

Boy Scouts of America

**TROOP 110
Lincroft, NJ**

Welcome Guide



Senior Patrol Leader

Matt Walker

Scoutmaster

Corey Seckular

Committee Chairman

Pete Sparaco

Chartered Organization and Rep

Lincroft PTA

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BSA Mission Statement

The mission of BSA Scouts is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

The Aims of Scouting

The Scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "Aims of Scouting." They are

Character development
Citizenship training
Personal fitness

The Methods of Scouting

The methods by which the aims are achieved are listed below in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each.

Ideals The ideals of BSA Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan.

Patrols The patrol method gives BSA Scouts an experience in group living and participating in citizenship.

Outdoor Programs BSA Scouting is designed to take place outdoors.

Advancement BSA Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method.

Association with Adults Boys learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves.

Personal Growth As BSA Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth.

Leadership Development The BSA Scouting program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills.

Uniform The uniform makes the BSA Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community.

General Troop Information

Welcome

Welcome to BSA Troop 110. Our troop has a long, successful and proud history of scouting within the Lincroft area. We believe in the Scout Oath and Scout Law and try to instill those values in the boys. Our troop's goal is to follow the mission, aims and methods of BSA Scouting.

We have prepared this guide as a resource for parents whose sons are beginning the journey in Troop 110 and in scouting. We are known as a 'Boy Run' troop, so please share this information with your son. If you or he have any questions about the troop, or scouting in general, please feel free to reach out to the Scoutmaster or any of the adult leaders of the troop.

Troop Meetings

The troop meets each Wednesday night at Lincroft School, 7:30 – 9:00 PM, when school is in session. If the school is closed, the troop meeting is also cancelled.

Our scout year runs from September to May.

A troop calendar with specific dates for meetings, events, campouts and activities is sent out in August. It is also on our web page at <http://www.bsatroop110nj.org/> and in Scoutbook.

Troop meetings are used to prepare for outdoor program activities, develop skills, and have some fun. Youth and Adult Leaders and merit badge counselors are often available during a portion of the meeting to review and test Scouts on specific advancement requirements.

Patrol Leaders Council Meetings

The youth leadership of the troop schedules planning meetings roughly once a month to plan the calendar and activities for the troop.

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Meetings

The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters (ASMs) are the adult leaders that work directly with the scouts and are responsible for the image and program of the troop. These adult leaders meet periodically outside the regular meetings. The Scoutmaster and assistants are responsible for training and guiding youth and youth leaders in the operation of the troop. Leaders must be officially registered and must complete BSA Youth Protection Training (YPT) and position specific training.

Troop Committee Meetings

The Troop committee primarily supports the troop and is responsible for the business aspects of the troop. It is comprised of parents and former parents helping to support the troop program. Committee members must be officially registered and must complete BSA Youth Protection Training (YPT) and the Committee position training. The troop committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 7:45 – 9:00 PM at Lincroft School.

New Parent Orientation

At some points around the scout year, we hold a new parents orientation meeting. If you don't already have one, this Welcome Guide will be provided. At the meeting we welcome all your questions. But don't wait for the meeting, feel free to reach out to our adult or youth leaders at any time to ask questions.

Parent Involvement

We encourage all scout parents to participate in the troop's organization as Committee Members or as Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM). Volunteers are needed and appreciated to support the troop. Depending on your desires and experience the two roles are different. Both positions require registering with the BSA, position specific training and to actively participate.

Committee Member is less time consuming, requires less scout skill knowledge and is a great way to learn how the Troop operates. To become a member, complete an application (position code MC), take Youth Protection training, take online committee member training, attend monthly meetings, assist with a committee position or activity and help out with Boards of Review (BORs).

Assistant Scoutmasters are more hands on and a little more time consuming. To become an ASM, complete an application (position code SA), take Youth Protection training, take online ASM training, attend weekly meetings, attend campouts and assist the Scoutmaster at his discretion in leadership.

Please decide which organization you will join.

Parents are encouraged to also just attend committee meetings with no commitment required. It's a way to find out how the troop works and be involved with your sons activities.

Parent involvement on campouts, especially Summer Camp, is also welcomed. Typically, parents attend campouts to provide support for the functions of the troop, not to assist their own sons. However, it provides a wonderful opportunity for parents and sons to bond and share experiences. National BSA requires that all adults staying overnight with the scouts be registered. See annual dues below for registration fees.

Boy Scouts, as you will quickly find out, is very different to Cub Scouts. In Boy Scouts, emphasis is placed on the boy to manage his own scout career. This often presents a challenge to parents. Parents should strive to 'let' the scout succeed and fail on his own, so that he may grow. Throughout your son's journey, you will often hear the leaders of the troop encourage the scout to manage his own affairs and also encourage the parents to allow that to happen.

Training

All registered adult leaders in the BSA are required to take '**Youth Protection Training**' (YPT) every 2 years. Monmouth Council further requires this training every year. This training is for the safety of both the youth and adults. In addition, there is online training in many areas of scouting depending on the position you hold that must be taken. Monmouth Council also conducts training. Monmouth Council requires all ASMs and Committee Members to be trained at their position. At least one adult from each Troop family is required to have YPT.

