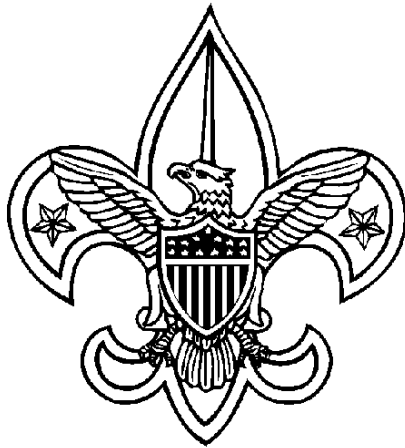


# Boy Scout Troop 86

## Troop Handbook



Boy Scout Troop 86  
Ford's Chapel United Methodist Church  
Harvest, Alabama

## **The Troop 86 Handbook Background and Revision History**

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a ready source of information for members of the troop and their parents.

Despite our best efforts to provide accurate and complete information, you may run across errors, omissions, or areas that need further clarification. Please highlight these to the Scoutmaster (d\_silvernail@hotmail.com) so that they may be corrected for future editions.

This edition of the *Troop 86 Handbook* is **version 1.0**, published on **11/19/10**.

**Version 1** was taken and edited from Troop 1018 Handbook version 2.2 from Dranesville, VA.

(As much as possible, information in this handbook has been taken from official BSA sources.)

Note: If there is any conflict between this document and the Troop 86 Bylaws, the Bylaws are the ruling document.

November 19, 2010

Scouts, Scouters, Parents, and Friends,

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 86. This handbook was created to serve as a guide to our Scouts and their families and brings together information from a wide range of sources. We've consolidated the information into a format designed to be used as a ready reference for Troop 86 families.

If you're not familiar with the Scouting program, the "Quick Start Guide" (Chapter One) and "What a New Scout Needs to Get Started" (Chapter Two) of this handbook should provide a jump start in the Scouting adventure. The remainder of the handbook focuses on specific areas of interest to Scout families. More detailed information on a wide range of outdoor and Scouting topics is available on the troop website [www.bsatroop86.com](http://www.bsatroop86.com).

No handbook is perfect and I'm always interested in your feedback and suggestions for improvements or possible additions. Your input can make this handbook even better.

Wishing you the best in your Scouting adventure . . .

Yours in Scouting,

David Silvernail, Scoutmaster

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# Chapter 1 - Troop 86 Quick Start Guide

## Introduction

It seems like all manufacturers these days have a “quick start guide” to help you get new products operating before reading the instruction manual. In that spirit, Troop 86 presents its *Quick Start Guide* to give new Scouts and their parents some essential information about our Scouting program and to help ease the transition to Boy Scouting. Plenty of more detailed information is available in this handbook, and even more is on the troop web site – but this *Quick Start Guide* should answer the most frequently asked questions for newcomers as they begin their Scouting journey.

The Scouting movement was started in England in the early 1900s by Lord Robert Baden-Powell, a retired British Army general famous for his leadership during the Boer War in South Africa. Scouting brought together skills that Baden-Powell had developed as a boy and his years of experience in training soldiers. The movement came to America in 1910 when an American businessman, Mr. William Boyce learned about Scouting during a trip to England and fashioned a similar program upon his return to the United States. Scouting today continues to embody the same principles of integrity, and service to God, country and others that were the cornerstones of the program set forth by Lord Baden-Powell.

Every boy in the program takes the following oath – *The Scout Oath* – and is expected to live its principles in his daily life:

*"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."*

Additionally, each Scout is expected to follow the 12 points of the *Scout Law*:

*"A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent."*

The opening chapters of the *Boy Scout Handbook* serve as an excellent introduction to the Scouting program and are a must read for any new Scout family. Additionally, Troop 86 maintains a web site ([www.bsatroop86.com](http://www.bsatroop86.com)) with information applicable to both new and seasoned Scouts. We highly recommend that everyone take the time to review the material on the site. In particular, please read the Troop 86 by-laws, which detail many policies and procedures unique to our troop. Following are a few highlights of the Boy Scout and Troop 86 program to get you started:

## Boy Leadership and the Patrol Method

Boy Scouts are run by the boys themselves under the guidance and mentoring of adults. The senior patrol leader (SPL) is the Scout responsible for leading the troop.

He runs the meetings, organizes activities, and works with the Scouts and Scoutmaster to ensure the smooth functioning of the troop. One of the underlying principles of the early Scouting program that still remains today is the "Patrol Method." Boys work better together when divided into small groups of 5-10 – each patrol develops its own identity and can have activities of its own apart from the troop as a whole. A "New Scout Patrol" is generally formed from new boys just joining Boy Scouts. This allows them to focus on basic Scouting skills. Each patrol is headed up by a patrol leader elected by the members of the patrol. There are a number of other leadership positions in both the troop and patrols – a complete listing, with responsibilities for each, is included in Chapter Five of this handbook. A "patrol leaders' council" consisting of the senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, and patrol leaders meets monthly to plan troop activities.

### **Troop Organization**

The Scoutmaster and his assistants provide adult leadership for the troop and help the boys to select, organize, and carry out their activities. Additionally, the troop has a troop committee – a sort of "board of directors" that approves, oversees, and helps carry out the troop's Scouting program. All parents of Scouts are invited to join the troop committee and we highly recommend that a parent of each Scout attend the monthly committee meetings. Our troop is sponsored by the Ford's Chapel United Methodist Church. The church provides us with a place to meet and other assistance as needed. Our liaison to the church is the Chartered Organization Representative. It should be noted that, while we are sponsored by the Ford's Chapel UMC, Troop 86 is open to boys and families of all religious backgrounds. Finally, there is an extensive Boy Scout organization above the troop level made up of both volunteer and professional Scouters who help carry out the Boy Scouting program. Boy Scout troops in our area are members of the Talakto District that is, in turn, part of the Greater Alabama Council.

### **Rank Advancement**

Upon completing the joining requirements a boy becomes a "Scout" and begins his advancement trail. Basic "Scoutcraft" (e.g. camping, first aid, nature) skills are emphasized in the first three ranks: Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. While Scouts can simultaneously work on the requirements for each rank, the actual ranks must be earned in order. Each requires demonstration of certain skills, completion of a number of service hours, and certain troop and leadership activities. Upon completion of requirements, each Scout will have a Scoutmaster conference to review his readiness to advance, and a "board of review" – presenting himself before a board of committee members for final approval. After the First Class rank, advancement requirements are based primarily on "Merit Badges", service hours, and successful participation in troop leadership positions. Merit Badges require completion of certain requirements related to a skill, hobby, or avocation (e.g. Camping, Coin Collecting, Cooking, Aviation, etc). A Scout has to demonstrate completion of the requirements to a "merit badge counselor" – an adult specifically designated to help

with a particular merit badge. Chapter Ten of this handbook also delves more deeply into the merit badge program. Scouts should familiarize themselves with the proper procedures *before* beginning work on a merit badge – to do otherwise could result in a Scout’s effort not being recognized for fulfilling merit badge requirements.

### **The Cost of Scouting**

Troop 86 dues are \$5/month or \$60/year. Adult volunteers must pay \$15/year. Additionally, each Scout is expected to pay registration fees, when required, for activities along with the cost of food during campouts. Each Scout can also earn "Scout Bucks" – a troop program that returns a portion of a Scout's fundraising dollars to help defray that Scout's expenses. A Scout is also expected to have certain items of personal camping equipment. Do not feel compelled to rush out and buy anything – the needs of a first time camper are very modest and leaders are very willing to make recommendations.

### **Activities**

The troop normally schedules at least one outdoor activity (hiking, camping) each month. Additionally, we schedule other activities such as tours, merit badge workshops, and game nights. Many other activities are available through the district and council. We try to list these on the web site, but don’t hesitate to ask if you’re interested in further information on a specific activity.

### **Uniforms**

Boy Scouting is a uniformed organization and each Scout is expected to have a complete uniform and wear it in accordance with BSA and troop guidelines. See Chapter Eight for more detailed information on uniforms – their proper wear and placement of patches and insignia. The troop sometimes has a few uniform items that may be available if needed.

### **Youth Protection and Safety**

BSA has an extensive set of guidelines concerning safety in the Scouting program and Boy Scouting has an excellent safety record. Also, youth protection guidelines require that at least two adults must be present at all Scouting activities and under no circumstances will an adult be left one on one with a Scout who is not his or her son. Likewise, Scouts participating in activities where they will be meeting with an adult (e.g. merit badge counselor) **must** bring a buddy or parent along or the activity cannot take place.

### **A Few More Rules of Note**

Boy Scouts are not allowed to carry or use knives, hatchets, saws, or other cutting tools until they’ve received their “Totin’ Chip” card following completion of a hands-

on safety course. Additionally, Scouts cannot carry any knife with a blade exceeding four inches. Scouts cannot carry matches or build fires until receiving their “Firem’n Chit” certifying completion of a fire safety course. Troop 86 does not allow the use of any electronic games or music players during any outdoor activity. Also, although Troop 86 allows some flexibility in the wear of the uniform (see Chapter Eight), we adhere to the BSA guidelines against the wear of camouflage clothing during BSA activities.

### **A Scout’s Responsibilities**

Boy Scouting teaches responsibility. A Scout is expected to take responsibility for his own Scouting career – seeking advancement, learning, and leadership. Adult leaders help guide the Scout, but it is up to the Scout himself to contribute to his own advancement and troop leadership. Scouts help their fellow Scouts by being both good leaders and good followers and always follow the 12 points of the Scout Law.

### **Scout Leaders’ Responsibilities**

Scout leaders help the Scouts on their Scouting journey – mentoring, demonstrating, and teaching. Leaders ensure a quality, safe, and enjoyable Scouting experience.

### **Parents’ Responsibilities**

Without strong parental support, the troop's program will fail. Encourage and help your son in his Boy Scout adventure. As a small troop, we rely heavily on ALL parents to make a contribution toward the troop program, but this need not be a large time commitment. An excellent way to begin is as a member of the troop committee.

### **A Closing Note**

Boy Scouting is a program that prepares boys for life as an adult. It teaches leadership, responsibility and integrity while providing opportunities for new experiences and just plain fun. Many former Scouts say that the introduction to their life’s profession came through merit badge work during their Scouting years. Rank advancement teaches the importance of pushing yourself and the rewards that come from working toward established goals. A board of review teaches Scouts to present themselves in a professional manner before a group of adults. Camping not only teaches outdoor skills, but also the importance of teamwork and compromise. It reinforces a Scout’s confidence in his ability to take care of himself and deal with new situations. Leadership positions in Scouting prepare a Scout for leadership positions later in life. Service projects teach the importance of giving back to the community. And so the list goes on. But, also, as in all endeavors of life, you get out of something what you put into it. Scouting offers many opportunities, and the Scout must take the initiative to make those opportunities a part of his life.

