

Scouts BSA Troop 888

Information Sheet



Key Facts

Location/Sponsor: Loveland Presbyterian Church

Meeting Time: Tuesdays @ 7-8:30 pm

of Scouts: 25

of Registered /Trained Adult Leaders: 20+

Key Contacts: Scoutmaster Dave Jouwstra – 513-507-4318 jouwstar78@yahoo.com
Committee Chair Jenn Harlow – 513-305-4178 jennifer.harlow@gmail.com
Charter Representative Hank Wescott - htwestcott@gmail.com

Why Are We Here?

We follow the mission of scouting to help boys become responsible young men of good character. We will help your son learn to be a *leader* and to fulfill his potential through fun and the scouting program.

Troop Operation

- Troop 888 is a *Boy Led Troop* as encouraged by Scouts BSA. This means the Scouts plan, organize, and lead activities. They decide the meeting themes and activities, in quarterly leadership meetings.
- We use the “Patrol Method”, so boys operate in units of about 6-8 Scouts in their age group and elect a Patrol Leader to coordinate the group. Elections for positions are held twice a year, giving all Scouts a chance at numerous leadership positions while in the Troop.
- Typical Troop meetings consist of learning scout skills, rank advancement, prep for campouts, games, and other activities.
- We are active in many Council Activities such as Peterloon, District Camp-o-rees, National Youth Leadership Training, and Merit Badge Challenge.
- The Troop uses Scout Book for calendar, communication, and record keeping.

Scout Skills & Advancement

- We have Scouts of all ranks and work to help Scouts advance, focusing most of the meeting time on younger Scouts learning Scout skills.
- The Troop has produced more than 100 Eagle Scouts over its 60+ year history.
- We encourage our older, more advanced Scouts of 1st class & up to help the younger scouts, which allows them to continue to hone their skills, develop leadership, & bond the troop.
- We encourage new scouts to earn Scout and Tenderfoot ranks by the end of their first year. This gets them through many of the basic skills and enables them to participate in more activities where things such as first aid & swimming are a requirement.

Camping & Activities

The Troop camps once a month, year-round. We try to have a variety of campouts and change the schedule each year. The Scouts decide what type of activity they want to do and help to plan the events. Some of the recent campouts featured backpacking, canoeing, climbing, caving, and visits to historic locations.

- Typically, campouts depart early Friday evening from the church and return midday on Sunday.
- We also attend Summer Camp each year for 1 week. We rotate summer camps as we believe attending different camps helps keep the scouts interested.
- The Troop usually goes on a longer Historical Campout in June. The last campout went to historical locations in Virginia including Monticello, Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Norfolk.
- Many Scouts are active in orienteering through Orienteering Cincinnati to let Scouts participate in this fun activity & skill.
- The data shows that Scouts who attend Summer Camp their first year are much more likely to stay in the Scouting program. With this in mind, we want to get your Scout camping right away. He should attend the March campout, and at least one other campout before July, to get used to being on his own. Let's all aim to get your Scout to Summer Camp his first year!
- All activities are supervised by trained Scoutmasters and other trained adults, following BSA youth protection.
- Here is a sample of the campouts that the Troop has done in a typical year
 - Jan - Klondike Derby campout
 - Feb - Merit Badge Challenge
 - Mar - Cabin Campout – Camp OYO Friendship, Ohio
 - Apr - District Camp-O-Ree
 - May - Fishing Campout at Camp Birch
 - Jun - Historical Campout
 - Jul - Summer Camp at Camp Friedlander
 - Aug - Canoeing and Tubing Campout
 - Sept - Climbing Campout
 - Oct - Peterloo Camp-O-Ree – Camp Friedlander
 - Nov - Backpacking Campout
 - Dec - Overnight lock-in

High Adventure

- The Troop participates in High Adventure camps every year. These are special BSA operated High Adventure Bases that provide unique outdoor adventure opportunities for older Scouts.
- Trips are planned for each of the 4 High Adventure bases on a 4-year rotation.
 - Philmont (New Mexico)
 - Northern Tier (Minnesota)
 - Sea Base (Florida)
 - Summit (West Virginia)
- Scouts must be age 13 or 14 depending on location and First Class rank to attend.

Community Service

Giving back to the Community is an important part of Scouting and is a key element for Troop 888. In the past, Boy Scouts, adult leaders, and parents assisted in many community service projects such as:

- Providing support for activities annually at LPC including a pancake breakfast and Trunk or Treat.
- Many Conservation projects in the community (Izaak Walton League, Miami River Clean-up & more)
- Assisting with the Loveland Learning Garden
- And several Eagle Scout projects supporting the community

Anyone is welcome to suggest a community service opportunity and we look for new projects each year.

Adult and Scout Participation

- We encourage parent participation at Troop meetings, on the Troop Committee, as an Assistant Scoutmaster, or just helping at a special event. This is key to the success of our Troop and your son.
- We are always in need of trained leaders to organize and participate in monthly campouts, to be patrol mentors, merit badge counselors, and committee members.
- Troop 888 has consistently won the Journey to Excellence Gold Award which demonstrates our commitment to Troop growth, scout advancement, trained leaders, parent participation, and a fun, learning program for the scouts.
- Finally, we realize there are a lot of opportunities for numerous activities for today's youth. We fully expect that Scouts will share their time with other activities such as sports or church and allow them to progress within their schedule. We would hope that each activity gains from the other in what the boy has learned from leadership, teamwork, and reverence.
- In the end, we hope our Scouts not only know the Scout Oath and Scout Law, but also live by it both inside and outside of Scouting.

Dues & Uniforms

- Annual Dues are collected in November. This covers the youth membership fee for registration, Scout Life magazine, and general operation of the troop (equipment, training, insurance, advancement awards, and special recognition awards).
- When a child crosses over from Cub Scouts in March:
 - At crossover, your child will be given a Scouts BSA Handbook, a Troop 888 neckerchief, slide, Troop 888 numerals, and green shoulder loops for the uniform shirt.
 - Each Scout will need the following uniform pieces: Scouts BSA uniform shirt *with council patch*, Scouts BSA pants, Scouts BSA web belt (*unless the pants come with a built-in belt*), and Scout socks.
- We encourage each of the Scouts to get green 'Class B' shirts. These are custom Troop 888 T-shirts worn during the summer months, and at campouts. Orders will be placed in April / May.

Other Costs (optional, but recommended)

- Campout costs are not paid out of the general troop budget. A typical campout will cost between \$20-\$40. Campout costs go towards food, cooking fuel, camp-site reservations, activity fees, and fuel for vehicles.
- Some campouts, such as Via Ferrata climbing, can be upwards of \$70 due to the cost of the activity.
- Summer Camp costs are typically \$450 for a week-long experience.
- High Adventure trips are around \$1500-\$2500.

