



Program Overview

Mission

BSA Troop 1028 is a Scout-led unit. Ours is a value-based community, a proud and encouraging team. We foster and train engaged citizen leaders amidst an exciting atmosphere of fun and real adventure!

Our very diverse and skilled Scouters provide strong support for boys seeking true self-reliance. We hope that Scouts ultimately become ready and prepared to do the right thing, doing their best wherever they are, whenever they can, with whatever they have.

Our outings include backcountry campouts, bicycle trips, canoeing, sea kayaking, rafting, climbing, Scout camps, etc. We believe in fun, fulfilling challenges.



If you don't think this is awesome, you need to go back to Awesome School!" —ASM John Burger

Advancement

The Scouts of Troop 1028 advance at their own pace under the oversight of our adult leaders. While we strive to insure that Scouts advance as quickly as their initiative, skills, and understanding allow, our Scouts "learn and earn" their skills, awards, and ranks. The *Boy Scout Handbook* is the key advancement guide and should be brought to every meeting.

Scouts progress according to their own pace within an encouraging, supportive structure. Whenever possible and feasible, Scouts teach their fellows, for this benefits both teacher and pupil.

Fortunately, we benefit from the support of a diverse, skilled, and committed group of Scouts and Scouters. We are also very active. Our varied program provides Scouts with lots of advancement opportunities. This makes it feasible for a Scout to obtain his First Class rank within a year of joining... but only if the Scout is motivated. As we like to say to all our Scouts: *"It's always your move!"*

Activities

Troop 1028 aspires to offer its Scouts varied activities. Each May and November, our Scout leadership team plans our annual program, setting forth monthly themes and general activity plans.

We've tried pretty hard to balance broad Scout community activities such as service projects, camporees, and summer camps with more challenging backcountry activities better tied to nature. Of course, the troop's average age and experience level vary from year to year, so we adjust our program accordingly.

The balance extends monthly themes and activity content. We promote a healthy mix of skill and character development within an aggressive program of rank and merit badge advancement. Scouts may join the Troop at any time, but we have our greatest influx of new recruits in February and March. So, we emphasize basic skill development each Spring. This prepares Scouts for their first taste of backcountry and then Summer Camp. We save most of higher skill activities for later in the year. Of course, we try to keep things fun for Scouts of all ages all of the time.

Our troop seeks diversity in a truly fun, enriching, spiritually strong program. We do this by using a multi-year activity cycle geared to discourage repetition in less than a 2- or 3-year period. Except for some district camporees and our annual "Scout Skills Campout," we try not to revisit the same site in consecutive years.

Troop Meetings

Troop 1028 meets every Monday evening (save most school holidays) from 7:00-8:30 pm, year round.

We usually meet at our Chartered Organization's home: St. Anne's-Belfield, Lower School Campus, by the US Rte 250 Bypass, Charlottesville, VA. For watercraft training or a trip to a civic event, we'll meet off site (e.g., at Walnut Creek Park, Charlottesville City Hall, etc.).

Outdoor Activity Weekends

As noted, Troop 1028 likes to get outdoors at least one weekend a month. This is usually the third weekend. Ideally, we camp at least one night under the stars. Most months we hit the road on a Friday afternoon, camp two nights, and return home in the early afternoon on Sunday. During the darker Standard Time months, we leave early on Saturday morning and return in mid-afternoon on Sunday.

Participation

Scouting is part of a well rounded life. Our Scouts participate in sports, music, academics, social events and their faith as well as Scouting. While Scouting requires commitment, especially in



context of service and rank advancement, we believe Scouts should enjoy a diverse life. A well-rounded life promotes growth, happiness, and self-reliance.

We ask that each family provide at least 1+ hour per month of active support (e.g., driving) to our troop.

Expenses

Part of a Scout's training involves learning how to budget things. We employ a "pay as you go" program. Scouts prepay activity fees, the cost of food, transport, etc. Generally, we confine food bills to less than \$10 per day. We ask the Scouts to pay a transport fee equal to \$5 per hour of to-site driving (i.e., \$5 x #hrs one way).

Funding

Troop fees are \$70 per year, with \$35 due March and October or when joining. This fee covers the January BSA recharter fee. We expect Scouts to participate in BSA fundraisers where a portion of their sales supports the Troop. Another portion goes directly into the Scout's "Scout Account," which may be used towards summer camp, camporees, high adventure camps, and other Troop activities. Some of our Scouts pay for all their annual Scout activities with their Scout Accounts, covering some or all out-of-pocket expenses.

The Troop maintains "Scout Accounts" for each Scout. A portion of money raised by the Scout goes into their Scout Account and may be used towards summer camp, camporees, high adventure camps, etc.

Organization

Troop 1028 currently operates 3 permanent patrols (**Cobras**, **Mountaineers**, **Wolverines**) and 1 "transition" patrol (**Phoenix**). New Scouts joining the Troop in early Spring begin in the Phoenix patrol, which exists from late February to June of each year. A dedicated Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM) mentors each patrol. Our older Scouts mentor their younger fellows.

Patrol Leaders (PLs) run their patrols according to the "patrol method." Each PL often delegates tasks to his self-appointed staff, including his Assistant Patrol Leader (APL). Below patrol level or on ad hoc travel, our Scouts always use the "Buddy System."

All PLs report to the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), who runs the troop. He delegates tasks to his staff. The SPL appoints his Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL), Quartermaster, Scribe, etc. soon after his election.

We elect new youth leaders each May and November.

Scout Leadership

The SPL oversees a Patrol Leader Council (PLC). This unit plans troop activities. The PLC meets after Scout Meetings. Accompanied by the "out-going leadership" the newly-elected/appointed PLC also gathers for annual "Planoree" in late November or early December. They then set the following year's program.

The SPL may appoint younger Scouts of senior rank, standing, and ability as Instructors. Like the job of ASPL



or Quartermaster, this is an appointed position.

An SPL may—with the Scoutmaster's (SM's) blessing—appoint a distinguished senior Scout as a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster (JASM). A JASM generally needs to have attained Life or Eagle rank, served as SPL, and/or reached the age of 16. Serving until the age of 18, a JASM assists in program support and Scout training.

Charter Organization

We receive wonderful support from the men and women of our great Chartered Organization: St. Anne's-Belfield School (Lower School), 799 Faulconer Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22903. Thank you STAB!

We provide published information on our troop website (www.troop1028.org) and our secure Facebook page. We also circulate a Troop Newsletter.

Scouters

The Troop Committee oversees the troop and interfaces with the Chartered Organization. The Scoutmaster reports to our committee at monthly meetings, which typically occur on the Sunday following the first Thursday (District Roundtable night) of each month.

Troop Committee

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| • Committee Chair | John Breen |
| • Advancement | Ed Murphy |
| • Treasurer | Wes Bryan |
| • Quartermaster | Sue Saliba |
| • Service & Medical Ops | Kelly Vincel |
| • Fundraising | Rahul Sharma & Sharon Shelton |
| • Order of the Arrow | Nate Szejniuk |
| • Chairman Emeritus | Susan Murphy |
| • At Large | Diane Benham, ASMs |

Scoutmaster & Asst Scoutmasters

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| • Scoutmaster | Jeff Monroe |
| • ASM (Cobras) | Rahul Sharma |
| • ASM (Mountaineers) | Trey Steigman |
| • ASM (Wolverines) | Bob Warring (ex SM) |
| • ASM (Phoenix) | Eric Cutright |
| • ASM (Life to Eagle) | John Burger |
| • ASM (At Large) | Pete Fenlon |

Please see the Troop 1028 "Welcome Guide" for more details.

