



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

# SHERBORN BOY SCOUTS - TROOP

## *New Parent Orientation*

September 2017



- **General Overview of Boy Scouts**
  - Mission and Vision Statements
  - Scout Oath and Scout Law
  - Simplified Organizational Hierarchy
  - Funding Sources and Uses
  - Major Philosophical Difference vs. Cub Scouts
  - Progression in Rank
  - Merit Badge Choices
  - Merit Badge Process
- **Specifics About Sherborn Troop 1**
  - Range and Timing of Major Activities
  - Parent Involvement and Support
  - Key Initiatives for 2017-18
  - Organization and Leadership
  - Critical Open Positions
- **Appendix**
  - Helpful Hints and Tips



## **Mission Statement**

*The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.*

## **Vision Statement**

*The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.*



## **Scout Oath (or Promise)**

On my honor I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country  
and to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times;  
To keep myself physically strong,  
mentally awake, and morally straight.

## **Scout Law**

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful,  
friendly, courteous, kind, obedient,  
cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and  
reverent.

# BSA - Simplified Organizational Hierarchy



# BSA - Funding Sources and Uses



Funding	National	Regional Council	Troop 1 - Sherborn
<b>Sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scout supply sales</li> <li>Membership fees</li> <li>Grants from foundations</li> <li>Legacies and bequests</li> <li>Corporate sponsorships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Friends of Scouting donations</li> <li>Special events</li> <li>Product sales such as popcorn</li> <li>Legacies and bequests</li> <li>Foundation grants</li> <li>Local United Ways</li> <li>Activity fees from summer camp, camporees, etc.</li> <li>Investment income/endowments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual dues paid for each boy</li> <li>Proceeds from the major fund raiser, which is the wreath and candle sale in December</li> <li>Participation fees for specific activities and trips</li> </ul>
<b>Uses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of program materials and resources</li> <li>Infrastructure support for local councils</li> <li>Development of training materials</li> <li>Salaries and benefits for employees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain camp properties and the council service center</li> <li>Provide insurance</li> <li>Maintain membership records</li> <li>Salaries and benefits for employees</li> <li>Purchase program supplies for youth activities</li> <li>Provide volunteer training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Costs of Troop activities such as camping and events/trips</li> <li>Equipment such as tents, camp stoves, etc.</li> <li>Advancements/awards, i.e., rank emblems and merit badges</li> <li><i>Boys' Life</i> subscriptions</li> <li>Training of adult leaders</li> <li>Troop 1 annual donation to Friends of Scouting</li> <li>Aid for family hardship in affording Troop 1 activity fees</li> </ul>

# BSA - Major Philosophical Difference vs. Cub Scouts



- The Boy Scout adult leaders' role is to provide an environment and support to expose the boys to new activities, knowledge, and skills . . . but . . .
- **The Boy Scout program is to be led and run by the boys** . . . so the adult leaders and parents must continuously remind themselves to “chill out”!
- It's all about developing new leaders . . . so the focus is less on results . . . and more on **allowing the boys to learn how to plan activities, to recruit participants, and to train, motivate, and lead other boys.**
- “Failure” is a valuable lesson . . . not only in what doesn't work . . . but more importantly that failure is simply an opportunity to start over in a better way.
- **If adult leaders always “step in” to prevent “failure” . . . the lesson is lost!**
- A famous Henry Ford quote is *“The only time you cannot afford to fail . . . is the last time you try.”* **Persistence is an important skill to develop in Scouts.**
- What often emerges from this environment . . . is that the Scouts figure out something more interesting, imaginative, and effective than any of the adult leaders had ever considered . . . **and the boys are keenly aware of the difference between doing it themselves vs. having it done for them!**

# BSA - Progression in Rank



- Each rank requires a mastery of knowledge and skills with documented work
- Progression in rank is not a “fast track” race . . . nor is it just a “resume builder”
- Some boys may not be motivated by higher rank . . . they may just enjoy participating in the outdoor programs and skills development activities
- Rank progression reflects not only individual accomplishments . . . but also leadership of younger boys and service to the Troop and the community



