

Welcome to Troop 21

Participating in scouts is about expanding horizons. Troop 21's emphasis on experiential learning drives everything we do, including meetings, trips, and advancement—earning ranks, merit badges and other recognitions. We offer many opportunities for advancement but encourage scouts and families to embrace them as more than rungs on a ladder. Scouting offers repeated, practical situations that reinforce new skills, which includes teaching them to younger scouts.

Weekly meetings

Organized by scouts, the gatherings offer opportunities to learn useful skills, including how to teach restless peers. Scouts also can work on advancement. *Tuesdays, 7 p.m, usually at Wydown Middle School.*

Monthly campouts summer camp

Regular opportunities to live, even briefly, closer to nature is a unique benefit of scouting for our urban and suburban families. *Usually the week of July 4, summer camp is highly recommended for first- and second-year scouts.*

*We have many ways
scouts can get
involved with the
troop*



Big Trip and High Adventure Trip

These outings, which last up to two weeks, take scouts on distant trips to some of America's best. They combine camping, hostels, and hotels for an unusually affordable adventure, with slots for adults that often go fast. *Big Trip is often mid-June. High Adventure is usually late July.*

Advancement

A time-tested program of age-appropriate learning is organized as ranks of advancement. Scouts can also earn any of 130+ different merit badges, with some required for Eagle and others reflecting a scout's interests, hobbies, and opportunities.

Community service

Giving back to the community is a prominent theme in scouting. Scouts earn credit by participating in troop projects, for helping Eagle candidates with their service projects, and for volunteer work they participate in elsewhere.

Our Troop 21 values

With seasoned adult volunteers, we are a boy-led, experience-oriented troop that supports scouts in meeting their goals, connecting with their families, and serving their community. How do we accomplish this?

- 1 Experienced adult supervision:** Our scoutmaster, assistant scoutmasters, and other adults bring decades of scouting experience. Scoutmaster Tom Coscia has helped more than 110 scouts achieve the rank of Eagle.
- 2 Boy-led.** Each summer, the boys plan the year's calendar of activities. Each month, a different patrol plans and leads troop meetings and outings.
- 3 Experience-oriented.** We organize at least one outing a month, usually camping or urban adventures in colder weather. The Big Trip for all boys is usually in mid-June, followed in late July with a High Adventure for older scouts. The troop attends summer camp at S-bar-F scout ranch, usually the week of July 4th. The week of outdoor fun is highly recommended for all first- and second-year scouts, and reasonably priced.
- 4 Scouting goals.** With about 50 active scouts, Troop 21 typically graduates five or six Eagles a year, reflecting the many opportunities for advancement.
- 5 Connecting with families.** We recommend that all families participate in at least one scout outing a year.
- 6 Serving their community.** All scouts volunteer as part of rank advancement, the troop participates in several projects a year, and Eagle Scouts complete their own community service project with help from the troop.

Family involvement

While Troop 21 is boy led, it is volunteer fed. Experienced volunteers help lead the troop, including long-serving Scoutmaster Tom Coscia, and a half-dozen assistant scoutmasters. And while most families are less involved than with Cub Scouts, we depend on their help, tailored to time and interests. For example, do you like to...



Camp?

We welcome you on monthly outings, usually outdoors.



Travel?

We have road trips twice a year, plus two summer trips.



Serve our community?

We participate in Scouting for Food and other volunteer activities.



Share your ideas?

We need parents for planning, tracking, organizing, and always, insight.

The best scout experience is boy led, family involved. Please share your questions and ideas with Tom Coscia, other adult volunteers, or stop by the always-fun committee meetings, where all volunteers and parents are welcome. The troop's adults usually gather on the third Thursdays of each month during the school year.