



**Trail Life**

***Join the Trail!***

**Good Shepherd Parish**

TALLAHASSEE

Revised 08/18/2023

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**Join Good Shepherd on the trail!**

- Troop FL-0118 is excited to offer the Trail Life ministry
- Top priorities:
  - Grow the troop
  - More outdoor adventure
  - Authentic Catholic identity
  - Leadership and service
  - Fully implement advancements program



**Trail Life**

**Good Shepherd**



**Christ Centered.**

**Boy Focused.**

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# What is Trail Life?

## Traditional scouting methods:

- Outdoor adventure
- Ideals
- Association with adults
- Personal growth
- Advancement
- Patrol method
- Leadership development
- Uniforms

# HONORING *the* LEGACY RAISING *the* STANDARD

## Trail Life adds:

- Christian formation



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# Trail Life’s Vision & Mission



- **Our Vision** is to be the premier national character development organization for young men which produces godly and responsible husbands, fathers, and citizens
- **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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# Trailman Oath & Motto



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

## ◀ WALK WORTHY! ▶

Colossians 1:10  
“... That you may **walk worthy** of God, in all things  
pleasing; being fruitful in every good work, and  
increasing in the knowledge of God:”

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# Trail Life aligned to the Transcendentals



## Trail Life

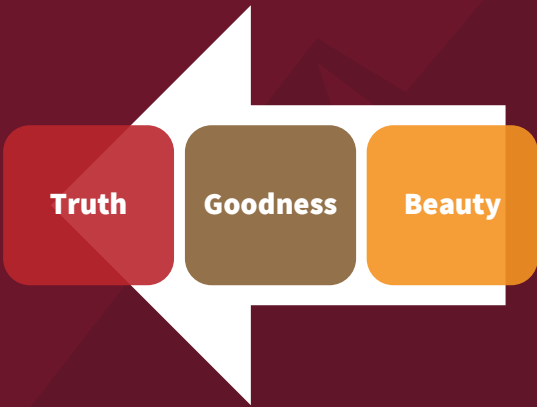
Adventure ▶ Character ▶ Leadership

### Adventure ▶ Character ▶ Leadership

Beauty	Goodness	Truth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• God’s creation</li><li>• Outdoor adventure</li><li>• Fun</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Virtue</li><li>• Christian life</li><li>• Community</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discipleship</li><li>• Leadership development</li><li>• Evangelization</li><li>• Vocation</li></ul>

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# Trail Life Leads with Beauty



- Begin with the splendor of God’s creation and the joy and peace of Christian life
- Once attracted to beauty, there is greater openness to living the virtues
- Increased holiness and sanctification from living the virtues makes one more receptive to the truth of the Gospel

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# Statement of Faith (Adult Leaders)



We believe there is One Triune God—God the Father; Jesus Christ, His one and only Son; and the Holy Spirit—Creator of the universe and eternally existent. We believe the Holy Scriptures (Old and New Testaments) to be the inspired and authoritative Word of God. We believe each person is created in His image for the purpose of communing with and worshiping God. We believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit, Who enables us to live godly lives. We believe each of us is called to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We believe God calls us to lives of purity, service, stewardship and integrity.

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# Statement of Values (Adult Leaders)

- **Purity**—God calls us to lives of holiness, being pure of heart, mind, word and deed. We are to reserve sexual activity for the sanctity of marriage, a lifelong commitment before God between a man and a woman.
- **Service**—God calls us to become responsible members of our community and the world through selfless acts that contribute to the welfare of others.
- **Stewardship**—God calls us to use our God-given time, talents, and money wisely.
- **Integrity**—God calls us to live moral lives that demonstrate an inward motivation to do what is biblically right regardless of the cost.



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# Program Levels

- Troops are organized according to biblical principles in Proverbs 24:3-4, reflecting age appropriate (K-U-W-L) groups of boys:
  - **Woodlands Trail** (Knowledge)—Elementary School
  - **Navigators** (*Understanding*)—Middle School
  - **Adventurers** (*Wisdom*)—High School
  - **Guidon** (*Life*)—College and University

By **wisdom** a house is built,  
by **understanding** it is established;  
And by **knowledge** its rooms are filled  
with every precious and pleasing  
possession.

Proverbs 24:3-4



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# Woodlands Trail



- Elementary-school age (ages 5-10), three 2-year programs:
- **Fox** (Kindergarten-1st grade and 5 years old by October 31)
- **Hawk** (2nd-3rd grade and 7 years old by October 31)
- **Mountain Lion** (4th-5th grade and 9 years old by October 31)
- Adult led, participation-based

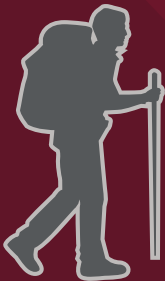


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# Navigators



- Middle-school age (ages 11-13)
- Achievement-based, including skills, service, leadership, and faith formation
- Boy led with strong adult guidance



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# Adventurers

- High-school age (ages 14-17)
- Achievement-based, including skills, service, leadership, and faith formation
- Boy led with adult mentorship



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# Navigator & Adventurer Ranks (2023)



