

Troop 50 Membership Process



Chartered by the Rotary Club of Auburn



boyscout50.org

Troop 50 believes that every boy who is interested in a Scouting experience be afforded the opportunity to join a Boy Scout troop. We also believe that a Scout's experience in a troop be a positive one. To ensure every Scout joining Troop 50 has a positive experience, and to ensure clarity and transparency in its membership decisions, the troop committee has created a membership process focused on managed growth over time so its Scouts' needs are matched equally with tangible limitations dictated by the availability of adequate troop leadership, physical and financial resources, advancement, and leadership opportunities.

What does "managed growth" mean?

Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scouting movement, is credited with defining the optimum troop size to be around 32 Scouts. Like Baden-Powell, the troop committee believes a troop no larger than this ensures the patrol method works effectively. To that end, Troop 50 has determined that it must manage its growth so that its youth membership remains consistent with the ideal of a 30-member troop — and proportionate to desired ratios of Scouts to leaders, equipment, and other resources.

What is the role of the troop committee?

Our troop committee operates as the troop's board of directors and is comprised of parents, leaders, and other volunteers registered with the Boy Scouts of America to serve in this capacity. Through their role, troop committee members are responsible for conducting troop business, assisting with troop programming and advancement, and setting policy — which includes the admission of new Scouts and leaders, resource allocation, and budgeting.

How do I join Troop 50?

We believe the real measure of a troop's "fit" for a prospective member is through a troop meeting. While open houses and weekend outings are appropriate to modeling all that Scouting has to offer, most of a Scout's learning and advancement happens in a troop meeting.

We also believe it's important to visit *more than one* troop before making a decision to join *any* troop. Because most Scouts remain with a single troop throughout their Boy Scouting activities, it's important that both Scouts and families make an informed, well-rounded decision about the troop they join.

To guide the troop-visitation process and to provide some structure to its decisions regarding troop growth, the troop committee has developed some guidelines for ***Webelos Scouts wishing to crossover from a Cub Scout pack:***

1. ***Schedule a troop visit.*** A parent or guardian should contact the scoutmaster to schedule a troop visit by emailing scoutmaster@boyscout50.org. This allows the troop to plan adequately for the visit; schedule a leader to visit with each family about the troop's expectations, activities, and fees; and avoid overcommitting itself to too many visitors. The scoutmaster may also recommend another date since the troop's meeting schedule could change or because some meeting programs (such as those involving merit badge classes or post-campout re-organizing) are not conducive to visitors.

The troop meets at First Presbyterian Church at 143 E. Thach Avenue in downtown Auburn. Visitors should park in the parking lot beside the church, which is accessible from South Gay Street adjacent to Burger King (due to towing risks, please do not park in the Burger King

parking lot). After entering the church from the parking lot side, take the stairs down to the church's lowest level, turn left and follow the signs to the Fellowship Hall (Conway Hall).

2. **Plan a follow-up visit, if desired.** Boys and their families may wish to come back for a follow-up visit, especially if both parents/guardians cannot attend the initial troop visit. Please make those arrangements with the scoutmaster before leaving the initial troop visit, or by email prior to the follow-up visit. We ask that each Scout limit his visits to no more than two troop meetings so the troop may have the opportunity to host other visitors.
3. **Visit other local troops.** Scouts and their families should visit at least one other local troop in addition to Troop 50. A list of Boy Scout troops in the Lee County area is available online at <http://saugahatchee.org/index.php/units?sid=82:Boy-Scout-Troops> or www.beascout.org.
4. **Request to join.** If after making adequate visits to Troop 50 and other area Boy Scout troops a potential member and his family desire to join the troop, the prospective member's parent or guardian should, **by January 26, 2015**, email the troop committee chair at troopcommittee@boyscout50.org to request consideration by the troop committee.

What factors affect the troop committee's decision?

In determining the troop's ability to satisfy requests to join the troop, the troop committee will contrast that interest against the number of Scouts currently registered, availability of trained leaders, budgetary and equipment resources, and the diversity that Scouts from multiple packs and varying Scouting experiences bring to the troop. For that reason, there is no "priority" given to Scouts who express an early interest in joining. The only priority the troop committee will assign is to Scouts who have an existing familial relationship with a current Troop 50 member or leader.

How does the membership process apply to Scouts who wish to transfer from another troop or who are joining Boy Scouts for the first time?

Currently registered Boy Scouts wishing to transfer from an out-of-town or local troop, or boys who are old enough to join Boy Scouts but are currently unregistered, should follow the same four-step process above. The troop committee will consider requests to join from those boys throughout the year on a case-by-case basis and within the same context of managed growth and available resources as previously noted.

How will I know the troop committee's decision?

The troop committee will consider all **applications from Webelos Scouts crossing over from a Cub Scout pack** by the "request to join" date above and make notifications regarding membership decisions on or before February 2, 2015, so Scouts and their families who the troop was unable to accommodate can seek membership in another troop it previously visited. **Applications from boys transferring from another troop or who are new to Scouting** considered on a case-by-case basis typically are considered by the troop committee as part of its standing monthly committee meeting.

For additional information, please contact our troop committee chair at troopcommittee@boyscout50.org.