

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
TROOP 424

LAKE DALLAS, TEXAS



NEW SCOUT INFORMATION PACKET

WELCOME TO TROOP 424!

We're glad you're here! This information booklet is provided to help you make a smooth transition into Troop 424 whether you are coming from a Webelos den, from another Troop, or have never been in Scouting before. This booklet is for you to keep throughout the time of your membership in Troop 424.

Boys join Scouting because Scouts do things that boys enjoy. Any boy can join Boy Scouts who is eleven years of age, has completed the fifth grade or has earned the Arrow of Light Award, has parental consent, and is not yet 18.

The following information is contained in your packet. (Each item in this Table of Contents is linked to the corresponding page. Point to the item, press CTRL and click to get there.)

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WHAT THE BOY SCOUT PROGRAM IS ALL ABOUT

Scouting was started in 1907 in England by a British Army officer named Lord Robert Stephenson Smythe Baden-Powell who felt that the society of that era was not teaching youth the proper skills to ensure their survival in the outdoors. In addition to outdoor training, Baden-Powell assigned a high moral and social code of ethics to the movement, which, if practiced, results in the development of more responsible adults and overall social progress. Of the many worthwhile, character-building activities available to boys today, Scouting is the only program that also offers leadership training and experience. Boy Scout Troops are composed of boys and are run by boys. In fact, you could call Troops small operating democracies that take a boy out of his comfortable home environment and puts him in an outdoor setting that is fun, adventuresome, exciting, unfamiliar, and uncomfortable, all at the same time. Those elected to lead are taught how to lead and encouraged to practice and develop leadership skills. Leadership skills can be learned by boys and used throughout their lives; these are the basic tools of management. The people who have learned leadership skills within Scouting are extensive and include leaders of major corporations and government officials, including Presidents of the United States. A Louis Harris & Associates poll conducted in 1995 reveals that, among men who were Scouts as boys for more than 5 years, 66% have a position in which they are responsible for managing other people. Of men who were never in Scouting, only 44% hold such positions. We teach the use of these tools in the day-to-day operations of the Troop, sometimes directly and sometimes more subtly. Over the course of their scouting experience, the boys will have many opportunities to develop and demonstrate these skills.

Following are BSA information sheets on these subjects:

1. Purpose of the Boy Scouts of America
2. The Aims of the Boy Scout Program
3. The Methods of the Boy Scout Program

The Methods sheet includes the Scout Oath or Promise and the Scout Law. They are explained in terms a boy can understand in the first chapter of the *Boy Scout Handbook*. Every boy and his parents should read this information to understand their meaning and how they relate to each family's values and beliefs.



THE SCOUT OATH

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

SCOUT LAW

*A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly,
Courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty,
Brave, clean and reverent.*

SCOUT MOTTO

Be Prepared

SCOUT SLOGAN

Do a Good Turn Daily

OUTDOOR CODE

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

PURPOSE OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to provide for youth an effective program designed to build desirable qualities of character, to train in the responsibilities of participating in citizenship, and to develop in them personal fitness; thus, to help in the development of American citizens who:

- ✓ Are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit.
- ✓ Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness.
- ✓ Have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts.
- ✓ Have the desire and skills to help others.
- ✓ Understand the principles of the American social, economic, and governmental system.
- ✓ Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
- ✓ Have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
- ✓ Are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society and in the forums of the world.

The Boy Scouts of America accomplishes this purpose by making its program available in cooperation with existing groups having compatible goals, including religious, educational, civic, fraternal, business, labor, and governmental bodies.



THE AIMS OF SCOUTING

The aim of the Scouting movement is to build youth into quality citizens by:

- ❖ Building Character
- ❖ Fostering Citizenship
- ❖ Promoting Fitness

Each individual Scouting organization specifies these aims differently, but in general, these are the things Scouting wants to accomplish - regardless of the type of program, age group, or country of origin.

Building Character

Character is a pretty generic term. It means the combination of qualities or features that distinguish one person or group from another. So, what do we mean when we say Scouting aims to build character? Well, we're talking about the qualities of a person that makes him self-sufficient, motivated, charitable, and concerned for others, and willing to accept the responsibilities placed before him.

Scouting aims to build self-confidence, problem solving, compassion, acceptance of personal responsibility, and leadership skills within each Scout. This allows the individual boy to be well prepared for life in an adult world.

Fostering Citizenship

Regardless of what country a Scout lives in, there are qualities and responsibilities expected of every citizen. In the United States, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship are clearly described in the Bill of Rights. Scouting aims to teach each Scout the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and provide him with real experience in citizenship.

The end result of such training should be individuals who know what it means to be a citizen, what is expected of them, and what they can expect in return. They are prepared to participate in society and in many cases become leaders in their community or profession.

Promoting Fitness

Being fit means, of course, much more than being muscular or athletic. Scouting believes that quality citizens with good character should also maintain a good level of physical and mental fitness. That doesn't mean Scouting expects every Scout to be athletic and scholarly. What it means is that a Scout learns to challenge himself physically and mentally, and to remain fit in order to meet that challenge.

Scouts experience a high level of activity, and are challenged to do many things that require physical and mental fitness. Through these experiences, the Scout learns to enjoy being fit. He learns the dangers of becoming sedentary and complacent, and of being tempted by lifestyles that lead to mental and physical weakness.

Your Aim Helps

Scouting's aims represent the ultimate goal of the organization for each Scout. The aims aren't the path we need to take, or the blueprint for our success. The aims are the end result, the destination of our journey. If we compare building a Scout with building a house, the aims represent the result we want from the building process. The aims, then, are the house. The aims aren't the steps we take to design and build the house. As we go through the steps of building a house, we keep an eye on our goal - the end result we seek - but most of our attention and effort is in the steps we are taking.

In Scouting, the aims represent the result we want from the process of Scouting. This is our ideal. We need to keep an eye on the aims, but most of our attention and effort should be on the steps we take toward that goal. That means it's important to know what the aims of Scouting are, but our main concern should be the methods of Scouting.

We Predict that for every 100 boys who join a Boy Scout Troop:

- ❖ Twelve will have their first contact with a church or synagogue
- ❖ Five will earn their religious emblem
- ❖ One will enter the clergy
- ❖ Eighteen will develop hobbies that will last throughout their adult life
- ❖ Eight will enter a career they learned through the merit badge system
- ❖ One will use his Boy Scout skills to save a life other than his own
- ❖ One will use his Boy Scout skills to save his own life
- ❖ Seventeen will become Scouting Volunteers
- ❖ Two will become Eagle Scouts

THE METHODS OF SCOUTING

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

- ❖ Scouting Ideals
- ❖ Patrols
- ❖ Outdoors
- ❖ Advancement
- ❖ Personal Growth
- ❖ Adult Association
- ❖ Leadership Development
- ❖ Uniform

The aims of the movement can be attained without these methods, but it wouldn't be scouting. Likewise, these methods can produce quality individuals without the aims. But, again that wouldn't be scouting. Scouting is in fact a combination of these aims and these methods.

