

# Guide to Troop 50

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**Boy Scouts of America**  
Troop 50  
Springboro, OH

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# Purpose Of Scouting

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## Purpose Of Scouting

Boy Scouts of America was incorporated in 1910 and chartered by Congress in 1916 to provide an educational program for boys and young adults. Its educational aims and the unique methods that achieve those aims define Boy Scouts.

### The Aims of Scouting

To Build Character  
**Self-reliance**  
**Self-discipline**  
**Self-confidence**  
**Self-respect**

To Foster Citizenship  
**Community**  
**Nation**  
**World**

To Develop Fitness  
**Physical**  
**Mental**  
**Emotional**  
**Moral**

### The Eight Methods of Scouting

#### *Ideals*

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

#### **The Scout Oath**

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

#### **The Scout Slogan**

Do a good turn daily.

#### **The Scout Motto**

Be prepared.

#### **The Scout Law**

A Scout is **TRUSTWORTHY**  
**LOYAL.**  
**HELPFUL.**  
**FRIENDLY.**  
**COURTEOUS.**  
**KIND.**  
**OBEDIENT.**  
**CHEERFUL.**  
**THRIFTY.**  
**BRAVE.**  
**CLEAN.**  
**REVERENT.**

## *Patrols*

The patrol method is at the core of Boy Scouting. Each patrol has its own name, membership, leadership, regular meetings, and monthly activities. A patrol is a group of three to eight boys with one elected as its leader. That boy serves on the Patrol Leader's Council to represent the patrol in planning and carrying out the troop activities.

## *Outdoor Program*

Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at the troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and our place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Boy Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

## *Advancement*

**RANK:** Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge and advances in rank.

The first three ranks are achieved by demonstrating Scout craft skills:

**Tenderfoot**       $\longrightarrow$       **Second Class**       $\longrightarrow$       **First Class**

The last three are achieved through assuming leadership positions and earning merit badges:

**Star**       $\longrightarrow$       **Life**       $\longrightarrow$       **Eagle Scout**

The requirements for advancing in rank are clearly outlined in *The Boy Scout Handbook*. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

**MERIT BADGES:** Through the Scout Merit Badge Plan, Scouts have the opportunity to explore many new subjects, from Cinematography to Life Saving, from Climbing to Public Speaking and dozens of other areas. All the badges available are listed in *The Boy Scout Handbook*. To acquire a Merit Badge, a Scout must fulfill the requirements of increased knowledge, new skills development and performing services as outlined in the *pamphlet* for that specific badge work.

For many Scouts, Merit Badge work has started them on a lifelong hobby and even opened up career possibilities.

### *Adult Association*

Boy Scouts learn from the example set by their adult leaders. Troop leaders may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage of a young man's development. Adults provide a safe haven. Per Troop policy, there will be 1 adult for every 7 boys, and per BSA policy there will be a minimum of 2 adults, one of which will be a registered leader over 21, at each Troop function.

### *Personal Growth*

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

### *Leadership Development*

The Boy Scout program encourages Scouts to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations, within the Troop and within the Patrol. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a Scout accept the leadership role of others and guides him towards the citizenship aim of Scouting.

### *Uniform*

The uniform makes the Boy Scout Troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program. Wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Boy Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting.

The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth that believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Scout activities and provides a way for Scouts to wear the rank and badges that show what they have accomplished.

The uniform is to be worn as described on page 13 of the Scout Handbook and does include pants and socks. Troop 50's uniform policy consists of the official uniform shirt and pants with the following accessories: red shoulder bars, scout belt, and scout socks. Shoes should be conservative. Sandals are not permitted.

All scouts will be in uniform at Scout meetings and activities, and when the Troop is involved in public activities. A uniform is required for a Scoutmaster conference and Board of Review. The merit badge sash will be worn on special occasions such as a Court of Honor. At the last Tuesday meeting of the month, Scouts may wear a scouting related T-shirt and the official uniform shorts and official Scout socks.

Uniforms will be inspected at Troop meetings and at other special meetings as desired by the Senior Patrol and the Scoutmaster. New Scouts have until summer camp to have their full uniforms and begin to participate in inspections.

## Trail to First Class

### Take and Make the Opportunity for Advancement

Each Scout advances at his own pace according to his own initiative with the help and encouragement of the other Scouts. The key to advancement is the understanding of the different requirements for each rank advancement and taking advantage of the numerous opportunities for advancement.

The *first three ranks* of Scouting

Tenderfoot      →      Second Class      →      First Class

are focused on learning Scout Craft skills. These skills enable a Scout to be prepared for every kind of adventure in the great outdoors and on the trail to Eagle.

Summer Camp provides a Boy Scout the fastest path to First Class. It is not uncommon for a new Scout to leave Summer Camp with Tenderfoot completed, Second Class mostly done, if not completed, and most of First Class done. On top of this, Summer Camp provides a new Scout the opportunity to earn part of the next rank, Star, through the completion of Merit Badges.

***Troop 50's goal is that every boy has ample opportunity to reach First Class within a year.***

During the course of a year, Troop 50's program will provide opportunity for every boy who fully participates in Troop activities to reach First Class. Most of these opportunities occur on the monthly campouts, but some occur during Troop meetings. This means that between Summer Camp and Troop activities, a first year Scout will generally have two or more opportunities for rank advancement.

But on top of this, each Scout is part of a patrol that will provide additional opportunities for advancement. Often a Boy Scout that is eager to advance will ask his Patrol Leader to have a patrol campout or hike so that he can get requirements signed off. Likewise, a good Patrol Leader will know what the members of his patrol need to do to advance to the next rank and will plan patrol activities to help get each boy to First Class.