Welcome to Troop 86 and the world of Scouting. Best wishes for an exciting and rewarding Scouting adventure!!

## Chapter 2 - Getting Started in Boy Scouts

The reality is that a boy needs very little other than ambition, a positive attitude, and a desire to learn to get started in Scouting. To join the troop, fill out and sign an application and pay the troop dues of \$5 per month (\$60 per year, prorated for boys joining after March 1<sup>st</sup>. The \$60 includes a subscription to *Boys' Life* magazine. Fees for boys joining after the March 1<sup>st</sup> date will not include the magazine.)

When a boy joins Troop 86 he will receive as a gift from the troop a red neckerchief and slide.

Boys will be expected to be in uniform within two weeks of joining. Please see Chapter 8 for further information. The troop maintains a limited number of "old" Scout uniform items – you might want to check on availability before purchasing new ones.

Once he receives his *Boy Scout Handbook* a Scout should complete the pamphlet exercises at the front of the book with a parent. This is a requirement for the first ("Scout") badge. Also, going over the other requirements for the Scout badge (page 17 of the *Boy Scout Handbook*) and reading the first two chapters of the handbook will give a new Scout a jump start on the program. We recommend that parents also read these chapters as they provide a good overview of the program.

Following is an overview of camping equipment that will be needed as a Scout. It should be noted that a *huge* amount of detailed information about camping gear is available in books, magazines, and on the internet, much of it related to personal preferences.

### Getting Started With Camping

Getting started in camping can be somewhat intimidating for those who have not done it, or not done it recently. There is lots of equipment on the market and there are plenty of opinions as to what is and isn't necessary. Following are some suggestions for deciding what you really need when you're first starting out.

### Troop Provided Equipment

The troop provides "common" equipment on a campout. This includes: cooking gear, stoves, first aid kit, dining fly, lanterns, saws & hatchets, water jugs, and miscellaneous tools. Scouts are not expected to pack this gear with their own equipment and there's no need to ever buy any of it. In Troop 86, Scouts generally have their own tents, however, some scouts or volunteers may have tents that Scouts may borrow before making a decision on a purchase. Do not rush into a tent purchase – use a troop tent until you're certain of the type and style you'd like to invest in.

## **Personal Equipment Items and Recommendations**

### ***Backpacks***

A backpack is not necessary unless we actually do backpack camping. Most of Troop 86's camping is "car camping" meaning that we camp close to where we park the cars. A duffel bag with handles is more than adequate for car camping.

### ***Sleeping Gear***

- Sleeping bags come in all shapes, sizes, and price ranges. For general use, a bag with synthetic fill (such as "Hollofil") that is rated at 20 degrees will suffice. Down filled is lighter and, therefore, generally preferable for backpacking (but down is more expensive and there are a number of considerations when buying a down filled sleeping bag – all down filled sleeping bags are not created equal)
- Sleeping pads. Keep in mind that you need to insulate yourself from the ground – a pad serves that purpose, as well as keeping you comfortable. There are two basic types (please don't bother with blow up air mattresses) – foam pads, or self-inflating (such as Thermarest). Either will suffice. The self-inflating pads tend to be more comfortable (comfort, however, is very subjective), but are also more expensive.
- Pillow. Pillows are a matter of personal preference – There are inflatable pillows, backpacking pillows, or other small pillows. Some find that a rolled up jacket or sweater works just fine.

### ***Things to Wear***

What to wear is a function of the weather – how hot, how cold, or how wet. But keep a few things in mind:

- Rain gear – It will rain – be prepared. A good quality poncho is probably the best all around rain gear. Do not buy a plastic rain suit – they don't breathe and are miserable to wear. There are a number of high quality rain suits that do breathe (made out of fabrics such as gore-tex). These are great but tend to be very expensive and most boys will outgrow them long before they've gotten their (or their parent's) money's worth from them. Stick with the poncho.
- Clothing – The key to comfortable camping is staying dry and warm. Cotton clothing is not the way to make that happen. Cotton (such as blue jeans) gets wet and stays wet, and when it's wet the wearer gets cold and stays cold. Cotton T shirts may be OK for camping when it's warm and dry, but be prepared for other weather. Synthetics will wick moisture away from the body whether it comes from sweat or rain, and helps maintain a reasonable comfort level. For cooler weather, layering is the key . . . layers of clothing that can be put on or taken off as needed.

## ***Footwear***

There's an old World War II vintage Bill Mauldin cartoon that shows Willie and Joe (two infantrymen) in a muddy foxhole. One turns to the other and in gratitude for saving his life offers him his last pair of dry socks. Willie and Joe knew footwear. Keeping your feet dry and comfortable are absolute musts when camping. For car camping, well-fitted sneakers should suffice, but bring an extra pair along as they do get wet (boys are attracted to water and can generally find some to step in – even in a desert. Also keep in mind that heavy dew can get shoes just as wet as a heavy rain). Use hiking socks that wick moisture away from the feet. For hiking, boots are a necessity. Make sure they are high quality, fit well (when wearing thick hiking socks) and are broken in *before* going on a long hike.

## ***Toiletries***

Keep it simple. For a weekend campout all the typical Scout needs is a toothbrush, toothpaste, camp soap, and a small towel. A Scout can pack more, but it won't get used. Camping stores sell small camp towels which are lightweight, hold lots of moisture, and dry easily – nice, but certainly not a necessity.

## ***Cooking Gear***

As stated above, the troop will provide the cooking gear – the Scout will need his "eating gear", consisting of a bowl, a cup, and some utensils. A rinse bag is a nylon mesh bag that comes in handy for rinsing and drying dishes.

## ***Other Gear***

- Scout knife – very handy, but no need to buy a Swiss Army Knife with 50 gadgets – a knife with a couple blades is really all the new Scout needs. Brightly colored is better. They routinely get dropped and a camouflage design on a knife will do precisely what it was designed to do – remain camouflaged.
- Compass – Go for the basics – remember, the basic function of a compass is to point north – until you're ready to do *a lot* of orienteering, about \$10 should buy a basic, quality compass.
- Sunglasses – If you get them, make sure they have UV protection – cheap sunglasses without UV protection are worse than no sunglasses at all
- Emergency whistle – valuable to have if you mistakenly get separated from the group – nothing fancy
- Rope – A small amount of nylon cord comes in handy for repairs, clotheslines, tent guys, etc.
- Flashlight – small, inexpensive, and brightly colored – and always bring extra batteries. Don't buy the ultra small penlights – they don't last long; don't buy the huge monsters that take 10 D-cells – they're way too big and heavy. The 2 or 4 "AA" cell yellow Eveready flashlights work just fine . . . and they're

inexpensive. In recent years the cost of LED flashlights has fallen to the point that they are good choices for the new Scout, but they're still more expensive than the regular cheap flashlight. Also, a very handy specialized flashlight is one that is fitted with a headband – you can wear it on your head, freeing both hands to work on a task.

- Personal first aid kit – The troop will bring a large first aid kit on any campout. A new Scout should prepare a personal first aid kit (requirement 7b for the Second Class rank) and bring it on all campouts and hikes. For further information refer to page 127 of the *Boy Scout Handbook*.
- Canteen or water bottle – In actuality, the containers that bottled water comes in will be sufficient for a new Scout. But, if you really want to buy a water bottle, buy a wide mouth one. They're easier to clean, easier to fill, and easier for adding ice. Most Scouts have the one liter, wide mouth Nalgene water bottles. They come in a variety of colors which is, of course, helpful in identifying your water bottle from the other 25 that are floating around a campsite. There are containers that will hold a water bottle and attach to belts or backpacks. Very few people use traditional canteens any more.
- Personal chair – a personal chair or stool can come in handy on campouts – but keep it small and lightweight. Most of our Scouts have a canvas folding chair to take along on car camping trips. A fold-up three legged stool works well also and won't require a separate trip to haul it to and from the car.

Hopefully this will help jump start the camping experience. As a Scout becomes more adept at camping, he'll have a better sense for what he needs and can make more informed decisions about purchasing (or not purchasing) camping gear.

### *Closing Comments*

- For things that a Scout will not outgrow and is not likely to readily lose (such as a tent), it generally pays to go with higher quality the first time.
- A Scout should put his name on all personal gear with indelible marker or an engraving pen – despite our best efforts, things do get mixed up and this helps to sort things out.

## Chapter 3 - Troop Communications

A Scout is responsible for knowing what is going on in the troop, what events are coming up, and what events he plans to attend. Announcements are made at the end of every troop meeting and Scouts should take note of the schedule of events and make plans to participate, if applicable. Scouts that miss a meeting should contact their patrol leader or other patrol member to get updated information about upcoming activities. Parents should ask Scouts about scheduled activities and events after every meeting to make sure the proper information makes it to the family calendar. If at all possible, parents should attend the last 15 minutes of Troop meetings to be sure they get all available information.

Additionally, information on troop activities is available through two primary sources – email, the website. “Troop updates” are sent from time to time via email with the latest information, changes, etc., and are sent to any and every email that’s on our list. Please make sure the email address(s) we’re using is current and that we’re using an address that you check frequently. It’s particularly important to check emails daily when we’re getting close to an activity, as updates on how many people are coming, who is providing transportation, who is buying the food, etc. can change. The primary email address that the troop uses is [troop86@bsatrop86.com](mailto:troop86@bsatrop86.com).

The troop’s website [www.bsatrop86.com](http://www.bsatrop86.com) is updated frequently and is also a good source for current information. Last minute changes (such things as meeting cancellations due to inclement weather) will be posted on the website. Also, other important info – troop forms, permission slips, the latest troop calendar, “hot news items”, etc. are posted on the website.

Realizing that not everyone uses email, please let us know if you’d prefer to receive information via a different means. We don’t mind making phone calls, but will use email in the absence of further direction.

We recommend that you keep the latest troop information on your family calendar and discuss upcoming activities as a family to decide well in advance which Troop 86 activities you’ll be participating in.

Information flow is a two way street. While there are many valid reasons that a Scout cannot attend activities, he should develop the responsible approach of letting his leaders (patrol leader, or senior patrol leader) know when he’s unable to attend a meeting or activity. If a Scout expects to have extended absences from troop activities due to scheduling conflicts (e.g. sports, church activities), he should personally notify the Scoutmaster.

## Chapter 4 - Aims and Methods of the Scouting Program

*The information in this chapter was taken from the Scoutmaster Handbook (many times word for word), which has further information on each of these topics.*

### The Adventure of Scouting

The Scoutmaster Handbook says:

“Boys joining the Boy Scouts of America have high expectations. They can hardly wait to go on hikes, sleep in tents, and cook meals in the open. They are eager to master the skills of Scouting and to put into practice what they are learning. They want to share experiences with their friends. They anticipate challenge, adventure, and recognition for their achievements.

