

2021

# Parent's Guide

# Bothell Troop 622



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## Welcome

Whether you have crossed over with your son from Cub Scouts or just joined Scouts BSA, we appreciate your enthusiasm and encourage your participation in the troop. We encourage you to take the Scouts BSA training offered on-line at <https://my.scouting.org/> and training offered by the Council and District to find out what we are trying to accomplish and how you can help.

## Overview

The Aims of the Boy Scouts of America are **character development, leadership development, citizenship training, and personal fitness**. To accomplish these aims, Scouting employs eight methods: **the ideals, the patrol method, the outdoor program, advancement, association with adults, personal growth, leadership development, and the uniform**.

Scouting is a family-oriented program that instills values such as citizenship, teamwork, honesty, respect, responsibility, leadership, and fun! An important part of scouting is giving back to the community through community service projects.

## Troop 622 - Who are we?

The Troop goes back at least to the 1970s and probably earlier than that. Our most famous Alum is none other than Rick Steves, the PBS Travel Guru - at least that is the legend. We draw most of our Scouts from Cub Packs in the Bothell area however we welcome any young man!

## Our philosophy of Scouting

Each Scout chooses their own journey through the world of Scouting. Some will reach Eagle, some will not, some will get every Merit Badge and some will acquire only a few. We hope that each Scout finds their own way, guided by the Scout Law and Oath, and helped along the way by their peers, Senior Scouts and the Troop Leadership. We, as Troop Leadership, want to make Scouting available for the Scouts to “choose your own Scouting Adventure” and grow to be young adults with great memories, friendships and life skills with which to go forward into the world.

## Communications

We use email as the Troop’s primary form of communication outside of Troop meetings. Troop Webhost (TWH) hosts our “troop website”. Troop Webhost is a one stop for parents to see the upcoming meetings and events on the troop calendar, scout and adult contact information, and much more. Troop 622’s TWH can be found at: <https://www.troopwebhost.org/Troop622Bothell>. Each parent and scout will be provided with a username and password that will be required to access troop only pages. If you or your scout’s contact information changes please update in TWH to continue to receive troop communications. [How to use TWH videos](#).

## Meetings

Our troop meetings most often are at the Bothell Rental Hall. Occasionally, meetings will be at other locations but everyone will be notified of these changes as they occur. Some meetings will be “fun nights” which in the past have included bowling, movie nights and group video games.

During the school year, our meetings generally are on Sunday evening beginning promptly at 6:30pm and ending around 8pm. During the summer months the meetings are on Mondays and we take advantage of our extensive grounds to host meetings outside when weather permits.

During the month, we will hold at least two meetings for the whole troop to meet and work together, while reserving other meeting dates for patrol meetings where the individual patrols can meet for planning, advancement, merit badge pursuits or perhaps just for fun! The PLC (Patrol Leadership Council) also reserves one meeting per month to coordinate and plan the troops’ activities.

## Leadership

### **Youth Leadership & The Patrol Method**

The boys are divided into patrols of approximately 4-8 scouts. Each patrol comes up with their own patrol name, patrol yell and patrol flag. Each patrol will pick out their own patch worn on their right shoulder to represent the patrol. Approximately every 6 months, the patrol will also elect a patrol leader who will help organize them and represent them at the Patrol Leader Council (PLC) meeting.

The Patrol Leader Council (PLC) meeting is a monthly meeting which consists of the Patrol Leaders from each patrol as well as the Senior Patrol Leader, the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and scribe. It is at the PLC meetings that the Scouts decide on and plan the activities for the upcoming troop meetings as well as other events.

Following elections the new PLC undergoes Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troop (ILST) training led by senior scouts and adult leaders. This gives the Scouts a chance to learn what is expected in their new roles and teaches leadership skills. Working well with others is perhaps the most important life skill that youth can learn. Scouts gain confidence by being entrusted with power and in leading their peers.

The primary Scout leadership positions are the following:

#### **Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)**

This is the top scout held leadership position in the troop. He leads the weekly troop meetings and the patrol leaders' council (PLC) meeting and, in consultation with the Scoutmaster, appoints other junior leaders and assigns specific responsibilities as needed.

