



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA

WEST CHESTER

Troop Information

Welcome to Troop 6

Troop 6 is one of, if not, the oldest Boy Scout Troops in Chester County. Originally formed as West Chester Troop 1 in February 1910, the Troop was renamed Troop 6 in 1918 when the Chester County Council was chartered and the current national organization, the Boy Scouts of America, was formed.

The first Troop 6 Scout to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout was John D. Jacob in 1920. In the 88 years since then, an additional 168 young men from Troop 6 have attained this, the highest, rank in Scouting.

Troop 6 is consistently rated one of the top Troops of the Chester County Council. We are also recognized as a 'Quality Unit' by the National Council, Boy Scouts of America (BSA). This designation recognizes a Troop's commitment to Scouting, which must include a rich year-round program and a comprehensive outdoor program.

Troop 6 currently has almost 40 active members, ages 11 to 18. The Troop is also affiliated with Crew 6, a program for youth ages 14 to 21 that is operated under the BSA's Venture program. Crew 6 concentrates on high adventure outdoor activities and offers a program for 'after scouting' for our members.

Troop 6 has been chartered by the West Chester Society of Friends since the late 1920s. The Friends supply Troop 6 with excellent facilities, including use of the Friends School's gymnasium and meeting rooms and storage space for the Troop's camping equipment.

Troop 6 Activities, Events and Trips

How many things can a Troop do in a year? If you're a member of Troop 6, the answer is: alot. While no Scout attends all of these events, the Troop offers a variety of opportunities for adventure throughout the year and is committed to offering at least one outdoor activity a month. The inevitable conflicts of family life, sports, church and school are easily balanced with the Troop's program because of the number, variety, and timing of events planned during the year. About a year ago, 10 Webelos joined and two Scouts transferred to Troop 6 and since then they've had an opportunity for:

- Their first Scout camp-out with the Troop at the BVA.
- Canoeing and camping in the New Jersey Pine Barrens.
- A 10-mile bike trip in Valley Forge National Park.
- A week of Scout summer camp at Camp Horseshoe.
- Camping and enjoying water sports and fishing in Kentmore, Maryland.
- A 15-mile bike hike at the Jersey shore.
- A return to the BVA for camping and additional training.
- Camping at Bucks County Council Ockanickon Scout Reservation and visiting Washington Crossing National Park.
- Winter camping in Schramm Lodge at Camp Horseshoe.
- A family ski trip to Jack Frost in the Poconos.

And in the months remaining in this Troop year, they will also have the opportunities for:

- Visits to an area rifle range to learn rifle shooting and work on the Rifle Shooting merit badge;
- A Scout skiing and camping weekend at Shawnee in the Poconos.
- Another family ski trip to Big Boulder in the Poconos.
- A return to the BVA for camping, training and the Troop's annual Cook-a-rama.
- A trip to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.
- Two more local canoeing, fishing or biking trips.
- Return to Camp Horseshoe for a week of summer camp.
- Spend eight days canoeing, backpacking, fishing and enjoying themselves at the Haliburton Scout Reserve in Canada.

At the same time, the other Scouts had the added opportunity to participate in events requiring the experience and skills they have learned since joining the Troop. Approximately 10-15 Scouts and leaders spent 10 days hiking at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico in July 2008 and several others are planning to spend 10 days this summer canoeing in the Boundary Waters area north of Ely, Minnesota.

Members of Troop 6 participated in a Northern Tier high adventure trip in the northern shield area north of Ely, Minnesota (2003), a Philmont Scout Ranch high adventure trip in Cimarron, New Mexico (2004), the National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia (2005), a high adventure trip in the Florida Keys at the National High Adventure Sea Base near Key West (2006) and a return high adventure trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico (2008).

The Troop program is created by the Scouts in a manner consistent with the ‘boy run’ philosophy of the Boy Scouts. While adults certainly are needed to make these events happen, the selection, planning and execution of the trips is largely the responsibility of the Scouts, led by youth leadership in the form of the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC). The calendar of activities and specific events are selected by the PLC at an annual planning meeting and presented to uniformed leadership and the Troop Committee for approval. The details of each event or trip are planned and carried out by the youth leaders and the Scouts in advance of the outing with assistance from uniformed leaders.

Troop 6 also is committed to community service, participating in food drives and activities benefiting organizations like the Salvation Army and regularly helping out its charter organization.

The Troop’s primary source for information is its website at www.troop6bsa.org, where the calendar of events and things like permission slips, Troop information, Troop Committee minutes and links to Scout resources are found. Also, uniformed leadership and the Troop Committee can be contacted via links on the website.

Meetings

Troop 6 meets most Monday nights from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Friends School at High and Marshall Streets in West Chester. The last Monday of each month is a Patrol Leader Council, meeting where the boy leadership meets to plan the next month’s activities, followed by a meeting of uniformed leadership.

The Troop Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month. While uniformed leadership is responsible for Troop operations, the Committee is responsible for the relationship with the Troop’s charter organization and for ensuring that there are sufficient resources for the Troop to function and be successful. All uniformed leaders and Committee members are volunteers. All parents are encouraged to volunteer in any way they can—holding a position on the Troop Committee or as a uniformed leader, going on trips, helping with Boards of Review, etc.

