Welcome to Scout Troop 676: A Guide for New Scouts

Congratulations on your decision to join Scouts BSA Troop 676! We are pleased to welcome you to our program. It is our mission to prepare our young men for the future by instilling in them the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Together, we can make a difference.

Our troop consists of a team of committed adult volunteers and engaged parents that are dedicated to helping our Scouts run their own troop using the patrol method. We assist with the planning of outings and will provide enough guidance to ensure the health and safety of all participants, but we leave most activity decisions, leadership opportunities, and problem-solving to the Scouts. We are chartered by Bozeman United Methodist Church.

Attached to this letter you will find a Parent Handbook that contains a large amount of important information, as well as applications and health forms for both Scouts and parents. Please don't worry if you feel overwhelmed. I promise we will work together until you are comfortable with terms like rank, ICL, and Chartering Organization, and you understand Scouting and our Troop. We hope you like the Parent Handbook and it gives you confidence that Troop 676 will be a great experience for you and your son, and I look forward to answering your questions. It's an exciting time to be a Scout!

Sincerely,

Jason Daughenbaugh
Scoutmaster Troop 676

Parent Handbook

for

Troop 676

Chartering Organization:

Bozeman United Methodist Church

Bozeman, Montana

Table of Contents

I. Scouts BSA

II. Troop 676 information

III. Checklist - Parents to do for Scouts

IV. Roles for parents and other adults

V. Checklist - Adult Leaders (parents and other adults)

VI. Adult Leader training

VII. Advancement overview

I. Scouts BSA

What is Scouts BSA?

Scouts BSA, formerly known as “Boy Scouts,” is a year-round program for boys and girls in fifth grade through high school that provides fun, adventure, learning, challenge, and responsibility to help them become the best version of themselves.

In Scouts BSA, young men and women go places, test themselves, and have one-of-a-kind adventures that can’t be found anywhere else.

Scouts build character, citizenship, and personal fitness through a vigorous outdoor program and peer group leadership with the counsel of an adult Scoutmaster. In addition to the traditional camping and outdoor adventure, they also have a chance to explore a multitude of different content areas - there are over 130 different merit badges! Scouts advance at their own individual pace - nobody is “behind” in scouting.

Mission Statement

The mission of the BSA 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.

Vision Statement

The BSA will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times, and to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Scout Law

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

II. Troop 676 Information

Meeting Location and Times:

Troop 676 meets year-round on Monday nights, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, at Bozeman United Methodist Church, unless noted otherwise on the Troop calendar. Address is 121 S. Willson Ave. Enter through the West (alley) entrance, go downstairs to the basement, and proceed east to the scout room in the far North-East end of the basement.

Our Council: Montana Council serves the entire state of Montana with headquarters in Great Falls, Montana. Montana council is divided into 15 smaller districts.

Montana Council owns several properties including K-M Scout Ranch near Lewistown and Melita Island in Flathead lake.

Our District: Mountain Valley District serves youth and leaders in Gallatin, Park, Sweetgrass, and a portion of Madison counties. The District headquarters are located in Bozeman, Montana.

Our Chartering Organization:

Bozeman United Methodist Church
121 S. Willson Ave., Bozeman, MT 59715
406-586-5413

