

New Parent Packet



Trail Life®

Adventure › Character › Leadership

Welcome to Trail Life!

Trail Life USA is a Church-Based, Christ-Centered, Boy-Focused mentoring and discipleship journey that speaks to the heart of a boy. With over 70,000 boys engaged in more than 1,500 Troops nationwide, male mentors guide boys through a character-building experience from ages 5 to 17. Established on timeless values derived from the Bible and set in the context of outdoor adventure, our objective is to help boys grow in character, understand their purpose, serve their community, and develop practical leadership skills to carry out the mission for which they were created.

Adventure is the heart of the Trail Life USA program. Acknowledging boys' love for hiking, camping, fishing, tree-climbing, story-telling, and s'mores around campfires, weekly meetings are held outside whenever possible and are designed to delight the raucous, rowdy, unruly nature of a boy. Trailmen engage in hands-on experiences that develop character, deepen faith, and hone practical skills.

Trail Life Distinctives

Vision

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



Mission

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



Motto

“Walk Worthy”

Colossians 1:10 "...that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;..."



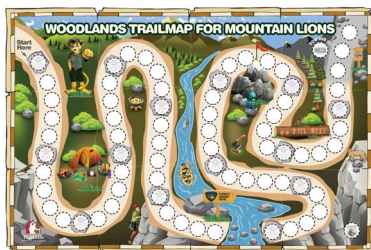
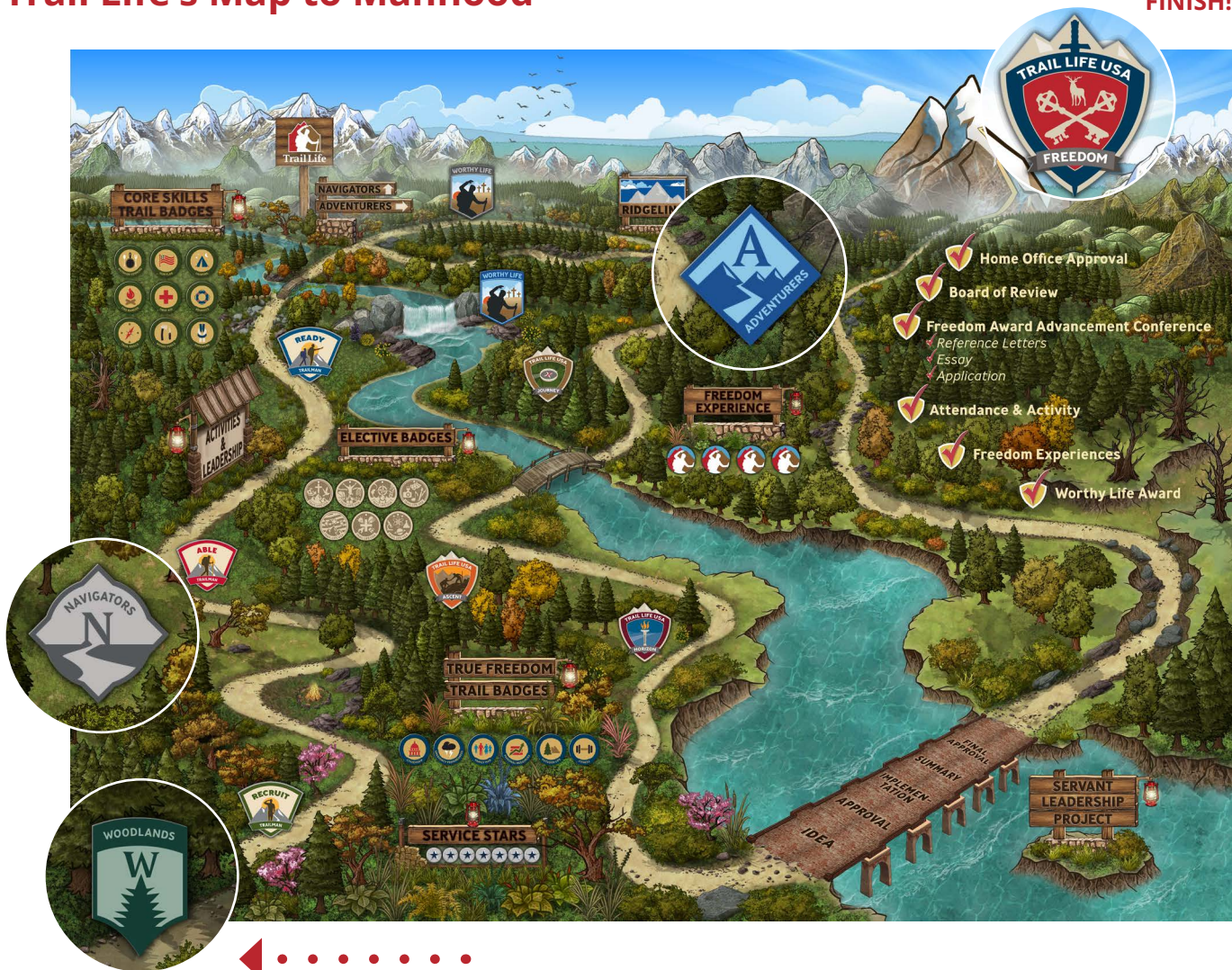
Trailman Oath

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.