# BSA - Merit Badge Choices *(You name it . . . they've got it!)*



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

- 122 choices
- 13 Eagle required\*
- Can do some just for FUN
- Badges earned are sewn on a BSA sash



\* The Eagle badge requires one of Cycling, Hiking, OR Swimming AND one of Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving

- ## Silver border for Eagle required badges

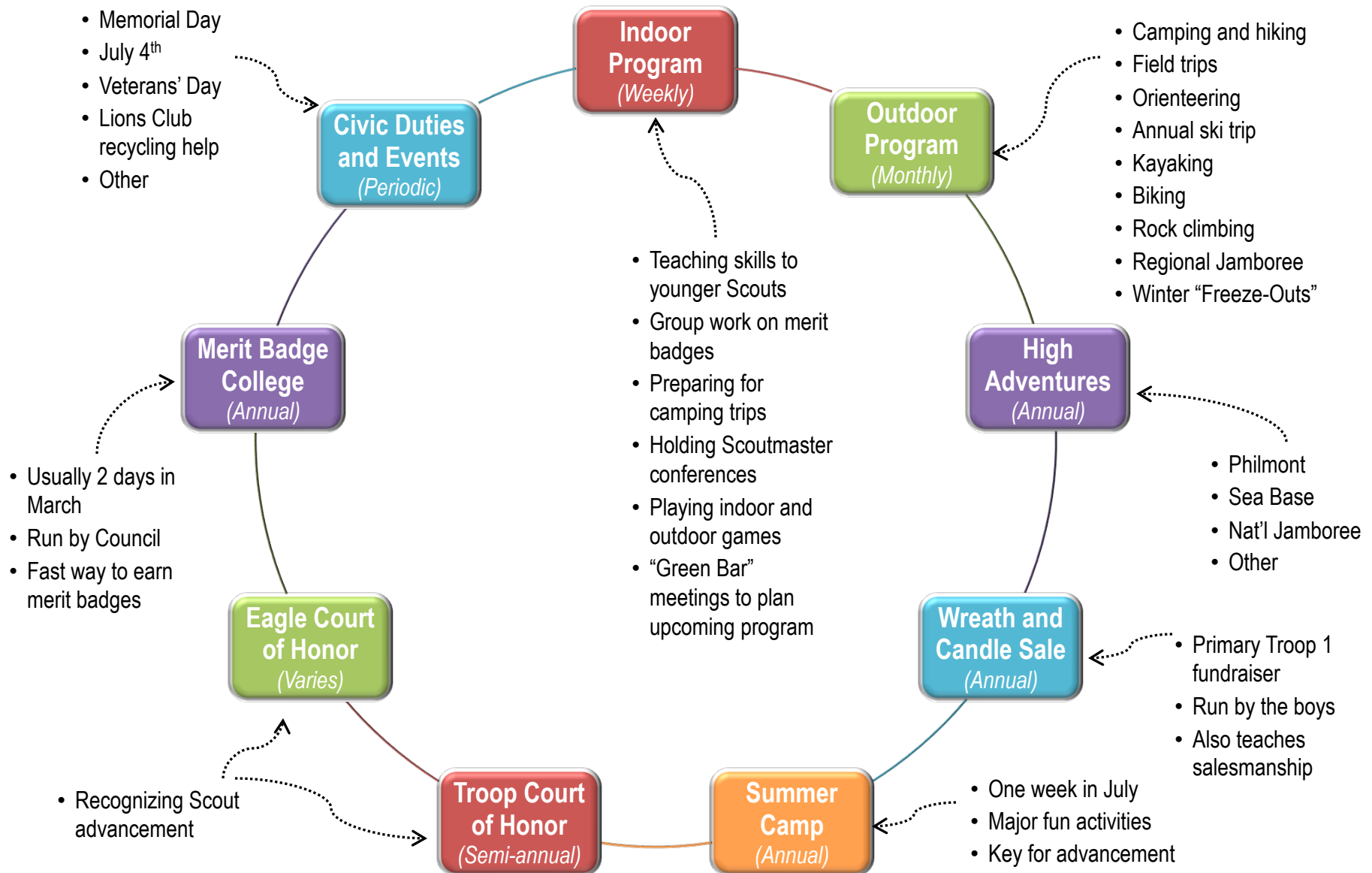


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# Troop 1 - Range and Timing of Major Activities





