



# Boy Scout Troop 2014



West Babylon, New York

## Mission Statement

The mission of Troop 2014 is the same mission set forth by Boy Scouts of America: to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

### **The 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, and reverent.

**Scout Motto:** Be Prepared!

**Scout Slogan:** Do A Good Turn Daily

This mission is best accomplished by following the structure set forth by Baden-Powell: *“Boys, led by boys and supervised by adults.”*

Troop 2014 will use the **patrol method** as its unit structure.

In order to facilitate our mission, Troop 2014 requests the following, in accordance with the Guide to Safe Scouting:

**SCOUTS:** Follow the expectations, rules and guidelines for Scouts, as they appear in your Scout Handbook, and use the Handbook to gain knowledge

**SCOUT PARENTS:** Support your son on his journey to independence, and enable your son to take responsibility for his Scouting journey



## The Scouting Program of Troop 2014

Scouting is:

- A movement that aims to support young people in their physical, mental and spiritual development, that they may play constructive roles in society, with a strong focus on the outdoors and survival skills
- An informal education program with an emphasis on practical skills and knowledge, and teaching these skills to newer, younger Scouts
- Leading an active and responsible life of service to oneself, one's family, one's community, and the world as a whole
- Making friends and lifelong relationships with others
- Setting personal goals and reaching them
- Upholding the moral and ethical code of honor established by BSA
- Hiking, fishing, camping, cooking, crafts, sports. . . .
- Experiencing all that life has to offer
- Having FUN!!!
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## The Outdoor Code

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**As an American I will do my best to...**

**Be clean in my outdoor manners**

I will treat the outdoors as a heritage.

I will take care of it for myself and others.

I will keep my trash and garbage out of lakes, streams, fields, woods, and roadways.

**Be careful with fire**

I will prevent wildfire.

I will build my fires only where they are appropriate.

When I have finished using a fire, I will make sure it is cold out.

I will leave a clean fire ring, or remove all evidence of my fire.

**Be considerate in the outdoors**

I will treat public and private property with respect.

I will use low-impact methods of hiking and camping.

**Be conservation minded**

I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, wildlife, and energy.

I will urge others to do the same.

## Parent Participation

The adults who provide supervision, support and time to make troop 2014 a success are volunteers. They will need your help. How you support your son's troop depends on your talent and available time. Both mothers, fathers, and other family members and friends can donate a few hours to provide transportation, help maintain troop equipment, be a merit badge counselor, serve on a committee or serve in some other leadership position. Whatever your volunteer role, our troop needs you to keep operating as a quality unit which makes our troop worthy of the fine Scouts it serves. Please complete the troop resource survey and return it to the committee secretary.

The Scoutmaster will discuss with your son his strengths and interests and recommend ways he can use these in his scouting activities. It will be up to your son to decide the goals he sets for himself as a growth agreement. The Scoutmaster will encourage and counsel your son along the way. Your interest in his growth in Scouting is vital in helping him to realize his personal potential.

Each scout is required to share the cost of camping and activity expenses. Encourage your scout to look for a job where he can earn his own money for the cost of activities. Remember – "A scout is thrifty."

Parents are welcomed to stay at the weekly meetings, but please remember that this time is for the boys to take the lead and practice their independence. For the benefit of all scouts, and out of respect for their leadership and independence, we ask that all sidebar conversations be taken outside the meeting room and that interaction between parent and child be kept to a minimum.

Our ScoutParent representative will be making contact with you, to find out ways that you or a family member can help with your son's journey through scouting, as well as the troop's general progression and growth. Please consider donating your knowledge, expertise and/or time in some way to help our troop flourish.

## New scouts

Troop 2014 is a quick growing troop whose members come from Webelos programs and other troops in the area. Each scout who stated his intent to join 2014 will be presented a scout neckerchief from the troop at the cross over ceremony or upon registering with the troop, and will be officially welcomed by the troop. Boys ages 10 years and 6 months, and advancing from a Webelos den will form a new scout Patrol. To give your scout the initial attention they deserve, the troop will designate an assistant scoutmaster to work directly with them along with a member of the senior patrol. If the new Scout is older than 10 years 6 months or has previous scouting experience, he will be placed in a patrol with scouts sharing his same age and skill level.

