

FAQ:

Q: What does Troop 48 do?

A: We are one of the most active Troops in the area, with a special emphasis on our outdoor camping program. Each month from September to May our boys get a chance to have some fun and adventure by going on at least one weekend trip: canoeing/kayaking the Wading River, hiking in Wharton State Forest, backpacking on the Appalachian Trail, learning proper rifle and shotgun techniques in Shamong, Whitewater Rafting the Lehigh River or New River, skiing in the Poconos, biking at Sandy Hook, or sleeping on the beaches at Assateague Island. We also have a high adventure trip each summer.

The Troop also participates in various council camporees and competitions, such as Iron Scout and the White Horse District Klondike Derbies, with quite a record of top place finishes. We will have Scouts at the 2010 National Jamboree celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America at Fort A.P. Hill, VA.

The Scouts plan the meeting activities for each month that focus around a theme, a merit badge, or preparation for an upcoming event. Some popular themes over the years have been First Aid (capped by first aid scenarios where Scouts put their skills to the test), Rifle and Shotgun Merit Badges, survival and shelter building, knots, cycling, and advancement night.

Q: When and where does Troop 48 meet?

A: We meet each Wednesday night, 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm, from the beginning of September through the end of June at the shed behind the Holy Communion Lutheran Church (442 South Route 73 in Berlin, NJ, directly across from the Wawa gas station)

Q: Is Troop 48 active in the community?

A: Scouting is about fun, but Scouting is also about service. For many years, the Troop has done projects on the Battleship New Jersey between 3 and 4 times a year, run a rest stop for the MS (Multiple Sclerosis) 150 City-to-Shore Bike Ride, and collected food for the church food drive, along with participating in various other service opportunities. With the addition of over 100 Eagle Scout projects completed by members of the Troop, Troop 48 has made an impact for the better on the region. In addition, many of our Scouts actively serve as Den Chiefs with the local Cub Scout packs, helping to instruct the next generation of Scouts.

Q: Does Troop 48 have a summer program?

A: Troop 48 differs from many other Boy Scout Troops in this regard. Going back to our very first year as an organization, Troop 48 has headed out on a weeklong high-adventure excursion each and every summer, which Scouts of all levels and ages attend and participate in. This has been considered by generations of Troop 48 Scouts to be the highlight of the year, and there are a thousand "Remember the summer we..." stories out there from this annual event. Past adventures have included the White Mountains of New Hampshire, Lake Champlain in Vermont, the Shenandoah Mountains of Virginia, the Great Smokey Mountains of Tennessee/North Carolina, and Raystown Lake in Pennsylvania. In 2005, the Troop took its biggest adventure yet, a ten-day excursion to Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico, a trip that no one who attended will ever forget. In addition to the summer trip, Scouts from Troop 48 have also attended Camp Roosevelt in Salem County and Camp Ockanickon in Bucks County.

Q: What is the purpose of Troop 48?

A: Troop 48, Berlin, NJ, Boy Scouts of America exists to provide each Scout that comes through our organization with a quality scouting experience. This Troop provides opportunities for adventure that a young man might not find elsewhere through our extensive monthly outdoor program that includes: camping, canoeing, hiking, backpacking, biking, kayaking, skiing, and similar activities. Through this outdoor program; regular service projects that benefit the larger community; and weekly meetings; Troop 48 teaches young men skills in the areas of camping, first aid, and environmental awareness. In addition, this organization strives to impart our Scouts with certain worthwhile qualities: leadership, teamwork, self-reliance, responsibility, and good citizenship. Each part of the program of Troop 48 is necessary for a quality scouting experience and to move young men toward the organization's ultimate goal: to forge better men for our future while giving them memories for a lifetime.

Q: What is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America?

A: The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. Scouting's goals are to:

- Offer young people responsible fun and adventure;
- Instill in young people lifetime values and develop in them ethical character;
- Train young people in citizenship, service, and leadership;
- Serve America's communities and families with its quality, values-based program.

Q: How do I join Troop 48?

A: Its very easy, just come on out to a weekly meeting (see next question); talk to one of our leaders; and fill out a membership form. You get a first hand look at how our Troop works and we can answer any questions you may have.

Q: How old must I be to join Troop 48?