**Navigators & Adventurers**  
(Ages 11-17)



**RIDGELINE AWARD**  
\*Navigators Only



**Adventurers Only**  
(Ages 14-17)



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# Core Values of Trail Life

- Christ-centered
- Church-owned & Operated
- Outdoor-focused
- Safety
- Courage
- Male-centered Adult Leadership
- Volunteer-driven
- Program Flexibility
- Shared Leadership
- Utilization of Patrol Method
- Character-focused, Not Awards-focused
- Servant Leadership
- Family-oriented
- Decentralized Decision-making
- Debt Averse and Member Dependent
- Christian Worldview

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## Christ-centered

- Our Lord **Jesus Christ** is central to all Trail Life activities and our mission of discipleship
- Trail Life is **boy-focused**, so it is not Sunday school. We lead with fun and outdoor adventure but integrate faith into every aspect of the program.
- **Carrot cake** metaphor. Nutritious carrots (faith) found in each bite, but sweet cake (fun and outdoor adventure) is what attracts boys to eat.



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## Outdoor-focused

- The beauty of **God’s creation**—the outdoors—is the best setting for Trail Life
- Trail Life is **not school**. Boys crave danger and adventure; they were designed to be active
- Trail Life is about camping, hiking, boating, outdoor cooking, and other **outdoor adventure**
- Trail Life believes that boys should be allowed to get dirty.  
We **Let Boys be Boys!**



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## Church-owned & Operated

- Troops **fully integrated** into life of parish
- Troops receive **spiritual guidance** from pastor and other clergy
- Diocese and parish ensure that the troop presents Catholic faith consistent with Sacred **Scripture**, Sacred **Tradition**, and **Magisterium** of the Catholic Church
- **Relationship between parish and troop** should be much deeper than parish’s merely providing the troop with a place to meet



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# Utilization of Patrol Method

- Trail Life honors the legacy of **Lord Baden-Powell**’s international scouting movement:  
*“Scouting is nothing less than applied Christianity.”—BP*
- **Patrol method** and youth-centered leadership are essential to Trail Life
- Trail Life seeks not only to produce tomorrow’s leaders, but **Christian leaders** who will become godly and responsible husbands, fathers, and citizens:
  - Strengthen the domestic church
  - Increase vocations to priesthood and religious life
  - Restore Christian worldview to our nation



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# Character-focused, Not Awards-focused

- Trail Life honors its scouting legacy but **raises the standard**
- Trail Life acknowledges that **recognition** of boys’ achievements is important
- Trail Life is more concerned with building **character**—habituating virtue and forming conscience—than awards
- Trail Life’s highest award—the Freedom Award—cannot be earned before high school age after demonstrating **maturity and leadership**



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CATHOLIC IDENTITY IN TRAIL LIFE:  
**Seven Pillars of the Christian Life**



**PRAYER**



**SACRAMENT**



**CATECHESIS**



**VIRTUE**



**SERVICE**



**EVANGELIZATION**



**VOCATION**



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**Youth Fees**



**Youth joining requirements:**

- National registration fee: **\$33.25** (paid online to Trail Life)
- Troop FL-0118 dues: **\$118.00** (paid to Good Shepherd Parish)
- Youth are not required to be Catholic (or Christian) to be members

**What's covered by our Troop Dues?**

- Troop tee-shirt, handbook, and troop numeral shoulder patch
- Troop's annual re-charter fee (\$195.00 per troop per year)
- Program support fee (\$20.00 per boy per year)
- Trail Life's liability insurance
- Awards and recognitions
- Troop outdoor equipment



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## Importance of Uniforms



- Our troop seeks 100% in formal troop uniform.
- Target: Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 10.
- When troop is in uniform, they look “sharp” and gain *esprit de corps*
- Troop is not “uniform” and looks sloppy when boys are partially in uniform, for example, wearing denim jeans with uniform shirt instead of the troop’s designated pants.
- Teaching boys the self-discipline of wearing the complete uniform helps them grow in virtue.
- Troop will periodically do uniform inspections to recognize boys consistently in uniform.

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## How to Purchase Uniforms

- Uniforms available from <https://shop.traillifeusa.com>
- **Basic Uniform Package: \$55.00**
  - Uniform shirt
  - Shoulder loops
- **Troop Uniform Belt: \$15.00**
- Do not purchase uniform hat or pants from Trail Life. Troop hats will be available for purchase from the troop, and due to quality control issues in Trail Life’s uniform pants, our troop is designating alternate pants from Amazon.com.
- Trail Life shop adds flat-rate shipping charge of \$9.99 per order, regardless of order size. To avoid shipping charges, the troop periodically organizes bulk orders.

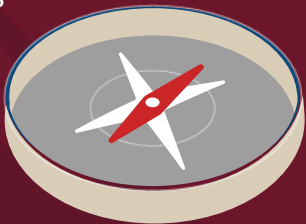


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# Adult Leader Requirements

## Adult leader joining requirements:

- National registration fee: **\$38.00** (paid online to Trail Life)
- Sign Trail Life’s Christian statement of faith and values
- Submit to Trail Life’s criminal history checks
- Submit to Diocesan fingerprinting and background checks\*
- Complete Trail Life’s and Diocese’s online youth protection training



\*Good Shepherd Parish graciously covers cost of **\$65.00** fee for Diocesan fingerprinting and background checks

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