

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 112!!!

Ashland's Troop 112 is Oregon's Oldest Boy Scout Troop, dating from 1915. Our Troop is part of the Crater Lake Council, Big Pines District, which is headquartered in Central Point. Our Charter Organization is the Ashland Lions Club.

We'd like to share with you some information that may help you along your exciting new Scouting journey! Whether you are bridging over from Cub Scouts or just joining the Troop, you are in for a lot of fun, and will learn some important skills that will serve you for a lifetime.

There is a lot of basic information already included in your New Scout packet. As you look it over you may have many questions about how the Troop operates. As a new Scout there is a lot more information that you will learn as you go, but in order to help you get started on your journey this booklet will provide some tidbits of information about how the Troop is organized, some of its regular activities, how you work on advancing in rank, earn merit badges, and other important stuff.

One thing you will notice right away is that Boy Scouts is not the same as Cub Scouts. While the overall structure is similar there are many differences.

Troop Organization and Leadership:

**An important concept to remember is that Troop 112
fosters the principles of being "boy led"**

The Troop is structured around individual Patrols. While similar to Dens in Cub Scouts, Patrols operate differently. Each scout belongs to a Patrol which is a group of 5 to 10 boys, led by a Patrol Leader (PL), one of their own that they elect. The patrol leader is responsible for organizing, motivating, and managing his patrol. He represents the interests of his patrol members when planning activities with other patrols and relays information to his patrol as needed.

The Patrol also elects an Assistant Patrol Leader (APL) to help the Patrol Leader with the patrol duties. The APL fills in for the PL when needed and is second in command. Some patrols choose to elect an APL at each election and then have him move up to PL at the next election. It is up to each Patrol to decide how they want to do this.

Patrols belong to a Boy Scout Troop which is led by the Senior Patrol Leader, a boy elected by the troop. This scout has ultimate responsibility for all the scouts in all the patrols in his troop. He runs all troop meetings, delegates responsibilities, and interacts with adult leadership. The SPL is at least a First Class rank scout and must earn the respect and cooperation of his troop to be successful. The Senior Patrol Leader works with his Assistant Senior Patrol Leader who is elected by the troop members. When the SPL's term ends, the ASPL assumes the role of SPL and a new ASPL is elected by the Troop. The ASPL fills in for the SPL as needed and helps with running and managing the troop on outings and at meetings.

As you read this you may be wondering about the Troop's adult Leadership. The Troop's adult leaders consist of a Scoutmaster, a number of assistant Scoutmasters, and a Unit Commissioner that serves as a liaison to the Big Pines District. In addition, each Patrol has an adult leader designated as Advisor to the Patrol. The Advisor's role is to guide the Patrol Leader when developing and planning Patrol-related events.

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of the troop. The Scoutmaster and his assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts to provide guidance and assistance as they journey along their Scouting path. The Scoutmaster's duties include training and guiding boy leaders, working with other responsible adults to bring Scouting to boys, and using the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting. The Scoutmaster is the primary decision-maker on Troop activities and works closely with the boy leaders to help them implement their program and activity ideas.

The Troop 112 Committee is responsible for conducting the business of the troop, setting policy, and helping the Scoutmaster and Scouts with the outdoor program and other planned activities. The committee also has the responsibility to provide adults for boards of review. This is an important responsibility and is one area where help is always needed and appreciated. The committee consists of parent volunteers who fulfill various roles on the committee.

Patrol Leader Council:

An important interface between the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leaders, and other boy and adult leaders is the Patrol Leader Council (PLC) They have a monthly meeting where the boy leaders work to plan upcoming meetings and other activities such as camp outs, community service projects, and other events. This is where the real planning occurs. Once a year, usually in the late summer, the PLC meets to rough out the yearly calendar

of events. This is typically done by getting input from all the Scouts about what events they would like to do, and assembling a yearly calendar to allow sufficient pre-planning for each event.

