



Scouts BSA:

The Adventure of a Lifetime with Troops 1028/1029

RESIDENT FEATURE | BY JENNIFER MCARTOR | PHOTOS BY ROB GARLAND PHOTOGRAPHERS

Our Scout Parents: What do you love about Scouts BSA?

Eric Cutright, Scoutmaster Troop 1029 – I love absolutely everything about the Scouts BSA program, but my favorite aspect is just spending time and sharing crazy adventures with our amazing Scouts in Troops 1028 and 1029. Together with my Scouts, I've kayaked over crazy waterfalls, hiked up mountains, jumped across creeks, gotten myself stuck deep in a cave (until I literally laughed myself free with a little help from my friend Audrey Storm, the Cubmaster of Pack 77), watched a million roaring fires being built (and even got to practice my epic fire extinguisher skills a few times), caught (and released) countless cool snakes and frogs and lizards, launched a thousand model rockets, waded through raging rivers chasing lost paddles and runaway lunch coolers, zip-lined over zebras and kangaroos and a giant lake at the Richmond Zoo (and possibly a bit too fast into a tree or two), refereed a million dusty bloody-knuckle games of ga-ga ball at Camp Shenandoah, caught eleven fish (LOL - I'm usually too busy helping my Scouts to actually catch my own), made epic woodworking projects of all sizes, helped Cub Scouts from Lions to AOLs build a thousand Pinewood Derby cars of their dreams in my workshop,

mentored some truly amazing Eagle Scout projects, written three books (so far) fueled by all their crazy Scout shenanigans, watched a million crazy games of Werewolf around the campfire, witnessed the roasting of a zillion perfect golden-brown marshmallows (along with more than a few total flame-outs), helped Scouts earn thousands of Merit Badges, made some truly wonderful friends, watched several Scouts grow from toddlers to adults, and quite honestly have simply had the time of my life. I feel truly blessed to be a part of this marvelous adventure for our youth!

Tim B, Troop 1028 - The camaraderie among the Troop(s); the leadership the Scouts are required to show.

Alan E, Troop 37 and Troop 1029 - The opportunity for the kids to have hands-on activities and to spend time in the outdoors (away from screens).

Chip and Donna L, Troop 1028 - Scouting has given us and our kids opportunities and experiences that I think are challenging to get through other organizations. Hiking, camping, and other outdoor activities as a family with good friends; leadership and public speaking experience; service to the community; learning



opportunities (we learned how to weld!); and larger excursions (planning on a 7-day sailing tour around the Caribbean next summer!). As parents serving in leadership roles in Scouting, we have demonstrated to our kids a dedication to service and goodwill that we hope will make a lasting impression. Raising our family with the influence of Scouting will be one of the highlights of our lives together.

Ed M, Troop 1028 and Venturing Crew 1074 - I love that Scouts BSA uses an outdoor program to develop character, leadership, and personal fitness in youth. If you ask any Scout what their favorite part of Scouting is, the vast majority will answer, enthusiastically, "camping!" The Boy Scouts of America has created a fun, engaging program focusing on the outdoors that also develops character and leadership skills in young people.

Margi R, Troop 1028 - It gives the Scouts great opportunities to do all kinds of activities, learn new skills, and have some great role models.

Ginny T, Troop 1028 - I love that my son found an organization about which he is passionate and that encourages his desire to learn new things.

Were you involved in Scouting when you were younger?

Eric Cutright, Scoutmaster Troop 1029 - I thoroughly enjoyed the entire Cub Scouts program as a youth and earned my Arrow of Light, but my Scouts BSA (Boy Scouts at that time) Troop experience was a completely different story. Despite living in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, my Troop's only activity was collecting newspapers to recycle every Saturday (no joke!). I never remember going on any hiking or camping trips or summer camps as a Scout, and needless to say, I did not last very long in the program. This is a primary reason why I am serving as a Scoutmaster now – I made a vow as a Scout leader when I started over 16 years ago that no Scout would ever even THINK of saying those dreaded words "I'm bored" under MY watch. I have truly had a blast being the Pack 77 Den Leader for all four of my sons in all five ranks of Cub Scouts (let's just say we have a LOT of Pinewood Derby cars in our house), continuing as their Scoutmaster in Troop 1028 and with my wife Marsha proudly watching two of them make the rank of Eagle Scout, before switching over to Troop 1029 to serve our



utterly amazing and wonderful female Scouts, who are truly the absolutely coolest group of girls I have ever met in my life! I simply LOVE being their Scoutmaster - it's the best volunteer job/adventure in the world!

