

# New Parent Packet



## Trail Life®

Adventure › Character › Leadership

### Welcome to Trail Life!

Trail Life USA is a Church-Based, Christ-Centered, Boy-Focused mentoring and discipleship journey that speaks to the heart of a boy. With over 40,000 boys engaged in more than 1,100 Troops nationwide, male mentors guide boys through a character-building experience from Kindergarten to 12th grade. Established on timeless values derived from the Bible and set in the context of outdoor adventure, our objective is to help boys grow in character, understand their purpose, serve their community, and develop practical leadership skills to carry out the mission for which they were created.

Adventure is at the heart of the Trail Life USA program. Acknowledging boys' love for hiking, camping, fishing, tree-climbing, story-telling, and s'mores around campfires, weekly meetings are held outside whenever possible and are designed to delight the raucous, rowdy, unruly nature of a boy. Trailmen engage in hands-on experiences that develop character, deepen faith, and hone practical skills.

# Trail Life Distinctives

## Vision

Our vision is to be the premier national character development organization for young men which produces godly and responsible husbands, fathers, and citizens.

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## Mission

Our mission is to guide generations of courageous young men to honor God, lead with integrity, serve others, and experience outdoor adventure.

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## Motto

“Walk Worthy”

Colossians 1:10 “... that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;...”

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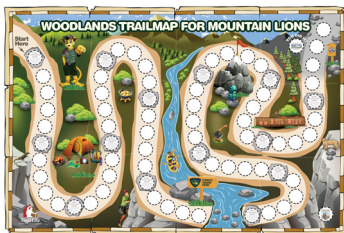


### Trailman Oath

On my honor,  
I will do my best  
To serve God and my  
country;  
To respect authority;  
To be a good steward  
of creation;  
And to treat others as  
I want to be treated.

# Trail Life's Map to Manhood

FINISH!



An essential component of the Trail Life USA program is the provision of a clear Trail map for a boy to manhood. Through weekly meetings, monthly Hit the Trail events, and annual rites of passage award ceremonies, both boys and parents find intentional guidance.

The program ensures that boys grow in faith, acquire skills, and cultivate character traits essential for earning the Freedom Award; the pinnacle Trail Life award. Upon completing the Trail Life program, a boy emerges as a leader in his Troop, a contributor to his community, and a vital member of his church, having undergone intentional mentorship with his father and men in his Troop. He gains an understanding of biblical masculinity and is well-prepared for life, acknowledging that true freedom comes through surrender, with a recognition that Christ paid the ultimate price.

START

# Trail Life Advancement

## Woodlands Trail *Ages 5-10*

The program begins in the lush forests on the Woodlands Trail. Broken into three groups boys age 5-10 acquire knowledge about outdoor skills, citizenship, character, friendship, and faith through enjoyable activities, awards, and skill instruction. Boys earn pins to add to their group patch as they participate in the program.



*Fox: Ages 5-6*



*Hawk: Ages 7-8*



*Mountain Lion: Ages 9-10*



*Joining Branch Patches and Branch Pins (Year 1)*

*Forest Award Patches and Sylvan Stars (Year 2)*

## Navigators *Ages 11-13*



As boys progress along the trail, they transition from the lush green forest floor to the challenges of the grey rocky crags as Navigators (ages 11-13). Under the guidance of godly male role models, they explore values and beliefs, demonstrating responsibility in outdoor adventures, as well as in their home and school life. Advancement is marked by earning Ranks and Trail Badges.



*Core Skills Ranks*

## Adventurers *Ages 14-17*



As Adventurers (ages 14-17), young men mature in wisdom and faith by tackling more difficult challenges and assuming leadership roles. Christian men provide guidance as they plan and lead outdoor events, undertake large projects, and mentor younger Trailmen. This comprehensive journey prepares them for the responsibilities of adulthood, instilling a deep understanding that true freedom is a result of surrender, which Christ modeled with the ultimate sacrifice.



