



Boy Scout Troop 964
14391 Minnieville Road
Dale City, VA

Dear Scouts and Parents,

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 964! Since 1980 this troop has produced some of the best youth leaders in the National Capital Area Council. We are very proud of our program where more than 65 of our Scouts have earned the rank of Eagle, and we look forward to you being a part of this troop.

From weekly troop meetings to monthly campouts and annual summer camp, you can look forward to tremendous outdoor experiences to practice your leadership skills. Your first year in the troop will focus on developing basic skills while you advance through the early ranks of Scout through 1st Class. As you develop your leadership skills you can advance further, and before you know it you will be leading other Scouts and setting your sights on becoming an Eagle Scout.

Attached is information you and your parents need to get started. The Registration Form is the most important; they allow us to register you as a Boy Scout and Scouter and provide information to get you and your parents started in the program. The Registration Fee worksheet provides you the initial fee schedule, including registration with the national council, and troop items you'll need (patches, neckerchief, epaulets, and Class B t-shirt). Lastly, read the Boy Scout Class 1/2 Medical Form to determine if a health care practitioner's signature is required. If you plan to attend summer camp you'll need to have a Class 2 form prior to departing. Safety is always rule #1 in Boy Scouts.

For parents, your son's Scouting experience is something you'll also want to experience! While Boy Scouts differs from Cub Scouts in that it is a boy-run organization, Scouts can't succeed without adult support. There are several ways, with varying levels of commitment, to join in – a merit badge counselor, troop committee member, or an assistant scoutmaster. All allow you to continue to help your son mature and mentor other Scouts. We look forward to discussing how you can get involved.

When you've completed the forms, please return them to Mr. Young and we'll get you fully registered. Welcome to Troop 964 – we're confident you'll enjoy the adventure.

Mr. Vince Murphy
Committee Chair

Mr. Rob Palisin
Scoutmaster

Supporting Docs

This packet contains essential information every new Scout and his family needs.

- Welcome Letter http://troop964.org/images/pdf/welcome_letter.pdf
- Membership Application for Youth
- Membership Application for Adult Volunteer
- Medical Form http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_ABC.pdf
- Troop Policies: http://troop964.org/images/pdf/troop_policy_0904.pdf
- Merit Badge Counselor Form: <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34405.pdf>
- Troop Survey: http://troop964.org/images/pdf/troop_survey.pdf
- Fee worksheet
- Other important info for getting started

Key Contacts

Electronic communications are handled via email and our web site. Communications begin at our weekly meetings. Regular attendance will keep you aware of what's going on. Additional information is provided at our monthly leadership meetings (patrol leaders committee & troop committee). Details and supplemental information are provided electronically via ...

Web:

<http://troop964.org>

Password for the Troop Only area is [REDACTED]

Email:

- Entire Troop - roster@troop964.org
IMPORTANT: please send your family's email addresses to the webmaster (below) to be added to the roster (above)
- Scoutmaster - Rob Palisin - scoutmaster@troop964.org
- Committee Chairman - Vince Murphy - committeechairman@troop964.org
- Train Show Coordinator - Andi Boyles - trainshow@troop964.org
- Membership & Training - April Blankenship - training@troop964.org
- Advancements - Jenny Coleman - advancements@troop964.org
- Webmaster - David Arndt - webmaster@troop964.org

Calendar

Meetings are held every Tuesday at First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City at 7:15. The final Tuesday of each month is the PLC meeting followed by the Troop Committee meeting.

An electronic Google calendar at

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=scouttroop964@gmail.com> may be synchronized with your computer or phone's calendar software.

Uniform & Essentials

Available at the Northern Virginia Scout Shop

- Official Class A Tan Boy Scout Shirt
- World Crest Emblem
- NCAC Council Shoulder Strip
- Official Olive Green Scout Trousers (shorts and slacks, or convertible)
- Official Olive Green Scout Belt & Buckle
- Official Olive Green Scout Socks
- Patrol patch (available through troop)
- 964 Class B T-Shirt (available through troop)
- 964 Troop Numeral (available through troop)
- 964 Neckerchief (provided by troop)
- Boy Scout Handbook (provided by troop)
- Good hiking boots
- Mess Kit & Utensils
- Personal first aid kit
- Pocketknife (once Totin' Chip is earned)
- Flint 'n' Steel (once Firem'n Chit is earned)

Troop Finances

Fee Schedule: http://troop964.org/images/pdf/fee_worksheet.pdf

Annual Budget: [LINK NEEDED]

Additional Info

Sponsoring organization: First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City (FUPCDC)

Troop meeting time/place: Tuesdays, 7:15-8:45 PM at FUPCDC
14391 Minnieville Road
(Corner of Cardinal Drive & Minnieville)
Woodbridge, VA 22193

Financial Information:

- Cost to join: Please see fee worksheet (includes registration, dues, uniform items, handbook, and boy's life magazine)
- Campout costs: Normally \$15-20 per Scout for 2 nights, including meals, fees, and transportation. Canoeing and some special activities have additional costs.
- Scouts are responsible for purchasing uniforms and personal camping supplies such as a sleeping bag and eating utensils. The Troop owns five tents, but most tents are provided by Scouts. Owning a tent is not required as Scouts share tents. Adults camping with the troop supply their own tents or may borrow a tent from the troop.
- Summer Camp: See section below for estimated costs.
- The troop is financially stable and maintains a trailer and all necessary camping gear in excellent condition without financial hardship.

