

Troop 586

K.I.S.S. guide

For new parents

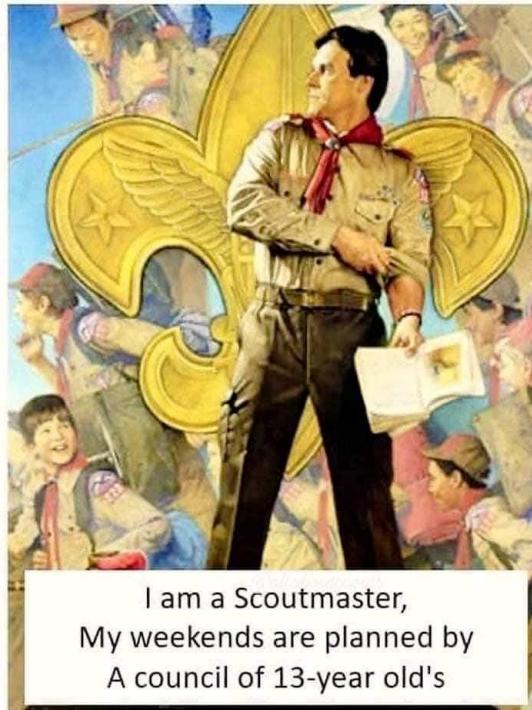
A quick lesson on Boy Scouting,

Your new role and the jargon.

Scoutmaster: Jim Ridgeway 513-582-8469

Committee Chair: Deborah Rodenberg 937-239-1142

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



Vision: What future success looks like.

Troop 586 Vision:

Troop 586 Vision

Our vision for Troop 586 in 2026 is that our troop will be a safe environment for all scouts to learn new skills and leadership while having fun. We enjoy camping with friends while exploring new adventures. We will delegate leadership roles more efficiently while incorporating organization to the Troop. We have a continued passion for new experiences. We obey the scout oath, law, and the outdoor code in our daily lives.

Goals are the Steps to Achieving the Vision

- Treat others with respect
- Job descriptions handed out to each leadership position
- Find new options for free time at campouts
- More focus on patrol method
- Spend more time on learning and less on game time
- Vision statement posted and talked about once a month
- Incorporate scout oath, scout law, and outdoor code at meetings and campouts
- Be more inclusive of all scouts during activities

Camping outline 2026:

Brandon (1/1/26-6/30/26)

- January - Klondike - Camp Lakota - 1/23-25/26
- February - Scuba Diving - Cricket Holler - 2/27/26-3/1/26
- March - SFF - Overnight Trampoline Park
- April - Cycling
- May - Dayton Dragons game and overnight
- June - Summer Camp: Camp Chief Little Turtle

Kyle (7/1/26-12/31/26)

- July - Canoeing
- August - Motor Boating
- September - Mum Festival - No camping
- October - Fishing - Camp Birch
- November - Turkey Bowl - Redmens Picnic Grounds
- December - Yearly Planning/Swimming lock in - YMCA

TBD (1/1/27-6/30/27)

- Jan – I-Fly
- Feb – Winter Sports

The Basics

We are Troop 586 in the Miami Valley Council.

We are chartered by The YMCA Robinson Branch. Donn Craig (937) 440-9622

What Do I Need to Do First?

- Complete the Scouts BSA Registration Form
- Complete scout personal data information form

Make sure we have an accurate email address and check your email frequently.

- Complete Annual Health and Medical Form required by the BSA and turn in a COPY.

Troop 586 requires that all youth and parents read the Code of Conduct

Summer camp deposit due asap... Camp Chief Little Turtle

The Troop and how it is structured

The troop meets weekly from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the YMCA.

There are two parts to a troop, the program side, and the committee side. The Program side consists of the youth, the SM and ASMs. The committee side is all adults, generally parents.

The SPL (senior patrol leader) and ASPL (assistant senior patrol leader) lead the weekly meetings and campouts with the support of the SM (Scoutmaster) and ASM (Assistant Scoutmaster). The primary difference between Cub Scouting and Scouts BSA is the increased level of responsibility the Scouts take for their activities and achievements. One of the foundations of this is the concept of the Youth-Run Troop.

Each scout will be placed in a Patrol based on their age. A patrol is a group of 4-8 scouts that work together as a team. They camp together, cook together, etc. Each patrol will elect its own leadership. Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting said, "The patrol method is not a way to operate a Boy Scout troop, it is the only way. Unless the patrol method is in operation, you don't really have a Boy Scout troop." He also said, "The object of the patrol method is not so much saving the Scoutmaster trouble as to give responsibility to the boy."

Once a month the Patrol Leaders, ASPL, SPL and other youth leaders will meet to plan the troop outings and meeting for the following few months. This meeting is called a PLC (Patrol Leaders Council). Although all the scouts are encouraged to attend.

After a PLC the SPL comes to the committee with the plans they have chosen. The committee then assists the youth to facilitate the program which they have chosen. The committee's work is generally behind the scenes yet vitally important to the overall experience which your scout will have in Scouting. The committee needs your help to help your scout.

