

Troop 188 Fort Collins, CO

Parent Guide

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Troop 188 and the great adventure of Scouting. We especially welcome the entire family because Scouting is a family adventure - the more involved the family, the greater the rewards from Scouting. It is an opportunity for parents to become better acquainted with their son by demonstrating an interest in, and support for, his activities as he develops into a young man. Scouting works toward three basic aims: to build character, citizenship and fitness of mind and body. This information is designed to ease your son's transition into Scouting and to make you aware of some of Troop 188 policies and activities.

Troop 188 is sponsored by Linton Elementary School, 4100 Caribou, Fort Collins, Colorado. It is open to any boy who has finished fifth grade OR has earned the Arrow of Light Award OR is 11 years of age, but not yet 18. Our troop is an active, outdoor-oriented unit, which meets every Tuesday in the school from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. and camps, hikes or tries to go on a special outing at least 10 times during the year. The troop has historically participated in district events such as: 1) Klondike Winter Campout, 2) Spring Camporee and 3) Fall Camporee. Our Troop also attends summer camp for one week every summer to various locations. In order to encourage older Scouts' participation, we have also organized a high adventure trip for the past several years. Troop 188 takes great pride in achieving "Quality Unit" every year.

SCOUT EXPECTATIONS

What the Troop Expects From Your Son:

Each Scout is expected to be active and to participate in as many Troop activities as possible. They are expected to do their best to live up to the ideas of Scouting as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law. A Scout needs to buy the Boy Scout Handbook (current edition) immediately so that he, and you, can understand the program and begin advancement. He is expected to advance regularly by completing the requirements for each Progress Award. The advancement program also provides an opportunity to develop leadership skills and to learn the importance of service to the greater community.

Quarterly Courts of Honor are held to recognize the Scouts for their achievements. Families are encouraged to attend these ceremonies.

Troop 188 is a fully uniformed unit. As soon as he is able, the Scout is expected to purchase a complete uniform and to wear it correctly at Scout functions. Scouts are asked to wear full uniform (trousers, belt, shirt, neckerchief with slide, and proper insignia) to troop meetings, Courts of Honor, and special activities. BSA issue or green colored pants should be worn as part of a full uniform. During summer meetings, alternate Class B uniforms may be worn. Scout shirts and neckerchiefs must be worn to and from all outings. The Troop neckerchief, patrol patch, tie slide, merit badges, special awards and rank badges are presented by the Troop. When the Scout joins Troop 188 he will be provided a black neckerchief with red embroidery and a tie slide. When he achieves the rank of Tenderfoot the Scout Master will instruct him on where he can have Troop 188 embroidered on the neckerchief at no cost to the Scout. When the Scout earns the rank of Star, the Troop will provide him a red neckerchief with black embroidery. Finally, when the Scout earns his Eagle rank, the Troop will present him with a red neckerchief with gold embroidery.

Uniforms and other Scout materials can be purchased at the Fort Collins Ministore, located in the basement of Harmony Presbyterian Church, 400 E. Boardwalk (no phone), or the Farr Service Center, 2215 23rd Avenue in Greeley (1-800-800-4052). Correct wear of the uniform and insignia can be found in the Scout Handbook.

As Scouts mature in the Troop, they take increasing responsibilities for the development of the younger Scouts and for planning future Scout activities. Adolescents today will find few opportunities to practice such leadership, or to receive so much responsibility, outside Scouting.

Expected Behavior:

All Scouts are expected to follow the Scout Law and Oath. If discipline problems arise, leaders will take action to restore order to the troop. Leaders will first talk to the boy about his behavior. If problems persist, the Scout will be removed from the group and placed in a "time-out" area. If problems continue, parents will be contacted and asked to pick up their child. The Scout may return to troop activities only after a meeting with his parents and Scoutmaster.

Unacceptable Items:

Firearms, fireworks, illegal drugs, tobacco and tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, sheath knives, and knives with blades longer than 3.5 inches are prohibited at all Scouting events. This includes weekly meetings and all outings. To ensure the boys enjoy the outdoors naturally, electronic entertainment equipment is not allowed on campouts. On longer trips, electronic entertainment equipment may be used while we are in transit if a leader gives permission. All electronic entertainment equipment must be left in the vehicles once we arrive at our destination.

