

# PARENT MEETING

2023/24 Troop Year



## I. Troop Safety & Security

# Youth Protection Essentials

It's as Simple as 1-2-3



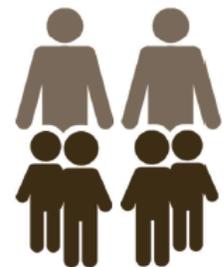
## No 1-on-One

The no one-on-one rule is in place for youth protection so no boy is ever alone with an adult. This is for both the protection of the boy and the adult.



## 2-Deep Leadership

The two-deep rule is in place for safety so there is always a minimum of two Registered Adults in proximity to provide backup and oversight.



## Buddy System of 3

The buddy system of three is suggested to keep youth safe from other abusive youth when out of sight of adult leadership. Buddies must be of the same program level.



There should always be a minimum of two Registered Adults on premises and either within eyesight or earshot or both at all Trail Life gatherings and activities (including transport), with the recommendation being that, whenever possible, a minimum of 2 adults should be with every group of boys. Within that context, for gathering in individual rooms, single building locations at a larger facility, or vehicles transporting boys in the conduct of a Trail Life activity, there should never be an adult alone with a boy who is not his or her own son. The proper ratios as provided in the Health and Safety Guide should always apply.

- **Parent Participation:** Parent participation is **expected** and **needed**. Unlike other drop-off type programs, we encourage Trailmen and their fathers to go through the program together, in order for your child to get the most out of this time. We thoroughly understand that some fathers cannot always attend due to work, or that some Trailmen might not have a father figure. That is not a problem at all and single mothers,

# PARENT MEETING

*2023/24 Troop Year*



grandparents, or assigned guardians are welcome to attend and participate in all activities.

- **Assigned Guardians:** Adults who attend, pick-up your child, or travel on trips, must be on the approved list on the forms you filled out. Even if a family member is known, we cannot release a child into their supervision for any reason unless you have given us written permission as the parent or guardian. This is critical for liability and safety for our Trailmen. Please speak to me about setting up an Assigned Guardian list if necessary.
- **Check in / out of all events:** This year we are instituting a sign in/out procedure for all Trail Life functions. This is to better track attendance and to ensure that our Trailmen are only released to approved adults. Last year we had a few instances of Trailmen getting picked up by parents, but the troop leadership didn't know where they were resulting in searches. We will need you to be in the area we are meeting at to sign out your child.
- **Health and Safety Forms:** We must have a new Health and Safety Medical every year. Your Trailman will not be able to participate in events until a properly complete form is on file. All of this information is confidential and kept in a binder which is only used in emergencies. Please fill in all areas of the form, as all information is critical in an emergency situation. If you have an exemption for vaccinations, we need the form for your exemption as well. Please make sure to complete this fully.

## II. Costs and Fees

- **New Members:** If you have not registered your child on Trail Life Connect, please do so, as this covers them on the insurance and allows us to track their progress and properly account for Trailmen as we plan for the year. New members pay \$60 as a joining fee. This covers their national dues, a trail uniform shirt, and a handbook. We also ask that you purchase your first Troop Uniform shirt (\$45), loops (\$10), and hat (\$16). All fees after these initial payments are covered by the troop as long as you participate in fundraising.
- **Existing Members:** As long as each family fully participates in the troop's fundraising efforts and sufficient money exists in the Troop's fund: all fees, awards, and event costs will be covered by the Troop's fund. Uniform shirt replacements for a Trailman who has outgrown his garment will be covered by the troop as long as the old shirt is still in good condition and is returned to the troop uniform cache. Replacement uniforms and awards that are needed due to damage or loss must be covered by the Trailman's family.

# PARENT MEETING

*2023/24 Troop Year*



- **Trail Life Store Purchases:** If you would like to purchase extra items from the Trail Life store, you are welcome to request it through the troop to avoid shipping fees. The Troop will make at least 4 purchases throughout the year, so speak to the Treasurer to place your order.
- **Adults/Parents Fees:** All fees associated with a parent or adult member attending events must be paid by the adult. This cost breakdown will be published in advance of any event.
- **RSVPs and No-Shows:** RSVPs will be required for all events that cost money to execute. Failure to attend an event that you signed up for will require repayment of any associated fees/costs to the Treasurer.
- **Hardship:** If there is any problem with fee structures or you need to discuss this with us, please feel free to contact any of the leadership team, help is available, and requests are always confidential.
- **Funding Activities:** We will not go into debt to fund something, so if the money is not raised, we will need to cut down our activities to match what we can afford, or pay out of pocket for our Trailmen individually. Trail Life USA is committed to being a debt-free organization, and as a troop we believe this is critical to teaching our Trailmen the importance of godly financial decision-making and practices.

