

Troop Guide for Scouts and Parents

BSA Troop 20

Mt Pleasant Presbyterian Church
Mt. Pleasant, SC

Etiwan District
Coastal Carolina Council of the BSA

Contents

The Fundamentals of Scouting	1
Introduction to Troop	2
Procedure for Joining Troop 20	4
Troop Meetings	4
Dues/Fundraising	5
Scout Accounts	6
Medical Forms	6
Parental Participation in Troop 20	6
Be a Scout Leader	7
Serve on the Troop Committee	7
Volunteer as Merit Badge Counselor	7
Drive Scouts to Events	8
Participate in our Events	8
Serve on a Board of Review	9
Parental Resource Survey	11
Troop Uniform Policy	12
Books and Other Materials	13
Merit Badge Process	14
Challenges in Completing Merit Badges	15
Patrol Organization	17
Advancement	17
Attendance Requirements for Rank Advancement	19
Scout Leadership	20
Troop Youth Leadership Positions	21
Personal Equipment Guidelines	23
Troop 20 Camping and Other Outings	27
The Outdoor Code	28
General Safety	29
Aquatic Safety	29
Camping Sign up and Permission	29
Patrol Planning for Campouts	29
Patrol Gear	30
Prescription Drugs	30
Camping Drop off and Pick Up	30
Knife Policy	31
Electronics Policy	31
Camping "Nos"	31
Camping Rules	32
Guidelines for Grubmaster and Quartermaster	32
Homesickness	34
Summer Camp	35
National Scout Jamboree	35
High Adventure	35
Religious Emblems	36
Order of the Arrow	36
Youth Leadership Training	36
National Youth Leadership Training	36
Webelos Scout Camping with the Troop	37
Webelos to Scout Transition	37
FAQs	39

The Fundamentals of Scouting

Purpose

The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America—incorporated on February 8, 1910, and chartered by Congress in 1916—is to provide an educational program for boys and young adults to build

character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness.

Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

The Boy Scouts of America is the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training.

Scouting will continue to:

- Offer young people responsible fun and adventure;
- Instill in young people lifetime values and develop in them ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law;
- Train young people in citizenship, service, and leadership;
- Serve America's communities and families with its quality, values-based program.

Aims and Methods of the Scouting Program

The Scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "Aims of Scouting." They are character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. The methods by which the aims are achieved follow in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each:

Ideals

The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. 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.

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 members can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through elected representatives.

Outdoor Programs

Boy scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. In the outdoors, the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for the beauty of the world around us. The outdoors is the laboratory in which Boy Scouts learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Advancement

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.

Associations with Adults

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

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 as 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.

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.

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.

Introduction to Troop 20

Troop 20 is sponsored by the Mt Pleasant Presbyterian Church and is open to all eligible boys regardless of race, religion, national origin, or where they attend school.

Troop 20 is a member of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) in the Coastal Carolina Council and is part of Etiwan District. On behalf of the entire Troop, we want to welcome you to Boy Scouting. We're glad you've chosen Troop 20 and we want to make sure that you have lots of fun and learn lots of Scout skills. This Troop Guide contains our policies and procedures that will help you make a smooth transition into the troop. It is our intent that all policies of Troop 20 be consistent with the policies of the National BSA.

Troop 20 has a long and honorable history in the Village of Mt. Pleasant. As far as we can tell, the first Eagle Scout from Troop 20 was earned in 1934, and there has been over 125 young men who have attained this coveted rank since then.

Over the years, the troop has had several sponsors. In 1934, the town of Mt Pleasant sponsored the troop and meetings were held in the Town Hall. In 1946, the troop was sponsored by St Paul's Lutheran Church on Pitt Street. In 1947, the Mt Pleasant Exchange

Club was the sponsor. IN 1956, St Andrews Episcopal Church on Whilden Street sponsored the troop with meetings held in the Town Recreation Building on the corner of Royall Avenue and Bank Street. In 1965, the charter was issued to Mt Pleasant Presbyterian Church, and we have enjoyed a very strong relationship to this day.

Troop 20 is a “boy led” organization and is run using the Patrol method. The Scouts, through their elected leaders, are responsible for the running of the troop. It is the goal of the Troop that all activities, including Troop meetings, camping, day trips, Patrol Leader Council meetings and service projects are led by the Scouts, not by the adults. Adult leadership is in place to guide, give advice, and ensure that the program is safe and follows the ideals of Scouting. Fellowship is important to the development of young men. The program focuses on the ability to work with others within the Patrol and Troop setting and to be able to depend on others. Additionally, by performing service to the church and community, the Scouts of Troop 20 have the opportunity to use their leadership and fellowship to do something good for others.

Baden-Powell, founder of Scouting, taught that “Scouting is a game, with a purpose.” As in any game there are rules that must be understood for all participants in the game to be safe, be fair, and have fun. The prevailing rules in Scouting come from the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Other rules exist in the form of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Policy. This policy is developed for the safety of all participants in Scouting, youth and adult alike. Troop 20 makes every effort to strictly conform to these policies. Local rules also exist within Troop 20 to help our members better understand what is expected of each of us. This guide is the compilation of these Troop 20 rules.

Troop 20 offers year-round camping and advancement opportunities. Our goal is to go on at least one camping trip (or other troop function) each month. Each summer we provide the opportunity of a week-long summer camp to work on advancement, merit badges, or high adventure. Depending on level of interest, we also offer high adventure trips not only within the state of South Carolina (and neighboring states), but also to official BSA High Adventure Camps in Florida (Sea Base), New Mexico (Philmont) and Northern Minnesota (Northern Tier), and West Virginia (The Summit).

Troop 20 has consistently earned Quality Unit /Journey to Excellence awards for its program, and the Scouts in our troop receive one of the highest levels of rank and merit badge awards in our district.

Keep in mind that Scouting is a family activity. We are a relatively large troop with a dynamic membership. The Leadership of Troop 20 encourages all parents to take an active role in our Troop family.

[Procedure for Joining Troop 20](#)

- 1) Contact the Scoutmaster to let him know of your interest in our troop.
- 2) Attend a Monday night troop meeting at in the Scout Hut at Mt Pleasant Presbyterian Church from 7pm till 8:15pm.
- 3) Meet with the Scoutmaster at the troop meeting for an overview of our troop and get a copy of this handbook. Observe the troop meeting and activities, talk to other scouts and ask questions.

- 4) Prior to any Scout participating in his first Troop 20 event, he must be registered, which includes:
- a) Complete a BSA application (or BSA Troop transfer form).
 - b) Pay annual BSA Registration and troop dues (checks payable to Troop 20).
 - c) Complete a BSA Medical Form (Part A required now, Part B needed for summer camp).
- 5) Get a Scout Uniform and a Boy Scout Handbook from the Scout Store.
- 6) Attend the next meeting and bring your Boy Scout Handbook. The Scoutmaster will assign you to a patrol.
- 7) Parents: make sure you read with your scout the **Youth Protection** section in the front of the Boy Scout Handbook and sign it in the proper place, this is very important.

Troop Meetings

Troop meetings are held Monday evenings, 7:00 to 8:15 p.m., in the Scout Hut at the Mt Pleasant Presbyterian Church. We start promptly at 7:00 pm and try to end all meetings promptly at 8:15 p.m., as we realize that both Scouts and adults have probably had a long day and may still need to do homework or chores after the meeting. Please make arrangements to be on time for pick up. so that your Scout (and leaders) will not have to wait to leave. Our weekly troop meetings are held year round except for holidays. One Monday per month, however, only the troop's PLC (Patrol Leader Council) meets to plan troop events. The most current Troop calendar is always posted on the website at: www.troop20.org, so please check it often. Whenever severe weather forces our schools to close for the day, all Scout meetings are also canceled. If this happens, we will try to send out an email notification will be sent to all members of the troop. Siblings of Scouts are not invited to attend Troop meetings, unless they are boys of Scout age considering joining the Troop, or the meeting is designated as a family-invited event (such as a Court of Honor).

Patrol Meetings are encouraged outside of Troop meetings, with two adults present.

Board of Reviews are usually conducted 3-4 times a year, or as needed.

A Court of Honor is held 3-4 times a year.

Troop Committee Meeting

The Troop Committee Meetings are usually held 4-6 times per year, as called by the Committee Chair. These meetings are for the Troop Committee members, the Chartered Organization Representative, the Scoutmaster, and Assistant Scoutmasters. All parents and church members are urged to attend this meeting and to become Committee members.

Parent's Meetings

These special meetings will be announced if needed. However, all parents are invited to attend all meetings, and their involvement is welcome and encouraged at all levels.

The Cost of Scouting: Dues, Fund Raising and Activity Fees

Troop Annual dues are calculated to cover the costs of annual BSA registration for each scout plus an add-on to help cover registration costs for our registered Adult leaders. The Troop is dependent on our fundraising efforts to help fund the operations of the Troop. Items that fall under operations are advancement awards, propane for camping events, periodic replacement of camping supplies, trailer maintenance, etc. We typically spend in excess of \$1500/year on advancements alone!!! The fundraising effort needs to be shared by all scout members in the Troop.

\$24 - BSA national registration and insurance

\$1 - Council insurance

\$12 - Boy's Life magazine subscription (optional)

\$13 - Troop 20 fee to cover Adult leader registrations and a portion of Troop 20 award costs

\$30 - Troop 20 Popcorn fundraising "opt out fee" (optional)

\$80 = Total (\$68 if you choose not to receive Boy's Life magazine)

Scouts in Troop 20 are expected to participate in fund raising projects to defray the costs of scouting. This is keeping with the philosophy that a Scout is thrifty and should earn his own way. The primary fundraiser used by Troop 20 are selling the BSA Trail's End popcorn in September and October along with all other Scouts in the Coastal Carolina Council. Each Scout is asked to sell a \$180 minimum, which would result in a net \$30 to our troop.

However, the Troop Committee recognizes that some Scouts do not have time to sell popcorn, so Scouts have the option to "opt-out" of the popcorn fundraiser by increasing their dues by \$30.

The Troop Committee also recognizes that Scouting can be expensive and a strain on a household budget. No Scout should be prevented from participating for financial reasons. Financial assistance is available for any Scout who is unable to be fully involved in Scouts due to financial constraints. Please contact either the Committee Chairman or the Scoutmaster if you need financial assistance.

Most Troop activities (particularly campouts) are covered separately with an activity fee from each participating Scout to cover the cost of the event and food.

Scout Accounts

All scouts will have the opportunity to participate and are encouraged to participate in all fund raising events. In doing so the scout will have a "scout account" set up in their name in which the money will be put. The troop committee treasurer will set up each individual scout account and keep a record of how much money is in the account and how the money is spent. Parents can see the records at any time. The money posted to the scout account will be based on the guidelines set by the troop committee.

Medical Forms

The BSA Medical Form has 4 parts: A, B, C and D.

Parts A and B are required for all events that do not exceed 72 consecutive hours, which is typical of all our events, with the exception of summer camp. These two parts include a current health history and list of medications and do not require an examination by a medical provider.

The Boy Scouts of America recommends that all youth and adults members have Part C completed annually by a certified and licensed health-care provider, but requires it for any event that exceeds 72 consecutive hours, such as BSA summer camp.

Part D is required for high-adventure activities such as Philmont.

The Health Form is available here ()

Parental Participation with Troop 20

The adult leadership of Troop 20 is a dedicated group. But although we attempt to cover as many areas of interest as possible, we don't always have the experience necessary. So Troop 20, like most successful troops, has always looked to parents as a source of experience and support to make the scouting program a reality and to assure that it is functioning as it is supposed to for the boys involved. We all have talents and skills that can assist the Scouts to gain knowledge in areas that interest them. In short, many hands make light work.

It is an expectation that each parent be committed and involved in some way. It takes a great deal of work and coordination to have a top-notch troop. Parents have many talents to offer, and there are numerous ways parents can be involved in Troop activities.

BSA training classes and materials are available on virtually any subject you could need to assist you in feeling able to serve these boys and the program, and most of it can be found online. The Troop 20 welcomes participation by any parents of scouts or other interested adults. Let us know your passion; we'll find a place for you! You will be surprised that what you gain from the program will exceed what you give to it many fold.