ADVANCEMENT GUIDELINES

Unlike in Cub Scouts, it is the Boy Scouts' responsibility to take ownership of their own advancement. Parental support and encouragement is appreciated, but it is ultimately the Scout's responsibility. Tenderfoot through First Class advancement is based on predefined Scout skills. Advancement to Star and above is based upon merit badge work, community service, and leadership. The requirements for each of these ranks are described in the Boy Scout Handbook.

Rank Advancement:

1. The checklists for rank advancement requirements are documented in the Boy Scout Handbook.
2. New Scout coaches will help the younger Scouts advance up to First Class.
3. Checklist items can only be signed off by trained adult leaders. Parents cannot sign these items off.
4. Only the Scoutmaster can sign off on the "Demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in everyday life" and the "Participate in a Scoutmaster conference" requirements.
5. A leader cannot sign off on their son's rank advancement. Likewise, the First Assistant Scoutmaster will complete the Scout spirit and Scoutmaster conference for the Scoutmaster's son.

Merit Badge Work:

1. The Scout initiates the process of earning a merit badge by requesting a "Blue Card" from an adult leader and filling out the first part of the card. The card will state the desired merit badge and will be signed by the adult leader. The adult leader's responsibility is to make sure that all of the merit badge pre-requisites are met.
2. At this point, the Scout is responsible for obtaining a copy of the appropriate merit badge book. BSA publishes a different merit badge book for each merit badge. We have copies of many of the merit badge books in the troop library and they can be checked out from the Troop Librarian. If the Scout wishes to buy their own merit badge book, they may be purchased at the Scout mini store or main shop in Greeley. It is not the troop's responsibility to furnish our Scouts with merit badge books. We encourage Scouts to donate their books to the library after they have completed the merit badge.
3. The Scout contacts the merit badge counselor and asks to work on the merit badge. The merit badge counselor will collect the blue card and keep it until their work is complete. A complete list of the troop's merit badge counselors can be found on the troop website. In some instances, a counselor may not exist from our troop for a given merit badge. The Scout will then need to contact our

Scoutmaster to determine the name of a registered counselor for the desired merit badge.

4. After all of the steps are completed, the merit badge counselor will sign off on the merit badge and return the blue card to the Scout. The Scout must then take the blue card to the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster will sign the card and process it with the district office.
5. During each year, there are two special occasions to earn merit badges: 1) Merit Badge University (MBU) and 2) Summer Camp. The Scoutmaster is able to sign off as the merit badge counselor for any incomplete items on the blue card for 6 months following each event.
6. Although it is not a requirement, Scouts should plan to complete all requirements for a given merit badge within a 6 month timeframe. This allows the Scout and counselor to focus on the badge and not drag out the process.
7. If a Scout's parent is also a merit badge counselor, the Scout's parent is allowed to sign off on their son for that merit badge.

ADULT EXPECTATIONS AND ROLES

Our adult leaders spend a great deal of time working directly with the boys and young men to provide a quality program because they want to help make better citizens for tomorrow. Even so, the troop cannot function effectively without active parent participation. While all parents need not become uniformed leaders, each can fulfill a need consistent with their available time and talents.

All parents are welcome and encouraged to help by:

1. Attending troop meetings
2. Attending campouts
3. Attending Troop Committee meetings
4. Attending special activities
5. Serving as merit badge counselors
6. Providing transportation for Troop activities - campouts, fund-raising activities, etc.
7. Refer to Appendix B for other roles that can be filled by adult volunteers

Troop 188 actively seeks the participation of all parents in our program. The Troop welcomes comments, suggestions and assistance. Also, please feel welcome to attend any troop activity or to call any leader if there are problems or questions.

GENERAL TROOP INFORMATION

Dues:

Annual Dues are \$50.00 /member/year (\$100.00 family maximum), payable in November at the time of the annual Troop Charter Renewal. The dues are used for National Boy Scout registration, Boys Life magazine (12 monthly issues), unit charter fee, merit badges, skill awards, progress awards, office and patrol badges, neckerchief, other special badges and Troop equipment. Since annual dues are inadequate to cover troop expenses, they are augmented by fund-raising activities.

