

## Boy Scout Troop Questionnaire

### How many boys are in your troop?

We have 28 Boys ranging from Scout to Eagle.

### How long has your troop been established?

Since 1968, prior to 1968, Troop 413 was chartered by the First class and chiefs association aboard NAS Patuxent River, however a lapse in the charter required the date to be changed to October 1968.

### Do you limit the number of boys in the troop?

Never, Scouting is for every boy that meets the criteria set forth by the Boy Scouts of America.

### Where and when do you meet?

We meet at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Raley Hall every Tuesday evening from 6:30 PM till 8:00 PM. Occasionally we also meet at the Fleet Reserve Association for Court of Honor ceremonies or other special occasions. Our outings are scheduled normally during the third weekend of the month, so as to coincide with the District events that also fall on the Third weekend of the month.

### To observe a meeting, may we just drop in or should we give advance warning?

Normally, the PLC (Patrol Leaders Council) likes to have some advanced notice that the Cub Scouts are going to be visiting so they can make sure they have enough recourses and age appropriate activities planned around your visit. However, if it is just one or two Scouts we encourage you to just drop in anytime.

### How many guests can you accommodate at a meeting?

The Troop has accommodated as many as an additional twenty Cub Scouts and their parents, during regular meetings.

### How is the troop organized?

The Troop is organized in accordance with the BSA handbook. SPL, ASPL, and Guides form the Leadership Corps Patrol under the guidance and direction of the Scoutmaster. Individual Boy led Patrols under the guidance and direction of Assistant Scoutmasters assigned, have Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders and Patrol Quartermasters. The Patrols make up the Troop which is the shell, in which the Patrol Method functions. Other leadership positions such as Librarian, Scribe, Historian, etc... are all members of various regular Patrols.

### How many patrols do you have?

Currently we have a Leadership Corps Patrol and four other standard Patrols. We have also recently expanded and added a Venture Patrol for older Scouts, age 14 and holding the rank of Star. These Scouts share "double duty" by also being involved with their regular patrols. The purpose of the Venture Scouts is to offer them additional skills and challenges that normally the younger scouts would not engage in.

How many boys are typically in each patrol?

Four to eight boys make up a patrol, in which they pick their Patrol Members, Patrol Names, Patrol Flags, and Patrol Cheers.

Do you have a patrol specifically for the new boys?

Yes, we have a New Scout Patrol(s) in which a Guide and an Assistant Scoutmaster is specifically assigned to each Patrol to assist and guide each member.

How is the first patrol leader selected?

The New Scout Patrol Leader (PL), Assistant Patrol Leader (APL) and Quartermaster are elected by the Patrol members; however, since the New Scout Patrols don't need leadership positions for rank advancement until they are First Class, the New Scouts are encouraged and have an opportunity to rotate positions approximately every six weeks during their first year in the Troop. This gives each of the New Scout Patrol members the opportunity to act in each of the leadership positions and attend a PLC, so they can see what it takes to lead and follow alike. Once the first year is completed the New Scout Patrol elects a Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, and Quartermaster for the period of 6 months during the regular cycle of Troop Elections. This usually takes place during the June election of the following year.

What is your troop's philosophy with respect to the boys involvement in troop activities/ events/planning, i.e., would you consider it a "scout - led" troop or more of a "leader/ parent-led" troop?

Troop 413 is a Scout Run/Led Troop, with Scoutmaster Oversight and Guidance. The Scoutmaster Staff is always employing the EDGE principles (Explain, Demonstrate, Guide, and Enable). The Scouts and Patrols of Troop 413 plan in their Patrols and through the PLC (Patrol Leaders Council) and execute their plan, again with the help and guidance of the Scoutmaster Staff and Committee. With respect to involvement, many would like to associate a percentage of time or attending a number of meetings to be considered active. We would suggest that it depends on the Scout. Many Scouts and families are extremely busy with sports, band, school activities, and other events that make it hard to compete with Scouting. Troop 413's philosophy is that education should always come first and foremost in a Scouts life. Scouting is not the end all be all, and if we chose to set some artificial standard, the Scouting program would almost always loose. Or experience has shown that if the Troop meetings and outings are fun and rewarding, the Scouts will want to attend, or they will make more of an effort to make the events. We think that the involvement of our older aged Scouts, even after they are awarded the Rank of Eagle Scout, speaks volumes about our program. We have had many Eagle Scouts attain their rank at 14, 15, or 16 and stay active until they age out at the age of 18.

Do you have any merit badge counselors or programs within the troop?

Troop 413 has many registered merit badge counselors.

How pro-active is the troop in helping the boys achieve First Class?

Troop 413's goal is to get every boy to the rank of First Class Scout. It is those requirements that make up a rounded Boy Scout. The Star, Life and Eagle Scout ranks are there to develop the leadership for any Scout that wishes to achieve those goals. We have generally found that we would like them to achieve the First Class Scout rank in about one calendar year (+/-) after

joining the Troop. We have found this timeframe pretty suited to maintaining their interest in Scouting. However, their pace is completely up to them and we don't apply any pressure to make advancement ranks on any timelines.

Do you have any troop guides?

