



# TROOP 15 SCOUT HANDBOOK

**ST. FRANCIS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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Charlotte, North Carolina 28270**

**Boy Scouts of America  
Etowah District**

[www.bsatroop15.org](http://www.bsatroop15.org)

2006

# TROOP 15 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA ST. FRANCIS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## TROOP HANDBOOK



### **Welcome Scouts and Parents:**

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 15! We are excited to have you join us and become part of the brotherhood of Scouting.

This handbook is intended as a supplement and not as a replacement to the official Boy Scout Handbook and other official BSA publications. The information in this handbook is meant to provide you with specific information on Troop 15 and will answer basic questions about our policies, uniforms, equipment, camping trips, advancement, merit badges and participation. Please familiarize yourself with this handbook. As a member of Troop 15, you will be responsible for carrying out these policies.

One of the major factors in the success of Troop 15 is the active cooperation and participation of Scouts and parents. When a boy joins the troop, his parents should be active in the troop as well. Experience has taught us that a scout's interest and accomplishments are directly proportional to the parent's participation. The time spent in Scouting can be quality time between a parent and son. We encourage all parents to become involved in the troop as a leader or committee member. Attending the monthly Adult Committee meeting is a great way to get started and learn more about Troop 15.

Good communication is critical to avoid any uncertainty. Should the scout or parent have any questions concerning our policy or program, please call on us to answer any questions you may have and again, welcome to Troop 15!

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## **HISTORY OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA AND TROOP 15**

The Boy Scouts of America, or BSA as referenced throughout this handbook, was incorporated on February 8, 1910. BSA was chartered by Congress on June 15, 1916, with the express purpose "...to promote, through organization and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in scout craft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues".

Troop 15 in Mecklenburg County was established in 1918. It has been sponsored by several different organizations since inception. In April 1991, St. Francis United Methodist Church in Charlotte North Carolina chartered Troop 15. For more information on the history of Troop 15 in Mecklenburg County and at St. Francis contact a Troop Historian or a Troop Librarian.

### **PURPOSE OF SCOUTING**

The purpose of Scouting is, "... to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law."

The Scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "Aims of Scouting": character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. The eight methods for achieving these aims are listed below in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each.

**Ideals** - The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. The Boy Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them, he has some control over what and who he becomes.

**Patrols** - Scouts are assigned to patrols. The patrol method allows Scouts an opportunity to experience group participation and learning, and responsibility to others. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where members can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through elected representatives.

**Outdoor Programs** - Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn how to interact and work together. The skills and activities practiced at troop meetings are put to use during outdoor activities. Outdoor programs assist the Boy Scout in gaining an appreciation for the beauty of the world around us. The outdoors is the laboratory in which Boy Scouts learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

**Advancement** - Boy Scouting provides a series of goals and advancement opportunities by learning skills, responsibility and leadership. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the

advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

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

**Personal Growth** - As Boy Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn Daily concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Regularly scheduled Scoutmaster conferences will help each Boy Scout determine his growth toward the aims of scouting.

**Leadership Development** - The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the role of leading others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

**Uniform** - The uniform makes the Boy Scout Troop visibly consistent 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 goals and purposes of Scouting. The uniform provides the Boy Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth that believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for all Boy Scout activities and provides a way for Boy Scouts to proudly wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

## **SCOUT DEVELOPMENT**

The Scouts lead the Scouting program at Troop 15 with guidance from the adult members. Our pledge is to assist each Scout to carry out his duties to God, country, fellow Scouts, others, and himself. We encourage the Scout to develop his self-reliance, improve his individual and group skills, expand his sense of responsibility and strengthen his moral character, all while having fun in the outdoors.

It is our desire that each boy realizes his highest goals in Scouting. Resources are available to each Scout to help him on the trail to Eagle and to achieve this prestigious award. The Scout must be willing to work toward his goal and participate in the activities. Also, in order for the Scout to be successful, parents must be willing to give of their time and interest, and provide encouragement. Not every Scout will attain the rank of Eagle, but he should become a better person and citizen by absorbing the ideals of Scouting.

Just as boys grow and mature at different rates, they develop and advance at their own pace through the Scouting program. The overall development of a boy into a complete Scout is a lengthy process. It comes from advancing in rank, developing skills, participating in teamwork and taking leadership roles. The troop strives to present each Scout with

opportunities to keep him “physically fit, mentally awake and morally straight”. Some of these development skills include:

- Having fun with new experiences
- Developing new interests and learning new skills
- Learning the fundamental elements of teamwork and leadership
- Taking responsibility for his conduct, his appearance, and his own achievements
- Being helpful to others in and outside of the troop
- Developing self-esteem and a strong moral compass
- Preparing for new and greater challenges
- Handling the responsibilities he has to God, country, others and himself

## **SCOUT SPIRIT**

After earning the rank of Tenderfoot, a Scout has to "show Scout Spirit" to advance. This is often considered to be the most important requirement a Scout must meet in order to attain his Eagle rank. Scout Spirit is the temperament and attitude of a Scout that defines his ability to lead and to be led. Scout Spirit is a feeling of pride in belonging to and carrying on the traditions of Scouting. This pride shows itself in the actions exhibited by a Scout, both as an individual and as part of a group. Scout Spirit is demonstrated through deeds and actions and pride in being a Boy Scout.