Youth training is conducted annually by Troop 110 adults for troop youth leaders. BSA also offers youth leadership training. See Council training website for details.

<https://www.monmouthbsa.org/training>

Troop Website

<http://www.bsatroop110nj.org/>

Key Contacts

Scoutmaster	<i>Corey Seckular</i>	<i>917-539-7059</i>	<i>Troop110lincroftsm@gmail.com</i>
Committee Chair	<i>Pete Sparaco</i>	<i>732-687-5172</i>	<i>Psparaco2@outlook.com</i>

Chartered Organization

The chartered organization holds the formal, legal relationship with the Boy Scouts of America for the purpose of offering the Scouting program to its membership and the surrounding community. Troop 110 is chartered by:

Lincroft School PTA

Chartered Organization Representative

The chartered organization representative (COR) is the direct contact between the troop and the chartered organization. The COR helps select the right leadership for the troop and promotes a well-planned, quality unit program, including outdoor programs, advancement, and recognition.

Scoutbook

Scoutbook is a secure online software tool used by troop leaders, scouts and parents to track and manage a scout's advancement and participation. It is also used to manage the troop and its activities. Scoutbook is linked with national BSA for synchronization of scout records.

Scoutbook will become available to a scout's parents upon their son joining the troop via an email invitation initiated by a troop leader. Parents only have access to their own child's records and can also see the troop roster. Scouts can also have a login to Scoutbook, to manage their own records. Scouts access to Scoutbook can only be initiated by his parent, not a troop leader. Scout access is also accomplished via an email address. If the scout has an email address, and the parent approves, then the parent can connect the scout.

Email/Text/Remind

Email and text are the primary means of communication within the troop. Please be sure to keep your contact information up to date in Scoutbook and by informing the committee secretary. You are encouraged to list your son's direct email (if he uses his own account) and phone number, if applicable, in addition to parents' email, to promote the responsibility of the Scout to stay informed and grow in self-reliance. We have introduced Remind as a way for information to be sent out, too.

Advancement

Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others. **Parents play a vital role in encouraging and motivating their Scout, but each boy must take responsibility for his own growth in the program.**

Each Scout will progress at his own pace, so he should never feel as though he is competing with his fellow Scouts.

First Class Trail

Rank advancement in Boy Scouts consists of seven ranks a Scout earns by meeting specific requirements that he can find in the Boy Scout Handbook. After joining, he will focus on participation in camping and other troop activities and learn basic Scout skills in areas like first aid, knots, knife and axe handling, fire building, cooking, flag etiquette and citizenship. He may work on requirements for the junior ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class in any order, but **must** earn them in order.

An active Scout may reasonably set a goal of achieving the rank of First Class within 1-2 years after joining.

To advance, Scouts must:

- Complete all requirements per the BSA handbook
- Participate in 50% of meetings
- Participate in 50% of trips
- Participate in 50% of troop activities
- Be paid up in dues.

The Process:

- **A Scout Learns** - He learns by doing, and as he learns, he grows in his ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others; and in this way he learns and develops leadership.
- **The Scout Is Tested** - The unit leader authorizes those who may test and pass the Scout on rank requirements. They might include his patrol leader, senior patrol leader, an assistant unit leader, another Scout, or the unit leader himself. Merit badge counselors teach and test him on requirements for merit badges.
- **The Scout Is Reviewed** - After he has completed all requirements for a rank, the Scout meets with a board of review (see below).
- **The Scout Is Recognized** - When the board of review has approved his advancement, the Scout deserves recognition as soon as possible. Recognition is usually at both the troop meetings and at the next Parents Night - Court of Honor.

Scout Spirit

Each rank requires a Scout to live with "Scout spirit" in his everyday life. Scout spirit is the name we give to the collective ideals of the Scouting program as codified in the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Motto and Slogan. This requirement is usually signed off in the scoutmaster conference after a discussion of what Scout spirit means and how the Scout is living those ideals. The conversation about Scout spirit gets more involved as the Scout matures and advances through the ranks. Each successive rank will require new examples of scout spirit.

Scoutmaster Conference

When the Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank advancement, he should request a Scoutmaster conference. The scoutmaster or a designated assistant will schedule a meeting to discuss the Scout's progress. The scoutmaster conference is a chance for the Scoutmaster to get to know the Scout better, ensure he has been adequately tested on the requirements, and assess whether the troop program is meeting the needs of the Scout. It will often involve a discussion of the Scout's goals, and guidance in achieving those goals (in selecting a leadership position for example.) This meeting is a private conversation but must meet the BSA youth protection rules by taking place in public or within sight of others. Campouts, hikes or a mutually convenient time outside troop meetings are best. Parents should encourage Scouts to plan ahead and not rush to schedule this meeting just prior to a Parents Night - Court of Honor.

