

WELCOME TO BOY SCOUT TROOP 83



TROOP FAMILY GUIDE

**Chartered By Asbury United Methodist Church
Madison, AL**

Talakto District



Boy Scouts of America

Change Log

Change No.	Description	Date
Baseline	-	08/28/2012
Revision 1	Updated the section DUES AND FEES and section FUNDRAISING: Popcorn. Other miscellaneous updates & editorials.	08/28/2013
Revision 2	Updated the National BSA Registration Fee from \$15. To \$24 for both youth and adults in section DUES AND FEES. BSA fee increase effective January 1, 2014 per BSA Chief Executive letter dated 8/30/2013.	09/04/2013
Revision 3	Minor updates	08/23/2014

Dear Scout and Parents:

Congratulations on the step you and your son have taken. We welcome you to Scouting and to Troop 83.

This booklet has been prepared by the Troop Committee to help families understand more about Scouting and the Troop 83 program. It is intended to serve as an informative guide for both Scouts and their parents.

Included is information about Troop organization, meetings, uniforms, advancement, our outdoor program, equipment and financing.

While it will serve to orient you to Scouting, a booklet this size obviously cannot provide all of the answers. We hope it will give you a degree of familiarity with the organization and its activities. We know there will be questions. Members of the Troop Committee and the Troop leadership stand ready to help you in these areas and will be happy to provide answers.

Troop 83 follows all Boy Scout of America (BSA) and Greater Alabama Council (GAC) scouting guidelines / policies. The Troop does not levy additional requirements for advancements or create additional policies beyond that required by BSA.

Safe Scouting: The Troop is committed to providing a safe, fun scouting environment. Bullying or harassment of any type is not tolerated and may be grounds for dismissal from the troop.

A Special Note To Parents:

Like anything else in life, your son will get as much out of Scouting as he puts into it. You, as parents, can help your son in many ways to achieve his goals. Our experience shows that his degree of achievement will be in direct proportion to your interest and activity in Scouting.

Therefore, we would like to extend to you an invitation to join us in planning and conducting the Troop's many activities. If you have the time, and this ranges from a couple of hours to a couple of days a month, and are interested, please contact any member of the Troop Committee or a Scoutmaster. Participation can range from being a committee member, adult leader, merit badge counselor, or as an assistant scoutmaster. Participating in the Troop along with your son can offer you a rich and rewarding experience. We hope you will consider such participation seriously and we look forward to meeting and working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Mike Fazah

Troop 83 Committee Chair

Troop 83 Family Guide

I have read and understand the Troop 83 Family Guide and agree to abide by its content.

Scout

Parent

Printed Name

Printed Name

Signature & Date

Signature & Date

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations. The BSA provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness.

For over a century, the BSA has helped build the future leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. The Boy Scouts of America believes — and, through nearly a century of experience, knows — that helping youth is a key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.

A BOY LED TROOP

Troop 83 is a boy led troop. Scouts run all meetings and outings using the Patrol Method. Working together as a small team, patrol members share the responsibility for the patrol's success. They gain confidence by serving in positions of patrol leadership. All patrol members enjoy the friendship, sense of belonging, and achievements of the patrol and of each of its members. The Adult Leaders provide the direction, coaching, and training that empower the Scout with the skills he will need to lead his troop.

Your son is assigned to a patrol and will participate in weekly and monthly activities with that patrol.

MEETINGS:

- All meetings are at Asbury UMC in the basement unless otherwise noted.
- The regular Troop 83 meetings are on Tuesday nights from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.
- The Troop 83 Committee meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm unless otherwise noted.
- The Patrol Leader Council (PLC) meets on the first Sunday of each month at 2:00 pm unless otherwise noted.

OUTDOOR PROGRAM:

- The troop will make every practical attempt to carry out at least one Troop campout/event per month per the troop Annual Plan.
- The troop will make every practical attempt to conduct at least one long-term camping activity (summer camp) each year.

TROOP ELECTIONS:

- Elections for Troop Leadership positions are held 6 months apart in March and September.
- There are several positions of leadership available at each election. Scouts are required to hold leadership positions as they advance in rank. When holding a leadership position, the Scout must attend meetings or risk not being credited for the position.

ELECTRONICS:

- Scouts are allowed to bring electronic devices on troop scouting activities for safety (e.g., communications) and merit badge purposes (e.g., orienteering).
- The devices should remain off until needed for an activity or there is an emergency that requires their use.
- Under no circumstances should electronic devices be used for social networking or other entertainment purposes (movies, games) during campouts.
- This troop level policy does not supersede the policy of the district or council at their activities.

DUES & FEES:

- **Annual Fees:** In October/November of each year the Troop will recharter with the BSA. At this time the Troop will collect \$36. in BSA fees from all current scouts. \$24. of which is the BSA registration fee and \$12. is for Boys Life magazine subscription. Both fees are required, however, if you have multiple boy scouts, only one Boy Life magazine subscription is required per household. New scouts that join after recharter will be charged a \$1. transfer fee if they are coming from another BSA Unit or if they are new to scouting will pay the \$36. fee in total.
- **Annual Dues:** Troop 83 annual dues are \$60 per year for all current scouts. Dues will be collected in their entirety during recharter unless an exception is requested by the scout parent and an agreed upon payment plan is defined. Troop 83 annual dues for new scouts will be pro-rated based on the month they join. A scout must be current on dues in order to have a board of review and advance in rank. All scouts are encouraged to use popcorn sales to pay for their dues. “A Scout is Thrifty, he pays his way.” The committee reserves the right to raise dues as necessary due to cost increases such as merit badges, badges of rank, Eagle plaques, and other operating expenses. An increase in dues will only occur, if necessary, during recharter and will be communicated to the entire Troop via email and/or website posting. The Troop dues will be waived for active Eagle scouts.
- **Scholarships:** Troop 83 has hardship-based scholarships available to Scouts for dues or event fees. Contact the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair for more information. All requests are held in strict confidence between the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair. Hardship scholarships will be dependent on Troop finances.
- **Summer Camp:** Your son is highly encouraged to attend Summer Camp, especially the first few years. Summer Camp has a program called “path to Eagle” which helps a young Scout get several required merit badge requirements needed. It is not unusual for Campers to be homesick the first year. Our Scoutmasters are very experienced with this and bring the Scouts back with great stories and a bit more maturity. Summer camp typically costs about \$250-\$300 (camp dependent) plus the cost of transportation and fees.. Summer Camp requires at least two adult leaders and our experience is that with a

larger troop, three is better. The cost of the Scoutmasters Adult Leaders / Senior Scouts that support summer camp is split among the troop summer camp attendees. The Troop believes that since the adults are taking a week off work to spend with our young men, the attendees can cover their cost.

- **Monthly Camping and Troop Events:** Event fees are estimated and collected in advance of each event. Payment must be made in advance of the event. Fees are typically for camping fees, food, gas, etc and typically average about \$20 plus any event costs. If the estimate is over or under the actual cost, a refund or additional money may be collected after the event.

FUNDRAISING:

- **Popcorn:** The primary fundraiser for the Boy Scout organization is selling popcorn. ~ 30% of the sale of the popcorn comes back to Troop 83 and is set aside for your Scout. The Scout can use that money for scouting related activities or equipment. Many parents set the goal for the scout to pay for summer camp through popcorn sales. Others set a goal to pay for the yearly dues. While others use it to buy a tent or sleeping bag. Money that remains in any account after a scout leaves, i.e. quits, ages out, transfers, etc. will be absorbed into the Troop's general operating fund. Active Eagle scouts or scouts transitioned to adult leadership may use remaining funds for scout related items only.
- **Other Fundraising:** Troop 83 does not normally perform other fundraisers. However, these may be done as needed if new equipment or another need is identified.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:

- **Attendance:** Troop 83 provides multiple opportunities to attend meetings and troop events. A scout is expected to regularly attend Troop meetings, outings and service projects. While it is not mandatory that every meeting or event is attended, many rank requirements require that the Scout be active in the Troop. A scout will not advance if they only attend a few meetings/events while working toward a rank that requires "active participation". When holding a leadership position such as Senior Patrol Leader or Patrol Leader, the scout should attend all meetings/events per the troop position description, or designate a surrogate for the meeting for a small number of exceptions. It is the scout's responsibility to notify his Patrol Leader if he cannot attend a meeting or event.

DISCIPLINE:

- Parents of scouts who are unable to live the Scout Oath and Scout Law during an activity, troop meeting, or campout will be contacted. If the adult leader in charge feels the behavior warrants the scout's removal, then the scout's parents will be contacted and asked to come and pick up their son whose behavior has not been acceptable.
- Sexual Harassment / Abuse of a Scout is not tolerated. When this occurs, the Troop must report this to BSA and at that point, BSA policies and procedures are followed.
- In cases of extreme disciplinary issues, a Disciplinary Review Board (DRB) will be convened, comprised of no less than two Troop Committee Members and an Assistant Scoutmaster. This panel of three should not be related to the individual in question. The

members of the adhoc DRB will examine in question and make recommendations to the Scoutmaster for action.

ADVANCEMENT:

- Scouting is a journey and not a sprint. The program is configured such that a Scout starts off learning basic skills then ends in ranks where leadership, planning, and responsibility are more of a focus. We have had Scouts earn Eagle within 2 years while some take 6 years to make the journey.
- Each Scout is different. Troop 83 does not have a “set” program that leads your Scout down the path to the rank of Eagle. The Troop philosophy is that each Scout must take responsibility for their advancement with mentoring from their parents and troop leadership.
- Parents need to provide guidance and mentorship. As a parent you should be involved in your Scouts experience to ensure they maintain the right balance of scouting and other activities and are progressing at an acceptable rate.

YOUTH PROTECTION:

Troop 83 places the greatest importance on creating the most secure environment possible for our youth members. All Adult Leaders are required to undergo youth protection training before applying to become a leader and the training must be current in order to recharter each year.

UNIFORM:

All Scouts are to wear their BSA Field Uniform (Class A) shirts to all troop meetings and to/from all trips. Activity Uniform (Class B) can be worn during designated activities. Field uniform with neckerchiefs are to be worn for special events such as courts of honor.