

# WELCOME TO BOY SCOUT TROOP 489

***“WHERE THE ADVENTURE BEGINS!”***



**ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON**

***“Lead, follow or get out of the way!”***

**[www.troop489-wa.org](http://www.troop489-wa.org)**

Troop meets every Monday, 6:30PM at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church, 512 N Ruby St  
Douglas Butler, Scoutmaster, 925.2601 or 925.7932

## Boy Scout Troop 489 Ellensburg, WA

Dear Scouting Parent,

The members of Troop 489 extend you and your son a hearty welcome! We think Troop 489 is just about the best Boy Scout Troop in the Grand Columbia Council.

Our goal is not to be the largest Boy Scout troop in Skookum District. Rather, our adult leadership aims to focus on the individual scout in order to help develop character and leadership qualities through application of the aims and methods of scouting formulated by Scouting's great founder Robert Baden-Powell ("B-P") nearly a century ago:

"Men talk of having fine Troops of 60 or even 100-and their leaders tell me that their boys are equally well trained as in smaller Troops. I express admiration ("admiration" literally translated means "surprise"), and I don't believe them. "Why worry about individual training?" they ask. Because it is the only way by which you can educate. You can instruct any number of boys, a thousand at a time if you have a loud voice and attractive methods of disciplinary means. But that is not training-it is not education."

We are a boy-run troop. If you're expecting all troop events run like well oiled clockwork under the active leadership of a cadre of adult leaders who micromanage every aspect of the event, then Troop 489 is probably not for you. But, if like us, your expectation is that Boy Scouting will give your son the precious opportunity not found in most other youth organizations to actively lead other youth, then Troop 489 is for you. Our dedication to B-P's Patrol Method is complete:

The Patrol is the unit of Scouting always, whether for work or for play, for discipline or for duty. An invaluable step in character training is to put responsibility onto the individual. This is immediately gained in appointing a Patrol Leader to responsible command of his Patrol. It is up to him to take hold of and to develop the qualities of each boy in his Patrol.

In our strong view, adults need to be very active in the troop but their efforts need to be channeled appropriately to avoid interfering with youth leadership opportunities. Wood Badge, Philmont Scout Reservation, our many years of Scouting and Baden-Powell have all taught us the critical importance of giving the boys a precious gift -- the opportunity to lead. As a new scout parent possibly coming from a well-organized Cub Pack, it may well appear to you that some of Troop 489's meetings, outings and other activities are a bit disorganized. They are. What else could you expect -- a fourteen or fifteen year old boy is learning how to lead a patrol or the troop. As B-P said, "[I]t sounds a big order, but in practice it works."

We have prepared this booklet to tell you about our troop and help answer some of the many questions most new Scout families have when they join Troop 489. You can find more information about us on our Troop website, [www.troop489-wa.org](http://www.troop489-wa.org). You will also learn about the Troop Leaders and their roles and you can decide what role you want to play in the troop's program. There are plenty of activities for everyone!

We also want you to know what **your responsibilities** are as a new family member of our troop and what the **troop program** will do for your Scout(s). We expect every family to take an active role in the troop program and make it more fun.



### **Where and When We Meet**

Troop 489 meets every Monday night at 6:30 P.M. at First Lutheran Church. Meetings usually last about an hour and a half.

### **Getting Started**

**First, register your Scout** with the troop so the Grand Columbia Council of the Boy Scouts of America will officially recognize his progress. To do this you need to pay the registration fee of \$22.00 that includes a subscription to *Boy's Life* and also includes insurance – make checks payable to BSA Troop 489. Also sign (and ask your son to sign) and return the Code of Conduct (attached as the last page of this packet).

**Second, register yourself** as a member of the Troop Committee. The cost is \$15.00 for adults.

**Third, purchase a uniform** for your Scout. You might ask other Scouts for out-grown uniform shirts and pants rather than buy new ones. Uniforms can be purchased at the Scout Shop, 12 N 10<sup>th</sup> Ave in Yakima. And start a Scout Notebook for your Scout to keep his merit badge cards and other official information. They will be important as he approaches Eagle.