Troop 413 usually has two Troop Guides appointed as a part of the Leadership Corps at anyone given time.

How many of the boys have made Eagle Scout in the past 4 years?

Troop 413 has awarded the highest honor in Boy Scouting to six young men in the past four years. Currently, we have nine Scouts that are Life Scouts and are working on their Eagle Projects.

How pro-active is the troop in helping the boys achieve Eagle Scout?

Troop 413 is extremely pro-active in helping any Scout achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. However, we do not push them, yet strongly encourage them to achieve the rank.

What things have you found helpful in keeping the boys involved/interested on the trail to completing Eagle Scout?

This is a challenge for any Troop. It has been proven statistically, that Scouts that don't achieve the Eagle Rank before age 16 usually don't achieve it until just prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Parents are the most influential motivation a Scout can have for them to achieve the Eagle Rank. However, the relationships the Scouts form with some of the Scoutmaster Staff also plays a significant role in shaping the desires of Eagle candidates. Again, if the Scouting Program the Scout's plan, lead, and run are fun and rewarding, the Scouts remain involved and interested, and the fall out from that is natural and positive.

What trips have you taken in the last year?

Florida Sea Base, Summer Camp at Camp Rotary, Winter Camping, Merit Badge Camp-In, Fall Camporee, Spring Camporee, White Water Rafting, Assateague Island camping, New Scout Patrol Weekend Camping, C & O Bike Hike, Wilderness Survival Weekend, Skiing @ Timberline, Rock Climbing @ Carder Rock, Webelos Weekend, as well as some day trips to various DC Museums, Ice Skating, etc...

How often do you go camping?

Troop 413 offers a 12 month camping program, where each month, except for the month of Summer Camp, we do an outdoor / camping experience.

Where do you usually go?

This depends on the imagination of the Scouts and the PLC. If the Scouts of Troop 413 can dream it, it can become a reality.

Where do you go for summer camp?

Over the last several years we have went to Goshen Scout Reservation (Camp Bowman, and Camp Marriott), Camp Rotary x2 (Twin Rivers Council, Albany, New York) Kittatinny Mountain Scout Reservation (northern New Jersey), and this Year we are planning to go to

Powhatan Scout Reservation (Blue Ridge Council). Our Venture Patrol has attended Florida Sea Base. We have also sent Scouts to Summer Camp with contingent Troops, as well as to the National Jamboree.

Does your troop do any high adventure camping trips?

Yes, Troop 413 has a Venture Patrol that complete high adventure trips, while all trips may not be traditional camping. These high adventure activities are completely planned and run by the older Scouts with guidance and oversight from the ASM for Venture Patrols. Again, members of the Venture Patrol attended Florida Sea Base this past summer and visited various sites, in which the Scouts planned, on the way to and from, i.e.; Wright Brothers Museum, Cape Hatteras Light House, the Army Special Warfare Museum, Cape Fear Museum, Old Fort Jackson, Daytona Speedway and the Daytona Experience, Florida City Everglades, Florida City Gator Park, NASA Kennedy Space Center, and the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Museum. We have also completed various hikes/backpacking trips in Wyoming and Alaska, as well as other high adventure activities such as rifle shooting, shotgun shooting and archery shooting weekends to mention a few. High adventure activities are conducted typically once per quarter throughout the year.

What are your dues per year?

Our dues are \$48.00 per year if paid monthly or \$40.00 per year if paid in one lump sum, to cover the costs of rank, patrol, and merit badge patches. The Troop Treasurer maintains individual Scout accounts that the Scout can contribute to as needed to pay for outings and other activities and gear.

How do you fund raise?

Troop 413 participates in various fundraisers that the PLC decides to hold throughout the year. This fundraising effort may also be prompted by the Troop Treasurer, informing the Scouts of how much money each has in his Scout account. We have done Kettle Corn Fundraisers at the St. Mary's River Concerts and in the Leonardtown Square, Joe Corby's Pizza Kits, Holiday Wreaths, Krispy Kreme Donuts, etc... We always participate in the BSA Popcorn fundraiser.

Is there special things about your troop we should consider that might help influence us to join your troop versus other troops?

Our Scoutmaster staff has a credo that is: If the Scouts aren't having fun, they have a problem. Troop 413 is a very dynamic and active Troop, one that is considered by many long time Scouters, one of the finest examples of Boy Scouting in our District. We have a very active youth cadre of Scouts and Scouters at many levels throughout the Western Shore District and Order of the Arrow Chapter. All of our Scouts have been through TLT (Troop Leader Training), JLT (Junior Leader Training), or other Advanced Leadership Workshops/Seminars. Troop 413 has held the Spring Camporee Best Overall Troop in St. Mary's County for three consecutive years. Prior achievements have been being awarded the Golden Skillet Award for two consecutive years. In our opinion, the key to finding a quality Troop is to find one that is compatible for you and your son, one that he feels welcome in, and one that he feels will benefit his desires in and out of Scouting. There are many fine Troops in St. Mary's county, visit all of them, then narrow it down by re-visiting them with just you and your son unannounced you may find a huge difference between the group visit and the individual visit. Feel free to contact us if any additional questions arise.

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