

376

TROOP 376 ~ PARENT'S GUIDE 2017 - 2018

Rev 3/25/2018

1.0 Troop 376 Summary

Troop Meetings:	Tuesdays 7:30-9PM in the SMS Cafeteria Class A uniform, Handbook & pen / pencil required.
Committee Meetings:	Church of the Good Shepherd, 2nd Thursday of the month, at 7:30PM.
Sponsoring Organization:	Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Granite Springs, NY.
Executive Officer:	Reverend Hal Roark, Rector of Good Shepherd (248-5631)
Charter Org. Representative:	Thelma Barlow (248-5732)
Troop Committee Chair:	Dominic Veltri (917-282-1695; dpveltri@verizon.net)
Scoutmaster:	Andy Cheung (914-260-4239, acheung376@gmail.com)
Senior Patrol Leader:	Liam Bruskwicz
Scouts in the Troop;	44(as of January 1, 2018)
Years in operation:	26 years (Founded in January 1992)
Range of Troop Size:	7-73 boys
Number of Eagle Scouts:	43
Annual Dues:	\$100 collected in September (\$ 80 additional brothers / sibling discount)
New Scout Registration:	\$60 (upon joining in Spring) offset the cost of class B shirt, neckerchief, hat, patches, awards, troop activities and supplies, district event fees, etc.
New Scout Training:	Campout in April for new scouts and parents too.
Adult Committee Training:	In Sept/Oct and Feb/April of each year, at the Council offices
Summer Camp:	Scheduled for July 22- July 28, 2018 Camp Read ~\$430.00 per scout (\$460.00 after 6/1). If schedule doesn't fit, individual camping can be arranged.
Scout gear needed:	Scout Handbook, uniform shirt, Scout pants [belt optional]. Backpack, Sleeping bag, pad, flashlight, Nalgene bottle, mess kit – cup, bowl, spoon, fork, approved pocket knife- (Totin'Chip must be earned), good hiking boots, and toiletry articles.
Troop Provided:	Troop numerals, shoulder loops, Class B shirt [Earned after 1 st campout]. An embroidered oversize Troop Neckerchief is available upon joining, and is suitable for First Aid training (additional neckerchiefs -\$10). The neckerchief is worn at parades, Courts of Honor, Eagle ceremonies, and other special events. Class B shirts for adults are also available for \$10 each. The Troop provides tents, lanterns, cooking gear and various patrol/troop camping equipment for campouts.
Advancement:	Most skills for Scout through 1 st Class are taught and signed-off by the Junior Leaders and scouting adults. Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review verify the advancement work. Parents can help with learning the skills at home.
Merit Badges:	Taught & signed by registered Merit Badge Counselors. The boys do these at summer camp, at meetings (if on the night's program), before or after meetings (if on own), and on their own initiative - with leader approval and always with another scout or adult present.
Medical Forms:	The Troop requires an annual Boy Scouts of America Annual Health and Medical Record (Medical Form) on file to be completed by the Scout's Health Care Professional and Parent

or Guardian. Medical forms may be downloaded from the Troop or Council Website.

Troop Permission Form:

A Troop Permission Form (Activity Consent) is for all Scouts to participate in a trip, expedition, or activity is required. Forms may be found on the Troop Website.

Additional Information:

The Council Website has a wealth of information about Scouting in our area, and many links. www.wpcbsa.org.

Our Troop website at troop376somers.com - can also be reached from the Council site. You can check the Troop website (or facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SomersTroop376>) for current updates. The Troop email account is somerstroop376@gmail.com, all Troop activities will be communicated through this email.

2.0 Differences from Cub Scouts

2.1 Scout Responsibilities

The purpose of Scouting remains the same, to learn while having fun, and in doing so, to develop leadership skills. The greatest difference between Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting is the shift from a parent-run organization to a boy-run organization. Boys are given the leadership responsibilities.

To advance in scouting, each boy should participate in the four areas of Troop activity: Outdoor Activities, Scout Skills, Service, and Leadership. **Parental support and encouragement remains very important** for long term success in Scouting.

2.2 Parental Responsibilities

Supporting your son in Scouting will help him get the most out of the program and is also rewarding and enriching for the parent. Parents can be involved in any of the Troop Committee jobs, as uniformed leaders, and of course, for transport to and from activities. The Troop expects the parent(s) of each scout in the Troop to help in some way. Not everyone may feel they are suited to providing adult supervision on campouts, but all are encouraged to explore the possibilities.

