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Welcome to Troop 49

The Troop 49 family welcomes you to the troop. The Troop Committee, the Scoutmaster, and Assistant Scoutmasters want to provide each new Scout and his parents with this general guide to help you understand what Scouting is and what we do. We all were once parents of Webelos and felt overwhelmed with the quantity of information. Building this reference is our way of helping the next generation have it a bit easier.

Troop 49 has the informal motto as “The Pathfinders” relating to our adventuresome spirit. Our web site is www.ThePathfinders.Org where you will find most of the information you will need about our troop.

Disclaimer: When this document is in conflict with a BSA policy or guideline, the BSA guideline or policy is the rule.

We ask that the parents and Scouts read over this material and discuss it as it relates to your family and your expectations of Scouting. We strongly encourage you *keep it handy for reference when questions arise*. If you ever have a question, criticism or concern regarding the operation of the Troop or what may be expected of you, please contact the Troop Committee or any one of the Scoutmasters. We all sincerely want your experiences with Troop 49 to be fun and full of personal growth. Scouting provides a unique program of self-development that is not found anywhere else. Those who follow Scouting’s trail mature, become self-confident, discover life-long values, and have fun doing it.

The emphasis of the Boy Scout program is to promote and encourage boy leadership. In support of this program, the Troop 49 adult leaders are present as advisors, insuring safety and keeping the program oriented toward Scouting ideals. Troop, patrol and patrol council meetings, camping trips and day trips are run by boy leaders for the most part.

The Aims and Methods of Scouting

The Boy Scout program works toward three aims. One is growth in moral strength and character. This can be defined as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, his outlook. A second aim is participating citizenship. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society he lives in, to the government that presides over that society. A third aim of the Boy Scout program is development of physical, mental and emotional fitness. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems) and the emotions (self-control, courage and self- respect).

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To accomplish these aims, eight methods are used. This approach dates all the way back to Lord Baden-Powell's initial scouting handbook and the very first campout at Brownsea Island. Most of these are discussed in more detail in other sections of this handbook. We ask your support in applying these methods to achieve the aims of Boy Scouting. These methods are:

Ideals: The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, Motto and Slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high and, as he reaches for them, he has some control over what he becomes.

Patrols: The patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups help determine Troop activities through their elected representatives.

Outdoor program: Boy Scouting is designed to take place in the outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at Troop meetings can be put to practical use. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for the outdoors. The outdoors is the laboratory for Boy Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Advancement: Boy Scouting's advancement program provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. He also gains knowledge in a variety of areas through his work on certain skills and merit badges. The steps in the advancement method help a boy grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others.

Association With Respected Adults: Boys learn from the example of their adult leaders. In his quest for manhood, every boy needs contact with adults he can copy. Providing good examples of manhood is one of the methods of Scouting. Boy Scouts of America has also realized that, in our rapidly changing society, boys can also learn good character and skills from adult female leaders. Therefore, women are encouraged to participate in any of the adult leadership positions in the Troop.

Personal Growth: As Boy Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth methods of Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. There is probably no device so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious awards program also plays a large part in the personal growth methods. In

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addition, frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Boy Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development: The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Uniform: The uniform makes the Boy Scout Troop visible as a force of good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Boy Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Boy Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform also provides a way for Boy Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

Boy Scouting is about training Junior Leaders, and this is done through the Troop program: planning an event, carrying through on those plans and experiencing the event. This is in addition to the skill, merit badges and rank advancement aspects of Boy Scouting. As parents, it is important that you understand the Boy Scout program and that your boy be exposed to all aspects of it. It is equally important that the Scouting program be allowed to work. Because boys have greater or lesser leadership talents, some of our programs are more successful than others. What is most important is that all of our events be good learning experiences for the boys. If, on the most dismal trip, we hear a boy say, "We should have done it this way, not that way" or, "We should have thought about that possibility before we left," then it was a very successful event.

Meetings

There are a variety of meeting types in Scouting; Troop meeting, Patrol Meeting, Patrol Leader's Council Meeting, Court of Honor, and Troop Committee Meeting.

Troop Meeting

We hold our weekly meeting in Connor Hall at OLPH Church on Thursday evenings from 8:00 to 9:15 p.m. We meet every Thursday that school is in session. If school is out due to a holiday, there will be no troop meeting. Please review the troop calendar on the web site and pay attention to the e-mails as the meeting place may change if OLPH is unavailable.

Patrol Meeting

From time to time, Patrol Leaders will call a patrol meeting. This meeting will be held at a Scouts home. The meetings are designed to either plan for a specific trip or activity or to work on advancement requirements.

Patrol Leader Council Meeting

The Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) is comprised of the Scouts who lead the troop. This includes the Senior Patrol Leader and his assistant, Patrol Leaders and their assistants and other invited leaders in positions of responsibility. The goal of the PLC meeting is to plan out trips and meeting agendas and to work on leadership skills.

Court of Honor

The Court of Honor (COH) is a special ceremony where families join the troop in recognizing the advancement and other achievements of the Scouts. This also provides an opportunity for families to learn more about the upcoming troop events, as well as hear details of the activities since the last COH. Scouts are expected to be in full Class A uniform for Courts of Honor.

When a Scout achieves the rank of Eagle Scout, he is recognized at a Eagle Court of Honor specifically for him as he has earned the right to a special night for himself.