There are certain behavior Troop 15 looks for in a Scout that show he has Scout Spirit. These things include:

- Living by the Boy Scout Oath, Laws, Motto and Slogan
- Wearing the complete Scout uniform correctly to Scout functions
- Being respectful of others
- Actively participating in troop and patrol activities
- Communicating thru the appropriate channel when not attending a meeting or event
- Volunteering for activities and opportunities
- Proper use of the Boy Scout Handbook
- Proper use of Troop equipment
- Bringing proper equipment to troop meetings and campouts
- Having a positive attitude and helping where necessary

## **TROOP ORGANIZATION**

A Boy Scout troop is sponsored by a chartering organization with all activities approved by the troop committee. The charter organization provides the meeting facilities and supports the Troop. The charter representative acts as a liaison between the troop and the chartering organization. To operate, Troop 15 utilizes both boy and adult leaders. An organizational chart is posted on the Troop website to show the positions and chain of command.

**Boy Leaders** - The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) conducts the troop meetings. Troop 15 follows the BSA “Boy-led” concepts. The SPL is not “picked” by the Scoutmaster or the troop committee. The scouts in the troop vote on the elected position. Adults monitor the elections, but do not vote. The SPL appoints his assistants and directs their activities in running the troop.

The boys within each patrol elect Patrol Leaders. The Patrol Leader appoints his assistants and together they conduct the patrol meetings under the supervision of an Assistant Scoutmaster or Troop Guide. The Patrol Leader leads his patrol in planning for campouts, helping with advancement, and ensures good communication with other members of the patrol and Troop.

The Scoutmaster appoints Troop Guides and Instructors. These scouts support the activities of the troop and assistant patrols as required. Patrol members work together as a unit and individually. As a unit they camp, work on patrol projects and carry out troop assignments. As individuals they work on merit badges, rank advancement and self-improvement.

Boy leaders in the troop are held to high standards. In addition to their assigned duties, they are responsible for:

- Helping other Scouts master scouting skills
- Being a positive role model for other Scouts
- Living by the Scout Oath and Law
- Setting a good example in uniform, manner and attendance
- Attending Junior Leader Training and actively pursuing and encouraging advancement

Boy leadership positions listed below are described in on the Troop website in more detail under Troop Leadership Job Descriptions. With the exception of the positions appointed by the Patrol Leader, all of these jobs qualify for rank advancement.

The Scouts elect senior Patrol Leader (SPL).

Appointed by SPL (it is not necessary that all positions be appointed)

- Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders for patrol leaders
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader for quartermaster and historian
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader for scribe and librarian
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader for troop guides and instructors
- Troop Quartermaster
- Troop Scribe
- Troop Historian
- Troop Librarian
- Troop Bugler / Spirit
- Troop Chaplain Aide

Elected by the Scouts in each patrol

- Patrol Leader
- Assistant Patrol Leader

- Patrol quartermaster, scribe, and historian, librarian.

Appointed by Scoutmaster and report to Assistant Scoutmaster

- Troop Instructor
- Troop Guide
- Den Chief

**Troop Elections and Patrol Changes** - Troop and patrol elections are held twice a year. All registered Scouts are eligible and encouraged to participate in the elections. The Scoutmaster, with the assistance of the Advancement Chair and current SPL, will determine the eligibility of the Scout candidates interested in serving in a Troop Leadership position. Interested candidates must complete an application, obtain permission from a parent and submit the application to the Scoutmaster at least seven (7) days prior to the elections.

Troop Candidates for SPL will be presented to the Troop for election by popular vote. A Scout must be in attendance on election night to be elected as SPL. Candidates for all other positions shall be submitted to the newly appointed SPL for approval.

SPL candidates for elections are required to give a brief speech to the troop and:

- Describe why they are running for office
- Describe how their leadership will improve the troop
- Outline their qualifications for the position they seek
- Describe how they will inspire Scout Spirit

Elections will be held in the following manner. Upon the closing of nominations for office, a secret ballot will be cast by all Scouts who are current registered members of Troop 15. Criteria have been set as prerequisites for holding leadership positions in the troop. In the event all the requirements cannot be met, the Scoutmaster may elect to waive some.

Changing of patrols is at the option of the Scout and must be approved by the SPL and Scoutmaster twice a year, immediately after troop elections but prior to election of Patrol Leaders. The original patrol members have first choice to stay in the patrol.

The Scoutmaster and/or the Senior Patrol Leader (after consultation with the Scoutmaster) have the authority to remove any Scout elected or appointed to office at anytime for failure to perform his duties or meet expected responsibilities.

**Junior Leadership Training (JLT)** - Once elected or appointed to a leadership position the Scout is required to participate in the Troop 15-leadership training. This provides the Scout with an introduction to his job responsibilities and basic overview of leadership skills.

Each summer Mecklenburg County Council sponsors advanced leadership training known as Top Gun. To qualify a Scout must be Star rank or higher, 14 years or older and be nominated by the Scoutmaster. The weeklong training is an intensive, spirited, and extremely active event that utilizes the 12 points of BSA leadership skills.

**Adult Leaders** - The adult leaders are NOT responsible for running the troop. Adult leaders are mentors, supervisors and merit badge counselors. All adults working with the troop are volunteers and must be registered with Boy Scouts of America.

