



## **TROOP 24**

Riverside Presbyterian Church  
116 Barrypoint Road  
Riverside, Illinois 60546  
[www.troop24riverside.com](http://www.troop24riverside.com)

## **Scout & Parent Guide**



Dear Parents and Scouts:

We welcome you and your son into Troop 24. This informational material is intended to answer some of the most common questions that parents and new boy scouts have. If you need more information on any aspect of our scout program, please contact our Scoutmaster (Michael Payne), our Committee Chair (Nancy Hopkins), or any of our Assistant Scoutmasters or Troop Committee members.

In addition to the information in this packet, other sources of information are:

- Boy Scout Handbook (which all new scouts receive from the Troop)
- Our Troop website at [www.troop24riverside.com](http://www.troop24riverside.com)
- Des Plaines Valley Council website at [www.bsa-dpvc.org](http://www.bsa-dpvc.org)
- BSA National website at [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)

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**AFFILIATIONS:** Troop 24 is in the Voyager Trace District of the Des Plaines Valley Council. Our Council office and Scout Shop are located at 811 W. Hillgrove Avenue in LaGrange. The National Boys Scouts of America office is located in Irving, TX.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

**Scout Oath**

On my honor I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country  
and to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times;  
To keep myself physically strong,  
mentally awake, and morally straight.

**Scout Law**

A scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful,  
Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient,  
Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and  
Reverent.

**AIMS OF SCOUTING:** A goal of the Boy Scouts of America is to help boys develop into honorable men. Scouting's values can be incorporated into a boy's home, school, and religious community, adding to all three and, in some cases, filling in for family, school, or religious support. Is Scouting educational? You bet it is! Scouts have many opportunities to learn skills of leadership, of the outdoors, and of life. Each boy decides what he will learn and how quickly he will do it. As he progresses, the value of his achievements will be reinforced through recognition – advancement in Scouting's ranks, positions of leadership in the troop, and accomplishments during outdoor adventures.

**TROOP MEETINGS:** Troop meetings are usually held on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. in the Riverside Presbyterian Church gym. Riverside Presbyterian Church has been the chartering organization for Troop 24 since 1939. The church address is 116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside. Please come to the gym through the door at the south-east corner of the building (on the same side as the main doors but father down), and take the steps to the third floor. Parents are always welcome to attend meetings. At each meeting we conduct the troop's business; make announcements; and teach, demonstrate, and try various Scout activities, ending with a game if time permits. Because announcements are made towards the end of the meeting (at approximately 8:00 p.m.), parents are encouraged to be present for the announcements and closing ceremony.

Approximately once a month the Troop meets, instead, on a Friday night at the Scout Cabin. Scout Cabin meetings will be announced in advance and will be listed on the Troop Calendar on the website. Meetings at the Scout Cabin usually last longer than our usual Thursday meetings. We also try to send out e-mail reminders for any meetings outside our normal times.

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**UNIFORMS:** Scouting is a uniformed organization. We require all scouts to purchase a scout shirt with the appropriate patches. (Staff at the Scout Store will advise you as to which items to buy, and can provide a diagram of where to sew them on the shirt.) New scouts will receive the official BSA Scout Handbook, a red scout neckerchief, and a slide. Because of the rapid growth of boys of scouting age, we do NOT require the purchase of official scout pants. We request that scouts wear jeans or clean, neat, un-torn pants of olive, tan, or khaki. **No sweatpants or gym shorts are allowed.** If shorts are worn to a meeting they should be scout shorts or olive/tan/khaki. Uniforms should be worn to all troop meetings and activities unless specifically told otherwise. The uniform **MUST** be worn while travelling to and from campouts. Uniforms and supplies can be purchased from the Des Plaines Valley Council Scout Shop at 811 Hillgrove Avenue in LaGrange. When a scout reaches the rank of First Class, he will receive an official embroidered Troop 24 neckerchief.

**PROGRAM:** In addition to our weekly meetings, at least one extra activity is planned each month. Most outings involve some cost, which we try keep as low as possible. We don't want price to be a deterrent to any scout family that might be experiencing financial difficulties. If this is an issue, please contact our Scoutmaster or Committee Chair, as financial assistance may be available.

Announcements about outings are made at the meetings, and information is sent to parents via "Feedblitz," our website to e-mail notification system. Every piece of information you receive via Feedblitz can also be found on the troop website. Parents must fill out an online permission slip for each outing, and are encouraged to pay online.

