

Connecticut Yankee Council New Member Guide for Families



Serving the Scouting Communities in Southwest
Connecticut

Welcome

Hello Scout Families,

Congratulations to your family on joining the scouting movement. We offer great programming for all youth starting as young as 5 years old and as old as 20 years old. Our programming is broken down into different groups to ensure that the content is age appropriate and offers different opportunities depending on the interests of the members. Regardless of the program you are involved in, scouts will learn character and leadership development in addition of many other learning opportunities depending the program you are a part of.

We pride ourselves in being a volunteer driven organization with the assistance of a small professional staff. All of our volunteers are training in both youth protection and program specific skills to ensure that all scouts are giving a great experience.

This guide is designed to give you the basic framework of our programming and its structures to help you get acquainted with our organization and our programming and some of the other basics. If you still have any questions feel free to contact me or any others listed in our contact section and we will be happy to assist you.

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Youth Protection and Training

We are committed to ensure that all of the scouts have a safe environment to learn in and that our volunteers and professionals have the tools to provide a high-quality program. That is why every registered volunteer must complete training to ensure they are ready to serve from the first day. This section outlines the training all our volunteers go through. Additionally, all of our volunteers must pass a background check before registration can be approved.

Required Training

Youth Protection

On an annual basis all volunteers are required to take a 2 hours youth protection training course. This training teaches about all of the rules the volunteers must follow in order to provide a safe environment. If a volunteer fails to take this training their registration will be dropped.

Some of the bigger rules we have in place to provide a safe environment include: no one on one contact by an adult with a youth, all meetings and activities must have at least 2 registered leaders, separate accommodations for youth and adults. Our national organization also publishes and frequently updates the guide to safe scouting which goes into more detail on all of the youth protection rules for leaders to use. This guide can be found at <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/toc/>.

If you encounter a youth protection issue with your unit, please contact the Scout Executive so that that matter can be investigated and dealt with. Contact information can be found in the contact information section of this guide.

Position Training

Leaders must also take training that goes over the basics of their role. This training is taken either in person or online and must be completed once before becoming a leader or changing to a new leadership role. Some of the components of this training includes parts of a scouting meeting, meeting management, uniforms, Advancement, Leadership Structure, outdoor activities and much more.

Outdoor Skills

For a unit to be able to do any camping they must have leaders who have taken an outdoor skills training. This training covers all the basic skills including navigation, gear, aquatics, nature and hiking, cooking, first aid, knife safety, fire safety, knots, program planning and much more.

Supplemental Training

In addition to the required training, a leader may choose to take part in additional training that is can cover a variety of topics including: advanced leadership training, how to become a trainer, and topic specific training such as craft, campfire programs, etc. These courses are generally offered in person for all units in our area.

Types of Units

We offer 5 programs that are designed for different age ranges and interests. Each of these programs are outlined in this section. All programs are open to all youth who meet the age requirement of the program.

Cub Scouts

The Cub Scout program is open to all youth from Kindergarten through 5th grade. This program is designed to teach scouts about character development, the outdoors, personal fitness, Citizenship, Personal Safety, family values and much more. During the year each scout will work on adventures that will culminate in them earning their rank advancement badge. Upon completion of the Arrow of Light Badge, the rank advancement for 5th graders, scouts will be eligible to move onto a Scouts BSA unit.

The pack structure is broken down into two main parts: Pack and Den.

Pack

The pack consists of all the members of the unit from kindergarten through 5th grade. The pack generally meets once a month. At the pack meeting, awards are generally given out and some programming appropriate for all the scouts. The cubmaster is the adult leader who plans and runs this meeting.

Den

The den consists of some or all the members of a unit in a single grade level. The den generally meets 2-3 times per month. During these meetings scouts work on the requirements for their rank advancement. Generally, once a month the scouts will complete at least one adventure and the adventure will be awarded at the pack meeting. Over the course of the year scouts will earn enough adventures to earn their rank advancement badge.

Scouts BSA

The Scouts BSA program is designed for scouts from 5th grade through 17 years of age. The program has a rank advancement system similar to Cub Scouts, but instead of the advancement system being based on the scouts age, a scout must earn each rank regardless of age and ranks are earned at the scouts' own pace.