Other Leadership opportunities for Scouts:

As Scouts move through the ranks there are a number of Troop leadership positions. To achieve the rank of Star, Life, or Eagle a scout must serve in a leadership position while working on that rank. For each position, the scout will be guided by the Scoutmaster or other person designated to assist. Other Troop leadership positions include:

- Troop Historian - collects and maintains troop memorabilia and information on former troop members.
- Librarian - keeps troop books, pamphlets, magazines, audiovisuals, and merit badge counselor list available for use by troop members.
- Instructor - teaches one or more advancement skills to troop members.
- Chaplain Aide - assists in troop religious services and promotes the religious emblems program.
- Junior assistant Scoutmaster - a Scout 16 or older who supervises and supports other boy leaders as assigned.
- Webmaster – maintains the Troop website and Facebook page
- Troop guide - advisor and guide to the new Scout patrol.
- Den chief - works with a Cub Scout den as a guide.
- Quartermaster - responsible for troop supplies and equipment.
- Scribe - the troop secretary.

IF you are interested in any of these positions, talk to the Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster.

Monthly Meeting Schedule:

Troop 112 meets weekly on Wednesday nights at 7pm at Pioneer Hall in Ashland. We recognize that not every Scout can come to every meeting. We encourage Scouts to attend all events and

as many meetings as possible, and to let their Patrol Leader know if they will not be attending a particular meeting

The current Troop meeting schedule for each month is as follows:

Week 1:

Patrol Leader Council (PLC) meeting at 6 pm

Regular Troop meeting at 7 pm. Troop meetings require that each Scout wear his full Class A uniform, bring his book, and pay a 1 dollar meeting fee. Dues are used for door prize drawings at each troop meeting. To be eligible the Scout must be on time, in full Class A uniform, and with his handbook in hand.

Week 2:

Patrol Meeting Night. Uniform for Patrol meetings is usually the Class B shirt, unless traveling to an event by car.

This meeting is for each Patrol to plan something they want to do. Potential activities include working on Scout Skills, doing some kind of fun activity such as bowling, sledding, etc. or even join up with other Patrols for a joint activity. Note that the planning for this meeting is the responsibility of the Patrol Leader and assistant PL, with guidance from the Patrol advisor. The meeting Plan should be discussed with the Patrol Advisor beforehand to help ensure the planned activity is appropriate and reasonable. Patrols can meet at Pioneer Hall or some other place of their choosing.

Week 3:

Regular Troop meeting at 7pm Troop meetings require each Scout wear his full Class A uniform, bring his book, and pay a 1 dollar meeting fee.

Week 4:

Advancement week. This meeting has been set aside for Scouts to be able to have time to work on the scout skills they need for advancing in rank. If a Scout has a specific skill they want to work on, they are free to contact an appropriate Troop Leader to come to the meeting to work with them. This meeting is also a good place to demonstrate skills they have learned and have the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster sign off on a requirement in their Scout Book.

It is also possible for a Scout to work on a merit badge at this meeting. Note that they must make specific arrangements with their Merit Badge counselor (more on that later) to come to the meeting to assist them.

This week is when the Troop holds its monthly Troop Committee meeting. All parents are welcome and we invite you to formally serve on the Troop Committee.

The Boy Scout Uniform

There are two uniforms that Scouts will typically need. The main uniform is the Class A, or dress uniform. The second is the Class B uniform.

The Class A uniform consists of the following:

- Official uniform shirt, with all appropriate patches, insignia, and epaulets
- Uniform Pants- can be official scout pants or shorts, OR blue jeans
- Troop Neckerchief (or other neckerchief that you are authorized to wear such as NYLT, Eagle Scout, Jamboree Troop, etc)
- Official Scout belt (unless your scout pants have a sewn-in belt)
- Troop rope
- Official green Scout uniform cap (optional)

Class B uniform: This is typically the red Troop 112 T-shirt. Older versions of the Troop 112 T-shirts may also be worn.

What uniform is required for a particular event?

The Class A Uniform is typically worn at all Troop meetings, as well as any event where Scouts will be out in the community, such as a service project, marching in a parade, etc. Also, The BSA Crater Lake Council requires that Class A uniforms be worn when traveling to and from events such as summer camp, camping trips, or any other scout activities. Class A is required at all flag ceremonies, and other solemn events.

