

# Boy Scout Troop 1966

Chartered In 1973 by the Kings Park West Civic Association



**Welcome to Troop 1966!** The Troop has a long history, extending back over 40 years. Below are a few things you should know that may help make the transition a little easier for new Scouts and parents.

## **Boy Leadership**

Webelos IIs don't change much overnight when they become new Boy Scouts, but the operating model for a Troop is *completely different* from a Pack. "Boy Leadership" means looking to the Troop's Senior Patrol Leader (**SPL**) and the Patrol Leaders (**PLs**) for lots of things that the den leaders and other adults did in the Pack.

Scouting can be seen as having two great benefits for boys who participate. Younger boys are typically challenged in developing outdoor skills and self-confidence as they move through the early rank requirements. As those skills become ingrained, the new challenge is to develop as a leader with growing levels of responsibility. There are not many venues that compare to scouting when it comes to being a genuine leader as a teenager. Facilitating opportunities for boys to learn and grow as leaders is at the heart of what our Troop is about. Be prepared for a certain level of confusion along the way, though – it is actually a sure sign of a good, boy-led Troop. Mistakes are part of the process and the boys and their boy leaders really can and do sort out their problems when we give them a chance.

Unless safety is an issue, please take any issues concerning the boys to Mr. Erickson (Scoutmaster) or one of the ASMs rather than stepping in directly. If you have to intervene, please just "freeze" the situation and get an ASM; there should always be at least two at any activity. You will notice that 9 times out of 10, the response will be to say something to the **SPL** or **PL** and give that boy-leader a chance to work it out. This is not to suggest that you shouldn't say anything at all to the boys – give encouragement, ask questions, enjoy their company – just don't create another chain of command for the boys to deal with.

## **Organization**

Troop 1966 has been active in the Fairfax, Virginia community of Kings Park West since it was chartered by the **Kings Park West Civic Association** in 1973. We are a member of the **Patriot** scouting district, which is part of the **National Area Capital Council (NCAC)**.

The troop meets on Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. in the Laurel Ridge Elementary School cafeteria (10110 Commonwealth Boulevard, Fairfax, VA 22032). One Thursday of each month is for members of the Patrol Leaders Council (described below), for planning upcoming events. Additionally, there is occasionally one Thursday night set aside for patrols to conduct their own meetings in lieu of a weekly Troop meeting.

The first line leader for the Troop is the Senior Patrol Leader (**SPL**). The SPL, his assistant SPLs, and the rest of the Patrol Leaders Council (**PLC**) are the front line for both overall planning of meetings and activities and leadership at meetings and other events. Execution of events, especially campouts, is usually run through the patrols. The Patrol Leader (**PL**) is responsible for making sure that his patrol is doing what needs to be done, from planning menus to cooking and clean-up on campouts. Another important role for PLs is to make sure that no one in his patrol is left out or left behind.

There are currently five patrols in the Troop: Flaming Arrows, Moosen, Stereo Sharks, and Righteous Raccoons, and Fledglings (new scouts). We are working very hard to make the patrols the basic structure for most of what the Troop does.

Depending on the number of new Scouts, we will sometimes keep the new Scouts together (the new scout patrol) to give them a chance to get established in the Troop, learn their way around, and so on. We plan to include the new Scouts in the patrols for different events on an ad hoc basis, and then formally integrate them into the existing patrols after their first year (and achievement of First Class rank).

### **Advancement**

Troop Guides can sign off on the advancement requirements listed in the Boy Scout Handbook. Encourage your son to try things on his own and demonstrate the skill to his Troop Guide. **ALWAYS BRING THE BOOK! (BUT DON'T LOSE THE BOOK!!)** It is the only record of the boys' steps towards advancement.

Important advancement steps follow once the requirements for a rank are met. The Scout has to arrange meetings with his Patrol Leader and then with the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster will alert the Troop Committee Chairman that the Scout needs a Board of Review. (Please note the emphasis on the Scout taking the steps to meet with his **PL** and with the Scoutmaster. Encourage your sons, but please put the onus on them to interact directly with his leaders.)

### **Merit Badges**

The Troop periodically offers Scouts the opportunity to work on badges. For Eagle-required badges, the Troop has a plan (see attachment 1) for offering the badges throughout the year. Other badges may be offered to anyone interested, usually at the request of the boys. A copy of the latest version of the plan is included here.