### Learn and demonstrate the skills.

Boy Scouts is boy led. Each Boy Scout on the trail to First Class learns from boys who have gone on the journey before them. Scouting is more caught than taught. In the context of learning to live and work in his patrol in the great outdoors, a boy learns skills naturally. To build a fire, wood needs to be cut. To cut wood, woods tools need to be properly used. To cook a meal, means that the meal was planned and food was purchased. All these things are handed down from Boy Scout to Boy Scout.

When a Scout demonstrates a skill, not as a test, but as a skill applied to a real situation, he is ready to have that skill requirement signed. Tying a square knot after several failed attempts does not demonstrate skill, but securing a load with a square knot does.

## Get the requirement signed.

As a Boy Scout advances, he keeps record of it in The Boy Scout Handbook. When he has demonstrated a skill he should ask to have that skill requirement “signed off.”

A Boy Scout who is at least 2 ranks ahead signs off skill requirements. Example, a Scout who is at least Second Class may sign off a requirement for a Scout trying to achieve Tenderfoot.

Adults sign only a few requirements on the trail to First Class. The Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster will sign the Scoutmaster’s Conference and the Show Scout Spirit requirements. All the members of the Board of Review will sign the Board of Review requirement. At the end of Summer Camp, the camp staff will provide our Troop Advancement Chairperson with a list of completed requirements, which he/she will record.

The requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class may be signed as they are accomplished and can be worked upon simultaneously. However, a Boy Scout must earn the ranks in order. Merit Badges may be earned at any time.

## Have the signed requirements officially recorded in the Troop Advancement Record

The official record of advancement is kept in two places:

- in each boy’s The Boy Scout Handbook
- in the Troop Advancement Record.

Each Scout must take the initiative to keep both records up to date. The Advancement Committee Chairperson keeps the Troop Advancement Record and will update it when the Scout has completed all the requirements for rank (except “Scoutmaster’s Conference,” “Show Scout Spirit,” and “Board of Review”) or more frequently.

Once all requirements for rank have been recorded, the Scout should request a printout of the official Troop Advancement Record from the Troop Advancement Chairperson. He will also schedule a Scoutmaster’s Conference with the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster, preferably the one that mentors his patrol, and schedule a Board of Review with the Troop Advancement Chairperson.

## Have a Scoutmaster’s Conference

Next step: the Scout sets up an appointment with the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster, preferably the Patrol’s mentor. While the conference can be at any time, it is usually scheduled to be before or after the Troop Meeting. At that meeting the boy must be in full Scout Uniform and bring his copy of the Troop Advancement Record and the record in his Scout Handbook.

Meeting with adults can be intimidating at first for any boy. However, the Scoutmaster’s Conference is an opportunity for a Scout and the Scoutmaster to get to know each other better. At that meeting they will talk about the boy’s progress in the troop and discuss how the troop can better serve the boy and how the boy can better serve the troop. They will also talk about what is Scout Spirit and how it can be and is demonstrated in daily living. Finally, they will work out a plan for advancement for the next rank and to prepare for the board of review.

When the conference is completed, the Scoutmaster will date and initial the Troop Advancement Record and the Scout’s handbook.

## Show Scout Spirit

For every Rank Advancement, the Scout must demonstrate Scout Spirit. Scout Spirit is embodied in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout Motto and the Scout Slogan. It is demonstrated when these ideals become a boy's natural response to everyday situations. A boy's interest and participation in the life of his Patrol and Troop also demonstrate Scout Spirit. One sign of a boy's Scout Spirit is the pride with which he wears his uniform.

## Participate in a Board of Review

The Scout is ready for the Board of Review. The Scout will make arrangements with the Troop Advancement Chairperson to have a Board of Review. Typically, the review will be after a Troop meeting. The Advancement Chairperson will arrange for several Troop Committee members to attend. The Scout will need to bring the Troop Advancement Record and his Boy Scout Handbook, which have been signed by the Scoutmaster, and he will be in full Scout Uniform.

## Receive the Rank Badge

Usually a Boy Scout will receive his rank badge the night he finishes his Board of Review. On occasion, he will be presented with it at the next Troop meeting. However, we wish to honor all the boys' rank advancements publicly at a Court of Honor.

## Be Honored at the Court of Honor

Troop 50 holds a Court of Honor every three months, in

**March**  
**June**  
**September**  
**December**

A Court of Honor is a special celebration of the achievements of the boys in the Troop. Also, installation of Junior Leaders takes place at the March and September Courts of Honor.

Family and friends are invited to applaud as each boy receives public recognition of his rank advancement, merit badges and special awards. Every boy who achieves rank will recognize his mother or father with a rank lapel pin. At the March Court of Honor, we honor all the Webelos who crossed over into the troop in the spring.

### **Achieve the Rank of Eagle and be Honored at an Eagle Ceremony**

The highest achievement in Boy Scouts is to earn the rank of Eagle. We hold special Eagle Courts of Honor to honor just that Eagle Scout. The Eagle ceremony is the culmination of years of work. It is important to the Scout, Parents, Troop members, and Troop leaders that receiving an Eagle Rank be recognized through an Eagle Ceremony (not necessarily in an Eagle Court of Honor). An Eagle Rank will not be presented to the Scout outside of an Eagle Ceremony.