The Class B uniform can be worn at Patrol meetings and other events where the official uniform is not required but we still want to be identifiable as Scouts.

Many Scouts wear their Class B shirt under their uniform short to facilitate “dressing down” when the official uniform is no longer necessary, such as after arrival to a field working site, or other activity.

If you are not sure which uniform to wear ASK!!

Remember, you are part of an important organization and we always want to look sharp !!!

Advancement

Rank Advancement

There are a number of Ranks for you to achieve in Boy Scouts. A description of each rank and its associated requirements can be found in the Scout Handbook. It is important that your Scout have this handbook early-on and that you and your Scout become familiar with it. It contains information on all the things your Scout will be required to know for advancing in rank,

The first rank is Scout (similar to the Bobcat rank in Cub Scouts), next Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and finally, Eagle Scout. It is important to note that boys progress at their own rate through ranks and the goal is to reach Eagle well before your 18th birthday. Thus advancement depends directly on your motivation to complete the requirements to earn each rank. It's up to you!

Tenderfoot, Second, and First Class focus on learning the “basics” of Scouting and you will learn skills such as first aid, nutrition, using a map and compass, knot tying, and many others that will help you be a successful scout. These should probably be earned in the first year and a half the boy is in the Troop.

Star, Life, and Eagle Scout ranks emphasize service hours or projects, growth in leadership, and the earning of Merit Badges (some required and some elective). While in these ranks a Scout should continue to improve upon the basic skills he has already learned.

Each Scout should review the requirements for the rank he is working on. Feel free to ask an adult leader, older Scout, or others for assistance. Often a Patrol can learn and practice requirements as a group. When your Scout feels he knows the required information or can demonstrate that he can perform the required skill, he should talk to the Scoutmaster OR an

Assistant Scoutmaster and demonstrate the skill to them. Once the adult leader is satisfied the Scout knows the skill, he/she will initial and date the section for that requirement in the back of the Scout Handbook.

Note that a big difference from Cub Scouting is that not just anyone can sign off your son's requirements. Only Scoutmasters (for rank advancement) and Counselors (for merit badges) may sign off requirements. It is recommended that a parent who is also a Scoutmaster should not sign off for his/her own son.

What is the procedure if a Scout is ready to advance?

To earn a specific rank the Scout is responsible for the following (remember we are helping scouts take responsibility for their own success)

- Making sure all requirements for the rank have been met and signed off.
- Calling the Scoutmaster to schedule a Scoutmaster conference one week before the desired conference date. This conference should take place at least a week before the next scheduled Board of Review.
- Calling the Chairperson of the Board of Review (listed on the troop roster) to request a Board of Review after successful completion of the Scoutmaster Conference. Board of Review meetings generally happen four times a year and are listed on the annual Troop calendar.
- Wearing your Class A uniform and coming to the Scoutmaster Conference or Board of Review prepared with all the materials you might need (handbook, compass, rope, etc.).

Under special circumstances, a Scout may request a Board of Review to occur at a different time than the usually scheduled ones, but it is the Chairperson's decision as to whether or not his request is granted.

As each Scout advances through the ranks of Boy Scouting, a final step for every rank is to meet with the Scoutmaster to review the requirements in order to assure he has learned everything he needs to know for that rank. This is called a Scoutmaster Conference. In addition to demonstrating skills and knowledge, the Scoutmaster will be looking for Scout spirit, and determine if the Scout has lived up to the Scout Oath and Law in and outside of Scouts. The Scoutmaster may also consult other adult leaders and the Senior Patrol leader about the scout's progress, and interactions within the Troop. Once the Scoutmaster has signed off, then your boy is ready for the Board of Review. The Board of Review is a group of adult Scout leaders that meets to interview boys in a very friendly, developmentally appropriate way and to assess the boy's knowledge of the required material for that specific rank. Once the Board has made its

decision, if your boy meets the requirements, he'll receive his rank advancement at the Troop's next Court of Honor (usually the next week).

