

TROOP 219

NEW SCOUT GUIDE

2024



TROOP 219 AT A GLANCE

Troop meetings: Mondays 7:30 to 9:00 pm

Old Bridge United Methodist Church, 3966 Old Bridge Rd., Woodbridge VA

<https://www.bsatroop219g.org/>

Troop Leadership

Scoutmaster (Interim) – Julie Telge

Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM)

- Jessica Weaver 716-665-0659, weavjl03@gmail.com
- Scott Henry 703-283-8777, scrhenry@gmail.com
- Tom Martin 703-963-2456, tom.martin.web@comcast.net
- Trina Caudle 202-714-0470, tkcaudle@yahoo.com

Committee Chair Devin Long 402-709-2799, devin707@gmail.com

Parents are invited and welcome to participate in scout meetings, events, and campouts. To attend any overnight trip, parents MUST FIRST (BSA national policy) register as a member of the troop committee and complete the online Youth Protection Training (YPT). Create an account at my.scouting.org to register and complete YPT.

Weekend camping trips are typically once a month, Friday evening to Sunday morning. The fee for each campout includes all food, the camping location (variable), and the activity (variable).

Camping gear

- the troop: tents and canopies, all cooking equipment, large first aid kit.
- each scout: sleeping bag and mat, water bottle, “essential ten,” clothing.
- participating parents: personal tent, sleeping bag and mat, water bottle, clothing.

This guide includes

- Scouting Basics
- Scout Gear
- Parent Participation

Welcome! We look forward to working with you and your scouts!

SCOUTING BASICS

Scouts BSA is a youth-led organization — Scouts decide, plan, and carry out activities to earn ranks and merit badges. Adults train, coach, and mentor them as they learn through experience and develop leadership skills.

Troop 219 is part of the Prince William District in the National Capital Area Council (NCAC). The district and council provide advanced adult training and occasional events for the scouts.

Scout troops are divided into patrols to work together. Leadership positions rotate every six months, typically in March and September.

Skills ranks: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class.

Learn fundamental skills for the outdoors: camping, basic first aid, identifying plants and signs of animals, and more. Community service hours are required at each level. Most scouts reach First Class within 12-18 months. Advancement is self-paced and partially dependent upon attendance and participation with troop and patrol activities.

These four ranks may be worked on simultaneously, such as completing requirements for Second and First class while working on Tenderfoot. They must be completed and awarded in sequence.

Advanced ranks: Star, Life, Eagle.

Fulfill leadership responsibilities, earn merit badges, instruct others, volunteer in the community, and conduct service projects. To earn these ranks, Scouts are required to “be active in the troop” (requirement 1 of each rank), defined as 50% attendance of meetings and activities, for at least six months before advancing to the next rank.

Merit badges: Over 120 merit badges cover a wide range of topics. 21 merit badges are required to reach Eagle – 14 are required, 7 are electives chosen by the scout. They may earn as many merit badges as they wish.

Eagle required:

Camping	Emergency preparedness OR Lifesaving
Citizenship in the Community	Environmental Science OR Sustainability
Citizenship in the Nation	Family Life
Citizenship in the World	First Aid
Citizenship in Society	Personal Fitness
Communication	Personal Management
Cooking	Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling

Merit badges are earned with the guidance of a merit badge counselor. Troop activities will provide opportunities to earn merit badges, and patrols may choose to work on a merit badge together.

A scout may begin any merit badge any time they choose, provided the following criteria is met:

- Research what Merit badge you want to work on earning
- Talk to the Scoutmaster or the designated representative and get permission to work on the merit badge. The Scoutmaster will help you find a Merit Badge Counciler, who may or may not be a troop leader but is authorized by the Scouting district
- Contact the merit badge counselor either in person or via email (a parent must be copied on all email communication)
- Work with the counselor on your own time to complete the badge
- Report to the Scoutmaster for record notation.

Board of Review: A BOR is conducted by adult leaders on the committee who are not Scoutmasters, to discuss the scout's progress. It is not a skills test, but a candid conversation about challenges and achievements of both the scout and the troop. Boards of Review

Awards: Rank advancements are awarded in a two-step process. When a scout completes a rank, they have a Board of Review with troop committee members to discuss what they have learned and challenges overcome. A BOR is held during Monday scout meetings, and the rank badge is awarded the same evening in front of the troop.

Courts of Honor are held every 3-4 months. At a COH, the scout is again recognized for the rank advancement, with a parent or mentor.

Merit badges are awarded at the Court of Honor.

Leadership positions: Advanced ranks are expected to lead the troop in the weekly meetings and during events and campouts. Elections are held every six months to rotate scouts in the positions. Scouts in the senior positions of Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Patrols Leaders in Troop 219 are expected to attend 75% of meetings and activities to fulfill their responsibilities.

Each of the positions is described in the Scout Handbook

Meetings: Troop meetings are Mondays at 7:30 pm. Patrols may schedule day-only activities on weekends, such as hikes, service, or skills development.