# Troop 1 - Parent Involvement and Support

- **Troop 1 depends entirely upon adult volunteers to support the program**
- Active parent involvement closely aligns with Scout enthusiasm and success
- Existing leaders also balance demanding careers, manage complex family schedules and households, and devote time to other siblings
- We offer a **wide range of volunteer opportunities:**
  - **Troop Committee membership** has a more predictable time commitment and defined scope of responsibilities
  - **Assistant Scoutmasters** have somewhat more active roles but get to enjoy the activities themselves . . . great if you plan to camp out anyway!
  - **Merit Badge Counselors** can contribute a particular expertise or skill to the boys
  - **"One-shot-wonders"** fill specific functions such as preparing for Troop and Eagle Courts of Honor, managing annual Troop registration, etc.
- Offering to "help out" another leader isn't really a help . . . **we need people who can own a certain defined scope of responsibility matched to your availability and preferences**
- Obviously, we don't set people up to fail . . . so we find roles that you can manage, provide transition periods with current leaders, and offer BSA training
- **With your help . . . we can continue offering one of the best Scouting programs around !**

# Troop 1 - Key Initiatives for 2017-18

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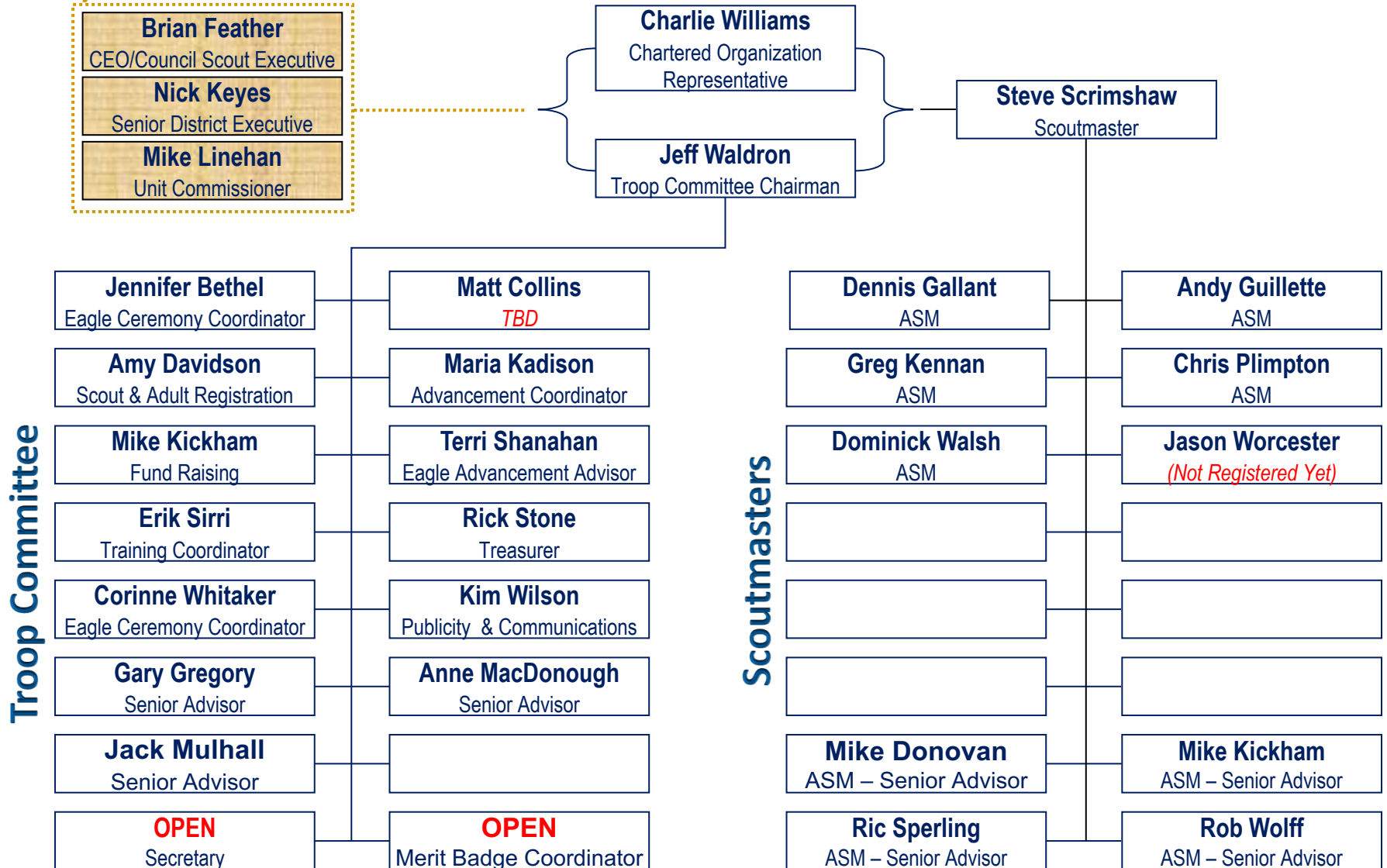


