** Welcome to Troop 119!**

**Quick Start for Parents of new Scouts**

Welcome to the world of Scouting! Your child has just entered into a new adventure full of excitement, new experiences, and new friends. Over the next few years, your child will be growing and learning a great deal. Here is a list of things to know about Troop 119 and events. Not every Scout goes to every event, but we want to let you know about the full range of opportunities for fun! If anything here isn’t clear or if you have questions, please ask us for help. Or better yet, come to the weekly meeting and chat with the Adults. While the Scouts are conducting their meeting, many Adults stay in the back and take care of Troop business, support the Scouts, and discuss topics of interest.

Yours in Scouting,

Ted Sjodin Caroline Millott

Scoutmaster Committee Chair

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**Troop 119’s calendar is packed with activities. These are a few activities the Troop has done over the last few years. For upcoming events go to** [**www.troop119.com**](http://www.troop119.com)**.**

**-** Hike and overnight at AMC Lonesome Lake Hut in February

- Four-day trip to Niagara Falls, NY

- West Point, NY, United States Military Academy

- Camping and hiking Mount Washington, NH

- Camping and hiking Mount Isolation, NH

- Participate in Lexington’s Patriots’ Day Parade

- Scout Sunday at Hancock Church

- Discovery Day in Lexington Center--It is a fun time telling others about Scouting and fulfilling a First Class Rank requirement.

- Court of Honor Ceremonies, 3-4 times a year, to recognize Scouts’ achievements

- The Troop spends the 2nd and 3rd week in August at Camp Bell and Hidden Valley in New Hampshire. Scouts BSA summer camp is a great experience! Consider sending your Scout at least one week. For information go to <http://www.nhscouting.org> or email Charlene Kelly, Troop 119 Summer Camp Coordinator, [ckelly526@gmail.com](mailto:ckelly526@gmail.com), with questions.

**Trips**. We have at least one trip every month. Details and permission slips get posted on the Troop website three to four weeks before the trip. Registrations for trips are online and usually due two weeks before each trip.

**Be Prepared! Don’t Panic, Have Fun!**

* **Gear**. The Troop supplies tents, cooking gear and lanterns. Keep in mind that while new Scouts start out small, within a few short years, they outgrow equipment bought for them at the start of their Scouting career. Therefore, there is no need to spend too much outfitting them at this time. However, there are a few essentials your Scout will need at the start:
* **sturdy pair of hiking boots** with good ankle support, which your Scout will need for most camping and hiking trips.
* **good three-season sleeping bag and sleeping pad**. We will be sleeping in all types of weather, so a good three-season sleeping bag is useful. A winter bag (zero degree) will be needed for winter trips and can be rented from EMS or REI. Most Scouts start out with a lightweight foam sleeping pad.
* **flashlight.** Most Scouts prefer headlamps to keep their hands free.

In terms of other gear, don’t go overboard to start. For example, a simple plastic plate, bowl, knife and fork will do as a mess kit. Keep in mind, kids tend to lose or damage items.

**Scouts BSA is Scout-Led… …but they need Family Support**

* **Parental involvement.** Through Scouting, your children will have the opportunity to grow and develop into Adults. But we do need **all** the families to participate in supporting the Troop in some way: working directly with the Scouts on trips and at meetings, being a merit badge counselor, driving Scouts, doing many of the “behind the scenes” jobs, organizing events, and so on. Please step up and help continue making this Troop thrive! For volunteer opportunities contact Caroline Millot, Troop 119 Committee Chair at [carolinemillot119@gmail.com](mailto:gdiamant119@gmail.com). Please look on the parent’s page on our website for more ways to get involved.
* **Adult Training.** Our Scouts deserve trained leaders. There are a variety of different training courses offered by Scouting. All Adults working with Scouts need to complete Youth Protection Training (see YPT and many other online courses at [my.scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org/)). There are targeted courses (such as CPR Training) which are offered periodically. The second Wednesday of every month our district holds “roundtable” discussions on different Scouting topics at St. Brigid’s, Lexington. For Adult registration forms contact Meera Yuvaraj, Troop 119 Membership Chair, [meera.troop119@gmail.com](mailto:gloria_amirault@yahoo.com).

**Scout Registration Paperwork**

Here is a list of required registration forms you will need to submit once your child decides to join Troop 119:

O BSA Youth Application

O BSA Annual Health and Medical record & copy of health insurance card

O Troop 119 Registration Form & dues check made out to “BSA Troop 119”

O Troop 119 Permission to Treat form

O Troop 119 Code of Conduct

O Troop 119 Scout Law Policy

***Financial Aid****. If any family needs financial help for Scouting, please contact Laura Sheedy at 781-862-1917 or* [*LSheedy516@aol.com*](mailto:LSheedy516@aol.com)*. The Troop reserves sufficient funds to make certain financial need is not a barrier for any youth to participate in Scouting. Campership information is kept confidential.*