

Troop 888 Parents and Adult Volunteers:

Year after year, Troop 888 has delivered an incredible program for our young Scouts! Our Scouts not only thrive but flourish as they move from rank to rank and demonstrate their newfound leadership abilities while creating timeless outdoor memories together. I would like to take a moment to say 'Thank You' to each parent for your continued support of Troop 888 and for having your children involved in our local Scouting Program. None of this is possible, without the countless hours donated by the adult volunteers of our troop. YOU are paramount to our overall troop success! On behalf of the parents of Troop 888 and as your Committee Chair, I would like to extend to our adult volunteers my most heartfelt gratitude knowing only some of the sacrifices you have made on behalf of our family of Scouts. Thank you.

Each year it is the responsibility of the Troop Committee to come together to propose a budget estimating the annual operating expenses for Troop 888. We include many common and historically understood expenses in our proposals which are to fund our program and include line-item costs for equipment/supplies to keep the troop moving forward on occasion. After all the proposals are hashed out, together as a committee, we identify with a cost per Scout to maintain our program commitment and make a financial decision for annual dues.

Our Troop income is comprised only of the dues that we collect from our scouting families and from any community donations that we may be fortunate enough to receive. The annual dues that we request from each family help offset the costs of awards for our Court of Honor and advancement recognition, maintaining patrol boxes, registering and sustaining the camping trailer, providing Scout books and welcoming neckerchiefs to our incoming Scouts as well as replacing any outdated or exhausted camping equipment. Apart from those scouts going to Summer Camp this year with us to Camp Alexander in the Pikes Peak National Forest, Northern Tier High Adventure (Ely, Minnesota) or other future events which would require lodging, the troop annual dues will continue to cover the activity costs for all the Scouts involved in our scheduled camping or hiking events as in years past. There are times additional fees for activities will be requested for events the require individual admission to participate but those are usually infrequent.

Some of these currently scheduled for 2023 that will be covered by our annual dues include: the Klondike campout in February, backpacking in the Colorado Sand Dunes in April, our Trail to First Class campout in May (McKeever Ranch), our Annual Family campout planned for August (place TBD) and our Annual Council Camporee in September. Annual dues will also cover materials and costs involved with the junior leadership training (ILST – Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops) class coming up soon and some of the costs for our Scouts to attend NYLT (National Youth Leadership training - Bighorn). Dues will additionally cover many additional events currently in the planning phase that will be announced soon. It is safe to say there is a lot going on in 2023!

Troop 888 Annual Dues for 2023 are the following: \$120 for the first scout and \$100 for each additional scout in the same family. Any checks to pay for a Scout's Annual Dues can be made payable to Troop 888 but must be submitted to our Troop Treasurer. OR use one of our online payment links (<https://www.bsa88.com/payments>). If you decide to use one of the online payment systems, please print your receipt and send it with your Scout to a future meeting to be submitted to our Troop Treasurer (Philip Somers). Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

We are all incredibly excited about the great experiences that Troop 888 has planned for 2023. Any suggestions are always welcome and encouraged as this is OUR troop and OUR family of Scouts. I am always looking for new volunteers to help us make Troop 888 even more successful. Please contact me directly if you are interested.

Yours in Scouting,

Keith Leswing
Troop 888 Committee Chair
303.670.8807
committeechair@bsa888.com

Using Scout Passbook Accounts

The Troop sponsors scout fundraising activities throughout the year and most of the funds raised are allocated to individual scout accounts referred to as their personal Passbook accounts. If your scout has a balance in his account, you can apply part or all these funds to your annual dues or to a future summer camp payment.

NOTE: It is the troop policy that scout accounts are converted to general Troop funds should a scout decide to leave scouting but transfers to sibling accounts are permitted.

If you have any questions about the scout accounts or require more information about the Passbook balances, please contact our awesome Troop Treasurer, Philip Somers at treasurer@bsa888.com.

Medical Forms

Medical form packets are required for trip participation and need to be completed annually (and updated as needed) for any registered Scout AND any participating Adult Volunteer. Any Scout or Adult Volunteer who does not have their medical forms up to date and approved by our Medical Forms Coordinators cannot participate in any troop activities outside of our weekly troop meetings. You can find our Troop Medical Form Packet posted on the troop website www.bsa888.com under the Resources tab (or find it included here for your convenience).

If you have any questions regarding the medical forms, please talk with our amazing Medical Forms Coordinator, Allison Guyton (507-202-6565). Or feel comfortable emailing her at medicalforms@bsa888.com.

The Troop 888 Medical Form Packet includes the following parts.

It is imperative to have all these items reviewed and signed off by one of the coordinators.

- BSA Medical Form Part A (1 page)
- BSA Medical Form Part B (2 pages - *The Allergy/Medications section needs to be signed by your Doctor*)
- BSA Medical Form Part C (1 page – *to be signed and dated by your Doctor*)
- Proof of Insurance – *Please copy both the front and back of your insurance card on the front of a single page*
- Colorado Addendum: Immunizations (1 page)
- Colorado Addendum: Additional Information (1 page)

Important notes about the Medical Form sections:

- Please be sure to fill in every line and mark every box. Mark “N/A” if it is not applicable.
- It is sometimes necessary to have the immunization record from your Doctor’s office. With this record included it is simple to mark “See attached” for these sections on Part B (pg. 2) and the top section of the CO Addendum.
- For adults, please be sure to have a current Tetanus (within the last 10 years) and provide the date on Part B under the immunization section.
- In the state of Colorado, your family physician will need to sign the “Allergies / Medications” section of Part B . This signature is required if your scout is taking medications or not.
- Your family physician should also sign Part C within a year of an annual physical. Give the forms to your physician and s/he will typically sign and date it if your son has had a physical in the last 12 months. A new physical exam is **NOT** required in January to complete this form. If your physician is unable to complete Part C by February 6, please submit all parts, except C, with a note as to when we can expect a complete packet.
- If any scout or adult from your family will be attending a High Adventure camp (i.e. Big Horn, Philmont, Sea Base or similar) in this coming year, please be sure that your physician checks the box for “High Adventure” under “Examiner’s Certification” of boxes on the right side of Part C.