



Troop 360

New Member's Orientation Manual

2010



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Welcome to Troop 360

Expectation

As a young scout makes the transition from WEBELOS to Scout, they will find that Mom and Dad are not always going to be there. The boys in the Troop will be both their teachers as well as their team members. The boys in the Troop will be expecting each new member to take responsibility at meetings and campouts. When a new scout joins, he will be placed into a New Scout Patrol. This will be a group of new boys who will be given one or two older boys as guides to assist them during their first months in the Troop and Boy Scouting. They will likely not stay in this patrol for the entire time with the Troop. It is to help them begin their path.

Each new Scout will be expected to share the work as much as the fun. It can be a difficult time for some boys. This is generally also the time when the young boy is leaving Elementary and entering Middle School. This will also be an awkward time for some boys. The older boys know and understand this and will be there to help.

Each boy will need to learn to seek out the help of the older boys and adults for their progression of rank. They will not be told to seek assistance, they will be expected to read their Boy Scout handbook, understand the process and if they have questions, to seek the knowledge from the older boys that are in the Troop or from the Assistant Scoutmaster and Scoutmaster working with them. Hopefully Mom and Dad will stay connected to their son's progress and support him as well. Inquiring on their progress and success always makes a Scout feel that what he is doing has value. Helping when he is having a difficult time or sometimes just listening can be the most helpful thing an adult can do.

A new scout should plan to attend summer camp with their Troop. This experience will define their path and help put them on the way to First Class in a quick and sure method. At the end of their first year, parents will likely see a significant change in their son. At the end of their first year, they will learn to handle themselves in nature, prepare meals, maintain shelter, handle adversity. These will be things that will prepare them for adulthood and the challenges in life.

BSA 101—Orientation

As you read this booklet, you will learn more about the Patrol method. It is explain in more detail what the various aspects of Boy Scouting will contain. The following are some fundamental points that you will encounter:

Troop 360 meets every Monday (exception is if Christmas and New Year's fall on Monday). Memorial Day, Labor Day, 4th of July will

generally have meetings. It will not matter if school is experiencing a holiday or not, the Troop will meet.

Troop 360 camps every month as long as there is sufficient transportation and adult supervision in accordance with BSA regulations. The only exception to the entire troop camping will be the annual planning campout where the boy leadership will meet, but not the entire Troop.

The boys will be responsible for their own gear, cleaning up, putting up tents, etc. At 11, they are more than capable of performing these tasks. They will be shown how, and they will be held accountable for the care and treatment of Troop property. If they come to a camp without the appropriate gear, the parents may be called to come pickup their son—not to bring what he forgot.

If a Scout is having a problem, he is expected to first go to his patrol leader. If that is not successful or he feels he can not, then he is expected to go to the Senior Patrol Leader for the Troop. If that is not resolved, he then goes to the Scoutmaster. The Scout should do this, not the parent.

The Troop leadership is held within the ranks of the boys. The Patrol Leadership Council governs the troop and its actions. The adults that are involved are present to mentor, teach and help the boys through their path. The adults will insure that safety of the environment and tasks that are being undertaken. They are not parents or babysitters.

Each Scout is expected to follow the Code of Conduct that is established by the Troop. Failure to abide by the Code will result in a review and appropriate action taken by the boy leadership.

There will be times when the Scouts are asked to perform service projects, fundraisers, working weekends to clean up the hut, etc. Each member of the Troop is expected to participate in these activities as much as the fun times of campouts and meetings. If the Troop leadership sees that a Scout is not supporting the Troop, the Scout may be asked to appear before the PLC to discuss his actions.

New Scout Patrol Campout

As camping as a Boy Scout will likely be a different experience than what most new Scouts will be use to doing, at times a new scout patrol campout may be organized where the new scouts along with Troop Guides, Instructors, and possibly other First Class Scouts from the Troop will be conducted during the first month of the new patrol

The campout will be an instructive campout where the new scouts will be shown how campsites will be organized; tents will be set up; kitchen areas arranged and cooking duties performed. New scouts will also learn the methods and use of knives, saws, axes and how to build a fire. A review of the basic knots and beginnings of lashing instruction will occur.

Bring your *Boy Scout Handbook* to the campout. Bring your pocketknife, compass, backpack and proper clothing for expected weather. Wear your Class A uniform to the campout and change to Class B upon arrival. Try to eat a good Dinner before leaving for the campout.

A suggested schedule is:

Friday Afternoon

5:30 -Arrive at Scout Hut for pre-camp inspection. Load gear.

6:00 -Leave for campout.

6:30 - 7:00 -Arrive at campsite.

Lead new scouts through perfect campsite.

TG instruct on tent setup and expectations.

Patrol to set up acceptable campsite

10:00 -Cracker Barrel

11:00 -Lights out

11:30 -Staff Meeting

Saturday

6:00 -Rise & Shine, clean up for breakfast

7:00 -Breakfast

7:30 -Opening Ceremony/ Flag Raising by Staff

8:00 -Review Fire Yard Tools and Safety, Totin' Chip instruction.

8:30 -Totin' Chip Qualification

9:30 -Fire Building and Safety Instruction

10:30 -Firem'n Chit Qualification

11:30 -Leave no Trace Discussion

12:00 -Lunch

1:00 -Six Basic Knots Instruction

2:00 -Orienteering Instruction (map and compass)

3:30 - Ideal Patrol Meeting

4:30 -Patrol Meeting (Patrol Yell, flag, skit for campfire, elect Patrol Leader)

6:00 -Supper, prepare for Campfire

8:30 -Flag lowering by New Patrol, Campfire

9:00 -Cracker Barrel/Free time for unfinished Patrol work.

10:00 -Lights Out

10:30 -Staff Meeting/Evaluation

Sunday Morning

7:00 -Rise & Shine, clean up for breakfast
7:30 -Breakfast
8:30 -Flag Raising by New Patrol,
8:45- Scouts Own by staff
9:00 -Break down campsite
10:00 -Campout Reflection by Scoutmaster
10:30 -Closing Ceremony, flag lowering by staff.
11:30 - 12:00 Depart.

Summer Camp

The Troop will attend a week long summer camp at a Boy Scout Camp facility. Summer Camp for the first year scout is a critical step in having a successful scouting career. Many times, parents do not think their son is ready for a week away from Camp. It is more likely that it is the parent that is not ready. At the first summer camp, the young scout will attend a special program with other first year campers that is specifically designed to help the first year scout advance in rank, become accustomed to scout camping and become accustomed to the brotherhood of scouting through the common sessions with other first year campers from a variety of locales.

During summer camp, the young scout will not only work through advancement requirements but will have time to enjoy other activities with the Troop. Swim time, camp games, campfires are all part of things that can occur.

Our Troop has attended summer camps near Big Bend, in eastern Oklahoma, and central Texas. The cost of the camp will include meals while in the camp. As the scout progresses and begins taking merit badge classes, some will have additional fees.

Teamwork

Teamwork is of utmost importance in operating a successful Boy Scout Troop. It is evident in many places. The entire troop must function as a team with positive team spirit for the benefit of all. The members of a patrol should work together to accomplish the tasks at hand, for instance cooking and setting up the patrol campsite. Each patrol member must do his part to make the patrol work. No person should run off and play, leaving another member of the patrol to do all the work. If everyone works together, then the task will be far easier to accomplish.

In the same way, the troop works together as a team to load the troop trailer for the camping trip. The patrol leaders' council should work together to plan the year's calendar and then monthly events. If a service project or fund-raising project is being done, then the entire troop works together to accomplish the goal.

