



NEW PARENT PACKET

VARSITY SCOUT PLEDGE

TEAM AIMS AND METHODS

UNIFORM

VALUES OF VARSITY SCOUTING

MISSION STATEMENT

FIVE PROGRAM FIELDS OF EMPHASIS

TEAM COACH LETTER

YOUTH LEADER JOB DESCRIPTIONS

FUNDRAISING / COSTS

MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATION

GEAR

TRAINING

WE ARE ALL 124 AT ST. MATTHEW!

Stephen Townsend
Varsity Team Coach 124
Beaverton, Oregon

VARSITY SCOUT PLEDGE

As a Varsity Scout I will: Live by the Scout Oath, Law, motto, and slogan; Honor the dignity and worth of all persons; Promote the cause of freedom; and Do my best to be a good team member.

THE AIMS OF VARSITY SCOUTING

1. Character Development
2. Citizenship Training
3. Mental and Physical Fitness

THE METHODS OF VARSITY SCOUTING

1. The Ideals (Scout Oath & Law)
2. The Team Method
3. The Outdoors
4. Advancement
5. Association with Adults
6. Personal Growth
7. Leadership Development
8. The Uniform

Welcome to Varsity Scouting, a program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men ages 14 through 18. Packed with opportunities for adventure, leadership, personal growth, and service, the Varsity Scout program holds special appeal for older Scouts. It is also flexible enough to allow chartered organizations to design the program to effectively mesh Scouting's principles and values with the objectives of the chartered organizations.

Varsity Scouts are distinguished on their uniform from Boy Scouts by wearing the blaze (orange) epaulettes and the Varsity strip above the Boy Scouts of America strip above the right shirt pocket.

THE VALUES OF VARSITY SCOUTING

Varsity Scouting is a values-based organization. Its ideals, found in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan, are the same as those every Boy Scout troop observes. With prior experience as Boy Scouts, most young men becoming Varsity Scouts already firmly understand and believe in these ideals. Along with youth who are new to the BSA, they will find that the values of Varsity Scouting serve as valuable guidelines for their Varsity Scout team, and for life.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Boys Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Varsity Team Scouting is an exciting step for many existing Scouts or it can be a program for those wanting to exclusively participate in Varsity, and be challenged. Currently, however, Team 124 is specifically a supplemental program for Troop 124 Scouts aged 14-18, who want to enrich their outdoor and/or event experience and commit to a more hands on boy-led program at all aspects of the various activities. Varsity Scouting is designed to be even more boy-led and run, by the youth specifically, including what might be considered an adult role, such as the organization of events or outings. Adults do not rescue the team from their lack of planning. If the youth don't plan it, they don't go on the outing. The only time there is intervention, is for safety. Where there are frequent outings in a Troop, with roles held by patrol members overseen by a PLC, making up the whole, the Team is akin to a large patrol all organizing together for it even to be possible to follow through on the outing, for benefit of all. Both are expected to live by the Oath and

Law, provide service to others, etc. But how they plan and organize is where these differences start. Also the names of the youth roles held.

HOW THE TEAM OPERATES

The youth make up 5 Program Fields of Emphasis, and a wide range of opportunities. All program fields are equally important, and EACH field should be represented in the program planning of the Varsity Scout team. Whether a 14+ year old knows it or not, this program is ALWAYS open for them. Each role's ACTIVE PARTICIPATION supports every scout, on the Varsity Team. The five program fields held by a Team youth are:

ADVANCEMENT. Varsity Scouts use the same advancement program as Boy Scouts. They may also earn recognitions offered through such programs as the Fifty-Miler Award and Mile Swim, BSA. *What this means is, it is the Scout's responsibility in this role, to connect with the advancement chair to find out and share advancement opportunities for those participating on an activity so they may prepare and get credit for it. MUCH rides on this Scout, to provide this for others in the Team, then they can make the decision whether to earn it or not. Awards available only to Varsity Scouts include the Varsity Scout letter and the Denali Award. Once a youth has earned his letter, he can earn activity pins for each quarterly program feature in which he participates. The team defines the requirements and at the end of the quarter or the next Court of Honor, each participant receives the pin to place on the letter. Note: Nights camped count, as well as efforts toward Eagle rank.*

