



## **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/bsatrop1983/>

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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.

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### **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, 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 attends our council camp at Goshen Scout Reservation, but every couple of years may travel out-of-council to attend another BSA camp. Older scouts (age 14-up) have the opportunity to embark on a High Adventure expedition. Recent expeditions include backpacking treks to Philmont Scout Ranch, a canoe expedition at Northern Tier Scout Camp, sailing at Florida Sea Base Scout Camp, hiking the Appalachian trail, and recently 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.

## **Venture Patrols**

Troop 1983 has a separate Venture program for our older scouts. It includes challenging high-adventure and Big Event activities that are separate from the regular troop program. Troop 1983 Venture scouts must be at least 14 years old and Star scouts. The scout has the option to participate in the Venture and/or the regular Troop program activities.

## **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 troop meetings, trips, or outings. This is a BSA requirement.

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## **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 - \$24**

Webelos scouts that bridge into the troop are charged \$24. This covers the cost of a troop neckerchief w/BSA slide, scout handbook, red shoulder loops, troop numbers, and the \$1 registration transfer fee.

### **Annual Registration Fee - \$35**

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

- National BSA membership (\$10)

- Insurance (\$1)

- Troop membership costs (\$24), includes such items as badges, awards, troop-supplied materials, equipment, and Friends of Scouting contribution.

### **Boys Life magazine subscription - \$12 (optional)**

Boys' Life is a monthly magazine popular with scouts, and filled with ideas for activities and outings. Subscriptions are optional and are processed with the annual registration.

### **Fees for Outings/Activities - varies**

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

Monthly weekend campout - \$10/day for food and camper user fee

Camporees - district-wide weekend events, \$20-\$30

Troop Ski Weekend, \$150-\$200

Summer Camp - one week at Goshen, \$245-\$275

### **Dues**

Each scout has an obligation to pay \$1 per month in dues. This money is used to supplement the \$24 collected at registration to operate the troop.

### **Uniform and Handbook**

Each scout is required to have the Boy Scout Handbook at the time of their first troop meeting and a full Boy Scout Field uniform within one year of membership. A modified field uniform (shirt) is permissible for use during the first year and is worn during less formal activities.

Field Uniform (full) - \$90

Field Uniform (modified) - \$29

Scout Handbook - \$9

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

### **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.

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## **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 four to eight scouts. Troop 1983 has three types of patrols: New Scout patrol(s), Regular patrols, and Venture patrol(s). The boys in a patrol elect their Patrol Leader who in turn appoints the 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.

### **Chartered Organization (Sponsor)**

Every BSA Troop belongs to an organization. The Chartered Organization for Troop 1983 is Vale United Methodist Church of Oakton, VA. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and insures 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 the 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 and trip coordination, transportation requirements, advancement records, recruiting merit badge counselors, 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 boy about his lack of progress toward advancement.

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### **Points of Contact**

Troop 1983 Points of Contact are:

- Troop Committee Chair: Dave Howard, 703 620-9106, david.howard@ultr-os.com
- Scoutmaster: Dwight Reed, 703 716-2952, sm1983bsa@cox.net
- Membership: Cheryl Hadinger, 703 715-2639, hadinger@cox.net
- Advancement: Sandy Cary, 703 264-3991, sjeancary@verizonmail.com