

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop 55 Organization

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This document is to provide details concerning the organization of Troop 55. All information in this document will be subject to review, modifications and approval by the PLC and Committee before being published.

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Mission Statement

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Troop 55 is committed to providing a challenging practical educational experience in a fun environment for boys. We believe encouraging self-determination helps develop youth into leaders.

Troop Philosophy

We are committed to providing an exciting, challenging and fun environment to develop boys into strong independent leaders. To accomplish this goal we subscribe to the 8 Methods of Scouting.

The adults firmly believe that Scouts should run the troop in developing and executing the program. A boy led troop allows greater participation and growth in boys as they mature into responsible young men. The Adult Leaders provide support and assistance in accomplishing the boys' goals and program while ensuring the safety of all the youth.

Founders Beliefs

Back to Basics scouting is the backbone of our program. We are concerned with following the BSA National program as described in the handbook and other BSA publications. In our experience we found that boys learn best when both responsibility and authority are given to them. When they become responsible for their successes and failures a remarkable transformation occurs in youths as they mature into productive citizens.

8 Methods of Scouting

The Scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "Aims of Scouting." They are character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness.

These objectives are spelled out in the Methods of Scouting

The methods by which the aims are achieved are listed below in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each.

The eight methods of the Scouting movement are the means through which the Aims of Scouting are achieved:

1. Scouting Ideals
2. Patrols
3. Outdoors
4. Advancement
5. Personal Growth
6. Adult Association
7. Leadership Development
- 8. Uniform**

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Scouting Ideals

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The ideals are those outlined in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan, and the concept of "Scout Spirit". The ideals define what a Scout should strive to be: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, reverent, mentally awake, morally straight, physically fit, always prepared. The Boy 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 and who he becomes.

This method permeates everything Scouts do, defining acceptable behavior, challenging the Scout to do his best, and even to do better than his best. Scout spirit describes the level of commitment a Scout has toward these ideals, and challenges him to do what needs to be done.

Patrols

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

The Patrol is the basic unit of Scouting. It is a perfectly sized group of Scouts with a common purpose. When properly formed, the Patrol is more than a group; it's a team and each member has a job to do. In a Patrol, the Scout first begins learning about citizenship, making decisions, and doing things for himself. He counts on the other members of his Patrol to do their part, just as they count on him to do his.

Membership in a Patrol leads to opportunities for leadership, so this method is also important to other methods in this list. Everything in Scouting can and should be done using the Patrol method, and Patrols should be more than just a list of names. The group should be real, and it should have real things to do. Its leaders should be real leaders, with real authority.

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 troop with a strong outdoor program is well on its way to finding success in all areas

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Advancement

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Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

The advancement method is nearly as pervasive as the ideals of Scouting. Advancement gives the Scout things to do when they go outdoors, and it gives Patrols something to work together on. Advancement also contributes to a Scout's personal growth, provides opportunities for leadership and adult associations, and a reason to go outside.

Advancement in Scouting is specifically designed to present every boy with a big challenge, broken up into smaller and smaller challenges. A Scout learns to set goals, develop plans for meeting those goals, to motivate himself to do what needs to be done, to always try his best and keep trying, and even that his perception of what he can do is often wrong. The Scout learns about his personal abilities and limitations, and ways to overcome those limitations and take advantage of those abilities.

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 method of Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Boy Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Much of what we do in Scouting involves boys facing unfamiliar territory and learning to cope with it. This is what we call personal growth. Every Scout develops greater confidence through experience and advancement. He learns to have confidence in himself; to challenge himself, and to learn from his failures.

Every step along the way, a Scout is faced with a challenge that has to be overcome. In the process, he learns to look at himself differently. He stops saying "I can't" and begins to look for ways to say, "I can." As his confidence grows he looks for greater responsibilities and challenges. He learns to make real decisions.

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From time immemorial youth have looked to adults for guidance. Sons look to parents for an example to live by. Students look to teachers for knowledge. In Scouting, this tradition continues. Adults provide the living example to Scouts of the ideals of Scouting. More importantly, adults provide the impetus for a Scout's personal growth and self-confidence.

Adults also provide the safety net that allows Scouting to work. Through guidance and support adults in Scouting create the environment the Scouts need to take advantage of these methods. The Scout learns to work with other adults and develops the skills needed to navigate the adult world.

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 role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Scouts learn to lead themselves. In Scouting, adults aren't there to lead the youth. They are there to guide the youth through the process of leading themselves. This process begins in the Patrol where Scouts have their first opportunity to choose their own leaders. As the Scout's experience grows, his opportunities for leadership increase.

Leadership in Scouting includes making decisions and guiding in the Patrol, planning the program, and conducting meetings. Scouts learn to lead by leading, and they develop leadership skills by learning to follow their chosen leaders.