All scouts joining troop 2014 will receive a package that includes the following:

- troop bylaws
- BSA medical release form
- resources survey
- troop calendar
- roster of members
- BSA application, both boy and adult
- consent for information sharing and web site use

Prior to any Scout participating in his first troop 2014 event, the following shall be returned to the Committee Secretary:

- a completed BSA application along with the prorated share of the annual dues
- BSA medical release form
- consent for information sharing website use

## **Troop Uniforms**

The Scout uniform consists of a scout shirt, Scout pants or shorts, Scout neckerchief with a bolo or slide of choice, any closed toe shoe or boot, Scout belt, and Scout socks.

Activity shirts may be worn when allowed and consist of the orange Boy Scout t-shirt and uniform pants.

Wearing a uniform shows Scout spirit. The Scout Oath and Scout Law bind all scouts the world over in a common purpose. The Scout uniform identifies Scouts openly with someone of the same beliefs and values. By wearing the uniform, Scouts are taking an open stand for their convictions.

Scout uniforms are available at local scouting stores. The troop also maintains a small uniform exchange box. If your scout has outgrown a uniform, please consider donating it to this box as it will help new or younger scouts complete their scouting uniform. Should you need something from this box please don't hesitate to ask.

Uniform inspections will occur in accordance with the senior patrol guidelines.

## **Yearly Dues**

Troop dues are paid annually in November. The full amount of dues for each Scout to cover the entire year is \$152 ( \$164 with Boy's Life Magazine). These dues are used to purchase awards and materials necessary to run to meetings, as well as to cover the cost of the BSA registration, BSA insurance, and Boys Life magazine.

As with any organization activities require money. Financial issues are understood. If such situations arise please let the Scoutmaster know in private so arrangements can be made. Please do not let money keep your son from scouting.

## **Annual Activity Calendar**

The Patrol Leaders Council, under the guidance of the Scoutmaster and assistant scoutmasters and with approval of the troop committee, will publish and distribute an annual calendar.

Monthly newsletters will be handed out at the first meeting of each month, posted to the website, and an email containing monthly events will be sent to each Scout and parent.

Please note that the calendar is ever-evolving, and due to space limitations, adult work schedules, school conflicts, etc., the schedule may need to be altered. Alterations will be made and notifications sent out in a timely manner.

## **Weekly Meetings**

Troop 2014 will hold weekly meetings on Wednesdays, from 7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at South Bay Elementary. Parents are responsible for transporting their Scout to and from meetings and for the supervision of their Scout prior to the meeting start time and after the closing of the meeting. Please do not leave your scout at the meeting place if there is no adult leader present.

## **Courts of Honor**

Courts of Honor are formal ceremonies held to recognize the hard work of our scouts and their achievements. Courts of honor are family events and parents are encouraged to attend to honor their sons for their accomplishments. There will be three scheduled Courts of Honor each year, preferably in October, February and June.

## Summer Camp

Summer camp is the opportunity for boys to achieve or work towards BSA goals for long term camping, merit badge advancement, personal growth, independence and enjoyment. Troop 2014 will attend a week long summer camp program. The location is determined by the Scouts, usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August. Camp fees may run anywhere from \$300-\$500 plus transportation and special program fees.

## Weekend Camping and Events

The goal of 2014 is to conduct at least 10 nights of camping and at least 3 special event each year for the scouts. These events promote advancement opportunities, fun, fitness, and comradery.

## Community Service

Community Service is an opportunity for the scouts to help out in the area in which they live. Becoming involved in the events that help our community, environment, persons in need of assistance and advancements towards curing diseases, furthering education and eradicating hunger, provide the Scout with a sense of being part of a common goal. Family members are encouraged to take part with their Scout in many of these events.

Should your Scout have a desire to organize or take part in an event that has some personal meaning or calling, please encourage him to speak to the Senior Patrol Leader.

## Troop Organization

Troop 2014 is organized in accordance with BSA guidelines.

The **troop committee** is a group of adults, generally parents of the scouts, who support the troop by:

- ensuring that the troop's adult leadership is adequate
- by providing various support functions,
- delivering quality troop program
- handling administration and by ensuring that the troop is functioning in accordance to official BSA policy.

Committee meetings are held each month as indicated on our calendar. The committee can consist of a chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, an outdoor activities coordinator, an advancement chair, a fundraising chair and a quartermaster. Please refer to the BSA troop committee guidebook for further details on each position.

The **Scoutmaster** is responsible for overseeing the operation of the troop. The Scoutmaster serves as a chief executive officer. His main responsibility is the scouts of the troop and all assistant scoutmasters. The Scoutmaster attends all committee meetings and reports the status of the troop.

