



Troop 54 New Scout & Parent Orientation

Sunday, September 13, 2026
7:00 PM on Zoom

What is Scouting America about?

Mission Statement

The mission of Scouting America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Vision Statement

Scouting America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.



8 Methods in Scouts BSA - “how”



Oath & Law



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

Reverent

Motto & Slogan



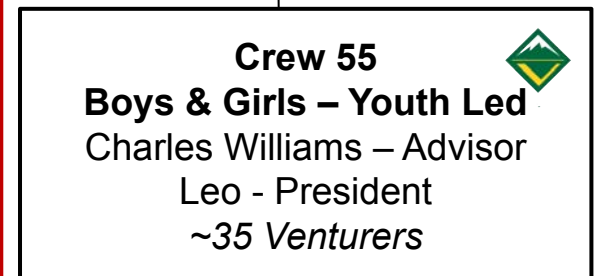
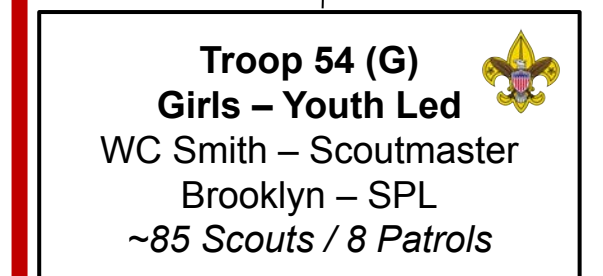
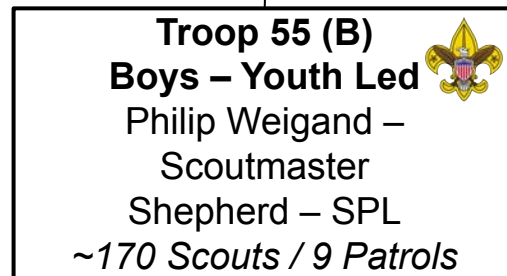
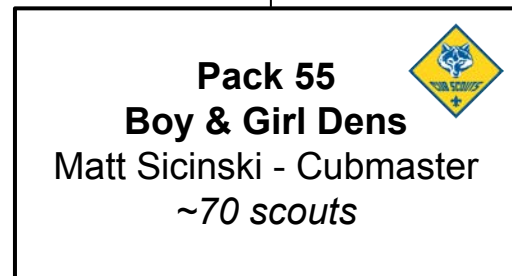
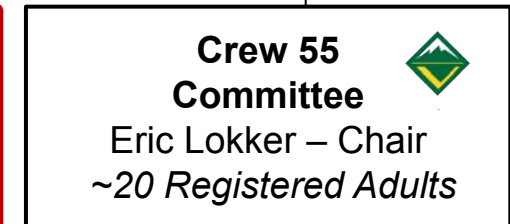
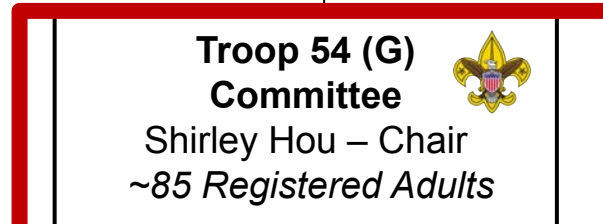
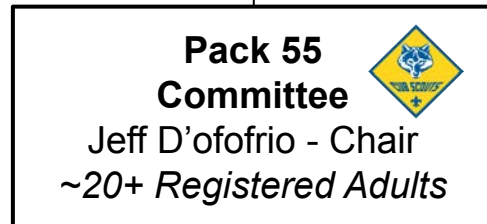
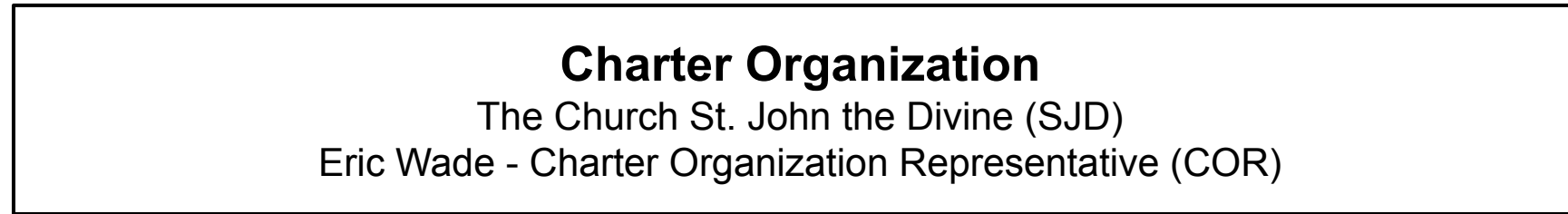
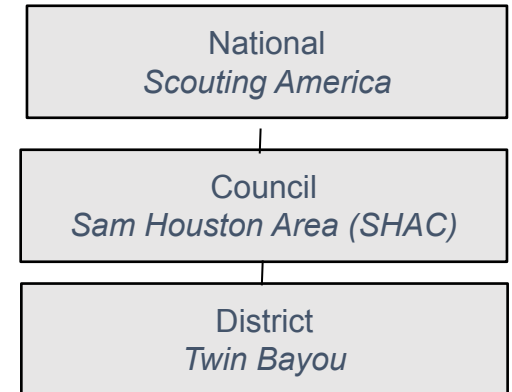
Scout Motto

