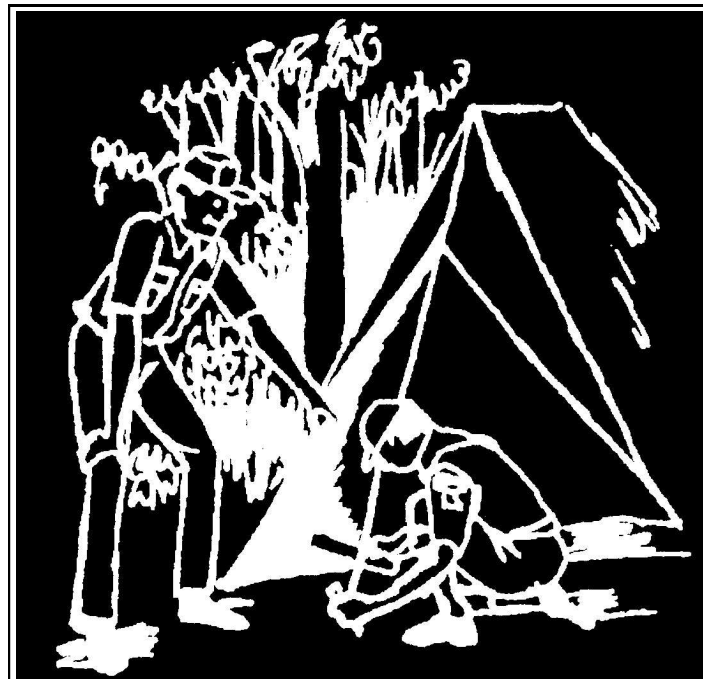


# *The Pioneer Handbook*

A Parent's Guide to the  
First Year in Scouting



Troop 874 - Ellicott City, MD

March 2026

Welcome to the Pioneer Program of Troop 874. This first year of Scouting marks an exciting transition as your Scout begins a new adventure filled with outdoor experiences, new friendships, and opportunities for growth. The Pioneer year is designed to help Scouts build a strong foundation in essential skills while developing confidence, independence, and a sense of responsibility. It is a time of learning, adjustment, and discovery—for both Scouts and their families.

The Pioneer Program introduces Scouts to the youth-led structure that defines Scouting. Unlike Cub Scouts, where activities are largely adult-directed, Scouts in Troop 874 begin taking ownership of their experience by participating in small patrols, learning from older Scouts, and gradually developing leadership skills. This shift can feel like a big change at first, but it is intentional and important. Through guided support from experienced youth leaders and adult mentors, Scouts learn to take initiative, solve problems, and grow through real experiences.

This handbook is designed to guide you through that first year. It provides an overview of how the Pioneer Program works, what your Scout can expect, and how you can best support their success. As you read, keep in mind that every Scout progresses at their own pace. With encouragement, participation, and a willingness to try new things, your Scout will gain the skills and confidence that set the stage for the rest of their Scouting journey.



## Table of Contents

<b>Committee Chairman's Welcome</b>	2
<b>Scoutmaster's Welcome</b>	3
<b>Introduction</b>	4
<b>Section I: Scouting's Aims and Methods</b>	4
<b>Section II: The Pioneer Program</b>	7
Why a First Year Program	
Organization	
The First Year Advancement Trail	
Outdoor Program	
<b>Section III: Troop 874</b>	14
Background	
Troop Organization	
Troop Committee	
Program Planning	
Communications	
Code of Conduct	
Courts of Honor	
Troop Meetings	
Camping Trips	
Medical Forms & Permission Slips	
<b>Section IV: Your Role</b>	20
<b>Appendix A: Uniform Requirements</b>	21
<b>Appendix B: Troop 874 Finances</b>	22
<b>Appendix C: Suggested Camping Equipment</b>	24
<b>Appendix D: Leadership Phone Numbers</b>	25



*Lord Robert Baden-Powell, Founder of Scouting*

## ***Committee Chairman's Welcome***

Congratulations to you and your son for selecting Troop 874 for your Scouting experience.