Scouting Ideals

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

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

Patrols

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

Membership in a Patrol leads to opportunities for leadership, so this method is also important to other methods in this list. Everything in Scouting can and should be done using the Patrol method, and Patrols should be more than just

a list of names. The group should be real, and it should have real things to do. Its leaders should be real leaders, with real authority.

Outdoors

Doing things outdoors is what Scouting is all about. In the course of doing the things Scouts do, a boy cannot help but go into the outdoors. In fact, it's impossible to properly conduct a Scouting program without going outdoors. They should follow the dirt trails, camp in the woods, swim in the lake, and all of the other things boys have done for millennia.

A Scout program that doesn't include going into the outdoors is not much of a program. It can't be much fun either. Scouting is not school. We don't learn things in Scouting by sitting in a classroom - we learn them by going out and doing them!

Advancement

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

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

Personal Growth

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

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

Adult Association

From time immemorial youth have looked to adults for guidance. Sons look to parents for an example to live by. Students look to teachers for knowledge. In Scouting, this tradition continues. Adults provide the living example to Scouts

of the ideals of Scouting. More importantly, adults provide the impetus for a Scout's personal growth and self-confidence.

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

Leadership Development

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

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

Uniform

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

Scouts who do not wear a uniform usually do not have a complete understanding of Scouting or the commitment they have been asked to make. Many Scouts will tell you that the uniform doesn't look good, it doesn't fit well, or it isn't very good for outdoor activities. In some respects, this is true, but they are superficial concerns. Perhaps they don't understand that the uniform is a symbol of their commitment and, not wearing the uniform is a sign that they lack that commitment.

The Right Method For The Job

Scouting's methods represent the tools we use, the path we take in reaching for our goals. In every Scouting activity, some element of each of these methods will be evident. Sometimes this will be obvious; often it will not. But the methods are where we concentrate our attention and effort. A balanced combination of these will lead us to the aims.

Some would say that the methods really aren't that important, that it doesn't matter what methods you use as long as you have the same aims and concentrate on those. That's not necessarily true. In any effort, if you

concentrate all of your attention and effort on the goal you want to achieve, you can't be paying much attention to how you're getting there and whether the path you're taking will lead to success. Imagine trying to navigate a maze by maintaining your focus on the exit. No matter what you do, you'll soon find yourself lost in the maze.

EQUIPMENT

It is often a bit of a shock when new Scouts come home saying they need a lot of expensive clothing and gear. They may not understand that the nice gear owned by some of the older Scouts was collected over a period of time.

RESOURCES

For purchasing all of the gear you will need, we recommend the following:

- ❖ Lewisville Scout Shop located behind the McDonald's on Highway 121 at Valley View Drive
- ❖ BSA catalog
- ❖ Used uniforms are sometimes available from CCA in Lewisville just down the street from the Scout Shop on Hwy 121
- ❖ Troop 424 Virtual Closet – see our Secretary for a list of used uniforms at bargain prices or for free

Although gear sold at the BSA shops is of high quality, it may be more expensive than gear sold at sporting goods stores or camping departments of discount stores like Wal-Mart, Academy Sports or Target. In addition, many good deals have been found at garage sales and from older Scouts.

Basic Equipment List

1. Back pack or duffel bag
2. Sleeping bag or a blanket and sheet
3. Canteen
4. Poncho or rain suit
5. Small flashlight
6. Pocket knife (no sheath knives, other restrictions apply e.g., Totin' Chit requirement)
7. Bug repellent (preferably non-aerosol) and sun block
8. Official *Boy Scout Handbook*
9. BSA Uniform (see uniform section)



TROOP UNIFORM GUIDE

1. **Class A Uniform:** Within Troop 424, "regular Class A Uniform" is defined as a BSA uniform shirt with all appropriate patches, BSA green shorts or trousers, BSA green socks, neckerchief and slide, any type of BSA belt and buckle, close-toed shoes which are clean and tidy, and the Boy Scout Handbook. During non-formal occasions such as regular weekly meetings or travel to and from camp, Scouts are allowed to wear khaki green cargo pants bought at the Army/Navy store. The Scout hat is optional but if worn, must be a Scout approved hat.
2. New Scouts are encouraged to obtain all the parts of a correct Scout uniform as soon as possible, but are allowed to wear jeans or cargo style shorts or pants for the first year, and must be regular work-type pants that are in good condition. No baggies or torn or frayed pants are allowed. The first year Scout must have Scout shorts and socks prior to the next bridging ceremony. The minimum uniform required for new Scouts will be the uniform shirt (with all appropriate patches), Troop neckerchief and slide, a Boy Scout belt, and the Boy Scout Handbook.
3. **Class B Uniform:** "Class B Uniform" is defined as the Troop 424 T-Shirt with Troop logo, Scout belt and buckle, BSA green shorts, trousers, jeans, or cargo-style pants which are not baggy and are in good taste, BSA socks, and clean, close-toed shoes. The Scout hat is optional. If the Troop is unable to obtain Troop t-shirts for a Scout, then any t-shirt with a scouting design is acceptable.
4. Dress code for Scout meetings: All boys will attend Scout meetings in full Class "A" uniform unless otherwise instructed by the. Any Scout showing up at a Scout meeting out of uniform or the uniform is incorrectly worn, will be given clean up duties at the church while the Troop conducts their meeting. The Boy Scout Handbook is part of the Class A uniform. Proper uniforms teach a Scout discipline and teamwork. We participate in many public events and want to leave a positive impression of the Boy Scouts. For Scout events and activities other than regular meetings, see Class "A" Uniform section above.

- Appropriate formal uniform for Courts of Honor, Boards of Review, bridging ceremonies, and uniform inspections is the regular Class "A" Uniform. At the Court of Honor the merit badge sash may be worn folded at the waist.
5. Travel and other Scout Events: Appropriate uniform for travel to and from outings is the regular Class "A" Uniform. The only time a Scout is permitted to wear different attire during travel is when he has permission from the Scoutmaster. Any boy showing up at camp or the designated travel point out of uniform will be sent home to get the proper uniform. A Class "B" uniform may be required at some Scout events and campouts. After arriving at the Scout event or campout, boys are allowed to change into a Class "B" uniform. Regular Class "A" will usually be required for ceremonies, retreat, and dinner at summer camp, Score-O, Camporee, etc. At all events, clothing should be weather appropriate.
 6. All patches must be worn according to the Official Boy Scout Handbook. No unofficial patches are to be worn on the uniform. The final authority on the proper placement of patches is the BSA Insignia Guide.
 7. Clothes promoting alcohol, tobacco, or other items or concepts contrary to the spirit of Scouting are not allowed at any time. Clothing should always look as presentable as circumstances allow.
 8. So that the BSA is not viewed as a paramilitary organization, BSA uniform policy prohibits wearing of any part of, or imitation of, a military uniform. This restriction includes, but is not limited to, military camouflage clothing and military flight or field jackets.
 9. Any item of clothing that has been an official Boy Scout uniform item at any time in the past remains an official uniform item, but may not be appropriate at occasions for which specific uniform items are required.
 10. The OA sash should only be worn to OA events and ceremonies (such as elections, call-outs, Chapter meetings, fellowships, and Ordeals).
 11. The adult uniform (Scoutmaster & Assistant Scoutmasters) is the same as that of the Boy Scouts except the neckerchief and slide are not required as part of the adult uniform. Adults are reminded that the Wood Badge woggle should be worn only with the Wood Badge neckerchief, and that Wood Badge beads should not be worn with a T-shirt or a tie.