**The Troop Committee** is charged with the duty to support the Scouting program and handle troop administration. The Troop Committee includes a Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Outdoor/Activity Chairman, Chaplain, Charter Representative and Advancement Chairman as well as other adults interested in providing a quality program. The Committee meets once a month to discuss troop direction, vision and activities.

The adults are responsible for:

- Safety of the Scouts
- Insuring that quality adult leadership is recruited and trained
- Carrying out the policies and regulations of the BSA
- Providing the ways and means to run a quality program
- Obtaining and maintaining the troop's equipment
- Supporting and providing for an outdoor program
- Training and coaching the Scouts so they can run the troop
- Suggesting new methods and skills that the troop can learn and use
- Assisting in raising funds for the troop
- Providing transportation for the troop

There are many other jobs that must be fulfilled for the Troop to function properly. The key adult leader positions include:

**Chartered Organization Representative** - The charter organization shall designate a person to serve in this capacity. This person is the liaison between the Troop Committee and the Chartered Organization, providing help in areas such as rechartering, leadership recruiting, planning service projects and representation at the district and council level.

**Troop Committee Chairman** - The primary responsibility of this position is to obtain and retain adult volunteers to assist with the operation of the troop.

**Scoutmaster** - This is the adult leader responsible for the troop's performance. The Scoutmaster and his Assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. It is their duty to:

- Provide orientation to new members
- Provide training and guidance to boy leaders
- Work with the committee to bring Scouting to boys
- Use approved BSA methods to achieve its aims
- Assist with planning and coordinating troop activities
- Regularly attend troop, PLC, committee meetings and activities
- Conduct Scoutmaster conferences for all rank advancement
- Oversee troop elections
- Conduct all activities under safe conditions
- Assist in the development of the annual calendar

Assistant Scoutmasters report to and work directly with the Scoutmaster, providing two deep leadership and support in the Scoutmaster's absence.

Advancement Chairman tracks and reports to the council on Scout advancement.

Assistant Scoutmasters and Troop Committee members may be assigned specific responsibilities within the areas of administration, logistics, program, advancement and quartermaster.

All adult leaders are expected to maintain current training requirements. The Mecklenburg County Council provides Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster and Committee position training during the year.

**Scout Participation** - Scout Spirit (demonstrated by application of the Scout Oath and Scout Laws in your daily life and during all scouting functions) and troop participation is a requirement for rank advancement. Scouts participating in cooperative and leadership roles within the troop along with the outdoor program will find that advancement is a natural result of their Scouting experience.

Each registered Scout member of Troop 15 is expected to be an active participant in Scouting. At a minimum a Scout in Troop 15 must:

1. Attend at least 50% of all regular scheduled Troop meetings
2. Attend at least 50% of monthly outings or activities
3. Participate in two Troop Service Projects per year
4. Participate in one Fundraising activity per year

Scouts not meeting the above requirements will not be permitted to advance in rank within the Troop structure. Scoutmaster or Advancement Chairman shall review each case for the ability to advance and further participate in the Troop.

Scouting is considered to be a family affair. For a boy to get the most from his time in Boy Scouts, he needs encouragement from his parents, both in words and actions. One major way that parents can help is by planning the family calendar so that it does not conflict with Troop activities. This allows the Scout maximum opportunity to participate in Troop events. Troop 15 has a very active camping program and schedules many events throughout the month. Each August great care is taken to prepare the calendar and list of outings for the upcoming year. Parents are expected to participate in the monthly outings for Scouts to be successful. Fathers of new Scouts are encouraged to camp with their son once or twice during the first six months of joining the troop. Substitute parents for Scouts without parents in the immediate area can be any adult who is 18 years or older.

**Scout Membership** - Membership in Troop 15 is open to all boys between the ages of 11 and 18. The Scoutmaster will assign each boy to a patrol after joining the Troop. Full participation in Patrol activities from the outset is expected of each Scout. A boy must complete a Scout Application, obtain proper signatures and be registered with the BSA prior to taking part in any activity.

**Membership fees** - Membership fees are \$65.00 per year, payable not later than March 1st to "BSA Troop 15". This fee includes the national registration fee, BSA medical insurance, advancement and merit badge awards. The fee does not include uniform, personal equipment, food, and individual charges for participation in camping trips or special events. It is strongly recommended that each Scout be encouraged to earn all or a portion of this money to increase his sense of responsibility.

**Troop Meetings** - Troop meetings are held regularly each Monday from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at St. Francis Church. A Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) meeting is usually held monthly on the Monday following the scheduled outing. The Senior Patrol Leader leads all troop meetings. The PLC is used to plan the following months' activities and provide leadership skills to the Patrol Leaders and Troop Staff

The annual calendar is prepared at the August outing. At this outing, all outings, service projects and merit badge workshops are scheduled. The current calendar is available from the Troop Scribe and on the website.

## **TROOP ACTIVITIES**

Scouts will learn to hike and camp, how to live in the outdoors, and discover many ways to care for the land. Scouts will cook meals over a camp stove and learn to identify all kinds of plants and animals that are part of our environment. Scouts will learn to take care of, themselves in all circumstances, and develop strength, confidence, good judgment and leadership. There's no limit to what a Boy Scout can do!

All activities are scheduled in advance with a majority planned at the annual meeting in August. Signup deadlines, as indicated on the calendar, begin at least three weeks prior to any trip but may be longer based on the type and destination of the trip. The normal cost of a trip is \$25.00 per Scout and any unregistered adult. The cost may be higher depending on the type of trip. Cancellation by a Scout after the cutoff date may result in a loss of money. Refunds, if any, are at the discretion of the outdoor coordinator and committee.