All adults who are directly involved with Scouts must take the BSA Youth Protection Training (YPT) before they can start working with scouts. This course can be completed online in 20 minutes without being a registered leader by going to www.myscouting.org. When you are finished, just save a copy of the certificate for your records, and send a copy to the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman.

The only real requirements for being a Boy Scout Leader are:

- 1) That you care about the boys and their well being; and
- 2) That you be of good character – more on that in a moment.

Here are 6 ways you can help...

- 1) Be a Scout leader
- 2) Serve on the Troop Committee
- 3) Volunteer to be a Merit Badge counselor
- 4) Drive Scouts to campouts and summer camp
- 5) Participate in our events
- 6) Serve on a Board of Review

Be a Scout Leader

Adults must register with the BSA and complete online Youth protection training, Scoutmaster Position Specific training and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills. Troop 20 will cover all registration fees and aid each counselor in completing the necessary paperwork. Start by taking the BSA Youth Protection Training (YPT) by going to www.myscouting.org and take the on-line training course. Once you have successfully completed the course you need to print the certificate and give it to the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman.

For the protection of our scouts – and our adult volunteers – Boy Scouts of America conducts a careful background check of every adult who signs up with Scouting. Safety is, and must be, a primary fundament of the program.

Serve on the Troop Committee

The troop committee is made up of parents and helps with the administration of the troop. It includes such positions as the Committee Chairman, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Treasurer, Secretary, Advancement Coordinator and Fundraising Chairman. The Troop Committee meets 3 to 4 times a year to help plan and guide the overall program. If you have a concern or issue that you would like to have discussed at a committee meeting please contact the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman.

Volunteer to be a Merit Badge counselor

Scouting uses the merit badge program to provide scouts an avenue to look at new hobbies or even potential vocations. Merit badges are also required for advancement. There are more than 130 merit badges available to scouts. Each merit badge needs a merit badge counselor to aid a scout in achieving the patch.

Adults must fill out a Merit Badge counselor form, register with the BSA and complete Youth protection training. Troop 20 will cover all registration fees and aid each counselor in completing the necessary paperwork. All adults who participate as merit badge counselors must take the BSA Youth Protection Training (YPT) before they can start working with scouts. You can take the YPT course without being a registered leader by going to www.myscouting.org and take the on-line training course. Once you have successfully completed the course you need to print the certificate and give it to the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman.

Adults who are knowledgeable about the various merit badge subjects can serve as merit badge counselors. Whatever your area of expertise or interest - whether it is a special craft or hobby (basketry, leatherwork, coin collecting), a profession (veterinary medicine, aviation, engineering), or perhaps a life skill (cooking, personal management, communications) - as a merit badge counselor you can play a vital role in stirring a young man's curiosity about that particular topic.

When a scout decides he would like to earn a specific merit badge, he obtains approval to begin the merit badge from his Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster identifies possible merit badge counselors. The scout identifies another scout, friend or parent that will be his partner to attend meetings with the counselor to follow safe scouting guidelines. He then contacts the counselor to begin badge work. The counselor reviews the requirements with the scouts and they decide on projects to complete and a completion schedule. The counselor provides expertise, advice, guidance as needed until the scouts have completed the requirements. The merit badge

counselor certifies completion of requirements and the merit badge patch is presented at a court of honor or troop meeting.

Required Merit Badges: A boy scout can begin taking merit badges as soon as he joins a troop, but no merit badges are required for advancement until after he receives his First Class rank. Advancement to Star, Life, and Eagle all require completion of merit badges, service, and leadership. To reach Eagle rank, a scout must complete a total of at least 21 Boy Scout merit badges listing them in his handbook, 13 of which come from the Eagle-required badge list.

Drive Scouts to campouts and summer camp

Adult drivers are needed for most activities and camping. Please volunteer to provide transportation to and or from these activities. Even better, please participate in the activity with your troop. Please let the leader for the activity know in advance if you can help.

Participate in our events

Parents are encouraged to join the Troop when we go on any outdoor events, including camping. When a parent is involved, scouts are more likely to stick with the program and usually advance more rapidly. If you do attend, however, you are subject to the same BSA and Troop 20 policies that the scout leaders are. Parents accompanying the Troop on camping events will be temporary members of the "Big Kids" Patrol and must follow the agenda of the troop and help in coordinating all events including meal preparation, travel to and from the site and the activity itself. In some instances siblings may be permitted to attend a scout outing, but prior approval of the scoutmaster is required because some trips are not appropriate for younger children. The sibling will be the sole responsibility of the parent for the entire trip. This requires that the parent attend the entire outing, siblings only ride in the parent's car, sleep in the parent's tent and eat meals with the adult patrol. Bringing the entire family is discouraged.

NOTE: Camping adults must have BSA Youth Protection Training (YPT), which can be done online.

In the event of a change in plans during the outing, all final decisions will rest with Scout Master or Assistant Scoutmaster leading the event. Parents attending the outing may offer advice but they must obey the final decision made the scout leaders. Parents attending may not even be asked for their opinions. If the trip is considered a high adventure trip with the possibility of a time limit, be it day-length, money, or safety/weather, then the adults and siblings will not be allowed to do the activity until all the scouts have completed their time first. No reimbursements will be made available to the family members if they do not participate in the activity. We **encourage** all adults who participate in troop activities to take the BSA Youth Protection Training (YPT) before they can start working with scouts. You can take the YPT course without being a registered leader by going to www.myscouting.org and take the on-line training course. Once you have successfully completed the course, you need to print the certificate and give it to the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman.

Serve on a Board of Review

Purpose of a board of review:

The purpose of the board of review is not to retest a Scout's skills, 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 should also include a discussion of ways in which the Scout sees himself living up to the Scout Oath and Law in his everyday life.

How to meet the purpose of a board of review:

Ensure that all requirements for the rank have been signed off in the *Boy Scout Handbook*

Ensure that leadership and merit badge records fulfill the requirements of the completed rank

Have a conversation with the Scout about his scouting and life experiences

What the board can do to help a Scout during the review:

- make every effort to put the Scout at ease
- smile and create a friendly and non-threatening atmosphere
- offer praise for work already accomplished
- offer encouragement for the work that will need to be done to advance to the next rank
- it is okay to give a Scout a chance to repeat the Oath, Law, Motto or Slogan if he makes a mistake in reciting it (Some boys may be nervous enough that if it helps, he may privately recite the Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan to an individual on the Board of Review before continuing the Board of Review with the full board.)
- ask the Scout to consider or prepare a plan for how they will progress to the next rank
- consider providing guidance on when the Scout should request his next Scoutmaster Conference and

Questions that can be asked include:

Ask the scout to recite the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan.

Ask open-ended questions about the Scout's recent scouting adventures.

Ask the Scout about his school and family activities.

If you were Scoutmaster for a day, what one thing would you change about the troop?

Talk about the requirements that will need to be met in order to achieve the next rank.

What do you like most about Troop meetings/outdoor activities?

What new things did you do/learn on your latest campout/service project/troop meeting?

What did you learn/feel in giving service to others?

Why is being a Boy Scout important to you?

What are your goals in Scouting?

Find out what he's liking about scouts and what he's not liking about scouts so we can clue into what's going on. We do this so we can keep these guys engaged in the program and so we can make adjustments as we need to. If you hear something from a guy at a board of review that can help us *adjust the program, let the Scoutmaster know.*

Additional suggested questions can be found here:

http://www.macscouter.com/Scoutmaster/BoR_Guide.asp

The decision of the board of review:

Upon completion of the board's conversation with and questioning of the Scout, the Scout will leave the room while the board discusses whether or not to advance the scout to the next rank. The decision of the board must be unanimous; if the board cannot reach a unanimous decision, the board needs to immediately contact the Committee Chair (or Assistant Committee Chair) who will make a final decision.

Can a board of review decline to advance a Scout?

If the board is hesitant to advance a Scout at the moment, it may give the Scout a few minutes to correct the deficiency. If this does not solve the issue, then the board of review can be suspended and reconvened in the near future when the shortfall has been corrected. Upon suspending the board of review, the board must detail the precise nature of the deficiency(ies)

and the Scout told specifically what must be done in order to be successful at the next board of review. Afterwards, someone on the board of review must notify the Scoutmaster and the Committee Chair regarding the deficiency(ies) and the course of action needed to correct them. In addition, the Scout's parents need to be told about the delay, especially if the Scout is younger. Examples of why a board of review may be suspended:

Scout is not in uniform

Scout's uniform is not up-to-date and complete

Scout does not have his Boy Scout Handbook

Scout has not memorized the Scout Oath and Scout Law

Requirement(s) have not been signed off in the Boy Scout Handbook

Scout treats the board of review frivolously or is not prepared to answer even the most basic questions asked.

Note: In keeping with the Boy Scouts of America objective of encouraging our Scouts, the board of review does not "fail" scouts. Rather, the board of review points out what needs attention or to be fixed and then suggests a date when the Scout and board of review should reconvene.

Another note: Boards of review may never stipulate requirements that are different from or go beyond the stated requirements made by the BSA in the Boy Scout Handbook.

ATTACHMENT A

PARENTAL RESOURCE SURVEY -- Please return this survey to the Scoutmaster.

Welcome to the Scout family of Troop 20. We invite you to share your skills and interests so the best possible program can be developed for our Scouts. In making this survey the Troop Committee wishes to find ways you can enjoy using your talents to help our Boy Scouts. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Name _____

1. What is your occupation? _____

2. Your favorite hobby? _____

3. Please check the areas in which you would be willing to help:

General Activities

Special Program Assistance

Campouts	I can help in Boards of Review
Hikes	Transportation to events
Outdoor Activities	I have a workshop
Scout Leader	Drawing/Art
Bookkeeping/Finance	I have access to camping property
Troop Meetings	I can help with troop equipment
Community Service	
Other _____	Other _____

4. Please check any Scouting skills you would be willing to teach:

Ropework (knots, etc.)	Conservation
Outdoor cooking	Aquatics
First Aid	Knife and ax handling
Astronomy	Map and compass use
Camping	Other _____

5. Circle the merit badges you would be willing to help our Boy Scouts learn:

American Business Animal Science Archery Architecture Art Astronomy Athletics
Auto Mechanics Aviation Backpacking Basketry Bird Study Bugling

Camping Canoeing Chemistry Citizenship in Community Citizenship in Nation
Citizenship in World Climbing Collecting Communications Computers Cooking
Crime Prevention Cycling

Dentistry Disabilities Awareness Dog Care Drafting Electricity Electronics
Emergency Preparedness Energy Engineering Environmental Science Family Life
Fingerprinting Fire Safety First Aid Fish & Wildlife Management Fishing Forestry

Gardening Genealogy Geology Golf Graphic Arts Hiking Home Repairs
Horsemanship Indian Lore Insect Study Journalism Landscape Architecture Law
Leatherwork Lifesaving

Mammal Study Medicine Metalwork Motorboating Music Nature Orienteering
Painting Personal Fitness Personal Management Pets Photography Pioneering
Plumbing Pottery Public Health Public Speaking

Radio Railroad Reading Reptiles & Amphibians Rifle Shooting Rowing Safety
Salesmanship Scholarship Sculpture Shotgun Shooting Skating Sailing Soil and
Water Conservation Sports Stamp Collecting Surveying Swimming

Textile Theater Traffic Safety Truck Transportation Veterinary Medicine Water Skiing
Weather Whitewater Wilderness Survival Woodcarving Woodwork

Troop Uniform Policy:

Wearing a uniform "shows Scout spirit." Whenever a Scout sees another Scout in uniform he knows he is like that person because both have committed to the principles of the Scout Promise and Scout Law. The Scout Oath and Law bind all Scouts, the world over, in a common purpose. The Scout uniform identifies Scouts openly with someone of the same beliefs and values. By wearing the uniform Scouts are taking an open stand for their convictions.

A full scout uniform, also known as the Class "A" uniform, consists of official BSA Scout pants (can be long or short pants) or an optional BSA skirt for women; official BSA Scout shirt (long or short sleeve) complete with patches and epaulets; scout belt, and BSA scout socks. The short-sleeved shirt is more flexible than the long sleeved shirt, and long sleeve T-shirts or similar may be worn under the Scout shirt for added warmth. The troop doesn't require a scout hat, but if hats are worn, we recommend they be scouting related. A merit badge sash is worn only on formal occasions such as Courts of Honor, and must be worn over the right shoulder (never hanging from the belt). The Class A uniform does not include blue jeans!