You have chosen a Troop with a long history of Scouting successes, from the early days when the Troop was 7 to 8 boys and 3 men acting like boys, to today when we yearly register ~100 boys. We are very proud of the Scouting program that has been created and nurtured in Troop 874.

We make it our goal to teach the Boy Scouting program as it is designed and to provide each boy with a solid foundation of character development, physical fitness, and citizenship.

We are a large group of boys and male and female adult leaders whose goal is to have fun and learn from each other. Each person who comes into our program is offered an opportunity to grow and succeed but also to experience failure, learn by it, and overcome the difficulties of growing up.

You'll notice I said "each person" and it is as true for the adult volunteers as it is for the boys. One of the reasons you probably chose Troop 874 was because of the enthusiasm you saw and the variety of opportunities which will be available to your son. That doesn't happen by accident, it is the result of a lot of work and dedication by a large number of adult members of this Troop.

But we need your contribution and help as well. There are many opportunities for you to help out - from driving to/from a camping trip, to helping care for the Troop's equipment, to working directly with the Scouts at the program level. No matter how much or how little time you have we will put it to good use. So when we ask please give it some thought and be willing to step up and help your son and all the rest of the Scouts of Troop 874.

Scouting should be fun and we all think it is. We look forward to having you and your son in our program.

Thanks for all your support,  
Kyle Andersen

## *Scoutmaster's Welcome*

Welcome to Troop 874. Your son is about to enter the most marvelous adventure in his life. He will be challenged in exciting ways, acquire memories lasting a lifetime, and have more fun than he ever thought possible.

Our Troop 874 has canoed in Canada, hiked the Trails of Maryland and Virginia, backpacked at Philmont, NM; and visited the National Jamboree at the new Summit Camp in southern West Virginia. We offer an active hiking and camping program.

I have been blessed with superb adult leaders, Committee people, and volunteers who make the Troop go. We have also been blessed with our current sponsor and charter organization, the Ellicott City Volunteer Fire Department since 2022. Our original charter organization at our start in 1962 was Glen Mar United Methodist Church.

We're in the business of making memories, and the Scout Program is one of the best in doing that. Our program is designed to give every Scout in the Troop the opportunity to achieve the highest rank in Scouting, Eagle Scout. We want to help your son experience the rewards that come from advancement. But while advancement is one measure, it isn't the only measure. Our ultimate purpose is to help your son develop his citizenship, character, and fitness. And the way we do this is to provide him a setting that is fun. If we succeed, he simply has a good time and never really realizes that he has picked up these wholesome characteristics. And, Boy Scouts is the ONLY Leadership Development Program available to boys in this age group. We conduct a Leadership Laboratory, and your son will be the beneficiary of that experience.

The bottom line in all this is your son. We are dedicated to the proposition that Scouting will help every boy who participates. We believe in the program or else we would not be here.

But we can only do so much and we count on you, his parent, to help us. Your son needs to know that you support and encourage his participation in Scouting. (By the way, the best way you can tell him that is by becoming active in the Troop yourself.) You need to be aware of his progress to let us know when there is a problem. If you do these things, you will be striking a partnership with us that will have profound and lasting implications on the kind of man your son will become.

I am really excited about your son's decision to begin an adventure that will leave an indelible impression upon him for the rest of his life. You have my word that my Assistant Scoutmasters, the Troop Committee, all our volunteers, and I are here to help your son create the memories of a lifetime and to become a successful adult.

Yours in Scouting, *Chad Scott*

## ***Introduction***

This handbook is full of the information that you and your Scout will need to make your first year in Scouting a success. It is written in a conversational style to make it easy to understand and a useful tool for you.

When you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to address them to the Troop Committee Chairman, the Scoutmaster, or any of the Assistant Scoutmasters for the Pioneer program (phone numbers in Appendix D).

# **Ready? Then let's hit the Scouting Trail!**

## **Section 1: Scouting's Aims and Methods**

By way of introduction to Scouting, we would like to take a couple of pages to inform you, the parent, what Scouting is all about and what you can expect to see.