Food purchased for each outing will be reimbursed by the troop to the Scout holding the store receipt. The total amount of the purchase should be reasonable in nature and average approximately \$5.00 per person per meal.

A permission slip, signed by the parent, is required on each outing. The Troop website has a link to the current permission slip used for the outings. A scout is not permitted to participate in the outings without an approved permission slip.

**Camping** - Camping is a vital part of Scouting. It is the time when Scouts can practice what they have learned. For that reason, Troop 15 will take at least one camping trip per month regardless of the weather. A one-week summer camp at the Council's summer camp (Camp Grimes) or other BSA camp highlights our summer program. Summer camp is highly recommended for all Scouts.

**Summer Camp** - Every summer, Troop 15 attends a weeklong summer camp. Summer camp offers each Scout advancement opportunities and outdoor challenges that he will remember for a lifetime. The First Year Camper program is specifically designed for new Scouts and has opportunities to work on many of the requirements needed for ranks through First Class. There are merit badge sessions for Scouts interested in merit badges to attain their rank, and there are challenging programs for older Scouts.

Besides the advancements offered at summer camp, the Scouts have many opportunities to swim, fish, canoe, hike, shoot arrows and rifles, make new friends and have fun! Attending summer camp is one of the most important highlights of the scouting year.

**Camporee and National Jamboree** - Participation at local Camporee and National and International Scout Jamboree is determined on an annual basis coordinated by the Troop and Council office respectively.

**Venture Patrol** - The Venture Patrol is open to scouts 13 years and older, and Star rank and higher. Rather than a true separate patrol, Venture Patrol is for the older scouts to plan and participate in high adventure activities that would not be possible with the whole troop and younger scouts. Scouts that participate in the Venture Patrol will also remain in their regular troop patrol. The Venture Patrol will meet prior to the annual planning meeting to determine their activities for the year.

**Service Projects** - Participating in service projects helps a Scout understand his responsibility as a citizen to his community. Special Community, Council, District, and Troop projects and Good Turns are held at least quarterly. A typical activity for Troop 15 is the McKee Road roadside cleanup sponsored by NC Department of Transportation. A special permission form must be completed for this activity and Scouts must be 12 year of age or older to participate in this program. Those Scouts that do not meet the age requirement are still required to participate in cleanup of the grounds at St. Francis Church. Attendance at and participation in troop service projects are expected as part of showing Scout spirit

**Fundraisers** - During the year the Troop will conduct various fundraising projects. Annual dues cover only a small part of our total expenses. Parents are expected to help with these fundraisers. Attendance at and participation in Fundraising events are mandatory. Prior to any fundraising activity the Troop Committee must approve the activity and the Troop must complete the Money-Earning Application.

**Transportation** - Safety is the number one concern when the troop arranges transportation for troop outings. Adult leaders and parent volunteers provide transportation to and from campouts and other troop outings (i.e. service projects, summer camp, etc.). If sufficient transportation and assistance cannot be arranged, the Scoutmaster will have to cancel an outdoor activity. Occasionally, there is need to provide transportation for the Scouts during a normal Troop meeting (i.e., swim party, museum tour, etc.). The SPL and Scoutmaster will arrange this transportation.

All vehicles must be covered by a public liability and a property damage liability insurance policy. The amount of this coverage must meet or exceed the insurance requirements of

the state in which the vehicle is licensed. All drivers will submit an information form annually to the Transportation Coordinator.

All drivers must have a valid driver's license and be at least 21 years of age. No Scout may ride in a vehicle with a driver under 21 years of age. Seat belts must be provided and must be used by all passengers and the driver. Trucks can be used for transporting equipment but passengers are prohibited from riding anywhere but in the cab.

Prior to any outing the Troop must complete the Local Tour Permit or National Tour permit if the trip exceed 500 miles. The Mecklenburg County Council normally approves a local Tour Permit the same day it is presented. National Tour permits must be submitted between seven (7) and thirty (30) days prior to the event depending upon the destination. Copies of these permits are available in the Troop library.

A Scout is not permitted to drive other Scouts, except members of his own family, to or from troop activities. Likewise, non-family teenagers are prohibited from driving Scouts to or from any Scouting activity.

When traveling out of town, routes will be determined in advance. Drivers will follow designated routes and provide assistance to each other as needed. Travel will not be by convoy in accordance with BSA Rules and Regulations. All local and State highway laws will be abided by when transporting Scouts.

Scouts are responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the vehicle in which they are riding. The BSA insurance policy requires all Scouts to wear the Class A uniform when traveling to and from any Scout activity or outing. Parents are responsible for dropping off and picking up their Scout from troop meetings and activities unless otherwise agreed to and specified.

## **ORDER OF THE ARROW**

The Order of the Arrow (OA), originated in 1915, is a national brotherhood of Scout campers formed to strengthen troops and encourage outdoor experiences. Troop members must be First Class or higher to be eligible for nomination. A Scout is elected as an OA member by a majority of his fellow scouts in their own troop.

Troop 15 holds an election once a year under supervision of the Catawba Lodge 459. The number of Scouts a troop may elect depends on the number of potential candidates. All registered Scouts under the age of 18 in the troop may vote for as many candidates as they believe represent the OA spirit. The Scout is then required to attend a ceremony ("tapout") at a specified date and participate in a camping ordeal to officially join the lodge.

