

Welcome to Girl Troop 58

Frequently Asked Questions



Here are some of the most frequently asked questions about GT58, like “Can girls really be in the Boy Scout of America (BSA) program? Yes! For even more info, visit our website: www.GT58Davidson.com or email our Scoutmaster (GT58SM@gmail.com).

Who can join Scouts BSA?

Any boy or girl can join Scouts BSA regardless of their outdoor experiences or whether or not they were a Cub Scout. They must, however, be under 18 years old AND satisfy one of the following:

- Be at least 11 years old
- Be at least 10 years old and are currently in the 5th grade, and register on or after March 1st
- Be at least 10 years old and have already earned the Arrow of Light Award as a Cub Scout

How long has Girl Troop 58 been around?

Girl Troop 58 was founded on February 1, 2019 (when the scout BSA program changed their rules to allow girl troops) with support from leaders in Boy Troop 58, which has been around since 1935.

When and where does Girl Troop 58 (GT58) meet?

GT58 meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm (except for the last Tues. of the month) in the downstairs youth lounge at the Davidson College Presbyterian Church (DCPC) Congregation House (*located at 218 Concord Rd, Davidson, NC*).

Will my scout be left behind if they do not attend all meetings or every campout?

No. Scouts progress through scouting at their own pace. The troop understands that there are multiple demands on your child’s time (sports & other extracurricular activities) but encourages as much participation as possible. Participation in at least 50% of the meetings and campouts is encouraged for rank advancement.

How large is Girl Troop 58?

The all-girl troop has about 25 members; most attend weekly meetings and monthly campouts/trips. Within the troop, scouts are divided into smaller groups, called patrols. Each has an elected patrol leader and functions almost like a family. They divide up the chores and work together as a group to meet their goals. They develop a patrol spirit and take pride in their accomplishments as a team. GT58 currently has 3 patrols.

Do I have to choose Girl Troop 58?

No. If you have the opportunity, take time to visit multiple troops. Consider proximity and the activities of each troop. Watch the interactions between the scouts and the adult leaders; consider, is that the type of mentorship you want for your child? Most importantly, make sure the troop is a good fit for your child, and it’s something she wants to do.

How much does scouting cost?

Annual fall dues/fees are currently \$250 and National and Council Registration is \$98.00. These fees cover insurance, troop operating costs, and all earned patches and awards. New scouts also need to purchase a tan “class A” uniform, a navy “class B” troop shirt, a scout handbook and gear for camping/outdoor trips, if you don’t already own the needed equipment. Each trip also has fees to cover the cost of food, site, activities, etc. Note that full participation in the Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser earns scouts a \$150 credit towards their dues/fees.

Are there fundraisers/financial aid?

Yes! Some scholarships may be available, please inquire if this is a need. In addition, the troop hosts two fundraisers that help scout families offset the costs of scouting. In October, we co-host a Pumpkin Patch in Cornelius. Scouts and their families set up, run and take down this temporary pumpkin stand. Secondly, we pre-sell holiday greenery (fresh wreaths & garland) door-to-door and deliver them just after Thanksgiving. Both fundraisers are great opportunities to support the troop and build a Scout Bucks account. Scout Bucks (which are the property of the troop) can be spent on troop-related expenses like trip fees, summer camp, leadership training trips, etc.

How often does the troop camp, and what do trips entail?

The troop plans 10+ overnight campouts/trips per year. Past adventures on trips include zip lining, rock climbing, hiking, backpacking, white water rafting, swimming, historic tours and biking. Costs for campouts vary based on the activity cost, but range from \$35-\$150. Most trips are scheduled on the 3rd weekend of the month from 5pm Friday to noon Sunday. In addition to the adventure/activity on campouts, scouts usually cook and clean up after all their meals, teach each other scouting skills, enjoy a campfire and sleep outside.

Can a parent or sibling camp with the troop?

Moms and dads who follow BSA guidelines for Youth Protection Training (YPT) and have completed the required online YPT training can occasionally camp with the troop. Generally, no siblings, unless they are also members of the troop, are allowed.

Does Girl Troop 58 go to summer camp?

GT58 traditionally attends a week-long summer camp at the 2nd or 3rd week of June. Summer camp provides opportunities for scouts to build confidence, nurture relationships with other scouts, and is an easy way to complete rank and merit badge requirements.