Dues and Costs

Dues

Troop 6 works to keep dues as low as possible. Currently, the annual dues are \$75 and are for a calendar year; there is a discount for siblings where a family has more than one boy registered in the Troop. The dues for Webelos or Scouts registering in February/March and transferring from a Pack are \$55, with a discount applicable if he has an older sibling already registered in the Troop. **In no case will a boy be turned away from Troop 6 for financial reasons. The Scoutmaster or Committee Chairperson should be contacted in that case to discuss arrangements.** The annual registration fee for uniformed leaders or Troop Committee members is \$11. The Troop’s biggest expenses are for camping equipment and its trailer used to store and

haul gear to and from trips. The Troop supports its equipment fund through voluntary donations and a portion of Scouts' annual dues.

Scouts can accumulate funds to be used for Scouting by participating in Troop 6 sponsored fundraising projects. The Troop's primary Scout fundraiser is its spring flower sale, where 100% of the net proceeds is deposited in the Scout Accounts of the Scouts who sold flowers based on what they sold. Funds in Scout Accounts can be used to pay for trips, personal camping equipment, or uniforms.

Trips

All trips are intended and are budgeted to have \$0 net cost—in other words, the fees collected should cover all expenses. Typically there is a fee for each Scout and adult to participate in a trip or event. The fee covers the cost of food and related expenses such as camping fees, transportation and the like. Trip fees can be paid for separately or from a Scout's Scout Account.

Uniforms and equipment

Troop 6 requires that each Scout and uniformed leader have an official uniform for trips and the first meeting of each month. The Troop provides a handbook, neckerchief and slide to new Scouts. The Class A uniform is the Scout shirt with proper insignia, Scout pants, belt, socks, neckerchief and slide and boots or dark shoes. The Class B uniform, which is worn for all other Troop meetings, is the Scout shirt with pants, belt, socks and shoes of the Scout's choosing. The Class C uniform is a Troop 6 or Boy Scout T-Shirt and pants, belt, socks and shoes of the Scout's choosing. The Class C uniform is the one customarily used for trips, hikes and summer camp. Equipping a new Scout can consume significant resources. Rather than buy a large amount of potentially expensive equipment, it is suggested that only the essentials, such as a uniform, sturdy shoes, and hiking socks be purchased early on. Other equipment can be acquired as the Scout gains experience and develops individual preferences. The Troop also has outgrown uniforms that are available at no charge. The Troop's website and Scoutmasters can provide guidance on the purchase of equipment.

First Year Scouts

A Webelo will enter Troop 6 as a Scout. The current Boy Scout advancement philosophy is to attempt to get a boy advanced through the ranks of Tenderfoot and Second Class to the rank of First Class in one year's time. For those of you who were Scouts yourselves, this probably sounds aggressive. In some ways it is, but research has shown that boys who reach First Class in their first year are more successful than those who don't. Troop 6 supports the First Class Emphasis initiative in a variety of ways:

1. First Year Scouts are placed in a patrol that contains just first year Scouts. Mature, experienced Scouts who are First Class rank or higher are assigned as Troop Guides to help guide these Scouts during their first year.
2. Specific program elements are included in the Troop program to present the opportunity for advancement to these Scouts.

3. Troop 6 makes use of the Trail Blazer program offered at Camp Horseshoe during the first year Scouts' first summer camp experience. The Trail Blazer program satisfies many of the rank requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class, making it possible to attain First Class in a year.

The first year is a busy one as new Scouts learn fundamental Scouting skills. Once this foundation is established, a Scout is prepared for more challenging activities and flexible advancement options through interest-centered merit badges.

Aims and Methods of the Scouting Program

The Scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "Aims of Scouting." They are character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. The seven methods listed below reflect the ways Scouting achieves the "Aims of Scouting." They are listed in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each method.

Ideals. The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. The Boy Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and, as he reaches to achieve them, he has some control over what and who he becomes.

Patrols. The patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in group living and participative citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where they can easily relate to each other, learn to make decisions, and resolve differences. These small groups determine Troop activities through their elected representatives.

Outdoor Programs. Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at Troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and humankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Boy Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Advancement. Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and the steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement to help him gain and enhance self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

Associations With Adults. Boys learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. Scout leaders can be positive role models for the members of the Troop. In many cases a Scoutmaster who is willing to listen to boys, encourage them, and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives.

Personal Growth. As a Boy Scout plans his activities and progresses toward his goals, he experiences personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth

method of Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Additionally, frequent personal conferences with a Scoutmaster and older Scouts help each Boy Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development. The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Uniform. The uniform makes the Boy Scout Troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Boy Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Boy Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Boy Scout activities and provides a way for Boy Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

To learn more about Scouting, visit www.bsa.scouting.org

WEST CHESTER



Jim Westlake—Scoutmaster
David Deaville, Dan Farrell, Chas Gorman, John Hughes,
Tom Kelmartin, Jim Marquette, Gunnar Mossblad, Joe Simonis,
Walt Stecklair, Jim Thompson—Assistant Scoutmasters
Charlie Myhre—Life to Eagle
Rob McCarter—Charter Organization Representative
Nancy Heiden—Troop Committee Chairperson

First in Chester County

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