Uniform

The uniform makes the Boy Scout troop visible as a force for 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 is practical attire for Boy Scout activities and provides a way for Boy Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished. 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.

The uniform has always been an important part of being a Scout. In this day and age, many would have you believe that the uniform really isn't all that important; that a Scout is as much a Scout in T-shirt and jeans as he is in khaki and green. That's partly true, but the uniform is more than a set of clothes. It's more than simply a place to display achievements. It is a symbol of the boy's commitment to Scouting - his acceptance of Scouting's ideals and willingness to live by them.

Who Can Join

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All boys in grades five through twelve or ages eleven through seventeen are eligible to join . The Scoutmaster should be made aware of any boys with physical or mental limitations (who may require some sort of assistance).

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 Law

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

Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn daily

Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to
Be clean in my outdoor manners,
Be careful with fire,
Be considerate of the outdoors, and
Be conservation- minded.

Scout Sign

Shows you are a scout. Presented each time you recite the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan. When raised at other times, all scouts should come to silent attention.

Scout Salute

Shows respect. It may be used to salute the flag of the United States of America, a Scout Leader or another Scout.

Scout Handshake

The handshake is offered as a token of friendship between scouts.

Troop Framework

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The Troop follows the guidelines established in the various official BSA Publications. The policies adopted in this document are intended to clarify positions; it is

not designed to replace or subvert BSA policies or regulations. Where a conflict may exist the troop will revert to the official BSA policy.

Committee Leadership

Committee meets on a monthly basis. It is tasked with the overall administrative management of the Troop, and also approves its yearly activities. Any interested parents or guardians are welcome to attend this meeting. The Troop Committee is comprised of the following individuals:

- Chairperson
- Charter Organization Representative (Non-voting Guest)
- Scoutmaster (Non-voting Member)
- Assistant Scoutmaster(s) (Non-voting Member)
 - Patrol Advisor(s)
- Advancement Chair
- Fundraising Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Travel, Outdoor and Event Coordinator
- Equipment Coordinator
- Membership Recruiter
- Training Coordinator

Troop Leadership

Troop Leadership consists of the Youth Leaders of the troop. The Youth Leadership is responsible for running the day to day activities and adjusting Troop Policy. The head of the Youth Leadership is the Senior Patrol Leader. The Scoutmaster and Assistant scoutmaster(s) are present to provide guidance and ensure the safety of the scouts. Members of the PLC are:

- Senior Patrol Leader
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
- Junior Assistant Scoutmaster
- Patrol Leader(s)
- Assistant Patrol Leaders (Only One Vote Per Patrol)
- Troop Guide(s)
- Den Chief(s)
- Warrant Officers (Non-voting)
 - Quartermaster
 - Scribe
 - Chaplain's Aide
 - Historian
 - Librarian
 - Bugler

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Troop Finances

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Troop Treasurer

The troop Treasurer is responsible for maintaining finances and providing financial documents to the Committee and PLC.

Troop Budget

The Troop will produce a budget every year. The troop will provide funds for Transportation costs, Camping fees, equipment, and inventory management. The fiscal year will run from January 1 to December 31.

Petty Cash Fund

From time to time the scoutmaster and adult leadership will need to cover minor costs and expenses. The troop provides a petty cash fund to provide the scoutmaster the tools to pay for these expenses.

Camping Fees

The troop will cover gas costs on trips over 50 miles. Gas fees for The Unit Leader and the Assistant Unit Leader will for all trips. The troop provides for the cost of 2 leaders on all trips to ensure BSA 2 deep leadership. All weekend campground fees are covered by the troop.

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Troop Discipline Policy

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As a Scout or Scouter in the troop it is important that we strive as individuals to teach, live up to and foster the belief in the Scout Law, Oath, Motto and Slogan, which was written by the founder of the Boy Scouts, Lord Robert Baden Powell in 1908. In order to better guide our Scouts, and help their parents or legal guardian(s) to understand that our program is built on a set of strong ideals, moral convictions, and expectations; The troop has deemed it important to set guidelines for a Scout's or Scouter's behavior. It is our desire that the Scout's experience be fun, safe, educational, and full of adventure; it is therefore important to emphasize that a Scout's good behavior will allow everyone participating to have this opportunity. It is likewise important to state that a Scout's or Scouter's poor behavior or judgment could not only impact the Scout or Scouter, but others as well. It is for this reason that the leadership has adopted the following policy.

