



Our Lady of Hope R. C. Church

Boy Scout Troop 354 - Baltimore Area Council # 220

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Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 354

Dear parent and scout;

Welcome to our Scouting family at Our Lady of Hope! We're glad to have your family join us and hope we all can grow together, as many have over our Troop's 60 years. Below are some guidelines to help you understand our year-round activities.

1. We meet at Our Lady of Hope School hall every Wednesday, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Sometimes, when the hall is in use we'll meet in an alternative location like the school library or Knights of Columbus Hall in Edgemere (we'll announce changes in meeting place the week prior using texts, emails Scoutbook, etc.); also, on some occasions we'll meet at an activity site; for example, AFC Dundalk for bowling, or YMCA for swimming, etc.

2. We wear Scout uniforms for meetings and activities "at all times" unless stated on an activity letter or our monthly calendar. The Troop has a used uniform bank with assorted uniform sizes and is open to register Troop members if needed.

3. The Troop Meets September thru July, we break after July's week camp and resume Troop Meetings on the 1st Wednesday after Labor Day.

4. We follow the school weather cancellation system for cancelling Wednesday Troop meetings. We do not meet on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving or the eve of a holiday falling on a Wednesday.

5. Our Troop's dues are \$100/year. Even if a Scout doesn't attend meetings, the Scout still has a dues obligation. Each Scout's dues account must have at least \$50 paid by Week Camp date if attending Week Camp.

6. Currently, our Troop parent's agreed not to be involved in fundraisers, and elected to pay an annual re-charter fee of \$90/Scout & \$60/Leader in October for the annual membership fees due to BSA National in December.

7. The Troop does have an independent way to save money for Scouting related expenses, it's called "Troop 354's Camping Buck Account". Council Camp Cards sales commission and cash deposits will be credited into the Scout's Camping Buck account and are subject to the Plan Rules. A handout of the Plan will be given when the Scout's account is opened.

8. We have a monthly activity scheduled every month; camping, hikes, training, service projects, etc., be sure to check Our Troop's web page for monthly calendar, Scoutmaster's Update emails, texts, and via Scoutbook notices.

Our Troop's web page is: <http://bsatroop354md.scoutlander.com>

9. All families receive Boys Life Magazine when their son(s) are on our charter renewal in December, subscriptions begin in March.

10. Week camp is an integral part of our Scouting program. The great majority of the boys attending make major advancements during camp, earning merit badges and participating in high adventure style experiences. Every year our Troop's concerted efforts revolve in attending Week Camp and making it a success. You'll receive a Week Camp letter in Nov/Dec with information; deposits will be required in January. We use a payment plan to help you budget which is usually spread over 4 month period.

11. All Adult Leaders in the Troop are required to maintain a yearly certificate of BSA's Youth Protection in addition to the Archdiocese of Baltimore's VIRTUS Youth Protection certificate. Both certificates involved background checks by giving permission to conduct the background checks to obtain the certificates. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend any of our activities once they too have these two Youth Protection certifications. Ask for information on how to obtain these important certifications.

12. Scouting is an investment, like anything, you and your son will need to be committed to succeeding. The Scouting program is self paced and not a race; it's designed for 11 to 18 year olds and therefore gives everyone a 7 year period to obtain its objective, EAGLE SCOUT RANK. The leaders of Troop 354 will give your son the assistance to make EAGLE, he needs to apply himself, advance, mature and be persistent! It's been proven that time and effort will pay a multitude of dividends for each Scout's early investment throughout their entire adult life!

13. Always feel free to talk to any leader for any reason; it's our pleasure and our obligation to your family!

Welcome!