

Boy Scout Troop 138 Handbook
Laurie/Sunrise Beach, Missouri

GENERAL INFORMATION

Charter Organization: Osage Community Elks Lodge #2705

Meeting Location: Ozark Chapel United Methodist Church, Laurie

Meeting Night: Monday

Time: 6:30PM - 8:00PM

Troop Dues: \$.50 per week

Scoutmaster: Jeff O'Haro
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Meetings

Troop meetings begin promptly at 6:30 PM with an opening ceremony, followed by a welcome and announcement period, special skills presentation, patrol time, game time (If there is time), and a closing ceremony including a Scoutmaster Minute. Meetings are planned and run by the Patrol Leaders Council which consists of the Senior Patrol leader, Assistant Senior Patrol leader and the Patrol Leaders. There are no meetings held in the event that school is not in session, whether due to holidays or snow days. If the school districts schedules conflict, a decision will be made by the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster's as to whether to hold a meeting. At the conclusion of each meeting, a parent or guardian must come in and pick up their Scout promptly at 8:00 PM.

Meeting Requirements

1. Official Scout Uniform, complete with all appropriate patches
2. Boy Scout Handbook
3. Calendar for keeping track of events
4. Merit Badge books (when working on a specific badge)
5. Notebook
6. Pen or Pencils

METHODS OF SCOUTING

Ideals

The methods of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. Boy Scouts and adult leaders incorporate these ideals into their daily lives and are said to have "Scout Spirit". Scout meetings and activities reinforce these ideals.

Patrol Method

Within the larger framework of the troop, the patrol is the Scouts "Family Circle" made up of boys who are close in age and experience level, each patrol helps its members develop a sense of pride and identity. The Scouts elect their Patrol Leader, divide up the tasks to be done, and share in the satisfaction of accepting and fulfilling group responsibilities. Patrol assignments are done by the Scoutmaster in accordance with a Scout's rank advancement

The Outdoors

The Boy Scout program is designed to take place outdoors. The Troop plans at least one outdoor activity each month. These are usually campouts, but sometimes one-day hikes or educational trips are scheduled. Tents and cooking gear are provided by the Troop but each Scout is expected to provide his own personal gear. All meals are prepared using the patrol method with each patrol responsible for their own menus. Each patrol collects money from each Scout to cover the cost of the food prior to the campout. The Patrol Grubmaster is responsible for purchasing what is needed.

in order for a Scout to participate in an activity, he must have a signed permission slip and have dues paid up to date. Occasionally, parents will be asked to provide transportation to an activity and certainly all parents are encouraged to attend Troop events.

It is in the outdoors that Scout skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Outdoor

activities are the backbone of the overall Scouting experience and these adventures add challenge, excitement and fun.

Association\ With Adults

Boys learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. Scout leaders can be positive role models for the members of their troops. In many cases a Scout Leader who is willing to listen to boys, encourage them, and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives.

Personal Growth

Through service projects and Good Turns, Scouts can discover their place in the community. Many Scouting activities allow Scouts to associate with people of all backgrounds. The troop provides each Scout with an arena in which to explore, tryout new ideas, and sometimes simply to embark on adventures with no design other than having a good time with good people.

Leadership Development

Leadership is a skill that can be learned only by doing it. Junior leader training is conducted on a troop level once every six months, not to exceed 30 days after the Troop elections. In addition to this local training, Great Rivers Council provides leadership training at either Camp Thunderbird near Cairo, Missouri or Hohn Scout Reservation near Laurie, Missouri. All potential Troop leaders are expected to attend this training when they become eligible. Scholarships through the Troop and/or Great Rivers Council are available to help defer part of the cost.

Every boy in the troop will find that he is filling leadership positions of increasing responsibility. Through these leadership experiences, the Scout learns to plan, organize and make effective decisions. In Scouting, boys learn to be effective leaders and good followers.