Families are encouraged to donate outgrown uniforms to the Troop. We have a small supply of such items, and they are helpful to our members in keeping down the cost of Scouting.



TROOP MEETING TIMES

Troop 424 meets on Thursday night at the Lake Cities United Methodist Church from 7:00 PM until 8:30 PM.

Parents Are Welcome

Parents are encouraged to attend the weekly Troop meetings and periodic campouts. Experience shows that boys whose parents are actively involved in scouting advance further, enjoy the program more, and get the maximum benefit from Scouting. Parent involvement, at a minimum, should include frequent discussions with the Scout about his activities and what he is learning.

In addition, we would like to see the parents attend at least one campout per year. We have scheduled activities many times during the year that the whole family may attend. Also, parents are encouraged to complete the Troop Resource Survey. Should the parents desire involvement beyond this, we recommend working with the Troop Committee, as Merit Badge Counselors, or as Assistant Scoutmasters. Parents are welcome to be present at the monthly committee meetings.

Adult Leader Training

The Troop Committee encourages all its members to complete the Boy Scout Fast Start, New Leader Essentials and Youth Protection training courses found on the BSA website. Assistant Scoutmasters must complete these training courses during their first year of service as well as Scoutmaster Specifics Training and Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills.

Because Boy Scout Troops are boy-led, parents who have been involved in or associated with Cub Scouting will notice a definite difference within the Troop. Sometimes parents will feel that the Troop is not running properly because it will appear that the boys under-plan their activities. This is part of the learning process where the adult leaders will provide counsel to help the boys learn from their mistakes. Of course, the adult leaders will establish certain boundaries inside of which the boys can operate. These boundaries will allow enough room to experiment with new and unfamiliar ideas and, in many cases, to make mistakes. The boundaries are set so that the boys have extensive learning opportunities without serious consequences from making a mistake. If parents feel that the boys are not learning from such mistakes, they should always feel comfortable with discussing the situation with the adult leaders. Remember, the Troop is a boy-led Troop for this reason. Parents may also find that the boys and/or the Troop Committee make decisions without consulting

the parent group in general. This is typical of Boy Scout Troops and should not be viewed negatively.

ORGANIZATION OF TROOP 424

Lake Cities United Methodist Church (LCUMC) is the organization that has received a charter from the Boy Scouts of America to form Troop 424. This means that the LCUMC provides a meeting place for the Troop. LCUMC has no financial obligations to the Troop, and places no religious or other membership requirements on the Troop.

The Troop Committee is a group of adults who are registered members of the BSA. The members of the Committee are usually, but not necessarily, parents of boys in the Troop, representatives from LCUMC, or former Scout leaders from other Troops/Packs. The main functions of the Committee are:

1. Establish policy and guidelines that the Scouts operate under
2. Appoint the positions of Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters
3. Support the Troop leadership and help the Troop carry out its planned program
4. Hold Boards of Review for rank advancement

The positions within the Committee include Chairman, Treasurer, Outdoor/Activities, Secretary, Advancement, Membership, Equipment, Chartered Organization Representative, Fundraising and other positions that the Committee feels necessary. More than one person may hold these positions. There are also Members at Large on the Committee who assist in general with the functions of the Committee and with projects and activities of the Troop. The functions of the Troop Committee are explained in greater detail in the *Troop Committee Guidebook*, a BSA publication.

The Scoutmaster's main task is to train and guide the boy leaders to run their Troop. He will work closely with the Senior Patrol Leader.

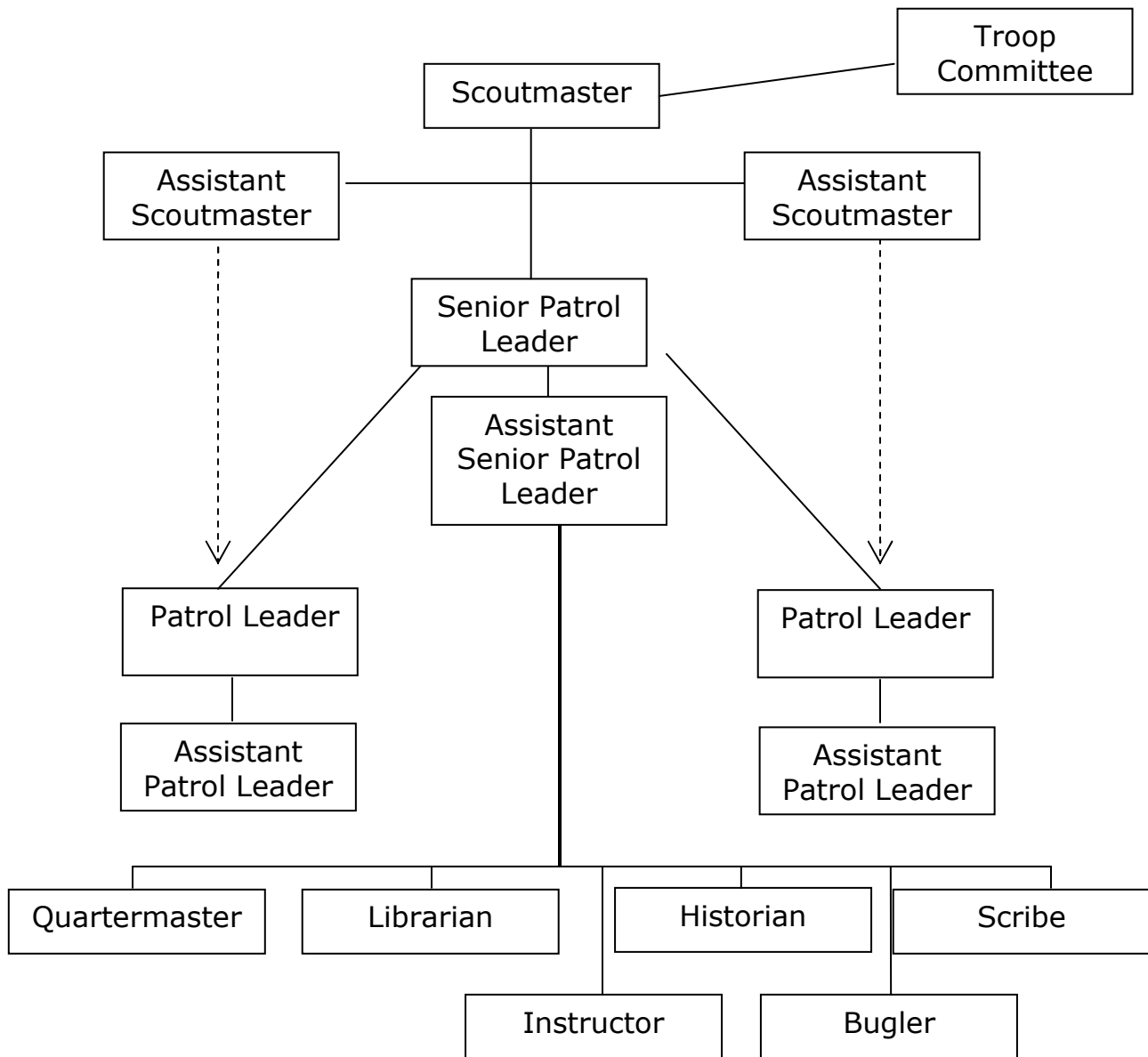
The Assistant Scoutmasters will advise the Patrol Leaders. Whenever possible, each Patrol will have one Assistant Scoutmaster assigned to it.

The Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) is made up of the Senior Patrol Leader, the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s), and the Patrol Leaders. The PLC decides on the Troop program, then plans and carries out the program. The other Troop officers are also invited to all PLC meetings but do not cast a vote.

Senior Patrol Leaders All Patrol Leaders report to the Senior Patrol Leader, who is in charge of the Troop.

Patrol Leaders The new Boy Scout must learn to follow his Patrol Leader rather than the adult leaders. The Patrol Leaders are given advice and support by the Senior Patrol Leader.

The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader has a staff of Troop officers including the Scribe, Quartermaster, Chaplain Aide, Historian, Bugler, Instructor, and Librarian. There may be more than one Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, depending on the size of the Troop.



GUIDELINES FOR TROOP OPERATIONS

One goal of Troop 424's chartered organization, Lake Cities United Methodist Church, is to provide a high-quality Scouting program to boys in this community. The Troop Committee has the responsibility and authority to attain that goal. The Troop adult leaders have developed a set of guidelines that, when combined with regulations and procedures of the BSA, will result in the delivery of a top-quality Scouting program. The Troop Committee has formally adopted these guidelines, which focus on the duties and operations of the four leadership groups that help to shape the Scouting experience of every boy in the Troop. These guidelines will only be changed by a UNANIMOUS vote of the Troop Committee.

The Troop Committee

1. The Committee is charged with establishing policy and guidelines that the Troop operates under. The Committee will support the boy and adult leadership, and provide resources to help the Troop carry out its planned program.
2. All adult positions will be appointed by Troop Committee vote.
3. The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, and Committee Chairman must have completed the Scoutmaster Fundamentals training course and the Youth Protection Program before accepting such positions or, with Troop Committee approval, within the first year of service. Overseeing training is the responsibility of the Committee Chairman.
4. The Troop Committee will provide a copy of the Troop 424 New Scout Information Packet to families of all Scouts. This will be in electronic form, emailed to the family. A hardcopy will be provided if email is not available.
5. The Committee will hold *two* Courts of Honor per year and offer Boards of Review as described in the Advancement Procedures section of Troop 424 New Scout Information Packet.
6. The Committee will meet at least once each month and will communicate via email, when practicable.
7. The Committee will set and maintain written guidelines for conduct, uniform wear, and advancement procedures.
8. Committee Members will perform their designated positions in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the *Troop Committee Guidebook* published by the BSA.
9. There is no established limit for the number of boys in Troop 424. The Troop Committee will ensure that all boys in the Troop receive the maximum benefit of the Boy Scout program by providing sufficient adult leadership and guidance, needed equipment, and appropriate meeting places.

10. The Committee develops community service projects and will ensure that the Troop will conduct at least 2 major service projects annually.
11. The Committee arranges transportation for outings. All drivers transporting Scouts will carry at least the state minimum liability insurance, which is currently \$20,000/person, \$40,000/accident, and \$15,000 property damage (20-40-15). The BSA recommends carrying at least 50-100-50.
12. The Committee provides for special needs and assistance to Scouts.
13. The Committee will ensure the Troop has an outdoor program (minimum 10 nights per year in addition to summer camp).

The Patrol Leader's Council (PLC)

1. The PLC is charged with deriving the Troop program from the annual planning meeting, then scheduling it, and carrying it out. The Troop will attend summer camp annually and offer a minimum of 10 additional nights of camping or outings per year. The PLC will meet at least once each month and may meet before or after Troop Meetings to refine the monthly plan or plan special activities.
2. A Patrol consists of a minimum of four Scouts and a maximum of eight. The Troop Committee or Scoutmaster can waive these limits for short periods of time.

The Scoutmasters (includes the Scoutmaster and all Assistant Scoutmasters)

1. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters will perform their duties using the *Scoutmaster's Handbook*, published by the BSA, as a guide. Whenever possible, an Assistant Scoutmaster will be assigned to each Patrol as an adviser.
2. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters are to be guides, mentors, and role models.
3. The Scoutmasters will ensure that the Troop will run a special program for new Scouts and, if applicable, a high adventure program for older Scouts.
4. The Scoutmasters will offer Junior Leader Training (JLT) to the Scouts twice a year or as needed.
5. The Scoutmasters will ensure BSA Policies and Safety Guidelines are followed.
6. The PLC will hold an annual planning session. In this session, the Scoutmaster will work with the Scouts to plan the coming year's program.

All Adult Leaders & Parents

1. Two-deep leadership: Two registered adult leaders, or one registered adult and a parent of a participating Scout, one of whom must be at least 21 years of age or older, are required for all trips or outings.
2. BSA requires Youth Protection Training for all registered adults for any nationally conducted event or activity. For all other events and activities that require a tour permit, at least one registered adult must have completed Youth Protection Training. It is, however, strongly encouraged that all adults complete this training which can be found on the BSA website and taken from your Personal Computer.

The Parents

1. Parents of Scouts in the Troop should become involved in their son's Scouting by encouraging him to advance, to attend Troop and Patrol functions, to wear the uniform, and to participate in service projects, training, and leadership duties.
2. Permission slips with release for leaders to seek medical treatment, and contact numbers for parents/guardians or next-of-kin, in the event a parent/guardian cannot be reached, must be completed by a parent/guardian before the Scout can participate in normal Troop camping and outdoor activities. Additional permission slips may be requested for special activities or events.
3. A parent/guardian will provide a medical statement of allergies, habits, conditions, medication required or any other vital information to the Troop.
4. Parents will supply the Troop Committee with phone numbers, mobile phone numbers, and all other information requested on the "Boy Scout Troop 424 Data Questionnaire."
5. Parents must accept responsibility as needed by the Committee to ensure the proper deployment of the BSA program. An example of such responsibility is the frequent need for drivers to transport Scouts to a camp-out or other activity. Also, parents who wish to attend outdoor activities must complete Youth Protection Training found on the BSA website.
6. Tobacco/liquor policy – Tobacco is not be consumed (smoked, dipped, etc.) in the immediate presence of the boys. Cigarette butts, etc., are not to be thrown on the ground for others to pick up. Liquor is never acceptable at any Scout-related function.
7. Travel policy – It is the parent's responsibility to get their Scout to events and overnight campouts, or to the point where travel to an event or campout is made. If this is not possible for any reason, then it is their responsibility to make arrangements. Troop leaders need to know in advance of such arrangements.