Similarly, even the adults in the troop should have a team spirit. Nobody is in this just for him or her self or for his or her glory. Each person should be in this for the good of the whole, keeping the boys in mind. With a team spirit, the troop can accomplish great things.

Teaching Life Skills in a Values-Based Environment

Scouting is a values-based program with its own code of conduct. The Scout Oath and Law help instill the values of good conduct and honesty. A boy who spends one year in a Scout troop will learn lifetime skills. He will learn basic outdoor skills, first aid, citizenship training, leadership skills, self-reliance, and how to get along with others. Scouting will prepare him to live a more productive and fulfilling life.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make the ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Scout Oath or Promise

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily

Scout Law

A scout is: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent

General Boy Scout Information

It is easier to build a boy than to repair a man

Boy Scouting revolves around a boy-led troop. The boys themselves take on leadership positions in order to plan troop activities, run meetings, organize adventures, and take advantage of opportunities that fit their interest and needs.

Challenge, adventure, leadership, growth---these are the expectations that boys bring to Scouting. They can all be fulfilled through a well-run troop program.

Scouting—A Values Based Program

Scouting offers boys an environment in which everyone can feel secure both physically and emotionally. The sense of security comes when the Scoutmasters and other adults do the following:

1. Set an example for themselves and for others by living the Scout Oath and Law to the best of their abilities
2. Refuse to tolerate name-calling, put-downs, discrimination, or any form of physical aggression.
3. Communicate their acceptance of boys by taking a real interest in each Scout.
4. Use the Scouting program to create a setting based on learning and fun. The leaders seek the best from each Scout and do all they can to allow each boy to achieve it.

Boy Scout Policies

The following are policies as established by the National Boy Scouts of America. As part of this larger organization, we are to adhere to these policies:

1. The use of tobacco products of any kind is prohibited near the boys.
2. Tobacco products of any kind are prohibited on Boy Scout properties, such as Scout Camps.
3. There is to be no use of alcoholic beverages at any Scout function.
4. There is to be no illegal substance at any Scout function.
5. There are to be no fireworks of any kind at a Boy Scout function.
6. There are to be no flammable materials inside a tent.
7. There is to be no one-on-one contact between an adult and a Scout. When meeting with a youth, the adult is to always have either another adult or youth present.
8. Boys may carry a pocket knife after they have earned the totin' chip.
9. The Boy Scout organization strives to provide a safe haven for the youth. As such, there is to be no name-calling, put-downs, discrimination, or any form of physical aggression. This applies to the boys; and adults behavior.
10. In accordance with the provisions of the Boy Scouts of America congressional charter, any imitation of United States Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps uniforms is prohibited. Therefore, no camouflage uniforms are permitted at any Scout event.

The Boy Scout Uniform

The Boy Scout uniform represents Scouting Spirit of equality and democracy, and identifies a boy as a brother to every other Scout. Wearing the uniform promotes comradeship, loyalty to one's patrol and troop, and public recognition of membership in the Boy Scouts of America. When someone wears the Boy

Scout uniform, he or she becomes an example to others. Those around him or her should see evidence of Scouting at its best.

While it is not required that either a boy or an adult have a uniform, it is highly encouraged. No boy will be turned away because he does not have a uniform. The most important thing is that the boy is at the meeting. However, there are some events where a uniform is expected---namely, a board of review, court of honor, troop open house, and Cub Scout crossover event. Also, anytime the troop travels, the troop members are to be in uniform. For instance, traveling to and from camp we are to be in uniform. Usually, the uniform shirt (at least) is required at the dinner meals of summer camp.

The uniform is available at the Scout Shop, which is in the Circle Ten Council building at 8605 Harry Hines Blvd, in Dallas, or the Scout Museum in Irving.

During physically active outdoor events and informal activities, Scouts may wear any activity uniform---a troop or camp T-shirt with Scout pants or shorts. This is sometimes referred to as a Class B uniform.

The Boy Scout uniform consists of the following:

- Scout long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirt
- Scout pants or shorts
- Scout socks
- BSA twill or mesh cap (optional)
- Scout belt and buckle
- Scout neckerchief (Troop specific)

The PLC of the Troop has determined that a Class A uniform is the shirt, the neckerchief, green shorts. Only the Eagle Scout candidate will need to invest in a full Class A official uniform. A merit badge sash should be purchased and worn properly at Courts of Honor or similar official activities once the Scout has obtained First Class.

When Not to Wear the Uniform

Do not wear the uniform while selling a commercial product or service; even for Scout fund-raising purposes. One may wear the uniform to sell Boy Scout Trails End Popcorn and to sell Scout Show tickets because these fund-raisers are part of the Boy Scout program.

Do not wear the uniform in situations that might mistakenly imply an endorsement by the BSA of a product, service, political candidate, or philosophy. Scouts and Scouters are encouraged to take part in political matters as a private individual, but not while in uniform.

Do not wear the uniform while engaged in any activities that could be dishonor or discredit the Boy Scouts of America, the uniform, or the person wearing it.

The Aims of Scouting

A goal of the Boy Scouts of America is to help boys develop into honorable men. Scouting's value, can be incorporated into a boy's home, school, and religious community, adding to all three and in some cases, filling in where family, school, or religious support is lacking.

Scouts have many opportunities to learn skills of leadership, of the outdoors, and of life. Each boy decides what he will learn and how quickly he will do it. As he progresses, the value of this achievement will be reinforced through recognition—advancement in Scouting's ranks, positions of leadership in the troop, and accomplishments during outdoor activities.

Every Scouting activity moves boys toward three basic aims:

- Character development
- Citizenship training
- Mental and Physical fitness

Character Development

Character encompasses a boy's personal qualities, values, and outlook.

Scouting strives to help a boy grow in the following ways:

- He becomes confident, but is not conceited
- He is honest with himself and others
- His personal appearance shows that he respects himself
- He develops special skills and interests
- He can take care of himself, especially in emergencies
- He can be counted upon to do his best, even in difficult situations
- He practices his religious beliefs
- He respects other people regardless of their differences

Character is what you do when no one is looking

Citizenship Training

The Scouting program allows boys to practice good citizenship by living and working among others in a troop with rules based on the common good. Each Scout is further encouraged to do the following:

- Learn about and take pride in his national heritage
- Develop an understanding of the social, economic, and governmental systems of which he is a part:
- Be of service to others
- Have knowledge of and respect for cultures and social groups other than his own.
- Be aware of community organizations and their functions
- Appreciate the environment and seek to protect it

Mental and Physical Fitness

People get the most out of life when they are mentally and physically fit. Scouting motivates each Scout to work toward these goals:

- Improve his general physical condition through exercise and participation in vigorous activities that might include outdoor adventures and sports
- Eat properly, get enough sleep, and follow other habits for good health.
- Keep his weight within a healthy range.
- Reject experimenting with tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs, or with other activities that can be harmful to himself or others
- Strive to be mentally alert
- Use good judgment and make sound decisions
- Train himself to be resourceful in solving problems

The Methods of Scouting

The Boy Scouts of America uses eight fundamental methods to meet boys' hope for fun and adventure, and to achieve Scouting's aims of encouraging character development, citizenship, and mental and physical fitness. A Scout troop functions best when all eight methods are used.

Method 1---The Ideals

The ideals of the Boy Scouts of America are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan. Boy Scouts and adult leaders incorporating these ideals into their daily lives are said to have Scout spirit. The ideals permeate everything that we do.