The **senior patrol leader** is the boy leader of the troop, elected by his fellow scouts. He sets the agenda and presides at all Patrol Leaders Council meetings, runs the weekly meetings, and appoints other boy leaders-assigning specific responsibilities as needed. He works with his assistant senior patrol leader, patrol leaders, troop guide and other positions he deems necessary.

The **patrol method** gives Scouts the opportunity and experience of group living and responsibility. It places a large amount of responsibility on young men/boys and teaches them how to accept and embrace it. The patrol method creates strong active units. This is best accomplished through long-standing associations with shared, common experiences on events and trips. While Troop 2014's goal is to maintain a patrol's integrity through as much of a Scouts career as possible, there are circumstances that may require changes, and these changes are at the discretion of the Senior Patrol Leader, with the Scoutmaster's guidance.

## **Adult Leader Policy**

The adult leadership of troop 2014 has 3 major goals:

- provide an environment to achieve the means of scouting by character development, citizenship training and mental and physical fitness
- provide an environment for the boys to live the ideals of scouting- including a chance to develop and demonstrate leadership skills
- provide an adult organization structure that can adapt to changes in staffing requirements

In keeping with these goals, the adult leaders will act as advisors, providing maximum opportunity for the scouts to show leadership and responsibility.

Positions will be filled and supported by the number of adults who volunteer. If there are insufficient adults to fill all the requirements of the troop, the committee chair may choose to combine committee and troop positions upon approval of the committee.

Any adult leader who becomes involved with the troop is required to take advantage of the training provided by BSA. ***All adults interacting with scouts must complete the Youth Protection training and provide the training coordinator with proof of such.*** Committee members must complete the training outline as listed in the BSA guidelines. Scoutmasters and assistant scoutmaster must complete the courses necessary under BSA guidelines. All training, with the exception of the Youth Protection training must be completed within 18 months of registration and all training must be active and valid. As all adults are volunteers and other commitments and training cancellation may occur, the 18 month deadline is at the discretion of the Chartering Organization Representative.

All adult leaders shall exhibit the ideals of Scouting when working with boys. Adult leaders will strive to set the example in their handling of the scouts. Standards of conduct in personal habits, language, hygiene and interaction with others will be in accordance with the Scout Oath and Scout Law, The Scout Master is responsible for the conduct of adult leaders.

## **Scout leader policy**

As with all activities, a leadership role within scouting requires an extraordinary commitment and amount of time. A leadership role within Troop 2014 demands time and sacrifice on the part of the Scout. Although scouting is made available to any boy at least 10 years and 6 months of age, troop leadership positions should only be considered by those scouts who demonstrate the proper example, are willing to give the troop more than they receive, and are willing to put the troop activities on a higher priority than other comparable activities

## **Elected positions**

The senior patrol leader will be elected by the Scouts of the troop.

Patrol Leaders will be elected by the members of their patrol.

The SPL or PL may serve only one term, unless no eligible Scout desires that position for the next scouting year. This provides all Scouts with the opportunity to become leaders.



## Appointed Positions

The following positions will be appointed by the SPL at his discretion and under the guidance of the Scoutmaster:

- assistant senior patrol leader
- troop guide(s)
- scribe
- quartermaster
- librarian
- historian

The patrol leader will appoint:

- assistant patrol leader
- patrol scribe
- patrol quartermaster

## Elections and Transfer of Responsibilities

Troop elections for Senior Patrol Leader will be held yearly in May. Newly elected leaders will be announced and retiring leaders will be recognized for their work at the final court of honor for the year.

A general election of the entire troop will be conducted for the senior patrol leader. The outgoing senior patrol leader, in conjunction with the Scoutmaster, will preside over this election, accepting nominations and supervising the collection of ballots. Voting will be conducted by secret ballot and the tallying of ballots will be under the direct supervision of the Scoutmaster and one committee member. For elections having only 2 candidates, the candidate receiving the simple majority will be named SPL. For elections having more than two candidates, where no one candidate receives more than 50 percent of the votes, a revote will be conducted between the two candidates receiving the highest percentages.

The final responsibility of the outgoing SPL will be as patrol leader of summer camp. The incoming SPL will work over the summer with his senior patrol in assuming all responsibility for troop planning, establishing the calendar of events and reporting this schedule to the committee-under the guidance of the Scoutmaster and with the help of the PLC.