#### **Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)**

Fills in for the senior patrol leader in his absence. He is also responsible for training and giving direction to the quartermaster, scribe, troop historian, librarian, and instructors.

### Patrol Leader

Gives leadership to members of his patrol and represents them on the patrol leaders' council. This is an elected position voted on by the individual patrol members.

### Scribe

The troop secretary is responsible for meeting minutes and communication within the troop.

### Librarian

Keeps the troop's books, pamphlets, magazines, audiovisuals, and merit badge counselor list available for use by troop members.

### Troop Historian

Collects and maintains troop memorabilia and information on former troop members. Gather pictures and putting together slide-shows at courts of honor.

### Troop Guide

Advisor and guide to the new-Scout patrol.

### Quartermaster

Responsible for troop supplies and equipment.

### Webmaster

Works in conjunction with the Scribe to update and organize the troop website

One of the major differences between Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA is leadership development and responsibility.

Empowering youth to be leaders is the core of Scouting. They learn by doing, and what they do is lead their patrols and their troop. In order to grow leaders, you have to give youth opportunities to practice their skills. A youth-led troop is more work for the adult leadership, but is far more valuable to the scouts. It is so much easier for the adults to just take charge themselves than to teach the necessary leadership skills.

The Scouts will make mistakes now and then and will rely upon the adult leaders to guide them. But only through real hands-on experience as leaders can they learn. Leadership is not only knowing what you need to do to succeed but also knowing what to do if things go wrong. Scouts learn from mistakes. It is hard to watch a process get done poorly, but if a youth-led troop meeting does not go as planned, there is no great loss. If a meal on a camp-out does not work out, it becomes a learning experience, a teachable moment to show how one responds to mistakes and still shows respect for others.

**The core of the Patrol Method is Scout (youth) leadership!** We as adults (parents and leaders) must remind and direct scouts back to the Patrol Method and the troop structure embedded in it. Often an adult will get asked a question from a boy because the adult is viewed as the authority. It is best if the adult does not give the answer. **One of the most important things an adult can say is "Did you ask your patrol leader?"**

From Robert Baden-Powell, "Train Scouts to do a job, then let them do it." Learn more about the [Patrol Method](#).

### Adults - Parents, Program & Committee

Parent support and involvement is essential. Unlike the full parent involvement in Cub Scouts, parents are asked to become much less involved with their own child and more within the structure of the troop as a committee member, Merit Badge Counselor, or assistant Scoutmaster.

### Parents

Parent support is essential to a scout's success. However, support at the Troop level looks very different. From Robert Baden-Powell: "Never do anything a boy can do." We encourage parents to become familiar with the Patrol Method and reinforce that process for

scouting, even at home. All parents should understand the structure of the troop. There is a “chain of command” within the youth leadership and also within the adult leadership.

Parents are always welcome to stay for meetings and attend activities & outings but are asked to support the Patrol Method. We ask all parents also to create an account at [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org) and complete the on-line [Youth Protection](#) training.

Currently there is not a required number of hours of volunteer time for parents, but we ask that everyone contribute whatever they are able to.

### **The Troop Committee**

The success of the troop depends on a lot of adult volunteers who work behind the scenes to make it all happen. The troop committee is like a steering committee—volunteers who actually handle the business end of the troop. The Troop Committee meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month. All parents are welcome at Troop Committee meetings.

### **Scoutmaster & Assistant Scoutmasters**

The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters are responsible for training and guiding youth leaders in the operation of the troop, and for managing, and training.

### **Merit Badge Counselors**

Parents can use their unique knowledge to support the Merit Badge program by becoming a Merit Badge Counselor. Review all of the [BSA Merit Badges](#) and requirements. If interested in learning more about the role of a MBC or how to become a MBC please contact Troop 622’s Advancement Chair.

## **Advancement**

Advancement also shifts in Scouts BSA and is greatly dependent on the individual scout’s motivation. Advancement is also simply a means to an end, not an end in itself.

Advancement falls into two linked categories: Rank and Merit Badges.

### **Rank Advancement**

There are 7 ranks in Scouts BSA and the requirements for each are outlined in the Scouts BSA handbook.