As you progress through the Scout Ranks it is a good idea to put together a folder or binder to hold all your blue cards, advancement cards and certificates, and other stuff pertaining to you record as a Scout. That way you will have a record of your accomplishments and be able to find it all too!!!

Merit Badges

Scouts can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers as you earn merit badges. There are more than 100 merit badges to choose from. The number of Merit Badges required for Star, Life, and Eagle Scout ranks can be found in the Scout Handbook. A mixture of Eagle rank-required and elective badges is typically required for each rank after First Class.

There are at least 3 ways to work on Merit Badges:

1. Participate in the annual District Advancement Workshop (usually held in March). This is a good way to work on your first badges. Since the workshops are time-limited, we recommend that the more complex or difficult badges be done on an individual basis.
2. Summer Camp. At Camp there are counselors assigned to work with you for each badge you want to earn.
3. Work individually or in a small group directly with a Counselor for the badge you are interested in.

Procedure for working on a Merit Badge:

- Obtain a “blue card” from the Scoutmaster and obtain his approval. He will ensure that the badge you want to work on makes sense for you at this point in your Scouting career. It a 3-piece (perforated) card with room for all the necessary information to be recorded. Be sure to fill out your personal information completely on all three parts, since one section of the card will be used by the District Office to record your completion of the badge. There are spaces for recording the completion of each of the requirements for the badge you are working on.
- Contact a Merit Badge Counselor for the badge, call him/her up, and set up a program to work on the requirements for the badge. (For a listing of Merit Badge counselors for the Big Pines District, ask a Scoutmaster.)
- As you complete each requirement the Counselor will record that on your Blue Card and initial and date it. Once you have finished all the requirements, the Counselor will sign off that it has been completed. Once complete, the Counselor may keep one section of the Blue Card for his /her records. You will keep the section marked for your records, and you will give the third section to the Scoutmaster or Troop Advancement Chairperson. You will receive your Badge and certificate at the next Court of Honor.

Do NOT begin working on a Merit Badge without obtaining a Blue Card and contacting a counselor first!

Note that there is no time limit to finish a badge once you start although it is best to complete it as soon as possible! You can generally be at any rank or age to take on a particular merit badge, as long as you have the approval of your Scoutmaster. However, it is recommended that you place the most emphasis on earning the Scout, Tenderfoot, Second, and First Class ranks before taking on a lot of merit badge work.

Troop Community Service

One thing our Troop is extremely proud of is our Community Service. In fact, in 2011 Troop 112 won the Community Service Group of the Year award from the Ashland Chamber of Commerce. We do a number of service projects throughout the year, many of which are in conjunction with the Ashland Lions Club, our Troop sponsor. These typically include:

Christmas Tree recycle- Working with our Lions Club partners we pick up Christmas trees in early January and bring them to the city for recycling. This is also a fundraiser for the Troop.

Feast of Will- The Troop sets up and takes down all the tables and chairs for the Feast each spring.

Memorial Day- The Troop sets up the chairs for the Memorial Day services and participates in the flag ceremony.

4th of July- The Troop conducts a flag retirement ceremony in Lithia Park on the evening of July 3rd. We have a float on the Ashland 4th of July parade and our Scouts carry the flags at the beginning of the parade. We also set up and takes down the tables and chairs for the Lion's Club BBQ in Lithia Park.

Ashland Food Bank- The Troop spends a day at the Food Bank unpacking, weighing, sorting, and putting away food delivered from the Ashland Food Project. This is how Troop 112 contributes to the BSA "Scouting for Food" National event.

Fund Raising

There are several ways the Troop earns money for its general activities fund. All Scouts, adult leaders and parents are urged to participate. These include:

Troop 112 Tree Sale: This usually takes place in early December, at the Ashland Elks Cub parking lot. It is a two day event on Saturday and Sunday, with a Friday evening set up. All scouts, leaders and adults are encouraged to participate in the Friday evening set up, and during the sale itself. Scouts sign up for shifts and do the selling, and assist purchasers with carrying their trees to their cars and securing them for travel. Weather (snow level in the mountains) permitting, there may be a day prior to the sale when the Scouts go out and cut trees for the sale. In addition, the Troop purchases trees for the sale.