An Eagle Ceremony may occur at:

1. An individual Eagle Court of Honor
2. A joint Eagle Court of Honor with another Scout
3. A Troop Court of Honor
4. A Troop Meeting (to be avoided if possible)

An Eagle Ceremony consists of (at a minimum):

1. Award presentation to the Scout
2. Award presentation to a parent
3. Recitation of the Eagle Charge

The Ceremony's program, location, date, formality, props, letters of recognition, cost, reception (if desired), attendee invitations and all other arrangements are the responsibility of the family. However, the Eagle Coordinator and Scoutmaster will provide guidance in planning and creating the ceremony and in making other arrangements, if desired by the family. In addition, the Troop and Troop leaders will participate in the ceremony, if desired by the family.

Because the Eagle ceremony is a major event in the life of a Scout, it requires proper planning. Listed below are the specific procedures in preparing for the event:

1. The Eagle Coordinator will inform the Scout and Parents of this procedure and the Troop's policy.
2. Upon completing the Eagle Scout application and delivering the application to the Council, the Scout will provide the Troop Advancement Chair with the form.
3. The Eagle Coordinator will meet with the Scout and parent in a timely manner to discuss options for presenting the Eagle award.
4. Upon notification by Council to the Scoutmaster that the applicant's Eagle Award package may be picked up at the Council office, the Scoutmaster will notify the advancement Chair.
5. The Advancement Chair or other designee will pick up the package from Council and retain it until the Eagle Ceremony. The Troop pays the cost of the award package (current cost is \$35).
6. The Eagle Coordinator will reinitiate contact with the Scout and Parents to finalize the Eagle Ceremony if needed.
7. The Parents and Scout will arrange for the Eagle Ceremony to occur.
8. The Advancement Chair will have the Scouts name engraved and added to the Troop 50 Eagle Scout plaque.

### *Role of Adults in Advancement*

While Boy Scouts is boy led, adults have many and important roles in each boy's advancement. Most important are parents who take interest in their son's advancement and help him see and take opportunities that lead to advancement. Most advancement takes place outdoors. In order to have a full outdoor program, parents from each family typically go on two or more monthly events a year.

The Scouts who transfer their skills to the younger Scouts learned the skills initially from other Scouts. The Scoutmaster's Corp hones that skill by providing training of the Junior Leaders: the Senior Patrol Leader, the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, the Patrol Leaders, and the appointed leaders.

## Troop Organization

### Patrols

The basic unit in Scouting is the Patrol, consisting of about 8 boys working together, including an elected Patrol Leader and his appointed assistant. Everything that a Boy Scout does he does as part of the Patrol. For Troop Campouts, the Patrol will plan, tent, cook, eat and work together. Within the patrol, every boy counts and is appointed to Patrol Grubmaster, Cheermaster, Quartermaster, Chaplain's Aide, Scribe, or to whatever else is needed. Often these duties are rotated.

Teamwork is very evident in the Patrol and the Patrol works best when the whole team is present. Scouting is no less a team effort than sports, and regular attendance is vital. This is especially true for campouts. Attendance is noted at each meeting and event, and Scouts should notify their Patrol Leader if they will be absent.

We live in a community where boys have many competing demands on their time. Many opportunities exist outside school, including sports, church, performing arts and Scouting. Within limits, we want our youth to have many different experiences. We try, as often as possible, to plan around other community activities. Nevertheless, Scouts must give Scouting a high priority, and occasionally be willing to miss a game, practice, etc. for a major Scout event where full Patrol participation is critical.

### Troop

All Patrols meet regularly as a Troop, for skills development, games, competition and fun. The *Senior Patrol Leader* (SPL) is the youth leader of the Troop. Elected by the Troop, he will be an experienced Scout who has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, and will usually be a Life or Eagle Scout. The SPL appoints an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) to assist him. The SPL also appoints other youth leadership positions include Quartermaster, Scribe, Librarian, Chaplain's Aide and Bugler.

Other leadership positions are created by the Scoutmaster from time to time, to meet specific needs.

### Patrol Leaders' Council

The Senior Patrol Leader leads the Patrol Leader's Council in the planning of Troop Activities, on an annual basis, the PLC plans the annual calendar and on a monthly basis determines how to execute that plan. Membership consists of the Senior Patrol Leader, the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, the Troop Scribe, and all the Patrol Leaders.

### Scoutmaster's Corp

The senior adult leader for the Troop is the Scoutmaster (SM) who is elected by the Troop Committee. He appoints several Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM) to assist him. These adults represent a large body of Scouting experience and have attended leader training. ASMs may be assigned to a Patrol to act as their Advisor and Mentor, on Advancement, Outdoor Activities, recruiting, etc.

The Scoutmaster's Corp works closely with the Patrol Leaders Council to plan and execute the activities of the Troop. They provide adult guidance and supervision, experience and maturity, counseling and mentoring, encouragement and teaching, and ensure organization and order.

They often develop privileged relationships with the Scouts and become trusted friends and valuable role models outside the home for Scouts as they become teenagers and young adults. They are carefully selected by the Scoutmaster and approved by the Troop Committee. These positions are all voluntary, yet these leaders devote

many hours to Scouting each month. The adult leaders supervise the youth Scout leaders, but they let the Scouts run the Troop, interceding only when necessary for the safety and welfare of the Scouts.

## Troop Committee

The Troop Committee consists of:

- parents of Scouts
- representatives from the Chartering Organization
- representatives from the community, who volunteer to help organize and support the activities of the Troop, as planned by the Patrol Leaders' Council.

The Scoutmaster Corp acts as the liaison between the Patrol Leaders' Council and the Troop Committee. The committee is like the Board of Directors, and the Scoutmaster Corp are like the management of a company.

