



Welcome to Troop 890!

I am honored to serve your scout as First-Year Scoutmaster in Troop 890, and I look forward to getting to know all of the new scouts and parents. Your scout is embarking on a journey that will not only provide lasting memories and friendships, but will also give them exposure to experiences, challenges, and leadership opportunities that are not available anywhere else. I, and the rest of the troop leadership, strive to deliver the scouting program in a safe, fun manner while reinforcing the values of scouting as expressed in the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Our goal in the First Year program is to guide your scout through to the First Class Rank by the end of his first full year in Scouting. At each meeting in the first year, we will break off from the older scouts to focus our time on activities that are geared toward rank requirements. After the first year (really 15 months or so) my role is not as direct. But I'm still on the job as First Year Scoutmaster to mentor your scout through the rest of his scouting journey – hopefully all the way to Eagle rank.

Scouting is, and should be, fun! We will ask your scout to participate cheerfully, and show respect to their fellow scouts and adults leaders at all times. Our meetings will be interactive and activity based versus lecture based to help hold the scouts' attention and keep it fun.

To help us get off on the right foot, please go buy the new edition of the Boy Scout Handbook, preferably the spiral-bound copy and a handbook cover. The handbook will be our guide in scouting, and I would like for you and your scout to become familiar with it. First, look at the table of contents. You will see a wide variety of things: scouting skills, physical fitness, academic challenges as well as values. These values are embodied in the Scout Oath and Law. Take a look at those and talk with your son about what they mean. Your scout should start now to memorize these; it's their first requirement for Scout rank.

Lastly, be sure to read the handbook insert: "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse – A Parent's Guide." We in Troop 890 take this very seriously and we (leaders) are all accountable to maintain all the Youth Protection standards. We require any adult who wishes to interact with any Scout other than their own child to complete the online Youth Protection course which can be found at: <http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx>

Please feel free to call or email me anytime about any concern or question about Scouting or Troop 890. Don't hesitate to ask... there are no stupid questions!

Sincerely,

Brian Ferrell,
First Year Scoutmaster - Troop 890 Boys

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