

Overview

Troop 149 was founded and first chartered on April 17, 1917. At over 100 years old, Troop 149 is the second oldest Troop in the council. We are very proud of our 150+ Eagle Scouts.

Troop 149 is very healthy with 55 registered Scouts and 16 adult leaders. We have had an inflow of new Scouts that has kept our total number of Scouts close to where we are today for the last 4 years. We anticipate to maintain this steady state over the next few years, keeping our total numbers around 50-60 when we account for Scouts that age out.

We continue to hope to offer a Troop 149 Girls Troop, which will help us increase the overall number of Scouts in the Troop. The Girls Troop and Boys Troop would be relatively independent, primarily coming together for ceremonies and District-wide events. We've been unable for various reasons to reach the critical mass of Scout numbers needed to charter a Girls Troop. Help with this is always welcomed!

When organized in 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was there "to teach... patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues." Today in Troop 149 we focus on leadership, life skills, values, service to others, friendships, God & country, survival skills, physical fitness, first aid, and citizenship. We feel there is nothing more important than our Scouts... our children. They are our future and tomorrow's leaders.

Six of every 100 scouts make the ultimate goal in Scouting, the rank of Eagle Scout. This is a great achievement that requires participation, dedication and hard work. It is of course a lot of fun and requires a lot of support from mothers and fathers. **See Scouting's Bottom Line** attached

Troop 149 Program and Activity Summary

Camping—We camp monthly and typically for two nights each outing

- Monthly Camping activities (Representative of recent years)
 - September: Guns & Arrows
 - October: Varies (has been caving/ropes course/canoeing in the past)
 - November: Treehouse (Membership campout for Webelos)
 - December: Blackburn Cabin Merit Badge/Advancement Weekend
 - January: Luxury Campout (will be changing)
 - February: Klondike Derby – District-wide Scout Skills competition on sleds
 - March: New Scouts Campout - Drum Point MD
 - March: Alonzo Stagg 50/20/10 Mile Hikes
 - April: Projectoree – District-wide Scout Skills and fun game competition
 - May: Varies (has been backpacking, Via Ferrata, water-based merit badges)
 - June: Whitewater Rafting on the Youghiogheny River

Summer Camp (Merit Badge Camp) – Camp Sinoquipe

- Every Summer —Camp Sinoquipe is our current regular camp
- Every Scout gains value from summer camp: advancement and merit badges
- Usually the week after whatever week July 4th falls

High Adventure Camps – High Adventure camps and bases are for Scouts that are age 14 and up and that have reached the rank of First Class. Attendance is dependent on Scout interest and parental leadership (both the logistics of organizing the trip and attendance on the trip).

- Big 4 of BSA rotation (Philmont, Northern Tier, Sea Base plus Summit on Sea Base years)
 1. Sea Base – March 2023
 2. The Summit – TBD
 3. Philmont – Summer 2022
 4. Northern Tier – Summer 2021
- Lenhoksin at Goshen or other like Ten Mile River (NY) as desired as “starter” high adventure.

Service to others (new options always welcome)

- Rise Against Hunger
- Marine Corp Marathon
- Scouting for Food
- CUMC— Nativity Scene set up/takedown, Craft Sale, many others
- Eagle Scout Service Projects
- Windy Run Stream Clean Up

Fundraising

- Family Friends of Scouting – NCAC
- Leaf Raking (funds our Rise Against Hunger donation to the church)

Important for New Scouts bridging

- We must have a completed and signed application for New Scout Campout attendance

Joining Troop 149

- Go to <https://www.troop149arlva.org/jointroop149>
- Follow the instructions on that page

Troop 149 Principles, Philosophy and the Program

Troop 149 - Chain Bridge District, National Capital Area Council

- We are a Scout-led troop
- The Scout is responsible and not his parent —This is a hard transition for some parents. Parental support is critical, “pushing” is helpful, but it must come from the Scout
- Scoutmasters are responsible for overseeing the program.
- Assistant Scoutmasters should help their Scout’s patrol advance and be there for support
- Troop Committee handles all logistics of the program and “back office” of the Troop
- Scouts BSA vs. Cub Scouts
 - Cub Scouts advance in structured fashion with their parents helping them
 - Scouts BSA advance at their own pace and on their own