HIGH ADVENTURE/SPORTS. Varsity Scouts plan and take part in a wide range of tough mental and physical activities, from snow camping to whitewater rafting. These activities are supported by activity pamphlets that aid teams during the planning process. *In Team 124, the annual planning meeting happens in late August. The year is planned out, and an invitation is extended to Troop 124 for any 13 year olds to help plan who intend on joining the Team when of age. The Varsity Scout plans out or delegates the planning to others to help plan, all aspects to what the activity will entail.*

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT. The Varsity Scouting program stresses personal development through spiritual growth, leadership, citizenship, and social and physical fitness. The program manager responsible for personal development helps team members select and participate in activities that will enhance their personal development.

SERVICE. Until it becomes a constant ingredient in one's daily life, Varsity Scouting will emphasize service. Projects are conceived, planned, managed, and carried out by Varsity Scouts and/or the Varsity Scout team. *This means service especially to the Team's Chartered Organization, St. Matthew Lutheran. At times, the church will contact the team, and it is this Scout's responsibility to communicate the need to the Team, in a timely, specific and professional manner. Others rely on Varsity Team 124's service program and service toward others! (Remember, a Scout is HELPFUL).*

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS. Providing time, way, means, and encouragement to participate in special programs and events is an important feature of Varsity Scouting. Special events may be national Scouting activities, or district or council events, or an activity with another Varsity Scout team, or a coed activity such as a cookout or ski trip.



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Team! By now your boy has had a few years of scouting experience under his belt and he is coming of age to participate in Varsity Scout activities. I am sure you have many questions about what a Varsity Scout is and how it is different from being a regular boy scout. This guide will help you learn what the Varsity Scout program is, what will be expected from your boy when he participates in the program, and what is expected from a parent. The Team has been successful over the years in part because of the parent support. We can't get home from an activity without you!

Troop 124 has adopted the Varsity program for the older boys because of the foundation on what it was built on. The Varsity program in scouting is not just high adventure, it is actually made up of five areas; Advancement, High Adventure/Sport, Personal Development, Service, and Special Programs. Because of this, I see an opportunity for the boys to expand what they have learned in scouting thus far and apply it to more of a challenging program. At the same time, become a mentor for a younger scout. The Varsity program was designed to allow any scout, regardless of skills or physical ability, to participate in. The boys will take on more of a role in all aspects of the program planning and execution. The philosophy of "Boy Run" is held at a stronger level. Even the most experienced boy can forget, that is why adult leaders are present for safety and guidance.

What is expected from the Scouts:

- Follow the Varsity Scout Oath.
- Wear the full, proper Official Uniform.
- Attend monthly meetings. First Monday of every month.
- Take the skills learned in Scouting and apply them to a more advanced method.
- Become a mentor to younger scouts.
- Become a leader and implement to the highest level the philosophy of boy run.
- Interact appropriately with other scouts and adult leaders.
- Respect our meeting facilities. No scouts are allowed upstairs unattended.
- Bring home announcements, calendars, outing information and utilize the team web site, www.troop124.us
- Assist in the troop's/team's annual fundraising event.

What is expected from the Parents:

- Supporting the boys' program by scheduling time for the team meetings and outings.
- Provide support in having a successful outing.
- Attend monthly Parent Meetings on the first Monday of each month.
- Being aware of the calendars, announcements, and permission slips which are emailed as a Google link.
- Providing transportation (information required prior to being a driver on outings) for troop or patrol outings, and always drive within all parameters of the law. Email bsatroop124beaverton@gmail.com to provide info.
- Become aware of and BECOME TRAINED in Youth Protection and provide proof of completion. It's taken online at www.myscouting.org (without an ID # your first time, but remember your username to link the number you are given, to it later) This is a MUST if you are a driver on outings, attend outings, or get registered in any way.
- Communicate verbally to leaders, in addition to any behavioral issues listed on Medical forms--back up the medical form listing any meds and conditions, with this verbal dialog and an email prior to outings.
- Not letting weather stop participation on outings. This is Oregon!
- Actively supporting the troop's/team's annual fundraising event and its' service project.

