



New Family Orientation

Scouts BSA

Troop 13

Church of the Good Shepherd UMC
Vienna, VA

March 2024

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Overview

- Our Purpose
- BSA Overview
- Troop 13
- Program
- Additional Topics
- Questions





Our Purpose

·The purpose of the BSA is to prepare young **people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes.”**

The organization aims to achieve this 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

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How We Achieve Our Purpose

Aims of Scouting

- Character Development
- Citizenship Training
- Leadership Development
- Personal (physical, mental, and emotional) Fitness

Methods of Scouting

- Ideals
- Patrols
- Outdoor Programs
- Advancement
- Association with Adults
- Personal Growth
- Leadership Development
- Uniform

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Organization

- National Level - BSA (<https://www.scouting.org>)
 - Programs
 - Cub Scouts
 - **Scouts BSA**
 - Venturing
 - Sea Scouts
 - Exploring
- **Council – National Capital Area Council** (<https://www.ncacbsa.org>)
 - 21 Districts aligned to NCAC
 - Goshen Scout Reservation
 - Camps William B. Snyder, Howard M. Wall, Catoctin BSA
- **District – George Mason District** (<https://www.ncacbsa.org/George-mason/>)
 - 41 Scouting Units
 - 1,600 youth participants

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Scouts BSA Overview

- BSA's Scouts has been renamed Scouts BSA.
 - Program for boys has not changed
- **Troops can be all boys or all girls**
 - Identical programming
- **Role of Adult Leaders**
- **Differences from Cub Scouting**

Parent's role in Scouting is to monitor, motivate, and support the Scout

This is your son's adventure. It is his opportunity to learn through his experiences...it will be disorganized and messy at times.

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Troop 13 Overview

- **Charter Organization: Church of the Good Shepherd UMC**
- **Founded: 1981**
 - 40+ Years – 4 Scoutmasters
 - 50+ Eagle Scouts
- **Meetings: Tuesdays 7:30 – 9:00**
- **Annual Dues: \$275 (\$400 for 2 or more Scouts)**
 - Paid annually in November
 - Covers BSA registration costs and insurance
- **Outings: Monthly** (motto: There is no bad weather...just bad clothing choices)
- **Program: Boys plan, decide, and execute the program (with Committee approval)**
- **Adult Leadership: Provide guidance and ensure safety**
- **Website: <https://troop13vienna.com>**

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Adult Leadership Organization

Charter Organization

Church of the Good Shepherd

Committee Chair (CC)

Darby Becker

Charter Organization Representative (COR)

Henry Miller

Scoutmaster (SM)

Mike Gephart

Advancement Chair

Gail Sutherland

Secretary

Jennifer Garcia

Assistant Scoutmaster

John Payne

Assistant Scoutmaster

Kurt Legenhauen

Treasurer

Randy Becker

Additional Positions
(as required)

Assistant Scoutmaster

John Chesley

Parent support and involvement are essential to providing a quality program

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Committee Members 2024

- Committee Chair: Darby Becker
- Charter Organization Rep: Henry Miller
- Secretary: Jennifer Garcia
- Advancement: Gail Sutherland
- Treasurer: Randy Becker
- Summer Camp Coordinator: Valerie Chesley
- Life to Eagle Coordinator: Elizabeth Brauer/Tracy Seymour
- Camping Coordinator: Daniel Roberts
- Quartermaster Advisor: Ray Garcia
- Youth Protection/Adult Training: Rola Hariri
- Merit Badge Dean: Young Cho
- Webmaster: Bill Keech
- Fund Raising Chair: Open
- High Adventure Advisor: Open
- New Member Coordinator: Open

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Parent Volunteer Needs

- **Vacant Committee Positions**
 - Fundraising Chair, New Member Coordinator, High Adventure Advisor
 - Future vacancies: Committee Chair, Treasurer
- **Drivers to drop off/pickup for Campouts (as needed)**
 - Parent drivers need current YPT
 - Signup genius for monthly volunteer drivers
- **Merit Badge Counselors**
- **Volunteers for monthly Board of Review**
 - Parents need current YPT
- **Parent support for other Scout events (Scouting for Food, fundraisers, Court of Honor, etc.)**

