

TROOP 6 PARENT QUICK GUIDE

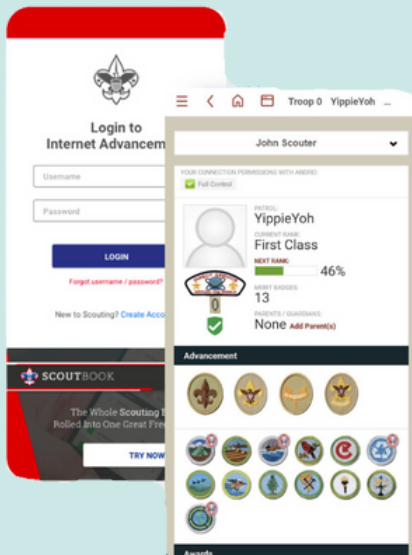
The Calendar

The troop calendar goes from September 1st through August 31st. We typically camp once per month and spend a week at summer camp, usually the first week in July. Meetings are Monday nights from 7:30-9pm.



Scoutbook

Troop 6 communicates through the Scoutbook app. You can begin by logging in at <https://scoutbook.scouting.org/> and then download the app on your phone. This is where you can track your Scout's advancement, see his balance, and RSVP for troop events.



Finances

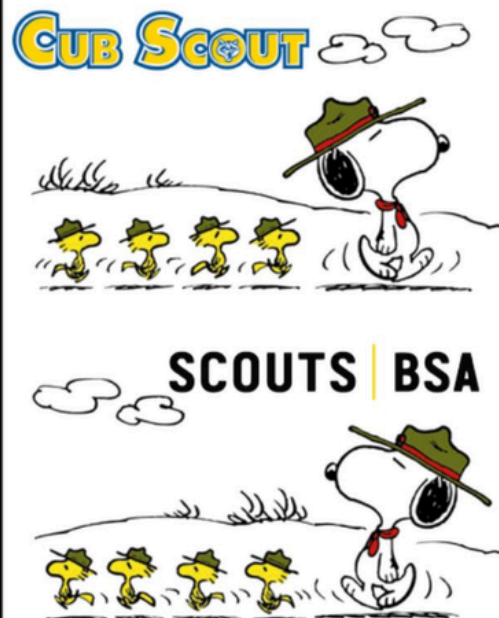


- Currently, dues are \$150. They are due by September 1st.
- Recharter fees vary by National BSA Recharter/Tidewater Council Program fees, but they average around \$100. These are due by September 15th.
- Monthly camping costs vary greatly. They average \$25-ish to cover gas, plus \$10-15 to cover each scout's portion of the Patrol's food for the weekend. Scouts sometimes need money for the ride home on Sunday if the plan includes a lunch stop as well. Special trips, like canoeing/tubing, snow tubing, going to DC, or other special destinations may cost upwards of \$100. You will be given an estimated cost as soon possible so you can plan for that expense.
- Summer camp varies depending upon the camp chosen, the distance from home (gas/travel, food stops), and incidentals during camp (visiting the camp store for snacks and souvenirs). The last two years, camp has cost around \$460.
- We will have fundraising opportunities that sometimes allow the scouts to earn money in their own Escrow accounts that can help offset the cost of these expenses. Balances will be updated in their Scoutbook accounts.

Parents in the Troop

Welcome to Scouting USA! You'll learn that your role as parents is very different from your time in Cub Scouts. Unlike the pack, the troop is *Scout led*. The Scouts plan, conduct, and carry-out the activities our troop does with minimal interference from adult leaders. When they need help, they begin with their patrol leaders rather than asking the adults.

LEADERSHIP



Any adult who wishes to serve in a leadership capacity can register as a Troop Committee member. You will have an opportunity to volunteer for the troop in a role that fits your availability and interests.

