

# BSA - SCOUTS OF AMERICA



## TROOPS 127 & 7127 WELCOME



### **Welcome to the BSA**

New Scouts - Welcome to Boy Scouts of America! You have chosen to join the largest club for girls and boys in the world. You will be going on hikes, sleeping in tents, cooking in the outdoors and doing many things others only read about. You will learn new skills, make new friends and, most importantly, have fun while achieving the “aims and methods of the Scouting program.” As a brand new Scout, you probably have many questions about how you begin. Here are some answers to many of your questions. On the back page, you will find phone numbers of some people in our troop that can help answer your questions.

### **The Promise**

Scouting promises you the great outdoors.

Scouting promises you friendship.

Scouting promises you opportunities to work toward the Eagle Scout rank.

Scouting promises you tools to make the most of your family, your community, and your nation.

Scouting promises you experiences and duties that will help you mature into a strong, wise adult.

### **Troop 127 & 7127**

Troop 127 is the troop number for male scouts, Troop 7127 is the troop number for female scouts. While the troops share resources, often meet and do activities together, they are technically independent units.

Troops 127 & 7127 are sponsored by the Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church (SAUMC) in Madison, Wisconsin and we typically meet at St. Peter Catholic Church, also located on North Sherman Ave.

Membership in either church is not required and boys and girls of any faith are welcome. The Churches provide the troop a place to meet, store gear, and are ultimately responsible for the Troop. The Troops are part BSA, which designs the program, provides training for leaders, writes the Scout Handbook, and gives the Troops the support they need to run a quality program.

Troops 127 & 7127 is in the Greater Yahara District. The Greater Yahara District serves Eastern Dane County, part of Columbia County and part of Jefferson County. The local Scout office is in Madison, Wisconsin. Our Troop meets year round every Thursday night at the St. Peter Catholic Church, at 5001 N Sherman Avenue, from 6:30PM to 8:00PM. As a general rule, each Scout is expected to attend wearing his Class A uniform.

## The Aims and Methods of Scouting

The objectives and aims of Troop 127 parallel the “aims and methods of the Scouting program” set forth by the Boy Scouts of America. As with most organizations, the BSA has a purpose or mission statement that outlines who and what they are as an organization. The Boy Scouts mission Statement is as follows:

*“The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated to provide a program for community organizations that offers effective character, citizenship, and personal fitness training for youth. Specifically, the BSA endeavors to develop 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 values based on religious concepts; have the desire and 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 our nation’s role in the world; have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people; and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to the American society.”*

The aims of the Scouting program are to build **Character**, foster **Citizenship**, and develop **Fitness**. These aims are achieved through a series of Scouting methods that consist of **Ideals, Patrol Method, Outdoors, Advancement, Personal Growth, Adult Association, Leadership Development, and Uniform**.

The Ideals of Scouting are found in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto (Be Prepared), and Slogan (Do a Good Turn Daily). All Scouts are expected to live by these ideals. A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent. The Boy Scout Oath states:

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.

One of the most important concepts to understand about Scouting is that it is a program run by the Scouts. Each Scout is a member of a Patrol. Activities that the Scouts do are all decided by the Patrol Leaders’ Council (PLC). The PLC is like the executive board of a company, they make all the decisions. They decide what topics should be covered at the meetings, what outings they want to attend each month, where they want to camp, and what skills or topics they want to cover.

The **Patrol Method** develops leadership and teamwork abilities in a small group setting before it is applied on a larger Troop setting. Depending on the number of new Scouts, we may form a new Scout patrol with an older Scout assigned to guide the new Scouts.



The **Outdoors** is the key setting where the aims and methods are achieved. Weekend camping establishes self-reliance as the Scouts learn to work together and survive on their own. Troop 127 participates in some exciting outings, including: camping at various State Parks, caving, fishing, canoeing/kayaking, climbing/rappelling, backpacking, hiking and orienteering, flying RC planes, soda bottle rocketry, and many others. In addition to day hikes/trips, Troop 127 goes on an overnight outing 7-10 times during the year. Many of these outings are accessible by car or a short hike. For example, in spring we might do a “Rambo” camp that teaches wilderness survival, knife handling, and general camping skills. A new Scout will need their own backpack, sleeping bag, and entry-level hiking boots. The backpack provides an excellent place to store Scouting gear.

A parent-signed permission slip is required for attendance on any Scout outing. Parents please note that The Boy Scouts of America requires that two adults be present at all times, but Troop 127 strongly prefers three adults. Although it has not yet happened, the meeting or outing would be cancelled in the event that only one adult is able to be present.

Each year Troop 127 attends an outdoor Scout summer camp. Camp is one week long. We try to attend the first session, which is usually 2 weeks after school gets out for the summer. The cost of summer camp is typically \$200-\$300 per Scout. Summer camp is a great opportunity to earn rank advancements, earn merit badges, meet new friends, challenge oneself, participate in high adventure activities, and have a great time.

