# **Troop 261 Scouter Handbook**



The purpose of this handbook is to serve as a guide for parents of new Scouts, adults active within the Troop, and those adults looking to become involved with the Troop.

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# **Troop 261 Annual Schedule**

The following is intended to serve as a rough outline for events the Troop participates in every year to enable families to plan around activities they wish to participate in in advance. Months listed below are tentative. Some events may get postponed or cancelled based on available meeting times or other activities that are going on.

Events listed in *italics* are actually organized by the Onondaga district, Greater Niagara Frontier Council (GNFC), or another group and are not exclusive to Troop 261.

Troop Committee Meetings (for adults) are 7:00PM on the first Monday of every month, September through June. Patrol Leader Councils (for Scout leaders) are held the first Thursday of each month for one hour before a Regular Troop Meeting (6:30PM-7:30PM). Regular Troop Meetings (for all Scouts; adults are welcome too) are Thursdays during the school year when school is in session, 7:30PM-9PM.

#### September

Scoutmaster Conferences/Boards of Review (early)

Court of Honor (mid)

Patrol Leader Elections (mid)

Weekend Hike (for Second Class and below)

Scout Brigade of Fort George Event (late)

#### October

Youth Protection Training (adults)

Schoellkopf Shootout (early)

Amherst PTSA Chicken BBQ (fundraiser for our chartering organization)

Fall Camporee

## November

Popcorn Distributed

**Troop Camping Trip** 

#### **December**

Turn in Popcorn Money (early)

Annual Dues Due to Treasurer

Cold Weather Training (prerequisite for Okpik, see below)

**Troop Camping Trip** 

Scoutmaster Conferences /Boards of Review

Winter Break

### **January**

Eagle Court of Honor (early, or May)

Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge Class at Niagara University

Court of Honor/Friends of Scouting/Open House/Bring a Friend/Webelos Visit to Troop

Klondike (or February)

Okpik (cold weather tent camping event, late)

Onondaga Pinewood Derby Pit Crew Volunteer Opportunity (late)

#### **February**

Klondike (early – or January)

Niagara Climbing Center (every other year) or Skyzone event

Webelos Hike for Arrow of Light

Invite Webelos to a Troop Meeting

#### March

University of Scouting (early)

Patrol Leader Elections (early)

Troop Camping Trip (early)

Order of the Arrow (OA) Election

Webelos Bridging Ceremony (Cub Scouts graduate to Boy Scouts)

#### **April**

Good Turn for America (grocery collection for local food banks)

Reverence Activity (new Scouts)

Tenderfoot Fitness Test 1 (new Scouts)

Camping Prep for Former Webelos/New Scouts

Orienteering/Tree and Plant ID Course (for First Class and below)

Autistic Services Spaghetti Dinner Volunteer Opportunity (late)

Troop Camping Trip with Former Webelos/New Scouts before Spring Camporee (late)

#### May

Chicken BBQ (early)

Schoellkopf Shootout (early)

Dutch-Oven Cook-Off

Eagle Court of Honor (or January)

Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills Training (IOLST) for Adults

Spring Camporee

Religious Relationships Committee - Ten Commandments Hike

Tenderfoot Fitness Test 2 (new Scouts)

Tim Butler Garden Cleanup

Scoutmaster Conferences /Board of Reviews

#### June

Court of Honor (final awards and rank presentation for the school year)

Cleanup at Ride for Roswell Bike Race

Birchbark Canoe Trip Preparation

#### July

Summer Camp

Challenger Baseball

Birchbark Canoe Trip (late)

## August

**Popcorn Selling Starts** 

Powder Horn Training (ages 14-adult – offered every other year)

SSR Eagle Flight Week

# Adult Roles within Troop 261

The word "Scout" is used to refer to a youth member who is active in Scouting. Adults (parents and others) who are registered and active in Scouting are referred to by the term "Scouter". The following is a brief explanation of the different roles Scouters take within our Troop.

## **Troop Committee**

The Troop Committee is comprised of the Scouters who support the "business" aspects of the Troop. They assist in planning events, fundraisers, event logistics, finances, and some members occasionally join the Troop on their outings (although this is not required). This is a good role for adults interested in being active with the Troop but who aren't necessarily interested in going camping or teaching Scout skills. The different roles within the Troop Committee are:

**Troop Committee Chair** – the head of the committee who arranges and schedules the meetings. **Chartered Organizational Representative** – serves as the liaison between the Troop and the sponsoring organization (our charter organization is the Amherst Middle School/High School PTSA).

