

Somers BSA Troop 376

Troop Guidelines

BSA Troop 376



Somers, NY



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SomersTroop376.org

2023 - 2024

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Greetings Troop 376 Parents,

The committee and uniformed leadership have developed these guidelines for our troop following the aims and methods of the Boy Scouts of America. We kindly ask your cooperation by thoroughly reading and following these guidelines. With your cooperation, our adult leadership and our youth-led troop can do their best to offer a quality experience for all scouts.

Yours in Scouting,

Troop 376 Adult Leaders and Committee Members

Troop 376 Guidelines & Information

Troop Communications

Announcements are made at the beginning of every Troop meeting by Scouts and Adult leaders. To foster independence, your Scout is expected to write down important information and pass it along to their parents. A follow up e-mail is often sent to reinforce what was announced at the previous meeting. The troop website is: www.somerstroop376.org where you will find the calendar of events, the troop permission slip, BSA forms, event pictures and other information.

Meetings

Please check the Troop calendar on the website for location and exact dates. If a location change is needed the troop will be notified via email.

Troop Meetings are held most Tuesday nights. “Class A” uniforms are required at every event unless other attire is specified. The complete Class A uniform consists of a Scout shirt (tucked in), Scout pants, Scout belt, Scout hat, Scout neckerchief and slide, and boots. The Scout uniform is a crucial part of Scouting.

Patrol Leader Council (PLC) or “Green Bar” Meetings are scheduled once each month on the first Tuesday of the month before the Troop meeting. Scouts in leadership positions are expected to attend and participate in planning that month’s meetings, campouts, and other events.

Committee Meetings are held each month, typically on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Please check the calendar on the website for the exact date/time/location of each meeting. Parents are *strongly encouraged* to attend committee meetings and actively support the troop, helping with the many troop events / jobs. A Volunteer Handbook is available on the troop website, outlining the various ways adults can assist.

Courts of Honor are scheduled three times each year, usually in October, March, and June. Eagle Scout Courts of Honor are held when a scout earns the Eagle rank. All scouts are expected to attend all Courts of Honor regardless of receiving awards or not.

Campouts/Trips/Events

At least one troop trip, event, or campout is scheduled for each month. Scouts must let their Patrol Leader know if they are attending. Signed permission slips are required for each trip/event. Permission slips and any associated fees should be submitted no later than the troop meeting preceding the trip. Accurate information is essential for

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agendas, food, logistics, and driving arrangements. Patrol Leaders and Adult Leaders should know exactly who is attending each trip. Our volunteers devote many hours organizing trips; please be respectful of their efforts. A cancellation after a deadline date may not receive a refund.

AT MINIMUM, two (preferably three or four) YPT-trained adult leaders must be present for any event, with at least one being the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster. ***If an event lacks sufficient adult leadership to satisfy this requirement, it will be canceled.*** For this reason, we strongly encourage parents to become active adult leaders.

Scouts and parents are expected to stay for the duration of the trip unless arrangements have been made in advance. A parent leaving an event early may only take their own Scout with them. Scouts in leadership positions are strongly discouraged from leaving early as it disrupts the patrol method.

The use of electronic devices by Scouts is strictly forbidden at all Troop 376 events. Phones and other electronic devices insulate the Scout from the Troop and detract from the outdoor experience, the program experience, and the Scouting experience for himself, the Patrol, and the Troop. On trips, Scouts' phones should be packed away, powered off, and remain in the vehicle you traveled in. Parents are also expected to enforce the no electronic devices policy. If electronics use is witnessed during a troop event, the device may be confiscated for the remainder of the trip at the discretion of the adult leader in charge.

