

TROOP 219 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What makes Troop 219 special? We are pleased that Troop 219 is able to offer the adventure of Scouting in a quality program to both boys and girls, with our separate Boy and Girl Troops. The Boy Troop was started in 1987 and has developed a strong tradition of scouting excellence in the northwest and central Plano and Frisco communities and beyond. The Girl Troop was launched in February of 2019 and continues to gain momentum with a dedicated Scoutmaster and core group of girls, many of whom have family members who have been involved in scouting.

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 youth leadership under the patrol method wherein scouts 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 youth 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 Scouts the best opportunity for personal growth and development.

Who are the adult leaders? Troop 219 has 31 registered adult leaders (known as "Scouters"). Our Boy Troop Scoutmaster, Calvin Joyner, has 34+ years of adult leadership experience in Boy Scouts including the past 29 years as our Scoutmaster. Our Girl Troop Scoutmaster, Margo Shearer, has 5+ years of experience in Scouting with her sons, and was pleased to become our Girl Troop's forth Scoutmaster in 2025. 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.

Seven of our adult Scouters are Eagle Scouts. All of our leaders have been trained in role specific training. All have completed Youth Protection Training. Fifteen leaders 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). This past year, Troop 219 adults served as trainers for the District and Council leadership development course. One is a District Unit Commissioner that helps other troops and packs get and stay organized. Several others are members of the District Committee.

How big is Troop 219? Troop 219B currently has 80 registered Scouts and Troop 219G has 30 registered Scouts. On average, about 45-55 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 difficult 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 Plano Chinese Alliance Church, located at 5025 Custer Road in Plano (south of Spring Creek). The Monday following a campout weekend is a Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC). We publish a troop calendar every year and post it on the troop website. We also have a digital calendar that you can subscribe to on your mobile devices.

What is your website? Our troop website is: http://www.t219.org. On our troop 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. We also maintain a private Facebook Group for informal connections and photo sharing among our troop family.

How often and where do you go camping? Troop 219 camps one weekend a month, departing on Friday evening and returning Sunday around noon. Most weekends, the location is within a 2 hour radius of Plano, with occasional trips farther away. We camp at Circle 10 Council and Long Horn Council BSA Scout Camps as well as state parks.

What about long-term camps? Troop 219 offers at least two long-term camps annually. We participate in the Circle 10 Council Campsgiving at Camp Constantin near Graford, Texas OR Winter Camp at Camp Trevor-Rees Jones near Athens, Texas, between Christmas and New Year's. Every summer we go to a BSA 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 years, we have attended nationally-known camps in West Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, and Colorado. For summer 2022, we attended BSA's Summit- Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. For 2023, we attended summer camp in Colorado at Ben Delatour Scout Ranch. For 2024, we attended summer camp at Camp Daniel Boone in North Carolina.

Additionally, Troop 219 frequents high-adventure BSA camps (open to Scouts aged 14 or older), such as Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, Sea Base in Florida and in St Thomas and the Northern Tier Canoe Base in Ely, Minnesota. Scouts have also attended both the National and World Jamborees. In 2022, we sent crews each to the High Adventure Camps at Summit Bechtel Reserve and Florida Sea Base. In 2021, 2023 and 2024, we sent crews to Philmont and Florida Sea Base.

How many of your Scouts become Eagle Scouts? Nationally, approximately 3% (on average) of all registered youth in a given year attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Our troop's Eagle percentage has historically been approximately double the national average. The Boy Troop has 182 Eagle Scouts and the Girl Troop has 3 Eagle Scouts. We currently have 2 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 or girl who wishes to work towards the rank of Eagle.

The Mission Statement of Scouts BSA 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 Scouts BSA by offering youth diverse opportunities for adventure, personal growth and challenge. We want the boy or girl 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 Scouts are twice as likely to stay in Scouting. We believe this is really a reflection of both 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 (Boy Troop) Phoenix (Girl Troop) patrols) under a program aimed at achieving the BSA - Trail to First Class goals. These patrols have 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, he or she is then recruited/placed into one of our senior 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 sixteenth year of this program and it has become an example mirrored in several Troops in the District.