#### **Trail to First Class**

The first 4 ranks (Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class) focus scouts on the core “scouting skills” and requirements can be worked on concurrently. Statistically, there is a body of evidence that scouts who make First Class stay in Scouts for the duration, many becoming Eagle Scouts. Although many may want to race through these ranks, our experience is that when rushed, scouts often do not retain the skills over time.

Completing the Trail to First Class in the first 2 years is achievable and balances the demands of Rank advancement with adventure through the Merit Badge program and just having fun with your Scout friends!

We have evolved, over the last few years, a program we call ‘Trail to First Class’ where we make sure that we offer and plan opportunities for the Scouts to sign off those tough-to-get

boxes in their Scout books. Of course, this is Scouts BSA and so it remains up to the scouts to be responsible to sign up for these events and to get their books signed.

As younger scouts are learning scouting skills along the Trail to First Class, older scouts are learning how to teach these skills. The Scoutmaster has designated senior scouts to sign off on some requirements for younger scouts. This will help reinforce the senior scout's knowledge while also helping to bolster their leadership positions in the Troop. If your scout is unsure of who to have sign off on a requirement, they should ask their Patrol Leader.

When a scout earns the rank of First Class they are awarded a special, gold piped neckerchief at the Court of Honor.

### **Scoutmaster Conference**

Your scout will have the opportunity to meet with the Scoutmaster or the Assistant Scoutmaster to review his completed requirements and reflect upon his progress along the scouting journey. In addition, they can discuss how they feel about the troop and their role within the troop. At every Scoutmaster Conference, from Scout through Eagle, they will discuss the points of the Scout Law and how they are living up to those ideals.

### **Board of Review**

The Board of Review (BOR) is the final step to complete all ranks (except Scout). The BOR consists of a minimum of three, and at most six, adults who will review your scout's progress and make sure that all of the requirements have been met. The review is not a re-test or examination but a discussion of the requirements and what your scout has gained from them. There will also be discussion of how your scout has lived the Scout Oath and Scout Law at home, in the troop, at school, and in the community. Parents are not part of the BOR for their own scout, but sitting on a BOR can be a great way to support the Troop!

### **Merit Badges**

Scouts BSA has over 135 Merit Badges scouts can earn. Merit Badges are an opportunity for scouts to explore a specific area of interest in more depth. Scouts can start earning Merit Badges as soon as they join the Troop. To start a Merit Badge, scouts should contact the Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair. To see a complete list of Merit Badges visit:

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>

Parents who have knowledge and/or experience related to a Merit Badge are encouraged to become a MBC for that badge.

### **Court of Honor**

The Court of Honor is an event held two to three times each year, at which time family and friends are invited to join in celebrating the accomplishments of the scouts. Rank advancement occurs immediately after the Board of Review, however, it is at the Court of Honor that the scouts get well-deserved recognition of their hard work in a time-honored ceremony. There is also a slide show, to remember all the fun and activities of the previous four months.



## **Safety**

Safety is the primary adult responsibility. Adult leaders are responsible for the Troop following the rules found in the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#), [BSA Sweet 16](#), and in the [Youth Protection](#) training. The adult leadership trains the youth leadership to stay within the boundaries set by BSA, and is ultimately responsible to see the rules are followed. The better the youth understand the reasons for BSA's safety rules the more likely they are to cooperate and comply.

## **Supervision**

In compliance with BSA policies, two registered adult leaders (21+ years of age) must be in attendance at all Scouting activities, including meetings. All adults attending a scouting activity of 72 total hours or more must be registered as leaders. The 72 hours need not be consecutive.

## **Overnight Accommodations**

BSA has detailed policies around overnight accommodations to support Youth Protection. Typically we tent camp for our campouts. Scouts tent separately from adults and with scouts close to their own age. [Details of BSA policies](#)

## **Medical**

A [BSA medical form](#) is required for scouts to participate. For all outings, your son will need Part A and B filled out with basic health information. For any overnight outings lasting over 72 hours they will also need Part C filled out, which requires medical information and a physician's signature allowing scouts to participate. These forms must be renewed yearly. Once completed, we will keep these forms privately and securely on file for the duration of the year. For the longer summer camps, one adult is put in charge of all of the medications and their administration, and the medications are kept in a lock box.