**Fourth, sign your Scout up for summer camp.** Summer Camp attendance is the single most important activity for a new scout.

**Fifth, attend the next Troop Committee meeting and sign-up for a troop job to support us.**

If after reading this booklet you have additional questions, don't hesitate to contact the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair or any other Committee Members or Assistant Scoutmasters.

We hope you will enjoy Troop 489 and will become an active participant.

Yours in Scouting,

Troop 489 Committee

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The guiding precepts of the troop are the **Boy Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan**. Each Scout is expected to live by the standards. Each Scout learns these early in his advancement and is expected to be able to articulate them at any time when asked and definitely at each Board of Review in his advancement.

One of the ultimate **aims of the Boy Scouts of America** is to provide quality leadership for our nation. Therefore, Troop 489 is a “boy run” troop – meaning that the Patrol Leaders’ Council (which comprises scouts elected by their fellow scouts into positions of responsibility) runs the troop and makes all important decisions. This means that the lessons learned by the Scouts through their advancement, working together in patrols and community service, is intended to prepare them for their roles as America’s leaders in years to come.

We try to base all troop operations on the concept that **the Scouts run the troop**. This is done using the **patrol method** which is a group of 6 to 8 Scouts, led by the Patrol Leader and his assistant. New Scouts are assigned to a patrol. Together they do what is necessary on outings and in meetings to enliven the program. The **Patrol Leaders Council** is comprised of the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide and Patrol Leaders. Together with the Scoutmaster in attendance they establish the program for the troop. The enrolled Scouts elect all officers of the troop annually. The Senior Patrol Leader is elected with the concurrence of the Scoutmaster.

**Adult leaders** are confirmed by the **Troop Committee**. The leaders include the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters. Additionally, the Troop Committee is made up of registered parents and other interested adults. The Leaders is responsible for mentoring the boys to provide an active, exciting program while providing opportunities for boy leadership to grow and watching out for health and safety related issues on a day-to-day basis. The Troop Committee ensures the permanency of the troop and exists to support the Troop’s program through financial, logistical and other means. Working closely with the Leaders, the Committee is responsible for ensuring adherence to the official Boy Scout Program, overseeing operations, supporting the Leaders, supporting the annual program, maintaining financial integrity, conducting the Boards of Review and resolving any difficulties that may surface.

Troop 489's adult leadership is dedicated to the scouting program. All are BSA trained – and some have completed the BSA's advanced Wood Badge adult leadership training. Each loves Scouting and brings a special talent or two to the troop. Some are Eagle Scouts. Most have experience in outdoor skills such as camping, backpacking and hiking. All are dedicated to the personal growth of individual scouts, and to accomplishing the aims of scouting through application of the eight methods of Scouting.



## ADVANCEMENT

While not the only method of Scouting, advancement is an important component of the Scouting program. It is through advancement that Scouts learn the lessons they need to prepare them to take their places as adults in American society. The advancement program (as well as the overall program) in the Boy Scouts of America is established by the National Headquarters in Irving, Texas and implemented throughout the United States by Boy Scout Councils and Districts. The ranks of Scouting include Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle. Each rank has specific requirements and elective activities that each Scout must successfully perform to advance. The advancement lessons are taught and evaluated by senior Scouts, the Leaders and Merit Badge Counselors.

As each Scout advances he must participate in some form of **community service**, he must be active in the troop, and he must demonstrate that he has “**good Scout Spirit**” – i.e., that he lives by the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan. It is not enough to simply pass the requirements for each rank. Each Scout must understand that he is responsible for demonstrating good Scout Spirit. This is determined during the Scoutmaster’s Conference, which is a private interview between the boy and the Scoutmaster or one of his Assistants at one of the troop meetings, conducted in accordance with the Guide to Safe Scouting.

After the Scoutmaster has had his conference with the advancement candidate and has determined that he is ready to be presented to the **Board of Review**, he asks the Chairman of Advancement for the troop to convene the Board. It is comprised of at least three Troop Committee members. The purpose of the Board is to ensure that the candidate is prepared to advance to the next rank and also to foster personal growth through an interactive conversation concerning the Scout’s values, goals and objectives. An interview with three adults he does not know very well can be intimidating for some boys, but we find this is an excellent life learning experience that prepares the boys for college and job interviews and is yet another feature the Scouting program offers that is not found in many other youth contexts.