Board of Review

The Board of Review (BOR) is the final step that a Scout takes to earn a new rank (all ranks, including Eagle). It is a meeting with troop committee members to discuss the Scout's readiness for advancement. This is also an opportunity for the committee members to assess the success of the troop program in light of the experience of a particular Scout. It is not a re-test, but the committee may ask questions to ascertain how well the Scout has performed in meeting requirements for the rank, as well as whether the Scout is advancing in the goals of character building, citizenship and personal fitness. At the conclusion of the board of review, the board will briefly discuss the candidate in private, and then immediately inform him whether they have found him qualified to advance. Once passed by the board, the Scout officially holds his new rank. Recognition is usually at both the troop meetings and at the next Parents Night - Court of Honor.

BOR Schedule:

Board of Reviews are conducted by the committee during the 3rd Wednesday of the month troop meeting and may also be conducted on the 1st Wednesday in conjunction with the regularly scheduled Committee meeting.

In addition, the committee will convene a BOR on request to facilitate a scout with an immediate need. However, please be judicious about requesting this and try to plan accordingly.

Senior Ranks

The senior ranks of Star, Life and Eagle require participation in the troop, holding a leadership position, earning merit badges, living the Scout Oath and Law, and performing community service. Once a Scout has earned the rank of First Class, he will set a more individualized course of personal development to earn these senior ranks. All senior Scouts are expected to set a good example for younger Scouts and seek leadership opportunities to help the troop operate successfully as a 'Boy Run' troop. As a percentage of all Scouts, very few earn the Eagle rank, so emphasis should be placed on personal development, not the rank.

Leadership

A Leadership position is required to earn Star, Life and Eagle Ranks. To satisfy the leadership requirement the scout must:

- 1- Request a Leadership position from the Senior Patrol Leader. The Senior Patrol Leader will discuss with the Scoutmaster and determine availability and timing of assignment of a position.
- 2- Develop knowledge and skill related to the position held and demonstrate and teach those skills to others.
- 3- Actively participate in activities requiring the positions (trips, patrol leaders council, service days, den meetings, etc.).
- 4- These positions have a time component. Satisfaction of this requirement demonstrated during active participation during the troop scouting year.

A scout holding a leadership position accepts responsibility to perform certain tasks or to achieve certain desired results. He must discuss these tasks/results with the Scoutmaster and SPL and agree on what is considered an acceptable level of achievement.

Merit Badges

The merit badge program allows each Scout to develop skills and knowledge in over one hundred specific areas of interest, guided by an approved adult merit badge counselor. To achieve Eagle rank, 21 merit badges must be earned. Of the 21, 14 specific badges are required badges. See handbook for details.

While any Scout may work on merit badges, new Scouts should usually focus on rank advancement until they reach First Class, especially when it comes to the required badges, which usually involve a significant amount of effort. Summer Camp is an exception, all scouts, new and older, are encouraged to attend Summer Camp and work on merit badges. At Summer Camp, scouts should focus on Summer Camp type merit badges. These are ones that are harder to obtain elsewhere (like swimming, canoeing, and small boat sailing). Typically, scouts can earn 3-4 badges in a single week.

There is no time limit for earning a merit badge other than completion before the Scout's 18th birthday. However, working on more than one of the more challenging badges at a time often results in loss of focus and is not recommended.

The Merit Badge Process

When a Scout decides he wants to work toward a specific merit badge:

- 1- He should request a merit badge application ("blue card") from the scoutmaster.
- 2- The scoutmaster will let the scout know who the approved merit badge counselor is for the badge and sign the card.
 - a. Note: The troop also maintains a counselor list on our web page.
- 3- **After** obtaining a signed blue card from the Scoutmaster, the scout may begin work on the badge with the counselor.
- 4- The merit badge counselor initials the card after the scout shows he has met each requirement.
- 5- When all requirements are complete, the signed application is then returned to the scoutmaster, who approves it and processes it forward.
- 6- The Scout keeps one section of the application card as his record until he is presented with the award.

Merit Badges at Summer Camp

Summer camp provides scouts with a great opportunity to complete outdoor badges (swimming, fishing, environmental science, shooting, archery, etc.). Scouts are encouraged to take these badges since some contain requirements that can only be completed in a BSA camp.

It is the Troop's policy that:

- 1- Scouts complete all pre-requisites before attending camp.
- 2- To maximize completion opportunities, scouts are encouraged to take no more than four merit badges per week.

Merit Badge ‘Fairs’

Some area councils, including Monmouth, occasionally offer merit badge fairs. This is an additional opportunity for scouts to earn merit badges. Scouts must still go through the above merit badge process before attending fairs.

It is the Troop’s policy that:

- 1- Scouts must complete pre-requisite requirements before attending the fair.
- 2- To maintain focus a scout is limited to three or less merit badges. In addition, only one of those three can be a required merit badge.

Parents Night (Court of Honor)

A ‘Parents Night - Court of Honor (or court of awards) is the troop’s formal program for recognition of rank advancement, merit badges and other awards the Scouts have earned. Regular Parents Night - Courts of Honor are scheduled into the troop calendar twice a year (usually in November/December and May/June). All scouts and their families are encouraged to attend. Attendance at parent’s night shows active participation in the troop and goes towards honor scout award.

