New Scouts & Parents to Troop 146,

Let me start by saying welcome! This letter is to provide you with a brief overview of our troop activities and operations. We hope your goals for joining Scouts align with our program and look forward to working with you for years to come.

We have a very active troop, as demonstrated by our earning the Journey to Excellence Award for the past 2 years. This is a national award presented to those troops who demonstrate success in rank advancements, outdoors activities, leadership training and planning, and recruiting and retention of scouts. It is our hope in presenting this letter to you and speaking with you in person, that you see the valuable experiences we offer for scouts.

**Annual Activities:**

* 6-9 weekend, outdoor activities per year. This includes tent camping, cabin camping, overnight backpacking, overnight kayaking/canoeing.
* 1 week-long summer camp
* 1 week-long high adventure camp (tentative, based on interest and scout experience)
* 2 Courts of Honor (formal event where scouts are presented ranks and awards)
* 5-6 service projects
* 3-5 fundraisers
* 2-3 recruiting events with Cubs/Webelos and the community
* Weekly Troop meetings (Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 PM at St. Stephen’s)
* Monthly Committee Meeting (adult volunteers) (Second Wednesday of every month 7:30-9:00 at St. Stephen’s)
* 1 annual planning retreat
* 2 annual officer trainings

One of the great things about scouting is that it is year-round. Many of the scouts in our troop are also very active in their schools and communities (sports, band, churches, chorus, etc). We encourage scouts to be well-rounded and participate in a variety of other programs and activities. We do not require attendance at every event we host, but we do encourage regular engagement throughout the year based on individual and family availability.

The next page will tell you how to register your new scout online with BSA and the local council office if you are new to scouting. It will also describe how you can sign-up on our troop website to have access to the events calendar, meeting information, weekly troop newsletters, and emails. We are also always looking for adult volunteers to enhance the scouting experience for the youth.

Lastly, while we follow BSA policies of having a “youth-run” troop, we still are always in need of adult volunteers to assist with troop activities, planning, and supervision. We encourage all families to be involved with their scout’s development.

Yours in Scouting,

John Roberts (Scoutmaster)

**Let’s Get Started:** The following describes tasks and instructions to enroll in BSA and gain access to BSA & troop resources:

* For new scouts go to <https://beascout.scouting.org/>
  + Enter Zip Code “16415”
  + Unclick “Cub Scouts (Grades K-5)” & Click “Scouts BSA (Ages 11-17)”
  + Click “Find a Unit”
  + Scroll until you see “Troop 0146” and select “Apply Now” to complete the registration.
  + French Creek Council / Oliver Perry District / Troop 146, St. Stephen’s Church, Fairview, PA
* There will be annual national ($80) and council ($36) fees for scouts (2024)
* For new adults, all applications must be completed in paper format, per BSA policy:
  + Troop 146 will pay the $60 national fee and $21 council fee for active adult leaders, so please complete registration with a current troop leader.
    - The troop will pay for all volunteers for the first year of service on an honor system with the assumption that you will participate in troop activities.
    - The troop will pay for each volunteer for subsequent years based on the completion of one of a series of options based on individual interest levels and/or skills.
    - The troop will not cover the cost of the required background checks.
* Sign-up on Troop Web Host (TWH)
  + TWH is our web-based organization management system.
    - Calendar, financial, pictures, emails, newsletter, announcements, other scout resources, etc.
  + Provide one of the adult troop leaders with your email address & you will receive an invitation to join.
  + All Scouts & at least one parent will need a TWH account.
  + Please complete the full profile information upon receiving the invitation.
* Annual Troop Fee
  + All scouts will be required to pay an annual troop fee. This may be adjusted annually by the troop committee based on costs from the previous year & budget plan for the upcoming year. 2024 = $360.
  + This fee will be prorated monthly for Scouts joining after January.
  + This fee will also be prorated for those aging-out when they turn 18-years-old.
  + This fee does not cover national or council BSA registration fees, summer camp costs, or high adventure camp costs.
  + This fee will cover all other troop events (registrations, food, awards, new scout supplies, troop supplies) throughout the year.
* Fundraising & Individual Accounts
  + All proceeds from fundraisers, unless otherwise designated prior to planning, will be deposited directly into individual Scout accounts based on sales &/or time worked.
  + Individual accounts may be used to pay for summer camp registration, costs associated with high adventure, the annual troop fee, or supplies for your Eagle Court of Honor.
  + If a scout leaves the troop, or ages out, any funds raised by that scout during fundraising events will remain with the troop.
* Uniform & Equipment Expectations
  + New Scout Gear provided by Troop
    - Webelos / AOLs
      * Book (at crossover)
      * 1, 4, 6 patches (at crossover)
      * Patrol patches (at first meeting)
      * Epaulettes (at crossover)
    - All new scouts, same items but after BSA registration
  + All personal gear is the responsibility of the scout / family to provide safe & healthy participation.
    - Troop leadership can provide recommendations as needed, but are not expected to provide financial support for personal gear.
    - The Troop does have troop & patrol gear, see Troop leadership to identify appropriate items.

