

Boy Scout Troop 86 By-Laws

Last Revised: November 2010

INTRODUCTION

The emphasis of the Boy Scout program is to promote and encourage boy leadership. In support of this program Troop 86 adult leaders are present as advisors, insuring safety and keeping the program oriented toward scouting ideals. Troop, patrol and patrol council meetings, camping trips and day trips shall be run by boy leaders under the guidance and supervision of adult leaders.

But, boys are “boys,” and there may be many times when you will question, “Why are they so disorganized?” “Why are the meetings so noisy and unproductive?” – and “Why don’t the adults step in and do something?”

In Scouting we believe that the best way to develop leadership is to let the boys have as much freedom as possible; applying just enough adult authority to keep them safely focused on the task at hand. As long as they are sincerely trying to accomplish the duties of their positions they are learning the rudiments of leadership.

The adults who provide supervision, support and time to make Troop 86 a success are volunteers. They will need your help. How you support your son’s troop depends on your talent and available time. Any adult family member can give a few hours to provide transportation, help maintain troop equipment, be a merit badge counselor, serve on troop committee or serve in some other leadership positions. Whatever your volunteer role, our troop needs you to keep operating as a quality unit which makes our troop worthy of the fine scouts it serves.

I. MEMBERSHIP

- A. Active members are Scouts who:
 - 1. Are registered in the Boy Scouts of America and in Troop 86;
 - 2. Observe the Scout Oath and the principles of scouting;
 - 3. Are up to date in the payments of dues and fees. No Scout should fall behind more than 60 days without the approval of the Committee;
 - 4. Regularly attend troop and patrol meetings;
 - 5. Engage in camping and special activities of the troop;
 - 6. Advance to higher ranks at regular intervals under the guidance of the Scoutmaster.

- B. Inactive members are those who:
 - 1. Do not engage in any Scout activities within a 30-day period without notification and approval by the Scoutmaster. Dues must still be paid in an amount that is at minimum the fee charged by the national organization and their Boys’ Life subscription.
 - 2. Do not advance in rank within a reasonable time as determined by the Advancement Chairmen;
 - 3. Are recommended for disciplinary action by the Scoutmaster to the committee for serious offenses, such as injuring another scout or adult;
 - 4. May not participate in scout activities until they are removed from the inactive list.

- C. Removal from the Inactive List may be accomplished by:
 - 1. A scout who supplies acceptable reasons to the Patrol Leader for missed patrol meetings and supplies acceptable reasons to the Scoutmaster for missed troop meetings, campouts, and other activities;
 - 2. A scout who satisfies all requirements for payment of back-dues;

3. A scout who expresses a sincere intention to adhere to the principles of scouting;
4. A scout who has been inactive because of a disciplinary action can only be reinstated with the approval of the committee.

II. GOVERNANCE

- A. The Scoutmaster will guide the Troop according to the principles of the Boy Scouts of America, Guide to Safe Scouting and national by-laws.
- B. The troop will adhere to the Boy Scouts of America policy of “two-deep leadership.” Two registered adult leaders, or one registered leader and a parent of a participating Scout or other adult, one of whom must be at least 21 years of age or older, are required for all trips or outings. All adults must have Youth Protection training.
- C. Tour permits will be obtained in accordance with the “Guide to Safe Scouting.” Permission slips are mandatory for a scout to participate in activities other than regularly scheduled troop meetings.
- D. Parents are encouraged to take leadership positions in the Troop or on the Troop Committee. (All parents are required to help in some form).
- E. The Troop Committee will represent the Troop and help in the organization of Troop activities.
- F. The Scoutmaster may organize a Patrol Leader’s Council in accordance with the Scoutmaster’s Handbook.
- G. The Troop Committee will arbitrate complaints against the Scoutmaster and notify the Chartered Organization representative in writing.
- H. The Troop Committee shall meet once a month.
- I. Any registered Committee Member is eligible to vote. A quorum of the Troop Committee is defined as a minimum of 50% of the Committee Members. To change the by-laws there must be a minimum of 50% of all eligible voters, and a two-thirds vote is required.
- J. The Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader shall present the annual plan for each forthcoming year to the troop committee and the chartered organization representative to ask for support and to ensure that activities are in accordance with the guide to safe scouting and with BSA policy.
- K. The Troop Committee is made up of volunteer parents, church members or any adult meeting requirements under BSA policy. All committee members will abide by the principles of the chartered organization and the Boy Scouts of America.

III. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

- A. The Troop Committee Chairman will be appointed by the C.O.R. as often as needed.
- B. The Troop members will hold elections every 4 months, or at such times as deemed appropriate by the Scoutmaster, not to exceed 9 months between elections without prior approval by the troop committee.
- C. Elections shall be conducted in the following manner:
 1. Only active members are entitled to vote or hold office;
 2. The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader shall be First Class or above and elected by the Troop; following his term he will move into the position of Senior Patrol Leader.
 3. Patrol leaders shall be elected by the Patrol. Patrol leader candidates should be First Class or above, when possible.
 4. Troop Officers such as Scribe, Quartermaster, Bugler, and others, shall be selected by the Senior Patrol Leader and approved by the Scoutmaster. Scouts should be Second Class or higher to hold office when possible.

IV. ADVANCEMENT

- A. To advance in rank, the Scout shall appear in uniform before the Board of Review and present his completed record.
- B. The Board of Review shall consist of members of the Troop Committee. A minimum of three and a maximum of six Troop Committee members shall serve on the Board of Review. Parents cannot serve on their child's Board of Review.
- C. Rank advancements may be worn after certification by the Board of Review and after submission of advancement form to the council office. However, the official presentation of the awards shall be made at the Court of Honor.
- D. The Scoutmaster or a representative will perform a regular review of the individual Scout's progress.
- E. Board of Reviews shall be conducted on the 2nd Monday of the month. The Scoutmaster may request a BOR for another day given a weeks notice to the committee.
- F. There shall be a minimum of three Courts of Honor held during the year.
- G. New patrols will use the "Round Robin" to maximize the boy's experience.
- H. The troop will make every effort to obtain the "Quality Unit Award."

V. PROPER ATTIRE AND DISCIPLINE

- A. The Scoutmaster, in consultation with the Troop Committee, has the power to decide appropriate attire while generally adhering to the following guidelines:
 - 1. For formal ceremonies, such as Courts of Honor and Boards of Review, the Scout shall wear a dress uniform, complete with Scout shirt with epaulets, neckerchief, merit badge sash (if applicable);
 - 2. For meetings, Scouts should wear a Scout shirt and neckerchief. The Senior Patrol Leader will inform the Troop of any exceptions.
- B. For informal meetings, such as campouts, the Scout may wear a Scout tee shirt and cap. However, the Scout shirt must be worn while the unit is traveling to and from events.
- C. Adult Leaders may send Scouts home from any Scouting activity as discipline, parents will be notified and are responsible for transportation, and the safety of the Scout is guaranteed.
- D. Patrol Leaders may discipline members of their Patrols by imposing extra duties, with agreement of the Senior Patrol Leader and the adult in charge.

VI. FINANCES

- A. Dues / registration fees are payable at the rate of \$5.00 per Scout for every month, due at the first of each month (\$60.00 yearly).
- B. Dues/registration fees are payable at the rate specified on the most current adult application and are due yearly by November 1st. Amounts are prorated for mid year registrations.
- C. All expenditures require Committee approval, and receipts to be handed to the Treasurer.
- D. Troop funds shall be used for scouting purpose only.
- E. A minimum of two members of the Troop Committee will have the power to sign the checks. These members shall not be dual enrolled as Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster, or members of the same household.
- F. Parents should make an attempt to drive on outings whenever possible, or be prepared to contribute to gas costs.
- G. An analysis of the previous year's budget shall be performed annually and whenever the Treasurer changes. The analysis committee shall be selected by the Troop Committee, and will not include the current treasurer.
- H. There shall be an annual Budget Planning meeting, convened by the treasurer, prior to rechartering and after the program preview conference.

□ BY-LAWS: APPROVAL