For any other badge that a Scout wants to pursue, the Scout should (1) identify a merit badge counselor, (2) get a blank blue card from an Advancement Coordinator AND the Scoutmaster's approval to pursue the badge, (3) meet all of the badge requirements to the satisfaction of the merit badge counselor, and (4) return the completed blue card to one of the Advancement Coordinators to record.

### **Adult Opportunities**

**Troop Committee** Our practice is to enroll at least one of each boy's parents as a member of the Troop Committee. This is simply a matter of signing up. It requires completion of the online Youth Protection Training.

The Troop Committee is the "back office" of the Troop. We manage the books, make the reservations, arrange the drivers, and otherwise support the work of the Scoutmaster and ASMs as they work directly with the Scouts.

**Merit Badge Counselor** A good way to get started with the Troop is as a merit badge counselor. Once you are enrolled with BSA as an adult volunteer, you can sign up (through a separate form) as a merit badge counselor. There are dozens of badges (see attachment 2) covering many different skills and hobbies – please see what interests you and consider signing up. As a counselor, your responsibility is to make sure that the Scout satisfactorily completes the requirements for your particular badge. It does

not mean lots and lots of hours spent teaching – depending on the badge, most of the work is likely to be done independently by the Scout. Your job is to give him the opportunity to demonstrate the skills, with input and encouragement from you.

**Overnights.** Parents are welcome and encouraged to join the Scouts on overnight activities. The Troop even has a fun tradition of recognizing parents that make a habit of joining in on the camping by inducting them into our highly unofficial patrol – the Fogey Patrol.

It is not necessary for you to go along with your son, however. It may even be a good idea to stay back on a trip or two if it seems like your son is too quick to look for you whenever he has anything to figure out. Remember that the SPL, Troop Guides, and PLs are all there to help your son out if, for instance, he gets hopelessly tangled up in his tent poles or can't seem to get his sleeping bag into its stuff sack. Even if you are along on the trip, hang back and watch the boys sort things out whenever you can.

**Assistant Scoutmasters (ASMs)** After merit badge counseling and camping stop being a challenge, the next step is Scoutmaster training. Troop 1966 is fortunate to have a strong cadre of trained adult leaders in our Scoutmaster and ASMs. You will notice that they represent parents of Scouts at all age levels. This is very important in that ensures that the Troop will have good adult leaders for years to come. But note that this only works if a few parents from each year group keep up the tradition (hint hint).

Adult leader training is not terribly complicated. A couple of Saturdays and a weekend spent in the company of other adults from throughout the Patriot District cover the basic requirements for the “Trained” designation you see on so many adult uniforms. There are opportunities beyond the basic level, of course. Attachment 3 lists the current adult leaders.

**Youth Protection** Troop 1966 is dedicated to the letter and the spirit of BSA youth protection guidelines. All trained leaders are required to take youth protection training and all parents are encouraged to do so. The on-line version of the course is easily accessed through the Boy Scout training website (<https://myscouting.scouting.org>). One key element of the guidelines for Scouts and adult volunteers is that adults are never one-on-one with Scouts other than their own sons. That's why you see Scoutmaster conferences take place in the corner of the big room instead of in another room, and why a driver's son is always the last one to get home from an overnight.

If you have any questions or good ideas, please let one of us know. Welcome to Troop 1966!

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## Attachment 1: Troop 1966 Merit Badge Program (Eagle Required Badges)

	Winter	Summer
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade		Swimming
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	First Aid (MBW)	Lifesaving * Emergency Prep * Camping
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Communications (MBW)	Environ. Science Personal Fitness
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Citizen./Nation (MBW) Citizen./World (MBW)	<i>make up missed camp badges</i>
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Family Life (MBW) Personal Management (MBW)	<i>Eagle Project</i>
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Cooking (MBW)	<i>Eagle Palms</i>

\* One or the other.

