



Parent Guide

TROOP 1983 Oakton, Virginia

Powhatan District National Capital Area Council

Troop 1983 is a chartered organization of
Vale United Methodist Church
11528 Vale Road, Oakton, VA 22124
<http://www.valechurch.org/bsatroup1983/>

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Welcome to Troop 1983!

By becoming a parent of a Boy Scout, you are setting your son out on the grand adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him. Membership in the troop is open to all persons meeting the membership rules established by the Boy Scouts of America without regard to race, creed, religion, national origin, or physical handicap.

What Does a Scout Do in Troop 1983?

Weekly Troop/Patrol Meetings

Most Mondays, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at Vale United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall. Scouts work on scout skills, merit badge activities, plan outings, and participate in games. Each meeting includes scout-led patrol break-out sessions. Weekly meetings are not held during summer break.

Monthly Campouts/Big Events

Troop 1983 loves to camp and do high adventure. September through June, each month features a weekend campout or other Big Event such as a ski trip, caving, shotgun shooting, hiking, canoeing, biking, or whitewater rafting.

Service Projects

In addition to weekly meetings and monthly Big Events, Troop 1983 scouts develop a sense of citizenship and strengthen their community by participating in Service Projects throughout the year.

Courts of Honor

Troop 1983 conducts a Court of Honor quarterly to recognize scout advancements and awards. The Court of Honor is a public ceremony, and is a chance for the scouts to be recognized for their achievements. Families and all other interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

Summer Activities

Each summer, scouts can attend a week-long camp with the troop or individually as part of a provisional troop. The troop presently attends a different BSA camp each summer that is selected by the scouts. Older scouts (age 13-up) have the opportunity to embark on a High Adventure expedition. Recent expeditions include backpacking treks to Philmont Scout Ranch, canoeing and dog sledding expeditions at Northern Tier Scout Camp, sailing/scuba diving at Florida Sea Base Scout Camp, hiking the Appalachian trail, and a trip to the UK with a visit to the World Jamboree.

Fundraising

The troop does not do any fundraising. The scout and their families are expected to fund their own way.

A note about adult supervision

Two registered adult leaders, or one adult leader and a scout parent, both of whom must be at least 21 years of age, are present at all trips, or outings.

Costs

How much does Boy Scouting cost? The annual registration fee is a nominal fee paid each fall to officially enroll the scout in the local Troop and the national Boy Scouts of America (BSA) organization. Other costs through the course of scouting include fees for special activities and uniform purchases.

Joining Cost - \$42

Webeles scouts that bridge into the troop are charged \$42. This covers the cost of a troop neckerchief w/BSA slide, scout handbook, green shoulder loops, troop number, troop t-shirt, and the \$1 registration transfer fee.

Annual Registration Fee - \$50

The annual membership fee for each scout in Troop 1983 is applied by the troop toward:

National BSA membership (\$15)

NCAC Insurance (\$1)

Troop membership costs (\$34), includes such items as badges, awards, troop-supplied materials, equipment, and Friends of Scouting contribution.

Boys Life magazine subscription - \$12

Boys' Life is a monthly magazine popular with scouts, and filled with ideas for activities and outings. We strongly encourage Boys' Life magazine for all scout families as an important part of the overall unit program. Subscriptions are optional and processed with the annual registration.

Fees for Outings/Activities - varies

Campouts and other activities will have fees associated with them. Here are some approximate costs of special events in a typical year.

- Monthly weekend campout - \$20, food and camper user fee
- Camporees - district-wide weekend events, \$20-\$30
- Troop Ski Weekend, \$200-\$250
- Summer Camp - \$245-\$300

Dues

Each scout has an obligation to pay \$1 per month in dues. This money is used to supplement the \$34 collected at registration to operate the troop.

Uniform

Each scout is required to have a full Boy Scout Field uniform within one year of membership. A troop t-shirt is also required and provided a part of the joining cost. A modified field uniform (shirt) is permissible for use during the first year and can be worn during less formal activities.

- Field Uniform (full) - \$85
- Field Uniform (modified) - \$30
- Troop T-shirt - \$10

Troop 1983 provides each new scout with a Troop 1983 neckerchief w/slide, green shoulder loops, scout handbook, troop numbers, and troop t-shirt.

Scholarships are available

Troop 1983 and the National Capital Area Council may have scholarships available to assist scouts in meeting the costs of participation in some activities. Requests for scholarship consideration are treated confidentially and should be made to the Troop Committee Chair.

Organization

Troop 1983 is a participating member of the Powhatan District of the National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop organization consists of the Troop, a Troop Committee, a Chartered Organization, and the Troop's Parents.

The Troop

The Troop is a group made up of several Boy Scout patrols. Each patrol consists of a patrol leader and normally six to ten scouts. Troop 1983 has three types of patrols: New Scout patrol(s), Regular patrols, and Venture patrol(s). The scouts in a patrol elect their patrol leader who in turn appoints an assistant patrol leader. The troop is run by the boys who elect a senior patrol leader. The senior patrol leader and patrol leaders form the Patrol Leaders' Council, which plans the activities and runs the troop meetings and events.

Chartered Organization (Sponsor)

Every BSA troop belongs to an chartering organization. The Chartered Organization (CO) for Troop 1983 is Vale United Methodist Church of Oakton, VA. The CO shares our objectives for the boys and ensures that there is adequate, trained leadership and a safe place to meet. A Chartered Organization Representative acts as a liaison between Troop 1983 and Vale Church. Families do not have to be a member of Vale Church to join Troop 1983.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee oversees the operation of the troop and provides it with administration and support functions. The Committee takes care of program and non-program issues surrounding the Troop. For example: troop funds, membership, acquiring activity permits, trip

coordination, transportation requirements, advancement records, recruiting merit badge counselors, and procurement and maintenance of troop equipment. The Committee meets monthly and attendance by all parents is encouraged.

Troop Parents

The role of parents within Troop 1983 is to be supportive of the troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

1. Read their scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting.
 2. Actively follow their scout's progress and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
 3. Show support to both the individual scout and the troop by attending all Courts of Honor.
 4. Assist by providing administration/logistic support for troop Big Events and other activities.
 5. Consider serving as merit badge counselor in areas in which they have knowledge and skills.
 6. Be aware of the Troop Program Calendar.
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Advancement

The Boy Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a scout climbs at his own pace. As he acquires these skills he moves up through a series of ranks, for which he is awarded badges. Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks -- and the more rewarding.

Details for advancement are contained in the Boy Scout Handbook and in particular take a look at Chapter 1. This short chapter has an advancement summary through First Class.

Merit Badges

The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a scout's areas of interest and to encourage the scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. Merit badges are earned by a scout working with a BSA registered merit badge counselor.

All parents of scouts are encouraged to become merit badge counselors. Please complete a Troop Resource Survey form and return it to a Troop Leader.

Boards of Review

When a scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he appears before a board of review composed of members of the Troop Committee. The purpose of the review is not an examination. Rather it is to determine the scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals; to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement, to discuss the scout's experiences in the troop and the troop's program, and to encourage him to keep working towards advancement. A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a scout about his lack of progress toward advancement.

Points of Contact

Troop 1983 Points of Contact are:

- Troop Committee Chair: John Carstens, 703 264-7898, j.carstens@jocs-law.com
- Scoutmaster: Dwight Reed, 703 716-2952, sm1983bsa@cox.net
- Membership: Cheryl Hadinger, 703 715-2639, hadinger@cox.net
- Advancement: Jeanne Mitchell, 703 264-7878, dougand jeannemitchell@yahooo.com