- Understanding that the troop is boy-led and boy-run. Not everything goes off at 100%.

What is expected from the Team:

- Monthly meetings
- Year around activities. More challenging than troop activities
- A safe place to be involved
- Character and self-confidence building experiences
- Scout skills training
- A leadership training program
- An atmosphere where young men can make mistakes or garner success and learn from both in a safe environment
- The BSA Varsity Advancement Program
- Family opportunities for participation
- Trained adult and youth leadership
- Schedules, information, and the troop web site, www.troop124.us

As you become more familiar with the team I am sure you will have more questions. For any large scale activity, I like to have meetings with both boys and parents so that everyone is in the loop and well informed. At any point you have questions or concerns, any of our adult leaders can help assist, and as always you can contact me directly.

Thanks!

Stephen Townsend
Team Coach

TEAM LEADER YOUTH JOB DESCRIPTIONS

TEAM CAPTAIN (This is the equivalent of the Senior Patrol Leader in a Troop)

- Conduct Team meetings under the guidance of the Coach
- Preside a Team leadership meetings
- Select and appoint Program Managers, with the Coach's approval
- Coordinate Team activities with the Program Managers
- Maintain the spirit of the Team in all activities
- Set a good example of the ideals of Scouting
- Encourage Team members to advance along the Eagle trail and work toward other Varsity awards
- Wear the Team uniform correctly
- Live by the Scout Oath and Law
- Show Scout spirit.

TEAM CO-CAPTAINS (This is the equivalent of the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader in a Troop)

- Assist the Captain in the operation of the team
- Take charge of the Team when the Captain is not present.

SQUAD LEADER(S)

- Lead a squad (a Team may be divided into smaller groups)
- Represent the squad in Team leader meetings

ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM MANAGER

- Gets dates from the Team Captain when you are expected to manage an activity in your assigned field of emphasis
- With the Program Adviser's help, plans, organizes, and leads the activities in assigned field of emphasis. If numbers allow, may also lead other Varsity Scouts as members of a committee to develop these activities
- Completes Varsity Scout Team Activity Planning Worksheet to plan and present assigned activities to the team for approval
- Reports to the team captain, and also the team in team meetings, regarding plans and concerns in the preparation of activities
- Keep Trail to the Eagle Advancement Chart up to date and displays this chart at team meetings
- Keep current the team's Varsity Letter chart and displays this chart at team meetings
- Encourages team members to achieve scouting ranks, Varsity Letter, Denali award, Duty to God, and other awards and recognitions
- Work with the team's Coach, Captain, and advancement Program Manager to conduct an Individual Advancement Inventory with each Varsity Scout and map out a personal advancement plan for each team member
- Conduct, with Coach and advancement Program Manager, boards of review for scouting advancement
- In team meetings, gives reports on team member advancement progress
- Helps plan and conduct courts of honor (awards night)

HIGH ADVENTURE/SPORTS PROGRAM MANAGER

- Gets dates from the Team Captain when you are expected to manage an activity in your assigned field of emphasis

- With the Program Adviser's help, plans, organizes, and leads the activities in assigned field of emphasis. If numbers allow, may also lead other Varsity Scouts as members of a committee to develop these activities
- Complete Varsity Scout Team Activity Planning Worksheet to plan and present assigned activities to the team for approval
- Report to the team captain, and also the team in team meetings, regarding plans and concerns in the preparation of activities
- Help plan and organize the annual ultimate adventure for the team

