
TROOP 826 - REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO



Family Guide

Committee-approved edition - October 2026

PLAN • EXPLORE • REMEMBER

A practical introduction to troop life, youth leadership, outdoor adventure, advancement, safety, and family participation.

Reconciled to existing troop rules and resources. Approved by the Troop 826 committee in October 2026.



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Welcome to the troop family

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Current information: Fees, dates, contacts, forms, event details, policy links, and changing procedures belong at troop826.com/family-guide/ so this guide can remain useful without becoming stale.

Welcome to the Troop 826 Family

Welcome to Troop 826 - and welcome to Scouting. When your Scout joins Troop 826, your entire family becomes part of our Scouting community. New friendships, unfamiliar traditions, outdoor adventures, leadership opportunities, and plenty of new vocabulary come with that decision. This guide is here to help your family understand what to expect and where to turn when you have questions. Troop 826 has served young men and families in Reynoldsburg since 1996. Chartered by VFW Post 9473, the troop gives Scouts meaningful opportunities to lead, camp, serve, solve problems, and look out for one another. Adults provide the safe structure and guidance. Scouts increasingly take responsibility for the experience. Families support that growth in different ways. You may drive to an outing, help with a service project, serve on the committee, share a skill, or simply encourage your Scout to ask his patrol leader the next question. You do not need previous Scouting experience, and you are not expected to learn everything at once. We are glad your family is here.

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Start Here for New Families

Your first month does not have to be complicated. Attend the Thursday meetings. Most troop meetings are held from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at VFW Post 9473, 1420 S. Waggoner Road in Reynoldsburg. Check the troop calendar for changes. Connect to the troop's current systems. Use the Current Troop Information page to find the troop's online platforms, family account instructions, calendar, forms, contacts, and event information. Help your Scout obtain the essentials. A current Scout Handbook and the required uniform pieces come first. Ask before buying camping equipment; the troop may have loaner or used items, and experienced families can help you avoid unnecessary purchases. Let leaders know what helps your Scout succeed. Share allergies, medical needs, learning needs, accessibility concerns, food restrictions, or other useful information privately and early. Prepare for the first outing together, but let your Scout do the work. Review the event information together. The Scout should pack his own bag, communicate with his patrol, and take responsibility for his equipment with age-appropriate family support.

Accessing the troop family system

Troop 826 creates roster-linked accounts for parents and guardians; there is no public self-sign-up. Ask the Scoutmaster or website administrator to create or reconnect your family account. Open <https://www.troopwebhost.org/Troop826Reynoldsburg/> and choose **Log On**, then enter the individual user ID and temporary password supplied by the troop. Change the temporary password when prompted.

After signing in, use **My Stuff > My Personal Information** to review your contact information and **My Stuff > My Scouts** to confirm that your Scout is linked to your family. If you already have an account but cannot sign in, choose **Forgot User ID or Password?** and use the email address the troop has on record. Contact the website administrator if recovery does not find the account or the family link is missing. A Scout may have a separate account when the troop arranges one; a parent or guardian account is still needed for family access.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does my Scout need previous outdoor experience? No. Scouts learn skills by practicing them with their patrol and with guidance from experienced Scouts and adults. Must my Scout attend every meeting and outing? No, but regular participation helps him build friendships, skills, and confidence. Families should use the calendar and respond to event invitations so youth leaders can plan. May families attend meetings? Yes. Scouting activities are open to observation. Adults who want to participate in overnight activities must satisfy current registration and safeguarding requirements. Who should my Scout ask for help? His patrol leader is usually the best first stop. Depending on the question, he may also ask the senior patrol leader, troop guide, Scoutmaster, or another designated leader. Who should an adult ask? Use the role-based contacts on the Current Troop Information page. The Scoutmaster's team supports the youth program; the committee supports administration, finance, membership, and policy. Where are current fees, forms, deadlines, and contacts? Scan the Current Troop Information QR code or visit troop826.com/family-guide/.

