

Scouting America

# Welcome to Troop 21! Let the Adventure Begin



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Troop 21 meets Tuesdays during the school year, 7 p.m., at Wydown Middle School

**Troop 21 website:** [www.troop21clayton.org](http://www.troop21clayton.org)

SCOUT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Troop 21 Adult Volunteers



**Tom Coscia**  
Scoutmaster



**John Harrison**  
Assistant  
Scoutmaster



**Jon Zucker**  
Assistant  
Scoutmaster



**Mike Milchanowski**  
Assistant  
Scoutmaster



**Liam Briick**  
Assistant  
Scoutmaster



**Sean Barber**  
Assistant  
Scoutmaster



**Rosanne Richter**  
Treasurer



**Jason Moore**  
Advancement  
Chair



**Ken Schmitt**  
Committee  
Chair



**Karen Gulick**  
Membership  
Chair



**Your Photo Here**  
Adult  
Volunteer\*

**\* The troop operates with the help of parents and other adults.** Roles can be expansive, as with the committed volunteers pictured above, or limited, maybe buying snacks or helping scouts organize a meeting or two. Your new scout will take cues from you, and your involvement with the troop is a strong predictor of their success. You can start slow, but we welcome your involvement anytime.

# 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 also can 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 4<sup>th</sup>. 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.

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## 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.

## Scouting America Mission Statement

The mission 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 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.



## Troop 21 Code of Conduct

- I will *always* strive to live up to the Scout Oath and Law.
- I will *not* use profanity or be crude in my remarks.
- I will wear my *full* scout uniform when required to do so.
- I will *not call names*, fight, threaten, harass, or pick on others.
- I will *not tamper* with, destroy or steal property.
- I will *not enter* another scout's tent or borrow his personal belongings without his permission.
- I will *only* use a cellphone or other electronic device while traveling in vehicles or with an adult leader's permission.
- I will *always* address adult leaders formally (*unless I am sure they allow me to use their first name.*)
- I will accept *all* duties assigned to me and do them to the best of my ability.
- On scout trips, I will *stay* in groups and never separate from the Troop without an adult leader's permission. I will use the buddy system for safety.
- On scout trips I will *always* follow announced curfews.

- I will not use or condone the use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.
- Finally, I will *always* remember to treat my adult and junior leaders with the same respect with which I would like to be treated.

# Advancement Overview

## How to earn a rank

Scouts advance through seven sequential ranks. Adult leaders or qualified older scouts help with the requirements—and confirm their completion by signing and dating the scout's official handbook. Unlike Cub Scouts, parents generally can't sign off on activities. To finish a rank, scouts attend a friendly review board, arranged through the troop's advancement chair, and a scoutmaster conference.



|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p>A scout earns his first rank by learning <b>what it means to be a Scout</b>, and how the troop works.</p> | <p>The next three ranks emphasize <b>learning and practicing skills</b> that will help the scout develop confidence and fitness, citizenship, and self-sufficiency. These three ranks can be worked on simultaneously but must be signed off in order.</p> <p><b>Goal:</b> Earn 1st Class within the first 12 or 18 months of joining.</p> | <p>The last three ranks involve <b>troop leadership positions, each for several months, and community service</b>. Each also requires a number of <b>merit badges</b> and are completed one at a time, in sequence. Older scouts also should be teaching their young cohorts.</p> <p><b>Goal:</b> Scouting's top rank, Eagle Scout, must be earned by age 18.</p> |
|--|--|---|

## How to earn merit badges

Scouts may work on merit badges at any point, though they aren't required for advancement until Star rank. Eagle rank includes having earned 21 merit badges—13 required ones and eight of the scout's choosing. The steps for earning a badge:

- 1 Contact a merit badge counselor** prior to beginning work. The list of Troop 21 merit badge counselors can be found at [www.troop21clayton.org](http://www.troop21clayton.org), under "forms." If the list doesn't include a counselor for the badge, check with the Greater Saint Louis Area Council ([stlbsa.org](http://stlbsa.org)). The counselor offers guidance for completing each badge, and monitors progress.
- 2 After completion, the merit badge counselor signs a special card** verifying completion of the requirements. Give the signed card to the troop's scoutmaster or advancement chair.

