



**TRAIL LIFE USA™**

Adventure › Character › Leadership

# **Trail Life USA**

# **Troop 317**

# **Open House**

Clay Cooksey, Troopmaster, Troop 317

August 2024

# Agenda

- What is Trail Life USA?
- Why Troop 317 and Perimeter Church?
- Trail Life Program Design, Structure, and Implementation
- Discipleship and Faith Studies
- Parent Involvement
- Fundraising
- Next Steps

# TL USA Vision and Mission

## **The Vision of Trail Life USA**

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

## **The Mission of Trail Life USA**

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

# TL USA Motto and Oath

## **Trail Life USA Motto – “Walk Worthy”**

- From Colossians 1:10, an encouragement to Christian believers to “live a life worthy of the Lord, and please Him in every way.” *Trail Life works to develop young men who will strive to walk through their lives in a manner worthy of their faith*

## **Trail Life USA 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.



# TL USA Statement of Faith and Values

## **We Believe**

- In One Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- In the Holy Scriptures – inspired and authoritative
- Each Trailman is created in God's image
- We are enabled by the Holy Spirit
- We are called to love the Lord our God and love our neighbors as ourselves
- We are called to live lives of: Purity, Service, Stewardship, and Integrity

# TL USA 6 Essential Christian Worldview Concepts

**Integration of a Christian Worldview is essential to TL USA accomplishing its mission and vision**

- Truth
- Creation
- Human Dignity
- Family
- Stewardship
- Providence

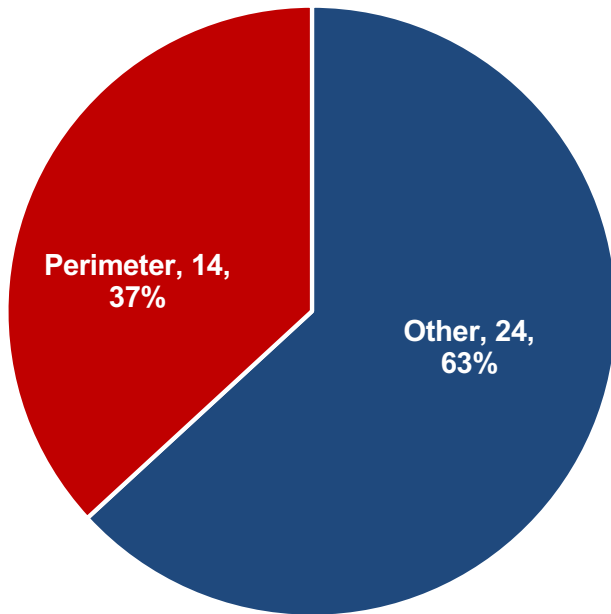
<https://www.traillifeusa.com/christian-worldview>



# **Why Troop 317 and Perimeter Church?**

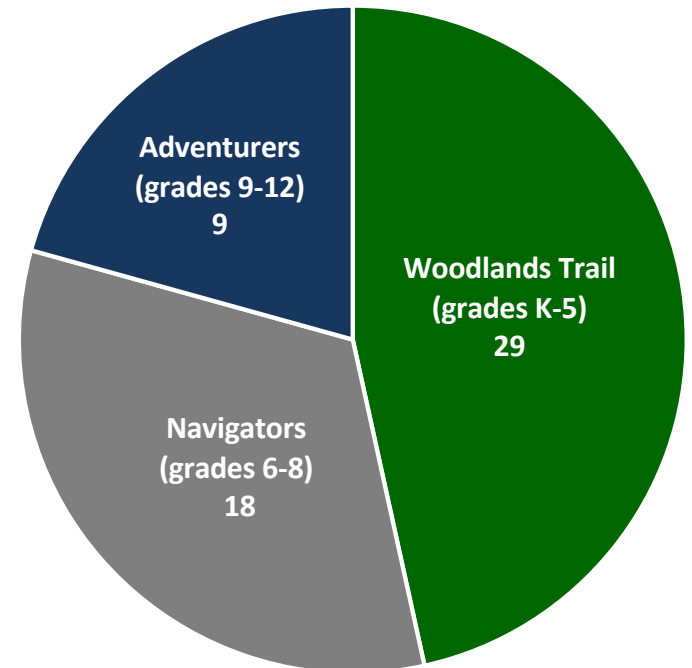
# Troop 317 At-A-Glance

## Church Affiliation



- 56 Young Men
- Ages 5-17
- 32 < 13 years old
- Grades K-12
- 38 Families
- 35 Active Direct Contact Leaders