CAMPING PROGRAM

The outdoor program is the heart of Scouting and is the part of the overall program that boys enjoy the most. In August or September of each year, the Patrol Leaders meet with the Scoutmasters and Committee to plan the Troop camping program for the coming year.

Types of Outings In general, Troop 424 will plan one outing per month. The weekend outings normally begin on Friday evening with return on Sunday. There are 6 basic types of Troop outings:

1. Weekend stationary camp
2. Weekend backpacking trip
3. Summer camp (one week)
4. Tours (of State Capitol, military base, etc.)
5. High adventure
6. Family camping/events

Most all of our campouts will be weekend stationary camps.

Parental Permission for Outings For every outing, parents will be requested to return a signed permission slip, which includes emergency contact information and medical information so that the Scoutmaster has a way to reach parents 24x7. In the case of a serious emergency, a Scout will be taken to the nearest medical facility via ambulance or, if an ambulance is not available, the Scout will be transported by an adult leader. Parents will be contacted as soon as possible. Minor injuries will be treated per first aid procedures. No boy will be allowed to participate in any outing without a properly prepared permission slip, even if a parent is in attendance. It is very important that parents understand the scope and nature of outings for which they sign a permission slip. The Scoutmaster must have a copy of a Class I medical form for all Scouts on file. It is the parent's responsibility to provide this form to the Troop.

Attendance at monthly outings is important to the Scout for rank advancement. The outings are also the Scout's opportunity to apply the skills he has learned in his Troop and Patrol meetings. Attendance at summer camp

is important to all Scouts, but is particularly important to new Scouts. It may seem difficult to ask a young fellow to go away with his Troop for a whole week only 2 or 3 months after joining, but almost all of those boys who don't go to summer camp in their first year will quit Scouting before the next summer comes around.

High adventure trips are reserved for older Scouts because of the physical strength required. These events are a special reward for experienced Scouts and give the younger Scouts a goal to work toward. A Philmont trek is an example of a high adventure outing. Philmont requires that a boy be 14 years of age as of January 1 of the year in which he will participate in a trek or have completed the eighth grade by the time of the trek.



ADVANCEMENT PROCEDURES

Sign-off Procedures for Requirements

1. For requirements for the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class, the Scout can have any Scout ranked First Class or above sign off on requirements. The Scout's work is reviewed or his knowledge tested on the subject before sign-off can occur. It is important that the Scout realize that he may be questioned on meeting his requirements during a Board of Review, so it is imperative that the Scout signing off is sure of his approval.
2. Only the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster may sign a requirement for Star, Life or Eagle ranks.
3. **It is never acceptable for parents to sign off their Scout's requirements.**

Scoutmaster Conferences

The Scout should advise the Scoutmaster when all requirements have been completed for a rank. Once the Scoutmaster has checked the handbook, he will schedule a Scoutmaster Conference with the Scout. Conducting the Scoutmaster Conference is the responsibility of the Scoutmaster, but the responsibility may fall to an Assistant Scoutmaster in the absence of the Scoutmaster or as delegated by the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster may agree to a conference any time after the request is made. It is the Scout's responsibility to meet at the convenience of the Scoutmaster and to notify the Scoutmaster in advance if he is unable to meet at the agreed upon time and place. The Scoutmaster reserves the right not to approve service hours or leadership position if the service has not been given properly.

Boards of Review (BOR)

Once a Scoutmaster conference is completed, the Scout requests a Board of Review from the Scoutmaster. Boards of Review are to be held as soon as feasibly possible after the Scoutmaster conference is completed and signed off by the Scoutmaster. The BOR is scheduled by the Advancement Chairman, usually during Thursday night meetings, although any time the members agree is acceptable. As with the Scoutmaster Conference, the Board of Review must be requested in advance. Boards will follow the guidelines of the Longhorn Council. The Scout must be in formal Class A Uniform and have his handbook present for any Board of Review. The Scoutmasters or the Senior Patrol Leader will introduce him to the Board.

Merit Badges

The Scout decides on a badge that he wants to work on, and then obtains a blue card and the name of the Merit Badge Counselor from the Scoutmaster. It is preferable that each Scout find a "buddy" to work with on a merit badge. If the Scout cannot find a buddy, either on his own or with the help of his Patrol

Leader or Scoutmaster, he may still work on the merit badge, provided he complies with the requirement that when he meets with a Counselor, he must be accompanied by his buddy or another person, such as a parent or guardian, older sibling, or other responsible person selected by the parent or guardian. **Scouts will never meet with a Counselor on a one-on-one basis.** If the Counselor is a parent of the Scout, the Scout should always have their buddy to ensure that the requirements completed by the Scout are not in question. The Scout should then contact the Merit Badge Counselor to set up a time to begin working on the merit badge at which time the blue card is turned over to the Counselor. Once the Counselor has signed the blue card indicating that the requirements have been completed, the blue card is returned to the Scout who brings the signed card and handbook to the Scoutmaster to be signed off. The Scoutmaster gives the Scout his portion of the blue card.

Standards

The purpose of the BSA program is to HAVE FUN. However, we must set a level of performance that ensures that requirements are completed satisfactorily. We do not require that the Scout do more than the BSA specifies, but we do want to ensure that a good understanding of the subject is gained and correct work be done. In testing, teaching, and counseling, we are thorough, but not so hard that the program fails to be FUN.

IMPORTANT! When rank and merit badges are earned, the Scouts are given those badges. At Courts of Honor, the Scouts are also given advancement cards. It is very important to keep those cards, because they are the Scout's only real proof that he earned that rank or merit badge. It is also a good idea to photocopy the advancement pages of the Scout's Handbook periodically for the same reason, especially prior to any outing where the book can be lost or ruined by weather.

FINANCES & FUNDRAISING

Troop 424 operates with the philosophy that no boy shall be denied participation in scouting activities due to financial hardship. Any family that experiences financial problems that might prevent a boy from participating in Troop activities should discuss the matter with the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chairman. Such discussions are always completely confidential. Amounts are budgeted within the Troop, and other resources are available, to handle these situations.

Troop Dues and Troop Recharter - Troop 424 does not collect annual dues like most other Troops which are used to pay for the annual Troop Recharter. Troop 424 will cover this expense through Troop funds, but, in the event this is not possible, each Scout and adult member will be charged. Troop Recharter dues are yearly dues paid in order that each Scout and adult member can participate in scouting. These dues are usually collected by February 16th of each year, but may be waived if it is decided by the Committee that the dues will be paid by Troop funds. In the case funds are short, each Scout and adult member will be charged as follows:

- ❖ Boys (includes Boys Life Magazine) \$23.25
- ❖ Adults \$10.00

Families with two or more Scouts in Troop 424 will only pay \$23.25 for first Scout, and \$11.25 for each Scout thereafter; and will include only one subscription to Boys Life Magazine. Boys Life Magazine is not optional for our Troop in order that we qualify for the Quality Unit award. Families who are unable to pay their Recharter Dues or need other types of financial assistance to remain active in scouting should contact the Committee Chair. No Scout will be turned away due to financial need.

