

New Parent Orientation

Troop 870



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Scouting America[™]

Cascade Pacific Council

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Why Scout With Us?

Most children avoid obstacles. Scouts seek them. They live for any opportunity to display their abilities while learning new skills. Camping is fun. Surviving a downpour in the middle of the night is an adventure. Cooking over a campfire is fun. Learning which wild berries are edible is survival. Spending a weekend in the woods is fun. Breaking camp without leaving a trace is admirable. These are invaluable experiences that can be had in Scouting. These are life lessons that transform today's scouts into tomorrow's leaders.

Scouts BSA Troop 870 is based in Beaverton, Oregon, and is proudly youth led. We were founded in 1967 and are sponsored by the Beaverton Optimist Club. We have about 50 active scouts with about 8 girls in their own patrol. The primary goal of Troop 870 is to provide a safe and fun environment where Scouts can develop outdoor skills, citizenship, and leadership skills by participating in the Scouts BSA program. The Troop is active year-round with a wide range of activities including summer camp, high-adventure, and service projects.

Troop 870 holds their Court of Honor in March and September. Scouts are recognized for advancing rank, earning Merit Badges, serving in a leadership position and other achievements during the event. Family and friends of the scouts are encouraged to attend to honor the scouts achievement. Scouts receive rank and merit badges shortly after achieving their accomplishment, but the Court of Honor is a formal way they are recognized in front of family and friends.

Expectations

Troop Meetings are held on most Mondays at Murray Hills Christian Church. The Troop joins together for the opening flag, separate out for their respective activities, and gather back together for the closing ceremony. The troop meetings are led by the Senior Patrol Leader with assistance from the other Scout leaders. These meetings usually include a mixture of skill development and fun activities. The Scouts also meet as patrols when needed to plan upcoming outings.

The first Monday of every month is dedicated for Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) monthly planning to organize and plan. This is a mandatory meeting for the scouts in leadership positions. We also provide an opportunity for non-leadership scouts to work on rank during that first Monday meeting.

During the second Monday meeting of every month, Troop 870 holds a separate parent meeting, concurrently to the scout meeting, to update parents of upcoming events and Committee and Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM) items.

Safety

In Scouting, we will not compromise the safety of our youth and volunteers. Safety is a value that must be taught and reinforced at every opportunity. We are all responsible and must hold each other accountable to provide a safe environment for all participants. We are committed to abuse prevention by utilizing:

- Mandatory youth protection training.
- Criminal background checks.
- Banning one-on-one adult and youth interactions.
- Mandatory reporting of suspected abuse to law enforcement.
- A volunteer screening database.

We are committed to injury and illness prevention by integrating safety measures in our handbooks, literature, and training materials, including the Guide to Safe Scouting. We expect leaders to use the four points of SAFE when delivering the program. SAFE Scouting measures include:

- Youth are **S**upervised by qualified and trustworthy adults who set the example for safety.
- Activities are **A**ssessed for risks.
- Pre-requisite **F**itness and Skill levels are confirmed before participation.
- Appropriate **E**quipment is utilized, and Environmental conditions are monitored.

When incidents do occur, we expect a timely, clear, and complete incident report. We are committed to learning from the data and modifying program guidance for the prevention of future occurrences.

Adventures

Camping

Troop 870 camps year round. From trips to Winter Lodge on Mount Hood where some brave scouts choose to sleep outside, to Camp Ireland and Camp Lewis where the troop holds their "Trail to First Class" campouts focused on older scouts teaching and mentoring younger scouts in the skills and knowledge needed, and Camp Cooper and Camp Meriweather in the summer and fall. Troop 870 travels with a fully stocked scout trailer with patrol boxes and supplies as needed for scouts to set up a camp kitchen and comfortably have fun outdoors. Camping allows the scouts to practice their leaderships skills, learn responsibilities for gathering food and supplies, and operate as self sufficient patrols with adult oversight.

Hiking

An easy, low commitment way for Scouts to get out and practice the planning and leadership a portion of the Scouting method is through hiking. Recent examples of hikes Troop 870 has participated in are the "Trail of 10 Falls" in Silver Falls State park, where the Scouts hiked 7 miles enjoying the beauty of the trail, and a short winter day hike of 4 miles in Forest Park, leading a group of Cub Scouts up to the Pittock Mansion, where they cooked a warm meal and shared hot cocoa with the Cub Scouts.

Horseback Riding

Twice a year our troop goes on full and half day rides at Butte Creek Ranch. When we go for our spring ride, we will camp for the weekend at Butte Creek. Many of our scouts are wranglers at Butte Creek where they learn about horsemanship and equine education.