Girl Troop 58



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Are there physical requirements?

Scouting is an activity-based learning experience; however, accommodations are made based upon a scout's specific physical and mental abilities.

Is this a youth-led troop?

Yes, the scout present with the highest leadership position, based on semi-annual troop elections, conducts troop meetings, ceremonies and outings. Parents, please have patience, as many aspects of our program, *including most communications*, are shaped and determined by the youth. Nonetheless, adult leaders are always nearby for advice and to act as safety nets.

How and when are troop activities chosen/planned?

During the summer at a series of Patrol Leader Council (PLC) meetings, GT58's scout leaders including the Senior Patrol leader (SPL), Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL), Patrol Leaders and other position holders, along with adult leaders determine the dates for all meetings, trips, service projects and outings for the following year. This information populates the troop's calendar, which is published on the website and troop Google calendar by August.

At monthly PLC meetings (the last Tuesday of the month), the troop leaders plan the trips/events in detail, to create a trip sheet, which describes where, when, what activities, what to bring, cost of trip, etc. The deadlines for trip sign-ups vary depending on the activities planned. Then each patrol typically plans their own menus, food prep and other duties based on who's going.

What are the ranks in Scouts BSA?

Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Scout are the ranks or levels, and the requirements for each can be found in the Scout Handbook. GT58's outdoor activities and leadership programs are designed to provide scouts with opportunities to advance in rank at their own pace. When all the specific requirements of a rank have been completed, the scout has a Scoutmaster conference to review what they learned. Most ranks additionally require a Board of Review (BOR), which is an opportunity for the scout to reflect on their scouting path while being informally questioned by 3 adult leaders and/or troop parents.

What is a Merit Badge?

A merit badge (MB) is a round patch award for completing the requirements in 1 of 138 career/hobby fields from Archeology to Woodworking. Scouts work on MB challenges with a qualified MB counselor, who upon completion signs-offs on a form, called a blue card. MB patches are worn on the scout's sash as part of their "class A" uniform. Before earning the highest Eagle Scout rank, a scout must have earned 14 specific Eagle-required MBs and at least 21 total MBs, although scouts often earn many more as they explore topics that interest them!



What is a Court of Honor?

A Court of Honor (COH) is a troop ceremony, where scouts and their families celebrate the reception of rank advancements, merit badges and other scouting awards. Girl Troop 58 usually conducts these ceremonies three times a year with Boy Troop 58 in the upstairs DCPC Congregation House.

What does GT58 expect from a scout's parents?

We expect parents of scouts in Girl Troop 58 to:

- Attend a monthly parent meeting (on Zoom or in-person)
- Participate in Boards of Reviews (BORs)
- Attend Courts of Honors (COHs) throughout the year
- Complete the BSA's online Youth Protection Training (YPT) certificate, so you can sometimes help with transportation to outings and/or assist leaders with programs
- Have at least one parent become a merit badge counselor
- Support and encourage your child. From time to time, your scout may need your support and encouragement to attend meetings and trips, or to try something new or challenging.

What additional roles can parents/adults have in GT58?

Parents can become Assistant Scoutmasters (ASMs) if they like to go on campouts and assist at meetings. Parents can also consider a committee position (like advancement, treasurer, secretary, fundraising, membership, training, webmaster, etc.) to further support the troop. It's often said: "the troop is scout led, but parent fueled!" To see who does what already or which jobs are still open, refer to the Committee Team and Scoutmaster Team org charts on the website (gt58davidson.com/about-troop-58).

If we decide to join, what do we need to do and when can we start coming to meetings?

You can sign up your daughter as soon as she's eligible with the BSA. If you have never been in the BSA program, go online to BeAScout.com and first set up an account for a parent following prompts for zip code, Scouts BSA, and Girl Troop 58 Lions Club of Davidson (our sponsoring charter organization). Then add your daughter. If you/she already has a BSA account, please contact us first. After completing the national BSA application, email the New Member Coordinator (GT58NMC@gmail.com) so we can connect with you and accept her into our troop.

We'll then plan to meet you at the next meeting to get her connected and discuss next steps with the parent(s) like troop dues, uniforms, gear, paperwork, and additional questions.