Fund-raising activities:

- Annual train show (March) – Scouts sell pre-show tickets, parents donate food, scouts and parents run the show – it is an exciting and fun experience.
- Popcorn sales (Fall) – Sale of Boy Scout popcorn is voluntary for each scout and the troop does not take any of the proceeds. The troop's share of the proceeds (30% of sales) go to the scouts in their Scout Accounts, which can be used to pay dues, pay camping expenses or for any other Scouting-related expenses..
- Scouts receive a portion of all fund-raising they personally do in their Scout Account.

Outdoor Program:

- Ski trip to local resort (Feb). Approximate cost \$150-\$200.
- Campouts (Jan, Mar-Jun)
- Summer Camp (1 week in July). Approximate cost \$250-300 per Scout, addition of transportation fee
- Campouts (Aug-Nov)

Campouts are a variety of static camping, backpacking/hiking, canoeing, District Camporees, etc. Examples are: Hiking and Camping on the Appalachian Trail, Bike Hike and Camping on the C&O canal, Water Ski Campout at Lake Anna, Sports Campout at Camp Lunga (Quantico Marine Base), Canoeing on Rappahannock and Shenandoah Rivers and Fishing on the Chesapeake Bay.

Venture Patrol Program

Scouts (14 years old and older) of rank Star and above form the Venture patrol in our troop. Part of our strategy to retain older scouts is to provide a high adventure program for the Venture Patrol. We are offering hikes, backpacking, and water sports including sailing and SCUBA for the older boys in addition to our regular activity program. We are currently building this program and have received an overwhelmingly positive response from the boys. The high adventure program also builds excitement and enthusiasm in the younger scouts and provides a goal for advancement, fitness, and skill building.

Troop Organization

- The troop uses the New Scout Patrol approach with dedicated Assistant Scoutmaster(s) and Troop Guides assigned to the New Scout Patrol(s). The first-year Scouts in this patrol are tracked and encouraged in their advancement with the goal of becoming First Class Scouts within the first year. Any Scout who attends regularly and makes a reasonable effort will easily accomplish this goal.
- Scouts who have completed their first year, but who have not reached the age of 14 and Star rank, are organized into regular patrols of 8-10 Scouts roughly by age. These Scouts primarily work on merit badge requirements and service projects while holding troop leadership positions.
- Scouts who have reached age 14 and Star rank are considered “venture” Scouts (although not currently part of the formal Boy Scout Venture Program) and are formed into separate patrols. They continue to work on their progress toward Eagle Scout, hold senior troop leadership positions, and teach and mentor younger Scouts. These Scouts periodically conduct separate “high adventure” outdoor activities under the supervision of Assistant Scoutmasters assigned to their patrols. Many of these Scouts are members of the Order of the Arrow.
- The Scoutmaster oversees the troop program assisted by a number of Assistant Scoutmasters who fill roles as Assistant Scoutmaster-New Scout Patrol, Assistant Scoutmaster-Ventures, or as an Assistant Scoutmaster who helps coordinate the program throughout the year. We also have a troop Webmaster who keeps the troop web page current (<http://www.Troop964.org>). All adult leaders are highly encouraged to take advantage of adult training.

Troop Program

- The Troop Program is developed by the Scouts in the Patrol Leaders’ Council with supervision by the Scoutmaster based on an annual plan developed in July.
- Weekly troop meetings are focused on a monthly theme.
- First year Scouts generally work on requirements through First Class rank with some opportunities for earning merit badges (e.g., Snow Sports in February and Railroading in March).
- Older Scouts work on merit badges associated with the monthly theme.
- Patrols accomplish planning for outdoor activities during troop meetings.
- The Troop holds a Court of Honor each March, September, and December on a troop meeting night where Scouts are recognized for their recent achievements.

Parental Involvement

All adult leadership in Troop 964 is provided by volunteers. All parents are encouraged, but not required, to register as adult Scouters and become involved in troop operations. This enriches the experience for both the Scouts and the parents. Many adult positions do not require a significant time commitment or sleeping outdoors! Troop committee positions are available in a variety of administrative and support areas. Some parents elect to assist on a year-round basis while others focus on a single annual activity such as the Train Show or ski trip. Those who enjoy the great outdoors are encouraged to become Assistant Scoutmasters. This position does not require attendance at every meeting and outdoor activity. Many Assistant Scoutmasters participate as their schedules permit and focus on a monthly theme that is in an area of their particular interest. The Boy Scouts of America have one of the best adult training programs of any youth organization and many adults not only find the training very enjoyable, but valuable as well in their own personal and professional development. Participation as an adult Scout leader is valued by many employers and often employers will grant employees additional time off to participate in Boy Scout training and activities. Adults interested in assisting should contact the Troop Committee Chairman or Scoutmaster.