Troop 870 also encourages those interested in horse riding to join the Butte Creek to Camp Baldwin Horse Trek. Horse Trek is a ten-day journey across 165 miles of majestic Mt. Hood Wilderness, learning the art of horse-packing, wilderness survival, and soaking in cowboy tales from Head Wrangler Scott DePaolo and his team of experienced wranglers.

Summer Camp

The highlight of each Scout year is often Summer Camp. At Summer Camp scouts have fun (Hike, Swim, Climb, Shoot, etc.) and typically earn 3-4 merit badges. Troop 870 normally goes to summer camp within the Cascade Pacific Council, but every fourth year the troop will go to an out of council camp.

Cascade Pacific Council summer camps:

- Camp Baldwin: East of Mt. Hood, scouts can go on excursions on horseback, wicker rides on rapids, real rocks to climb and trails to ride
- Camp Meriwether: South of Tillamook on the Oregon coast with a full replica of Lewis & Clark's winter camp in 1805, scouts can go land sailing, explore tide pools, shoot black powder rifles, and ride a 2.5-mile mountain bike track.
- Camp Pioneer: Established in 1936 on Pine Lake in the shadow of glorious Mt. Jefferson, the camp features rowing, canoeing, swimming, fishing, kayaking as well as Scoutcraft skills like cooking and pioneering.

Family Camping

Once a year, Troop 870 chooses a location closer to home for a campout, to allow families to visit for a day and see the scouts in their environment, leading, practicing outdoor skills and other fun activities that siblings and parents get to join in on.

Holiday Party

Our Holiday Hoopla is an opportunity for Scouts and families to join in a celebration of another year of Scouting together. The troop has chosen various restaurants for the venue, as well as hosting a potluck style event at our host location. Regardless of the food and venue, it is a fun to gather and celebrate with scout appropriate ugly sweaters and a white elephant gift exchange for a few extra laughs.

High-Adventure Bases

Scouting America's National High Adventure bases are the next evolution of your outdoors Scouting experience. It's the opportunity to take your adventure to an adrenaline pumping level. Some of our scouts in Troop 870 have recently gone to Sea Base and Philmont Scout Ranch.

- What Summit Bechtel Reserve Offers:
 - 10,000 acre property in West Virginia
 - A variety of fun outdoor activities including ziplining, challenge courses, shooting opportunities, skating
 - Specialized experiences in white water rafting down class 1-4 rapids
 - Multi-day ATV trekking
- What Northern Tier Offers:
 - Discover the Northern Tier at the Ely, Minnesota and Atikokan, Ontario bases.
 - 6-12 day summer canoe treks – guided by an experienced staff member
 - Winter adventures unlike anywhere else in the world
 - Various winter activities including snowshoeing, ice fishing, and ice-camping
 - Specialty mushing camp and dog treks
- What Sea Base Offers:
 - 3 locations in the Florida Keys, 1 in Abaco Bahamas, and 1 in the United States Virgin Islands
 - Scuba certification and diving adventures
 - Sailing excursions and entire week fishing programs
 - Water activities like kayaking, snorkeling
 - Coral Reef restoration programs and other STEM related education adventures
 - Explore the Bahamas and US Virgin Islands
- What Philmont Scout Ranch Offers:
 - Explore the backcountry of Northern New Mexico.
 - 7, 9, and 12-day wilderness backpacking expeditions.
 - Exploring over 315 miles of trails.

Order of the Arrow

Many scouts and leaders in Troop 870 participate in scouting's national honor society, which recognizes Scouts and Scouters who exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and provide encouragement for others to live these ideals as well.

The mission of the Order of the Arrow is to fulfill its purpose as an integral part of the Boy Scouts of America through positive youth leadership under the guidance of selected capable adults.

Cost

Scouting America is an annual registration program with membership renewal each year on or about the annual anniversary of your sign-up date. You will be reminded of your renewal beginning 60 days prior to the expiration of your current membership and given an opportunity to opt-out of your renewal at that time too. Your renewal will be communicated back to your Troop upon completion. The annual national registration fee is nonrefundable.

2025 BSA costs:

- BSA Youth Registration: \$85
- Council Fee: \$20
- Administrative Fee \$3.60
- Scout Life Magazine (Optional): \$15
- 2025 Troop Fee (due in August)

Scout Account

A Scout Account is the equivalent of a bank account. Money is earned from fundraisers by a scout and put into their Scout Account. The Scout Account can be used for activity fees, which can include troop camping, events, patrol activities, or summer camp. Unfortunately, due to non-profit rules, Scout Accounts cannot be cashed out.

