Honor and if their Scout is advancing ranks, they'll be asked to step forward during the ceremony. As Scouts in the troop achieve Eagle Rank, the Court of Honor process is as follows:

- Scout completes their Eagle Board of Review.
- Scoutmaster, Committee Chair and/or Hospitality Coordinator initiate conversation with the new Eagle Scout's family regarding their preferred Court of Honor date. The Eagle Board of review must have occurred no less than one month before a scheduled Court of Honor. (In rare cases, the Eagle Scout and family can request a Court of Honor earlier or out of the scheduled cycle. These exceptions require Committee approval.)
- If there are three or more Eagle Scouts in a cycle, the troop will hold a separate Court of Honor for the rest of the troop during a Thursday meeting within the same time period.

Scout Leadership Positions

Scouting defines the below scout leadership positions as applicable for a large troop as below. Troop 729 follows this structure as closely as possible. Positions are defined by Scouts BSA at the following link. https://troopleader.scouting.org/troop-positions/



The positions listed below are required (critical to the Troop's success) and must be filled at each election. (Note: Scouts may hold more than one position.):

- Senior Patrol Leader (required 1 from joint troop program)
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (2, 1 male, 1 female)
- Patrol Leaders
- Assistant Patrol Leader
- Quartermaster
- Scribe
- Den Chiefs: 319 (Legion/Hunt's Church),1742 (Providence), 352 (SES), 439 (Rodgers Forge)
- Chaplain Aide
- Troop Guide

- Webmaster

Role Expectations

The below are the expectations and minimum requirements for the troop for each position.

- Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)
    - Oversee troop and all leadership position
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (2 total, 1 male, 1 female)
    - Write and publish bi-monthly newsletter for the committee to include event recap, upcoming events, troop highlights, rank advancements and accomplishments, Leadership Bios, long range calendar, new scout spotlight
    - Oversee 2 patrols
    - Validates patrol leader equipment requests and sets tenting assignments
- Patrol Leaders/Assistant Patrol Leaders
    - Directly manages Scouts in their patrol
    - Manages meeting tasks/challenges as assigned by SPL/ASPLs for breakout sessions
    - Responsible for submitting equipment requests for troops to ASPLs
- Quartermaster
    - Keep records of all equipment issued in and out
    - Keep accurate inventory
    - Keep equipment in good repair
    - Submit request for repair and purchase orders
    - Be familiar with all setup and breakdown of equipment to help train others
    - Validate issuance via requisition forms
- Librarian
    - Audit and maintain all non trip supply, MBs, booklets, ranks. Assist with COH leads.
    - Checkin/Checkout booklets.
    - Help with scripts and event planning.
- Scribe
    - Validating Attendance
    - Takes notes during PLC
    - Coordinate troop recommended updates for the website to committee for approval
    - Captures all Rank Advancements and submitted for committee to record
    - Assist in capturing MB requirements completions during meetings.
    - Present all accomplishments at meeting closure

- Den Chiefs: 319 (Legion/Hunt's Church),1742 (Providence), 352 (SES), 439 (Rodgers Forge) -
    - Monthly attendance at designated Pack meetings. Report to SPL on activities and any additional assistance den needs. .
- Chaplain's Aide
    - Close meetings ceremonies
    - Provides bi-weekly presentations on a broad range of religious activities. Focus on reverence.
- Webmaster
    - Publish weekly updates of the site for any changes approved by Sunday of that week.
- Historian
    - Assist with newsletter, document trips and provide content of trips for website updates and COH reviews.
    - Keeps information on former eagles.
    - Maintain troop trophies and ribbons.
- Troop Guide - Work with new scouts to acclimate them to the troop.
    - Designated scout to Sign off on requirement up through first class or find another senior scout to assist.
    - Work with a recruitment chair to host visiting webolos and new scouts.
    - Attend events and promote the troop
- Outdoor ethics guide
    - Monitor and promote leave not trace.
    - Assist Troop with conservation and resourcefulness.

Troop Elections

Preferably ranks above Patrol Leader especially Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) should be filled by a scout of 14 years of age minimum and first class rank. Final decisions on the pre-requisites for all ranks are at the discretion of the Scout Master. Important notes on elections are below:

- SPL Elections are held bi-annually, one month before the Fall and Spring Courts of Honor to take effect immediately after the COH.
- The election is for the position of SPL only.
- All scouts interested in a position should discuss with the SM and may voice their interest and campaign for a position during election season prior to the SPL election and will be chosen by the newly elected SPL.

