

Greetings and Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 164

Chartered by the North Congregational Church of Portsmouth.

1. Boy Scouts is different than Cub Scouts: The core premise of Scouting is to empower Boys to be Leaders and therefore Troop 164 is a Boy Led organization. The boys themselves develop the Troop's program and then take the responsibility for figuring out how they will achieve their goals. They also elect their leadership. The Scoutmaster and other Leaders are there to provide direction, advice and to approve that the activities meet the goals of Scouting. It is different from how the Cub Scout Pack operates, where the adults take the lead role.

2. The adults in the Troop provide the support role of encouraging, advising and helping organize the funding for the activities of the Troop. All parents are encouraged to be a member of the Troop Committee and lend their energy and expertise. We encourage all to attend the monthly parent meetings and involve yourself in at least one of the activities during the year.

3. It is imperative each Adult has a basic knowledge of the Boy Scout Program, and therefore we request that each parent review the basic information on Scouting. log on to www.my.scouting.org where you can set up your own account. Click on My Dashboard, then the Training Center section. Then under the Boy/Varsity Scout tab take the "Fast Start-Boy Scouting" and "Youth Protection Training". This will give you the background you need to make the most of the Scouting experience.

Additional training and information is offered at Monthly Roundtable meetings (second Tuesday of month) in Exeter that all leaders and parents are invited to attend.

4. Communication is the core to having a successful Troop; therefore, Troop 164 utilizes "Google Groups" to deliver vital information to the Scouts, Leaders and Parents of the Troop. It allows us to communicate with everyone by sending just one e-mail. There are also several files posted that provide additional information. We will get you connected closer to the crossover. The Troop Website is <http://www.troop164nh.org>

5. Advancement: this is the responsibility of each Scout to move through the advancement process. Each Scout moves at his own pace with their own level of desire. The Troop will provide opportunities for earning merit badges, but the Scouts are free to explore some of the 136 merit badges offered (visit www.meritbadge.org). The Troop utilizes the "Troop Master" Software to track all personal information and advancement data, but it is only as good as the information included. We will print summaries for Scouts to review and suggest corrections.

6. Summer Camp - Hidden Valley Scout Reservation in Gilmanston, NH each July, (Week 4, July 16-22, 2017 for cost of approx. \$365). Also, this year we are also considering attending Camp Bell (August 6-12) for more high adventure type programs. Reservation of \$50 is due by March 12, 2017, with check made out to Troop 164. The newest scouts are typically signed up for the "First Year" program which gets them fully immersed in the Patrol method and learn the basics to achieve their Tenderfoot, Second Class and First class Ranks. They also earn their Swimming merit badge.

7. Troop Finances: Scouts and parents are responsible for monthly dues (\$5) and a yearly registration fee (\$50 – includes Boys Life magazine). Your Scout is already registered thru the end of the year. The Troop uses dues to pay for monthly expenses and we have a few fundraising events throughout the year. Amount can be paid in one payment if convenient.

8. Merit Badge Counselor: The parents are the Troops resource. All of you have special talents and interests. Look through the lists of merit badges and find something that interests you. It helps broaden the boy's opportunities to explore and learn.

The boys are scheduled to crossover in April, we intend to overnight in the Church on Friday and then go on a campout. Boys will need to have a warm sleeping bag (20d or 0d rating) and a cook kit with utensils for this campout. We will have an additional meeting to answer any more questions that come up as your boys start the travel down the path to Eagle.

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Troop Committee Chair – Matthew Wirth H 603-436-1512, C 603-502-5294 mwirth95@myfairpoint.net

New Scouts and Parents