Alan E, Troop 37 and Troop 1029 - Yes, the Cub Scouts program.

Ed M, Troop 1028 and Venturing Crew 1074 - Yes. As a youth, I was in both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts (now Scouts BSA) from the ages of about 8 to 18. I am an Eagle Scout, and both my brothers are Eagle Scouts as well. I am a Scout volunteer because I want to give back to a program that had a great, positive influence on me when I was young. It gave me the confidence and skills to lead others, and I believe those skills have had a major influence on my life. I feel it is my duty to pay back to Scouting what it gave to me.

Christian R, Pack 77 and Troop 1029 - I wasn't but my wife was a Brownie-Junior in Girl Scouts. Our older child started as a Daisy, but joined Cub Scouts (and bridged to Scouts BSA) after coming to a couple of her younger brother's Den and Pack meetings at Pack 77.

Continue reading on next page



Margi R, Troop 1028 -

Yes, I was a Girl Scout.

Ginny T, Troop 1028

- No, I never had the opportunity! I knew I wanted our son to experience Scouting as my best friend from childhood was an Eagle Scout. When our Cub Scout Pack 77 was desperate for adult leaders, I volunteered and have continued to do so with the Troop. In 2020, my husband, Dave, decided to join the fun as the Troop 1028 Scoutmaster. Scouting has truly become a family affair!

What do you think the benefits of Scouting are for children?

Amy B, Troop 1028 - I feel Scouting has many benefits for children. Scouting teaches children the importance of service, community involvement, and leadership. Scouting challenges kids to stretch themselves outside of their comfort zone, to try new things, and to learn to work both individually and as a team to accomplish a goal. All of these attributes are valuable life-long skills that will help children succeed in life.

Tim B, Troop 1028 - Sense of accomplishment; activities that require diverse skill sets; the respect that the kids show and receive.

Alan E, Troop 37 and Troop 1029 - The opportunities to learn different skills, to spend time outdoors, and to be challenged.

Ed M, Troop 1028 and Venturing Crew 1074 - Scouting's focus on character development, leadership development, citizenship training, and personal fitness provide our youth with skills they need to be successful in life.

Christian R, Pack 77 and Troop 1029 - I think Scouting teaches responsibility and planning at a young age,

along with caring for oneself and others. After high school, we expect our kids to be "grown-up" and ready for the next arc of their life; that can be a huge leap for some. Having a few years, to ramp up their knowledge, skills, independence and experiences (even failures), using advancement by ranks, and the 130+ merit badges, makes the

transition to adulthood less abrupt. --- Or that's my hope!

Margi R, Troop 1028 - I think they learn confidence and many other skills that they will use their entire life. I also think it helps to make it second nature to look at the needs of others and be willing to help and volunteer in the community.

Ginny T, Troop 1028 - There are numerous benefits, but I think the biggest are being surrounded by examples of integrity and being taught invaluable leadership skills.

Our Scouts: How did you get involved in Scouts BSA?

Ryan B, Troop 1028 (age 14) – My friends in the Troop had encouraged me to get involved for about a year and a half, as they thought it would be a good fit for me. I instantly fell in love with it during our first meeting! I am so glad they suggested it!!

Griffin B, Troop 1028 (age 13) - I got involved in Scouts because my friend asked me to join Cub Scouts. Then I kept going through the Scouts BSA program.

