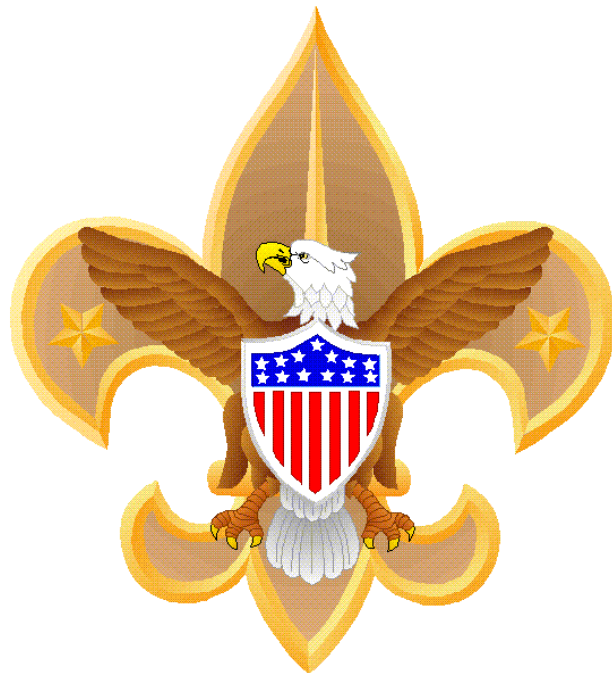


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**NEW PARENT  
INFORMATION  
GUIDE  
2013**



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## **AIMS OF SCOUTING**

- **GROWTH IN MORAL STRENGTH AND CHARACTER**
- **PARTICIPATING CITIZENSHIP**
- **DEVELOPMENT IN PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL FITNESS**

## **METHODS OF SCOUTING**

- **ADVANCEMENT**
- **IDEALS**
- **PATROLS**
- **OUTDOORS**
- **ADULT ASSOCIATION**
- **PERSONAL GROWTH**
- **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**
- **UNIFORM**

## **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.**

## **OUTDOOR CODE**

**AS AN AMERICAN, I WILL DO MY BEST TO-  
BE CLEAN IN MY OUTDOOR MANNERS,  
BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE,  
BE CONSIDERATE IN THE OUTDOORS, AND,  
BE CONSERVATION-MINDED.**

## **SCOUT LAW**

**A SCOUT IS:  
TRUSTWORTHY  
LOYAL  
HELPFUL  
FRIENDLY  
COURTEOUS  
KIND  
OBEDIENT  
CHEERFUL  
THRIFTY  
BRAVE  
CLEAN  
REVERENT**





Welcome to Troop 61!

You are about to embark on an exciting and rewarding adventure in Boy Scouts. Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, said that Boy Scouts should be “fun with a purpose.” The purpose is to create young men who are leaders; knowledgeable and healthy in mind, body and spirit. In other words, *Prepared. For Life.*

Troop 61 has a proud Scouting tradition going back over 75 years. We are a 100% boy-run troop, which means that the boys do the planning for both trips and meetings, and they are responsible for getting the job done.

Boy Scouts is designed so that every boy can win—his experience is limited only by his own desires, goals and imagination. From whitewater rafting, to rifle shooting, to camping and hiking, Troop 61 offers a full Boy Scout experience to all Scouts.

Welcome to a great Scouting adventure! Welcome to Troop 61!

Your Scoutmaster,

Mr. Jonathan Kossuth

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## **Every Scout deserves every leader trained.**

Troop 61 is staffed with trained, qualified youth and adult leaders. All of our adults have met or exceeded the training requirements for their positions. Many of our leaders have gone through advanced training, including Wilderness First Aid, Trainer’s Edge and Wood Badge. Several of our adults are even instructors for the council.

Our troop also nominates Scouts for advanced leadership training before they are elected as troop leaders. This enables them to have positive leadership experience in the troop. We also conduct internal leadership training to allow the boys to succeed at all levels of peer leadership.