Note that a Scout has earned his new rank when he passes his board of review, not the court of honor, for purposes of the participation requirement for his next rank. A special court of honor is held to recognize the rank of Eagle Scout and is scheduled on as-needed basis in cooperation with the Eagle Scout and his family. Moms are given a ‘mothers pin’ representing each rank earned by their son, recognizing the key role of parental support. They can wear a ribbon with all the pins at each Court of Honor they attend.

Service Projects

Community service is a significant aspect of character development and citizenship, and a major focus of Scouting activities. Service projects are an integral part of the annual troop program plan. Scouts advance by participating in Service Projects. Service provided to satisfy requirements for other organizations (school, sports teams, etc.) can be counted toward advancement requirements within the troop but will not also be counted toward Merit Badge requirements.

Eagle Service Projects

On the trail to earning the rank of Eagle, a Scout is required to plan and execute a community service project incorporating a significant amount of volunteer labor. Fellow Scouts usually do the bulk of the work on these projects. This is an opportunity for the scout to demonstrate leadership which is a major part of the Eagle Scout requirement. These projects must be approved by the Scoutmaster, Troop Committee and Monmouth Council. Eagle Scout projects must be evaluated primarily on impact—the extent of benefit to the religious institution, school, or community, and on the leadership provided by the candidate. There must also be evidence of planning and development.

Order of the Arrow

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is sometimes referred to as the “honor society” of Scouting. The OA is dedicated to the ideals of Scouting, and especially cheerful service. Service in the OA most often takes the form of conservation or other outdoor projects, frequently in support of the local council’s camp properties. A Scout must meet certain eligibility requirements including an active camping record and be elected by his troop as exemplifying the ideals of Scouting, before being invited to join the OA. As an OA member, a Scout will have the opportunity to participate in additional camping, service and fellowship activities.

Andrew J. Lennert Honor Scout – Troop 110

The AJL Honor Scout award is a plaque and monetary award given to 3 scouts for first, second and third place. The AJL Honor Scout award is presented during the June Parents Night.

Troop 110 has a history, initiated by our long-time Scoutmaster, Andy Lennert, starting in the late 1950s, of honoring our top 3 scouts for their achievements, participation and spirit accumulated during the scout year. Originally called 'Honor Scout', now renamed to 'AJL Honor Scout'. The criteria to win the AJL Honor Scout award has been handed down through the years with little change. It is basically all the qualities of being a 'good scout'. To achieve it, the Scoutmaster tabulates points for the below criteria. The scout with the highest number of points wins.

Criteria:

- Ranks earned
- Earning Eagle scout
- Required merit badges
- Non-required merit badges
- Nights camping
- Meeting attendance
- Service hours worked
- Participation in special events (e.g. Father & son Breakfast, Scout Sunday, recruitment events)
- Earning membership in the OA or advancing in it
- Participation in Summer Camp
- Participation in High Adventure
- Completing Training (PLS, NYLT)
- Geranium Sales
- Earning religious emblem

Troop Operation

The Patrol Method

Robert Baden-Powell said, "The patrol method is not 'a' way to operate a Boy Scout troop, it is the only way." So, what are patrols?

Patrols

The patrol is a group of approximately six to eight Scouts, with a patrol leader (PL), which operate as a team within the troop. Troop operations are almost always carried out within the context of patrols. The patrol camps and eats together, sharing the work and solving problems along the way. The Scouting program encourages good spirited competition between patrols. When the patrol method is working well, a Scout will think of himself foremost as a Flying Llama or Ninja Bacon, and then as a member of the troop. Patrols may be reorganized occasionally to keep the number of Scouts within an effective range. New scouts are added to existing patrols as they join to facilitate integration into the troop. Troop 110 does not form a 'new scout patrol' as do some troops. We typically add new scouts to a patrol with a need, and where they may have a friend. The scouts can have input to the patrol they join.

Communication

The rule-of-thumb is that communication regarding troop activities should go between the scout and the PL and to the SPL. Adults should contact adults. Of course, communication is very important, so this is not a hard-fast rule, especially for new, younger scouts. Issues regarding safety should immediately be brought to the attention of an adult leader by anyone.

Code of Conduct and Discipline Policy:

Good behavior is essential to any program and will be strongly supported by Troop 110's youth leaders (scouts) and adult leaders (Scouters). Good behavior is a primary element of showing Scout Spirit, which is a requirement for advancement. The troop's level of authority is as follows:

- Troop Committee
- Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster
- Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)
- Patrol Leader (PL)
- Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)

In each situation, the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or any trained adult leading an activity will have the final authority. The purpose of the authority structure is not to remove authority from the scouts, but to augment and uphold their responsibility.

Scouts will not participate in any activity that could be considered dangerous to their fellow Scout. These include but are not limited to hazing, harassing, bullying, abuse of fire or flammable materials, or abuse of sharp instruments. Scouts will conduct themselves properly during all troop activities. If the behavior isn't allowed at school or church, it's probably not acceptable behavior.

