

# WELCOME TO



## TROOP 65

[www.coventrytroop65.com](http://www.coventrytroop65.com)

INFORMATION PACKET  
FOR ARROW OF LIGHT SCOUTS  
AND THEIR PARENTS

# Purpose of the Boy Scouts of America

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to provide for boys an effective program designed to build desirable qualities of character, to train in the responsibilities of participating leadership, and to develop in them personal fitness, thus to help in the development of American citizens who:

- Are physically, mentally and emotionally fit
- Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage and resourcefulness.
- Have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts.
- Have the desire and the skills to help others.
- Understand the principles of the American social, economic and governmental systems.
- Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
- Have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
- Are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society and in the forums of the world.

The Boy Scouts of America accomplishes this purpose by making its program available in partnership with existing groups having compatible goals, including religious, educational, civic, fraternal, labor, and governmental bodies. Troop 65 is sponsored by the Coventry Knights of Columbus.

# The Aims and Methods of the Boy Scout Program

## **AIMS**

The Boy Scout program works toward three aims. One is growth in moral strength and character. We may define this as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, his outlook.

A second aim is participating citizenship. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society he lives in, to the government that presides over that society.

A third aim of the Boy Scout program is 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).

## **METHODS**

### 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.

### Patrols

The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

### Outdoors

The Boy Scout program 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 mankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

### Advancement

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace 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 a boy grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others.

### 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 probably is no device so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program is also a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

### Leadership Development

The Boy Scout program 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 accept the leadership role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

### Uniform

The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. The Boy Scout program 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 Scout activities, and provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

## Welcome to Troop 65!

Our troop meets every Tuesday from 7:00 to 8:30. Check email for cancellations due to holidays and inclement weather. We meet at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congregational Church, RT44, Coventry, CT. We meet throughout the year and have an outdoor event (usually a weekend campout) at least once a month all year long, including winter. We also generally offer 2 weeks of summer camp each year.

At troop meetings each Scout is expected to wear a Scout uniform and bring his scout book. The Scout Handbook contains the official advancement record and when advancement work is done at meetings, each scout will need his book to have requirements signed off. He should also bring a pencil or pen and paper to write down changes in the calendar or other important information. It is all part of being prepared. Good behavior is expected at all scout events.

Included is our Troop calendar showing all our planned scouting events. It's a busy schedule but please don't fret. Everyone understands that we all have other commitments with family, school, church, sports, etc. and sometimes we have to pick and choose what we can do. By having this calendar now, hopefully you will be able to plan ahead and participate in lots of Troop events.

Boy Scouts is not just for boys. Adults can (and do) have just as much fun as the Scouts. Parents are welcome to attend our outings to see for themselves. If you like what you see, you may decide to join the troop as a committee member or Scout leader. By officially registering, you are covered by the Boy Scouts of America insurance policy. If you have a talent or interest in a certain subject, you may want to register as a merit badge counselor. We are always looking for help with transportation or maybe you may have access to a cottage or campground or contacts at fun and exciting places. If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please see one of the Scout Leaders. History has shown that adults who become involved in Scouting have sons who get more involved and remain in the program longer. If it is important to you, it will be important to your son.

There are some significant differences between Cub scouting and Boy scouting which parents should understand. Cubs are run by adults and Boy Scouts are run by boys. This concept can be difficult to grasp after many years of den meetings. The adult role in Boy Scouting is to lead from a distance and let the boy do as much as possible. It is incredible how much help adults want to provide vs. how much help the boys really need. Allowing boys to fail in a controlled environment so they can learn to lead and grow in responsibility is the scout leaders role. We would appreciate your help in this goal. In Cubs, outdoor events require each scout to have a parent attend. Boy Scouts does not require this. As discussed above, parents are always welcomed and encouraged to attend any Troop event however, please don't limit your son's involvement to only events you are able to make. It can be scary for a parent to send their child off on an event without them (especially on something like a ski trip) but we have an unblemished record of always bringing them back. Boys who are not allowed to attend events that sound exciting to them will soon lose interest and drop out. Boy Scouts is not for every boy, we simply ask that you allow them to participate and find out for themselves.

