



Troop 26 Lyme/Old Lyme New Scout Information

Meetings:

- *weekly, Wednesdays @ Lyme Fire Co., Hamburg station, 213 Hamburg rd. (7pm-8:30pm)
- *The troops charter organization is The Lyme Fire Co.
- *the "scout year" coincides with the "school year"
- *No school-No meeting, this applies to school vacations and snow days, etc.
- *Our meetings are run by the Senior patrol leader and his assistants
 - Our troop is a "boy led troop", it's the scouts troop, not the adult's troop
- *If parents stay during the meeting, please be considerate of the scouts and refrain from conversations inside the meeting room, there is plenty of room in the station for chit-chat.

Uniforms:

- *Scouts are expected to wear either a class A (BSA shirt) or class B (troop 26 t-shirt) to meetings
- *Class A shirts are expected to have all current patches sewn on (rank, patrols, leadership)
- *Class B shirts are issued once a year as part of your dues
- *The weekly email will tell you which uniform to wear (depending on our activity)
- *Merit badges earned should be attached to a merit badge sash (usually only worn at COH)
- *Troop apparel is ordered once a year in the fall, troop fleece, hats, polo shirts, rain coats

Rank:

- *It is the scout's responsibility to advance in rank
- *we do try and push them and assist them into achieving up to 1st class Rank
- *Parents do not sign off rank requirements
- *Scouts 1st class rank and above can sign off lower rank requirements up to 1st class
- *Merit Badges are earned through Merit badge councilors
- *The scoutmaster conference can be used for more than rank advancement; the Scoutmaster can call scouts for a scoutmaster's conference at any time for any reasons
 - *A board of review is the final requirement for a rank advancement. The board of review is made up of troop committee members. The board does not include the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters. Though one reason for a board of review is to help ensure the Scout did what he was supposed to do to meet the requirements, it shall become neither a retest or "examination," nor a challenge of his knowledge. In most cases it should, instead, be a celebration of accomplishment. Remember, it is more about the journey.

Court of Honors (COH's):

The troop holds 4 Court of Honors throughout the year, October, December, June and July (summer camp). Although we recognize the scout's achievements as soon as they earn them, we use the Court of Honors to celebrate all the hard work the scouts do. All Court of Honors are open to guests, family, friends, etc. and are encouraged to attend. They typically include desserts or perhaps pot luck dinners.

Camp outs:

- *The troop camps out every month
- *Camp outs have a \$20 fee, this covers the scouts food costs
- *Adults camping do not have a fee.
- *Trips may require additional fees
- *The troop has 60 acres of deeded rights in Nehantic State Forest called "Camp Emerson"
- *We camp in the sun, rain, warm, cold, and snow. Camp outs are never cancelled unless it's a safety issue.
- *We camp locally about ½ the time
- *The troop provides all the tents, cooking gear, lanterns, etc.
- *The scout will need their own mess kit, water bottle, sleeping bag (0-20 degree), sleeping pad, ditty bag (personal hygiene) and a day pack at a minimum. A backpack (65-75 liter internal frame, 55-65 liter external frame) will be necessary for backpacking trips. Most scouts are going with internal frame packs. A loaded backpack should not weigh more than 20% of the scouts body weight.
- *The patrols buy and cook all their own food
- * The adults cook separately and eat very well
- *Scouts use troop tents, 2 to tent, age appropriate, high schoolers with high schoolers, and middle schoolers with middle schoolers
- *after scouts reach 1st class rank, they are allowed to branch off into hammock camping or single "backpacker" style tents
- *All Adults attending camp outs need to have BSA Youth Protection Training.

Summer Camp:

- *The troop attends Camp Yawgoog the fifth week in July, Sunday to Sunday
- *Yawgoog is part of the Narraganset Council in Rhode Island
- *This a great way for the scouts to achieve ranks and Merit badges quickly
- *During summer camp, the scouts meet and decide what they want to do for programs for the following year. It's the scout's troop, so they make the plan, and then the adults meet the following night and plan out our yearly calendar based on what the scouts decided.
- *Adults and leaders are needed and encouraged to attend camp with the troop, even if it's just for 1 or 2 nights

Finance:

- *The troop has annual dues of \$125
 - The dues cover, BSA registration, insurance, Boys life magazine, class B shirt
- *All fees due to the troop are payable to our Treasurer
- *Checks should be written out to "Troop 26"

Sports:

- *If sports conflict with a camp out, its ok to leave to play a game and come back afterwards
- *We often have scouts miss meetings due to their involvement in sports, come when you can, and remember, the troop meets year round.

Fundraising:

*The troop does 3 fundraisers a year.

-Parking for the Hamburg fair, Reynolds Subaru clears & donates their entire lot

-Pie sales. In the fall for Thanksgiving.

-Popcorn, A portion of this money goes to BSA and portion comes back to the troop. The portion that comes back to the troop goes into the individual scouts account. The more they sell, the more they earn. The scouts can then use this money for camp out fees, uniforms, camping equipment, etc.

*Fundraising money is used for troop equipment, rank advancement patches, Merit badge patches, camp out food for the adults, camp out patches, various camp out registration fees, etc.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Troop26OldLymeCt/

*The troop has an active Facebook page that will show highlights from camp outs and meetings -Scouts names are never posted

Website: www.troop26lymeoldlyme.org

*The troop has a website that has important information for scouts and parents

High Adventure:

*The troop plans to attend a BSA high adventure programs every year

*These are age restricted, 13yrs/ 14yrs and older, or graduated the 8th grade

*These programs include, Philmont, Sea Base, Swamp Base, Northern tier, etc.

Adult/ Parent involvement:

*The troop encourages and needs adults/ parents to participate

*Typically, when new scouts join older scouts are nearing Eagle and ageing out, and therefore the troop losses the adult leaders with them.

*We encourage all types of involvement, from just helping plan a weekly game, to becoming our next Scoutmaster. We need Merit badge councilors, Assistant Scoutmasters, Committee members, Treasurers, equipment and gear coordinators, advancement chairs, trip planners, etc. to continue our mission to foster an exciting, self-sustaining, program-driven organization that benefits our community by producing leaders and outstanding citizens.

*There is nothing more satisfying than being involved with your son as he grows through the scouting program. The time travels quickly from that first night when the older scouts put on their new Troop 26 neckerchief to when they are leaving for college. Please consider helping in any way.

“Never do for a boy what a boy can do for himself” – Baden Powell

Scoutmaster Wayland 9/2018

