



## TROOP 219 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



**What makes Troop 219 special?** When Sir Robert Baden-Powell started Scouting in 1907, he believed there were two absolutes to its success – a focus on youth adventure in the outdoors, and boy leadership under the patrol method wherein boys lead each other and adults provide a safe, supervised environment.

Three fourths of “Scouting” is “outing”. The appeal of Scouting in America for 100 years has been boy adventure in the outdoors.

Troop 219 offers a wide variety of monthly camping experiences and a very strong long-term camping program. We go to LOTS of places rather than just visiting the same camps/parks on a rotating basis. Our list of themes and activities is long and varied. We meet all year-long and do not take the summer "off."

In addition, we have a solid, tested balance between offering opportunities for rank advancement and merit badge completion while still allowing the Scouts to have FUN!

Troop 219 is led by the Scouts. Adult leaders are there to provide oversight, supervision and guidance in a safe environment. However, the activities are selected and led by the Scouts themselves. This offers the boys the best opportunity for personal growth and development.

**Who are the adult leaders?** Troop 219 has over 50 registered and active adult leaders (known as “Scouters”). Our Scoutmaster, Calvin Joyner, has 19 years of adult leadership experience in Boy Scouts including the past 16 as our Scoutmaster. Adult leaders accompany Scouts at every activity and meeting. The program is guided by all of the Scoutmasters and is supported by the Troop Committee that meets monthly. All Troop and Committee meetings are open to all interested parents.

Ten of our adult Scouters are Eagle Scouts. All of our leaders have been trained in role specific training. All have attended Youth Protection Training. Fourteen have attended week-long training at Philmont Scout Ranch or other premier training centers and obtained Wood Badge (the highest form of adult leadership training). Six adults and eight youth have acted as trainers for the District and Council leadership development courses, this past year. Two are District Unit Commissioners that help other troops and packs get and stay organized.

**How big is troop 219?** Troop 219 currently has about 90 Scouts. On average, about 55-65 Scouts camp at each month’s outing. We are intentionally a larger "mid-sized" troop. It is hard to get critical mass and financial resources when you have a small troop. It is hard to arrange outings for very large troops.

**When do you meet?** Troop meetings are held on Mondays, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Christ Church Plano, 4550 Legacy Drive, in Plano. The Monday following a campout weekend is a Patrol Leaders’ Council (PLC), and there usually is no meeting following a Sunday Court of Honor (Award Ceremony). We publish a troop calendar every year and also post it to our website.

**What is your website?** Our website is: <http://www.t219.org>. On our website, you will find our annual calendar, contact and general information. Additionally, each month the permission form

and details for the monthly camping activity are posted for easy reference.

**How often and where do you go camping?** Troop 219 camps one weekend a month, departing on Friday evening and returning Sunday afternoon. Most weekends, the location is within a 2 hour radius of Plano, with occasional trips further away. We camp at State Parks and we also utilize Circle 10 Council, and Long Horn Council Boy Scout Camps.

**What about long-term camps?** Troop 219 offers at least two long-term camps annually. We participate in the Circle 10 Council Winter Camp at Camp Cherokee near Athens, Texas, between Christmas and New Year's. Every summer we go to a Boy Scout Camp for a week-long camp. We enhance the Scout adventure by visiting the best possible and most interesting camps around the country. In the past four years, we have attended nationally-known camps in North Carolina, Virginia and Colorado. For summer 2011, we will attend summer camp at Camp Ben Delatour near Red Feather Lakes, Colorado.

Additionally, Troop 219 frequents high-adventure BSA camps (open to boys aged 14 or older), such as Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, Sea Base in Florida and the Northern Tier Canoe Base in Minnesota. We have crews established for all three in 2011. Scouts also attend both the National and World Jamborees. In the summer of 2010, we took more than a full Troop contingent (38 youth + 4 adults) to the 100<sup>th</sup> National Jamboree in Virginia.

