



Boy Scout Troop 353 – Eastchester, NY

Westchester – Putnam Council
<http://troop353.wordpress.com>
www.wpcbsa.org



Why join Boy Scout Troop 353 Eastchester?

That is a very good question!

The short answer is that you are likely to have more FUN than you could ever imagine! Troop 353 has an active and varied outdoor 12-month program, including white water rafting, canoeing & kayaking, camping, hiking, rock climbing, snow skiing, biking, fishing (even ice fishing), swimming, rifle shooting, etc. At age 14, Troop 353 scouts have a history of going to some of the most exciting high-adventure trips you can imagine: island camping & fishing in the Florida Keys, Backpacking in the Adirondacks or in the Rocky Mountains of New Mexico. Check out the listing of our troop's activities on the next page!!

Contrary to popular belief, our unique outdoor program typically **attracts** active boys with multiple interests (sports, music, etc.). Scouts are often captains of their sports team or school bands. With so many recreational choices today, there have to be some very good reasons for already busy boys and their parents to join our troop and keep coming back each week. The Bottom Line = unlike so many other units, **Troop 353 continues to be blessed with solid membership growth.**

Some of the key reasons boys and parents choose troop 353 over others include:

1) FUN! Importantly, we have a truly unique & diverse scouting program which the boys plan and enjoy thoroughly. Our summer camp experience is thoughtfully designed to be truly **rare** among all troops in that a special activity is planned for every afternoon, which often entails leaving camp. Our kids end up with significant advancement AND terrific fun memories. See our website [address above];

2) Convenience. Our troop **meets about 1/3 fewer times** annually than nearly all other Boy Scout troops due to our Sunday night 6:30pm troop meetings [eliminates most conflicts with school & church];

3) Volunteers. Involvement of many friendly **parents & dedication of several BSA-trained adult leaders** [+45 registered adults], including several Eagle scouts. Our many trained “coaches” volunteer to assist with event planning even if their son cannot attend or after their son has gone off to college;

4) Family-Oriented. Many events & activities, e.g., Red Cross CPR Certification, are available to all family members; Overall attendance is flexible [due to typical conflicts & respect for sibling's activities], and

5) Size & Diversity of membership, reflecting the real world [residents of Eastchester, Tuckahoe, Bronxville, Mt. Vernon, Crestwood, Scarsdale, Yonkers & the Bronx]. A growing troop is good!

Parents, other items to keep in mind. Down the road, your son's entrance into college will clearly be differentiated by his involvement in Scouting and leadership development. Through the unique merit badge program of Scouting your son is likely to be exposed to activities that may some day prove to be his true passion, i.e., what cinematography did for Steven Spielberg. Scouting teaches your son the importance of making strong moral and ethical choices, community service and personal fitness in a safe environment and at a fraction of the cost of all other programs! **Parents, your son is about to enter a truly unique, multi-year program that is still highly relevant in shaping future leaders, that will teach him many valuable life skills and that will likely make him a better person, a better parent, and a respected leader in his profession and in his community.**

Tom McCandless, Scoutmaster
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The scouts of Troop 353 keep a busy schedule of FUN outings & events.

Over the past several years we have:

Climbed Mt. Stevens at Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation • Caved at night at Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation • Ridden Horses in Lake George, NY & Montauk, NY • Rafted the Sacandaga River, Lake Luzerne, NY & the Lehigh River Gorge, Jim Thorpe, PA • Rock Climbed at Clear Lake Scout Camp, Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation & The Rock Club, New Rochelle, NY • Canoeed the Upper Delaware River • Hiked the Breakneck Ridge Trail, Hudson Highlands State Park, Cold Spring, NY • Hiked Anthony's Nose & numerous other peaks in Harriman State Park, Harriman, NY • Hiked Storm King Summit Trail, Storm King State Park, Cornwall, NY • Backpacked along the Appalachian Trail, Fahnestock State Park, Carmel, NY • Toured Yankee Stadium, Bronx, NY • Ice fished & Slept in ice huts at 10 Mile River Scout Reservation, Narrowsburg, NY • Camped on the beach at Hither Hills State Park, Montauk, NY • Camped at Yawgoog Scout Reservation, Rockville, RI • Snow Skied at Belleayre Mountain & Catamount Ski Area, Highmount, NY Mt. Snow, VT • Beautified the grounds of the Graymoor Monastery, Garrison, NY • Participated in the Algonquin District Kon-Tiki at Clear Lake Scout Camp, Putnam Valley, NY • Participated in the Westchester-Putnam Council's Klondike Derby @ Ft. Smith, Peekskill, NY • Shot .22 caliber rifles under NRA instruction, Camp Bullova, Stony Point, NY. • Completed the COPE course at Camp Mattatuck, Plymouth, CT. • Swim Nights at the YMCA, White Plains, NY. • Ice Climbing, Lake Placid, NY. • US Military Academy Orienteering Course, West Point, NY

Every summer we:

Spend a week at Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation in Adirondack Park, Brant Lake, NY

Every fall we:

We raise a substantial amount of food for the Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Eastchester Community Action Program to distribute to needy individuals & families in our surrounding communities.

Every winter we:

Become certified in American Red Cross CPR / AED for adults & CPR for children & infants. Perform a flag ceremony at Eastchester Community Action Program's annual Martin Luther King celebration.

Every few years we attend a high-adventure trip:

Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, NM: 1997, 2004.

50-mile Canoe Trek, Long Lake, High Peaks Wilderness Area, Adirondack Park:1998 (Summit Base).

Florida Sea-Base, Lower Matecumbe Key, Islamorada, FL: 2000 Outer Island Adventure.

Tahawus Tract, High Peaks Wilderness Area, Adirondack Park, Newcomb, NY: 2004 (Summit Base).

We have a continuing collaborative effort to earn Merit Badges in:

Camping
Communication
First Aid
Personal Management

Citizenship in the Community, Nation & World

Climbing
Family Life
Personal Fitness
Rifle Shooting