“Be prepared!”

Scout Slogan

“Do a good turn daily!”

SJD Scouting Org Structure



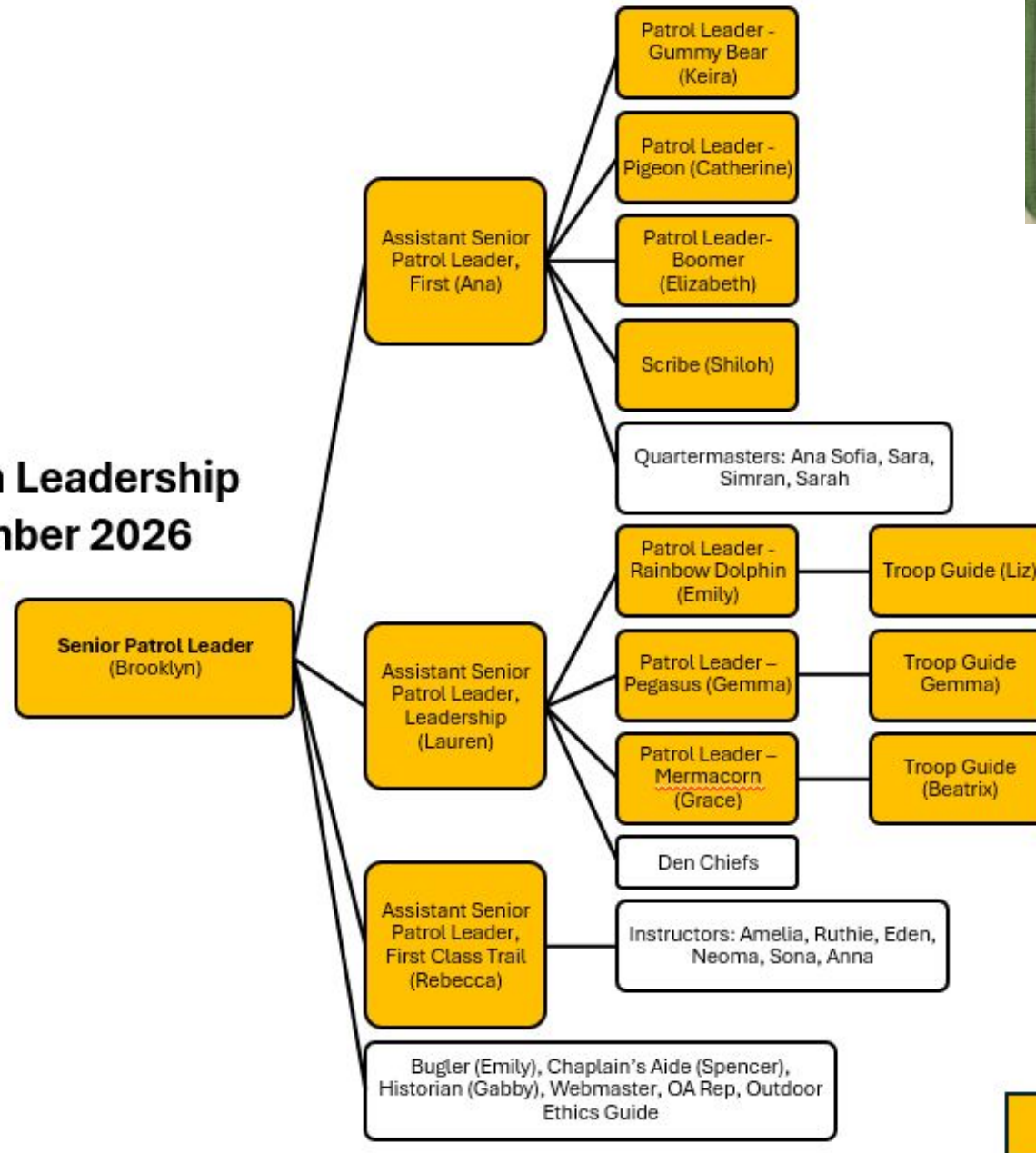
Cub Scouts – Ages 5 to 10

Scouts BSA – Ages 11 to 17

Venturing – Ages 14 to 20

Youth-Led & Patrol Method

**Troop 54 Youth Leadership
July - December 2026**



Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC)

2026-27 Calendar Highlights



- Monday Troop meetings - started August 17th
- **Four** Court of Honors planned; first one is September 28th
- “Bring a Friend” Night - August 31st
- Scout Sunday - Feb 21, 2027
- Spring Swim Test - April 10, 2027



Campouts and Outings (11)

1. Huntsville SP (September 18-20, 2026)
2. Trail to Troop (September 25-27)
3. Ball Ranch (October 23-25)
4. Doggie Social (October 31)
5. Yellow Creek (November 13-15)
6. Full Throttle (December 4-6)
7. Webb Ranch (January 22-24, 2027)
8. Camporee (February 26 - 28)
9. Lake Livingston (March 19-21)
10. Enchanted Rock (April 23 - 25)
11. Galveston SP Day Outing (May 8)



There's a lot of camping.



The Great (and Muddy) Outdoors: The outdoors is where real Scouting happens. Camping is foundational to Scouts BSA, providing hands-on leadership and self-reliance.

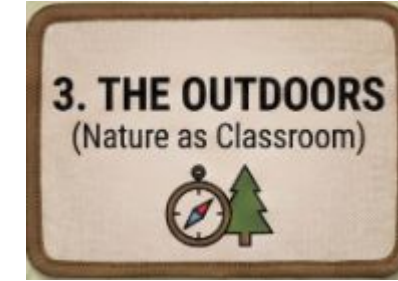
Safety in Trained Adult Leaders: Nature can be wild, but our leaders are trained to manage outdoor risks through rigorous adult leader training, comprehensive safety guidelines, and Scouting America policies.