Dues are also used to purchase camping equipment, advancement badges, advancement ceremonies, awards, and for any other expense incurred by the Troop. At this time, Troop 424 does not require dues, but if participation in fundraisers is not good enough, dues may be instituted in the future. Currently, Troop 424 raises money needed to finance Troop operations through annual and bi-monthly fundraisers, donations, and camping fees. Occasionally, other fundraising events are held at the Committee's discretion.

Fundraising Events The Fundraising Chair is responsible for organizing fundraising events and each Scout's responsibility to participate in these events. Such things as popcorn sales, Albertson's Community Partner's Cards, car washes, rummage sales, and Christmas wreath sales are examples of fundraisers. Income from fundraisers is to operate the Troop for such purposes as purchasing advancement awards and Troop equipment. Sometimes, additional fundraisers will be conducted for special purposes, such as obtaining

additional equipment or financing a long trip. Members will be expected to participate in these fundraisers. Scouts are expected to show "Scouting Spirit", as required for advancements, and participate in as many of these fundraisers as possible. A portion of the funds will be deposited into the Troop's account and used for badges, camping equipment and supplies, and, whenever possible, used to offset the cost of Troop outings or trips. All funds collected from fundraising will be turned in to the chairperson in charge of the event who, in turn, turns them in to the treasurer to be deposited to the proper accounts.

Individual Fundraiser Accounts A portion of the proceeds, determined by the Troop Committee, will be earmarked for the account of each participating Scout. Individual Scout funds can be used for camping fees, equipment fees, Scout uniforms, or any other Scout-related needs with the approval of the Scoutmaster. Any expenses not approved by the Scoutmaster will not be reimbursed and any disagreements over a Scout's fund can be submitted to the Troop Committee and handled without delay in the next committee meeting. After obtaining permission, the Scout will be reimbursed through the use of the Troop reimbursement form with the receipt attached, and turned into the Treasurer. Reimbursement forms can be obtained from the Troop website or the Treasurer. Troop deposits will be directly proportionate to fundraiser participation.

In the event that a Scout, for any reason, decides he no longer wants to be a member of Troop 424, no money will be handed to the Scout, regardless of the amount in his account. If the Scout is transferring to another Troop, leaders of the new Troop will be contacted by leaders of Troop 424, and a check will be written to the new Troop, not to the individual Scout or his parents. If the Scout quits scouting completely, any money left in the Scout's account will be transferred into the Troop account and considered a donation to the Troop. If the Scout has a brother in Troop 424, any funds in his account may be transferred over to the account of his brother.

Camping fees are collected at a Troop meeting preceding each weekend camping trip and are paid by the Scouts and adults attending the event. These fees include food fees, fees for campground use, or for helping offset travel costs for adults who drive the Scouts. State parks, Score-O, and Camporees have additional charges, and some special trips may have admission fees or other costs. The Troop will provide as much notice as possible concerning such fees. Summer camp fees are typically \$150 - \$200, with payments usually made over a period of time. The adults who haul the trailers will be reimbursed 100% for their fuel cost. Reimbursement is made by submitting a receipt attached to a reimbursement form to the Treasurer. Reimbursement forms can be found on the Troop website or can be obtained from the Treasurer. Checks for event fees are acceptable and should be made payable to Troop 424. Scouts not paying his fees by the designated due date will be charged a late fee which is due upon payment of the late amount. There will be no

exceptions to this rule except by a majority vote of the Troop Committee. Paying camp fees on time is necessary to allow the Troop to purchase food and supplies as needed prior to leaving on a trip or to make reservations at a camp site, if necessary. A Scout or adult who has not paid their camp fees and late fees by the time of the camp out will not be allowed to attend.

Donations Periodically the Troop may receive a donation in the form of equipment or cash. Such gifts have a lasting impact on the Troop and are very much appreciated. However, self-reliance is a trait that we wish to instill in our Scouts, and donations cannot replace fundraisers.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

Troop 424, as all Troops should, operates by the Scout Oath and Law. Because we function under these precepts, each and every Scout should expect Scout-like behavior of all his brother Troop members.

There are two groups of specific objectives published here so that each Scout and his parents may know what is and is not to be part of a young man's behavior. The first group of objectives is made by the adults for the health and safety of the boys or to align with official BSA policies. The second group of objectives is made by the Scouts and applied by the Troop adult leadership and the Scout leadership.

ADULT AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Scoutmaster or his designee will provide overall direction for all Troop functions involving the Scouts. The Troop Committee Chairman or his designee will provide overall direction for the functions of the Troop Committee as defined in the *Troop Committee Guidebook*.

The primary objectives of the adult leaders of the Troop are to protect the health and safety of our members, to assist and advise the youth leadership, to set a proper example, and to provide the environment where opportunities for learning and enjoyment abound. The following guidelines are in specific support of these objectives:

Leaving the Camp Site

- ✚ A Scout can leave the immediate area of the Troop campsite or activity area only if he takes a buddy and informs his Patrol Leader.
- ✚ After dark, a Scout can leave his Patrol campsite only if he takes a buddy and has the permission of his Patrol Leader, or can leave the Troop camping area only if he takes a buddy and has the SPL's permission. In the case where a Scout needs to use the facilities in the middle of the night, a Scout must wake his buddy and take him with him.
- ✚ After "lights out", a Scout can leave the Troop camping area only if he takes a buddy and has the permission of the adult leader in charge.

Vehicle Safety

- # All people riding in vehicles will wear seat belts. No Scout will ride on the outside of any vehicle. This restriction includes hanging or riding on bumpers, in trailers, in the beds of pickups, and so forth, unless emergency conditions are present and adult leader approval is given.
- # A Scout may ride in a vehicle with a driver under 18 years of age only with written parental consent verified by the adult leader in charge.

Prohibited Items

- # Sheath knives, firearms, slingshots, fireworks, machetes, alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs are prohibited at all Troop functions.
- # Radios, cell phones, MP3 Players, CD players, and electronic games are off limits during the event or campout and may be taken up by the adult leaders until after leaving the event or campout. These items are allowed only while traveling to and from an event or campout.

Water-related Activities

- # All waterfront activities require trained adult leader supervision and proper safety equipment. Bare feet are not allowed and water shoes must be used in waterfront areas and while swimming.

Fire-related Policies

- # Liquid fuels or liquid fire starters will not be used to start wood or charcoal fires.
- # Fires are for cooking, illumination, and warmth. Playing with, in, or around fires is an unacceptable practice. **No flames or heating devices are allowed in tents!**
- # When necessary, stoves or lanterns requiring liquid fuel will be filled, lit, used, and turned off under adult supervision, or only after the proper training by an older Scout or adult leader.
- # A Scout will use, light, or carry matches to start any fire, candle, or lantern without direct adult supervision only after he has had the proper Scout training. Boy Scouts will not use or possess lighters at Troop functions.
- # Liquid fuel will be properly stored by removing it from the stove, capping it, putting it in the tote box, and putting it on the central table with all the other bottles.