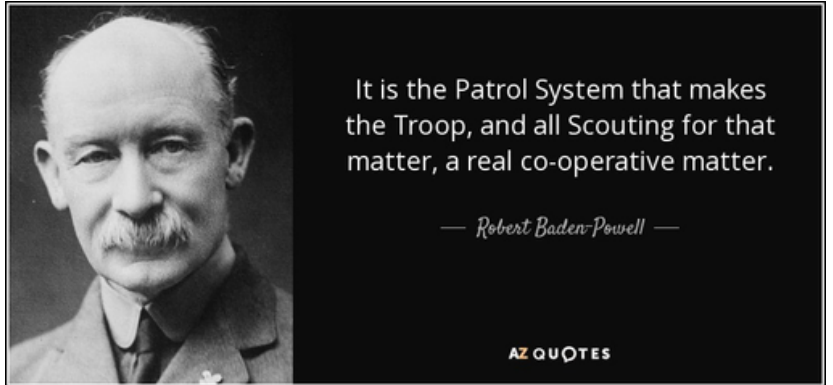
Volunteer opportunities include:

- Assistant Scoutmasters
- Committee Members (see handbook for specific positions)
- Merit Badge Counselors

ALL adults who want to spend the night on a Troop 6 event **MUST** be a registered adult volunteer who has completed Youth Protection Training.

Patrol Method

Troop 6 uses the Patrol Method to run the troop. Adults stand aside and let the Scouts do the planning and implementing of activities. Patrols provide an opportunity for the youth to learn important leadership skills.



Small groups of Scouts are placed in a patrol together. New Scouts are grouped together so they can learn the basics of Scouting from their more experienced peers. Within these patrols, there are youth leaders like Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders, and Instructors. The Scoutmaster and ASMs provide these leaders with the tools and encouragement to do their jobs.

On campouts, patrols camp together. They assign each other duties including setup, food prep, cooking, and cleaning. Within these patrols, the Scouts learn to problem solve, build Scout spirit, and share their knowledge with each other. Sometimes, the patrols will create cheers and skits with each other as well.



Patrol leaders have a monthly leadership meeting. This is where they can share concerns, plan events, and fine-tune the plans for the upcoming month's meetings.

Scouting is a safe place to fail. Even when the patrols endure a difficulty, this method allows them to learn from the experience and become better leaders and team members.

How does camping work?

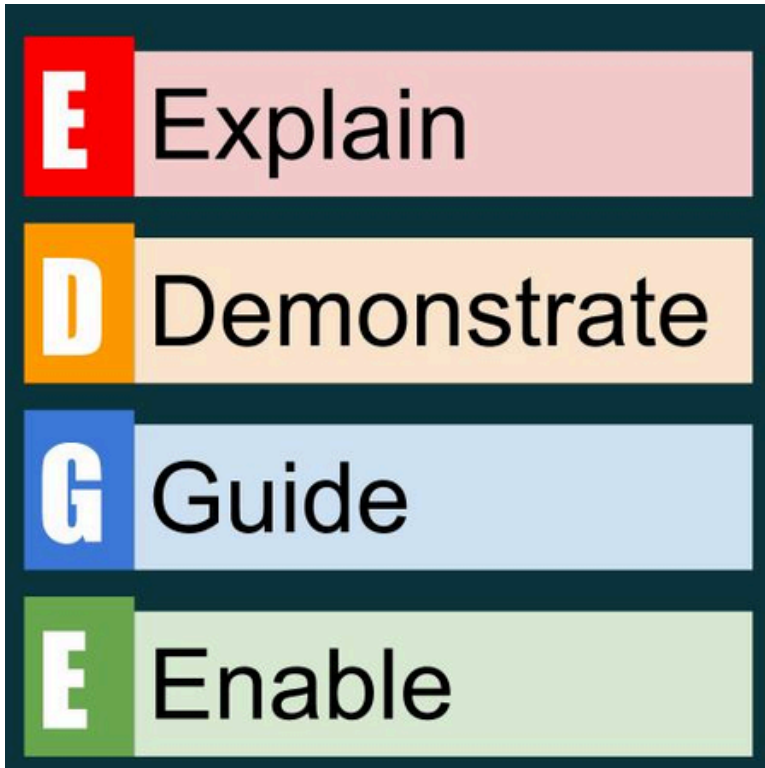
Camping as a Scout is different from family camping as Cubs. While adults are used to helping their boys pack, set-up their tent, and cook food, in Scouting America the boys do it themselves. Older patrol members will assist the newer Scouts in anything they need. The adults who go on the trips will ensure everyone is safe, but it is the boys themselves who handle the planning and carrying out of camp activities.