Building Grit: Things will get messy, rain will happen, and crying can happen when the situation is uncomfortable and inconvenient. That's where the real magic happens.

Troop 54 New Scout Camping Gear Picture Chart

Gear choices are highly personal, and every Scout develops her own preferences through trail experience. Consider this guide a directional starting point

TENT <i>Backpacking style 2 or 3 person</i> REI Trail Hut 2 https://www.rei.com/product/C03309/rei-co-op-trail-hut-2-tent-with-footprint 	SLEEPING PAD <i>Closed-cell foam or inflatable</i> Z Lite Sol Sleeping Pad https://www.rei.com/product/171690/therm-a-rest-z-lite-sol-sleeping-pad 	SLEEPING BAG <i>Backpacking style tent, 15-30-degree rated sleeping bag.</i> REI Trailmade 25 https://www.rei.com/product/C03116/rei-co-op-trail-made-25-sleeping-bag 
DUFFEL BAG <i>40-55 Liter</i> https://www.rei.com/product/235570/rei-co-op-road-tripper-40-duffel 	DAY PACK <i>18-25 Liter</i> https://www.rei.com/product/244514/deuter-speed-lite-21-pack 	1 L WATER BOTTLE (need two) <i>Nalgene, 32 oz</i> https://www.rei.com/product/255207/rei-co-op-nalgene-sustain-logo-wide-mouth-water-bottle-32-fl-oz 
MESS KIT <i>Sea to Summit Camp Dinnerware Set</i> https://www.rei.com/product/C05088/sea-to-summit-camp-dinnerware-set-with-mesh-sack-6-piece 	HEADLAMP <i>Battery or rechargeable (USB)</i> https://www.rei.com/product/202772/black-diamond-d-astro-300-headlamp 	CLOTHING • No cotton or cotton blend: "Cotton Kills" • No denim jeans • Layers! • Wool/polyester socks (Thorlo brand) • Sturdy but light athletic or hiking shoes 