The committee meets monthly, same evening as the PLC. Currently they are scheduled for the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:00 pm. We currently have adult leadership positions that are open and need to be filled. If you are interested, please speak with Shawn Vehr.

Advancement

Advancement is an important part of recognizing achievements as well as keeping the Scouts active. Remember it is not the mission of Boy Scouts though.....

There are seven ranks in Boy Scouts:

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

Each rank has a set of requirements that the Scout must fulfill. Until they have achieved First Class and begin working on their Star rank, there are no merit badge requirements. The requirements are set up very similarly to the Webelos rank requirements, with specific skills learned for each rank.

For Star through Eagle, rank advancement is mostly through the earning of merit badges, troop leadership, and service. There are 14 Eagle-Required merit badges. Each rank from Star through Eagle requires a certain number of these and all must be earned to receive the Eagle rank. In addition, there are approximately 135 other merit badges. A certain number of these are also required for each rank from Star through Eagle. To earn the Eagle rank, a total of 21 merit badges are required (14 are Eagle required + 7 that are chosen by the scout).

In addition to specific skills and/or merit badges, most ranks require that the Scout perform service hours, serve in a leadership role in the troop or patrol, and all require that he remain an active member who lives up to the Scout ideals in and out of the troop.

The process of documenting the Scout completion of rank requirements is as follows:

- The scout takes the initiative to complete a rank requirement by going to their Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, or Troop Guide.
- The Scout has the appropriate youth sign off on these requirements as complete once the skill has been verified by a Star Scout or above¹.
- The Star Scout or above marks the completion dates of rank requirements in the Scout's handbook.
- The Scout takes their signed book to the adult Advancement Chair, and the Advancement Chair marks the Scout's book verifying completion of the rank requirements and enters it into Scoutbook.
- When all requirements are completed, the Scout meets with the Scoutmaster to review the rank requirements and ensure that the Scout has gained the appropriate knowledge and skill for the rank (this is called a "Scoutmaster Conference"). This meeting is scheduled by a youth asking the SM for a

SM conference. Once it is verified that the scout's progress has been recorded by the Advancement chair, a SM conference is scheduled.

- The Scout then meets with several adults who have formed a Board of Review. The Board of Review consists of three to four adults who meet with the Scout to determine that they are ready to receive their rank. (No relatives of the scout may be on the BOR)
- The Scout then receives their rank advancement patch from the Senior Patrol Leader.
- The Scout then attends a Court of Honor where the Scout is officially recognized for their merit badges earned and their rank advancement.

First Year Advancement Program

Upon joining our troop, each scout should have deposited at least \$50 into the troop bank account. This money will be earmarked for the new scout. It can then be used for monthly camp outs, scout supplies etc. for the scout. Unless an arrangement has been made with the treasurer, the scout must not have his earmarked funds become negative in value.

New Scouts should strive to achieve the rank of First Class within their first year. This sounds difficult but shouldn't be if they are active with the troop.

Scout rank is the first rank your scout will attain. They will need to turn in a new member application, demonstrate some basic scout skills and knowledge, and have a Scoutmaster Conference. Tenderfoot, Second-Class, and First-Class requirements can be completed at the same time (i.e., they don't have to complete all the requirements for one rank before they can work on requirements for the next one).

Take time to look at your scout's book or Scoutbook, the requirements for these three ranks are basic scouting skills that will serve them as they camp and grow in scouting.

Summer camp is important for the new scout. The experience they get at summer camp is important to bonding the scouts into the group. They will also be placed in a first-year camper program that is designed to work on these first ranks and help them to be well on their way to 1st class when they arrive home unless greater than normal progress has been made prior to camp. Most first-year programs incorporate 1-3 merit badges into their program as well.

Merit Badges

These become more important after they attain First Class but can be earned at any scout rank. They will need to complete merit badges to become a Star, again to become Life, and again to become an Eagle Scout. Their first merit badges as a new scout should be fun and not too difficult to complete. They will get a blue card from the SM or Advancement Chair; they ask their SM to sign off on them working on said merit badge. Complete the work with a counselor. After these steps are done, they will receive their blue card back from the counselor and they are responsible for turning it into the Advancement Chair.

If they choose to work on Merit Badges on their own, the above steps are still followed but they need to find a counselor to work with them before they start the merit badge. There is a list of Merit Badge counselors

available to them. They might not know these people but that is okay, it will help them grow and learn. Some MB counselors are from other troops.

Meritbadge.org is a website that will assist them in learning about all the possibilities of merit badges out there and what the requirements are for them.

Helpful hint... buy a 3-ring binder and some baseball card holders to store merit badge cards and rank advancement cards... this helps a lot.

Uniform

The uniform helps the Scout identify himself with the Scouting organization. It also demonstrates respect for the institution and ideals of Scouting.

There are two basic classifications of uniform, Field uniform and Activity uniform. The Field uniform is the “formal” uniform. The Scout should wear this uniform to official activities, troop meetings, and at certain other designated times. The Field uniform consists of the following: Scout shirt (long or short-sleeved), Scout pants (long or short) and belt, Scout socks, Merit Badge sash, neckerchief and slide. The activity uniform is a Troop T shirt and scout shorts.