Your full Class A Scout Uniform, is to be worn while traveling to, traveling from, and during all Troop functions, Boards of Review and Scout sponsored activities. Uniforms can be purchased at the Coastal Carolina Council Scout Store, located at 1025 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard, Charleston.

For some outings, the scoutmaster or senior patrol leader may designate that a "Class B" uniform may be worn. This consists of a red Troop 20 T-shirt substituted for the Class A Scout shirt, and pants (which may include blue jeans). These Class B shirts can be purchased for about \$10 each. These are particularly useful at summer camp, where Scout T-shirts are the standard uniform during merit badge classes and activities.

A well-prepared Scout should also have his Boy Scout Handbook (particularly those scouts, a notebook, and pen or pencil at all functions. A scout should consider these items as part of the uniform.

NOTE: It is never inappropriate to wear the Class A uniform.

NOTE: National BSA policy and its Congressional Charter forbid the imitation of military uniforms by scouts and scouters while participating in BSA activities. Additionally, wearing of any camouflage items ("camo") with the class A or B uniform is discouraged.

NOTE: For safety, we recommend that Scouts avoid wearing sandals, flip flops, any open-toed or open heeled shoes, (or bare feet) at meetings or on outings, except for specific aquatics activities where special permission is given in advance.

Books and Other Materials

The first book that you will want to obtain is the current edition of the **Boy Scout Handbook**. It contains most of the information you will need to advance in rank along with important information about how a Boy Scout troop functions, what you will need to be prepared to go camping and hiking. *Put your name prominently on and in your Handbook when you first obtain it.* Besides it being your guide, it is also a permanent record of your progress and as such, you do not want to lose or misplace it. **Bring your Handbook with you to every troop meeting and on every campout.** Start reading your *Handbook* right away. You should become familiar with its contents and you should stay aware of what you need to do next to advance in rank. The Handbook can be purchased at the Coastal Carolina Council Scout Shop in Charleston. The Scout Shop also has canvas covers for the *Handbook*, which help protect it. Ziplock bags are also a good idea for storage.

From time to time you will also need to purchase merit badge pamphlets. Each of the 130 plus merit badges has its own pamphlet that contains not only the requirements for the badge, but also much of the information you will need to complete the requirements. Any time you are working on a merit badge, you should have the current merit badge pamphlet. These books are updated often, so check the back cover of the current *Boy Scout Requirements Book* for a list of the latest revision dates for each of the merit badge pamphlets. The troop library has a limited number of merit badge pamphlets available for loan. See the Troop Librarian to borrow something from the library. If you purchase your own copy of a merit badge pamphlet, please consider donating it to the troop library when you are finished with it. Merit badge pamphlets can also be purchased at the Coastal Carolina Council Scout Store and are also available at the trading posts at most summer camps, but may cost a little more at the camps. We also have a troop library that has some of the merit badge pamphlets. They are also sometimes available online in a pdf file.

Merit Badge Process for Troop 20

Merit Badges are an important part of Scouting. Not only are some required for advancement beyond First Class, but many teach skills that can be valuable years into the future, such as Lifesaving and Personal Management. Even the optional ones are important, as many former Scouts attribute their interest in their current career or their hobbies to an introduction to a subject by a dedicated Merit Badge Counselor. Thus, it's important for everyone to understand just what the process is for a Scout to earn a Merit Badge. This section describes some of the details of how a Scout goes about earning a Merit Badge.

Scouts typically start merit badges in one of three ways: as an individual expressing an interest in a particular badge by himself or with a friend, as part of a "class" in the Troop all taking a badge together, or at a summer camp or camporee.

There are some minor differences, but the process should basically go as follows:

Step 1: The Scout decides on a badge he'd like to work on and approaches the Scoutmaster about it.

Step 2: The Scoutmaster decides if this is an appropriate badge for the scout, finds out who the appropriate Counselor is, and makes sure the Scout knows that he must have at least one more Scout sign up with him (or ensure that the Scout's parent will be present) so that the Scout and Counselor are never working one-on-one, alone. In some rare cases, a sibling or friend might substitute for another Scout in the meeting with a counselor. If the Scout's parent is the appropriate Counselor, we prefer that at least one other Scout be involved, so that the badge is taught as a class and we avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest. Exceptions can be made by the Troop Committee Chairman or Scoutmaster.

Step 3: The Scout fills out a "blue card" and gets it signed by the Scoutmaster. This card is the Scout's permission slip to begin to work and no Counselor should begin to help a Scout with a badge until he/she is presented with a blue card signed by the Scoutmaster. The reason for this is that some badges require other badges as a prerequisite (Swimming must be earned before starting Lifesaving, for example), some Scouts try to sign up for too many badges at once, and other badges are most appropriate for older Scouts (Personal Management and Family Life, for example, for when the Scout is more likely to have an income and is better able to appreciate the topics addressed).

Step 4: The Scouts take their signed blue cards to the Counselor, who fills them out as the Scouts complete their requirements. We recommend that the Scout purchase the latest edition of the appropriate merit badge pamphlet (or check out a loaner from the Troop Librarian) and use this not only as a guide, but also as a way of keeping track of which requirements he has finished and which he has left to do (requirements are also available on-line at <http://www.meritbadge.org/>). The Scout should be keeping track of what he's done, but if a Scout has any questions, he should approach the Counselor to verify his achievements.

Step 5: When the badge is complete, the Counselor signs the card, and tears off his/her third of the card to keep as a record. The Scout then turns in the other two thirds to the Scoutmaster, who signs the card and gives it back to the scout for him to keep for his records.

Step 6: The Troop Awards Chairperson takes the report to the Council office, gets the badge, fills out the accompanying recognition card, and returns the badge and card to the Scoutmaster while giving a copy of the Advancement Report to the Troop Advancement Chair.

Step 7: The Scout is presented the badge at the next opportunity, usually a Troop Court of Honor.

Note: It is very important for the scout to keep his copy of all blue cards in a safe place to have an accurate record of all merit badges earned in case troop records are ever lost.

[Challenges in Completing Merit Badges](#)

Getting Scouts to start a merit badge is not usually a problem; it's getting them to finish ones they have started that can be the challenge. There are a couple of reasons this can be difficult for our Scouts, and so this section addresses the challenges and some things a parent can do to assist their Scout.

Very few Scouts work on merit badges during their first year in scouting; that's a time when the Scout is, and should be, focusing on learning the basic skills that lead to First Class. Merit badges are not required until the Scout is ready to work toward his Star rank, so there's no need to rush the process during the first year. First-year Scouts may have an opportunity to work on a couple of merit badges at summer camp, but these are usually craft related badges, such as Basketry and Metalwork, that are easy to complete in a couple of days at camp.

The most common challenges for Scouts in completing merit badges are: loss of interest over time, not understanding the requirements before starting a merit badge, and failure to complete a badge as part of a class, either with the Troop or at summer camp, and having to work on one's own.

Consequently, the Scouts who start a badge that they're really interested in or motivated to earn usually do well and finish in a minimum of time. Those badges that don't get finished right away are the tough ones for the scouts to complete. Here are some ways the Troop tries to address these problems, with some suggestions for what a parent can do as well.

First, a Scout should choose a badge based on his real interests, not on what everyone else is doing. (The exceptions to this are the required badges; see your Scout Handbook for a list of these.) Most merit badges require work over weeks or months, and if a Scout is only starting the badge because others are doing it, he will likely lose interest when the time comes to write a report or do some research at home away from his friends. Also, some badges are too difficult for young Scouts whereas others are so simple that an older Scout may be bored. You can help your son when he expresses an interest by getting a copy of the requirements, either from the specific merit badge pamphlet, from the Requirements Guide (a book you can purchase from the Scout office), or from <http://meritbadge.org/> (a great website with frequent updates). Go over the requirements with him and make sure he thinks this is something he will enjoy enough to follow through. Perhaps the most difficult challenge, and the most frequent, is when a Scout doesn't complete a badge at summer camp or camporee, or with a class with the Troop, and then must work on his own.

There are several reasons a badge might not be completed. Some badges cannot be completed during class time, even over a week at camp. Family Life, for example, requires that a Scout do projects at home with his family and keep records of chores for 90 days. Camping Merit Badge requires a Scout to have 20 days and nights of camping; obviously, this takes close to a year at best to complete. Still another reason is that the Scout simply misses the classes offered. This often happens when the Troop has classes because the Scout may have a conflict at the time of a group class, hike or activity that's part of the requirement. But it also happens at summer camp when the Scout decides it would be more fun to go play in the creek with his friends than go to his class. The Scoutmasters sometimes don't learn that a Scout has been skipping class until the end of the week when they get a report from the camp's merit badge counselors as to what was completed.

These situations mean that the Scout finishes the class, or comes back from camp, with a "partial". For badges started with us locally, you or your Scout should simply approach the counselor and inquire what needs to be done. If a counselor is difficult to reach or fails to give you a response, please bring it to the Scoutmaster's attention and he will resolve the issue. Of course, if you wait two years, the information may not be readily available as people move and records of any kind can be lost over long periods. The lesson for the Scout is to finish the project right away, which is an important lesson for anyone to learn.

The most frequent "partials" we have are from Scout Camps or camporees that hold merit badge "Midways". In most cases, these groups will give us a list of which requirements have been completed and which one have not. Our procedure is to take this information, transfer it onto a blue card and give that card to one of our own Merit Badge counselors or to the Scout. With more than 30 boys at camp each summer, and an average of 4 or more merit badges per boy, you can see that this information piles up in a hurry. We encourage the counselors to make announcements at Troop meetings, or by email, and many do this repeatedly, sometimes

with no response from the Scouts who have the partials. We do not have the counselors call every Scout on his list to nag him about the badge. Our policy is that the Scout must accept responsibility for paying attention and contacting the counselor. It is up to the Scout to take the initiative to complete what he's started, much as he has to do for schoolwork.

We usually find that Scouts who start right away to finish these do well, but those that wait six months to a year to ask, "What do I have to do for that badge I started back at Camp?" may find it harder to finish. Again, sometimes counselors leave the troop, sometimes the camp paperwork is misplaced, and sometimes the Scouts find they've forgotten the material they learned at camp that would have made that report easier to write and the energy barrier to completing it gets much greater.

You can help your Scout by:

- 1) Knowing what Merit Badges he's chosen to work on, both here and at camp.
- 2) Knowing the requirements he'll need to fulfill and supporting him when he needs to get to a class or do a project at home.
- 3) Gently asking, especially after summer camp, which badges he started, which are finished, and who is his counselor here with the troop.

We try to encourage scouts who are stuck on a big project to take it little bit by little bit, getting a small item finished each day or week. He'll be surprised how quickly big tasks can be finished this way. You can encourage him this way as well.

Remember that this is **his** badge to earn; while it is fine for you to help him pick fun merit badges, identify resources, and make it to meetings, it is his job to do his research, keep track of his activities, do his exercises and write his reports. If he struggles with these, encourage him as best you can and by all means let us know so we can encourage him, too. But the work remains his to do. This way, he learns to accept responsibility, learns he must take initiative to complete a project, and will feel that **he** has really accomplished something when he receives that badge. And it's this ability to take a project to completion that will put him ahead on the "Trail to Eagle."

Patrol Organization

Patrol Organization: The troop will be organized into 6 to 10 man patrols. Patrols may include scouts of various ages and ranks.

Each spring, one or more first-year patrols (depending on the number of new scouts) will be formed. The purpose of these special patrols is to ensure that the first-year scouts are introduced to a patrol system under the special guidance of a Troop Guide/Assistant Scoutmaster. A further purpose of these patrols is to focus on successful completion of summer camp and the requirements for ranks through First Class. The Patrol Leader for each will be elected from among the scouts. First-year scouts will remain assigned to these special patrols until September 30 of each year at which time they will be integrated into the existing patrol structure. Assignment of the new scouts will be by the Patrol Leader Council with the advice of the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters. Patrol Leaders for the first-year patrols will return to the patrols to which they belonged prior to assuming leadership of the first-year scouts.