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Code Of Conduct

- All Scouts sign Troop 13's Code of Conduct each Spring
 - Set expectations
 - Identify consequences
- No electronic devices in Troop 13!
We're here to experience the outdoors as a backdrop for Scouting!
 - Exceptions of course....safety, GPS/Orienteering, SPL for organization
 - If they are seen by an adult leader they will be returned to the parent at the end of the trip

TROOP 13

The Church of the Good Shepherd UMC

Vienna VA

George Mason District National Capital Area Council

Boy Scouts of America

Troop 13's and Scouting's expectation of all scouts (adults and boys) behavior is based on respect, Respect for ones self, respect for others, respect for our country, respect for the environment and respect for property. The expectation of respect is based on the Scout Law, generally accepted behavior, and common sense.

CODE OF CONDUCT: Annually, at recharter time, each Scout will review the Code of Conduct agreement. If the Scout wishes to abide by the Code, he will sign the form, obtain his parent's signature, and return the signed Code of Conduct form to the Scoutmaster.

After the recharter date, any Scout who has not turned in a signed Code of Conduct form to the Scoutmaster, will not be permitted to participate in Troop 13 events/activities.

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR CONSEQUENCES: The troop's goal is to handle discipline situations in a firm and fair manner to the best of the scout's benefit and our ability.

Behavior in defiance of the Code of Conduct will be addressed by the following leadership:

LEVEL

1. Patrol Leader/Assistant Patrol Leader
2. Senior Patrol Leader/Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
3. Assistant Scoutmaster/Junior Assistant Scoutmaster
4. Scoutmaster

It is expected that two individuals will first attempt to resolve an issue between themselves before anyone else (youth or adult) needs to become involved.

The parents of the scout whose behavior has been called into question will be notified ASAP by the Scoutmaster or adult leader regardless of the severity of the offense. This requires the scouts in leadership positions to communicate promptly with an adult leader letting them know the status of the situation, its' resolution and if they require adult leader intervention with the situation.

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Troop Leadership Positions

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)

- Elected yearly in February by Scouts

Assistant SPL

- Chosen by SPL, make up leadership patrol

Patrol Leaders

- Elected by Scouts in each patrol

Other leadership positions selected by SPL

- Quartermaster
- Outdoor Ethics Guide
- Den Chief
- Chaplain's Aide
- Historian
- Bugler



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Troop 13 Leadership - 2024

Scout Leaders

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) – Toren Sutherland

Assistant SPLs – Owen Chesley, RJ Roberts

Patrol Leaders – Noah Seymour, Gabriel Garcia, Abe Zuhairi, Aman Sachan

Adult Leaders

Scoutmaster – Michael Gephart

Assistant Scoutmasters – John Payne, Kurt Legenhausen, John Chesley

Chartered Organization Rep/ASM – Henry Miller





Program

- **Patrol Leader Council (PLC)**
 - Annual Program Planning
 - Monthly Planning
- **Weekly Meetings**
- **Rank Advancement**
- **Merit Badges and Awards**
- **Courts of Honor**
- **Monthly Campouts**
- **Summer Camp**
- **High Adventure**



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Patrol Leader Council

- **Annual Planning**
 - Summer Planning Cycle
 - Made up of SPL, ASPLs, Patrol Leaders, and Scribe
 - Scoutmaster attends and provides guidance
 - Plan the program for the coming year (Sep – Aug)
 - Brief and gain approval from the Committee
- **Monthly Patrol Leader Council (PLC)**
 - Refines the annual plan for the upcoming month
 - Meets last Sunday of the Month to plan two months out
 - SPL, ASPLs, PLs, Scribe, and Scoutmaster attend

Boy led group that plans all Troop activities

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Troop Meetings

- **Meetings every Tuesday, 7:30-9:00**
 - Follow FCPS closings
- **Bring handbook to every meeting!**
- **Field uniform worn (Tan shirt, Green trousers/shorts, necker & woggle, green scout socks)**
- **Focus on skills development, preparation, rank advancement, and fun**
- **Immediate Recognition, Scouts awarded new ranks at the meeting they earn them**

The most fun and beneficial part of Scouting are the Outdoor Activities!

