



# Be Prepared.

# Welcome to Troop 197

The Scouting program has three objectives, commonly referred to as the "**Aims of Scouting**":



Character  
Development



Citizenship  
Training



Personal  
Fitness

Methods used to achieve these aims are: ***Ideals, Patrols, Outdoor Programs, Advancement, Association with Adults, Personal Growth, Leadership Development, and the Uniform***

## Objectives:

- Fun with a purpose: learn leadership, life skills, citizenship
- Safe environment to fail
- Youth protection, health, and safety are our most important jobs



## Troop 197 is Boy Led

As a key part of leadership development, Scouts run our Troop! That means, sometimes its messy and chaotic, but that's how they learn. Learn more about our boy-led philosophy here: <https://www.supertroop197.com/images/b/b0/Boy-Led-Troop.pdf>

## Troop Structure

The Troop is run by the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). He is assisted by the Patrol Leadership Council (PLC), comprised of 2-3 Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL), several Patrol Leaders, and other leader roles (Quartermaster, Chaplain's Aid, Scribe, etc.). Meetings, activities, and campouts are planned and run by the PLC (aided and supported by the adult volunteers).

Our Troop is divided into smaller units called Patrols. These smaller groups of 6-8 where Scouts learn skills together, share responsibilities, plan outdoor activities, and take on leadership roles.

The Troop and PLC are overseen by a committee of adults led by the Troop Committee Chair, Scoutmaster, and other adult volunteers.

## Outdoor Program

The Troop camps monthly during the school year (except December), leaving on Friday late afternoon and returning on Sunday afternoon. The Troop also attends two summer camps (Rainey in June, Woodruff in July). Scouts can choose to attend one or both but should definitely attend at least one per summer their first few years in the Troop.

For older Scouts, there are yearly high adventure trips which are typically seven to 10 days of wilderness adventure (Philmont, Sea Base, Northern Tier, Summit).

# Scout Advancement

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.



## Crossover, Scout Rank

- Focus on learning Scouting ideals, Oath, Law, Patrols
- Sign-up for first Summer Camp
- No social promotion - Crossovers should earn Scout Rank by end of school year.



## Tenderfoot, 2nd-Class, 1st-Class Ranks

- First phase of advancement
- Progressively harder requirements
- Focus on camping, outdoor skills, group work, self-reliance, fitness, citizenship, personal growth



## Star, Life, Eagle Ranks

- Second phase of advancement
- Scouts now own their advancement, advocating for themselves
- Focus on leadership skill development, merit badges, positions of responsibility, service, and teaching
- Formal requirements to serve in one or more Leadership Position

## Earning Eagle

Our experience suggests that Scouts get more out of the program as they get older and more mature. Finishing Eagle around end of 10th grade is good target.

## Advancement is governed by two milestone meetings:



### Scoutmaster Conference (SMC)

A discussion with an Assistant Scoutmaster to ensure requirements are met and Scout is ready for advancement  
*Requested by Scout via email to Rank Scoutmaster*



### Board of Review (BOR)

More formal meeting with at least three adults where the Scout reviews his progress and answers broader questions  
*Requested by Scout via email – BOR@supertroop197.com*

## Merit Badges

As the Scout moves into second phase of the ranks (Star, Life, Eagle), the focus turns from skills to completion of Merit Badges.

- More than 135 options
- Mix of Eagle required and non-Eagle required
- Scouts should wait before working on most Eagle required with exception of First Aid & Swimming
- A Blue Card is typically needed to start a merit badge (Scouts should request from Scoutmaster)

# Acronyms, Resources & Key Contacts

## Common Acronyms

- **SPL - Senior Patrol Leader** is the Scout who runs the Troop.
- **ASPL - Assistant Senior Patrol Leader** assists the SPL in running the Troop.
- **PL - Patrol Leader** leads a patrol of Scouts.
- **PLC - Patrol Leader Council** is the council or committee of Scouts leading and running the Troop.
- **ASM - Assistant Scoutmaster** oversees a particular rank and assists the Scoutmaster
- **JASM - Junior Assistant Scoutmaster** is an Eagle Scout who is continuing to serve and lead in the Troop.
- **TC - Troop Committee** is the committee of adult volunteers who oversee the operation of the Troop.
- **SMC - Scoutmaster Conference** is a conference/meeting a Scout has when he has completed all the requirements for a rank.
- **BOR - Board of Review** is held after a Scout has finished all the requirements for a rank and has had his SMC. If the Scout passes the BOR, he is awarded that rank.
- **NYLT - National Youth Leadership Training** is a week-long leadership development.
- **OA - Order of the Arrow** is Scouting's honor and service society.

## Digital Resources

Paperwork to join:

[https://www.supertroop197.com/index.php?title=Join\\_Troop\\_197](https://www.supertroop197.com/index.php?title=Join_Troop_197)

Website: <https://www.supertroop197.com>

Troop announcement email list: [all@supertroop197.com](mailto:all@supertroop197.com)

Troop leadership: <https://www.supertroop197.com/index.php?title=Leadership>

## Key Contacts

Troop Committee Chair  
John Campbell  
[jrcmcc@yahoo.com](mailto:jrcmcc@yahoo.com)

Scoutmaster  
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Camping Program:  
Bill Eidson  
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