Method 2---The Patrol Method

Within the larger community of the troop, the patrol is a Scout's "family circle". Often made up of boys who are close in age and experience level, each patrol helps its members develop a sense of pride and identity. The boys themselves elect their patrol leader, divide up the jobs to be done, and share in the satisfaction of accepting and fulfilling group responsibilities.

Method 3---The Outdoors

Boys join Scouting for the challenge, the excitement, and the fun. Much of Scouting is designed to take place outdoors in settings where boys can find real adventure. Outdoor activities put the sizzle into Scouting. They keep boys coming back for more. A strong troop should have at least one outdoor program each month. This usually is some type of camping experience.

Method 4---Advancement

The Boy Scouts of America believes that a boy should receive recognition for his achievements. The requirements for ranks of Tenderfoot through First Class prepare boys to take full advantage of all that Scouting has to offer. Earning merit badges allows them to explore many fields, helps them round out their skills, and perhaps introduces them to subjects that will become lifelong interests and rewarding careers. In addition, advancement sets a pattern of setting

positive goals and reaching them throughout life. Star, Life, and Eagle requirements focus on service to others and developing leadership skills.

Method 5---Association with Adults

Boys learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. Scout leaders can be positive role models for the members of their troop. In many cases, adult leaders who are willing to listen to boys, encourage them, and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound differences in their lives.

Method 6---Personal Growth

Through service projects and good deeds, Scouts can discover their place in their community. Many Scouting activities allow boys to associate with boys from different backgrounds. The religious emblems program offers pathways for Scouts to more deeply understand their place in the world. The troop itself provides each Scout with an arena in which to explore, to try out new ideas, and sometimes simply to embark on adventures with no design other than having a good time with good people.

Method 7---Leadership Development

Leadership is a skill that can be learned only by doing it. Every boy in a patrol and troop will find that he is filling leadership positions of increasing responsibility. Through leadership experiences, boys learn planning, organization, and decision making. For many boys, accepting the role of patrol leader is the first real leadership opportunity they have ever had. Discovering that they can do the job will go a long way toward giving them the confidence and ability to be leaders in the future.

Method 8---The Uniform

Since 1910, the Boy Scout uniform has been a recognizable part of the American scene. Wearing the uniform helps boys develop a sense of belonging to their patrol and troop. It reinforces the fact that all members of the BSA are equal to one another. People seeing a boy in a Scout uniform expect someone of good character who is prepared to the best of his ability to help those around him. Likewise, Scout leaders in full uniform set a good example for members of their troop and are also seen as community leaders fulfilling a very important role.

Troop Management

Troop 360 has a troop committee composed of a committee chairman, treasurer, secretary, and other committee members who are voting members. The scoutmaster, assistant scoutmasters are invited to attend, but are non-voting. The committee reviews adult applications and oversee the performance and activities of the Adults. The Committee is responsible for insuring a safe and appropriate program is provided and insure appropriate management of the funds and Troop assets. The adults meet once a month to discuss troop policy. The troop finances, fund-raisers, calendar, and policies are discussed at the troop committee meeting. This group meets the Tuesday or Thursday after Boy

Scout Roundtable, which is the first Thursday of each month. Although there is a troop committee, the troop itself is boy-led.

The Boy-Led Troop

Empowering boys to be leaders is the core of Scouting. Scouts learn by doing and what they do is lead their patrols and their troop. The boys themselves develop a troop's program, then take responsibility for figuring out how they will achieve their goals.

Some Scoutmasters struggle with the idea of allowing boys to lead the troop. They wonder whether a boy of 12 can keep a patrol in order or if a 14-year-old senior patrol leader can organize and manage a successful troop meeting. In the short term, it might seem easier for adults to make all of the decisions and direct the action. However, when you invest your energy in training boys to run the show, you will find that you can watch with great satisfaction as junior leaders thrive in fulfilling the responsibilities they have been given. A Scoutmaster's time will have been spent productively, and the boys in the troop will be getting the full measure of the Scouting program.

Each time Scouts are formed into a new group, whether it is a new patrol or a patrol leader's council, the Scoutmaster must evaluate the skills, abilities, a morale level of the newly formed group, then provide direction, coaching, and support based on that evaluation.

Leaders of the Boy-Led Troop

A Boy Scout troop is small democracy. With the Scoutmaster's direction the boys are formed into patrols, plan the troop's program, and make it a reality. In order for that to happen, a troop relies upon Scouts serving in positions of responsibility. The key boy leaders of the troop make up the patrol leaders' council. They are the senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, patrol leaders, and troop guides of any new-Scout patrol.

Senior Patrol Leader

The junior leader with the most responsibility in a troop is the senior patrol leader. He is elected by all members of the troop. Each troop sets its own requirements and schedule of elections, though senior patrol leaders are usually chosen at the six-month intervals and can be re-elected. During a Scout's tenure as a senior patrol leader, he is not a member of a patrol. The senior patrol leader is in charge of troop meetings from beginning to end. He chairs meetings of the patrol leaders' council as they plan troop activities and program. The senior patrol leader's job is to see that the troop runs in an orderly and timely manner.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

With the approval of the Scoutmaster, the assistant senior patrol leader is appointed by the senior patrol leader, serves as his assistant, and takes his place when the senior patrol leader, serves as his assistant, and takes his place when

the senior patrol leader is absent. Among his specific responsibilities are training and providing direction for the troop quartermaster, scribe, Order of the Arrow troop representative, historian, librarian, and instructors. During his tenure as assistant senior patrol leader, the Scout is not a member of a patrol.

Patrol Leaders

One patrol leader is elected by the members of each patrol. He takes responsibility for the patrol's activities and represents the patrol as a member of the patrol leaders' council. Each patrol leader appoints an assistant patrol leader to serve with him. The assistant takes over when the patrol leader is absent.

Troop Guide

The troop guide is both a leader and a mentor to the members of a new-Scout patrol. He is an older Scout, at least First Class in rank, who helps the patrol leader of a new-Scout patrol in much the same way that a Scoutmaster works with a senior patrol-leader---providing direction, coaching, and support as determined by the skill level and morale of the patrol leader and members of the new-Scout patrol. The troop guide may also teach the members of the new-scout patrol the ins and outs of Scouting; thus, helping them through the Trail to First Class. The troop guide will work with the Assistant Scoutmaster in the development of the first year scouts. The troop guide is usually not a member of another patrol, but may participate in the high-adventure activities of a Venture patrol.

The Patrol Leader's Council

The patrol leaders' council (PLC) plans and runs the troop's program and activities and gives long-range direction with an annual program planning conference that lays out the troop's calendar for the coming year. Composed of the youth leaders listed above, the PLC also meets each month to fine-tune upcoming troop meetings and outings. They might also get together briefly after each troop meeting to review the plans for the next troop meeting and make any adjustments to ensure its success.

Meeting of PLC are conducted by the senior patrol leader and are held the Tuesday after the Troop Committee meeting. Patrol leaders and troop guides present ideas and concerns of their patrols, then take the council's decisions to the rest of the troop members.

The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters attend the patrol leader's council meetings as a coach and informational resource. As much as possible, the adults should allow the boys to run the meetings and make the decisions, stepping in with suggestions and guidance when that will enhance the program for the troop, the patrols and the individual boys. The Scoutmaster and troop committee retain veto power over decisions of the PLC, but should need to exercise it only on rare occasions when the plans would violate BSA policy or

could lead to a situation that might jeopardize the safety and well-being of troop members.