The ***Troop Committee meets monthly*** at Saint Francis Episcopal Church on the first Tuesday of each month from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, under the leadership of the Committee Chairperson. ***All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.***

The committee works behind the scenes to support the Scoutmaster Corp, to support the Troop fundraisers, to keep the books and administer our finances, to plan and organize Boards of Review and Courts of Honor where the Scout's advancement is reviewed and publicly recognized, to coordinate with our local government and schools, to recruit new Scouts, to plan special events, and to communicate the Troop activities to the Chartering Organization and the community.

## Chartering Organization

The ***Saint Francis Episcopal Church*** is currently the Charter Partner for Troop 50.

Some of the responsibilities of the Chartering Organization include:

- appointing a Charter Representative to the Troop Committee
- appointing the Troop Committee Chairperson
- providing a minimum of three Troop Committee members
- submitting candidates for Scoutmaster to the Troop Committee
- providing meeting facilities
- providing necessary insurance for the safety and well being of the members of the Troop

The Chartering Organization owns all the Troop equipment.

## Parents

The most important thing a parent can do for the Troop is to give their Scout encouragement and express an interest for his efforts in the Scouting program. Parents are encouraged to help their son plan the course of his advancement and attend the Courts of Honor to publicly acknowledge his accomplishments and those of the other Scouts. The benefits derived from Scouting should repay a parent's efforts many times over.

The parent must support the functions of the Troop Committee. This can range from teaching of merit badges to helping with the fundraisers. ***Without parents' help, the Troop cannot continue to grow and meet the needs of Scouts.***

Many fundraisers, projects, campouts, and other events for the troop are regularly announced in the monthly Troop newsletter. Perhaps the nicest thing parents can do is to call the person in charge of the event and volunteer.

***Please don't wait to be called and asked to help.  
Volunteer for service when you can.***

The Troop depends on parents for transportation to Scouting events. Regardless of how good a Troop is, a few dedicated parents cannot run it. We need all parents to participate! For this reason, membership in Troop 50 carries with it an obligation for the parents of each Scout to contribute a few hours each month to the operation of the Troop, either as a member of the committee, an Assistant Scoutmaster, or a volunteer on special activities. With each parent committing a small amount of time, the burden of operation is shared, and we can accomplish much.

## **Troop Meetings**

The Troop Meetings are normally held year-round once a week on

***Tuesday night from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM***

in the Meeting Room at Saint Francis Episcopal Church. Meetings are not held if Springboro Schools happen to be closed that day (holiday, snow day, etc.); however, meetings are held all summer. Since Saint Francis is a polling place, on election nights an alternate activity will be planned.

## **Monthly Troop Outdoor Adventures**

The Troop goes camping nearly every month. Most of these outings are within a two-hour drive of Springboro. Campouts offer the Scouts the chance to use and develop their outdoor skills, develop self-reliance, see interesting and beautiful country, and work together to accomplish Patrol and Troop Goals. Patrols plan their own meals, within cost guidelines, buy their own food, and cook as a Patrol. The cost of these campouts will vary (average \$15.00) depending on the activities planned.

The Troop also goes on yearly outings such as Dan Beard Council's Ski Day and the Klondike Derby.

## **Summer Camp**

The highlight of the Scout year is summer camp. The Troop does its summer camp at full facility camps, where central showers and improved campsites are provided. These camps have full staffs for instruction and guidance, and our leaders accompany the Troop. Much of the advancement; i.e. rank advancement, merit badges and junior leadership, is accomplished during this week.

## **Patrol Meetings**

Patrols have meetings to prepare for campouts, to prepare for their turn at leading the Troop Meeting, to work on advancement, and to plan for patrol activities. Typically, these will take place just before or after Troop Meetings, occasionally, during a Troop Meeting (when a part of the Troop Meeting Agenda) or at a time and place convenient to the patrol members.

## **Monthly Patrol Activities**

Patrols are encouraged to plan monthly activities. Some typical activities include campouts, hiking, swimming, canoeing and bowling.

## **Service Projects**

The Troop participates in service projects to benefit the local community and Scouting, such as the Jonathan Wright Market Day Food project (held monthly). These projects offer Scouts the opportunity to give something back and fulfill civic obligations.

## **High Adventure**

We try to have a least one high adventure every other year. In the past we have gone camping at the premier National Boy Scout Camp Philmont, sailing at Sea Base in Florida, canoeing on the Boundary Waters in Minnesota and Canada and hiking the Appalachian Trail. High adventures typically have age and skill requirements that must be met in order to ensure safety of all participants. Usually, a Scout must be 13 years old and at least First Class. Sometimes a Scout must earn specific merit badges such as Swimming, Canoeing, and First Aid.

## **Fundraisers**

Boy Scouts are encouraged to be Thrifty and pay their own way through the Scout program. To this end we provide the boys with excellent opportunities to raise money via fundraisers. Currently, we hold a garage sale in early June. Typically, boys average \$100 each in sales, and many make much more. In the fall, we hold our traditional wreath sale. Boys can easily earn enough to pay for the entire year of Scouting, including uniforms as they are outgrown. Some boys earn enough to also pay for the biennial High Adventure.

## **Courts of Honor**

Courts of Honor are Troop gatherings to recognize advancement, scheduled quarterly at Saint Francis Episcopal Church. They often honor Eagle Scouts for their great achievement. Courts of Honor are very important events for Scouts, and attendance of their fellow Scouts is vital to motivating them onwards and to showing the new Scouts the rewards for achievement. Parents are asked to stand up with their Scouts as they receive their awards, so please attend!