During the first meeting of September, all scouts will be given the opportunity to request assignment to a new patrol. This will be accomplished by a simple lottery process. The name and patrol of all scouts desiring reassignment will be recorded by the Scribe. Each scout desiring reassignment will then draw a number from a hat. Scouts, in number order beginning with 1, may then ask to fill an actual or projected vacancy in any patrol including any newly formed patrol. The Senior Patrol Leader with the advice and consent of the Scoutmaster will be the final arbiter in this process. Scouts will not be required or compelled to seek reassignment or to participate in the lottery.

Advancement

Advancement in Boy Scouts is designed to teach Scouts life skills that they will benefit from forever. They also will gain leadership skills that consistently progress as they move up through the Boy Scout ranks. Each rank becomes progressively more challenging and requires a higher level of leadership and service to challenge the Scouts as they move from boys to young men.

Teaching methods are structured in accordance with the Boy Scout Handbook. The program allows for new scouts to advance to the rank of First Class during their first 12 to 18 months in the troop. Boys are more responsible for their own advancement than they were in Cub Scouts. A scout should work with his Patrol Leader or the Assistant Patrol Leader on rank requirements. Assistant Scoutmasters and the Scoutmaster may also sign off on requirements when the Patrol Leader or his Assistant are not available.

There are seven ranks of Boy Scouts, which are achieved by each scout in order at his own pace. Each rank has a number of elements associated with it – skills or knowledge, mastery of which must be demonstrated to earn the rank in question. A beginning scout coming from Cub Scouts, Webelos, or from outside scouting first earns his Scout Badge by completing six or eight fairly simple elements set forth in the Scout Handbook, and then having a Scoutmaster conference – a one-on-one meeting with the Scoutmaster (or Assistant Scoutmaster) held each time a scout appears ready to graduate to the next rank. Thereafter, upon mastering additional elements covering camping, cooking, first aid, and other skills, the scout becomes a Tenderfoot. The next step is Second Class, followed by First Class, and then Star, Life, and Eagle.

Through First Class, the elements are specific items of knowledge or skills set forth in the Scout Handbook. While designed to build upon one another, those elements need not be completed in any specific order. Thus, a scout who is already an accomplished swimmer, for example, might complete his Second and First Class swim and rescue elements before he learns the cooking portion of his Tenderfoot rank. The ranks must be earned in order; but the elements may be completed in any order.

For Star, Life, and Eagle ranks, the emphasis is on obtaining merit badges and exhibiting leadership skills. Once a Scout obtains Life rank, he is expected to choose an Eagle mentor. Eagle mentors are adults who typically are actively involved in the troop. They are assigned by the Scout Master. The Eagle mentor will provide guidance and assistance to the Scout as necessary as he works towards his Eagle rank.

When all the requirements for a rank advancement have been met, the Scout will be ready to schedule his Scoutmaster conference by contacting a Scoutmaster or using the troop website if

available. The Scout is expected to come to the Scoutmaster Conference and the Board of Review in full uniform, including merit badge sash for Star rank and above. In addition, the Scout must also bring his signed Scout Handbook.

NOTE: For the first 4 ranks (Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class), Scoutmaster conferences can be held with any Assistant Scoutmaster or Scoutmaster. Conferences for those Scouts pursuing Star, Life and Eagle will be conducted by the Scoutmaster.

Once the Scout has successfully completed the Scoutmaster Conference, he must then schedule the Board of Review using the troop website.

The purpose of the Board of Review is to measure the youth's growth as a Scout, gauge the quality of the Scout's experience within the patrol and troop, and also to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the Troop 352 program. The Review Board for all rank advancements (except Eagle Rank) will be made up of at least two members of the Troop Committee or the community at large. Troop leaders, assistant unit leaders, relatives or guardians may not serve as members of a Scout's board of review.

If the Board of Review approves the award, it will be presented at the next scheduled Troop meeting and/or Court of Honor.

In the event the Board of Review finds the Scout insufficiently ready for the next rank, the head of the Board will indicate the decision and will provide an explanation and guidelines to the Scout as to how he can overcome the problem(s). Scouts may appeal a Board of Review decision by following guidelines outlined in the BSA Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures.

Times vary widely (as do scouts), but getting from start to First Class rank in a year is a realistic goal for most boys if they are dedicated and diligent about scouting. The journey from Scout to Eagle takes several years and must be completed before their 18th birthday.

Their Boy Scout Handbook is a very important item that the Scouts must learn to use and keep with them whenever they are at a Scouting event. Not only does the handbook provide a good reference for many Skills, but it serves as the record of their advancement.

Lastly, we cannot stress enough the vital role that a boy's parents play in his progress along the trail to the rank of Eagle Scout. He will need positive encouragement and reinforcement at home to help him stay focused and on track. The Scoutmaster and other adult leaders will work closely with parents as needed to help each Scout grow and progress.

Attendance Requirements for Rank Advancement

We understand that scouts will not be able to make every meeting and every campout. Family, church, and school activities often conflict with troop activities. High school sports and band activities often demand an inordinate amount of time. Nevertheless, attendance at troop events is important. As the Boy Scout Handbook puts it, "To gain full advantage of all that Scouting has to offer, you need to be present when things are happening. Take part in meetings, in

planning activities, and in the fun of adventures. If you're there, you can do your part to make your patrol and troop a success." All scouts are appreciated whenever they can attend any event. Our Troop has historically been a very active troop, and the strength of the troop depends on the attendance of its members. The troop activities fall into three primary areas of activities: Troop Meetings, Troop Outings, and Troop Service Projects. Being an active scout means being active in all three of these important events. It is not sufficient to attend only meetings as scouts that only do this quickly lose interest in the troop and leave. They also miss the "outing" part of scouting. It is not sufficient to attend only the outings as the meetings are used to teach important skills and allow the older scouts to teach and prepare the younger scouts for these activities. Likewise, the Troop Service Projects are where the second point of the Scout Oath, duty to others, is put into practice.

In order to advance to the ranks of Star, Life and Eagle, Scouts should have a 50% attendance record as follows:

A first class scout must meet the 50% attendance rule for any period of four consecutive months between the date of becoming a first class scout and requesting a scoutmaster's conference for star scout and have meet the 50% rule for at least two consecutive months immediately preceding a request for a scoutmaster's conference; these months could be concurrent if the entire four months preceded the request for a scoutmaster's conference.

A star scout must meet the 50% attendance rule for any period of six consecutive months between the date of becoming a star scout and requesting a scoutmaster's conference for life scout and have meet the 50% rule for at least three consecutive months immediately preceding a request for a scoutmaster's conference; these months could be concurrent if the entire six months preceded the request for a scoutmaster's conference.

A life scout must meet the 50% attendance rule for a period of six consecutive months between the date of becoming a life scout and requesting a scoutmaster's conference for eagle and have meet the 50% rule for at least three consecutive months immediately preceding a request for a scoutmaster's conference; these months could be concurrent if the entire six months preceded the request for a scoutmaster's conference.

50% of all scout activities means one-half (1/2) of each type of event --i.e. half of the troop meetings, half of the camping trips, half of the community service and service projects, etc. Of course, we encourage and expect all scouts to attend more than 50% of these events.

If a scout has a particular problem as to why he cannot make troop events for a certain length of time, he should tell the Scoutmaster and also have his parents contact him.

Note: Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the Scoutmaster.

Scout Leadership

Youth leadership is a vital part of the Scouting program. Scouts in position of leadership run their patrols and the Troop. In addition, Scouts are required to hold certain positions of responsibility for specified lengths of time in order to achieve the Star, Life, and Eagle ranks. Troop 20 leadership positions include: Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Den Chief, Historian, Scribe, Librarian, Quartermaster, Chaplain Aide, and one Junior Assistant Scoutmaster.

Elections for the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Patrol Leaders will be conducted twice a year, in September and March. The Scout receiving the second highest number of votes for Senior Patrol Leader will be the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, unless he declines, in which case the Senior Patrol Leader will appoint an Assistant. The Assistant Patrol Leader will be appointed by the Patrol Leader. All other positions are appointed by Senior Patrol Leader and the Scoutmaster. Newly elected leaders will assume their offices the first meeting of the month following their election.

Troop 20 recommends the following guidelines to ensure quality leadership within the Troop:

1. Set a good example: be respectful and enthusiastic.
2. Attend campouts.
3. Attend 95% of all troop functions.
4. Wear the Scout uniform correctly at all times.
5. Live by the Scout Oath and Law.
6. Serve their elected or appointed terms in full.
7. Report regularly to Scoutmaster or other assigned adult leader.
8. Report to Troop periodically.
9. Attend all meetings and activities, including leader training, patrol leaders council, planning conference.
10. Work with Scoutmaster in training junior leaders.

If you cannot carry out the duties of the position, or if your attendance is low, you may be removed from office and not receive credit for the leadership position held. Sometimes scouts have trouble making activities because of conflicts with school, sports, medical, or other reasons. We have had several scouts who have had to take a break from scouting because of these conflicts. If a scout finds himself in this position, he should notify the Scoutmaster of the situation and when he will be able to participate again. A scout in this situation should realize that his advancement may slow down, but he will be advancing in another area (soccer, baseball, swimming, etc.). A scout taking such a break should not hold a leadership position during this time.

Troop Positions

The following positions of leadership are for 6 month terms and are available to Scouts who show that they are responsible: Senior Patrol Leader (**SPL**), Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (**ASPL**), Patrol Leader (**PL**), Assistant Patrol Leader (**APL**), Quartermaster, Historian, Librarian, Scribe, Chaplain Aide, Troop Guide, Den Chief, Troop Instructor, and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster.

Senior Patrol Leader - SPL

SPL is elected by members of the troop. He must preside at all troop meetings, events, activities, campouts, planning conferences, and chair the Patrol Leaders' Council. SPL will appoint most other troop leaders with the advice and counsel of the Scoutmaster.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader - ASPL

ASPL is appointed by the SPL. He is responsible for training and giving direct leadership to the following junior leaders: Scribe, Librarian, Historian, Instructor, Quartermaster, and Chaplain Aide. The ASPL must help with leading meetings and activities as called upon by the SPL. ASPL must take over troop leadership in the absence of the SPL. ASPL must function as a member of the Patrol Leaders' Council.

Patrol Leader - PL

PL is elected by members of the patrol. He is responsible to the SPL and must plan and lead patrol meetings and activities. PL must keep patrol members informed of all meetings and activities. PL should assign each patrol member a job and help them succeed. PL represents the patrol at all patrol leaders' council meetings and at any program planning conference. PL should prepare his patrol to take part in all troop activities and help develop patrol spirit. PL should work with the other troop leaders to make the troop run well and know what others can do. Design and maintain patrol flag. After each troop meeting, call absent patrol members in order to inform them of activities and find out why they were unable to attend and encourage them to come to the following meeting. Report to the Scoutmaster and/or SPL any members not attending meetings regularly or of any problems with Scouts. If unable to attend a meeting or activity, be sure your APL will be able to take your place.

Note: For new patrols, a Troop Guide will be assigned to the patrol to help them learn and understand leadership principles/concepts.

Assistant Patrol Leader - APL

APL is responsible to his PL and will assist him in planning and leading patrol meetings and activities, keeping patrol members informed, and help in preparing his patrol to take part in troop activities. APL takes charge of the patrol in the absence of the PL. APL represents the patrol at all patrol leaders' council meeting in the absence of the PL. APL helps develop patrol spirit and works with the other troop leaders to make the troop run well.

Type: Appointed by the Patrol Leader. *NOTE: This position is **not** eligible to satisfy leadership requirements for rank advancement.*

Quartermaster - QM

The Quartermaster is responsible to the ASPL and works with the Troop committee members responsible for Troop's equipment. He must keep records of troop and patrol equipment and keep it in good repair. He issues equipment and makes sure it is returned in good order. He should suggest new or replacement items needed to the troop committee.

Scribe

The Scribe is responsible to the ASPL and works with the troop committee member responsible for records and finance. He must attend and keep a log of patrol leaders' council meetings. He must record attendance and dues payments and camping fees.