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What Scouting Is Designed to Do

Scouting America's mission is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Troop 826 puts that mission into practice through experiences. A Scout plans with other Scouts, carries his share of the equipment, cooks for his patrol, serves his community, learns from mistakes, and eventually helps someone younger do the same. Camping and advancement matter, but they are tools for developing character, fitness, citizenship, leadership, and confidence. Families will sometimes see adults step back instead of immediately fixing a problem. That is intentional when it can be done safely. Growth often begins when a Scout is given enough room to try, reflect, and try again.

How Troop 826 Works

The patrol is the Scout's home team. Troop 826 organizes Scouts into patrols so they can plan, practice skills, cook, camp, and solve problems together. Mixed ages allow experienced Scouts to teach and newer Scouts to learn from peers. Youth leaders guide the program. Scouts elect a senior patrol leader and patrol leaders. The Patrol Leaders' Council plans and coordinates the troop program with the Scoutmaster's guidance. Other appointed youth positions give Scouts responsibility for equipment, records, instruction, communication, and service. The Scoutmaster's team coaches the youth program. The Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmasters provide safety, coaching, training, and continuity without taking leadership opportunities away from Scouts. The troop committee supports the program. The committee oversees administration, finance, membership, equipment support, policy, and other behind-the-scenes work. It does not replace the youth leadership structure. VFW Post 9473 is our chartered organization. The Post has supported Troop 826 and provided its Reynoldsburg home since the troop was established in 1996.

Scouts Lead and Adults Support

Your Scout is expected to: attend and participate; communicate with his patrol; pack and care for his own equipment; help plan and prepare patrol meals; keep his Scout Handbook and advancement records current; ask for signatures and conferences; and speak up when he needs help. Youth leaders are expected to: communicate plans; include and teach younger Scouts; organize patrol work; model the Scout Oath and Law; and ask adults for help when safety, policy, or circumstances require it. Adult leaders are expected to: maintain a safe and welcoming program; follow Scouting America requirements; coach rather than take over; provide appropriate supervision; communicate transparently; and intervene when health, safety, bullying, or conduct concerns arise. Families can help by: keeping contact and medical information current; reviewing dates and deadlines; helping the Scout arrive prepared; encouraging him to communicate for himself; sharing concerns privately with the appropriate leader; and volunteering in a way that fits the family's interests and availability.

Meetings Calendar and Communication

Meetings. Most regular troop meetings are held Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at VFW Post 9473. Meetings generally combine patrol time, skills, preparation for upcoming adventures, leadership practice, and troop announcements. Families should check the calendar because holidays, special events, and other circumstances can change the schedule. **Calendar and event details.** The public calendar shows troop dates. Family-only plans, participant details, registration, and updates are provided through the troop's current internal system. The Current Troop Information page will always identify the correct system and provide direct links. **Scout communication.** Scouts should learn to receive information from and respond to their youth leaders. Families help by ensuring the troop has accurate contact information and by teaching Scouts to check and answer messages appropriately. **Safeguarded communication.** One-to-one private communication between an adult leader and a youth member is prohibited. Texts, calls, chat, and other private online communication must include another registered leader or the Scout's parent or guardian. **Schedule changes.** Cancellations and urgent changes will be posted through the current troop communication channels. Families should not rely on an outdated printed cancellation rule.

Preparing for Your First Adventure

1. Read the complete event information. Confirm dates, departure and return plans, cost, required forms, activity level, equipment, and registration deadline. 2. Register or decline promptly. Youth leaders plan transportation, patrol attendance, tents, and food from the response list. If plans change, update the response or notify the event leader. 3. Share information that affects participation. Confirm allergies, dietary restrictions, medications, medical concerns, accessibility needs, and emergency contacts before departure. 4. Pack with the current list. The Scout should pack his own gear so he knows what he has and where it is. A family may review the list with him, especially for a first outing. 5. Follow the event's uniform and departure instructions. Arrive on time with the required payment, forms, water, personal gear, and prescribed medications. 6. Expect plans to change outdoors. Weather, campsite conditions, and program needs may affect timing. The troop will communicate material changes and return estimates through the current channels.