The Uniform

Wearing the uniform helps Scouts develop a sense of belonging to their patrol and troop. It reinforces the fact that all members of the troop are equal to each other. People seeing a boy or adult in a Scout Uniform expect someone of good character, who is prepared to the best of his ability to help those around him. The uniform also is a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished. The uniform creates visibility for the troop within the community and serves as a reminder that a Scout must serve as a role model to his friends and peers. The official uniform of Troop 138 for all meetings, campouts (unless discussed at the previous meeting) and activities is:

1. Boy Scout pants or official Troop 138 substitute, blue jeans
2. Official Boy Scout shirt properly fitted with advancement patches, etc.
3. Troop neckerchief

Troop 138 Scouts are expected to wear their uniform to all meetings. Each Scout will receive a troop neckerchief, a set of red epaulet loops and a belt totem (to keep track of activities) when he completes the joining (Scout Rank) requirements. Periodically, uniform inspections will be conducted at Troop meetings. Uniforms can be purchased either new or used. Boys should not be deterred from joining Scouting based on the cost of uniforms, as there are several avenues out there for obtaining uniforms. Uniforms should also be taken to Summer Camp. Please refer to the Uniform inspection Sheet and the Scout Handbook for more information.

The Scout field uniform (Class A) is our travel dress to any activity and the Scout will not be allowed to go if not wearing it. This is done because of insurance regulations.

ACTIVITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Aims of The Program

1. Growth in moral strength and character.
2. To practice citizenship
3. The development of physical, emotional and mental fitness.

Camping

The troop tries to plan a weekend campout at least once a month, schedule permitting. The Scouts must eat prior to departing. As a part of the "Be Prepared" motto. Scouts are responsible for bringing their own gear including, but not limited to:

Sleeping Bag

Mess kit & utensils

First aid kit

Sleeping pad or cot

Pocket Knife (if they have earned the Totin' Chit)

Rain gear

Flashlight
Backpack
Personal Items

Camp Chair
Swimsuit
Water bottle

*Due to hauling space in the troop trailer, sometimes Scouts may be limited on what they may bring. If a Scout is unprepared and does not bring the proper gear, he may not use other people's equipment. In addition to regular campouts in the local area, the Scouts have the opportunity to go on trips such as canoe trips, hiking, and road trips to historical sites and fun parks. They also participate in local parades and other events throughout the year.

Summer Camp

Each summer, our troop has the opportunity to go to a week long Summer Camp. The Scouts decide at the Program Planning Conference which camp they will attend the following summer (Hohn in Laurie or Thunderbird in Cairo). While there, they work on earning merit badges, meet new friends, and advance in their Scouting skills. Prior to summer camp, each Scout will be given a pamphlet that explains what to expect at camp, what they will need to take with them, and what Merit Badges they will be able to choose from. Each Scout must have a physical examination in order to attend camp. Information packets are distributed in the spring of each year. Thursday night at camp is visitor's night and all parents are encouraged to come visit and stay for the Order of the Arrow ceremony.

Cost of Camping

The cost of camping for each Scout is to cover the cost of food, transportation and program materials. The Scout generally pays for his camping expenses out of his "account" or the parent may choose to pay with cash or check. At no time will a Scout be allowed to participate in a camping trip without the money being in his "account" or paid in advance, although every effort will be made to provide opportunities for Scouts to earn their own way.

Our troop has a policy of charging \$10 per weekend campout for food costs. If the Scouts spend less than \$10 for the cost of food, the remainder of the money will be placed in their Scout Account for future use. At no time will they be allowed to spend more than their budgeted \$10 for food. For each campout, the total food bill for a patrol will be divided amongst the Scouts who sign up to participate in the outing. The deadline for signing up for, or dropping off the list for a campout is the Monday prior to the campout. If a Scout signs up to participate and ends up not attending, he will still be charged for his portion of the food to make it fair for everyone.

Dues

Dues are \$.50 per calendar week or \$26 per year. Dues help cover a portion of advancement awards and the general operating costs for the troop including the monthly newsletter. These are collected weekly by the Troop Scribe and must be paid in order to participate in campouts. Each Scout will receive an annual membership card from the BSA issued through Great Rivers Council.

Fundraisers

Every organization needs money to function. Handbooks, uniforms, and camping gear are all expenses that will be incurred. However, every effort is made to minimize all expenses by organizing fund raisers to enable Scouts to work to pay their own way. Proper uniforming is important because it builds the sense of belonging, but uniforms need not be purchased new. Hopefully soon, a uniform recycling program will be set up in our Troop.

