

Dear Prospective Troop 889 Family,

Now that your son is a Webelos Scout or if your son has expressed an interest in joining Boy Scouts, you're starting the process of choosing a Boy Scout troop that will best fit your son's interests and the needs of your family. If you are looking for a troop where the development of leadership and outdoor skills are facilitated and encouraged, Troop 889 might be the best place for you!

With a current roster of 70 active Scouts, Troop 889's program includes opportunities for monthly camping, summer camp, winter camp, BSA high adventure base trips and an active troop high adventure program. Part of what makes our troop special is that we continually maintain a wide range of experienced youth leaders. As an organized team, the Scouts actively organize, plan, and carry out troop activities from patrol meetings to monthly campouts to summer camps. Younger Scouts have the opportunity to learn from more experienced youth, while older Scouts have the opportunity to act as role models and practice leadership skills. The troop also has a strong commitment to helping boys advance; the First Class Emphasis program and Merit Badge classes are part of our troop program.

Troop 889 has opportunities for adults as well as youth. In fact, we attribute much of the strength of our program support to the active participation of the families of our Scouts. When a boy joins Troop 889, one adult from his family registers as well. Sharing your knowledge as a Merit Badge Counselor, participating as an Assistant Scoutmaster or voicing your leadership support as a Troop Committee Member are just a few of the many ways to get involved.

We encourage you to utilize any or all of the following to find out more about Troop 889:

- **Visit our web site:** www.Troop889BSA.org
- **Visit a troop meeting:** Troop 889 meets most Mondays from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Christ Church United Methodist, next to The Woodlands High School on Research Forest Drive. Specific Webelos Nights happen several times a year. A structured Webelos program is run by the troop while parents are treated to an information session. Please check our web site for more information.
- **Invite a Scoutmaster to visit:** A Scoutmaster from the troop will visit your den or pack meeting and tell you more about Troop 889.
- **Contact one of our Troop Representatives:** One of our Troop Representatives can help with answering questions about the Webelos transition to Troop 889.

Webelos Coordinator	Membership Chair	Scoutmaster	Committee Chair
Evan Swingholm	Leslie Buffington	Tim Yagley	Mike Lampkin
evan.swingholm@gmail.com	jdbuffington@comcast.net	tim.yagley@comcast.net	mike@lampkin.net
832 585 6279	936 273 1431	281 851 1515	281 798 5998

We look forward to the opportunity to meet you and your Scout.

Troop 889 Information Packet for Prospective Scouts

Information Included:

- Troop Resources and Mission Statement of the Boy Scouts of America
- Troop Organizational Charts: Adult and Scouts
- Requirements to Joining Troop 889 (excerpts from the Troop Policies Manual)

Resources:

- Troop 889 web site: www.Troop889BSA.org
- District web site: www.TallTimbersDistrict.org
- Council web site: www.SamHoustonBSA.org
- National web site: www.Scouting.org

Troop Recruitment Contacts:

- **Webelos Coordinator** Evan Swingholm evan.swingholm@gmail.com 832 585 6279
- **Membership Chair** Leslie Buffington jdbuffington@comcast.net 936 273 1431
- **Scoutmaster** Tim Yagley tim.yagley@comcast.net 281 851 1515
- **Committee Chair** Mike Lampkin mike@lampkin.net 281 798 5998



Mission Statement of the Boy Scouts of America

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Purpose of the Boy Scouts of America

The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America is to promote, through cooperation with other agencies, the ability of youth to do things for themselves and others, and to teach youth patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues. In achieving this purpose, emphasis is placed upon the Boy Scouts of America's educational program and its oaths, promises, and codes for character development, citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness.

Excerpt From Declaration of Religious Principle

The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God and, therefore, recognizes the religious element in the training of the member, but it is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward that religious training. Its policy is that the home and organization or group with which the member is connected shall give definite attention to religious life. Only persons willing to subscribe to these precepts from the Declaration of Religious Principle and to the Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America shall be entitled to certificates of leadership.

The Troop 889 Philosophy

Troop 889 is a boy-run troop. The troop uses the Patrol Method to provide leadership opportunities for all boys within the troop throughout their scouting experience.

Troop 889 uses the outdoor program as one of the principle vehicles for teaching leadership and life skills to young men. As a general rule, the troop camps once a month throughout the year. The troop regularly sends a contingent of Scouts to summer camp and maintains a high adventure program to help keep older Scouts active.

Troop 889 will maintain an active supportive relationship with the Tall Timbers District and the Sam Houston Area Council. We will actively support and encourage involvement in the Order of the Arrow (BSA National Honor Society) and other council, regional or national youth leadership training opportunities.

Troop 889 adults maintain current BSA training and continue their education to keep the Troop 889 experience current for our youth.

The Troop 889 Philosophy encompasses the following 4 areas:

1. Participation

We believe that boys can grow into men with the help and assistance of fellow scouts and the leadership of older scouts. Adult leaders and parents take a supportive and encouraging role. Older boys have an obligation to pass on what they have learned through scouting experience to younger boys in the troop. Parents play a critical role in the operation of the troop with every family expected to give time and energy to the troop to ensure proper parental supervision, involvement, growth, and stability of the troop programs. Parental involvement can come in a number of ways including active participation on the Troop Committee, merit badge counseling, participation in camp-outs, or assistance in a large variety of committee assignments. The Troop Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month. All parents are welcome and expected to regularly attend the Troop Committee Meeting.

