

Troop 382
Welcome Packet for Parents
Oct 4, 2024 revision



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Welcome Message

WELCOME to Troop 382. We hope that your son has a great experience with the troop that he will remember for his entire life.

Our primary goal is for scouting to be a positive and learning experience for the Scouts. As you go through your Scouting experience, feel free to ask questions along the way and we'll all be happy to help. Please feel free to give suggestions, feedback, etc. Finally, we are always looking for more helpers, so if you would like to help out just let us know and we'll be happy to find a spot for you!

There is a LOT of information contained here, but the most important information to know is:

- Sign up online.
- Get a uniform
- Attend meetings
- Sign up for and attend trips
- Work on advancement activities
- Have FUN and be safe!

The Boy Scouts of America (B.S.A)

B.S.A. Vision Statement

The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

B.S.A. Mission Statement

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

Scout Oath		Scout Law	
On my honor I will do my best		A Scout is:	
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.		Trustworthy	Obedient
		Loyal	Cheerful
		Helpful	Thrifty
		Friendly	Brave
		Courteous	Clean
		Kind	Reverent

Troop 382 Essential Information

Adult Troop Leaders

This is a list of troop leaders who would be happy to help answer questions and get you oriented.

Troop Committee Chair	Don Seeley	don.seeley.esq@gmail.com
Scoutmaster (outgoing)	Mark Hardin	hardin.m@gmail.com
Charter Org Rep	Shelby Marshall	https://www.westboroughrotary.org/
Assistant Scoutmaster	Tom Johnston	tmjohnston68@gmail.com
Assistant Scoutmaster	Steve McDonald	stevemcdonald100@gmail.com
Assistant Scoutmaster	Mike Van Nest	scupper22@gmail.com
Advancement Chair	Garrick Grant	garrickdgrant@gmail.com
Membership Chair	Prabhu Kalaimani	prabhu.mc2@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bill McDonald	billmcdonald68@yahoo.com
Eagle Coach	Mike VanNest	scupper22@gmail.com
Additional Committee Members	Anuj Jain	anujmanu@gmail.com
	Ramesh kumar Palanisamy	ramesh.rpalanisamy@gmail.com
	Chris Watkins	christophermwatkins@gmail.com
Summer Camp Coordinators	Abby Seeley	scupper22@gmail.com
	Mike VanNest	abby.seeley@gmail.com
Scouting for Food Coordinator	Tom Johnston	tmjohnston68@gmail.com

Meetings

Time and Location

Troop meetings are usually Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at First United Methodist Church (FUMC). The Church is located at 120 West Main Street in Westborough. Meetings take place in Webb Hall (the basement). On occasion we'll have meetings at alternate locations and/or times.

Vacation / Holiday / Snow-Day Policy

The troop meets when school is in session. There are no troop meetings during school vacation weeks or during the summer. Also, if school is canceled due to snow, the troop meeting is also canceled.

How Your Child Can Join Troop 382

Updated 5/24/2022

1. Visit the registration form at my.scouting.org here:
<https://my.scouting.org/online-registration/d7e2687e-aa90-48e1-a6a6-2ec20697cbb9/applicant-type>
 - a. Note: You will need to create a free [scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) account to access the form, if you haven't used this site before.
2. On the last page of the online form, you'll be requested to pay the registration fee by credit card.
3. New processes for medical insurance and medical detail confirmation are being sorted out. We'll let you know of any specific needs, such as proof of insurance, when the Troop determines the new requirements.
4. As a troop we encourage all of our parents to partake in Youth Protection Training. Please consider taking the time to complete this valuable online certification.
<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>

Financial Assistance

Troop 382 strives to make the benefits of scouting available to all boys regardless of his family's economic situation. If you find the cost of scouting and/or supplies to be a burden such that your scout cannot afford uniform parts or go on troop events, talk to the committee chair or the scoutmaster to see what options are available.

Uniforms, and Equipment

Uniform Parts provided by the troop

1. The Boy Scout Handbook
2. 382 Badge
3. The Mayflower Council Badge
4. Green epaulets (shoulder loops).
5. Class B Uniform Shirt (a Troop 382 t-shirt worn for casual/working events). Ask about sizes.