No Scout will ever be excluded from belonging to the Troop because of a lack of financial resources. Every effort will be made to provide all Scouts the opportunity to work at fundraisers and pay their own way. When these opportunities fall short, and the need merits, other resources are available to those who have made the effort to participate in fund raising. Please don't hesitate to ask!

Many types of camping equipment are purchased for troop use. The Troop is involved in several annual fundraisers, which must meet the criteria established by the Parent Committee as follows:

- Community oriented
- Visibility for the Troop
- Promotes leadership skills
- Compliment the Scout ideals

Current fundraising projects include:

- Annual spaghetti supper
- Popcorn Sales
- Spring garage sale
- Cake walk at the Hillbilly Fair

For each fundraiser, 50% is put in the Troop general fund to pay for patches, camping equipment and other Troop needs. The remaining 50% is divided among the Scouts who participated, based on their amount of participation. For example, the troop earned \$100 at a fundraiser. \$50.00 would be placed in the general fund. 10 boys participated in the event and they all worked an equal amount of time. Each boy would receive \$5.00 in their account. If they did not work the same amount of time, then the money would be divided by calculating the total amount of time spent and dividing that amount by \$50.00 and then each Scout is paid according to the amount of time he worked. The idea is that each Scout is paid according to the amount of effort they put in. At times there may be a need for additional equipment, etc. that would require fund raising specific to the need. In this case, all proceeds from the fundraiser would go directly to the Troop. This need would be determined by the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters and the Troop Committee. All fundraisers must be approved at a monthly committee meeting prior to putting any information out to the Scouts.

Scout "Accounts"

Upon applying for membership in the Troop, each boy has an "account" set up for him. These accounts are generally used for camping fees, program materials, and to cover the cost of any outings we participate in. Each Scout has the opportunity to earn money working and doing fundraisers. No cash money can ever be drawn from these accounts. Money not used by the boy to participate in Scout functions reverts back to the Troop upon departure from the troop (Troop 138 will hold this amount for a period of 6 months in case the Scout decides to return to the Troop). All monies earned during Troop functions belongs to the Troop and are in no way to be construed as property of the Scout or his family. These accounts are designed to be helpful, in that a Scout's family should not have to come up with a lot of money out of pocket to be able to participate, so long as the Scout is active in the Troop's fundraising activities.

Advancement

The official statement of purpose of advancement in Boy Scouts of America is:

"The Boy Scout advancement plan is to encourage Scouts to accomplish a progressive series of learning experiences in the areas of citizenship, character and personal fitness objectives in the Boy Scout program. It provides for measuring and recognizing these experiences."

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain confidence. The steps in the advancement system help the Scout grow in self-reliance and the ability and desire to help others.

It is through rank advancement that the boys learn the values of Scouting and leadership. There are six ranks along the trail to Eagle:

1. Tenderfoot
2. Second Class
3. First Class
4. Star
5. Life
6. Eagle

When a Scout first joins the troop, he will complete a few basic requirements including filling out an application reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, tying the square knot and agreeing to live by the Scout Oath and law. He then is awarded the rank of Scout.

After earning his Scout rank, he may then work on any of the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class. Many of these requirements will be completed during Troop meetings and campouts and include citizenship, first aid, outdoor skills and physical fitness.

When a Scout has earned his First Class rank, he may then begin working toward the rank of Star, then Life, and ultimately Eagle. For these ranks, merit badges are required as well as a demonstration of leadership and service. Merit badges can be earned at any time and applied toward a future rank advancement.

Upon completion of the requirements for any rank, a Scout will complete a Scoutmasters Conference and a Board of Review. During the Scoutmasters Conference, the Scout will have the opportunity to discuss his goals and ideas as well as any concerns he may have. During the Board of Review, at least 3 committee members will review the Scout to assure that he has completed the requirements for the rank. Upon successful completion of the Board of Review, the Scout will be awarded the rank at the next Troop meeting.