Troop 149 employs the 8 Methods of Scouting

- Ideals – Living by the Scout Oath and Law
- Patrol Method
- Outdoor Programs
- Advancement
- Adult Association
- Personal Growth
- Leadership Development
- Uniform

Safety and Code of Conduct

- BSA Guide to Safe Scouting governs overall safety.
- Youth Protection Training (YPT) is central for adult / Scout interactions
- All registered leaders are required to take YPT, Safety and position-specific training
- All registered leaders have a background check performed on them
- **Parents are also required to take YPT.** You must take this if you are driving to or attending a campout—MyScouting.Scouting.Org
- Each Scout and Parent is required to read and sign a Troop 149 Code of Conduct. Scouts are expected to follow the tenets of the Scout Oath and Law at all meetings, campouts, service projects and any other Scout event. It is our hope this will lead to Scouts always living by the Scout Oath and Law. However, Scouts not following the Code of Conduct can be removed from events or dismissed from the Troop. Parents should reinforce this Code of Conduct with their Scout and make sure that they understand the consequences.

Information and Communications

- Website: <https://www.troop149arlva.org/> for static information (forms, background info, history)
- Google Group: you must join the Group in order to receive Troop-wide email <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/troop149arlva>
- Email – PLEASE read all email and encourage your Scout to do the same
- Remind (for text messages on cancellations, travel delays, and ETA back at church): <https://www.remind.com/join/troop149e>
- Calendar (usually very up-to-date): <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/r?cid=troop149.arlva@gmail.com>
- Email troop149.arlva@gmail.com (gets forwarded to Scoutmaster)
- A lot of information on upcoming events and ongoing activities is always presented live at the beginning and end of each Troop Meeting. Most ends up on the website

Uniforms

- Class A uniforms for meetings, to & from campouts, service projects (unless otherwise specified), Courts of Honor, Boards of Review
- Class A uniform = Green Scout pants, tan uniform shirt (tucked in)
- Class B uniform = (ideally) Scouting-related t-shirts
- Bolo ties for Courts of Honor and Boards of Review: no neckerchiefs

General Meetings

- Every Monday, 7:00–8:30PM except holidays, days when APS is closed, and the Monday after a campout weekend (which will be a Patrol Leader Council for those with leadership positions)
- Courts of Honor are special ceremony meetings and are held each Fall and Spring. Additionally, Eagle Scout Courts of Honor are held as needed. It is our hope that ALL Scouts and ALL parents come to ALL Courts of Honor
- NO ELECTRONICS at meetings unless approved. Put them away at 7, take them out at 8:30

Money Matters

- Pay as you go philosophy for individual events
- Annual membership fee of \$150 paid in September. Covers all badges awards, Troop gear
 - \$75 for new Scouts in March then \$150 in September
- Troop gear and other needs
- PayPal links are on the Join 149 page. Credit cards accepted.

Campouts

- \$20 grubmaster fee (paid in cash to Scout grubmaster) plus any other camping/event fee (paid via PayPal with link provided on the blog signup page)
- \$25 adult grubmaster fee (cash) paid to adult grubmaster
- Regular and High Adventure options for all
- Regular Monthly Campouts are two nights.
- Departure Friday at 4:45 PM from Church parking lot; return morning on Sunday on Lorcom side of Church
- NO ELECTRONICS on campouts (driver decides on electronics in the car, usually allowed and left in car for duration of campout)
- WE ALWAYS NEED DRIVERS. Be Prepared™ to drive to a campout if your Scout is attending. If we don't have enough drivers and you can't drive, your Scout will not be able to attend.