- 1) Code of Conduct
 - a) All Scouts are expected to subscribe to the Scout Oath and Law and act within these guidelines. The Scoutmaster or designated Adult Leader will notify the Scout when their behavior is outside of these guidelines.
 - b) All Scouts are expected to follow the direction of the Scoutmaster, designated Adult Leaders and youth leadership
 - c) All Scouts are responsible to maintain a safe scouting environment at all Troop activities. The Scoutmaster or designated Adult Leader will notify the Scout when that Scout is acting in an unsafe manner.
 - d) Scout safety and protection are the responsibility of the Scoutmaster or designated Adult Leader. No Scout shall leave a Troop function or engage in hazardous activities (e.g., rock climbing, swimming, caving, etc.) without the expressed permission of the Scoutmaster or designated Adult Leader.
 - e) Scouts must respect all Troop property, public property, and private property when at a Scout function. Damage, destruction or loss to others' property by a Scout or group of Scouts will be the financial responsibility of the Scout(s) and their parent or legal guardian.
 - f) The Troop operates within BSA's "Two-Deep" leadership principle. Two leaders must be present for all Troop meetings and outings. Scouts should not be alone with or tent with the Scoutmaster or an Adult Leader (with the exception of the Scout's parent or legal guardian). Two scouts or a second adult must be present for a meeting with a Merit Badge Counselor.
- 2) Discipline Procedure
 - a) Warning
 - i) In the event of a minor infraction of the "Disciplinary Policy" (as interpreted by the Scoutmaster or leader in charge at the time of the infraction), the Scout will be officially notified by an adult leader that he has committed an act or behaved in a manner that warrants discipline. He will be warned of his inappropriate behavior and made aware that further inappropriate actions will lead to increased levels of discipline, including suspension or dismissal from Troop 55. It is important that the Scout understand why his behavior was inappropriate and how his actions could affect or harm themselves or others. Youth leadership should inform the Scoutmaster or adult leadership when a Scout has exhibited behavior that might warrant discipline. Youth leadership

should report all infractions from the Patrol Leaders through the Senior Patrol Leader or Assistant Senior Patrol Leader to the Scoutmaster or adult leadership.

b) Level One

- i) If additional disciplinary offenses occur within a three-month period or the Scoutmaster or responsible adult feels that the offense is more severe:
 - (1) The Scoutmaster or leaders in charge will determine, depending on the severity of the infraction, whether the Scout's parents should be notified and the Scout is to be sent home from the meeting, event or trip where the infraction occurred.
 - (2) The Scoutmaster or leaders in charge will notify the scout that his actions warrant disciplinary action and that as a result of his behavior, a meeting will be convened with the scout and his parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to discuss the discipline problems and inform them that this behavior will not be tolerated. The Scoutmaster and the leader initiating the disciplinary meeting will be present.
 - (3) The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may then be required to attend the next Scout activity(s) with their Scout, in order for the Scout to participate. The Scoutmaster will determine the duration of parent participation.
 - (4) Committee Chairman must be notified verbally by the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster or leader in charge that a disciplinary action has occurred for the inclusion in the next Troop Committee Meeting's Minutes.

c) Level Two

- i) In the event that another incident occurs or a severe disciplinary offense occurs, it will be treated as a "Level Two" offense. Depending on the severity of the offense a Scout will be suspended from all activities and meetings for a period of two to six months. A scout receiving a "Level Two" disciplinary action will be barred from holding Youth Leadership positions until the next yearly election cycle and will be barred from participating in High Adventure trips for one year from the date of suspension. As a result of a "Level Two" disciplinary action, the following steps will be taken:
 - (1) Committee Chairman will be notified by the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster or leader in charge verbally that a Level Two Disciplinary action has been taken. The report will include the name(s) of the Scout(s), the date, the infraction and the disciplinary action that resulted to be recorded in the next Troop Committee Meeting's minutes.
 - (2) The Scoutmaster will notify the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) that a "Level Two" offense has occurred.
 - (3) The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the Scout must appear before the Committee Chairman, Scoutmaster and other involved leaders to discuss the situation and disciplinary actions that will occur.

d) Level Three

- i) A "Level Three" offense will result from repeated disciplinary actions or a severe disciplinary offense including, but not limited to: molestation, sexual contact, illegal activities, use or possession of alcohol or drugs, or severe

physical abuse. A “Level Three” offense will generally result in expulsion of the Scout from the troop.

- ii) In the case of a “Level Three” offense the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the Scout will be contacted and immediately required to pick the Scout up from the meeting, event or trip.
 - (1) The Scout is immediately suspended from all Troop activities.
 - (2) A “Level Three” disciplinary meeting will be conducted by the Scoutmaster and Committee Chairman to allow the Scout and his parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to present information that would give reason not to expel the Scout from the troop.
 - (3) A “Level Three” disciplinary meeting will be conducted by the Scoutmaster and Committee Chairman to allow the Scout and his parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to present information that would give reason not to expel the Scout from the troop.
 - (4) The Committee Chairman and Scoutmaster will inform the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and Scout of the Committee’s final decision.