Uniform Parts that parent's purchase - available at the Scout Shop in Southboro

1. Class A Shirt (long sleeve or short sleeve, most get short)
2. Pants (many prefer the pants with zippers that turn into shorts). The same pants are worn for Class A & B uniform, only the shirts are different.
3. Belt
4. Socks
5. Sash (worn only for ceremonies like a Court of Honor)
6. World Scout Emblem (fleur-de-lis) - often comes with the shirt
7. Handbook Cover (optional, but very helpful to protect the paperback handbook)
8. OPTIONAL - Badge Magic - It is VERY difficult to remove badges applied this way. Do not use them for rank badges or other badges that will need to be removed.

Be sure your scout's name is on all uniform parts (including each leg of the zipper pants) as well as on his book.

Note: Our troop does not use a cap or neckwear as part of the uniform.

Scout Store

23 Turnpike Road
Southborough, Ma 01771
508-229-2396

Badge Placement

A guide to help you determine patch placement on the Boy Scout uniform may be found at https://boyscouttrail.com/docs/uniform_boy.pdf. Additionally, if you purchase Badge Magic, a guide is included in the package.

Minimum Required Supplies for Camping Trip

1. Mess Kit (plate, bowl, cup, knife, fork, spoon). These do not need to be suitable for cooking.
 2. Sleeping bag (pillow optional). For spring/fall camping, a 20° bag is more than adequate. A 40° degree bag will work for warmer trips.
 3. Sleeping pad or air mattress.
 4. Tent (optional) - A new scout can usually sleep in another scout's tent, but you may want to purchase his own to share with others
- The rest of the equipment is non-essential (see equipment list below)

All of these can be purchased at Target, Dick's Sporting Goods, or REI/EMS.

Troop 382 Communications

Google Group

Our primary means of group communication is via our email distribution list:

t382westborough@googlegroups.com.

Once you are a member of this list, you will receive all information about upcoming trips, service opportunities, troop meetings, and other activities. The Scoutmaster maintains this list. Please contact the Scoutmaster and let him/her know what email addresses should be added to keep everyone in your family informed. We encourage the Scout to get an email address and be on the list too.

Troop 382 Website

The troop website is where you can access additional information about the troop, events, photos, and trip sign-ups.

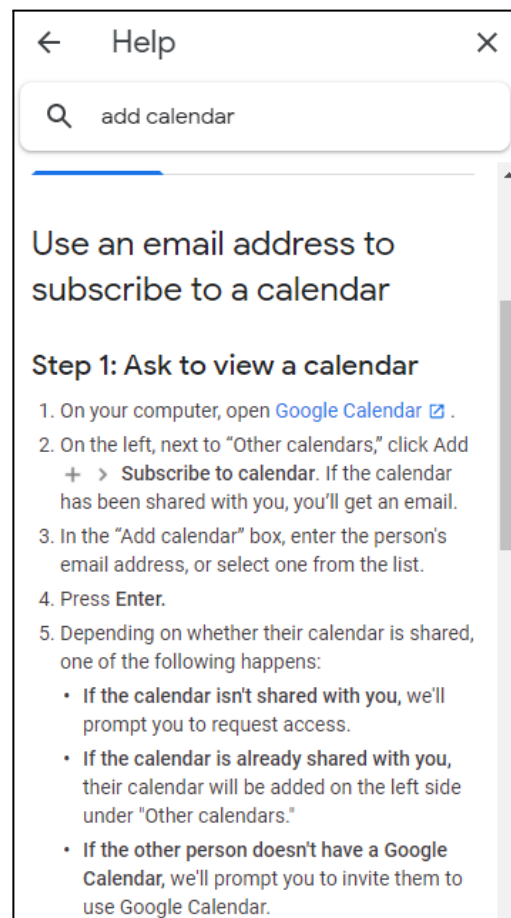
<https://www.troop382westborough.org/>

More detailed information is on our Members-only website. Please request access to this site.

<https://sites.google.com/view/wtroop382/home>

Troop 382 Calendar

The Troop maintains a Google Calendar and posts meetings, trips, and other activities. The calendar is on our website. Members of the Troop Google Group can also add our Calendar to their personal Google calendar - just add "Troop 382", see instructions on right.



Advancement and Requirements

Requirements for advancement are given in the back of the scout handbook.

While the goal of scouting is to help the boys learn leadership and other skills, one of the methods of scouting is advancement. The first four ranks (Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class) are all about learning the basic scout skills and participating in the troop as a member, while the more advanced ranks (Star, Life, Eagle) require participating in the troop as a leader and learning more advanced topics by earning Merit Badges. The first four ranks (Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class) can all be worked on simultaneously, but they must be earned/awarded in the order listed above. It is recommended to review the requirements and seek opportunities to work with the older scouts on these.

