

Boy Scout Troop 168

-- *Since 1940* --

Saint Patrick Catholic Church | 87 Marsh Drive | Carlisle, PA 17015
www.BSATroop168.com

WELCOME TO TROOP 168!

Troop 168 is sponsored (chartered) by Saint Patrick Church in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The unit charter of Troop 168 is granted by the New Birth of Freedom Council, Boy Scouts of America, to Saint Patrick Church in accordance with the requirements of the bylaws, rules and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America. Saint Patrick Church provides our Troop with leadership, a meeting place, storage facilities, and guidance concerning the operations of the Troop.

We are always happy to admit a new Scout into the Brotherhood of Scouting. The affiliation request of each new Scout gives the Scoutmasters an opportunity to meet with the parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) and exchange ideas and ideals and to describe the basic Scouting concepts of Troop 168. The Troop Committee and adult leadership pledge to assist each Scout in the development of his duties to God and Country, to others and to himself. We hope to develop an awareness of self-reliance, to improve individual and group skills, and to increase a Scout's abilities and knowledge, particularly those of the outdoors and nature. The vehicle to accomplish the above will be the Patrol Method.

In turn, we ask the Scout's parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) to continue encouragement of his efforts, especially in planning and helping for his advancement. We also ask for direct participation when called upon to assist the Troop. Such assistance will usually be for transportation, refreshments for Courts-of-Honor and other special events. Parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) are also needed to assist in other ways such as serving on the Troop Committee, as a Scout leader and/or as a Merit Badge Counselor. Parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) can help the Troop achieve goals by their willingness to help, especially during fundraisers.

Scouting involves more than the basic activities usually associated with the program, such as tying knots, cooking, and camping. While this is an integral part of Scouting, Troop 168's program also includes both adventure and work, with emphasis on growth and advancement in all phases of character building, citizenship, acceptance of responsibility, planning, execution, and evaluation.

Should a question arise, please contact the Scoutmaster or one of the assistant Scoutmasters or adult leadership. Such contact is particularly necessary should any situation arise that may affect the Scout's relationship with his fellow Scouts, Patrol, or Troop. The Scoutmaster(s) will weigh the facts and determine how best to proceed. Conflict resolution will follow the chain of command starting at the lowest level. If there is no feedback from parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s), the Scoutmaster(s) will assume that all is well within the Troop.

The Troop Committee and the Scoutmaster recognize that Scouting may be a strain on a household budget. Troop 168's program includes a variety of activities; no Scout will be prevented from participating for financial reasons. Should financial assistance be an issue, please speak to the Scoutmaster. All such requests will be confidential.

Boy Scout Handbook

Your Scout will need a current *Boy Scout Handbook*. The handbook provides information and links to in-depth coverage of all areas of the Scouting program. Scouts, their parent(s) and/or guardian(s) are encouraged to become familiar with its contents. Since BSA materials provide such in-depth coverage and/or detail of all facets of the Scouting program, it will not be repeated herein.

Joining Troop 168

A parent or guardian should accompany his/her son to one or more troop meetings. Once the Scout has decided to join, the parent and/or legal guardian will be given pertinent forms (i.e., application and medical form) to review and complete. The parent and/or legal guardian and son will then meet with the Scoutmaster to discuss his joining Troop 168.

The boy will not be permitted to participate in any Scouting function until he is properly registered, and all registration fees are paid. He may visit up to three (3) troop meetings before joining.

Each Scout's parent or guardian will be asked to contribute to the Troop and its activities in some way. Many resources and talents are required to operate a Troop and to have a quality program. Please discuss with the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee ways you can assist the Troop. It is expected that each Scout's family unit will contribute to the Troop and its program.

Membership

To be a member of Troop 168 a Scout must maintain active BSA registration.

The Scoutmaster will assign each boy to a Patrol as soon as possible.

Uniform Requirements

The *Boy Scout Handbook* details proper uniform.