Troop Guide

The Troop Guide is responsible to the Scoutmaster and the new Scout patrol. He helps Scouts meet advancement requirements through First Class. Advise patrol leaders on his duties and his responsibilities at patrol leaders' council meetings and attend them with the new Scout patrol leader. He prevents harassment of new Scouts by older Scouts. He helps the ASM train new patrol leaders when elected. He guides new Scouts through early troop experiences to help them become comfortable in the troop and the outdoors.

Troop Instructor

The Troop Instructor is responsible to the ASPL and instructs scouting skills as needed within the troop or patrols. He should prepare will in advance for each teaching assignment.

Historian

The Historian is responsible to the ASPL. He gathers pictures and facts about current and past activities of the troop and keeps them in scrapbooks, wall displays, videos, or information files. He must take care of Troop trophies and keepsakes, and keep information about Troop Alumni. He should present the collection periodically to the Troop.

Librarian

The Librarian is responsible to the ASPL. He is to establish and maintain a Troop Library; keep records on literature owned by the troop, add new or replacement items as needed. He should have the literature available for borrowing at troop meetings. He will have a system to check literature in and out, and follow up on late returns.

Chaplain Aide

The Chaplain Aide is responsible to the ASPL and works to keep troop informed of religious holidays when planning activities. He should assist the Scoutmaster or religious coordinator in meeting the religious needs of troop members while on activities. He will encourage saying grace at meals and lead Scout's Own Service while camping or on activities.

Webmaster

The Webmaster is responsible for the troop website. He should work with an adult leader to keep information on the web site about the troop such as pictures of past activities and dates and information of upcoming events and activities.

Den Chief

The Den Chief is responsible to the Cub Scout Den Leader and the Assistant Scoutmaster for the new Scout patrol. He is a friend to the boys in the den, helps Cub Scouts advance, assists with Den meetings, serves as a role model for Cub Scouts, and encourages Cub Scouts to join a Boy Scout troop.

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster

The Junior Assistant Scoutmaster must be at least 16 years old but not yet 18 years old. He functions as an assistant Scoutmaster, except for leadership responsibilities reserved for adults 18 years and older. He must accomplish any duties assigned by the Scoutmaster.

Personal Equipment Guidelines

Proper equipment and clothing are essential for safe and enjoyable outdoor activities. Some equipment is owned and maintained by the troop, including equipment that must be shared such as cooking equipment, tarps, coolers, etc. Troop equipment is assigned to individual patrols. The patrols are responsible for the care of the equipment and bringing the appropriate equipment for each outing. The patrols work with the troop quartermaster when troop equipment needs servicing or replacing.

Each individual Scout is expected to provide his own personal equipment and clothing. While it is not necessary to purchase the most expensive equipment and clothing, the cheapest may not hold up long or perform well, so it may not be a bargain. It's always a good idea to compare with your fellow scouts and scoutmasters to learn what works well and what doesn't. You can always talk to the adult leaders before purchasing camping equipment.

Note: Local retailers like Half Moon Outfitters and The Backpacker offer Scouts 10% off if you present your BSA registration card.

There is no need to buy everything at once – one can start with the critical items at first, and then put additional items on birthday and Christmas lists, and be well equipped over time. Popular myth holds that better quality gear costs a fortune. Quality brand-name gear can be found locally or over the internet at very reasonable prices if you are willing to be patient and sometimes shop out-of-season, i.e. buy winter gear in spring and summer gear in the fall. The markups are relatively high, so when items go on sale, the discounts can be relatively high also.

A final note: a Scout often must carry everything on his back, sometimes for a distance, so pay attention to what things weigh. Generally speaking, assuming equal quality, the lighter equipment costs a little more, but your Scout will thank you for it.

Backpacks

A new Scout doesn't have to buy his own backpack immediately upon joining the troop, but generally will want to acquire one within the second or third year after he reaches the rank of First Class. When the campsite is within a relatively short distance of parking, a simple duffel bag or gym bag will suffice. When the time comes for a Scout to go on his first backpacking trip, he should borrow a backpack and see how he likes backpacking. Trying on different models owned by other scouts is encouraged.

Troop 20 generally recommends that a Scout's first backpack be an adjustable internal or external frame that is adjustable to accommodate the growth in the early years. Internal frame packs are sometimes more comfortable, and may put the weight closer to the body, which is advantageous, but they usually aren't as adjustable as external frames, which is more critical with growing scouts. Many manufacturers offer adjustable "youth" models. Do not buy a large backpack to "grow into". An ill-fitting backpack can cause a lot of discomfort and result in a miserable hiking experience. When trying on packs, make sure they are loaded with plenty of weight for a more realistic experience. If you can't find a youth model that you like, you should also look at women's models, which are typically smaller than full-size packs for men, and can be a good fit for a young scout. If the pack fits, don't let the fact that it was designed for women keep you from buying it. A pack rain cover is a good idea, as most packs will leak in heavy rain. Pack covers can be purchased relatively inexpensively, but a large plastic trashcan liner will work, is very cheap, and lightweight.

Sleeping system

In our climate, a 3-season, synthetic-insulated mummy bag (ideally less than 3 1/2 pounds) rated at 25 to 40 degrees is the most versatile bag to own. Down bags are quite warm but are not a good choice for youth, as they do not retain heat if they get wet. A silk sleeping bag liner can also be used as a supplement for very cold weather as it can add 10 degrees to the temperature rating of the sleeping bag. Sometimes a fleece liner is nice to have for a lightweight sleeping bag by itself in the summer, as it is adequate when the lowest temperature won't go below 60°F. A stocking hat may also be needed for very cold weather as most body

heat is lost through the head. Get a stuff sack when purchasing the bag or use a trash can liner in the interim. A compression sack is nice to have but not required.

A ground pad is an important part of a sleeping system. The pad is important for more than just comfort. The pad provides vital insulation between your body and the ground. A half-inch thick closed cell foam pad is usually a good option, as its inexpensive, light, and durable. Self-inflating insulating foam sleeping pads such as the Thermarest brand are more comfortable, a little heavier (around 3 pounds, depending on the style and size), and much more expensive (around \$60 to \$120). There are other self-inflating pads in other brands that generally are significantly cheaper than the Thermarest brand, but are also heavier (around five to six pounds), and bulkier, although they may be more comfortable because of their size. These other brands may be a good choice for adults, but are too heavy and bulky for scouts. Avoid foam rubber or other open cell foam pads (i.e., egg crate pads) because they soak up water and do not cushion, insulate, or hold up well. Also avoid simple inflatable air mattresses because they have no insulating value and are easily punctured in the rough.

Rain Gear

Staying dry is critical to staying warm. Rain gear is an absolute necessity for camping, and can serve double duty as an outer windproof layer. High-tech rain suits are available from many sources, and work very well, but are not a necessity. A Scout does not have to have an expensive rain suit and is likely to grow out of it. A durable poncho can be adequate and is much cheaper. Avoid buying the cheap plastic ponchos that are like garbage can liners because they will not last even a single campout. We advise scouts to “Be Prepared” and bring rain gear on all campouts.

Foot Gear

Please DO NOT go out and buy expensive hiking boots right away. Just make sure that your Scout has footwear that is comfortable and will support his feet adequately. Most boys wear athletic shoes everywhere: school, church, and during play. In good weather you can get by wearing them on a campout. However, a waterproof hiking boot will stand up better to the rain, mud, and other conditions encountered on a campout and will protect your feet better than an ordinary athletic shoe. Under some weather conditions, an ordinary athletic shoe may be a serious health risk. Comfort is critical when hiking, so make sure they fit properly. Trying them on with thick socks is recommended.

Don't compromise the comfort and health of your feet by wearing cotton socks. Use synthetic liners under a medium-weight synthetic/wool sock whenever you are hiking or wearing boots. Synthetic blends that combine the best of polyester and wool into a single sock and other similar blends are a more expensive alternative, but they do a better job of keeping feet warm and comfortable under cold and wet conditions than pure wool socks. These synthetic blends are available over the internet or at most local outdoors stores. BSA now offers Class-A socks in a synthetic blend (made by Thorlo) that are excellent year-round socks, and they also comply with BSA uniform requirements.

NOTE: Scouts outgrow hiking boots; they do not wear them out.

Personal Clothing

For most boys, blue jeans are the all-purpose uniform for playing outdoors. However, because cotton loses its insulating value when wet, denim jeans and cotton sweatshirts are generally unsuitable as camping clothes. “Cotton kills” is a common expression in the outdoors and refers

to cotton's undesirable ability to hold moisture for a long period and the evaporative cooling that goes with it. Hypothermia can be a serious risk even in the warmer months. To ensure warmth and comfort, dress in layers of loose clothing. Therefore, your first or base layer should be a synthetic (usually some form of polyester). Synthetic long underwear for winter should be included. The second layer is an intermediate or insulating layer (usually a fleeced polyester pullover). The last layer is the outer or windproof layer (such as a nylon windbreaker).

Most of the Scout Class-A pants and shorts are 100% polyester, well-made, tough, and will stand up to years of abuse. You could supplement these with rain pants or a pair of lightweight nylon pants or shorts in summer. Lightweight nylon shorts can double as swimwear. Synthetic convertible cargo pants are a nice-to-have *option* - these serve as long pants when it's cold, and when the day gets warmer, the legs can be zipped off, changing them into shorts.

Tents

Troop 20 does **NOT** supply tents for outings. There are many different styles of tents, although most will fit under the headings of dome tents and A-frame tents. The critical differences are found in the shape, size (i.e., the number of people it can comfortably hold), the materials used, and weight. It is not necessary to go out and purchase a tent immediately as Scouts can buddy up.

The main advantage of dome tents is that they are roomy and quite inexpensive – many can be found for less than \$75. The main disadvantage is usually weight; ranging from 10 –15 pounds, they usually are too heavy for anything other than car camping (sites where it's a short walk from the car). Also, some of the lower-end tents have very small rain flies that only cover the top third or half of the tent, which will not be sufficient protection. Be sure to select a tent where the rain fly covers at least half of the tent, and that when erected, the bottom seams (where the bottom of the tent meets the sides) are at least 2 to 3 inches off the ground. A quality 3-season tent is recommended. We rarely if ever have a need for a 4-season or winter tent. Ventilation (lots of mesh) is much more valuable in our climate.

The ideal Scout tent usually should be less than 6 pounds (no more than 3 pounds per occupant). There are many styles to choose from, and costs for new tents typically start around \$100 and can go much higher. Places like www.campmor.com often have older models on sale that are just as suitable as the current year models. Given the many choices, styles, and weights, discussing options with other scouts, scoutmasters, or other campers is recommended.

Most tents are waterproofed at the factory, and most are also seam-sealed or seam-taped, but if you purchase a tent that is not seam-sealed, you will have to perform this procedure yourself prior to the first use. Tents usually need to be waterproofed annually or bi-annually. Seam sealer and spray-on coatings can be found at most outdoors and hardware stores, and often at grocery and drug stores.

A ground cloth is a necessity for any tent to keep out dirt and moisture and to protect the tent floor from abrasion. Manufactured ground cloths are usually either a heavy-duty sheet of plastic or waterproofed nylon made to fit the shape of the tent floor. Another option is to purchase plastic sheeting (2 or 4-mil. black) at a hardware store and cut it to fit. When trimming, it is best to cut the ground cloth about 2 inches smaller than the tent footprint so that rain will not collect on the plastic and run under the tent.

