



Boy Scout Troop 868

New Member Information: Uniforms & Handbook

Being uniformly attired provides members with a sense of belonging and promotes an attitude of teamwork. It makes it much easier for the adult leaders to readily identify members when our troop is part of a larger crowd. Looking sharp also instills a sense of pride and reminds scouts to mind their manners and be on their best behavior. There is a great deal of wisdom in the adage, “Look like scouts --act like scouts!”

For all of these reasons plus the tradition of Scouting as a uniformed organization, Troop 868 is a “full uniform” unit. We proudly wear the whole official Scout Uniform at weekly troop meetings and public functions. For activities such as campouts, hikes, and many service projects where a full dress uniform and neckerchief are not required or practical, members are permitted to wear the Troop 868 Class B uniform.

CLASS “A” UNIFORM

Officially, this is known as the “Field” uniform, but the term “Class A” is commonly used and everyone seems to prefer it. Basically, this is the full, official Boy Scout uniform that consists of 7 items, as follows:

Official Shirt	(We recommend purchase of a short-sleeved shirt.)
Official Slacks or Shorts	(Whichever the boy prefers, either may be worn year round.)
Official Socks	(Three styles: Knee, Crew, or Ankle. Take your pick.)
Official Web Belt	(Make sure to get one with a Boy Scout Logo on the buckle.)
Troop Neckerchief	(This item is presented by the troop – do not purchase.)
Official Cap	(Baseball style cap, optional in our unit.)
Red Epaulets	(Presented by the troop – do not purchase.)

CLASS “B” UNIFORM

Officially, this is called the “Activity” uniform. It consists of official scout pants (slacks or shorts), official belt, official socks, and Troop 868’s official troop shirt. Troop shirts are not available or sold at the Scout Shop, they are ordered through the troop. Class B shirts are available for both boys and parents. Youth members wear a crew neck style tee shirt; adults wear a soft collared golf/polo shirt. The shirts are available in heavy-duty 50/50 cotton/polyester blend that won’t shrink (recommended) or 100% cotton. They are light gray in color and bear Troop 868’s logo in bright red. Because troop shirts are a special order item, we ask folks to pay at the time they submit their order. Most scouts will want (and need) more than one Class B shirt.

NAMETAGS

Nametags are optional and may be ordered through the troop. When the troop heads off to summer camp, the scouts travel in their Class B shirts and hang their Class A shirts on a coat rack near the front of the troop bus. When we stop for meals or other places where we want to look more formal, the boys simply grab their Class A shirts and put them on over top of their Class B shirts. The nametags make identification quick and easy. They also have obvious benefits in the “Lost & Found” department. For these reasons, we do encourage nametags.

SCOUT HANDBOOK & UNIFORM INSIGNIA

Every scout needs his own copy of the Official Scout Handbook. The official Class A shirt will come with an American Flag on the right shoulder. All other insignia must be purchased separately and sewn onto the uniform. A guide to the proper placement of the various insignia may be found inside the front and back covers of the Scout Handbook.

Scout Handbook	About \$10. Available in 3 binding styles; take your pick.
Council Patch	About \$5. Purchased at the Scout Shop.
World Brotherhood Patch	About \$1. Purchased at the Scout Shop.
Troop Numeral	Provided by the troop – do not purchase.
Patrol Emblem	Provided by the troop – do not purchase.
Quality Unit Patch	Provided by the troop – do not purchase.
Badges of Office	Provided by the troop – do not purchase.
Badges of Rank	Provided by the troop – do not purchase.
Nametag	Optional. Ordered through the troop.

USED UNIFORMS

The troop operates a “UNIFORM CLOSET” whereby parents donate uniform parts and pieces theirs sons have outgrown. We ask parents to leave any generic insignia on the shirts, since the next wearer is just going to have to sew them back on. Parents who acquire uniform parts from the troop’s Uniform Closet are encouraged to make a \$5~\$10 donation to the troop.

Scout uniforms frequently show up at yard sales and in thrift stores. We encourage parents who find such uniforms to purchase them for the troop’s Uniform Closet.

There is a very active market for scout attire on eBay. Expect to pay 30%~50% the cost of new. Be alert to make sure you are purchasing CURRENT uniform styles and not ANTIQUE uniforms. There are many collectors and an active market for old uniforms, so read the sellers’ descriptions carefully. Also, be aware of the hem (inseam) length of trousers and shorts. Just a few years ago, boys’ shorts were shorter than they are today!

TWO LOCAL SCOUT SHOPS

The Lincoln Heritage Council operates two Scout Shops in the Louisville area. One is located in downtown Jeffersonville, Indiana. Take I-65 north across the Kennedy Bridge and take Exit 0 on the Indiana side. Go about 3 blocks and turn right onto Pearl Street. Go one block to the 4-way stop and turn left. Go one block to another 4-way stop and turn left onto Spring Street. The Evanzyck Scout Shop will be on the right in the middle of the block. (Look for the flags.)

The other Scout Shop is located at Council headquarters in the east end of Louisville not far from Southeast Christian Church. From Shepherdsville, take the Synder Freeway (I-265) east to the intersection with I-64. Take I-64 west toward Louisville. Take the first exit onto Blankenbaker Parkway and turn left at the light at the end of the exit ramp. At the next traffic light turn left as if headed toward Hometown Buffet, but after turning left, continue straight rather than turning left again toward restaurant row. You will pass the campus-like setting of Papa John’s Corporate Headquarters on the right. Continue straight, go around a curve, and Scout Headquarters will be clearly visible. The parking lot is at the rear of the building, so turn left onto Sycamore Station Road. Enter through the main front doors and the Scout Shop entrance will be on the left off the main lobby.

Hours at both locations vary by season, but both are basically open during business hours Monday~Friday and on Saturday mornings.