Tree Recycle: This all-day event usually takes place in early January and is conducted with our Lions Club partners. We pair Scouts (and adults!) with drivers that have pickups and trailers, and canvass Ashland picking up used Christmas trees. While picking up trees, Scouts will go to the door and let people know we are recycling their trees and ask for a donation to the Troop. This is our biggest fund raiser and generates several thousand dollars for the Troop. If a Scout works all day at this event, the Troop will pay 1/2 of his fees for Summer Camp that same year.

Popcorn Sales: Each year an adult leader or parent serves as "Popcorn Kernel" and directs this event. Popcorn Sales typically occur during the month of October each year. A portion of each Scout's sales go directly to his Scout Account (see below). This fundraiser is for Scouts only. They are the popcorn salesmen!

Scout accounts: what are they & how do they work ?

Each Scout will have a Scout Account set up and maintained by the Troop Treasurer who maintains a record of how much each Scout has in his scout account. Funds earned through popcorn sales will be directly deposited into your Scout's account. He may put additional money into his account if he wishes. Note that the summer camp funds earned by participating at the Tree Recycle are ONLY available for covering part of the summer camp fees. They are not accessible for other purposes.

Funds in the Scout account may be used for any scout-related activity or purchase. For example the Scout may choose to use his money to cover the costs of an event, pay an additional part of Summer Camp Costs, purchase a backpack or other needed gear, etc. If you are not sure if a particular purchase is appropriate for the Scout account funds, please ask the Scoutmaster.

Event Planning

As mentioned before, there are a couple levels of planning that go into an event, such as a campout, day trip, or overnight trip to a particular activity such as visit to the U.S.S Hornet aircraft carrier. Here is a typical planning scenario for a campout:

A trained Adult Leader will lead the event. Note that there must be at least two adults on each event, one of whom is a trained leader. This means that he/she will take care of the administrative details such as District Trip Permits, permission forms, and other things required by the District, Council. Other logistics such as towing the Troop trailer, arranging for drivers, etc will also be done by the Adult Leader, with assistance from the SPL as appropriate.

For each scheduled event there will be at least one Adult Leader charged with assisting the SPL and ASPL with the planning effort. The Senior Patrol Leader will oversee the Scouts during the planning process and during the event.

Typically, for a campout (or other event) there are two planning stages:

Pre-trip planning: There should be one or two pre-event meetings involving Leaders, Scouts, and their parent (typically for younger Scouts). These should take place at regular Troop meetings just prior to the event. **It is important that Scouts going on an event attend the pre-event meetings.** Setting a budget for the event for food, transportation, lodging, etc. is also done at this stage.

At this stage the scouts determine the event dates, destination, and duration. Once these are set, more detailed planning must take place. The SPL and adult Leaders will inform the Scouts going on the trip about what equipment they will need to bring. Other planning may include:

- Discussing the gear each Scout will need to bring

- **Setting up Food Groups.** This is usually done by Patrol, but in some cases it is necessary to combine Scouts into a fewer number of patrols. The designated Patrol Leader will then work with the scouts to plan a menu for each meal. The Troop encourages healthy menu items and adults are encouraged to assist with that. For planning purposes, we budget a target of \$3 per scout per meal. When the menu is established, the Patrol Leader or one of the scouts will be assigned to purchase the food for the trip
- **Camp Duty Roster:** prior to departing each Patrol Leader should develop a roster specifying which scouts will be cooking each meal, who will be on dishwashing and clean up duty, and other camp chores. This will be posted in camp so scouts can refer to it and be aware of their responsibilities.
- **Pre-trip pack check:** The SPL may require that each scout (or perhaps the younger scouts with limited camping experience) bring their gear to the meeting just prior to the campout to make sure they are prepared. This helps scouts learn how to properly pack for a campout.

On the campout, the SPL and Patrol Leaders are in charge and are responsible for ensuring camp runs smoothly. The adult leaders will assist and provide guidance, but it is up to the scouts to run their camp.

Remember- the goal is to have a FUN and SAFE trip. Safety is a primary concern for the Troop !!!

