

## Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 135, Carlisle, MA

### TROOP 135 CARLISLE PHILOSOPHY AND EXPECTATIONS:

1. The goal of the Carlisle Scouting program is to assist in the production of responsible and respectful young men. These young men must be self-reliant, self-disciplined, self-confident and self-respectful. They must be mindful as their roles as citizens in their community. They must hold physical, mental, emotional and moral fitness as a top priority in their life. In order to achieve these goals, our Troop realizes and acknowledges that **FAILURE IN THE BOY RUN PROGRAM** will be a common occurrence throughout their Scouting years. Burnt meals, missed opportunities, forgotten activities, missing tent parts, lack of communication and poor organization **WILL ALL OCCUR**. It is the role of the Troop and it's supporting adults to **ADVISE** these young men how to prevent the re-occurrence of these **FAILURES** and hope they learn from them. **IT IS NOT** our role as adults to step in and do the work. If we do, the Scouts learn nothing.
2. The Troop provides the plan and resources. The individual Scout provides the motivation, planning and implementation of his own advancement program. Occasionally the Troop may plan group advancement opportunities but the individual Scout is responsible for the success of his own Scout program.
3. Two of the most important Scouting goals are a **Scout run Troop** with **strong Scout leadership**. Parents of Scouts **will not** receive phone calls from Adult Troop Leadership notifying parents of upcoming Troop activities. Through the chain of command (Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol and Assistant Patrol Leaders) and Troop meetings, all Scouts will be advised, **by Scout boy leaders**, of upcoming activities. It is the responsibility of the Scout and his parents to be aware of upcoming events through this Scout chain of command. In addition, there is an occasional newsletter, frequent e-mail, Troop Calendar, Troop Meetings and Courts of Honor (awards presentation ceremony) where parents can obtain information to confirm upcoming events.
4. The adult leadership expects the Scout to make every effort to attend the weekly Troop Meetings, in his Scout uniform, with his Scout Handbook (the only record of rank advancement). As mentioned above, what is taught in these meetings is critical in the Scout's development. The monthly culmination of training and advancement is the monthly camping experience where participation is **strongly encouraged**, but not required. These trips provide the Scout the opportunity to test his training, knowledge, skills and accomplish rank and merit badge advancement. Parents are asked to support the Troop by:
  - a. helping their son attend weekly meetings and activities
  - b. monitoring and encouraging their son's rank and merit badge advancement
  - c. helping with transportation to events on a rotating basis
  - d. assisting in planning and implementation of one troop activity per year
  - e. attending Courts of Honor (awards ceremonies)

## GENERAL OVERVIEW OF TROOP 135:

- Our Troop is composed of +/- 35 boys from Carlisle and Concord.
- The grade distribution varies yearly but typically follows this demographic pattern:

Sixth grade	25%
Seventh grade	22%
Eighth grade	20%
Ninth grade	13%
Tenth grade	10%
Above tenth grade	10%

- The Troop is chartered (sponsored) by “Friends of Carlisle Scouting”, a parent organization formed to promote and support Scouting in Carlisle. The Chartering Organization’s responsibilities include finding a safe meeting place for the Troop, finding a Scoutmaster to work with the boys and to form and maintain a Troop Committee to run the day to day “adult” portions of the Troop organization.
- A Scout’s enthusiasm, enjoyment and success in our Scouting program is directly related to his parent involvement. The successful Scouts have a general sense of what they want to accomplish in Scouting over the next year. The parent’s role is to understand the goals of their Scout and encourage/assist their Scout in planning to achieve those goals.
- Important note: Advancement in Scouting is independent of your sons’ peers, grade or age. Advancement depends on the motivation of the individual Scout. There are no age requirements for advancement, no need to “keep-up” or “wait for” your peer group, no advancement minimums. Advancement is entirely dependent upon the maturity, motivation, organization and enthusiasm of each individual Scout. See **Troop 135 Advancement Timetable** for the typical, but not required, relationship between age, grade and rank.
- The Troop strictly enforces the Youth Protection Program developed by the Boy Scouts of America. Each parent and scout is required to read and understand this critical Troop and Scouting policy.
- The three aims of the Scouting program are:
  - To build character (self-reliance, self-discipline, self-confidence and self-respect).
  - To foster citizenship (the quality of an individual’s response to membership in a community).
  - To develop fitness (physical, mental, emotional and moral).
- The Troop Committee **STRONGLY** encourages each Scout and his parents to **READ** the Boy Scout Handbook. The Handbook contains answers to most of the questions that will be asked.
- Troop 135 Carlisle has a strong reputation in the Scouting community for being an extremely active outdoor Troop that seeks out difficult and challenging wilderness experiences that contributes to the development of the Scouts as young leaders who are responsible, physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

