



Troop 894 Parent Guide

Welcome to Troop 894

Welcome to Troop 894! We are excited to have your family join our troop. Scouting is a youth-led program that helps build leadership, responsibility, confidence, outdoor skills, and lifelong friendships.

This guide is designed to help parents understand how our troop works, what to expect, and how to support their Scout throughout their journey.

Our Mission

Troop 894 strives to:

- Build character and leadership
 - Encourage independence and responsibility
 - Teach outdoor and life skills
 - Create a fun, safe, and welcoming environment
 - Help Scouts grow at their own pace
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Troop Information

Council: Crossroads of America

District: Five Creeks

Troop Number: 894

Meeting Location: West Newton United Methodist Church

Meeting Day/Time: Tuesdays from 7pm-8:30pm

Key Leaders

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Scoutmaster | Christopher Cheek | 317-997-3317 | Scoutmaster894@gmail.com |
| Assistant Scoutmaster | William Sage | | |
| Committee Chair | Dean McBride | | |
| Unit Advancement Chair | Megan Sage | | Megan.sage894@gmail.com |
| Unit Training Chair | Amanda Williams | | 5creekstroop894@gmail.com |
| Unit Outdoor Activities Coordinator | Brandy Neice | 317-507-0016 | Brandy1049@gmail.com |
| Unit Treasurer | Amanda Williams | | 5creekstroop894@gmail.com |
| Chartered Organization Rep | Mike Spall | | |
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What Makes Scouts Different?

Scouting America is designed to be:

Youth-Led

The Scouts plan activities, run meetings, make decisions, and learn through experience. Adults guide and support rather than direct every detail.

Hands-On

Scouts learn by doing:

- Camping
- Cooking

- Hiking
- First aid
- Knots and lashings
- Leadership
- Service projects
- Teamwork

Growth Through Responsibility

Scouts are encouraged to:

- Pack their own gear
 - Keep track of advancement
 - Manage their time
 - Solve problems
 - Learn from mistakes
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Parent Expectations

Parents play an important role in the success of the troop.

Please Encourage Your Scout To:

- Attend meetings regularly
- Wear their uniform correctly
- Participate in campouts and activities
- Take responsibility for advancement
- Communicate respectfully
- Try new things

Parents Should:

- Read troop communications
 - Help Scouts arrive prepared and on time
 - Support youth leadership
 - Volunteer when able
 - Follow Youth Protection policies
 - Encourage independence rather than doing tasks for Scouts
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Communication

Troop Communication Methods

- **Text Group/App:** GroupMe
- **Website:** scouts894.com
- **Calendar Location:** GroupMe app and scout894.com/calendar

Communication Expectations

- Important information will be shared through troop communication channels.
 - Families are encouraged to check messages regularly.
 - Scouts should begin taking responsibility for checking troop information as they grow.
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Uniforms

Class A Uniform

Typically worn for:

- Meetings
- Ceremonies
- Boards of Review
- Courts of Honor

Includes:

- Scout shirt
- Scout pants/shorts (jeans are permitted)
- Belt
- Closed-toe shoes

Class B Uniform

Typically worn for:

- Campouts
- Outdoor activities
- Service projects

Includes:

- Troop t-shirt
 - Appropriate outdoor clothing
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Advancement

Advancement is individual and self-paced.

Ranks

1. Scout
2. Tenderfoot
3. Second Class
4. First Class
5. Star
6. Life
7. Eagle

Important Notes

- Scouts advance at different speeds.
- Parents should encourage but not pressure advancement.
- Participation and growth are just as important as rank.

Tracking Advancement

Advancement may be tracked through:

- Scout handbook
 - Troop records
 - Scoutbook
 - Advancement coordinator
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Camping & Outdoor Activities

Camping is a major part of the Scouting program. Our troop attends a week-long summer camp each year and stays active year-round with monthly campouts and outdoor activities.

Campout Expectations

Scouts are expected to:

- Help set up and clean up
- Participate in cooking and duties
- Respect quiet hours
- Follow safety rules
- Work as a team
- Adhere to Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace Principles

Packing Responsibility

Scouts should pack their own gear whenever possible. Parents may guide younger Scouts but independence is encouraged.

Common Campout Gear

- Sleeping bag
 - Sleeping pad
 - Water bottle
 - Flashlight/headlamp
 - Weather-appropriate clothing
 - Rain gear
 - First Aid
 - Toiletries
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Health & Safety

Required Forms

Families may need to submit:

- BSA Medical Forms
- Permission slips
- Medication information

- Emergency contacts

Medications

Please follow troop procedures regarding medications during outings. All medications should be turned in to the Scoutmaster in their original containers, along with clear dosage instructions, and will remain securely stored during the event. It is the Scout's responsibility to report to the Scoutmaster at the appropriate time to take their medication.

Youth Protection

Troop 894 follows all Scouting America Youth Protection guidelines.

Key rules include:

- Two-deep leadership
 - No one-on-one adult/youth contact
 - Respectful behavior expectations
 - Mandatory reporting requirements
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Troop Leadership Structure

Youth Leaders

Examples include:

- Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)
- Patrol Leaders
- Quartermaster
- Scribe
- Historian
- Instructor

Adult Leaders

Adults provide:

- Safety oversight
- Transportation coordination
- Mentorship
- Administrative support
- Training and guidance

Volunteer Opportunities

Our troop depends on volunteers.

Ways parents can help:

- Driving
- Camping supervision
- Merit badge counseling
- Fundraising
- Equipment organization
- Committee roles
- Event planning
- Skills instruction

Even small contributions make a big difference. All adult leaders must be registered and must have completed Safeguarding Youth Training.

Fundraising

Troop Fundraisers

Our troop is always looking for new fundraising ideas and opportunities. If you have suggestions, contacts, or would like to help organize a fundraiser, please share them with the troop leadership.

Behavior Expectations

Troop 894 expects Scouts to:

- Follow the Scout Oath and Law
- Show respect to others
- Use appropriate language
- Include others
- Follow safety rules
- Represent the troop positively

Bullying, harassment, hazing, or unsafe behavior is strictly prohibited

Transportation Guidelines

Transportation Expectations

- Seat belts are required.
- Drivers must follow Scouting America transportation guidelines.
- Departure and pickup times should be respected.

Pickup Expectations

Parents should communicate if they will be late.

Financial Information

Annual Dues

In addition to annual recharter dues, the troop also collects annual troop dues. These dues help cover the cost of Courts of Honor, rank advancement patches, awards, and other troop program expenses throughout the year.

Typical Costs

- Registration fees
- Camping fees
- Summer camp
- Uniforms
- Activity fees

Court of Honor

Courts of Honor recognize Scout achievements and are an important troop tradition.

Families are encouraged to attend.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if my Scout is nervous?

That is completely normal. Many Scouts are nervous at first. Friendships and confidence usually build quickly through participation.

Do parents have to camp?

No. Parent participation is welcome but not required unless specifically requested. Any parent interested in camping will need to register and complete Safeguarding Youth Training.

What if my Scout forgets gear?

Learning responsibility is part of Scouting. Leaders will help keep Scouts safe, but Scouts are encouraged to learn from experience.

How quickly should my Scout rank up?

Every Scout moves at a different pace. Focus on growth, confidence, and participation.

Helpful Resources

- Scouts BSA Handbook
 - Scoutbook
 - Troop calendar
 - Youth Protection Training
 - Merit Badge resources
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Final Thoughts

Scouting works best when youth are given opportunities to lead, grow, struggle, learn, and succeed.

Thank you for supporting Troop 894 and helping create a positive experience for every Scout.