Trail Life's Map to Manhood

FINISH!



START

An essential component of the Trail Life USA program is the provision of a clear Trail map for a boy to manhood. Through weekly meetings, monthly Hit the Trail events, and annual rites of passage award ceremonies, both boys and parents find intentional guidance. The program ensures that boys grow in faith, acquire skills, and cultivate character traits essential for earning the Freedom Award; the pinnacle Trail Life award. Upon completing the Trail Life program, a boy emerges as a leader in his Troop, a contributor to his community, and a vital member of his church, having undergone intentional mentorship with his father and men in his Troop. He gains an understanding of biblical masculinity and is well-prepared for life, acknowledging that true freedom comes through surrender, with a recognition that Christ paid the ultimate price.

Trail Life Advancement



Woodlands Trail Ages 5-10

The program begins in the lush forests on the Woodlands Trail. Broken into three groups boys age 5-10 acquire knowledge about outdoor skills, citizenship, character, friendship, and faith through enjoyable activities, awards, and skill instruction. Boys earn pins to add to their group patch as they participate in the program.



Fox: Ages 5-6



Hawk: Ages 7-8



Mountain Lion: Ages 9-10



Joining Branch Patches and Branch Pins (Year 1)



Forest Award Patches and Sylvan Stars (Year 2)



Navigators Ages 11-13

As boys progress along the trail, they transition from the lush green forest floor to the challenges of the grey rocky crags as Navigators (ages 11-13). Under the guidance of godly male role models, they explore values and beliefs, demonstrating responsibility in outdoor adventures, as well as in their home and school life. Advancement is marked by earning Ranks and Trail Badges.



Core Skills Ranks



Adventurers Ages 14-17

As Adventurers (ages 14-17), young men mature in wisdom and faith by tackling more difficult challenges and assuming leadership roles. Christian men provide guidance as they plan and lead outdoor events, undertake large projects, and mentor younger Trailmen. This comprehensive journey prepares them for the responsibilities of adulthood, instilling a deep understanding that true freedom is a result of surrender, which Christ modeled with the ultimate sacrifice.



True Freedom Ranks

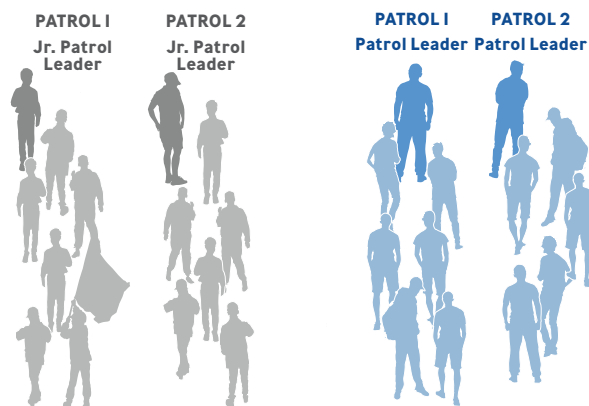


Example badges for Navigators & Adventurers

Faith and Leadership Opportunities for Trailmen

Worthy Life Award

At each program level, Trailmen will have the opportunity to earn the Worthy Life Award. This special award provides your son the opportunity to learn more about the Christian Faith and Christian Life. Each unique award is represented by a cross that is affixed to the appropriate program colored ribbon.



The Patrol Method

The Patrol Method is leadership practiced during meetings. The Patrol Method splits a Troop into small groups that explore the theory and practice of leadership, while using the gifts of individuals to build group wellbeing. A patrol is ideally 6-8 Trailmen of the same program level. Trailmen elect a peer leader to serve as their Patrol Leader or Jr. Patrol Leader. The patrols provide opportunities for Trailmen to practice leading others as well as following others. Patrols will do all activities together whenever possible.

Trail Life Scripture Memory Challenge

One of Trail Life's Core Values is Character Over Awards. Real, lasting character is built by knowing the truth found in Scripture and living it out. Memorizing God's Word helps your son walk worthy, renew his mind, and grow stronger in faith. As your son completes each passage, he will recite it to his Troop Chaplain or parent (based on your Troop's plan), and he'll earn a corresponding sticker. We offer a free, printable tracker to collect the stickers, or a Scripture Memory Challenge Water Bottle to showcase your son's progress - available for purchase on the Trail Life Store.



Youth Protection Essentials

It's as Simple as 1-2-3

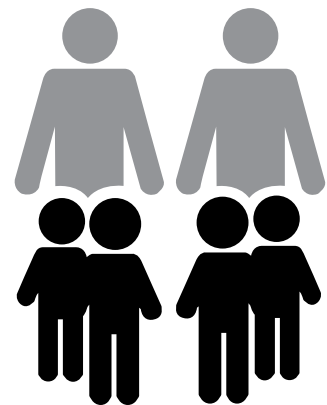
No **1**-on-One

The no one-on-one rule is in place for youth protection so no boy is ever alone with an adult. This is for both the protection of the boy and the adult.