Most activities are planned months in advance, but to carry out any specific outing, we must have adequate participation by both scouts and parents. No scout function can take place without *at least* two adults, one of whom must be "**fully trained**" (as defined by the BSA), and the second must have, at a minimum, Youth Protection Training (YPT). The number of adults needed is dictated by the number of scouts actually participating in the event, and how many drivers are available. Please do your share and volunteer!

**PATROLS:** Scouting is run on the "Patrol Method. " Your son will be assigned to a patrol. Each boy will, at some time, have a troop job or duty, such as Patrol Leader, Sr. Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Librarian, Scribe, etc. Patrol assignments and duties are subject to change at any time due to troop size, number of boys on outings, etc.

**ADVANCEMENT:** Scouts take full advantage of the scouting program when they advance in rank. Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks emphasize outdoor, first aid, and citizenship knowledge, and completed requirements for advancement in rank are approved by either the Scoutmaster or the Assistant Scoutmasters (or designated senior scout). Although advancement is made on an individual basis, time is taken at some troop meetings and most

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outings to work on advancement, particularly for the younger scouts. (For more information, refer to the Rank Advancement section on our website ([www.troop24riverside.com/rank-advancement](http://www.troop24riverside.com/rank-advancement)) and to the *Trail to First Class* section ([www.troop24riverside.com/trail-to-first-class](http://www.troop24riverside.com/trail-to-first-class)). Actual advancement in rank occurs upon successful completion of the Board of Review for that rank. The advancement is recognized at the Court of Honor.

Merit Badges are required to earn the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle, but scouts at all ranks work on merit badges. Several of the merit badges are earned during our scout meetings, and scouts sign up for merit badge classes at summer camp. A scout who plans to work on a merit badge should request a “blue card” from the Scoutmaster before starting work on the badge. More information on Merit Badges can be found on the Troop website at [www.troop24riverside.com/merit-badges](http://www.troop24riverside.com/merit-badges).

**COURTS OF HONOR:** The Troop holds a “Court of Honor” twice during the year—usually in October and March. This evening event takes the place of one of our regularly scheduled troop meetings, and is held in the Social Hall at Riverside Presbyterian Church. The purpose of this night is to recognize the boys, their advancements and achievements, and to disperse pertinent information to the parents and scouts. One (or both) parents should be present for the scout to be honored at the Court of Honor.

**IMPORTANT ► RECORD-KEEPING:** Troop 24 is run completely by volunteers. Although we make every effort to track advancement on the boy’s path to his Eagle, it is up to the scout and his parents to retain all records of his advancement. When your son goes for his Eagle Board of Review—a few short years from now—the Eagle Committee will review all his advancement records, i.e. Merit Badge cards, to see that he actually earned his Eagle. Keep all completed Applicant’s Record cards (blue Merit Badge cards) in a safe place.

**DUES AND REGISTRATION:** All scouts must be registered annually with the Boy Scouts of America. Troop 24 charges annual dues of \$25 per scout year, but this may change at any time based on the size and fiscal health of the troop. New scouts should submit a check for \$25, made out to Troop 24, at the time they fill out the BSA registration forms. Thereafter, dues are collected at the beginning of the school year.

**PHOTOS:** We often take photos at our events (Camp Mach, Pancake Breakfast, ceremonies, outings, etc.). These photos capture our experiences and, of course, include the boys in their surroundings. These photos may be used in a variety of ways – on our website, in our council’s flyers, in local newspapers, on storyboards at our fundraisers, etc. Photos on our website never identify boys by name. From a practical standpoint, the troop does not have the resources to compare each boy in a picture to a list of who has and who has not given permission to use them in a photograph. For this reason we require parents to sign a “photo release” form.

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**MEDICAL FORMS:** The official BSA medical form needs to be completed before your son can participate in an outing. The form must be updated annually. Based on which activity a scout is attending, you may need to fill out several parts of the form. **Parts A and B are required annually for all scouts (new scouts should do this immediately).** For summer camp *a physician's exam is required* and Part C should be completed by the doctor. For the BSA high adventure camps (Philmont, Seabase, Northern Tier), Part D must also be completed.

The form is available at: [www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx). You can download the form, fill it in, print it, and save an electronic copy for your files. Please return a printed copy of the form, Parts A & B, to our Committee Chair, Nancy Hopkins, ASAP. Scouts can not attend any overnight outings until those forms are turned in.

If your son has any medical issues, severe allergies, physical restrictions, etc., please feel free to discuss those issues with Scoutmaster Michael Payne, or Asst. Scoutmaster Dr. Stephanie Lanken. You will be asked to list ongoing medical issues on the "Scout Information Form" you received with this guide. Also, for every outing, you will be asked to list allergies, medications, or restrictions related to that particular outing.