First year scouts are not required to have a full Field uniform until they sit for their Star board of review. Any Boards of review above First Class requires a full Field uniform.

There is a limited number of used scout shirts available for use.

There are a variety of items that should be placed in a specific location on the Class A Scout shirt. These can be found in the Scout Handbook and other resources. Scouts should consult with their Scoutmaster if they are unsure about the placement of certain items.

How Do I Find Out About Upcoming Events?

The Troop will have an activity/outing every month. The Troop has a large inventory of equipment we use on our campouts and other outings. We provide the following:

- Tents
- Ground Cloth (tarps)
- Cooking equipment
- Water coolers
- Propane lanterns
- Tables
- Toilet Paper
- Cleaning Supplies
- First Aid Supplies

We DO NOT provide tents or tarps for adults.

We also DO NOT provide:

- Cups
- Plates

- Bowls
- Knives
- Forks
- Spoons
- Sleeping Bags

Permission slips are available for every campout containing all the specifics for each outing. Scouts (and parents planning to attend) MUST sign up for these outings in advance so we can plan accordingly. Your scout should have papers to give you if he wants to go on an outing. Recently, this has been accomplished by signing up for an event on Scoutbook. By checking that he will attend an event, you are giving the troop the same consent as a permission slip. There has been discussion on bringing back paper permission slips, this is an excellent item to be discussed at a committee meeting.

Finance

The cost of scouting can be significant. Each outing costs on average \$25 / scout, summer camp is generally over \$300 per scout, occasionally we must purchase new equipment to replace old troop equipment, each MB and scout rank cost about \$3 each, etc. Each scout and family are responsible for covering the costs of their scout's camping. Payment plans can be set up. See our troop treasurer to arrange this.

Because of the costs of scouting, troop 586 does fundraising that alleviates some of the burden of cost from the scout's family.

The troop does 1 major fundraiser per year. The mum painting and cobbler booth. Participation is expected by all scouts as being thrifty (paying one's own way) is one of the scout laws. This occurs from the end of August to the end of September every year. At the festival, we also run a cobbler booth. The money from this is usually paid to us by February next year.

In accordance with federal IRS laws and national BSA policies, if your scout chooses to transfer to another troop, the money donated from fundraising to the troop will remain within the troop and will be put in the general fund.

If anyone has any additional fundraising ideas, please bring them to the committee meeting that occurs each month.

Medicines for outings

- All medicine (prescription and non-prescription) must be labeled and given to the designated adult with written directions on a 3x5 card and put in a labeled Ziploc bag.
- Prescription medicine must be in original containers.

Leadership Development

Lord Baden-Powell said the following things about Boy Scout leadership development:

“Training boy leaders to run their troop is the Scoutmaster’s most important job.”

“Train Scouts to do a job, then let them do it.”

“Never do anything a boy can do.”

Scouts BSA provides a variety of leadership development opportunities at patrol and troop levels and beyond. Scouts are expected to take a minimal level of leadership roles in their rank advancement requirements and encouraged to take progressively more challenging leadership roles beyond the minimum.

Critical difference between Cub Scouting and Scouts BSA. This is your scouts scouting career. He/she needs to start to take responsibility for what they want to do in scouting.

Order of the Arrow

When a Scout has achieved the rank of First Class and has participated in at least 15 camping nights within the previous 24 months, he is eligible to be elected into the Order of the Arrow (OA), which is the Boy Scouts Honor Society.

Elections are held early each year, and inductions are typically held in the spring, summer, and fall. A unique aspect of this is that the Scouts vote on their peers (adult leaders do not vote in this election).

Once a Scout has joined the OA, they are offered many more opportunities to participate in camp outs, service projects, and leadership opportunities. Scouts can remain active in the OA throughout their lives, even after they age out of Scouts BSA. This functions separately from the troop both timewise and financially. Although a scout's earmarked funds can be used to pay for these outings.

NYLT

National Youth Leadership Training is offered 1 week a summer by Miami Valley Council. A scout must be 13 and at least First Class to attend. The Scoutmaster is required to sign a recommendation form for any scout wishing to attend.

NYLT teaches the youth to run a troop the proper way and gives them the tools to reach that goal. In the week-long course, the scouts work their way through a month of programming in a troop. This valuable course is recommended and encouraged as the youth get older. 14-15 is the optimal age.

Other Terms you will hear:

ILST- Introduction to Leadership Skill for the Troop - basic leadership training for holding positions in the troop and how the troop functions. This is usually done on a campout in December.

Philmont, Northern Tier, Seabase, and Summit---- High adventure bases for Scouting

BOR- Board of Review

COH- Court of Honor –awards ceremony 3-4 a year

Questions

If you have any questions, feel free to call or email the SM: Jim Ridgeway 513-582-8469,
james.ridgeway@aes.com

ⁱ Certain requirements cannot be signed off by a Star scout or above: Scout spirit, SM Conf, BOR, and any requirement for Star through Eagle.