Bullying and Hazing Policy

Troop 55 has a no tolerance policy on hazing and bullying. If Bullying or Hazing is discovered the scout will sent home from the activity and will be suspended from all troop activities pending a hearing from the committee.

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Electronics Policy

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Recognizing the increase of electronic usage and the potential benefits of electronic devices The Troop is adopting the following policy to regulate the use of electronics. It is a key tenet of scouting to spend time outdoors free from the distracting nature of today's society.

1. Electronics General.
 - a. Electronics are defined as any device equipped with a battery designed with a circuit board and considered by the scoutmaster as optional equipment, this includes but not limited to: MP3 players, CD players, DVD players, cell phones, laptops, pagers, radios, portable gaming devices, etc.
 - b. Electronics are allowed in vehicles during transportation to and from activities subject to the discretion of the driver of the vehicle.
 - c. Electronics are to remain in the vehicle at all times
2. Cell Phones
 - a. Cell Phones are not to be used by scouts except in emergency situations
 - b. Cell phones are permitted to be in possession of scouts when it is in a public venue other than a scout reservation.
 - c. Cell Phones are to be turned off or silenced at Scout meetings
 - d. Cell phones are to remain in possession of adult leaders during camping trips except while traveling or at a public location
3. Radio's
 - a. The SPL or his designee are allowed to carry a radio for emergency weather broadcasts
 - b. Inappropriate use of the radio will cause confiscation
4. Music Players
 - a. Defined as all devices designed electronically to transmit sound.
 - b. Music players are not allowed on camping trips except while traveling to and from scouting events
 - c. Music players are not to be turned or out at meetings or other scout trips
5. Electronic Readers
 - a. Defined as any device specifically designed to be used as an electronic reader as its primary function (ex. Amazon Kindle)
 - b. E-readers are permitted on camping trips as long as they are used appropriately.
 - c. The use of an e-reader is a privilege and can be revoked if abused
6. The scoutmaster shall have the authority at deciding situational rules and regulations.

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Parent Information

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Your Scout is in for a very rewarding experience for the coming years. You will see a lot of growth as he matures, learns new skills and becomes an independent young gentleman. As far as Scouting goes, your son is now responsible for himself in Boy Scouts, unlike in Cub Scouts. Do not do anything for the Scout that he can do for himself. When a Scout joins a parents meeting will be arranged with the scoutmaster and Committee Chair.

About Being a Boy Scout

Your Son has the opportunity to join a fantastic, exciting and challenging program. The Boy Scouts is operating completely differently than cub scouts. In Boy Scouts the boys decide on the program and run the program with input and guidance from the adult leader. Your son will have the opportunity to go and accomplish things that few people have the opportunity to do. The Boy can work on merit badges, advance in rank; participate in hikes, whitewater rafting and a plethora of other exciting and challenging activities. As your works through the ranks and becomes a member of the youth leadership he will become more confident and more independent maturing in to a responsible young man.

Unlike Cub Scouts, the boys work on their own badges and go through the advancement process on their own. They are responsible for making arrangements with the merit badge counselors, for completing the requirements and for advancement review. A list of counselors is available for those who need it.

Meetings and Uniforms

Meetings are held every Monday from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Your son will need a Scout Handbook, paper and pencil for every meeting. Remember he is now responsible. He needs to write down dates and times of events and things he may need for each meeting. He needs to act in a responsible manner. The Senior Patrol Leader is the leader of the troop. The Scout will also need a **Class A** uniform for these meetings. This is a long or short sleeve uniform shirt, Scout shorts or pants, Boy Scout belt and buckle, Boy Scout socks, slide and troop issued neckerchief (see Uniform Dress Code for more details). The **Class A** uniform is required from the start of the school year until the end of the school year, unless otherwise specified. A **Class B** uniform, consisting of an Official BSA Shirt, Boy Scout shorts or pants, a Boy Scout belt and Boy Scout socks, can be worn during the summer. Meetings are not held on Thanksgiving and during the week of summer camp. If other meetings are cancelled, the Scouts will be notified in advance.

The Patrol

As Noted in the Aims and Methods of Scouting Section, one of the 8 methods is Patrols. The Patrol is the building block of the Troop. The Boy Scout troop is subdivided into

patrols which typically consist of 6-8 members. We generally group patrols by age and rank, the PLC also tries to take personality conflicts in mind when developing patrols. Everything in the troop is done by patrol. Camping, cooking and work assignments are all done by patrol. The Patrol leader is responsible for each member under his purview. For responsibilities of the patrol leader please see the Youth Leadership Positions Document. Each Patrol will have an adult leader assigned to assist the scouts with any problems or issues. These leaders are advisors and do not lead the patrol.