## Trailmen by Patrol





# Why Troop 317?

- Christ-centered
  - Basis of our Troop's numeral is *Colossians 3:17*
- Discipleship focused
  - Mentoring by positive adult male role models
  - Trail Guides are "Patrol Disciplers"
- Service oriented
  - Building and equipping young men to serve others
- Leadership focused
  - Youth-led model of leadership development
- Adventure oriented
  - "Wild at Heart" opportunities for young men

# Troop 317 Charter

## **Purpose of Troop 317**

Troop 317's purpose is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

## **Vision of Troop 317**

At all times and in every way, Troop 317 will strive to be a place where:

1. Young men become mature and impactful disciples of Christ,
2. Young men become outstanding Trailmen who demonstrate the ideals and Biblical principles of the Trailman Oath,
3. Parents develop a closer relationship with their sons,
4. Adult volunteers serve in the areas of their giftedness and are affirmed for their support,
5. Perimeter Church benefits from our faithful stewardship of its facilities and collaboration with its ministries.

# Why Trail Life at Perimeter Church?

**Perimeter Church ethos:** “Attempt something so great for God that it is doomed to fail lest He be in it.”

*“If we fail this generation, it won’t be because we overchallenged them. It will be because we under-challenged them.”*

*--Mark Hancock, Trail Life CEO*

**Perimeter Church mission:** Make mature and equipped disciples of Christ who, in turn, make mature and equipped disciples of Christ – a *lifetime of disciple-makers*

**Troop 317 Vision:** To train and equip young men to be mature and impactful disciples of Jesus Christ through an Outdoor Program emphasizing Adventure, Character and Leadership.

# Why Trail Life at Perimeter Church?

## PERIMETER CHURCH STUDENT MINISTRIES



Middle School and High School students from all over come to gather in amazing community, worship an awesome God, grow in their walk with Christ and step out to meet the needs of others.

## KIDS DISCIPLESHIP

KIDS Discipleship combines biblical truth and compelling relationships to teach, equip, and encourage our covenant children as sons and daughters of the King. These groups include six to eight children and a leader who consistently meet together for large group teaching and small group application, discussion and prayer. Discipleship meets Sundays.

**TROOP 317**

Johns Creek, GA

*Troop 317 Vision: To train and equip young men to be mature and impactful disciples of Jesus Christ through an Outdoor Program emphasizing Adventure, Character and Leadership.*





# **Trail Life USA Program Design and Troop Structure**

# Program Design and Troop Structure Snapshot

Charter Org (local church)

Led by Troopmaster with Troop Oversight

## WOODLANDS TRAIL

{Knowledge}  
K-5th Grade  
Led by Ranger

## NAVIGATORS

{Understanding}  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Led by Trailmaster

## ADVENTURERS

{Wisdom}  
9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Led by Advisor



ADVANCEMENT TRAIL

# Trail Guides / Adult Leaders

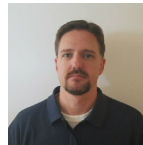
## Troop Committee

Brian Jobmann – Committee Chair

Chaplain – Oliver Tseng

Luke Van Cleave – Treasurer

Gregg Orangio – Outdoor Director



**Clay Cooksey**  
Troopmaster

## Perimeter Church (charter org)

Davon Stack - Senior Ministry Leader (in transition)

Brandon Huff – Troop Ministry Liaison

### WOODLANDS TRAIL

{Knowledge}

**K-5th Grade**

**Led by Steven Kilgore**

### NAVIGATORS

{Understanding}

**6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Led by Jason Randolph**

### ADVENTURERS

{Wisdom}

**9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Led by Dan Wolthuis**

#### Foxes

Josh Deyton

Steve

Weimann

*Daniel Nam*

*\*Floater*

#### Hawks

Anthony

Braswell

*Bob Yang*

Carl Morgan

Rob Vines

Jonathan Clark\*

*Caleb Cooper*

#### Mtn. Lions

Nate Dawkins

Nick Ford (Adv  
Chair)

