

Troop 19 F.A.Q.'s

Anytime you are getting involved with something you are unfamiliar with, there will naturally be questions and/or concerns about the unknown. Boy Scouts is no different, parents and Scouts new to the program always have questions and often misconceptions about Scouting. The following are a few of the questions/statements that we have heard over the years, and our attempt to answer them.

- Is it expensive to join a troop?
 - Each troop handles joining fees/dues as they see fit.
 - Troop 19 charges a modest fee of \$40/year; this covers the cost of registration with the BSA, insurance, and also a year's subscription to Boys Life magazine.
- Does my son have to pay for every activity?
 - For most local camping trips/activities, Troop 19 covers the cost of the accommodations; Scouts are typically only required to pay for their food.
- Do you need to be rich to join Troop 19, because of the High Adventure Trips they do?
 - No, many of our Scouts fully pay for their own travel expenses from the money they have earned through the troops annual fundraiser.
 - Troop 19 typically takes a High Adventure Trip somewhere in the U.S. every 2-3 years in which typically include air fare and vehicle rentals, but these trips are not mandatory. Scouts who are interested in such activities have more than ample time to save enough money from fundraising. The trip cost is generally 2 to 2 ½ times the cost of a week of summer camp.
- Do I need to buy all new equipment for my new scout?
 - No, Troop 19 provides all of the tents and cooking equipment for campouts. Scouts are only expected to provide their personal gear such as clothes, sleeping bag, etc.
 - Troop 19 has a variety of used backpacks and possibly a sleeping bag or two that new scouts are welcome to use.
 - Also, we will have scouts bring in outgrown uniforms and used equipment to donate to new scouts.
- Do new scouts get to do the same things as the older scouts?
 - Yes and No
 - Troop 19 provides a variety of activities for all of our scouts. Many of these activities however require a certain amount of training and experience. Scouts who do not meet the minimum requirements will have a similar activity to the older scouts, but more suited to their abilities (e.g. a shorter, easier hike etc.).
- Does Troop 19 only do hiking trips?
 - Our troop certainly does its share of hiking, but we also do a wide range of other activities such as car camping, canoeing, whitewater rafting, biking, zip lines and more.
- Are parents welcome to come on campouts, how about moms?
 - Absolutely YES!
 - We encourage parents to join us on every activity, and we usually have at least one mom along if not more. (See troop handbook insert by Susan Beals)
- Does Troop 19 sell popcorn as a fundraiser?

- No, our troop fundraiser is selling holiday wreaths.
- Many troops as well as most Cub Scout Packs sell popcorn, hold pancake breakfasts, spaghetti dinners etc., we have opted to try something different.
- Our annual fundraiser provides enough funding for all of the troop needs, as well as providing scouts the opportunity to earn enough money to pay for camp, buy equipment, or save for a trip.
- Does my son NEED to be at every meeting / activity, what is the attendance policy?
 - No, but keep in mind that he will only get out of the program what he puts into it.
 - Most of our scouts are involved in other activities that require a certain amount of their time above and beyond what family commitments may also be involved.
 - We expect scouts to balance their lives and workloads as best as they are able, and we ask that they attend as many troop functions as they can; rarely if ever does a scout attend every function.
 - Many years we will have a special trip or activity as a reward for those scouts that have attended over 75% of all functions.
- Does my son need to wear a uniform?
 - Yes, the BSA has established a dress code and with only a minor modification, Troop 19 adheres to it.
 - Scouts are expected to wear scout pants, scout shirt, and a belt while at troop meetings and for certain activities.
 - Campouts, hikes, etc. are more casual, although we may suggest Class B shirts.
 - Troop 19 has a number of used uniforms if necessary and arrangements can be made in a case of financial difficulty.
- My son can't join Troop 19 because they are too intense/extreme, he would never survive!
 - Nonsense!
 - Troop 19 has a history of taking High Adventure trips to awesome National Parks around the country, providing a program that will encourage our scouts to be more than what they are now, preparing them to deal with adversity, and to be responsible leaders for tomorrow.
 - We always follow the BSA rules for safety, have trained adult supervision and scouts who are prepared for the particular event.
 - Troop 19 is not a boot camp; we never push anyone beyond their limits. Growth is a process that takes time, and over time, your scout will surprise you with what he is able to accomplish as part of our troop and on his own.

If you have any questions about Troop 19, or about Scouting in general, please contact us or stop in at a meeting.

Join us at the next meeting.

Date: Any Tuesday night during the school year

Time: 7pm - 9pm

Pilgrim Church Fellowship Hall
4 Watson Street, Nashua (just off exit 7E)

Contact us for more information:

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www.troop19.org