**Secretary** – record keeper and compiler of our *Hitchin' Post* electronic newsletter.

Treasurer – handles the Troop finances, collects dues, and assists with fundraising.

**Parent Coordinator** – the primary "go to" person for any parent questions or concerns as well as adult training.

**Advancement Chair** – records and purchases Scout awards and ranks that have been earned and presents them to Scouts during a Court of Honor ceremony three times during the year.

**Popcorn Colonel** – handles logistics for our annual popcorn sale.

**Chaplain** – our religious coordinator who handles our Troop reverence activity for new Scouts and works with the Troop Chaplain's Aide (a Scout position of responsibility).

**Camping Coordinator** – handles making reservations and logistics for camping trips as well as facilitating delivery of our Troop trailer to campsites.

**Eagle Scout Coordinator** – works with and encourages Life Scouts to complete the requirements, paperwork, and project required to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

**Fundraising** – coordinates our annual fundraising programs including our chicken BBQ and camp card sales.

**Committee Members** – those Scouters who are on the committee to contribute guidance and feedback to the running of the Troop. When a Scout earns a new rank, his final requirement is to sit down for a brief interview with several committee members who can ask the Scout any questions they might have about the program or the individual's Scouting career and future plans. These "Boards of Review" typically take place during a regular Troop Meeting, but may take place at Troop campouts or wherever/whenever convenient.

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## **Other Scouter Positions**

Apart from the Troop Committee, there are several other positions available for adult members within the Troop that are more focused on the "program" side as opposed to the "business" side.

**Scoutmaster** – the primary adult who works with the Scouts to facilitate the actual Troop Meetings, meets monthly (or as needed) with the Troop Committee (adult support) and Patrol Leader's Council (Scout leadership) to plan the Troop activities, assists with the Court of Honor ceremonies (three per year plus one for Eagle Scouts), and performs final Scoutmaster Conference for Scouts before they have their Board of Review to earn a new rank.

**Assistant Scoutmasters** – assist with the Scouting program (by teaching knots, first aid, cooking, nature identification, Scout skills, etc.) during Troop Meetings and campouts, acts as support staff for the Troop during any outings or special events, and fills in for the Scoutmaster whenever necessary.

Merit Badge Counselors – subject matter experts, whether by profession, education, or hobby, which are willing to teach Scouts some of their knowledge to help them earn merit badges on different subjects. There are currently over 120 different merit badge subjects. Many counselors serve as counselors for multiple subjects that they have an interest in. For more information on being a merit badge counselor, see the **Becoming a Merit Badge Counselor** section.

For each of these roles, there is training available to get you up to speed with what you need to know from a Scouting standpoint in order to be successful. See the **Adult Training** section (below) for more information.



# **Adult Training**

All Scouts deserve well-trained leaders. The following is a quick, simple reference for what training is required depending on your role within the Troop. If you have any questions on these requirements, check with the Parent Coordinator for the Troop; they should be able to answer all your questions pertaining to adult training.

Whenever you complete any of these trainings, you will be presented with a card (if you attended a live training) or the opportunity to print a certificate (if you take the class online) to serve as proof of completion. Please be sure to bring a copy of these items to our Parent Coordinator so we can update our records to indicate when adult trainings have been completed.

#### **Youth Protection**

All adults with registered youth involved in Scouting MUST complete *Youth Protection* training (BSA class Y01) every two years. This is a national requirement and there are no exceptions. This training must be completed before you accompany any Scouts on any camping trip, field trip, or other excursion, or take on any adult position within the Troop (see **Adult Roles within Troop 261**).

Fortunately, this training is short, free, easy to complete, and available through multiple sources. You can take the class online, for free, in about 40 minutes time by visiting <a href="https://myscouting.org">http://myscouting.org</a>.

We (the Troop) occasionally offer *Youth Protection* in a classroom style setting as well for those who prefer live learning with others over watching a computer video. This is generally offered once a year near the start of the school year.

Finally, the Greater Niagara Frontier Council (GNFC – the council our Troop belongs to) generally offers *Youth Protection* in a classroom setting several times a year at their headquarters on Genesee Street in Buffalo. You can watch the calendar at http://www.wnyscouting.org to see when it will be offered next.