Other Troop Positions

Unless otherwise noted, the senior patrol leader selects the Scout who will hold each position. Scouts serving in any of the following troop positions will also continue to be active members of their patrols.

Quartermaster---The quartermaster is the supply and equipment boss. He keeps a current inventory of troop equipment and sees that it is in good condition.

Scribe---The scribe is the troop's secretary. He attends meetings of the patrol leaders' council and keeps a logbook of their discussions, but is not a voting member. During troop meetings, he records attendance.

Historian---the historian collects and preserves troop photographs, news stories, trophies, flag, scrapbooks, awards, and other memorabilia.

Librarian---the troop librarian oversees the care and use of troop books, pamphlets, magazines, and audiovisuals. He checks out these materials to Scouts and leaders and maintains records to ensure that everything is returned. He may also suggest the acquisition of new literature and report on the need to repair or replace any current holdings.

Instructor---each instructor is an older troop member proficient both in a Scouting skill and in the ability to teach that skill to others.

Chaplain Aide---the chaplain aide assists the troop chaplain (usually an adult from the troop committee) in religious services for the troop.

Den Chief---A den chief works with a den of Cub Scouts and with their adult den leaders. He assists with den meetings, encourages Cub Scout advancement, and serves as a role model for younger boys. A scout must receive the den chief training provided by District before becoming a den chief.

Order of the Arrow Troop Representative---the Order of the Arrow representative serves as a communication link between the troop and the local Order of the Arrow lodge or chapter. By enhancing the image of the Order as a service arm to the troop, he promotes the OA in the troop while encouraging year-round and resident camping in the troop and participation of older Scouts in high-adventure programs. He reports to the assistant senior patrol leader.

Webmaster---working with an adult webmaster, this position will maintain the Troop's website and information that is provided on it.

Leave No Trace Trainer---Leave No Trace (LNT) is a philosophy of camping and being in the outdoors that is highly embraced by the Boy Scouts of America. This role assist younger scouts in understanding and practicing the principles of LNT.

Patrols

“The patrol method is not a way to operate a Boy Scout troop, it is the only way. Unless the patrol method is in operation, you don't really have a Boy Scout troop.”---Lord Robert Baden-Powell

Patrols are the building blocks of a Boy Scout troop. A patrol is a small group of boys who are more or less similar in age, development, and interests. Working together as a team, patrol members share the responsibility of making the patrol a success. They gain confidence by serving in positions of patrol leadership. All enjoy the friendship, sense of belonging, and achievements of the patrol and of each of its members.

Patrol size depends upon a troop's total enrollment and the needs of its members, though an ideal patrol size is eight. New scout patrols are sometimes smaller, allowing the flexibility for patrol members to invite friends to become Scouts and join their patrol.

Each patrol selects a name for itself, decides on a yell, and designs a flag. They can get the patrol patch at the Scoutfitter, or design their own patch if they choose a different name from those the Council recognizes.

Regular Patrols

Regular patrols usually are composed of Scouts who have completed the Second Class requirements. They are groups of peers similar in age, achievement, and interests. Most of them have been around Scouting long enough to be comfortable with patrol and troop routines, and are well versed in camping, hiking, cooking, and Scouting's other basic skills.

New-Scout Patrol

Many troops have a new-Scout patrol for 11-year-old boys who are just joining. The new Scouts function together as a patrol during their first year in the troop, working toward their goal of completing the requirements for the First Class rank. Some troops phase their new Scouts into regular patrols after three to six months. If we have a sufficient number of new scouts join in a reasonably narrow portion of time, we may employ a New Scout Patrol approach. Otherwise new Scouts will be added to existing patrols.

An older, experienced Scout will be appointed by the senior patrol leader, with the advice and consent of the Assistant Scoutmaster, to serve as troop guide for the new-Scout patrol. The troop guide helps new Scouts through the early challenges of troop membership. An assistant Scoutmaster should work closely with the troop guide and the new-Scout patrol to ensure that each Scout has every opportunity to succeed right from the start.

<p>“The object of the patrol method is not so much saving the Scoutmaster trouble as to give responsibility to the boy.”--Lord Robert Baden-Powell</p>
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Patrol Leaders

The member of each patrol elects one of their own to serve as their patrol leader. The troop determines the requirements, if any, for patrol leaders, such as rank,

age, and training. Patrol elections are not popularity contest; instead they give patrol members the responsibility of selecting someone who will be a good leader. The following are some of the patrol leader's responsibilities:

- Take a leading role in planning and conducting patrol meetings and activities.
- Encouraging patrol members to complete advancement requirements.
- Represent the patrol as a member of the patrol leaders' council.
- Set a good example by living up to the Scout Oath and Law.

If a Scout has a problem or question, the first place he goes for the answer is to his patrol leader or assistant patrol leader if he cannot find the patrol leader. If that person cannot provide the answer, then the boy goes to the senior patrol leader. If the senior patrol leader does not know the answer, then he goes to an adult leader. The boys are to approach a boy leader FIRST---not an adult.

Patrol Names

There are thirty-nine (39) established patrol names with the corresponding patch available from either the Scoutfitter. In addition, there is a blank patch where the boys may create their own name with their own corresponding design.

The recognized BSA patrol names are: alligator, antelope, badger, bat, bear, beaver, bison or buffalo, bobcat, bobwhite, cobra, dragon, eagle, flaming arrow, flying eagle, fox, frog, frontiersman, hawk, Indian, liberty, lightning, moose, owl, panther, Pedro, pheasant, pine tree, raccoon, ram, rattlesnake, raven, roadrunner, scorpion, shark, stag, tiger, Viking, wolf, and wolverine.

Cub Scouts versus Boy Scouts

1. Cub Scout dens are led by an adult leader with an adult assistant den leader. Boy Scout troops are led by the Boys. The senior patrol leader guides the patrol leaders' council which then makes the annual plan and the monthly plans.
2. The Cub Scout den leader conducts the weekly meetings, but the senior patrol leader conducts the weekly Boy Scout meeting.
3. The senior patrol leader plans each weekly Boy Scouts meeting.
4. The Cub Scouts attend family camping, perhaps twice a year if the pact is active. The Boy Scouts do not do family camping. The siblings do not attend a Boy Scout camping trip unless the Troop holds a special family campout.
5. In Cub Scouts, the parents may sign off in the boy's book stating that he has accomplished an item. In Boy Scouts, the troop guide, Instructor, or Assistant Scoutmaster will sign off that a boy has completed a requirement toward rank up to their First Class rank. .

6. In Cub Scouts, the boys are to experience an item or be exposed to an item in order to get credit. But the boys should master an item in Boy Scouts before receiving credit for it.
7. Cub Scouts may sleep with their parents in their tent. In Boy Scouts, the boys will share a tent with another boy (or sleep in alone in a tent) and put their tents together as a patrol. The parents, then, will put his or her tent with the adult patrol.
8. Parents may pack a Cub Scout's bag, but the boy packs his own bag in Boy Scouts
9. Refreshments are usually brought to a Cub Scout den meeting. Boy Scouts reserve refreshments for special events.

Troop 360 Camping Trips

Troop 360 usually goes camping once a month. The location of the camping trip will vary depending on the emphasis for each month. The monthly themes are decided at the annual meeting of the patrol leaders' council (PLC). Final plans are made at the monthly PLC meeting.