Rob Hopper\*

David Hotard

Jason Pearson

Boone Rudder

Justin Hoffman

Jon Fowler

John Kang

Chris Darsey

Danny

Thomas

Gaines Redd

Ryan Compton

Dan Johansen\*

Heath Bryant

Keith Rosser

# Troop 317 Tuesday Meetings

- Opening / Colors / Opening Prayer – ALL (7:00pm)
- Wisdom for the Wild
- Program Breakout (Woodlands Trail, Navigators, Adventurers)
- Troop regathers for closing (~8:20pm)
- Closing / Colors / Closing Prayer
- Dismissal (8:30pm)



# Program Year and Monthly Schedule

- Troop 317 Program Year: August – May
  - November and May – Court of Honor
  - June – Summer Adventure; no weekly meetings; limited activities
  - July and December - off
- Weekly meetings are every Tuesday night @ 7:00pm
  - Topic focused, with plenty of hands-on activities
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday – Woodlands Trail “Hit The Trail” Outing
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Weekend – Navigator/Adventurer Weekend Campout
- 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – PLC Meeting (normal Tuesday for the rest of the Troop)

# Sample Monthly Activity Calendar

GA-0317 Calendar

Dashboard > GA-0317 Calendar

Selected filters: and 13 Troop event types



September 2024




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ● 9a Labor Day	2	3 ● 7p Regular Tuesday meeting	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 ● 7p Regular Tuesday meeting	11	12 ● 7p Peak One	13 ● 9a Peak Two	14
15	16	17 ● 7p Regular Tuesday meeting	18	19	20 +2 more	21
22	23	24 ● 7p Regular Tuesday meeting	25	26 +2 more	27 +2 more	28
29 +2 more	30	1 ● 7p Regular Tuesday meeting	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 ● 7p Regular Tuesday meeting	9	10 +2 more	11 +2 more	12



## **Questions?**

### **Up Next:**

- **Woodlands Trail**
- **Navigators**
- **Adventurers**



# **Program Implementation**



# Woodlands Trail Program



# Woodlands Trail

**Grades K-1 – Foxes**



**Grades 2-3 – Hawks**



**Grades 4-5 – Mountain Lions**



# Woodlands Trail



**Fox**



**Hawk**



**Mountain  
Lion**

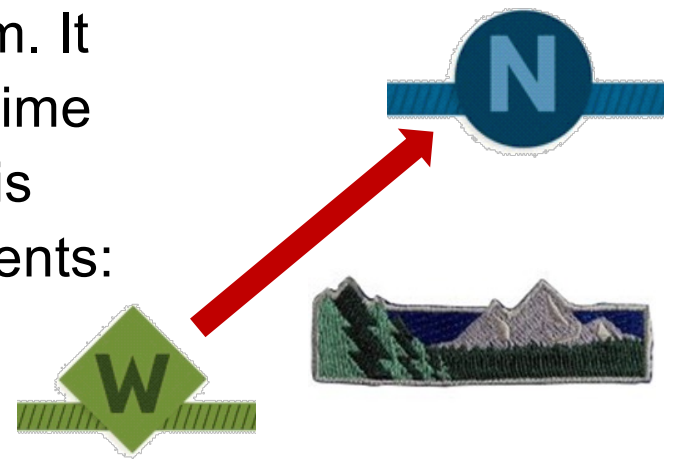
- **Heritage Branch** (Brown leaves): An exploration of American Heritage, Christian heritage, and a boy's own family heritage. Emphasis is placed on upholding the finest traditions of the heritage we obtain from our forefathers.
- **Hobbies Branch** (Black leaves): An exploration of various indoor and outdoor hobbies that demand varying levels of knowledge, skill, or aptitude.
- **Life Skills Branch** (Burgundy leaves): Teaching life lessons ranging from the practical and mundane to higher-level interpersonal skill sets.
- **Outdoor Skills Branch** (Blue leaves): Gaining basic understanding of woodcraft, hiking, exploration, and camping skills.
- **Science and Technology Branch** (Yellow leaves): An exploration of physical and natural science concerning our created world.
- **Sports and Fitness Branch** (Green leaves): Having fun in the outdoors with sports and other activities.
- **Values Branch** (Red leaves): Instilling Biblical-based values within the boys regarding any number of pertinent topics. The central focus of this branch is teachings of the Christian faith.