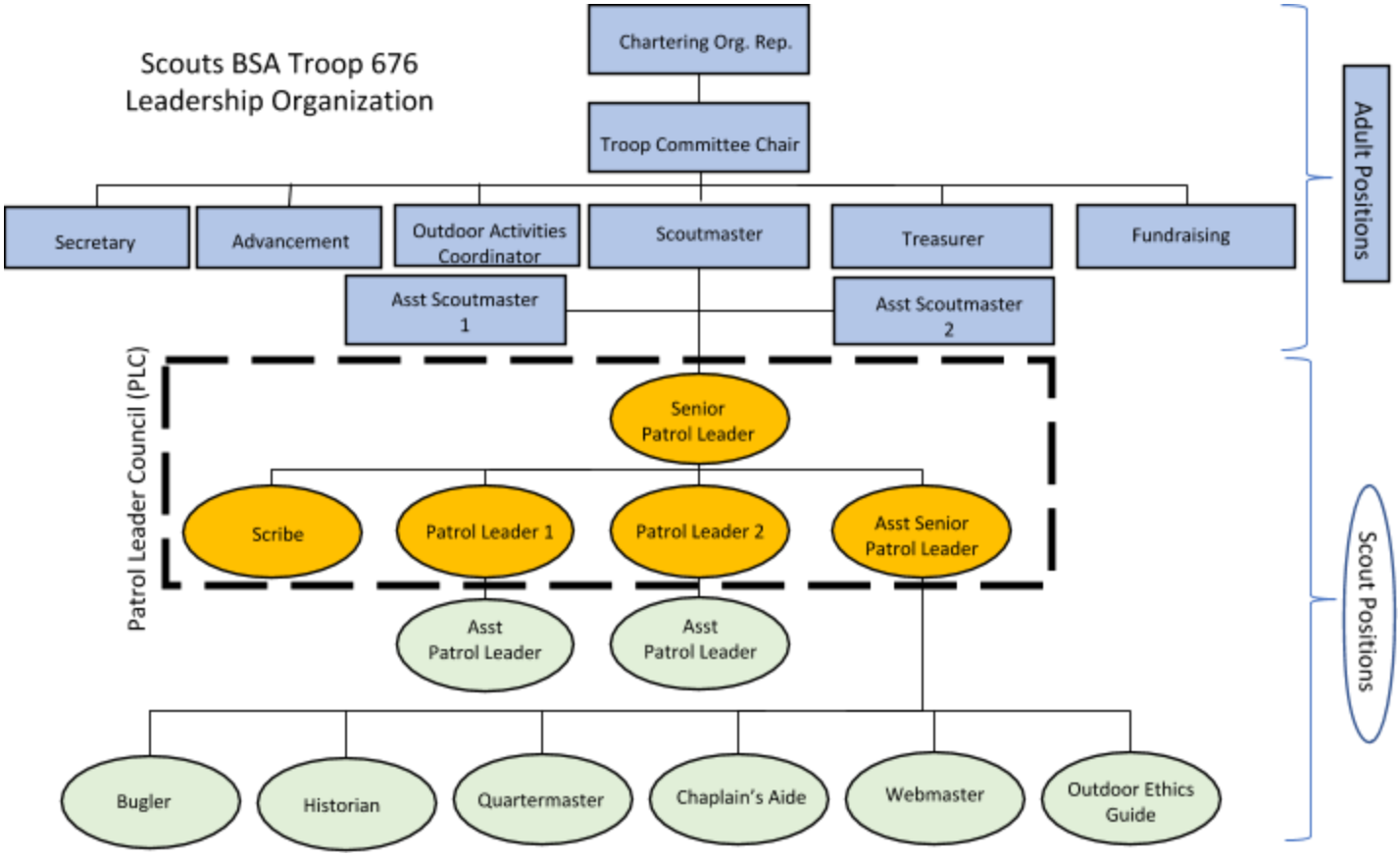
Our Troop:

Scouts BSA Troop 676 was officially founded in 1973 by Homer Magee and Dick Lund. Troop 676 will celebrate 50 years in 2023.

Scouting is a values-based program with its own code of conduct. The Scout Oath and Law help instill the values of good conduct, reverence, respect for others, and honesty. Scouts learn skills that will last a lifetime, including basic outdoor skills, first aid, citizenship skills, leadership skills, and how to get along with others. For over a century, Scouting has instilled in youth the values and knowledge that they will need to become leaders in their communities and country.

Troop 676 is dedicated to the Scouts BSA's Patrol Method and is truly boy led—a philosophy that historically set the Boy Scout program apart from all other youth programs. With this comes amazing challenges, excitement and fun. Troop 676 is an active outdoor troop that spends a lot of time in nature's classroom, fully utilizing the amazing climate and beauty that Montana offers. Over the course of a year, Troop 676 may spend a week at Summer Camp, camp, hike, canoe, climb, mountain bike, swim, snow ski and participate in other great outdoors events year-round.

Organizational Structure:



Troop advancement and scheduling log: www.scoutbook.com

Troop Committee Key 3:

Scoutmaster:	Jason Daughenbaugh	daugehenbaugh@gmail.com	406-570-4148
Committee Chair:	Tom Seitel	tbseitel@gmail.com	406-570-5013
Charter Organization Rep:	Courtney Foster	courtney@courtneyfoster.com	

Key Websites:

BSA National	www.scouting.org
Montana Council	www.montanabsa.org
District	www.mvdmt.org
Troop	www.bozemanscouts.com/bsa-troop-676 https://www.facebook.com/troop676/
Info/reference	www.meritbadge.org

Relevant contacts:

District Executive:

Daniel King, 7602 W. Dickerson St. #104, Bozeman, MT, Daniel.king@scouting.org, 406-585-0272

Chartering Organization Executives:

Pastor Eric Strader or Pastor Amy Strader, eric@bozemanumc.org, 406-586-5413

Local Scout Shop:

- Address: 7602 W. Dickerson St #104, Bozeman, MT 59718
- Telephone: 406-585-0272
- Store Hours: Monday – Thursday, noon – 5 pm (may vary)
- Website: http://www.mvdmt.org/scout-store-bozeman.html

Drop off / Pick up Policy:

Parents are expected to drop off and pick up their Scouts in a timely fashion. Occasionally, a troop meeting will occur at another location and you do not want to leave your Scout at an unattended building with no way to contact anyone. If someone other than an immediate family member will be picking up a Scout, please alert the Scoutmaster prior to the start of the meeting.

