

Welcome

Frequently Asked Questions



Below are some common questions to help you learn more about Troop 58. Feel free to contact any of the leaders of Troop 58 to ask more questions or you can always go to our Boy Troop website www.mytroop58.com

Who can join Scouts BSA?

Any boy or girl can join Scouts BSA regardless of their outdoor experiences or whether they were a Cub Scout. They must, however, be less than 18 years old AND satisfy any one of these three requirements:

- Be at least 10 years old and have already completed the 5th grade
- Be at least 11 years old
- Be at least 10 years old and have already earned the Arrow of Light Award as a Cub Scout

When and where does Troop 58 meet?

Troop 58 meets on Tuesday evenings (except for the last Tuesday of every month) at the Davidson College Presbyterian Church Congregation House located at 218 Concord Road in Davidson. Meetings start at 6:30 PM and typically end at 8:00 PM. Check the calendar on the troop website for the actual dates and times.

How large is the troop?

The troop size is about 85 scouts (most are regular troop members, but some scouts may be in a Venture Crew or Sea Scout unit). Normal attendance at weekly meetings is between 30 and 40 scouts. Campouts typically run between 25 and 40 scouts.

How long has Troop 58 been around?

The all-boy Troop 58 was founded in 1935 over 85 years ago.

Who is the Chartered Organization for Troop 58?

Davidson Lions Club is our Chartered Organization. The Davidson Lions Club also charters Pack 58 and Crew 58 of Davidson.

Do I have to choose Troop 58?

No. If you have the opportunity, take time to visit multiple troops and write down pros and cons to each. Consider proximity and types of activities that the troop participates in. Watch the interaction between the scouts and the adult leadership; consider, is that the type of mentorship you want for your child? Most importantly, make sure your child fits in with the personality of the troop.

How much does Scouting cost?

The annual dues for Troop 58 will be \$250 collected in September each year. New Scouts joining should check our website (listed above) for the joining fee as it varies by time of year. This includes registration with BSA, Insurance, Scout Life magazine, operating costs for the troop, all required and earned patches, class-b t-shirt, a troop neckerchief, slide, shoulder loops and a scout book. You will need the tan class A uniform. There are also fees associated with each outing designed to cover the cost of that outing.

What are the physical requirements?

Scouting is an activity-based learning experience, however, accommodations are made based upon a scout's specific physical and mental abilities.

What is a Patrol?

The patrol is a group of Scouts who belong to a troop that will learn together, bond with each other, teach each other, often share similar interests, and will more than likely form life-long friends. Working together as a team, patrol members share the responsibility for the patrol's success. Patrols are the building blocks of a Scouts BSA troop.

What is an Eaglet?

An Eaglet, are new scouts to the troop who have not been assimilated into a regular patrol. As Eaglets, they are grouped together to learn the basics of a troop and to get started on their first rank together, the Scout rank.

What are the ranks in Scouts BSA?

The scout handbook provides the requirements for six ranks. They are; Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Scout. Our outdoor activities, merit badge, and leadership programs are designed to provide every scout with an opportunity to advance in rank at the pace they select.

What is a Merit Badge?

A merit badge is an award for completing the requirements in one of 120 career and hobby fields. Each merit badge is designed to provide a scout with an introduction to that specific field of interest. The subject matter of these merit badges vary wildly. Each merit badge has a specific list of requirements that must be completed by the scout, then reviewed by a qualified merit badge instructor, and finally signed off by the Scoutmaster. Merit badges are worn on the scout's sash as part of their class A uniform.

What is a Blue Card?

A blue card is the document that the scout and merit badge counselor complete once the merit badge requirements are met. The card has three parts. The first part is retained by the merit badge counselor. The second part is retained by the Council who records the scout's completion of the badge. The third part is returned to the scout with the merit badge. The third portion of the blue card should be kept in a safe place as it becomes the scout's proof of completion in the event that the merit badge or sash are lost.

What do parents need to do?

We expect parents who have Scouts in Troop 58 to:

- Attend the Court of Honor ceremonies throughout the year.
- Assist with transportation to outings.
- Assist leaders with programs.
- Participate in Boards of Review
- There are other optional adult leadership opportunities such as committee positions or serving as a merit badge counselor.
- Support and Encourage your child. This may be a big change for your child and your scout may need your support more than ever and encouragement to attend meetings and trips.

Is this a youth-led Troop?

Yes, Troop 58 is a youth-led unit. The Senior Patrol Leader plans and presides over Troop meetings. The Troop plans outings and activities on an annual basis. Many aspects of our program are shaped and determined by the Scouts. Adults are always nearby for advice and to act as role models for our scouts.

If we decide to join, when can we start coming to meetings?

You and your child can join upon eligibility defined by BSA National Council. After that, simply complete and submit your scout's BSA application to the Troop. If joining after crossing over from Cub Scouts, then the first Tuesday after the crossover ceremony will be your first meeting. The only exception is if it is the last Tuesday of the month, which is reserved for the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC). In this case, please plan to come to the next Tuesday meeting.

Can I play sports and still be in Scouts BSA?

Yes, many of the scouts in Troop 58 participate in other activities such as sports and band. Advancement is self-paced, which gives the scout flexibility to participate. While achieving Eagle Scout should be the goal of every scout, not every scout achieves that rank.

What is a Court of Honor?

The Court of Honor is a troop activity where scouts and their families come together to receive and celebrate the reception of awards. It is important for the scout's family members to be there for their scout receiving rank advancement, merit badges, and other awards. The Troop conducts Courts of Honor three times a year (Fall, Winter, and late Spring).

Does my scout have to wait until Court of Honor to receive their rank badge?

No. The Troop believes in immediate recognition for rank. A rank badge is not a symbol for what a Scout has done. It is a symbol for what they are capable of doing. As soon as a Scout has earned their next level of rank, they are presented with the rank badge at the next possible opportunity. The exception is the rank of Eagle Scout.

What is the role of parents or adults in the Troop?

Assistant Scoutmasters, Troop Committee, Merit Badge Counselors. See our Parents Pledge page for more information.

What do you have to do to become an adult leader or Troop Committee member?

Speak with or email the Committee Chairman and Scoutmaster about positions needed. Complete a BSA Adult Application and complete YPT (Youth Protection Training), ensure to print a copy of your YPT certificate. Take additional required BSA training in a timely manner to be Trained to Position.

What fundraisers does the troop do?

Troop 58 participates in a greenery sale each Fall. The scouts sell wreaths and garland made and purchased from local tree farms. This is a great opportunity help support the troop and also build up your Scout Bucks account.

What are Scout Bucks?

A Scout Buck is similar to a gift certificate, which can be earned through our annual troop fundraising event. One Scout Buck is equivalent to \$1. Scout Bucks can be spent on any troop related expense like dues, camps, or trips.

How often does the troop camp?

The troop will try to go on at least 10 overnight activities a year, including a week long summer camp. Past activities include rafting, caving, visit to NASA, zip lining, and overnight hikes. Costs for campouts vary based on the activity

Do scouts have to attend every campout?

The troop understands that there are multiple demands on your time but encourages as much participation as possible. Participation in at least 50% of the meetings and campouts is encouraged for rank advancement.

Can a mother or father camp with the Troop?

Yes. Moms and Dads like to camp too, appropriate BSA guidelines for Youth Protection are followed.

Can siblings attend campouts?

No. Unless they're Scouts BSA (not Cub Scouts) or the Troop has a Family Camping outing. See the Guide to Safe Scouting on Camping.

The Guide to Safe Scouting is an overview of Scouting policies and procedures gleaned from a variety of sources as defined by the Boy Scouts of America. Leaders will then apply a layer of common sense. The guide can be found here:

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34416.pdf>

Does Troop 58 have a Summer Camp program?

Troop 58 traditionally attends a weeklong summer camp, a Nationally Accredited Summer Camp. This year we will be attending Camp Woodruff in Blairsville, Georgia. Summer camp is typically scheduled during the third week of June each year.

Why is Summer Camp important?

Camp is one of those opportunities for scouts to build confidence, nurture relationships with scouts from all parts of the country, and build strong personal values and character. In addition, it is an easy way to complete rank and merit badge requirements.

How are Troop 58 activities determined?

During the summer at the Patrol Leader Council (PLC), the Senior Patrol leader (SPL), Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL), Patrol leaders and adult leaders will meet and plan the following year. All activities are chosen by the scouts (with advice from adult leaders as needed). Each Patrol will have a fall activity and spring activity that they will do with their patrol only. The scouts within each patrol will decide amongst themselves along with their adult Patrol Advisor a few weeks prior to the activity.

Will my scout be left behind if they do not attend meetings?

No. Scouts progress through scouting at their own pace. While missing vast amounts of troop meetings is not helpful to your scout's growth, they will not be left behind.