Scouting isn't just a bunch of boys and some adults going camping once a month and hanging out one night a week. Scouting in America has aims, methods, and values designed to provide a quality program in a safe and secure environment.

### **Aims**

Scouting works toward three aims. The first is growth in *moral strength and character*. We may define this as what the boy is himself, his personal qualities, his values, and his outlook. The second aim is *participating in citizenship*. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. The third aim is *development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness*. Fitness includes the body (well tuned and healthy), the mind (able to

think and solve problems), and the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

## **Methods**

Scouting has 8 methods to achieve those three aims. These are:

### **1. Ideals**

The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan. Scouts measure themselves against these ideals and continually try to improve. These goals are high and as he reaches for them he has some control over what he becomes.

### **2. Patrols**

The Patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating in citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches them to accept it. The Patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to one another.

### **3. Outdoors**

Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live together. The outdoors is a laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of our natural resources.

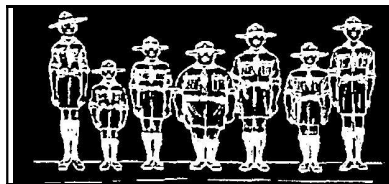


#### 4. Advancement

Scouting provides a series of achievable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The Scout progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge.

#### 5. Adult Association

Scouts learn from the examples set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is provided.



#### 6. Personal Growth

As Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. **The Good Turn** concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting.

**The Good Turn:** Scouts are encouraged to do a "Good Turn" every day—an act of helpfulness or kindness done without expecting anything in return. This simple habit builds character and reminds Scouts to look for ways to serve others in their daily lives.

#### 7. Leadership Development

Scouting encourages young men to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Star, Life and Eagle ranks require each scout to be a leader for a period of up to six months, which is the main reason our boy leadership changes every six months (March - August; September - February).

## **8. Uniform**

The Scout uniform makes the Scout visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims of Scouting. The uniform is also practical attire for Scout activities and provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges and patches that demonstrate their accomplishments.

## **Section II: The Pioneer Program**

### **Why a First Year Program?**

The Pioneer program provides first year Scouts the best opportunity possible to learn and master the basic Scouting skills. The goal is to give them the opportunity to work towards the rank of First Class Scout. Although the Assistant Scoutmasters, Patrol Coaches, and Troop Guides will encourage the Scout, it is up to him to take advantage of the program being offered. He can only do that if he participates in meetings and outings. The Scouts are allowed and encouraged to work at their own pace. Often, this is the hardest part of the transition from Cub Scouting and to Scouting.

In Cubs, the program is structured to have the Scouts in the den work toward the next rank as a group with the Den Leader making the decisions. In many Packs, the whole den will move forward as one. The Pioneer program and Scouting does not work this way, as you will see. For a boy to be a leader, he must first be able to take care of himself. Once he can do that, he can lead others. The Pioneer program begins that transition from hand holding to individual leadership. Your son is growing up.

### **Organization**

Troop 874's Pioneer program is made up of Patrols. For the new Scouts joining each March, they will be grouped into Patrols of 6 to 8 Scouts apiece. They are led by an experienced older Scout called a Troop Guide. The Troop Guide functions as the Patrol Leader for the new Scouts. They report to the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader for Pioneers. This Assistant Senior Patrol Leader reports to the Senior Patrol Leader, the Scout who leads the entire Troop. Please remember that these leaders may only be fourteen or fifteen years old. They were Pioneers only a few years ago just like your son.

***Wait! Where are the adults? The Scoutmaster and his Assistant Scoutmasters? The Patrol Coaches?***

Don't worry, we're here providing the program supervision and making sure the Patrol stays on track, in accordance with the program laid out by the Senior Patrol Leader and the Patrol Leaders Council (also known as the Green Bar). In fact, your son's Patrol Coach should contact you shortly to introduce himself and go over any concerns you may have.