- 3** **The merit badge and card will be presented to the scout at a Court of Honor.** Troop 21 holds four Courts of Honor each year to acknowledge scout advancement and badges. Families are encouraged to attend!
- 4** **Keep the merit badge cards in a safe place.** Merit badge cards must be gathered and shown when a scout applies for Eagle rank!

Advancement tips (see handbook for details)

# Merit Badge Strategies

Scouts can choose from at least 21 badges, including 16 merit badges based on skills. To complete some requirements...



|                   | Scout   | Tenderfoot  | Second class   | First class   | Star  | Life   | Eagle!   |
|-------------------|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| Main requirements | Scouts can work on requirements of the first four ranks at same time, but they need to be signed off in order.<br>Show knowledge of scout basics to a troop leader              | <b>Requirements in handbook</b><br><b>TIP:</b> Before every campout, look at rank requirements and help your scout identify which can be signed off during that trip. Ensure they volunteer for cooking opportunities—there are MANY cooking requirements.  |  |   | Four months in troop leadership position  | Six months in troop leadership position -plus- teach younger scout | Six months in troop leadership position            |
| Service hours     | Easy route: help with an older scout's Eagle project. Service outside troop needs approval by scoutmaster.  | 1 hour<br>□   | 2 more hours<br>□ □                                      | 3 more hours<br>□ □ □                                       | 6 more hours<br>□ □ □ □ □ □   | 6 more hours<br>□ □ □ □ □ □  | Eagle Project<br>□<br>Many hours!                  |
| Outings/camping   | Keep track of camping nights and, especially in first four ranks, outings—which can be multiple nights. Only one long trip counts toward camping.<br>1 scout meeting (at least) | 1 campout<br>▽<br>(Includes overnight)  | 4 more outings<br>▽▽<br>(Includes two overnight outings) | 5 more outings<br>▽▽▽<br>(Includes three overnight outings) | <b>TIP: The Eagle-required Camping Badge calls for 20 nights outdoors—</b> some with specific activities, so learn them early. Can count all eligible nights since joining. |  | 20 total camping nights:<br>▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽ |
| 21 Merit badges   | Scouts can start these anytime, even though they aren't required until Star rank. Check with a merit badge counselor to start a badge.  | <b>TIP: Good ones to start...</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Cooking</li> <li>•First Aid</li> <li>•Swimming</li> <li>•Personal mgmt.</li> <li>•Family life</li> <li>•Personal Fitness</li> </ul> Some also fulfill rank requirements, and some need tracking over time. Swimming can be earned at Troop 21's week-long summer camp. |  |   | 6 badges (4 required)<br>○ ○ ○ ○  | 5 more badges (3 required)<br>○ ○ ○                                | 10 more badges (6 required)<br>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ |
| Other notes       | Helpful to know for planning purposes.<br>Cyber Chip (parent help needed)   |   |  | Swim test (summer camp is a good option)                    | Cyber Chip (parent help needed)   |  |  |
| Completed?        | ○   | ○   | ○  | ○   | ○   | ○  | ☀  |

NOTE: Check boxes don't accumulate. They are specific to each rank.

badges.

## 13 Eagle-required Merit Badges:

### Available at summer camp →

For example, scouts can work on their Swimming badge as part of the Voyager program for younger and newer scouts.

- 1. Swimming or hiking or cycling
- 2. First Aid
- 3. Lifesaving or Emergency Preparedness
- 4. Environmental Science or Sustainability

### Can be done simultaneously →

Scouts must track activities for these badges over many weeks. Some scouts work on them at same time.

- 5. Personal Management
  - 6. Personal Fitness
  - 7. Family Life
- (Sustainability also requires tracking)

### One-day badge opportunities →

(see below). These demanding badges can be finished in a day, if a scout completes some prerequisites ahead of time.

