**Welcome to Troop 119!**

***Troop Information***

*Troop 119 is a Scout-led Troop of about 50 Scouts, governed by the Scout Oath and Law, dedicated to the aims and methods of Scouting and committed to a very active outdoor program for youth 11-17 years of age. Chartered by Hancock Church. Open to all. No previous experience required.*

***Meetings***

*Every Thursday when Lexington Public School is in session from 7:30 to 9:00 pm at Hancock Church, 1912 Mass. Ave. Lexington, MA*

***Info by Email***

*We use email and our website as our primary communication. Please go to the Troop’s Website www.troop119.com for schedules, forms, general information, links, pictures of trips and much more.*

*We have an email list for Adults and Scouts. If you don’t start getting Troop emails soon after registering please email Sarah Nathan at sarahjnathan@yahoo.com.*

***Uniform***

*The Troop supplies a Troop neckerchief, green epaulettes, 119 numeral patch, Troop 119 t-shirt, and a spiral bound Scout Handbook (recommended since regular binding breaks). In the front of the Handbook is a pamphlet on Youth Protection, which you should discuss with your scout. A few items you need to get from the Scout Shop at Tower Office Park, #2R, Woburn, MA 01801 Tel. 781-937-4282*

***- Scouts BSA Tan Uniform Shirt*** *(short sleeves recommended)*

***- BSA Spirit of Adventure shoulder patch***

***- BSA World Crest patch***

***- Neckerchief Slide*** *(can be any slide, BSA or other)*

*The full uniform includes BSA green pants and socks. The shirt is most important at the start.*

**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,

Eugene Tan Caroline Millott

Scoutmaster Committee Chair

781-799-0984 339-970-1428

es\_tan97@yahoo.com carolinemillot119@gmail.com

**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, 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. 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.

**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**. 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.*