- All other positions in the PLC above and not including patrol leader are nominated by the SPL to the scoutmaster who has veto power on any position recommendations. .
- SPL is required to fill PLC with NYLT and Browsea trained scouts who need to fulfill their 1 term leadership requirement before additional scouts may be selected for open positions.
- Patrol leaders Assistant Patrol Leaders are elected by their patrols. SM has veto power here as well.

NYLT/Brownsea

- The scoutmaster will nominate 2 candidates of mixed genders if possible for NYLT and 3 for Brownsea training at each opportunity.
- The troop will cover half of any costs occurred for the training.,
- Scouts who attend the training are required to serve 1 period as a leader per training they attend.

Schedule And Time Commitment

The following are the Troops expectations for all roles and minimum expectations for rank advancement.

Who	What	When	Where	Requirements
All Scouts and Scoutmasters	Troop Meetings	Weekly on Thursdays 7 – 8:30pm*	American Legion	50% attendance required
Senior Patrol Leaders	Troop Meetings	Weekly on Thursdays 7 – 8:30pm*	American Legion	Attendance expected, communicate any absences prior to events
All Scouts and Scoutmasters	Monthly Outings	As announced, typically Friday at 6pm until Sunday at 12pm	Typically within 1 to 2 hours away	
All Scouts and Scoutmasters	Summer Camp	Typically in July	Typically 2 to 4 hours away	Highly recommended for newer Scouts for rank advancement.

Scouts with Active Leadership Roles	PLC Meeting – Monthly Planning	First Monday, at 6:00pm or before weekly meetings if in person.	Online or live	Attendance expected, communicate any absences prior to events
Troop Committee	Monthly Committee Meeting	Second Monday at 7:00pm	At a committee member's home, with option to join online	
Scouts with Active Leadership Roles	Troop meetings and campouts			75% attendance required

Participation Policies

Troop 729 has implemented the below policies for the successful continuity of the Troop and program.

Scout Participation and Commitment

- Scouts are encouraged to attend all weekly meetings and monthly outings.
- Scouts may leave and come back into the troop without penalty (e.g. seasonal sports.)
- Troops 729 defines an "active member of the Troop" as a Scout who attends 50% or more of meetings and campouts.
- Scout leadership positions as defined above are required to meet the minimum expectations of those positions and attend 75% or more of meetings and campouts to fulfill their leadership requirements. Excused absences must be cleared by Scout Master or ASM prior to Patrol Meeting.
- Scouts are expected to be in attendance at PLC meetings if elected for a leadership role. Excused absences must be cleared by Scout Master or ASM prior to Patrol Meeting.
- Senior Patrol Leaders are expected to communicate any absence with the Scoutmaster and other patrol members prior to all events.
- Appropriate behavior is required at all meetings and outings. Being kind, courteous and respectful ect… as dictated by the scout oath and law will be monitored by all Adults and senior leaders. In instances where Scout Spirit is impacted a scout may be asked to demonstrate/correct compliance with the Scout Oath and Scout Law prescribed by the

rank advancement requirements (which could delay rank advancement) as directed/determined by the Scoutmaster.

Adult Participation and Commitment

- Volunteering is optional for parents, but the troop is always in need of volunteers. (See below for explanation of the troop's Parent Involvement Fee which is offset by meeting volunteer benchmarks.)
- All adult volunteers require 'Youth Protection Training' and must comply with BSA policies.
- All adults wanting to camp MUST be registered as a leader with the troop. The most cost efficient manner to be compliant for parents is to register as a Scout Reserve unit code 91.
- Adults will be reimbursed for registration and training fees with receipts. Receipts are to be emailed to the treasurer for reimbursement.
- Adults seeking an advanced leadership role within the troop simply need to coordinate with the Scout Master or Committee members. They will be guided through the process. Adults will be reimbursed for registration and training fees with receipts. Receipts are to be emailed to the treasurer for reimbursement.
    - Camping trips are generally closed to extended family members unless they are officially designated as 'family trips. BSA requires all adults spending the night be registered. See notes above.
- To encourage adult participation, adults are not generally charged fees for monthly adventures. A fee may be charged at the treasurer's discretion if the number of adults exceeds 20% of total trip attendance or when event fees are greater than $75 per person.

