



SOMERS TROOP 228

Policies and Procedures Handbook

Revised November 12, 2019

TROOP 228 PARENT'S GUIDE

Policies and Procedures Handbook

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Welcome to Troop 228 of Somers, New York. We are glad you have joined us!

Below is a list of useful information about our Troop. If you have any questions, be sure to ask a Scoutmaster, Committee member or parent of an older scout. These policies and procedures are not rigid rules but guidelines and goals which will be reviewed annually.

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TROOP ORGANIZATION – WHO WE ARE

Boy Scout Troop 228 is chartered by the Somers Volunteer Fire Department. Most troop meetings and non-camping events are held at the Amawalk Firehouse, Amawalk, NY. We are part of the Westchester/Putnam District of the Boy Scouts of America. The troop organization includes the following: Chartered organization (Somers Volunteer Fire Dept.), Scout Master, Troop Committee, Uniformed Adult Leaders, Scout Patrols, and Parents. The Scoutmaster's job is the key to the success of the troop. The Troop Committee supports the Scoutmaster and has the final authority over any questions of interpretation and changes. The Troop is boys only.

Meetings

Troop 228 plans its program to match the school year with the exception of Camp Read and High Adventure which are during July and August. Regular meetings are held on Monday nights from 7:30-9:00 pm at the Amawalk Firehouse. Generally, during the school year, there is no scout meeting if there is no school at the Somers Public Schools (e.g. holidays, weather closings). Scouts and leaders are expected to arrive on time and in uniform and to be picked up promptly. Attendance is taken. Meetings start with a flag ceremony and saying of the Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, and Scout Law. This is followed by the program as planned by the Green Bar, which may include guest speakers, merit badge workshops, campout preparations, individual advancement, etc. Scouts are expected to stay in designated areas of the firehouse, and exhibit good behavior while on firehouse property. No food or drink or electronics are allowed during normal scout meetings.

Youth Run

Boys may join Boy Scouts of America as a continuation of their Boy Scout trail from cub scouts or without any previous scouting experience. The Boy Scout program is a big change from cub scouting. The boys lead activities rather than adults. Parents should resist the urge to "take charge" when the boys seem disorganized or make mistakes. Instead, encourage your scout to be a good listener and follower of directions. We want our Scouts to set high goals for themselves and to be leaders and achievers. Scouting teaches leadership. The best way to learn is by doing. As scouts mature in the troop, they become directly responsible for guiding the younger scouts through the patrol system. We use the Eight Methods of Scouting to achieve the three aims/goals of scouting. Scouting aims to develop future leaders of strong character, good citizenship, who demonstrate physical, mental, emotional, and moral fitness. Eight Methods of Scouting: Scouting ideals (Promise, Law, Motto, Slogan), patrol system, advancement, outdoor program, adult role models, leadership development, personal growth, scout uniform. Leadership development is one of Scouting's eight methods. For scouts above First Class, leadership and service are more important than earning merit badges. The troop's boy leaders are responsible for planning and

executing the troop program. . “Train ‘em, Trust ‘em, Let ‘em Lead!” – Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts.

Patrol System

The scouts are organized into patrols which change every 6 months to a year. Each patrol selects a name and is assigned a patrol leader (PL) and assistant patrol leader (ASPL). New scouts are assigned a Senior Liaison who mentors and guides them. They are placed into existing patrols where they are also mentored by older scouts. The patrol will work together as a “family unit” within the larger troop structure, helping each other to advance and performing many activities as a team. Patrol competition is encouraged to develop scouting skills.

Troop Officers

The Scoutmaster assigns one older scout as the senior patrol leader (SPL), and one or more assistant senior patrol leader(s) (ASPL). The SPL serves as the overall leader of the troop, and runs the troop meetings and directs the scouts on camp outs. Other troop officers include the Quartermaster (manages troop equipment), Librarian (manages merit badge books), Scribe (keeps troop records), and various other positions are possible, as needs arise, ex., den chief. Duties for each position are described in the BSA Handbook. Preference is given to scouts with a First Class rank and higher, who need leadership roles to advance. Officers must receive the Scoutmaster’s approval in advance. All must meet the active service standards for meetings and campouts. The SPL and Scoutmaster may change requirements as the needs of the troop dictate. When the SPL is not present at an event, another scout is designated the acting SPL (usually an ASPL or the oldest/highest ranking scout present).

Patrol Leaders’ Council (Green Bar)

The SPL, ASPLs, PLs, together with other troop officers, form the Patrol Leaders’ Council (Green Bar). They meet once a month to plan the upcoming troop activities under the guidance of the Scoutmaster. The patrol leader role is a key means of leadership development. Scouts who have completed all the previous leadership roles may become Junior Assistant Scoutmasters.

Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leaders and Patrol Leaders

The troop is led by its Senior Patrol Leader. He leads meetings and outings. The SPL normally serves a six month term, to allow others the opportunity to serve as well. He is appointed by the Scoutmaster, and his term is held at the Scoutmaster’s discretion. SPL and Assistant SPL must be Star rank or higher, must attend most meetings and outings, be a member for at least a year and have been a patrol leader or ASPL for a minimum of six months. Assistant Patrol Leaders are appointed by the Scoutmaster. ASPLs assist the SPL and may stand in his place in his

absence. Each patrol is lead by its Patrol Leader who must be First Class rank or higher and must attend most meetings and outings for a minimum of six months. He represents the patrol and makes patrol decisions.

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster (JASM)

Scoutmaster also appoints any JASM, who must be 16 or 17 years old with a minimum rank of Life Scout. JASMs have responsibilities similar to adult Assistant Scoutmasters (see below). Terms are at the Scoutmaster's discretion.

Troop Adults

The Scoutmaster is the key adult leader in the troop and has full responsibility for all program decisions of the troop. He does not usually provide direct leadership to the scouts, but rather serves as a facilitator and mentor to the SPL and the Green Bar and ensures that the patrol method is functioning. He meets with each scout individually, during a "Scoutmaster's conference", before rank advancement and provides words of wisdom at the "Scoutmaster's Minute" at the end of each meeting. He is assisted by multiple Uniformed Adult Leaders (Assistant Scout Masters), who operate under the direction and control of the Scoutmaster.

- Scoutmaster – Paul Cirillo

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee which meets monthly and must be registered with the BSA is a group of parent volunteers voted into position, who sets policy for the troop, manages finances, forms boards of review for rank advancement, and provides support to the scouts and Scoutmaster. Key positions on the troop committee currently include:

- Chairman – Joe Witkiewicz
- Secretary – Diana Tomasulo
- Advancement – Pete MacDonald, Kim Weshoff
- Treasurer – Dave Marzella
- Medical Records – Susan Mcernan
- Outdoor Activities – Norm Tengstrom
- Hostess(es) – Kim Horowitz, Carolyn Daily, Eirini Bachus
- Community Service – Nancy Illuzzi
- Technology – Allyson Bellio
- Special Needs- *Open*
- Town Government Liason- Tom Garrity
- Recruitment Coordinator-

- Publicity Chair- *Open*
- Fundraising Chair- Rose Gannon
- Chartered Organization Rep - Jeff Hopper
- Unit Chaplain- *Open*
- Safety and Training Chair- Sean Higgins
- Awards Coordinator – *Open*

UNIFORMS

Scouts are expected to wear the standard scout uniform which is called “class As” or “field dress”. Class As are worn during the first meeting of each month, Boards of Review, Courts of Honor and special events, ex., Veteran’s Day parade. Those who appear before a Board of Review without the proper uniform will be denied advancement. For all other events, class Bs (scout related attire, ex: Troop 228 t-shirt or sweatshirt or other official BSA attire) are worn, unless otherwise specified. Uniforms may be purchased at the scout store at Hawthorne, NY or online. Class B Troop 228 shirts, hats, and outerwear is offered for sale periodically. Proper patrol uniforms are graded and points assigned to patrol competition at meetings. We encourage scout pants and belt be worn as part of the uniform, but it is not required. Class A uniforms and patch placement are described in the Scout Handbook, and include:

- Khaki Scout shirt (short or long sleeve)
- Green epaulets on shoulders (red for pre-2009 uniforms)
- Troop number “228” on left arm
- Council patch on left arm
- Leadership patch on left arm (if applicable)
- American flag on right arm
- Patrol insignia on right arm
- Troop 228 neckerchief (provided by Troop), with slide or tied neatly in a square knot, otherwise a bola is acceptable
- Clean, dark color pants or shorts in good condition (no jeans)
- Any earned awards
- Troop 228 hat (provided by Troop)

BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

Our troop guidelines help us have fun and be better scouts. They reflect our basic rights and duties as scouts and as citizens. It is parents’ responsibility to ensure their scout follows these guidelines. Failure to follow a troop guideline may result in consequences at the discretion of the Scoutmaster and may include exclusion from an activity and a phone call home. Each case will be dealt with on an individual basis. The goal of discipline is to find the best and most positive means to help a scout live by the rules and enjoy the great adventure of scouting.

“Show Scout Spirit”

1. Follow the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, Outdoor Code, Motto, and Slogan.
2. Bring your Scout Handbook to all regular meetings and campouts.
3. Wear appropriate scout uniform to every troop meeting/event; Class As for the 1st meeting of the month, parades, etc., Class Bs for all other meetings/events.
4. Stay within boundaries set by leaders at any meetings at the firehouse, campouts and events.
5. Behave respectfully during scout meetings, activities, and campouts (no talking during presentations, horseplay, gum chewing, etc.).
6. Obey your fellow scout and adult leaders.
7. Be respectful of personal property (tables, chairs, tents, personal and/or troop equipment, etc.).
8. Leave electronics (games, MP3 players, PHONES etc.) home or stowed away during any camp out, troop activity, or meeting (including Camp Read) unless expressly allowed. Electronics will be held by an adult for the duration of the activity/event if found with a scout.
9. Refrain from eating or drinking during meetings at the firehouse.
10. Return troop equipment used at camp outs clean, dry, and otherwise as received.
11. Satisfy and maintain Totin’ Chip requirements before using knives, axes, and/or saws without supervision. Acceptable cutting implements for scouts are folding pocket knives and saws. Totin’ Chip card should be with the scout at campouts.
12. Use fire responsibly (eg: leave burning sticks in a fire). No fires should ever be in or near tents.

MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

Active/Inactive Members

A scout must be active to reap the full benefit of the Troop 228 program. This includes proper medical forms being in compliance, as well as any dues or fees. To retain full membership, a scout must meet or exceed the active service standard, wear a full uniform and must meet the behavior standards of the troop consistently. Active members have full membership privileges. Inactive members may be denied certain privileges, including attendance on some activities, advancement and leadership. A Scout is considered active if he attends a minimum of 50% of regular meetings (Other absences must be excused by the Scoutmaster) and a minimum of one campout every six months. The troop expects its scouts to attend overnight campouts year round, and a scout must have attended an overnight campout (dusk to dawn minimally) within the 6 months prior to a Board of Review for rank advancement.

MEDICAL

Medical information is shared among adult leaders and is confidential. Medical forms are kept on file for all scouts. An annual physical exam is required by the Westchester/Putnam Council. The Medical Records committee member maintains a record of medicals and updates the

Scoutmaster's book as necessary. Failure to comply with due dates may disqualify a scout from participating in campouts, rank advancements and weekly meetings. Please discuss any concerns with the Medical Records committee member. Blank forms are located on the Troop 228 website, as well as WPCBSA.org, under 'forms'.

For outdoor events, medicines should not be kept by scouts, with the exception of inhalers or epi-pens. These medicines are kept in an outside pocket of the scout's pack and marked with a "+" for easy access if needed. Other daily medicines are kept in their original containers in a sealable plastic bag, labeled with the scout's name. A doctor's prescription must accompany medicines. The adult in charge will keep and assist the scout with the administration of their medicines at times due. At summer camps, medicines and physician's orders are turned over to the camp medical officer who administers medication to the scout.

SPECIAL NEEDS ADVOCATE

Troop 228 is committed to support and encourage all scouting youth with special needs & their families; and to offer equal opportunities for these scouts to participate to the best of their abilities in a rewarding scouting experience within our Troop. Many children struggle with learning, cognitive, developmental, physical or emotional disabilities. The Westchester Putnam Council has a Special Needs Committee which works continuously to assist units leaders by:

- Assist with Intake Assessments (as needed)
- Approve & Assist Alternative Registration
- Promoting Disability Awareness
- Approve & Assist Advancement Alternatives
- Provide Exceptional & Continuous Training
- Present Annual Awards to Scout Leaders for Exceptional Service

Troop 228 Special Needs Advocate is a member of the Council Special Needs Committee and works closely with our Unit Leadership to ensure we are delivering a quality program to our scouts with special needs. Contact information is available on our Unit Roster. Please contact the Scoutmaster with any questions or concerns regarding Special Needs.

ADVANCEMENT

Scout Handbook

Your handbook is important! Bring the scout handbook to all scout meetings and camping events. The scout handbook is not only the primary reference for advancement (It contains everything needed for all rank advancements up through first class and lists requirements for higher ranks), it also contains the sign offs for rank advancements, and logs for campouts, community service, etc. If your scout does not have his book, no one can sign him off on rank requirements!

Rank Requirements

When a scout completes the joining requirements, they receive the rank of “Scout”. The other ranks that may be earned are: Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The ranks up through First Class generally involve reading material in the Scout Handbook, then demonstrating skills and knowledge. Requirements for these early ranks are signed off by scouts of Star rank or above (preferred), the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster, or other registered Adults (least preferred). Parents do NOT sign off on rank requirements, but may assist scouts by teaching and demonstrating skills. During the process of earning these ranks your scout will learn many things that will stay with him his entire life. Each rank requires progressively more knowledge, but requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class may be worked in any order, although the ranks themselves must still be earned in order. Participation and service requirements may be verified through the troop Advancement Coordinator. Rank advancement can be as fast or slow as the scout desires, although some requirements do have time intervals specified (e.g. hold an office for a specified time period). All requirements for Eagle rank MUST be completed by the scout’s 18th birthday.

Scoutmaster’s Conference

When all other requirements for a rank are completed and signed off in the scout’s handbook, the scout must meet with the Scoutmaster for a Scoutmaster’s conference. During the Scoutmaster’s Conference the Scoutmaster will verify that all requirements for the scout’s rank have been completed, discuss his troop and patrol participation, how scouting influences his life, and how he is doing in general.

Boards of Review

After completing the Scoutmaster’s conference, the scout should ask the Scoutmaster for a board of review. For ranks up through Life, the board consists of three to six committee members, and may not include the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters. The board, reviews the scout’s progress, and then signs off on the rank advancement. Often these can be held during a regular scout meeting if enough committee members are present. Eagle boards of review include the

participation of a member of the Westchester/Putnam District Council and are scheduled in advance.

Merit Badges

Ranks from Star and above require merit badges to be earned. Some of these merit badges must be from the list of Eagle required merit badges. All others (over 100 available) are selected by scouts based on interest. To complete a merit badge, a scout needs to:

1. Choose a merit badge.
2. Download and print out worksheets (meritbadge.org). Merit badge books can also be purchased at the scout store or borrowed from fellow scouters.
3. Work on the worksheets and badge requirements
4. Obtain a 3-part, signed "blue card" from the Scoutmaster.
5. Meet with the merit badge counselor one or more times to show competence with each requirement and get blue card, 'signed off'.
6. Turn in the completed blue card to the Advancement Committee Member or Scoutmaster. (Do not separate the cards. The merit badge counselor should take his portion, and the other 2 parts (Application for Merit badge and the Applicants record) must stay together and be handed in that way.)

When a merit badge is taught in a group setting (such as at summer camp or in a scout meeting), the counselor may choose to keep requirements on a separate sign off sheet and transfer to the blue card when all requirements are complete. The list of all merit badges and their current requirements is available at <http://www.meritbadge.org> and also in a reference book available at the scout store. A list of Merit Badge Counselors is available in book form and is at every scout meeting (see Scoutmaster). Parents are encouraged to sign up as counselors for badges they are qualified to teach. The Advancement leader can provide necessary forms to register as a counselor. When meeting with a merit badge counselor, please ensure that Child Safety rules (p. 9) are followed.

Service Projects

In keeping with the Scout Oath and Law, the troop provides service opportunities such as helping at the Somers Courthouse, Somers Parks and Recreations, working on Eagle projects, etc. Service hours are tracked by the scout in his Scout Handbook and checked at Scoutmaster's conferences and/or at Boards of Review. Eagle projects are substantial service projects required to reach Eagle rank. The scout demonstrates their leadership ability by planning and executing a project for the benefit of a non-scouting community organization such as the city, a school or church. Younger scouts are encouraged to participate in these projects.

Courts of Honor (COH)

Courts of Honor are held three times per year. These events recognize scouts publicly for their achievements such as rank advancements, merit badges, and other special awards. The scouts

also give reports on their recent activities and Eagle projects. Light refreshments are usually served. All family members are welcome. Special Courts of Honor are held for those reaching Eagle rank, organized by their family and an Advancement Committee member.

CAMPING

Frequency

Generally, there is one weekend camping event each month, and one week of summer camp during July with an additional week of High Adventure for interested and qualified scouts. During the annual planning meeting, a rough calendar for camping events is created by the scouts. Generally, the troop participates in three district events each year (fall and spring Camporees and the Klondike Derby) and has several other regular camping traditions (e.g. Site 40 in June, cabin campout).

Troop Preparation

The adult in charge establishes a sign-up deadline at least one week prior to the event, creates and posts a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the firehouse, and announces the event to the troop. At least one registered adult must attend the event; two-deep adult leadership must be assured (see Child Safety, p.11). The Patrols help create the menu, buy food and oversee the 'kitchen' for the event, including setting up, cooking and cleaning schedules. The troop quartermaster organizes a group of scouts to check troop equipment before the event and makes sure everything is in proper condition. **Special dietary requirements must be brought to the attention of the troop prior to each outing. **

Gear

Typical camping gear is listed in the scout handbook and on the troop web site. One critical item is a mess kit (including utensils). The troop does not provide paper plates or plastic utensils on camp outs. Other important items include: a sleeping bag, sturdy footwear (e.g. hiking boots), Scout Handbook, personal first aid kit, compass, and a sense of humor. Make sure your gear is marked! Metal items can be etched; other items should be marked with a permanent marker. Tents are needed for most camp outs; scouts are encouraged to share tents when feasible. The troop does have a few tents available to use on campouts. (See quartermaster). Many retail stores will give scouts a discount on camping gear if you show your BSA membership card, and older scouts may have used gear to share.

Adult Participation

Dads and other important male figures may join campouts. Parents may share tents with their sons, but not with other scouts.

Transportation

Parents are always needed to provide transportation to/from camping events. See the scoutmaster who is organizing the trip if you will be driving and/or can also bring a scout.

Timeline

The general agenda for a weekend campout is:

Friday night:

1. Meet at the Firehouse ~5pm.
2. Load packs /scouts in cars/vans.
3. Travel to the location, and set up camp.
4. Eat dinner. (Generally, a “bag lunch” brought from home)

Saturday:

1. Breakfast, lunch and dinner is cooked by scouts and leaders.
2. Activities vary depending on itinerary.

Sunday:

1. Gear is packed up before breakfast.
2. Breakfast is light fare.
3. “Leave no Trace”-All scouts are expected to help before leaving.
4. Usually leave for the Firehouse by ~9am.
5. Parents pick up scouts and their gear at the firehouse, unless other arrangements have been made in advance.

SUMMER CAMP/HIGH ADVENTURE

Summer camp at Camp Read in Brant Lake, NY, is usually around the first week of July. It is a high point of the year for most scouts and vital to the success of the troop’s program. All active scouts are encouraged to attend. It is an opportunity for younger scouts to complete many of the requirements up through First Class, and an opportunity to earn many merit badges that may be difficult in other venues (e.g. swimming or archery). Boys can also become counselors for pay at camp. Adults registered with BSA are needed to stay for part or all of the week and to provide transportation to and from camp. High Adventure Treks, usually the week before camp, are week long treks which help develop maturity, leadership and teamwork and maintains the older boys’ interest in scouting because of the physical and mental challenges involved.

TREKS

Approximately every 3 years, a Philmont (backpacking trip) Trek is offered during the summer. In addition, on an alternate 3 year cycle, Sea Base or similar trip is offered. These are for scouts and parents who meet BSA requirements and criteria.

CHILD SAFETY

BSA has a strong child safety policy. Reviewing this policy with your son is part of the joining requirements. It is in the front of the scout handbook. The key principle is that an unrelated adult and child should not be alone together. To help ensure this, Troop 228 uses a buddy system of groups of two or three scouts. When an adult and scout must talk together one-on-one (e.g. a Scoutmaster's conference or talking to a merit badge counselor), this should occur within sight of a larger group (e.g. the corner of a meeting room where others are present). For most events we prefer to have four adults present, such that if there is an emergency two adults would be able to take the injured scout for care while the other two would remain with the troop. At a minimum, two-deep registered adult leadership must be present at every event. We are required to report any abuse or suspected abuse of any scout to the Council.

COMMUNICATION

It is important to keep informed. Announcements are made at the closing of each meeting. Parents are encouraged to join the meeting at ~8:45 to hear announcements. Announcements regarding upcoming events, meetings, changes, etc. are also sent out via email. Current email address(es) are imperative and held by the Medical Records committee member. Please inform him/her as soon as possible of any changes. The troop web site, <http://troop228somers.com> (under construction) is a source for information and has many forms that are necessary for the scouts. The troop roster is distributed at the beginning of each scouting year, ie, September. Please respect the privacy of others, and use the roster for scouting purposes only.

FINANCES

Scout Accounts

The troop treasurer keeps a "scout account" balance for each scout. Charges for activities such as camping (fees and food) are subtracted from this account. Funds can be added to the account by the parent (cash or check made out to "BSA Troop 228") or through fund raising proceeds. If your son is participating with Patrol cooking, you may turn in food receipts promptly to the Treasurer for reimbursement. If your scout signs up for an event and drops out after the sign up deadline, the scout's account will still be charged.

Some scouting events will require a small amount of personal cash. Scouts will be notified in advance of an event when this is the case. Checks for expenses should be given to the treasure

and be made out to 'BSA Troop 228'. Parents may deposit money into scout accounts in advance for anticipated expenses. The scout expenses are calculated for a campout after the food and camping fee receipts are turned in. The receipts for troop expenses are turned in at the next troop meeting by the adult(s) who incurred those expenses. Reimbursements will be made within 30 days to those adults with expenses that were for the troop.

Annual Dues

The Troop Committee sets an annual dues amount by dividing the normal troop expenses (after fundraising proceeds) by the number of scouts. Please see parent communications or Scout Master about what the current dues cost. Dues are paid in the fall of each year or at a prorated amount when joining.

Fund Raising

Usually, the majority of profits from fundraising go into the participating scouts' accounts as a credit, and a portion goes into the troop's general fund. Therefore, scout and family participation in fundraising activities is highly recommended. Soccerfest is our biggest fundraiser to date.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents are encouraged to be involved. Parents are under the authority of the registered adult leaders (at least one of which must be present at all scout events) and must follow all troop policies. Dads are encouraged to attend all campouts and events. After all, that is what scouting is about; boys spending time with their dads and other male role models. In addition, various trips are planned throughout the year when all family members, including younger siblings are welcome, and these are designated as "family campouts". When space for adults is limited, registered leaders have priority, then active adults. Although scouts do not need to have a parent attend an event to go, the troop strictly enforces and adheres to the 2 deep adult leadership rule at all times and may need to cancel or postpone activities if there are not enough adults in attendance.

Some ways parents can help:

- Bring your son to meetings on time and prepared
- Remind your son of proper behavior during meetings/events
- Stay informed: attend the last 15 minutes of meetings, check www.troop228somers.com or the Facebook site regularly
- Help your son to work on merit badges and rank advancement
- Transport scouts to/from events (provide troop with vehicle information.)
- Encourage your son to attend campouts, activities, fundraisers, etc.

- Attend campouts
- Attend parades/activities
- Attend and support fundraisers with your scout
- Share your knowledge by presenting at a regular scout meeting (see Scoutmaster)
- Share your connections: obtain a presenter for a scout meeting (see Scoutmaster)
- Research and help plan an innovative campout (see Scoutmaster)
- Attend and/or bring food to Courts of Honor and special events (see Hostess(es))
- Sign up as a merit badge counselor (see Scoutmaster)
- Mentor scouts through their advancement (see Scoutmaster)
- Become a registered committee member when positions are available (see any committee member)
- Donate money or equipment to our troop
- Donate to Friends of Scouting in Troop 228's name (We get a portion of the proceeds and benefits with 100% participation.)

REFUND POLICY

Statement

Somers Troop 228 provides Troop programs, High Adventure Treks and other camping experiences to the Scouts and Leaders, and families of the Troop. Fees are usually paid in advance of the event and to ensure the Troop can provide the best service to the scouts the following refund policies will apply.

Event Fees

Event fees are final except in a limited number of circumstances where a refund may be granted. Refunds may be given only if the following circumstances are brought to a Troop leaders attention prior to but not later than 30 days of the event.

1. The registered participant has an illness preventing participation in the event and has a signed statement from a Medical Doctor or Healthcare Practitioner. The written order must be provided to the Troop.
2. In the event of the death of an immediate family member (parent, grandparent, brother, sister or anyone else living in the house with the participant). The Troop will consider other deaths, which may affect the participant, on a case-by-case basis.
3. Only a Leader of the Troop 228 may authorize a refund for a Troop sponsored event.
4. Any refund of monies for the event is then based on the money paid to the Troop minus the deposit and any money sent to another agency or company for the event. The remaining money is refundable as long as the participant meets the above requirements. Any money that has been sent to another agency or company is considered issued and not refundable.

5. Any event that does not have a deposit, but has an event fee will be assessed a service charge before any refund is issued. All remaining money is refundable. Again the participant must meet the above requirements.

Deposits

Deposits are non-refundable. The following will apply for any deposit made for a Troop sponsored program:

1. Deposits are not refundable. Any cancellation once the deposit has been sent to the Troop will be forfeited.
2. Deposits may be transferable to another participant that takes the entire slot for that event.

Late Fees

The Troop may have the opportunity to set late fees or discounts for events. Late fees will be announced with the original posting for the event, so participants will know when deposits or event fees are paid that Late Fees are involved. Late fees paid to the Troop are not refundable.

Waiting Lists

At times the Troop maintains a waiting list. If the participant is not selected to attend the event all waiting list money will be refunded at 100%, including deposit money.

Cancellation by the Troop

If the Troop cancels an event, the Council will issue a full 100% refund (including any Deposit Money).

Troop Bylaws:

This document and Bylaws shall govern the operation of Boy Scout Troop 228 in all matters of selection of adult leaders, collection of dues, disbursing of funds, insurance of members of the troop, scheduling of activities, accepting new members, dropping members who become inactive, termination for misconduct of leaders and boy scouts, setting requirements for activities, and effective limits of Bylaws. These Bylaws control operations of Troop 228 and are not intended to contradict or supersede any rules or regulations as set forth by the Boy Scouts of America, the local Council or the Charter Organization. Further details can be found on official Boy Scout Documents.

Troop Sponsored Events:

A Troop sponsored event means the Troop collects the fees, provides transportation and operates under Boy Scout Guidelines

Adult Youth Protection Guidelines:

Any adults who participate in Campouts are required to have a current Youth Protection Training Certificate.

RECOMMENDED READING

1. Webelos-To-Scout Transition: Crossing Over & Finding The Right Troop

Recommended

Read: <http://scoutingmagazine.org/2015/02/how-to-have-a-smooth-and-successful-webelos-transition/>