## III. Fundraising

- **Our goal** as a Trail Life troop is to cover **all** necessary fees, expenses, and activities for the Trailmen through fundraising activities. This gives Trailmen and families ownership in the success of their troop.
- **Mandatory Participation:** ALL FAMILIES are required to participate in fundraisers, since payment for participation in events comes from these fundraisers. Participation means attending the events and selling at least the minimum amount set by the Troop Committee.
- **Limited and Effective:** We do not want to constantly be doing fundraisers, as this wears everyone out. We have 2 Dinners planned and 2 small Fundraisers to supplement them. We must raise at least \$25,000 from these events to fully fund our troop's activities. Occasionally a special event may require an additional fundraiser, but this will be limited to those attending the event.
- **Trailmen Led:** The troop will guide our activity choices for the year during our "Dream Session Planning." Consequently, Trailmen (especially Navigators and Adventurers) should be at the front of planning, selling, and delivering the products we provide through our Fundraisers.

---

*Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.*

*1 Corinthians 16:13*

# PARENT MEETING

2023/24 Troop Year



- **Trail Life Fundraising Guidelines:**

- We are required to sell something or provide some service during fundraisers.
- We cannot directly ask for donations, but we are allowed to receive them if they are offered to us.
- Trailmen can not have individual accounts, all fundraising benefits everyone and requires everyone to participate.

#### IV. Event and Camping Rules

- **RSVP:** All events must be RSVP'd by the cutoff date. The official list for RSVPs is Trail Life Connect. Failure to RSVP by the cutoff date will result in your Trailman not being able to participate in that event.
- **No Show:** If you are unable to attend an event that you signed up for, please notify the event leader as soon as possible. Any costs incurred by the troop that cannot be recovered (already purchased food, non-refundable registration fees, etc.) will be charged to the family.
- **Overnight Camping Rules:**
  - Electronic media devices and cell phones are not allowed on campouts. Each campout will have a designated adult with a cell phone so parents can contact their Trailman, if necessary.
  - Campouts may be restricted to a certain patrol level(s), depending on the nature of the event.
  - If Foxes are allowed on a camping trip, they must have their father present. If your Fox Trailman is not ready for an overnight experience, consider participating in just the day-time activities.
  - Hawks and first year Mountain Lions must also have their father present on any overnight camping trip.
  - 2nd year Mountain Lions are recommended to have their father present on all camping trips, but an exception can be made as long as there are 3 Mountain Lion level Trailmen who can share a tent. This must be coordinated and approved by the Troop Committee in advance.
  - At the Navigator and Adventurer levels, Trailmen camp with their patrol mates. Fathers are still encouraged to attend and participate but are not required.

---

*Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.*

*1 Corinthians 16:13*

# PARENT MEETING

## 2023/24 Troop Year



- Should a father not be able to participate at one of the required patrol levels, our troop allows mothers (no siblings) to attend campouts. Mothers attending campouts should understand that they will be sleeping in a separate area from the other fathers and sons, and will not be participating in activities or helping oversee the other youth in any way. The men and boys attending the campouts are responsible for all activities, including cooking, cleaning, running activities, and site care. This is critical for the Trailmen to learn these skills and be competent in caring for themselves and others as they progress through the program.
- If no parent is available for a Fox or Hawk Trailmen, they will not be able to attend.

### V. Calendar Plans:

- **Dream Session Budget:** There is a paper in your packet that has all activities, fees, supplies, projects, and social gatherings, for the year and the estimated cost of each activity. Our total estimated budget for the year with 30 Trailmen is \$27,906. Currently we receive \$1,700 from the church to pay our charter fees and Trailmen fees for each year. This means we need to raise approximately \$26,206.00 in order to be able to do everything on the list. Some items we may be able to get donated, which will reduce our costs. This may seem like a huge number, but most active troops have a running budget between \$15,000-\$30,000 per year, depending on size of the troop and the amount of planned activities. The more we raise, the more fun adventures can take place for our Trailmen during the year.
- **Calendars:** There is a July-December Calendar and a January-June Calendar in your pack. This has all dates for meetings, campouts, service projects, trips, and Court of Honor ceremonies for the year that have been planned so far. Some are so far in the future that dates or times may change, but it gives everyone a good idea of the things that will take place this year.
- **Trail Life Connect:** TLC will always have the most up-to-date event information.

### VI. Woodlands Trail Advancement

- **Joining Patch:** Each Trailman must meet their joining requirements (see handbook) for their patrol level which includes knowing the Trailman's Oath, the Trailman's Handshake, the Trailman's sign, the Trailman's Salute, the Pledge of Allegiance, and their patrol's yell. Mountain Lions must also be able to properly fold the American Flag.

