



Troops 111B & 111G Handbook

Linden, Michigan

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1. Welcome Letter

Welcome to Troops 111B & 111G.

We are glad you're here.

Joining a troop is the beginning of a new chapter in Scouting. It's a step toward independence, leadership, and learning through real experiences. Whether you are new to Scouting or continuing from Cub Scouts, this program is designed to help you grow.

In Troops 111B & 111G, we focus on building confident, capable Scouts who are prepared for challenges both in the outdoors and in life. You will learn skills, take on responsibility, and become part of a team that supports one another.

Our program is youth-led. That means Scouts plan meetings, lead activities, and make decisions. Adult leaders are here to guide, mentor, and ensure safety—but the Scouts are the ones who lead.

You will see success. You will also see mistakes. Both are part of the process. Growth comes from trying, learning, and improving.

Parents, your support is important. The best way to help your Scout succeed is to encourage independence and allow them to take ownership of their experience. We will work together to create an environment where every Scout has the opportunity to grow.

We understand that starting something new can feel overwhelming. There is a lot to learn, and not everything will make sense right away. That's okay. We will guide you through it, and your Scout will gain confidence with each experience.

Most importantly, this troop is a community. Scouts build friendships, learn teamwork, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

We are excited to have you as part of Troops 111B & 111G.

— Mr. Browning, Scoutmaster

2. Standards & Expectations

Troops 111B & 111G operate with clear expectations.

Scouts are expected to:

- Live by the Scout Oath and Law in all settings
- Come prepared with proper gear and materials
- Be on time and ready to participate
- Support their patrol and fellow Scouts
- Take care of personal and troop equipment
- Stay engaged during meetings and activities

These expectations help create a structured and respectful environment where Scouts can succeed.

Accountability is part of the program. Mistakes are allowed—but learning from them is required.

3. Gear & Loaner Policy

Scouting requires outdoor gear, but we understand that new families may not have everything immediately.

Troops 111B & 111G provide loaner gear such as tents, sleeping bags, and basic equipment to ensure every Scout can participate.

Over time, Scouts are expected to build their own gear gradually. This helps them learn responsibility and preparedness.

All gear—whether personal or borrowed—must be treated with care and returned in good condition.

4. Patrol Method & Leadership

The patrol method is the foundation of the troop.

Scouts are organized into patrols (small teams) where they:

- Camp together
- Cook together
- Work together

Each patrol is led by a Patrol Leader, and the troop is led by a Senior Patrol Leader (SPL).

The Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) meets on the first Monday of each month from 5:30–6:30 PM to plan meetings and activities.

An Officers Meeting is held on the third Monday from 5:30–6:30 PM to address concerns and improve troop operations.

All meetings are held at the Linden Sportsman's Club.

This structure teaches leadership, teamwork, and accountability.

5. Camping & Outdoor Expectations

Camping is the core of the program.

Scouts are encouraged to attend regularly, but we understand conflicts may arise.

During campouts, Scouts are expected to:

- Work as a patrol to cook and clean
- Set up and maintain their campsite
- Follow safety rules and leadership direction

Campouts take place in real outdoor conditions. Scouts learn to adapt, prepare, and problem-solve.

Participation in campouts is one of the most important parts of Scouting.

6. Parent Expectations

Parents play an important supporting role.

We ask parents to:

- Encourage their Scout's independence
- Allow Scouts to take responsibility for their gear and preparation
- Avoid stepping in to solve problems that Scouts can handle

Scouting is designed to help youth grow through experience. This often requires stepping back and allowing them to learn.

Communication is important. Parents should stay informed by reading emails and updates.

7. Advancement & Growth

Advancement is a tool for growth—not the end goal.

Scouts progress through ranks by learning skills, participating in activities, and demonstrating leadership.

Scouts are responsible for their own advancement. They must:

- Track their progress
- Ask for requirement sign-offs
- Take initiative in completing tasks

Every Scout progresses at their own pace, but consistent participation leads to success.

8. Meetings, Communication & Schedule

Troop meetings are held: Monday evenings, 6:30–8:00 PM
Linden Sportsman's Club

Meetings are structured and led by youth leadership.

The troop communicates primarily through email. Families are expected to stay informed and review all communications.

Being on time and prepared is an important part of participation.

9. Courts of Honor

Courts of Honor are held three times per year:

- May / June
- September / October
- December / January

These ceremonies recognize Scouts for their achievements, including rank advancements and merit badges.

Scouts are expected to attend in full Class A uniform.

Families are encouraged to attend and support their Scout.

10. Health, Safety & Medical

Safety is a priority in all troop activities.

Medical forms are required for participation and must be kept current.

If a Scout requires medication:

- It must be in the original container
- It must be measured to the exact amount needed for the trip

Adult leaders are trained and follow established safety guidelines to ensure a safe environment.

11. Finances & Fundraising

Scouting involves costs, including campouts, activities, and summer camp.

Troops aim to keep costs reasonable and communicate them in advance.

Scouts are expected to earn their way through participation in fundraising efforts.

This helps build responsibility and appreciation for the program.

12. Culture & Traditions

Troops 111B & 111G are built on pride, responsibility, and teamwork.

We focus on: - Doing things the right way

- Taking pride in our work

- Supporting each other

- Embracing challenges

Scouting is about growth. Through effort, teamwork, and persistence, Scouts develop the skills and confidence to succeed in all areas of life.

Troops 111B & 111G – Prepared. Responsible. Leaders.