Troop members look to their Scoutmaster as the person who will help them realize the promise of Scouting. They will not be disappointed. That’s because Boy scouting revolves around a boy-led troop. The boys themselves take on leadership positions in order to plan troop activities, run meetings, organize adventures, and take advantage of opportunities that fit their interests and needs.

With their Scoutmaster’s guidance, boys direct much of their energy to a troop’s outdoor program – hikes, campouts, and other exciting activities occurring at least once a month. Boys can also challenge themselves to advance through the ranks of Scouting from Tenderfoot all the way to Eagle. For most Scouts, advancement will be a natural outcome of the troop’s outdoor program.

The Scoutmaster’s Handbook also points out that Scouting is a values-based program. Scouting offers boys an environment in which everyone can feel secure both physically and emotionally. That sense of security comes from Scoutmasters and other adult leaders

- Setting an example for themselves and for others by living the Scout Oath and Law to the best of their abilities.
- Refusing to tolerate name-calling, put-downs, discrimination, or any form of physical aggression.
- Communicating their acceptance of boys by taking a real interest in each Scout.
- Using the Scouting program to create a setting based on learning and fun. They seek the best from each Scout and do all they can to allow him to achieve it.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Scoutmaster Handbook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2008 Printing) 6.

## Aims and Methods of the Scouting Program

The Scoutmaster's Handbook states:

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

Is Scouting educational? You bet it is. Scouts have many opportunities to learn skills of leadership, of the outdoors, and of life. Each boy decides what he will learn and how quickly he will do it. As he progresses, the value of his achievements will be reinforced through recognition – advancement in Scouting's ranks, positions of leadership in the troop, and accomplishments during outdoor adventures.”

**The Three Aims of Scouting** are:

1. **Character Development** – Character encompasses a boy's personal qualities, values and outlook.
2. **Citizenship Training** – The Scouting program allows boys to practice good citizenship by living and working among others in a troop with rules based on the common good.
3. **Mental and Physical Fitness** – People get the most out of life when they are mentally and physically fit.

**The Eight Methods of Scouting**

The Boy Scouts of America uses eight fundamental methods to meet boys' hope for fun and adventure, and to achieve Scouting's aims (listed above). A Scout troop functions best when all eight methods are employed.

1. **The Ideals** – The ideals of the Boys Scouts of America are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan. Boy Scouts and adult leaders incorporating these ideals into their daily lives are said to have *Scout spirit*. Scout meetings and Scouting activities reinforce the ideals of Scouting through the message of a Scoutmaster's Minute and in the form of new understandings the Scouts discover for themselves.
2. **The Patrol Method** – Within the larger community of the troop, the patrol is a Scout's “family circle.” Often made up of boys who are close in age and experience level, each patrol helps its members develop a sense of pride and identity. The boys themselves elect their patrol leader, divide up the jobs to be done, and share in the satisfaction of accepting and fulfilling group responsibilities.
3. **The Outdoors** – Boys join Scouting for the challenge, the excitement, and the fun. Much of Scouting is designed to take place outdoors in settings where boys can find real adventure. Outdoor activities put the sizzle into Scouting. They keep boys coming back for more. A troop with a strong outdoor program is well on its way to finding success in all areas.

4. **Advancement** – The Boy Scouts of America believes that a boy should receive recognition for his achievements. The requirements for the ranks of Tenderfoot through First Class prepare boys to take full advantage of all that Scouting has to offer. Earning merit badges allows them to explore many fields, helps them round out their skills, and perhaps introduces them to subjects that will become lifelong interests and rewarding careers. In addition, advancement sets a pattern of setting positive goals and reaching them throughout life. Star, Life, and Eagle requirements focus on service to others and developing leadership skills.
5. **Association With Adults** – Boys learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. Scout leaders can be positive role models for the members of their troops. In many cases a Scout leader who is willing to listen to boys, encourage them, and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives.
6. **Personal Growth** – Scout-age boys are experiencing dramatic physical and emotional growth. Scouting offers them opportunities to channel much of that change into productive endeavors and to find the answers they are seeking for many of their questions. Through service projects and Good Turns, Scouts can discover their place in their community.
7. **Leadership Development** – Leadership is a skill that can be learned only by doing it. Every boy in a patrol and troop will find that he is filling leadership positions of increasing responsibility. Through leadership experiences, boys learn planning, organization, and decision making. For many boys, accepting the role of patrol leader is the first real leadership opportunity they have ever had. Discovering that they can do the job will go a long way toward giving them the confidence and ability to be leaders in the future.
8. **The Uniform** – Since 1910, the Boy Scout uniform has been a recognizable part of the American scene. Wearing the uniform helps boys develop a sense of belonging to their patrol and troop. It reinforces the fact that all members of the BSA are equal to one another. People seeing a boy in a Scout uniform expect someone of good character who is prepared to the best of his ability to help those around him.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The Scoutmaster Handbook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2008 Printing) 7-9.

## Chapter 5 - Troop Organization

### Scout Organization and Leadership

One of the key elements of the Boy Scouting program is the emphasis on youth leadership. Boy Scout leaders are not just leaders in name only, but are responsible for the operation of the troop. There are few organizations that afford boys the leadership opportunities that they will have in Scouting. The basic role of adults in a Scout troop is to serve as mentors for the Scout leaders – to train them and guide them toward effective leadership – and to make sure that the program is carried out safely in accordance with Boy Scout directives. It is, however, up to the boys themselves to run the troop and carry out the program.

The Scoutmaster Handbook states:

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

Some Scoutmasters struggle with the idea of allowing boys to lead the troop. They wonder whether a boy of 12 can keep a patrol in order or if a 14-year-old senior patrol leader can organize and manage a successful troop meeting. In the short term it might seem easier for adults to make all of the decisions and direct the action. However, when you invest your energy in training boys to run the show, you will find that you can watch with great satisfaction as youth leaders thrive in fulfilling the responsibilities they have been given. Your time will have been spent productively, and the boys in your troop will be getting the full measure of the Scouting program.<sup>3</sup>

To do this, the troop has a standard Boy Scout organizational structure. At the top is the senior patrol leader (SPL) who is the troop's senior boy leader. The assistant senior patrol leader (ASPL) is elected by the troop. Following his term, he moves into the senior patrol leader's (SPL) position. The assistant senior patrol leader ASPL helps the SPL carry out his duties and fills in when the SPL is absent.<sup>4</sup>

The boys in the troop are organized into patrols – groups of 5-10 boys that function as a team in carrying out the Scouting program. The patrols elect a patrol leader (PL), who, in turn, appoints an assistant to help him carry out his duties.

Every month, the SPL, ASPL, and patrol leaders meet in a group called the "patrol leaders' council" (PLC) to set the troop plan for the upcoming month and to discuss

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<sup>3</sup> The Scoutmaster Handbook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2008 Printing) 12.

<sup>4</sup> Troop 86 Bylaws (Section III, C, 2)

any other topics of interest. In Troop 86, our PLC normally meets on the third Sunday of the month.

According to the Troop Committee Guidebook:

The patrol leader's council, not the adult leaders, is responsible for planning and conducting the troop's activities. The patrol leaders' council is composed of the following voting members: senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, patrol leaders, troop guide.

At its monthly meetings, the patrol leaders' council organizes and assigns activity responsibilities for the weekly troop meetings. The troop committee interacts with the patrol leaders' council through the Scoutmaster.<sup>5</sup>

A summary of troop positions is as follows (from the Troop Committee Guidebook):

- **Senior patrol leader** – top youth leader in the troop. He leads the patrol leaders' council and, in consultation with the Scoutmaster, appoints other youth leaders and assigns specific responsibilities as needed. The senior patrol leader is elected by troop members, usually for a six-month term.
- **Assistant senior patrol leader** - fills in for senior patrol leader in his absence. He is also responsible for training and giving direction to the quartermaster, scribe, Order of the Arrow troop representative, historian, librarian, and instructors.
- **Historian** - collects and maintains troop memorabilia and information on former troop members.
- **Librarian** – keeps the troop's books, pamphlets, magazines, audiovisuals and merit badge counselor list available for use by troop members.
- **Instructor** – teaches one or more advancement skills to troop members.
- **Chaplain aide** – assists in troop religious services and promotes religious emblems programs.
- **Junior assistant Scoutmaster** - a Scout 16 or older who supervises and supports other boy leaders as assigned.
- **Patrol leader** – gives leadership to members of his patrol and represents them on the patrol leaders' council.
- **Assistant patrol leader** - fills in for the patrol leader in his absence.
- **Order of the Arrow troop representative** – keeps the troop informed on all Order of the Arrow activities.
- **Troop guide** - advisor and guide to new-Scout patrol.
- **Den chief** - works with a Cub Scout or Webelos Scout den as a guide.
- **Quartermaster** - responsible for troop supplies and equipment.
- **Scribe** - the troop secretary.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Troop Committee Guidebook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2007 Printing) 12.

<sup>6</sup> Troop Committee Guidebook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2007 Printing) 11-12.

## Adult Organization and Leadership

While Scouting is touted as a “boy led” organization and, as mentioned above, it affords tremendous opportunities to boy leaders, the overall responsibility for making sure the Scouting program succeeds clearly rests with adult leadership. Within the troop, there are two major adult leadership groups.

The Troop Committee Guidebook states:

The troop committee is the troop’s board of directors and supports the troop program. But you ask, “What does the troop committee do?” The troop committee does the following:

- Ensures that quality adult leadership is recruited and trained. In case the Scoutmaster is absent, a qualified assistant Scoutmaster is assigned. If the Scoutmaster is unable to serve, a replacement is recruited.
- Provides adequate meeting facilities.
- Advises the Scoutmaster on policies relating to Boy Scouting and the chartered organization.
- Support leaders in carrying out the program.
- Is responsible for finances, adequate funds, and disbursements in line with the approved budget plan.
- Obtain, maintain, and properly care for troop property.
- Ensures the troop has an outdoor program (minimum 10 days and nights per year).
- Serves on boards of review and courts of honor.
- Supports the Scoutmaster in working with individual boys and problems that may affect the overall troop program.
- Provides for the special needs and assistance some boys may require.
- Help with the Friends of Scouting campaign.
- Assists the Scoutmaster with handling boy behavioral problems.<sup>7</sup>

While the troop committee supports the troop program, it does not operate it. That responsibility falls to the Scoutmaster (SM) and assistant Scoutmasters (ASMs). They train and guide the boy leaders to run the troop and ensure that the troop’s program is carried out in an effective and safe manner. The SM and ASMs are active participants in troop meetings and the outdoor program and must work closely with all of the troop’s Scouts to teach new skills, and with the troop’s Scout leaders to ensure their continued development as leaders.

Above the troop level, there is an extensive BSA organization that supports the Scouting program. While an extensive summary is well beyond this quick overview, a few key points are:

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<sup>7</sup> Troop Committee Guidebook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2007 Printing) 13.