BSA Troop 54 Camping Checklist

Camping Gear

- ☐ Tent
- ☐ Tent ground cloth (footprint)
- ☐ Sleeping bag
- ☐ Sleeping pad
- ☐ Pillow
- ☐ Head lamp or Small flashlight
- ☐ Extra batteries
- ☐ Backpack (or duffle bag)
- ☐ Daypack
- ☐ Water bottles (Nalgene)
- ☐ Camp bowl
- ☐ Utensils (fork, knife + spoon)
- ☐ Camping cup
- ☐ D-rings (various uses)
- ☐ 3 one-gallon size zip-lock bags
- ☐ Camp chair
- ☐ Chamois camp towel
- ☐ Duct tape
- ☐ Personal first aid kit
- ☐ Pocket knife or Leatherman tool
- ☐ Compass

Scout Stuff

- ☐ Class A Scout shirt (travel, flags + chapel)
- ☐ Class B Scout shirts (daily activities)
- ☐ Scout handbook + pen
- ☐ Scout pants, shorts or skort
- ☐ Scout belt
- ☐ Scout socks

Clothing

- ☐ Hiking shorts
- ☐ Long pants, activity appropriate
- ☐ Pajamas
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Sun hat

Footwear

- ☐ Hiking boots
- ☐ Sneakers
- ☐ Flip flops

Personal Care (Unscented products)

- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Toothpaste
- ☐ Toothbrush
- ☐ Feminine products
- ☐ Soap leaves
- ☐ Hairbrush
- ☐ Hair ties

Weather Gear (for climate)

- ☐ Fleece jacket
- ☐ Down jacket
- ☐ Rain jacket
- ☐ Rain pants
- ☐ Long underwear
- ☐ Ski cap
- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Sunglasses

Water Gear (Activity dependent)

- ☐ One-piece swimsuit
- ☐ Personal Flotation Device (Life preserver)
- ☐ Water shoes
- ☐ Mesh bag

Outdoor Gear (Optional)

- ☐ Fishing poles
- ☐ Tackle box
- ☐ Hammock
- ☐ Tree straps (for hammocks)
- ☐ Frisbee or other outdoor games
- ☐ Cards or other tent games

Scout Specific (Eyeglasses)

- ☐ Eye glasses
- ☐ Contact lenses + solution

Prescription Medication + OTC Meds

- ☐ All prescription and OTC meds need to be in original containers with dosage instructions, placed in a zip lock bag, clearly labeled with the Scout's name, emergency contact and doctor's contact information. Campout specific medical officer will retain and dispense all daily / emergency meds.
- ☐ Epi-pen or Asthma inhaler remains with Scout

Troop 54 (November 2019)

troop54htx.com > **Camping** > **Camping Checklist** page

Advancement



	Rank	Min. Time	Typical Goal Posts	To get to this rank, you will focus on...
First Class Trail (FCT) program	New Scout (no rank)	0	age 11	Welcome to the troop!
	Scout		5th - 6th grade	Scout Oath, Law, patrol method, Youth Protection
	Tenderfoot		6th - 7th grade	Camping, Cooking, Tools (knots and lashings), Nature, Hiking, Fitness
	Second Class		7th - 8th grade	Camping, Cooking, more knots, Navigation, Aquatics, First Aid, Fitness, Citizenship, Personal Safety
First Class to Life program	***First Class**	4 months	8th grade or earlier	All the above!
	Star	6 months	9th grade	Merit Badges (6), Position of Responsibility, Service Hours (6), Youth Protection
Life to Eagle program	Life	6 months	9th - 10th grade	Merit Badges (5 more), Position of Responsibility, Service Hours (3 hours conservation, 6 total)
	Eagle		11th - 12th grade (by 18th birthday)	Merit Badges (10 more, total 21), Eagle Project, Life Statement

Scouts BSA Handbook

A photograph of a spiral-bound notebook showing a "FIRST CLASS RANK REQUIREMENTS" form for a Scout named Beatrix. The form is divided into sections: CAMPING AND OUTDOOR ETHICS, COOKING, TOOLS, NAVIGATION, and NATURE. Each section contains numbered requirements (e.g., 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, etc.). The form is signed by a youth leader (VB) on the right side and a parent (VB) on the left side. The parent's signature is "VB" and the date is "1/22/25". The youth leader's signature is "VB" and the date is "1/27/25". There are also handwritten notes and signatures in the margins, including "GM 11/15/25" and "VB 1/27/25".

This is the official record.

The Scout is responsible for record keeping, not an adult.

This is not passive! *Explain, Use, Demonstrate, Describe, Assemble*
Instructors (youth) sign the left side.
Leaders (adult) sign the right side.