# PARENT MEETING

2023/24 Troop Year



- **Participation-based:** In the Woodlands Trail, your Trailman must participate to earn their awards. Attending meetings and Hit-The-Trail (HTT) events meet the requirement for the various branch pins and sylvan stars.
- **Missed Events:** If your Trailman misses a meeting or HTT you can do two Family Home activities to make up one event per branch. If a Trailman misses more than one event in any branch they will not be able to make up the work. Occasionally, however, we set up make-up sessions at campouts.
- **The Worthy Life Award**
  - This is the highest award given to Trailmen below Mountain Lions and focuses on the Christian Faith aspect of our program.
  - The sheet you have been given in your packet describes the work that needs to be done at home to earn this honor.
  - As your son finishes an activity, please have him find a Trail Guide or the Chaplain to demonstrate their completion.
- **The Timberline Award (Mountain Lions Only)**
  - This is the highest award given to Mountain Lions and focuses on the Christian Faith and Service aspects of our program, and is the only award that carries over and is worn on the uniform when the Trailmen becomes a Navigator.
  - The handbook has a section on pages 14-16 that describe the work that needs to be done at home to earn this honor. The overall Core Steps to this award are:
    - **Receiving the Mountain Lion Forest Award**
    - **Earning 7 Mountain Lion Sylvan Stars**
    - **Inviting a Friend:** The Trailman invites someone to attend an activity, campout, or meeting.
    - **Attending an Overnight Campout**
    - **Responsibility:** Coming up with a plan made with his parents to improve himself in a measurable or quantifiable way, or achieving a goal over a set amount of time that improves the Trailmen. Needs to be approved by the Trail Guide before starting, and documented along the way.
    - **Service Project:** Must plan and execute a Service Project that he has had approved by his Trail Guide, to include planning, fundraising, finding help, and fulfilling the project.
    - **Faith Building Options:** Several programs are available and are listed on pages 15-16, but earning the Mountain Lion Worthy Life Award does meet this requirement.

---

*Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.*

*1 Corinthians 16:13*

# PARENT MEETING

2023/24 Troop Year



- Once your son finishes all the activities, please have him speak to a Trail Guide to set up his final conference with the Advancement Committee.

## VII. Navigators and Adventurer Advancement

- **Demonstration-based:** All badges and awards in the Navigator and Adventurer program are based on the Trailman's ability to meet and demonstrate the requirements outlined for the badge they are working on.
- **Trailman Led:** A Trailman must lead themselves and are solely responsible for determining which badges they will work on, requesting approval from their Trail Guides, completing the requirements of each badge they pursue, and requesting advancement conferences to get signed off.
- **Tracking:** Trailmen are also responsible for keeping good records of their work in their handbooks, in a Trail badge notebook, and in Trail Life Connect. Each Trailman must ensure to report their advancements to the Advancement Chair and confirm that their work is properly recorded in TLC.
- **Trail Life Connect:** Each Trailman must be able to log in to TLC. This will allow them to confirm their records, look up badge information, and to request modifications to their records such as recording Service Hours.
- All requirements for Badges and Awards are found on TLC and in their handbooks.
- **The Worthy Life Award** is found under the Badges icon on TLC.

## VIII. Using Trail Life Connect (<https://traillifeconnect.com>)

- This website has tons of information about our program, as well as a working calendar with all of our events published on it. You can RSVP to an event, which helps us plan more effectively, see your Trailman's progress on awards and badges, and find helpful forms and resources.

## IX. Troop Communication

- Our Troop will communicate with your family through four methods:
  - **Troop Meetings**
  - **Signal Messaging App**
  - **Trail Life Connect**

# PARENT MEETING

2023/24 Troop Year



- **Email**
- We have two groups on Facebook, a public page and a private one. If you need an invite to the private page, please let us know!

## Troop Contact Info:

<b>Troopmaster:</b>	Luke Meyer	(863) 230-0360
<b>Senior Ministry Leader &amp; Chaplain:</b>	Frank Deerey	(863) 517-0655
<b>Committee Chair:</b>	Michelle Deerey	(863) 517-4339
<b>Treasurer &amp; Health and Safety Chair:</b>	Aarika Deerey	(863) 517-1090
<b>Troop Ministry Liaison:</b>	Aaron Deerey	(239) 590-5020
<b>Fundraising Chair:</b>	Dustin Ledford	(863) 843-5767

---

## Parent Commitment:

*I understand my responsibilities as a Trail Life parent as outlined above, in my Trailman's Handbook, and from information in Trail Life Connect. I freely participate and agree to abide by these rules and by the decisions of the Troop Committee.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

---

*Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.  
1 Corinthians 16:13*