***Okay, I feel somewhat better now, but what is a Patrol Coach and all these other positions you've just described?***

Good question. Let's start with the Patrol Coach. Each Pioneer Patrol will have two Patrol Coaches, who are adult Scouters, assigned to it. They coach the Troop Guide and provide the first level of adult oversight in the Troop. Working with them are Assistant Scoutmasters who fill in when necessary and who also coach the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, who is leading the activities of the Pioneer Program and the Patrols. (By the way, this is an excellent place to start your troop involvement.)

***Wow, you certainly have a lot of people, both Scouts and adults, involved. Is there anyone else?***

We also have Instructors. These are older Scouts who teach certain skills to the Pioneer Scouts and help them along the trail toward Second Class. This happens during troop meetings and campouts.

***What about the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee Chairman? Where do they fit into the picture?***

The Scoutmaster oversees the entire troop program through mentoring and coaching of the Senior Patrol Leader. Of course, he has his Assistant Scoutmasters to help him. The Troop Committee Chairman and the Troop Committee are responsible for the "business" side of the Troop and overall Troop operations. Together, this team works diligently to ensure a Scouting Program that is fun and growth-facilitating for all Scouts in the Troop.

### **The First Year Advancement Trail**

***This first year seems really important. What can I expect and, more importantly, what can the new Scout expect?***

The first year is designed to provide the new Scout with opportunities to learn new skills and apply those skills within the Troop, but more importantly, within the family and the community. Let's take a quick tour of the first year's advancement trail:

## **SCOUT**

Shortly after becoming part of Troop 874, your young man will be asked to complete the requirements for the Scout rank. Each new Scout will be required to demonstrate that he knows the Scout sign, salute, and handclasp. He will also have to know the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, Slogan, and the Outdoor Code. You can help your son by working with him on these requirements, but they will be taught and tested within the Troop. And, you are required to read, discuss, and complete the exercises **with** your son in the *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide* pamphlet found within the Scout Handbook. You must initial that you have completed this requirement with your son. Your boy will also need to earn the Cyber Chip. After completing these and a few other requirements, he will be awarded the badge of Scout.

## **TENDERFOOT**

The next rank is Tenderfoot where the new Scout will learn more new skills and reinforce the skills he obtained to become a Scout. The 8 requirements are listed towards the back of Scout Handbook and include camping, cooking, knots, first aid, hiking, and physical fitness skills.

## **SECOND CLASS**

Next is the rank of Second Class where your Scout continues to master the various skills required of him. The 9 requirements include camping, cooking, orienteering, nature, additional first aid, swimming, fitness, citizenship, and service to the community.

## **FIRST CLASS**

The next rank is First Class. The 9 requirements that finalize the basic skills the Scout has been learning since his first day with the Troop. Outdoor skills, cooking, nature, swimming, advanced first aid, knots & lashings, fitness, citizenship, and more maps & compasses. Although your boy will complete some of the First Class requirements, we do not expect him to earn the First Class rank by the end of the first year.

***You're right. That first year is important. Where can my Scout find out more about these skills and requirements?***

The Scout Handbook is the best resource and one of the most important pieces of equipment your Scout can have, not only for the first year, but throughout his Scouting career. You can also visit [scouting.org](http://scouting.org).

Now, let's take just a couple of pages and introduce you to the rest of the Troop. It will give you a better perspective on where this all leads to and how it all comes together.

### **Outdoor Program**

Troop 874 conducts a very active outdoor program. We go camping 10 months out of the year, taking August and December off. Your Scout's first camping experience with the Troop will be cabin camping in March, which means the new Scouts do not have to pitch a tent. However, during that first camp out, they will learn how to pitch a tent, cook, and begin to come together as a Patrol. In each of the following few months the scouts will grow in their camping skills and work together as a patrol.