The Patrol Leader Council is held monthly, typically on a Sunday evening, to plan Monday meetings and weekend activities. Attendance: Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, all patrol leaders, scribe, Troop Guide, Scoutmasters. Other scouts by invitation, depending on position. If a scout wishes to suggest a patrol/troop activity or merit badge to work on, they should speak to their patrol leader, who presents their idea to the PLC.

Campouts: Weekend campouts are typically once a month, Friday evening to Sunday morning. The fee for each campout includes all food (\$25 for meals and snacks), the camping location (variable), and the activity (variable).

Campout attendance is required for both rank advancement and the Camping merit badge, which is Eagle required. The patrols create meal plans and activity schedules prior to each campout, and take turns as “grubmaster” to do the grocery shopping with their parents, which is reimbursed.

Campout activities in the past have included river rafting, canoeing, hiking, ropes course, rock climbing, cycling, and more. These activities are for adventure and fun, but also meet skills requirements for rank advancement and/or merit badges. Scouting is fun with a purpose!

On campouts for safety, tents are in pairs with scouts no more than two years in age difference. They are required to use the buddy system at all times.

Gear provided on campouts:

- the troop: tents for scouts, dining fly canopies, all cooking equipment, large first aid kit.
- individual scout: sleeping bag and mat, water bottle, “essential ten,” clothing and toiletries.
- leaders and participating parents: personal tent, sleeping bag and mat (or a cot), water bottle, clothing.

Summer camp is a full week, typically in July.

SCOUT GEAR

Uniforms: BSA uniforms can be ordered online or purchased at the Scout Store in Springfield. There is also a box of second-hand uniforms in the scout supply closet as Scouts grow quickly and need to change sizes. All families are welcome to trade in outgrown uniforms for larger sizes as available.

- Uniform shirt with scout crest patch, council patch
- Tan/olive green canvas pants and/or shorts (BSA sells these, but not required)
- Scout belt
- Merit badge sash

A fabric protective cover is advisable for the book, as they are carried on campouts to work on skills and advancement where there may not be internet coverage on phones.

General gear: the Scout handbook lists “the ten essentials” (pg 238-9) that scouts should bring on campouts and events in a small day pack – water bottle, trail snacks, personal first aid kit (pg. 108), sun protection, rain gear, pocketknife, compass, firestarter kit, flashlight, extra clothing.

Campout packing list:

- Ten essentials and Scout book
- Sleeping: sleeping bag, mat/pad, small pillow
- Clothing: boots or hikers, extra socks, weather appropriate pants/shorts, shirts, underwear, activity specific items (such as a swimsuit and towel), pajamas or sweats, jacket or hoodie
- Toiletries: toothbrush/toothpaste, hair brush and hair ties, feminine hygiene products, small towel, hand sanitizer.
- Medications: discuss as needed between the parent and the leading scoutmaster.
- Eating: mess kit, lightweight camp chair
- Entertainment: whatever interests them – a deck of cards or small game, a book, a small craft item, etc.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

A well-functioning scout unit is supported by adults in many roles. We invite you to participate in supporting all of our youth. The adults form the Troop Committee.

Committee Chair Devin Long 402-709-2799, devin707@gmail.com

Register: Parents are invited and welcome to participate in meetings, events, and campouts. Create an account at my.scouting.org to register and complete the online Youth Protection Training (YPT).

Committee work:

- **Advancement:** conduct Boards of Review for individual scout advancement. A BOR is to ensure a scout has fulfilled all requirements for a rank, and to encourage further advancement. At least three adults are required for each BOR. Since 219 is a female troop, it is preferred (but not required) that at least one BOR adult be a woman. Advancement also assists Life Scouts in preparing extensively for their Eagle application and project.
- **Treasurers:** Manage all finances, approve a proposed budget from the Scoutmasters, approve spending by the troop, plan and assist with fundraising.
- **Outdoor coordinators:** Provide logistical support for activities, such as locating campsites, activity events, and making reservations.
- **Membership:** Assist the troop with recruitment and retainment of scouts.

Two-deep leadership: A patrol will occasionally have an activity separate from the rest of the troop, with one ASM guiding. YPT requires two-deep leadership for every activity, which parents can cover as needed. Parents must be registered on the committee for YPT consideration.

Merit badge counselor: MBCs are hands-on teachers for the requirements of a badge. You are encouraged to review the list of merit badges in your areas of professional and personal experience and expertise. A secondary registration with the Prince William District is required to be approved as a MBC, but when registered as a committee member, there is no additional fee.

Communication:

- Scoutbook is the official online record for the scouts' advancement record and includes calendaring reminders that are emailed.
- Scoutmasters send emails to parents and scouts.
- The Slack app is used for short-term announcements and reminders.
- When scouts communicate with adult leaders via email, a parent must be copied on all communication.