Camping Equipment Food and Transportation

Troop 826 normally offers an outdoor adventure each month. Exact departure times, return estimates, costs, and equipment needs belong in the event details because they vary by destination and season.

Patrol life. Scouts camp, cook, and complete much of their work as a patrol. A Scout serving as Grubmaster plans the menu with his patrol, shops within the approved budget, transports food safely, and completes the troop's current forms. For a weekend outing, the food budget is \$20 per Scout. Turn in the receipts when the Grubmaster drops off the food. The Grubmaster form records the Scout's signature, adult review by the Treasurer or Scoutmaster, and confirmation that receipts were received.

Purchasing and reimbursement. The general purchasing policy requires receipts to reach the Treasurer within 14 days. A reimbursement request requires the original receipt within 90 days. These are general finance deadlines; the Grubmaster's food-drop-off instruction is the more specific expectation for patrol food receipts.

Troop and patrol equipment. The troop provides tents and shared patrol equipment for typical outings. Scouts are responsible for using equipment properly, keeping it organized, and returning it clean and dry as instructed. Damage, missing equipment, or delayed returns should be reported promptly.

Personal equipment. Scouts provide clothing, sleeping gear, eating items, water, toiletries, and other personal items listed for the event. Ask before making expensive purchases.

Transportation. Event information will identify departure and pickup arrangements. Families must provide reachable emergency contacts and should monitor the troop's return estimate. Additional registered adult drivers may be requested.

Adult participation. Adults staying overnight in connection with a Scouts BSA activity must be currently registered in an eligible adult position and comply with all current training and safeguarding requirements. Merit badge counselor registration alone does not qualify an adult for overnight participation.

Uniforms and Personal Gear

Field uniform. The official field uniform is used for meetings, travel, ceremonies, Boards of Review, Scoutmaster conferences, and other occasions identified by troop leaders. The complete uniform expectations and insignia guidance are maintained on the Current Troop Information page.

Activity uniform. A troop activity shirt may be used for selected meetings, service, work, travel, or outdoor activities as announced. Event details take priority over general seasonal guidance.

Scout Handbook. Each Scout should bring and maintain the current Scouts BSA Handbook used for personal reference and advancement evidence.

Clothing and equipment assistance. Families should ask about the troop's available used uniforms, loaner equipment, and current apparel ordering process before purchasing replacements or specialized gear.

Electronics. Troop 826's Mobile Phone Policy was created by the Patrol Leaders' Council on October 7, 2025 and approved by the troop committee on November 3, 2025. It governs permitted use and consequences. Families should use the linked policy and any tighter instructions published for a specific event.

Advancement and Merit Badges

Advancement belongs to the Scout. Scouts advance at their own pace by learning, practicing, demonstrating, and being tested on published requirements. Adults and families may encourage progress, but requirements may not be added or removed.

Official record. Scouting America / Scoutbook Plus is the official advancement source for rank, Merit Badge, and requirement state. TroopWebHost exports support troop operations, history, and reconciliation; they do not replace the official advancement record. Basecamp is not an advancement authority.

Ranks. A Scout should keep his Scout Handbook and supporting records accurate, ask an authorized person to review completed requirements, and request the required Scoutmaster conference and Board of Review when ready. The troop's current sign-up and recording process is maintained on the Current Troop Information page.

Boards of Review. A Board of Review is a conversation with committee members about the Scout's experience, growth, and troop program. The board is not a retest of rank skills. Current uniform expectations and scheduling instructions are posted with advancement resources.

Recognition. Troop 826 values prompt recognition. Scouts may receive rank recognition after completion and are formally recognized with their families at a Court of Honor.