A: To become a Boy Scout, you must be less than 18 years old AND MEET ONE of the following requirements:

- Be at least 10 years old and have already completed the 5th grade, OR
- Be at least 11 years old, OR
- Be at least 10 years old and have already earned the Arrow of Light Award as a Cub Scout.

Q: Must I first be a Cub Scout to join Troop 48?

A: It is NOT necessary to be a Cub Scouts before joining Troop 48.

Q: Can I join Troop 48 if I live outside of Berlin?

A: Troop 48 draws much of its membership from Berlin Borough, Voorhees, and Berlin Township, but our unique program draws boys from all over the area: Atco, Waterford, Hammonton, Cherry Hill, Moorestown, and even Mullica Hill.

Q: My son has a disability or special needs, will the Troop be able to accommodate him?

A: The Troop has had a range of special needs Scouts over the years, from students with hyperactive or behavioral issues to Scouts who were wheelchair bound with breathing machines. We not only will accommodate Scouts with disabilities or special needs, but welcome them with open arms, as these are the boys that often stand to gain the most from Scouting experience. All Scouts are given the chance to earn their Eagle Scout rank, as resources and alternate requirements are available for the ranks for those Scouts that, due to physical or mental limitations, cannot complete certain tasks. BSA's policy on Scouts With Disabilities and Special Needs can be found at <http://www.scouting.org/Media/FactSheets/02-508.aspx>

Q: Can I transfer from another Boy Scout Troop?

A: Yes, Scouts do transfer into Troop 48 for a variety of reasons, including: address changes, school or activity conflicts, or to participate in our strong activity and advancement programs. We have had Scouts as old as 17 transfer to us in the past.

Q: My son has special dietary needs or food allergies, how does the Troop handle those?

A: The Troop has had a number of boys and adults with special dietary needs, including severe food allergies (peanuts) and vegetarians. When we know about these needs in advance, we either adapt the menu to suit the scout's needs (for example, no peanut butter on the trip) or provide alternate meals (for example, provide a separate pot of pasta sauce without meatballs in it, or even a whole other meal entirely). We also keep a supply of extra non-perishable foods (such as oatmeal, ramen noodles, etc) in our camping trailer at all times, so a boy will not go without food if he cannot eat or does not like the food being served. Several members of the Troop are trained in epi-pen (epinephrine) use, and several adults are familiar with diabetic needs.

Q: How much does it cost?

A: Annual membership dues for each Scout are \$50, which goes to the National and Council BSA organizations, in return for which we receive insurance for our trips and other services. Our trips cost \$25 each, plus any expenses (such as equipment rental for whitewater rafting, a lift ticket for skiing, etc). Our weeklong summer trip usually costs around \$250 for the week. A Scout is also expected to have certain equipment, such as a uniform and hiking boots.

We believe that no boy should be denied the Scouting experience due to financial issues. Equipment and uniforms are often donated by Scouts in the Troop, and are available for cheap/free, the Troop owns equipment (most notably tents) that Scouts are welcome to borrow for trips, and in severe cases, sponsorship can and has been made available to help offset the cost of dues/trips. This is possible due to fundraising efforts of the Troop as well as generous donations from individuals.

Q: What do parents need to do?

A: We expect the following of parents who have Scouts in Troop 48:

- Assist with transportation to outings
- Make funding arrangements with your Scout for Troop activities
- Assist leaders with programs
- Participate in fundraisers
- Attend Court of Honor Meetings
- Consider optional leadership opportunities such as Committee positions or serving as a Merit Badge Counselor

Q: How is Troop 48 involved with the Holy Communion Lutheran Church?

A: The Holy Communion Lutheran Church has graciously made their facilities available to Troop 48 as our Chartered Organization (sponsoring organization) since 1965. Only a few Scouts in Troop 48 have ever been affiliated with Holy Communion Lutheran Church, and the Troop has had members of the Catholic, Jewish, and Hindu faiths, as well as Scouts belonging to various Protestant denominations or with no official religious affiliation. In exchange for the sponsorship, we help the church with various small projects.

Q: Does Troop 48 participate in Order of the Arrow?

A: Order of the Arrow is an Honor Camping and Service Society, and Troop 48 nominates Scouts for membership in Te'kening Lodge #37.