## **Emergencies**

We make every effort to ensure that all Scouting trips and outings have at least one adult leader who is trained in wilderness first aid to take care of emergencies.

## **Medications**

Prescription and over-the-counter medications needing to be taken during a Scout outing or camping trip will need to be provided to the designated adult for their administration, secure transport and storage. [BSA Safe Use of Medications in Scouting](#)

## **Scouting in the time of COVID-19**

Since March 2020, we have all been dealing with Covid-19. We spent much of 2020 and early 2021 in no-contact, online meetings. Since April 2021, we have started slowly to open. We typically follow the local Northshore School District protocols and adjust as needed through the Troop Committee.

## **Troop Service Projects**

### **Food Drive**

Our troop participates in multiple food drives each year. For a number of years now, Troop 622 has conducted a fall and spring food drive for Woodinville Storehouse.

### **State Parks**

A popular favorite with the scouts is the bi-annual State Park Service Project, Laser Tag and Camp. The Troop volunteers to work for one of the three coastal defense batteries, now State Parks in the 'Ring of Fire'. We work up to 4 hours and then play laser tag in and out of the concrete gun emplacements, before retiring to a camp-cooked dinner and a campfire program.

### **Other Service**

There are numerous opportunities within the Troop to get community service hours, however, scouts may use any sort of organized service projects with prior Scoutmaster approval.

## **Financial**

### **Dues and Fees**

In addition to BSA fees the troop collects annual dues to help to finance equipment and supplies for the troop. Dues are typically around \$65 per year.

For troop outings, there may be additional costs. When an outing has fees, those will be communicated and need to be paid in advance to the Troop treasurer.

When camping, typically patrols work together to buy food and plan meals, and the scouts need to reimburse the 'grubmaster' before or at the outing.

In the event that you are unable to afford any of the dues or fees there are scholarships available. Just ask the Scoutmaster.

### **Fundraisers & Scout Accounts**

Throughout the year there are several fundraisers, the largest of which are Christmas Wreath sales and Christmas Tree pickup and disposal. All funds raised or given to our Troop are owned by the Troop, managed by the Treasurer and directed by the Troop Committee.

The Troop will make some of these funds available to the scouts for use for summer camp costs and other Troop fees through a "Scout Account" system. Families may ask the treasurer to take payments for camp, outings, etc., out of Scout Accounts for fees when there is a sufficient balance to cover the fee. No individual scout or person will own any funds within the Troop account including allocated monies within Scout Accounts. At the time a scout leaves the troop, any remaining balance in a Scout Account is retained by the Troop.

## **Activities**

We use Troop Webhost to post information about, and provide a sign up location for upcoming events and outings. <https://www.troopwebhost.org/Troop622Bothell> Below we describe a few of our major activities during the year:

### **Summer Camp**

Every year the scouts select a Scout Camp at which to spend a week of the summer together camping out as a Troop. Some years it will be here in Washington, other years it might be outside of the state. This is a great time for the scouts to sign up for and work on different merit badges. Oftentimes, there are merit badges that can only be obtained in a camp setting such as archery, riflery and rock climbing. Often, you will find a Journey to First Class program to help the younger Scouts get on with Rank advancement. The Troop shares a camping area together and it is a great place for the bonds of friendship to strengthen.

### **Camporee & Klondike**

The district hosts two overnight events a year, Klondike in the winter and Camporee in the spring, for all Troops in the district to participate in. Scouts use their skills in a variety of events that are scored, in addition to being rated on overall scout spirit. The event concludes with an awards ceremony.

### **Campouts**

Camping as a Troop happens about once a month from Spring to Fall. Locations and activities are decided by the PLC with adult leader support. One Troop favorite is camping at the Ring of Fire state parks.

### **Overnight Backpacking**

We try to organize at least two overnight backpacking trips a year. These are 1-3 nights in length and, since 2018, we have added canoeing and kayaking overnights to the Troop repertoire.

### **Bike Tours**

Many scouts enjoy biking and we have successfully run single-night bike tours including the Skagit Valley and the San Juan Islands.

### **Shooting Sports**

The Council runs two excellent Shooting Sports weekends at Camp Pigott per year. The Troop always camps one night at these events.