When a Scout joins Troop 168, he will be given several items unique to Troop 168:

1. a bolo (worn instead of neckerchief),
2. a numeral patch (bearing 168 & the most recent 5-year anniversary of the troop), and
3. troop t-shirts (sometimes called "Class B" uniform)

Troop Meetings

Troop 168 meets year-round every Monday night beginning at 7:00 PM. The aim is to wrap meetings by 8:15 PM! Please be punctual. The Troop does not generally meet if Saint Patrick School is not in session on that Monday.

Code of Conduct

Along with the opportunities that Scouting offers comes to each Scout the obligation to conduct himself during Troop meetings and activities in a manner that is consistent with the characteristics called for by the Scout Law. The Scout will be expected to be courteous and helpful to others and obedient to Junior and Adult Leadership. Compliance with safety and troop operation rules will be emphasized and required.

Expectations

Special community, Council, District, and Troop activities are held throughout the year. Scouts are expected to attend as a Troop (parents and/or legal guardians are also encouraged to participate in and /or attend these events). These activities include, but are not limited to:

Campouts	Service Projects	Civic & Charter
Hikes	Fundraisers	Organization Events
Courts of Honor	<i>Some</i> Pack 168	Flag Retirement
Good Turn Projects	events	Ceremonies

Duties of parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s)

The success of the Troop and positive experience of Scout is dependent upon parent/guardian involvement.

Each family unit is expected to assist in the Troop program in one or more areas by:

- Serving as an active Assistant Scoutmaster **
- Chairing or serving on committees to organize functions in support of the Troop program.
- Attending Courts-of-Honor. (This is very important to your Scout, and therefore, each family has a standing invitation to be present at every Court-of-Honor.)
- Serving as a Merit Badge Counselor in area(s) of expertise ** (This position requires no fees.)
- Serving as an active member of Troop Committee **
- Providing transportation for Troop activities.
- Fundraising

** Must be a registered Scouter and comply with youth protection requirements of both BSA and Diocese of Harrisburg. At present (10/2018), if *only* BSA adult volunteer, Scout leader is only required to comply with BSA YPT.

Registration and Fees

Each Scout must complete a Boy Scouts of America (BSA) registration form which the parent or guardian must sign prior to participation in any Scout activities. Registration is every November; fees must be paid. Registration fees are set by the Troop Committee. The Troop

does not collect weekly dues, so it is expected that each Scout will participate in fundraising events as required.

Should families have any questions or concerns, please meet privately with the Scoutmaster.

Additional Cost/Transportation

The cost of food for outings will be shared equally by the Scouts participating in the activity. All other fees and monies will be shared equally by the attendees; often paid in advance by the Troop Committee Treasurer. At times there will be special events that will incur cost for the Scout (i.e., camporees, special outings, etc.). These fees will be collected on an individual event basis.

Insurance

Each parent or legal guardian is encouraged to have health/accident insurance on his or her Scout(s). All vehicles used to transport Scouts must have the minimum insurance required by the B.S.A. (See *BSA Guide to Safe Scouting*, [Insurance](#)).

Health Information & Medical Forms

Each Adult Scouter will have an annual Class III medical form on file with the unit for participation at off-site activities requiring vigorous activity. Each Scout will have a Class II medical form complete with a physician's signed physical that has been completed as required by the BSA. All Scouts, leaders and participants are required to comply with all National and District requirements.

Troop Outings

Outings are the heart of Troop 168's Scouting Program. The Troop's annual plan schedules one (1) outing per month which will be held come RAIN, SNOW or SHINE. With outings being the heart of Troop 168's program, every Scout is encouraged to attend each event. It must be emphasized that Scouts who have signed up to participate in an event must pay their share of the costs even if they do not attend.

Scouting requires that a boy learn to live in the out-of-doors. To advance in Scouting, a boy must go camping regularly. Special trips are planned and the Troop participates in District and Council events. Scouts are also encouraged to attend Summer Camp, National and World Jamborees, and Philmont Expeditions.

Scouts and adults from other troops, who are invited to participate in troop activities or outings, must have the Scoutmaster's approval in advance.

The Scoutmasters are not responsible for the personal property of any Scout.

The Scouts who have not reached the rank of First Class must have a *Boy Scout Handbook* on each campout. These should be protected with a plastic bag or waterproof container.