Marc C, Troop 1028 (age 17) - I don't remember a time in my life where I wasn't involved in Scouting. Whether it was my oldest brother having meetings at our house I would intrude on, or my younger brother's Den needing me to be their Den Chief, I was always there. Now that my time as a Scout is coming to a close, I realize how important and influential Scouts BSA was in shaping my past, present, and future.

Hannah E, Troop 1029 (age 14) – I went to a Troop 1029 Open House and then I joined!

Sophia R, Troop 1029 (age 12) - I got involved in Scouts BSA through my younger brother. At the time I was in fifth grade and I really wanted my AOL so I did that in six months (the minimum time to be AOL) at Cub Scouts Pack 77 and then I joined Scouts BSA Troop 1029.

Andrew R, Troop 1028 (age 14) - My mom wanted my brother and I to do it, and I saw some of the activities the Cub Scouts did in Pack 77 and it looked fun, especially the Pinewood Derby. Then I continued in Scouts BSA Troop 1028.

Harlow T, Troop 1028 (age 14) - I had heard about Scouts when I was little and just thought it would be cool to be an Eagle Scout someday, so when I was old enough, I joined Cub Scouts Pack 77, which I really enjoyed. When I eventually advanced to Scouts BSA Troop 1028, I had lots of fun meeting everyone and going hiking and camping.

What does Scouts BSA mean to you?

Marc C, Troop 1028 (age 17) - Throughout Scouts, I've done many different things like kayaking, hammocking, rock climbing, scuba diving, sailing, and even flying an airplane, but my favorite thing is seeing my friends and watching them grow alongside me. I always encourage the new Scouts because I know it will be a good experience for them, and every Scouting trip is a fun time regardless of the activity, as long as you have great friends by your side!

Erik R, Troop 1028 (age 13) - To me, it's a great organization where I can enjoy nature, hang out with friends, and learn some new skills.

Andrew R, Troop 1028 (age 14) - It's a good group and it helps me be better at things than I thought I could be. It pushes me to be better.

John R, Troop 1028 (age 12) - It's been part of my life for a long time. I have friends in the Troop and I think Scouts helps me to be a good person and I want to become an Eagle Scout. There is a lot you can learn!

What are your favorite hobbies?

Hannah E, Troop 1029 (age 14) - Reading and baking.

Andrew R, Troop 1028 (age 14) - Camping, fishing, and sports.

Tell us about your pets.

John R, Troop 1028 (age 12) - We have a really sweet 14-year-old dog named Aspen, she's a sheltie and we have a rescue cat named Frisco who is only 2 - he does some really funny stuff.

Any favorite vacations or holidays?

Andrew R, Troop 1028 (age 14) - Christmas is my favorite holiday. In the summer we go to Cleveland and Pittsburgh every year, and I like that because we are visiting our aunts and there are lots of cool things to do.

John R, Troop 1028 (age 12) - Thanksgiving, Christmas

and our Family Birthday when my brother and I got adopted.

Our Scouts: What's your favorite subject in school?

Harlow T, Troop 1028 (age 14) - Math has always been my favorite subject as it has always made sense to me and just the whole process of figuring out the problems. Recently I have discovered I really like history and random historical facts and how they show how much things have changed even just in the last decade.

What's been your favorite Scouts BSA activity?

Ryan B, Troop 1028 (age 14) - My favorite Scouts BSA activity was Summer Camp 2021 at Camp Shenandoah. It was super fun, and it was so great to spend a lot of time with my friends. This was one of the first opportunities we had to all get back together since Covid, so it was great to see everyone again! I learned many skills, like Archery and Geocaching. I loved it!

Griffin B, Troop 1028 (age 13) - My favorite Scouting activity is camping. It's always fun to take a weekend off and spend time with my friends.

Marc C, Troop 1028 (age 17) - In 2018, I got the opportunity to go to the Bahamas Seabase as part of a Troop 1028 Scout crew. We stayed on our boat for a week sailing around the Abaco Sea. Every day would bring us something different to do and with my friends exploring a foreign country was absolutely as fun as it could have possibly been. I learned many different skills on that trip like operating our boat, dropping the anchor, hoisting the sails, and much, much more. It was a great experience and I really loved my time there with the crew.