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MANAGER

- In the team's annual planning retreat, promote the inclusion of personal development activities so spiritual, citizenship, social/cultural, and physical activities appear regularly on the calendar
- Gets dates from the Team Captain when you are expected to manage an activity in your assigned field of emphasis
- With the Program Adviser's help, plans, organizes, and leads the activities in assigned field of emphasis. If numbers allow, may also lead other Varsity Scouts as members of a committee to develop these activities
- Complete Varsity Scout Team Activity Planning Worksheet to plan and present assigned activities to the team for approval
- Report to the team captain, and also the team in team meetings, regarding plans and concerns in the preparation of activities
- May serve as captain of Quorum/team sports teams playing in stake or other competition. Makes sure that players are contacted about games. Promotes good sportsmanship
- May represent the quorum/team in the planning of social/cultural activities for combined YM/YW

SERVICE PROGRAM MANAGER

- In the team's annual planning retreat, promote the inclusion of service activities so that at least one is calendared per quarter
- Gets dates from the Team Captain when you are expected to manage an activity in your assigned field of emphasis. With the Program Adviser's help, plans, organizes, and leads the activities in assigned field of emphasis. If numbers allow, may also lead other Varsity Scouts as members of a committee to develop these activities
- Complete Varsity Scout Team Activity Planning Worksheet to plan and present assigned activities to the team for approval
- Report to the team captain, and also the team in team meetings, regarding plans and concerns in the preparation of activities
- Coordinate with the advancement Program Manager and adviser to make sure that each individual team member has the opportunity to lead or participate in service projects as required to meet the requirements for rank advancement and Duty to God in a timely way (print planning form)
- May delegate service project leadership to other team members who need the experience for Eagle or Duty to God requirement
- With help from the Program Advisor and other ward leaders, create an ongoing list of possible team and individual service projects
- Promote District, Church, and community service projects as appropriate
- Help your buddies in the team to develop a greater love of service

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS MANAGER

- Obtain from the District and Church calendar, events sponsored by them for Varsity Scouts/Teachers, and promote these events to the team when the team calendar is being planned so that at least one SP&E activity is planned per quarter
- Gets dates from the Team Captain when you are expected to manage an activity in your assigned field of emphasis
- With the Program Adviser's help, plans, organizes, and leads the activities in assigned field of emphasis. If numbers allow, may also lead other Varsity Scouts as members of a committee to develop these activities
- Complete Varsity Scout Team Activity Planning Worksheet to plan and present assigned activities to the team for approval
- Report to the team captain, and also the team in team meetings, regarding plans and concerns in the preparation of activities

FUNDRAISING

In Team 124, we participate in the one main fundraiser, the wreath sale with Troop 124. There is every opportunity to sell wreaths where the scout is then able to raise money for their outings and experiences toward Team 124 activities. If a scout is wanting to participate in a candy sale or popcorn sale, that is their decision, as well as additional fundraisers planned as a Team. However, the wreath sale goals the team comes up with could also be incentive toward earning more for that expensive summer planned Team event, such as an Odyssey sailing trip, or week long event.

COSTS

If registered in a Troop, there is no fee to join Team 124. It is required, however, to fill out a application and recharter with the Team, just like registering for a troop. As far as outings and events, the larger events the Team plans is not that unlike the expense of a summercamp--or it could be even more expensive, comparable to a Jamboree, even. For that reason, Team 124 is not in a position to scholarship a scout in order to participate in an event or outing. It is however, up to the adult committee to kick in toward a scholarship fund, for any future need in the Team, enabling a scout to attend. There are no 'scout accounts' however, monies earned from a group organized fundraiser like the wreath sale, provides the means for monies to go toward events. Note: The \$40 annual Troop fee does NOT apply to the activities planned in the Team. The team operates on an outing by outing basis, as the cost demands can vary vastly.

MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATION

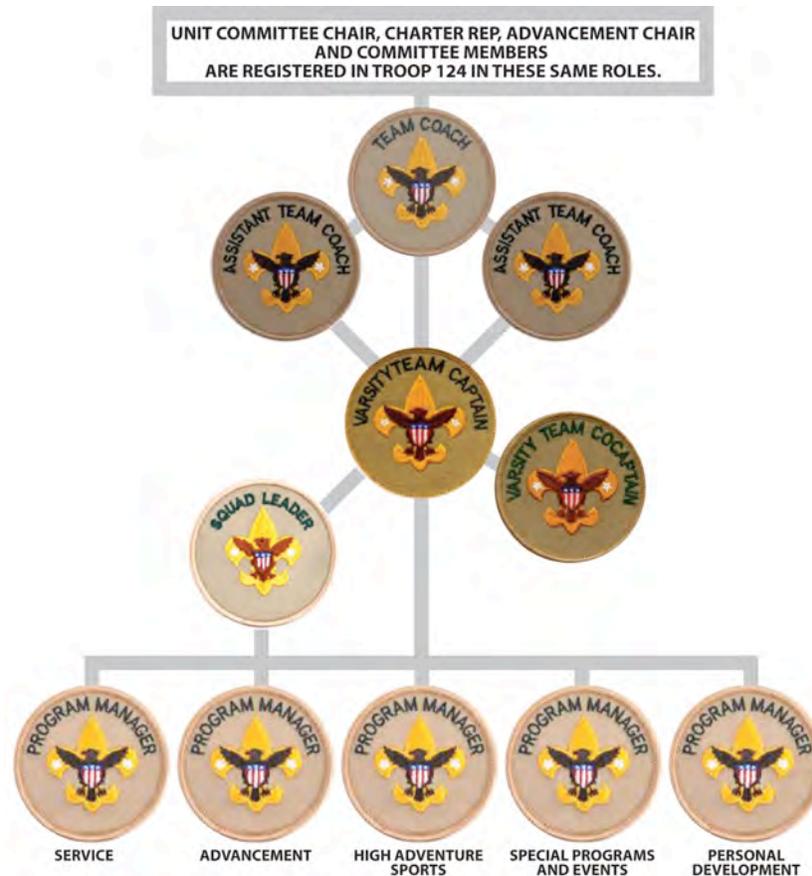
The Team members meet at St. Matthew Lutheran, the first Monday of every month at 6pm, prior to the Troop 124 meeting, in the Lower Fellowship Hall. This is a boy-led meeting, where each member holding a position as outlined earlier, reports on the calendar and planning status of upcoming events and outings. Without their attendance (or delegation, if unable), planning is not discussed until the next month. Email is vteam124beaverton@gmail.com, and youth post to the Team's Facebook account. **It is entirely the youth's responsibility to communicate in their own planning.** The goal is ownership and empowerment of taking on the more grown-up role feeling responsible for what they have collectively planned and agreed on, and subsequently committed to in their roles. Parents can give the nudges they may have offered in their son's troop, as would anyone reminding someone of something, however, the role and legwork is the youth's.

GEAR

The high adventure aspect kicks in here, although in general the gear is not that unlike the Troop's gear list. Where it differs is there is more potential for the need of rented gear, such as ice axes, crampons, helmets for snow/ice hiking or climbing, climbing shoes and helmets for rock climbing, or snowshoes, etc. The youth

planning the event of course, must learn to factor these needs in. Reservations, park fees, etc, also go along with this. One thing that has been provided, given proper continued care, are 'steril tents' that are available for back wilderness hiking treks that demand safe camping among wildlife. Steril tents are tents the Team has that have not been eaten in, had ANY food even kept in them or in packs stored in them, nor any 'smellables' that may attract a bear. If any Team scout is caught eating in one of these REI tents available, then note that this scout has BOUGHT the tent—meaning, the scout will owe the Team \$200 toward a new tent to replace the contaminated tent. Please communicate this also again, to your scout! This is an invaluable lesson scouts learn, about backwoods safety, learning about the bearmuda triangle for their gear, their food, and more. It's THAT important.