(MBW) = Merit Badge Weekend

Note: This is a notional schedule, subject to change

### Eagle Required Badges:

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1) First Aid                               | MB Weekend                   |
| 2) Citizenship in the Community            | Troop Meetings               |
| 3) Citizenship in the Nation               | MB Weekend                   |
| 4) Citizenship in the World                | MB Weekend                   |
| 5) Communications                          | MB Weekend                   |
| 6) Personal Fitness                        | Summer Camp                  |
| 7) Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving    | Troop Meetings / Summer Camp |
| 8) Environmental Science or Sustainability | Summer Camp                  |
| 9) Personal Management                     | Troop Meetings               |
| 10) Swimming or Hiking or Cycling          | Summer Camp                  |
| 11) Camping                                | Summer Camp                  |
| 12) Family Life                            | Troop Meetings               |
| 13) Cooking                                | MB Weekend                   |

### Notes:

*Citizenship in the Nation* and *Citizenship in the World* will overlap on the MB Weekend, with additional work for *Nation* preceding the MB Weekend and *World* following the MB Weekend.

*Communications* and *Citizenship in the Community* require a visit to a community meeting and a letter to a local official, so conducting both classes near each other allows the same meeting/letter to work for both badges.

The Summer Camp badges (*Environmental Science*, *Personal Fitness*, *Swimming*, *Lifesaving*, and *Camping*) should have a fall-back position for boys who miss camp.

## Attachment 2: Boy Scout Merit Badges

American Business	Entrepreneurship	Pioneering
American Cultures	Environmental Science****	Plant Science
American Heritage	Family Life*	Plumbing
American Labor	Farm Mechanics	Pottery
Animal Science	Fingerprinting	Public Health
Archaeology	Fire Safety	Public Speaking
Archery	First Aid*	Pulp & Paper
Architecture	Fish & Wildlife Management	Radio
Art	Fishing	Railroading
Astronomy	Fly Fishing	Reading
Athletics	Forestry	Reptile and Amphibian Study
Auto Mechanics	Gardening	Rifle Shooting
Aviation	Genealogy	Rowing
Backpacking	Geology	Safety
Basketry	Golf	Salesmanship
Bird Study	Graphic Arts	Scholarship
Bugling	Hiking**	Sculpture
Camping*	Home Repairs	Shotgun Shooting
Canoeing	Horsemanship	Skating
Chemistry	Indian Lore	Skiing
Cinematography	Insect Study	Small Boat Sailing
Citizenship/Community*	Journalism	Snow Sports
Citizenship in Nation*	Landscape Architecture	Soil & Water Conservation
Citizenship in World*	Law	Space Exploration
Climbing	Leatherwork	Sports
Coin Collecting	Lifesaving***	Stamp Collecting
Collections	Mammal Study	Surveying
Communications*	Medicine	Sustainability ****
Computers	Metalwork	Swimming**
Cooking*	Model Design & Building	Textile
Crime Prevention	Motorboating	Theater
Cycling**	Music	Traffic Safety
Dentistry	Nature	Truck Transportation
Disabilities Awareness	Nuclear Science	Veterinary Medicine
Dog Care	Oceanography	Water Skiing
Drafting	Orienteering	Weather
Electricity	Painting	Whitewater
Electronics	Personal Fitness*	Wilderness Survival
Emergency Preparedness***	Personal Management*	Wood Carving
Energy	Pets	Woodwork
Engineering	Photography	

\* On required list for Eagle Scout rank

\*\* Required for Eagle (must complete Cycling, Hiking, or Swimming)

\*\*\*Required for Eagle (must complete Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving)

\*\*\*\* Required for Eagle (must complete Environmental Science or Sustainability)