Our second highlight is summer camp, usually the second or third week of July. This is a week of pure Scouting and takes place at one of the

numerous Scout camps located throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. It is at summer camp that the Scouts attend merit badge sessions that allow them to earn the whole merit badge in one week. Typical merit badges earned by Scouts during their first summer camp include Swimming, Leatherwork, and Basketry. Attending this camp is recommended for new scouts to complete multiple requirements for rank advancement, especially for their first year in the troop. They are responsible for gathering signatures and blue cards at camp to document their accomplishments. They will share this documentation with their Assistant Scoutmaster.

During the other eight camp outs, the Scouts have to set up their own campsite, pitch the tents and dining tarps, cook their meals, and clean up afterwards. **Troop 874 supplies all tents, tarps, cooking gear, and stoves for these camp outs.** At the conclusion of the camp out, the Troop Guide will assign some equipment to each member of the Patrol to take home and clean. The Scout is expected to return the equipment at the next Troop meeting ready for use on the next camp out. Scouts are responsible for all Troop equipment they are issued.

***Okay. But what about personal equipment? Sleeping bags, packs, knives, boots, etc?***

Please see Appendix C for a list of suggested camping gear. The troop will provide all new scouts with a weekend backpack, which should be sufficient to hold their gear and personal belongings. Bottom line is don't spend a lot of money on the high-tech gear until you and your Scout are sure that Scouting is right for them. Another note, every new Scout wants to carry a knife.

Scouting America and Troop 874 have a strict policy about this. No Scout is allowed to carry a knife unless they have earned the Totin Chip patch. To earn the Totin Chip, the Scout must demonstrate proper care and usage of all woods tools



(knife, axe, and saw). Troop 874 does not work on Totin Chip until summer camp, so hold off on buying that pocketknife until the fall. No sheath knives or other non-folding knives are permitted under any circumstances.

## Section III: Troop 874

### Background

Troop 874 is sponsored and chartered by the Ellicott City Volunteer Fire Department, since 2022. We meet at the Glen Mar United Methodist Church, our previous chartered organization from 1962-2022. The Troop is part of the National Pike District of the Baltimore Area Council (BAC). In 2012 the Troop celebrated its 50th anniversary. The Troop has grown from a couple of dozen Scouts to ~100 Scouts currently registered with the Troop, making us one of the largest Troops in the BAC. Troop 874 also has over 145 Eagle Scouts among its alumni.

### Troop Organization

Troop 874 is organized into three program areas (the Pioneer program, the Ranger program, and the Venture program).

Our size allows us to organize a separate program for the first year Scouts, which we call the **Pioneer program** (5-6 grade), focusing the efforts and energies of the Scouts on the skills needed to advance to the rank of Second Class Scout and develop outdoor skills.

After the Scout's first year, he will move into the **Ranger program** (6-8 grade). The Scout will continue his effort to earn the First Class rank during the first cycle (6 months) in the Ranger program. The rest of the Ranger program is geared more toward earning merit badges and developing leadership skills through practical application.

Once the Scout has reached high school, he will move into the Venture program. Ventures plan and participate in High Adventure activities such as backpacking, canoe outings, white water rafting, rock climbing, Philmont

expeditions, etc. Of course, this is all properly supervised and a great deal of fun. Ventures continue to earn merit badges and refine their leadership skills as they focus on earning the Eagle rank.

### **Troop Committee**

The Troop is responsible to the Troop Committee. Headed by a Troop Committee Chair, the Troop Committee controls finances, approves the programs and activities, determines Troop policy, and has overall responsibility for operating the Troop. Troop 874's Committee meets once a month, on the first Wednesday, at the Glen Mar United Methodist Church. Parents are welcome to attend Committee meetings. Adults must be registered with the troop to vote on issues put before the Committee.

### **Program Planning**

In June and January of each year, the Troop holds a semi-annual Program Planning meeting at Glen Mar. Both the Scout and adult leadership participate and lay out the themes for the upcoming year, the locations of our monthly camping trips, and other activities (day trips, litter pick-up, etc).