Chain of Command

1. Assistant Patrol Leader
2. Patrol Leader
3. Senior Patrol Leader/Scoutmaster
4. Troop Committee
5. Chartering Organization Executive

Sources of Equipment

The New Birth of Freedom Council Scout Shop located at 1 Baden Powel Lane, Mechanicsburg, PA and the Boscov's located in the Camp Hill mall sell official Boy Scout equipment. The troop also collects secondhand equipment that is made available to Scouts. Financial Aid is available for those that let the adult leadership know about the need.

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The Camping Program

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The troop participates in numerous activities outside of the weekly meetings. The Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) schedules a camping trip for every month. Each summer we go to a BSA summer camp and a High Adventure trip. There is a charge for a weekend trip to cover meals. Surcharges may be added if the troop travels an extended distance or gas prices are extremely high. Council sponsored camperships may be available for scouts who are attending summer camp. In addition the troop provides several fundraisers and savings plans to help Scouts and parents afford trips. A permission slip is required for scouts to participate in all camping trips.

Camping Policy

1. General
 - a. The Class A uniform will be worn while traveling to and from the trip. A scout who fails to bring his uniform will be sent home.
 - b. Electronics Policy will be followed during the trip. While traveling Electronics may be permitted at the adults discretion
 - c. Camping Cost: Most trips will have a fee to cover the cost of food. This fee is variable and will be set by the PLC based on the Consumer Price Index.
2. Patrols
 - a. Camping will be done by Patrol.
 - i. The campsite will be organized into patrol areas. Adults will not camp in patrol areas and scouts will not camp in the adult area.
 - ii. Each Patrol will be responsible to buy, bring and prepare the meals for the patrol.
 - iii. The Troop will provide the necessary equipment for cooking and clean up.
 - iv. The Patrol will be responsible for storage and cleanup of patrol equipment after each campout.
3. Leave No Trace
 - a. Leave No Trace (LNT) principals will be observed.
 - b. Campfires may be used when permitted.
 - c. Scouts will become proficient in the use of back packing stoves.
 - d. Scouts will not use the stoves until the stove use has been demonstrated to the scout
 - e. Each scout will be responsible for bringing his own eating utensils (paper and plastic are not be allowed).
4. Gear
 - a. Scouts may only bring to campouts, items that can be attached to or carried in their backpacks.
 - b. Each scout must plan to add to their pack, a tent, groceries or other patrol equipment, that will be distributed before leaving for the campout.
 - c. Hiking boots are required for all trips unless stated otherwise by the scoutmaster or Trip Coordinator.
5. Paying for Trips
 - a. Payment Methods

- i. Cash (preferred)
 - ii. Checks
 - iii. Scout accounts
 - iv. Campership Funds (for more expensive trips)
- b. Signing Up
 - i. Each scout is required to have a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian
 - ii. A Medication form must be filled out if a scout is taking medication
 - iii. Payment and permission slip is required two weeks in advance of camping trip. The Due date will be published
 - iv. Refunds will be processed on a case by case basis

High Adventure

The purpose of the BSA high adventure program is to create a difficult exciting program to challenge the youth and promote the ideals of scouting. Every year we offer a High Adventure fulfills this important part of scouting. A High Adventure is not a vacation, which is the reason why we are requiring preparatory conditioning hikes and are emphasize physical fitness. A High Adventure promotes cooperation and focuses on developing leadership skills and a sense of accomplishment. This troop believes High Adventures are the pinnacle of the scouting movement. High adventures can be anything from backpacking in Alaska, to scuba diving in the Dry Tortugas, to even sea kayaking off the coast of Maine.

High Adventure Policies

1. Requirements to participate on a 50 miler high adventure trip:
 - a. Be a minimum of 13 years of age by the trip
 - b. Obtain the rank of First Class
 - c. Possess the necessary skills to participate
 - d. Be physically fit
 - e. Scoutmasters Approval
 - f. Sign a Waiver/Permission Slip
 - g. In the Case of a Float Trip:
 - i. Have Canoeing Merit badge
 - ii. Tested as a swimmer within the past year
 - h. The High Adventure Committee May adjust the requirements for the trip
 - i. The Scoutmaster and the Crew leader has ultimate discretion

Major Activities

Other scouting activities include participation in the Scout Sunday ceremonies. As part of this program, the Scouts are expected to participate in the services as greeters, ushers and lectors. We encourage parents to attend and show their support for our sponsoring organization. Two Awards Ceremonies are held each year and are an opportunity for Scouts to be presented awards and parents to see what the troop has done in the past months. Every Year the troop operates a Webelo walk about to promote the

Boy Scout program. Finally, the troop participates in the Camp Hill Memorial Day Parade.

Equipment

For the camping trips each Scout will need some of his own equipment. The leaders will explain what is necessary for each trip. For every trip a scout will need raingear, hiking boots, a sleeping bag rated to 20 degrees Fahrenheit or colder, a sleeping pad, mess kit, cup and eating utensils, a first aid kit, pocketknife (after earning the Totin' Chip), a water bottle and an external or internal frame backpack to carry his gear. The Adult Leadership will assist in offering advice on the proper equipment. Scout accounts can be used to purchase equipment.