# **Troop Committee**

All members of the Troop Committee (see **Adult Roles within Troop 261** for details) must take *Troop Committee Challenge* training (BSA class S10) in addition to *Youth Protection*. Unlike *Youth Protection*, you only have to take this training once; it does not expire every two years like *Youth Protection*.

Similar to *Youth Protection*, this training can be taken as a short, free, online class from <a href="http://myscouting.org">http://myscouting.org</a> (it runs about 50 minutes) or in a classroom setting, offered several times a year for free through the GNFC.

In addition, the Chartered Organization Representative must also complete the *This Is Scouting* training (BSA class WA01) and *Chartered Organization Representative Training* (BSA class D72) as well. These are also both free and only have to be taken once (they do not expire). *This Is Scouting* is under an hour in duration and available online at <a href="http://myscouting.org">http://myscouting.org</a>.

## **Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters**

Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters, as they are more involved in the actual program and Scout skills activities, have more involved training requirements. In addition to Youth Protection, Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters must also complete two additional trainings:

- Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training (BSA class S24 typically 8 hours in a classroom setting)
- Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills Training (IOLST, BSA class S11 typically one weekday evening plus one overnight camp out on a weekend)

These two classes do have a minimal cost associated with each (typically \$30 or less), but it is because meals are provided during the trainings. These trainings only have to be taken once and do not expire. These classes are offered by the GNFC several times throughout the year. Watch the calendar at <a href="http://www.wnyscouting.org">http://www.wnyscouting.org</a> or check with the Parent Coordinator to see when they will be offered next.

# **Merit Badge Counselors**

Merit badge counselors, in addition to expertise in their chosen fields, must complete *Youth Protection* training as specified above. They should also be familiar with the Merit Badge Counselor Instructors Guide found here:

http://www.scouting.org/Training/Adult/Supplemental/MeritBadgeCounselorInstructorsGuide.aspx.

## **Fully Trained**

Troop 261 has committed to our chartering organization that ALL active adults within the Troop will be fully trained. For those on the Troop Committee, this only requires a commitment of less than two hours to complete two online based trainings. For the scoutmaster and assistant scoutmasters, the time commitment is substantially more. What this means in short, however, is that you can be confident that all adults within the Troop who work with our Scouts have completed the BSA required trainings on youth safety and skills applicable to their specific roles within the Troop. This is evident from the *Trained* patch worn on the uniform's left sleeve by all adults within the Troop (shown below).



# **Becoming a Merit Badge Counselor**

One of the easiest (and possibly most fun) ways in which an adult can help the Troop is by serving as a merit badge counselor.

Merit badges are awards that Scouts earn indicating that they have learned basic skills and concepts related to a specific topic. There are currently over 120 different merit badge subjects and Scouts have to earn a certain number of them in order to reach the highest ranks (Star, Life, and Eagle) within Boy Scouts.

The complete and current list of available merit badges can be found at the bottom of this page: <a href="http://www.scouting.org/meritbadges.aspx">http://www.scouting.org/meritbadges.aspx</a>. Anyone with a background in any of these topics (due to occupation, education, or hobby) can serve as a merit badge counselor by teaching Scouts about their areas of interest. Many counselors serve as counselors for multiple subjects that they have an interest in.

To become a merit badge counselor, the first step is to look through the list of merit badges and decide which one(s) you would feel comfortable consulting on. After that, you will need to complete three simple steps:

- 1) The paperwork: Complete a new Adult Application (in addition to the one you completed upon first joining the Troop) and a Merit Badge Counselor Application. These two forms can be obtained from the Troop Committee Chair, the local BSA Service Center, or downloaded directly from <a href="http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Media/forms.aspx">http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Media/forms.aspx</a>. The completed forms can be turned in to the Troop Committee Chair, Scoutmaster, or the local BSA Service Center.
- 2) The training: Training is pretty simple and straightforward. See the **Merit Badge Counselors** section under **Adult Training** for full details.
- 3) The resources: It is suggested you pick up a copy of the individual merit badge pamphlets for the subjects you wish to serve as a counselor for. These short, relatively inexpensive booklets are available at the local BSA Service Center and contain a wealth of information, including the badge requirements, for a particular subject. You can also find many useful resources on the internet, including downloadable workbooks for Scouts to utilize and supplemental information.