- 8. Citizenship in the World
- 9. Citizenship in the Community
- 10. Citizenship in the Nation
- 11. Citizenship in Society
- 12. Communication

### Start EARLY in the scout's journey →

These require activities at a number of troop campouts. Scouts can tackle one or two each time they camp with the troop.

- 13. Cooking
- 14. Camping

## Merit badge Universities and Skill Centers

Held at a variety of venues including college campuses, these one-day events offer great opportunities to earn optional and Eagle-required merit badges. We don't recommend—nor is it possible—to earn all badges through these events. But scouts can wrap up a few, perhaps those not covered by a Troop 21 merit badge counselor. Ask other troop parents or search the web for "St. Louis merit badge university" and "St. Louis merit badge skill center" (without quote marks).



# Personal Gear Checklist

## Bedding

Appropriate for weather, activity, and length of trip

- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad
- Ground cloth
- Extra blankets

## Eating Gear

- Knife, fork, and spoon
- Cup
- Plate/bowl

## Personal Gear

- Water bottle
- Eye glasses
- First aid kit
- Personal medications
- Scout Handbook
- Pocket knife
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries
- Compass
- Lighter/matches
- Pencil/pen
- Notebook

## Entertainment

- Books
- Cellphone and other electronics  
(for vehicle travel only, or with adult leader's permission)

## Clothing

Appropriate for weather activity, and length of trip

- Socks
- Underwear
- Shirts
- Pants
- Sweater/sweatshirt
- Jacket
- Knit hat
- Gloves/mittens
- Scout uniform or T-shirt (if required)

## Footwear

Appropriate for weather, activity, and length of trip

- Hiking boots
- Sneakers

## Weather Gear

Appropriate for weather, activity, and length of trip

- Poncho or rain suit
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Sunglasses
- Swimsuit

## Hygiene

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Soap
- Hand towel
- Brush/comb
- Toilet paper

# Notes on key equipment



Scouts can have the following three personal items on a camping trip. Scouts also can bring a tent to share, or the troop provides one.

## 1 Day pack

A school-size backpack for items needed while hiking or traveling to campsites.

## 2 Duffle bag

Choose one large enough to hold necessary gear and small enough to comfortably carry. Please, no backpacks, especially those with frames, on general camping trips. Frames make packs difficult to load and may damage other luggage. Backpacking is an important part of scouting, but comes later when scouts are grown enough to manage it.



## 3 Sleeping bag

The most important and most expensive item needed. Your scout's comfort will shape his enthusiasm for camping.

- Choose a **lightweight, compactable bag**. Mummy-style insulates more efficiently with less space to warm. A stuff sack is easier than rolling and tying. **TIP: Combine with a good sleeping pad.**
- Down offers the best insulation, but less-expensive **synthetic insulations function almost as well**. Plus, they dry more quickly and provide warmth even when damp.
- Ratings indicate the low temperature at which a bag and pad keep most people warm. **A 20°F bag** is a good middle ground.
- Prices for good bags begin at about **\$80 and can exceed \$200**.
- Shop around. A good bag usually is worth the investment and when given proper care, lasts a decade or longer.



## Personal Gear Suppliers

### BOY SCOUT SHOPS

St. Louis Scout Shop  
1122 Town & Country Dr.  
Town & Country, MO 63017  
314-984-0014

### LOCAL GEAR SHOPS

The Alpine Shop  
440 N. Kirkwood Road  
314-962-7449

Bass Pro Sportsmen's Warehouse  
1365 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St. in St. Charles  
636-688-2500 [www.basspro.com](http://www.basspro.com)

REI  
1703 S. Brentwood Blvd.  
314-918-1004 [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com)

Outdoors Inc.  
9755 Clayton Rd.  
314-997-5866

### MAIL ORDER/ONLINE

ALPS Mountaineering  
New Haven, Mo.

[hikerdirect.com](http://hikerdirect.com)

Register for scout  
deals

Campmor  
888-226-7667

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

L.L. Bean  
800-221-4221

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