Summer Camps

- The value of summer camp CANNOT be replaced ... Send your Scout to camp!
- Camp Sinoquipe is usually scheduled for the week after July 4. Approx \$420 per Scout
- High Adventure – dependent on Scout interest and parental organization
- Adults attending summer camps must be registered leaders in the Troop

Gear

- Troop provides group gear
- Troop tents can be provided with a \$200 damage deposit (refundable on return of functioning tent)
- Scouts only need personal gear (mess kit, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, Scout Basic Essentials)
- A backpack is requested for the New Scout campout so they can get the Tenderfoot packing requirement (#1) but it is not required—often a duffel is sufficient.

Service Projects

- A Scout does service for others
- Please help your Scout support these as much as possible
- 6 or 7 regular troop service projects annually
- Eagle Scout Projects – Scouts should always try to help in some way on Eagle Scout projects. Even if they do not know the Eagle candidate very well. It is the Scout way and the “Circle of Scouting” in that one day it will be “your turn” and you will need help with your project.

Advancement

- Scouts BSA Ranks
 - Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, Eagle, Eagle Palms
- Troop Guides are assigned to our New Scout Patrol.
 - Older, higher rank and seasoned Scouts
 - Good with younger kids
 - Will ensure they have the opportunity to learn all skills
 - Will watch out for advancement
- Lower ranks work with older Scouts— Scout Handbook key
- Parents and Scouts should read the Scout Handbook.
- Merit Badges, blue cards and record keeping are all very important
- First-year Scouts should work on rank advancement & not be concerned about merit badges
- A Scout must be active in the Troop to advance. There are specific rules that define “active in troop” that are listed on the Troop website.

Courts of Honor – Special ceremony and critical part of the Scouting program held at least twice a year in the Fall and Spring. There are also Eagle Scout Courts of Honor as needed.

- Scouts recognized for their progress at these events
- Parents PLEASE attend and support your Scout

Volunteers - We ask that an adult from every Scout volunteer to lead or help with at least one event, or one committee role, each Scouting year. Volunteer Coordinator will provide lists of open positions. The Troop only succeeds with YOUR help!

Troop 149 Leaders, Committee and Volunteers

<u>Leaders – Troop 149 Boys</u>	
Scoutmaster	Chris Vargas
Asst. Scoutmaster Emeritus*	Ed Stewart
Asst. Scoutmaster Emeritus*	Scott Miller
Asst. Scoutmaster Emeritus*	Steve Gerard
Asst. Scoutmaster	Peter Omberg
Asst. Scoutmaster	Daniel Pierson
Asst. Scoutmaster	Wes Wright
Asst. Scoutmaster	Blaine McLaughlin
Asst. Scoutmaster	Jillene Bushnell
Asst. Scoutmaster	Chris Mixter
<u>Troop Committee</u>	
Please see website for current committee roles and open positions: https://www.troop149arlva.org/edit/volunteer-roles	

* (no longer has a son in the troop)

Scouting's Bottom Line

What happens to a Scout? For every 100 who join Scouting, records indicate that:

- RARELY will one be brought before the juvenile court system
- 6 will become Eagle Scouts
- 17 will become future Scout volunteers
- 12 will have their first contact with a church or synagogue
- 1 will enter the clergy
- 5 will earn their religious award
- 18 will develop a hobby that will last through their adult life
- 8 will enter a vocation that was learned through the merit badge system
- 1 will use his Scouting skills to save their own life
- 1 will use his Scouting skills to save the life of another person

Scouting's alumni record is equally impressive. A recent nationwide survey of high schools revealed the following information:

- 85% of student council presidents were Scouts
- 89% of senior class presidents were Scouts
- 80% of junior class presidents were Scouts
- 75% of school publication editors were Scouts
- 71% of football captains were Scouts

Scouts also account for:

- 64% of Air Force Academy graduates
- 68% of West Point graduates
- 70% of Annapolis graduates
- 72% of Rhodes Scholars
- 85% of F.B.I. agents
- 26 of the first 29 astronauts