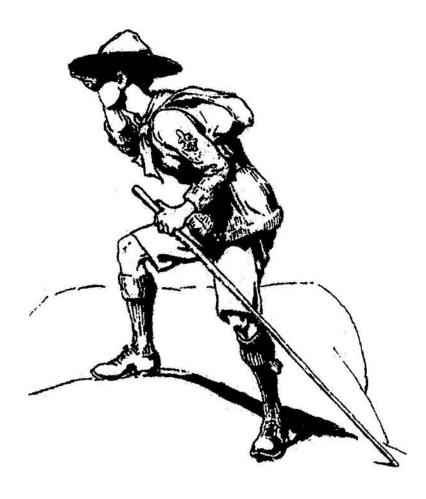
Once you are registered as a merit badge counselor, you should talk to the Scoutmaster about running a class for interested Scouts. It is not necessary to cover ALL merit badge requirements during a class; although a Scout is required to complete all requirements, some may be done on their own (as homework or even prerequisites before you meet).



Each Scout should have an "Application for Merit Badge" or "blue card" for you to sign off on the individual requirements they complete. Scouts should ask the Scoutmaster for this before beginning any work on a merit badge.



Once they have completed all the requirements, you keep one third of the blue card (the section marked **COUNSELOR'S RECORD** on the back) for yourself as a record. A second section (the middle part marked **APPLICANT'S RECORD** on the back) is kept by the Scout and the final third (with the heading **APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE** on the front) is turned in to the Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair by the Scout. The Scout is then presented the actual merit badge at the Troop's next Court of Honor.



# **Helping Your Scout Advance**

All of the requirements for earning each rank in Boy Scouts are detailed in the *Boy Scout Handbook*. The vast majority of these requirements will be covered at Troop Meetings, campouts, or other activities. There are some, however, that require parent and/or family participation. It is the responsibility of the Scout and their parent or guardian to complete these requirements and let the Scoutmaster and/or Advancement Chair know these have been completed. You can track your Scout's progress by using the Troopmaster computer program which the Troop provides free to all parents and adult leaders within the Troop (see **Troopmaster Software**, below).

In addition to the specific examples below, additional opportunities to earn merit badges are regularly posted on the calendar on <a href="http://www.wnyscouting.org">http://www.wnyscouting.org</a>.

# **Scout (Joining Requirements)**

- Complete a Boy Scout application and health history (the health history form can be downloaded from <a href="http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx">http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx</a>) signed by your parent or guardian. Complete the Pamphlet Exercises. With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide".

(NOTE: This pamphlet can be found inside the front of the Boy Scout Handbook or online at <a href="http://www.scouting.org/filestore/ypt/pdf/46-015.pdf">http://www.scouting.org/filestore/ypt/pdf/46-015.pdf</a>.)

## **Second Class**

Earn an amount of money agreed upon by you and your parent, then save at least 50 percent of that money.

# **Eagle-Required Merit Badges**

Several Eagle-required merit badges (including Citizenship in the Community, Cooking, and Family Life) require family involvement, permission, and/or tasks to be done at home.

The Family Life merit badge requires at least 90 days of record keeping by the Scout as well as family discussions, meetings, and a project. The sooner the Scout starts on this badge, the sooner they will have one of their Eagle requirements completed and out of the way. Before beginning work on this badge, the Scout should have a brief meeting with a Family Life merit badge counselor (Troop 261 typically has counselors for this badge). The requirements for the badge can be found online at <a href="http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges/mb-FAML.aspx">http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges/mb-FAML.aspx</a>.

# **Helping Other Scouts Advance**

Please consider helping the whole Troop with their advancement by becoming an active Committee Member, Assistant Scoutmaster, or Merit Badge Counselor. See the **Adult Training** and **Becoming a Merit Badge Counselor** sections for more information.

# **Troopmaster Software**

Troopmaster is a Windows-based program that allows parents, Scouts, and adult leaders track advancement, awards, and training for all members of our Troop. This indispensable tool is provided free of charge to all parents and members of the Troop.

Before you start to install the software, you will want to contact one of the Troopmaster Administrators (see **Current Adult Leaders**, below) to obtain the information specific to our license (license key, expiration information, server, port, user ID, password, and data access/encryption password).