Cost for events and how do we pay them? There are usually some costs associated with most events. In order to keep things simple, the Adult leader for a particular event will estimate the cost for each Scout and determine how much each Scout and Adult Leader needs to pay.

Typically costs may include

- Food
- Admission to site or event
- Gas and associated costs
- Once the cost per Scout is determined, they can pay that amount to the Troop Treasurer (or to the event Leader in some cases)

- Miscellaneous fees, and other stuff

Any money spent by a Scout or Leader such as Patrol food, gas, parking fees, entrance fees, etc. will be reimbursed by the Troop. All the Scout or Leader needs to do is submit the receipt to the Troop Treasurer with a short description of what was spent and why. We have set it up this way to ensure that expenditures are tracked and that scouts and adults that purchase things can be quickly reimbursed.

Adult participation- how can you help?

Parents are welcome (and needed!) to help out at Troop 112 events. It is the responsibility of the Senior Patrol Leader (with the assistance of the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters) to provide leadership, guidance, and discipline to individual boys, but all assistance is welcome.

If you don't have that much time to offer there are some other ways you can be involved. Parents can be in charge of a variety of things from fundraisings to coordinating service projects. These may be discreet annual events that only take a few hours of your time but are a big help to the Troop. For example, coordinating the setup of tables and chairs at the Feast of Will or 4th of July can be a big help. Please talk to the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee if you are interested in helping out.

For adults that do not want to be trained leaders and go on events, there are a variety of other Troop positions vital to helping the Troop run smoothly. These include:

- Chartered Organization Representative
The Chartered Organization Representative is the direct contact between the unit and the Chartered Organization. This individual is also the organization's contact with the district committee and the Local Council. The chartered organization representative may become a member of the district committee and is a voting member of the council.
- Troop Committee Chairman
The unit committee chair is appointed by the chartered organization and registered as an adult leader of the BSA. The unit committee chairman appoints and supervises the unit committee and unit leaders.
- Troop Secretary
The unit secretary is appointed by the committee chairman to keep minutes and records, send notices, and handles publicity.
- Troop Treasurer

The unit treasurer is appointed by the committee chairman to handle unit funds, pay bills, and maintain accounts.

- Troop Advancement Chair

The unit advancement chair is appointed by the committee chairman to ensure that the unit has periodic boards of review, quarterly courts of honor, and that the unit has goals of helping each Scout advance in rank. The advancement coordinator is also responsible for record keeping and submitting advancement reports.

- Troop Equipment Coordinator

The unit equipment coordinator is appointed by the committee chairman to work with the youth Quartermaster and is responsible inventory, storage, and maintenance of unit equipment.

- Troop Outdoor/Activities Chair

The unit outdoor/activities chair is appointed by the committee chairman to secure tour permits and permission to use camping sites, serve as transportation coordinator, and ensure a monthly outdoor program.

- Troop Membership Chair

The unit membership chair is appointed by the committee chairman to help ensure a smooth transition of new Scouts into the unit and orientation for new parents.

- Troop Training Chair

The unit training chair is appointed by the committee chairman to ensure training opportunities are available, maintain training records and materials, and is responsible for ensuring leaders and adults complete the online BSA Youth Protection training.

- Merit Badge Counselor

Adults can apply to the District Office to become a Counselor for one or more Merit Badges. If you have some knowledge of the subject matter you can help scouts toward earning their badges. You can serve as a Counselor for just our Troop or for the District.

Where to find more information

There are a myriad of websites with information on Scouting. Here are a few to get you started
!!

Main BSA site:

www.scouting.org

Crater Lake Council info (remember, we are in the Big Pines District)

www.craterlakecouncil.org/

Merit Badge Info:

www.usscouts.org/mb/mbindex.asp

www.meritbadge.com/mb/

Online scout store: (Note there is Scout Store at the Council HQ in Central Point that carries a wide array of BSA equipment !)

<http://www.scoutstuff.org/>

For other Stuff: Just type Boy Scouts of America and your desired topic into Google or another search engine. You will be amazed at the amount of information you will find!!!!

Thanks for being a part of our Troop!!!