Youth Protection Training is available online through the Boy Scouts and is useful beyond Scouting. ALL involved parents participating in events or outings **ARE REQUIRED to take YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING AND WEATHER HAZARDS TRAINING**. Other training is available through Council for all levels of participation, from Committee work to outdoor leadership. Youth protection training is valid for 2 years and must be kept current.

3.0 Troop Organization

3.1 Chartering Organization

The Troop is "owned" by the sponsoring Charter Organization. For Troop 376, this is the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Granite Springs. Besides chartering the Troop, the church provides space for our Courts of Honor. The Executive Officer Rev. Hal Roark. The point of contact with the Troop is a member of the sponsoring organization, Ms. Thelma Barlow, who has the title of Charter Organization Representative.

3.2 Troop Committee

The Troop is run by a Troop Committee, led by the Committee Chair Dominic Veltri. This committee is primarily made up of parents of scouts & volunteers. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters participate in the Troop Committee, but are not voting members. Troop 376 has maintained a tradition that the Scoutmaster is a parent of an active scout. **All parents are encouraged to participate in Troop Committee meetings.**

3.3 Boy Leadership

The Troop organization and operation is by patrols, groups of 6-12 boys led by a Patrol Leader. There are additional positions within the patrol such as assistant patrol leader, patrol scribe, and patrol quartermaster. Your son will be assigned to a patrol after a brief time getting to know his fellow scouts.

Troop meetings are run by the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). He appoints and is assisted by one or two Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL). In our Troop, the Scoutmaster with approval of the Troop Committee usually appoints the SPL. The SPL also runs the Patrol Leaders Council, which plans Troop meetings and activities. These meetings are also

known as Green Bar Meetings from the characteristic green bars on the leadership patches.

At this time, Troop 376 has six patrols. Five are “traditional” patrols, the sixth is our senior patrol, composed of boys that have been Patrol Leaders and have now moved into Troop leadership positions such as SPL, ASPL, Instructor, Troop Guide, OA Representative, and Jr. Assistant Scoutmaster. In some Troops this patrol may be termed a Venture Patrol.

3.4 **Adult Leadership**

For all activities, we are required to have at least 2 adults present. In addition, at least one adult must be trained and certified in Youth Protection, First Aid, and CPR. Generally, we try to register those adults who frequently participate in activities, and encourage them to receive training. Registration covers the adult leader with supplemental accident insurance and the required Council background check. Starting in 2018, any adult staying at summer camp will need to be registered.

Some Troop positions are noted as follows:

Scoutmaster (SM) – Andy Cheung

Assistant Scoutmasters (SMA) - Carl Gebauer, Joseph Cuiffo, Dave Bruskiwicz, Mark White, Peter Schmitt, Richard Cassin & Gus Talleur.

The adults that guide the boy leaders in day-to-day activities are the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters. The Troop Committee and Charter Organization maintain a tradition of the Scoutmaster being a parent of a boy in the Troop. The Scoutmaster typically serves in that position for 2-5 years.

In our Troop, we have a uniformed SMA to advise each patrol. Adult training is available and is actually fun. Our currently registered SMA's are very experienced Scouters.

Additionally, Troop 376 has an active Troop Committee which meets once per month and helps plan and guide the direction of the troop.

4.0 **Activities**

Scouting is three quarters **outing**. Consequently, Troop 376 concentrates on outdoor activities, with regular campouts, various hikes and other outdoor activities. We don't do a lot of cabin or “car” camping, and during the year we will progress towards a backpacking camping trip at the end of the scout season.

4.1 **Policies**

- **Permission Slips:** All activities require permission slips signed by a parent. Blank forms will be available at the meeting site and the troop website, however; only the parent/guardian signature will be accepted.
- **Sickness:** During a campout, summer camp or trek, in the event of a scout coming down with a condition that puts himself or the rest of the group at risk [i.e.; stomach virus, high fever, lice, etc], the parent/guardian will be made aware of the situation and it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to come and remove the scout from the group. If this is not possible, the leader in charge, only as a last resort, shall make the final decision.
- **Electronics:** **It has been Troop policy not to allow electronic devices on outings** so that the boys can better appreciate the great outdoors. **Cell phones will be collected before each campout.** We strongly suggest the boys leave them home. It will be one less thing they will have to worry about losing. Cell phones still have a place as emergency equipment (outgoing emergency calls).
- Talk to a leader if you need clarification. Parents are asked to cooperate in this policy both as a parent and when providing leadership at an event. **If a scout brings his cell phone to a meeting, it must be kept off until the end of the meeting.**
- **E-mail:** The e-mail list is to be used for scouting purposes **ONLY!** It shall **NOT** be used to promote any personal uses or views.
- **BSA policies are followed at all scouting activities.** Setting a good example for our boys is the best way to influence them as they mature. **Smokers are requested to please refrain from, or to smoke out of sight of the scouts.**