*True Freedom Ranks*



*Example badges for Navigators & Adventurers*

# Faith and Leadership Opportunities for Trailmen

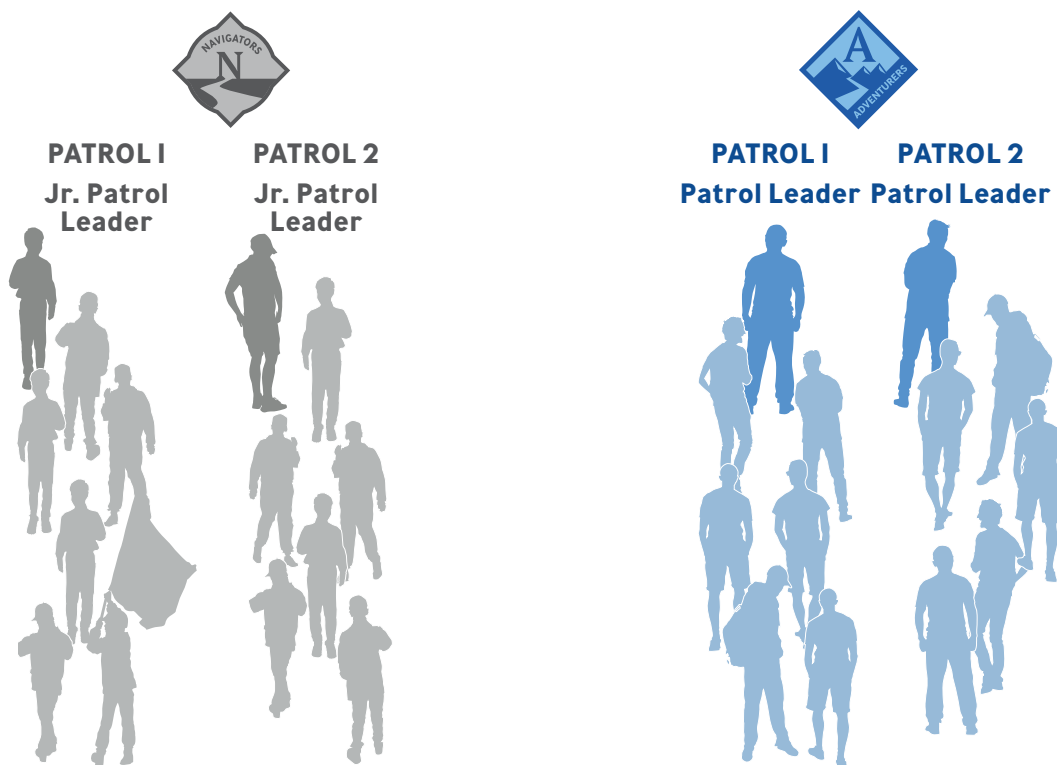
## Worthy Life Award

At each program level, Trailmen will have the opportunity to earn the Worthy Life Award. This special award provides your son the opportunity to learn more about the Christian Faith and Christian Life. Each unique award is represented by a cross that is affixed to the appropriate program colored ribbon.



## The Patrol Method

The Patrol Method is leadership practiced during meetings. The Patrol Method splits a Troop into small groups that explore the theory and practice of leadership, while using the gifts of individuals to build group wellbeing. A patrol is ideally 6-8 Trailmen of the same program level. Trailmen elect a peer leader to serve as their Patrol Leader or Jr. Patrol Leader. The patrols provide opportunities for Trailmen to practice leading others as well as following others. Patrols will do all activities together whenever possible.



# Youth Protection Essentials

It's as Simple as 1-2-3

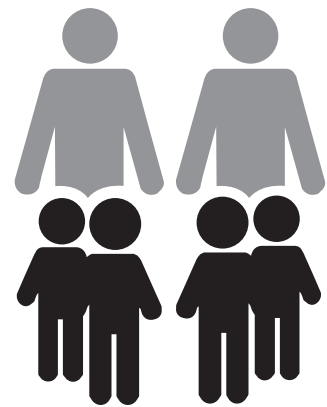
## No 1-on-One

The no one-on-one rule is in place for youth protection so no boy is ever alone with an adult. This is for both the protection of the boy and the adult.



## 2 Deep Leadership

The two-deep rule is in place for safety so there is always a minimum of two Registered Adults in proximity to provide backup and oversight.



## Buddy System of 3

The buddy system of three helps keep youth safe from abusive youth when out of sight of adult leadership. Buddies must be of the same program level.



Complete Child Safety Youth Protection policies and additional guidelines are found in the current version of the Health and Safety Guide.

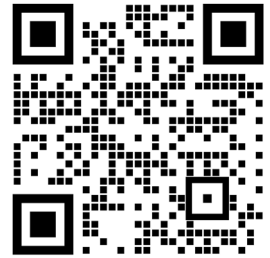
## Get Started!

- Visit the *Welcome to Trail Life* section on Trail Life Connect.
- Ensure your Trail Life Connect profiles are complete.
- Check with Troop leadership for dues, uniform requirements, and an annual calendar.
- Shop the Trail Life store for *Youth Handbooks, Parent and Leader Guides*, and apparel.
- Ask Troop Leadership about potential roles you can serve in to support your Troop.
- Attend events with your son and have fun!

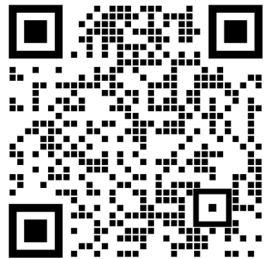
## Trail Life Connect

Trail Life Connect is the online Troop Management software that is used to keep you, your Trailman, and the Troop leadership all on the same page. This software keeps track of the Troop's calendar and events. It tracks your son's advancement progress; your Troop will use it to communicate important information with you. It also contains all the resources and information you will need to answer any question you have.

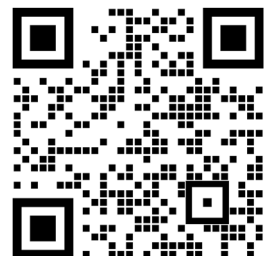
Log into Trail Life Connect by going to [www.TrailLifeConnect.com](http://www.TrailLifeConnect.com) and type in the username and password that you used when you registered. If you haven't registered yet, your Troop Leaders can assist in getting you and your son logged into the system.



Trail Life Connect



New Parent FAQs



Trail Life Store



## OUR TROOP



# Trail Life<sup>®</sup>

**Troop Number:**

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**Meeting Place:**

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**Day:**

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**Time:**

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**Troopmaster:**

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**My Son's Trail Guide:**

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**Contact Information:**

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**Notes:**

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