Unlike Cub Scouts, this not a family camping trip. Only registered troop members attend camping trips. Further, the troop hopes that each adult who attends has taken Boy Scout Leader Training, Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills, and the Youth Protection courses offered by Gray Owl District.

When our troop goes camping, we usually will finalize the camping plans at the Monday meeting prior to the trip. Each patrol normally will plan their menus two weeks before the campout, which need to be approved by a Scout leader. Each patrol also will select a grubmaster for the trip. This person will be in charge of buying the food for the patrol. The grubmaster usually is the lead cook too. Notice that this says "lead cook" and not the only cook. The patrol members need to work together as a team to prepare their food. No member should run off and play while the patrol is cooking. Because the Scout will need to buy food before leaving for camp, we normally will pay for the trip on the Monday before the campout. In this way, the grubmaster will have the money needed for his patrol's food.

We usually will meet on Friday at the troop hut at the Elks' Lodge to load the troop trailer with all of our equipment. This would include tents, tables, patrol chuck boxes, dry action packers, ice chests for food, and each Scout's gear. The troop quartermaster oversees the loading of all equipment. The time that we meet depends on how far we will need to travel for the trip. We normally meet at 6:30 PM, but that could vary.

We also will decide on the Monday before our trip how many adults are attending; thus how many vehicles we will have for travel. Each driver and vehicle needs to be registered with the troop committee member in charge of tour permits. She/he must list the driver; vehicle make/model, insurance information, and number of seat belts when submitting a tour permit application to Circle Ten

Council. When we meet at the hut to leave for our camping trip, the Senior Patrol Leader will assign the Scouts to the various cars. There is to be enough seat belts in the vehicle for each person traveling in that car.

Each person attending the camping trip will need a certain amount of money, which will vary depending on the trip. The troop pays for any fees for the camping sites. Sometimes there may be an additional fee, for instance caving was \$35 per person for the wild cave experience. The typical cost is for food, which usually is about \$10 for the weekend. This money is given on Monday to the patrol grubmaster who is to buy the food for the patrol. The Scouts also will need money to stop at a fast-food restaurant, such as a Dairy Queen or McDonald's, on the way home. We normally stop for lunch on Sunday and this could be \$5-\$10, depending on the Scout's appetite. The Scout is responsible for keeping up with his own money. The adults attending the camping trip are not to be expected to keep up with anyone's money. The exception to this would be summer camp. If the parent wants to put a Scout's money in a labeled envelope, then a Scout leader attending summer camp may keep up with that money. This is because 1) Scouts may have more money for summer camp and 2) the Scout would have to keep up with the money longer than for just a weekend experience. It is suggested that for the younger scouts, daily envelopes be sent with their money so that the scout does not spend all on the first two days of summer camp. A personal note in the envelope from family is often a welcome reminder of home.

The Scouts also are to be on good behavior inside the restaurant and leave it clean. If the adults and the senior patrol leader are not satisfied with the condition of the restaurant when the boys finished, they could call the boys back to clean up the facility. Further, if the fast-food restaurant has a play area, Boy Scouts in uniform normally do not play on that equipment. The troop views that area to be for children and the Boy Scouts are not children. The troop leaders do not want the big Scouts to interfere with the smaller children.

When packing for the camping trip, be sure to have the **SCOUT** pack his OWN bag! This is for several reasons. First, Boy Scout Troop 360 is trying to teach independence and one way is for the boys to pack their own bag. Second, the boy needs to know where his items are located. When the parent packs the bag, the boy usually has no idea where the items are. The parent may want to review the checklist with the Scout, but the parent should not pack the boy's gear. Usually we find that if a boy forgets something on a trip, then he will remember that item on the next trip!

When we arrive at our camping destination, the senior patrol leader decides where we will camp. He will show the various patrols, including the adult patrol, where they are to set up camp. Normally, each patrol camps together. The adult patrol camps separately from the boys. This is to encourage the boys to rely on

themselves and each other and not run to the adults. The adults are close enough, however, to see that everything is going well.

Because each patrol has its own grubmaster who has bought the food for that patrol, then each patrol will cook its own food separately from the other patrols. They should not be cooking side-by-side, but at a distance from each other. The boys are to work together under the leadership of the patrol grubmaster and the patrol leader. Also, because we have various patrols, including a separate adult patrol, if a problem arises, the boys are to first go to their patrol leader. If he cannot solve it, then the boy goes to the senior patrol leader. If he cannot solve it, then he comes to the adults. This is to try to adhere to the patrol method of Boy Scouts which is to foster leadership development and teamwork.

When we camp over the weekend, there are various activities we try to have. One, we try to have a troop campfire which usually includes songs, skits, jokes, and a time of reflection on the trip. Two, we have a troop church service on Sunday morning before leaving camp. The troop chaplain and the chaplain aide coordinate the church service. They usually have assigned one patrol to be in charge of planning the service. The boys of that patrol, then, run our troop church service.

After we have had our Sunday church service, we then load the troop trailer with all the gear for our return trip home. Each Scout on the trip is responsible for packing his OWN gear for the return trip home. No adult, including the Scout's parent, is to pack his gear. After the trailer is loaded, the senior patrol leader guides the Scouts to form a police line and we police the area for any trash. The Scouts always leave an area cleaner than we found it. Sometimes the boys may say that they did not put the trash there. However, that makes no difference because we are trying to teach the boys to leave no trace when they go camping.

Upon our return to the troop meeting location, then the boys are to stay and help unload the trailer. All the troop gear needs to be put back in the troop storage facility. If we work together as a team, then this should not take long. No boy is to leave until he has been dismissed by the senior patrol leader and the scoutmaster.

General Personal Camping Equipment

Generally, the boys will use the troop's tents; therefore, the following is a general list of the items the boys will need to take camping. Depending upon the type of camping trip, some of this may vary. Please be sure of all items are clearly labeled with the Scout's name. No electronics are to be brought camping. This includes cell phones, radios, hand held games. We do however let the boys have electronic games for use in the car ONLY. Also, no snacks, candy, other food items or "care packages" are to be brought camping. No food, even wrapped, should be put in the tent because this attracts unwanted animals.

1. individual first aid kit
2. Change of outer clothing appropriate for the weather
3. Change of underwear
4. Several pairs of good socks
5. Sturdy closed toe shoes
6. Sleeping Gear
7. Sleeping pad
8. Water bottle
9. Flash light with extra batteries
10. Eating kit/mess kit
11. Personal items: toothbrush/toothpaste, comb, sunscreen
12. Rain gear
13. Soap
14. Washcloth
15. Watch
16. Compass
17. Gloves
18. Personal camping chair

Backpacking Items

There is no need to purchase a backpack when the Scout first joins the Troop. This is an expensive item and several things will need to be considered before purchasing one. First and foremost is will the scout be ready to backpack from a mental and physical position. Second, the backpack for a young scout should be able to adjust and grow with them. The Scout will not be the same size when they first join the Troop then when they are ready to go backpacking on a Philmont trail at age 14. Therefore, it is important that the backpack fit the Scout properly. Stores such as REI will work with you to identify appropriate backpacks. They also rent equipment and it might be an advisable situation to rent once or twice for a weekend activity to understand what works best.

When we go backpacking, the following list is needed. Please be sure all items are clearly labeled with the Scout's name. Items should be packed inside sealable plastic bags to keep dry. No electronic items are to be brought along. We do, however, let the boys have electronics for travel in the car ONLY. Also, no snacks, candy, or other food items or "care packages" are to be brought camping. No food even wrapped should be put in the tent because of this attracts unwanted animals.