# Woodlands Trail

## The Timberline Award

The Timberline Award is the highest award that a Trailman can earn in the Woodlands Trail program. It designates that a young man has completed his time in the Woodlands Trail program and celebrates his readiness to join the Navigators. Award requirements:

1. Mountain Lion Forest Award
2. 7 Mountain Lion Sylvan Stars
3. Invite a Friend
4. Attend Overnight Campout
5. Responsibility
6. Service Project
7. **Worthy Life Award**







# WT Monthly Hit the Trail

- Usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month





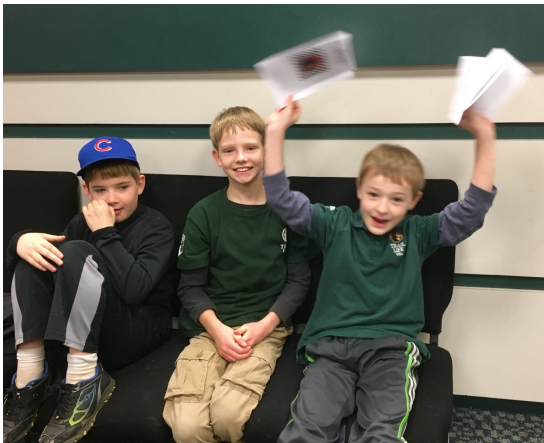
# Mountain Lions

- Mountain Lions additional opportunities
  - 1-2 overnight campouts per year with Navigators/Adventurers
  - Summer Adventure (5<sup>th</sup> Grade Mountain Lions)



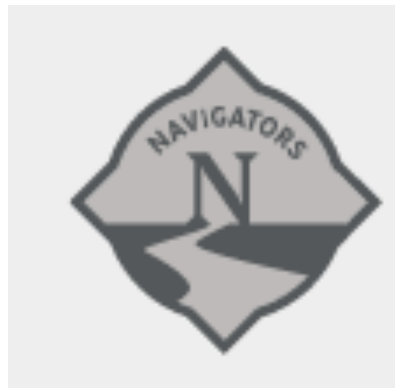


# Worthy Derby





# **Navigators / Adventurers Program**



# Navigators



## NAVIGATORS

*{Understanding}*

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Led by Trailmaster

### 9 Core Skills Trail Badges

CAMPING  
OUTDOOR COOKING  
ROPEWORK  
WOODS TOOLS  
AQUATICS  
FIRE RANGER  
OUR FLAG  
TRAIL SKILLS  
FIRST AID

5 Electives

15 Service hours  
for each Navigator  
year



Cycle through all skills ~18 months

# Electives (sample)

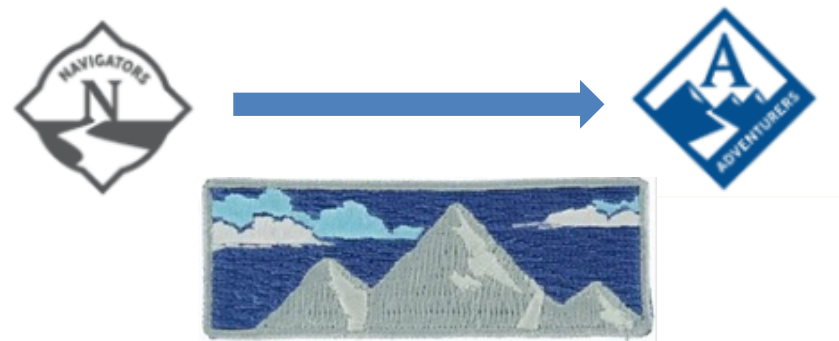
- Apologetics I
- Apologetics II
- Archery
- Art History
- Aviation
- Backpacking
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Bible Basics
- Blacksmithing
- Boating Safety
- Bowling
- Camp Counselor
- Canoeing
- Christian Faith Activities
- Cinematography
- Climb On!
- Communications Technology
- Competitive Rock Climbing
- Competitive Swimming
- Computing
- Creeds
- Driving Safety
- Electrical Engineering
- Electricity
- Engineering Mechanics
- Engineering Structures
- Engineering Systems
- Environmental Stewardship
- Fishing
- Followers of Freedom
- Founders and Framers
- Geneology
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Horsemanship
- Hunting
- MANY MORE