We are Troop 86, chartered by Ford's Chapel United Methodist Church, and belong to the Talakto District which is part of the Greater Alabama Council.

### **Boy Scouts of America National Council**

The over three hundred local councils report to national headquarters in Irving, Texas. The national council sets standards and policies for the BSA. The national headquarters sponsors the National Jamboree (held every 4 years, and beginning in 2013 – at The Summit: Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in Glen Jean, WV), runs the National High Adventure Camps, publishes Scouting books and magazines, and takes care of the other myriad responsibilities required to keep the program functioning. It also represents the US at the:

### **World Organization of Scouting Movements**

The WOSM is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and brings together Scouting movements from over 200 countries and territories around the world. It sponsors the International Scout Centre at Kandersteg, Switzerland and the World Jamboree, held every four years. The last World Jamboree was held in 2007 in England and celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scouting movement. The 22<sup>nd</sup> World Scout Jamboree will be held in 2011 in Rinkaby, Sweden.

## Chapter 6 - Meetings

Troop 86 has its regular troop meetings on Monday evenings between 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center of Ford's Chapel United Methodist Church.

Meetings include a flag ceremony and announcements followed by the program for the evening. Program topics range from hands-on learning and demonstrations to guest speakers. We routinely break into patrols to learn and practice skills and to plan for upcoming campouts and activities. Regular meetings end with a closing ceremony consisting of last minute announcements, presentation of advancements and reminders followed by our "Scout Master Minute".

### Duty Patrol

Each month a "duty patrol" is appointed by the patrol leaders' council to help with the meeting. Members of the duty patrol should arrive five minutes before the start of the meeting to prepare the flags for the opening ceremony and to arrange chairs and tables if any special configuration is needed. The duty patrol also cleans up after the meeting and makes sure all tables and chairs have been returned to their original places.

The flag ceremony is another responsibility of the duty patrol. We begin each meeting by paying respect to the national colors. Our only requirement for the ceremony is that it include the Pledge of Allegiance. Patrols are encouraged to use imagination in coming up with ideas for the opening flag ceremony.

### Court of Honor

Four times a year (usually January, April, July and October) the troop holds a court of honor to formally recognize advancement, awards, and merit badges. This is a formal ceremony and all family members are cordially invited to attend and show support for the troop and Scouts. Families may be asked to bring a dessert, snack or dish to share at a social either before or after the formal part of the ceremony.

Other items of interest related to meetings:

- Unless otherwise indicated, Scouts are expected to be in Class A uniform for all troop meetings.
- Unless otherwise indicated, Scouts are expected to bring their *Boy Scout Handbook*, their Troop Notebooks, something to write on and something to write with. 3x5 cards are suggested and work well as they are small and can be clipped together or fit in a pocket. Keeping items in a backpack or drawstring bag with their names on them is also recommended.

## Chapter 7 - Camping and Campouts

*A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room.*  
– Lord Robert Baden-Powell

The outdoor program is at the heart of Scouting. Many of the requirements for advancement in Boy Scouts relate directly to camping. In Troop 86 we schedule a campout for every month and encourage maximum participation on the part of our Scouts. On campouts the boys not only learn about camping skills and nature, they also learn about cooperation, teamwork, and leadership.

### Types of Campouts

- Car Camping – Troop 86’s most common type of camping – we park close to the campsite and everything can be easily carried from the car
- Backpacking – A camper carries his gear – all of it – on his back – it’s essential to pack only what you need
- Cabin Camping – We’ll stay in a cabin; a kitchen is normally available. Scouts don’t need tents, but will need a sleeping bag
- Summer Camp – requirements vary depending on the camp – at most Boy Scout camps, Scouts will stay in large, 2 person tents and sleep on cots.

### Before the Campout

- Sign up early. At troop meetings we have a sign-up roster for upcoming activities and we ask that both boys and adults sign up if they think they’ll be participating. For planning purposes, it really helps to sign up well in advance, but generally the last chance to sign up for a weekend campout is the meeting before the campout. At that time, please turn in:
  - Registration fee: Occasionally campouts will require a registration fee or rental fees. The cost will vary, and many campouts are free except for the cost of food (usually a small fee per meal).
  - Permission slips are required if a parent is not going on the trip. This is a requirement for each activity. Permission slips can be downloaded from the website or picked up at a troop meeting.
- Flexibility is synonymous with Troop 86 – if you’re not sure if you can participate because of other commitments (e.g. changing sports schedules), let us know – we try hard to accommodate all schedules.
- Use the camping checklist! (see appendix) Even seasoned campers should use a checklist to make sure nothing is forgotten. Parents – resist the urge to pack for your son. He has the list – give him guidance, but let him do the packing.
- Plan your activities – many requirements for rank advancement or merit badges can only be performed on a campout. Scouts should plan in advance to have these signed off and work with the adult leaders to make it happen.
- A sample checklist is provided in the attachments to this guide; copies can be downloaded from the troop website.

- However you pack – using a backpack or a duffel – each Scout should be able to carry his own gear in a single trip.
- Food!
  - Each patrol plans its own menu for a campout
  - One patrol member will be designated to purchase the food and will have a budget based on the number of Scouts and meals to be cooked – generally a small fee per meal per scout.
  - If you're the parent of the food purchaser (or “grub master”), provide guidance but let the Scout do the planning, selection and purchase.
  - Submit a form (sample in the appendix) with receipts to the troop treasurer for reimbursement.
- Camping no-no's – no electronic entertainment! We're out to enjoy nature, after all. Electronic games, mp3 players, etc are OK for the ride, but must be left in the vehicle when we get to the campsite. *Drivers are not responsible for any lost items.*
- Most common problems
  - Forgetting essential equipment items (not using the checklist)
  - Not having quick access to rain gear (don't want to have to completely tear apart your camping gear to find the poncho while you're standing in the pouring rain)
  - Not having a flashlight or headlamp available – it's dark at night and, if you don't know where your flashlight is, you'll need a flashlight to find it.

### **During the Campout**

- Scouts should pay special attention to completing advancement and merit badge requirements. A number of these requirements can only be completed while camping. It's a Scout's responsibility to get these completed and go over them with an adult leader.
- If you're an adult and you'd like to come camping with us, by all means do so! But first, please read the “What Adults do on Campouts” topic later in this chapter.
- No food in tents – ever. We camp outdoors. Critters live there. They get hungry. They smell food. They will claw their way into tents. This is not a good thing. Keep the food in plastic buckets in the designated dining area.
- Most common problems
  - Getting wet . . . and cold. Cotton retains moisture and draws heat from the body. It is not a particularly good thing to wear while camping
  - Drink water – the most common medical problem with Scouts is dehydration.

### **After the campout**

- Dry your gear – tents should be aired out to make sure they're completely dry. Even a small amount of moisture will lead to mildew and ruin the tent.

- Other gear needs to be dried as well
- Clean your gear, make sure it's ready for the next campout and pack it away properly
- Replenish any supplies you've used so you're ready for next time
- Turn in any troop gear that you've checked out to the quartermaster

## **Summer Camp**

Every Scout should participate in the troop's annual summer camp. It's a great way to meet new Scouts, get to better know the Scouts in our own troop, and develop new skills. We select camps that cater to the needs of all Scouts, whether they're new to the program, or "seasoned veterans." New Scouts will typically be involved in a program that specifically targets advancement requirements through the First Class rank and older Scouts can earn a wide variety of merit badges. Most camps also have a special program for older Scouts, such as the Challenging Outdoor Program Experience (COPE), that includes team building exercises, climbing, rappelling, and other special activities. (Scouts must normally be 13 years old and have the First Class rank to participate in COPE). For our traditional camps, we attend both in and out of our council to give our Scouts a varying camp experience. Each Scout camp tends to have its own "flavor" and offers different programs and activities for Scouts.

## **What Adults Do On Campouts**

We absolutely encourage participation on the part of parents on Troop 86 campouts, but for those new to Boy Scouting there are some guidelines that we ask that you follow. While there are exceptions, these guidelines are in effect on most outings.

### ***The Adult Leader***

If you come on a campout (and, again, we strongly encourage this!!), you do so in the role of an adult leader. You are expected to serve in that capacity, helping all Scouts as a troop leader. In Boy Scouting, the primary job of the adult leaders is to ensure that the activity is safe and to assist the boys in carrying out *their* activities. The underlying principle is to encourage the boys and provide guidance, but NOT to do their work for them. Remember, we're helping them to learn self-sufficiency and how to work on their own. They won't learn if we do things for them. That's not to say that adults don't pitch in – but it is important to let the boys learn by doing and let the boy leaders organize and carry out their activities. Important note: All adults participating in youth activities must have current BSA Youth Protection Training. There are no exceptions to this policy.

### ***The Adult Patrol***

In Troop 86 each patrol sets up its own campsite and plans its own menu. The adults are no different. We form our own patrol and camp together, apart from the boys'

patrols. In general, we do not mix our tents with those of the boys nor do we eat as members of their patrols.

### ***Adult Meals***

We generally plan and cook our own meals, separate from the boys. We do this for two main reasons. First, it sets a good example for planning and demonstrates at least one “proper” way to plan and cook meals. Also, we tend to try meals that are a little more sophisticated than standard Scout fare, which also tends to set an example and motivates the Scouts to try something new and different the next time out. On many occasions, something that the adults try on one campout may show up on the Scout menu on a subsequent campout. We also commonly make deserts or special treats for the troop as a whole and share our “leftovers” (we always seem to make a little bit more than we need).

### ***Adult/Scout tenting***

BSA youth protection policies forbid an adult and boy sharing the same tent unless father and son. That having been said, with rare exceptions, we ask that fathers not share a tent with their sons. As mentioned above, adults are members of a separate patrol and each patrol sets up its tents together under guidance of the patrol leader or his designee.

### ***Tobacco/Alcohol***

No alcohol will be consumed on Scouting activities. Smoking by adults is prohibited while Scouts are in the same vehicle. Adults who use tobacco products must do so discretely out of sight of the Scouts.

### ***Adult Leader Training***

The *Scoutmaster Handbook*, published by the BSA provides adults with an excellent overview of the program, its goals, and how to attain them. We highly encourage your taking the time to read it, even if you only plan to participate in 86 activities on an occasional basis. Also, we highly encourage all adults to take official Boy Scout leader training. For more information see Chapter 11.

## Chapter 8 - Uniforms

*"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."*

*- extracted from the "methods of Scouting" from the Boy Scout national website*

*"The uniform makes for brotherhood, since when universally adopted it covers up all differences of class and country."*

*- Sir Robert Baden-Powell*

Here in Troop 86 we expect our Scouts to properly wear the uniform at meetings and activities. It is important for Scouts to take pride in the way they look personally, and to understand that, as they wear the uniform, they reflect the ideals of Scouting to the community as a whole.