1. Pocket knife
2. Compass
3. Back pack with a rain protector
4. Individual first aid kit
5. Two water bottles
6. Change of clothing

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7. Several pairs of good socks
8. Sturdy closed toe shoes
9. Rain gear
10. Flashlight with extra batteries
11. Waterproof matches
12. Personal items
13. Mess kit
14. Wash cloth
15. Ground cloth
16. Sleeping gear
17. small soap
18. small trash bag
19. Optional: small folding shovel, sleeping pad, and a small chest.

When the Troop plans to pursue a backpacking campout, there will be several planning meetings and reviews of backpacks to insure the appropriate gear is planned. The above list is not everything that will go into the backpack. Room for food, water, and cooking utensils will be needed and distributed.

Boy Scout Advancement

While advancement through the Boy Scout program is important to most Scouts, it is not required. Some boys may simply enjoy camping and being with other boys, but not want to advance. These same boys may decide later in the program that they want to participate in advancement. Many people think of advancement in Boy Scouts as someone achieving the Eagle Scout award. While that might be the ultimate, not every boy will reach that height. Whatever a boy chooses to do, the adult leaders will work with him to help him meet his goals.

Advancement, one of the eight methods used by Scout leaders to help boys fulfill the aims of the BSA, can be a natural outcome of a troop's regular activities. A troop that offers many events and frequent outdoor adventures will provide varied opportunities for Scouts to complete advancement requirements.

Among the strengths of the Boy Scout advancement program are these:

1. It's fun. Many Scouting activities are rich learning experiences wrapped in interesting, satisfying packages. Boys having a good time might not realize that they are also involved in an educational process. The fun in advancement motivates them to challenge themselves to try new activities and to master new skills.
2. It offers adventure. The adventure of Scout advancement is hands on. Rather than being spectators, boys camp and hike. They are given the chance to learn first aid, citizenship, and leadership.
3. It allows Scouts to measure their progress. Requirement checklists allow Scouts to see clearly how much they have achieved and what challenges lie ahead. Boys can establish goals for themselves and, one step at a time, complete what they have set out to do.
4. It provides recognition. The most important recognition Scouts receive from completing requirements is internal-the confidence built upon having mastered new skills and having taken part in challenging adventures. Scouting also motivates boys by publicly acknowledging their achievements. A newly earned merit badge or badge of rank presented to a Scout in front of his peers and family offers him tangible proof of his accomplishments and a positive incentive for continued success.
5. It promotes development of physical fitness, character, and citizenship. A Scout learning outdoor skills with his troop and patrol also is learning how to work together with other people. A Scout completing advancement requirements also is gaining confidence, strength, and wisdom. A Scout involved in his troop's program also is making friends, exploring new subjects, trying out fresh ideas, and gaining invaluable experience as a leader.

The Four Steps to Advancement

Step 1-A Scout Learns

Learning is a natural outcome of Scouting activities. A Scout begins learning the Scout Oath and Law as soon as he joins a troop. The requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class offer hands-on experiences that challenge Scouts and reward them for their efforts. The merit badges and required service to troop and community that lead to the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle open new doors for older boys, sometimes even leading them toward rewarding careers and lifelong hobbies.

A Scout may at any time complete any requirement for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. There is no waiting time between those ranks, so a boy may work on the requirements at his own speed. Ideally, the boy should become First Class by the end of his first year of Scouting. If he does, then he has a better-than-average chance of eventually becoming an Eagle Scout. However, boys should not be pressured to advance or given deadlines for completing various badges. The speed with which he completes requirements, and even the decision to advance at all, lies with each boy.

A Scout may learn from a variety of people. The troop guide and the assistant scoutmaster assigned to the new-Scout patrol are the main sources of information. But, the scoutmaster, other assistant scoutmasters, and older Scouts will teach the boys. Additionally, experts in certain fields may be brought in to teach the boys.

Step 2-A Scout is tested

A Scout wanting to complete an advancement requirement must demonstrate to his leader that he has fully mastered a skill at the level expected. Completing a requirement is often more a checkoff process than a formal examination. It's easy to tell when a Scout has taken part in a required number of troop and patrol activities, when he has successfully spent a night camping out in a tent he has pitched, and whether he can swim a certain distance. Other items, such as map and compass skills, and first aid, may need to be incorporated into the meeting's monthly themes and then into the special camping event.

Step 3-A Scout is reviewed

After a Scout has completed all of the requirements for any rank from Tenderfoot through Life, his progress is reviewed in two stages: Scoutmaster conference and board of review.

The scoutmaster conference can accomplish the following goals:

- Establish trust and understanding between a Scout and scoutmaster.
- Reinforce the ideals of Scouting.
- Allow the Scout and scoutmaster to share ideas and ask questions of one

another.

- Set goals and outline steps for achieving them.

The Board of Review

After a Scout has completed all of the requirements for any rank from Tenderfoot through Life and has had a scoutmaster conference for that rank, he appears before a board of review composed of three to six registered adult members of the troop. The purpose of the board of review is not to retest a Scout, but rather to ensure that he has completed all of the requirements, to determine the quality of his troop experience, and to encourage him to advance toward the next rank. Each review also should include a discussion of ways in which the Scout sees himself living up to the Scout Oath and Law in his everyday life.

Boards of review for the ranks of Tenderfoot through Life should each last about fifteen to thirty minutes. At the end of the review, the Scout will leave the room while the board members discuss his qualifications. Then they will call him back to tell him that he is qualified for his new rank, or to outline very clearly what more he must do in order to successfully complete the requirements. The board can close the session by congratulating the Scout on the progress he has made and encouraging him to continue his good efforts.

Step 4-A Scout is recognized

Immediate recognition is a powerful incentive of the BSA's advancement program. A Scout should receive his new badge as soon as possible after his achievement has been certified by a board of review. A simple ceremony at the conclusion of a troop meeting or during a campout is ideal, with the Scoutmaster making the presentation of his badge. In addition, a troop holds a court of honor usually every three months. All Scouts who have moved up to any rank except Eagle Scout, or who have earned merit badges since the last court of honor, should be recognized. A special Eagle Scout ceremony will be held for those reaching that rank.

Record Keeping

Your advancement records are kept in three places — your Council office, the troop Advancement Chairman, and yourself. The Council office keeps records supplied to them by the troop Advancement Chairman, who also keeps copies of these records for the troop. Many troop Advancement Chairmen also maintain their advancement information on computers. You will receive three kinds of documents that you need to **KEEP IN A SAFE PLACE UNTIL AFTER YOU TURN 18** (or receive your Eagle Scout Award, whichever is later)! These documents are: your Scout Handbook with requirements signed off, your portion of completed blue merit badge cards, and the wallet-sized certificate cards for rank advancement and merit badge completion. Make sure all of them are signed

or initialed by the appropriate Scout leader. All of the cards are the same size and can be safely kept in plastic protector pages (available at Wal-Mart, etc.) which are designed for baseball and other sports cards. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU KEEP THESE DOCUMENTS IN A SAFE PLACE AND DO NOT LOSE THEM!!! If it should happen that there is a discrepancy or missing records, your personal records are your most important ally in proving what you completed and when.

Merit Badges

Usually, a boy working on the Trail to First Class will focus on meeting those requirements before working on a merit badge. However, when we attend summer camp, it is encouraged that the Trail to First Class boys also take the swimming merit badge, assuming they can swim. If they cannot swim, then they should take lessons and perhaps take the First Aid merit badge.