Merit badges. A Scout may begin a merit badge at any rank. He should follow the current troop process to discuss the badge with the unit leader, receive an approved counselor contact, complete the published requirements, and preserve supporting evidence until the official record is current. Merit badge work must follow Youth Protection requirements; a Scout does not meet alone with a counselor.

Family support. Families can help Scouts identify interests, keep appointments, arrange safe transportation or communication, and follow through. The Scout should communicate with the counselor and complete his own work.

Leadership Service and Recognition

Leadership in Troop 826 is practiced through real responsibility. Scouts may serve in elected or appointed positions, lead a patrol activity, teach a skill, plan a meal, organize equipment, communicate an announcement, or help a younger Scout. Adults coach youth leaders and allow them to learn from both success and mistakes. Service is part of how the troop lives the Scout Oath and Law. Troop 826's traditions include supporting VFW Post 9473, helping with community breakfasts, placing Memorial Day flags, conservation work, and completing Scout-led service and Eagle Scout projects. Specific annual projects are listed on the calendar rather than fixed permanently in this guide. Recognition includes rank advancement, merit badges, leadership, service, outdoor achievement, and other accomplishments. Courts of Honor give the troop and families an opportunity to recognize that growth together.

Summer Camp and High Adventure

Summer camp. A week at summer camp is one of the most valuable parts of the troop year. Scouts live and work with their patrol, practice outdoor skills, pursue advancement and merit badges, take on responsibility, and participate in camp traditions. The troop's selected camp, dates, fees, deadlines, medical requirements, packing list, and program choices are published annually. Camp traditions. When the troop attends Seven Ranges, Scouts may have opportunities to participate in camp traditions such as Pipestone. Current preparation instructions must come from that year's camp and troop materials rather than an old printed specification. High adventure. Troop 826 supports challenging experiences for older and more experienced Scouts, including council, national, and troop-planned opportunities. Eligibility varies by activity and may include age, rank, physical readiness, skills, training, medical, and participation requirements. Each trip will publish its own requirements. Other extended adventures. The troop may offer additional trips such as backpacking, paddling, cycling, rafting, caving, or other outdoor experiences when youth interest, qualified supervision, safety standards, and resources allow.

Costs Fundraising and Financial Assistance

Scouting includes several types of cost: national and council registration, troop dues, activity and campout costs, summer camp, optional purchases, and special adventures. Because these amounts change, the Current Troop Information page shows the current fee schedule, payment methods, deadlines, and what each charge supports.

Campout balance rule. A Scout whose account has a negative balance of more than \$200 is not eligible to attend a campout until the balance is addressed through the troop's existing process.

Departure and refunds. After a Scout leaves the troop, the family may request any unused personal deposits within 90 days through the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair. Fundraising credits remain with the troop. This distinction preserves the existing refund-request period without treating fundraising proceeds as personal deposits.

Financial assistance. Financial circumstances should not prevent a family from asking about participation. Families who need assistance are encouraged to speak privately with the designated troop contact. Available troop, alumni, council, camp, or other assistance and the application process are listed on the Current Troop Information page.

How Families Can Participate

Troop 826 is made possible by families, alumni, VFW Post 9473, and community volunteers. Families can participate in ways that fit their time, interests, and comfort level. No family is expected to do everything. Opportunities may include driving, helping with a service project or VFW breakfast, sitting on a Board of Review, supporting an event, maintaining equipment, sharing a professional skill, becoming a merit badge counselor, joining the troop committee, or serving with the Scoutmaster's program team. Some roles and activities require registration, background checks, current Youth Protection Training, position-specific training, or other qualifications. All adults staying overnight in connection with a Scouts BSA activity must be currently registered in an eligible adult position; merit badge counselor registration by itself is not sufficient. The Current Troop Information page will identify current needs and the person to contact. Families are also welcome to ask for a small first step rather than making an open-ended commitment.