The Boy Scouts publish a "uniform guide" that has rules for placement of lesser known insignia, but the placement of most insignia is listed on the inside front and back covers of your *Boy Scout Handbook*. There is also a uniform inspection checklist that gives detailed information on insignia placement. Pick up a copy at a troop meeting or download directly from the troop website.

### Types of Uniforms

- Class A uniform
  - Consists of:
    - Tan Scout shirt with all patches in place; green epaulets on shoulder tabs
    - Scout pants (Troop 86 option: khaki pants or blue jeans)
    - Scout belt and socks
    - Scout hat
    - Neckerchief (red with black trim) and slide
  - A Class A uniform should be worn to all troop meetings (Note: for some activities – if specifically approved – the neckerchief and hat are optional.)
  - Troop 86 Scouts travel to and from campouts and other events in Class A uniform. Unless otherwise stated; travel uniform includes a Boy Scout hat and neckerchief
  - Tours and visits are normally conducted in a Class A uniform
- A Class B uniform
  - Consists of:
    - Scout pants (Troop 86 option: khaki pants or blue jeans)
    - Other Scout shirt (t-shirt, outdoor shirt, etc)
    - Scout belt and socks
    - Scout hat

- Class B uniforms are normally worn when camping or other outdoor or sports activities
- Other uniform info:
  - The wearing of camouflage or military style apparel as part of the uniform is prohibited by BSA policy
  - A merit badge sash is normally worn at courts of honor or boards of review only

### **Where to Get Uniforms**

The troop sometimes has a limited number of uniform and uniform parts that have been recycled as Scouts outgrow them (and they do grow quickly).

Scout uniforms and uniform items can be purchased at:

- The Scout Shop in Huntsville (2211 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 35805)
- Online from the BSA Supply Division [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org)

## Chapter 9 – Advancement

The Troop Committee Guidebook states:

Advancement is the process by which youth members progress through ranks in the Scouting program by the gradual mastery of Scouting skills.

Ranks are simply a means to an end, not an end in themselves. Everything Scouts do to advance and earn these ranks, from the day they join until they leave the program, should be designed to help them have an exciting and meaningful experience. This means providing your Scouts with a stimulating and active troop program!

Education and fun are functions of Scouting, and they are the basis of the advancement program. In the Scouting program, recognition is gained through leadership in the unit; attending and participating in the activities; living the ideals of Scouting; and developing a proficiency in outdoor living and useful skills.

No council, district, troop, or individual has the authority to add or subtract from any advancement requirement. The advancement requirements have been carefully developed to achieve the aims of Boy Scouting. To alter the requirements would defeat that purpose and would also be unfair to the Scout.

Boy Scout advancement is a four-step process:

1. **The Boy Scout learns.** A Scout learns by doing. As he learns, he grows in ability to do his part as member of the patrol and the troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others. In this way, he begins to develop leadership.
2. **The Boy Scout is tested.** A Scout may be tested on requirements by his patrol leader, Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, a troop committee member, or a member of his troop. The Scoutmaster maintains a list of those qualified to give tests and to pass candidates.
3. **The Boy Scout is reviewed.** After a Scout has completed all requirements for a rank, he has a board of review. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle Palms, the review is conducted by members of the troop committee. The Eagle board of review is conducted in accordance with local council procedures.
4. **The Boy Scout is recognized.** When the board of review has certified a boy's advancement, he deserves to receive recognition as soon as possible. This should be done at a ceremony at the next troop meeting. The certificate for his new rank may be presented later at a formal court of honor.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Troop Committee Guidebook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2007 Printing) 27-28.

## Scouting Ranks

The Scoutmaster's Handbook states:

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

A Scout may at any time complete any requirement for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. There is no waiting time between those ranks, so a boy may work on the requirements at his own speed. Adult leaders can encourage Scouts to move steadily along the advancement trail, ideally becoming First Class Scouts within a year of joining. However, boys should not be pressured to advance or given deadlines for completing various badges. The speed with which he completes requirements, and even the decision to advance at all, lies with each boy. Present advancement as an exciting opportunity and not as a burden, and nearly every Scout will rise to the occasion.<sup>9</sup>

The higher ranks, Star, Life, and Eagle are achieved primarily through earning merit badges. Each rank has a requirement for a number of merit badges, some of which must come from the "Eagle required" group. This group of 12 merit badges emphasizes citizenship, outdoor, and emergency preparedness skills. All of these must be completed before becoming an Eagle Scout. Eagle required merit badges are: Camping, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Environmental Science, Family Life, First Aid, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving, and Cycling OR Hiking OR Swimming.

The higher ranks also have leadership requirements, as Scouts are expected to develop their leadership skills as they mature in the program. Holding a leadership position clearly means performing in that position and not simply having the title. Scouts can expect to have their contributions as leaders evaluated as part of their Scoutmaster conference or board of review.

### Completing Advancement Requirements

The following are specific procedures or tips for completing requirements:

The Scout is expected to take the initiative to learn the background on a particular requirement and demonstrate that knowledge to an adult leader. The requirement is specific and the expectations are no more or less than listed. "Demonstrate" means

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<sup>9</sup> The Scoutmaster Handbook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2008 Printing) 123.

just that – the Scout must actually perform the action. In Troop 86, only adult leaders actually certify completion of a requirement. Some troops allow senior Scouts to do this. We do not. Also, please note that, unlike Cub Scouts, parents do not sign off on advancement requirements.

Many advancement requirements can only be completed in conjunction with a campout. It is important that Scouts plan in advance to work on those requirements during a campout. If, for example, the requirement is to purchase food for the campout, the Scout must be assigned the duty during the planning meeting leading up to the campout. Scouts should ask for assistance if they have any questions about a requirement. The background material for all requirements through First Class is in the *Boy Scout Handbook*. Scouts should read the book in conjunction with their advancement.

### **Scoutmaster Conference**

When all requirements for a rank have been completed, the Scout should schedule a Scoutmaster Conference with the Assistant Scoutmaster's approval. Upon successful completion, the Scout should schedule a Board of Review. Scoutmaster conferences are normally conducted during a meeting, campout, or the time directly before or after a meeting. Keep in mind that scheduling in advance is important, as the overall program for a meeting will not normally be modified simply to accommodate a last minute conference. The Scoutmaster conference has no set agenda, but generally covers a review of the rank requirements (although this is NOT a retest) and an overview of a Scout's progress, his opinions and comments about the troop and Scouting program, and a plan for achieving the next rank.

According to the Scoutmaster's Handbook:

The Scoutmaster conference is a visit between the Scoutmaster and a Scout that is held each time the boy completes the requirements for a rank. The conference is a valuable opportunity for a Scoutmaster to discuss with each Scout his activity in the troop and his understanding and practice of the ideals of Scouting. Together they can set goals not only in Scouting but also in his family, school, and community.

A Scout taking part in a Scoutmaster conference will be able to determine if he is ready to go before the board of review. The Scoutmaster can also encourage a boy's advancement in Scouting by reviewing with him the requirements for his next rank. The Scoutmaster conference can be used as a counseling tool at any time and for a variety of other reasons.<sup>10</sup>

The Scoutmaster Conference Training adds:

Further, the Scoutmaster must watch the individual Scout to determine whether he is advancing, whether he is having fun, and whether he seems eager or uneasy.

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<sup>10</sup> The Scoutmaster Handbook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2008 Printing) 124.

These functions are not easily performed if a Scoutmaster delegates a Scoutmaster conference to assistants. In a boy-lead troop, the Scoutmaster does not assert his authority, but guides and counsels every Scout so that the troop can function well and serve the purposes of Boy Scouting. The Scoutmaster conference is one of the primary ways the Scoutmaster does this.

In large troops, delegating this function may be necessary, especially when large numbers of Webelos Scouts are joining the troop. In these cases, an experienced assistant Scoutmaster can fill in to conduct the Scoutmaster conference. Remember however, that this first Scoutmaster conference is vital to the new Scout's development.

Even in a large troop, a Scoutmaster should not delegate a conference with any candidate for Star, Life, and Eagle.<sup>11</sup>

## Board of Review

The Scoutmaster's Handbook states:

After a Scout has completed all of the requirements for any rank from Tenderfoot through Life and has had a Scoutmaster conference for that rank, he appears before a board of review composed of three to six members of the troop committee. The membership of the board of review for an Eagle Scout candidate is determined by local council policy. An Eagle Scout Board of review is often made up of members of the troop committee joined by a representative from the district or council, or the board may be fully composed of district or council personnel.

The purpose of the board of review is **not to retest** a Scout, but rather to ensure that he has completed all of the requirements, to determine the quality of his troop experience, and to encourage him to advance toward the next rank. Each review 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.

Boards of review for the ranks of Tenderfoot through Life should each last about 15 minutes. An Eagle Scout board of review might take half an hour or more. Every session should be set up so that members of the board can share a meaningful discussion with the Scout about important matters including his goals, personal growth, and Scout spirit. The following guidelines will help provide an atmosphere of trust and support:

- Made every effort to put the Scout at ease.
- Smile and create a friendly, nonthreatening mood.
- Enliven the discussion by asking open-ended questions about the boy's recent Scouting adventures.

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<sup>11</sup> Scoutmaster Conference Training, (<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/18-629.pdf> 2/2/06) 1-2

- Ask about his family and school activities.
- Offer encouragement and praise.

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

A troop should schedule its boards of review to occur on a regular basis so that Scouts and leaders can plan for them well in advance. In addition to reviewing Scouts who have completed requirements for advancement, boards that meet regularly might also choose to meet with Scouts who are not advancing. A board can give those Scouts support and perhaps help them discover ways to overcome obstacles hindering their progress.<sup>12</sup>

The Troop Committee Guidebook says:

At the conclusion of every board of review, it is the committee's responsibility to prepare and turn in to the local council office a copy of the Advancement Report, and ensure that the badges earned by the boys are obtained and awarded in a timely fashion.<sup>13</sup>

### **Other Comments**

- It is a Scout's responsibility to advance. A Scout should always have a plan for rank advancement and stick to it. Slow, steady progress is the key to success.
- Parents should monitor their son's progress and encourage his continued advancement. Scouts are supposed to do this on their own, but a tactful nudge from time to time is often in order.
- The board will expect a Scout in a leadership position to have fulfilled the responsibilities of that position. A Scout-led troop relies upon its Scout leaders to do their jobs – this is important in the leadership development for the Scout as well as the effect on the troop.
- Just a reminder -- it is VERY IMPORTANT to save all rank and merit badge cards. We suggest that you keep them in one place. They are your proof of completing requirements – should you transfer to another troop or if there has been an error in recording your work, you will need this documentation when preparing for the Eagle Scout Board of Review.

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<sup>12</sup> The Scoutmaster Handbook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2008 Printing) 126.

<sup>13</sup> Troop Committee Guidebook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2007 Printing) 31.