Sometimes, merit badge classes will be announced and the boy needs to take advantage of those when they are available. The instructor of those courses will complete a merit badge application, sometimes called a "blue card," and turn that in to the troop advancement chairman who will record the information and then order the merit badge. If a class is not announced, the boy needs to follow these steps:

1. The Scout decides on a merit badge he wants to work on and then get a signed merit badge application from his scoutmaster who then will assign him to a qualified counselor for that merit badge. A counselor must know a subject well, have the ability to work effectively with Scouts, and be currently registered as a merit badge counselor by the BSA local council and district.
2. Along with another Scout, a relative, or a friend, the Scout sets up and attends his first appointment with the merit badge counselor. No one-on-one contact is permitted. A Scout must either have a buddy with him at each meeting with a merit badge counselor or hold the meeting in public view. The counselor will explain the requirements for the merit badge and help the Scout plan ways to fulfill them in order to get the most out of the experience.
3. The Scout works on the badge requirements until he completes them, meeting with the counselor (and his buddy) whenever necessary.

Scouts may work on any merit badge at any time, assuming they have the approval of their scoutmaster.

Merit Badges Required for Eagle

- Camping
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation

- Citizenship in the World
- Communications
- Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving
- Environmental Science
- Family Life
- First Aid
- Personal Fitness
- Personal Management
- Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling

It should be noted that Boy Scout merit badges are quite detailed. They require much in order to complete them. For instance, the cycling merit badge requires long distances in bicycling; the backpacking merit badge requires several backpacking trips, some being very long distances; and the wilderness survival merit badge requires more than just sleeping outside in a shelter one has built. In other words, Cub Scouts got a belt loop for bicycling a little distance just knowing how and doing it a little bit. If we have a bicycling camping trip that may not mean that the Scout will qualify for the bicycling merit badge. Similarly, when we go backpacking at a camping trip, we probably will not backpack enough to qualify for the merit badge.

Awards and Recognition

The Awards and Recognitions Program of the Boy Scouts of America provides boys and adult leaders with visible emblems of their achievements. For adults, recognition of their contributions to Scouting is an important symbol of service and accomplishment within the organization and in the community at large. Detailed information explaining how, when, and where to wear various patches, badges, and medals can be found in the *Insignia Guide*.

Awards for Adults

Awards and recognitions intended for adult members of the Boy Scouts of America fall into two categories—those that can be earned and those that are bestowed.

Bestowed awards and recognitions are granted to adult leaders on the basis of their service, activities, and other efforts in keeping with the spirit of Scouting. Among the bestowed honors are:

- the Silver Beaver Award
- George Meany Award
- the District Award of Merit
- the Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award
- the Silver Antelope Award
- the Silver Buffalo Award

The requirements for badges that a leader can earn can be found in BSA literature associated with each award. They include the following:

- Boy Scout Leader's Training Award
- Wood Badge Neckerchief, Beads, and Woggle: Leaders who complete Wood Badge training may wear the neckerchief, beads, and woggle. Scouters are awarded these after completion of their Wood Badge "Ticket Items."
- National President's Scoutmaster Award of Merit: The National Eagle Scout Association recognizes scoutmasters who serve with enthusiasm, wisdom, and understanding of the Scouting program. The scoutmaster does not need to be an Eagle Scout, but must meet certain standards. The chair of the troop committee nominates the scoutmaster on behalf of the patrol leaders' council and the troop committee. This recognition is currently being reviewed and will be sponsored by the National and Council level organizations of BSA.

Awards for Boys

- Scuba, BSA
- Snorkeling, BSA
- Mile Swim, BSA
- BSA Lifeguard
- World Conservation Award: Scouts may qualify for this award by earning these merit badges: Environmental Science, Citizenship in the World, and either Soil and Water Conservation or Fish and Wildlife Management.
- Interpreter: A Scout wearing the interpreter strip must be able to carry on a conversation in a foreign language or in sign language, write a letter in the foreign language (not required for signing), and translate orally and in writing from one language to another.
- 50-Miler Award: The 50-Miler Award is given to Scouts who have taken part in a troop event involving a wilderness trip covering at least fifty consecutive miles over at least five consecutive days. They must also complete service projects that protect or improve the environment.
- Historic Trails Award: After researching a historic trail or site and learning about its significance, Scouts hike and camp for two days and one night along the trail or near the site and work with adults to mark and restore the trail or site.
- Totin' Chip: The *Boy Scout Handbook* includes information for this award stressing appropriate handling of woods tools.
- Firem'n Chit: The Firem'n Chit emphasizes wise use of open fires.
- Paul Bunyan Woodsman: A Scout must first earn the Totin' Chip and then help another Scout earn his. The Scout must also demonstrate correct technique with a three-quarter ax or a saw to do a forestry job, and teach other Scouts how to use woods tools safely.
- Den Chief Service Award: This special recognition is granted to den chiefs who complete certain service and training requirements found in the *Junior Leader Handbook* and the *Den Chief Handbook*.

Religious Emblems

"A Scout is reverent" is the last point of the Boy Scout law. All Scouts show their faith by doing their duty to God. Some also undertake special service and learning that could qualify them for religious emblems. These are not Scouting awards; each faith group offers its own emblem and has developed the requirements for earning it. The material can be obtained from the Scoutfitter. The Scout usually works with someone from his church in order to accomplish the award.

Training

Boy Scouts of America offers an extensive training program for both boys and adults. The BSA believes that trained boys and adults make for a better troop. The boy who is trained will understand the full focus of the BSA program and will know how to take full advantage of everything Scouts offers. Trained adults will know how to manage a program effectively. The more training that one can get, the better for the troop.

Training for Boys

1. Troop Training
This training usually is done within the troop structure. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters plan a program to train the boys to understand the patrol method.
2. Oakleaf Training
This training is offered through Gray Owl District Training Staff and the Order of the Arrow. Boys who attend this training usually are First Class or have the recommendation of the Scoutmaster. The district sometimes will place an age restriction on this event also-check with the course director or the troop's district liaison. The Scouts will learn basic leadership, the patrol method, and how to be a patrol leader. This is a pre-requisite for NYLT. Be sure to keep the Oakleaf certificate because it will be needed for NYLT registration.
3. National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)
This training is offered through Circle Ten Council and is held at a Circle Ten Council camp. NYLT is a week-long training experience wherein the boys learn extensively about patrol living and leadership skills. The boys will learn how an ideal troop functions. They will learn how to plan meetings and how to be a senior patrol leader. The boy must should attend Oakleaf , be 13 years of age, and completed the seventh grade before attending NYLT. It is strongly suggested that any boy who wants to be a senior patrol leader first

attend NYLT. The boys will be taught the same material as the adults are taught who attend Wood Badge training.