Please note that Troop 489 places **special emphasis on first aid** because good working knowledge of these skills can save a life, and this is also an area where someone could be seriously hurt if the Scouts do not know the skills well. First aid questions will be asked on every Board of Review and Scouts are expected to be able to respond to them accurately.



Candidate Eagle Scouts must sit before the **National Board of Review** and they receive their rank through the National Court of Honor. The Troop Committee convenes the National Board of Review, however a representative of the Skookum District Advancement Committee also participates due to the importance of the award. Only 1.5% of all Scouts ever achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. It is possible for your son to achieve Scouting’s highest rank through lots of dedication and hard work over a number of years.

After a candidate for advancement successfully proves himself worthy of his promotion to the satisfaction of the Troop Committee, he and his fellow Scouts receive their awards in an advancement ceremony known as the **Court of Honor**. Troop 489 has several such events each year. These are quite festive occasions and all families and friends are invited to attend and witness our Scouts’ accomplishments.

## WHAT WE DO

Troop 489 is a very active troop! In addition to our regularly scheduled meetings, we have many outings each year. There are two reasons for this activity. First, is to have fun – everything we do in the troop is designed to have fun as well as to learn. Second, Robert Stevenson Smythe Baden-Powell, Lord of Gilwell, the founder of Scouting, designed the program around the out-of-doors. He felt that boys benefited from learning woodland skills and experiencing all that nature has to offer.



Some of our activities are District or Council events and some are troop events. Several happen at the same time each year or, at least, in the same month. Others occur based on the decisions of the Patrol Leaders Council representing the enrolled Scouts. The following is a list of some of the activities we do each year and when they usually occur (more information is available on our troop website).

### **Camporees**

These are competition camping events where patrols from many troops compete with each other in specific skill areas such as pioneering, orienteering, camping, and the like. They occur in the fall and spring usually around October and May. Camporees are District events. Troop 489 nearly always participates in Skookum District's Fall Camporee. The Troop usually also attends the Spring Camporee which emphasizes patrol competition. Every February, Troop 489 also participates in a "Klondike Derby" event – our patrols build sleds and spend a fun-filled day in interpatrol competition building shelters, lashing, orienteering, first aid and other scouting skills.

### **Outdoor Program**

Troop 489 has some type of an outing nearly every month. Sometimes it's a backpacking trip, a hike or a wilderness survival campout. We may try a ski trip or white water rafting. These events are decided upon, planned and organized by the Patrol Leaders' Council.

### **Summer Camp**

Each year the troop goes to one of the Grand Columbia Council's camps. We attend camp to commemorate Lord Baden-Powell's initial camp during which he tested his fledgling Scouting program at Brown Sea Isle; to live the patrol method for a week; to have fun; and for advancement. Summer camp costs approximately \$250 for each Scout. All new Scouts are strongly encouraged to go to camp during their first summer after joining the troop. The week gives them the opportunity to advance from Scout to Tenderfoot or Second Class and gets them off to a super beginning in their Scouting adventure.



### **Fundraisers**

Operating Troop 489 costs money! Families are not charged dues, and we feel the boy-run leadership environment provides excellent opportunities for the scouts to learn self-reliance by raising funds themselves. As our main fundraisers, the boys have sold honey and popcorn in the community over the past few years.