**Advancement** creates a challenge to all Scouts by providing them with a series of obstacles to overcome. Furthermore, it provides a rewarded sense of accomplishment for the Scouts hard work and determination. As a new Scout, your first challenge is to advance from Scout to the rank of First Class, through Tenderfoot and Second Class. One of the things Scouting is best known for is earning Merit Badges. A merit badge is an invitation to explore an exciting subject, and to be rewarded for learning that subject.

There are no merit badge requirements for the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class or First Class. Once you have obtained First Class, you will need to earn merit badges in order to advance to the ranks of Star, Life & Eagle. There are more than 100 merit badges available for you to earn. Troop 127 has a Merit Badge policy which involves consultation with the Scoutmaster before any work on a Merit Badge is begun. The ranks of Star, Life and ultimately Eagle require demonstration of Leadership and Service.

**Personal Growth** is developed as Scouts provide service, advance, and develop a plan for the Scouting years. Our service projects include the community at large, our sponsoring organization, and Scouting itself, for example at Camp Indian Trails, our council Boy Scout Camp in Janesville and as Den Chiefs for our “little brothers” in Cub Scout Pack 127. Representatives of our Troop participate in faith services during Scout Sunday at SAUMC and St. Peters. All these activities provide an opportunity for the Scouts to grow as individuals and members of their community, and/or religious organizations.

**Adult Association** provides role models for the Scouts to observe and also creates a setting where adults and boys work together to achieve common goals and have fun while doing so. Every family is expected to help out, either by serving as Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Committee Member, Merit Badge Counselor, or as a driver for outings. You will find that if you participate as a family, you will get a lot more out of the Scouting program, and will progress a lot further. Behind every successful Scout, is a supportive family. Your family involvement is important!

**Leadership Development** is formed as each Scout assumes a Junior Leader position. The development starts with patrol positions on a smaller level, and fully develops as Scouts assume Troop Junior Leader positions that are essential to the operation of the entire Troop. These Junior Leader positions include: Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Patrol Leader, Scribe, Quartermaster, Historian, Librarian,

Chaplain Aide, and Den Chief. The Troop Guides are especially important, for they guide the new Scouts into the Troop. Remember, you boys as leaders, run the Troop.

Finally, the **Uniform** gives Scouts an identity. The Boy Scout Uniform has long served as an expression of a Scout's friendliness to all other Scouts regardless of who they are or where they're from. The uniform represents Scouting's spirit of equality and democracy, and identifies a boy as a brother to every other Scout. Wearing the uniform promotes comradeship, loyalty to one's Patrol and Troop, and public recognition of membership in the Boy Scouts of America. Scouts and Adults of Troop 127 always wears Class A uniforms when traveling to and from outings.



The Class A or "Field" uniform: The complete uniform includes a BSA tan shirt, with patches, neckerchief & slide, olive BSA pants or shorts, with BSA web belt, BSA olive socks with a red stripe on top. A good place to find uniform materials is at the Boy Scout Office "Scout Shop", located at 5846 Manufacturers Drive in Madison, WI. The BSA office is open Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and the phone number is (800) 213-1418.



The Class B or "Activity" uniform: consists of the Troop 127 T-shirt. It may be worn with olive pants or shorts. This is the uniform most frequently worn on outings, to protect the more expensive class A. See the Troop Quartermaster for purchase of the Class B uniform shirt.

Troop 127 maintains a "Scout Closet." If you have Scout clothing that no longer fits, please donate it to the Troop. If you are in need of uniform clothing items and cannot afford them, please see the Troop Scoutmaster.

## Youth Protection

Please read over with your parents the Youth Protection guidelines in the front section of your Boy Scout Handbook. The important point to know is that no adult leader will ever ask you to go with him/her alone. Conferences are always in view of others. On camp-outs, you may not share a tent with an adult unless it is your parent. The Scoutmaster, Adult Leaders, and Junior Leaders will not tolerate any harassment, shoving, hitting, or disrespectful treatment of any other person. You are expected to help maintain a safe haven by monitoring your own behavior.

## Finance and Fundraisers

Troop 127 is a completely self-sufficient Troop that supports itself through fundraisers and Troop dues. The fundraisers include, among others, selling Popcorn and Christmas wreaths in the fall. Troop 127 maintains a campership fund to help all Scouts experience our outings and summer camp. Please see the Troop Scoutmaster for more details. We believe that under no circumstances should a family be priced out of Scouting!

One of the goals of the Scouting Program is teaching Scouts how to earn their way through personal management. Troop 127 organizes fundraisers throughout the year to support the troop and scouting activities. Depending on the event, a percentage of the fundraising proceeds may be designated into the individual Scout's "Scout Buck" account. Scout Bucks can be used to pay for outings, summer camp, troop dues, etc.

## Troop and Council Web Sites

Our troop maintains a website (url address on the last page). On this web site, you will find such things as the

troop calendar, various forms, news, and contact information for adult leaders.

We are also on Facebook. There you will see photos of our recent outings. (Troop FaceBook name on last page)

In addition, the Glaciers Edge Council maintains its own web site at [www.glaciersedge.org](http://www.glaciersedge.org). This web site includes a lot of information about the Council activities, camps, training programs, and resources.

### **Contact Information**

If you have any questions that were not answered here, please feel free to contact any of the people listed below. They will be happy to help you in any way they can.

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