During all meetings and activities, when the Scout sign is held up, all Scouts and adults shall immediately cease talk and movement and display the same sign. The Scout Uniform (Class A) is to be worn at most troop events. Scouts also will wear their uniform traveling to and from camping and other activities related to BSA. Scouts must wear their uniforms in a manner that will reflect credit upon themselves, the Troop, the Charter Organization, and BSA. This means: Clean, neat, tucked-in, buttoned, and with appropriate insignia. They should also demonstrate good 'scout manners' when in public and wearing the BSA uniform.

Respect for fellow scouts, adult leaders and others is expected. Behaviors such as bullying, harassment, foul language, hitting, fighting, and disruption will not be tolerated. Under NO circumstances will adult or youth leaders administer physical punishment for any reason. Scouts or adults observing such activity will take immediate measures to stop such activity.

Discipline:

1. Scout leaders, (SPL, ASPL, PL) are responsible for maintaining troop discipline.
2. Discipline in patrols will be handled by the Patrol Leaders. Patrol Leaders have the authority to ask any patrol member to shape up and/or leave a patrol meeting and report to the SPL (Senior Patrol Leader). An adult leader must be notified of actions taken. When the Patrol Leader cannot handle the problem, he must obtain help from the Senior Patrol Leader. The Senior Patrol Leader has the authority to ask a Scout to leave the meeting area and report to the Scoutmaster.
3. When the Senior Patrol Leader cannot handle the problem, he must obtain the help of the Scoutmaster.

4. When the Scoutmaster determines that a Scout requires discipline, the following actions are taken:
 - a. First Instance – Conference with the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster. All such conferences should be attended by an appropriate Boy Scout Leader and by another adult leader in accordance with the BSA ‘Youth Protection’ policies.
 - b. Second Instance – Conference with the Scoutmaster and a phone call to parents explaining the problem and stating that one more complaint may result in suspension or expulsion.
 - c. Third Instance – Conference with the Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, and parents. Based on the Scoutmaster’s recommendation, the Scout may be suspended or asked to leave the troop.
5. The Troop Committee may proceed immediately with any level of discipline without conducting previous lower levels of discipline, if the Committee deems the severity of the circumstances warrant such action.

The above steps are not meant to discourage either the Patrol Leader or Senior Patrol leader from seeking advice from the Scoutmaster or any adult leader when they are having leadership challenges but are intended to state discipline options in advance.

If a Scout is disruptive during any event (meeting, camping trip, day trip, etc.) and it is determined by the adult leader of the event that the Scout’s continued presence will continue to be disruptive, the parents of the scout will be called (anytime; day or night) to come and get the Scout.

If a Scout feels he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by another scout, he may seek help from the Senior Patrol Leader. A Scout who feels that he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by the Senior Patrol Leader may seek help from the Scoutmaster, and a Scout who feels that he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by the Scoutmaster may seek help from the Troop Committee Chair.

Inappropriate Behavior:

No Scout shall use, possess, and/or distribute tobacco or any controlled substance (drugs and alcohol). Scouts found to have used, possessed, or distributed a controlled substance at a Scouting function will be subject to immediate disciplinary action.

Troop 110 has a zero-tolerance policy for fighting. Fighting is not permitted and is grounds for immediate disciplinary action. Parents will be contacted immediately.

Foul language, swearing, cursing and abusive/suggestive/offensive gestures are not in keeping with the ideals of Scouting and will not be allowed. A Scout is *Reverent, Courteous, and Clean*. Disrespectful language to any Scout or adult is unacceptable.

The Boy Scouts of America prohibit the securing, use, and display of fireworks in conjunctions with programs and activities. Scouts are prohibited from possessing or using fireworks.

Scouts are not permitted to possess firearms.

Sheath knives are not permitted. Lock-blade and pocket-knives are permitted, but the blade may not exceed 3 inches. Scouts carrying pocket-knives must have their *Totin’ Chip* card in their possession as prescribed by the BSA training requirements. If the *Totin’ Chip has not been earned*, the knife will be confiscated and returned at the end of the activity.

Sexually explicit materials in ANY media format shall not be brought to Scout activities. If found, such materials will be confiscated and returned to the parents of any scout involved.

Troop 110 policies prohibit Scouts from bringing electronic devices on activities. Examples include but are not limited to radios, televisions, PDA's, iPod's, video games. For special occasions and long trips, arrangements can be made for the use of the above equipment during travel to and from the activity. The Scoutmaster or adult leader has the authority to confiscate all items deemed inappropriate or dangerous. Personal items confiscated may be returned to the Scout's parents.

Adult Leader Conduct:

Adult leaders shall exhibit the ideals of Scouting when working with the boys. They will strive to set a good example in their handling of all situations. Standards of conduct in personal habits, language, hygiene, and interaction with Scouts will be in accordance with the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. Conduct befitting a Scout is expected of adult participants as well.

Please note that this is a volunteer run organization. Good behavior to the adults volunteering their time to provide an excellent scout program is expected. Cooperation from scout families is essential.