## **Patrol Leaders' Council**

The Patrol leaders, Troop Scribe and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader meet at least once a month with the Senior Patrol Leader for a Patrol Leaders Council to plan meetings and other Troop activities.

## **Troop 50 Privacy Statement, Talent Release, and Website Policy**

Troop 50 is committed to respecting the individual privacy of each of our scouts, leaders and their families. Troop 50 is committed to a policy that provides for the confidentiality, security and integrity of the information and photographs/film/video tapes/electronic representations and/or sound recordings of its members.

In accordance with the Privacy Statement and Web Site Policy of Troop 50, Troop 50 may collect and use certain Personal Information as well as photographs/film/video tapes/electronic representations and sound recordings of scouts and their families for the furtherance of the scouting goals and principles of Troop 50. Such uses may include, but are not limited to, publication in the Troop 50 newsletter, inclusion in a private, password-protected area of the Troop 50 web site and publicity materials for general distribution in the community such as newspapers.

Personal Information and/or photographs/film/video tapes/electronic representations and sound recordings in respect of youth participants in a Troop 50 activity will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Statement and Web Site Policy of the Troop and the standards of the Boy Scouts of America.

The purpose of the Troop 50 web site is to facilitate the distribution of information relating to Troop 50, its events, and activities to the Scout Family of Troop 50 and its prospective members. All information and statements posted to the Troop 50 web site shall be in accordance with the principles of scouting, the Scout Oath and Law.

For more information, please see the complete Troop 50 Privacy Statement and Website Policy and the Troop 50 Privacy and Talent Release form, available from the Troop Membership Chairperson or the Troop website at [www.troop50bsa.org](http://www.troop50bsa.org).

# Outdoor Adventure Checklist

## Outdoor Adventure Checklist

On every adventure a Scout should have “Scout Outdoor Essentials” and be appropriately clothed for the weather and the event. Generally speaking, a Scout should have an emergency change of clothes in addition to the clothes he is wearing and he should have a change of shirt, socks and underwear for each additional day of the event. Pants and shorts can be worn for 2 days each. On overnight adventures, each Scout should bring a mess kit and a personal cleanup kit.

### Basic Gear

#### *Scout Outdoor Essentials*

**Pocket Knife**  
**Personal First Aid Kit**  
**Rain Gear**  
**Canteen**  
**Flashlight**  
**Trail Food**  
**Matches and Fire Starters**  
**Sun Protection**  
**Map and Compass**  
**Scout Handbook**

#### *Mess kit*

**Knife**  
**Fork**  
**Spoon**  
**Bowl**  
**Cup**

#### *Camping Gear*

**Backpack and rain cover**  
**Sleeping bag**  
**Sleeping pad**

#### *Personal cleanup kit*

**Soap**  
**Washcloth**  
**Towel**  
**Toothbrush**  
**Toothpaste**  
**Dental floss**  
**Comb**

### Clothing

#### *Warm Weather Clothes*

**Liner socks**  
**Hiking socks**  
**Underwear**  
**Hiking shorts**  
**Long pants**  
**Short sleeved shirt or T-shirt**  
**Sweater, vest or jacket**  
**Hiking boots or sturdy shoes**

#### *Cold weather clothes*

**Liner socks**  
**Hiking socks**  
**Underwear**  
**Long pants**  
**Long sleeved shirt**  
**Sweater or vest**  
**Hiking boots or sturdy shoes**  
**Long underwear**  
**Warm, hooded coat**  
**Warm hat**  
**Gloves**

## Guide to Equipment

### Personal Equipment

Perhaps nowhere is it more important to “Be Prepared” than *when camping*. The outdoor program is one of the 8 methods of scouting and it provides the greatest opportunity for meeting the aims of Scouting. “Scouting is outing” and “Get out and stay out” are common Scouting clichés. Every month of the year, in every kind of weather, Troop 50 provides outdoor activities, all kinds of activities. To enjoy these activities safely, it is important to be properly equipped. The equipment needed varies according to the event, the weather and the season.

Boy Scouts represent that age where a boy is likely to grow a foot or more from 11 years old when he starts Scouts to 18 years old when he becomes an adult Scouter. Very few Scouts wear out their equipment; they outgrow it. With this in mind, it is important to have a long-range plan that balances a Scout’s unpredictable growth spurts with the cost, durability, comfort and quality of needed equipment. Sharing of equipment (i.e. hand-me-downs) is an affordable way of equipping a Scout.

Equipment should not be purchased all at once but should be spread over time, purchased on an “as needed” basis. For example, when a Scout needs a new pair of shorts, purchase a pair that work well for Scouting. When fall comes and it is time to buy long johns, look for the kind described below. While a Scout needs a compass, knife, flashlight, etc., these should be purchased only after the Scout has seen what other Scouts have. This is the best way for a Scout to learn what works best for him.

### Clothing

*Layering* is the key to comfort in camping. The fundamental principal of layering is that by adding or removing layers a Scout can adjust more readily to change. Wearing layers of clothes provides the Scout with the ability to fine tune comfort by add or remove clothes. When looking for clothes that are suitable for Scouting, consider clothes that dry quickly, are lightweight, comfortable, warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Generally speaking, synthetics do this best. Generally speaking, cotton should be avoided. It holds perspiration next to the body, does not dry readily when wet, does not retain heat well, and is relatively heavy. Below are some things to consider when purchasing clothing for a Scout. Not all clothing that a Scout uses on an outdoor adventure is listed.