Other Recommended Items

1. **PERSONAL MESS KIT:** you can purchase one or assemble your own from a leftover container, a hard plastic plate, spoon, and fork. The Troop provides cooking gear, stoves, and fuel for each patrol.
2. **PLASTIC CUP:** Should be large enough to hold a meal serving of instant oatmeal, soup, hot drink, a desert or main entrée. Can be used as a measuring cup for camp cooking. Should be strong high-tech plastic for easy cleaning and light weight. Will not cool like metal.
3. **POLY WATER BOTTLE (i.e. Nalgene):** Minimum of one quart size with wide mouth. These are the type guaranteed not to leak with a screw on top. Top needs to be wide enough for easy cleaning, mixing crystal-type drinks and using water purifying chemicals when necessary. A clear bottle is easier to check for cleanliness. Separate carrying pouches (i.e., fanny-pack style) that can carry water bottles and other gear, thereby doubling as a light daypack, are optional.
4. **FLASHLIGHT:** The two most popular and practical are compact headlamps and/or a Mini-Maglite or similar using 2-3 AA batteries. Lights made with LED bulbs are usually lighter and the bulbs will last longer, but may cost a little more. Spare batteries should be taken on camping trips. Lithium batteries cost more but last much longer in cold weather. The smaller and lighter the flashlights, the better. Please do not send your Scout out with a heavy multiple D-cell flashlight. The Troop provides a large propane lantern for each patrol for area lighting, so the flashlight is only for personal use.
5. **FIRST AID KIT:** Can be as simple as a zip-lock bag containing basic gauze, Band-Aids, etc. Refer to the Handbook for suggestions. This is also an instruction and advancement item.
6. **RAIN GEAR:** Jacket or outer shell that is waterproof or very water resistant. PVC-coated nylon, Gortex, Ultrex or the newer rain fabrics. Rain pants are great and also become essential on backpacking trips in the mountains. Jacket should have a hood.
7. **PERSONAL TOILET KIT:** Liquid biodegradable soap, small compact roll of toilet paper (in a zip lock bag), toothbrush and toothpaste, deodorant (unscented if possible), liquid type insect repellent in season. A small sponge and towel are often very helpful. Synthetic camping towels are lighter and work well; they are available from most outfitters. Toothbrush with travel-size toothpaste and comb completes the kit.
8. **COMPASS:** Simple, inexpensive plate compasses are adequate, and are needed for instruction and advancement.
9. **EXTRA SHOES:** Any comfortable shoes (Nike type) for around camp and any water crossing. Should be suitable for trail use in an emergency. Note that camp shoes are a part of low impact camping. Sandals or Aqua Socks are great.
10. **SUNSCREEN:** SPF 15-30 is adequate; waterproof compounds will stay on longer.

Troop 20 Camping and Other Outings

Campouts are a major part of the fun of Scouting and a requirement for rank advancement. They are a great opportunity for the youth leaders to demonstrate their ability to lead. The scouts organize by patrols to plan meals, gear needed, tents required, and basically plan for

what they need. Scouts take turn purchasing the food for their patrol (money is supplied from the camp fees). During the campout, the Senior Patrol leader works with the Patrol leaders to organize the campsite and all activities during the event. Scouts will not only advance faster, but also become more proficient in scouting skills and enjoy scouting more if they participate regularly in these troop outings.

Fathers are encouraged to attend campouts with their sons if at all able. The adult leaders of this troop have a wealth of experience and are more than willing to pass it along to parents and to the scouts. Parents who attend the campout will be placed into "Big Kids" patrol for meals, but are welcome to eat with the Scout patrol if desired. Come out and see what your son is doing. When a parent is involved, scouts are more likely to stick with the program and usually advance more rapidly. To set an example for scouts, and in accordance with official BSA National Policy, the use of tobacco products by adults in the presence of scouts while on a campout is strongly discouraged. Use or possession of alcohol is prohibited during all Troop outings and activities.

NOTE: Camping adults must have BSA Youth Protection Training (YPT), which can be done online.

Troop 20 tries to schedule some sort of outing every month of the year. Each camping outing and agenda is planned by the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) with adult leaders offering suggestions as needed or solicited. The adult leaders are involved to ensure the safety of the planned activities in accordance with The Guide to Safe Scouting, to help develop a time-line for the planning, to serve as a resource for information or ideas, to make reservations when an outside source requires contact with an adult representative of the Troop, and to serve as a communications link to the Scoutmasters and the Troop Adult Committee.

We have fun outdoors regardless of what the weather conditions may be. We certainly learn more and gain greater confidence when we are camping during "adverse" weather.

A schedule of activities is published in the troop's online calendar, and we try to publish our calendar to give families as much time as possible to plan accordingly. Adjustments may be made to some of the details, locations, and dates as the year progresses.

For each activity, a Troop 20 Campout / Activity Plan sheet will be circulated via email and available online. Scouts are expected to review this plan in order to properly plan and pack for the outing.

Outings usually have an activity fee to cover transportation, food, lodging (if applicable), admissions, and other costs. Every effort is made to keep activity fees as low as possible.

Note that if a Scout signs up and pays for an outing, it is usually NON refundable if he does not attend. Fees are calculated on a shared basis and dropping out or being a 'no-show' does not relieve the Scout of responsibility for his commitment.

Many of the troop's outings are in a wilderness setting. To preserve the wilderness experience and for safety, do not bring extra food or electronic devices such as games, radios, CD players, etc., on outings.

Troop equipment as well as individuals camping gear is carried in a large troop trailer. We may take patrol cook boxes with propane stoves, propane lanterns, charcoal grills, water containers,

tarps, or other equipment depending on the type of camping trip planned (i.e. primitive, wilderness, parent weekend, etc.).

The Outdoor Code

All Scouts and Scouters shall adhere to the Outdoor Code:

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

General Safety

Troop 20 shall follow the Guide to safe Scouting.

All outings require at least two adult leaders to be present, at least one of which must be registered with the BSA. Note: The BSA two-deep leadership policy shall pertain to all Troop functions.

Aquatic Safety

All aquatic activities shall follow the Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense Plan. A Scout must pass the BSA Swimmer test to participate in any aquatic activity.

Canoe activities require at least one or more adults who have attended the council Safety Afloat course within the last 5 years.

All Scouts shall be given a safety briefing and shakedown before any canoe, aquatic or High Adventure activity. Scouts that do not attend will not be allowed to participate in the activity.

Adult Scouters operating a power boat are highly encouraged to complete either a Coast Guard or Power Squadron Safe Boating Course.

Camping Sign Up and Permission

Permission Forms

Permission forms are required for all Troop activities that require transport of Scouts away from the regular meeting place. The permission form is mandatory, and a Scout will not be allowed to participate in Scouting activities without it. See or forms area for the latest form.

If parents have a concern regarding a specific event, they are welcome to bring those concerns to either the Scoutmaster or the Troop Committee.

Signup and payment for regular campouts is to be done no later than the Monday prior to the campout, unless notified otherwise. Signups are required for all trips and should usually be done by the Monday before the campout or online (if available). With certain trip that require reservations or deposits, an earlier signup date and money request may be required. Requests to attend a campout after the signup date must be approved by the Scoutmaster and will depend on the situation.

Patrol Planning for Campouts

The Patrol Leaders' Council and Troop Scoutmasters have agreed that if a patrol has at least 4 members attending an outing, the patrol is expected to function as a patrol without combining with other patrols. If three or less members attend, they may choose either to function as a

patrol or they may be combined with another patrol as assigned by the Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader.

We cook by patrols. Patrols are responsible for planning their own menus for each campout. For new patrols, these menus must be approved by the Senior Patrol Leader or an Assistant Scoutmaster. Meals are expected to be reasonably balanced and appropriate to the type of campout planned (i.e., backpacking food versus Dutch oven cooking).

One member of each patrol is elected “grubmaster” to buy the food for his patrol. With proper meal planning, the cost should be about \$10 per scout. If you are buying the food, try to stay within the budget. On the day of departure, bring the patrol food with you in appropriate patrol coolers (refrigerated items in the “wet cooler” and all other items in the “dry cooler”. The troop has some coolers for patrol use, see Quartermaster to obtain them prior to buying your groceries. Ice may be available in the church kitchen for our use.

The Patrol Leader is responsible for drafting a Duty Roster that is subject to approved by the Senior Patrol Leader. As Scouts are both Helpful and Cheerful, they are expected to willingly do what is necessary to help the patrol throughout the campout.

Patrol Gear

The Patrol Quartermasters and the Troop Quartermaster are expected to make sure they have the proper troop gear before they depart for a campout. Usually this requires that all gear is cleaned up properly at the prior campout. No Troop-owned gear should go home with the Scouts unless the scoutmaster give permission. All cookware and utensils are to be cleaned on the campout to the satisfaction of the Troop Quartermaster.

The Troop Quartermaster position is a Troop leadership position. The Patrol Quartermaster position is a temporary position appointed by each Patrol only for the duration of that outing, just like a Patrol grub master.

Prescription Drugs

The Scout leader should be informed if a Scout requires the use of prescription medication on an outing or any other special needs.

NOTE: From the Guide to Safe Scouting: The taking of prescription medication is the responsibility of the individual taking the medication and / or that individual's parent or guardian. However, if there is a real concern about the effect of missed medication, a Scout leader, after obtaining all the necessary information, can agree to accept the responsibility of making sure a Scout takes the necessary medication at the appropriate time, but BSA policy does not mandate nor necessarily encourage the Scout leader to do so.

If a Scout leader takes possession of such medication (except emergency medications – i.e. inhalers, allergy medications), they must be in a Ziploc bag with simple direct instructions for use. A leader will dispense them per directions.

Camping Drop-off and Pickup

We usually meet at the scout hut on Fridays between 4-5:30pm and return on Sunday between 1-3pm (unless otherwise notified). Scouts should be on time. If the Troop is ready to leave and no prior arrangement has been made with the Scoutmaster to allow for a Scout to arrive late, the Troop will leave without him.

Scouts may not leave in the middle of any campout or event without the Scoutmaster's approval. This approval should be obtained prior to the campout. Scouts must also have prior permission from the Scoutmaster to meet the Troop midway through an event if that is desired, so that appropriate arrangements by the Troop can be made.

Knife Policy

Since inception, teaching boys how to use, handle, and store legally owned knives with the highest concern for safety and responsibility has been an integral part of Boy Scouting. A sharp pocketknife with a can opener on it is an invaluable backcountry tool. Only after earning the Totin' Chip is a Scout allowed to carry a pocketknife and is encouraged to keep one with them on all outings, and to keep it clean and sharp.

The policy of the BSA does NOT allow any Sheath Knives or folding Lock Blade Knives with a blade over 4" (inches) long to be worn or carried during any Scout functions or outings. The only exceptions are kitchen knives and fishing knives. These may only be used in the cooking area and must be stored in the Patrol cooking equipment box. Any violation will result in an adult taking the knife from the Scout and then returning it to his parents.

Axes and saws are to be used in designated areas only and by those Scouts who have earned the BSA Totin' Chip Card and then only for a task that requires the use of an ax or saw.

Electronics Policy

Electronic gaming, radios, tape/CD players, iPods, etc., are prohibited at troop functions, unless authorized by the Scoutmaster for a specific Scout-related event. Exceptions can be made for outings with long travel times, but this will be up to the leaders of the outing.

Cell phones are also prohibited at troop functions, except for traveling to/from outings, or when using the camera feature. The use of the phone during traveling will be limited to short phone calls or texting sessions as deemed appropriate by the leader(s). The leader(s) will have the authority to store phones in a secure place during the outing to prevent the device from being a distraction or if there is a potential for the device(s) to be lost or stolen.

Any and all emergency phone calls will be handled by the Scoutmaster or outing leader. This way they are informed of all emergencies. Forgotten items such as gear or menu items do not constitute an emergency.

Adults and leaders at campouts will use their cellular phones with discretion, away from and out of sight of the Scouts. Cell phone usage shall be kept to a minimum. Cell phones shall be set to silent or vibrate alert.

Camping "No's"

No fireworks, firearms or any weapons at any event.

No alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs.

No open toe shoes are to be worn at any time to scout events or meetings, unless specifically exempted by the Scoutmaster.

Married couples camping with the troop at a "Troop, District, or National event" are not permitted to camp in the same tent. They must camp in separate tents. Events like family campouts are excluded. They are "family" events and not troop events.

Females who camp with the troop at "Troop, District, or National events" should have a separate area set up for female campers. They are not permitted to camp in the "same" general area as the youth.

Camping Rules

- a. Buddy system (2 or 3 boys looking out for each other) will be used at all times.
- b. Tote-N-Chip (knife and axe safety) rules will be followed at all times.
- c. The patrol method (5-8 boys working together under boy leadership) will be followed and assigned duties fulfilled.
- d. Respect of fellow campers and equipment is expected.
- e. Bare feet are never allowed except in waterfront areas and for swimming.
- f. Leave No Trace guidelines will be followed/
- g. A devotional service will be held when a campout involves a Sunday.
- h. A Scout will observe the Scout Law, Scout Oath, Scout Motto and Slogan at all times.
- i. Cursing is not permitted nor any derogatory language.
- j. Bullying or fighting is not allowed.
- k. No physical or verbal hazing is permitted.
- l. No disrespect allowed toward any elected Troop Scout Leader or any adult leader.

Guidelines for Grubmasters and Quartermasters

The Patrol Grub master and Patrol Quartermaster are critical jobs. Often the success or failure of a campout can depend on whether a patrol eats well or poorly, and that often depends of the Grub master and whether he buys the right foods in the right amounts, and that the Patrol Quartermaster ensures that Patrol gear is ready and complete. Do your best and your Patrol will learn to appreciate your abilities.

No one should be Grubmaster or Quartermaster all the time. With about 8-10 members in each Patrol, even if some don't go camping, you should only have to be Grub master or Quartermaster about 2 times per year. If you think you are doing more than your share, talk to your Patrol Leader, or the SPL, or the Scoutmaster, if necessary. Even if you like doing it, everyone should have an opportunity to learn to plan, shop, and prepare for camp cooking.

The following guidelines are some hints that have been collected from years of experience...

Make the appropriate menu based on the type of trip! Backpacking trips and gear require different menus from “car camping”

Each patrol has two coolers - one for refrigerated items, and one for all other food. For a weekend campout usually consisting of 4 meals (2 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 1 dinner), you should be able to get all your refrigerated items into that one cooler.

You are not required to buy food for anyone who has not signed up by the Monday prior to the trip. You may, if you wish, buy food for someone who asks for extra time, but this is up to you. A scout is kind, but a scout is also thrifty.

Get a copy of the recipe for anything that requires multiple ingredients and calculate what you need based on the number of Scouts you are buying for. Some recipes for 4 servings may have to be doubled if you're cooking for eight, or multiplied by 1.5 if you're cooking for 6.

Do not buy sodas or other soft drinks in cans or bottles. Approved drinks: Juices (100%), milk, Gatorade mix (not premade), Kool-Aid mix. Buy the minimum amount you need (for example, orange juice for breakfast, and milk for cereal or cooking). Water is often better for you and reduces what you have to carry.

Do not buy already cooked foods unless absolutely necessary. They are much more expensive. Precooking food at home like bacon is better than cooking raw bacon in camp. This also goes for freeze-dried food. Only buy these for backpacking trips or for special treats.

Try to buy store brands, as they are usually less expensive. Also, buy bulk amounts instead of individual servings when possible. For example, a big bag of chips is much cheaper than buying a box of individual bags for everyone.

Try to prepare foods at home as much as possible. It is much easier to chop carrots and onions at home than on the campout. You can store them in zip lock baggies in the refrigerator before you leave.

Freeze foods that will allow it if you know you won't need them right away on the trip. For example, make hamburger into patties and freeze them in double plastic bags prior to leaving on the trip.

Remember to include spices (salt, pepper, cinnamon, sugar, etc.) and condiments (such as butter and syrup for pancakes, mayonnaise and mustard for sandwiches).

Remember that many items need no refrigeration until they are opened, but will spoil in a short time once opened if not kept cold. Some items, mustard, ketchup, syrup, and peanut butter will last a long time at room temperature. Mayonnaise and most salad dressings will spoil quickly if not kept cold. Restaurant style packets can be an excellent solution. They need no refrigeration and take up little room.

You do not need to buy ice. We will fill our coolers from the church ice maker before departing.

Remember that the ice in coolers will melt gradually and create a water bath in the bottom of the cooler. Using an old plastic milk carton filled with water and then frozen helps keep the ice from melting into a pool in the bottom of your cooler. Any food that might be damaged by water should be protected in heavy-duty zip lock bags.

Understand the type of cooking and cook gear you will take (backpacking vs. “car camping”). Make a list of the cooking gear you will need. For example, do you need the Dutch oven for a cobbler, or just pots for boiling water? Do you need a charcoal starter (chimney), or will you cook on gas stoves? Do you need fuel for your backpack stove? Give the list to your patrol Quartermaster so he gets all the right stuff from the quartermaster storage area.

Try to stick to your budget. If you spend less, that’s great as long as you have enough food for everyone. If you have to spend more in order to get the food required, you can ask all members of the patrol to chip in to pay the difference. But if you go over by too much, you may be asked to explain why you spent so much. If you have a disagreement, the SPL should help you and the patrol work out your differences.

This is the scout’s job, not the parent’s. Don’t change the menu just because your parents think that they know what your patrol should eat. However, you may get some good advice from your parents as they probably have lots of experience with certain foods and recipes. But your job is to provide for the patrol, based on your budget and the menu your patrol helped plan.

The Patrol Quartermaster is responsible to ensure that Patrol gear is clean, ready, and complete to meet the requirements of the Grub master’s menu. If you find deficiencies, report these to the Troop Quartermaster PRIOR TO the outing, so he can do something about it. The Patrol Quartermaster is also responsible to ensure at the end of an outing that gear is clean, dry, complete, and inspected prior to loading gear back into the Troop trailer, and is approved by the Troop Quartermaster.

Homesickness

The adult leaders understand that young Scouts who have not been away from home very often may experience homesickness as they begin to camp with the Troop without their parents. Homesickness most often shows up at summer camp, when the Scout realizes they are away from their own environment for an extended period. Our experience has taught us that Scouts who leave campouts due to homesickness often never return to Scouting, whereas those who stick it out learn an important lesson in developing independence and have much greater success in scouting later. However, we understand that every situation is different, and some Scouts may have personal situations that may lead to anxiety when they are away from home. Please help us by informing us if your son is going through particular stresses that might make homesickness more likely.

Our policy on homesickness on regular campouts is to encourage the Scout to stay involved with his patrol and in the planned activities as much as possible, to buddy up with a friend, and to avoid dwelling on being alone or away from home. Our experience is that having a Scout call home only makes the situation much worse, thus, we will not have him call unless we decide he must return home, in which case the adult leader of the activity will call home and arrange for the parents to come pick up the Scout. The adult leaders will not leave the event to bring the Scout home! If the Scout begins to display symptoms of real illness, we will treat it as just that and will try to get the Scout medical treatment as necessary. Often the thought of going to an emergency room has convinced a Scout that he doesn’t feel all that bad. We are aware, however, that some homesickness-type complaints, such as stomachache, can be signs of

illness such as appendicitis, so we will err on the side of caution if we think the Scout may really be ill.

Our policy at summer camp is that no Scout will be allowed to call home until Wednesday unless there is a true emergency. During this time we will be very busy working to get the Scouts involved in their classes. We believe that if a Scout is absorbed in the activities, he will not have time to sit and worry about being away from home. If a Scout continues to insist on calling home on Sunday night or during the day on Monday, and refuses to take part in activities, we will first have a Camp Chaplain trained in dealing with homesickness meet with the Scout. If that doesn't work, we will then take him to the infirmary to be examined by the medical staff to make sure he is not sick from other causes. We will then follow their recommendations for treating the illness or having him taken home and will call you accordingly. Please do not ask your son to "call me when you get there". We will call you if there are any serious problems. Please do let us know if your son has been homesick before and how he expressed himself. This will help us recognize his symptoms, perhaps curtailing it before it gets too bad.

Other Scouting Activities

Summer Camp

The troop goes to summer camp each year. The Scouts determine which camp to attend by vote, but recent locations have included Camp HoNonWah in Charleston, Camps Woodruff and Rainey Mountain in Georgia, and Camps Raven Knob and Daniel Boone in North Carolina. This is a great opportunity for scouts to achieve rank advancement or to earn merit badges. Most summer camps also have high adventure opportunities for the older scouts as well. Cost varies depending on chosen locations. Recently the cost has averaged around \$300 per scout for the camp registration. Different methods of transportation have been used over the years. More information is provided during meetings usually starting in January or February. Keep an ear out.

National Scout Jamboree

Over the course of 10 summer days, once every four years, the Boy Scouts of America comes together in one place. The result is the national Scout jamboree, a one of a kind experience with 45,000 Scouts.

High Adventure

Additional scouting opportunities, including week long hiking at Philmont Scout Ranch located near Cimarron, New Mexico, canoeing at Northern Tier located in Ely, Minnesota, scuba diving or ship sailing at Sea Base located in the Florida Keys, or the new BSA Summit Bechtel. The troop also goes hiking on the Appalachian Trail. These are some of the adventures that are arranged periodically for the older scouts.

Other Activities

Day trips on Saturdays, such as canoeing, hiking or service projects are periodically arranged.

Religious Emblems:

"A Scout is reverent." All Scouts show this by being faithful in their duty to God.

At regular Troop meetings, camping trips and other activities, youth and their leaders acknowledge the presence of God and their responsibilities to God through disciplines of devotions and prayer. The God and Country program is an interdenominational series of educational resources and supervised by the various church groups offered for use and recognized by Scouting. Each Scout will be encouraged to participate in the God and Country program of their faith. This program series was developed by church bodies cooperating in the Commission for Church and Youth Agency Relationships. In the Boy Scout of America Bylaws, Article X, dated December 15, 1915, the BSA maintains that no member can grow into the best citizen without recognizing an obligation to God.

Further information may be obtained from:

Programs of Religious Activities Youth (PRAY) 1-800-933-PRAY or 1-(314)-638-1017

Order of the Arrow:

The Order of the Arrow is a national brotherhood of Scout campers. The honor of becoming a member of the Order of the Arrow is one that scouts cannot set out to earn on their own. The members of the troop bestow this honor on you when you have proven yourself worthy of receiving it through active participation in troop activities. To be eligible for election into the Order of the Arrow, you must be an outstanding and unselfish camper, be at least First Class in rank, and have 15 days and nights of camping within the past two years including one week at summer camp. Elections for membership in the Order of the Arrow are usually held annually in the late winter.

The purpose of the Order of the Arrow is fourfold:

- 1) To recognize those Scouts and Scouters campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and by such recognition cause other campers to conduct themselves in such manner.
- 2) To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit.
- 3) To promote Scout camping, which reaches its greatest effectiveness as part of the Troops camping program, both year round and summer camp.
- 4) To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Youth Leadership Training (YLT)

Periodically, the Coastal Carolina Council offers junior leadership training courses that teach advanced leadership skills. A Scout must be 13-years old and at least First Class in rank to attend. Any Scout considering being a Senior Patrol Leader or Assistant Senior Patrol leader is encouraged to attend this training Youth Leadership Training. Anyone interested in attending should get approval from the Scoutmaster. Traditionally, the Troop has subsidized 50% of the cost of attendance at YLTC.

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)

This is a weeklong training session at Philmont, the National Boy Scout Reservation in Cimarron, New Mexico. It provides an opportunity for a Scout to meet the very best youth leaders from around the US and to learn both advanced skills and teaching techniques that will be useful in many aspects of a Scout's life. A Scout must have successfully completed his Troop's youth leadership training program, his Council's YLT, and receive a recommendation from the Council to attend this course. Troop 20 has traditionally funded 50% of the cost, including transportation, of attending NYLT for our Scouts.

Webelos Policy

Webelos Scout Camping with the Troop

NOTE: From the Guide to Safe Scouting: A Webelos Scout may participate in overnight den camping when supervised by his mother or father. If a parent cannot attend, arrangements must be made by the boy's family for another youth's parent (but not the Webelos leader) or another adult relative or friend to be a substitute at the campout.

Troop policy is that second-year Webelos Scouts may camp with the Troop as part of their Den, both to complete the requirement for the Arrow of Light and to learn about the Troop as they anticipate moving up to Boy Scouts. When they camp with the Troop, the Den is expected to have a minimum of two deep adult leadership, with the understanding that boys who do not have a parent along must have written permission from a parent indicating that another adult will serve as the parental substitute. The Den Leader, Troop Scoutmaster, and ASMs serving in a Troop function may not be used as a substitute.

Webelos Scouts must have Parts A & B of the Medical Form on file with the Troop in order to camp. This may be a photocopy of the back of the Webelos registration form. See the section of this guide entitled "Medical Forms" for additional information.

Parents of Webelos Scouts are welcome to attend campouts on which their son's Den is included, but must coordinate this with the Webelos Den Leader. All visiting adults should understand that the purpose of Boy Scouting is different from Cub Scouting and should work to facilitate the interaction of the Webelos Scouts with the Boy Scouts with as little adult intervention as possible. The Troop encourages the use of the patrol system for the Webelos Scouts during this campout, with adults present primarily for safety and for functions that are not appropriate to be handled by the Webelos (such as handling propane lanterns and stoves).

