

# CONSIDERING JOINING A TROOP?

What you may want to know about the next phase of Scouting America.

## 1. YOU CAN EXPLORE DIFFERENT TROOPS IN THE AREA AND FIND THE RIGHT ONE FOR YOUR CHILD.

You don't automatically have to choose Troop 434.

- Troop 434 has been affiliated with Pack 462 for over 50 years.
- Both have been chartered by Llanerch Presbyterian Church.



## 2. COME TRY IT OUT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DECIDE RIGHT NOW. (OR EVEN BEFORE THE MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup> CROSSOVER)

- All the 5<sup>th</sup> Graders in Pack 462 are on track to earn their Arrow of Light rank
- They can symbolically "cross over" at the Pack Meeting and make an official decision later
- Troop 434 is welcoming potential scouts to meetings and campouts as a tryout (attending at least 1 of each is encouraged)
- The troop meets almost every Monday at 7:30pm at Llanerch

**NEXT TROOP MEETING:** Monday February 23 at 7:30 – Llanerch Presbyterian

**NEXT CAMPOUT:** Camp & climb Saturday February 21 Downingtown Rock Gym (42\$)

## 3. SCOUTS CAN PURSUE VARIOUS INTERESTS AND STILL ADVANCE

- Troop 434 is proud to be a laid back, accomodating troop that works with kids who have a wide range of other interests including sports, music, arts, robotics, theater, etc.
- Kids dial it up or down as needed to juggle priorities, choosing which camping trips interest them and fit their schedule
- Dozens and dozens of Troop 434 Scouts have earned their Eagle Rank

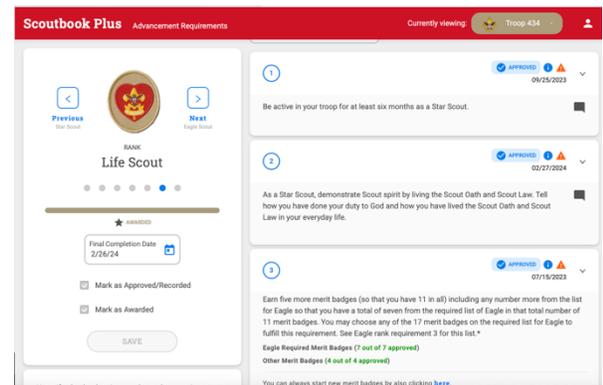
### Advancement



ARROW OF LIGHT > SCOUT > TENDERFOOT > 2<sup>ND</sup> CLASS > 1<sup>ST</sup> CLASS > STAR > LIFE > EAGLE

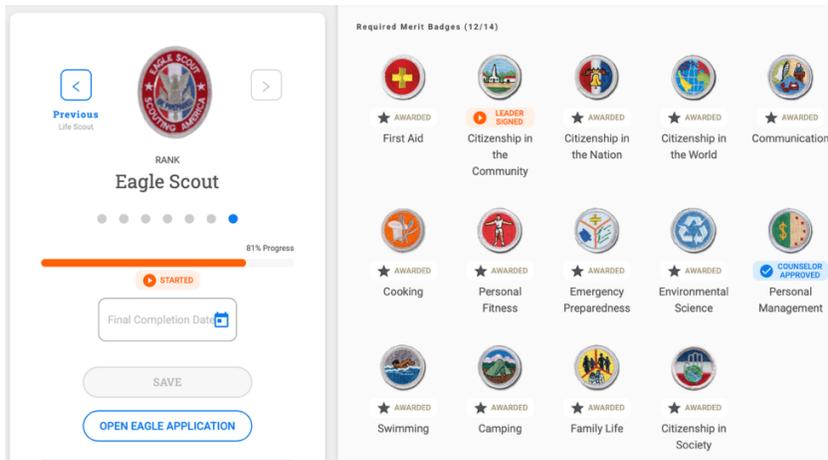
## 4. ADVANCEMENT REALLY ISN'T EVERYTHING

- Some kids participate just for fun, to spend time with friends, gain life experiences, and try things that they otherwise may never do
- Some kids turn 18 before they make Eagle and may finish as Star or Life Scouts, which can still go on a college resume.
- As long as they participate, they will develop independence, leadership qualities, and other valuable skills that will benefit them in adulthood
- You can help keep them on track by looking at requirements in Scoutbook online or in their physical book



## 5. EACH SCOUT CREATES THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE.

- There are many many merit badges. Over 140.
- In order to reach Eagle, they need 14 specific badges + 7 electives (only 21 total). Everything else is bonus.



## 6. SUMMER CAMP IS OPTIONAL BUT HIGHLY ENCOURAGED

- Each year (starting this Summer!) there is a week-long sleepaway camp where Scouts have the opportunity to earn up to 5 merit badges and meet camping requirements
- They can check off the mandatory badges faster or seek out badges that local Merit Badge Counselors may not offer
- Recommend going during early years before other commitments limit availability. Getting ahead early takes pressure off as they get older and need to focus on grades, etc.
- First year Scouts will automatically be in the "Pathways" program from 9am to 12pm, then have a chance to choose their own merit badge at 1pm
- After 2pm they get free time to hang around camp, go to the shooting ranges, try the rock-climbing wall, go fishing or kayaking for fun, or just hit the pool

NOTE: Some badges require "prerequisites," which means advance work to complete requirements at camp instead of going home with "partials" and having to seek signoffs when they get home and lose momentum.



### NEXT SUMMER CAMP:

**August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> – Goose Pond Scout Reservation**

Cost: \$505 per Scout. Need to sign up by mid-April to get this early-bird rate

[HTTPS://GPSR.NEPABSA.ORG](https://gpsr.nepabsa.org)

## 7. PARENT INVOLVEMENT IS OPTIONAL BUT CRITICAL

- All troops are kid-lead at meetings and campouts, but adult committee members are needed to help the Leadership Corp plan the program and chaperone overnight events
- You can drive to and from without registering but to stay overnight you need to register and submit child safety certifications.
- The troop will cover adult registration fees if you join the committee and/or coordinate and volunteer to lead a camping trip that year

## 8. TOTAL COSTS VARY BASED ON PARTICIPATION

- **Base annual dues: \$135 for first Scout, \$100 for additional Scouts**
- Annual rechartering/registration renewals at end of calendar year (December)
- Extra costs for each camping trip, summer camp, add-ons of your choice