



## WELCOME SCOUTS!

We are so glad you have decided to join the Troop 109 family. We are the oldest Troop in Fishers, and your involvement in Scouting helps us to continue the legacy of Troop 109 in our community! We look forward to helping you on your Scouting journey and achieving the goals you've set for yourself in the coming years.

### Now that we have joined Troop 109, what do we do next?

- Start attending meetings! We meet almost every Tuesday of the year from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Fishers United Methodist Church on 116<sup>th</sup> Street and IKEA Way, unless the Troop is at Summer Camp or out of school over winter break. It is important to attend the first meeting in March and new Scout orientation, because your Scout will form a patrol and begin learning about what is expected.
- Start reading your Boy Scout Handbook (manual), which will help you learn about Scouting, the patrol method, and advancement.

### What should Scouts wear to the Troop meetings?

- All Scouts should wear a field uniform (Class A), which consists of the tan shirt with appropriate patches, Scout pants/shorts (or similar belted pants/shorts), along with the neckerchief and woggle supplied by the Troop.
- Scouts may dress in a work uniform (Class B), which is typically a Troop T-shirt, if we are doing a different activity.
- We always wear the field uniform when traveling to a campout of event, and always dress for the weather!

### Are parents welcome at the Troop meetings?

- Absolutely! Troop meetings are open to all observers, and many parents like to listen to announcements at the beginning of each meeting. We ask that parents save any questions and conversations until this part of the meeting has concluded. Scouts and adult leaders will then often move to other rooms to conduct activities. The Troop Treasurer, Outdoor Activities Coordinator and Advancement Chair will usually be available at this time to collect payments and answer questions.

### Who are the key adult Troop leaders we should know right now?

**Scoutmaster**  
oversees the Scouts, as well as all activities and outings



Al Kane  
[kane.scouting@yahoo.com](mailto:kane.scouting@yahoo.com)

**Advancement Chair**  
records all advancement done and tracked by the Scouts and schedules Boards of Review



Kathy Lain  
[klain@outlook.com](mailto:klain@outlook.com)

**Troop Guide Coordinator**  
Leads Troop Guides, who work with Scouts below the rank of First Class to learn skills



Marc Malone  
[marc@indymalones.com](http://marc@indymalones.com)

**Summer Camp Coordinator**  
administers arrangements for summer camp at Ransburg



John Johnson  
[johnson\\_je67@yahoo.com](mailto:johnson_je67@yahoo.com)

**Outdoor Activities Coordinator**  
makes arrangements for monthly campouts chosen by the Scouts



Ryan Robertson  
[ryjanrobertson@gmail.com](mailto:ryjanrobertson@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**  
keeps track of Troop finances, takes payments for events and manages Scout accounts



Gregg Greiner  
[greino165@comcast.net](mailto:greino165@comcast.net)

**Troop Committee Chair**  
leads the adult committee/volunteers, and the relationship with the chartered organization



Matt Lurton  
[matthewlurton@gmail.com](mailto:matthewlurton@gmail.com)

### How do we get information about upcoming events?

- All upcoming events:
  - are announced at Troop meetings and in the weekly agenda emails
  - appear on the Troop's website [MORE INFO: www.fisherstroop109.com](http://www.fisherstroop109.com)
  - can be signed up for through TroopWebHost. Once you have completed an application for membership, you'll receive login credentials. [MORE INFO: www.troopwebhost.org/Troop109Fishers/Index.htm](http://www.troopwebhost.org/Troop109Fishers/Index.htm)
- We encourage Scouts to provide their own email, so they may become responsible for knowing what is happening with the Troop.

### How do we sign up for activities?

- You can find a listing of annual activities on the website (2018 ANNUAL TROOP CALENDAR) and by looking at the TroopWebHost calendar. We do not keep a Google calendar, but you may "Subscribe to Calendar" under the "My Stuff" menu in TWH.
- The Outdoor Activities Coordinator facilitates sign-up of monthly campouts in TWH, and sends a detailed email each month. Meal planning is done at the meeting prior to the campout, and Scouts will have the opportunity to serve as the "grubmaster."
- The Summer Camp Coordinator makes arrangements for that outing. [MORE INFO: www.fisherstroop109.com/summercamp.html](http://www.fisherstroop109.com/summercamp.html)
- The Troop must have a Health and Medical Record on file, and each attendee must submit a signed Activity Consent. These documents can be found on the website. [MORE INFO: www.fisherstroop109.com/library.html](http://www.fisherstroop109.com/library.html)

## How does rank advancement work?

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- Each rank is detailed in the Boy Scout handbook, along with a checklist of all the requirements for that rank. Scouts will work with Troop Guides to learn specific skills and work through Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class ranks.
- Once a requirement has been met, the Scout is responsible for getting a signature next to the item in their manual. Once all items are completed, the Scout will ask the Scoutmaster for a conference, then approach the Advancement Chair to schedule a Board of Review at a future meeting. It is important that the Scout learn to manage this process, not the parent.
- The purpose of the Board of Review is for adults in the Troop to get a chance to know the Scout better, review their readiness for the next rank, and discuss their goals in Scouting.