**How many of your Scouts become Eagle Scouts?** Nationally, 4 – 5% (on average) of all boys who join Boy Scouting attains the rank of Eagle Scout. Our troop's Eagle percentage has historically been twice that over the past 10 years. We currently have four active Eagle Scouts in the Troop and a number of Life Scouts poised on the edge of attaining Eagle right now. We will encourage and guide *any* boy who wishes to work towards the rank of Eagle

The Mission Statement of the Boy Scouts of America is "to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law." Troop 219's goal is to fulfill the mission of the Boy Scouts of America by offering youth diverse opportunities for adventure, personal growth and challenge. We want the boys to develop leadership and ethical values, reverence, self-motivation and a heart for service. We provide structured, supervised activities to achieve that goal. Rank advancement opportunities are embedded in our program, but they are not the purpose of our program. Scouting is about more than rank advancement.

**What is your advancement program to First Class?** BSA statistics indicate that Scouts who earn the First Class rank during their first twelve months as Boy Scouts are twice as likely to stay in Scouting. We believe this is really a reflection of the quality of a program and the individual Scout's participation. A troop should have a regular active outdoor program, and advancement to First Class will almost certainly result if a Scout participates actively.

Troop 219 organizes its New Scout patrols (we call them ACE patrols) under a program aimed at achieving the BSA - Trail to First Class goals. Each ACE patrol has adult patrol advisors who actively supervise the Trail to First Class program within our meeting and outing schedules. Older Scouts serve as Instructors and Troop Guides in our advancement program. When a Scout reaches the rank of First Class they are then recruited into one of our seven patrols. These patrols are mixed

in age, rank and leadership skills. These patrols work as a team for monthly programs and outing planning for the remainder of their scouting career. We are in our fourth year of this program and it has become an example mirrored in several Troops in the District.

We encourage WEBELOS Scouts who have already earned the Arrow of Light to join our troop in time to go to Winter Camp. Winter Camp is a great start on the Trail to First Class program.

**Tell me about your merit badge program?** Scouts earn merit badges at summer and winter camp, in connection with our monthly program themes, and through individual effort. Our Scouts are active in a variety of merit badge colleges. We have merit badge counselors available through the troop for virtually all the merit badges. We believe Scouts should work Eagle-required merit badges individually to ensure that each Scout has completed each requirement of these obviously-important merit badges. Any parent can and should become a merit badge counselor. You are encouraged to sign up and pass on your skill or passion in any one of 126 topics to some very interesting young men. Troop 219 and BSA require you to take Youth Protection Training and the Troop has merit badge counseling training and guides for you to follow.

**What is your patrol organization?** Troop 219 currently has seven individual patrols plus the ACE patrols. The ACE patrol is designed specifically for new scouts possessing a similar age and rank. The ACE format provides an avenue for new scouts to advance on their Trail to First Class prior to integration with the primary patrols. Each ACE patrol is assigned several older scouts to assist in all activities.

The seven current patrols have traditional names including Antelope, Bear, Beaver, Buffalo, Eagle, Fox, and Owl. These patrols contain scouts with varying age and rank and follow the format recommended by the BSA. The primary patrols are responsible for monthly meeting planning and presentations as well as activities on outings. The topics and types of meetings and outings are decided by all of the patrols at an annual Patrol Leaders Counsel.

All patrols have a patrol leader (PL) and an assistant patrol leader (APL). The PL is elected semiannually by the patrol members and the APL is appointed by their respective PL. At least two Assistant Scoutmasters serve as advisors to each patrol and are selected by the Scoutmaster.

**What training do the Scouts get to run their own troop?** Training starts in the troop with Patrol Leaders' Council training, led by senior Scouts and Scouters in a course known as Troop Leader Training (TLT). We encourage our Scouts to attend the district level course, Oak Leaf Training, a weekend program of leadership during their second year in the troop. National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT), a week-long course run at the council level, is the next step for Scouts age 13 and older. Finally, the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE), a national-level course, is conducted at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. A substantial amount of training goes on in the normal interaction with other patrol members under the guidance and counseling of adult patrol advisors.

**What are the troop's financial resources?** Troop 219 financial resources are comprised of dues, fundraising and individual contributions. We are a fairly well-capitalized troop. The troop provides all tentage and cooking and camping gear other than the personal items of each Scout. We have a reserve fund for major capital expenses which is overseen by our Troop Committee.

One of the benefits of our financial strength is we can offer scholarships for dues, camping fees, equipment, uniforming, etc. Our Troop leadership is committed to a principle that no boy will be deprived of Scouting because of financial hardship.