## Removal From Position

The seriousness of impeachment must be understood before proceedings are begun. Impeachment will be initiated only when the situation cannot be reversed with direct leadership and the added supervision by the adult leadership. Given the above impeachment proceedings against a patrol leader, assistant patrol leader and/or senior patrol leader can be initiated at any time during his tenure in the position.

To initiate an impeachment, a written petition must be presented to the Scoutmaster including:

- specifically why it is thought the boy leader in question is not fit for office
- background circumstances regarding the problem,
- signatures of 67 percent of the membership, either the patrol in case of a patrol leader impeachment or troop in the event of SPL impeachment.

Final judgement will be determined by the Scoutmaster and his assistants through direct vote. The troop committee and parents of the boy will be advised of all actions and circumstances behind the action.

## Patrol Leaders Council

The patrol Leadership Council, PLC, is responsible for planning and conducting the troop's activities. The troop committee interacts with the PLC through the Scoutmaster.

The PLC comprises the following voting members:

- senior patrol leader, who leads the PLC
- assistant senior patrol leader
- Patrol Leaders
- troop guide
- troop scribe
- troop quartermaster

The PLC will meet on a monthly basis and is responsible for:

- planning the annual calendar of events and presenting the completed calendar to the committee by August 15<sup>th</sup> of each year
- planning monthly events
- the planning and organization of weekly meetings
- the discussion of issues facing the troop
- making recommendations on improving the troop

NOTE: All voting members are expected to attend each monthly meeting. Exclusionary meetings are not to be held.

## Advancement

Advancement is the process by which members progress from rank to rank, the ultimate goal is reaching their full potential. It is designed to help the boys have an exciting and meaningful experience. It is the responsibility of the troop committee to ensure the troops program is conducted in such a way that the scouts have an opportunity to advance on the basis of learning, testing, reviewing and recognition. It is the scout's responsibility to reach for these goals and to work on self-improvement in gaining knowledge towards rank advancement and merit badge completion.

Advancement policies are set by BSA and emphasize scouting skills, responsibility, leadership, and codes of conduct. For more information on advancement policies and procedures, please refer to the Scout Handbook and the BSA website.

## Merit Badges

Completing the requirements to earn merit badges provide the Scout with self-confidence by teaching them to overcome obstacles and to achieve a goal. The Scout also learns career skills, develops socially, and may develop skills and hobbies that give a lifetime of healthful recreation. All procedures for earning merit badges are outlined in the Scout Handbook.

## Issues and Behavior

Discipline policy in Scouting is simple - the doors of Scouting are always open to those who strive to follow its law. Adherence to 2014 policies will primarily be handled by the boy leaders with adults intervention only to maintain safety, preclude property damage, avoid distracting other organizations activities, and/or restore order in extreme cases of unruliness.

Issues within the patrols will be handled by the patrol leader. Patrol Leaders have the right to ask any patrol member to leave a patrol meeting and report to the senior patrol leader. When the patrol leader cannot handle the problem he must ask for help from the senior patrol leader. The senior patrol leader may ask the Scout in question to report directly to the Scoutmaster. In the event that a scout has an issue with his Patrol Leader, the scout should presents his concern to the SPL for resolution, then Scout Master, if warranted.

Behavior in Troop 2014 is to the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. Scouts should strive to become good citizens within the troop, camp, and in the community. Respect for the Scout leadership and adults is necessary. Under no circumstances will adults or boy leaders administer punishment for any reason. Hazing of any type will not be tolerated. Boys or adults observing such activity will take immediate measures to stop such activity.

## Camping Trips and Events

Scouts participating in camping trips and other events will be responsible for the cost of the event. The troop dues do not provide sufficient funds to sponsor troop camping trips and events. The adult leader responsible for a particular trip or event will advise the Scouts, with a flyer, posting on website, and as part of weekly announcements, of any fees required. A Consent for Participation is required for camping trips and day trips (hikes, bike trails, adventure events, etc.) Service projects do not require a Consent Form, but do require sign-up. ***It is the SCOUTS responsibility to sign up for and procure forms for events and to turn in forms and fees to their patrol scribe (leader) by the deadline. Exceptions for late responses will only be approved by the COR, and by contacting the COR directly.***

## Meals for outings

Food for camping trips and outings are usually the responsibility of the patrol. As part of the camping trip planning process, each patrol will determine a trip menu and budget, then create a shopping list. Scouts must pay their portion no later than the Wednesday before the scheduled event, unless other directions were given. ***It is the SCOUTS responsibility to notify the patrol of any allergies.***

A patrol grub master will be selected and will be responsible for the purchase and advance preparation of needed items. The grub master will inform the quartermaster if the patrol will need items, not regularly kept in a patrol box, such as charcoal or Dutch Ovens, etc.