One adult per year from the Troop may also join OA to serve as advisor to youth members who lead the lodge program. Lodges conduct youth-led meetings, plan and carry out activities, organize council service projects and develop summer camp promotion plans.

## **SCOUT UNIFORMS**

The Scout uniform is an outward sign of identification with the Scouting program and should be worn with pride. The uniform makes our troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in our community. Wearing the Scout uniform is a demonstration of Scout Spirit. Failure to wear the proper uniform at Scout functions may affect a Scout's ability to receive rank advancement.

Official BSA rules recognizes only one type of Scout uniform. Troop 15, like many other troops, uses two classes of uniforms: Class "A" and Class "B".

The Class "A" uniform consists of:

1. BSA short or long-sleeved khaki Scout shirt
2. Appropriate patches and insignia properly attached to the shirt
3. Scout shorts or pants
4. Scout socks that have red elastic top
5. BSA-approved belt

A Troop neckerchief and slide, provided one time by the Troop, are required for ceremonial and formal occasions such as Boards of Review, Courts of Honor and other designated occasions. Correct insignia is to be worn in the proper place on all uniforms. Awards and honors are to be worn only on the Class "A" uniform.

The Class "B" uniform consists of:

1. A red Troop 15 tee shirt, purchased from the Troop
2. Scout socks that have red elastic top
3. BSA-approved belt

A complete uniform (Class "A" or "B") should be worn to all Troop meetings. BSA insurance policy requires all Scouts to wear a uniform when traveling to and from all Scout functions.

The Scribe does not consider Scouts without a complete uniform as present. The troop holds inspections periodically to ensure proper standards.

Correct placement of uniform insignia is shown on the inside cover of the Boy Scout Handbook and in the BSA Insignia Guide. The Arrow of Light award is worn at the bottom of the left pocket of the Boy Scout uniform, as shown in the handbook. Merit badges are worn in three columns on the merit badge sash, in no particular order and not on the Scout shirt.

For members of the Order of the Arrow (OA), the sash is to be worn at OA functions such as elections, camp promotion and OA tap outs. The OA sash is not worn with the merit badge sash at a Court of Honor, nor is it to be worn folded over the Scout belt since these are not OA functions. At Eagle ceremonies, if requested by the candidate, the OA sash maybe worn by eligible members provided the candidate is an OA member in good standing.

Wearing military clothing, camouflage and the imitation of United States Military uniforms at any Scouting activity is a violation of National BSA policy (BSA Rules and Regulations, Article 10, Section 4, Clause 4b) and will not be permitted.

The following additional rules apply to clothing worn at campouts or other events when a Class A or B uniform is not required.

- Clothing items including head gear which display or advertise drugs, illegal controlled substances, alcohol, tobacco, suggestive wording, profanity, gangs or advocate violence are never permitted.
- Grooming or attire that disrupt Scouting activities are not appropriate and therefore are prohibited.

## **SCOUT EQUIPMENT**

Basic equipment for each Scout (This equipment should be brought on every campout)

- Scout Handbook
- Backpack or duffel to carry gear, depends on trip
- Pack Cover
- Poncho or Rain Suit
- Sleeping Bag
- Personal First Aid Kit
- Air Mattress or Foam Pad
- Canteen or Water Bottle
- Hiking boots with proper socks
- Vittles kit (knife, fork, and spoon)
- Mess kit (plate, bowl, and cup)
- Compass (liquid filled)
- Flashlight (with spare batteries and bulb)

*Even when the troop car camps, all of a Scout's equipment should be packed into his backpack. As a reminder, lighter and less is better.*

*Each Scout should have his name on each piece of clothing and personal equipment in indelible ink or by other permanent means.*

**What the Troop has available for the scouts** - Tents, stoves, lanterns and cooking gear are available from the Troop. Troop tents are high quality and well suited for Scout camping. If after a few years in Scouting a Scout enjoys backpacking, he may want to acquire a true lightweight backpacking tent but that is not needed when a Scout first joins the troop. When troop equipment is checked out (see procedures listed below) it must be inspected to insure it is in proper working condition, clean and complete.

**What Scouts do need** - Better quality and lighter weight gear costs more money than lower quality and heavier gear. Scouts do not need to buy the most expensive gear, but neither should they have the least expensive. For the Scout to have a quality camping

experience, he will need adequate gear (to stay warm, dry, light enough to carry, and comfortable to wear).

The following is intended to give you guidance in purchasing gear for your scouts. Brands and models suggested are ones that have worked well and you can use them for comparing features. Others may work just as well. Pricing may range depending on where you shop.

**Backpacks** - Backpacks come in two types, external frame and internal frame. An external frame is easier to pack, more adjustable as a Scout grows, and generally less expensive than an internal frame pack. Many backpackers feel an internal frame pack is more comfortable. Since you don't attach sleeping bags to the outside of an internal frame pack, they must have a larger capacity. One suggestion is that a Scout begin with an external frame pack and in a few years when he has grown, move up to an internal frame pack if necessary. Most important, make sure the hip belt will comfortably fit the Scout. The weight of a pack rides on the hips, not on the shoulders.