Health Safety Conduct and Safeguarding

Health records. Current Annual Health and Medical Record documentation is required for participants. Scouting America identifies documentation for basic activities and weekend events under 72 hours and requires a pre-participation physical for long-term camps and events lasting 72 hours or more. Some destinations require additional forms. Use only the current forms linked from the troop's Current Information page.

Medical needs and medications. Families must provide accurate medical and emergency information and discuss allergies, prescriptions, behavioral-health needs, dietary restrictions, and other concerns that may affect participation. Required medication and a completed Prescription Dosing Information Form must be handed directly to the designated adult leader before departure. Medication arrangements and medical information are handled through confidential paper records or direct conversation with the adults who need the information for health and safety. Follow the current event instructions and all Scouting America, council, legal, and destination requirements.

Safeguarding. Scouting activities require two registered adult leaders age 21 or older. One-to-one contact between adult leaders and youth is prohibited. Private electronic communication must include another registered leader or the youth's parent or guardian. The buddy system and current tenting, privacy, and supervision rules apply.

Conduct. Scouts and adults are expected to follow the Scout Oath and Law and protect the safety and dignity of others. Hazing, bullying, harassment, humiliation, violence, theft, unauthorized weapons, drugs, alcohol, and other prohibited conduct have no place in Scouting. Discipline must be constructive.

Accessibility and individual needs. Families are encouraged to tell the Scoutmaster privately what helps their Scout participate safely and successfully. The troop will work with the family and applicable Scouting resources to understand reasonable supports, activity requirements, and any limitations.

Reporting concerns. Immediate danger should be reported to 911. Suspected abuse, serious Youth Protection violations, and other reportable concerns must be handled under current Scouting America requirements. The Scouts First Helpline is 1-844-SCOUTS1.

Troop Traditions and Alumni Support

Troop 826's identity has been built over generations. Since 1996, Scouts, families, leaders, alumni, VFW Post 9473, and community supporters have created traditions that connect each new patrol with those that came before it. Those traditions include regular camping, summer camp, high adventure, youth leadership, Courts of Honor, service to veterans and Reynoldsburg, VFW breakfasts, Memorial Day flags, Eagle Scout service projects, and older Scouts teaching younger Scouts. The Troop 826 Alumni Association supports the troop and helps sustain opportunities, equipment, recognition, and traditions. Current programs, assistance, and contact information belong on the Current Troop Information page. Tradition should provide continuity without preventing improvement. The committee may update procedures when safety, Scouting America requirements, technology, or the needs of Scouts and families change.

Glossary Contacts and Resources

Common terms. ASM - Assistant Scoutmaster Board of Review - Committee conversation required for rank advancement Court of Honor - Troop ceremony recognizing Scout accomplishments Grubmaster - Scout responsible for coordinating a patrol's food for an outing MBC - Merit badge counselor Patrol - A small team of Scouts who plan and work together PLC - Patrol Leaders' Council, the troop's youth planning group Scoutmaster - Adult leader responsible for guiding the youth program SPL - Senior patrol leader, the Scout elected to lead the troop YPT - Youth Protection Training Where to find current information. Visit troop826.com/family-guide/ for current contacts, fees, meeting information, calendars, forms, packing lists, policies, financial assistance, registration instructions, access to the troop's online platforms, and official Scouting America resources. The printed and digital guide will use the same stable address. The page may change; the link will not.

PUBLICATION RECORD

Committee-approved Family Guide

This guide summarizes existing handbook rules, approved policies, current forms, and operating guides. Detailed procedures stay in those governing resources.

Account guidance: Family accounts remain roster-linked and troop-provisioned. This guide does not create access or permissions.

Source basis includes the Troop 826 Committee Review Edition 826-HBK-01, the current troop handbook, approved Mobile Phone Policy, Purchasing Policy, Grubmaster guide and forms, medication form, and advancement source specification. Committee approval applies to this Family Guide; governing source policies remain in force.