#### *Boots*

Boots are appropriate footwear for all outdoor Scouting events. Boots protect the ankle from sprains and cuts. Boots should be lightweight, water resistant or waterproof and comfortable. In winter, boots should be warm and allow for thick socks.

#### *Shoes*

On a dry day, shoes are very comfortable for wearing around camp and for walking from place to place. They are not very appropriate for hiking, for exploring creeks and ponds or for rainy days.

#### *Socks*

The proper choice and wearing of socks can prevent blisters and increase comfort. With boots two pairs of socks should be worn at all times. The inner sock should be a thin liner sock usually made of polypropylene. The outer sock should be either a synthetic sock, possibly a wool blend. Many Scouts find that buying the outer sock a little big is much more comfortable.

Blisters are caused when the sweaty foot moves inside the boot. By wearing liner socks, perspiration is wicked away from the foot to the outer sock and the outer sock rubs against the liner sock. The outer sock should be appropriately thick. In winter it should be a heavy sock, fall and spring call for a medium weight sock and a lightweight sock is appropriate for summer. Outer socks with terrycloth-like looping on the inside work best for keeping the foot dry and comfortable.

### *Pants*

Pants should be loose fitting to allow air circulation during the summer and layering during the winter. A belt is indispensable for holding a knife case as well as holding up the pants. A lightweight twill of a 65/35 polyester cotton blend works well. Scouts are especially fond of cargo pockets. Heavy cotton canvas pants (that is, jeans) are appropriate for fair, dry weather. ***Camouflage is not allowed.***

### *Shorts*

Shorts should be multifunctional. Cargo pockets are a good place for stowing a compass and a flashlight. A belt is good for keeping up the shorts and holding a knife case. Often on a hike, Boy Scouts will often go wading or swimming. On these occasions, a Scout appreciates shorts that dry quickly.

### *Underwear*

The choice of underwear is a matter of personal preference. For health, it is important to change underwear often.

### *Long johns*

During three seasons of the year, long johns tops and pants should be packed for every campout. Cotton and cotton blends should be avoided. Other than being wet, nothing can ruin a campout more than being cold.

### *Long sleeved Shirt*

A long sleeved shirt is appropriate year-round. During the cool and cold seasons, it is an effective part of layering. Some like turtle necks; others a warm flannel. This is largely a matter of personal preference. However, a shirt that is high in cotton should be avoided. During the summer, a long sleeved shirt can provide warmth on a cool night and can prevent sunburn on a bright day.

### *Hat*

During the summer, a hat or cap will keep sun out of the eyes and off the nose. A broad brimmed hat will also protect the ears and back of the neck from sunburn and will keep rain from dripping down the neck. During winter, a hat should at least cover the top of the head and ears.

### *Gloves*

Look for warm, thin, waterproof gloves with a leather palm and fingers.

### *Coat, Jacket, Sweater and Vest*

A sweater, jacket or a vest is needed when it is too warm for a coat but too cool for just a shirt. A sweater and/or a vest have the advantage that it can be worn under a light or medium weight coat for additional warmth.

If a Scout is properly layered with long johns, a long sleeved shirt, a sweater, and a vest, the additional layer of a lightweight coat should be sufficient for very cold weather.

## *Rain Gear*

Scouts are outdoors in all kinds of weather, including rain. Some of the best campouts happen in spite of the rain. Ponchos are the most practical, cost-effective form of rain gear. Alternatively, a rain jacket and pants can be worn. Ponchos are not safe around open water.

## **Gear**

### *Knife*

A Boy Scout's knife should be a multi-purpose knife. It could be a Swiss Army knife or a traditional Scout knife. The knife should fit comfortably in the hand. It is best for a new Scout to see what kind of knives other Scouts have to determine what is most suitable for him.

For safety, knives with blades over 4 inches are not allowed. Troop 50 allows sheath knives. However, they are prohibited at all District and Council events such as Camporees, Jamborees, Advancement Camp and Summer Camp. For this reason, a sheath knife should not be a Boy Scout's first knife.

### *Canteen*

A canteen is nothing more than a glorified water bottle that does not leak and is easy to carry. A 1 quart or liter canteen should be sufficient for most activities. You might want to consider the collapsible water bottles by Nalgene or Platypus, guaranteed not to leak.

### *Personal First Aid Kit*

Every Scout on every outdoor event should have a personal first aid kit for blisters and small cuts. This can be nothing more than a self-sealing plastic bag with some Band-Aids, sliver of soap, small tube of antiseptic, small roll of gauze, small scissors and moleskin.

### *Compass*

On every adventure a Scout should carry his compass.

### *Daypack or Duffel Bag*

Initially, a daypack should be sufficient for the first few campouts. Special provisions will be made during this time to transport extra gear for new Scouts when the troop goes backpacking. Within Troop 50, several Scouts have a backpack that they can loan. During this time, a Scout can examine other Scouts' backpacks to determine what is best for him.

### *Backpack*

On most campouts, Troop 50 hikes a mile or more into camp. The Scout will carry all of his gear and his share of patrol gear. To comfortably do this, a properly fitted backpack is needed.

### *Lockable Footlocker*

For summer camp, a Scout should transport his belongings in a lockable footlocker. We have found that this is necessary to encourage Boy Scouts in other Troops to be "Trustworthy." It is also useful for storing camping gear at home.

## *Sleeping Bag*

Troop 50 goes camping year round. Some nights may be below freezing; others may be hotter than 100. On a hot summer night, nothing more than a sheet and a light blanket may be needed. In fact, during most of the summer, two blankets and a sheet (also called a bedroll) are all that is needed. During the dead of winter a very warm sleeping bag is needed.

