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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



Adventure › Character › Leadership

Adventure › Character › Leadership

Beauty

- God’s creation
- Outdoor adventure
- Fun

Goodness

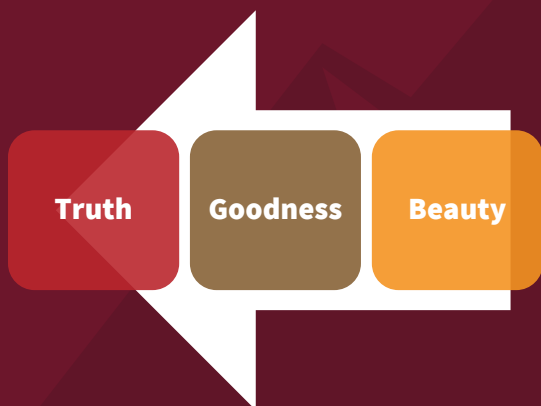
- Virtue
- Christian life
- Community

Truth

- Discipleship
- Leadership development
- Evangelization
- Vocation

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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



TIMBERLINE AWARD

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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 14-18)
- Achievement-based, including skills, service, leadership, and faith formation
- Boy led with adult mentorship



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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
- Youth-centered Leadership
- Character-focused, Not Awards-focused
- Servant Leadership
- Family-oriented
- Decentralized Decision-making
- Debt Averse
- 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.

**Christ
Centered.
Boy
Focused.**



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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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Youth-centered Leadership

- 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



Trail Life JOIN THE TRAIL



Troops Fully Alive



*The national
association of
Trail Life's
Catholic troops*

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