## Chapter 10 - Merit Badges

It's a good idea to flip through the Boy Scout Requirements book and plan ahead for badges you'd like to set your sights on. You'll find that there are probably quite a few that you qualify for with just a little extra work because you've covered the material at school or as a hobby.

### Merit Badge Procedures

The Boy Scout Requirements book says:

You can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers as you earn these merit badges. There are more than 100 merit badges. Any Boy Scout may earn any merit badge at any time. You don't need to have had rank advancement to be eligible.

**Pick a Subject.** Talk to your Scoutmaster about your interests. Read the requirements of the merit badges you think might interest you. Pick one to earn. Your Scoutmaster will give you the name of a person from a list of counselors. These counselors have special knowledge in their merit badge subjects and are interested in helping you.

**Scout Buddy System.** *You must have another person with you at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.* This person can be another Scout, your parents or guardian, a brother or sister, a relative, or a friend.

**Call the Counselor.** Get a signed merit badge application from your Scoutmaster (or Advancements chair). Get in touch with the merit badge counselor and tell him or her that you want to earn the merit badge. The counselor may ask to meet you to explain what is expected of you and to start helping you meet the requirements. You should also discuss work that you have already started or possibly completed.

**Unless otherwise specified, work for a requirement can be started at any time.** Ask your counselor to help you learn the things you need to know or do. You should read the merit badge pamphlet on the subject. Many troops and school or public libraries have them. (They are also available at the Scout Shop.)

**Show Your Stuff.** When you are ready, call the counselor again to make an appointment to meet the requirements. When you go, take along the things you have made to meet the requirements. If they are too big to move, take pictures or have an adult tell in writing what you have done. The counselor will ask you to do each requirement to make sure that you know your stuff and have done or can do the things required.

**Requirements.** You are expected to meet the requirements as they are stated – no more and no less. You are expected to do exactly what is stated in the requirements. If it says “show or demonstrate,” that is what you must do. Just telling about it isn’t enough. The same thing holds true for such works as “make,” “list,” “in the field,” and “collect,” “identify,” and “label.”

The requirements listed in this book (*2010 Boy Scout Requirements book*) are the official requirements of the Boy Scouts of America. However, the requirements on the following pages (*of the 2010 Boy Scout Requirements book*) might not match those in the *Boy Scout Handbook* and the merit badge pamphlets, because this publication (*2010 Boy Scout Requirements book*) is updated only on an annual basis.

If a Scout has already started working on a merit badge when a new edition of the pamphlet is introduced, *he may continue to use the same merit badge pamphlet and fulfill the requirements therein to earn the badge.* He need not start all over again with the new pamphlet and possibly revised requirements.<sup>14</sup>

The most current requirements are available at [www.meritbadge.com](http://www.meritbadge.com), which also has links to many resources to help in learning about the subject of the merit badge. The BSA publishes a pamphlet for each merit badge which has all of the background information a Scout needs to study for the merit badge. The troop has some of these available for checkout. They’re also available at the Scout Shop or by mail order.

## Merit Badge Tips

- From time to time troops, districts, or councils will have “merit badge workshops.” These gatherings are generally “self-contained” -- that means they teach you what you need to know, give you materials to complete all projects, and evaluate your work. The idea is to walk away with a completed merit badge and signed blue card. Sometimes there are requirements that must be completed in advance -- unless you do so, you’ll walk away with a “partial” and could likely find it very difficult to get back with a counselor to complete the requirements.
- Our troop schedules several meetings prior to summer camp for scouts to work on merit badges for which they have registered.
- To maximize the number of badges you get at summer camp, look carefully at the requirements and complete as much in advance as possible. At camp you will have access to a wide range of counselors who are more than happy to sign off your badge requirements . . . but obviously can’t sign off that a badge as completed until all requirements have been met. Leaving even one incomplete requirement means you’ll have to find a counselor when you

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<sup>14</sup> 2010 Boy Scout Requirements, (2010 Boy Scouts of America, 2010 printing) 28-29

return home to verify that last requirement. It's far better to walk away from camp with a completed merit badge.

## Chapter 11 - Training – Adult and Scout

Scouting offers many wonderful training opportunities for both Scouts and adult leaders. Because of the nature of the program – many new people entering each year – BSA has placed a great deal of emphasis on its training courses. These courses are well conceived, thorough, and taught by motivated instructors. New Scouts and their parents should be aware of the courses in this chapter. Adult leaders should plan their personal training with assistance from the troop’s training coordinator. Some training can be taken online at [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) – just click on “My Scouting”.

### Adult Training

The key adult training programs are:

- Youth Protection Training - Youth Protection training is required for all leaders. At all times, youth safety is the number one priority. At the same time, adults need to know the rules for keeping themselves safe too. Comprehensive Youth Protection training teaches all the do’s and don’ts of working with youth. The training is offered online or may be taken as part of a district or council training course. Boy Scouts of America issued a new policy effective June 1, 2010 that states, **“Youth Protection training is required for all registered volunteers. New leaders are required to take Youth Protection training before they submit an application for registration. The certificate of completion for this training must be submitted at the time application is made and before volunteer service with youth begins. Youth Protection training must be taken every two years. If a volunteer’s Youth Protection training record is not current at the time of recharter, the volunteer will not be reregistered.”**<sup>15</sup>
- Boy Scout Fast Start Training – Fast Start training is the first step for all new leaders and should be taken immediately after they register and before they meet with any youth members. Fast Start courses are available online.
- This is Scouting – This is Scouting picks up where Fast Start leaves off with six modules of training: The Mission of Scouting, Programs for All ages, Scouting is Fun, Scouting in the Community, Keeping Our Youth Safe, and Scouting’s Legacy. The training takes about an hour to complete and can be found online.
- Position Specific Training – Leader position specific training is based on the leader’s position. These courses are taught by informed trainers who know how to engage groups and make learning fun. These courses are offered by

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<sup>15</sup> Boy Scouts of America letter of Policy changes from James Terry, Assistant Chief Scout Executive dated June 1, 2010.

the district or council as group training, or may be done as small groups or by personal coaching.

- Boy Scout Leaders – Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training is for all Scoutmasters and their assistants.
- Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills – Boy Scout leaders also must complete Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills training to be considered fully trained.

(Descriptions of training come from [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org), the official website of Boy Scouts of America.)<sup>16</sup>

### **What Makes a Trained Leader?**

*Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters* are considered trained when they have completed

1. Boy Scout Leader Fast Start training
2. Youth Protection training
3. This is Scouting
4. Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training
5. Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills.

*Troop Committee members* are considered trained when they have completed

1. Boy Scout Leader Fast Start training
2. Youth Protection training
3. This is Scouting
4. Troop Committee Challenge as their leader-specific training.<sup>17</sup>

### **Scout Training**

For Scouts, most training is conducted within the troop itself. Leadership training is an ongoing process and Scoutcraft skills are part of a Scout's advancement requirements.

There are, however, specific training opportunities available to Scouts. These include:

- Life to Eagle seminars – answers questions and provides information targeted at Scouts that have achieved the Life rank to help them clear the hurdle to Eagle Scout

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<sup>16</sup> What Makes a Trained Leader?

(<http://www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/Home/BoyScouts/Adults/Training/Trained%20Leader.aspx>).

<sup>17</sup> Boy Scouts of America Adult Application (form 524-501A) last page.

- Den Chief Training – Normally offered on a Saturday simultaneously with Adult Leader Training, provides excellent background information for Scouts wishing to serve as a Den Chief for a Cub Scout den.
- NYLT – National Youth Leadership Training – An advanced training opportunity for older Scouts. This is a week long course that provides an excellent background in leadership and team building. The troop will help underwrite the cost of a Scout attending this training.

## Chapter 12 - Money Matters in Troop 86

Troop 86 has its own bank account managed by our Troop Treasurer and the Chartering Organization Treasurer. Expenditures are made with the approval of the troop committee. The troop has three main sources of income – fund raisers, dues and fees assessed for specific events (such as campouts). Following is an overview of how the troop handles its funds.

### The Troop Budget

Each year the troop committee creates a budget of anticipated expenditures for the year ahead. What is troop money spent for? The troop buys new equipment from time to time (such as tents, Dutch ovens, stoves, and other camping gear). We also reimburse expenses that individuals incur in supporting the troop. All of the gifts for new troop members are paid for by the troop and with a paid registration each Scout receives a subscription to *Boys' Life*, the official BSA publication for Scouts. Registered leaders receive a copy of *Scouting* magazine, the BSA's leader publication. The troop treasury also fronts registration fees and deposits for activities which are generally required well before individual Scouts register for the trips. The troop, like any organization, also has administrative fees (stamps, paper, repro costs, etc) that are paid from troop funds. The troop treasurer keeps a detailed budget that is presented annually and provides a detailed finance report at each committee meeting.

### Fundraisers

The troop committee approves fundraising activities for the troop. Currently we have one major fund raiser each year – Popcorn sales in the fall. We have other smaller fundraisers during the year as needed. Scouts and Scout families are expected to participate in ALL fundraisers. All of our fundraisers involve a considerable amount of planning, and we're always looking for volunteers to assist with that part of the fundraiser as well.

### What is a Scout expected to pay for?

- Dues – Dues are \$5/month (or \$60/year).
- Each Scout that attends an activity is expected to pay the fee for that activity. This varies from one activity to the next, but for campouts it is generally \$10 - \$20. Each scout that attends an activity is expected to pay the fee for that activity in advance. This varies from one activity to the next, but for campouts is generally a small fee per scout per meal plus any event, activity or camping fees. One scout typically serves as grub master for his patrol and needs to know the number of scouts attending to shop within his budget. Some events require non-refundable registration fees.
- Summer camp – Traditional camps generally cost between \$200 and \$300 for the entire week. High adventure camps typically involve considerably higher

fees as the cost of maintaining these camps is higher and the transportation costs may involve airfare.

- Camping gear – Scouts generally purchase their own camping gear. See Chapter 2 of this guide for suggestions relating to camping gear.
- Uniforms – Troop 86 Scouts will have their own uniforms. See Chapter 8 for more information.
- Important note – A boy’s Scouting experience should never be limited for financial reasons. A number of programs are available should a family need help to underwrite the costs of Scouting. Also, the troop’s “Scout Buck” program offers boys a means to raise money for Scouting related expenses. Contact the Scoutmaster for more information.
- A note on deadlines – Most payments have an associated deadline. This allows the troop to better plan participation – and is particularly important when the troop is committing funds for a particular event. Please ensure you make payments on time.

