

# Trail Life USA Troop 317

## Johns Creek, Georgia

### Frequently Asked Questions

## Being a Trail Life USA Parent

### 1. How can parents participate in Troop 317? What level of participation is expected?

Trail Life Troop 317 is managed by and completely dependent upon volunteers. Even at the national, regional, and statewide levels, the leadership team of Trail Life USA is comprised almost completely of volunteers.

Trailmen in Troop 317 are required to volunteer for a set number of community service hours in order to advance to their next rank. Similarly, parents of Troop 317 Trailmen are also expected to volunteer their services to help with troop activities. As such, all troop parents will be required to participate in a pre-determined number of volunteer activities/hours each year. With everyone participating, there will be less work for every individual.

The Troop 317 Committee will be responsible for identifying and communicating volunteer opportunities for parents. Parents will be able to choose from multiple options that best fit their interests, talents and schedules. Finally, single parents will not be required to volunteer, but are certainly encouraged to participate as their schedule allows.

#### **Woodlands Trail:**

At a minimum, we expect parents to come to Troop meetings for at least two months (8 meetings) per activity year, visit with their Patrol's Trail Guide and pay necessary fees for trips, etc. In addition, we request that Dads attend a minimum of 4 Saturday outings per year.

#### **Navigators / Adventurers:**

At a minimum, we expect parents to come to Troop meetings for at least one month (4 meetings) per activity year, visit with their Patrol's Trail Guide and pay necessary fees for trips, etc. In addition, we request that Dads attend a minimum of 2 weekend campouts per year.

Early Registration for campouts and outings is essential for proper planning, so we ask that each family pay close attention to our Troop calendar, weekly newsletters, and emails – and then register as soon as practically possible, so we can plan accordingly.

Either parent can also plug into a Troop Committee position. The Troop Committee generally meets the first Sunday afternoon of each month, and once per year for a more formal extended training and planning session. Troop 317 operates well because our families see themselves as "citizens" of a community rather than "consumers" of a service.

### 2. Are there specific roles that only Dads can fulfill?

The Troopmaster, Advisor (Adventurers), Trailmaster (Navigators), Ranger (Woodlands Trail), and Trail Guide roles have been reserved for men, since we are trying to model Christian manhood and character. Other roles, especially Committee Members and Trail Badge Instructors are open to both men and women, and we sincerely hope that all parents will engage in a meaningful way.

### 3. What jobs or roles can parents consider?

We have many varied positions that a parent can fill, some of which take more time than others. Committee Members, Trail Guides, Trail Badge Instructors, Troop Committee "assistants", campout volunteers, campout drivers, etc., are all roles that parents can fill.

It is our desire that you serve in an area of your giftedness and passion, in order to make your service more meaningful, more rewarding, and longer term. Please contact your Program Lead, or the relevant Troop Committee member to discuss how you can volunteer and best serve the Troop.

**4. Does a Dad need a TLUSA uniform? If so when would he need one? Would a Mom need a uniform?**

In general, a TLUSA uniform for adults is not necessary. Depending on the role that you play within the Troop, however, it may be preferable for you to have a uniform, thereby demonstrating to the youth that a uniform is important.

We would request that all registered direct-contact leaders (Troopmaster, Advisor, Trailmaster, Ranger, Trail Guides), and Committee Members who have regular interaction with the youth would wear the uniform at all Troop functions, as well as when required for travel.