### **High Adventure**

For the older scouts, we encourage them to plan for and execute a High Adventure camp. These can be 50-mile hikes, long bike tours and our Troop has been successful launching two batches of Scouts on their SCUBA qualifications and sending them to Seabase in Florida for a week of SCUBA. What the Scouts come up with, we will try to make happen - remember, it's their journey.

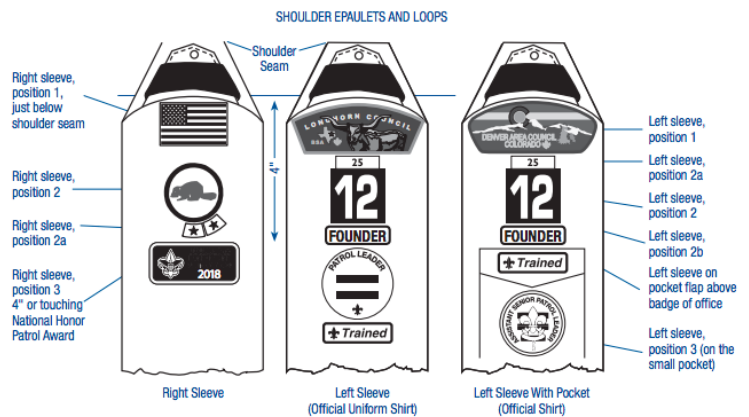
## Equipment

### Uniform

Troop 622 has 2 uniforms: Field/Class A & Class B.

**Field/Class A Uniform** should be worn for all troop meetings and outings unless designated otherwise. The uniform is the standard Scout shirt and Troop neckerchief. Specific scout shorts and pants are optional, wearing jeans or other such pants or hiking shorts are appropriate, but it is asked that the scouts not wear sweatpants or basketball shorts. See the diagram to find the appropriate placement of badges on the Scout uniform. Merit Badge sashes are worn for more formal ceremonies, such as the Court of Honor and some service opportunities. [Scouts BSA Insignia Guide](#)

### SCOUTS BSA INSIGNIA



**Class B Uniform** is the Official Troop 622 T-shirt or sweatshirt with our logo. Class B uniforms are appropriate for campouts and hikes.

### The Ten Essentials

For every outing, the boys should bring with them the ten essentials, which are:

Pocket knife	Flashlight	Sun Protection
First Aid Kit	Water	Map and Compass
Rain Gear	Trail Food	
Extra Clothing	Matches	

### Outdoor Camping & Hiking Gear

Families are not expected to rush out and invest in every possible item a scout could need! The Troop has the majority of the camp cooking gear patrols will need. Often another scout/family will already have shared items or are willing to loan out gear. When you are ready to start acquiring gear for your scout we recommend starting with hiking boots and layering clothing for wet weather, 3-season sleeping bag, and mess kit.

### Cell Phones

Cell Phones distract from the activities and meetings the scouts are participating in not only for the boy with the cell phone but also the scouts around him. We ask that the scouts keep electronics stowed away during meetings and outings.

### Scouting Handbook

Once your scout is registered with Troop 622, he will receive his Scouting Handbook. This will be his reference guide and advancement tracking throughout his scouting career. Set aside some time to study the first section of the Book together and learn about the Scouting Oath and Law, the Motto, and other principles of Scouting. This will ground you and your Scout in Scouting - Adventures Ahead!

## Hall Use and Cleanup

The Knights of Columbus and JCM Corp allow the Troop use of the Bothell Rental Hall free of charge. With our use of the Hall, it is also our responsibility to ensure it is cleaned up just as good (or better) than how it was when we arrived.

Clean-up is the responsibility of everyone and the SPL will determine when clean-up is complete and dismiss scouts once the Hall is clean. Please help your scout be part of the team by not taking them home before being dismissed.

## Conclusion

Scouts BSA will be a fun and exciting time for your scout and we are happy to have you as part of our Troop. The success of the Troop depends upon parent volunteers, so don't be afraid to ask questions and get involved.

Troop Website [\*\*www.BothellTroop622.org\*\*](http://www.BothellTroop622.org)

Chief Seattle Council website [\*\*www.seattlebsa.org\*\*](http://www.seattlebsa.org)