

## Welcome New Troop 63 Boys (B) & Girls (G) Scouting Parents

Thanks for joining the BSA Troop 63 Scouting Family. Below is a list of frequently asked questions (FAQS) that will help you better understand and adjust to the BSA Troop 63 Scouting environment.

1. My Scout and I are new to the troop. Is there any paperwork that needs to be completed?
  - a. If you have not completed the BSA Youth Scout Application, please go here to submit an application:
    - i. [www.beascout.org](http://www.beascout.org), enter 48895 for the zip code and select "Scouts BSA" (unselect "Cub Scouts") and choose "Find A Unit". Select "Apply Now" under the Boy or Girl Troop 63 Williamston option as appropriate. Select "Youth" when prompted and follow the instructions. If the youth is a former scout [i.e. cub scout or bsa scout] you can enter their BSA member ID to transfer them. The membership fee is an annual fee and will follow your scout throughout the year no matter which troop they are registered with.
    - ii. Adults of youth will be prompted to create a [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org) account. This will allow access to your youth's scouting achievements and pay for their membership online.
  - b. BSA requires all Parents/Adults attending troop camping and outings to be registered with the Troop. An Adult application is required to be completed and can be accomplished by following the instruction above and selecting "Adult Volunteer" when prompted. If you are a current BSA member, select "yes". A new window will open to your [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org) account. Select transfer to Troop 63, if you plan to keep your current obligation within your position, select "Multiple" and enter your BSA ID. You will only be charged once a year for your membership, no matter how many positions or troops you belong to within the BSA.
2. Weekly Scouting Meetings:
  - a. Are held on Monday's 6:30-7:30PM at the Williamston Middle School during the fall & winter and at McCormick Park in the spring and summer.
    - i. See the Troop Calendar for details (discussed later in this FAQ)
    - ii. Scouts are encouraged to attend the weekly meetings. These meetings are youth led with adult support. During these meetings scouts will review current scouting events, discuss and plan upcoming scouting events and work on rank requirements and or merit badge requirements.
    - iii. Parents can also attend the weekly meetings and support the scout/troop by helping provide guidance and support on rank requirements, BSA program and troop committee roles, and event planning.
3. Monthly Committee/Parent Meetings:
  - a. These occur typically on the first or second Wednesday of every month at 6:30-8PM at the Williamston Train Depot. See Troop Calendar for actual dates and times.
  - b. During these meetings the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) of the troops provide a troop status update and the committee makes decisions about the programs (summer camp,

high adventure activities, expenditures, issues) while soliciting opinion and recommendations from the SPLs and parents.

4. What are Merit Badges:

- a. A Merit Badge is an award earned by a scout which symbolizes their proficiency in a skill or area of study. Merit badges are required to achieve higher ranks advancements. There are 21 specific merit badges required to achieve the highest rank in the scouting program (EAGLE). A list of all the merit badges offered and their requirements can be found at : <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges>. A full description on the process and how to complete a merit badge can be found on the Troop website at [Troop Badge | Advancement Resources | Williamston Troop 63 \(troop63mi.com\)](#).
- b. Adults can help youth achieve these merit badges by becoming a merit badge counselor. You can find more information about this at [Merit Badge Counselors - Everything you need to know | Boy Scouts of America \(scouting.org\)](#). There is an annual fee to be a merit badge counselor. (If you are currently a paid member with the Troop, the fee does not apply)

5. Court of Honor (COH):

- a. Court of Honor is a ceremony for Scouts, families, and guests held on a quarterly basis to recognize the scouts and troops achievements and accomplishments. All scouts who have moved up to any rank (except Eagle Scout), or who have earned merit badges since the last court of honor receive their awards and are recognized. Awards and rank advancements are only given at the COH.
- b. Court of Honor ceremonies are held 3-4 times a year. Check the Troop Calendar for dates.
- c. Is there anything my scout needs to do for the Court of Honor?
  - i. Prior to the COH, Scouts need to complete work on rank requirements and merit badges. These are required to be turned in to the Advancement Chair at least a week before the COH.
  - ii. The dress code is full class A uniform for the event. (Tan shirt, neckerchief, slide, merit badge sash, olive green scout pants, tennis shoes or hiking boots).

6. Troop Communications:

- a. The troop utilizes various communication mechanisms:
  - i. Band App-calendar of events, notifications, chats, posts, polls, pictures (mostly used by parents and older scouts)
    1. Download on iPhone or Android
  - ii. Troop 63 Website-Contains the troop calendar, Troop overview, photos, helpful documents and Links on contacts, merit badges, rank advancement, summer camp, camping equipment packing lists and activity reports, fundraising, etc.
    2. [Boyscout | Troop 63 | Williamston \(troop63mi.com\)](#)
  - iii. Facebook-primary used to share with community.
    1. [Williamston Troop 63 Scouts BSA - Boy Scouts of America | Facebook](#)