Parents NEVER sign the handbook.
**except Scout #6 and Star #6 Youth Protection*

Your Scout's Circle of Support



Your Scout's **Patrol** is the first stop:

Rainbow Dolphin (PL: Emily, TG: Liz)

Pegasus (PL: Grace H, TG: Gemma)

Mermacorn (PL: Grace M, TG: Beatrix)

"Ask your patrol leader"

Next, ask the **ASPL for FCT**: Rebecca H.

Adults - FCT Coordinators (fct@troop54houston.org):

Victoria Benoit*, Tram Nguyen, Kami D'Olive

Adults - Patrol Assistant Scoutmasters (PASMs):

1. Theresa Lawler*
2. Judson Crowder
3. Matt Franke
4. Olle Lorehn
5. Ryan Miller
6. Eric DÓlive
7. Jason Johnson
8. Bryan Treadway
9. Stacey Van Camp
10. Tracy Wolfson

pasms@troop54houston.org

Do This: Tips for Parents



1. **First Class Trail:** Prioritize **FCT sessions**, especially those that cover “difficult” requirements
2. **Weekly Meetings:** Consistent attendance is the best way for your Scout to bond with her patrol.
3. **Prioritize Camping:** Encourage your Scout to attend as many **campouts** as possible. You won’t advance by staying indoors. Seriously consider sending your Scout to a **summer camp**.
4. **Know the requirements.** Learn the Scouts BSA Handbook with your Scout.
5. **Get Connected:** Set up your Scout in My.Scouting.org with her own username and password. Allow her to track her own advancement progress and get the newsletter. ***That means she needs her own email address!***
6. **Self Advocacy:** Your Scout should communicate directly with the Scoutmaster and adult leaders. *Note:* She must copy a parent or second adult on all emails to follow Youth Protection guidelines.
7. **Parents, get involved:** Studies show that an involved parent increases the likelihood of a Scout achieving Eagle rank. ***Register as an adult volunteer. Get trained. Read the newsletter.***

Not That: Tips for Parents



1. Don't skip* FCT meetings, Monday troop meetings and monthly campouts.
2. Let your Scout pack her own camping gear. Also, plan to stay at the campout for the whole weekend (avoid arriving late or leaving early).
3. Don't prioritize merit badges over rank advancement. Merit badges, especially Eagle merit-badges, should not be started until your Scout reaches, or is close to, First Class rank.
4. Don't contact an adult leader about a problem** before **letting your Scout try on her own first**. Allow her to try to resolve the issue through the Youth Chain of Command (Patrol Leader > Senior Patrol Leader > PASM or Scoutmaster).

** We know life is busy. "Don't skip" means try to attend as many as possible.*

*** A "problem" means a logistical or interpersonal squabble, not a safety or Youth Protection violation.*

T54 Communications

Weekly Newsletter

- Email tied to my.Scouting.org
- If you are not receiving the newsletter, email tcc@troop54houston.org.

Troop Web Site

www.troop54houston.org

- Calendar, Troop Handbook, & Directory
- Subscribe to the Google troop calendar!

WhatsApp Community

- Real-time updates
- Quick reminders
- Scan QR code to join



Online Store

shop.troop54houston.org

- Pay for campouts & summer camps
- Pay annual troop dues
- Pay for uniform accessories