Sophia R, Troop 1029 (age 12) - We do a LOT of really fun things in Scouts but my favorite has to be the campouts.

Erik R, Troop 1028 (age 13) - Any Eagle Scout service project!

Andrew R, Troop 1028 (age 14) - When we visited the USS Wisconsin in Norfolk and got to sleep on it.

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Scouts BSA: The Adventure of a Lifetime for Boys and Girls!

BY ERIC CUTRIGHT, SCOUTMASTER TROOP 1029 (GIRLS)
PHOTOS BY KEVIN R, TROOP 1029 AND ERIC C, TROOP 1029

Charlottesville is truly blessed with a strong and vibrant Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA population, focused on inclusive and supportive youth development and cheerful community service. The Cub Scouts program is open to all boys and girls from kindergarten through fifth grade, while the Scouts BSA program is open to all boys and girls aged 11 (or aged 10 with an Arrow of Light from Cub Scouts) up to 18 years. Both programs share the same Scout Oath and Scout Law as two of their key foundational cornerstones and guiding principles:

- **Scout Oath:** On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.
- **Scout Law:** A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

This article focuses on the Scouts BSA program and provides information on the awesome Troops serving our area, including the experiences from just a few of our Southside neighborhood Scouting families. We will explore some of the key differences between the Cub Scout and Scouts BSA programs, give an overview of the organization of a Scouts BSA Troop, and then focus on the amazing outings, experiences, and adventures enjoyed by our Scouts.

The first of the three primary differences between the Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA programs is that Scouts BSA Troops are Scout-led. This means that the Scouts lead the program, plan all events and outing adventures, choose their own Patrols, and elect their own leadership from among their peers; while adult leaders serve in the background to provide mentoring, skills training, safety, and support. The second key difference is that Scouts advance through the program at their own pace, working on requirements for each rank from Scout all the way to Eagle, and earning from over 130 Merit Badges in areas that interest them. During their advancement, the older Scouts mentor and teach the younger Scouts, assisted as needed by adult leaders and Merit Badge Counselors. Setting their own pace means that Scouts must seek their own perfect balance of Troop activities with sports, school, church, and other pursuits, since we wholeheartedly believe Scouts should enjoy a full and diverse life! The third difference is that most Troops have the concept of “Scout accounts” where Scouts can pay their own way through the program via diverse fundraising options, from traditional popcorn and peanuts sales to selling and delivering mulch to our neighborhoods each spring. The funds they raise are deposited to their Scout accounts and can be used to pay for outings, summer camps, program fees, and High Adventure programs such as the Philmont Scout Ranch, Seabase, Summit Bechtel Reserve, and the Northern Tier.

Scouts BSA Troops are organized into several Patrols, much like Cub Scout Packs are organized into Dens. The Patrol structures vary from Troop to Troop, but most Patrols consist of Scouts of all ages and ranks to allow skills mentoring and team-building within each Patrol. Some Troops may also use a temporary “New Scout” Patrol led by an experienced older Scout to provide focus on working on early rank requirements and to give new Scouts time to learn their way through the Troop to be in a better position to later pick their final Patrol. Most Troops find that a Patrol size of 8-10 Scouts works well to foster Patrol spirit and build strong friendships.

The Scout leadership for the overall Troop is provided by a Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), who is supported by several Assistant SPLs (ASPLs). Under the SPL, each Patrol elects their own Patrol Leader (PL) and Assistant PL (APL) to provide the leadership at the Patrol level. The Troop is also supported by a variety of other Scout leadership positions including Instructors, Quartermasters, Scribes, Historians, Chaplain Aides, and an Outdoor Ethics Guide, to name just a few. Most Troops hold leadership elections every six months where the Troop Scouts elect their new leaders for the next six months.