## Troop 61 Basics

1. **Your Boy Scout Handbook:** Write your name inside as well as on the edge of your BSA handbook to make it easier to find. Remember to bring your book to *every* meeting. Be sure to get your book signed for each advancement requirement, service hours or camping nights.
2. **Troop Meetings:** Troop 61 meets every Wednesday night during the school year from 7:30 to 9:00 PM at the Memorial Congregational Church (26 Concord Road, across the street from the Goodnow Library). If there is no school, then Scouts is also cancelled. If only one school district has cancelled, the troop will send out an email.
3. **Boy Scout Uniform:** For troop meetings, Scouts should wear their tan uniform shirt (Field or Class A uniform). For weekend camping trips and more rigorous activities, a Scouting shirt (Activity or Class B uniform) is acceptable. At the first troop meeting of each month, a supply of gently used uniforms is available.
4. **Activities and Outings:** To participate in any of Troop 61's monthly outings, the troop must have a current Medical Health History form on file. For each trip, a permission slip will be emailed, and the details and cost for the trip will be listed. For many trips, the only cost is for food and Troop 61 covers all other expenses. For some trips, Troop 61 may subsidize the cost, but typically the families must pay the entire cost. Camperships are available for any activity (including Summer Camp) for those who may need financial assistance.
5. **Troop Communications:** The Troop 61 website is [troop61.info](http://troop61.info). The website contains the activity calendar for the year, suggested packing lists and other useful information. Troop 61 also has a Google group email distribution list. When you are invited, please respond and join the group. *Please provide all family emails that you would like on this list. This is the main form of communication for Troop 61.*

# Troop 61 Boy Scout Advancement

There is a progression of basic Scout skills from Tenderfoot through Second Class to First Class. The first three ranks can be worked on simultaneously. Once First Class, a Scout must earn merit badges, provide leadership and service, to advance through Star, Life and Eagle.

**For the first three ranks**, Scouts may be signed off on requirements by either a non-family designated older Scout or by an Assistant Scoutmaster. These requirements must be met in a Scout setting, and significant advancement opportunities occur on camping trips.

**Merit badges** allow a Scout to explore an area of interest (hobbies, careers and Scout skills) in more depth. A total of 21 merit badges are required for Eagle. To earn a merit badge, a Scout must:

1. Choose a merit badge and see Mrs. Heidi Curtis to find a merit badge counselor and get a blue card signed by Mr. Kossuth
2. Contact the counselor before beginning to work merit badge
3. Upon completion, have the counselor sign the blue card
4. Mr. Kossuth must sign the blue card again

When all of the requirements for a given rank are complete, the Scout will participate in a **Scoutmaster Conference**. In this meeting, the Scoutmaster and Scout will discuss with the how his Scouting experience, what he has learned, and his short and long-term goals in Scouting.

Finally, the Scout participates in a **Board of Review**. In this meeting with Troop Committee members and other parents, the Scout may share his experiences in Scouting, and he may be asked about Troop 61 strengths and areas for improvement. This feedback is essential to help our troop flourish.





## Boy Scout Camping Equipment

Troop 61 is well-equipped with tents, cooking gear and other items normally shared by a patrol. However, because Troop 61 does an activity almost every month, there is some basic personal camping gear that should be acquired:

- A warm **sleeping bag** (0° to 20° is recommended)
- A **ground pad** makes sleeping much more comfortable
- A **backpack** with either an external or internal frame
- Sturdy **trail shoes** or boots for hiking (broken in *before* a hike)
- Insulated **non-cotton underwear** (long johns, etc)
- Mess kit** for eating and drinking on camping trips

The troop website has a more detailed equipment list with suggestions at <http://troop61.info/wordpress/equipment>. Most items can be purchased at REI, EMS, Maynard or Natick Outdoor Stores, sporting goods stores, Walmart, Target, or online at sites such as Campmor. Planning ahead and waiting for sales can save money. Also, don't forget that young boys are still growing, and what may be useful now, may not be in a few years.

Feel free to discuss any purchases ahead of time with adults who can share experiences on what equipment works and doesn't work in various conditions.

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## Youth Protection Training

The Boy Scouts of America and Troop 61 take the safety of our youth seriously. Troop 61 requires that all adults participating in overnight Troop outings take Youth Protection Training (YPT) every two years. The half-hour training explains all aspects of YPT, including two-deep leadership (at least two adults on all activities) and no one-on-one contact (an adult and youth cannot be together out of view of other adults and youth). Troop 61 highly recommends that all parents take YPT training at [myscouting.org](http://myscouting.org).

# Troop 61 New Scout Checklist

## Application Material Needed

- BSA youth application
- BSA annual health form, Parts A+B
- BSA physical exam report, Part C
- Health Insurance Card Copy (2 sides)
- Car insurance information
- Transfer registration fee
- Join Troop 61 Google email list
- Bookmark troop61.info
- Completed family survey

## Uniform Requirements

- Tan BSA uniform shirt
- BSA pants or shorts
- BSA Scout belt
- Forest green shoulder epaulets
- Troop 61 neckerchief (earned)
- Neckerchief slide

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## Upcoming Troop 61 Activities

April 10:  
Swim Night

April 26-28:  
Mt Monadnock

May 4  
MCC Spring Cleanup

May 17-19:  
Cape Cod Bike Trip

June 22-23:  
Whitewater rafting

July 7-13:  
Summer Camp at Squanto