Also, once a month, usually on the first Monday night, the Scout leadership meets with the Scoutmaster and his Assistant Scoutmasters in what is called the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) at Glen Mar. Informally, the PLC is called the Green Bar, so called because of the green stripes, or bars, that denote youth leadership positions. At the PLC, the Scouts confirm their monthly activities plan, ensure programming resources are available, and resolve any scheduling conflicts.

At the end of most Troop meetings, the Senior Patrol Leader will hold a

short, informal Green Bar meeting to communicate vital information and reminders to the Patrol Leader and Troop Guides and to assess the success of the weekly meeting.

### **Communications**

All this planning would be for nothing without communication. Troop 874 has several channels of communication to get information to you and the Scouts.

#### **At the Scout level:**

The first channel is when the Troop Guide (a Scout) passes along information to his Pioneer Patrol. This is done during a portion of the Troop meeting called Patrol Corners. Information passed along here usually deals with reminders about upcoming activities.

Your Scout will receive emails from their Assistant Scoutmaster (parents will be copied). This is used to pass along weekly and last-minute changes, reminders about important events, notification of changes in events from the previous troop meeting, etc. If your scout does not have an email address yet, now would be the time to create one.

#### **At the Parent level:**

The Troop also sends a weekly email newsletter, The Weekly Knot, covering the week's activities and reminders. Please contact Kyle Andersen, [comchair.troop874@gmail.com](mailto:comchair.troop874@gmail.com), our committee chair, if you are not receiving this weekly update.

The troop has a web page which is routinely updated. Its address is:  
<http://www.troop874.com/>

Another channel is at the conclusion of the Troop meeting, during what we call Circle Up. Here, both adult leaders and Scouts pass along information and announcements of a general nature. **Parents are highly encouraged to attend.**

### **The Code of Conduct**

Troop 874 expects each Scout to conduct themselves in a manner befitting a Scout. What are these rules? At the beginning of every Troop meeting, we remind ourselves by reciting the Scout Oath and Scout Law. We don't just memorize it, we are expected to live it and practice it.

We do not tolerate alcohol, drugs, or tobacco usage in Scouting. Not only is it against the law, but it is against the principles of the Scouting movement. This applies equally to Scouts and adult leaders.

We do not tolerate behavior (deeds or words) that is deemed dangerous or can cause harm to others or self, including hazing.

Finally, Scouting has the Two Deep Leadership system. Simply put, it means that there will be at least two adults and one Scout or one adult and two Scouts present in any situation. Also, all adult Scouters go through a Youth Protection Training course that further emphasizes ways to recognize and prevent child abuse.

### **Courts of Honor**

At least two times a year, February and August, the Troop holds a formal Court of Honor. The Court of Honor is a special way to recognize the Scouts who have advanced in rank and have earned merit badges since the

last Court of Honor. Your attendance at these functions is an important demonstration to your son that you are proud of his accomplishments, and that you believe that this is an important part of his life. The Scouts work very hard for what they earn, and this is a special way for us to show them how proud we are of their accomplishments. Rank advancements and merit badges are distributed at troop meetings throughout the year as well.



A very special Court of Honor is the Eagle Court of Honor. This is where only one advancement is awarded, the rank of Eagle Scout. As such, this special event is filled with ceremony and recognition of an extraordinary achievement.

**FACT:** Out of every 100 young people who join Scouting, only four become Eagle Scouts.

### **Troop Meetings**

The Troop meets every Thursday evening at the Glen Mar United Methodist Church off Route 103 in Ellicott City, MD. We meet from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. Each Scout is expected to attend and be present in a complete Scout uniform and have his Scout Handbook with him. Please see Appendix A for uniform requirements.

From after summer camp in July to early September, we only have informal Thursday night meetings where Scouts do not need to wear their uniform and attendance is optional. They normally finish some requirements or simply gather to have fun with their friends. We encourage you to attend, observe a Troop meeting, and help the Scouts with their program.