A synthetic fiberfill sleeping bag is recommended because it is light and keeps its insulating abilities even when wet. A mummy bag is preferred over a rectangular bag as it is warmer and lighter, and has a hood that can be drawn around the head on cold nights.

## *Sleeping or Ground Pad*

A ground pad serves two purposes: comfort and insulation against cold and dampness. During the winter, it is important for the ground pad to be as long as the Scout is. This will insulate the whole body from the cold ground. Minimum temperature ratings of sleeping bags assume a full-length sleeping pad. During the summer, a 3/4th length pad is sufficient. Look for a lightweight pad that is compact when it is rolled or folded. Closed cell foam pads should be at least 3/8-ths of an inch thick; while open cell foam pads should be at least 1 inch thick.

## *Flashlight*

Look for a reliable, 2 or 4 cell AA flashlight.

## **Inappropriate Gear**

The following items have been found to detract from the scouting experience or are potentially unsafe, and are not permitted:

- camouflage clothing or military fatigues
- aerosols, cigarette lighters, fireworks or other incendiary devices
- electronic devices including but not limited to Game Boy, radios, 2-way radios, cassette players/recorders, CD players, flashlights with radios or sirens.

If you have ANY doubt about whether a particular item may be brought along, definitely check with the Scoutmaster BEFORE bringing it.

## Troop Equipment

### *Use and Care of Troop 50 Camping Equipment*

Troop 50 has a wide array of, and substantial investment in, camping equipment for the use of scouts and their families. When a scout checks out equipment for a campout or other event, it is their responsibility to inventory the equipment for all parts and clean it appropriately before returning it to the Quartermaster - in the condition it was received. It is also their responsibility to return the equipment in a timely manner by the second meeting following a campout or event.

Listed below are some reminders for caring for specific equipment:

### *Tents*

- Setup and dry out
- Clean off mud or dirt
- Sweep interior thoroughly
- Inventory all pieces and report any missing

### *Tarps and Dining Flys*

- Setup and dry out
- Clean off mud or dirt
- Inventory all pieces and report any missing

### *Cookware*

- Clean

The Troop has had instances in the past where equipment has not been returned for very long periods of time and has made coordinating and preparing for campouts difficult and time consuming for the Assistant Scoutmasters. They often spend hours following up with scouts and their families trying to track down equipment.

Equipment damaged above and beyond normal wear and tear places an unfair financial burden on the troop as a whole to replace the equipment. In the future, the committee will review equipment negligence and abuse and, in certain situations, may require financial restitution from a scout for damage to the equipment. We appreciate your cooperation in caring for the equipment of the troop as if it were your own – because it is.

# The Scout Account

## The Scout Account

When a boy joins Troop 50, an account will be set up for that Scout. Every Scout is responsible to maintain their account with a minimum of \$25. Each boy will be supplied with regular account statements. At any time a Scout can request a statement from the Troop Treasurer. There are two main ways that a boy can deposit money into his account: cash deposits and participation in fundraisers.

It is best to establish an account with funds sufficient to cover the costs of the first few months of Scouting. Those joining the troop in the Spring will want to provide sufficient funds for the registration or transfer fee, a couple of campouts and for Summer Camp. A Cub Scout Pack may start a Scout Account for each Webelo crossing over into Boy Scouts with their Popcorn Sale profits, which can be transferred to their new Troop 50 Account.

A Scout will be notified when his account falls below \$25. One goal of the Scout Account is to provide each Scout with the opportunity to be Thrifty: that is, to learn fiscal management and personal provision. It is not our policy to do deficit spending. A Scout must have money in his account prior to an event, sufficient to cover for that event. The Scout Account may be used for registration or transfer fees, for uniforms and for Troop and Patrol activities and expenses.

Adults who actively participate on campouts will have an account established for them, if they so desire. In addition to regular statements, annual statements will be provided, upon request, for tax purposes.

### Typical Yearly Costs for Full Participation

Annual Registration*	\$ 11.75
Troop Infrastructure	\$ 140.00
Monthly Campouts	\$ 150.00 (10 Campouts)
Summer Camp	\$ 175.00
Uniform & Boots	\$ 100.00
Troop Expenses	\$ 100.00
Personal Equipment	\$ 100.00
<b>Total (about)</b>	<b>\$ 776.75</b>

\* The annual registration fee is a national fee. Currently registered Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts transferring to a new troop pay a \$1.00 transfer fee.

## Troop Policy Regarding Scout Accounts

The Troop has established very specific policy regarding the use of funds in their Scout Account:

- All monies earned from fund raising are deposited in the Scout Account
- No money may be withdrawn for non-scouting related items
- Major fund-raising events include: wreath sales, garage sale, etc.
- Scouts will be billed each year for the annual infrastructure fee which is based on the Troop budget and varies from year to year based on the requirements of and number of Scouts enrolled in the Troop. The infrastructure fee is charge to the Scout Account over a 3 month period and must be paid in full in order to participate in Troop activities.

## Your Account Statement

A quarterly statement of the transactions and balance for your account will be mailed to each account holder. It is your responsibility to audit your statement and contact the Troop Treasurer immediately with any discrepancies. If your passbook balance reaches zero or lower, you will be advised and may not participate in Troop functions which involve a cost until you have a positive balance. There are scholarships available for Scouts dealing with financial hardships. Please contact the Scoutmaster for details.