There are seven ranks in the program with the highest rank being Eagle Scout. The first four ranks focus on understanding how the Scouts BSA program works and learning outdoor skills. The final three ranks focus on leadership skills, service and earning merit badges. Merit badges are similar to mini courses on a topic with over 100 merit badges available for a scout to take.

A Scouts BSA unit is called a Troop and generally meets once a week and does a campout or other outdoor adventure generally once a month. The program is designed to be planned out and led by the youth with the adult leadership there to offer mentoring and oversight. The troop is led by the youth elected to serve as the Sr. Patrol Leader and is mentored by the Scoutmaster.

The troop is also sub-divided into smaller groups called patrols. A patrol generally consists of 6-12 scouts of similar age and skill level. During a troop meeting there are sections where each of the patrols meet as well as parts where the troop as a whole come together.

Venturing

The Venturing program is an older youth program for scouts aged 14-20 years old. The program also has an emphasis on building leadership skills, but the unit can choose the area the unit, called a Crew, will focus on such as high adventure, shooting sports, fitness and much more. The program has a rank advancement system consisting of four ranks culminating in the Summit rank, as well as a multitude of additional awards. A unit may choose to focus on rank advancement, but many do not. Just like the Scouts BSA program the unit is run by youth leadership, which is led by

the president, with the adult leaders providing mentorship. The adult who leads up the mentorship is called the Advisor

Sea Scouting

The Sea Scout program is another older youth program for youth aged 14-20 with a focus on sailing and boating skills. The program features a rank advancement system of four ranks that culminates in the quartermaster rank. The unit is called a Ship and will spend many of its meetings on a boat working on boating skills and learning to work as a team. The adult leader of the unit is known as the skipper.

Exploring

The Exploring program is a career development focused program for youth from 10-20. The program is split into two parts, Exploring clubs for youth age 10-14 and Exploring Posts for youth age 14-20. These units' partners with a business or civic organization to develop skills needed to enter into a career in the units focus area. Some of the focus areas we have locally include: first responders, law enforcement, firefighting and aviation. The adult in charge of the unit is known as the Advisor

Organization Structure and Leadership

Like many organizations, scouting has a structure in place to support the scouts. There are four main levels of structures designed to support the scouts: Unit, District, Council and National. Each of these levels are headed up by a set of adults known as the key three.

Each unit is chartered by a community or civic organization and this agreement is renewed on an annual basis. The chartered organization provides the unit a place to meet and store its equipment, help find adult leaders and approves all adult leadership.

At the unit level the key three consists of the unit leader (Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Advisor and Skipper), committee chair and chartered organization representative. The unit leader's role is to work directly with the youth to ensure the unit functions properly. The committee chair heads the unit committee and ensures all the administrative tasks of the unit are completed. The chartered organization representative is a member of the chartered organization and ensures the partnership between the unit and chartered organization remains strong, approves all new adult leaders and can remove an adult leader if the situation were to arise.

At the district, council, and national level the key three consists of a chair or president, commissioner and executive. The president or chair is a volunteer who leads the volunteers at that level to ensure the financial, membership and programming objectives are met. The commissioner leads a team of volunteers who work with the units to ensure that the units are healthy and help when there are issues. The executive is a professional who heads the professional staff and works to grow new units, fundraise, and deal with youth protection issues.

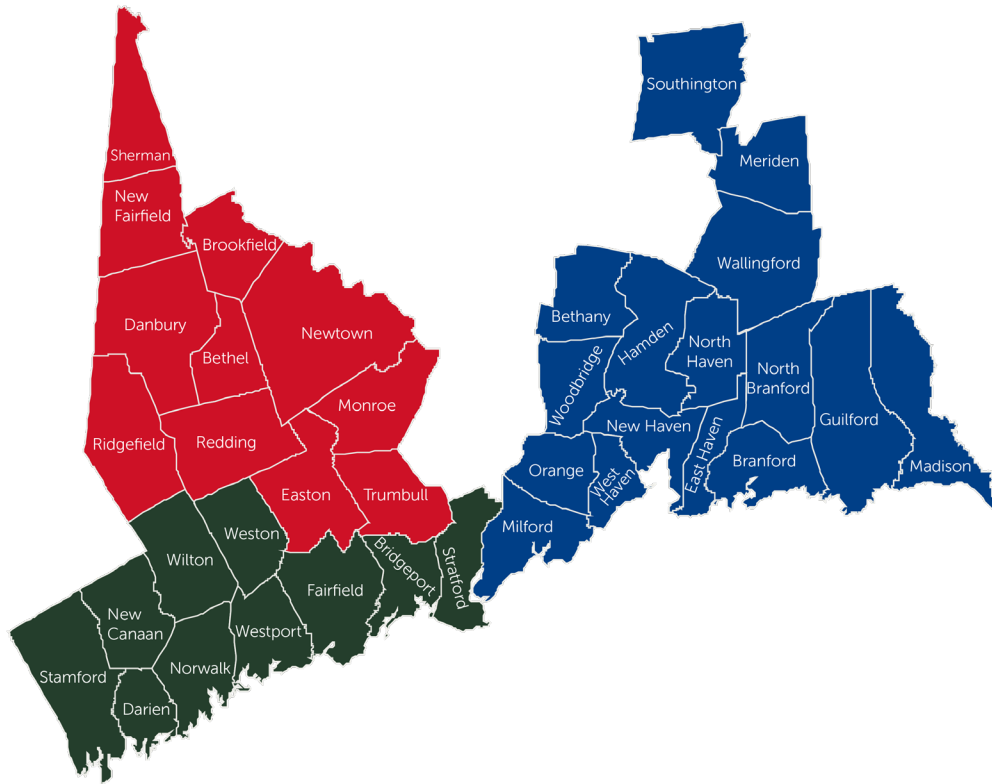
Unit

The unit is the direct support system for the scout. This is the local organization that your scout will join directly into. The leadership within unit will work directly with your scouts to work on rank advancement, leadership development and unit level programming.

Council and District

The council is the organization that administers scouting in a local region. Our council is named Connecticut Yankee Council and serves 38 towns in Southwest Connecticut. The council is subdivided into 4 districts. The council and districts have both volunteers and professionals who support the units and provides additional camping and programming opportunities for the units.

The map below shows the communities served by the Connecticut Yankee Council and shows the communities served by our three districts. Communities in Red are served by the Aquila district, communities in blue are served by the Quinnipiac district and communities in green are served by the Saugatuck district. Additionally, the Togo West district serves Scoutreach, a division of scouting serving underserved populations, throughout the council.



National

The national council serves the entire United States. The main role of the national council is develop and administer national policy, develop the 5 scouting programs and put on national events.

Uniform Guide

Each of the scouts programs has its own uniform. Uniforms can be purchased at the Milford Scout Shop at 60 Wellington Rd, Milford, CT or online at <https://www.scoutshop.org>. Before purchasing any uniform pieces, it is recommended that you check in with your unit as units may have its own guidelines for uniforms that may not match the guides below, generally making some of the uniform pieces optional.

Cub Scouts

The cub scout uniform changes based on the grade the scout is in. Lion Scouts, Kindergarteners, have the uniform shown below. The uniform consists of a lion T-shirt, hat, neckerchief,

neckerchief slide, belt, pants and socks. The adventures earned will be placed on the belt to show off the scout's progress.



From Tiger (1st grade) through Webelos (4th grade) the uniform consists of a blue cub scout uniform shirt, hat, neckerchief, neckerchief slide, belt, pants, and socks. The uniform for this period can be seen below. Each year the hat, neckerchief and neckerchief slide will change based on the rank your scout is in, Tiger to Wolf to Bear to Webelo. During the Webelos year the adventure colors will be added to the right pocket of the shirt. The adventure colors are where the adventure pins earned during the webelos and Arrow of Light years are displayed.



For the Arrow of Light year, the scouts will switch to a tan uniform shirt and green pants, belt and socks instead of blue. There is no official neckerchief, but an Arrow of Light den may choose to come up with their own. Additionally, these scouts wear blue shoulder loops on their uniform.



Scouts BSA

The Scouts BSA uniform is very similar to the Arrow of the Light uniform in Cub Scouts. The uniform consists of a tan uniform shirt and green pants, belt and socks as well as dark green shoulder loops. There is also a neckerchief and hat available, but many units have custom made for their troop. Additionally, there are patrol emblems for all members of the unit and badge of office for those who are elected or appointed to a position of responsibility in the unit, both of these are generally provided by the Troop.



Venturing

The Venturing uniform consists of a green uniform shirt and shoulder loops, as well as venturing belt, socks and pants as shown below. The uniform in Venturing is determined by the unit and many units decide to not wear the official uniform and instead develop a uniform on their own.



Sea Scouts

The Sea Scout uniform consists of a Navy Blue uniform shirt, pants, belt and hat. Sea Scout units determine their own uniform guidelines and may not follow these. Before buying a uniform check in with your unit to determine what the uniform for the unit is.



Activities and Events

Your unit will host a variety of activities and meetings throughout the year. Each unit will hold different events, but all of them will be fun and engaging for the scouts. Additionally, there are events that are organized at the district, council and national level to supplement the unit's program and offer even more opportunities for the scouts to take part in even more activities that a unit could not put on themselves.

District

Cub Scouts

Depending on the district a variety of cub scout activities will be offered. In the fall there are generally one or more outdoor events where scouts will learn about outdoor skills, go on a hike, or do shooting sports. During the winter each district will host a district pinewood derby championship for the top placed scouts in the pack pinewood derbies. During the spring another round of outdoor events like those in the fall are offered. Regardless of what district your unit is in, you are welcome to attend an event held by any district within our council.

Scouts BSA

Districts will generally hold a spring and fall camporee. Camporees are like a decathlon in the Olympics. Units from throughout the district come together for a weekend camping event where the patrols will compete against each other in a variety of events to test their scout skills. Often these camporees are themed events and the activities during these events are built to fit into the event theme.

During the winter district generally hold a klondike derby. These events are very similar to a camporee with the exception that the patrols will build a sled leading up to the event. They will then use this sled to travel from event to event. This gives the event a bit of an Iditarod feel to it.

Council

Cub Scouts

The top placed racers at the district Pinewood Derby championship will be invited to take part in the Council championship held in the Spring. During the fall, the council also offers a Cub Scout

College. This event is open for scouts from Bear through Arrow of Light and will get the chance to complete two adventures towards their rank advancement. There are also a variety of summer camping opportunities that will be discussed in the Summer Programs section. Finally, Cub Scouts also participate in CONNJam, more on this event in the section below.

Scouts BSA

During the winter the council offers its Merit Badge College where scouts will complete the requirements for several merit badges in a classroom setting over the course of a few weekends. In the summer and winter the National Youth Leadership Development course is offered. This is an advanced leadership development course that is designed to give scouts all the tools they need to be great leaders both in their units and in their life in general. There is also a summer camping opportunity that will be discussed in the Summer Programs section. Finally, Scouts BSA scouts also participate in CONNJam, more on this event in the section below.

CONNJam

CONNJam is the largest scouting event in all of Connecticut. It takes place once every three years in the spring. This event features camping, stages shows, fireworks and many great activities such as rock climbing, zip lines, shooting sports, games and much more.

National

The national Jamboree is the largest scouting event in the United States that is attended by tens of thousands of participants. The event is open to Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts. The event takes place at the Summit in West Virginia and is held about once every three years. The event features a lot of engaging outdoor activities such as climbing, zip lining, shooting sports, stages shows and much much more. This event is often the highlight of a scouts time in scouting.

Camps

Our council owns two camps that are open for use by all units.

Camp Sequassen

Camp Sequassen is located in New Hartford, CT. The camp is a 600 acre property located on West Hill Pond, a spring fed lake, as well as vast forested areas. The camp features

camping opportunities in tents, lean-tos and cabins. The camp features a multitude of program activities including Climbing Tower, COPE Courses, Rifle / Shotgun Ranges, 18 Hole Disc Golf course, Fishing, Hiking, Water Sports, Canoeing, Sports Fields, Volley Ball, Horse Shoes, improvised games and outdoor activities. This camp also offers summer resident camping options as well, discussed more in the summer program section.

Hoyt Scout Reservation

Hoyt Scout Reservation is located in West Redding, CT. The camp is 170 acres of forest and fields. Camping is primarily tent camping, but there are limited lean-tos available and one cabin. The camp features several shooting sport ranges, a 9 hole disk golf course and many hiking trails.

Summer Programs

Scouts BSA Resident Camp

Resident camp is the premier experience for scouts. Scouts live for a week at camp with their unit. Scouts can choose to participate in a variety of activities to complete rank advancement requirements and merit badges. There are also a variety of competitions and fun programming to keep the scouts engaged. Some of the activities available include swimming, climbing, BMX, shooting sports, and scuba.

Webelos and Arrow of Light Resident Camp

Webelos and Arrow of Light Resident Camp is a half weeklong program for scout going into 4th and 5th grade. The camp take place at Sequassen alongside the Scouts BSA resident camp. Scouts are guided through camp by a dedicated staff taking part in a variety of program areas including shooting sports, nature, handicraft and STEM. This is a great stepping off program to get scouts prepared for Scouts BSA resident camp. All meals are prepared for the participants by the kitchen staff.

Cub Scout Family Camp

Cub Scout Family Camp is a weekend camping program open for all Cub Scouts and their families and generally takes place at Hoyt Scout Reservation. Participants get to take part in several programs including shooting sports, handicraft, water sports, nature hikes, STEM,

campfire and more. Camp runs from Friday evening until Sunday morning and all meals are provided.

Cub Scout Day Camp

Cub Scout Day Camp is held Monday through Friday throughout the summer at Hoyt Scout Reservation. Camp is a full day program offering scouts the chance to participate in shooting sports, handicrafts, nature and other activities. Scouts can attend without parental supervision.

Sail Away School

The Sail Away School is a two-week program for youth from 10-15 years of age. The program is designed to teach kids how to sail at their own pace in a safe environment by combining hands-on instruction with fun activities to build confidence, encourage teamwork and develop friendships. The program is a half day program with morning and afternoon sessions. The camp is run out of Captain's Cove in Bridgeport.

Contact Information

If you have any questions feel free to reach out to the council and district leadership to help you with answers. Additionally, more information about the council can be found at the council website at <https://www.ctyankee.org>

Council Leadership

Position	Name	Email
Scout Executive	Mark Kraus	mark.kraus@scouting.org
President	Jim Accomando	acificon@aol.com
Commissioner	Gene Waring	ewaring@snet.net
Camping and Program Registrar	Karen Caiati	karen.caiati@scouting.org
Vice-President Membership	Seth Strohecker	Seth.strohecker@gmail.com
Vice-President Program	Jay Lubin	jaylubin@gmail.com

Aquila District Leadership

Position	Name	Email
District Executive	Bill Reynolds	bill.reynolds@scouting.org
Chair	Connie Hemphill	conniefox.scouts@gmail.com
Commissioner	Jacob Cedusky	jcedusky@gmail.com
Vice-Chair Membership	John Goyette	john.goyette@gmail.com
Vice-Chair Program	Vic Grancelli	granchev@granchev.com

Quinnipiac District Leadership

Position	Name	Email
District Executive	Mark Kennedy	mark.kennedy@scouting.org
Chair	Daniel Burns	danielcburns@optonline.net
Commissioner	Joe Ushchak	ushchakj@sbcglobal.net
Vice-Chair Membership		
Vice-Chair Program	Mike Migliore	mmigliorexc@gmail.com

Saugatuck District Leadership

Position	Name	Email
District Executive	Jonathan Glassman	jonathan.glassman@scouting.org
Chair	Nathan Schindler	n.s.schindler@gmail.com
Commissioner	Adam Terr	adamterr@optonline.net
Vice-Chair Membership	Jeffrey Herz	jeffrey.herz@gmail.com
Vice-Chair Program		

Togo West District Leadership

Position	Name	Email
District Executive	Eric Brantley	eric.brantley@scouting.org
District Executive	Tami Gage	tami.gage@scouting.org