

# Welcome to Troop 194!

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(Last Updated Jan 2019)

## New Parent FAQ

Q: What does the troop provide when I join the troop?

A: A Scout Book, uniform Troop 194 numbers, green string backpack, introduction binder.

Q: How do we keep up with the calendar of events?

A: Check out the T194 web site. <http://www.troop194-mason.org/> Once your child has submitted an application to the troop, the scouts and parents will be given a username and password to unlock the non-public parts of the site. For example a troop roster.

Mason United Methodist Church 6315 S. Mason Montgomery Mason, Ohio 45040

<http://www.troop194-mason.org/>

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Q: How are advancements recorded and where is the “master”?

A: Each Scout's book is their own record of their advancement. It's important that the person certifying their skill records the month-day-year for each signature, as with Boy Scouts there is often a minimum time between ranks which becomes important at later ranks. This is very different than cub scouts where the master file was often a website like scouttrack.com. In Boy Scouts each Scout is responsible for their own advancement, and they often advance at very different paces. The only constraint is that their term as a youth in Boy Scouts ends when they turn 18. The troop also uses software called TroopMaster for keeping track of advancements. All advancement information flows through Mrs. Welker, and she is always welcome for someone to help as it's a big job.

Q: How are the adult volunteers in the Troop organized?

A: There are 2 main groups: 1) Program (Assistant Scoutmasters) 2) Troop Committee (logistics)

1. Program (Assistant Scoutmasters) – Camping organization, trained leaders to maintain scout/adult ratio, Scout position training, Patrol Leaders Council. During all scout events, the scouts are responsible for delivering the program with the adults being responsible for safety and logistical support. There are a core group of Assistant Scoutmasters that share the logistical load but a lot of them have limited amounts of time they can devote so more help with tasks would help keep people from being spread too thin. The biggest thing is to think about what you like to do and help out with those areas (i.e. backpacking, climbing, caving, shooting, woodcraft, ecology/nature study, swimming, boating, cooking, etc.).
2. Troop Committee (Logistics) – Treasurer, Fundraising, Advancement recording, Registration, Committee Chairperson, Chaplin, Web site, Publicity, T-shirts, Board of Review for each rank

Q: When are the adult leadership meetings?

A: We are trying something new this year and are having both the Program and Committee meetings simultaneously with the scout meetings. Scouts is a youth lead organization so the scouts are in charge.

Q: Does a parent need to fill out an adult application to attend a camping trip?

A: Yes. They also need to complete the “Youth Protection training” available via [scouting.org](http://scouting.org). You need to log in to [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org) and create a username/password.

Q: How do I find out my membership number for the adult application?

A: The best way is to call the Dan Beard council office and ask them. That's what I did and it worked for me.

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Q: Are we as new T194 members just crossed over from a cub scout pack in February expected to participate/volunteer in the pancake breakfast fundraiser typically in early March?

A: No. We recognize that there can be a lot of new and confusing things in Scouts BSA, and that immediately jumping into a fundraiser can be a bit overwhelming. Fundraising is an essential part of Scouts, as providing a good quality program takes resources.

Q: When is Summer Camp registration?

A: Typically right after crossing over in Feb or early March. This can be a bit confusing but your parent mentor Asst Scoutmaster will help you through it with your Scouts. Typically the fees for summer camp are broken into 2 payments (Feb & May). Note that adults are allowed to attend summer camp only if they are registered leaders within the troop.

Q: How do Scout accounts work?

A: T194 does not have scout accounts due to the time involved with keeping up with the paperwork. If you had \$\$ with you pack, please make a connection between the Pack and Troop Treasurer so that they can work through the transition. The # of activities that the troop does far out-numbers those of a typical Pack, so I expect that your Scout's account will be quickly spent through.

Q: Will the first March campout be in tents?

A: Yes. Troop tents handle 2-3 scouts/tent. Regarding tent assignments, Scouts will be paired up with other youth with no more than 2 years in age difference. Scout tent assignments are usually done by the SPL (or SPL in charge during campout).

Q: What do they need to pack on the camping trip?

A: Check out their 3 ring binder with an equipment list. Basically their personal items: clothes, sleeping bag, cutlery. Tents and other cooking items (stoves, pots, etc.) will be provided by the troop.

Q: What time does the 1st camping trip leave and from where?

A: 6-6:30pm assemble – leave at 6:30 via bus at the church parking lot.

Q: What's the deal with medical forms?

A: For each camping trip, both scouts and adults need part A & B medical form. For summer camp part C (the Physican part) needs to be completed, also for both scouts and adults attending.

Q: How does cooking work on a camping trip?

A: For the scouts, there is a cook and assistant cook. The cook is responsible for purchasing the food. Guidance is \$15/person. Keep the receipts. This is part of the Scout requirements for their badges.

A: The adults eat with their own group and patrol. One of the adults does the cooking, and everyone helps.

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Q: How do we get onto the troop website?

A: You'll get a login once your son's applications are processed.

Q: How do I know what's happening at a troop meeting?

A: The SPL (Senior Patrol Leader) is the Scout that is in charge of the program. They are the chairperson of the PLC (Patrol Leader Council) that forms the leadership level of the troop. One of the roles of SPL is to communicate a written plan for the scout meeting. There is a longer term yearly plan for the troop that can be downloaded from the website. The best way to know what's going on, is to ask your son, and also to join the troop as an adult as an Assistant Scoutmaster to help with the program elements.

Q: Why do the Troop meetings look so disorganized?

A: Scouts is a youth-lead organization. What seems like complete disorganization to an adult, is them learning about leadership. As a wise person said: "The magic will happen, just not on our timelines."

Q: What is the role of adult leaders?

A: Keep the youth safe while they learn and have fun.

Q: How quickly will my child advance?

A: In Scouts BSA, each Scout advances at their own rate depending on their level of ambition. Some will get to 1st class in 1 year, and others may take 2 years or longer. There are planned activities basically every month of one form or another, and the troop meetings are spent planning for those activities.

Q: Will all Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle Scout?

A: No. Nationally only four percent of Scouts are granted this rank after a lengthy review process. The requirements necessary to achieve this rank take years to fulfill. Since its founding, the Eagle Scout rank has been earned by almost 2.5 million youth.

Q: What are the yearly dues?

A: Total dues for the year are \$175. For new scouts it's \$75 given you'll be with the troop for ~1/2 a year. David Plouffe is the Troop Treasurer, and all \$\$ questions should be addressed to him.