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Uniforms

Field Uniform (Class A)

- Includes pants, socks, belt, and neckerchief!

Activity Uniform (Class B)

- Scouting t-shirt, scout pants or shorts, socks
- **Merit Badge Sashes**
- **OA Insignia**
- **Temporary Insignia on Right Pocket**
- **Troop provides neckerchief, woggle, and Troop Number**
- **Field Uniform worn to all meetings, Class B in Summer**
- **Uniform typically not worn on camping trips (with exception of camporee, summer camp, other designated events.)**

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Rank Advancement

- **Seven Ranks**
 - 21 Merit badges must be completed to achieve Eagle Scout rank
- **First Class Scouts and above sign off requirements for younger Scouts**
 - Scouts will sign off requirements in your Scout's Handbook
 - Scouts should ensure they provide updates to the Advancement Chair
 - Completion is tracked in Scoutbook (<https://scoutbook.scouting.org>)
 - Parents do not sign off on requirements
- **Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review (BoR)**
 - SM Conference is typically the last requirement completed before BoR
 - There are monthly, pre-scheduled opportunities in Scoutbook
 - Your Scout is responsible for signing up for Scoutmaster Conference. Once completed, Scout will be invited to sign up for BoR



Advancement is only 1 of 8 methods of scouting.





Merit Badges and Other Awards

- **Merit Badges**

- Over 135 total Merit Badges
- Must complete 21 for Eagle Scout rank
 - 14 are specified and the additional 7 are the Scout's choice
- Process for starting, completing, and tracking Merit Badges is different than rank advancement requirements

- **Awards**

- There are a wide variety of awards and recognition
- Scoutbook has information on the requirements
 - Information is accessed through your Scout's Scoutbook account
- Additionally, you can find out more information online at the following link [Awards Central | BSA \(scouting.org\)](https://www.scouting.org/awards-central/)

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Court of Honor

- **Troop 13 holds ‘Court of Honor’ three times a year, August, December and April**
 - This is flexible depending on the number of activities accomplished in the intervening period
 - These are celebrations, and family/friends are encouraged to attend
- **Scouts formally recognized for rank advancement**
- **Merit badges awarded**
- **Other Scout recognition and awards**

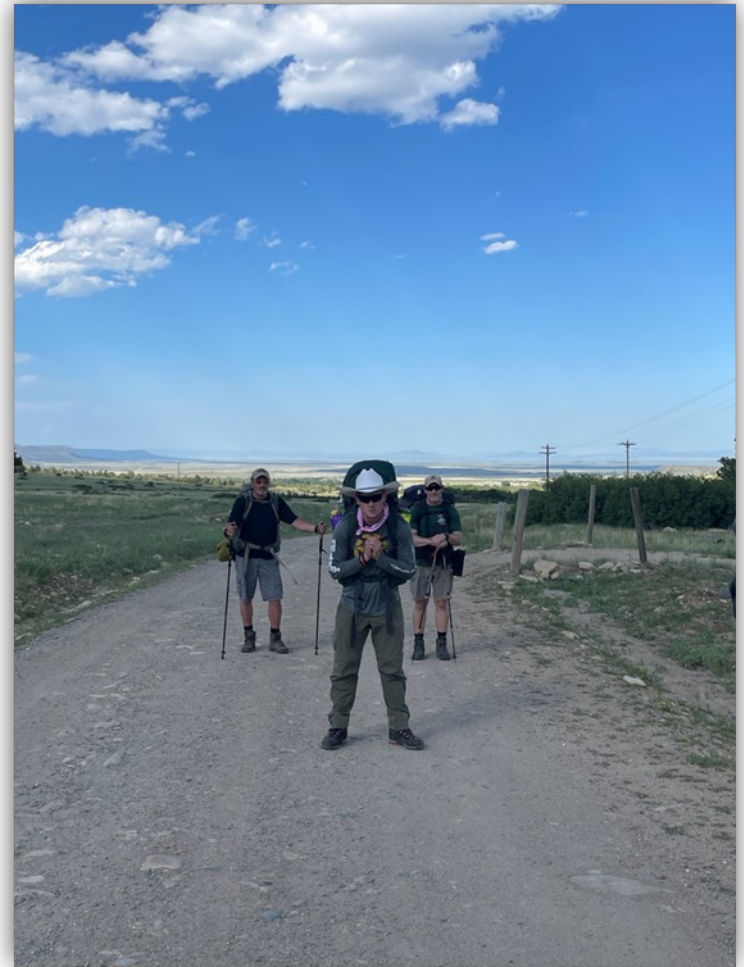
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Outdoor Programs