## When is the Court of Honor?

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- Troop 109 conducts a quarterly Court of Honor to recognize rank advancement, earned merit badges and other awards. Family members are encouraged to attend, and an informal gathering with snacks follows the ceremony. The Advancement Chair informs Scouts of the cut-off dates for submitting merit badge paperwork (blue cards) and scheduling Scoutmaster conferences prior to the Court of Honor.
- Scouts should wear their full field uniform, along with a merit badge sash or Order of the Arrow sash, to the ceremony.

## How do Scouts gain leadership experience?

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- Once Scouts form a patrol, they will elect a Patrol Leader (PL), Assistant Patrol Leader (APL) and Quartermaster (QM). Those individuals will attend the monthly Patrol Leader's Council (PLC), held the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The PLC plans the monthly activities for the youth.
- Election of Troop positions occur in January and August. Leadership positions and their responsibilities can be found in the Boy Scout handbook and on the website. Scouts attend a Junior Leader Training to set goals for their position, and they wear a patch on the left sleeve of their uniform. **MORE INFO:** [www.fisherstroop109.com/lead.html](http://www.fisherstroop109.com/lead.html)

## What role do parents play in the Troop?

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- While this is a Scout-led Troop, much of the planning cannot be done by the youth. There are opportunities for adults to work directly with the Scouts as Assistant Scoutmasters or oversee ongoing and ad-hoc projects. Adults may also join the Troop Committee, which supports the Troop and PLC as the governing committee within a chartered organization. The Troop committee meets after the PLC, on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
- All parents are encouraged to be involved in a way that fits their schedule, and attending a campout, sitting on a Board of Review and becoming a merit badge counselor are a few ways parents can participate.
- Every adult that interacts with Scouts, whether a registered leader or not, must take Youth Protection Training every two years. **MORE INFO:** [www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection](http://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection). Parents help us to maintain two-deep leadership during meetings and activities.

## How do we coordinate Scouting with other activities and teams?

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- Scouting is a year-round program, but attendance is never mandatory. Scouts often have other commitments, such as sports, music, church, and work. We encourage them to attend as often as possible, and those that take on leadership roles in the Troop have taken on responsibilities that might require them to attend each meeting and campout.

## How do we manage the costs of campouts and other activities? Are there fundraising opportunities?

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- The Treasurer keeps a Scout account for each member. Typically costs for outings, activities and materials are charged to the Scout account. If Scouts do not have a positive balance in their Scout account, payment is due for that activity prior to participation. Scouts may earn money through fundraising, incl. camp cards (spring), wagon pulling at Symphony on the Prairie (summer), food booths (summer), popcorn (fall) and Christmas tree lot (winter).

## Tell us more about Firecrafter, Order of the Arrow, Philmont and High Adventure.

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- The Firecrafter program has been offered in Crossroads of America Council since 1920. Scouts can get involved during summer camp at Ransburg. **MORE INFO:** [www.firecrafter.org](http://www.firecrafter.org)
- Order of the Arrow is Scouting's national honor society. Scouts become eligible for election once they have camped for 15 nights over a two-year period and attained the rank of First Class. Scouts then attend an ordeal weekend with the local chapter, Jaccos Towne Lodge at Camp Kikthawenund. **MORE INFO:** [www.oa-bsa.org](http://www.oa-bsa.org) & [www.jaccostownelodge.org](http://www.jaccostownelodge.org)
- Scouting offers high adventure programs at four locations—Philmont Scout Ranch, Florida Sea Base, Summit Bechtel Reserve and Northern Tier. These experiences have minimum age requirements and commitments are made up to one year in advance. Troop 109 is planning a Sea Base excursion for June 2019. **MORE INFO:** [www.scouting.org/high-adventure-bases](http://www.scouting.org/high-adventure-bases)

## What if we have other questions?

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- Check out the Troop website ([www.fisherstroop109.com](http://www.fisherstroop109.com)) for lots of information about upcoming dates, summer camp, advancement, leadership, training, community service, as well as resources. Reach out to first to the Scoutmaster (if you have questions about your Scout), or the Committee Chair (with questions about the Troop). Feel free to come early to a meeting!