Troop Committee Meeting

The Troop Committee Chairperson schedules a Troop Committee (TC) meeting about every month or so. This meeting is attended by the adult Troop Committee members and parents of the troop. The goals of the meeting are to discuss troop finances, review the program and trip plans, discuss fundraising activities, and to address disciplinary issues when they arise. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Uniform

Every Scout is expected to wear a complete Class A uniform to all Scout meetings and other Scout functions unless directed otherwise. A complete Class A uniform consists of the following:

Class “A” Uniform

- Scout shirt with proper insignia in the correct positions on the uniform (see below and the *Boy Scout Handbook*).
- Scout pants or shorts (blue jeans are tolerated if getting green pants is a challenge)
- Scout belt
- Neckerchief
- Scout Hat (optional)

Class “B” Uniform

Class B uniforms are worn in less formal situations, such as on campouts or in work situations for service projects. The Class B uniform consists of:

- Polo shirt with Troop 49 Logo or other Scout t-shirt
- Scout shorts, Scout pants or blue jeans

A Boy Scout Handbook, notepad, and pencil or pen should be brought to all meetings.

If a hat is worn with the uniform, it must be an official Scout hat.

Class “A” is requested at Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review, Courts of Honor and other ceremonial occasions. These include a Class A uniform, Merit Badge sash, and medals. Uniforms for activities will be specified for each activity. Travel to and from activities will always be in Class A uniform. Boys are expected to be in full Class A uniform when visiting merit badge counselors too.

In camp, other shirts are acceptable. Any designs or slogans on the shirts must be in good taste and Scout related or neutral. Drug and alcohol-related messages are inappropriate.

Rank Advancement

Rank Advancement is the process by which youth members progress through ranks in the Scouting program by the gradual mastery of Scouting skills and personal growth. By advancing, the interest of the Scout in the program is maintained and he experiences

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personal growth and a feeling of accomplishment. There are six ranks of Boy Scouting: Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle. In addition, there is an introductory level of Scout. The requirements for the various ranks can be found in the *Boy Scout Handbook* under the title "My Trail to Eagle."

The Troop Advancement Chair maintains all advancement records in a database. Before a Scout requests a Scoutmaster Conference (SMC) for the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle, he must first contact the Advancement Chairperson and ask if he has completed all of his requirements. The Advancement Chairperson will report to the Scout his status and if all the requirements are complete, he will notify the Scoutmaster that the Scout is ready for his SMC.

The Scouting web site www.Scouting.org is a fantastic resource that every Scout MUST reference. On the Scouting web site, select Boy Scout, then go to the advancement section. You will see every rank requirement and a video explaining it.

Along with advancement in rank comes advancement in leadership opportunity. Everything is designed to help boys have an exciting and meaningful experience. Education and fun are the functions of Scouting, and they are the basis of the advancement program. In general, the Troop expects each Scout to live his life in and outside Scouting according the Scout Oath and the Scout Law (refer to the *Boy Scout Handbook* for a more complete understanding of the Oath and the Law). Every Scout is expected to respect his leaders and follow their instructions. These leaders may be adults, senior patrol leaders, or patrol leaders.

Advancement is a five step process:

- 1) Participation
- 2) Learning
- 3) Testing
- 4) Reviewing
- 5) Recognition

#1 Participation:

Beginning with the First Class rank, and continuing through Life and Eagle, a Scout must demonstrate participation in increasingly more responsible service projects. At these levels, he must also demonstrate leadership skills by holding one or more specific youth leadership positions in his patrol and/or troop. One of the requirements for each Rank advancement, is to be active in the troop. The Troop 49 Committee has discussed this requirement many times over several years. **We define “Active” as attending half of the troop trips and half of the scheduled meetings.** This definition reinforces the importance participating in troop activities.

The duties of each boy leadership position are defined in the *Boy Scout Handbook*. When new boy leaders are elected or appointed (as appropriate for the leadership position), the Scoutmaster will discuss their responsibilities with them and define what they must do to attain satisfactory performance of their duties in that position.

Should the Scoutmaster deem that a Scout has not been performing his leadership position in a satisfactory manner, then he will discuss this with the Scout as needed, or when he schedules a Scoutmaster conference prior to advancement. Please try and work with your son to insure that they accomplish the duties of their leadership position. Please also be aware that in order to perform the duties of most leadership positions, Scouts should be able to attend the majority of campouts and other Troop activities, which emphasizes the importance of participation.

#2 Learning:

Much learning comes from other boys in his patrol or troop. The Troop program also helps. The boy's patrol activities are directed toward the skills he needs. Every Troop hike, camping trip or other activity offers potential learning experiences. A Scout learns to pitch a tent by pitching one, to use a compass by finding directions and to cook a meal by having to prepare and eat it with his patrol members. The Scoutmasters and the Troop Leaders plan the meetings to include learning specific skills to help Scouts advance through the ranks.

Merit Badges are also an important component of learning. Merit badges signify the mastery of certain Scoutcraft skills as well as serving to increase skill in various areas of personal interest. Of the more than 220 merit badges available, 21 must be earned to qualify for Eagle. There are twelve which are specifically required.

It is the National Boy Scouts of America policy that a boy work only with an approved Merit Badge Counselor. Each Counselor must be registered with the Council office. There is no fee for a Counselor to be registered. This, by the way, is an excellent opportunity for parents of Troop 49 Scouts to become involved in the program. If you have expertise or interest in a particular area and would like to become a Merit Badge Counselor, please see the Scoutmaster of Troop Committee Chairman. The Scout has 1 year to complete the requirements necessary to earn the merit badge. Failure to earn

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the badge within 1 year requires that the Scout repeat all requirements the next time he participates in the merit badge. Many Merit Badges can be earned at summer camps. Please encourage your son to check to see if there are any requirements for Merit Badges offered at summer camp that have to be completed BEFORE camp.

#3 Testing:

The specific requirements determine the kind of testing. Verbal testing is sufficient in some instances. In other instances, a Scout must demonstrate his skills by doing.