Troop 65 is organized in keeping with National BSA policy which believes that boys get the maximum benefit from Scouting when they plan and lead Troop activities. One aspect of planning is how to cover the cost of the things they choose to do. Troop 65 believes that the responsibility to pay these costs lies with the scout and not the parent.

*To this end, unlike other Troops that collect membership dues, we offer fund raising opportunities that allow each scout to work and pay his way through the program.*

This approach relieves parents of a financial burden, but more importantly, it instills in the scout the idea that he has the ability and the responsibility to earn his way. Parents are asked to support these activities in two ways. First is to encourage your son to be involved in our fundraising. Secondly, volunteer to help provide some of the adult supervision we need to run these events.

Most of the hundreds of dollars per year that each Scout will need can be earned by participating in our fundraising opportunities. The success of our fundraising program has allowed us to set the Scout price of most outdoor Troop events, including weekend ski trips and our annual Nantucket bike trip at the cost of food.

Our fundraising program is basically broken into four categories-

“Mandatory ticket sale” events – generally held twice a year. Profits from these events usually cover BSA annual registration and insurance costs for each scout. Any excess profits will offset the general operating costs and monthly activities of the Troop. These events usually include our Annual Roast Beef Dinner (usually held in March) and Applebee’s Breakfast (usually held in late fall or early winter). See calendar for actual dates.

Coffee breaks - scheduled throughout the year on an as needed basis. Profits used towards the Troops general operating costs and monthly Troop activities.

The above two types of fundraisers require Scouts (as well as parents/adult leaders) to run these events. Fundraising shift participation is tracked and used to determine the cost of an activity per Scout.

Individual Scout Accounts (ISA) – there are some opportunities made available to Scouts to fund the costs of events that the Troop does not cover, such as summer camp. Currently we offer Scouts the ability to do cans and bottles. What is earned is split 75% to Scout and 25% to Troop.

Additional events – these are scheduled on an as-needed basis.

**CALENDAR:** Updated Troop65 calendar of events can be found on our website [www.coventrytroop65.com](http://www.coventrytroop65.com)

# Uniform and Personal Gear Requirements

All Scouts are expected to wear the following uniform at all Troop meetings (during the school year), boards of review, courts of honor and any other official Scout function.

- Boy Scout shirt with: Conn. Council Strip (same as Cub Scouts)  
Troop Numbers (same as Cub Scouts)  
Green Shoulder Loops
- Troop Neckerchief and Troop Hat
- Neckerchief Slide (Scout Slide or Home made – No twist ties or knots)
- Boy Scout belt and Buckle (optional)
- Boy Scout pants or shorts (optional)
- Boy Scout socks (optional)

All parts of the uniform (except the neckerchief and hat) can be purchased at the following locations:

The Scout Shop  
CT Rivers Council  
60 Darlin St.  
E. Hartford, CT  
860-291-0286

The following is a list of personal camping equipment that every Scout should have.

- Sleeping Bag – Preferably a three season bag
- Sleeping Pad – Dense foam pads work fine and are fairly inexpensive. The self – inflatable ones are better, but they can be costly.
- Backpack – The exterior frame type work well, preferably with padded shoulder and hip belts.
- Mess Kit – Plate, bowl, cup, knife, fork, spoon
- Canteen or water bottle
- Rain Gear – Poncho or Suit
- First Aid Kit – Can be assembled from items from home (See Scout Handbook)
- Flashlight or Head Lamp

You don't need all new gear to enjoy camping. Friends, relatives, tag sales, eBay and flea markets are a great source of equipment. Don't worry about tents, cooking gear, camp stoves, or lanterns as the Troop has an adequate supply of gear. If you are planning to buy a new backpack, you may want to wait until after a few campouts when your Scout may know what features he wants. If you have any questions or you aren't sure what type of equipment you want to get, just ask any of the Scout Leaders and they will help.