- Troop Campouts
- Summer Camp
- BSA High Adventure
- Troop-Led High Adventure





Activities on Camping Trips

- **Have FUN**
- **Advancement**
 - Merit Badges
 - Rank Requirements
 - Scouting awards (historic trails, etc.)
- **Service Projects**
- **Hiking**
- **Camporees**
- **Scout Skills**
 - First Aid
 - Orienteering
 - Pioneering
 - Camp Cooking
- **Adventure**
- **Canoeing**
- **Backpacking**
- **Fishing**
- **Biking**
- **Building and Sleeping in Primitive shelters**
 - Snow Shelters!

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Camping Procedures

- **PLC decides on the campout for each month**
- **Prep happens the meeting prior to the campout weekend**
 - Grub master
 - One per patrol
 - Changes on each campout
 - Responsible for purchasing and preparation of food for Patrol
 - Scouts will use Troop tents and share a tent until they have reached First Class and participated in a High Adventure
- **Scout needs to bring a permission slip and medical forms**
 - Permission slip contains personal gear packing list
- **\$15 fee per Scout for weekend campouts (additional fees for specialty campouts apply)**
 - Covers food and sometimes camp fees
 - Troop pays balance
 - Paid via PayPal (troop13vienna@gmail.com), check or cash
 - If you pay via PayPal you also need to include the 3.3% fee
- **Depart Friday Night -- Return Mid-Day Sunday during Daylight Savings (March – October)**
 - November – February campouts typically depart on Saturday morning
 - Upon return you will be called by your son when the Troop is 30 minutes out from the Church
- **Each Scout will be required to bring home Troop gear to clean and return at the next meeting**
 - Scouts should not depart the Church until cleared by the Quartermaster and the Senior Patrol Leader

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Camping Equipment

Troop provides:

- Tents
- Stoves, Fuel
- Pots and pans, cooking utensils
- Tarps
- Food Containers
- First Aid Kit



Personal Gear Examples

- Sleeping bag and pad
- Backpack
- Day Pack
- Waterproof Hiking Boots
- Rain Gear
- Mess Kit
- Water Bottle
- Headlamp
- Seasonal Appropriate Clothing

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Gear Basics

- We'll start with the basics and refine as the Scout grows and undertakes more challenging outdoor adventures
- Focus on fun and safety – High Adventure has different requirements
- No Scout will miss out on any Scouting experience for financial/equipment reasons

Gear Exchange

- Troop informally maintains a collection of used personal gear
- Please consider donating used gear to the Troop for use by another Scout
- Gear is available to any Scout who needs it

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Basic Personal Equipment

- **Sleeping bag**

- We camp in temperatures from 10 degrees to 100 degrees, bag rated for ~30 degrees is a good compromise
- A pad is required, your sleeping bag will NOT keep you warm without one, closed cell foam is a great choice, very cost effective and performs great, scout proof

- **Backpack**

- All personal gear should ideally fit in one bag. We aim for one trip from the parking lot to the campsite!