The Troop will provide stoves, tents, water filters, cooking gear, cooking utensils, and other crew and troop gear.

Activities and Equipment

The Troop does a plethora of activities in addition to the regular meetings. Every month the troop goes on a weekend camping trip. Every summer, they attend a weeklong Boy Scout camp. There is also a High Adventure trip. There is a charge for the weekend camps, some activities and for summer camp. Council-sponsored Camperships may be available for those in need for summer camp.

You son is always in very capable hands. All of our adult leaders are BSA trained. Many of our leaders are Eagle Scouts. Finally, the leaders are trained in first aid and CPR, and trained in Wilderness and Remote First Aid.

Trip Subsidies

The Troop may subsidize trips at its discretion. For more expensive trips the troop may run a fundraiser to defray some of the cost. The Troop Will also offer several individual fundraisers to help pay for the cost of major trip.

Troop Subsidies

Funding for the Troop subsidy program will be based on the revenue generated from fundraisers. Troop 55 will do its best to ensure every scout has the best opportunity to succeed at scouting. Financial Assistance is available, if needed.

Scout Personal Data Sheet

Boys who are joining our troop for the first time are required to complete the "Scout Personal Data Sheet." This gives the troop the information on your past scouting history, which is added to the troop records.

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Adult Personal Data Sheet

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Parents are asked to complete the “Adult Personal Data Sheet” when their son joins. This form provides the Troop with emergency information, as well as automobile insurance information, which is required when driving scouts to and from activities.

Troop Activity Permission Slip

Each activity will require that a parent or legal guardian sign a permission slip. These slips will be given to the scouts prior to the activity during troop meetings. These slips and any registration fees must be returned prior to the activity or by the specified date in order to assure the scout’s participation in the activity. This also ensures that all scouts are covered by the BSA’s insurance.

Scout Dues

The troop membership is subject to dues. Dues are set annually by the Troop Committee and may be paid monthly or annually. A monthly payment schedule will be set by the Committee on a case by case consideration.

Scout Accounts

To cover costs the scouts each have an individual scout account. Money can be deposited by the scouts or parents under a savings plan to pay for summer camp or high adventure trips. We offer several fundraisers including a wreath sale in December and a Giant Gift Card sale year round. With the fundraising options available to the scouts a scout can reasonably pay for all activities in the annual program. Scout accounts can also be used to pay for individual equipment.

Fundraisers

To cover the operating costs including paying for camping trip fees, gas and Troop equipment the troop operates fundraisers. All money left over at the end of the year is placed in an investment fund to cover unforeseen events. The Troop will also use excess money to subsidize trips for those in financial need.

Parental Involvement

Parents are encouraged to help the troop out in any way possible. We are always looking for volunteers to run programs, provide transportation and a variety of other tasks. Since these are your children every aspect of the program is open to the parents.

Unlike Cub Scouts, the boys work on their own badges and go through the advancement process on their own. They are responsible for making arrangements with the merit badge counselors, for completing the requirements and for advancement review. A list of counselors is available for those who need it.

Remember, in order for the troop to continue to enjoy the success it has in the past, all parents need to help. Parents are welcome to attend camping trips. Do not wait to be asked for help. The adult leaders need your help.

Every Quarter to Once per Month the troop will hold a parent's meeting to help keep the parents informed.

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Appendix

Adult Uniform Dress Code

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This document is intended to provide a standard for the uniforms worn by The Troop Scout Leaders and Committee Members for Boards of Review. This standard will apply to Boards of Review and other ceremonies attended by The Troop adults.

The Troop requires the boys to wear the Boy Scout Field Uniform, often referred to as a Class A uniform. In following the Boy Scouts of America suggestion to "lead by example" it is only fitting that the adults set an example.

Adult Preferred dress uniform consists of the following:

- The Boy Scout long or short sleeve shirt, tan
- The Boy Scout pants or shorts or culottes for women, olive
- Boy Scout web belt, olive, with Boy Scout buckle or other BSA issued belt and buckle
- Boy Scout Socks
- Troop issued neckerchief or bolo
- Boy Scout Slide, or personally crafted slide or special event slide.

Alternative Adult Formal Dress for Boards of Review

The preferred alternative for the official Boy Scout Uniform is Business Dress:

- Suit jacket or blazer
- Suit slacks or dress slacks or shirt for woman
- Dress shirt or blouse
- Tie
- Socks
- Shoes (no sandals)

Alternative Adult Casual Dress for Boards of Review

In the event an adult is unable to where the official Boy Scout Field Dress Uniform the suggested dress code is Business Casual:

- Long or short sleeve shirt or blouse
- Casual dress pants, i.e., khaki or Dockers type slacks or skirt for woman
- Socks
- Shoes (no sandals)

Boy Scout Field Uniform Insignia placement:

The information on the placement of the BSA approved insignias is located on the inside of the front and back cover of the Boy Scout Handbook.