Food & Beverages

- ✚ Food items shall not be stored inside tents. Each patrol has been furnished with storage containers for food. These containers should be properly secured to prevent wildlife from disturbing the contents.
- ✚ Scouts and adults are restricted from sugar-based products during the regular monthly campouts. This includes anything like soft drinks, fruit drinks, energy drinks, etc., and candy. Troop 424 believes that outings are a learning experience that includes healthy eating. Water, fruit juice, and milk will be the only beverages allowed during campouts. Water intake will be highly encouraged by the adults to prevent dehydration in the Scouts. Summer camp is the exception when the boys are allowed to purchase treats during free time at the camp store. Drinks and snacks while traveling to and from a campout are at the discretion of the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters. These rules apply to all Scouts with no exceptions. If one group of boys is allowed to purchase these items while traveling, all the boys will be allowed to do so.

Totin' Chip Policies

- ✚ A Scout will carry or use a knife, axe, or saw only after he has had the proper Scout training and has been issued a "Totin' Chip" card by the Scoutmaster. The Totin' Chip card must always be available for inspection while using these tools. Saws and axes will be used only within a properly defined axe yard. Any violations of these rules results in the loss of one corner of the Totin' Chip card. When all four corners are lost, the card is taken away from the Scout and he will have to go through the training to obtain his card again. Open toe shoes shall not be worn in the axe yard or during meal preparation and only for relaxation when no Scout activities are going on.
- ✚ Trees, living or dead, will be downed or chopped upon only with the Scoutmaster's permission. All chopping of downed wood shall occur in a designated axe yard.

Medications

BSA policy states, "The taking of prescription medication is the responsibility of the individual taking the medication and/or that individual's parent or guardian. 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. Also, if your state laws are more limiting, they must be followed."

Medications for Scouts are not the responsibility of the Adult Leaders on monthly campouts or other outdoor activities where medications may be required. However, an adult leader may agree to supervise scout medication if a parent/guardian cannot attend an outing and feels it is necessary for another adult to control and disburse medication. The parent/guardian is responsible to directly coordinate the control and disbursement of medication with another adult leader attending the outing and to make other arrangements should the adult leader attending the outing be unable to provide this support for any reason. A sufficient quantity of the medication should be provided along with written permission by the parent or guardian with specific written instructions on dosage and frequency for administering the medication prior to departure for the activity. **Medication names and purposes will be kept confidential, unless it is medically necessary to do otherwise.** Camps, other than the Troop's monthly campouts, such as summer camp, will have their own medication requirements which will be strictly adhered to and coordinated with the camp health office as needed.

Miscellaneous

- ✚ Scouts are to be given responsibility for their own individually packed gear. Scouts should always pack their own gear (separately from parents or siblings gear) and be responsible for taking care of their gear.
- ✚ Adults are at the campout to ensure the safety of, and guide the Scouts in their activities. Adults are never to do anything for a Scout that a Scout can do for himself (or his Patrol/Troop members can help him do). Although this may be difficult at first, parents attending campouts should *NOT* assist the Scouts with their responsibilities.
- ✚ No youth shall participate in an outing unless he is properly registered and fees are paid.
- ✚ Kitchen knives will be used only in the vicinity of the chuck box.
- ✚ There will be no throwing of any objects except as part of an organized and supervised activity.
- ✚ Scouts will not climb trees or fences without specific adult leader permission.
- ✚ Restroom and shower facilities at camps will be properly segregated between adults and youth according to Youth Protection Guidelines.
- ✚ Scouts will leave camp sites as clean, or cleaner, than when they arrived.

- ✚ Scouts will enter or pass through the campsites of other units or individuals only with the permission of the other campers.
- ✚ Scouts are allowed to bring games such as chess sets, checkers, or cards to campouts, or other equipment for downtime activities with approval of the Scoutmaster. The Scout is responsible for any extra items brought for the enjoyment of others.

Discipline

- ✚ The Troop Committee has adopted these rules in the best interests of the Troop and particularly the individual Scouts. Initial violations of these rules will be referred to the adult leaders and Senior Patrol Leader for action. We anticipate that there will never be a case of a Scout who willfully violates these rules and/or will not cease his negative behavior such that his parents will be called at that moment regardless of time, day or night, to come and retrieve their son. The Scoutmaster will also ensure that the parents have the Scout attend the next Scouting event. We don't want the Scout to leave Scouting...we want him to LEARN from it. This Policy is further explained in the Discipline Policy in this package. We further anticipate that there will be no repeated violations of these rules or any single serious negative act that endangers health or safety that will result in removal from good standing and possibly further disciplinary action.

BOY SCOUT'S AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Patrol Leader's Council

- ✚ The PLC is responsible for leadership and the upholding of Scout spirit and Scout honor. The PLC will ensure that Troop leaders fulfill their responsibilities and, if necessary, offer to help them understand their duties and responsibilities.

Discipline Procedures

- ✚ Any member with a Scout-oriented problem he can't work out in his Patrol has the right to talk to the Senior Patrol Leader. However, any serious problem should be reported immediately to the adult leaders.

Troop outings

- ✚ Outings shall be planned in advance and will run according to the Patrol method.
- ✚ The PLC will plan the outing program and will supply a schedule of events to each Patrol and to the Scoutmaster at the Troop meeting.
- ✚ Patrols shall submit menus to the SPL for approval approximately three Troop meetings before the outing.
- ✚ Approximately two Troop meetings prior, food costs and other expenses will have been determined so the grubmaster in charge of meals can provide the groceries for his patrol.
- ✚ The grubmaster is selected from each patrol to produce the menus and the grocery list for each campout.
- ✚ The grubmaster will purchase food from the grocery list and provide the groceries for the campout.
- ✚ A receipt for reimbursement is provided to the Treasurer with a reimbursement form after the groceries are purchased.
- ✚ Any Scout who does not pay camp fees by the designated time will not attend the event.

Rank Advancement Requirements

- ✚ A Scout will be properly dressed for a Board of Review and in good standing in order to be approved for rank advancement.

Good Standing

- ✚ In order to be in good standing, a Scout will observe the Uniform Guide and have all financial obligations to the Troop taken care of.
- ✚ Those Scouts who are in good standing may vote, hold office, camp with Troop or Patrol, attend field trips or hikes, and advance in rank.

Attendance

- ✚ Regular meeting attendance is recommended for all members of the Troop.
- ✚ It is encouraged that the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Senior Patrol Leader, or Patrol Leaders be notified if a Scout has to miss a meeting.
- ✚ A Scout must have 75% attendance each month to attend campouts or other Scout activities, unless otherwise excused.
- ✚ Excused absences include school-related events, illness, death in the family, and sports events that require the Scout's participation. Being behind in homework is not an excuse for missing a meeting. A Scout is expected to keep up with his school work.
- ✚ If a Scout fails to notify a leader prior to each meeting he will not be attending, it will automatically be considered unexcused.
- ✚ If the absence is not covered above, the Scoutmaster will make the decision whether the absence is excused.
- ✚ If the Scoutmaster's decision is believed to be incorrect, then the matter will be presented to the Troop Committee for a ruling.
- ✚ It is the policy of Troop 424 that a Scout have other outside interests exclusive of Scouting, therefore, these policies exist.

