

# TROOP 22 – SERVING YOUTH SINCE 1924

## THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN YOU ARE VISITING TROOPS

### **PROGRAM**

***Has the troop earned the Quality Unit Award for this year?*** Troop 22 has earned the Quality Unit Award every year. We have earned the Top Troop Award in the Southern Chester County district, which consists of 17 troops. Troop 22 is very proud to be one of the few troops in all of Chester County to have received the Commissioner's Challenge Award. This award recognizes troops that perform above and beyond the Quality Unit and Top Troop levels. To earn this award a troop must increase parental involvement, strengthen their unit committee and increase youth recruiting and retention. We are very proud of this achievement.

***How do the boys "run" the troop?*** Troop 22 uses the patrol method to run the troop with the Scoutmaster guiding the Senior Patrol Leader and the leadership patrol. They then work with the Patrol Leaders to plan the troop activities and lead the meetings, trips and activities.

***How do adults work with boy leaders?*** The 31 active Assistant Scoutmasters and Committee members lead by example and try to stay in the background as much as possible because Troop 22 is a Scout run troop.

***Are the leaders BSA trained?*** Our Scoutmaster has over 30 years experience as a Scouting leader – Assistant Scoutmaster, Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, and Order of the Arrow Lodge Advisor. Over 80% of Troop 22's active leaders have completed the BSA series of training classes for the position they hold in the troop. Five have completed Wood Badge Training - an executive level management course that is conducted over six days and then requires the completion of 5 projects that benefit the Scouting. This course typically takes 18 months to complete. We currently have two leaders that have attended their classes and are working on their projects. These individuals have shown tremendous dedication to scout leadership and we are proud to have them as members of our troop.

***Are the leaders dedicated to Scouting?*** Troop 22 is privileged to have many leaders who continue to be active in the troop for many years, giving us the benefit of their experience. There are 8 leaders with more than 10 years of service (as leaders in our troop) and 8 leaders with service of 5 - 9 years.

***Does the troop do community service; also know as A Good Turn?*** Troop 22 does approximately 20 service projects per year. They range from cleaning trails in preparation for the Kennett Run, collecting food for the Kennett Food Bank, cleaning the roadside in Unionville, to the many Eagle projects that troop members conduct. Scouts participate in the projects that are of interest to them.

***Is my son expected to attend every meeting?*** Troop 22 meets twice a month and would like a scout to be at all the meetings; however we understand that sometimes there can be conflicts. If there is a limited time period when a scout can not attend then they simply inform the leadership and adjustments will be made. The minimum participation requirement to be an active member is 50% attendance across all activities.

***Do you have a special program for first year Scouts?*** It is the objective of the youth leadership to have all scouts earn First Class in their first year. The troop's activities are organized around this goal. Scouts who participate can accomplish this goal.

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***Do you have special programs for older Scouts?*** Troop 22 also has a very ambitious High Adventure program, each summer we offer two trips (in addition to summer camp). One trip will be for 14 year old and above scouts and they will go to such places as Philmont (hiking in New Mexico), Sea Base (sailing in the Bahamas) or National Jamboree. Another trip will be planned that will be for slightly younger scouts and be closer to home, for example a water-based merit badge camp in Virginia, or hiking in the Adirondacks. The destination for these trips is chosen by the scouts. Troop 22 also promotes membership in the Order of the Arrow Honor Society of Scouting for all its scouts. It offers four camping weekends throughout the year.

We are fortunate to have many scouts that are 16 years of age or older in the troop. They bring many years of experience to the troop and encourage others to stay involved.

### **ADULT PARTICIPATION**

***What kind of parent participation does the troop require?*** Troop 22 does not *require* any specific amount of parent participation. We do desire that each family volunteer in some way to help the troop. Some examples of short term activities would be: running a fundraiser, coordinating a trip, chaperoning on a trip, coming to service projects, and helping scouts with rank advancement. Longer term commitment examples would be: Assistant Scoutmaster, treasurer, and recording secretary. This helps the scout see that the family values the Scouting program as well as helping the parent learn the ways of Scouting.

### **STRUCTURE**

***How does the troop select which patrol my son will join?*** New scouts are grouped into patrols of 6-8 new scouts. They can choose who they will be with. The troop will place 2 experience scouts with them – Troop Guides – who will stay with them the first year.

***How many active scouts are in the troop?*** Troop 22 has 65+ active scouts. With a troop of this size we can offer a very diverse list of activities with the requisite parental support, and accommodate all types of personalities, interests and schedules. On a typical camping weekend we will have 25 scouts that choose to participate based on their interests and schedules. We have never had to cancel an event because of lack of participation, yet each trip has different youth and adults that participate.

### **ADVANCEMENT**

***Does your troop have an advancement committee?*** Yes, we have an advancement committee. It consists of the Advancement Coordinator, a Board of Review Coordinator and 4 Eagle Scout Advisors.

***Do you work on advancement at meetings?*** Yes, we work on advancement at meetings.

***Do you work on advancement on trips?*** Yes, many trips will meet requirements for merit badges or for rank advancement.

***How many Eagle Scouts has the troop had in the past 3 years?*** Troop 22 has had 19 Eagles Scouts in the past 3 years. We currently have 5 scouts working on their Leadership Service Project. We have conferred 123 Eagle Scout Awards over our 80 year history. Most of our Eagles remain active in the troop and have earned recognition above the rank of Eagle.

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## **CAMPING**

***What months do you go camping?*** Troop 22 goes camping (tents or indoors) every month during the school year. At least once a year we go to our own campsite in Unionville.

***Does the troop attend summer camp and which camp do you go to?*** We attend summer camp every summer; we usually go to nearby Camp Ware, located in Southern Chester County. The destination is voted on each year.

***Do you have a special first year camping program?*** Troop 22 address the special needs of the new scout patrol by having two experienced scouts work with them all year. They are encouraged to attend several trips as soon as they join so they will be prepared for the week-long summer camp.

***Are parents encouraged to camp with the troop and can family members attend camp-outs?*** Yes, parents are encouraged to camp with us and family members can attend as well as long as BSA guidelines are followed.

***Does the troop own its own camping equipment?*** Yes, we own our own tents, cook kits, stoves, coolers etc, and have two trailers to transport them.

***What equipment will my son need?*** Your son will need a uniform, sleeping bag and pad and personal gear, please our see handout "What a New Scouts Needs" for a complete list.

## **FINANCES**

***How are troop dues paid?*** Dues are paid annually with prorated fees for those that join mid-year. Currently a full year membership is \$58 and \$50 for registered Webelos that join in February.

***Is my son expected to participate in all fundraisers?*** He is not expected to participate in all fundraisers.

***Will he be expected to sell door to door?*** No, it is not required, it is optional.

***Are the funds used for each boy's individual account?*** Fundraiser profits are split – the boy earns 80% for his account (to be used on trips or dues) and 20% goes in the general fund.

***How are trips financed?*** All trips are priced to break-even and scouts only pay for the trips they go on. The price varies based on the activity. Camping at our campsite for the weekend would be in the \$15 range to pay for food. A trip to museums in Washington D.C. would be in the \$40 range. A two day ski trip, with food and lodging, is in the \$100 range.

***Is financial aid available?*** Troop 22 feels that finances should not stop any scouts from participating. If there is a financial need scholarships are available.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.TROOP-22.COM](http://WWW.TROOP-22.COM)**