- **Day Pack**

- String bag will work fine to start, enough to carry water, lunch, and extra clothing/rain gear on a day hike

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Basic Personal Equipment (II)

WATERPROOF Hiking Boots

- A key piece of equipment for safety and comfort. We see our share of mud, and with 11-12 year old boys we tend to spend some time in it.
 - Nylon is fine
 - Waterproof is KEY
 - Do not have to be expensive

Seasonal Appropriate Synthetic Clothing → SOCKS!!

Expensive gear is not a necessity!

We'll work towards "there's no bad weather....just bad gear" but that is not where we start on day one.

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Camping Hints

- **Layers, Layers, Layers**
 - “Cotton Kills” – no warmth when wet
- **Pack in Ziploc Bags/line pack with yard waste bag**
- **Nalgene makes the best water bottle**
- **Closed Cell Foam pads are perfect to start out with**
 - Thermarest Z-Lite (~\$30)
- **LED headlamp that takes normal batteries (AA or AAA)**
- **Mess Kit can consist of inexpensive dishwasher safe bowl and spoon, a mug is a nice to have – plastic is best, more durable less heat loss**
- **Playing cards!**
- **REI – local B&M with experienced sales staff**

No Scout has ever died of starvation on a weekend camping trip.

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Parents on Campouts

- **Parents are always welcome to join the Troop for any activity**
- **In Scouts BSA parents attend camping trips as leaders**
 - Must complete Youth Protection Training
 - 90 minute online course
- **Eat and camp with other adult leaders**

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Summer Camp

- **One of the most important Scout events of the year!**
- **Entire Troop votes on which Summer Camp to attend**
 - PLC provides three options
- **Full (Parts A,B, &C) BSA medical form required, including physician signature – plan ahead**
- **Troop T-Shirt for each year**
- **Need to reserve your spot now**
- **First Year Program overview**

“A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room.” --Lord Baden Powell

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High Adventure Opportunities

- **Troop 13 Activity vs BSA bases**
- **Troop 13 sends crews to all the BSA High Adventure bases**
 - When and which base is determined by the Scouts
- **Troop 13 High Adventure program**
 - More advanced and involved backcountry program
 - At least one backcountry trip each quarter
 - Backpacking, Canoe Camping, Bike Trekking, etc.
- **Not strictly age/cost limited like BSA High Adventure**





Additional Topics

- Order of the Arrow
- Scholarships
- Fundraising
- Payments
- Scoutbook
- Online Resources

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Order of the Arrow

- Several members of Troop 13 belong to a special honor organization within BSA known as the Order of the Arrow (OA)
- Scouts must be elected and endure an “Ordeal” to join
- Elections held once a year in the spring
 - Minimum rank and outdoor experience required for eligibility
- You will learn more of this honored society as your scouting experience progresses



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Scholarships

Financial means will never stand in the way of a Scout participating in Scouting or any Scout activity!

Contact Scoutmaster or Committee Chair to inquire

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Scoutbook

- **Scoutbook** (<https://scoutbook.scouting.org>)
 - The official BSA system to record advancement
 - Troop Calendar
 - Primary means of email communications
- **Other Apps for Scouting and parents**
 - myScouting (<https://my.scouting.org/home>)
 - Scouting (<https://www.scouting.org>)
 - Path To Eagle (not official BSA) (<https://pathtoeagle.org>)

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Fundraising

Troop 13 has traditionally conducted one major event a year, a Rummage Sale, one Saturday in May

PLC decided not to hold this event this year

- Money raised pays for Troop equipment, monthly camping fees, patches and insignia
- Dining for Dollars each quarter