The campsite WILL be left as clean, or cleaner, than it was found. Troop 168 subscribes to the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace.

The Troop will travel to and from events/campouts as a unit except when permission for alternate travel is granted by the Scoutmaster. Parent and/or legal guardian cooperation is most appreciated. Each Scout will help load and unload Troop and individual gear.

The Adult Leadership of Troop 168 has the right to search any individual gear being taken on any Troop function at any time. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS GUIDELINE MAY RESULT IN THE SCOUT NOT BEING PERMITTED TO GO ON THE EVENT.**

Advancement

Advancement is the process by which Scouts progress from rank to rank in the Scouting program. The Boy Scout requirements for rank are the basis for advancement.

Demonstration of Scout Spirit for advancement purposes includes regular attendance at meetings, campouts, service projects, etc. A good-spirited Scout's record will show **75% to 100% attendance** or **excused absence** since the Scout's last Board of Review.

Excused Absence

To obtain an excused absence, the Scout [*not his parent(s)/guardian(s)*] must send an email to Troop168attend@gmail.com informing the Scoutmaster why he is unable to attend the scheduled event (i.e., meeting, campout, service project, etc.). Emails to this account will be automatically be forwarded to whatever individual the Scoutmaster designates to track attendance.

Two-deep leadership

When a Scout contacts a leader through email, he must copy his parent/guardian so that we comply with two-deep leadership specified in BSA [safeguards](#):

Two-deep leadership and no one-on-one contact between adults and youth members includes digital communication. Leaders may not have one-on-one private online communications or engage one-on-one in other digital activities (games, social media, etc.) with youth members. Leaders should copy a parent and another leader in digital and online communication, ensuring no one-on-one contact exists in text, social media, or other forms of online or digital communication.

Some Scouts issue emails through their parent's email account. Since the one email scenario wasn't addressed above, PLEASE copy a second parent/guardian/ Scoutmaster on emails. Alternatively, please copy T168's Mr. Culbertson – carlislembc@comcast.net - so that two-deep leadership is maintained.

In order to be an "excused absence", the Scout must meet the deadline:

- Meeting**: The email must be sent by 9 PM Friday in advance of a Monday meeting.
- Campouts and Events/Trips**: Scouts sign up to attend campouts and events/trips on T168's bulletin board. Notification should be sent as soon as the Scout determines he cannot attend (in case travel arrangements will change.)

N.B.: Once food is purchased (typically Tuesday preceding a campout), the Scout's account will be charged for his pro-rata portion *regardless of whether or not he attends*. Similarly, once entry fee is paid to 3rd party venue (i.e., USS NJ or white-water rafting), the Scout's account will be charged regardless of his attendance unless a refund is secured or someone else fills his spot.

- Service Project: Scouts sign up to participate on T168s bulletin board. Notification should be sent as soon as the Scout determines he cannot attend (in case travel arrangements will change and/or additional help must be secured.)

Troop 168 tracks advancement progress using the Troopmaster software program (or comparable). Data is entered by the Scoutmaster, his designated representative, or Committee Advancement Chairperson.

Court of Honor

The Troop will schedule Court of Honor ceremonies to give peer recognition as well as parental and Troop Committee recognition to those Scouts, who have earned awards, advanced in rank or attained a leadership position. These ceremonies will be announced, and invitations will be issued. All parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s), family members, Troop Committee members and friends are encouraged to attend and support their Scout. A Court of Honor will be scheduled periodically. Scouts receiving awards and recognition, in addition to those Scouts attending the Court of Honor, are expected to be in complete, properly worn Class "A" uniform (see "[Boards of Review](#)"). Scouts who are not in uniform may not receive their awards, rank advancement, or recognition and may forfeit such recognition for their accomplishments until the next regular scheduled Court of Honor.

Order of the Arrow

Order of the Arrow, or "OA," is the national honor society of the Boy Scouts of America. Troop 168 falls under the Sasquesahanough Order of the Arrow Lodge (linked on the [RESOURCES page](#) of the Troop website).

Approved by Troop 168's Committee at its 29 October 2018 meeting.