Service Projects

- ✚ Trash Pickup Attendance: Troop 424 participates in a trash cleanup of Shady Shores Drive once every two months. A Scout must have 50% attendance at trash pickups to attend campouts or other Scout activities. See Meeting Attendance in next section for more information.
- ✚ Trailer Storage Area Cleanup: Troop 424 is allowed to store their trailers in the Ye Olde Storage yard on I-35 free of charge for security reasons. In return, Scouts will clean the storage yard bi-annually. Adults are welcome to participate in this project.

Patrol Organization

- ✚ Patrol Leaders are in charge of their patrols and are responsible for the actions of the patrol.
- ✚ Patrol members should work through their Patrol Leader to resolve problems.
- ✚ The Assistant Patrol Leader will fill in for the Patrol Leader in his absence.
- ✚ Another member of the patrol will be designated as leader if both the Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader are absent.

Elections

- ✚ Elections for Senior Patrol leader and Patrol Leaders will be held the month of May or June, and the newly elected leaders will assume office July 1.
- ✚ Elections for Patrol leader will also be held the month of December, and the newly elected Patrol Leaders will assume office January 1.
- ✚ Senior Patrol Leader is a 1-year position and Patrol Leader is a 6-month position.

Leadership Qualifications

✚ Senior Patrol Leader

Each Scout running for the office of Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) must be:

- ❖ At least the rank of Star Scout
- ❖ Must have served as a Patrol Leader
- ❖ Must be 13 years of age
- ❖ Must have attended, or will soon be attending, Brown Sea and Twin Arrows

Participation in all Scout events is expected by the SPL. If he is unable to attend an event, he will inform the Scoutmaster and the SPL will ensure the ASPL will attend, and is informed as to what he is expected to do. The term for SPL is 1 year starting July 1st.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Each Scout running for the office of Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) must be:

- ❖ At least the rank of First Class Scout
- ❖ Must have served as a Patrol Leader
- ❖ Must have attended, or will be attending, Junior Leadership Training (JLT).

Although the ASPL is not required to attend all functions as the SPL, it is highly desired. The ASPL is training for SPL and nothing helps a Scout learn leadership more than actually experiencing it.

Patrol Leader

Each Scout running for the office of Patrol Leader must be at least the rank of Second Class except in the New Scout Patrol (a new patrol is any patrol that consists of all 1st year Scouts).

The term for Patrol leader is 6 months starting July 1st and January 1st.

Junior Leadership Training (JLT)

When instructors are available, the Troop will offer a Junior Leadership Training course twice per year. For a Scout to be eligible to hold a Troop leadership position, he must have attended at least one of the JLT training courses or is scheduled to attend the next available course.



DISCIPLINE POLICY

As Scouts, we live each day by the Scout Oath and the 12 points of the Scout Law. Sometimes, individual Scouts forget how to do this. When this happens, the Troop and the boys that run it have to do something about it, for two reasons. The first is to make sure that the individual learns what he's done is unacceptable to the Troop, and the second is to make sure that other boys in the Troop know that it is unacceptable.

The responsibility for providing discipline belongs to the Senior Patrol Leader and the adult leadership. Adult leaders are available to consult with boys on discipline decisions. Adult leaders may send Scouts home from any Scouting activity as discipline provided transportation is available, parents can be notified, and the safety of the Scout is guaranteed. The Scoutmaster has the authority to call a parent to pick up a Scout from any event regardless of time or place of the event if the infraction is serious enough to warrant such action.

If a Scout does not do his assigned duties, he will be disciplined as follows:

- ❖ First Offense: clean up camp site
- ❖ Second Offense: miss out on fun activity
- ❖ Third Offense: be suspended from the next campout

NOTE: DISCIPLINE IS NECESSARY FOR BUILDING SCOUT LEADERSHIP, CHARACTER, AND TEAM BUILDING SKILLS. DISCIPLINE IS WARRANTED AFTER THE SCOUTMASTER HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO REMEDY THE PROBLEM – THIS INCLUDES AT LEAST ONE MEETING WITH ONE OR BOTH PARENTS.

Patrol leaders are responsible for the discipline within their patrols. They are the elected leaders of the patrol. If a patrol member does something that breaks the Oath or one of the 12 points of the Law, the Patrol leader should provide the discipline for it. Patrol leaders need to be careful though when handling other Scouts, because they may have to be patrol members in the future and other members will remember what they did as Patrol leaders.

The most important thing for Patrol Leaders to remember is to be fair. They should have all the information they need to make the decision, before they make it. This means investigating what happened and, most of all, what caused something to happen. Some things that happen in the Patrol setting can be dealt with just by reminding the Scout of the Oath or Law point's

meaning, and asking them not to do it again. Patrol Leaders should never overreact. Whatever they do has to fit the situation. Small problems should have small reactions. However, big problems should have big responses too. Not giving a big response to a big problem can lead other boys to believe that the problem is not a big one after all.

If a Patrol Leader can't, or doesn't feel he can deal with a discipline situation, he should refer it to the Senior Patrol Leader right away. This might be necessary, for example, if the problem involves two boys from different patrols. If a boy refuses to accept the discipline provided by a Patrol Leader, or continues to do the same thing after being disciplined, the Patrol Leader should refer it to the SPL, or the adult leadership if the SPL is unavailable. Patrol Leaders need to make sure though, that they've done everything they can to deal with the problem before the Senior Patrol Leader is involved.

The Senior Patrol Leader should make every attempt to deal with the problem too. He too must remember to be fair and collect all the information available before making a decision. If he feels it is necessary, he may ask the adult leadership to help him make the decision. The Senior Patrol Leader should also remember that he will be a member of the Troop as well, and the other members will remember what he did as Senior Patrol Leader.

Some situations should be referred right away. If a boy is doing something that could cause himself or someone else to be seriously injured, it should be brought to the attention of the nearest adult, and the adult will deal with the situation directly. If a boy does something to hurt another boy, it should be referred to the Senior Patrol Leader right away. Fighting is not tolerated in the Troop.

Discipline is the responsibility of the elected leaders of the Troop. The discipline must be fair and equally applied too. No one should be treated differently because they're the elected leader's friends, or because the leader doesn't like them. When providing discipline, the leaders of the Troop need to remember that the discipline can't violate the Oath or 12 points either.

Finally, the leaders of the Troop are responsible for leading and this means demonstrating the right things all the time. Although leaders sometimes make mistakes, they need to remember that the other Scouts look to them to see how to act. Leaders then need to make sure that they always act the way they want the rest of the Troop to act, and treat everyone the way they expect themselves and others to be treated.