If you plan to volunteer as an adult leader (for summer camp), you would also need to complete the appropriate medical forms.

**SUMMER ACTIVITIES:** Each year our scouts are given the opportunity to attend a week-long summer camp. Scout camps offer camping, swimming, canoeing, sailing, nature, archery, rifle, leatherwork, woodcarving, and much more, in a patrol method setting. Before attending summer camp, a new scout must participate in at least one overnight camping trip without a parent present. High Adventure camps are planned for older scouts (usually 13-14 or older). BSA operates three high adventure camps at Florida Sea Base (Islamorada, FL), Philmont Scout Ranch (Cimarron, NM), and Northern Tier (Minnesota boundary waters). Occasionally we offer other high adventure activities geared toward older scouts.

We strongly encourage new scouts to attend scout camp in their first year, as this is the event that introduces them to the real flavor of Boy Scouts, and allows them to complete many of the requirements for their first rank advancement.

**CODE OF CONDUCT:** Scouts are expected to behave appropriately at all meetings and outings. Inappropriate language, inappropriate physical behavior, or a lack of cooperation and/or lack of participation in the program activities will not be tolerated. If there is a problem, a scout will receive a verbal warning for the first offense. If the behavior continues, a parent will be called and the scout will be sent home. If inappropriate behavior occurs over the course of several meetings, the troop leaders will request a meeting with the scout and his parents.

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Scouts are required to sign a “commitment agreement” stating that they will:

- arrive on time for Troop meetings in full uniform;
- conduct themselves appropriately at scouting activities;
- help the Troop when help is needed; and
- communicate with leaders, in order that the leaders can help the scout succeed.

Our *Code of Conduct* was developed by the scouts in this troop, and was not dictated by the adult leaders.

**FUNDRAISING:** Some fundraising is required to provide enough operating cash for the year, and to help offset the cost of various activities. The troop’s primary source of income comes from our annual Pancake Breakfast (always held on the first Saturday in March). Since this is our primary means of financing the troop, we **require** that all scouts be available to work at this event. (We also encourage parents to assist). Each scout is also **required** to sell (or purchase) a minimum of 15 tickets to the Pancake Breakfast (at \$5 each = \$75).

Most summers the scouts also sell some type of food item at Riverside’s 4th of July celebration. Throughout the year we may take part in other fundraising events, such as a booth at the Cruise Nights in the summer, a booth at the Holiday Stroll in December, etc. These secondary events give the troop (and your son) visibility in the community, as well as provide experiences such as organizing, staffing, and executing a public event; interacting with customers; making change; and working together as a team. They also have a lot of fun!

Your scout can also participate in the *optional* Popcorn Sale in the fall, with **100% of the profits of his sales** going to an account for the scout to help fund summer camp (or other activity) fees.

**PARENTS’ RESPONSIBILITY:** We ask that parents provide a scout uniform (and replacement handbook, if the book is lost), attend Court of Honor nights and troop meetings when required, drive and/or camp with us when asked, support fundraising activities, encourage advancement, and assist the Troop Committee and Troop leaders when asked. Your son directly benefits from adequate adult participation. Participating gives you a chance to observe your son’s experience in Scouting.

We also require the parent(s) to sign the Commitment Agreement and our Photo Release form. As a troop we expect a boy’s parent(s) to participate in at least one event or outing each year. (If you have a hobby, profession or experience that may add value to the boys and the troop, please let us know.) Parents are encouraged to take the online course *Youth Protection Training*. (Our adult leaders are required to take this training at least every two years.) Parents are always encouraged to join in a leadership role as well—we welcome you as a Troop Committee member, Merit Badge Counselor, or Asst. Scoutmaster. There is a definite correlation between the participation of the parent(s) and the advancement of the scout.

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**COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** The Troop Committee is made up of scout parents who oversee our program, set troop policies, and deal with the financial aspects of Scouting. The Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month (during the school year) at 7:00 p.m. in the Westminster Room at the Riverside Presbyterian Church (downstairs across from the Social Hall). Parents are always invited to attend our Committee meetings, and are encouraged to join the Committee.

**WEBSITE:** Check our website, [www.troop24riverside.com](http://www.troop24riverside.com), for the Troop calendar, online sign-up for outings, news about upcoming events, our photo gallery, forms, and much more. If you have suggestions for additions to the website, please e-mail the webmaster or come to a committee meeting. You will receive automatic e-mails when new information is published on our website. If your family has additional e-mail addresses, and would like to receive updates to those addresses, you can subscribe at the bottom of the right-hand column on the website, under "Newsletter Sign-up."

## Welcome to Troop 24!