## Annual Dues

February is the anniversary of the beginning of Scouting in the US celebrated nationally by the crossing over of second year Webelos into Boy Scouts, by the rechartering of Boy Scout units. Appropriately, the fiscal year of Troop 50 extends from February to February.

November's Troop Committee Meeting will approve a budget and a per Scout cost that's prepared by the Troop Treasurer. The Membership Chair will collect dues as part of re-registration, beginning in mid November and ending in mid December. Webelos crossing over will pay a percentage of the annual dues and will be given a grace period to establish their accounts. Other new members will pay for the number of months remaining after February. Any surplus at the end of the year will be returned to the Scouts to apply toward next year's dues. Unspent monies in the capital reserve fund will be retained to accrue in the capital reserve fund.

## Submitting Expenses for Reimbursement

If you incur any expenses approved for reimbursement, such as serving as Grubmaster for a campout, please submit your receipts to the Troop Treasurer with the Reimbursement Request form available on the troop website at [www.troop50bsa.org](http://www.troop50bsa.org). All expenses need to be submitted within sixty days of the receipt date for reimbursement.

## Closing a Scout Account

A Scout Account is closed when a Scout notifies Troop 50 in writing that he is leaving the Troop. Until then the Scout will be responsible for all charges to his account. When a boy moves and transfers to another Troop, we will forward to that Troop the boy's entire account. If a boy does not transfer to another Boy Scout unit, the monies that were raised through fundraisers revert to the Troop.

## Financial Assistance

Troop policy is such that no boy will be denied the opportunity to participate in scout events due to their family's financial situation. The Carl Whitney Memorial Fund and Camporships can be used to assist those facing economic difficulties. Please advise the ScoutMaster or Committee Chairperson if you fall into this category. Your request for financial assistance will be completely confidential.

### *Carl Whitney Memorial Fund*

In memory of our friend and former Scoutmaster, we have established the Carl Whitney Memorial Fund to help boys in financial need. It is our policy that no boy be denied participation in any event due to personal finances. Administration of the funds is strictly confidential and can be handled by anyone in the Scoutmaster Corp or by the Committee Chairperson.

## *Campership*

Summer Camp and National High Adventure camps offer grants called Camperships. Typically the amount is half the cost of the camp. Applications can be obtained either directly from the camp or from our Troop leadership.

## **Fundraisers**

Boy Scouts are encouraged to be Thrifty and pay their own way through the Scout program. To this end we provide the boys with excellent opportunities to raise money via fundraisers. 100% of the profits earned by a Scout will be applied to his Scout Account. Currently, we hold a garage sale in the summer. In the fall, we hold our traditional wreath sale. Boys can easily earn enough to pay for the entire year of Scouting, including uniforms as they are outgrown. Some boys earn enough to also pay for the biennial High Adventure.

## Troop 50 Rules

Over time, many policies have been adopted by the troop but never formally documented. Some of these policies have been lost due to changes in scouts and adults leaders. In an effort to get everyone on the same page, the Scoutmaster Corps will be documenting these policies in the newsletter.

This following list is not a complete list, but is our first attempt at documenting these old and new policies.

- Camouflage or military clothing -- is not allowed on scouting events.
- Knives -- Any knife with a blade over 4" long is not permitted. Sheath knives are permitted by Troop 50, but are prohibited at District and Council events. Locking blade knives are permitted.
- Soda pop -- may not be brought to any camping event, whether by the patrol or individual.
- Uniforms:
  - Must be worn to troop meetings for the first three Tuesdays of the month. Scout related clothing (T50, summer camp, Philmont, etc.) may be worn during the remaining troop meetings.
  - Are not required on campouts unless specified. Scouts will usually wear uniforms when traveling long distances (to summer camp), at ceremonies (Crossover, OA), special BSA events (Camporee).
- Active Scouts -- A Scout will be considered "Active in the Troop" according to his position when attending a percentage of events as follows:
  - SPL, PL – 80%
  - All other Positions of Responsibility – 60%
  - All other scouts – 40%
  - Scouts not wearing their uniforms as required may not receive credit for being active at that event.
- Scoutmaster Conferences – Scouts must wear their full uniform.
- Board of Reviews – will be held only on the 1st Tuesday of each month (except for Eagle BORs). Scouts must inform the Advancement Chair of their desire for a BOR in advance. Scouts must wear their full uniform.
- Rank Requirements:
  - Only a troop adult leader or a Scout two ranks ahead of the requirement (Tenderfoot to 1st Class) may sign off on a rank advancement
  - No parent may sign off on his or her own son's advancement (no exceptions).
- Scout accounts must always have a positive balance. A negative balance will preclude the scout from participation in an activity
- Permission slips -- Parent-signed permission slips for all scout events must be turned in at least 2 Tuesdays prior to the event, unless specified otherwise.
- Youth Drivers – As a general rule, scouts in Troop 50 are not allowed to drive to scouting events. An exception can be made with a scout's parents' permission. Any scout who must drive to an event must notify the troop's event leader by the permission slip deadline. When a scout driver arrives at the event, neither he nor other scouts may use or return to the vehicle until they depart the event at the agreed upon time. Scouts may transport themselves only, not another scout.
- Electronics (radios, CD/tape players, Game Boys, etc.) – are not allowed on a scouting event. This includes while traveling to and from the event.
- Personal Tents – are not permitted at camping events without prior approval.
- Flammable devices or materials -- (other than matches) are not permitted at any time and will result in the scout's immediate removal from the event.
- Behavior issues – will be resolved by contacting the boys' parents to pick up their sons or the parent's attendance at future Troop events.