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Uniform Presentation:

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The Boy Scout Field uniform should be worn with pride. The alignment of the shirt's right button edge, belt and belt buckle right edge and pants' right zipper flap should follow a straight line. This line is referred to as "The Gig Line".

Sashes:

There are two sashes that maybe worn by a Boy Scout, the Merit Badge Sash and the Order of the Arrow (OA) Sash. Only one sash may be worn at a time. The adults may only wear the OA Sash.

The Merit Badge Sash should only be worn when a Scout needs to look his best. It is to be worn from the right shoulder to the left hip. It should never be worn folded over the belt. The placement of merit badges is up to the Scout. The only restriction is that the merit badges must be worn on the front of the sash. The back of the sash may be empty or display additional temporary patches.

There are two occasions when the OA Sash may be worn. One is when the Scout or adult is attending an OA function. The other occasion is at special scouting events when members need to be recognized as Arrowmen rendering special services.

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Scout Uniform Dress Code

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This document is intended to provide a standard for the uniforms worn by The Troop Scouts and Leaders. This standard will apply to Boards of Review, Weekly Troop Meetings and other ceremonies attended by The Troop participants. At the discretion of the Senior Patrol Leader and the Scoutmaster, attendance may NOT be counted for failure to follow the troop Uniform Dress Code.

School Year Troop Meetings and Board of Review:

The troop requires the Boy Scout Field Uniform, often referred to as a Class A uniform, to be worn from Labor Day through Memorial Day. This uniform consists of the following:

- The Boy Scout long or short sleeve shirt, tan
- Must have all the correct insignia and placement
- The Boy Scout pants or shorts, olive
- Boy Scout web belt, olive, with Boy Scout buckle or other BSA issued belt and buckle
- Boy Scout Socks are to be worn when wearing the Boy Scout shorts
- Troop issued neckerchief or personal scouting Bolo
- Boy Scout Slide, or personally crafted slide or special event slide.
- **Board of Review Note:** the Scouts are required to wear socks with clear BSA markings while the shoe is being worn

Summer Meetings:

For summer meetings, the troop allows a relaxed uniform code. This uniform is considered the Boy Scout activity uniform, sometimes called the Class B uniform. **This uniform is not acceptable for a Board of Review.** The uniform consists of the following items:

- Boy Scout shorts, olive
- Official Troop class B shirt or an Official BSA T-shirt
- Boy Scout socks

Travel and Campout Uniform:

Unless stated otherwise by the SPL or Scoutmaster, Troop 55 scouts are required to wear the Class A Uniform to all campouts and when traveling to a designated scouting event.

Boy Scout Field Uniform Insignia placement:

The information on the placement of the BSA approved insignias is located on the inside of the front and back cover of the Boy Scout Handbook.

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Uniform Presentation:

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There are two occasions when the OA Sash may be worn. One is when the Scout is attending an OA function. The other occasion is at special scouting events when members need to be recognized as Arrowmen rendering special services.

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Troop Committee Procedures

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Rules General: unless otherwise specified the committee will follow *Robert's Rules of Order* for procedure, and the BSA rules and regulations for governance.

Voting Membership: All Adult leaders registered as Committee Members will have a vote. To be a registered as Committee member, adults must be at least 21 and be of good moral character.

Responsibilities:

1. Approval for financing for the annual Program.
2. Ensuring Adult leadership during troop activities and events.
3. Disciplinary actions involving possible suspensions or expulsions from the troop
4. Revenue
5. Publicizing the troop
6. Networking with local packs
7. Authorizing expenditures
8. Creating an annual budget
9. Maintaining Equipment
10. Keeping Scouts and Adults trained

Agenda: The Secretary is responsible for creating the agenda each month for the committee meeting. Special agenda items need to be submitted to the secretary 7 days in advance of the committee meeting. The agenda will be distributed and least two days before the meeting.

Items on every Agenda:

- Scoutmasters Report:
- Quartermaster Report
- Activities Chair Report
- Financial Report
- Fundraising Report
- Advancement Report
- Parents Concerns
- COR report

Parents who are not leaders are welcome to come to meetings and voice questions, concerns or to learn more about troop operations.

Quorum: a Quorum will consist of 3 Committee Members or 40 percent of all registered committee members; whichever number is higher.

Meeting Times and Dates: The Committee will once a month. The specific dates and times will be set by the committee.