**External Frame Packs** - Look for overall comfort and fit, especially the hip belt, ability to adjust shoulder straps to accommodate Scout's growth and at least 3,000 cubic inch capacity, 3,500 to 4,000 is ideal. Pockets make organization easier and the Scout will need at least two 3' lashing straps to use to attach the sleeping bag.

Suggested pack for comparison:

1. Jansport Scout, 3,850 cubic inches, lists for \$90, can be purchased for as low as \$70.
2. Others – Camp Trails McKinley, Jansport Rainier or Kelty Yukon

**Internal Frame Packs** - Look for overall comfort and fit, especially the hip belt and the ability to adjust shoulder straps to accommodate Scout's growth. Some internal packs call this the "ladderback system". At least 4,500 cubic inch capacity is a good size.

Suggested pack for comparison:

1. Kelty Red Cloud, 5,000 cubic inches, lists for \$140.
2. Others – Jansport Rockies, Kelty Coyote

**Pack Cover** - Pack covers are available for around \$15. Make sure the size will adequately cover the pack. If money is an issue, you can save here by using a plastic lawn and leaf bag (every scout should have several in his pack).

**Poncho or Rain Suit** - A rain suit is preferred over a poncho, as it will keep you dryer than a poncho. It can also help to keep you warm when used as a top layer over other clothes. However, young Scouts quickly outgrow rain suits and this may be a purchase for an older Scout.

A poncho should be durable and not easily torn. Vinyl should be avoided. For rain suits, do not get heavy PVC rain suits. They are too heavy for camping. Breathable rainwear is better, but more expensive. Campmor Backpacker II and Frog Togs are two to consider.

**Sleeping bags** - Sleeping bags come in a variety of materials. Most are a nylon shell with a fill of manmade fibers or down. Down bags are lighter for a comparable degree of warmth, but when wet, they do not keep you warm and do not dry quickly. For Scouts we suggest a bag with polarguard, hollofilor, or quallofil. Bags come in mummy or rectangular shapes. Mummy bags are warmer and lighter than rectangular and are the preferred bag for Scouts. Bags come in a wide range of temperature ratings. A bag rated at 15 to 20 degrees is a good choice for Scouting as we do camp year round. The total weight of the bag should be less than 4 lbs. The bag should include a stuff sack that will compress the bag for packing. A sleeping bag should not be stored in this sack, as storing compressed will reduce the insulating quality of the bag. A sleeping bag should be hung for storage. You can expect to spend \$60-\$90 on a good sleeping bag.

Suggested sleeping bags include Kelty Frostline, Kelty Clear Creek, Slumberjack Red Thunder, Slumberjack Aurora. Other good brands that might be more expensive include Sierra Designs and The North Face.

**Sleeping pad** - A sleeping pad is a must for comfort and keeping warm. Choices are inflatable, open cell foam, closed cell foam, and self-inflating (best known brand Thermarest). We strongly recommend closed cell foam or a self-inflating pad. Open cell foam does not provide good padding and inflatable air mattresses are heavy and frequently leak.  $\frac{3}{4}$  length pads 48" to 54" long are fine for Scouts. This reduces overall weight and bulk.

**Water bottle** - A Scout should always bring a water bottle (two or three if backpacking). Nalgene bottles are great as they don't leak and are very tough. A 24-ounce plastic drink bottle also will work well and the price is reasonable.

**Hiking Boots** - Boots should be comfortable, waterproof and well broken in. When buying hiking boots, wear hiking socks when you try them on. Wear them for short period to break in prior to wearing on a hike. Scouts will generally outgrow a pair of boots before wearing them out so you don't need to purchase expensive boots. Hi-Tech is a reasonably priced good boot. Treat the boots with a waterproofing spray or liquid.

**Mess Kit** - A full mess kit is not needed. A plastic bowl (margarine tub), plastic cup (insulated is nice for hot chocolate), and a plastic or metal spoon will suffice for most camping meals. You can add a Frisbee with a paper plate liner if you like and have something to play with and eat from too. For purchased kits, lexan bowls and spoons are better as they stand up to heat and are almost indestructible.

**Personal First Aid Kit** - A small kit used for small cuts or scrapes is all that is needed.

**Resources:**

- Local sporting goods stores
  1. Dick's
  2. Sports Authority
  3. Jessie Browns
- Mail order and Internet
  1. [www.campmor.com](http://www.campmor.com)

2. [www.sierratradingpost.com](http://www.sierratradingpost.com)
  3. [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com) .
- Gear ratings
    1. [www.backpacker.com](http://www.backpacker.com)
    2. [www.gorp.com](http://www.gorp.com)

**Equipment checkout procedures** - In order to keep track of and maintain Troop equipment certain procedures must be followed to check out the equipment. These procedures are developed by the quartermaster and subject to change for each outing. Patrol Leaders will be responsible for equipment checked out to their patrol. Additionally, the Patrol Leader will assign equipment which needs to be taken home from camp outs for cleaning or drying out. Scouts can display responsibility for the Troop equipment and its care.

## **ADVANCEMENT and AWARDS**

The Scout advancement program includes steps in ranks leading to the Eagle Scout, Qualification for Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Scout is obtained by the completion of specific requirements as described in the Scout Handbook. Star, Life, and Eagle awards require completion of various Merit Badges, leadership positions, and special projects at each level. Those requirements are also described in the Scout Handbook.

Boards of Review will be held as necessary for those Scouts advancing. Formal presentation of Badges of Rank, Merit Badges, and other awards will be at Courts of Honor scheduled at least quarterly by the Troop.