Fundraising

Fundraising is a great way for the scout to offset their activity fees.

Tree Crunch is the main troop fundraiser where we pick up Christmas trees at the end of December and early January. A portion of the profit goes directly to the scouts based on hours worked. The other portion goes to the troop's general fund, which is used for troop expenses.

Sales fundraisers are a great way for scouts to earn money, as 100% of the profit goes direct to their scout account. Plant sales from February to April and Wreath Sales from October to November are available.

Equipment Needed

Uniform

The Troop uniform is the tan BSA Class A uniform shirt. The uniform shirt has a US flag emblem, world crest emblem, council shoulder patch, unit numerals (provided by Troop 870), and green shoulder loops. Troop 870 highly encourages all scouts to wear their Scouts BSA uniform shirt at all meetings when possible. The neckerchief is required for our bi-annual Court of Honor. All other Scout BSA uniform apparel are optional. As it is understood that some scouts may have to transition from other activities to Monday meetings, it is acceptable for scouts to attend meetings not in uniform as needed.

Scout handbook

The Scouts BSA Handbook is an essential tool for any Scout embarking on their Scouting journey, as Troop 870 tracks ranking progress through the scout handbook. Packed with useful information, the handbook is a comprehensive guide to scouting, covering everything from camping and hiking to first aid and survival skills. With clear, easy-to-understand instructions and illustrations, the handbook is designed to help youth develop their leadership skills, build self-confidence, and learn important life lessons.

Cover for Scout handbook

Keep your handbooks safe with a protective handbook cover! Scouts should have their name on the cover or other distinguishing features, as many are tossed in the same pile during meetings. Keeping a scoutbook clean and dry in a 1-gallon plastic ziploc bag for campouts and outings is a recommended best practice.

Camping Equipment

At the end of this document is a list of items scouts should bring on camping trips. Below are a few items many parents, new to camping, have questions about.

Tent

2-person, 3 season tent with 2 side doors. Any tent larger than a 2-person tent may pose difficulties in finding a spot for the tent as some campsites have limited space, also an additional side door gives more placement options. A tent footprint is also required to keep moisture out of the tent. Some tents have footprints built-in or included in the purchase. Any tent should be equipped with a rain fly, whether separate or built in, as the troop does not cancel outings on account of rain unless there is a safety issue. Ideally, purchase a tent which has already been “seam sealed” which means the seams have been taped or glued to prevent water from intruding along the seam/sewing lines.

A 20L Stuff Sack is highly recommended to replace the bag the tent came with, because if a tent isn't rolled perfectly, it is difficult to get the tent back in the original bag.

Sleeping bag

Sleeping bag ratings are “keep you alive” ratings and not “keep you comfortable” ratings. For 3 season camping, we recommend a sleeping bag rated at 25-30 degrees, while for winter sleeping it should be rated at 10 degrees maximum. “Mummy” style bags are preferred, as they keep heat in much more effectively than a simple rectangular design.

Sleeping pad

A sleeping pad is used to provide padding and thermal insulation from the cold hard ground. The primary purpose of the pad is to prevent the loss of body heat into the ground while sleeping. The dimensions of the pad are usually about the same length as a sleeping bag and a little wider. Not all sleeping pads are created equally. Verify that your scout's sleeping pad has a “R Value” of 2 or greater. Simple air mattresses will not provide any additional insulation from the cold ground, and they will sleep cold. For winter camping, a sleeping pads of R Value 5 or greater is essential for sleeping outside, or combining 2 sleeping pads to achieve this value can be done.

Mess Kit

A camping mess kit is a collection of personal dishes and utensils for a scout to eat from/with, designed to be lightweight and easy to store. This alleviates the need to create waste with disposable products. Scouts clean their mess kit after each meal. We recommend an insulated cup, plate, bowl, or combo plate/bowl and a spoon, fork, knife, or all-in-one utensil.

Backpacking Pack

Pack used to carry camping items to the main campsite. Though there are many designs and sizes, the appropriate one for your scout will be what fits your scout and fits their gear, or has enough straps to allow your scout to tie the gear to the outside. Scouts will carry their own personal gear to the campsite regardless if the campout is with the troop or summer camp. Almost all campouts involve some amount of “hiking in” to a campsite where scouts may be in a tent, mini-dak, cabin, or tent platform. This hike may be 250’ or a mile, depending on the camp and campout. If the scout chooses to, this backpack may be used for overnights with the troop as we hike into various wilderness locations to stay overnight, 1-6 miles or more from any vehicles.