#4 Reviewing:

Reviewing is a two-step process. First, the Scout takes part in a Scoutmaster Conference. These conferences take place at every level of advancement and are designed to help the Scout set goals for himself in line with his individual talents and abilities. At each conference, the Scoutmaster helps him evaluate how close he came to accomplishing his present goal and then helps him to set a new goal. After the Scout successfully completes the Scoutmaster Conference, the Scout must pass a Board of Review. This a review board consisting of 3 members of the troop committee and parents. They interview the Scout to ensure he has passed all requirements. It is a discussion of what the Scout has learned, how he feels about the troop, and what the troop can do better. For Eagle Scout candidates, the full Troop Committee conducts the review. The boy must then be approved by the District, local Council and, finally, the National Council.

#5 Recognition:

The final step in advancement involves presentation of the badge of rank, usually at a ceremony before the entire Troop. These are presented periodically at regular Troop meetings. However, public recognition at the Court of Honor with their parents attending is a very important part of the goal setting and personal growth process for the boys.

Merit Badge Process

Merit Badges are earned by a Scout at any time in his Scouting career. First, read the chapter in the Scout handbook on merit Badges. The book defines this simple process. The Scouting web site has a lot of information too; www.Scouting.org then go to Boy Scouts, then Advancement.

If you think you can do the requirements, ask your Scoutmaster for a merit badge application (blue card). The Scoutmaster needs to sign the blue card and will give you the names of merit badge counselors whom you can call. The Scout (not the parent) calls the counselor and discusses the merit badge requirements BEFORE he starts to work on the requirements. The counselor may suggest ideas for helping the Scout complete the requirements and getting the most out of the experience

Anytime the Scout meets with a counselor he should be with a buddy. The buddy can be another Scout or a friend or a parent. Scouts should never be alone with a counselor as this is a violation of the Youth Protection Guidelines. Some counselors will turn a Scout away if he is alone. Additionally, Scouts should be in their class A uniform when meeting with a counselor unless the counselor states otherwise.

The Scouts meets with the counselor. When the requirements have been fulfilled, The counselor keeps his portion of the blue card and gives the Scout back the Applicants part and the Application part. The Scout gives the Scoutmaster the last two portions of the blue card and the Scoutmaster signs the Applicants copy and gives it to the Scout. The Scoutmaster send the Application porting to the Advancement Chairperson who enters it into the troop database. The Advancement Chairperson issues the merit badge at the next available troop meeting. The Scout is formally recognized with the merit badge card at the next court of honor.

Scouts are encouraged to keep their merit badge cards in a plastic binder sleeve designed for trading cards. Putting the blue cars in the pocket, then put the patch in the sleeve until it time to sew it on your sash. Then when you receive the merit badge card at the court of honor, put this card over the blue card so you can see which merit badges you have received.

The Scout should write the name on the merit badge in his Scout handbook in the Star, Life or Eagle requirements section in the back of the book.

Merit badges are sewn on the merit badge sash in any order. The sash is worn over the right shoulder as pictured in the book.

Community Service

Service to the community is a key part of Scouting and Troop 49. Performing community services teaches the Scout to give back to the community. It also helps the Scouts gain favorable public recognition.

To advance to the ranks of First Class, Star, Life and Eagle, Scouts must take part in service projects. The Troop Committee has established a guideline that 50% of service hours required for advancement be on service projects sponsored by the troop. There are a few strong reasons for this. First, The troop commits to service projects such as the annual Scouting for Food which requires many scouts to work 2 or 3 hours. Secondly, Eagle Scouts in the troop typically need between 50 and 100 hours of work by Scouts. If Scouts were able to do all their service hours on their own, outside of troop sponsored projects, they would have less incentive to participate in the troop sponsored projects or Eagle Scout projects. Without dedicated Scout help, we could not accomplish the troops service project goals. Therefore, the Troop Committee finds it perfectly reasonable to request the Scouts spend at least 50% of their service project hours on troop sponsored projects.

Approval of service projects: The rank advancement requirements clearly state, “, ***take part in service projects totaling at least six hours of work. These projects must be approved by your Scoutmaster.***” The key word is “approved” which indicates BEFORE the project has started. Asking for approval after you have done the work risks having the work disapproved.

Troop Service Projects: These are activities where the entire troop is engaged such as the annual Scouting for Food drive or a property clean up day at the Van Allen historical house. They can be smaller focused such as a project at the Library or helping out at the First Aid squad one day stuffing envelopes. These projects are pre-approved by the Scoutmaster. All these hours count towards advancement.

Eagle Service Projects: Eagle candidates plan and carry out a service project for the community. Scouts are needed to work on these projects. All these hours count towards advancement. This included Eagle service projects for Scouts in other troops.

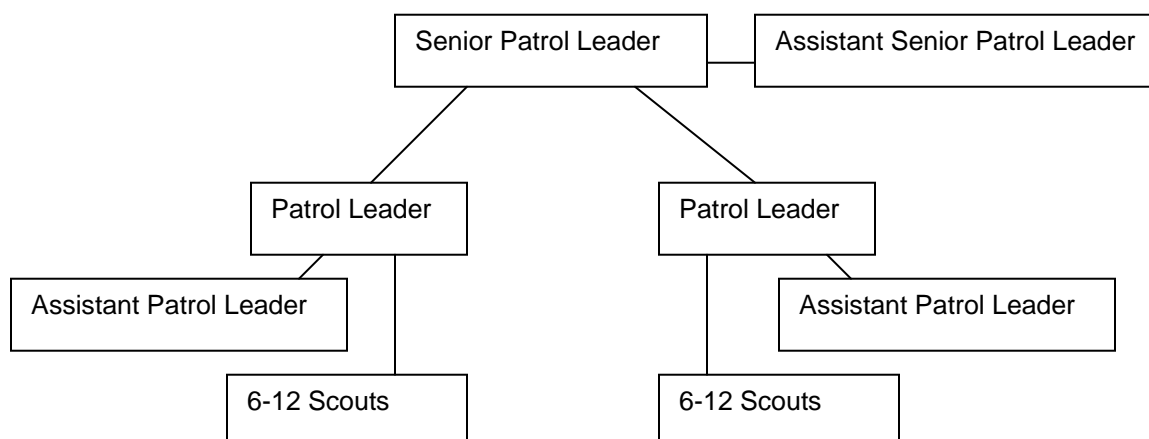
Individual Service Projects: On occasion, Scouts do service projects for their church or other charitable organizations. ***This work needs to be pre-approved by the Scoutmaster and can only account for 50% of the service hour requirements.*** A letter or e-mail from the organization indicating the hours worked and the services performed by the Scout is required. Any work done for pay is not considered a service project.

