

New Scouts

New scouts joining the Troop are typically assigned to a New Scout Patrol. They select a Patrol name and a Patrol Leader and are assisted by a Troop Guide and a specifically assigned Assistant Scoutmaster. In this way, the Troop insures that they get the special attention needed to introduce them to the program and to teach them their basic skills.

Equipment

Besides a uniform, the only other equipment a Scout will need to acquire when he first joins Troop 1097 is the **Scout Handbook**. It is the primary source of record keeping in addition to a handy reference and goes on all Scout activities with the Scout. All of his sign-offs for rank advancement will be done in the book. A quart-size Zip-loc™ bag serves very nicely to protect the Handbook.

The Troop provides most of the required camping gear with the exception of a sleeping bag and a mess kit. For early campouts, 2-3 blankets can serve very nicely in place of a bag. A plate, spoon and large mug make a fine mess kit.

No Scout is allowed to carry or use a knife, ax or saw at any Scout activity until he has passed the requirements for the Totin' Chip. He can achieve this requirement during the first couple of camp-outs. After that he may carry a pocketknife.

Troop Outings

Troop 1097 prides itself in being an active Troop. Here are some of the activities which the Patrol Leaders Council has planned for the 2007-2008 program year:

Gaithersburg Labor Day Parade, Black Hill Camporee, Eagle Projects, Antietam Illumination Service Project/Campout, Klondike Derby Service Troop, Punkin Chunkin, Weekend campouts, Seven Springs Ski Weekend, Day hikes, Canoeing, Caving, Backpacking.

High Adventure

Every year Scouts and Adult Leaders from T1097 have the opportunity to participate in the Boy Scouts of America local and national High Adventure programs. Scouts must have earned their First Class rank, and be at least 13 or 14 years of age, depending on the program.

2002 Philmont
2003 Florida Sea Base
2004 Maine Backpacking and Canoeing
2005 Lenhok'sin
2006 Philmont
2007 Florida Sea Base
2008 Northern Tier (Canoeing in MN/Canada)
2009 Lenhok'sin



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18301 Waring Station Road
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Black Hill District
National Capital Area Council
Chartered by the
Izaak Walton League, Rockville Chapter

Fall, 2007

Welcome to Troop 1097



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Len Valenti, IWLA Representative

Introduction to the Troop

Troop 1097 was founded in 1963 to provide boys with opportunities to develop moral strength, physical, mental and emotional fitness and to develop participating citizenship. The Troop uses an active and challenging outdoor program to teach fundamental Scout skills, develop leadership skills and give opportunities for rank advancement. We operate on the premise that it is the outdoor activities that attract boys to Scouting, and not the indoor Troop meetings. Regular outdoor activities provide attractive indoor programs as Scouts prepare to go outdoors.

We are chartered by the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA), Rockville Chapter. While we cooperate closely with the League, and often support its activities and facilities, membership in the League is not a prerequisite to joining the Troop.

Troop Meetings

We meet each Thursday night during the school year and alternate Thursday nights in the summer from 7:30 to 9:00 at the IWLA Chapter House. Occasionally we meet at other times or places for special programs. Attendance at Troop meetings is generally a prerequisite for participation in outings.

Outings and Activities

The Scouts elected to lead the Troop (the Patrol Leaders Council) plan at least one outdoor activity per month. There is a camping activity most months. In addition, the Troop attends at least one week of summer camp each year and experienced Scouts have an opportunity to participate in a High Adventure program.

Leadership Principles

As a matter of policy, the Troop is “Scout Run.” We try to give each Scout as much freedom to learn and to develop his independence, leadership skills and sense of responsibility as possible. The Adult Leaders defer to the Troop Leaders as much as possible, even to the point of allowing failure of a program or plan, unless safety or

well-being are threatened, or where allowing a poorly planned activity to proceed will provide no useful purpose.

Each year, the Scouts elect a Scout who will lead the Troop as Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) for that program year. Every six months, patrols elect their Patrol Leaders. The remaining Troop leaders are selected by the SPL. These Scouts truly lead the Troop.

Registered Adult Leaders assist in program and oversee safety. Adults are part of the “Staff Patrol” on outings and work as a patrol, handling their own cooking and other duties as assigned. The adults try not to interfere with the patrols unless there is a safety issue.

Scouts camp in patrols and learn by “guided discovery”—doing for themselves and figuring out solutions to problems that arise. A Troop Guide or other experienced Scout works with the New Scout Patrol on camping skills during outings. The Scouts develop independence and self-confidence by doing for themselves.

Parents are encouraged to accompany the Troop on outings—training is not required. It is generally recommended that parents leave any discipline of their own son(s) to the SPL or to another adult. Not only does this help us to make the Troop “Scout Run”, but Scouts tend to respond more reasonably to someone other than their parents; this also prevents the Scout from resenting his parent’s presence on the outing.

Costs of outings are covered by the outing fee which includes camping fees, food, and special program items if needed. A typical Troop campout will cost about \$12 a day. Most other costs are covered by Troop dues of \$5 per month.

Fundraisers are planned periodically to allow Scouts to earn the money needed to attend outings and High Adventure trips.

The Scouts maintain their own Troop web site at <http://www.troop1097.org>. You can see our most current calendar, as well as a lot more information about our Troop, at the web site.

Advancement

The BSA advancement program is an important part of the Troop program. It encourages Scouts to learn vital skills which allow them to get the most out of the outdoor activities and to participate safely. While the development of certain skills is essential, participation in the formal advancement program is voluntary. We do not feel it is in the best interests of the Scout or of the Troop to push a Scout up the advancement trail if it is not important to him. We will, however, provide all encouragement and assistance to the Scout who wants to advance and to learn new skills, and we strongly encourage every Scout to set a goal of becoming Eagle Scout. We have found our program to be very effective—63 Scouts have made Eagle in our Troop!

Uniforms

Uniforms are an important element in the methods of Scouting. In Troop 1097, the class A uniform, consisting of the official Boy Scout belt, uniform shirt and hat, is required to be worn for all Scout meetings and travel to and from any activity. The Troop patch sewn on the front of the hat and the Troop neckerchief are also required to be worn. The Troop occasionally holds uniform exchanges where “experienced” uniforms will be available at Courts of Honor. The class B uniform, which consists of a Troop or other Scout T-shirt, may be worn for camping and summertime meetings. Troop dog tags are required to be worn on all Troop outings.

Communications

When Scouts have questions, they should first ask their Patrol Leader. Further details may be obtained by asking the Senior Patrol Leader, the Troop Scribe, the Adult or Scout in charge of an event, and finally, the Scoutmaster.

The Troop News email distribution list and Patrol phone calls are used for Troop reminders and last minute changes.