2 Deep Leadership

The two-deep rule is in place for safety so there is always a minimum of two Registered Adults in proximity to provide backup and oversight.



Buddy System of **3**

The buddy system of three helps keep youth safe from abusive youth when out of sight of adult leadership. Buddies must be of the same program level.



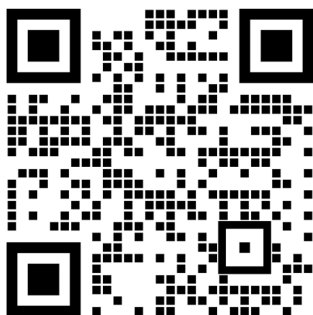
Complete Child Safety Youth Protection policies and additional guidelines are found in the current version of the Health and Safety Guide.

Trail Life Connect

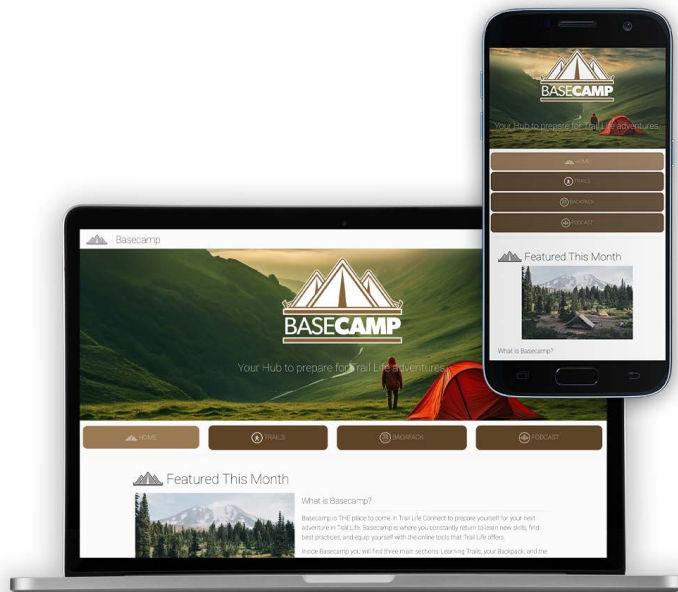
Trail Life Connect (TLC) is our Troop management platform designed to keep you, your Trailman, and Troop leadership all on the same page. Within TLC, you'll find your Troop's event calendar, your son's advancement progress, and built-in messaging tools for easy communication with Troop leadership and other families. It's your go-to hub for program details and answers to common questions.

TLC also includes **Basecamp**—an interactive online learning platform with role-specific Learning Treks to help you grow alongside your son. Learn new skills, proven strategies, and equip yourself for the journey ahead, one adventure at a time.

To access TLC, download the app or visit **www.TrailLifeConnect.com**, and log in using the username and password you created during registration. If you haven't registered yet, your Troop leaders can help you get started.

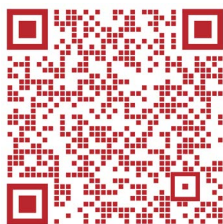


Trail Life Connect

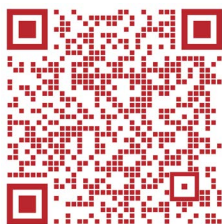


Basecamp

Try the TLC app! Search **Trail Life Connect** or scan below.



App Store



Google Play Store



TLC app

A Trail Life Core Value: Volunteer-Driven

Our organization thrives on passionate volunteers. This minimizes paid staff and maximizes member involvement.

How can I get involved as an adult?

- Trail Life encourages all adults to take active roles in their Trailman's journey through the program. The easiest way to do that is by attending with your Trailman at weekly Troop meetings, Hit the Trail activities, and campouts. Instead of watching from the sidelines, you can be a part of the action with Trail Life.

- The more you know about the Trail Life organization and program, the more you will be able to stay engaged and encourage your Trailman throughout his journey in Trail Life. To learn more about Trail Life as an organization and the specific programs, log in to www.traillifeconnect.com and click the Basecamp tile. Within that tile, you will find the Learning Trails section. You can click on the New Adult Learning Trail and take the Trail-head for New Adults Learning Trek.

- The absolute best way to get involved is to use your passions and unique skills to serve others within your son's Troop. You can do this by becoming a Registered Adult. Connect with your Troop leadership to understand the registration process and discover the places where your passions and skills best fit within the Troop.



OUTFITTED FOR THE ADVENTURE

The Trail Life Store equips Trailmen for the trail ahead. From uniforms and awards to outdoor gear and lifestyle apparel, it prepares members to fully engage in the program. This is where the adventure is outfitted. Gear up at shop.traillifeusa.com.



UNIFORMS



AWARDS



HANDBOOKS



GEAR



APPAREL

SHOP THE STORE

shop.traillifeusa.com



Our Troop



Trail Life[®]

Meeting Place: _____

Day: _____

Time: _____

Troopmaster: _____

My Son's Trail Guide: _____

Contact Information: _____

Notes: _____