- **Recruit new ASMs and strengthen the shared ASM leadership roles** to continue supporting the Scoutmaster and all Scout activities
- **Manage the transition of Scouts new to town and Cub Scout crossovers**
- **Recruit new Troop Committee members** and transition existing leaders
- **Provide BSA training** for all ASMs and Troop Committee Members
- **Recruit new Merit Badge Counselors**
- **Replace and upgrade Troop gear and equipment as needed**, consistent with ongoing life-cycle equipment plan
- **Sustain and expand the Troop Web site and photograph repository**

# Troop 1 - Organization and Leadership



## Mayflower Council /Cannon District





# Troop 1 - Critical Open Positions

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- Assistant Scoutmasters
- Advancement Coordinator
- Eagle Scout Ceremony Coordinator
- Troop Committee Secretary
- Merit Badge Coordinator
- Registration Coordinator
- Merit Badge Counselors





## Appendix - Helpful Hints and Tips

- **DO buy a COVER for your BSA book** . . . it must last many years and endure all kinds of adventures!
- **DO buy the basic Boy Scout uniform shirt**, but the uniform pants, belts, and socks are optional.
- **DON'T race out and buy lots of camping and outdoor gear** because we often have “gear swaps” to trade and buy lightly used equipment. Also, Natick Outdoor rents some otherwise expensive gear such as extreme cold weather sleeping bags.
- **DO set up a large binder for Boy Scouts and insert 10 or so blank pages of the plastic pockets** used to store baseball cards. Each time a boy moves up a rank or earns a merit badge, he will be given a “blue card”, which must be kept by him. The binder comes in very handy as they begin earning more advancements and awards, especially for Eagle Scout. Also, at BSA camp or the Council-run “Merit Badge Colleges”, they will work on merit badges that aren’t always completed there . . . so they must also keep track of “partial blue cards” to be completed later.
- **DO help the boys keep track of their service hours** . . . which count for school and for Boy Scouts.
- **DO keep track of the dates and locations of overnight campouts** in the Scout Handbook or in the binder you have set up because this is required for the Camping merit badge.
- **The boys are awarded their rank advancements and merit badges at Courts of Honor** held periodically throughout the year. These ceremonies require them to wear their Class A shirts and to represent the troop well. All parents are invited, and it is expected that Scouts (and some parents) that are NOT earning an award nonetheless attend to support the boys that are being recognized.
- **Mothers are given a ribbon to wear to the Courts of Honor** . . . on which to keep the “parents pins” to mirror the boy’s awards. **Save them all . . . hopefully, culminating in your son’s Eagle ceremony!**