4.2 **Weekend Campouts**

The Troop attempts to schedule one campout per month. Besides Troop-only campouts, these may include District, Council, or National Camporees. We try to go to at least one “new” camp each year, and do one cabin campout in mid-

Winter. Wherever possible, the Troop schedules two-night campouts, Friday night to Sunday morning.

4.3 Hikes

Hikes are frequently a part of an overnight campout. In addition, we schedule day hikes in the area. Opportunities in Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland Counties abound. An Orienteering Meet will occasionally substitute for a hike.

4.4 Other Activities

Scouting is open to many activities and our schedule and activities are driven by the boys' (and parents') interests. Some activities we have done in the past are bike hikes, rock climbing, fishing, visiting places of worship, attending community functions, scout swim nights, participating in conservation and community beautification projects, and going on ski trips. Almost any activity can be accommodated, as long as BSA policies are adhered to.

4.5 Summer Camp

Attending summer camp is an important part of scouting. It is a good opportunity to build independence and self-confidence. For many boys, this is the first time away from home and family. As parents, YOU will know your boys better than we do. If YOU don't think your son is ready to go to camp, he may not be. There is nothing wrong with waiting a year for your son to mature. A good deal of advancement work can be accomplished at camp, while having a great time.

In 2018, the Troop is scheduled July 22- July 28, 2018 at Camp Read. Camp Read is located at the North end of Brant Lake, just North of Lake George in the Adirondack Mountains of NY. The 1200-acre camp lies in a valley and is surrounded by Wilderness areas, making it one of the nicest scout camps in the country.

The Troop will be staying at Camp Waubeeka in 2018, offering the patrol cooking option. We will also be doing the Zip Line (into a pond), Low Cope, Caving, whitewater rafting and climbing during the week.

4.6 High Adventure

Scouts are eligible for high adventure treks after completing the 8th grade (13 yrs old). In recent years, the Troop has completed:

- Canoe treks through the Adirondack lakes. Other opportunities are Adirondack backpacking treks or National high adventure trips. In July 2017, the Troop completed a 50 Mile Canoe Trek.
- Scouts in the Troop had completed a trek at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico for a 12-day, 90+ mile, backpacking adventure in 2003, 2007, 2010, 2013, and 2016.
- The troop also completed treks at the Florida Sea Base, in the Florida Keys in 2008, 2011, 2014, and 2017.
- During the summer of 2009, the Troop participated in a Maine High Adventure Trek. The group completed a 57-mile trek, which included climbing to the peak of Mount Katahdin and canoeing 44 miles through the lakes in the backwoods of Maine.

4.7 Gas Money

Occasionally, summer camp participants will be charged an additional \$25.00 to help defer the cost of fuel to get to and from Summer camp. This money will be set aside for the leaders who are volunteering their time to stay the week and driving the boys back and forth to camp. On campouts or activities that require a lot of driving (i.e. Gettysburg, Block Island) a similar charge may be added. **As a courtesy, through the year, the boys should try to offer a driver gas money. It will be the driver's decision to accept it or not.**

4.8 Fundraising

The "Friends of Troop 376" run fundraising events to help support our program. It is expected that each scout participate in these activities in support of his Troop. In the fall of recent years we ran successful fundraisers selling raffle tickets for an Ipad Mini with a 2nd and 3rd place prize offered. Drawings are held the 2nd Tuesday of December. New ideas for Troop fundraising activities are always welcome. In 2017 all Scouts were required to sell \$60 worth of raffle tickets, 3 sales opportunities were provided and all scouts met their target.

5.0 Advancement

5.1 Advancement Process

For all scout ranks, the advancement process follows the same general process:

- 1) Skills are learned and requirements signed-off. (All ranks have participation requirements; later ranks have service and leadership requirements)
- 2) The scout schedules a Scoutmaster's Conference where skills, service, and participation requirements are reviewed.
- 3) The scout appears before a Board of Review (several parents) where the scout's activity in the Troop is reviewed. In

all of these reviews, living the Scout Oath and Law is taken into consideration. The scout's views on how the Troop is functioning are also solicited.