### **Other Events**

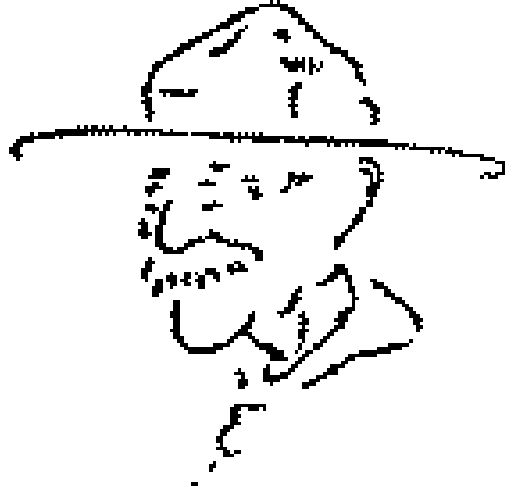
Throughout the year the troop participates in other events. We do a lot of hiking and camping. Sometimes we take field trips to monuments, civic buildings, and other places. These activities are planned by the Patrol Leaders' Council with support from the Leaders and the Troop Committee. If you have an idea for a fun trip or outing be sure to bring it up!

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

As Troop 489 grows, communications becomes a more pressing issue. There are several means of communicating. Almost all of the families in the troop have **email** and we send out announcements regularly using this medium. We also keep folks informed via our website, [www.troop489-wa.org](http://www.troop489-wa.org). Additionally, troop meetings and Troop Committee meetings are often venues for communication. At any time, a parent or Scout may contact any other member of the troop, Leaders or Troop Committee by such means as he or she deems appropriate. Troop 489 encourages free and open communication about any topic or concern involving our Scouts or program. It is our mutual goal to develop and implement the best Scouting program possible for our Scouts and to ensure that they fully enjoy and benefit from their Scouting experience. Besides being an important leadership skill, good communications is key to achieving that goal.

## STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR TROOP 489

Scouts in Troop 489 live by the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan. Sometimes the meaning of these principles can become somewhat blurred or confused. For that reason, the following standards and expectations are offered for clarification.



### DRESS CODE

There are three standard uniforms or dress standards for the troop. All badges, rank insignia and leadership patches should be current.

**Field Uniform:** This is the full dress uniform with merit badge sash, Order of the Arrow sash (for OA members), authorized hat, Scout Shirt (short or long sleeve), Scout pants, troop neckerchief and slide, Scout belt or equivalent, socks and shoes. The field uniform (usually minus the sashes) is worn to troop meetings, Boards of Review, Courts of Honor, Scout Sunday and other special occasions.

**Activity Uniform:** This uniform consists of a scout tee-shirt, blue jeans or work pants in good condition, tennis shoes and outer wear appropriate for the season.

### ATTENDANCE

Advancement to each rank requires that a Scout “be active in his troop” for a specified period of time. With all of the activities that young men participate in these days, it is necessary to define what attendance means in Troop 489. An active Scout must maintain a 66% or better attendance average for the previous six-month period before advancing to the next rank. We do not keep formal records; rather, “being active” is determined by the Scoutmaster and his assistants. Each Scout must also maintain contact with his Patrol Leader or Senior Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster (which ever is appropriate given the Scout’s position in the troop) keeping them informed of absences prior to their occurrence. Schedules do conflict from time to time and it is expected that Scouts will sometimes miss a Troop Meeting.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Our code of conduct is posted on our website and is part of this package. It is important that every scout adheres to it. Please ask your son to read and sign it. Parents should read and sign it too and then return it to us with the scout registration form.

## **PARENT PARTICIPATION**

Troop 489 has a very active program. We need all of the adult leadership help we can get. At least one parent from each Scout's family is encouraged to register as an adult leader – a Scouter – and serve on the Troop Committee or Leaders. We know that not all parents have Scouting experience, but we also know that prior Scouting experience is not necessary. We need Merit Badge Counselors, Assistant Scoutmasters, drivers, hikers, campers, summer camp staff, fund-raisers, recordkeepers, badge-picker-uppers – there is plenty of work for everyone. Please be ready to indicate how you wish to participate in the troop when you register.

