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## Scout Law:

A scout is:

Trustworthy  
Loyal  
Helpful  
Friendly  
Courteous  
Kind  
Obedient  
Cheerful  
Thrifty  
Brave  
Clean  
Reverent

## Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my  
country  
To obey the Scout Law; To  
help other people at all  
times, and  
to keep myself physically strong,  
mentally awake, and morally  
straight.

## Scout Motto

Be Prepared

## Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my  
best to-  
Be clean in my outdoor manners,  
Be careful with fire,  
Be considerate in the outdoors,  
and  
Be conservation-minded.



Boy Scouts of America

Meetings: Monday, 7:00 P M - 8:30  
P M Neveln Center

Joe Harris, Scoutmaster  
3814 NE Rio Court,  
Ankeny Iowa

Phone: 965-1913  
Cell: 418-2729  
Email: joe.harris@weitz.com

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*We make it look easy.*

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# Welcome to Troop 188



So you've joined or are considering joining Troop 188. Congratulations. But what should a new (or prospective) scout know about the troop, and what should he do first? What is the role of parents in Boy Scouting and how is the troop run? This brief sheet is intended to provide answers to these questions, quickly.

**Background** Troop 188 has been in existence for more than 50 years in Ankeny. It is based at the Neveln Center. We are a medium sized troop resulting in a wide variety of activities for almost every scouting interest, and a substantial amount of adult support. In addition to hikes, service projects, campouts, canoeing and ski trips, the troop also spends one full week each summer at Camp Mitigwa near Boone, Iowa.

Current Leaders Troop Committee Chair:  
Dean Hemphill, Scoutmaster: Joe Harris, Senior  
Patrol Leader: John Hemphill

**Joining Requirements** Any boy who has completed at least the 5<sup>th</sup> grade **or** is at least 11 years old **or** has earned the Arrow of Light Award is eligible to join the Boy Scouts. There is no need to have been in Cub Scouts, but all cubs are certainly encouraged to continue on into Boy Scouts. Simply fill out the **JOIN BOY SCOUTING** form from the Boy Scouts of America (available at any troop meeting). Also complete the **PERSONAL HEALTH HISTORY** on the back of the form. Bring the completed, signed application form to a

meeting.

**What Should a Scout Do?** Sign up, get a uniform and scout manual, read the scout requirements, and come to meetings in uniform with a scout handbook. Above all, enjoy.

**What Should a Scout's Parents Do?** Encourage your Scout. Get a uniform and a manual and teach your scout to sew on badges. Get your scout to meetings; stay occasionally but certainly come back at 8:20 for the meeting wrap up. Encourage him to look at his scout manual to prepare for advancement. Go on some outings and if at all possible, your son's first overnight. As time and interest permit, attend troop committee meetings and get into the life of troop; Try to go to summer camp. Help run trips, bring new ideas for outings, and bring your expertise in offering Merit Badges in a field of interest.



**Structure** The troop meets almost every Monday evening, 7:00-8:30. As necessary for activities, projects and camping, scouts sometimes work in patrols of 4-7 scouts. A senior scout acts as a patrol leader and there are one or more patrols composed of only senior scouts. The troop meetings and much of the administrative work is handled by the senior patrol leader (an older scout). Scouts also serve as librarian, quartermaster, chaplain's aide and historian. The troop is led by the Scouts and supervised by the Scoutmaster and various other uniformed adult assistant scoutmasters.

**Organization** The Troop Committee, composed of interested parents, meets monthly and is headed by the Committee Chairman. All parents are encouraged to attend and assist. Scheduling, advancement, and financial matters are discussed. The Scoutmaster and other adult leaders meet with the patrol leaders and scouts holding offices periodically to plan meetings and activities. Each Troop

outing is coordinated by both adults and scouts

**Activities** As noted, scouts can participate in a wide range of activities including day hikes, service projects, campouts, canoeing and skiing. Scouts (and their parents) choose which activities to participate in – no scout is expected to or even could participate in all. Parental participation ranges from extensive to only occasional depending on the age, tastes, and other factors.

**High Adventure.** Scouts and parents have the opportunity to spend a week in summer in the Boundary Waters in Northern Minnesota. A hiking and camping trip to South Dakota is another example of a trip the scouts and their parents took a couple of years ago. This is a low-cost, fun way for scouts to advance rapidly while enjoying a week of rustic camping. It's also a great way for a parent to share in their son's experience. All high adventure trips are reserved for boys 14 and older who have achieved the First Class rank or higher. Additional merit badge requirements may apply.

**For additional information, check the troop web site [www.troop188ankeny.org](http://www.troop188ankeny.org)**

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