4) The scout receives his rank advancement at a Court of Honor.

5.2 Courts of Honor

The Troop holds three Courts of Honor during the year: at the Church in late September or October, where summer camp ranks and badges are presented; a second at the Church in late January or February; and a final less formal COH during our end-of-year picnic.

A special Eagle Court of Honor is held when one of our Scouts attains the Eagle rank.

5.3 Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class

All the basic scout skills are covered in the Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks. The Patrol Leaders and the senior scouts teach these skills, and in the process, master the skills themselves. Adults act as quality control for this instruction.

5.4 Star, Life, and Eagle Ranks

After First Class, advancement is by completing participation, Merit Badge, service, and leadership requirements. The highest rank in scouting is Eagle, which requires a substantial service project that also demonstrates leadership. **The Eagle Candidate must continue to be an active participant in troop activities [Meetings, Service Projects, Campouts, etc.].** In all of these ranks, and particularly Eagle, **character counts**. The Scout must live and act according to the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

6.0 Service

An important part of Scouting is service to others. **Do a Good Turn Daily** – this is the scout slogan.

The Troop maintains the Todd Cemetery at the corner of Routes 100 and 139 as a way of fulfilling this service to the community. **PARTICIPATION AT THE CEMETERY IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED!**

Activities include spring and fall cleanups and weekly cuttings during peak growing season. Service hours will accumulate for rank advancement. The Troop also participates in Memorial Day and Veteran's Day parades and POW/MIA Ceremonies. In November of 2008 thru 2017 the Troop collected over 300 pounds of goods and supplies each year and shipped them to a company of soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Troop plans on doing this again in 2018. Service opportunities are also available helping senior scouts work on their Eagle service projects.

The Scouts also express appreciation to our sponsoring church by serving a breakfast to the congregation following Sunday service. Scout Sunday is usually in February or March. Scouts participate in that service by ushering and reading the lessons.

7.0 Russell Faeth Award

The Russell Faeth Scout Spirit Award is presented annually to a member of Boy Scout Troop 376 who is an enthusiastic participant in scout events, and who strives to live the Scout Oath and Law. Russell was a member of Troop 376 who passed away at a young age, but who will always be remembered for these traits and his love of Scouting. For the first time in 2010, two scouts received this award. Russell's parents make every effort to attend the award ceremony each year.

	2012	Michael Bridgham	2006	Peter Perri
	2011	Alec Meeker	2005	Derrick Lee
2017		Tyler Brownstein	2010	Conor Talleur
2016		Sean Moran	2010	Jeff Goldberg
2015		Alex Lulgjuraj	2009	Nick Maenza
2014		Riley Westerman	2008	Jon Dunstan
2013		Michael Cuiffo	2007	Dan Kupferschmid
			2000	Corey Brennan

8.0 Troop 376 Eagle Scout Honor Roll

Troop 376 is very proud of all of our Eagle Scouts. They have all shown the dedication and commitment to get them to the ultimate goal in scouting. Below is a list of the young men who have completed their trail to Eagle.

Brock Spears 1995	Steven Goldbach 1997	Adam Green 1997
James Penny 1997	Patrick Smith 1997	Jonah Safris 1998
Colin Hopper 1998	Robert Goldbach 1999	Sean Marchetti 1999
Lars Holmstrom 2000	Dylan Carey 2000	Eric Germann 2003
Joseph Gherardi 2004	Michael Gebauer 2006	Michael Court 2006
James Gherardi 2007	Daniel Kupferschmid 2008	Benjamin Mezic 2009
Victor Speziale 2009	Nick Maenza 2009	Derrick Lee 2010
Jerren Chang 2010	Jon Dunstan 2011	Simon O'Keefe 2011
Joseph Cuiffo 2011	John Ferretti 2011	Jemmin Chang 2012
Jeffrey Goldberg 2013	Craig Dammeyer 2013	Conor Talleur 2013
Dan Carlton 2013	Alex Court 2014	Zbynek Gold 2014
Alec Meeker 2014	Brandon Pelter 2014	William Barlow 2015
Christopher Tousto 2015	David Kessler 2015	Phillip McDermott 2015
Kristopher Swee 2015	Peter Ferretti 2016	William Walsh 2016
Jerry Chang 2016	Eric Dammeyer 2016	Michael Cuiffo 2017
Sean Bruskwicz 2017	Richard Haigh 2017	Drew Cassin 2017
Declan Talleur 2017	Dominic Veltri 2017	William Siebert 2018