In general, the four steps of the advancement process is as follows:

- The Scout fulfills the requirements for a particular rank and has those "signed-off" in his book.
- The Scout has a Scoutmaster Conference – this is a 10-15 minute discussion with the scoutmaster about his experiences with the troop. It is an opportunity for feedback and 2-way communication between the scout and the adult leadership team. There is no pass or fail – the requirement is to have a discussion. The scout does not need to complete all requirements before having the Scoutmaster Conference.

- After the Scout completes ALL the requirements for the rank, he schedules and attends a Board of Review, where the board (comprised of 3 parents) checks that all requirements for the rank have been fulfilled. After the Board is satisfied that all requirements have been completed, the scout has earned the rank.
- The scout is recognized as earning the Rank a Court of Honor and receives his rank patch.

Completion of Rank Requirements

Documentation of the completion of requirements is a critical part of advancement. All Scouts should maintain their own records (including details of service hours, camping nights, participation in events, and hikes). Where indicated in the handbook, scouts should create and keep written logs (including all Physical Fitness requirements, Second Class 2C-Citizenship).

Your scout should bring his scout handbook with him to all meetings and trips. We will be trying to work on rank advancement activities with the new scouts and the handbook is the primary record of which requirements have been signed off for the scout. If the scout does not have his handbook, it will be difficult to record and sign off on his activities.

The requirements of scout, tenderfoot, second class, or first class, may be signed off by the scoutmaster, any ASM, the SPL, the ASPL, the Troop Guide, any Troop instructor, the scout's patrol leader, or any scout that is 2 ranks higher, with the exception of the "scoutmaster conference" requirement, which may only be signed off by the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster. Thus, a scout must be at least First Class to sign off requirements for Tenderfoot, a scout must hold at least the rank of Star to sign off second class requirements, and a scout must hold at least the rank of Life to sign off First Class requirements.

Requirements for Star, Life, or Eagle may only be signed off by the scoutmaster or an ASM. The EDGE Life requirement may be signed off by the Troop Guide, the SPL, or ASPL, provided that those scouts already have the rank of Life or higher.

Requesting A Board of Review

After completing all the requirements for a rank, the scout goes through a Board of Review with the Advancement Chair and several other parents in the troop. We hold Boards of Review about every 4-6 weeks, and all parents in the troop are encouraged to participate in them, even if you have never done one.

Important: When a scout is ready to rank up, the scout should send an email to the Advancement Chair to ask when the next Board of Review will be. Once a scout has successfully completed a Board of Review, the scout has earned that rank. The actual badge will be handed out at the next **Court of Honor**, which is a ceremony where rank advancements, merit badges and other recognition is shared with the Troop and their families.

Documentation of Service Hours

Scouts should keep a record in their handbook (log at the back of the book) and/or in Scoutbook of all service hours, including hours to count towards rank advancement and hours to use toward merit badges. In addition to recording their own hours, scouts must provide the Advancement Chair with a written description of service, including dates and number of hours, with organization rep's signature. This written description may be provided to the Advancement Chair in person, via email, or uploaded into Scoutbook.

The current service hours requirements for rank advancement are:

Tenderfoot = 1 hour

Second Class = 2 hours

First Class = 3 hours on one or more project(s).

- The project(s) must not be the same service project(s) used for the Tenderfoot or Second Class service hour requirements.

Star = 6 hours

- Hours earned for Star must be earned *after* the Scout has achieved First Class rank.
- The service hours must be approved by the Scoutmaster. Speak with the Scoutmaster *prior* to completing the hours.

Life = 6 hours

- 3 of the 6 Life service hours must be conservation-related.
- The scout should discuss his plans with the Scoutmaster *prior* to completing.
- Hours earned for Life must be earned after the Scout has achieved Star rank.

Documentation of Camping Nights and Hikes

Scouts should keep a record in their handbook (there is a log at the back of the book) and/or in Scoutbook of all camping nights and hikes to count towards rank advancement and merit badges. For the Camping Merit Badge, the scout needs a total of 20 nights of camping (sleeping in a tent). A maximum of 5 nights from Summer Camp may count towards that badge, even if they attend camp multiple times.

The adult leader of troop camping and other outings typically sends the Advancement Chair documentation of attendance/participation in these activities and/or can directly enter into Scoutbook.

