

*Go further.
Together.*



YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

You belong in the adventure

You do not have to arrive knowing every knot.

A troop visit may start with a game or a new skill. Look around the edges, too: a Scout making room for a newcomer, a quiet voice offering an idea, or a patrol sorting out what went wrong. This guide helps your family find a troop that feels right and prepare for the first few months.

Rooted here and ready to explore

Troop 826 is a boys' troop based in Reynoldsburg, welcoming families from Pickerington, Pataskala, East Columbus and nearby communities. Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 9473 has chartered the troop since August 26, 1996.

Choose a troop together

Your Scout's interests and comfort matter.

So do your family's schedule, travel and budget. Visit, ask questions and take time to decide. Families looking for girls-only troops will find local starting points on page 17.

For the Scout reading this

Bring your curiosity. Try an activity, meet people and ask for help when you need it. You may discover something you can teach someone else, too.



Troop 826 at Mammoth Cave National Park.



This is how we grow

The Scout Oath and Scout Law guide our choices. These habits turn those values into everyday troop life.

01

We welcome people. Introduce yourself, learn names and include someone who is new.

02

We prepare and follow through. Know your job, pack what you need and ask early when you need help.

03

We share the work. Cooking, cleanup and equipment care belong to everyone. A clean pan put away ready for the next trip is a job worth doing well.

04

We teach with patience. Let the person you are helping hold the rope and try the knot. Give them time to work it out.

05

We learn from mistakes. Talk about what happened and what to change next time.

06

We serve others. Notice when someone needs a hand, make room for them and leave shared places ready for the people who come next.

A new Scout is expected to try, ask questions, help the patrol and keep learning. No one needs to get everything right the first time.

Scouts lead.



The patrol leaders' council plans the year.

Leadership starts with a useful job.

Scouts practice leadership by planning together, sharing responsibilities and helping the next Scout succeed.



Your patrol and your voice



A patrol is the small team your Scout learns and works with. Patrol members share jobs, practice skills and help turn ideas into activities.

Youth leaders. The patrol leader helps organize the patrol. The senior patrol leader leads the troop's youth leadership. The patrol leaders' council plans the program. A troop guide is an experienced Scout who helps newcomers.

Adult support. The Scoutmaster coaches youth leaders. Assistant Scoutmasters and other trained adults help deliver the program. The committee handles supporting work such as administration, equipment and finances.

For a routine question, encourage your Scout to ask a patrol leader or troop guide. Take safety, health, bullying or accommodation concerns directly to an adult. Ask on your visit how Troop 826 welcomes new Scouts into patrol life.

A patrol may be working out how to cook dinner when the first plan runs late. Scouts explain their ideas, listen to another plan and agree who will do what. Someone asks for help; someone notices the dishes still need doing. A new Scout can take a useful part, then try something a little harder next time.

What changes from Cub Scouts

Planning. In Cub Scouts, adults organize much of the experience. In a troop, Scouts take a larger role in deciding what to do and making it happen, with adult guidance and safety oversight.

Shared work. Scouts help organize equipment, meals and campsite jobs. Learning to lead takes practice; a youth-led meeting may feel less polished than an adult-run activity.



Advancement. Scouts BSA ranks follow an individual path rather than a new grade-level rank each school year. Scouts learn skills and demonstrate requirements to authorized people. Ask how the troop approves and records progress.

Family support. Parents still help with schedules, transportation, preparation and encouragement. Give your Scout room to ask questions, make choices and do tasks. A useful prompt is, "What is your next step, and who can help?"

Different Scouts need different amounts of support. A good transition gives each young person a chance to become comfortable and increasingly capable.



Help your Scout do it

Family guidance. Give your Scout time to find the rain gear, ask the question or try the knot again before stepping in. Notice effort and follow-through: remembering a shared job or helping another Scout counts, too. Take serious concerns directly to adults.



National safety requirements

Scouting activities, including meetings, require two registered adult leaders age 21 or older. Activities involving female youth require a registered female adult leader age 21 or older.

One-on-one contact between adult leaders and youth members is prohibited. Private online communication with an adult leader must include another registered leader or parent.

Adults staying overnight with a Scouts BSA troop need qualifying adult registration; merit badge counselor registration alone does not qualify. The limited Cub Scout parent overnight exception does not continue after a Scout joins the troop. Ask leaders to explain tenting and buddy arrangements.

Registered volunteers must complete Safeguarding Youth Training annually. Parents can also take the training without becoming registered volunteers.

Ask about adult roles that fit your skills and availability, and the registration and training each role requires.

Learn by doing.



Scouts work together at the Caesar Creek campout, September 2025.

Skills grow through practice.

Preparing a meal, caring for equipment and trying again turn everyday camp jobs into confidence.



Your first visit



THURSDAYS / 7:00-8:30 P.M.

Troop 826 meets Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., at VFW Post 9473, 1420 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068. Arrive around 6:45 to meet people before the opening. Parents are encouraged to stay for the visit.