There are many other ways that parents can help support the Troop and our program. Here are a few ideas:

- 1) sign up as an adult leader -- we need to have you sign up to be sure we are covered by the Council's insurance program, forms are available from the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chairman
- 2) attend Troop Committee meetings (usually announced a week beforehand – we need your input and participation).
- 3) come to our troop meetings when you can, especially the Courts of Honor -- show the Scouts we're proud of their accomplishments
- 4) attend the Eagle Courts of Honor – these are very special events as only 1.5% of all Scouts become Eagles
- 5) join us for a few days at Summer Camp -- we like to have as many parents as possible camp with us for a portion of the week to help those Scouters who are there all week
- 6) pick a program month or event to help with our activities by going on the outing or providing transportation or other adult support
- 7) become a Merit Badge Counselor in a topic you enjoy, serve on the Troop Committee or as a leader or in a special role such as Equipment Chairman, Advancement Chairman, etc.
- 8) encourage your Scout to work on his advancement and let him know you are interested in his accomplishments – it is through advancement that the Scout benefits most from the program because the advancement opens him to new experiences and adventures.
- 9) sign up to help the Troop in its fund-raisers such honey and popcorn sales, or other moneymakers.

At any time during the year if you have any questions about Troop 489 plans or operations, please feel free to contact any of the Leaders or Troop Committee identified on the Troop Roster.

## TROOP 489 CODE OF CONDUCT

All Scouts in Troop 489 are responsible for living up to the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan. The following Code of Conduct has been adopted by the Troop Committee and **must be signed by each Scout and parent and returned to the Committee** upon initial registration. Any situation that is not covered below will be decided by the present Leaders or Troop Committee and discussed with the parent and Scout.

1. A Scout will take care of all troop or patrol gear issued to him or his patrol and any personal property belonging to others. A Scout will be responsible for all negligent damage he causes.
2. Printed material or pictures which a Scout would not want his parents to see is not acceptable and will not be brought to troop or patrol meetings or on troop campouts or other activities.
3. Fighting with or striking another Scout is not acceptable under any circumstances. Hazing of new Scouts is not permitted.
4. Engaging in unsafe acts is not acceptable. Unsafe acts include improper use of knives or axes, sharp sticks, ropes or other materials, the use of fireworks of any type, and other activities as proscribed by the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.
5. Using language that a Scout would not use in front of his parents is not permitted.
6. Scouts will maintain a positive attitude and remember that “cheerful” is the eighth Scout Law.
7. Any Scout who has a problem with another Scout or an adult leader will immediately inform two adult leaders of the problem and seek a solution.
8. When instructed, Scouts will utilize the “buddy system” on troop outings.
9. Scouts will always maintain the “Rule of Three” -- individual Scouts will not be alone with an adult leader to which he is not related but will always seek to be in the presence of a second adult leader or Scout. For example, two Scouts should work on a merit badge at the same time with a counselor.
10. Scouts will only use pocket knives (having completed their Totin’ Chip requirements) – no hunting knives, switchblades, gravity knives, sheath knives or butterfly knives will be permitted.
11. Scouts are not permitted to have in their possession any radios, cell phones, electronic music or game devices or playing cards. When the troop goes on an outing it is expected that Scouts will focus on the theme of that outing.
12. Scouts who indicated they would be going on an outing but change their minds and do not inform the Leaders that they cannot go for whatever reason within two days before the beginning of the outing must share in the cost of the food and other troop expenses incurred.
13. The Leaders will determine if a Scout’s conduct requires his removal from or prevents his participation in a Scout outing. When this occurs the parents will remove the Scout as soon as possible from the situation.

Any parent who believes his or her Scout was treated unfairly should contact the Leaders or Troop Committee to discuss and reconcile it.

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Scout’s Signature

Date

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Parent’s Signature(s)

Date

## Troop 489 Parental Involvement/Interest Form

To Troop 489: Yes, I'm interested in helping out with troop activities! Here's some information about me to help you know and use available resources!

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Email addresses: \_\_\_\_\_

My occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

My Hobbies and Interests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Hobbies and Interests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Scouting Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Camping/Outdoors Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Military or other Leadership Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Fundraising Experience \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Experience \_\_\_\_\_

Ages & names of other children \_\_\_\_\_

Scout Merit Badges I'd like to counsel: \_\_\_\_\_  
(see [www.meritbadge.com](http://www.meritbadge.com) for list and requirements)

Other areas of interest: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLETE AND RETURN TO DOUG BUTLER, SCOUTMASTER, TROOP 489**