

Trail Life USA Troop 317

Johns Creek, Georgia

Frequently Asked Questions

Tuesday Night Meetings

1. What typically goes on at the Tuesday meetings?

Our meetings begin at 7:00pm sharp (although Trailmen often arrive at 6:45pm) with the Opening Ceremony. At this time, the youth form up by Program/Patrol for the procession of the colors (the USA and Troop 317 flags), the Pledge of Allegiance, the Trailman Oath, and a brief prayer.

The Trailmen are then dismissed to their individual programs.

Program Time could involve group instruction, a guest speaker, a briefing on an upcoming campout, etc. Older Youth often provide instruction to youth in the younger programs.

Patrol Time is when the Trailmen may review advancement progress with their Program Head or Trail Guide, or develop a duty roster/meal plan for an upcoming campout or outing.

Each program also has a Closing Ceremony, which includes announcements, Wisdom for the Wild (a brief devotional), the retrieval of the colors, and a prayer.

While Troop meetings are not mandatory, it only makes sense that if a Trailman is going to do well, advance, and have fun, he will participate in the life of the Troop to the fullest extent possible.

2. Can parents come to the meetings and just watch? How could they help while at the meeting?

Yes, absolutely parents can come to the meetings and just watch. Ideally, though, they'll plug in and participate: they might be asked to serve on a Board of Review (with instruction beforehand), or to help supervise Game Time, or help plan the next campout. Troop 317's leadership is pretty inclusive by nature, and there are plenty of opportunities to get involved quickly for those who are interested.

3. Can we drop our Trailman off at the meeting and come back to pick him up?

Hmmm – perhaps, but with a caveat. Our Troop runs because of volunteer commitment, so if you can – please plan to stay and contribute. If you are somehow providentially hindered from participation, please ensure that you return by 8:30pm. Although we sometimes run ~5 minutes late, we work hard to end on time at 8:30pm. Also, please make arrangements to pick up your Trailman at a specific location and ensure that he knows not to wander around Perimeter Church.

Our Foxes (K and 1st grade) and Hawks (2nd and 3rd grade) dismiss at 8:10pm. We especially request these parents to attend and assist with as many meetings as possible, due to the age/stage of their youth.

4. How long do the meetings last? Do they usually end on time?

The meetings begin promptly at 7:00pm. Foxes and Hawks dismiss at 8:10pm, while Mountain Lions (4th and 5th grades), Navigators (6-8 grades), and Adventurers (9-12 grades) dismiss at 8:30pm.

5. Who would I call if I have an emergency and can't pick up my Trailman?

You should have the contact information for the Program Lead or Trail Guide for your son's patrol. He will serve as the first point of contact for any question that you have about the Troop, your son's advancement, upcoming campouts, etc.

6. Does the Troop have access to parent's cell numbers in case they need to contact them on Tuesday night?

Yes, the Troop maintains a database of all the telephone numbers that are submitted as part of the joining process. In addition, each Trail Guide has a patrol roster, in case they need to contact a parent.