Parents are requested to encourage the Scout's self-reliance as he progresses through advancement. During his efforts to advance, the Scout will be counseled and monitored on a continuing basis. If the Scout still fails to show motivation to advance, he may be asked to make room in the troop for a more motivated Scout.

**Trail to First Class** - Scouts new to Boy Scouting can be involved in a program called Trail to First Class. This program is designed to meet the specific needs of first year Scouts by providing structure, supervision and specialized skill instruction.

An Assistant Scoutmaster is appointed to give overall adult supervision of the Trail to First Class program. Responsibilities of the position include:

- Teaching key Scouting skills leading to the First Class rank
- Providing counseling and guidance through the early challenges of Scouting
- Acting as a parent/troop liaison to coordinate information and promote active parental involvement towards a comfortable relationship with the troop, its leaders and its program
- Motivating and encouraging the new Scouts in their rank advancement with the goal being to pilot the boys to their First Class rank within a year

**New Scout Campout** - A New Scout Campout, usually called "Team Power" is scheduled every year to introduce new Scouts and their parents to the program and to help them master the skills necessary for patrol style camping. Some of topics covered might include:

- Campsite selection and setup
- Handbooks and advancement
- Sanitation and personal hygiene
- Fire building and safety
- Knife and ax yard safety
- First aid and poisonous plants
- Cooking and cleanup
- Patrol boxes
- Duty rosters
- Flag ceremonies
- Safe hiking and the buddy system
- Knots and rope use
- Packing a backpack

**Scoutmaster's Conference** - Each of the six ranks in Scouting contains the requirement "Participate in a Scoutmaster Conference." The purpose of the conference is to develop a trust and understanding between the Scoutmaster and Scout. This conference helps the Scoutmaster get to know the Scout better by giving him a clearer idea of what individual Scouts can contribute to their patrol and to the troop. The conference assists the Scoutmaster in discovering what the troop can do to bring a quality program to the Scouts.

Each Scoutmaster's Conference is an opportunity for the Scout to learn more about the Scoutmaster and his expectations, bring up any concerns and discuss anything not understood about the Scouting program. The Scoutmaster and Scout will also talk about goal setting and achievement. This conference is informal and can also be given by an Assistant Scoutmaster approved by the Advancement Committee.

## **RANK ADVANCEMENT PROCESS**

The following steps should be performed after a Scout completes the requirements listed in the Scout Handbook, except for the last two items.

1. Have the appropriate section in the handbook signed by a Star Scout or higher rank or the Advancement Chairman for participation and service hours. Your level of participation, as recorded by the Troop scribe, may be required to verify your participation.
2. Notify the Scoutmaster that you are ready to be reviewed by two Scouts or adult leaders. These individuals will be assigned to review the requirements for your rank. These should be two Scouts ranked Star or higher. Be sure you are prepared to discuss all aspects of the current and previous ranks. This may include information from merit badge requirements.
3. After the review the Scouts will notify the Scoutmaster of your completion or what areas need further work and the date of the next review
4. The Scoutmaster conference can then be scheduled.

5. After the conference, ask the Advancement Chairman to schedule the Board of Review.
6. Participate in a Board of Review. Be sure to bring your Scout book, proof of previous rank, proof of completed merit badges, rope, compass, and dressed in proper uniform.
7. Upon satisfactory completion of the Board of Review, notify the Scoutmaster.
8. The troop will acknowledge your advancement and the rank can be worn from that point forward.
9. At the Court of Honor, a formal presentation will be made of the mother's pin and the rank card. Keep this card in a safe place for your Eagle Trail records.

**Board of Review** - Prior to signing up for a Board of Review, a Scout must confirm his eligibility with the Advancement Chairman, pass a review by fellow Scouts and participate in a Scoutmaster Conference. Once a Scout has completed the requirements for a new rank, he is eligible for a Board of Review. A Board of Review has four main purposes:

1. To assess the Scout's knowledge of the subject matter required for that particular rank and all previous ranks
2. To find out what kind of experience the Scout is having in his patrol and in the troop
3. To encourage the Scout to continue on the Scouting trail
4. To determine the Scout's attitude, spirit and his acceptance of the Scouting ideas

The Board of Review is composed of at least three members of the troop committee with one member serving as the chairman. At no time may a relative, guardian, Scoutmaster or assistant Scoutmaster serve as members of a Scout's Board of Review unless granted permission by the committee prior to the Board of Review.

In general, during the Board of Review, the Scout will introduce himself and tell the rank for which he is to be reviewed. The Board members will ask questions about his experiences in the troop and knowledge of certain information, and ask the Scout to demonstrate something from the requirements for rank. At the end of the Review, the Scout will be asked to leave the room while the Board discusses his qualifications and reaches a unanimous decision. The Scout will be called back and told that he has qualified, or what additional action he must take to qualify. Once a Scout has qualified, he will be awarded his new badge of rank as soon as possible, usually at the next regular troop meeting. If the Board determines that the review process needs to be continued, the Scout will be told which requirements need to be reviewed and a date and time will be scheduled for that re-review.

The Scout should be neat and clean in his appearance and in full uniform with badges properly worn. The Scout must bring his Scout membership card and Boy Scout Handbook to the Review.