Boards of Review are conducted the second Monday of each month during the regularly scheduled Troop meeting. If a Scout is unable to attend that meeting for reasons outside of his own control, then special arrangements may be made to conduct the review in conjunction with a normally scheduled Troop meeting. Parents of the Scouts may attend, but will not be involved in the review process. The Scout will be responsible for presenting themselves and their records, and should do so in a neat, orderly and Scout like manner.

The purpose of the Board of Review is to be certain that all the requirements for that rank have been attained. This includes "spot checking" the Scout's technical skills. and examining the Scout's attitude and his practice of the ideals of Scouting. Scouts are reviewed individually and are expected to be in complete uniform, must bring their Scout Handbook and other advancement information.

Each Scout progresses through the ranks at his own pace and is expected to take personal initiative in completing all requirements. Scouts are strongly encouraged to complete the rank of First Class Scout within the first year of Joining the Troop.

Merit Badges

Merit badges may be earned at any time. Summer Camp and Merit Badge Universities provide excellent opportunities to earn merit badges, but advancement should be a year-round pursuit. The first step in earning a merit badge is for the Scout to obtain a merit badge "blue" card from the Scoutmaster. He will also be given the name of a counselor who will assist him as well as review the requirements upon completion. It is expected that the Scout will contact the counselor and make an appointment to meet. When the counselor has certified that the Scout has completed all requirements, the Scout then gives the signed card to the Scoutmaster. The patch is then obtained and presented to the Scout at a later meeting. The card will be presented to the Scout at the next Court of Honor Ceremony. This card should be retained by the Scout as proof of completion. All Scouts are expected to keep their own record of merit badges earned and all other advancements. These records should be presented during each Board of Review.

Merit Badge Counselors are adults who work with Scouts in order to assist them in learning skills and obtaining knowledge in a specific area. There is no registration fee for Merit Badge Counselors. It is important that all youth protection guidelines are followed when reviewing for merit badges.

Service Projects

Certain ranks require that a specified number of service hours be completed by the Scout. These service hours can be accumulated during troop projects or individually with prior approval. Each year the Troop completes a service project which benefits our chartering organization. Service is an important part of Scouting and all Scouts are expected to participate fully in all troop service projects. For the rank of Eagle, the Scout must design and conduct a project which demonstrates his leadership and is of significant benefit to the community, the Scout's church, or other charitable organization. No compensation is to be expected or taken for any service project.

Court of Honor

Court of Honor ceremonies are held quarterly in the months of August, November, February and May, to give special recognition to the Scouts for their achievements. Court of Honor is a family event and includes a potluck dinner prior to the ceremony.

Election of Leaders

Except for a new Scout patrol, Troop leaders are elected twice each year at the first meeting in February and August. The Scouts elect the positions of Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leaders. The Senior Patrol leader appoints all troop positions including Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Quartermaster, Scribe and any other positions deemed necessary dependent upon the size of the Troop. Prior to his appointments, he will have a brief consultation with the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster will help guide the SPL in making good decisions that are not based on popularity or friendships, but on each individual Scout's abilities. Leader elections are held on the same night as Board of Review.

Qualifications for Leadership

The following are the rank requirements for leadership in the Troop:

Senior Patrol Leader -	At least 1st Class, Preferably Star
Assistant Senior Patrol Leader -	At least 1st Class, Preferably Star
Troop Guide -	First Class
All other positions -	2nd Class

in the case of a New Scout Patrol, there are no rank requirements.

Patrol Leadership Council

Scouting is run by boy leadership, within the guidelines established by the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee.

PLC meetings are held on a regular basis, the first and third Monday of each month at 6:00 PM. included on the Patrol Leadership Council are the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, and all Patrol Leaders. The Scribe also is expected to attend these meetings to record the activities, but is not a voting member. Decisions regarding meeting agendas, monthly campouts, and other activities are made at the PLC meetings. in the true spirit of Scouting, boys are reminded that they represent the entire Troop, not just those in attendance.

Program Planning Conference

Each year in early August, the program planning conference is held by the boys. It is designed to plan out the activities for the coming year including the Troop calendar. It is usually held in a remote environment and is designed so that the PLC members camp on a Friday night and put together a general idea of what they would like to do for the coming year. After the draft is complete, the remainder of the troop arrives on Saturday and votes to determine a final calendar. The Program Planning Conference is essential in the boy run troop, as boys determine the activities.