Common Questions about Overlap between Merit Badges and Rank Requirements

Swimming Merit Badge:

- The completion of the swimming merit badge satisfies all Swimming related rank requirements through First class.
- https://www.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Swimming.pdf

First Aid Merit Badge:

- The completion of the First Aid merit badge satisfies the following requirements:

Tenderfoot: First Aid and Nature (4a-4d)

Second Class: First Aid and Emergency preparedness (6a-6e)

First Class: First Aid and Emergency Preparedness (7a -7f)

- The first requirement for First Aid MB :Satisfy your counselor that you have current knowledge of *all first aid requirements for Tenderfoot rank, Second Class rank, and First Class rank.*
- https://www.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/First_Aid.pdf

Cooking Merit Badge:

- Many requirements of the cooking merit badge cannot be applied to rank advancement. Those that can be applied are:

Cooking MB 3b satisfies Rank Requirement Second Class 2a

Cooking MB 1c,d 5h satisfies Rank Requirement First Class 2d

- https://www.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Cooking_2016.pdf

Physical Fitness Merit Badge:

- All physical fitness merit badge work is completely independent of physical fitness rank requirements and cannot be done simultaneously. This has been confirmed by Council, 2018.
- https://www.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Personal_Fitness.pdf

Scoutbook: Advancement & Merit Badges Tracking Software

Scoutbook is a software program that allows the scouts to view their records and enter their own completed requirements online. Adult troop leaders subsequently confirm scout entries. As our troop transitions to more robust usage of Scoutbook, scouts must still report camping nights and service hours to the Advancement Chair. Likewise, merit badges (the completed blue card or white print-out from merit badge college/camp) must be handed in to Advancement Chair as well

Once registered, you will receive an invitation to join Scoutbook. **Please accept the invitation and complete and review the contact information on the Profile page.**

The Merit Badge Process

A great explanation may be found on the Boy Scout of America National website:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges.aspx>

There are two kinds of merit badges: Eagle-required and elective badges. Eagle badges are more intensive and require more work. Rank advancement beyond First Class requires earning a certain number of Eagle-required and elective badges.

There are a number of ways that merit badges can be earned:

- Individually. The scout should initiate the process by obtaining approval to begin a merit badge from a merit badge counselor who agrees to work with him. The details of how the badge is earned is worked out between the scout and the counselor. Once complete, the counselor will issue a blue card to the scout, who then forwards this to the scoutmaster for a signature and the awards chair for processing.
- Summer Camp. This is by far the easiest (and most fun) way to earn a badge, especially those that must be done outdoors (e.g. swimming, climbing, rifle shooting, etc.). At the end of the camp, blue cards are sent to the awards chair for processing. Blue cards from camp are actually printed on regular white 8.5 x 11 papers.
- Merit Badge College. Merit Badge Colleges (and Universities) are events where a scouts go to a school and can earn several merit badges. These are typically held on 2 Saturdays spaced a few weeks apart. The Merit Badge Counselor goes through the requirements of the badge to Scouts enrolled in the class. Several Colleges are held throughout the area, usually in late fall and late winter. Signups are required in advance and some Universities fill up quickly (in less than a day).
- Trail to Eagle week at Summer Camp. An intensive week-long summer camp event, scouts can earn up to 5 Eagle-required merit badges. Finishing the badge at camp requires a significant amount of work prior to the camp week, but doing many of the requirements during camp is a big help in earning the badge. Requirements can be finished after camp and demonstrated to one of our Troop's Counsellors.

Becoming Involved

One of the keys for a successful troop is parental involvement. There are lots of ways to become involved, of which a few are below:

Attend a meeting

Help monitor a troop meeting - this is a great way to see how the meetings work and to get to know the kids in the troop.

Join us on a trip

Attending a trip is a great way to see how the scouts work on their own and how they learn from each other. And they are lots of fun. (Note that updated BSA requirements state that any adult staying overnight on a Troop outing must be a registered adult leader. There are often other opportunities to participate for the day even if you're currently unable to stay overnight, so please ask any of our leaders!)

Become an Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM)

We are often in need of additional adults who can serve as ASMs - meaning you will be able to sign off requirements, help with scoutmaster conferences, help run trips, etc. No special skills or experience required, and all are welcome (Moms, too!).

Join the troop committee

The Troop Committee oversees the operation of the troop and makes sure that all is going well. The committee meets roughly once a month.

Lead a trip

No special experience is required to lead a trip - just an interest in leading scouts on a new adventure. If you'd like to lead a trip, we're happy to provide trip ideas, and we are open to new ideas that you might like to try. (Please see note above under "Join us on a trip" regarding overnight requirements. Even unregistered adult volunteers can help organize and plan a trip, and this support is always welcome!)