**How do I join?** Upon deciding to join Troop 219, e-mail us at [membership@t219.org](mailto:membership@t219.org) and let us know of your decision. Then simply, complete the youth application and Adult Volunteer Application in this packet and either bring it – along with the joining fee – to a Monday night troop meeting or contact us at [membership@t219.org](mailto:membership@t219.org) to make other arrangements. Annual dues are collected in December and January for the re-chartering of the Troop.

**What is the joining fee and what does it include?** There is a one-time joining fee of \$50. This fee covers the costs of: a Troop 219 hat, Troop 219 neckerchief (scarf), Troop 219 number patch, Troop 219 t-shirt, Troop 219 ACE Scout binder, official BSA Boy Scout Handbook, and official BSA Boy Scout shoulder loops

**What else should I expect to pay?** Annual dues are presently \$150. Dues are established annually to be effective for the calendar year. Weekend campouts, including food and activity fees, generally, are \$25. Special events with added expenses may rise to \$35, depending upon the activity. Winter camp lasts five days and typically has a cost of approximately \$100. Summer camp typically costs around \$500, varying chiefly by transportation cost. Scholarships are available based on financial need.

Scouts also have an opportunity to earn money to be used toward scouting fees by participating in Troop popcorn and holiday greenery fundraisers. A portion of the funds raised is credited to individual Scouts based on their participation.

**As a parent, what are my responsibilities?** I'm glad you asked! Our Scout program is very dependent upon volunteer adult leadership. Parental involvement is necessary to provide a great program and can occur on a variety of levels. Participation may be in the form of program leadership; as an Assistant Scoutmaster, merit badge counselor or subject matter expert for monthly presentations. We also have an active Troop Committee, working behind the scenes to support the troop. We would welcome new Committee members. In addition, Scout parents that elect to not become registered leaders, should serve the troop by sitting on a Scout Board of Review at least three times a year, driving to and from outings at least twice a year and assisting in a specific fundraising, Eagle or service project. You are always welcome to come to any meeting or outing. If you are involved with direct contact with the Scouts, you will be required by BSA policy to take the Youth Protection Training (free and on-line). We welcome and look forward to your help in maintaining a quality program at Troop 219.

**What gear does my scout need?** Troop 219 provides the tents, ground cloths and a dining tarp as well as all cooking equipment, fuel and consumable supplies. Individual scouts are expected to have a uniform, sleeping bag, mattress pad, mess kit, flashlight/headlamp, towel, toiletries, water bottle(s), pack or duffle bag and day pack, rain gear, and appropriate clothing. We always travel in our Class A uniforms and have activity uniform standards for outings.

**What are the uniform requirements?** Scouts are expected to wear the standard Boy Scouts of America (BSA) uniform consisting of the khaki shirt and green shorts/pants, with appropriate BSA belt and socks, and Troop 219 hat, neckerchief and merit badge sash (when badges have been earned). This is the Class A uniform standard. It is worn for Troop events, Boards of Review, Courts of Honor and while traveling. We also have a summer "Field" uniform of green BSA shorts or pants and a scout related or plain tee shirt. We generally allow Scouts to substitute blue jeans for long green pants in the fall and winter for meetings.

During camping trips, summer camp, and summer troop meetings, we generally provide that Scouts can wear an "activity" uniform comprised of Scout green shorts and socks along with an appropriate Scouting-related or plain t-shirt.

**Where can I purchase the uniform?** The official Boy Scout uniform can be purchased at either of these **Circle 10 Scout Shops**:

816 West McDermott  
Twin Creek Village, Suite 336  
Allen, TX 75013  
(214) 495-0306

or

8605 Harry Hines Blvd.  
Dallas, TX 75235  
Phone: (214) 902-2001

Alternatively, you may also purchase items through [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org).

**Can Troop 219 Representatives be at my son's Crossover Ceremony?** Absolutely! If your son is a WEBELOS II, please contact us at a meeting or by e-mail at [membership@t219.org](mailto:membership@t219.org) to inform us of your Pack's Bridging Ceremony (or Blue and Gold) date so that Troop 219 representatives can be present to welcome your Scout to our Troop.

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