Record Keeping: It is strongly advised that Scouts (and parents) keep careful records of service hours indicating the date, project description, project coordinator, and hours worked. This information will be needed for advancement as well as High School Scholarship applications.

Troop Organization

The troop has a specific organization structure similar to most businesses. There is an adult structure and a Scout structure. The leader of the adults is the Troop Committee Chairperson. The leader of the Scouts is the Senior Patrol Leader.

Scout Leadership Positions



Troop leadership positions are described in detail in a separate document on the troop web site. The following are troop positions:

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) – Elected by the Scouts to lead the troop.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL) – Appointed by the SPL, Leads in the absence of the SPL or when directed by the SPL.

Patrol Leader (PL) - Patrol Leaders are elected by the troop to lead a patrol of 6-12 Scouts.

Assistant Patrol Leader (APL) – Is appointed by the Patrol Leader to be his assistant.

In addition to the leadership positions described above, there are additional positions of responsibility. Scouts with these positions of responsibility reside with a patrol. Scouts are appointed to these positions by the Scoutmaster.

Scribe – Maintains the troop attendance

Quartermaster – Maintains the troop gear

Historian – Records troop activities

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Librarian – Maintains the troop library

Troop Guide – Assists the Patrol Leaders in teaching the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, and 1st Class rank skills.

Instructor – Teaches skills to the troop in general.

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster – Is a youth assistant to the Scoutmaster

Troop Election Procedure

The election procedure for junior leaders and other positions will be as follows:

1. In order for elections to be held there must be a quorum of 50% of the active Scouts in attendance. Elections are typically held at the first meeting in September and in late January or early February.
2. The election for Senior Patrol Leader will be the first election to take place. SPL candidates should be at least Star Scout. The Senior Patrol Leader will be the candidate who receives the MAJORITY of the votes. If none of the candidates receive a majority of the votes, the two candidates who received the highest number of votes will remain on the ballot for a run-off election.
3. After the Senior Patrol Leader election is completed, the SPL selects the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.
4. Following the appointment of the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, the Troop will elect a number of Patrol Leaders to support the size of the troop. If the troop needs 4 Patrol Leaders, the Scouts can vote for up to four different Patrol Leaders. The four Scouts getting the most votes become the Patrol Leaders.
5. Patrol Leaders then select their Assistant Patrol Leaders.

At the conclusion of the election, Scout who wish to be appointed to other positions of responsibility will give their name to the Scoutmaster who will appoint a candidate to the position based upon the Scouts advancement need, activity, leadership history, maturity, and other factors. In cases where the Scout needs only a few months of leadership, the Scoutmaster may line up Scouts (Billy will be the Scribe for 2 months than Bob will take over for 4 months) so Scouts advancement progress is kept on track.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee is comprised of adults and supports the troop program. It is the “Board of Directors” of the troop. Troop Committee members are registered as members of the Boy Scouts of America. The Troop Committee appoints the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters. The Scoutmasters are responsible for designing and delivering the Scout program at troop meetings and on trips. All the other troop functions not directly related to the program are the responsibility of the Troop Committee.

For new parents, attending Troop Committee meetings is an excellent opportunity to see how the troop is run and to see where they can contribute.

Some specific officers and responsibilities of the Troop Committee are:

- **Chairman:** Organizes the committee to see that all functions are delegated, coordinated, and completed. Calls Troop Committee meetings.
- **Treasurer:** Handles all troop funds and disbursements. Keeps a troop checking account, maintains all Scout individual balances, and collects campout fees, registration fees, and other contributions.
- **Quartermaster:** Works with the Scout Quartermaster to make sure the troop gear and trailer are in good working order. Purchases equipment and makes repairs as needed.
- **Trip Coordinator:** Promotes attendance at a specific troop campouts, summer camp, or high adventure activity to reach the goal of an outing per month. Coordinates and recruits adult volunteers for troop outings (including summer camp and the high adventure trip). Collects the paperwork from the Scouts and makes the appropriate reservations.
- **Advancement Chairman:** Develops and maintains the merit badge counselor list. Maintains individual Scout's records of advancement and attended troop outings. Secures and presents awards and certificates at quarterly Courts of Honor. Maintains troop roster and adult volunteer listing, and parent guide. Provides new/prospective members of the troop with application forms, resource survey forms, adult application for leader forms. Fund-raising coordinator
- **Eagle COH Team:** A group of adults who organize the Eagle Courts of Honor.
- **Fundraising Chairperson:** Each fundraiser has a different chairperson who coordinates the event.
 - The Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee Chairman work together to ensure a good Scouting experience for the boys. If you are interested in serving on the Troop Committee, please see either the Troop Committee Chairman. All meetings are open to all interested parents, whether or not they are members of the Troop Committee.

Scoutmaster & Assistant Scoutmasters

The Scoutmaster is selected by the Troop Committee. He is responsible for overseeing the troop meetings, trips and advancement. He is a role model for the boys, and reflects the character of the chartered organization. The Scoutmaster is the kind of person that you want your sons to be influenced by and whose judgment will always be in the best interest of the boys. He also assists in training and giving direction to the Scouts assigned positions of responsibility (i.e., quartermaster, scribe, librarian, and merit badge instructors, etc.). The Scoutmaster serves as the "chief executive officer." The Scoutmaster attends troop committee meetings and reports the status of the troop and the annual program of events.