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Emergency Meeting: The committee chair may call an emergency meeting in which a quorum must consist of 25 percent or 3 committee members. A minimum of three members must be present for a vote. Emergency meeting may only be called to discuss:

1. Disciplinary Actions
2. Eagle Projects where the Scout is within one month of his 18th birthday
3. Finance emergencies

Subcommittees: a subcommittee may be created for specialized purposes by the committee

Chair: a Chair's term is 1 year and may be reapproved each year. In the event of a chair's absence the chair will designate a committee member to chair the meeting.

Removal of an Adult Leader: By BSA National policies an adult is either qualified to be a leader or is not. In the event a question about leader's qualifications arises, the committee may investigate. To remove a leader a two thirds majority vote by the committee is to be required. After the removal the committee will send a letter to the council informing the council of the decision to remove the leader and the qualifying reasons for removal.

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Troop Awards

Year Round Camper Award:

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Requirements:

Attend all camping trips during the year

Attend Summer Camp and/or High Adventure Trip

No Disciplinary Infractions

Service Honor Award:

Requirements:

Volunteer in the community for at least 100 hours in a year

No Disciplinary Infractions

Distinguished Scout Award:

Requirements:

Earn Year Round Camper Award

Earn Service Honor Award

Earn Recruiter Platinum Award

Recruit the most scouts in the troop in a one year period

Special Benefit: Scout will be eligible to attend the next summer camp free of charge upon earning the Distinguished Scout Award.

Recruiter Platinum Award

Requirements:

Recruit two Scouts in a year to sign up and pay dues

Special Benefit: 25% reduction of next year's dues

Recruiter Gold Award

Requirements:

Recruit one scout

Special benefit: \$10 dollar reduction in dues

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Camp Out Basic Items

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Important Keep

1. **Scout Handbook**
2. **Scout Uniform - Class A when required**
 - Shirt
 - Pants
 - Belt
 - Socks
 - Neckerchief
3. **Hiking Boots**
4. **Back Pack**
5. **Sleeping Bag**
6. **Foam Pad or Thermarest**
7. **The Ten Essentials**
 - Knife and Multipurpose tool
 - Matches
 - Fire Starters
 - Compass
 - Flashlight (small)
 - Toilet Paper
 - Canteen or Water Bottle
 - Rain Gear or Poncho
 - Whistle
 - First Aid and Sun Protection including Band-Aids, chapstick, first aid cream, mosquito repellent, moleskin, adhesive tape, foot powder. **NO AEROSOL CANS.**
8. **Ground Cloth**
9. **Toilet Articles**
 - Soap
 - Tooth Brush and Tooth Paste
 - Comb
 - Washcloth
 - Towel
 - Nail clippers
10. **Hand Trowel**
11. **Eating Utensil**
 - Plate
 - Cup
 - Bowl
 - Fork and spoon
12. **Nylon Rope: 25 feet of 1/8".**
13. **Personal Repair Kit**
14. **Gloves: Old ones for cooking, garden type**
15. **Hat: optional but broad brim is often welcome in the sun and rain.**
16. Camera: optional.
17. Parent's Initials: _____

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Gear List Fall

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- Backpack 3300 Cubic Inches or larger
- Sleeping Bag Rated to 30 degrees or warmer
- Sleeping Pad
- Hiking Boots (with Ankle Support)
- Stove (1 for every two people)
- Water Filtration/Purification
- Pot for boiling water
- Utensil Set and Bowl
- Tent
- The Ten Essentials**
 - Pocket Knife
 - Matches/lighter
 - Fire Starter
 - Compass
 - Flashlight
 - Toilet Paper
 - Water Bottle
 - Rain Gear
 - Whistle
 - Personal First Aid Kit
- Hand Trowel
- Nylon Rope 25' of 1/8"
- Clothing** (Preferably mostly Synthetics)
 - Baselayer
 - Extra Set of:
 - Pants
 - Shirt
 - Underwear
 - Socks and sock liners
 - Light Jacket/Fleece (synthetic)
 - Warm Hat
 - Light Gloves
- Toiletries**
 - Washcloth
 - Camp Suds
 - Tooth Paste (travel size)
 - Tooth Brush(travel size)
- Optional Equipment**

- Hiking Poles
- Mug
- Camera
- Broad Rim Hat
- Book

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Revisions to Troop 55 Handbook:

Revision date 4/19/2014

- Change title to reflect reason final revision
- Added approval and acceptance dates to title page
- Changed wording for the document purpose
- Table of Contents (TOC) revised to show new page numbers and provide hyperlinks to headers
- Formatted all page to include a hyperlink back to the TOC at the top and bottom of the page
- Added additional information to some position duties under Committee Leadership
- Provided more open wording to Scout Dues section
- Changed wording and requirements under Scout Uniform Dress Code
- Fixed capitalization under Travel and Campout Uniform
- Added this page for reference of changes in T01-r1