

# TROOP 172

## NEW PALTZ, NY

### **Scout Program Guide**

#### **Troop Meetings:**

Troop 172 holds weekly meetings in the Education building of the Reformed Church of New Paltz on Thursday nights 7-8:30 whenever school is in session from mid September through June. Scouts should be at the meetings on time and dressed in their Class A uniform.

Consistent attendance is encouraged. Much of the value of the scouting program is compromised when meetings are not regularly attended. Ideally, more experienced scouts guide and teach the less experienced scouts the things they have learned in the program.

#### **Philosophy:**

To promote growth of leadership and responsibility through the values and activities of scouting.

#### **Advancement:**

Early rank requirements - These are requirements for scout rank and are usually done as part of scouting activities or as part of a meeting. For instance while on a campout, a scout can arrange to plan and cook a meal for his patrol. We try to incorporate many of the scout skills in the weekly meetings such as, first aid and knot tying.

If your scout has a specific request in terms of an advancement skill, it may be possible to address them during the course of a meeting. Please email the Scoutmaster several weeks in advance of a meeting and try to accommodate any requests.

If your scout is ready to demonstrate a learned skill for the purpose of rank advancement he should bring his book to the meeting and ask a leader or scout of appropriate rank to test him on the specific task. It is also a good idea for him to practice and review the skill at home when possible. This helps to reinforce learned skills.

Summer camp is also an opportunity to learn and apply new skills. The specific requirements for each rank can be found on pages 438-447 of The Boy Scout

Handbook 11<sup>th</sup> edition. The page numbers may be different in the latest edition of the handbook.

### **Merit Badges:**

The merit badge program is designed to allow scouts to learn more about a specific subject that interests them as well as to foster independence and responsibility. Merit badges are also required to advance as a scout moves up to higher ranks.

A description of the various merit badges and the most current requirements can be found on our Troop Blog located at:

<http://troop172newpaltz.com/resources/merit-badges/>

There are 3 basic ways that scouts can go about earning merit badges:

- Summer camp offers great opportunity for scouts to earn a variety of merit badges.
- Scouts can contact a merit badges counselor in the troop or council and make arrangements to work on a merit badge. For many of the merit badges, work can be done independently through the use of printed outlines that can be found online. Even if your counselor prefers to not use the outlines it is a great way to become familiarized with the badge requirements, as well as aid in organization.

Troop 172's merit badge counselor list can be found here:

<http://troop172newpaltz.com/resources/merit-badges/>

- Occasionally the troop will work on a badge as a group, such as the Citizenship in the Community we worked on last year. The goal is to get them started on the merit badge so that they can finish the badge on their own. With the citizenship merit badge we attended a Town meeting and in follow up troop meetings discussed the importance of taking part in ones community.

### **Leadership Positions:**

Positions of responsibility. There are a variety of positions that allow for scouts to grow in terms of leadership and responsibility. These include some appropriate for younger scouts, such as *scribe, guide, bugler, den chief*, etc. There are also those that require a greater degree of organization and responsibility such as *senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, patrol leader, asst patrol leader, quartermaster and instructor*.

Scouts should not expect to be assigned a leadership position because they “need it” for advancement purposes. Scouts wishing positions of leadership should ask which positions are available of the adult leaders and we will advise them on which positions would be most appropriate for them.

### **Patrol Leaders Council**

(PLC) meetings are held every month the same time as Committee meetings. Currently these are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month in Education building of the Reformed Church. Senior Patrol leader (SPL) and Patrol leaders and guides make suggestions about possible troop activities.

### **Scoutmaster Conference:**

When scouts have completed all the requirements for the rank they are working on they should request a scoutmaster’s conference. These are done with the Scoutmaster of the Troop. Typically the Scoutmaster prefers to do these before the meetings when possible. These should be requested a week in advance.

### **Board of Review:**

A Board of Review is conducted by the troop committee. When a scout is ready to advance in rank he goes before a board of review (BOR). When he is ready for his BOR, the **scout** should request a BOR from the Advancement Coordinator. If that person is unavailable then one of the committee members can help schedule the BOR. The scout’s handbook should show a record of each rank requirement having been completed along with the date and appropriate signatures. Scouts should appear before the board in their full Class A uniform. They should also bring their scout handbook. Scouts are encouraged to keep a record of their advancement in a notebook or binder. They should bring this as well.

### **Activities:**

The activities that the troop engages in throughout the year are many and varied. Some require multiple adults to coordinate, while a single adult can lead others. Some of the activities that the troop has done recently include: camping of several types: *backpacking, tenting, cabin camping, Gettysburg, West Point Camporee, hiking, Memorial Day parade*, to name a few. All events require parental help on some level.

The troop is also involved in service-oriented activities. Scouting for Food, the Turkey Trot, Gardiner day, Applefest, New Paltz Clean Sweep, Gardiner 5K, eel counting, Flag Day at the Elks club among others. Please stress the importance of participating in as many of these as possible throughout the year. This helps to reinforce the importance of service to ones community, which is a cornerstone of the scouting program.

**High Adventure:**

These are outings usually reserved for higher rank or older scouts. They are often of a more strenuous nature. Exceptions to the age and rank limitation may be made if a parent accompanies the scout and if there is a need for more adult supervision. Recent trips have been to the BSA high adventure base Philmont in New Mexico, Hiking in the White Mountains in New Hampshire, Acadia National Park in Maine, Canoeing/Camping at Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks.

**Committee Meetings:**

The troop has a committee made up of parents of the troop who serve in various positions within the troop. This committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Education building where the troop has their meetings.

The committee discusses the finances, events, and trips the boys will be involved in. More or less the committee is the troop's board of directors. They support the troops programs.

The committee encourages the parents of the scouts of Troop 172 to attend these meetings. ***Involvement is the "key" to the troop's success.*** We welcome everyone to attend.