Assistant Scoutmasters are also appointed by the Troop Committee. The same standards used for the Scoutmaster apply to the Assistant Scoutmaster(s).

The Scoutmasters attend the Troop Committee meetings but to avoid a conflict of interest, do not have a vote in the Troop Committee, only an opinion.

Troop Finances

The Troop needs money for various expenses throughout the Scouting year. These include charter renewal and re-registration, *Boys' Life* subscriptions, accident insurance, replacement of the Troop's camping equipment, purchase of various literature and training aids for adult leaders, and purchase of awards (merit badges and badges of rank) for Courts of Honor. This expense money is gleaned from fund-raising events and annual registration fees.

Registration fees are payable annually in January at the time of Troop charter renewal. The dues pay for National registration fees, *Boys' Life*, troop accident insurance, all awards earned by the Boy Scout, and troop operating expenses. The registration fee for Troop 49 are set by the Troop Committee in December and mailed in a letter to the families.

Most trips are budgeted to cover the cost with the trip fee. As such, the fee for each trip will vary depending on the trip activities. The troop tries to keep the cost of the trip for the Scouts to under \$15 for a weekend. A few times a year Scouts will go on an expensive trip such as whitewater rafting where the costs will be significant. In these cases the Troop Committee applies funds to discount the cost to the Scouts to keep the activities affordable.

The troop has a concept called "Scout Accounts" where monies raised by a Scout are credited to his account and can be used to pay the annual registration fee or to pay camping trip fees. The money in the Scout Account can only be used within the troop and can not be withdrawn. Monies can be moved from the account of one sibling to another. Once a Scout fails to re-register with the troop, the monies in his Scout Account are returned to the general troop fund.

Troop 49 has three fund-raisers each year. The Saturday before Mother's Day we have a Fish & Chip dinner, at the town fair in the summer we sell Funnel Cakes, and in the fall we sell wreaths. Scouts get a percentage of the profit from their wreath and fish & chip sales deposited in their Scout Account. So a Scout who sells a lot of wreaths can pay for some of his trips.

Troop 49 will not allow a Scout to miss out in monthly outings due to financial hardship within his family. Troop 49 will assist with financing a Scout's dues when necessary. In addition, scholarships are available through the Council for summer camp. In return, Troop 49 expects the Scout to show good faith by putting forth the effort necessary to earn money by active participation in the various fund-raisers sponsored by Troop 49.

Outdoor Program

The BSA program is designed for fun in the outdoors. The Troop generally goes on a camping event once a month. The activities planned for these events reinforce the skills and ideals of Scouting. These activities are set up by the Patrol Leaders' Council under the direction of the Scoutmasters.

The troop tries to maintain a mixture of troop trip themes to provide something for everyone. One month the trip may involve canoeing while another month may be backpacking followed by a day hike on a historic trail. We also try to not go back to the same camp two years in a row unless there is overwhelming demand. This keeps the trips new and fresh and exciting.

The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or other interested committee member(s), make the reservations, transportation, and other logistical arrangements. A registered Scouter serves as the Scoutmaster-In-Charge and is responsible for arranging for camping facilities, transportation, pay fees, filing camp/facilities request forms, and insure adequate leadership is available.

Resident Summer Camp

Resident summer camp is where the Scouts spend a week residing in a fixed campsite for the entire week. This is your traditional summer camp experience open to all Scouts. The troop goes as a unit for one full week Sunday to Saturday. Scouts spend their days working on merit badges and advancement in rank. They camp in one site as a troop but have individualized programs during the day on a schedule the individual Scouts build. Parents are needed to attend for the full week or a night or two to provide leadership support for the troop. More information about summer camp is available around March of the year.

High Adventure Camps

Floodwood High Adventure Camp

The troop goes on a variety of high adventure camping trips depending on the desires of the Scouts and the availability of adult volunteers. Typically, the troop sends groups of 11 participants called "Treks" (NY State Law max) to Floodwood Scout Reservation near Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks. This is a week of camping and canoeing away from camp on rivers and lakes. There is an age restriction on this activity as the Scouts need to have a mature physique to handle the days of paddling and carrying canoes.

Philmont High adventure Camp

Philmont is located in New Mexico and is a high adventure camp for senior scouts. The focus is on backpacking and hiking and activities in remote campsites.

Troop Equipment

Troop 49 has a small trailer full of equipment. We have cooking stoves, pots, utensils, and cleaning supplies for four patrols. We have lanterns, tents, and tarps. New Scouts and parents can use a troop tent on a trip as long as they promise to return it clean and dry.

Personal Equipment

Common Sense and "Be Prepared" should be the guiding principles used when the Scouts are packing for camp-outs. The Scout handbook has packing lists if you look in the index under "Camping, Clothes". They don't need a great deal of equipment, especially when first starting out. Plastic cutlery and dishes or items found around the house may be used until the Scout has had time to buy his own equipment. We do recommend, however, that each Scout obtain, as soon as possible, a good quality sleeping bag. Buying a backpack can be put off until we have a scheduled backpacking trip to defer the expense until the Scouts need the equipment. The senior Scouts and adult troop leadership is always available to assist with the selection of equipment within the Scout's budget. Campmor in Paramus is excellent in outfitting Scouts. Also, E-Bay and other web sites offer used equipment and clothing at reasonable prices.