Insurance:

Supplemental troop medical liability insurance is provided by the Longs Peak Council to all Scouts and registered adults.

Scout Accounts:

The purpose of an individual Scout account is to help the Scout pay his own way for Scouting activities and equipment. It is not for the Scout to earn money for himself (this would violate National BSA policy); thus, there is no way for a Scout to withdraw cash from his account (exception noted below*). Scouts earn money for their accounts by participating in troop fundraisers. A percentage of troop profits earned are distributed proportionately to Scouts based on their involvement in the fundraiser. The Scout can apply funds from his account towards summer camp, an outing, a special long-term trip, equipment or uniforms (turn in receipt for reimbursement) or other Scout-related activity or expense. The Treasurer will provide information on account balances and Account Use Request forms to Scouts and parents. Any Cub Scout funds that exist for a boy can be transferred into their Scout account once they are registered with the troop and arrange through their old pack to transfer of funds. Any Scout quitting Boy Scouts forfeits his account back into the general troop fund. If a Scout transfers to another troop or venture crew, he may request (within 6 months of transfer) the transfer of his individual account balance to his Scout account at the new troop.

* Eagle Scouts who remain active in Scouting until their 18th birthday may request a cash refund of their remaining account balance. Other Scouts reaching their 18th birthday can carry over their funds to be used to pay for Scout functions or equipment if they continue to be registered and active in the troop.

Outing Expenses:

Each Scout pays for his share of patrol food for a campout and registration, if applicable (i.e. Spring and Fall Camporees and Klondike Winter Campout). Typically, one boy per patrol is assigned to purchase food for that particular outing. It is his responsibility to collect reimbursement for his expenses from the other patrol members. If a Scout

indicates that he will participate in a campout and is unable to attend for any reason, that Scout is still responsible for his share of food costs unless notice is given prior to food purchase.

Permission Slips:

Activity information and permission slips will be distributed prior to each outing. Permission slips must be signed and returned before a Scout can attend that outing. Typical permission slips not only give medical release from the parents, but also require the Scout to sign that they acknowledge the troop's expectation and that they will abide by the Scout Oath and Law during the outing.

Prescription Medication:

A first-aid certified leader is responsible for the distribution of prescription medication. Parents are required to inform leaders of their child's needs and provide medicine in the original prescription container.

Basic Equipment Needed:

The Boy Scout Handbook contains guidance on clothing and gear for a weekend campout. You can also refer to the checklists for camping in Appendix A. There is no need to rush out and fully equip your son. Starting with the minimum gear allows time to determine the extent of his commitment to Scouting and to learn for himself what equipment is best suited to our style of camping. Local outdoor shops such as REI and EMS rent sleeping bags, backpacks and similar gear. Please consult with the Troop Leaders before making expensive equipment purchases. The camping and winter camping checklists in the Appendix are a good reference to use when outfitting your son for his 1st trip.