Related Units:

Bozeman United Methodist Church charters two other scout units:

1. Pack 3670: Family pack unit for elementary-school aged boys and girls.
2. Troop 619: Female "sister" troop to 676 made up of middle- and high-school aged girls.

All scout units meet on Monday nights to allow scouting to be convenient for entire families.

Hiking/Camping Equipment:

1. Scouting “10 Essentials”
    a. Pocket knife or Multi-tool
    b. Personal first aid kit – a small kit in a compact bag. There are several commercially available first aid kits as well as numerous web resources with instructions on making your own.
    c. Extra clothing
    d. Rain Gear
    e. Water Bottle/Canteen – Scouts will need a couple of water bottles and a canteen / camel pack to carry water for all Scout outings. Additionally, a transparent water container provides easy monitoring of water intake, which is important for long hikes.
    f. Flashlight/Headlamp with Extra Batteries – a headlamp is recommended because we may set up tents in the dark or do activities that require free hands.
    g. Matches in waterproof case
    h. Food and snacks
    i. Sunscreen and bug spray
    j. Compass and emergency whistle

2. Packs
    a. Day pack—Scouts need this for any day trips like hiking trips. It is recommended that it have a water bladder and be large enough to fit the 10 Essentials.
    b. Backpack – This is only required for participating in backpacking outings.

3. Sleeping Bag – Troop 676 includes cold weather camping along with backpacking and other trips. If you want to go backpacking and/or go camping in the cold, you are going to need a sleeping bag with an appropriate temperature rating. Sleeping bag liners are recommended. More information on sleep systems will be shared before each outing.

4. Toiletries – toothbrush, toothpaste, sun screen, bug repellant, deodorant, small bottle of hand sanitizer, personal hygiene items.

5. Plastic bags – for packing clothes and keeping them dry. Packing each day’s clothes in one-gallon size zip lock freezer bags, voided of excess air, provides an efficient way of minimizing packing space and ensuring enough dry clothes are available for the entire outing.

6. Clothes – While cotton is most prevalent and is ok for camping, but once it gets wet, cotton takes a long time to dry and will therefore provide less protection and comfort in many situations a Scout may experience on outings. If nothing else, Scouts will need synthetic or wool socks.

7. Hiking footwear – a good pair of waterproof hiking boots or shoes are a necessity for many Scout outings. Tennis shoes or sneakers typically do not perform well because they provide less protection from moisture and injury out on the trails. Open-toed shoes are not permitted.

8. Tents - Provided by the troop.

9. Mess kit – Each Scout needs to bring their own mess kit to all outings where meals will be prepared by the Troop. Mess kits made of aluminum are not recommended.

10. Patrol boxes - The troop has Patrol boxes, which will include a cook stove, fuel, a set of cookware, and plates/cups/utensils.

Financial Costs:

Annual dues are $75. Scouts also need to purchase a uniform (see Checklist below). In addition to this, scouts are expected to cover the costs of outings and other special events. Typical campouts are $25-30, while some have additional costs. Summer camp is $300-$400.

Scouts will also be invited to participate in fundraisers where a portion of the sales are credited toward their scouts account and can be used to pay for the costs mentioned above. Troop 676 participates in Trails-End popcorn sales in the fall and operates a Christmas Tree lot before Christmas. Scouts who work hard with the fundraisers can cover their expenses for the year.

We never want cost to be a boundary to participation in scouting. If these costs are a hardship for a scout, please contact us and we can determine a payment schedule or scholarship fund availability.

III. Checklist - Parents to do for Scouts

- ☐ Fill out Scout application.
- ☐ Annual dues are $75 and they are due upon joining the Troop and annually thereafter in December. Make checks payable to Troop 676.
- ☐ Complete and return Health Form Parts A and B, and a copy of your insurance card.
- ☐ Sign up Scout for summer camp. Please complete and return Health Form Part C.
- ☐ Purchase Scout Handbook (spiral-bound recommended) and field (Class A) uniform, consisting of:
    - Official shirt with Montana council patch, American flag, purple international scout symbol and Troop 676 numbers (provided).
    - Neckerchief (provided) and slide (provided)
    - Green pants (Official BSA Pants are available but not required)

IV. Roles for Parents and Other Adults

Scouting is a volunteer-run program. We aim to teach the Scouts that everyone contributes and takes part, and that is also what we ask of all parents. There is a role for everyone, whether you want to become active in the troop committee, help with advancement, take charge of service projects, or simply attend the occasional outing or campout.

A. Requirements for all adult leaders:

All adult leaders including Troop Committee members, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, merit badge counselors, and any adult attending outdoor camps or overnight activities with the Troop must fill out a BSA Adult Leader Application and must complete BSA Youth Protection Training (www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection).