Webelos to Scout Transition

Scouts transitioning from Webelos Scouts to Boy Scouts usually have a lot of questions, such as:

What are the troop's expectations for Scouts and for their parents?

What will a Webelos Scout have to do differently once he is a Boy Scout?

What will a Scout's parents have to do differently once he is a Boy Scout?

What is the parents' role and involvement in their son's scouting career and his troop?

What is the cost of Scouting and how is it financed?

What books, uniforms, camping equipment, and camping clothing is needed now and in the future?

When and where will the troop go to summer camp? What preparations are needed for going to summer camp?

Most of these questions are addressed elsewhere in this Guide. But a few questions specific to Webelos are addressed below.

Boy scouting is a whole lot different than Cub Scouts or Webelos Scouts. The idea of graduating from a Cub Scout pack to a Boy Scout troop may be intimidating for some Webelos Scouts and their parents. Other Webelos may not be sure they want to cross over into Boy Scouts because they believe it will just be more of the same thing that they did in Cub Scouts.

The best way to make your decisions, to choose the right troop, and to get your questions answered is to visit several troops that meet close to your home. This section is designed to help the Webelos Scout, his parents, and his den begin the Webelos to Scout transition. Troop 20 would like to help make that transition as smooth as possible, regardless of which troop you decide to join.

How does the transition begin?

During the fifth grade, a typical Webelos den continues to meet until February. During this time, the Webelos will earn additional activity badges and work to complete the Arrow of Light. The requirements for the Arrow of Light are designed to prepare a Webelos Scout to join a Boy Scout troop. The requirements for the Arrow of Light include learning the basics about Boy Scouts (Scout Oath, Scout Law, motto, slogan, handshake, salute, and uniform differences). The requirements also calls for the entire den to visit a troop meeting and to participate in a troop outdoor activity. After all of the other requirements are complete, the last Arrow of Light requirement is for the Webelos Scout and his parents to visit a troop and meet with the Scoutmaster to complete the Boy Scout application.

How does a Webelos Scout select a troop to join?

Selecting a Boy Scout troop to join is an individual decision for each Webelos Scout and his parents. Every troop is different in the kinds of activities they schedule and in their personalities. Each family must choose the troop they feel will best meet their needs.

When comparing troops, it is not too important how large a troop is, or how many Eagle Scouts it has, or how many high-adventure trips they go on. The measure of a successful troop is how well it meets the three aims of Scouting: encouraging participatory citizenship, building strong moral character, and helping boys to grow physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. In other words, do boys leave the troop a better person than they were when they joined?

Every Webelos den leader should make arrangements for his or her den to visit several troops in the area. BSA gives troops a lot of latitude in how they operate so you should notice a lot of variety among the troops. It's also a good idea to visit a few of the troops more than once to get a true impression of how they operate. Webelos den leaders may receive invitations from neighboring troops to visit on particular nights. However, it's not necessary to wait for an invitation because the troops may not have an accurate list of Webelos den leaders. Den leaders are encouraged to initiate contact with any troop they wish to visit.

To fulfill the Arrow of Light requirements, the Webelos den leader should make arrangements for his or her den to attend an outdoor activity with one of the troops. Ideally this should be with a troop that the boys in the den have a lot of interest in. However, this can be done with any troop. Try to schedule your troop outing early because it may difficult for troops to take Webelos Scouts camping during the winter.

Lastly, a Scout has the freedom to transfer to another troop if, for any reason, he changes his mind after joining a troop.

When do Webelos Scouts cross over into a troop?

After the list of troops has been narrowed down a bit, it might be useful to invite the Scoutmasters of those troops to one of your Webelos den meetings to meet the parents and to answer questions. By the end of January, every Webelos Scout should have a good idea of what troop they want to join and they can begin attending weekly meetings with that troop at

that time. Most Cub Scout packs have a crossover ceremony for the graduating Webelos during the Blue and Gold, usually held in February. Representatives from the appropriate troops participate in the crossover ceremony to welcome the new members.

Converting Your Webelos Uniform to a Boy Scout Uniform

The Boy Scout uniform consists of the tan shirt, green pants, green socks, and green belt. Some Webelos Scouts may already be wearing this uniform. With just a few changes, you may continue to wear your tan shirt from Webelos as long as it still fits. If you are still wearing the blue Cub Scout uniform, you will need to replace it with a Boy Scout uniform.

At the Bridging ceremony, a Troop 20 leader will replace the blue Cub Scout shoulder loops with red Boy Scout ones. At that time, we will also provide the new Scout with a Coastal Carolina Council strip (if needed) and our Boy Scout troop numbers.

To convert your tan shirt from Webelos to Boy Scouts, be sure to remove your den number and Webelos patrol patch. Remove the Webelos colors where you display your Webelos activity pins and all of your Cub Scout ranks (Bobcat through Webelos, including arrow points). Your Arrow of Light patch is the only Cub Scout rank that transfers to the Boy Scout uniform. However, its position moves to the bottom edge of your left shirt pocket. If you have any Quality Unit patches you should remove those and wait for new ones to be issued by the troop.

Frequently Asked Questions

Equipment:

Does my son need to buy a backpack? A tent?

Eventually yes. A backpack is convenient because it keeps a scout's gear in one easily carried bundle. A tent is not an absolute necessity, but it does place a burden on the Scout of finding a tent partner who does have one.

Uniform questions:

What is Class A? When does my son need to be in Class A?

The answer to this question is fully addressed in the Uniform section of this guide. It is a Field Uniform and a Class B is a scouting t-shirt sold by Troop 352.

Why does the troop always travel in Class "A"?

The uniform represents the positive influence Scouting has on our youth and creates a visible image in the community. By wearing his uniform, a Scout reaffirms his commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting.

What are service hours?

Service hours are ways for the scout to give back to his community, church, or school. Scouts often help out in their church nursery, assist at the library, Adopt-A-Highway cleanups, etc. Service hours are a requirement for advancement for certain ranks.

Do I just tell you what my son did for his service hours?

No. The scout should ask the Scoutmaster for approval of his proposed service before he performs it. When complete, the scout should inform the Scoutmaster or give him a letter or

similar documentation from the organization receiving the assistance for the Scoutmaster's review.

If my son is signed up and paid for a trip and gets sick at the last minute, do I get a refund?

In most cases, the answer is no. The reason is that the outing fee covers the cost of the campsite rental, equipment rental, etc. and these costs will still be incurred. Likewise, the grub master probably has already spent the food money for the patrol for the weekend. The exceptions would be if there was a per person charge for an activity and the minimum amount of participants has been met such that the supplier is not charging for people not attending, or if someone attends in your son's place who had not previously planned to go.

Should I give my son's medication to a scoutmaster to administer?

From the Guide to Safe Scouting: The taking of prescription medication is the responsibility of the individual taking the medication and / or that individual's parent or guardian. However, if there is a real concern about the effect of missed medication, a Scout leader, after obtaining all the necessary information, can agree to accept the responsibility of making sure a Scout takes the necessary medication at the appropriate time, but BSA policy does not mandate nor necessarily encourage the Scout leader to do so.

If a Scout leader takes possession of such medication (except emergency medications – i.e. inhalers, allergy medications), they must be in a Ziploc bag with simple direct instructions for use. A leader will dispense them per directions.

Why does my son always come home with a tent to dry?

Frequently, the tents are still damp from rain or dew when the troop packs up to leave. Tents and any other damp equipment should always be dried prior to storage so they won't mildew or deteriorate.

My son was grubmaster. How do I get reimbursed for the food?

Submit the itemized receipt to the Troop Treasurer to be issued a check. If your son was over-budget, the difference will need to be divided among the patrol members.

Can a parent go camping with the troop on the monthly outing?

Any parent is welcome to go on the trips with the troop on an occasional basis. Sometimes there may be a limit on participants and registered leaders would be given preference. When accompanying the troop, however, always keep in mind that you are there under the direction of the Scoutmaster as a leader and not as your son's parent.

NOTE: Camping adults must have BSA Youth Protection Training (YPT), which can be done online.

Is it a good idea for me to go camping with my son the first year?

Usually it is a good idea not to go on frequent outings with the troop during your son's first year. This gives him the opportunity to learn how to work with his patrol and do things for himself without relying on you. Exceptions are made for parents of scouts with special needs.

My son has never been grub master before. Will someone help him decide how much food to buy?

Guidance and assistance is always available from the patrol leader, the troop guides, and the assistant and senior patrol leaders. Additionally, please review the “Guidelines for Grub masters” section of this guide starting on page 60.

How do we transport the food the grub master has purchased?

This depends on the type of outing. If it is a mountain backpacking trip, non-refrigerated backpack type foods should be selected and will be divided among the Patrol members to carry. If it is “car camping” where we will be camping a very short distance from a parking lot, bulkier or refrigerated items could be considered. You will be issued 2 coolers - one for refrigerated food and the other for non-refrigerated food. Safe food handling procedures involving temperature need to be considered along with the menu. (Example, if your second night meal consists of hamburgers, how are you planning to keep the meat below 40 degrees for two days?)

How do I contact my son in case I have to during a camping trip or other outing?

Cell phone numbers for the campout leaders are listed on the information/permission forms for each campout.

Merit Badges:

How does my scout start a merit badge?

Before starting any merit badge the scout must contact the Scoutmaster and let him know he is about to start a merit badge. No work should be started before seeing the Scoutmaster and the merit badge counselor.

How does my son get a blue card?

Your son should obtain a blue card from the Scoutmaster, indicating the start date of the badge, prior to working on a merit badge.

Can I sign off on the requirements for a merit badge?

Unlike cub scouts, the parents do not sign off on requirements unless they are a registered merit badge counselor for the merit badge in question. In the latter case, work should always be done along with another scout.

Can my son work on merit badges as a first year scout?

Yes. He probably will work on merit badges at summer camp and possibly on merit badge programs sometimes held on weekends or at district and council events. However, outside of these events, his first priority should be to finish the rank requirements through First Class before focusing on merit badges.

How do I know which partial merit badges my son has and what requirements he has left?

Your son is responsible for keeping up with his progress towards the next rank and on partial merit badges. In case of questions, your son should contact the applicable merit badge counselor.

How do we find out who the merit badge counselor is for a particular merit badge?

A list of the current merit badge counselors for the troop is posted on the website or he can ask the Scoutmaster.

How do the requirements for the various ranks get signed off?

A scout must see a skill demonstrated, learn it, and demonstrate that he has mastered it. His troop guide, other approved experienced scouts, junior assistant scoutmaster, or an assistant scoutmaster will be happy to sign these requirements off for him. Please see the section of this guide on Advancement for more information.

How does my son arrange a Scoutmaster conference?

Scouts may request a scoutmaster conference by signing up for it on the troop website or making arrangements with the Scoutmaster (or Assistant Scoutmaster for ranks Tenderfoot thru First Class).

How does the scout request a Board of Review (BOR)?

When a Board of Review is scheduled, a sign up sheet will be circulated via email.

Why is there a participation requirement for Scout Spirit at each rank?

A main foundation of Lord Baden Powell's vision for the boy scouts was the patrol method. This means that everyone chips in to tackle the necessary tasks and also to support each other. Without attending a certain amount of troop meetings and outings the scout is not able to get as much out of their scouting experience because they don't get to bond with their group, form a team, and master the basic scout skills. A scout's behavior is strongly considered. A scout that is misbehaving or causing trouble will have trouble meeting this requirement and his progress will be delayed. The Scoutmaster has final say on whether he is meeting the "Scout Spirit" requirement.

How does my son request a leadership position and when?

Your son may start holding positions of leadership at any time although it is usual for them to focus on Patrol Leader or Assistant Patrol Leader until they achieve First Class rank. These positions are elected by their respective patrols, so if your son is interested in a leadership position he should tell his fellow patrol members or Senior Patrol Leader that he is interested. The scout may ask the scoutmaster to become a Troop Guide or Den Chief. The Senior Patrol Leader is elected by the troop. For all other positions, the scout should ask the current Senior Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster.