

BSA Troop 175 Family Participation Policy & FAQs

Purpose

A successful Scout organization includes strong participation from parents and adult volunteers. A fundamental tenet of Boy Scouts of America Troop 175 is that the scouts lead the troop: Scouts plan activities and execute leadership functions within Troop 175. Nonetheless, adult participation is crucial to ensure safe, orderly and fun scouting experiences. For this reason, family participation is needed and will be required.

I. Definitions

Family Member is any person who is related to a scout or stands in loco parentis to the scout.

Volunteer Coordinator is responsible for assigning volunteer hours to activities and tracking the volunteer hours served by family members for each scout in Troop 175.

Volunteer Hours: For each volunteer activity, the family member will keep track of his/her hours spent on the activity and will report these volunteer hours to the Volunteer Coordinator.

II. Required Annual Volunteer Hours & Driving

Each family in Troop 175 must provide **ten (10) volunteer hours** per year from **Aug 1 to July 31**.

- To join Troop 175, each new scout's parent(s) must agree to this policy.
- Families with multiple scouts in Troop 175 are only required to provide ten (10) volunteer hours per year (no extra hours).

Driving Requirement

Each family is expected to drive on ONE trip per year. With 50+ scouts in the troop, we often run short on drivers. Each family must volunteer at least once a year for driving. Drivers must commit once they have signed up and must follow through.

There are many ways to earn your 10 hours: committee work, teaching a merit badge, summer camp staff, etc. You may also count hours you spend actively assisting with an activity if your help is requested by a Troop leader. Examples of things that don't count towards the 10 hours: riding with another driver, camping, doing the activity (kayaking, ziplining, etc.), cooking a dish for an event, attending weekly Troop meeting or monthly troop committee meetings.

III. Registered Adult from each Family

One family member must register every year as an adult member of the troop. This individual will need to complete both the BSA and Troop 175 registration including driver's license, insurance, and other required information will be collected and entered into TroopMaster.

IV. Required Training

BSA Youth Protection training is mandatory for all adults volunteering with the troop and is required for registering with Boy Scouts of America. This online safety course counts for two (2) volunteer hours.

V. Certain Troop Committee Positions Exempt

Adults who are family members of scouts and serve in the following positions with Troop 175 are exempt from any additional volunteer hours during the year or at summer camp:

- Scoutmaster
- Assistant Scoutmaster
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Committee Chairs:
 - Facilities
 - Quartermaster
 - Chartering Lead
 - Functions/Banquets
 - Popcorn Kernel
 - Volunteer Hour Coordinator
 - Webmaster
- Camp 175 Committee
- Any position/function designated by the Scoutmaster as exempt from additional hours

VI. Waiver

The Scoutmaster may grant a waiver of any or all of the required volunteer hours for good cause, which shall include medical reasons, death in the family, or any other unforeseen circumstances that cause a family not to fulfill the requirements. Additionally, the Scoutmaster may designate certain individuals to hear the circumstances regarding requests for waiver and to grant waivers.

Family Participation FAQs

How many hours of support does each family have to provide to the troop?

- 10 hours per family between August 1st and July 31st.
- Each family must drive on one trip per year.

What if we have two sons in the troop?

Still only 10 hours.

Does each family have to provide 10 hours?

Yes, although a family holding an “exempt” position in the troop/committee doesn’t need to report hours. *These exempt positions are outlined in [Section V of the Family Participation Policy](#).*

Why are some positions exempt from reporting volunteer hours?

Because individuals in these positions contribute more than the required 10 hours.

What other responsibilities does each family have?

One family member will be required to register with the troop as a committee member or other designated role supporting the troop. *For details, see [Section III of the Family Participation Policy](#).*

Why is this participation requirement in place?

Family participation in scouting is essential to a successful scouting experience. In addition, the larger the troop, the more overall volunteer support is needed. This requirement allows for volunteer support from all families rather than just a few.

How do we sign up/volunteer for hours?

- Discuss opportunities with the Scoutmaster or any committee member.
- Come to troop committee meetings and volunteer for jobs that arise from discussions.
- Suggest an activity for a troop meeting that you would be prepared to lead.
- Provide the parameters of your availability and the committee will propose jobs as they come up.

How do we record volunteer hours?

- Please email Jason Bonander at jcbonander@gmail.com.
- Please also send a copy of the email to the committee member involved or the Scoutmaster (if applicable) in the activity for confirmation.

If the volunteer activity involves a scout trip, your hours may automatically be logged into the troop records, but please email them also to be sure they get entered.

How many hours are attributed to each volunteer activity?

For each volunteer activity, the number of hours will be identified at the time the family member signs up for the activity. The family member who completes the volunteer activity will earn that number of hours, regardless of the actual length of time spent.

How do we earn our 10 hours? What kind of activities count?

There are many opportunities to earn Family Participation hours. Here are some examples:

- Working at summer camp
- BSA Youth Protection training (the completion of the course counts for two (2) volunteer hours.)
- Driving scouts on a trip
- Leading or preparing for a merit badge activity or a troop meeting
- Recordkeeping for merit badge purposes
- Organizing a trip or event (family softball, banquets, etc.)
- Providing monitoring during regular meetings
- Helping with administrative tasks

What doesn't count towards the 10 hours?

- Cooking a dish for an event which is organized on a pot-luck basis
- Helping clean up after an event
- Activity part of a scout trip (sorry...no hours for whitewater rafting)
- Portion of drive without scouts (after drop-off or before pick-up)
- Riding in a car with another driver
- Attending Troop committee meetings

If we provide more than 10 hours in one year will those hours carry over to the next year?

No. Currently there is no plan for hours to carry over from one year to the next.

How do we know when we have enough hours?

Once each family has achieved the minimum number of hours they will be notified by email. Extra hours are always welcome though.

How do we know if we're on track to meet the requirement or if we're missing hours?

Regular updates will be sent to families, including all families who are short of hours.

What happens if our family doesn't meet the requirement by July 31?

Your son(s) may not be selected to attend summer camp. Summer camp is likely to be oversubscribed in years to come. The selection process is detailed on the Troop website. But fear not...the troop will find enough opportunities so that all families can meet the requirements.

Who can I talk to if we need a waiver from the requirement?

The Scoutmaster may grant a waiver. Please see [Section VI of the Family Participation Policy](#).