# Navigators

## Ridgeline Award

The capstone award for the Navigators program. It is one of the only awards from the Navigators that can permanently be worn on his Troop Uniform. Requirements:

1. Earned Ready Trailman Rank
2. **Complete Worthy Life Award**
3. Complete Service Project





# Adventurers



## ADVENTURERS

{Wisdom}

9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Led by Advisor



9 Core Skills  
Trail Badges  
CAMPING  
OUTDOOR COOKING  
ROPEWORK  
WOODS TOOLS  
AQUATICS  
FIRE RANGER  
OUR FLAG  
TRAIL SKILLS  
FIRST AID

6 True Freedom  
Trail Badges  
EMERGENCY PREP  
FAMILY MAN  
PERSONAL RESOURCES  
CITIZENSHIP  
OUTDOOR LIFE  
FITNESS

10 Electives

20 Service  
hours for each  
Adventurer  
year

# Freedom Award



## Freedom Award

- › ONE MAJOR + TWO MINORS —  
COMPOSED OF "FREEDOM EXPERIENCES"
- › **Worthy Life Award**
- › SERVANT LEADERSHIP PROJECT

**Must be completed by 18<sup>th</sup> birthday**





# Nav/Adv Monthly Campouts

- Weekend Campouts (Navs/Adv) – Usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of each month.





# Summer Adventure

## Navs/Advvs/5<sup>th</sup> grade Mtn Lions





# Service Projects



**TROOP 317**  
Johns Creek, GA





# Questions?

## Up Next:

- **Youth Leadership**
- **Discipleship Studies**
- **Financial Details**



# **Youth Leadership**



# Youth Leadership

## Three Guiding Principles

1. Besides modeling Godly character and behavior, training youth leaders to run their troop is ~~the Troopmaster's~~ ***EVERY ADULT LEADER'S*** most important job.
2. Train Trailmen – of all ages – to do a job, then **let them do it.**
3. Resist the temptation to do for a Trailman what he can/should be able to do for himself.

# Youth Leadership

## Youth Leadership roles that Lead, Manage, and Guide the Troop

- First and Second Officers, Patrol Leaders: Adventurers
- Junior Patrol Leaders: Navigators
- Quartermaster: Adventurer or Navigator

## “Formal” Leadership in action

- Service to Troop and its operations
- Meets requirements for advancement
- “Up-front” and/or “behind the scenes”
- Learn by doing with adult guidance
- Failure (partial or full) is possible, but not bad



# Youth Leadership

- Transition youth leadership positions 2x/year
  - “Change of Command” at Court of Honor (May and November)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer elected by Troop (grades 5-12 can vote)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Officer transitions from 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer
- Adv/Nav Patrol Leaders elected by peers in their patrols
- Quartermaster appointed by 1<sup>st</sup> Officer
- Learning to lead (on the job training with adult guidance)
  - Troop Leadership Training – Troop-run (by Youth)
  - Junior Leadership Training – Troop-run (by Adult) / Area or Regional



# Patrol Leader Council (PLC)

Youth-led monthly meeting to plan and problem-solve

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Officers
- Patrol leaders and Junior Patrol Leaders
- Quartermaster
- Advisor (Adventurers) - Adult
- Trailmaster (Navigators) - Adult
- Trail Guides – Adults
- Troopmaster





# **Discipleship and Faith Studies**

# Worthy Life Award

**Worthy Life is the highest, faith-based, special award in the Trail Life program.**

Required to earn the *Timberline* (WT), *Ridgeline* (Nav/Adv), and *Freedom* (Adv) Awards



- **Devotional** - Engaging with spiritual truth in a regular transformative manner.
- **Discipleship** - Living your faith through service and learning about how others have done so.
- **Discipline** - Practicing intentional activities that result in spiritual growth like regular prayer, fasting, journaling, memorizing Scripture, attending church services, giving, and serving.
- **Demonstration** - Evaluating and sharing Worthy Life experiences with parents, Troop, and/or church.

