



Boy Scout Troop 446 Cape Carteret, NC Croatan Trails District East Carolina Council

Dear Scouts and Parents:

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 446! We are excited to have you joining our troop to begin or to continue your scouting career. We look forward to enriching the lives of each and every boy in this troop and make a difference in the kind of man he becomes.

Dozens of boys throughout the history of Troop 446 have contributed to our reputation as a fun, hard-working and award-winning troop. One of the major factors contributing to our continued success is the active cooperation and participation of scouts and parents like you.

TROOP MEETINGS - Our regular troop meetings are held every Monday night from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Cape Carteret Presbyterian Church, our chartering organization. We are an active troop that meets year round with at least one outing per month. Our troop calendar can be found on our secure Scoutlander website.

<http://bstroop446.ScoutLander.com>

You will be sent an invitation to the private section of our website upon joining the troop. Please refer to the website for helpful forms, links and other pertinent information. Our troop calendar is also found on Scoutlander. Refer to it often to keep informed about the many events of our active troop.

TROOP DUES - Troop dues are currently \$2.00 per week. Dues are payable in any frequency you choose, but are due weekly whether or not the scout attends the scout meeting. Before a scout can advance, his dues and all other fees must be current. Dues are collected to pay for awards, activities and supplies. Fundraising projects are also undertaken by the troop to cover large expense equipment, summer camp and other projects. Part of the scout's responsibility will be to do his share of these fundraisers and a portion of the funds earned will be placed in the accounts of the scouts who participate. This money can be used to offset activity fees and dues.

TROOP COMMITTEE - The second Thursday of each month is reserved for our Troop Committee meeting, which parents are encouraged to attend. When a boy joins the troop, his parents join the troop as well. Experience has taught us that your son's interest and accomplishments will be in direct proportion to your participation with him. You will find that time spent in Scouting is quality time between parent and son. We encourage you to become involved in the troop in a leadership or support role.

TROOP PHILOSOPHY - Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, made it very clear in Aids to Scoutmastership when he wrote, "**The best progress is made in those Troops where power and responsibility are really put into the hand of the Patrol Leaders.**" In that light, Troop 446 is "boy led." This means that the scouts, not the adults, are the leaders – they decide what trips they are going to take, elect their own leaders, and make their own decisions about how the troop is run. The adults are there to

make sure that everything is safe and to provide guidance as necessary; *this is very different from Cub Scouts*. Our boys learn about camping, leadership, and all of the things that Boy Scouts have been doing since 1910, including becoming a man in the best sense of the word.

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 Scout 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.

In Troop 446 we work toward the **Three Aims of Boy Scouting**:

- Growth in Moral Strength and Character – Defined as a boy's personal qualities, his values, his outlook.
- Participating Citizenship - Used broadly, citizenship is the boy's relationship to others. Boys will learn about their obligations to other people, to the society he lives in, to the government that presides over that society.
- Development of Physical, Mental, and Emotional Fitness - Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

The Eight Methods of Boys Scouting - The eight methods are designed to accomplish the three aims. Thus it is important that you know and use the methods of Boy Scouting. Other methods are good, but they may bring different results—results quite different than we are seeking.

- Ideals - The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, motto, and slogan. The scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them he has some control over what he becomes. "Show scout spirit," a requirement for rank advancement, means living up to these ideals.
- Patrols - The patrol method gives scouts an experience in group living and practicing citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows scouts to act in small groups where they easily can relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.
- Outdoors - Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and humankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.
 - Camping and Hiking – The Troop has one outing per month, generally a camping trip which may include canoeing and/or hiking.
 - Equipment – Purchase of equipment and clothing is left up to the individual family. Some equipment to consider: compact sleeping bag suitable for

changing weather conditions, sleeping pad, hiking backpack, tent and ground cloth/tarp. There are many online sources for this gear (REI.com, LLBean.com, SierraTradingPost.com, Campmor.com, etc.) as well as local retailers. We recommend good shoes for hiking. Some get by with athletic shoes, but good boots are recommended. Growth should be considered as with anything bought for boys of this age. If this is your scout's first experience with camping, please ask the Scoutmaster for advice on equipment to purchase.

- Advancement - Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The scout plans his advancement and, by participating in the troop program, progresses as he overcomes each challenge. The scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help him grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others. ***It is the scout's responsibility (NOT his parent's or his Scoutmaster's) to fulfill his requirements and have them signed off by the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster.***
 - Boy Scout Handbook – Scouts should bring their BSA Handbook to every meeting and every activity. Advancement opportunities are incorporated into all of our activities. Please explore this excellent resource. This book is the foundation for all essential information the scout needs to know. It tells about the Scout Oath and Law, how to wear the uniform, where to place the patches, scouting skills and earning advancement.
 - Courts of Honor – On a quarterly basis, the Troop holds a formal Courts of Honor in place of the regular troop meeting where we recognize scouts for their progress, achievement and recent successes. These Courts of Honor are also times for scouts to thank and recognize their parents for the support they receive. The scout will be recognized TWICE for each rank they achieve. Once the scout's new rank patch is obtained by the Troop, the scout will be recognized at the next regular troop meeting so that the rank can be sewn on his uniform as soon as possible. The scout will be recognized again at the next Court of Honor when he receives the card for his rank. The scout will also have the opportunity to present his mother with a rank pin to signify her role in his success. These pins can be placed on Mother's ribbons that can be made or purchased from our local Scout Shop at Ace Hardware on Emerald Isle.
- Adult Association - Boys learn from the example set by their adult leaders. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters strive to be the best positive role models as possible for the members of the troop.
- Personal Growth - As scouts plan their activity and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The ***Good Turn*** concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. There is no device as successful in developing personal growth, than performing a Good Turn daily. The religious emblems program is also a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent conferences with his Scoutmaster help each scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.
- Leadership Development - Boy Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy

gain experience in both leading and being led, guiding him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

- Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) – The PLC meets monthly to refine plans. The PLC is where each patrol leader, representing his patrol, meets with other patrol leaders and the Senior Patrol Leader to plan their troop program. The Scoutmaster acts as an advisor.
- Leadership Opportunities – The Troop holds elections, Leadership Training and planning sessions twice a year to allow for maximum leadership opportunities.
- Uniform - The Scout uniform is one of the most recognizable symbols of the Boy Scouts of America and identifies the Troop to the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Scouting activities, and provides a way for scouts to wear the badges that reflect their accomplishments.
 - Full Uniform Class "A" – Full uniform with Scout shirt, neckwear, Scout pants/shorts with Scout belt, Scout socks, neat and clean shoes/boots and merit badge sash.
 - Worn to Courts of Honor, Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review and all formal occasions.
 - We request that new scouts obtain their uniform within sixty (60) days of joining the troop.
 - Class "A" uniform – Full uniform without sashes. Class A's are worn during the school year to all troop meetings and to all activities unless directed otherwise by the Scoutmaster.
 - Class "B" uniform – Scout t-shirt (Troop t-shirt, summer camp t-shirt, Other Scout activity t-shirt), Scout pants/shorts with Scout belt, Scout socks, neat and clean shoes/boots. Worn during summer troop meetings, while at summer camp and other activities as designated by the Scoutmaster.

***"The spirit is there in every boy; it has to be discovered and brought to light."
-Sir Robert Baden Powell***

We are excited to have you as part of our Scouting family. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Yours in Scouting,

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