Committee

- All parents are welcome to attend scheduled committee meetings
- Only approved committee members may vote on topics (reference Roberts Rules of Order.)
- 50% of documented committee members are required to make changes to voting members and/or Troop handbook.

Equipment

Uniform Requirements

- The Troop Uniform Checklist is available here.
- Class A uniforms also require green bottoms.
- Scout Store is the primary location for all uniform components a scout could need. (Locations in Wyman Park, BWI, Westminster.)
- The Troop may have hand-me-downs. These will be offered to Scouts as needed. Please ask if you would like to see what is available.
- An additional online resource for uniform components https://www.scoutstuff.org

Dress Attire

- 'Class A' uniform is required at meetings, to/from camping trips and Courts of Honor and all Scout events from Labor Day to Memorial Day.
- 'Class B' shirts may be worn to scout meetings outside of the timeframe above or when communicated as an exception. If compliance to these standards falls below 75%, it will be addressed by the Scoutmaster.

Scout Required Gear

The Troop may have used gear available. As costs should never be a barrier to Scouting, please ask if you have interest in using used gear for any of the below items.

- Backpack
- Sleeping bag
- Mess kit
- Water bottle
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Rain gear

Troop Provided Gear

- Tents
- Cooking stoves
- Cooking utensils and supplies

Items Forbidden from Troop Activities

- Switchblades and sheath knives
- Fireworks, including sparklers
- Alcoholic beverages or drugs
- Cigarettes or vapes
- BB/Airsoft guns
- Any elicit material as deemed not Scout appropriate by a participating adult

Electronics Policy

If a Scout has an electronic device (smart phone, air pods, headphones, iPad, etc.) at a meeting, outing or campout, it is expected that the device remains stored away, so as not to detract from the Scouting experience. Phones are sometimes useful tools for Scout-related business. However, we want to maintain the spirit of Scouting which is based on outdoor experiences and camaraderie, not technology. At all outings, electronics should not be used/out at all unless requested to and approved by the Scoutmaster and/or Assistant Scoutmaster. Scouts may travel with a device if it is provided to the Scoutmaster or Assist Scoutmaster once they arrive at the destination. If a device is seen or heard at an event the Scoutmasters or Assistant Scoutmasters will hold the device for the duration of the event. Parents can request Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters hold devices ahead of time to be available for the scouts in Emergencies. Held devices will be stored in a secure central location. If you choose to bring your device, the troop is not financially liable for it when collected. Every attempt will be made to keep it secured.

Buddy System

Scouts must travel with a buddy at all times, including meetings, events, campouts and summer camp. This includes all activities such as trips to the bathroom, open swim, visiting the trading post at camp, etc.

Scouts must always tell someone where they are going. They must choose a youth leader (Senior Patrol, Leader, Patrol Leader or any more experienced Scout) and tell them where they are going, what they will be doing and which buddy they are taking.

Safety Drills or Alarms

If a drill or alarm sounds, Scouts must stop what they are doing, grab their buddy and report to the nearest youth leader, camp counselor or adult volunteer. If applicable, they must share their first and last name and Troop information with that leader. If no leader is present and a Scout hears the weather siren, they must seek cover in the closest building and report to any leader they find there.

See Something, Say Something

If a Scout sees or hears anything suspicious, they should report their concerns to a Scoutmaster or adult volunteer.

Counseling

Scouts in Troops 729 commit themselves to following the Scout Oath and Law: being obedient by listening and following directions, being cheerful by working as a respectful member of the team, being brave by being willing to try new experiences, new food and new challenges. A Scout's behavior may be corrected or redirected at any time by the troop's youth leaders, one of the Scoutmasters or an adult volunteer. Any Scouts who fail to follow the Code of Conduct, causing a situation that's unsafe for themselves or others will be asked to leave the program immediately, and their parents or guardian will be responsible for transporting them home.

Medical Forms and Photo Release

- All Scouts need to complete BSA Medical Forms annually.
- Parts A and B must be completed for all Scouts and adults who attend any outings, camping or day trips (Part C not required.)
- Part C (doctor-completed) will be required along with Parts A and B if you camp more than 72 hours (summer camp, high adventure.)
- Photo release will be collected annually with the medical forms.

Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT)

- SYT or Scouting approved equivalent ii required for all registered adults participating in events or trips.
- SYT will be validated by the Committee prior to all events/trips.
- SYT Will need to be renewed every 12 months·
- SYT is available at http://my.scouting.org/

Fundraising

The troops main fundraising efforts are detailed below.

Mulch Sale (March/April)

Scouts and families solicit orders of bagged mulch from a designated area in Towson and on delivery day, volunteers move one to two semi-truckloads of mulch into smaller trucks and deliver. This even funds the majority of the Troops programs. Participation is required for all Scouts.

Fees

Neckerchief

- All new scouts are provided with a troop neckerchief upon receipt of a $25.00 deposit.
- Scouts must return the neckerchief prior to receiving one for subsequent ranks (4 styles: Scout through Second Class, First Class, Star, Life).
- If a neckerchief is lost, the deposit is forfeited, and another deposit is collected before issuing a new one.
- Upon discontinuation of troop membership or attainment of Eagle, the most recent deposit is refunded after return of the neckerchief.

Bridging Webelos

- A $25 prorated troop fee will be utilized to offset the costs of patches, scoutbooks and troop numbers.
- Total cost expected by first troop outing in order to participate: $50 (Includes neckerchief deposit.)

New Scouts

The troop covers the cost of the following for all new scouts:

- Scout handbook
- Troop uniform numbers
- Class B t-shirt (if available)

Registration

- All scouts are expected to re-register annually with the Troop by January 1st of the current school year.
- If a scout fails to renew with the Troop all deposits are forfeit on the January 1st deadline.
- Late and re-registrations will not be charged an additional neckerchief deposit of $25. Neckerchiefs turned back in after a scout has failed to renew forfeit their deposits unless registration issues were previously communicated with the committee.

Annual Rates

BSA Council/National Membership Renewal Fees

- Starting January of 2025 National Dues have increased to $85 per scout and Gunpowder falls district will institute a $75 fee per scout for a total of $160 per scout.
- Membership/expiration dates coincide with dates of enrollment.
- The Troop has elected for families to pay this fee directly to district/national.
- ·This can be done 90 days prior to your scouts renewal date on my.scouting.org. You will be emailed by ScoutsBSA when you are eligible to renew.
- Steps to make your National Payment are posted on troopawesome.com under resources.
- Financial Assistance Information will also be maintained in the resources tab on troopawesome.com

Troops 729 Membership Fees

- $50 per SCOUT (to cover programming, in small part)
- $120 per FAMILY (a ‘Family Involvement Fee’ that is refundable if certain criteria are met (see ‘Family Involvement Fee’ section.)

- Summary: $170 fee annually, plus $50 per additional Scout ($120 of that amount is reimbursable – see below)
- Scout and Family fees will be collected annually in September – at the start of the 'Scouting year' that runs from late August to through summer camp.

Family Involvement Fee

At the end of summer camp each year, families whose adult relatives have meaningfully volunteered will be reimbursed the $120 Family Involvement Fee.

Meaningful volunteering must Include:

- Working one or more shifts or positions for the Annual Mulch Sale (If your family is unavailable on the date of the mulch sale, there are volunteer jobs leading up to the sale involving organizing equipment, routes and sales.)

And two or more of the following:

- Working one or more shifts at the Ravens games to fundraise for the troop.
- Attending a camping weekend as a leader/volunteer.
- Planning and organizing a camping weekend.
- Organizing medical forms for summer camp.
- Attending summer camp as a leader.
- Serving as a merit badge counselor for one or more merit badges (especially for Eagle-required badges – you don't have to be an expert in the area.)
- Assisting with eagle reviews/mentoring

Or holding one of the following committee roles:

- Chartered Organization Representative
- Committee Chair
- Treasurer
- Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmasters
- Advancement Chair
- Advancement Coordinator
- Troop Equipment Coordinator
- Training Coordinator/YPT Champion
- Summer Camp Coordinator

- Membership Coordinator/Rechartering
- Fundraising Chair
- Hospitality/Court of Honor Coordinator.

Food Reimbursements

The pre-approved reimbursements for meal planning are detailed per day for campouts are below.