Daypack

Backpack used to carry the scouts “10 Essentials” when leaving the campsite or going on hikes. This daypack should include padded shoulder straps, a waist belt, and be large enough to carry the food, water, clothing layers, and other items that are in the 10 essentials.

Scout

Scoutbook.scouting.org

From the first knot tied to final hours of service performed, the Scouting experience is a journey like none other. Scoutbook provides access to valuable tools and resources that help with the day-to-day management of a unit. In Scoutbook is Troop 870’s calendar of events. We also send emails to Scouts and parents using Scoutbook.

The troop expects scouts to RSVP for events through scoutbook so we know the headcount for events, this will allow for the appropriate number of adult volunteers to drive/supervise as well as for meal planning and available space at our destination.

Uniform

Class A

The Class-A uniform consists of:

- Tan BSA shirt
- Troop Neckerchief (award neckerchiefs can be worn always)
- BSA hat
- Merit Badge Sash with all awarded badges
- Awards received
- Rank insignia
- OA sash if in the OA

Class B

A class B uniform consists of the Troop 870 T-shirt worn for activities. The class B uniform is less formal than the Class A uniform and used for situations in which the scout may get dirty.

Rank

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. Scouts plan their own advancement and progress at their own pace as they meet each challenge. Scouts are recognized and rewarded for each achievement, which helps them gain self-confidence. Learning Scout skills and concepts through active participation is a vehicle for personal growth, but it is not the primary goal. There is no requirement to reach a certain rank by a certain age. Some scouts are eager to rank up, while others may never achieve Eagle Scout. The steps in the advancement system help a Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others. Once a scout reaches First Class, they have demonstrated the skills needed to be successful in the outdoors and are able to assist lower ranked scouts reach First Class as well.

Troop 870 holds a Scout Trail to First Class (TTFC) campout for new Scouts to learn basic camping and Scouting skills. The program helps Scouts advance from Scout rank to First Class.

The Scout Ranks are:

- Scout
- Tenderfoot
- Second Class
- First Class
- Star
- Life
- Eagle

Merit Badges

Scouts can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers as they earn merit badges. There are more than 135 merit badges, and any scout may earn any of these at any time. Merit badges can be earned by taking merit badge classes at summer camp, taking district merit badge classes, or working with a troop merit badge counselor. For more information on a particular merit badge, go to www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges.

Scouts need to accumulate at least 21 merit badges before earning the Eagle Scout rank. Of those 21 badges, 11 must come from the Eagle-required merit badges.

Eagle Required Merit Badges:

1. First Aid
2. Citizenship in the Community
3. Citizenship in the Nation
4. Citizenship in Society
5. Citizenship in the World
6. Communication
7. Cooking
8. Personal Fitness
9. Personal Management
10. Camping
11. Family Life

Positions

Leadership is a vital part of the Scouting program. Youth in positions of leadership run the troop. They take care of the many tasks necessary for troop and patrol meetings and activities to run smoothly.

Senior Patrol Leader

Scouting America has long recognized the senior patrol leader as the highest youth leadership position in a troop. They are the primary link between a troop's Scouts and its adult leaders. They shoulder the responsibility for leading meetings of the troop and the patrol leaders' council and provide valuable leadership in planning and carrying out the troop's program of outdoor activities, service projects, and events.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

The assistant senior patrol leader is the second highest youth leadership position in the troop, working closely with the senior patrol leader to help the troop move forward. The assistant senior patrol leader acts as the senior patrol leader in the absence of the senior patrol leader or when called upon, and provides leadership to other youth leaders in the troop. The assistant senior patrol leader is appointed by the senior patrol leader under the guidance of the Scoutmaster.

Patrol Leader

The patrol leader is the patrol's key leader, representing the patrol at all patrol leaders' council meetings and the annual program planning conference, and keeping patrol members informed of decisions made. Patrol leaders carry out planning, leading, and evaluating patrol meetings and activities, and assure patrols are prepared to participate in all troop activities. They keep their patrol intact so they can work together and share responsibilities to get things done. It is incumbent upon them to be a good example for the members of their patrol and the rest of the troop.

Assistant Patrol Leader

The assistant patrol leader acts as the patrol leader in the absence of the patrol leader or when called upon, and provides leadership to other youth in the patrol. The assistant patrol leader is appointed by the patrol leader.

Quartermaster

Quartermasters serve as the troop's supply boss. They keep an inventory of troop equipment and see that the gear is in good condition. They work with patrol quartermasters as they check out equipment and return it. At meetings of the patrol leaders' council they report on the status of equipment in need of replacement or repair. In carrying out their responsibilities, they may have the guidance of a member of the troop committee.