## SCHEDULE:

- Troop Meetings are typically weekly, Tuesday nights, 7:15 to 8:30 PM at the Carlisle School Exercise Room (see the Troop Calendar for specific dates). The purpose of the Troop Meeting is to:
  - train Scouts for rank advancement
  - train Scouts in the use of personal and Troop gear
  - prepare Scouts for upcoming trips and activities
  - provide opportunity for Scouts to develop leadership and organization skills
  - provide opportunity for Scouts to practice living by the Scout Promise and Law have fun
- The Troop issues a one-year calendar that mirrors the school year. The Troop calendar, detailing all Troop meetings, campouts and other Troop events, is coordinated with holidays, school events and local events to minimize disruptions and maximize opportunity. The Troop Committee creates the Troop calendar with input from the Scouts. **See Troop Calendar.**

## THE “BOY” ORGANIZATION:

- The boy leadership, together with the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters and Troop committee prepares a Troop Plan. The Troop Plan outlines all the activities for the upcoming year based on the needs of all the participating scouts. The Troop Plan is eventually incorporated into the Troop calendar.
- This final plan is developed by the Scouts and implemented by the Scouts. The adult leadership provides only the advice, guidance, resources and discipline that allows the Scouts to implement the Troop Plan. Troop meetings and activities are organized, communicated, and executed by the Scouts under adult supervision. A Patrol Leaders' Council meets monthly, under the supervision of that month's Assistant Scoutmaster, to review and update/change the Troop Plan as necessary.
- The boy leadership runs the Troop in accordance with the Troop Plan and calendar. The primary positions of responsibility and Troop leadership are the Senior and Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders. These two Scouts, under the Scoutmasters' supervision, manage four Patrol Leaders as well as Troop Quartermaster, Historian, Librarian, and Troop Guides. All other Scouts are assigned to one of four Patrols by the Scoutmaster.
- The Scout Troop organization is comprised of four Patrols (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta) and a Senior Patrol. A Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader manage each Patrol. **See Troop Roster.**
- The Patrol is the basic unit within the Troop. Each Patrol functions as its own unit at Troop meetings and on camp-outs. The Patrol works as a team under the guidance of the Patrol Leader, preparing menus, cooking, collecting wood, building fires and cleaning-up. The Patrol also discusses advancement opportunities and works as a unit at all Troop meetings.
- The Scoutmaster, together with eight assistant Scoutmasters, monitor the Scouts. This group of adults is responsible to assure that the Scouts adhere to the Troop plan, they supervise training of Scouting skills, they determine Troop leadership and “sign-off” upon the completion of rank advancement. **See Organization Chart for current Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters.**
- The organization, advancement and discipline of each Patrol is supervised by Assistant Scoutmasters who attend each Troop meeting on a prescheduled basis.
- All communication with your Scout is through his Patrol Leader. Patrols have a phone call chain established to communicate important Troop news to the Scouts. It is

important that parents understand that the daily success of the Troop depends on the communication between Patrol Leader and the Scout. Parents need to support the concept of communication between Scout and Patrol Leader. Parents need to ensure that the Scout talks to his patrol leader regarding all Troop matters.

- Troop 135 requires Scouts to attain the first class rank before being appointed to positions of responsibility in the Troop. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters mutually agree on changes in Troop leadership positions. Troop leadership positions are not elected positions in Troop 135; they are earned.

## THE ADULT ORGANIZATION:

- The Troop Committee is a large organization of parent volunteers who have divided up the adult responsibilities of managing the Troop. Under the direction of the committee chairman are the Advancement, Adventure, Quartermaster, Publicity, Website, Recruiting, Fundraising, Merit Badge, Treasurer and Community Service sub-committees. These committees perform “behind the scenes” to support the Scout program. It is important to note that the Troop committee “supports” the Scout program; it does not “run” the program. **See Organization Chart for current Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters.**
- Many of the participating adults are trained and certified by the Boy Scouts of America to supervise backpacking (Trek Safely certification), water activities (Safety Afloat certification) and Youth Protection. There are numerous opportunities presented by the Boy Scouts of America for new and existing adult volunteers to become trained and certified as a way of enhancing their participation and contribution to the Troop 135 Carlisle Scouting program.
- Additional adults volunteer to be merit badge counselors and/or participate in Boards of Review. **See Listing of Merit Badge counselors.**
- Parents are encouraged to attend Scout meetings to observe the Troop in action.
- Assistance: If you have a question about your sons advancement and your question cannot be answered by the boy scout/patrol leader communication then discuss the issue with any Assistant Scoutmaster.

## TROOP MEETINGS AND OUTINGS:

- Troop meetings provide the opportunity for Scouts to learn, develop Scouting skills and to work on rank advancement.
- Scout advancement follows the “rank” concept. Scouts initially earn the rank of Scout then progress from Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle. The Troop has established rank advancement guidelines, by age/grade, for parents use in monitoring their scouts’ performance. **Troop 135 Advancement Timetable.**
- One of the founding premises for Scouting is learning responsibility, leadership and teamwork through the Boy Scout principles and an outdoor program. Troop 135 typically has an active and diverse outdoor program for the Scouts to develop all the required skills. Our outdoor program is active all year round. The Troop will backpack to 90% of our outdoor activities. We backpack on the Cape or in the White Mountains, we canoe local rivers or canoe/raft the lakes and rivers of Maine. We may camp locally on a two-day weekend then backpack the White Mountains over a three-day weekend. The Troop spends one summer week at a local Scout camp where there is ample opportunity for the Scouts to earn Merit Badges, Lifesaving and other awards.

- The programs are structured so that all Scouts, regardless of age or size, can participate. We expect all Scouts to be physically fit (the Scout Oath says “physically strong”) so they can handle the rigors of transporting 30-40 lbs of personal and Troop gear on their backs to and from outdoor activities.
- **A mandatory Scout Parental Permission Slip must be in the hands of the trip leader on the day of the trip or the Scout will not be permitted on the trip.** In this form you will acknowledge the trip destination and time of year to verify that you, as the parent, are aware of the trip circumstances.
- Troop trips are outdoor activities and carry some risk if the scout is not prepared properly. It is the parents’ responsibility to review with the scout his training and preparation prior to each trip. This parental review will assure that the scout is bringing the necessary gear for the type of trip and season. The Troop will also review the major items prior to difficult trips but it is important that the scouts’ parents review items in greater detail.
- Troop trips depend on the adults to organize, purchase food and transport to and from destinations. All parents are expected to participate on a rotating basis in these efforts.
- All scouts will have an emergency medical form on file with the Troop in order to participate in the outdoor program. Individual scout medical history and emergency contact information accompanies each scout on each trip. See **Class 3 Personal Health and Medical Record form** that accompanies the scout application.
- One scout is designated per patrol to purchase food for the patrol for that trip. See separate **“Food Purchase Guidelines”** to assist in this effort.

## EXPECTATIONS:

- The adult leadership expects the Scout to make every effort to attend weekly Troop meetings, in his uniform, with his Scout handbook. Troop meetings teach Scouting skills and preparedness. The monthly accumulation of training and advancement is the weekend camping experience where participation is strongly encouraged, but not required. These trips provide the Scout the opportunity to test his training, knowledge, and skills and accomplish rank and merit badge advancement.
- Parents are expected to support the Troop by helping their son attend weekly meetings and activities, monitoring and encouraging their son’s rank and merit badge advancement, helping with transportation to and from activities on a rotating basis, attending Court of Honor ceremonies, volunteering to serve on the Troop committee, as a merit badge counselor or as a board of review member.
- All Scouts are expected to demonstrate “Scout spirit” by attending Troop activities and conducting themselves in accordance with the Scout Oath and Law. Attendance at 70% of Troop activities is a “target” attendance; attendance at all Troop events is not mandatory. The Troop is interested in quality participation, not quantity participation.

## MISCELLANEOUS:

- Community service is an essential aspect of our Troop program. The Troop community service coordinator provides constant reminders to the Scouts to fulfill their community service obligations and requirements.
- Board of Review – a monthly gathering of three volunteer parents who review eligible Scouts who are ready to advance to the next rank.
- Dues: \$35 per year, collected each October.

- The Troop conducts two primary fundraising activities per year. One event occurs in the spring and the second event is the annual cook-out at Old Home Day (July 4).
- Merit badges are earned as required by each appropriate rank. Merit badges are selected by each Scout (with the exception of required merit badges).
- The Troop conducts a quarterly “Court of Honor” to formally present rank achievements, merit badges and other honors to eligible Scouts.
- Troop equipment:
  - The Troop Quartermaster provides a fully equipped Patrol box to each patrol. **See Patrol Box contents.** Each Patrol is responsible for maintaining the content quantity and the content quality (cleanliness).
  - The Troop Quartermaster maintains a full inventory of two and four man expedition tents, snowshoes, first aid kits, saws, hatchets, water containers, cooking grates, stoves, fuel and rope.

All Scouts are required to care for and clean all equipment they use.