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 130+ topics to some very interesting young people. 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 219B currently has five individual patrols plus the ACE patrols. The ACE patrols are designed specifically for new scouts possessing a similar age and rank. This 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 older scouts to assist in their activities.

The five current Boy Troop patrols have traditional names including Antelope, 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 Council meeting.

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. Assistant Scoutmasters (adult volunteers) 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 Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST), a district level course. 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's financial resources are comprised of dues, fundraising and individual contributions. We are a fairly well-capitalized troop. The troop provides all tentage, cooking, and camping gear other than the personal items of each Scout. We have a reserve fund for major capital expenses that 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 young person will be deprived of Scouting because of financial hardship.

How do I join? Upon deciding to join Troop 219, email us at membership@t219.org and let us know of your decision. Then, complete the BSA Youth Application, BSA Annual Medical Form (parts A & B), 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 to make other arrangements. Annual dues are collected in December for the rechartering of the Troop.

What is the joining fee and what does it include? There is a one-time joining fee of $125. This fee covers the costs of troop dues through the end of the year, official Scouts BSA Handbook (for boys or for girls), and troop gear including: a T219 hat, T219 Duffel Bag, T219 neckerchief (scarf), T219 number patch, T219 T-shirt, and official BSA neckerchief slide and shoulder loops which will be presented to your Scout at their Crossover ceremony (or upon joining).

What else should I expect to pay? Troop 219 has annual dues of $160. Dues are established annually to be effective for the calendar year. Our ten weekend campouts, including food and activity fees, generally, are $25. Sixteen dollars goes back to the scouts to purchase food for each outing. Special events with added expenses may rise to $35, depending upon the activity. Winter camp lasts five days and typically has a total cost of approximately $160. Campsgiving cost $230 for each scout. Summer camp typically costs around $975-$1100, 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 fundraisers including fall holiday greenery and spring camp card sales. The funds raised are credited to individual Scout accounts based on their participation.

As a parent, what are my responsibilities? We're 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 quarterly (or as needed) and assisting in Troop community service and Eagle Scout service projects. You are always welcome to come to any meeting or outing. If you have direct contact with the Scouts, you will be required by BSA policy to take the Youth Protection Training (free and online at https://my.scouting.org). We welcome and expect 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), 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 BSA uniform consisting of the khaki shirt and green shorts/pants, with appropriate BSA belt and green socks, Troop 219 hat, neckerchief and merit badge sash (when badges have been earned). This is the Class A uniform standard, also known as “Field” uniform. It is worn for Troop events, Boards of Review, Courts of Honor and while traveling. This uniform is acceptable at meetings all year long. We also have an "activity" uniform (Class B) of green BSA shorts, Troop 219 logo shorts, or BSA green pants and a T219 T-shirt or a scout related or plain T-shirt. This uniform is acceptable at weekly meetings and when Class B has been indicated.

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

Bobby Lyle - Billy Gamble Scout Shop 5600 US Hwy 75 South Fairview, TX 75069 *Main: 972-359-9992 Fax: 972-359-9994* Mon. - Sat.: 9 AM to 6 PM Thurs.: 9 AM to 8 PM

John D. Murchison Scouting Center 8605 Harry Hines Blvd. Dallas, TX 75235 Phone: (214) 902-2001 Alternatively, you may purchase items online at **www.scoutstuff.org.**

Can Troop 219 Representatives be at my child’s Crossover Ceremony? Absolutely! If your son or daughter is a WEBELOS II Arrow of Light Scout, please contact us at a meeting or by email at membership@t219.org to inform us of your Pack's Bridging Ceremony (or Blue and Gold) date and details so that Troop 219 representatives can be present to welcome your Scout to our Troop.