Comfortable clothing is fine; a uniform is not required for a visit. Check the calendar first and contact the troop before bringing a whole den. Regular Thursday visits need no RSVP; designated visit nights can have separate instructions.

Expect introductions and a chance for your Scout to participate. An ordinary meeting helps you see everyday troop life. Afterward, ask: Did I feel included? Who did I meet? What would I like to try? Would I like to return?

[Plan your visit](#)

National requirement. The Arrow of Light (AOL) Bobcat adventure includes a troop visit with the patrol or a parent/legal guardian.

Family guidance. Visiting several troops or returning for another meeting can help with your decision. These are suggestions, not additional advancement requirements.

Crossover is a beginning

National joining eligibility

A youth may join Scouts BSA when at least 10 and holding Arrow of Light; or at least 10, currently in fifth grade and registering March 1 or later; or at least 11 and not yet 18. Prior Cub Scout participation is not required.



A crossover ceremony celebrates the move. Coordinate recognition with the pack and joining with the troop; the ceremony does not complete the membership transfer. Once eligible and registered, a Scout can start before the ceremony.

Camping before joining

Webelos Scouts may not participate in troop campouts, camporees or other events designed for Scouts BSA, including daytime visits.

The Scout, family, den and receiving troop each have a part: choose together, complete the records and registration steps, and agree on a start date.

An AOL patrol may camp with a troop its Scouts are eligible to join, with two-deep leadership from the den/patrol or pack. Cub camping rules still apply, including an adult leader trained in Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO). Council camporees have distinct approved AOL participation routes. Ask the den leader to confirm the event, leadership and eligibility before planning a visit.



Joining and the first 90 days

Complete the membership steps

Ask the pack and receiving troop who will initiate the transfer. Have earned Cub Scout advancement recorded before the transfer.

Use the Scout's existing membership record.

Tell the receiving troop when the request is submitted and confirm it is accepted.

Check that the Scout appears on the troop roster, the family is connected to the record, and advancement history is present.

Confirm membership expiration and who handles renewal. Joining a troop does not mean renewal can be ignored.

A suggested settling in plan

First weeks. Learn names, meet the patrol, get the calendar and communication instructions, and ask who helps new Scouts. Discuss support needs privately with an adult.

First month. Participate in meetings, take a small job through to the finish, get the next outing's packing list and learn how to ask for requirement approval.

Next two months. Try an outing when ready and begin planning for summer camp. Ask about a job your Scout handled or a time they helped someone. A useful reflection is, "What can I do now that I could not before?"



These are family preparation ideas, not required deadlines, rank targets or promises about the troop's schedule.



Prepare for the first campout

Confirm the plan. Ask about departure and return, transportation, signup and payment deadlines, meals, shared equipment, tenting, buddies, weather plans and the adult emergency contact.

Pack together. Get the outing's packing list before buying equipment. Ask what the troop supplies or lends. Have your Scout pack and find their own rain gear, sleeping equipment, layers, water, light and personal items.

Plan for support. Discuss allergies, medication arrangements, disabilities, anxiety or other needs privately with the appropriate adult. Ask whom your Scout should approach if cold, worried, confused or unwell.

National health record requirements. Parts A and B of the Annual Health and Medical Record are needed for participants. Events longer than 72 hours require clinician-completed Part C; confirm camp-specific requirements and deadlines. Use the troop or camp's approved process for health forms. Do not send them by ordinary email or post them in troop messages or shared storage. If the camp directs you to an approved electronic health-record system, use that system as instructed.

Afterward, let your Scout help clean and dry the gear, ready for next time. Along with the funny stories, invite them to ask, "What did I contribute?" Give a job done carefully the same attention as a new skill.



Outdoor adventure grows with you

A campout might mean spotting wildlife on a trail, laughing over a shared meal or watching stars appear above the tents. Scouts work through the ordinary jobs together, and a new Scout can begin with one manageable part.

Troop 826 plans monthly outings, and adventures have included Mammoth Cave and Sea Base. The troop attended Seven Ranges in 2026. Ask about the next adventure on the troop calendar.



Plan the first summer early

Ask which camp the troop plans to attend, what the first-year program is like, who helps newcomers, how days are organized, what equipment is needed and when payments or health forms are due. Discuss readiness and support needs before choosing activities.

Among the week's highlights might be a quiet Scout explaining a skill to a friend or a patrol laughing about a first attempt that did not go to plan. Classes and attendance alone do not complete every rank or badge requirement. Ask what preparation or follow-through an activity requires.

Simon Kenton Council publishes resident-camp information and first-year program details. The troop may choose another camp, so confirm its own plan.

Showing up for others.



Troop 826 Memorial Day Flag Planting, 2025.

A job done well becomes something to take pride in.



Service and advancement



Troop 826. The troop's relationship with VFW Post 9473 creates opportunities to serve veterans and neighbors, including VFW breakfasts, Memorial Day flags, flag retirements and community projects.