Cell Phones

Many scouts have cell phones. While we understand the desire to use them during troop activities, it is discouraged. Scouts enjoy themselves more when engaged with other scouts and participating in the events. Cell phones do serve a purpose for having a way to communicate in emergencies. Cell phones are permitted on campouts and at meetings, but if they become a distraction, it may be confiscated and returned to the Scout or his parents at the end of the event.

Troop Costs and Financials

Troop 110 has always strived to provide the boys with a rich program and activities. We believe that the variety of scouting functions offered by us and through Monmouth Council helps us achieve the “Aims of Scouting”, which are **character development, leadership development, citizenship training, and personal fitness.**

It is the troops intent to make Scouting accessible to all youth regardless of their financial situation. If any of the costs of participation in the troop are a hardship for your family, please speak to the Scoutmaster or with the committee chair or another leader about options. There are conditions where either Monmouth Council or the troop can help financially.

The troop has two sources of income. They are (1) annual dues (prorated for boys who are currently registered from Cub Scouts or another troop) and (2) Geranium sale fundraiser, which is conducted in May. The troop does not sell popcorn or participate in any other fundraising.

The annual dues and geranium sale cover our cost to National/Monmouth Council for annual registration renewal of members and to pay for our Troop Program.

The Troop Program is what the troop offers to the boys to achieve the ‘mission, vision, aims and methods of scouting’. Our program expenses include: camping gear, training gear, awards and emblems, camp fees, Honor Scout awards, troop shirts and hats, Parents Nights supplies, Eagle presentations and awards and other miscellaneous items and activities.

Annual Scout Dues

A dues payment each year is required for a scout to remain active.

Scout dues are currently \$200 per year, plus \$15 if a scout wants the ‘Scout Life’ magazine. We collect dues from each scout member in the troop. Also, if a member is new to scouting, there is a onetime charge of \$25. See the dues chart below.

Our dues cover the annual cost from BSA National and Monmouth Council to renew a scout member or adult member. We only charge scouts (youth) dues. The renewal cost for actively participating adult members (see ‘Parent Involvement’ above) is covered by the youth dues as we don’t charge dues for them. The difference between the dues collected and our cost for registration renewal of members goes to offset the Troop Program expenses.

If a scouts dues become past due, the scout will not be permitted to attend campouts or advance through ranks until they are paid.

Scouts are encouraged to subscribe to Scout Life, a magazine devoted to sharing stories, ideas and interesting facts about scouting. This is an additional \$15 collected at the time of registration.

Adult Registration Fee

As stated above, the troop pays for the cost to register participating adults. Per National BSA, **all adults attending overnight campouts must be registered and paid.** The troop does not pay for annually registering adults members that only attend camp outs. The individual pays that expense. Currently \$75/year.

ALL REGISTERED ADULTS, REGARDLESS OF PARTICIPATION LEVEL, MUST ANNUALLY TAKE THE 'YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING (YPT).

Annual Dues Renewal Date

As of August 1, 2023, BSA National has change their process and date for yearly member registration renewal. Previously, all members were renewed and charged each year in December. Our troop traditionally collected the dues two months before, around October. Starting in August 2023, a members annual renewal registration and fee will be the anniversary of when they joined scouting. The registration lasts for one year, and there will no longer be proration.

For anyone that was a member of scouting prior to August 1, 2023, their renewal date will continue to be December, therefore our troop will collect annual renewal dues from them in October as we did previously. For anyone that joins scouting after August 1, 2023, their renewal date will be the month that they joined scouting, the troop will collect annual renewal dues two months prior. Members and member parents will receive an email requesting the dues in the appropriate month.

Please DO NOT pay BSA National directly if requested.

For transfers (Cub Scout 'cross overs' or from other units), the same renewal pattern will apply for annual renewal. Their annual renewal date will be December if they joined scouting prior to the change or the month of joining if after the change date. However, when an existing member transfers, the troop will still charge a prorated dues charge to cover the troops portion of the dues. This cover the troop expenses between the time he transfers in and until his annual national renewal date. That fee is \$5/month for the remaining until renewal date.

As of this writing, the process is still being developed by National and by the troop. Please bear with us we work out anomalies of our new policies.

Troop 110 Annual Dues Schedule 2024						
Existing Troop 110 Scouts		New to Scouting		Mon Council transfer	Other scouting unit transfer	Scout Life magazine (optional)
Dues	Late Fee	Dues	Joining Fee (one time)	Cost/Month	Cost/Month	
\$200	\$10	\$200	\$25	\$5	tbd	\$15

Note: Dues are collected beginning two months before a scout members annual scouting renewal month based on joining date.

Months until
renewal date

Months until
renewal date

Applies to all

Geranium Sale Fundraiser

Troop 110 conducts one fund raising event per year. Our troop sells geraniums just before Mother's Day. The proceeds of our geranium sale fund our Troop Program and activities, as our dues fee generally only covers the annual registration cost from National/Monmouth Council.

The geraniums are very easy to sell, and scouts often exceed their quota. Each scout is obligated to sell 4 dozen (48) geranium plants. New scouts, those that this is their first year selling geraniums, are only obligated to sell 2 dozen (24) geraniums.