Parental involvement

Parental involvement is critical to the success of each Scout's progression toward Eagle. All parents are strongly encouraged to become a member of the Troop Committee. Although the Troop is actually run by boy leaders, its effectiveness is directly proportional to the guidance provided by the Troop Committee. The Troop Committee is responsible for:

- Providing adequate meeting facilities
- Carrying out the policies and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America
- Obtaining, maintaining and proper care of Troop property
- Directs finances, supplies adequate funds and disbursements in line with the budget plan
- Providing camping and outdoor programs
- Assuring that quality leadership is recruited, approved, and trained.
- Assisting with 2 deep leadership requirements when necessary
- Tracking and monitoring advancement of all Scouts on an individual basis
- Providing transportation to all events
- Working directly with the Scoutmaster and the Charter Representative to provide an exceptional program
- Conducts Boards of Review on a quarterly basis

The Troop Committee has a formal structure consisting of a Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, and other registered troop committee members. The committee meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30. The Troop Committee elects a board of officers annually in November. All parents are encouraged to participate. A key ingredient to the overall success of the Troop is parental participation.

No Scout will be prohibited from participating in Troop activities due to lack of parental involvement or funds, however parents are expected to be involved in Troop activities so far as their schedule permits. Whether this involvement is providing leadership at Troop meetings or campouts, serving on the Troop Committee, or providing other logistical support is a decision that can only be made by the parents themselves. For this program to be a success parents must be involved and willing to help where needed. The adult leadership of the Troop must be shared by all parents.

We strongly emphasize the team concept with the boys, and practice the team concept with the adult leadership as well. By working as a team in support of the Troop, and its Scoutmaster, the parent can help the boys develop confidence, skills, character and mental fitness that will allow them to give quality leadership to an ever changing society.

Code of Conduct

Boys and Adults are expected to adhere to the 12 points of the Scout Law at all times. Because the Troop is boy led, the Scouts come up with their own disciplinary process with the assistance of the Scoutmaster or his designee to deal with any problems that may occur. This "Disciplinary Action Plan" is to be used for all disciplinary related problems in the troop that are not deemed major.

in the event of a major infraction, the Scoutmaster and his Assistants (using 2 deep leadership) will determine the necessary action to take up to and including immediate dismissal from the outing. Examples of a major infraction are:

- Use or possession of alcohol or drugs of any kind (other than prescription meds)
- Possession of pornographic materials
- Profane language
- Fighting that results in deliberate serious or aggravated injury to another
- Leaving a campsite location without permission
- Use and/or possession of fireworks, explosives, or a firearm

- intentional misuse of flammable items.

A violation of any or the above may result in a parent being called to pick up their son, regardless of the location of the outing. An example of boy-led implementation is as such:

Herman is a good Scout, but always likes to talk during the meeting time. He was asked by the Senior Patrol leader to stop because his behavior is disruptive to the meeting and makes it hard for them to plan their upcoming camping trip. Herman continued interrupting and goofing around.

The Senior Patrol leader asked his assistant to take care of the problem so that the meeting could continue. The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Herman's Patrol Leader talked to each other and determined that Herman should have to do 15 sit-ups for his refusal to listen to the Senior Patrol Leader. The ASPL and the PL talked to the Scoutmaster about the situation and the Scoutmaster agreed with their punishment for Herman. Herman was taken to the side by his ASPL and PL and they explained to him that what he was doing was rude and was not living up to the "Courteous" part of the Scout law. Herman did his 15 sit-ups and all returned to the meeting.

By using this format, the boys come up with their own solutions to common problems within their Troop and the adults only serve as guides to assist the boys in making proper decisions.

2 Deep Leadership

According to the rules of safe Scouting, no less than 2 registered adult leaders, or one registered leader and a parent of a participating scout, are required for all trips, outings, and other activities.