### **The Scout Buck Program**

- *What is a Scout Buck?* To help individual Scouts underwrite the cost of his Scouting experience, Troop 86 developed a “Scout Buck” program. The program sets aside a portion of the funds that Scouts earn for the troop during a fundraising event and places it in a “Scout Buck” account for the individual Scout, based on his participation in the fundraising event.
- *Where do Scout Bucks come from?* At this time, Popcorn is the only fundraiser eligible for Scout Bucks AND IS BASED ON EACH SCOUTS INDIVIDUAL SALES
- *What can Scout Bucks be used for?* Scout Bucks can be used for: 1) any type of Scouting fee (camping, camporees, dues); 2) Camping/hiking equipment that will be used for Scouting; 3) Scout uniforms; 4) or any other item that the Scoutmaster approves.
- *How are Scout Bucks redeemed?*
  - If a Scout wishes to use Scout Bucks for fees or dues, contact the troop treasurer directly.
  - If a Scout wishes to use Scout Bucks for Scout uniforms, bring the receipt to the troop treasurer and a check will be issued.
  - If a Scout wishes to use Scout Bucks for hiking/camping equipment he must get scoutmaster approval (this also enables the Scoutmaster to assist the Scout in purchasing the correct equipment). After purchase the receipt should be given to the troop treasurer and a check will be issued.
  - Redeeming Scout Bucks for any other purpose is at the sole discretion of the Scoutmaster. He will inform the troop treasurer of who should be receiving Scout Bucks and a check will be issued.
- *Who can redeem Scout Bucks?* Any Scout in good standing and who is active in the troop.

- *What happens when a Scout leaves the troop?* When a Scout moves on, Scout Bucks can be used to purchase equipment (with the Scoutmaster's approval) up to 30 days after the Scout gives the Scoutmaster notice that he will be leaving the troop. If the time period lapses; Scout Bucks revert to the general fund. If a Scout becomes inactive and the troop committee has determined that the Scout will remain inactive, the money reverts to the general fund.

## Chapter 13 - Service to Others

*“One more item is needed to complete success, and that is the rendering of service to others in the community.”*

*-- Lord Robert Baden-Powell*

One of the fundamental underpinnings of the Scouting program has always been service to others. While some Scout ranks require service hours for advancement, in Troop 86 we emphasize the importance of ongoing service – that service to others is not to be thought of as simply a requirement to be checked off. Scouts should report all of their service hours, not just those involving Scout activities. Citizenship and service are not something practiced once a week at Scout meetings, but represent traits that the Scouting program promotes at all times. The goal is to build solid citizens and service is an important part of that goal.

### What are Service Hours?

Service to others is simply that – when the service is given without remuneration or direct benefit to the Scout. Shoveling the snow from your neighbor’s walkway is not service if you get paid for it. Performing the work as a favor, without pay, constitutes service time. Here are a few examples of community service:

- Alter server in church
- Clean up or repair work at a church or community center
- Volunteer work in a food bank, community center, retirement home, or charity such as Habitat for Humanity, etc
- Reading to shut-ins
- Working on a conservation project
- Picking up trash along a highway
- Serving as a volunteer tutor for students

While it’s important to know what can be used as service hours, it’s also important to know what is NOT considered community service. Activities for which you’re paid are not generally considered as community service. Also, Boy Scout fundraising events where the beneficiary is the troop or Boy Scouting would NOT be community service. A fundraising event where all of the proceeds are turned over to a charity or another Scouting organization (such as Girl Scouts), however, would be community service. In Troop 86, working on our fundraisers are not community service, but time spent working on Eagle projects certainly is. Please ask one of the adult leaders if there are any questions in this area.

### Recording Service Hours

Recording service hours is simple. We have a form in the appendix to record those hours. Please note that the project should be approved **in advance** by one of the adult leaders. While this is not an absolute requirement, it eliminates confusion that

sometimes arises about what constitutes actual service hours. If we're working on a troop project (such as Scouting for Food or an Eagle project), the adult leaders will keep track of a Scout's participation and record the hours, so a special form need not be submitted.

## Chapter 14 – Medical Matters

The Scouting program is structured to be as safe as possible, but accidents can occur and with our “Be Prepared” motto, we want to do everything possible to ensure the tools are in place should an emergency arise. Many of our activities are outdoors and falls, scrapes, insect bites, splinters, etc are inevitable. The troop always takes a first aid kit on any outing and troop leaders will treat minor issues on the spot. With that in mind, however, leaders will need to know of any special needs, allergies, or other medical information that would affect a boy’s treatment. Please let us know before your son takes off on his first campout. If your child has a special need or health issue you need to put it on his medical form. This is not meant to label your child in any way. Outings are very busy sometimes and leaders cannot be expected to remember everything.

### Permission Slip

Before any Troop 86 activity parents are asked to fill out and sign a “consent form” listing emergency contact numbers, medical insurance information, and a release for the troop leaders, in an emergency, to seek medical attention for their sons. Because this information frequently changes, a new permission slip must be filled out for each activity. The slip for each activity can be printed out from the website or picked up at a troop meeting. Please have these turned in by the last troop meeting before the activity. Should a medical emergency occur, the troop leaders will make every reasonable effort to contact parents or others as specified on the permission slip; however, they will also take whatever immediate action they deem prudent. Our outdoor activities routinely occur in areas without cell phone coverage and quick access to professional medical care may not be an option.

### Summer Camps

BSA summer camps have on-site medical care – usually an EMT on duty around the clock. At camp all medical issues are handled by the camp medical staff. Camps require a completed, current medical form (see further information below) for each Scout and adult leader and a medical check is included as part of the in-processing at camp. If the medical form is missing or incomplete a Scout or leader cannot attend camp. There are **no** exceptions. We will **not** take a Scout or leader to camp that doesn’t have the proper medical form on file. Please ensure that a current form is turned in to our medical coordinator no later than the end of April for an upcoming summer camp.

### Prescription and Medications

The official BSA policy concerning prescription medications is as follows (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. 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.<sup>18</sup>

Our leaders will work with families to ensure that medication is properly dispensed. Please note that we will not dispense over the counter medications unless permission is given to do so. Most BSA Summer Camps if not all within the Greater Alabama Council require that meds be stored at camp medical office and be in the original bottles.

Greater Alabama Council procedures for medication at our most recent Summer Camps have been as follows:

All prescription medications must be turned into the camp medical staff. All prescription medications will be dispensed by an adult over 21. All medications must be in the original containers, marked with the Scout's name and troop number and original medication information. Do not cover up the information and instructions on the medication. Dosages and schedules to be followed in camp must be the same as on the package; changes must be stated in writing. Medication in pillboxes and non-original containers will not be accepted. Please send only enough medication for the doses that will be administered during the week at camp. The camp medical staff will work with the Scoutmaster to ensure that Scouts are taking their prescription medication. It is the primary responsibility of the Scout and his Scoutmaster to insure that medications are taken appropriately.<sup>19</sup>

## **BSA Medical Forms**

BSA has one medical form for all participants in the Scouting program. It is available on our website. In Troop 86 we will ask that you fill out a medical form when your son joins the troop and keep a current copy on file with the troop. We take current copies of all medical forms with us on each outing. Please ensure that any information that would be needed in an emergency situation is included on the form.

### *Parts A & C*

On the medical form Parts A & C are filled out **annually** by **anyone** participating in Boy Scout events (e.g. day camp, overnight camping, and other programs not exceeding 72 hours in length). This form is filled out by a parent for his or her son, or an adult participating in the Boy Scout activity. A parent's signature is required to complete this form (adults can sign for themselves). This form is extremely important as it authorizes medical treatment in an emergency situation. Again, every effort will be made to contact a parent or guardian before emergency treatment

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<sup>18</sup> Guide to Safe Scouting (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2007 Printing) 48.

<sup>19</sup> "Camp Sequoyah 2010 Leaders Guide" 13.

begins; however, it is vital that we have a medical release on file should we be unable to make contact.

### *Part B*

Part B of the medical form is also good for **one year** and is required for all participants in activities such as backpacking, tour camping, or recreational sports involving events lasting longer than 72 consecutive hours (e.g. regular summer camp). Part B records the results of a medical evaluation by a licensed health care provider (a physician).

Blank forms are available at troop meetings or can be downloaded from the web site. Medical forms are found on the “Links” page.

We are aware that medical forms contain sensitive personal information. All troop medical forms and permission slips are shredded when no longer needed.

## **Chapter 15 - Safety & Discipline**

Every effort is made to make the Scouting program as safe as possible. While adult leaders may sometimes allow Scouts to make mistakes as a learning experience, safety is never compromised and leaders will immediately intervene for any safety related issue.

### **Guide to Safe Scouting**

The bible of Scout safety is a pamphlet entitled, “The Guide to Safe Scouting.” The latest edition can be found on the BSA national website and is available for purchase at the Scout Store. The guide includes detailed guidelines for conducting various activities and lists prohibited activities (for example, the use of all-terrain vehicles, participation in boxing or martial arts activities, hang gliding, bungee jumping, and paintball are all prohibited activities).

Please note that in accordance with BSA or Troop 86 policies the following are prohibited at any time:

- Sheath knives
- Knives with blades longer than 4”
- Fireworks
- Illegal drugs
- Firearms (except under very narrow conditions when participating in a shooting activity)
- Swimming in an unauthorized area
- Use of tobacco products (while the use of tobacco products by adults is discouraged, adults can discretely use tobacco products away from Scouts)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Hazing of any type

### **Two Deep Leadership**

Boy Scout youth protection guidelines require at least two registered adult leaders or one registered leader and a parent of a participant, one of whom must be 21 years old, to be on all trips and activities. No one-on-one contact between adults and youth members is permitted (except in the case of parent-son). Troop 86 requires that all adult leaders with direct contact with Scouts have current BSA Youth Protection Training.

### **Discipline**

Although we hope to never implement disciplinary measures, the following extract from the troop by-laws should be familiar to all Troop 86 Scouts and their families:

- The “Golden Rule”, (MATT 7:12) will apply at all times to both scouts and parents, i.e. treat others the way you want to be treated.

- Illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco (outside of above guidelines) use is strictly prohibited and use of such during any Scouting activity by either a boy or adult will result in immediate expulsion from that activity and may result in further action by the troop committee.
- Inappropriate behavior is defined as behavior unbecoming a Scout (i.e., behavior not in accordance with the Scout Law, Scout Oath, or Outdoor Code) during meetings or activities. Continued inappropriate behavior will be referred to the troop committee for further action.
- The SPL's role is not to impose discipline, but to lead the troop. Although he does have the authority to settle minor disputes as he sees fit (with Scoutmaster approval), the Scoutmaster and/or Assistant Scoutmaster in charge will deal with major disputes or disturbances.
- For continuous inappropriate behavior at meetings or activities, a Scout may be put on probation.
- A probationary period can last up to one year. During that time, the presence of a parent or other adult who accepts responsibility for the Scout during any Scout activity may be required.
- When inappropriate behavior occurs at a Scout activity, parents may be called to pick up the Scout immediately.
- An adult leader who witnesses serious inappropriate behavior by a Scout will provide a written report to the Scout and his parents, the Scoutmaster, and troop committee. Upon receiving this report, the Scoutmaster, with the approval of the troop committee and the advice of the patrol leaders' council will counsel the Scout and determine an appropriate action. This can include limiting the Scout's participation in troop activities until the Scout's parents meet with the troop committee to resolve the issue.