The boys should do their own packing, and it is suggested that they pack at least three days prior to leaving on the camp-out. This serves a double purpose: it avoids the last minute rush (which is usually when parents get roped into doing the packing for them), and it also allows time to purchase any last minute items. Too often I hear young Scouts say, "My mom didn't pack my!" If the Scout packs his own gear, he will take on his responsibility. For the first year I recommend the Scout puts his empty backpack/duffel bag on his bed. Then using the list in the handbook, he and his parents gather his equipment and lay it on the bed. It's OK for mom to go to the closet and get the hat and gloves while dad finds the flashlight; but they should be placed on the bed, not in the backpack. Then the Scout reviews what is on the bed, makes sure it's complete, then packs his own backpack till nothing is left on the bed. One tip is to have some gear that is stored in the backpack. When you come home from a trip, clean everything then repack it into the backpack. Forgetting to pack items is very common and teaches them to pack better next time. I have seen sleeping bags, tent poles, eating utensils, and many other items left at home by accident but they will learn. We all have!

Walkmans and portable video games are allowed only in the cars when going to and from the campouts on long trips. Scouts can listen to personal music after 10 PM and before 7:00 AM if they need it to fall asleep. Fireworks, weapons, laser pointers, and butane lighters are prohibited on troop outings. Outing leaders will confiscate those

items if they are found on an outing, to be returned to the parents when the Scout returns from the trip.

Camping Food

Food is normally the responsibility of the patrol. As part of the camping trip planning process, each patrol determines a camping trip menu and then buys their own food. Adults are typically assigned to an Adult Patrol and an adult volunteer plans the menu and buys the food. On occasion the troop eats as a unit rather than using the normal patrol method. In these cases, a family or two volunteers to plan and purchase food. Receipts for food and any other troop camping supplies are sent to the Treasurer for reimbursement.

Whenever possible patrols camp as individual units and practice the patrol method. Scouts cannot leave a camp site without the permission of the Scoutmaster, even if parents pick them up during the campout. The buddy system is used on all camping trips; any Scout leaving the camp site will be accompanied by a buddy. All Scouts share in the work and duties of their individual campsites. Patrol Leaders or equivalents establish rotating schedules to assure that work such as cooking, cleaning and wood gathering is done by all in a fair manner. All members of Troop 49 observe the outdoor code. This includes leaving the campsite better than found.

Adult family members are encouraged to participate in troop camping trips, and share the expenses of the trip. Guests are expected to provide their own personal gear.

At least a month before the trip, a detailed trip plan is posted on the web site with all the information participants need for the trip. It includes departure date, time and place, trip activities, and if we are sleeping in cabins or tents.

RSVP / Permission Slips for Trips

All trip participants are expected to follow the RSVP guidelines for trips posted in the trip information. RSVP e-mails or paper forms should be turned by the identified RSVP date so we have ample time to plan for the number of participants in attendance. Some trips will require a longer RSVP period and that will be stated in the trip information on the troop web site.

Once the RSVP deadline has passed, refunds will be issued at the discretion of the troop treasurer depending on if monies have been spent on your behalf already.

Medical Forms:

There are three classes of medical forms; Class 1 captures basic information and does not require a doctor's signature. Parents should fill out a Class 1 medical form for themselves and their Scout and give it to the Scoutmaster as soon as possible. If an adult or Scout has an accident on a trip and has to be rushed to a hospital, the Class 1 medical form has a lot of valuable information on it.

Class 3 medical forms are more extensive and require a doctor's signature and a complete physical. Remember to schedule your Scout's physical well in advance of summer camp. Class 3 medical forms are required for any stay in a camp longer than 72 hours. This includes summer camp for both Scouts and parents. All the medical forms are available on www.Scouting.org/forms.

Always keep your original medical forms and only give the troop a copy! This way if it's lost, you always have the original.

Medications:

Prescriptions:

On weekend camping trips, the Scouts are responsible for self medicating. Parents document what medications the Scout is taking and for what condition/illness on the Class 1 medical form (www.scouting.org/forms)

Under absolutely no circumstances are the Adult leaders responsible for dispensing medication, controlling medication, or making sure the medication has been taken. This is too great a responsibility to place on a volunteer.

If the Scout does not have the maturity to self medicate, the parents should either participate in the trip or find another parent who will assume the responsibility.

During summer camp, all medications will be turned over by the Scout to the Camp Staff upon check in.

Over the counter medications:

Scouts may bring to camp Over The Counter (OTC) medications in the original packaging/container. Scouts need to have an OTC form signed by their parent indicating the parent's approval for taking the medication. The form is in the appendix.

Behavior

Scouts and Adults are expected to live by the Scout Oath and Scout Law at all Scout functions. Scouting is a safe environment free of intimidation and bullying. Additionally, each trip we go on has specific camp rules that must be followed. These are reviewed before each trip to make sure the Scouts and Adults are clear on the behaviors that are expected of them.

The following special rules should be noted:

- NO tree or fence climbing without specific leader permission
- NO participating in waterfront activities without proper supervision
- NO throwing of any objects except as part of an organized activity
- NO use of cutting tools (ax, knife, etc.) or matches without successful completion of Totin' Chip and Firem'n Chit Training, respectively. This rule applies to adults as well as Scouts.
- NO cutting of live trees or shrubs
- NO food in tents
- NO flame in tents

ITEMS NOT PERMITTED ON OUTINGS FOR SCOUTS OR ADULTS

- Sheath knives, any knife that does not have a blade that folds into it's case.
- Matches and pocketknives UNLESS the Scout has earned his Firem'n Chit and Totin' Chip
- Alcoholic beverages
- Firearms, ammunition or fireworks
- Drugs which are not prescribed for the Scout by a parent or physician.
- Excessive amounts of snack food or candy as determined by the outing leader.

Scouts or adults who witness unsafe behavior or behavior inconsistent with the Scout Oath and Scout law, they should ask the Scout to stop the behavior, and then report the behavior to a Scoutmaster or member of the Troop Committee. Troop leaders and the Troop Committee will take steps necessary to rectify the situation and provide a continuing positive experience for all the other boys in the Troop. This may be done by talking with the parent and Scout, explaining the problem and what will be done to correct the situation. In some cases, Scouts had to make restitution for broken property. When Scouts could not be trusted, they will be required to be under their parents supervision on troop activities. Anything other than immediate discipline will be a Troop Committee decision (not Scoutmaster decision).