OA Representative

Order of the Arrow representatives serve as a communication link between the troop and the local Order of the Arrow lodge. By enhancing the image of the Order as a service arm to the troop, they promote the OA, encourage Scouts to take part in all sorts of camping opportunities, and help pave the way for older Scouts to become involved in high-adventure programs.

Parent Expectations

Scoutbook.scouting.org

With the Scouting app, it's easier than ever for youth and parents to track advancement and stay connected to their unit! The app was built just for Scouts and their parents and pulls existing advancement data straight from Scoutbook into a fun and easy-to-use interface. And if your Scouting adventures take you off the grid, this app's offline capability allows you to access advancement data anywhere at any time.

The Scouting app is available for download on Apple and Android devices.

Volunteer Positions

Scouting America takes great pride in the quality of our adult leadership. Being a leader in Scouting America is a privilege, not a right. The quality of the program and the safety of our youth members call for high-quality adult leaders. In order to go to any troop camping or summer camp, adults must be registered in a particular position with Scouting America. Adult registration includes a fee paid to Scouting America and adults must complete mandatory Youth Protection Training. Scouting America has a multilayered adult leader selection process that includes criminal background checks administered by a nationally recognized third party and other screening efforts.

2025 Adult Registration Fee: \$65

Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster is the adult responsible for working directly with the Scouts providing direction, coaching, and support.

The Scoutmaster has three basic roles:

1. Providing the youth leaders with the tools and skills so they can run the troop.
2. Making sure the rules of the BSA and chartered partner are followed.
3. Being a good mentor and positive role model.

Assistant Scoutmasters

Assistant Scoutmasters are adult leaders who help the Scoutmaster deliver the promise of Scouting. Each assistant Scoutmaster is assigned specific program duties. They can serve the troop by guiding a particular patrol to which they've been assigned, advising certain Scouts who've assumed a position e.g. the quartermaster or OA representative, or fill in as necessary to assure the junior leaders have what they need to run things. They also provide the two-deep leadership required by Scouting America.

Committee Chairperson

The troop committee chair is appointed by the chartered organization to see that all committee functions are carried out. The troop committee chair appoints and supervises the unit committee and unit leaders, and organizes the committee to see that all committee responsibilities are delegated, coordinated and completed.

Committee Members

The troop committee is a cross between a board of directors and a parent support group. It sets troop policies and handles administrative functions, allowing the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters to focus on working directly with the Scouts.

A robust troop committee supports an effective scouting program. The below is a list of common and desirable roles for adults within the troop committee.

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Outdoor Activities Coordinator
- Advancement Coordinator
- Training Coordinator
- Equipment Coordinator
- Membership Coordinator

Charter Organization Representative

The Chartered Organization Representative (COR) is the direct contact between the unit and the Chartered Organization. This individual is also the organization's contact with the District Committee and the Local Council. The chartered organization representative may become a member of the district committee and is a voting member of the council. If the chartered organization has more than one unit, one representative serves them all. The Chartered Organization Representative appoints the Unit Committee Chairman.

Camping Gear Checklist

Clothing (bring extra in case you get wet):

- ☐ Hiking Shoes
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Pants
- ☐ Shirts
- ☐ Undergarments
- ☐ Jacket
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Class A Uniform (travel to/from event)
- ☐ Class B Uniform (wear during the day)
- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Swimsuit
- ☐ Closed-toed Shoes for lake.

- ☐ Folding Pocket Knife or Multitool
- ☐ First-aid Kit (Band-Aids, moleskin, etc.)
- ☐ Work Gloves
- ☐ Rain Gear
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Headlamp
- ☐ Extra Batteries
- ☐ Snacks (protein bar, etc.)
- ☐ Water Bottle (filled with water)
- ☐ Matches and a Fire Starter
- ☐ Sun Protection
- ☐ Lip Balm (with sun block)
- ☐ Compass
- ☐ Bug Repellent
- ☐ Pen/Pencil
- ☐ Scout Book (put in plastic bag)

Equipment (stored in a backpacking pack):

- ☐ Sleeping Bag
- ☐ Sleeping Pad
- ☐ Small Pillow
- ☐ Tent w/footprint
- ☐ Mess Kit (plate, bowl, cup, spoon, fork, knife)
- ☐ Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- ☐ Trash Bag (put wet stuff in)
- ☐ Rope (11.5' clothesline)
- ☐ Duct Tape

Optional

- ☐ Fold-up Chair
- ☐ Cell Phone (for emergency use only)
- ☐ Book for reading
- ☐ Money

Daypack Essentials (when leaving the camping spot):