We highly encourage each scout (and family) to sell as many plants as they can, as this is a very important fundraiser to the troop. We cannot provide a high quality scouting program without resources. To encourage sales, we reward scouts financially for selling in excess of their quota. We also award top sellers with prize money. Please encourage your sons to work hard on this.

Please note, scouts that do not sell their minimum quota, are still required to pay for their quota amount (48 or 24 plants), and will receive the plants if desired. All scouts are required to support this fundraiser.

Activity and Extra Fees

Not all activities are covered by the troop budget. Expensive, specialized activities such as Summer Camp and High Adventure camp are not covered. Meal costs for campouts are **not** covered specifically to give scouts the responsibility for managing the funds and doing the grocery shopping for their patrol. Other examples of things not covered include travel costs to drivers, entry to museums, rental of equipment, and merit badge required resources. Boys are required to pay these fees if they participate in the activity.

Troop Supplied Gear

Upon completion of 'Scout' rank and payment of dues, the scout will be presented with the following:

- Troop 'Bolo' tie
- Troop 'Class B' tee shirt
- Troop cap
- BSA 110 uniform patches
- Troop neckerchief

The scout is responsible for the care of these items and will be instructed when to wear them. There is a fee for replacement or outgrowth. All other scout required gear, such as handbook and uniform should be purchased by the scout's family.

Payment Methods

The troop accepts as a form of payment Venmo transfers or checks for all activities and troop payments. Venmo is the preferred method. We no longer accept cash for any activity or collection.

Venmo payments can be sent to:

@Troop-110 (use verification number 2908 if prompted)

Please make a note on Venmo to include: all members full names that the payment is for AND the activity

Checks can be made out to: **'BSA Troop 110'**, *also make the same note as above.*

Any refunds or payments made back to scouts or families will be in the same manner as received or Venmo where possible.

Participation and the Outdoor Program

Troop Participation

The Scouting program consists of activities such as meetings, campouts, Klondike Derby, community service, youth service projects, and hiking. Rank advancement, leadership roles and general 'good standing' within the troop is directly related to participation in the above activities.

The scout program is designed to take place in the outdoors. Our goal is to hold at least one outdoor activity per month.

To be considered 'active' in the troop, attendance at 50% of meetings and 50% of activities is required. 100% meeting attendance is not uncommon and rewarded with attendance awards (pins).

Camping

A typical campout weekend consists of a Friday evening departure from the school, Saturday program, and usually return by noon on Sunday. Scouts will be allowed to arrive late or leave early without penalty as long as advance notice provided by parent. However, this will not be allowed on a recurring basis since it leaves the scout's patrol at a shortage of scouts for setup, cleanup, and equipment assignments clean-up/ departure activities. The camping program usually includes some Scout skills, patrol participation, cooking, competition and fun. The troop owns tents and cooking equipment that are usually carried to camping events in a troop trailer or in drivers' cars.

Hiking and Day Trips

Troop 110 has a long history of enjoying historic trail hikes. Over the years we have completed hikes in New Jersey (Jockey Hallow and Washington's Crossing), New York (Upper and Lower NYC) and Pennsylvania (Valley Forge, Ben Franklyn and Philadelphia) just to name a few. Upon completion of the hike a scout will earn a commemorative patch and/or medal that can be worn on his uniform.

Summer Camp

Participation in summer camp is strongly correlated with a boy remaining active in Scouting and advancing in rank.

Scouts will have the chance to work on Scout skills, merit badges and a variety of outdoor activities, including some that are difficult to do at other times (e.g. swimming, fishing, archery, rifle shooting and small boat sailing). Also, Summer Camp is time for them to have fun while learning.

The troop usually attends summer camp at Forestburg Scout Reservation the second week of July.

High Adventure

Older Scouts can engage in more challenging outings known as “high adventure.” The BSA operates four national high adventure bases: Philmont Scout Ranch in the New Mexico highlands, the Northern Tier Adventure Base in the boundary waters area of Minnesota, Sea Base in the Florida Keys, and the brand-new Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia.

In addition to the national camps, Troop 110 has created their own high adventure trips which tend to be less expensive than the national camps. To list a few; we have canoed in Maine as well as the Upper Delaware river, biked Cape Cod, biked from Cumberland Maryland to Georgetown and sea kayaked off New Hampshire. The troop tries to do a variety of these over the years. High adventure programs are generally restricted to Scouts at least 14 years old.

Program Planning

The annual program plan and detailed event plans are developed by Scouts (see Youth Leadership below) with input from the scoutmaster and troop committee. The potential variety of the program is practically limitless. Encourage your Scout to talk with his patrol leader and fellow Scouts about ideas for activities that would be fun for the troop.

Stuff Scouts Need

Families should use discretion when beginning to equip a boy to be a Scout. The handbook and a uniform are important, but other clothing and equipment can be acquired over time. It is often possible to find ‘experienced’ uniform parts and equipment within the troop to help reduce the cost. The troop maintains an experience uniform tub. You are welcome to look for uniform parts that fit and we encourage you to contribute out-grown uniforms when the time comes.