Parental Participation

It is recognized that parent interest in scouting varies for many reasons. The benefits that the Scout receives are directly proportional to both the QUALITY and QUANTITY of parental support and participation. Please keep this in mind when your help is requested. In addition, encourage and assist your son in obtaining the most out of scouting. He needs your support!

Any suggestions or questions that parents may have are more than welcome. Present them to any committee member or send a note with your son to any meeting. All parents are welcome to become a committee member or attend committee meetings.

In order to ensure a successful program, parents will be required to participate in an outing and/or provide transportation. A minimum of two adult leaders is required on every outing.

Parents are expected to help with transportation at least a couple times a year. If adequate transportation cannot be arranged for an event some Scouts may not be able to attend. Those Scouts who are at the top of the list for attending will be those Scouts whose parents have participated most in previous Scout activities.

PLEASE BE THERE -- The Troop needs the support and input from all its Scouts' parents.

While conducting a Scoutmaster Conference, I once asked a Scout what he likes most about the trips. His reply was that he enjoyed the time with his father as his father worked many hours and did not have time for him at home. I shared this with the Scouts father who told me he was just about to stop coming on trips as his son was growing more confident and didn't seem to need his father around. That father has continued to come on trips and his son has continued in Scouting.

Documents & Records

It is suggested that parents use a three ring binder for their Scout to keep his Scouting documents in. Put this document in the binder. When he receives certificates, you can store them in the binder too. Buy a few sheets plastic pocket sheets used to hold baseball cards and put them in the binder too. When he receives merit badge cards and patches, put them in the pockets for safe keeping. Rank advancement cards are stored nicely in the plastic pockets too. Keep a list of trips the Scout goes on and indicate how many nights spent sleeping in a tent vs a cabin. Keep track of miles hiked, cycled, backpacked, or canoed as these will be needed for advancement. Keep track of the date and time and hours spent on community service projects too.

Youth Protection

The Boy Scouts of America, as one of the largest youth organizations in the world, has taken a leading position on the protection of children. Scouting has established a number of guidelines and training programs in order to take appropriate precautions for the protection of youth. Troop 49 lives by all youth protection rules and regulations by the Boy Scouts of America, some of which are:

- (1) Training of adult leaders in the recognition of signs of potential child abuse.
- (2) The mandatory requirement of reporting any suspected child abuse.
- (3) Requirement of two-deep leadership on all Scouting activities. The BSA Youth Protection Program policy requires that a Scout must have at least one other person with him at each meeting with the merit badge counselor. BSA policy prohibits one-on-one situations between adults and Scouts. The buddy can be a parent or guardian, brother, sister, relative, friend or another Scout
- (4) An extensive adult leader application process with approval by Troop Committee, sponsoring institution and local Council. Adult Leader training includes participation in Youth Protection Training seminars.

You should read and discuss the pull-out section on Youth Protection in the front of the Boy Scout Handbook with your son. This is required before your son becomes a full-fledged member of the troop.

Youth Protection training should be taken by every adult who attends a Scouting trip. The training is on-line and only takes a few minutes at www.Scouting.org.

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Glossary

The abbreviations we use in Scouting oftentimes confuse people and do not lead to the clarity of purpose. Also, it almost began to sound like technical jargon, designed to keep new people out rather than include and welcome them into the Brotherhood of Scouting. So, among other things, this list is provided to aid understanding of the language of Scouting. This list is NOT exhaustive; there are many other terms used for programs and offices and titles that are not included.

ACRONYM - Always Confused Regarding Official Names You Make-up - The Acronym for "Acronym".

APL - Assistant Patrol Leader - Youth second leader of a patrol. Appointed by the PL to help him and take his place in his absence. A member of the PLC which runs the troop. See Also: PL

ASM - Assistant Scoutmaster - A commissioned volunteer, 18 or older, appointed by the chartered organization, who helps the SM administer the troop program. The term SA is used on applications and other literature. See Also: SA

ASPL - Assistant Senior Patrol Leader - Appointed by the SPL with the SM's advice and consent, he helps to run the troop with the SPL and the PLC. See Also: SPL

BLT - Basic Leader Training (short for Adult Basic Leader Training). The first step in becoming a trained leader.

BOR - Board of Review - A review held to determine if a Boy Scout has satisfactorily completed rank advancement requirements. May also be held as an incentive for Scouts not advancing. For first 5 ranks, BOR is held by the troop committee, for the Eagle Scout rank, the council decides whether district or council advancement committee is responsible. See Also: COH

B-P - Baden-Powell, Robert Stephenson Smyth - Founder of the worldwide Scouting movement. Born in London, Feb. 22, 1857. Created a Baron in 1929. He is referred to as Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, Chief Scout of the World. Died Jan. 8 1941.

Camporee - Derived from two words: camp and jamboree. A district of council troop activity to demonstrate techniques of living in camp. Involves a one- or two-night camping experience. May involve Scoutcraft competition.

CC - Committee Chair- The adult leader of the troop committee, may also be a member of the chartered organization. Provides the motivation and direction to the committee to get the Troop Program implemented, as decided by the PLC. Also, Pack committee chair - provides organization to pack committee to carry out pack program.

Chapter - An organization of National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) members in the local council. See Also: NESA

Class As - Full Boy Scout uniform, including Scout shirt with appropriate patches (tucked in); Scout belt; Scout shorts, pants, or blue jeans; and Scout socks.

Class Bs - Scout uniform that includes a Boy Scout t-shirt; Scout belt; Scout shorts, pants, or blue jeans; and Scout socks (with shorts).