## **Camping Trips**

The Troop normally goes camping on the third weekend of the month, typically Friday night through Sunday afternoon. Uniforms are not normally required on camping trips. We typically meet at Glen Mar at 5:30 PM on Friday and return to Glen Mar around 1 to 2 PM on Sunday. These times will vary depending on the camp location. (Note: driving to and from a camping trip is another way in which you can help the Troop.) A Scout **must** submit a parental permission slip and **pay** for his food two meetings prior to a camping trip in order to go on the trip. Adults will be on hand to collect the money at the troop meeting. If that is not possible, then you must talk to one of the Assistant Scoutmasters in advance. **PLEASE** read the permission slip when you sign it since it will have specific information such as pick-up time on it.

Parents are responsible for bringing their scouts to and from campouts and outings. The troop does not coordinate carpools. Families are encouraged to create carpools within your patrol or age-range. Parents may drop scouts off but must pick them up at the time specified by the troop. Scouts are not allowed to leave a campout until all scout transportation is present.

Pioneer Scouts will eventually be responsible for cleaning and maintenance of troop camping gear after a campout. See the Parent Handbook on the troop website for guidance.

## **Medical Forms & Permission Slips**

Every Scout who camps with the Troop is required to have a current Medical Form on file (BSA calls it Part A and B). The form is included in the annual registration packet. Updates are required annually. For summer camps a more in-depth medical form is needed (BSA calls it a Part C). A licensed medical person must sign it. It is required for summer camp. Permission Slips are handed out two to three weeks before a camping trip, and are required to be returned, signed by the parents, two weeks before a camping trip. This is needed to plan transportation.

## **Section IV: Your Role**

As you have read (and probably seen and heard too) Troop 874 puts on quite a program for not only the new Scouts, but all Scouts in the Troop. You may look around and see a couple of dozen adult Scouters at a meeting and feel that you don't need to contribute.

Nothing is further from the truth. Your contributions and participation are needed to keep the program alive and fresh. Don't worry if you've never been a Scout yourself or think you'd look silly in green shorts. Everyone can have a role that is vital to the success of our program. If you like being with the boys, we always need Patrol Coaches. If working personally with the scouts or camping is not for you, we have many support roles such as advancement, transportation, newsletter, etc. Please keep in mind that those adults you see now will probably be leaving the Troop before your son is eighteen. You are their replacement. Talk with us and join the Troop personally.

A great place to start is by registering as a member of the Troop Committee. Each and every parent can contribute to the success of our Troop.

For those of you bitten by the Scouting bug and desire to learn more about the program, Scouting America offers several training courses. Troop 874 offers First Aid/CPR at least once a year. We feel it is so important to the success of the Troop, the Troop Committee pays most registration fee upon your successful completion.

## **Appendix A: Uniform Requirements**

Troop 874 expects the Scouts to be wearing the Scouting America uniform during all Troop meetings and at community wide Scout and Troop functions.

Troop 874 uses two types of Scout uniforms. The first is the regular uniform. It consists of the official Scout shirt with all appropriate insignia attached (US flag, council patch, beige Troop numerals, Patrol patch, worldwide Scouting patch, rank, and the Arrow of Light award), official green Scout pants or shorts (weather dependent), Scout belt (either web or leather), Troop neckerchief, neckerchief slide, and Troop hat. The Troop neckerchief is presented to the new Scout shortly after joining or at his Cub Scout pack's bridging ceremony. The Troop hat and T-shirt can be purchased on the Troop website.

The second uniform type is the activity uniform. It consists of Scout shorts, Scout belt, Scout socks, and Scout T-shirt (either the Troop T-shirt or another official Scout T-shirt).

Uniforms can be purchased at either the Scout store at 701 Wyman Park Dr, Baltimore, MD21211 or 7502 Connelley Dr. #120, Hanover, MD 21076. The Troop also has a used uniform container where older Scouts donate their Scout shirts and pants that don't fit anymore so the younger Scouts can benefit. Please ask about this container and look through it before you buy any shirts or pants.

Now you're probably wondering where all those patches go on the uniform shirt. Well, your son's Scout handbook has all the answers inside the front and back covers. If you still have questions, please contact one of the Assistant Scoutmasters.