The Scout Shop at the council office carries all official BSA merchandise. There are many outlets for outdoor gear in the area. ScoutStuff.org is the BSA online store.

If you aren’t sure, please ask for advice before making significant purchases.

The Boy Scout Handbook

The Boy Scout Handbook is a Scout’s reference manual, textbook and advancement log. Currently in its 14th edition, for over 100 years, this book has continuously evolved making it an outstanding guide for both new Scouts and parents. A Scout should put his name in his handbook immediately and bring it with him to meetings and campouts. After he is tested on each advancement requirement, a senior Scout or adult leader will initial and date the appropriate place in the handbook. This becomes the Scout’s personal record of his achievements and is a very important cross-check against troop and council records. There is also a space to keep a basic log of participation in troop events and outdoor activities.

Note that the Handbook is a key reference tool for both scouts and parents, its value to assist in the BSA program is essential.

Uniform and Insignia

Troop 110 scouts wear a “full uniform” for normal troop events including troop meetings.

A full uniform consists of Scout shirt, Scout shorts or long pants, Scout belt, and Scout socks. A leather Scout belt and Scout buckle may be substituted for the standard web belt. See the uniform guide on the inside covers of the Scout Handbook for proper placement of insignia.

Do not purchase patches (council strip, troop numerals, and patrol medallion), epaulets, and neckerchief as these will be provided upon achievement of the first rank (Scout Rank).

The troop often has ‘experienced’ uniform parts in smaller sizes as newer Scouts tend to grow quickly. Please consider donating outgrown uniform parts back to the troop.

The activity uniform (“class B”) is a Scout t-shirt with Scout shorts, scout belt and scout socks.

- New scouts will receive a t-shirt when they earn their first rank.
- T-shirts will be replaced as scouts outgrow them.
- Scouts will need to pay \$10 for additional shirts or to replace a lost shirt.

Class ‘A’ – The complete full uniform as described above

Class ‘B’ – The activity uniform as described above

Class ‘C’ – Just a troop shirt (can be any shirt from a previous campout or the class B shirt)

Footwear

Please don’t send your Scout on outdoor events wearing sneakers. They simply aren’t comfortable or safe for most hiking and camping. Look for sturdy shoes to protect the foot. Typically, a boot should cover the ankle; be waterproof and insulated for winter wear, though this will raise the cost, and those features are less important in warmer weather. Purchasing expensive footwear is not necessary for the younger new scout.

Outdoor Clothing

Clothing needs will depend heavily on what type of activities your Scout likes, and what time of year he is outdoors. It will take more specialized clothing to be comfortable on a winter campout than a spring hike. Plan to accumulate outdoor clothing over time. It is often expensive, but with care each item should last for many years. Think layers and avoid cotton where possible. Outdoor stores carry poly underwear and long johns, which is the right place to start. Thin pile, thicker fleece and a windproof outer layer are most useful as separate garments rather than a combination –layers.

Equipment

The troop provides an equipment list for camping. The scout handbook is also a good source for information, particularly the '10 essentials'.

Typical items a scout should have

- Sleeping bag (appropriate for season)
- Rain gear
- Backpack
- Personal first aid kit
- Mess kit – lightweight plastic is best
- Cup
- Spork

Please discuss with the Scoutmaster or any Assistant Scoutmaster the details of the gear and where to obtain them.

Medical Form and Application

A medical form and Application form must be completed for all new scouts to the troop. They will be provided by the Scoutmaster.

For the medical, parts A and B can be completed by the parents and are required for all overnight camping trips. **Part C is only required when attending Summer Camp** and must be dated within one year of the end of our camp stay. So, for example, if summer camp is July 17 - July 23, **2022**, the medical must be completed on or after July 24, 2021.

The medical form must include the following:

- Signature of Doctor in Part C (summer camp only)
- Signature of parent or guardian in Parts A and B
- Complete immunization dates in Part A
- Emergency notification and pick-up information in Part B
- Prescription medication forms should be turned in with medications upon arrival at camp.

Troop 110 is guided by the Boy Scout Oath and Law

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

Reverent

Joining Troop 110 Quick Startup Guide

Since we know the above information can be overwhelming, this list is a quick guide to the scout getting started.

- Start attending our Wednesday meetings – Parents welcome to stay to get to know people
- Complete a BSA application
- Purchase a full uniform (see above) from the scout store (located in the Monmouth Council building at 705 Ginesi Dr, Morganville) or one of the other area stores
- Do not purchase patches (council strip, troop numerals, and patrol medallion), epaulets, and neckerchief as these will be provided upon achievement of the first rank (Scout Rank).
- Purchase a 'Boy Scout Handbook'
- Complete a medical form
- Contact any of the below people if you have any questions

Key Contacts

Scoutmaster	<i>Corey Seckular</i>	<i>917-539-7059</i>	<i>Troop110lincroftsm@gmail.com</i>
Committee Chair	<i>Pete Sparaco</i>	<i>732-687-5172</i>	<i>Psparaco2@outlook.com</i>