Meals for adult chaperones will be arranged separately.

On occasion, the troop will select to dine together, rather than use the patrol method. Costs will be shared among all attending, and will be made known upon announcement of event.

## Transportation

All Scouts requiring transportation will be listed on the Transportation Plan. Should a Scout need to arrive late or leave early, arrangements must be made known to the Outdoor Activities Coordinator and the event Patrol Leader. Departure for trips and events will be firm. It is impolite to ask those prepared to wait for late arrivals. Parents will have final approval on transportation for their Scout, and must sign the Transportation Plan. ***All drivers must have valid Youth Protection Training on file.***

## Duties

Patrol leaders will prepare a duty roster for each camping trip and post it at the campsite. The Patrol Leader shall maintain a patrol record on menu planning and food purchasing duties to ensure all members share in the responsibility.

**A Note to Parents:** While we realize that family schedules are ever evolving, parents must understand that camping with large groups of Scouts requires detailed planning to ensure enough food, water, transportation, tents, funds, and supervision.

Unannounced, or participants indicating a desire to attend after the set deadline, create hardships for the entire troop, who have planned the smallest details and creates disharmony. Simply stated, the troop shall have a firm commitment for camping trip participation, with supporting funds, not later than the last Wednesday before departure of an event.

## Camping

The camping trip format will be determined by the Patrol Leaders' Council, and be made known to all scouts upon announcement of trip.

Whenever possible, patrols shall camp as individual units and practice the patrol method. The intent is that each patrol will have: a separate tent group and its own cook stove, cookware and patrol flag.

Scouts shall not leave the campsite without the permission of the Scoutmaster (or adult leader) and the buddy system will be used at all times.

All scouts will share in the work duties of their group. Patrol leaders will establish rotating duty schedules to assure that work, such as cooking, cleaning, filling water jugs and gathering wood, is done by all in a fair manner.

All members of Troop 2014 will observe and follow the outdoor code. We will be leaving the campsite in a better condition than it was found in.

Various forms of cooking will be experienced, including individual, patrol and troop. The camping trip format will dictate the cooking format.

## Equipment

*“Take care of your gear and your gear will take care of you.”*

Each scout is responsible for the purchase and care of his own camping gear, as outlined in the Scout Handbook. It is recommended that all personal gear be labeled. The troop will supply tents, patrol cooking boxes, unit water jugs, and unit lanterns for general lighting. The Troop Committee, under the supervision of the Equipment Coordinator and input from the Scoutmaster, will secure adequate communal outdoor gear, and maintain said gear with the troop Quartermaster.

## Fundraising

Fundraising events will be held in order to raise funds needed to offset the costs of operating the troop. Participation in fundraising events is voluntary, but strongly encouraged, as all scouts benefit from these funds.

## Communication

In accordance with the Guide for Safe Scouting, Troop 2014 has adopted the following guidelines for e-mail correspondence:

- Scout to Scout → must include Scout's parent or the Scout Master/Adult Leader
- Scout to Adult Leader → must include Scout's parent
- Adult Leader to Scout → must include Scout's parent and another Adult Leader
- Adult Leader to Scout Parent → must include Committee Chair

At no time are Blind CC's allowed

## Troop Website

Troop 2014 has created a private, invitation only website on Shutterfly. This site contains details in regards to the troop - leadership, program, calendar, and contact information. Only with written consent, may registered scouts and parents use this site. Event updates and changes will be sent to registered users. This site is controlled by the Committee Chair, Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader.

## TROOP 2014 Handbook Consent Form

Parents,

A tremendous amount of time is spent establishing and delivering a strong Scouting program to the Scouts of Troop 2014.

In order to set our path on the right course, the Committee has agreed upon the guidelines and procedures as described in this Handbook. This is intended to explain how Troop 2014 operates and the responsibilities expected within the troop.

This document is filled with details, and is quite lengthy, but the Committee feels it is necessary for you to sit with your Scout and review it. Upon completion of your review, kindly sign below and return it to the Committee Secretary.

Thank You,

Troop 2014 Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scout Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date