

**TROOP 8  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

State Street U.M.C.  
300 W. Valley Dr. Bristol, VA 24201

**Information for New Scouts and Parents**

Troop 8 has been sponsored by State Street United Methodist Church since 1931. In this time, the troop has served countless Bristol families by providing safe, enjoyable, and values-based education and activities for the young men of the troop. In addition to the troop, State Street also sponsors Cub Scout Pack 8 for boys ages 7-10.

**What do I need to get started?**

Troop 8 requires the BSA Boy Scout Uniform for all boys of the troop. This includes a khaki uniform shirt and green neckerchief with gold embroidery. These items can be purchased at Mountain Sports, Ltd. in Bristol or the Sequoyah Council Service Center in Johnson City. Other uniform items are optional, including trousers, shorts, belt and socks. The troop also requires that each boy have his own *Boy Scout Handbook*, which can be purchased at either of the two previously listed locations. The following uniform patches should be purchased as well: Sequoyah Council patch, red numeral 8, World Crest (optional) and a patrol emblem (optional). The troop will provide badges for rank, and boys will have the opportunity to purchase special patches on occasion. Troop t-shirts and hats are also available from the troop for \$5.00 each. For a guide to patch placement, consult the inside front and rear covers of the *Boy Scout Handbook*.

**When do meetings occur?**

Troop 8 meets every Tuesday night from 7:30 – 9:00. A Scout should wear his uniform to meetings, except when announced otherwise. Scouts should arrive between 7:00 and 7:30 to prepare for the meeting. The troop meets twelve months of the year, excluding the Tuesday closest to Christmas and the Tuesday while the troop is at summer camp. Any deviation from scheduled meeting times will be communicated well in advance.

**What about additional activities?**

Attendance at troop meetings is essential, but the troop's outdoor program is perhaps the most enjoyable feature for the young men of the troop. Troop 8 will sponsor at least one monthly outing. On most trips, scouts should plan to bring clothes for the season, a sleeping bag, a backpack or suitcase (depending on the trip), the "Scout Outdoor Essentials" (found in the handbook), and personal items. The charge for most trips is \$1-2 for gas. Occasionally, the troop provides meals, in these cases; the cost usually ranges from \$8-10. Important information regarding each trip will be shared at the Tuesday meeting prior to the trip. Additionally, there are certain items that are prohibited from troop trips. These include, but are not limited to personal radios/CD players, video games, glass containers, magazines (except *Boys' Life*) tobacco, alcohol, fireworks, firearms, and any other items deemed inappropriate by the Scoutmaster or his designee.

**Whom should I contact for information?**

Whereas the pack is divided into dens, the Boy Scout troop operates with patrols. Your son is likely a member of the same patrol as those boys who entered the troop when he did. Each patrol has a patrol adviser, who works closely with the patrol. Additionally, other Assistant Scoutmasters and the Scoutmaster will interact with your son for various activities. If you have questions or concerns or need information, you may contact your son's patrol adviser or the Scoutmaster.