You will be notified in advance of the basic plans for each camping trip. It is important you arrive on-time at the church so we can leave promptly. This ensures everyone gets to camp on time and can set up their sites quickly before lights out. On the way home, you'll be notified when we are getting closer to the pickup location.

How can you help your Scout to have a successful experience as a camper?

- Let them pack their own belongings. The Scout Handbook has suggested items, and the troop has lists of these as well. If you're unsure of something or have questions about specific items, have your Scout ask his patrol members for answers.
- Remind them that their patrol members will help them! New Scouts are sometimes nervous about things like setting up their tents or knowing what to do. Remind them that their patrol members were new once, too, and will be sure to instruct and assist where needed!
- On long trips like summer camp, we will do our best to have the boys call home at some point during their week. If they sound upset on the phone, reassure them that they're doing great and you'll see them soon! The first long camp away from home can be tough, but we promise--they're in good hands! All our Scouts have experienced what they are going through.
- **MAKE SURE THEIR MEDICAL FORMS ARE TURNED IN BEFORE THE TRIP!** Med forms A&B are for any event, Med form C is for trips longer than 72 hours. If you take these to your pediatrician, they are used to completing these at their annual physical.

EDGE Method



The EDGE method is the teaching tool used in Scouting to help Scouts learn new skills. It helps experienced Scouts practice leadership, and newer Scouts learn skills and information in a safe, supported manner.

It can be used in any location and teaching any skill. It helps Scouts learn to do new things with confidence.

Explain: The first step is to provide a clear explanation of a skill. The trainer will outline the steps involved and set clear expectations for the intended outcomes.

Demonstrate: Next, the Scout will demonstrate the skill and ensure the other Scout(s) understand what is doing and how to complete the task.

Guide: The Scout who is learning the skill is guided through trying the new activity on his own. He can ask questions and the Scout who is teaching him is able to encourage him and provide corrective feedback as he practices.

Enable: Lastly, the learner is able to perform the new skill independently. Successful completion of this step shows that the learner is capable of performing the new skill on their own!

Here is an example of using the EDGE method.

The important things

In Troop 6, the Scouts plan and decide on the programs, run the meetings, manage their equipment, plan and execute trips and activities, and become self-motivated to advance. We want to stress that there are important lessons in the success and failure of their plans.

What's really important?

- Not the food on the camp outs, but that the boys chose and cooked it
- Not that a Scout has the perfect gear for any outing, but that he packed it and is responsible for it
- Not who would make the best patrol leader, but that the boys elected them
- Not that a Scout learns a skill perfectly, but that he learned from another Scout who encouraged him
- Not that we cover everything on the agenda, but the Senior Patrol Leader runs the meeting

Again, **Scouting is a safe place to fail**. The boys learn to support each other and learn from their mistakes. They learn critical leadership skills, how to think outside the box, and how to problem solve in practical ways. They learn to lead their peers and work in teams. They learn respect comes when they respect others. They learn to be responsible for their gear and the troop's gear.

As adults, it is hard to not step in and work things out for the boys when we see them encounter a difficulty. But if we give them a chance to learn from times when they are disorganized or encounter difficulty, while standing by to provide guidance and ensure safety, they'll surprise us with how independent they truly can be.

Teach them. Trust them. Let them lead.

Scouting Lingo

Scouts has its own vocabulary, and sometimes Scouters forget new parents don't know what everything means. Here are some of our frequently used words that relate to the Scouting experience.

- **advancement:** The process by which a youth member meets certain requirements and earns recognition. The guide to advancement can be [found here](#).
- **Aims of Scouting:** The Scouting program has four specific objectives: character development, citizenship training, leadership, and mental and physical fitness.
- **assistant patrol leader:** appointed by the patrol leader as a helper and to take the patrol leader's place in that youth leader's absence.
- **assistant Scoutmaster:** a volunteer Scouter, 18 or older, appointed to help the Scoutmaster
- **board of review:** A review held to determine if a Scout has satisfactorily completed rank requirements. A review may be held also to encourage Scouts who are not advancing. For the Tenderfoot through Life ranks, the board of review is conducted by the troop committee. For the Eagle Scout rank, the council decides whether the unit committee or the district or council committee responsible for advancement conducts the board of review. At least one district or council advancement representative shall always be a member of the unit board of review.
- **buddy system:** safety system where Scouts group together and keep an eye out for each other during Scouting activities. No Scout should ever be alone.
- **camporee:** Derived from two words: camp and jamboree. A camporee is a district or council troop activity that demonstrates the techniques of living in camp. It involves a one- or two-night camping experience and may include outdoor skills competition.