## Merit Badges (last updated 2016)

American Business	Family Life *	Plant Science
American Cultures	Farm Mechanics	Plumbing
American Heritage	Fingerprinting	Pottery
American Labor	Fire Safety	Programming
Animal Science	First Aid *	Public Health
Animation	Fish and Wildlife Management	Public Speaking
Archaeology	Fishing	Pulp and Paper
Archery	Fly-Fishing	Radio
Architecture and Landscape	Forestry	Railroading
Architecture	Game Design	Reading
Art	Gardening	Reptile and Amphibian Study
Astronomy	Genealogy	Rifle Shooting
Athletics	Geocaching	Robotics
Automotive Maintenance	Geology	Rowing
Aviation	Golf	Safety
Backpacking	Graphic Arts	Salesmanship
Basketry	Hiking * (or C or S)	Scholarship
Bird Study	Home Repairs	Scouting Heritage
Bugling	Horsemanship	Scuba Diving
Camping *	Indian Lore	Sculpture
Canoeing	Insect Study	Search and Rescue
Chemistry	Inventing	Shotgun Shooting
Chess	Journalism	Signs, Signals, and Codes
Citizenship in the Community *	Kayaking	Skating
Citizenship in the Nation *	Landscape Architecture	Small-Boat Sailing
Citizenship in the World *	Law	Snow Sports
Climbing	Leatherwork	Soil and Water Conservation
Coin Collecting	Lifesaving * (or E.P.)	Space Exploration
Collections	Mammal Study	Sports
Communication *	Medicine	Stamp Collecting
Composite Materials	Metalwork	Surveying
Cooking *	Mining in Society	Sustainability * (or Env Sci)
Crime Prevention	Model Design and Building	Swimming * (or H or C)
Cycling *(or H or S)	Motorboating	Textile
Dentistry	Moviemaking	Theater
Digital Technology	Music	Traffic Safety
Disabilities Awareness	Nature	Truck Transportation
Dog Care	Nuclear Science	Veterinary Medicine
Drafting	Oceanography	Water Sports
Drafting	Orienteering	Weather
Electricity	Painting	Welding
Electronics	Personal Fitness *	Whitewater
Emergency Preparedness *(or LifeSv)	Personal Management *	Wilderness Survival
Energy	Pets	Wood Carving
Engineering	Photography	Woodwork
Entrepreneurship	Pioneering	
Environmental Science * (or Sus.)		

\*Eagle Required

# TROOP RESOURCE SURVEY

Since Boy Scouts is for adults as well as boys, we invite you to offer your skills and interests so the best possible program can be developed for the Scouts in this troop. In making this survey, the committee wishes to find ways you can enjoy using your talents to help our Scouts. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Please return this survey to the Scoutmaster or one of the Assistant Scoutmasters.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies \_\_\_\_\_

In what sports do you take an active part? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you certified in CPR or Lifesaving? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to assist the troop leaders or committee members occasionally? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the areas you would be willing to help.

\_\_\_\_\_ Campouts

\_\_\_\_\_ Outdoor cooking

\_\_\_\_\_ Hikes

\_\_\_\_\_ Rappelling

\_\_\_\_\_ Backpacking

\_\_\_\_\_ First aid

\_\_\_\_\_ Outdoor activities

\_\_\_\_\_ Star Study

\_\_\_\_\_ Troop meetings

\_\_\_\_\_ Map and compass

\_\_\_\_\_ Swimming supervision

\_\_\_\_\_ Conservation

\_\_\_\_\_ Bookkeeping

\_\_\_\_\_ Swimming

\_\_\_\_\_ Transportation of Scouts

\_\_\_\_\_ Knife and ax

\_\_\_\_\_ Transportation of equipment

\_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship

\_\_\_\_\_ Ropework (Knots and Lashings)

\_\_\_\_\_ Wilderness Survival (edible plants, shelters...)

\_\_\_\_\_ Sailing

\_\_\_\_\_ Sports

\_\_\_\_\_ Shooting sports

\_\_\_\_\_ Scuba+