## Chapter 16 - Other Miscellaneous Topics

There are always a few of those “cats and dogs” topics that don’t seem to fit elsewhere, so we gathered them together into this section.

### The Troop Calendar and Annual Planning Meeting

Every year, in the fall, there is a Troop Program Planning Conference where the schedule is made for the following year. The Scoutmaster shares a general outline of the annual troop program with the senior patrol leader (SPL), and they share ideas. The SPL then can share the outline with the patrol leader’s council, and each patrol leader can ask for input from their patrol members. After they have gotten input, the patrol leader’s council and other key troop leaders are ready to meet.

The Troop Program Planning Conference should be attended by the following troop leaders:

- Senior patrol leader
- Assistant senior patrol leader
- Patrol leaders
- Venture patrol leader
- Troop guide
- Scoutmaster
- Assistant Scoutmasters
- Junior assistant Scoutmasters<sup>20</sup>

Our general guidelines include:

- A monthly campout, usually Friday, Saturday and Sunday
- A monthly hike or cycle event, usually a Saturday only event
- Minimizing conflict with school holidays
- Attendance at both the fall and spring Talakto District camporees
- An outdoor winter campout in Jan/Feb

### Order of the Arrow

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is Scouting’s national honor society. More than 183,000 members strong, it recognizes those Scout and Scouter campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives, develops and maintains camping traditions and spirit, promotes Scout camping, and crystallizes the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others. The Order can help strengthen troops by providing leadership training and opportunities for OA members and by assisting in summer camp promotion, camporees, Scout shows, and other activities.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> The Scoutmaster Handbook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2008 Printing) 81.

<sup>21</sup> The Scoutmaster Handbook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2008 Printing) 149.

To become an Order of the Arrow member, a registered Boy Scout or Varsity Scout must hold the First Class rank or higher. He must have taken part in a minimum of 15 days and nights of Scout camping in a two-year period, including six days and five nights of resident camping at a local council or National Council facility operated and accredited by the Boy Scouts of America. Eligible Scouts must then be elected to the Order by other members of their troop or team, following approval by their Scoutmaster or Varsity Scout team Coach.<sup>22</sup>

## Special Awards

Boy Scouts can earn special awards from a wide variety of sources. Social groups, veteran's organizations, community groups, and many other organizations offer awards and prizes to Scouts. The award can range from a simple patch or certificate to cash prizes. Rules are often highlighted in Scouting magazines such as *Boys' Life* or flyers received by the troop. As these come up they're announced at troop meetings.

The Boy Scouts also have a number of awards to reflect Scout's achievements. A partial listing of these can be found on pages 430-431 of the *Boy Scout Handbook*.

Some of these are:

- **William T. Hornaday Awards** – The prestigious awards recognize Scouts, units, and Scouters for exceptional and unusual Scouting service to conservation and environmental quality. They come in five forms: Unit certificate, Badge, Bronze, Silver and Gold medals.<sup>23</sup>
- **50-Miler Awards** – The 50-Miler Award is presented to Scouts who hike, canoe, bicycle, ride horseback or otherwise cover 50 miles or more without using motorized transportation during a trek of at least five consecutive days. Each candidate for the award must also perform 10 hours of a conservation activity or otherwise improve the environment. The 50-Miler Award encourages troops to travel into backcountry or wilderness areas, to become physically fit, develop self-reliance, and improve the outdoors for others to enjoy.<sup>24</sup>
- **Historic Trails Award** – The Boy Scouts of America recognizes more than 200 historic trails throughout the nation. Some follow routes of Native Americans or early pioneers while others lead to historical landmarks. Scouts who camp and hike for two or more days along one of these trails, who become acquainted with their historical significance, and who help restore and preserve historic features are eligible for the Historic Trails Award, a distinctive patch that may be sewn on a pack or jacket. Trails meeting the specifications of the Boy Scouts of America are listed in the booklet

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<sup>22</sup> The Scoutmaster Handbook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2008 Printing) 149.

<sup>23</sup> The Scoutmaster Handbook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2008 Printing) 115.

<sup>24</sup> The Scoutmaster Handbook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2008 Printing) 115.

*Nationally Approved Historic Trails*, available at local council service centers.<sup>25</sup>

- **National Camping Award** – The National Camping Award is granted to Boy Scout troops for completing a certain number of days and nights of camping on either an annual or a cumulative basis. “Individual Scouts and Scouters may qualify for a National Camping Award patch, provided that the required cumulative number of days and nights of camping has been met. This total can include any combination of camping experiences with the Scout’s family, patrol, or troop.
  - 100 days and nights of camping
  - 250 days and nights of camping
  - 500 days and nights of camping
  - 1,000 days and nights of camping”<sup>26</sup>

Many summer camps offer awards for fulfillment of certain criteria while at the camp. Scouts, troops, or patrols can earn recognition for completion of an established set of requirements. Examples include: mile swim, shooting awards for rifle, shotgun and bow competitions.

Each major religion sponsors a religious emblem that Scouts can earn. These are administered by the religious organizations themselves and the requirements are laid out by the religious organization’s central leadership.

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<sup>25</sup> The Scoutmaster Handbook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2008 Printing) 115.

<sup>26</sup> The Scoutmaster Handbook (1998 Boy Scouts of America, 2008 Printing) 115.

## Chapter 17 - Expectations of Scouts and Parents

*"The spirit is there in every boy; it has to be discovered and brought to light."  
- Lord Robert Baden-Powell*

### Scouts

- Live by the Scout Oath and Law
- Support the Scouting program in word and deed
- Obey and respect Scout and adult leaders
- Arrive for activities on time and be prepared for the activity
- Encourage other boys to join Scouting
- Treat fellow Scouts and adult leaders with respect
- Continue to advance
- Be an active participant in the troop
- Fulfill the requirements of any leadership position you accept
- Respect the uniform and wear it properly

### Parents

- Support your son's Scouting activities
  - Help him to meet the expectations of a Scout, as listed above
  - Monitor his advancement in the program and provide encouragement and guidance
  - Ensure he is prepared for activities and arrives on time
  - Allow him to grow – **do not do his work for him**
  - Ensure he follows through on his commitments
  - Be aware of the obligations of leadership and ensure he follows through on those obligations
  - Try to de-conflict family obligations with Scouting activities
  - Ensure payments are made on time and that all required paperwork (e.g. permission slips, medical forms) are completed and turned in by established deadlines
- Support the troop
  - Become involved in the troop at some level
  - Complete Scouting's basic adult training
  - Actively participate in fundraising activities

## Chapter 18 – Scoutmaster’s Closing Comments

In my role of Scoutmaster I’ve been asked “what constitutes a successful Scout?” The question really has no answer. Scouting is a personal experience and appeals to different boys in different ways. As adults, we also define success in many ways – some seek high position, some measure success in terms of income, others may be motivated by a sense of discovery – “success” can be an elusive term to quantify. If I were to offer one definition of success as a Scout, it would simply be that a man look back on his Scouting experience with a smile and know that he’s a better man for having been a Scout.

To Scouts, set your goals and stick to them. You’ll feel better about yourself as you make your way through the program. Start with achieving the First Class rank – that marks you as a “complete Scout” – you’ve learned the basic skills of Scouting that will serve you well for the rest of your life. Help others. Try to participate in as many Scouting activities as you can. It’s through activities – particularly outdoor activities – that you grow. But, above all, have fun. Life is an adventure. Enjoy the ride.

For parents, in Scouting you have a unique opportunity. Actuarial tables tell us that the life expectancy in the US these days is about 77.6 years. Your son’s time in Scouting will only represent about 9% of that total. You have a short sliver of time to share Scouting experiences together – to enjoy life’s ride side by side. What could be better than doing so away from the distractions of modern life where you can share in the most simple and basic ways. Scouting isn’t just for the boys – it’s for all of us.

Scouting is a wonderful program and offers boys tremendous opportunities to grow as individuals, practice leadership by actually being leaders, learn skills that they’ll use throughout their lives, and develop as solid citizens. As with anything else in life, however, results are directly proportional to commitment. The most successful Scouts are motivated and nearly always have the strong backing of a committed family. In Troop 86 we have dedicated leaders who will work diligently with our Scouts to help them achieve their potential, but getting the most out of the program takes an active partnership among parents, Scouts, and Scouting leaders. Working together we can maximize the benefit of the program for our troop and our Scouts.

Happy Scouting!

David Silvernail, Scoutmaster

## **Appendix**

### **Car Camping Checklist**

This is the basic checklist that boys should use when packing for camping when we can park close to the campsite.

### **Service Project Report**

Use this form to record service hours – when filled out turn in to the Scoutmaster.

## Troop 86 Car Camping Checklist

*These are suggestions - delete items if not needed (e.g. you're not likely to need swim trunks on a winter camping trip)*

### Pack

- Backpack or duffel
- Pack cover

### Shelter

- Tent (including poles, stakes, rain fly)
- Ground cloth for tent
- Stake hammer
- Tent broom

### Sleeping Gear

- Sleeping Bag (or lightweight covers)
- Pad or Inflatable Mattress
- Pillow or Inflatable Pillow

### Things to Wear

- Poncho or other rain gear
- Footwear
  - Sneakers
  - Comfortable hiking boots
  - River shoes (or old sneakers)
  - Socks (for hiking, include sock liners)
- Appropriate Scout uniform. If req'd, Class A uniform includes:
  - Shirt with proper patches
  - Pants (Troop 86 option: khaki pants or blue jeans)
  - Boy Scout socks
  - Hat
  - Neckerchief (red with black trim)
  - Neckerchief slide
  - Belt w/buckle
- Class B T-shirts
- Pants and shirts
- Jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt
- Undershirts, underpants, and socks
- Swim trunks
- Pajamas

### Toilet Kit containing:

- Soap
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Toilet paper
- Comb or brush

- Towel

### **Cooking gear**

- Cup
- Bowl
- Knife, fork, spoon
- Rinse bag

### **Other Miscellaneous Gear**

- Scout knife & pouch
- Handkerchief or bandana
- Insect repellent
- Sun screen
- Lip balm (w/UV protection)
- Compass
- Sunglasses (w/UV protection)
- Regular glasses (if you need them)
- Emergency whistle
- *Boy Scout Handbook*
- Rope (nylon cord)
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries for flashlight
- Extra lamp for flashlight
- Pencil, pen, notebook
- Personal first aid kit
- Canteen or water bottle
- Ziplock bags, plastic bags

### **Optional, but useful**

- Binoculars
- Camera
- Extra film
- Reading material
- Personal chair
- Non-electronic, small game (e.g. cards, chess)
- Work gloves
- Money for trading post or dinner on the road