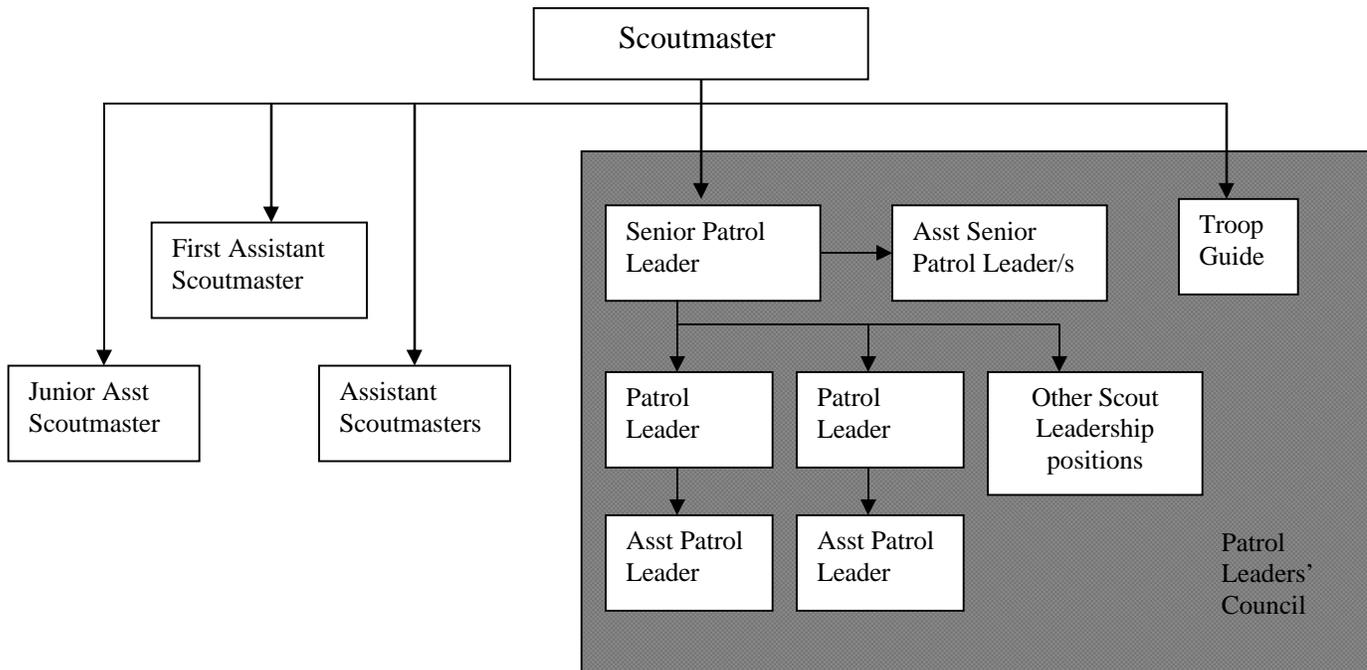
Required equipment for every Campout:

1. Mess kit - Personal mess kit with plate, cup, knife, fork, and spoon.
2. Personal first aid kit
3. Canteen/Water Bottle - One quart/liter is enough. Plastic bottles are lighter and cheaper than metal ones.
4. Clothing and Shoes - Should be adequate for the outing. For summer, hiking boots are good. For winter, waterproof and warm boots are a must.
5. Raincoat or poncho - strong garbage bag will do in an emergency.
6. Sleeping bag - This should be a good, machine-washable, all season bag. A three-season bag will need to be placed in another for adequate winter camping. Down, although the warmest for its weight, is expensive and is totally useless when wet. The better artificial fibers (Polarguard, Hollofil II, and Quallofil) are nearly as

warm for their weight, are less costly, easier to wash, and provide good warmth even when wet. Good used bags can be found at garage sales or sporting goods stores at the end of the season. For occasional use, you can rent a sleeping bag for a reasonable rate from local outdoor stores such as REI and EMS.

TROOP ORGANIZATION

Troop 188 is part of Thompson-Poudre District which is in turn a part of Longs Peak Council. The council and district offices are in Greeley. Additional info can be found on-line at www.longspeakbsa.org



THE TROOP COMMITTEE

The Troop Committee ensures that the troop operates within the BSA and Troop's policies and guidelines. The Committee's responsibilities include; appointing a qualified Scoutmaster and other leadership; providing meeting facilities; assuring adequate finances and proper accounting of contributed funds; obtaining, maintenance and care of troop property; ensuring that the troop has an effective program; serving on boards of review and in courts of honor; and supporting the adult leadership in the troop.

The Troop Committee is a volunteer organization. It is made up of the registered adults, the troop's leadership corps, and any parents who wish to help out. If you are interested in helping with this type of work, you are always welcome to participate in the meetings. Generally these meetings are held monthly; see the troop calendar for more information.