- $4.00 Saturday breakfast
- $6.00 Saturday lunch
- $9.00 Saturday dinner
- $4.00 Sunday breakfast
- $7.00 Adult Food

Total cost is $30 per scout per weekend.

Total Scout Food Budget = 23 x Number of scouts attending
Total Adult Food Budget = 7 x Number of scouts attending. Adults usually purchase/prepare food separately.

Scholarships and Hardship Requests

Costs should never prevent participation in Scouting, so if fees are an issue, please contact our Treasurer (treasurer@troopawesome.com) and they can talk through options, including a payment plan. This is confidential and will not be discussed with anyone in the troop other than the Treasurer and the family. The Treasurer reviews each request on a case by case basis and can approve requests for hardship directly. Family challenges to this decision can be directed to the committee chair. The Treasurer will report the amount of shareship requests to the committee without names.

Troop Communications

TroopAwesome.com www.troopawesome.com

Troopawesome hosts the latest troop information including this handbook. Details on monthly events with signup links to Scoutbook will be provided.

GroupMe https://groupme.com/join_group/110424214/t7L0sqEQ

Groupme was created to eliminate text chats between leaders and parents. This app/website provides a general Troop 729 for any Troop related questions and has sub groups for every trip. Leader guides, attendance and communications for all adults attending monthly trips will be provided here.

Scoutbook http://advancements.scouting.org

Scoutbook is used for the official event calendar and the Troop RSVP system. It is the official email communication tool for scouting. Also leveraged for rank and awards tracking

- Log-In/Password required and established when national dues are paid.
- Contact committee@troopsawesome.com for assistance with access.
- At least one parent/guardian of each Scout should be registered in Scoutbook and accessing their account regularly. Highly recommended for all Scouts to be provided their own account from their parents once they are Second Class or above.
- It is critical that scouts and parents RSVP YES OR NO to events in Scoutbook. RSVP's should be done 30 days ahead for each event whenever possible. If a Scout has RSVP'd yes but does not attend an outing after either food or tickets are purchased, the Scout will be responsible for the fees associated with that outing.
- Specific RSVP deadlines may be established by event; in those cases, a Scout will not be able to attend if deadlines are not met.
- Scout leadership positions and merit badge requirements are tracked here as well.

Facebook https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1Ag2iPRGZn/

Facebook is used to share photos of the Troops outings and is a great way to keep tabs on your Scout (assuming your photo pass is valid). It is not used for any official purposes but families will often post fun Scouting related activities there.

My Scouting http://my.scouting.org

My.Scouting is your registration portal and is required for renewals. You will create an account when you initially register with nationals and join the troop. This site note only sends your renewals but is the tracking system for all adult training including SYT.

Baltimore Scouting https://baltimorescouting.org/

Baltimore scouting hosts general district information and training opportunities. It hosts details on specific processes such as Eagle Applications and Time Extensions. The Gunpowder Falls District which we are a part of also posts information here.

New Scout Tips

New Scouts should meet with their Scoutmaster at a meeting or event to talk through rank requirements and make a plan to reach their first rank (Scout).

Prior to starting a merit badge, the Scout must ask the Scoutmaster for permission to start the merit badge and the Scoutmaster will assign a merit badge counselor.

Scouts should also 'start a blue card' (old, pre-internet terminology for opening a merit badge with a Merit Badge Counselor) for the Camping Merit badge. This merit badge requires 20 nights of camping, but the merit badge must be opened before the camping nights count toward the tally.

Scouts should also talk with the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster or Advancement Coordinator about Eagle rank merit badges that might require activities that Scouts are doing in their daily lives (ie – a visit to an ethnic festival counts toward a requirement in the Citizenship in the World merit badge, but unless the merit badge is opened, such a visit would not be counted toward completion.)
Our most successful Scots often have a high level of family involvement. Please join us whenever possible.

Committee Roles:

729's committee meets monthly to support all Scoutmaster initiatives and upcoming events and meetings and is responsible for approving all expenditures prior to costs being incurred. The below definitions are a short description of the responsibilities the committee views as crucial to its success.