**At the Woodlands Trail level, Worthy Life involves intentional mentoring,** hands-on activities, and practical applications that involve parents and Troop mentors to help a boy gain knowledge of fundamental truths.

**For older boys in the Navigators and the Adventurers programs,** focus moves from creating foundational knowledge to helping *internalize* his faith, *integrate* it as his worldview, live with *integrity*, share with *intentionality*, and use his spiritual gifts to *impact* others through service.





# Manhood Journey



## BUILDING MEN: MILESTONES ON THE JOURNEY TO MANHOOD

On the journey to manhood, boys need to be a part of a mission bigger than themselves. They need significant challenges. They need men who can cast vision, celebrate milestones, and help them see who they can become. In the midst of Coronavirus shut-downs and virtual meetings, a group of leaders in Trail Life Troop TX-II60 were able to help the boys in their community dream and accomplish just such a project.





**Trail Life USA**  
**Troop 317**  
**Financial Details**

# Financial Details

- **Clothing costs**

- (1) Travel / Meeting shirt (Polo-style, collared shirt) = ~\$26-\$34
- (1) Activity shirt (T-shirt) = ~\$15-\$23
- (1) Formal Uniform = ~\$~125 (Mountain Lions +)



- **Annual Costs**

- Trail Life Connect (TLC) Registration = ~\$30
  - National Registration Fees, Insurance, etc.
- Troop 317 Dues – Woodlands Trail=\$60, Navigators/Adventurers=\$100
  - Advancement, Rank and Award Insignia, Leader Training, Meeting Supplies, website, Trail Life Home Office fees, Troop equipment, advertising, other operating expenses



# Financial Details – Activities

- **Navigators / Adventurers**

- Dependent on scope, distance, and direct costs involved.
- Will generally be in the neighborhood of \$40-\$60 per campout



- **Woodlands Trail**

- Dependent on scope, distance, and direct costs involved.
- Will generally be FREE or in the neighborhood of \$5-\$10 per Hit the Trail

# Financial Details – Full-Year

	Troop Annual Dues	National Registration	Monthly Outings (annualized)	Summer Adventure*	TOTAL
<b>Foxes (K-1)</b>	60	30	20	N/A	<b>110</b>
<b>Hawks (2-3)</b>	60	30	20	N/A	<b>110</b>
<b>Mountain Lions (4-5)</b>	60	30	60	350*	<b>520*</b>
<b>Navigators (6-8)</b>	100	30	500	350*	<b>980*</b>
<b>Adventurers (9-12)</b>	100	30	500	350*	<b>980*</b>

- Financial Aid is available for any or all of the charges shown.
- See your Trail Guide or Clay Cooksey for details.
- \*Summer Adventure is optional for Trailmen 5<sup>th</sup> grade (rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders) and up





**Trail Life USA**

**Troop 317**

**Parental Involvement**



# Troop 317 Parental Involvement

- Your support is *critical* to our success
  - Supporting your son's activities and meetings
  - Encouraging his advancement
- Committing to volunteer in some way...
  - Adult leader/Trail Guide (dads and/or men invested in the Trailmen required to register)
  - Committee member opportunities
  - Assist on outings & special projects
- Actively participating in fundraisers

# Volunteer Opportunities

## Adult leaders

- Begin to learn the program
- Help Trail Guides
  - plan and implement weekly lessons
  - plan and implement outings and special projects
  - track advancement of Trailmen

## Trail Guides

- plan and implement weekly lessons
- plan and implement outings & special projects
- track advancement of Trailmen

## Committee and other needs

- Advancement
- Membership
- Veterans Day
- Outdoor Activities\* / Campmasters
- Communications
- Fundraising
- Health and Safety medical forms

[Volunteer descriptions](#)

**With everyone participating, there will be less work required for any one individual.**

# Troop 317 Parental Involvement

- Our desire is that *every family* would find a way to contribute to Troop 317 in their particular area of interest, giftedness or passion.
- Dads: Registered as Adult Leader. Your support may be as simple as coming to a Troop meeting to assist the Trail Guide with their tasks or it may involve “sharing” a volunteer role.
  - If you have a particular skill or interest, please see Clay Cooksey or your son’s Trail Guide to volunteer.
- Moms, dads, other: sign up to fill a [volunteer role](#)
- Weekly Meetings: Dads (and/or men invested in a Trailman’s life), please commit to **attending at least two months of Troop Meetings** during the Troop year.
- Weekend Campouts/Activities: Dads (and/or men invested in a Trailman’s life), please commit to **attending at least four weekend activities** during the year.