APPENDIX A: CAMPING CHECKLISTS

Spring, Summer and Fall Camping Equipment Checklist

This list is meant as a guideline, and not a required list. Individual items and quantities will vary depending on the time of year and length of trip. The items marked with an asterisk (*) may be supplied by the troop for general use. USE YOUR BEST JUDGMENT

Camp Equipment

Sleeping Bag
Sleeping Pad
Ground Cloth
Backpack
* Tent
Fleece Blanket

Clothing

Pants (2)
Shirt (2)/ Sweatshirts (2)
Socks (3)
Underwear (3)
Coat
Hat
Gloves
Belt
Raingear (Poncho)
Sturdy Shoes
Snow Boots
Uniform

Emergency Gear

First Aid Kit
Flashlight/ Batteries
Hot Spark
Compass
Waterproof Matches
Leatherman

Cooking & Eating Gear

Mess Kit
Water Bottle
Eating Utensils
Cooking Utensils
* Pans
Dish Soap
Dish Towel
Paper Towels
Trash Bags

Misc.

Insect Repellent
Sunblock
Scout Handbook
Merit Badge Books
* Flag
Water

Personal Items

Pocket Knife
Comb
Toothbrush and Toothpaste
Soap
Washcloth and Towel
Deodorant
Toilet Paper
Sunglasses
Lip Balm

Winter Camping Checklist

Winter camping is a lot of fun if you stay warm and dry. During Klondike, you can experience temperatures of -20 degrees Fahrenheit with wind and wet snow. The right gear, and following a few simple safety rules, will make all the difference. First, bring ONLY wool and synthetic fabrics (like polypropylene) - both fabrics will keep you warm when wet. Second, DO NOT bring cotton fabrics, like jeans and sweatshirts - they do not dry quickly and once they get wet, you will get cold. Third, keep your feet dry and warm with waterproof, insulated boots. Finally, bring enough changes of clothing so that you can change each night and when you get wet.

Camp Equipment:

Ground Tarp
Wool Blanket
Sleeping Bag (rated -10 to 0 degrees F)
Inner Sleeping Bag
Foam Pad
Tent

Clothing - First Layer

Polypropylene Liner Socks (3 pair)
Long Underwear Tops (3)
Long Underwear Bottoms (3)

Clothing - Second Layer

Long Sleeve Shirt (2)
Sweater
Fleece Vest
Wool or Fleece Jacket
Wool Pants or Snow Pants
Heavy Socks (5 pair)

Clothing - Shell

Winter Parka
Wind/ Rain Pants
Wind/ Rain Jacket

Clothing - Boots

Sorel-type Boots
Gaiters

Clothing - Head

Ski Hat (2)
Balaclava or Face Mask

Clothing - Hands

Glove Liners (2 pair)
Mittens or Gloves (2 pair)

Emergency Gear

First Aid Kit
Flashlight
Hot Spark
Matches
Pocket Knife
Compass

Personal Care

Sunglasses
Lip Balm
Sunscreen
Toothbrush and Toothpaste
Soap
Deoderant

Eating

Mess Kit with Utensils
Water Bottle
Insulated Cup

Optional

Snow Shovel
Snow Shoes
Ski Poles
Heat Packs
Hard Foam Pad
(to sit/stand on)

APPENDIX B: ADULT VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Here are some of the positions that adult volunteers may fill.

1. Quartermaster
2. Webmaster
3. Transportation Coordinator
4. New Scout Coaches (help new Scouts get to 1st class)
5. Patrol Coach (help patrols with advancement, and during patrol meetings)
6. Event Coordinators (i.e.)
 - A. Summer Camp
 - B. High Adventure
 - C. Klondike Winter Campout
 - D. Spring Camporee
 - E. Fall Camporee
 - F. Backpack trip
 - G. Downhill ski trip
 - H. Cross-country and/or snowshoe trip
 - I. Fun88 campout
 - J. New Scout campout
 - K. Merit Badge University Coordinator
 - L. Food Drive
7. Board of Review Organizer
8. Court of Honor Organizer (food etc.)
9. Awards Chairperson (paperwork and pickup at Greeley)
10. Awards Record keeper (enter completed items into Troopmaster on computer)
11. Re-chartering coordinator
12. Eagle Scout Coordinator
13. Specific fundraiser coordinators
 - A. Popcorn
 - B. Friends of Scouting (FOS)
 - C. Christmas Tree pickup
14. Merit Badge Counselors
15. Uniform Closet (used uniform exchange)