Parents wishing to participate in any event must submit a BSA Adult Application and complete BSA's Youth Protection Training (YPT). When attending Troop 376 trips, parents should not interfere with Scouts during skills instruction, cooking duties, or any other activity performed by the Scout during the event. Parents should also refrain from disciplining, commenting, or interfering with Adult Leader duties unless specifically asked by an Adult Leader. Please understand that some trips may have space limitations and may not be available to all parents all the time. Parents coming to campouts and events should consider themselves spectators rather than joining in with whatever the Scouts are doing. In addition, parents should NOT help their Scout set up their campsite, cook for them, follow them around or otherwise take care of them during an event. Scouting is intended to foster independence rather than dependence on their parental unit. When in doubt, ask an Adult Leader for permission to participate.

Scouts at public events and campouts must adhere to the Scout Oath and Law at all times. The following actions are prohibited at all Troop 376 events and campouts:

1. Insubordination - not following Scoutmaster's or other adult or junior leader's reasonable instructions.
2. Physical or verbal abuse or harassment of another person.
3. Leaving designated area without Scoutmaster's permission.
4. Cursing, foul language, offensive or indecent gestures.
5. Excessively rowdy, unruly, loud, disrespectful, disobedient, or disruptive behavior.
6. Fighting with or teasing others within or outside the troop.
7. Touching another Scout's belongings/entering another Scout's tent without permission.
8. Smoking or use of any controlled or illegal substance.
9. Behavior in opposition to the aims of the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and the Outdoor Code.

It is also expected that the Scout contribute and participate in the Campout's agenda and activities. Refusing to participate in patrol duties such as cooking or cleaning is not allowed. There is plenty of free time during a campout for each Scout to "do their own thing" but "doing your own thing" instead of performing Patrol responsibilities is not allowed. The following consequences will occur if the rules of conduct stated above are not followed:

1. The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) will give verbal warning (Strike 1)

2. If 2 warnings are given during a single activity (campout, meeting, etc.) by the SPL, a conference with an adult leader will take place who will at that time discuss the infraction with the Scout, reminding the Scout of the Behavior and Discipline policy. (Strike 2)
3. After the 2nd Strike, any subsequent offense will result in the Scout's parent being notified by the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair detailing the Scout's infractions. The Scout will not be allowed to attend future events unless a parent or guardian stays at the event with them.
4. Serious infractions will be subject to the parents being called immediately to pick up their Scout from the activity, regardless of time (day or night).
5. Depending on the nature of the infraction, the Scoutmaster or adult in charge may suspend the Scout from attending any future Troop activities until a Board of Review has met with the Scout and his parents. The Board of Review should consist of the Scoutmaster and Committee members as appropriate to discuss the event. The purpose of this meeting is for the Scout to explain his behavior. The circumstances should be clearly and honestly stated. Appropriate discipline will be assigned at this meeting. Possible actions may include requiring the Scout's parents to attend the next activity, temporary suspension from future activities, or permanent expulsion from the Troop.

Uniforms

Class A Uniform: Official tan Scout uniform shirt (tucked in) with all requisite patches, Scout (or similar olive-green) pants/shorts, official Scout neckerchief and slide, official Troop or Scout hat, Scout belt, and appropriate closed-toe footwear (ideally boots). Class A uniforms are required at every event unless other attire is specified.

Class B Uniform: Class B t-shirt (one is provided free upon joining the troop, with additional shirts available for purchase), Scout (or similar olive-green) pants/shorts, Troop or Scout hat, and appropriate closed-toe footwear.

Advancements

To receive earned ranks, badges, and awards at our Court of Honor ceremonies, all required paperwork, Scoutmaster Conference, and Boards of Review must be completed **prior to** the Court of Honor. A deadline is typically set approximately three weeks before the CoH. This enables our Advancement Chair to purchase and organize all awards in time for the ceremony.

As a Scout, I have read and reviewed the above with my parents and will abide by all the rules stated above.

Scout Name (Print): _____

Scout Signature: _____

As a parent, I understand that my behavior directly impacts my Scout's ability to participate in a troop activity. I will honor everything stated in this agreement so that my Scout can have a high-quality Scouting experience.

Parent Name (Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

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Greater Hudson Valley Council

Email: SomersTroop376@gmail.com

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