Help with a Board of Review (BOR)

We hold boards of review as needed (with notification) and are always in need of parents to help. The Advancement Chair coordinates these. No special experience required, just a desire to get to know the scouts in the troop better.

Become a merit badge counselor

There are plenty of Boy Scout merit badges, and this is a nice way to share your expertise with the scouting community.

Help with an annual fundraiser.

You will be surprised how fast these years will go by and getting involved as a parent in the troop will create lifelong memories for you and your son.

Adult Application

Please talk with one of our current adult Troop leader volunteers to learn about opportunities and volunteer support the Troop needs. We're always happy for your assistance and involvement!

Last Odds and Ends

Dates to Remember:

Summer camp is usually the third or fourth week in July. This is a great experience for the kids and a way for them to earn a lot of the basic rank requirements in addition to earning their first few merit badges. It is a great way for them to spend time with the other kids in the troop and get to know them. We highly encourage all first-year Scouts to attend. There will be more information about this in March, such as necessary forms, payments, packing guidelines and suggestions, as well as parent sign-ups for overnight chaperones.

Other Websites worth noting

Mayflower Council (which is our local council): <https://www.mayflowerbsa.org/>

National Council Boy Scouts of America: <http://www.scouting.org/>

Packing Guidelines

Usually prior to a trip, some packing guidelines will be provided.

There are many online resources already available as well.

Also see a basic checklist for new scouts at the end of this packet.

Parent and Family Talent Survey Sheet

Welcome to Troop 382. Our Troop is a cooperative one, and every parent is encouraged to contribute to activities that interest them. Please help us discover your areas of interest by answering the following as completely as possible. (Please indicate for both parents, where applicable)

My hobbies are: _____

My job, business, or profession would be of interest to Boy Scouts: _____

I am willing to help the troop as:

Troop committee member (administrative):

- ☐ Chartered Organization Representative
- ☐ Troop Committee Chairman
- ☐ Troop Secretary
- ☐ Troop Treasurer
- ☐ Troop Advancement Chair
- ☐ Troop Equipment Coordinator
- ☐ Troop Outdoor/Activities Chair
- ☐ Troop Membership Chair
- ☐ Troop Training Chair
- ☐ Troop Scouting for Food Chair
- ☐ Troop Fundraising Chair
- ☐ Scout Parent Unit Coordinator

Direct youth contact leaders

- ☐ Troop Chaplain
- ☐ Scoutmaster
- ☐ Assistant Scoutmaster

My Scouting experience:

- ☐ Cub Scout
- ☐ Boy Scout Rank attained: _____
- ☐ Explorer Rank attained: _____

Other ways to help:

- ☐ I have a vehicle that can haul a small trailer.
- ☐ I have a workshop.
- ☐ I have family camping gear.
- ☐ I have access to a cottage or camping property.
- ☐ I can help become a merit badge counselor.
- ☐ I can be an adult supervisor on scouting trips.
- ☐ I can help with scout Boards of Review (BOR).
- ☐ I can make phone calls / write emails / complete paperwork to help with trip planning.
- ☐ I can do research to investigate feasibility of future trips.
- ☐ I can give other help: _____

Camping Checklist for New Scouts

Not all items are required, but this should give you a good start.

The 10 Essentials (only 9 until you get your "Totin' Chip")

☐	Compass	☐	Trail food
☐	Personal First aid kit	☐	Water
☐	Extra clothing (see below)	☐	Matches / fire starter
☐	Rain gear	☐	Sun protection & bug spray
☐	Flashlight with extra batteries		

In and around camp

☐	Tent (stakes / guy lines)	☐	Air mattress or thermal pad
☐	Sleeping bag	☐	Folding chair
☐	Pillow	☐	Air mattress repair kit
☐	Mess kit & utensils	☐	Camping Towel

Clothing

☐	T-shirts	☐	Swimsuit
☐	Underwear	☐	Sturdy boots
☐	Pants (convertible)	☐	Socks (including wool)
☐	Hat (day and sleeping)	☐	Sleepwear
☐	Gloves (for chilly mornings)	☐	Camp shoes or sandals

Personal Items

☐	Toilet paper	☐	Tooth brush / floss
☐	Tooth paste	☐	Medications, extra glasses, etc.

Other

☐	Camera	☐	Cards or small game (non-electronic)
☐	Notebook / pen	☐	Scout book
☐	Spending money		