It is recommended (but not required) that you temporarily turn off any firewall software you have before you begin. Download the software from:

http://www.troopmaster.com/download/troopmaster.html

You can run it from the web site by selecting Run or you can save it to your computer as long as you remember where you are saving it to.

There are two parts to installing and running Troopmaster:

- 1. Install the software without the database
- 2. Download the database from the FTP site

To install the software without the database, open the saved file. Use the defaults to install. Enter the unit (261), as well as the license key and expiration information. Click on the *Activate* box.

On the New User or Convert Data from Previous Version screen, make sure the *New User* box is checked and click on the *Next* box.

On the Program Manager Group screen, click OK.

On the Desktop Icon screen, click OK.

On the Troopmaster Software Auto Mailer screen, click Next and use the default settings.

On the Install Adobe Acrobat Reader screen, since you should already have this on your computer, answer *No.* 

Your computer may ask you to restart to complete the installation. Press OK to restart.

To download the database from the FTP site, open Troopmaster. The software will open, but it does not contain the database at this point. To download the database from the FTP site, click on File>Troopmaster DotNet.

Check "Activate TroopMaster DotNet" (this is the box in the upper left corner of the Troopmaster DotNet screen).

In the FTP Settings box, enter the server, port, user ID, and password (user ID and password must be in capital letters). For the Web Data Path, do not enter anything; there should already be a "/" in that field.

"Use Passive Mode" should be checked.

Enter your name in the Contact Info field and click OK.

The program will automatically download the most current database to your hard drive.

If you open the program and are not connected to the Internet, the software will use the last database that was downloaded to your hard drive. You should update (open the program while connected to the Internet) at least once per month.

If you want to show merit badges that a Scout does not have, click on File>Preferences, and check "Omit complete MBs from selection lists".

To generate commonly used reports:

#### Calendar

Click on Reports > Activities > Calendar

Be sure that all the *Types* are selected. Hold down the "Shift" key and select all the types.

Enter starting and ending dates. If you want to select today, you may enter the letter t.

Format button: Calendar – this will give you a calendar-style format instead of a listing.

Check boxes: Include activity details.

Include description.

Click OK.

#### **Activities**

This will show how many camping trips, hikes, fund raising events, etc., an individual has participated in during a given time period.

Click on Reports > Activities > Individual Participation

Select the Scout, starting and ending dates, and type or types of activities.

For multiple activities, hold down the Ctrl key as you click on the activities.

Click OK.

## Awards and Advancement - Individual History

This will print out a report of all the rank requirements, activities, merit badges, and awards a Scout has accomplished, as well as what requirements he has left to complete.

Click on Reports > Awards and Advancement > Individual History

Select the Scout.

Click OK.

## **Awards and Advancement - Individual Progress**

This will print out a report of all the rank requirements completed and remaining for the Scout's next rank or Eagle Palm, along with the number of days remaining for participation and position of responsibility, if applicable.

Click on Reports > Awards and Advancement > Individual Progress

Select the Scout.

Click OK.

#### Roster

Click on Reports > Scout/Unit General

Select appropriate report and desired options.

Click OK.

# Camping

Camping is an important part of the Scouting program. Our Troop tries to go weekend camping (Friday night through Sunday morning) typically once every 6 weeks or so during the school year. Scouts are not required to attend campouts, but are strongly encouraged to do so as there are some requirements for advancement, as well as some awards, that can only be earned on camping trips. Parents are always welcome to join the Troop on camping trips as well.

Our regular camping trips typically take place at one of the area BSA-owned camps (Schoelkopf in Cowelsville, Scouthaven in Freedom, or Stonehaven in Ransomville). These camping trips are the best opportunity for Scouts to complete the cooking, fire-building, and camping requirements for the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class, as well as work on special awards such as the Totin' Chip, Firem'n Chip, and Paul Bunyan awards. The Scouts themselves set up the campsite, pitching tents and cooking all the meals. The Troop owns tents that are brought on each trip, so Scouts do not have to supply their own. You can read more about our council-owned camps at <a href="http://www.wnyscouting.org/camping/camp-locations">http://www.wnyscouting.org/camping/camp-locations</a>.