B. Troop / Parent Committee: "Many hands make light work"

All parents are encouraged to join the Troop / Parent Committee. The troop committee meetings are open to all parents and everyone is encouraged to attend.

The Troop / Parent Committee's primary responsibilities are supporting the Scoutmaster in delivering a quality troop program and handling troop administration. Some specifics of the Troop / Parent Committee include:

- Works on behalf of the Chartered Organization and within the organization's policies
- Ensures that quality adult leadership is recruited and trained
- Serve as Merit Badge Counselors
- Responsible for finances, adequate funds, and disbursements in line with the approved budget plan.
- Supports the Scoutmaster in working with individual Scouts
- Serves on boards of review and courts of honor
- Serves in other volunteer capacities

C. Merit Badge Counselors:

Merit badge counselors are needed for many areas of expertise. Please contact the Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, or Unit Commissioner for more information.

D. Scoutmaster Team:

The Scoutmaster Team is composed of the uniformed leaders that interact directly with the Scouts and include the Scoutmaster (SM) and the Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM). The Scoutmaster is an adult leader who trains and guides the youth leaders in carrying out the scout program. The Assistant Scoutmasters report to the Scoutmaster and provide the required two-deep leadership standards required by the Scouts BSA program.

V. Checklist - Adult Leaders (Parents and Other Adults)

- ☐ Fill out the BSA Adult Leader Application.
- ☐ Complete BSA Youth Protection Training (www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection).
- ☐ Complete and return Health Form Parts A and B, plus Form C if you are going to summer camp, and a copy of your insurance card.
- ☐ Purchase field (class A) uniform (if required):
    - Official shirt with Montana council patch, American flag, purple international scout symbol and Troop 676 numbers (provided).
    - Neckerchief (provided) and slide
    - Green pants (Official BSA Pants are available but not required)
- ☐ Sign up to chaperone summer camp, if interested.

VI. Adult Leader Training

"Every Scout deserves a trained leader."

The more you know about scouting, the more rewarding the scouting experience will be for everyone, adults and Scouts alike. BSA provides many training opportunities that describe and guide the scouting experience. Your appreciation for the value of the training for both the Scouts and the adults will grow with each training opportunity. Please receive all training relevant to your position in the Troop. More information will be provided.

Youth Protection Training (YPT) is mandatory for any adult who will be interacting with the Scouts. This training can be taken online at www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection. Please print your completion certificate and give to the Committee Chair. YPT shall be renewed every 2 years.

Other training opportunities include First Aid, Wilderness First Aid, Weather Awareness, and CPR, as well as specific training for Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, and other Troop positions.

VII. Advancement Overview

Ranks and Merit Badges

Ranks and Merit Badges are earned by Scouts at their own pace, with each individual making their own decisions and therefore progress along the way. The Scout Handbook is a very important component of Scouting. It describes all rank advancement in detail and is the location where all advancement is recorded. We recommend purchasing the spiral-bound variety; it holds up better than the book-bound alternative. The Handbook will accompany your Scout throughout their entire scouting experience. Keep it dry, clean, and safe!

Ranks:

	Scout Rank	Introduction to Scouting Program. Learn Scout Oath, Law, and basics of the program.
	Tenderfoot Rank	Scout Skills. Each of these ranks requires learning skills in Scoutcraft, physical fitness, citizenship, personal growth and Scout Spirit. These skills serve as the foundation for the scouting program. The requirements for these ranks can be worked on simultaneously, but the ranks must be earned in order. Ideally the First Class rank is earned in a year, though many Scouts take longer.
	Second Class	
	First Class	
	Star Rank	The focus for these ranks moves to leadership, service, and new areas of study. To earn these ranks Scouts must take a leadership position in their troop, perform service to the community, and earn merit badges.
	Life	
	Eagle	The highest rank of the Scouting program. Requirements include earning a minimum total of 21 merit badges, and demonstration of Scout Spirit, service and leadership. This includes an extensive service project that the Scout plans, organizes, leads, and manages.

Merit badges are awards that are earned based on activities within the area of study by completing a list of requirements. The Scout must work with a merit badge counselor, who is a registered adult with expertise in that topic. The purpose of the merit badge program is to allow Scouts to examine subjects to determine if they would like to further pursue them as a career or vocation. There are over 130 merit badge topics that a Scout can choose to pursue. Some specific merit badges are "Eagle required" meaning that they must be earned for Eagle rank. Examples of Eagle required merit badges are Communication, First Aid, Family Life, Personal Fitness, and Citizenship.

Other awards:

Cyber Chip, Totin' Chip, Firem'n Chit, 100 Degrees of Frost, religious emblems, and more!

Other information:

Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times, and to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Scout Law

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to be clean in my outdoor manners, be careful with fire, be considerate in the outdoors, and be conservation minded.

Scout Motto

Be Prepared.

Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily.