

# **TROOP 14**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Do you accept boys into the troop year-round?**

Yes

### **How big is the troop?**

Our Scout membership fluctuates between 40-50 boys. We have approximately 25 registered adults (as of February 2018)

### **Who is the Charter Organization?**

Wilderness Community Church, Pastor Denise Walton  
10501 Plank Road, Spotsylvania, VA 22553  
540-972-8808

### **Troop meeting time & place?**

The Troop meets every Thurs. 7:00-8:30 PM (year-round except holidays). The Patrols may meet occasionally on an as-needed basis. Most meetings take place at Wilderness Community Church.

### **Is the troop boy-led?**

Yes. New youth leadership is elected twice a year – usually in March and September

### **How many patrols?**

Four. Two ‘junior’ patrols and two senior patrols. This fosters both patrol identity and healthy competition.

### **Will Webelos bridging into the troop be kept together or separated?**

We will try to keep new boys in a “New Scout Patrol” until they earn the rank of Scout, which normally takes about a month. At that time, they will be assigned to one of the permanent junior patrols.

### **Does the troop have a written plan/calendar for the entire year?**

Yes (prepared each June). Available on website.

### **Are the adult leaders trained?**

Yes. The Scoutmaster, all Assistant Scoutmasters, all Merit Badge Counselors, and the entire Troop Committee maintain complete BSA Training certifications.

### **How many Assistant Scoutmasters are in the Troop?**

Currently the troop has 9 Assistant Scoutmasters who act as mentors to the patrol leaders and scouts.

### **How fast do boys seem to progress through the Ranks?**

At their own pace. The Boy Scout of America’s general timeframe for rank advancement is First Class in 1 year+, Star in a year+, Life in a year+, Eagle in 1-2 years. Each boy’s advancement greatly depends on his participation in summer camp, weekend outings, and weekly meetings in addition to taking his own initiative to advance.

### **Does the troop have a plan for summer camp?**

Yes. Our troop normally attends summer camp the first full week after the school year ends (mid-June). New scouts normally participate in a “Brown Sea Island” program, older scouts will participate in a high adventure/water program of their choice, while most scouts will participate in the merit badge program.

**What are the fundraising plans?**

Our fundraisers throughout the year supplement the Troop's budget. We encourage the sale of Attractions Coupon Books, annual yard sale in the Fall, Mulch sale, and Flower sales in the Spring.

**What camping equipment does the troop own?**

3-man tents, chuck boxes, stoves, lanterns, axes, etc.

**What camping equipment will the scout provide?**

Sleeping bag, backpack, hiking shoes, mess kit, flashlight, pocketknife, etc.

**Does the troop emphasize a special interest?**

No, outings will vary to include camping, hiking, bicycling, canoeing, skiing, shooting sports, civic volunteer projects, etc.

**How are boys recognized for their achievements?**

Rank Advancement, merit badges, and special awards are recognized twice: Immediate recognition with the rank or merit badge patch at the closing of the troop meeting when the award was completed and then again at a Court of Honor with the official rank or merit badge card signed by the Scoutmaster. Court of Honors are held quarterly, the first troop meeting of March, June, September, and December.

**Does the troop have a website?**

Yes. For public news, announcements, and scout resources, visit [www.bst14.com](http://www.bst14.com). For private information available to troop members only, we utilize a SharePoint site.

**What is the cost of joining the troop?**

\$45 One-time Joining Fee (pays for handbook, book cover, neckerchief, slide, and shoulder loops).

\$147 Annual Fees, which is comprised of:

- \$ 62 Annual Boy Scouts of America Registration Fee.  
This is comprised of a registration fee (\$60) and a (\$2) Insurance fee  
(this all goes to BSA, pro-rated).
- \$ 85 Annual Troop Dues (covers the cost to run the program, pro-rated).

Dues and registration fees average less than \$13 per month, generally paid annually.

**What level of parent participation is required?**

The more the better for both the parent and child. Various volunteer positions are available for a variety of troop programs. How each parent contributes depends on their personal skills, interests, and availability.

**Does the troop have a set of By-Laws?**

Yes. The document governs the troop organization, objectives, methods, code of conduct, etc.

**How do I join?**

Complete a Boy Scouts of America application & pay the joining fee. You may pick up an application at a meeting or follow the web link at our Troop Website, [www.bst14.com](http://www.bst14.com).