At a service project, there are tools to put away and people to thank after the main job is done. Those finishing touches belong to the work, too.

Merit badges introduce interests and practical skills. Eagle Scout is a meaningful goal. Along the way, ask about the moment a skill became useful to someone else, or a responsibility your Scout was glad to be trusted with.

Learning at an individual pace

Scouts learn a skill, demonstrate it to an authorized person, receive review where required and are recognized. Ask who can approve requirements and how progress is recorded. Parents can encourage and practice; approval depends on the troop's authorized roles.

Scout rank is earned after joining, not automatically at crossover. Its requirements include activities involving a parent or guardian. Bring the current handbook and ask how to begin.

Early-rank requirements can be worked on together, but ranks are earned in order. A suggested first-year plan is not a compulsory advancement deadline.

Understand costs and find help

Ask each troop for a current first-year cost breakdown. Record who confirmed the information and when. A membership fee is only one part of the picture.



- National and council membership fees, troop dues and what they include
- Uniform, handbook and personal equipment; what can be borrowed or bought used
- Typical outing and transportation charges
- Summer camp, deposits, optional trips and payment deadlines
- Fundraising expectations, assistance and payment options
- Adult registration or training costs if a parent volunteers

These are budgeting questions, not a quoted Troop 826 fee schedule. Ask privately about help before deciding cost makes participation impossible. Simon Kenton Council confirms registration and uniform scholarships; camp assistance has its own information and application route. Availability and decisions depend on the applicable program.

[Council assistance information](#) | [Campership forms](#)

[Council contacts](#) | [Scout Shop information](#)

Ask the troop which uniform pieces and handbook it uses before buying. Check the uniform closet and equipment-loan options first.



Find the troop that fits

Troop 826 is a boys' troop. National options also include girls' troops and family troops. Families seeking girls-only Scouting can start with the two troops below.

Troop 7456 in Gahanna

Officially listed as Girls. The listing gives Gahanna Community Congregational Church, 470 Havens Corners Road, and Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Listed contact: committee chair Robert Engel, robengel@gmail.com.

[Open Troop 7456 official listing](#)

Troop 7023 in Pataskala

Officially listed as Girls; its own site describes an all-girl troop. The listing gives Krehbiel Lodge, 277 W. Mill Street, and Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., with exceptions. Listed contact: Katie Slaymaker, pataskalatroop7023@gmail.com.

[Open Troop 7023 official listing](#) | [Troop website](#)

Contact each troop to confirm meeting times, locations and visit arrangements before traveling.

Ask about new-Scout support, older-Scout mentorship, communication, costs and how your Scout feels. A whole den need not choose the same troop. Use the next page to compare what matters to your family.

Compare your visits

Notice your Scout's experience as well as the practical details. Use the same questions at each troop. Talk together before deciding.

WHAT MATTERS TO OUR FAMILY	826	Other	Other
Meeting schedule / travel			
Welcome and friendships			
Youth leadership			
Support for a new Scout			
Camping and summer camp			
Fees and financial assistance			
Equipment / uniform support			
Our Scout's overall impression			

For your Scout: Did I feel included? What would I like to try? Who did I meet? Where did I see Scouts helping one another? Would I like to return?

MY FAVORITE PART OF THE VISIT

ONE QUESTION I STILL HAVE



Your next adventure.



Take the next step together.

Bring your questions, meet the Scouts and picture the adventures your family could share with Troop 826.

Take your next step

The campouts, shared meals and adventures are part of the fun. In the ordinary moments along the way, Scouts practice keeping promises, listening, speaking up and helping others. A job done well becomes something to take pride in. At Troop 826, we want those experiences to grow into confidence, character and a willingness to lead and contribute wherever life takes them.

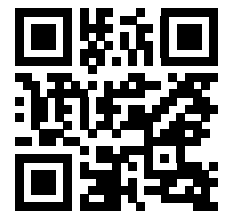
If Eagle Scout is your goal

Eagle Scout is one goal a Scout may choose to pursue. It can bring competitive college and trade-school scholarship opportunities, an achievement to include in college or job applications, and connections with fellow Eagle Scouts. For those who later enlist, it may also qualify them for a higher starting military grade and pay under the service's rules. Our adults and leaders will give Scouts who choose Eagle every opportunity to work toward it through guidance, encouragement and program opportunities. The Scout leads the effort and completes the requirements.

Scholarships are competitive. Military entry grade depends on the branch, eligibility and verified documentation; confirm the grade in the enlistment process. Eagle is an achievement, not a hiring or admission guarantee.

Still exploring. Check the calendar, choose a visit, meet the Scouts and adults, and talk together about the fit.

Ready to join. Ask for the membership steps, current costs, next meeting and first outing information. Confirm who will help your Scout begin.



Come with a question, try something with the patrol and see what you would like to do next.

Troop 826 meets Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., at VFW Post 9473, 1420 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068. Check the calendar before visiting.

[Plan a visit](#) | [Troop calendar](#) | [Troop resources](#)