SignUp Genius

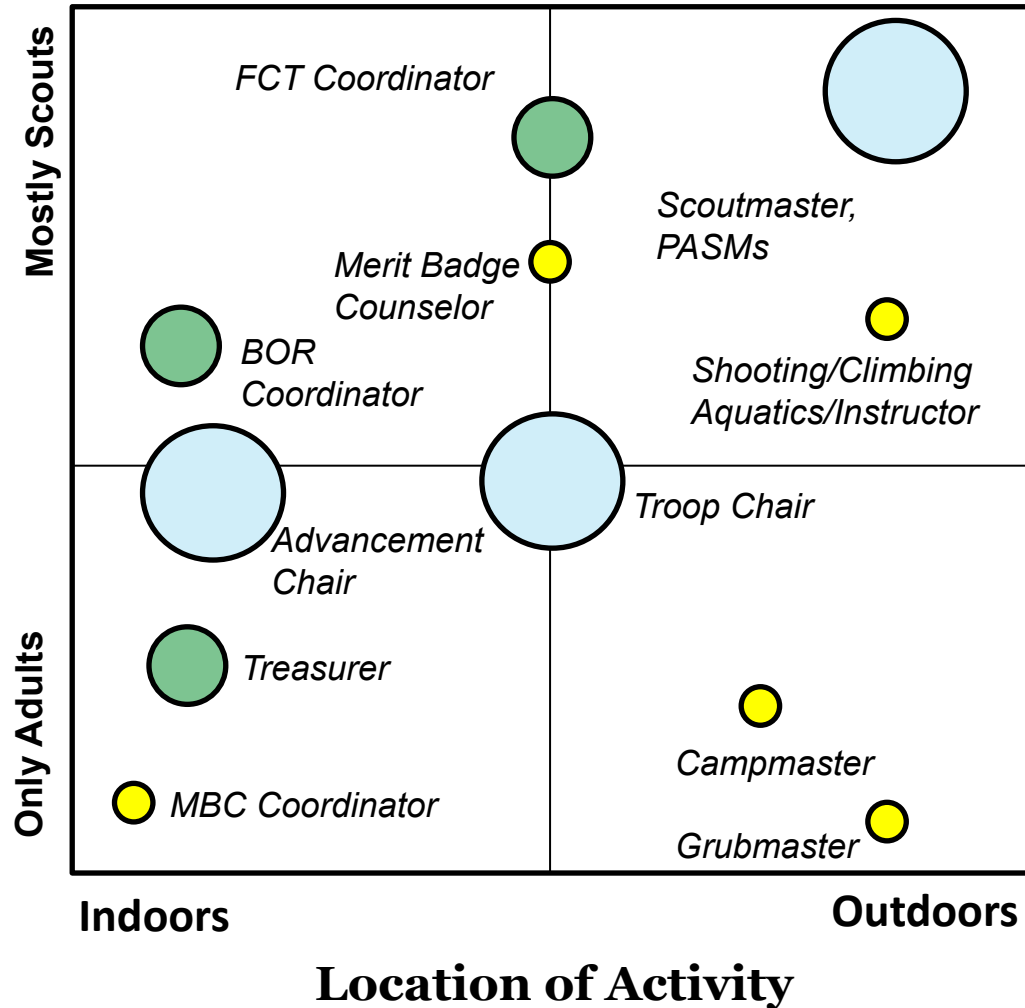
- Trailer Load-Out Duty
- Events (FCT sessions, Service Projects, etc.)

In-Person at Meetings**

- Most campout details are discussed within patrols at Monday meetings.
- **Ask your Scout** what was discussed.

Adult volunteers make it happen.

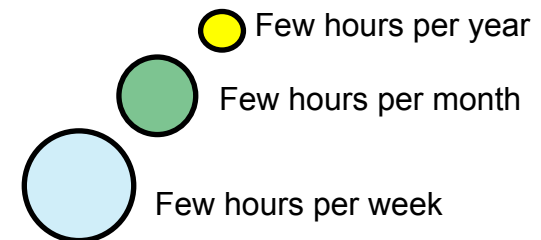
Primary Interaction



Key Messages

- It takes a village
- We need you too
- Find a job that fits you
- We provide training
- Your Scout is more likely to remain in Scouts / make Eagle if you are involved
- Troop requires succession planning

Frequency Per School Year



T54 Volunteer Needs for 2026-27

Contact Committee Chair Shirley Hou at tcc@troop54houston.org to get involved.

OUTDOOR YOUTH-FACING

- 1-2 more FCT PASM who go on campouts
- Speciality Training - **Range Safety Officers (RSO), NRA, Climbing**
- 1-2 more Red-Cross certified **Lifeguards** (by March 2027)
- **Board of Review** (at campouts)

OUTDOOR ADULT-FACING

- **Campmasters** for Lake Livingston State Park (March) and Galveston (May)
- **Assistant Campmasters** and Assistant Grubmasters for all campouts
- 1-2 more **Trailer Pullers**

INDOOR YOUTH-FACING

- **At least one PASM** committed to each FCT session and troop meeting
- **Board of Review** (at meetings)
- **Merit Badge Counselors** (year-round)

INDOOR ADULT-FACING

- **Treasurer** (year-round)
- **Unit Training Chair** (Sep, Dec, Mar)
- **Unit Fundraising Chair** (Sep-Dec)
- **Friends of Scouting Liaison** (Jan-Mar)
- **Merit Badge Counselor Coordinator** (year-round)
- **Medical Records Auditor** (2x year)

Questions?

Thank you

*for your time, energy and commitment working
with our daughters as we prepare them to be
leaders that make ethical and moral choices over
their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the
Scout Oath and the Scout Law.*



**Scouting
America™**