## Appendix B: Troop Finances

Troop Treasurer: Jim Sherry

Please make all checks payable to **Troop 874**

Online payment options are available.

Listed below are some of the annual costs a scout can expect to pay.

Family Assessment to Troop	\$125.00
Scouting America registration per boy to council	~\$185.00
Boys Life per boy to council (optional)	\$24.00
Total Paid each December	\$334.00

Dues paid each week (\$1.00 X 35)	\$35.00
Food for monthly campouts (\$25 X 9)	\$225.00
Summer Camp (Approximately)	~\$500.00

Costs a new scout can expect approximately:

Scout Uniform***	\$60.00
Scout Handbook	\$10.00
Sleeping Bag	\$50.00
Boots	\$50.00
Rain Suit	\$20.00
Ground Pad	\$15.00
Flashlight	\$10.00
Water Bottle	\$10.00
Backpack provided by troop to new scouts	\$0.00

\*\*\* Ask about the troop's used uniform container to see if you can obtain the pants and shirt for free.

### **Scouting America Registration (~\$185/year)**

When you register or renew your Scout through Scouting America, you pay approximately \$185, split between a Council Fee and National Fee. This money goes entirely to the national organization and the Baltimore Area Council. None of it comes back to Troop 874. It covers your Scout's official membership, insurance, and council-level programming. Think of it as the cost of being a Scout; our troop never sees a penny of it.

### **Family Assessment (\$125/year)**

This is Troop 874's primary source of operating funds. The family assessment is a flat annual fee of \$125 per family. It applies equally to every registered family regardless of how many Scouts you have in the troop or how often your family participates. It covers the everyday costs of running the troop: camping gear and equipment, campsite fees, and our facility use fee at Glen Mar Church. These are shared expenses that benefit every Scout, and this fee is how we pay for the program. After the Pioneer year, the fee is due no later than **March 1st** each year. Scouts that have unpaid family assessments after March 1st will not be eligible to attend troop meetings or troop campouts until the fee is paid.

### **Weekly Dues (\$1/meeting)**

Each week, Scouts are asked to bring \$1 in dues to the meeting. This is done intentionally. It's a small but meaningful way to teach Scouts financial responsibility and a sense of ownership in their troop. The dues are used to purchase the patches and awards that recognize their hard work and achievements throughout the year.

## **Appendix C: Suggested Camping Equipment**

Camping is one of the methods Scouting uses to teach the values and achieve the program's aims. For the first camping trip, your son will need a good pair of boots and good socks; cold and wet feet equal an unhappy Scout. We recommend thick socks such as the Thorlo brand. The boots should be waterproof, but not rain/snow boots. The next most important piece of equipment is the Scout's sleeping gear (his sleeping bag and ground pad). The cold and wet rule applies here too. We recommend a sleeping bag rated to at least 20 degrees. And the rest? There is a list at the end of this section.

Another recommendation is not to buy expensive equipment. Either the Scout will outgrow it or lose it. The Troop Guides will be teaching the new Scouts about equipment. Remember, we aren't climbing Mt. Everest next week or taking that 50-mile hike.

### **Must Have**

Sleeping Bag (rated to 20 degrees)  
Ground Pad/Mat (insulated, closed cell)  
Scout Handbook  
Small Flashlight  
Rain Gear  
Writing Gear (small notebook & pencil/pen)  
Water Bottle.

### **Don't Need**

Backpack (troop provides it)  
Mess Kit (each Patrol already has the plates and cups).

Other items, such as a compass, will be needed but not right away. Please remember, no pocketknives or fire-starting material. We'll let you know when.

## Appendix D: Adult Leadership Phone List

### Chartered Organization Representative

Justin Carlson

### Troop Committee Chairperson

Kyle Andersen

252-702-7507

### Scoutmaster

Chad Scott

410-707-2710

### Assistant Scoutmasters (Pioneer)

Raymond Chow (Lead ASM)

443-731-6028

### Troop Treasurer

Jim Sherry