Voting Members

- **Chartered Organization Representative (COR)**
  - Appointed by the American Legion.
  - Approves the committee chair.
  - Signs Troop Charter.
- **Committee Chair (CC)**
  - Approves Scout Master.
  - Establishes committee meetings to support Scout Master and event planning.
  - Provides guidance to Scout Master and works with the District on issues as necessary.
  - Monitors Safe Youth Training and training requirements for all leaders.
- **Treasurer**
  - Creates annual budget.
  - Tracks expenditures and presents monthly reports at committee meetings.
  - Provides historical guidance on previous expenditures.
- **Advancement Chair**
  - Manages discrepancies for any Rank or Merit Badge advancements.
  - Supports purchasing for Courts of Honor.
  - Review and supports all Troop Eagle projects.
- **Advancement Coordinator (*unfilled*)**
  - Track all scout Rank advancements Monthly.
  - Monitors Scouts paper Scoutbooks and works rank recommendations into meetings/adventures.
- **Training Coordinator *(unfilled)***
  - Validates all adults stay current with training
  - Coordinates above baseline training for scouts (Brownsea/NYLT)
  - Coordinates/recommends trainings for adult leaders
  - Tracks all medical forms for completion and signature.
  - Validates forms before trips.
  - Manages all medical forms for summer camp.
- **Summer Camp Coordinator**

    - Works with Scouts or Adults to present list of possible camps
    - Responsible for registering the camp and coordinating payments
    - Helps Scouts select merit badges for camp and registers selections with the selected camp.
- **MyScouting Coordinator *(unfilled)***
    - Performs annual troop validation with district and Chartered Org.
    - Validates renewals for all Adult Leadership positions.
    - Monitors/Assists scouts and reserves with annual renewal requirements.
    - Manages invitation, application and organization managers MyScouting.org
- **Fundraising Chair (*unfilled)***
    - Plans and runs Troops Annual fundraising efforts (Mulch Sale, Ravens Games).
    - Manages any district initiated fundraising efforts.
    - Seeks donation opportunities whenever possible.
- **Court of Honor Coordinator**
    - Schedules Courts of Honor with Chartered Org.
    - Plans/organizes courts of honor.
    - Coordinates with families of eagles scouts on planning courts of honor including recommendations for delegate reachout and additional awards.
- **Grub Master**
    - Responsible for food at all monthly adventures.
    - Works with Scouts to plan meals within set budget restraints.
    - Assist with purchasing or planning of purchasing. Tasks adults and scouts for assistance.
    - Coordinates adult adventure food purchases

Non-Voting Roles

- **Scoutmaster (SM)**
    - Directly responsible for the safety of the Scouts.
    - Works with scouts to present committee meeting/adventure plans. Directly manages rank advancement. Approves the initiation of all Merit Badges.
- **Assistant Scoutmasters**
    - Assist with rank advancements and SM Conferences and support meetings.
    - Work directly with assigned patrols.
- **Troop Equipment Coordinator**
    - Manages Scout Quartermasters.
    - Checks in and out equipment for all trips.
    - Monitors status of equipment and makes recommendations for repairs and

- **Adventure Tracker**
    - Responsible for logging all event attendance into the scoutbook.
    - Tracks camping, community service, hikes and any pertinent details of events useful for Scouts for advancements.
- **Trip Coordinator**
    - Plans trip logistics
    - Creates routes
    - Coordinates drivers

729 Elected Committee - 2026-2027

Committee Chair: Jake Bucksbaum
Email: committee@troopsawesome.com

Chartered Organization Representative: Stuart Blair

Treasurer: Eric McCray
Email: treasurer@troopawesome.com

Scoutmaster: Phil Baker
Email: scoutmaster@troopawesome.com

Advancement Chair: Chuck Starkey

Recruitment Chair: Aaron Reinhart

Summer Camp Coordinators: David Capen/Julie Kitt

Court of Honor Coordinator: Allyson Hocker

Grub Maser: Marc DiSimmone

Assistant Scoutmasters: Ann Kerg-Bucksbaum, Gerrit Shuffstall, James Pessagno, Mark Baummer, Kevin Day

Troop Equipment Coordinator: Gerrit Shuffstall

Medical Form Coordinator: Gerrit Shuffstall

Adventure Tracker: Kevin Day

Unfilled Roles

Training Coordinator
Fundraising Chair
Rechartering Chair
Advancement Coordinator:
MyScouting Coordinator
ASMs