# Troop 1966 Adult Volunteer Positions

February 2013

Position	Volunteers
Scoutmaster	Jeff Erickson
Assistant Scoutmasters	Alan Eisenberg, Alan Goshi, John Griffin, Sean Griffin, Eric Hein, William Jensen, Dan Joyce, Owen Joyce, Dave Lewis, Del Lofton, Bob Malkowski, Tom McCook, Ken Randell, Denny Scarborough
Troop Committee Chair	Tony Kanellis
Committee Members	Jeffrey Billett, Michael Casper, Richard Condit, Jerilyn Dunphy, George Genge, Sarah Gunnarson, Kirk Hiles, Paula Izadpanan, Kent Keith, Matthew Kelley, Charles Kemp, Curtis Moore, Melissa Morgan, Thomas Morgan, John Muse, Michael O'Dell, Jeff Reed, Thomas Roof, Kimberly Sanders, Thomas Sords, Hugh Trinh, Mark Viskosy, Patricia Viskosy, Lawrence Winnick
Treasurer	Jeff Reed
Secretary	
Outdoor Program Coordinator	Alan Goshi
Advancement Coordinator	Tom McCook
Equipment Coordinators	William Jensen
Transportation Coordinator	Ken Randell
Summer Camp Coordinator	Mark Viskosy
Merit Badge Weekend Coordinator	Kirk Hiles
Eagle Scout Project Advisors	Dave Lewis, Jeff Billett, Del Lofton, John Muse
Merit Badge Coordinator	Hugh Trinh
Service Hours Manager	
Membership Coordinator	Bob Beaubien
Friends of Scouting	Eric Hein
KPWCA Liaison	Tony Kanellis
Training Coordinator	Jeri Dunphy
Facilities Coordinator	
Mulch Sale	Kirk Hiles
KPW Herald Coordinator	Thomas Sords
Scouting for Food	Rich Condit
Court of Honor Coordinator	
Eagle Scout Ceremony Coordinator	Kimberly Sanders
KPWCA Executive Officer	Mike McCaffrey

## **Troop 1966 Scout Account and Earning Procedures**

1. **Introduction.** Troop 1966 encourages scouts and parents to participate in Troop fundraising activities in order to reduce family scouting expenses. These earning will be kept in virtual scout accounts, which scouts may use to pay for their share of scout activities, primarily campouts. There will be one scout account per family, which will remain active as long as the family has an active scout in the troop. This document provides the procedures for earning, using, and disposing of scout account funds.

### 2. Scout Account Procedures

a. The Troop 1966 Committee Chair, Scoutmaster, and Treasurer, based on the financial health of the Troop, will establish an allocation of profits from each fundraising event between the Scout Accounts and the Troop Account for each fundraising event. This allocation will typically have 50%-75% going to the Troop and 25%-50% going to the Scout Account, and may change from event to event.

b. All funds will be maintained in the Troop 1966 bank accounts (checking and saving). The treasurer will maintain a ledger for each family's scout account, showing the credits and debits. The committee chair will report the aggregate and individual family scout account balances to each family every month.

c. The coordinators of fundraising events (such as mulch sales) will keep track of hours spent delivering flyers and mulch and report those hours to the treasurer. The treasurer will determine the total number of hours spent (for all scouts and adults) and establish a dollar/per hour payment to scout accounts by dividing the scout account portion of the profit by total hours worked.

**Example:** The profit on a mulch sale is \$5,000, the total number of hours worked is 400, and the allocation of profits to scout accounts and the Troop accounts is 50% each (\$2,500).

$\$2,500 / 400 \text{ Hours} = \$6.25 \text{ an hour}$ . A scout who spent 3 hours delivering flyers and 4 hours delivering mulch would earn  $7 \text{ hours} \times \$6.25 / \text{hour} = \$43.75$  for his scout account.

d. A non-scout family member who works the mulch delivery can also earn hours for the family scout account, with their hours worked credited to the scout account.

e. Scouts can use their accounts to pay any camping or other scouting expense that the Troop would normally charge. Scouts may run a maximum deficit on their account of \$50, with the expectation that they would earn enough on the next fundraising activity to bring their account back to a positive balance. Once a scout account has a negative balance, the scout may not use the account again until he has a positive balance (e.g. a scout with a balance of -\$10, cannot run his deficit to -\$35 by putting a \$25 monthly campout cost on his scout account). If a family scout account still has a negative balance immediately following the distribution of proceeds from a fundraiser (e.g. the spring or fall mulch sale), the scout's parent will pay the deficit to the Troop 1966 Treasurer to bring the scout's account balance back to zero.

f. In order to streamline the reporting and calculation of flyer delivery hours, each route will be assigned a time value, and the scout will be given credit for that time when he signs up for the route.

g. When the last scout in a family leaves the troop, does not transfer to another Boy Scout troop, and has a positive balance, the funds will transfer to the general troop account. If a scout transfers to another troop, he may request his scout account balance be transferred to the Treasurer of the new Troop

h. Other situations not covered here will be settled by mutual agreement of the Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, and Treasurer.

3. These procedures were reviewed and unanimously approved at the June 11, 2009 meeting of the Troop 1966 Committee.