The adult leadership for the Troop consists of a Scoutmaster (SM) with multiple Assistant Scoutmasters (ASMs), a Committee Chair (CC), Committee Members, and other adult leadership roles who all work together to support the Troop Scouts. The adults are also usually assigned to a single Patrol with a crazy Patrol name selected by the Scouts – think Fossils, Old Goats, etc. Finally, male and female Scouts BSA Troops each have their own independent Scout leadership and SM, but may share a Troop committee and a Troop Chartering Organization.

To find the Scouts BSA Troops near you, just go to www.beascout.org and enter your zip code to find meeting details, links to their websites, and to request additional information. Most Troops have year-round meetings one evening every week, with a wide variety of themes, outings and adventures to choose from every month. The eight primary Scouts BSA Troops serving our Southside neighborhoods are:

- Troop 1028 (boys) and Troop 1029 (girls), meeting at St. Anne’s Belfield School (but Pen Park for the summer and fall)
- Troop 37 (boys) and Troop 3711 (girls), meeting at Hinton Ave United Methodist Church
- Troop 17 (boys), meeting at Church of Incarnation
- Troop 119 (boys), meeting at Aldersgate Methodist Church
- Troop 79 (boys) meeting at Crozet United Methodist Church
- Troop 114 (boys), meeting at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Ivy



1) Kate R steers our 8-person Troop 1028/1029 crew at Seabase St. Thomas, USVI, July 2021; 2) Brendan T and friends camping at Troop 1028/1029 Kayaking Trip, June 2021; 3) Alex H and Sophia R on the James River near Buchanan, Troop 1028/1029 Kayaking Trip, June 2021; 4) Sophia R shows off her archery skills at Summer Camp July 2021, Camp Shenandoah (Swoope, VA); 5) dusty game of ga-ga ball at Summer Camp July 2021, Camp Shenandoah (Swoope, VA); 6) Combination Troop 1028 and 1029 at Summer Camp July 2021, Camp Shenandoah (Swoope, VA); 7) Troop 1028 at Summer Camp July 2021, Camp Shenandoah (Swoope, VA); 8) Troop 1029 at Summer Camp July 2021, Camp Shenandoah (Swoope, VA); 9) Foil meal cooking at Summer Camp July 2021, Camp Shenandoah (Swoope, VA); 10) Emma H and Ari E staging for the fire-building competition, Summer Camp July 2021, Camp Shenandoah (Swoope, VA); 11) Ari E showing off her big pocketknife skills, Summer Camp July 2021, Camp Shenandoah (Swoope, VA); 12) Troop 1028/1029 caving trip (deep in the cave), Franklin, WV, September 2019; 13) Troop 1028/1029 caving trip (successful but very muddy exit), Franklin, WV, September 2019; 14) Lizzie F, Sophia R, and Ari E cooking at Troop 1029 Winter Campout, December 2020, Camp Shenandoah (Swoope, VA); 15) Troop 1028 Scouts Nicholson and Jackson L, and parents Chip and Donna, August 2021 (couldn't make photoshoot with Rob) – live in Redfields neighborhood



Scouts BSA Craft Corner: "The Child" Keychain

STORY AND PHOTOS BY EMILY R, TROOP 1029 (GIRLS)

Let's just say that Troop 1029's Emily R is a huge fan of Star Wars The Mandalorian, so she was a tad bit excited to find a "The Child" (a.k.a. "Grogu" and sometimes incorrectly as "Baby Yoda") paracord keychain video plan online. This plan uses standard 550 paracord and two main knots – a single Monkey Fist and lots of Cobra knots. Check out the awesome step-by-step video by Weavers of Eternity on YouTube:



<https://youtu.be/vuX36kyhgxs>

For this project, you will need the following supplies:

- 4 feet green 550 paracord (head and arms)
- 4 feet gold 550 paracord (body)
- 10 inches gold 550 paracord (ring strap)
- 1 keychain ring
- 1 standard marble (for Monkey Fist head)

Emily also modified these to be worn as Scouts BSA neckerchief slides by making a loop on the back of the body instead of the keychain at the top. Here's a capture of the main steps of the process; give it a try and use crazy colors to really make it your own!!



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