CM - Campmaster - A volunteer Scouter trained to assist in short term camping.

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CO - Chartered Organization - A religious, civic, fraternal, educational, or other community-based organization that has applied for and received a charter to operate a BSA Scouting unit.

Commissioner - A volunteer Scouter who works with packs, troops, and teams to help the units succeed. In addition to council commissioner, there are district-, assistant district-, roundtable-, huddle-, program-, and unit commissioners.

Crackerbarrel - A gathering of Scouts and/or Scouters for friendship and fellowship with light snacks and refreshments.

Crew Chief - The elected youth leader of a Venture Crew. See Also: Venture

DE - District Executive - A professional Scouter who works under the direction of the Scout Executive and is responsible for the achievements of the district.

DC - (1) District Chair - The volunteer chairperson of the district committee; (2) District Committee - A group of volunteer adults responsible for carrying out the council program within their district; (3) District Commissioner

Fast Start - A preliminary training session with three part video explaining Troop organization, Troop meeting and, The Outdoor Program. Usually 3-4 hours.

Good Turn - Good Turn is a distinctive feature of Boy Scouting and its emphasis upon service to others, The Good Turn habit is one that all Scouts try to acquire.

Instructor - This youth leader helps other youth members with rank advancement; appointed by the SPL with the advice and consent of the SM. Also, any youth or adult who can teach or instruct others on parts of the Scouting program.

Jamboree - Jamboree - The term chosen by B-P to describe the first international gathering of Scouts camping together in London in 1920. The term is used to indicate a national or world gathering.

JASM - Junior Assistant Scoutmaster - Scouts, 16 or older, who help the SPL; appointed by the SPL with the advice and consent of the SM.

JLT - Junior Leader Training - A training course for junior leaders conducted by the council featuring Scoutcraft and leadership skills. May be up to a week long. Also refers to a Troop JLT conducted by the SM and SPL. A weekend devoted to building the leadership team and planning the troop program.

JLTC - Junior Leader Training Camp - a week-long JLT

KIS-MIF (Keep it simple- Make it fun.) - A guiding principle for planning Scouting activities

NESA - National Eagles Scout Association - This group provides an opportunity for all Eagle Scouts to retain identification with Scouting through service to the local council in which they live.

Philmont - Philmont Scout Ranch - The 136,000 acre Scout reservation near Cimaron, MN. Each year Philmont hosts Scouts and other groups participating in high-adventure hiking and treks. A rugged, outback experience usually lasting 11 days.

PL - Patrol Leader - Youth leader of a patrol consisting of between 5-8 other boys. As a member of the PLC he helps make the decisions that run the troop. He appoints his APL

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PLC - Patrol Leaders Council - The youth leaders of a BSA troop. The PLC consists of the SPL, ASPL, PLs, APLs. They should be trained by the SM, through Troop JLT, to do the planning and running of the troop. See Also: JLT

Rechartering - Annual renewal of the charter for a troop, as well as the registration of Scouts and Adult Leaders.

SOAR - Save Our American Resources - A conservation program for Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts and Explorers that involves identifying environmental needs, acquiring the skills to meet those needs, and carrying out a meaningful project.

SM - Scoutmaster- Adult leader head of the troop. A commissioned volunteer, 21 or over, appointed by the chartered organization. Provides direction and training to the Scouts so they can run a troop more effectively. Works with the troop committee and the chartered organization representative to provide program opportunities and direction.

SPL - Senior Patrol Leader - Youth Leader of the troop. He is elected by the members of the troop and is the head of the PLC. He appoints his ASPL.

TC - (1) Troop Committee - A group of adult volunteers led by the CC to get the troop program implemented, as decided by the PLC. (2) Troop Commissioner

TG - Troop Guide - A youth leader who works with the new Scout patrol in the troop; appointed by the SM in consultation with the SA responsible for the new Scouts.

Totin' Chip - a card a Scout receives when he demonstrates he can safely handle wood tools.

Two-deep Leadership - having at least two adult leaders present at all times at a Scouting event.

UC - Unit Commissioner - A volunteer Scouter who works with packs, troops, and teams to help them succeed. Carries information and questions to and from the unit, to and from the local council

Wood Badge - A training award granted upon completion of the Wood Badge course. A leather thong with two wooden beads, a special neckerchief, and a slide (woggle) are worn by those who have completed training and service items. Wood Badge teaches leadership and troop operation skills.

YPP - Youth Protection Plan - Guidelines and policies, in place, to help fight child abuse. This BSA Emphasis fights child abuse by teaching youth the "three R's": Recognize, Resist, and Report child abuse; by helping parents and Scouters learn to recognize indicators of child abuse; and by teaching them how to handle child abuse situations.

Appendix

Appendix 1 - Over the Counter Medication Consent Form

Scout name: _____ **Date:** _____

From time to time your Scout may request over the counter medication to remedy a medical condition such as stomach ache, headache, or mild allergic reaction to bug bites. The following is a list of commonly used over the counter medications that *may* be available at camp. When your child requests, the manufactures recommended dosage will be administered for his comfort for only those medications you approve of below. This form will remain in effect until you ask us to return this form to you.

Your Scout can bring to camp and GIVE TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER, over the counter medications that may be dispensed by the staff when needed. This will ensure your child has the OTC medication you want him to have.

Please sign you name next to each over the counter medication you authorize the camp staff or adult leaders to administer to your Scout.

If your Scout requests OTC medication and you have not authorized it, you must be contacted for your verbal permission before the medication is dispensed. This authorization form speeds up the administration of the medications for the comfort of your Scout.

Medications	Parental Signature next to each approved medication.	Additional notes on usage
TUMS		
Rolaids		
Pepto-Bismol		
Benadryl		
Tylenol		
Advil		
Aspirin		