

LONG STANDING TRADITION! A GREAT PROGRAM! PROVEN SUCCESS!

TROOP 147 MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Troop 147 to instill the values of the Scout Oath and Law in young men, to enable them to make proper ethical choices over their lifetimes, to serve others and to achieve their full potentials as responsible adults through a program that embodies group challenge, personal achievement, service, and enjoyment.

AT TROOP 147...

- We have been chartered by First Presbyterian Church of Holland, Michigan since 1960
- We offer a great program with an Outdoor focus
- We utilize the Patrol Method and are Boy led
- Our meetings and activities are planned by the Patrol Leaders Council and approved by the Troop Committee
- Service to the community is an important part of our program
- We are committed to maintaining trained youth and adult leaders
- We publish a roster, a newsletter, an annual calendar and provide a Troop WEB site
- We encourage parents to be involved with their sons in the Troop and offer a variety of opportunities to serve both big and small



Please Visit our Scouting Family

We hope this information has been helpful to you as you seek to learn more about the BSA program and what will be the best choice for your family as you set out to evaluate area Boy Scout Troops. It was not our intent to answer all of your questions about our Troop with this brochure, because we want you to come visit us in action. Come to a Troop meeting or visit us on an outing and let us show you what 'The Eagle Makers' of Troop 147 have to offer your son.



CONTACT INFORMATION



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TROOP 147



Where Fun, Friendship,
And the Wilderness Await You!

How will you choose a Boy Scout Troop?

Troop 147 would like to help by
offering this Parent Guide



You will find Tradition!



You will
meet
new
Friends!

You will
find
Adventure!



WHY CHOOSE BOY SCOUTS?

Boy Scouts get away from it all! They camp, hike, and play in the great outdoors. They get together in troops, and try out new experiences. Boy Scouting is available to boys who are 11 through 17 years old, or who have earned the Arrow of Light Award, or have completed the fifth grade.

Boys that participate in the scouting program are 88% less likely to drop out of high school. They are twice as likely to be a supervisor and leader. They are four times more likely to be an FBI agent. They are three times more likely to be an astronaut. They are twice as likely to graduate as an officer from one of our countries four military academies.

The BSA Vision Statement

The Boy Scouts of America is the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training.

In the future, Scouting will continue to...

- Offer young people responsible fun and adventure
- Instill in young people lifetime values and develop in them ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law
- Train young people in citizenship, service, and leadership
- Serve America's communities and families with its quality, values-based program



WHAT'S IN A TROOP?

Troop Focus: Most troops have established a focus or theme, like camping, backpacking, kayaking, etc. Each troop develops its own activity calendar and decides what to do.

Troop Meetings: When and where the Troop meets must fit with your overall family calendar. Most troops meet weekly, some less often.

Troop size: The number of active scouts in the troop impacts the number of activities that can be offered, the level of "intimacy" of the troop, and the potential demands on parent participation.

Rank advancements: Advancement is strongly emphasized in some troops. Other troops focus less on rank advancement which can be a good environment for boys less motivated by rank and more interested in the activities and doing.

Troop Leadership: The BSA developed; Patrol Method is a blueprint for Troops to be run by the Scouts with assistance from adult leaders. Some units choose to have adults run the Troop or some combination thereof. Troops that are run by Scouts offer the best chance to develop leadership skills, but can be somewhat chaotic at times while the boys are learning these skills. Don't be concerned. This is how the program works. Be advised that adult run troops, while more structured and predictable, offer little or no opportunity for Scouts to learn by leading.

Type of Activities Offered: Boy Scout troops typically offer a wide range of outings however, each troop generally develops an activity profile that reflects the level and type of activities that the Scouts in the Troop prefer.

Outdoor Outings: Included here are such events as camping, shorter backpack trips, day hikes, caving, rappelling, and mountain biking.

High Adventure: These are trips that can be physically demanding and generally require substantial preparation. Examples include long (50 plus miles) backpacking trips and class 4 white water rafting. Age and or skill level restrictions may often be applied.

Educational Activities: These tend to be activities that focus on the mental and skills development rather than on physical skills. Examples are guest speakers, and tours of local businesses and museums.

Service Projects: All Scout troops offer some level of service projects. They can range from Scouting for Food to yard cleanup to visitations at senior centers.

Parental Participation: There are two elements to look for here. Note that Scouting can provide one of the best ways for parents to stay involved with their son and his friends as the boys reach teenage years. What level of involvement is expected from each family? Troops can vary from expecting every family to be actively involved to desiring but not requiring involvement. What parent opportunities are available within the troop? Typically the opportunities are leadership/committee, activity support, or general support roles such as merit badge counselor, or special project assignments.

History: Troops are chartered by organizations like a church, a veterans group, or the like. How involved is that organization and how do they support the Troop? Has the Troop been with this organization for a long time?

