



## **PUTTING ON THE GREEN LOOPS**

Parent Guide for Boy Scout Troop 567

Vero Beach, FL

[www.troop567.org](http://www.troop567.org)

*Sponsored by Our Savior Lutheran Church*

Whether your son has crossed over from a Cub Scout Pack or just entered into Boy Scouts, we are happy to see him “putting on the green loops” and we say *Welcome!* You have made a positive choice for your son by allowing him to join an organization that supports over 3 million boys, guiding them into character, leadership and citizenship.

Troop 567 has been sponsored by Our Savior Lutheran Church in Vero Beach, FL, for many years. We are in Indian River District, a part of the Gulf Stream Council. We are a very active Troop and want to share some information with you that will help your son as he strives to become all he can be in this boy-run program.

### Program Structure

Boy Scouting is a boy led program based on the Patrol method with the boys filling all of the leadership positions. There are ranks that the boys advance through, using the Boy Scout Handbook to learn age and rank appropriate material on subjects such as first aid, knots, wood tools, fire and water safety and other topics. As the boys advance in rank, they help those in lower ranks “learn the ropes” and practice presenting themselves to adults through Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review. The boys also work on merit badges. Some are required, like First Aid and Citizenship in the Community, while most are chosen by the Scout because they interest him, such as Rifle Shooting, Biking, Climbing or Fingerprinting.

Troop 567 meets every Thursday evening from 7 to 8:30 pm at Our Savior Lutheran Church. The meeting is opened by the Senior Patrol Leader, calling on one of the Patrols to post the colors (flag ceremony) and an individual boy to lead the Troop in reciting the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The boys then break up into their Patrol meetings. Skill instruction is provided and there is a fun inter-Patrol activity each week. We close the meeting with a Scoutmaster’s minute and the retiring of the colors.

## Uniforms

The boys wear their Class "A" uniform at all events unless Class "B" has been designated. Class A is full uniform: official BSA shirt with insignia, Scout shorts and socks and closed-toe shoes. Our Troop does not wear a neckerchief or hat, but they are allowed if they are BSA approved. Class B is our official Troop T-shirt worn with the rest of the uniform pieces. These items are available from local Scout shops and online. (Hand-me-downs are also often available.)

## Getting to First Class

The Scoutmaster's primary job is to assist a boy to progress through the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot and Second Class on the way to the rank of First Class. This involves learning, camping and interaction with older boys and adults. Each of these ranks has the boy learn about first aid, water safety, camping skills, outdoor knowledge and his responsibility in the community. Once he has reached First Class, he is considered a full Scout and is honored with a certificate as well as his rank patch.

## Calendar

Troop 567's program year starts at the end of August and concludes in June with the boys attending a week of Boy Scout camp (usually in a cooler climate). The boys decide which activities to participate in each month as well as themes for each month's meetings, bringing in speakers or instructors to support the theme.

We have three or four Courts of Honor throughout the year. This is when the boys receive ceremonial acknowledgement of the ranks they have earned and the merit badges completed. Family is urged to attend so they can share in the boys' pride at their accomplishments. Mothers are also acknowledged with the boy pinning her with his rank pin. There are refreshments and a social time afterwards.

## Camping

Our Troop camps ten months out of the year. The Patrol Leaders Council meets during the summer to select the campouts that the boys want to do during the coming program year. They usually attend two District/Council events each year at either Tanah Keeta (Boy Scout camp in Jupiter) or Oklawaha (Boy Scout camp in Sebastian). The others range from tubing on the Itchetucknee River to biking to the Sebastian Inlet and back to canoeing on the Peace River.

Each Patrol plans their meals and chores before going on any campout. One boy will take on the task of purchasing the food and all help in the preparation and clean up afterwards. Whoever purchases the food will tell the boys how much they each need to contribute toward the cost. Occasionally there are other costs associated with the campouts, but the adult leadership strives to keep the costs within the amount that the monthly dues (\$5) cover.

Our Troop has two Troop trailers to haul our gear in. Each Patrol has an assigned dining fly (tarp) and poles, picnic table, and Patrol Box with a full array of pots, plates, stove, etc. There are cleaning supplies in each box and the boys are responsible to maintain this gear. They are taught how to use, clean and store this equipment and are encouraged to think of different meals to prepare at each camping event.

The camping gear that each boy needs to provide for himself does not have to cost very much. A personal “backpacking” type tent (approximately 5x7’), a sleeping bag, a flashlight and knife (if they’ve earned their Totin’ Chip and have it with them), a rain poncho and something to carry it all in. There are a couple of websites that provide good gear inexpensively. Ask among the other parents and they’ll help you out.

BSA policy requires the boys to have a current physical on file with the Troop before camping. This, along with healthcare provider information provides a safe environment for our Scouts to have fun in the outdoors. In addition, Troop 567 prohibits the use of electronic devices on campouts, which we believe to be contrary to the spirit of learning outdoorsmanship and an appreciation of nature. Adult leaders will have cell phones available to allow scouts to contact their parents at the conclusion of a campout if necessary.

### Beyond First Class

In many countries, First Class is the highest rank to be achieved. Once a boy reaches this rank, more is expected of him as a Scout and new opportunities open up for him. In the United States, there are three additional ranks: Star Scout, Life Scout and Eagle Scout. Each of these ranks requires the earning of merit badges, performing community service and holding a position of leadership within the Troop. The rank of Eagle is achieved by only about 4% of the boys who join Scouting and is acknowledged by its own Court of Honor to recognize the merit of this accomplishment. Our goal in Troop 567 is to encourage and provide the opportunity for your son to reach the rank of Eagle Scout. The self-satisfaction that your son will have from challenging himself and reaching that rank will stay with him throughout his life.

### Fundraising

There are two BSA approved fundraisers that we participate in each year. Popcorn sales are in the fall and the boys earn great prizes based on their selling level. The springtime has Boy Scout Mega Show ticket sales, consisting of discount coupons to local merchants.

In January, the boys man the gate for the Treasure Coast Trail Riders motocross event. We host a pancake breakfast both mornings at the event and the chapter makes a donation to our Troop for our services.

If a boy requires financial assistance to attend summer camp, the troop will consider underwriting a portion of the cost. To be eligible the scout must participate in a minimum of two of these three fundraisers, and the parents should submit the request by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Outreach

Another aspect of Boy Scouts is helping the community. We participate in Scouting for Food (a national campaign) in early November. This gathers food for our community’s less fortunate and is distributed through local non-profit organizations. Each boy who nears the rank of eagle must supervise and complete a project that benefits the community. In our Troop these projects have ranged from helping the Humane Society, cleaning and repairing church facilities, repairing and improving facilities at the Fair Grounds, and completing a toy drive for kids in hurricane damaged communities.

## Closing

If you ever have any questions about the Scouting program, just ask. Our Troop strives to provide a Scouting experience "by the book." We follow the safety measures set out by the national board and provide training for both the boys and the adults and maintain an open program. You, the parent, grandparent, guardian or friend, are welcome at all of our Boy Scout events - weekly Troop meetings, monthly Troop Committee meetings and all campouts. We also want to encourage you, the adult, to officially join the Boy Scouts. There's a role (big and small) available for any adult who would like to be active in our Troop along with their Scout. The joy and pride you will receive at watching your son grow in confidence and ability - before your eyes - is immeasurable.

*Boy Scout Motto*

**Do a Good Turn Daily**

*Boy Scout Slogan*

**Be Prepared**