THE TEAM'S ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



TRAINING

Youth in the roles above, will be **expected** to attend the Youth Leader Trainings held in March and October, along with Troop 124 youth held positions. These two units, work SYMBIONICALLY—they attend much of the same outings, but how they communicate with the troop's youth roles, benefit both units exponentially. It is these older youth that are EXPECTED to provide to the Troop, thus representing the Team in a positive light. The Team is not for the exclusive ability to simply attend higher adventure outings that younger scouts can not. It is the goal of both the St. Matthew chartered units to provide a clear message during the inter-unit training that will also focus on how to represent the Team, mentor the Troop newer scouts, thus foster a proactive, youth led EXAMPLE of what the Team is to represent, by that example. The dual registered adults leadership committee of both units is passionate about the youth relationship between both units work in this manner to illustrate that Team 124 is not a privileged group of older youth, but ones that are held at a standard that provides service and support to the troop they also are members in and support.

WE ARE ALL 124 AT ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN!



TROOP ROLE EXPECTATIONS

SENIOR PATROL LEADER

Oversees Troop. Works with PLC and Scoutmasters to make sure all areas are being fulfilled. Works together with Team Captain for younger scout support and mentorship on outings.

ASST SENIOR PATROL LEADERS (2)

Supports SPL. Works with PLC to make sure both the OUTDOOR Program (outings) and INDOOR Program (meetings that support the outing/outdoor program preparations). To ensure each are well planned and carried out to success, for all ranks and all Scouting experience levels. Works with Program Mgrs in Team to ensure that there are no holes in planning. To communicate clearly any needs on behalf of all younger Troop members.

POTENTIAL SENARIO (SAME OUTING):

Backpack hike, that covers Advancement, potential MB requirements, skill instruction. Longer hike for younger scouts with map and compass completing 5 mi requirement, working with planning made at the Team planning meeting. ASPL of Outdoor adds duty roster spot for the Team to hold a class, summarizing the comparison of reg. backpacking to ultralight backpacking. Nod to Advancement and those doing the hiking or backpacking MB.

SERVICE

EFFORT

GOAL OF SCOUTING FOR BOTH UNITS

... COMBINED



TEAM ROLE EXPECTATIONS

TEAM CAPTAIN

Oversees Team. Works with Project Managers and Team Coaches to make sure all areas are being fulfilled. Works together with Senior Patrol Leader for younger scout support and mentorship on outings.

PROJECT MANAGERS (all 5)

Supports Team Captain. Works with other Program Managers to ensure adequate coverage for all components of any particular event or outing, to best support the Team, and the fellow youth they share in the Troop. Work with the ASPLs of Outdoor and Indoor, to best prepare for accurate communication about the event for the benefit of their fellow Scouting members through their active example to each other, and to the Troop they share members with.

POTENTIAL SENARIO (SAME OUTING):

Ultra light backpack Hike. Covers Advancement, potential MB requirements, skill instruction, from PLC meeting. Longer hike for Team members, via leading younger scouts with map and compass 5 mi requirement, working with plans made with ASPL of outdoor. Share comparisons of backpack hike with ultralight backpacking via introduction by ASPL of Outdoor, in a class setting. Team explains benefits and where this would be used. Nod to those doing the hiking or backpacking MB.

DUAL REGISTERED ADULT LEADER COMMITTEE
and
SUPPORT
THE SHARED COMMITTEE OF PARENTS



WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

A youth can join Team 124 at any point from age 14-17, and not feel behind in advancement, or behind in any other form because of it being designed to enrich the Scouting program. In fact, the outings are ALWAYS OPEN to troop members of this age group—it's the way it's designed. If your son is not yet ready, he can join at any point he wishes. There are many fun and high adventure outings they can take part in, so check us out!

