

# What's Next for Troop 560

BSA Scouting is one of the most important programs available in America to develop trustworthiness, loyalty, and courage in today's youth. The life lessons, leadership skills, fun outdoor experiences, and rigor of rank advancement benefit the Scouts for far longer than their time in the program. We are fortunate that Pack 560 and Troop 560 have been serving the boys of the Greater Shaler Area for decades.

In October, the Troop Committee outlined the upcoming transition of adult leadership. The Troop will need a set of new adult leaders by the end of 2022. The retiring Troop Committee is filled with parents of Eagle Scouts. Steve and I firmly believe Packs and Troops are best led by adults with Scouts in the unit.

As a result of the meeting in October, Steve Hoffman agreed to serve as Treasurer and Jeff Raymond agreed to serve as Advancement Coordinator. Regrettably, Jeff's time will be limited to this year. We need to fill the Scoutmaster and Committee Chairman positions, the roles that Steve and I hold. I will remain on the Troop 560 Committee as the Chartered Organization Representative. We are fortunate that a former Scoutmaster from Troop 560 has offered to serve as an interim Scoutmaster, if needed. Now is the time to reflect on your Scout earning the rank of Eagle Scout or having the best possible Scouting experience. What will your role be in your Scout's journey?

Once we fill the Troop leadership positions, we have another important task for everyone: recruiting new Scouts. We currently have 11 Scouts registered with Troop 560. Two Scouts will complete their Scouting journey this year. Five Scouts are not active or not returning. This leaves four active Scouts. For the Troop to thrive, we need at least ten active Scouts. Recruiting new Scouts into the Troop is the most important activity for everyone. This task cannot be avoided by transferring your Scout to another Troop. All Troops in the Laurel Highlands Council are facing reduced membership. For our active Scouts to achieve the Eagle Scout rank or enjoy the best possible Scouting experience until age 18, a commitment to recruiting new Scouts is essential. For various reasons, many people today do not value Scouting for their children. The new normal for all Scouting families is to support the continued health of the BSA Scouting program by working to bring youth into the program.

In summary, Troop 560 has an immediate need to fill leadership positions. Troop 560 has a need to recruit new Scouts. We will discuss options to transfer our Scouts to another unit, if that is outcome that the parents of the active Scouts choose. The need to promote BSA Scouting and recruit new Scouts into our Scout's Troop will remain pivotal in keeping BSA Scouting available for your Scout.