In addition to our regular camping trips, there are several special camping events during the year that the Troop participates in:

**Scout Brigade of Fort George Event** – this event is held over a weekend in September in conjunction with Scouts Canada at Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, and includes tent camping, military reenactments from the War of 1812 which the Scouts get to participate in, catered meals, a tour of the Fort, and an afternoon trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake. For more info, see <a href="http://sbfg.ca">http://sbfg.ca</a>.

**Fall Camporee**, **Klondike**, and **Spring Camporee** – these are typically held in October, January or February, and May, respectively. They are council- or district-wide events, involving many Troops, and include organized and scheduled activities such as competitions and games usually revolving around a particular theme. Like our regular camping trips, these events start on a Friday night and go until Sunday morning.

**Summer Camp** – this is a weeklong event held every July at Camp Schoellkopf, starting on a Sunday and running until the following Friday. Campsites are setup before the Scouts arrive and meals are prepared on site by camp staff. Many merit badges are offered during the week and it is the best opportunity for Scouts interested in the archery, lifesaving, rifle shooting, shotgun shooting, or swimming merit badges to earn these awards. First-time attendees (typically those that have just bridged over from Cub Scouts) can take the Young Braves program at camp which helps the new Scouts complete most of the requirements for the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class rank while at camp.

**Birchbark Expedition** – this event is typically held in July or August and is considered a "high adventure" trip best suited to older Scouts. It is a seven day trip that involves five days of canoeing through Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada.

## **Websites**

The national website for Boy Scouts of America is http://www.scouting.org.

The website for adult members to take free online trainings associated with the Scouting program is <a href="http://www.myscouting.org">http://www.myscouting.org</a>.

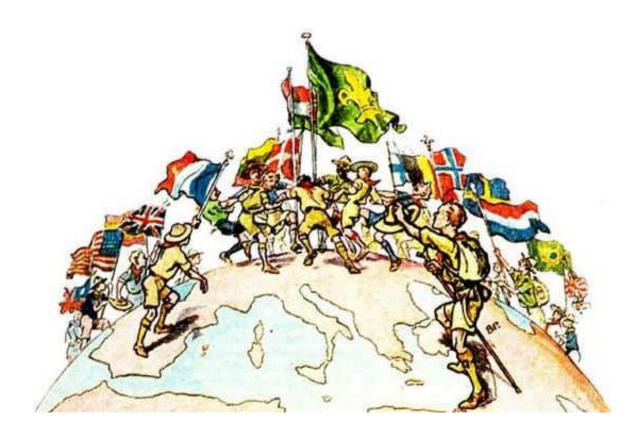
Our local council, the Greater Niagara Frontier Council (GNFC), has a website at <a href="http://www.wnyscouting.org">http://www.wnyscouting.org</a> which is a great place to find information on upcoming merit badge classes, council-wide camping events, summer camp, and adult leader trainings.

Within the GNFC, our local district, Onondaga, has a website at <a href="http://onondagadistrict.wordpress.com">http://onondagadistrict.wordpress.com</a>.

Our Troop website which lists information on preparing for camp, volunteer training, rank requirements, service opportunities, and useful links is located at <a href="http://gnfctroop261.weebly.com">http://gnfctroop261.weebly.com</a>.

For information on camping, you can learn about our council's camps at <a href="http://www.wnyscouting.org/camping/camp-locations">http://www.wnyscouting.org/camping/camp-locations</a> and the Scout Brigade of Fort George at <a href="http://sbfg.ca">http://sbfg.ca</a>.

The website for downloading Troopmaster software is <a href="http://www.troopmaster.com/download/troopmaster.html">http://www.troopmaster.com/download/troopmaster.html</a>.



# **Glossary**

**Board of Review** – After completing all the Scout skill requirements for their next rank and attending a Scoutmaster Conference, a Scout's final step in earning his next rank is to attend a Board of Review. This is a discussion between the Scout and typically two to four adult members of the Troop Committee which is an opportunity for the Scout to provide (and the Troop members to obtain) any feedback on the Scouting program that the Scout would like to provide.

**Bridging Ceremony** – The ceremony held at the final Cub Scout meeting for Webelos Scouts where they officially "graduate" from Cub Scouts and are welcomed into Boy Scouts. The name comes from the fact that the Scouts cross a ceremonial bridge representing the transition during the ceremony.

**Camporee**- A weekend camping trip involving Scout groups from across the region (council). Our council (GNFC) typically holds three of these per year; one in the spring, one in the fall, and the Klondike in January. A larger event with Scouts from across the country is known as a *jamboree*.