2. Belief in God

We believe that spirituality is an important dimension of the scouting experience. While recognizing a diversity of faiths and beliefs, belief in God, reverence, and living by the Golden Rule is an expected part of the Troop 889 experience.

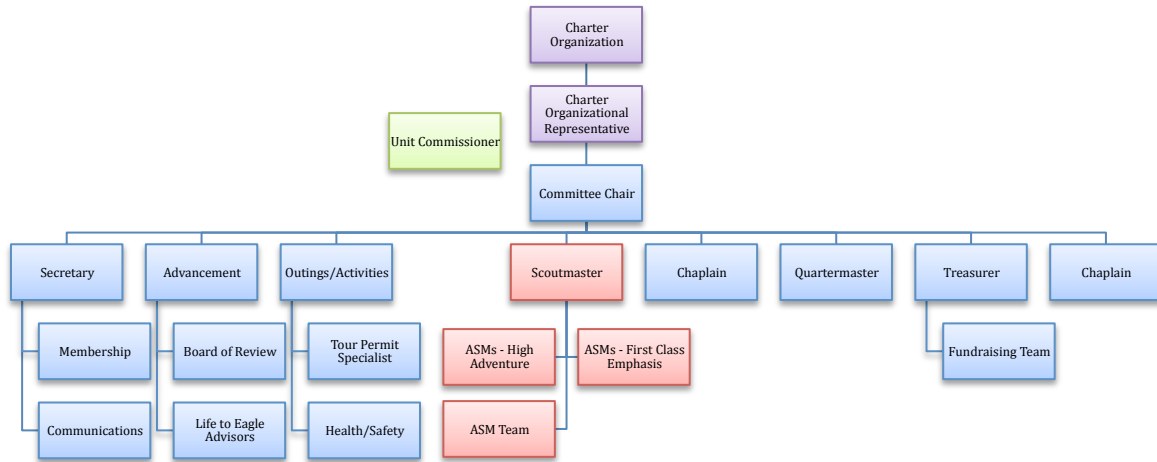
3. Service to Our Community and Country

Serving our community and country is an important part of the 889 experiences. While learning about what our community and country provides to us, we seek to find new and better ways to give back to our community and country.

4. Youth Protection

Making sure that youth are safe in the scouting environment is fundamental to Troop 889. The troop actively practices the two deep leadership policy of BSA. All adult leaders are required to keep their Youth Protection Training current. All youth will annually participate in the troop's "A Time to Tell" program.

Troop 889 Committee Organization



Patrol Leaders' Council



Patrol Leaders' Council

The Patrol Leaders' Council, not the adult leaders, is responsible for planning and conducting the troop's activities. The Patrol Leaders' Council is composed of the following voting members: Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s), Patrol Leaders, Troop Guide, and other senior Scout leaders as determined by the PLC.

The troop's activities are selected and planned at the annual program planning conference. The troop's yearly plan is then submitted to the troop committee for approval. The troop committee either approves the plan or makes alternative suggestions for the Patrol Leaders' Council to consider. At its monthly meetings, the Patrol Leaders' Council organizes and assigns activity responsibilities for the weekly troop meetings. The troop committee interacts with the Patrol Leaders' Council through the Scoutmaster.

Entering Troop 889

Boys may enter the troop through several different methods:

1. Cross-over from a Cub Scout Pack as a Webelos II
2. Transfer in from another troop within the district
3. Transfer in from another troop out of council due to family relocation
4. "Walk-in" having no previous Boy Scout affiliation

Requirements for Joining Boy Scouts

Boys interested in joining Boy Scouts of America must:

1. **Meet age requirements.** Be a boy who is 11 years old, or one who has completed the fifth grade or earned the Arrow of Light Award and is at least 10 years old, but is not yet 18 years old.
2. **Complete a Boy Scout application and health history signed by your parent or guardian.**
3. **Find a Scout troop near your home. (You've found Troop 889!)**
4. **Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance.***
5. **Demonstrate the Scout sign, salute, and handshake.***
6. **Demonstrate tying the square knot (a joining knot).***
7. **Understand and agree to live by the Scout Oath or Promise, Law, motto, and slogan, and the Outdoor Code.***
8. **Describe the Scout badge.***
9. **Complete the pamphlet exercises.** With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*.
10. **Participate in a Scoutmaster conference.** Turn in your Boy Scout application and health history form signed by your parent or guardian, then participate in a Scoutmaster conference.
 - *Will be accomplished at your first Scoutmaster Conference.*

Joining Troop 889

All prospective Troop 889 Boy Scouts must:

- Correctly fill out and sign a BSA Youth Registration application
- Provide the BSA Health Form
- Understand and agree to the Troop's Philosophy
- Review and agree to the Troop Guidelines Manual
- Have a Scoutmaster Conference

All parents/guardians of prospective Scouts must:

- Pre-pay a start-up fee of \$150 (applies toward 1 year of dues and equipment fees, patches, neckerchief, 2 troop T-shirts, and adult registration fee)
- Submit a Parent Resource Survey.
- One parent or guardian must complete a BSA Adult Registration form and sign-up as a committee member, merit badge counselor or Assistant Scoutmaster.

Troop 889 is a home for active Scouts who desire to help implement a "boy run" program. Only Scouts who agree with our Troop Philosophy should pursue joining. Our community supports many troops nearby that may well fit Scouts looking for a program with a slightly different emphasis. However, we believe every boy and his family that wants to be in the Scouting program should have the opportunity. Questions and contact information regarding other troops in our area can be obtained from the Troop Committee Chair or the Tall Timbers District.

We look forward to the opportunity to meet you and your Scout.