

Cambridge Troop/Crew 56

St. James Church
1991 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140
www.troopcrew56.org

Meetings: Tuesdays, September to June, 7:00 to 8:30 PM



Troop/Crew 56 is proud to be a co-ed organization and a member of the Boston Minuteman Council, whose written non-discrimination policy includes sexual orientation. Troop/Crew 56 welcomes Scouts, families and volunteers regardless of sexual orientation.

JOIN US!! Ages 11-20

Contact us for more information or attend one or more weekly meetings and learn more about the program.

Contact Information:

Scoutmaster: David English Englishdavid11@yahoo.com / 617-547-1653

Venture Advisor: Robin Bonner Desert_mouse@verizon.net / 617-497-8463

Troop Committee Chair: Dr. Michelle Holmes mdhmd@aol.com / 617-820-8035

Charter Organization Representative: Derrick Jackson jackson@globe.com

"No other youth group like the Scouts has trained so many future leaders while at the same time being a nature organization with its outdoor focus..." Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods and The Nature Principle.



"I am at least as capable of achieving Eagle Scout as any other scout in my troop, but I am not allowed to become one, because I am a girl. ...I've always dreamed of being an Eagle Scout. I like hiking and nature, and I also want to prove that girls can do just as much as boys..." Madeleine Desnoyers, Troop/Crew 56

Scouting for All: Troop/Crew 56

Empowering youth to be leaders is the core of Scouting. Troop/Crew 56 offers scouting to boys and girls ages 11 through 20, by combining a Boy Scout troop, a Venturing Crew and a BSA Learning for Life program. This combination of programs provides a fully co-ed Scouting experience. Troop/Crew 56 welcomes Scouts, families, and volunteers regardless of sexual orientation.

For more information please visit our web site at Troop/Crew 56 website: www.troopcrew56.org. For more information on the local organization please visit <http://bsaboston.org> and for information on opportunities for Scouts <http://meritbadge.org>.

Costs

All scouts pay a yearly activity fee, which covers the cost of participating in regular weekend trips, and, this year, includes a Class B TC56 shirt suitable for 3-season camping. The fee is due whether the Scout goes on one trip, a few trips, or all trips. The fee also covers handbooks and awards. The yearly activity fee ranges from \$400-\$500 for the year. There are no refunds.

Scouts are expected to earn at least half the yearly activity fee for themselves. Parents may pay the other half, or encourage Scouts to contribute more. Troop/Crew 56 sponsors at least two youth-selected fundraisers each year to allow Scouts the opportunity to earn their portion of the fees. Scouts who earn money from babysitting, pet sitting, yard work, etc. also may contribute those earnings to their activity fee.

Uniforms and clothing requirements

Troop/Crew 56 encourages Scouts to obtain a Scout or Venturing shirt with the proper insignia and wear this to each meeting. As a Scout becomes more involved, he or she may want to acquire additional “official” uniform pieces such as pants and socks.

Scouts will also need to have proper clothing for outdoor activities and some basic camping equipment. Each trip will have specific items listed as required for safety but the basics are a sleeping bag, insulating pad, mess kit, and water bottles. On backpacking trips, Scouts will need a backpack and hiking boots. To learn more or to discuss offsetting the cost of uniforms or gear, see the Scoutmaster, Advisor, or Committee Chair.

- *New England Scout Shop*: 411 Unquity Road, Milton; 617-615-0004
- *Woburn Scout Shop*: 400 West Cummings Park, #1250, Woburn; 781-937-4282
- Online: www.scoutstuff.org

Adult Leadership/Participation

Parents are encouraged and expected to participate in Troop/Crew 56 activities. There are many opportunities for parents to participate in Scouting; the roles are varied but the goal is always to support youth programming. Opportunities include generally helping with planned activities and trips, joining committees, accompanying Scouts for activities, and driving. All parents are also more than welcome to participate in the adult monthly committee meeting.

2012-2013 Trips Planned

From September to June, Troop/Crew 56 offers at least one outdoor-based weekend activity per month, all covered by the annual fee. Examples of monthly trips include camping, backpacking, canoeing, snow showing, skiing, or white water rafting outings, conservation projects, and outdoor first aid courses.

In the spring, the youth select the trips for the next Scouting year; once the committee approves the choices, the activities coordinator finalizes the activity calendar. This year’s schedule is listed below, although dates are sometimes subject to change.

Sept. 14-16, Maine: White water rafting on the Kennebec
Oct. 6-8, Boston: Scouting's Outdoor Adventure on the River, www.soar2012.org/
Nov. 10-12, Westwood, MA: Turkey Roast at the Hale Reservation. All families are invited to dine!
Dec. 15, Somerville, MA: Escorted bike tour of holiday lights
Jan 2013, Vermont: Out- and indoor sports at Mt. Norris Scout Reservation in Eden.
Feb 16-17, NH: Windblown Cross-Country Skiing & Snowshoeing, New Ipswich, overnighing in the warming hut after backpacking/skiing food and supplies .5 mile in
March 22-24, location TBD: Backpacking
April 26-28, Martha's Vineyard, MA: Island bicycle tour
May 24-26, Royalston, MA: Tully Lake Campground hiking and camping
June 21-23, Boston Harbor Islands: Camp out

All planned trips have adults attending – at least one male and one female, but often more. The Scouts manage the preparation and planning of each trip, including creating menus, buying food and organizing the events. The adults plan and cook their own meals, participate in the activities and advise as required.

Safe Scouting

Troop/Crew 56 adheres to the BSA publication, *The Guide to Safe Scouting* (G2SS). Chiefly, national policy prohibits an adult to be in a one-on-one situation with a youth other than his or her own child, all adult volunteers must complete Youth Protection Training, all trips must include at least two trained leaders, and all trip participants must provide a BSA medical form that includes medical, insurance, and emergency contact information. Unit policy requires that all volunteers and any adult on an overnight trip complete Youth Protection Training courses. More information and courses are available online (<http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx>). In some cases certain equipment and clothing may be required for safety reasons.

Meetings

Meetings are Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm September to June; occasionally merit badge classes will meet from 6:30 to 7:00 pm. Weekly meetings are a time to discuss and plan for upcoming weekend trips and to discuss other Troop/Crew 56 business such as fundraisers, merit badge classes, service opportunities, and other issues.