- iv. Emails-Troop weekly updates and detailed information are generally sent in email form to the troop email group. Please make sure your email is provided to add you to the appropriate email group.
  - 1. Boys: [troop@troop63mi.com](mailto:troop@troop63mi.com)
  - 2. Girls: [sixtythreeg@troop63mi.com](mailto:sixtythreeg@troop63mi.com)
- 7. Scout Uniforms and Supplies:
  - a. A Scout handbook will be provided to new scouts. (Crossover Scouts will be provided a neckerchief and slide at the crossover ceremony)
  - b. Uniforms can be purchased at any scout shop or at the online scout shop (<https://www.scoutshop.org>). Existing scouts and the scout handbook can assist with proper scout uniform requirements.
    - i. Recommended supply lists can be found on the troop website [File Share | Williamston Troop 63 \(troop63mi.com\)](#) “New Scout Uniform & Required Materials”.
    - ii. Recommended supply list can be found on the troop website [Troop Trip Planning Resources | Williamston Troop 63 \(troop63mi.com\)](#) for summer and winter camping. Sometimes less is more, **don't be too quick to buy a bunch of weight** (that may not work for various outings and may need to be repurchased). If you don't have the gear or not sure what to buy, attend a few meetings and outings to observe what others are using. Ask questions please! There is plenty of unused camping gear in the community to borrow until you have the knowledge and funds to get something appropriate. The troop has supplies that are available for use during troop outings if needed.
- 8. Required Forms:
  - a. **BSA Health and Medical Forms**- Medical forms (parts A-B) are required for both youth and adults attending scouting events. Part C is required for outings that last over 72 hours (summer camp) and requires a physician signature. These forms need to be completed and print out at least 2 copies (1 for your hiking pack and 1 for the Scoutmaster). Turn the scoutmaster one in ASAP.
    - i. Find the BSA Health form on the troop website [Troop Trip Planning Resources | Williamston Troop 63 \(troop63mi.com\)](#) or on the BSA site [Annual Health and Medical Record | Boy Scouts of America \(scouting.org\)](#)
  - b. **Youth Protection Training (YPT)**- this training is required for all adults with youth or participating in any Troop/BSA event (ie. Meetings, COH, Outings,etc). You will need to create a my.scoutng.org account and complete your YPT, it is good for 2 years. All adults registering as a Troop member are required to complete this before the application can be accepted.
    - i. Find YPT on the BSA site [Youth Protection | Boy Scouts of America \(scouting.org\)](#)
- 9. Scout Events:
  - a. What are scout events?
    - i. Various types of scouting events exist. These can range from a few hours on a single day to multi-day/overnight outings. These events are typically scout scheduled and led (with adult supervision and guidance).

- ii. These events help scouts develop academic skills, self-confidence, ethics, leadership skills, and citizenship skills that influence their lives. They also offer opportunities to try new things and provide services to others.
- b. How often do these events occur?
  - i. Typically, the troop tries to have at least one event a month (this could be in the form of an overnight outing or just a single day event). These events are planned and scheduled by the scouts and tracked on the troop calendar.
- c. Does my scout have to attend the event?
  - i. Scouts are encouraged to attend all the events they can, but attendance is not required. We realize everyone has busy lives with family, sports, school, vacations, etc. Accommodations can be made most of the time to include everyone who wants to attend.
- d. When is summer camp?
  - i. Summer camp is a weeklong outing that typically takes place in July each year. Planning/communications about summer camp typically start around January/February with registration completed in March.
- e. Can a parent attend these outings?
  - i. A parent is always welcome and encouraged, especially for new scouts to attend. All adults attending events are required to be a registered paid member of the troop before they can attend troop events.
  - ii. The number one indicator of a scout achieving the rank of Eagle is how involved the parent is in the scout's events.
  - iii. On scouting events, parents with more experience share "best practices" amongst each other. It's also good to see what other gear different families use to determine what's best for you.
  - iv. Please remember parents are there to enjoy the event and watch their scout grow. Let them figure things out from older scouts, you are an observer unless someone is in danger, don't intervene.

10. Fundraising Opportunities:

- a. The troop offers many fundraising opportunities over the course of a year. These are excellent opportunities for scouts to earn money in their scout accounts and necessary to pay for troop finances. These funds can be used to help pay for scout-related expenses such as outing costs, summer camp, yearly membership, high adventure, etc. They also help fund the troop and pay for troop trailer repairs, insurance, COH costs, rank and merit badges, recharter, leader training and membership, etc.
- b. Typical fundraisers have historically included (but not limited to):
  - i. Jubilee Pancake Breakfast (last Sunday morning in June)
  - ii. Bottle & Can Drives
  - iii. Michigan International Speedway clean up the infield after race (August)
  - iv. Culver's Night Out
  - v. Troop fundraising committee is always looking for additional fundraising opportunities. Please work with your scout to encourage new ideas.
  - vi. Fundraisers and donations can be found on the troop website: [Fundraising | Williamston Troop 63 \(troop63mi.com\)](http://Fundraising | Williamston Troop 63 (troop63mi.com))

11. Opportunities for Parents to become more involved:
  - a. It can be as simple as joining activities and helping where you can.
  - b. Volunteering for a more formal position within the troop committee.
  - c. Completing Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills training-Sout outdoor events require at least 1 adult to be IOLS trained, plus BSA requires 2 deep leadership for all activities involving youth.
  - d. Participate in a Board of Review-listen to how the youth is doing in the troop and ask questions related to the advancement the youth is seeking to achieve.
  - e. A list of troop committee positions can be found on the troop website.
12. For any addition questions or concerns, please contact the scoutmaster or a troop committee member. All contacts can be found on one of the troop communication forms.