Training for Adults

1. **Youth Protection Training**
All adults who go camping are strongly urged to be Youth Protection certified. This is offered by Gray Owl District, online via the Internet (the link is available on the Circle 10 council web page: www.circle10.org, and at summer camp.
2. **Fast Start Training**
This can be done at any time. There is a brief exercise on the Circle 10 web site that can be completed, or video to acquaint the adult with the Boy Scout troop program, or, a commissioner or other trainer can orient the adult with the program. This troop orientation program also could qualify as Fast Start Training because it is more information than will be provided in that training material.
3. **This is Scouting**
This used to be called Basic Training. This will introduce the new adult leader to the troop operations.
4. **Position Specific Training**
This program used to be called Scoutmastership Fundamentals or Adult Leader Training. To qualify for the trained leader certification, the Scouter must attend both 3, and 4.
5. **Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills**
This will help the Scout leader to know how to execute the outdoor program of Boy Scouts. This requires the adult to perform many of the same skill requirements that the boys must do to earn their First Class rank.
6. **Boy Scout Wood Badge Training**
This is advanced training for the adult leader. It is one week at Philmont or 2 three day weekends at one of the Circle 10 Council camps. During intensive outdoor adventures, Scout leaders live the patrol method, gain knowledge of the skills needed for effective troop leadership, and develop attitudes that contribute to their ability to work with others. This is the ultimate in adult leader training.
7. **Supplemental Training**
 - a. The Philmont Training Center in New Mexico offers courses focusing on everything from teaching outdoor skills and First Class basics to seminars on troop program planning, merit badge counselor orientation, working with troop committees, and

encouraging advancement. This week-long class can give a different perspective from some of the best trainers throughout the country.

b. Gray Owl District Roundtables

These meet the first Thursday of each month, except for July, at 7:30 p.m., at the First Christian Church in downtown Garland.

There is a different theme for each month. Each meeting is designed to help the Scouter become a better leader. Besides training, much camaraderie develops at these meetings.

Additionally, the Scouter can be informed as to the happenings in the District and the Council.

8. Other training programs for adults exist and we encourage our parents to take advantage of such training including: Safe Swim and Swim Defense; NRA Rifle and Shotgun training; rappelling; COPE counselor; Archery training; Wilderness First Aid, and University of Scouting.

Troop Service Projects

Troop 360 has several on-going service projects. There are other projects that are in the works. This may include painting the outside, mowing the grass, and planting flowers.

1. Memorial Flag Day

The Troop assists the Elks Lodge of Garland in distributing American Flags which are in place at grave sites of veterans at the Williamson Cemetery.

2. Scouting for Food

The first two Saturdays in February, Troop 360 participates in Circle Ten Council's Scouting for Food Drive. We will put bags on area doors on the first Saturday and then return to collect food items the second Saturday.

Troop Finances

The outing in Scouting takes \$ and ¢

A Scout troop must have a budget and a treasury. The money to operate the troop comes from the Scouts, their parents or guardians, our chartering organization, and the community at large. In an effort to teach self-reliance and to teach the Scout to be thrifty, the troop encourages the boys to earn as much of their own expenses as possible. This is accomplished by encouraging each Scout to take part in troop sponsored money-earning projects to meet the troop's

needs and in doing chores to earn money for their personal dues. If the parent wishes, the troop can establish an account for the Scout. The Scout or parent can put money regularly into this account, which then will be available for use by the Scout.

What Are Troop Expenses?

The budgetary needs of troops will vary depending upon the nature of their activities and the needs of their membership. The following are some expenses that every troop can expect:

- **Troop Charter Fee:** The annual charter fee that must accompany a troop's charter application helps defray the cost of general liability insurance carried by the Boy Scouts of America.
- **Registration:** The annual registration fee for each youth and adult member may be prorated for a new member joining between troop registration. Otherwise, there is an annual registration fee for each member due with the charter application.
- **Program Materials:** These expenses include membership and rank insignia, troop flags, equipment, group camping gear, and supplies.
- **Activities:** Hikes, campouts, summer camp attendance, high-adventure opportunities, and other troop activities are usually financed by the boys and their families over and above the dues program. Troop 360 pays for the camp use fee when we go camping; however, the other expenses for food or other fees are paid by the boy or his family.
- **Boys' Life:** *Boys' Life* magazine is an official publication of the Boy Scouts of America that provides quality reading and program support every month. Troops are encouraged to subscribe for 100% of their members. The troop covers this cost at the annual re-chartering time.
- **Accident Insurance:** Each troop should be covered by accident insurance to help meet the costs of medical treatment in the event of an accident. Insurance fees generally run only a few dollars a year per person.
- **Reserve Fund:** It is wise to establish a reserve fund to meet the troop's unexpected expenses.

How Is The Troop Funded?

The dues for each boy are \$25 per quarter. They are due at the beginning of each quarter. The quarters are: Jan. - March; April - June; July - Sept.; and Oct. - Dec. This equals \$100 per year. Out of that, the troop will cover the boy's re-chartering fees and *Boys' Life* magazine. There are other expenses that arise periodically. For our monthly camping trips, the troop pays for the camping site fee, but the boys pay for their food for camp and their food on the return trip.

Besides dues, the troop participates in the Boy Scout Trails End Popcorn sales and Scout Show ticket sales. The boys and adults may wear their Boy Scout uniform when participating in these fund-raisers. Sometimes the troop committee believes that the need arises for additional fund-raisers. These could be anything

from garage sales, selling products, to having a car wash. When the boys do these types of fund-raisers, they may NOT wear their Boy Scout uniform. They may, however, wear an activity uniform that is sometimes called Class B. These are troop or camp T-shirts.

If additional money is needed after fund-raising, the troop has several resources. First, our chartering organization, the Elks Lodge, may be able to provide needed funds. Second, one of the assistant scoutmasters, has a number of sources within the community to call upon for financial assistance. Third, the Circle Ten Council provides scholarships for boys to attend summer camp.

Parent Involvement

The more parents we can have involved in the troop, the better! Parents may be involved in a variety of ways, depending on their goals. Some parents may want to be trained and become Scoutmasters while others may find their place of service on the committee. Wherever you wish to serve, there is a place for you. It should be noted that Boy Scout leaders can be either male or female. There is no discrimination regarding gender. We are looking primarily for the best people to serve no matter the gender or race. The following (excluding scoutmaster) are some places in which parents may serve the troop:

- **Assistant Scoutmaster:** People in this position usually will attend This is Scouting; SM position specific Training, Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills, and Youth Protection Training. It is up to them if they attend additional training. These individuals are integral in the troop structure. They are to be the role models of Scouting that these boys are to emulate. Assistant scoutmasters are chosen for their desire, their dedication, and their lifestyle. Do they exhibit the life that an assistant scoutmaster should lead? Is this the type of person that you want your son influenced by? These people will help lead the troop in a variety of ways and they are capable of holding scoutmaster conferences and minutes. They, too, may fill in for the scoutmaster when he is not available. If the scoutmaster resigns for any reason, then the new scoutmaster probably would come from one of these individuals.
- **Committee members:** The troop committee is always in need of parents to contribute their ideas regarding the management of the troop. The committee meets monthly, usually the first Tuesday. Committee members are encouraged to take the Committee Training which is online under the Circle 10 website. (www.circle10.org)
- **Merit Badge Counselors:** The troop needs additional merit badge counselors. A troop resource survey will be given to new adult members shortly after their child joins. The survey is to discover the various talents, vocations, hobbies, and education that is within our troop. The Merit Badge Counselor Coordinator for the troop, will compile the results of that survey to then match possible merit badge counselors to merit badges. She/he then will make certain that everyone is registered as a merit badge counselor with both Gray

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Owl District and Circle Ten Council. She/he also will keep an accurate list of merit badge counselors for the troop.

- Helpful parents: Some parents may not want to serve in any of the above positions, but they still want to be involved. They may help the troop by assisting with fundraisers, buying groceries for trips, helping with service projects, serving on subcommittees, or providing transportation to events. However, we prefer that people who stay to camp would have attended Boy Scout New Leader Essentials Training, Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills, and Youth Protection Training.