**Charter(ing) Organization** – This is the group who officially 'sponsors' the Troop. For Troop 261, this is the Amherst Middle School/High School Parent/Teacher/Student's Association.

**Council** – See *Greater Niagara Frontier Council*.

**Court of Honor** – This is the ceremony where Scouts are award their recently earned ranks, badges, and other awards. Parents and family members are always invited to attend. We have three of these every year with a special fourth one in January just to recognize our newest Eagle Scouts.

**Greater Niagara Frontier Council (GNFC)** – the parent group of BSA Scout groups located throughout Erie and Niagara counties. Councils are subdivided into different geographic districts. In addition to the Troop events we coordinate, some larger events are put on at the district or council level. The council's website (where you can learn about council-wide activities) is <a href="http://www.wnyscouting.org">http://www.wnyscouting.org</a>. **District** – see *Onondaga District*.

**Jamboree** – A 10-day camping and high adventure trip involving Scouts from across the country or even multiple countries. The BSA holds one every four years at the *Summit-Bechtel* Reserve in West Virginia. **Onondaga District** – BSA councils (like our own *GNFC*) are broken up into smaller geographical units known as districts. Troop 261 is part on the Onondaga district which covers part of northern Erie County.

**Order of the Arrow (OA)** – An honor society for Scouts of at least First Class and adults with camping experience within Scouting. Members are elected by the Scouts of their own Troop and have other activities and service projects as part of OA outside of our regular Troop meetings.

**Patrol Leader's Council (PLC)** – This is the committee of Scout (youth) leaders who run the Troop. Patrol leaders are elected by the Scouts to serve a term of approximately six months.

**Philmont** – A national BSA high-adventure base located in New Mexico.

**Rank** – A Scout's standing within the BSA. There are seven ranks in Boy Scouts: Scout (new Scout), Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle (the highest).

**Sea Base** – A national BSA high-adventure base located in Florida.

**Scout Skills** – Things like knot tying, building fires, camping, lashings, outdoor cooking, first aid, plant and animal identification, edged tool safety – things traditionally thought of in reference to Scouting. **Scoutmaster Conference** – When a Scout has completed all the skill requirements for his next rank, he has a one-on-one interview with the Scoutmaster (or one of his assistants) to review what he has done,

get his feedback on the Scouting program, and talk about what comes next.

**Summit Bechtel (The Summit)** – A national BSA high-adventure base located in West Virginia. **Webelos** – The highest rank in Cub Scouts. During their final year as a Webelos, many Cub Scouts transition over to a Boy Scout Troop during a *Bridging Ceremony*.

## **Current Adult Leaders**

Contact information (phone and email) for all of the following individuals can be found within the Troopmaster program (see the **Troopmaster Software** section for information how to set this up).

**Troop Committee Chair** – Greg Vinal **Chartered Organizational Representative** – Pete Capelli **Scoutmaster** – Scott Moore

Secretary – Nancy Abel
Treasurer – Pat Philipps
Parent Coordinator – Mark Izydorczak
Advancement Chair – Sheila Murphy
Popcorn Colonel – OPEN
Chaplain – Steven Moss
Camping Coordinator (School Year) – Steve Galbraith
Camping Coordinator (Summer Camp) – Chris Cloutier

Eagle Scout Coordinator – David Mitchell

Fundraising – Charlie Philipps

**Other Committee Members** – Tim Boerschig, Steve Molik, Bill Newton, Sharon Onetto-Walker, Ron Stucker, Bernie Zysman

**Assistant Scoutmasters** – Dave Bliss, Stephen Galbraith, Mark Izydorczak, Peter Jablonski, Marshall Lim, David Mitchell, Steven Moss, Charlie Philipps, Kevin Shortt, William Mattar

**Troopmaster Administrators** – If you want to set up Troopmaster software for tracking your Scout's advancement, these people can provide you the license key, expiration information, server, port, user ID, password, and data access/encryption password.

Scott Moore, Kevin Shortt, Bernie Zysman

**Merit Badge Counselors** – A full list of Troop merit badge counselors can be found within the Troopmaster program (see the **Troopmaster Software** section for information how to set this up) by selecting *Reports*, then *Merit Badge Counselors*, then either *Detailed Listing* or *Grouped By Badge*.