- **chartered organization:** A religious, civic, or other community-based organization that has applied for and received a charter to operate a Scouting unit. (Our chartered organization is Great Bridge Baptist Church. Troop 6 operates under a charter sponsored by the church.)
- **chartered organization representative:** A manager of Scouting in a chartered organization who also represents this organization in the local council and district.
- **court of honor:** A recognition ceremony for those who have met the requirements of any one of the Scout ranks, merit badges, or other awards.
- **Eagle:** the highest rank for Scouting America members
- **Jamboree:** A term chosen by Baden-Powell to describe the first international gathering of Scouts camping together in London in 1920. The term is restricted to indicate a national or world jamboree. Capitalize “National Jamboree” and “World Scout Jamboree” in all references. Also capitalize “Jamboree” when referring to a National Jamboree or World Scout Jamboree. Scouting America has a National Jamboree every four years. World Scout Jamborees are also held every four years. A Scouting group attending a jamboree is referred to as a “contingent.”
- **Leave No Trace:** Scouting America is committed to this nationally recognized outdoor skills and ethics awareness program to reduce impacts on the environment and other people. The seven principles should be followed at all times in the outdoors: Plan ahead and prepare; travel and camp on durable surfaces; dispose of waste properly (pack it in, pack it out); leave what you find; minimize campfire impacts; respect wildlife; and be considerate of other visitors.
- **merit badge:** A recognition given to a Scouting America member for completing the requirements for the badge. There are more than 130 subjects in life skills, hobby, and career fields, with requirements and supporting pamphlets to help Scouts broaden their outlook. You can see all of the [current merit badges here](#).
- **patrol:** A small group of Scouts (usually five to eight) who belong to a troop and work together in and out of troop meetings. Normally, there are several patrols in one troop.

- **Safe Swim Defense:** An eight-point plan of recommended procedures for conducting group swims. The eight points are (1) qualified supervision, (2) personal health review, (3) safe area, (4) response personnel (lifeguards), (5) lookout, (6) ability groups, (7) buddy system, and (8) discipline.
- **Scout Basic Essentials:** These are a pocketknife, first-aid kit, extra clothing, rain gear, water bottle, flashlight, trail food, matches and fire starters, sun protection, and map and compass.
- **Scout benediction:** May the Great Scoutmaster of all Scouts be with us until we meet again.
- **Scout handshake:** This unique greeting is given with the left hand, the thumb separated from the fingers.
- **Scout Life:** the youth magazine for all Scouts
- **Scout salute:** A hand salute made by Scouts and Scouters with the fingers of the right hand held in position as for the Scout sign.
- **Scoutmaster:** A volunteer Scouter, 21 or older, appointed by the chartered organization to lead a Scout troop.
- **Totin' Chip:** A recognition given to Scouts who subscribe to the Outdoor Code and understand and can demonstrate the proper handling, care, and use of woods tools.

There are lots of other terms used within the world of Scouting. For more information, please see the [Scouting America website here](#).



Where do we belong?

Here is the organizational information for Troop 6.

Council: Tidewater Council

District: Three Rivers District

Lodge (Order of the Arrow): Blue Heron Lodge

Chartered organization: Great Bridge Baptist Church

Key 3 Leaders:

Council president, John Scheib

Council Commissioner, Tim Briggs

Scout Executive, James Parnell

[The Tidewater Council staff directory can be found here](#)

[The Tidewater Council Governmance and officers can be found here](#)

The Scout Shop is located at the Tidewater Scouting America Headquarters. Our local shop does not sell online, but you can check their hours and contact information [here](#).

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