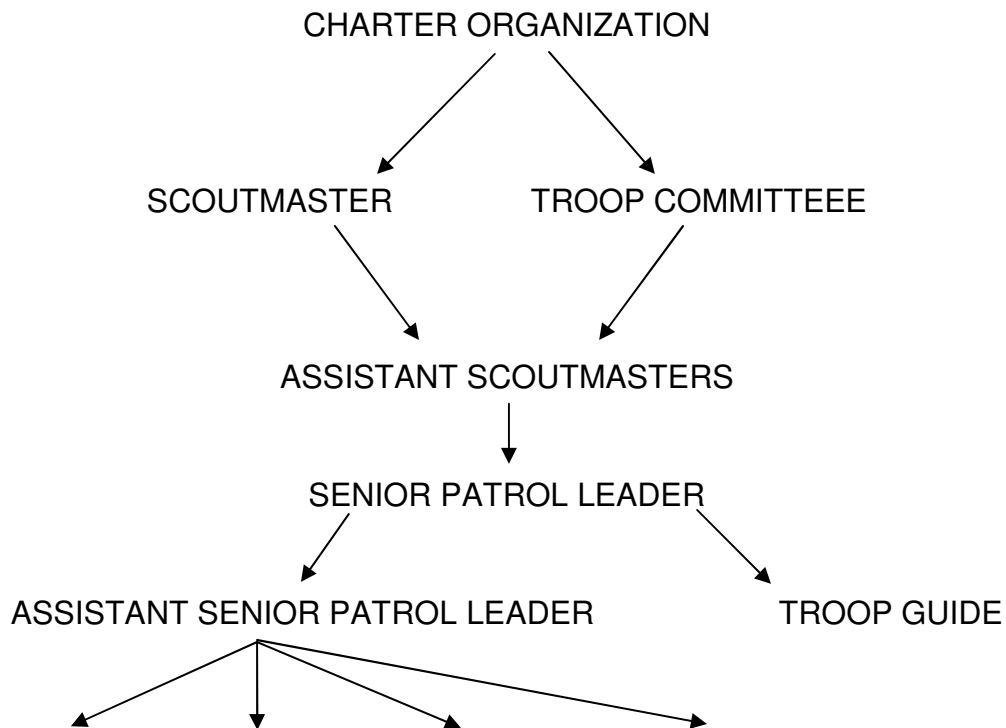
No youth shall stay in a tent with an adult other than their parent or guardian. The Youth Protection Policy is established for the protection of youth as well as adults.

Troop Structure

The troop is made up of patrols of 6-8 Scouts. The troop is led by a senior Scout who is elected to the position of Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) for a period of 6 months. The requirements for Senior Patrol Leader are First Class Rank (preferably Star) and participation in National Youth Leader Training on a Council level (or willingness to participate). Each patrol elects their own Patrol Leader (PL) from the members of their patrol. The SPL and PLs select their assistants to aid them in their duties. Other leadership positions are: Troop Guide, Scribe, Librarian, Historian, Quartermaster, Chaplain Aide, and Bugler. A Scout may also choose to serve as a Den Chief in a Cub Scout Pack. Older Scouts who achieved the rank of Eagle may be selected to serve as Junior Asst. Scoutmasters. The Patrol leaders Council (PLC) meets twice monthly to plan the Troop activities. The PLC is made up of the SPL and the PLs.

It is intended that the Troop be led by Scouts. The jobs of Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster are to provide guidance and assist the youth leadership in performing their duties. Certainly, the door is always open for any Scout to talk with any adult whenever there is a need of if deemed necessary a Scout may put his explanations or needs in writing.

A chain of command is in place for all Scouting activities. It is as such:



- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|
| QUARTERMASTER | PATROL LDR | PATROL LDR | PATROL LDR |
| ASST. PL | ASST. PL | ASST. PL | ASST. PL |
| LIBRARIAN | GRUBMASTER | GRUBMASTER | GRUBMASTER |
| BUGLER | SCRIBE | SCRIBE | SCRIBE |
| HISTORIAN | | | |

Closing

Troop 138 follows the standard set forth by the Boy Scouts of America National Standards. All adult leaders are expected to be fully trained within 3 months of their accepting a leadership position.

It is the goal of our Troop to instill in boys the character values that are outlined in the Scout Oath, law, Motto and Slogan. As part of this, it is important that boys understand that you can have a great time without participating in the negative activities that are constantly promoted in the world around them.

Welcome to Troop 138!