**Troop 146 Policy for Paying Fees Related to Adult Volunteers**

* Participation in all scouting activities (ie, campsite registrations, food) is fully covered for activities less than 72 hours, unless otherwise not covered for all volunteers.
* There are no troop dues for adults.
* **The troop pays for the costs of sending the first 4 adults to attend summer camp & high adventure camp.**
  + If more than 4 attend, all leaders split the remaining costs.
  + Per BSA Policy: “All adults accompanying a Scouting unit who are present at the activity for 72 total hours or more must be registered as leaders. The 72 hours need not be consecutive.” – This rule only applies to a single event, not cumulatively over multiple events.
* **Year One:** the troop will pay the following fees for all first-year adult volunteers.
  + **National Registration Fee**= $60 (2024)
    - Costs related to background checks required during BSA National Registration are the responsibility of the individual adult.
  + **Council Fee** = $21 (2024)
* **Subsequent Years:** National and Council Fees are only paid by the troop only if the adult is an active volunteer & participant for the previous year as defined below. Adult volunteers who do not meet the criteria described below and wish to remain registered must personally pay the National and Council fees (national & council fees are subject to change & are beyond the control of the troop). The requirements set forth below must be completed prior to the Troop Committee completing the National BSA Recharter, which is generally done in December each year. Adults will not be paid for, or reimbursed after this date, but may attempt to complete the tasks for the following year.
  + All items in Section 1 must be completed and a minimum number of items/tasks in either Section 2 or 3, as described in those sections, must be completed.
  + **Section 1: Required for All Adults Participants:**
    1. Register as a BSA Adult Leader
    2. Current Youth Protection Training (YPT) - free
       - Renewal as required per BSA policy.
       - This is a minimum requirement for ALL ADULT PARTICIPANTS even if not BSA registered.
       - YPT must be completed before National BSA Registration.
    3. Position-Specific Training
  + **Section 2: Committee Members (Complete 4 out of 6)** 
    - Attend at least 5 full troop meetings per year.
    - Attend at least 5 full Committee meetings during the year.
    - Participate in at least 3 Boards of Review.
    - Lead the planning and execution of at least 1 troop activity (fundraiser, camping, community service, etc.).
    - Participate in at least 2 other troop events (summer camp & high adventure may count as 2).
    - Perform a specific and predetermined responsibility/task within the committee throughout the year (ex: maintain and monitor physical forms, monitor adult leader BSA trainings, monitor annual registrations, serve as adult webmaster, serve as adult quartermaster, serve as cub scout liaison, fundraising coordinator, food shopping, Committee Officer).
  + **Section 3: Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster (Complete 4 out of 6)**
    - * Attend at least 25 full troop meetings per year.
      * Attend at least 1 full Committee meeting during the year.
      * Participate in at least 1 Scoutmaster conference during the year.
      * Lead the planning and execution of at least 1 troop activity (fundraiser, camping, community service, etc.).
      * Attend at least 2 other overnight camping events.
      * Participate in at least 4 other troop events.