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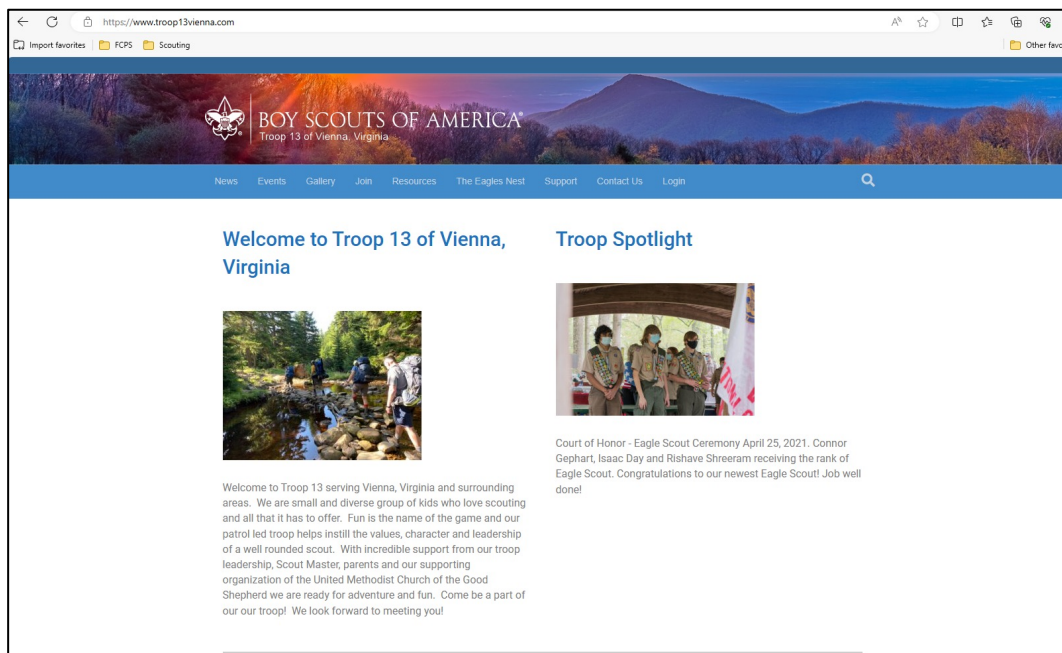


New Troop Website

Troop 13 is in the process of reviving our online presence

www.troop13vienna.com

New website will serve as a recruiting tool and provide support to Scouts, Scouters, and parents.



Does not replace Scoutbook as the system of record for advancement and Troop calendar



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Payments

- **Troop accepts Paypal, cash, and checks for fees associated with monthly campouts, summer camp, other Scouting events.**
 - Please include Scout name and trip dates
- **Grub masters must submit their receipt to the Troop treasurer for reimbursement**
 - Please include the patrol name, trip info, and picture of receipt when submitting

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Resources

- **Consolidated Resource Links**

- National Level - BSA (<https://www.scouting.org>)
- Council – National Capital Area Council (<https://www.ncacbsa.org>)
- District – George Mason District (<https://www.ncacbsa.org/George-mason/>)
- Troop 13 Website: <https://troop13vienna.com>
- Scoutbook (<https://scoutbook.scouting.org>)
- Scouts BSA Awards Awards Central | BSA ([scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org))
- myScouting (<https://my.scouting.org/home>)
- Scouting (<https://www.scouting.org>)
- Path To Eagle (not official BSA) (<https://pathtoeagle.org>)
- Troop 13 PayPal (troop13vienna@gmail.com)

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What Does Boy Led Look Like?

**DO NOT BE ALARMED WHEN THINGS SEEM
DISORGANIZED!**

**Troop 13 really is boy led...and disorganization is part
of the learning process for the boys.**

When you see Scouts struggling a bit, or not doing a job as well as you know that YOU could do it, resist the temptation to do it for them. A little guidance is often welcome, but let the successes be theirs as much as possible. The ultimate reward is their success after overcoming those temporary setbacks.

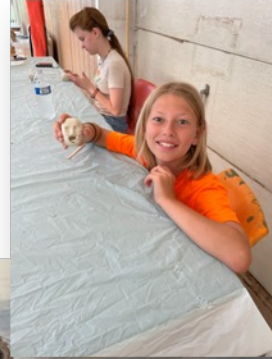
Keep it Safe, Keep it Fun!

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Questions



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