**Trail Life USA**  
**Troop 317**  
**Fundraising**

# Friends of Troop 317

- **Established March 2022**
- **Allows for tax-deductible donations to Troop 317 and American Heritage Girls**
- **Opportunity for employer matching donations**

**Welcome to Friends of Troop 317**



**AHG Mission Statement**  
Building women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and country.

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

**Donate Now via PayPal**

**TROOP 317**  
Johns Creek, GA

[troop317.com/friends/FriendsofT317.html](http://troop317.com/friends/FriendsofT317.html)



# Wreaths Across America



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

- Troop promotes WAA  
October – November
- Sponsor Remembrance  
Wreaths @15 each
- Troop 317 receives \$5 for  
each sponsored wreath
- Lay wreaths at GA  
National Cemetery

JOIN US ON NATIONAL WREATHS  
ACROSS AMERICA DAY

DECEMBER 17, 2022

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,500 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

Join us by sponsoring a veterans' wreath at a cemetery near you, volunteering or donating to a local sponsorship group.



# Smoked Pork Fundraiser

- **Smoked 42 pork shoulders in 2022**
  - 12 lb. precooked
  - ~8-10 lb. cooked
- **Dedicated website for managing orders**
- **Achieved ~80% family participation**
  - **Includes friends and families of Troop 317 families**



## Troop 317 BBQ Fundraiser

Trail Life USA Troop 317 is dedicated to raising Godly men through discipleship and character and leadership development using the outdoor adventure model. We hike, camp, raft, repel, shoot and cave. And we serve our community. Please consider supporting our Troop by purchasing a 6-7 lb smoked pork butt March 21 – April 8. All proceeds go directly into Troop operations supporting Trailmen activities like hikes and campouts, Troop gear and equipment, and scholarships for annual Trail Life USA summer camps. We thank you for your support.



### DETAILS

What: 10 lbs' Smoked Pork Butt

When: Pickup April 15<sup>th</sup> (Good Friday) 5-7pm

Where: 5150 Peachtree Industrial Blvd  
Suite 150 (Around the back)  
Peachtree Corners, GA 30005

How: Online Ordering March 20<sup>th</sup> - April 8<sup>th</sup>  
Cost: \$65

Purpose: All funds will go to scholarships, Troop dues, Summer Adventure Expenses & various activities - rockets and derby cars.

Email: [BBQSupport@Troop317.com](mailto:BBQSupport@Troop317.com)

Online Link: <https://fundraiser.Troop317.com>

Interested in your son joining the Trail? Contact us @ [TrailLife@Troop317.com](mailto:TrailLife@Troop317.com)



**Trail Life USA**  
**Troop 317**  
**Next Steps**

# Next Steps

- **Visit at least one regular Tuesday night (if you haven't already)**
- **REGISTER by September 24**
  - Email us at [traillife@troop317.com](mailto:traillife@troop317.com) to let us know you are ready to join Troop 317
  - We will send you a link that will get you started with Trail Life Connect (National membership)
  - Complete the sign-up process (\$31) ASAP
- Order patrol-appropriate attire at [shop.traillifeusa.com](http://shop.traillifeusa.com) (Uniform drop down options)
  - Polo Shirt AND T-shirt, recommend wicking (applies to all new Trailmen)
  - Formal Uniform (Mountain Lions and up): Standard Lightweight Cargo Pkg, or Chino Pkg
- Receive [www.troop317.net](http://www.troop317.net) ID and password
  - Login to [www.troop317.net](http://www.troop317.net) and complete profile
  - Pay Dues of \$60 (Woodlands Trail) and/or \$100 (Nav/Adv)
- Complete and submit medical form(s) (Weekend Health High Adventure for Navs/Adv)
- Sign and return Parent Covenant
- Start Having FUN!





**Thank  
You!**



**TROOP 317**

Johns Creek, GA