Eagle Boards of Review are conducted separately from other rank advancement reviews and, in accordance with Mecklenburg County Council policy; at least one member of the Eagle Board will be a district or council advancement representative. All requirements for the Eagle rank must be completed before a candidate's 18th birthday. The BSA makes no

exceptions to this rule. Council can hold an Eagle Board of Review after a Scout's 18th birthday upon special approval. However, if a Scout is found to be deficient in any of the requirements, he then has no recourse for correction and will not be approved for the Eagle rank.

## **MERIT BADGE PROCESS**

Currently BSA offers a variety of different merit badges to challenge a Scout and introduce new areas of interest. To receive a merit badge, certain steps must be followed in specific order. A merit badge counselor must be registered with BSA as an adult volunteer and approved to conduct the desired badge.

Currently, there are over 110 different merit badges approved by the BSA for Scouts to earn. All merit badge conferences are to be conducted in a group of two or more Scouts and in the presence of two or more adults. The Troop will schedule merit badge classes and merit badge opportunities are available during monthly outings. Most Scouts are working on several merit badges simultaneously.

The steps involved in receiving a merit badge are described below. Failure to follow these steps may result in the requirements having to be repeated.

1. Obtain a Merit Badge Card (Blue Card) from the Troop Advancement Chairman.
2. Complete the front of the card to indicate the merit badge you wish to earn.
3. Have the front of the card signed by the Scoutmaster.
4. Complete the requirements under the direction of the merit badge counselor.
5. Have the counselor approve the completed requirements and sign the card.
6. Show the finished card and all work to the Scoutmaster and obtain his approval.
7. Give the completed card to the Advancement Chairman.
8. Merit Badges will be awarded at the next Court of Honor (you must be present to receive the badge). Save all completed Blue Cards for Eagle Trail records.

**Religious Awards** - Troop 15 participate in the various religious awards offered by BSA and supported by the Troop. Each Scout is encouraged to complete the series of four classes called God and Country. This is an age specific program offered during the year. More information on this program and awards can be obtained by contacting the Troop Chaplain or Aide.

**Record Keeping** - Each Scout is responsible for maintaining a record of all merit badges, rank advancement and participation in Scouting events. This is particularly important when applying for Eagle. The Troop will maintain records as well, but all original proof of advancement and merit badges are provided to the Scout and it is the Scout's responsibility to keep those records. Some Scouts find that a notebook provides an excellent place to keep this information. This notebook may also be requested at a Board of Review.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Health and safety are a top priority with BSA and Troop 15. The troop conducts its Scouting activities in a safe and prudent manner in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Boy Scouts of America as set forth in the Guide to Safe Scouting and The Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America, Adult Leadership Requirements for Trips & Outings

Two registered adult leaders or one adult and a parent of a participating Scout, one of whom must be at least 21 years of age or older, are required for all trips and outings. No fewer than four individuals (always a minimum of two adults) go on any backcountry expedition or campout. Male and female leaders require separate sleeping facilities. Married couples may share the same quarters if appropriate facilities are available. When staying in tents, no youth will stay in the tent of an adult other than his parent or guardian.

### **Medical Information**

The Boy Scouts of America established minimum standards for providing medical information prior to participating in various activities. They are classified as follows.

1. **Class 1.** Includes any event that does not exceed seventy-two consecutive hours, where the level of activity is similar to that normally expended at home or at school, and where medical care is readily available. Examples: day camp, day hike, swimming party, or an overnight camp. Medical information required includes a current health history signed by a parent or guardian. The form is filled out by participants and kept on file for easy reference. Parents should retain a copy.
2. **Class 2.** Includes any event that exceeds 72 consecutive hours where the level of activity is similar to that normally expended at home or at school, and where medical care is readily available. Examples: resident camping, tour camping, and hiking in relatively populated areas. Medical data required is an annual health history signed by parents or guardian supported by a medical evaluation completed within the past thirty-six months by a physician licensed to practice medicine. Youth members and adult participants under 40 years of age use this form.
3. **Class 3.** Includes any event involving strenuous activities such as backpacking, high altitude, extreme weather conditions, cold water, exposure, fatigue, athletic competition, adventure challenge, or remote conditions where readily available medical care cannot be assured. Examples: high-adventure activities, jamborees, extended backpacking trips in remote areas. Medical information required includes current health history supported by a medical evaluation within the past twelve months performed by a physician licensed to practice medicine. Adults over 40 will use this form for Class 2 and Class 3 activities.

Troop 15 requires and maintains on file Class 2 and Class 3 Personal Health and Medical Records on its membership. Medical exams required for Class 2 are valid for 3 years. Medical exams for Class 3 must be conducted annually. A copy of these forms can be found in Appendix IV.

**Emergency Telephone Numbers** - Parents planning to be out of town or away from home during a Scouting activity are required to notify the Troop of how they can be reached.

Parents must furnish the troop with telephone numbers and names of individuals to be contacted in the event of an emergency if the parent or guardian is unavailable.

**Food Allergies & Dietary Restrictions** - Please inform your Scout's patrol leader and the Scoutmaster if you or your Scout has food allergies or dietary restrictions.

**Medications** - Personal medications that require administration during troop campouts or Scouting activities shall be submitted to the Troop First Aid Coordinator or Scoutmaster prior to departure. The medication along with a completed Troop medication form must be placed in a zip lock storage bag labeled with the scout name.

**Privacy Standards** - Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers, and must intrude only to the extent necessary, as health and safety require. Adults must also protect their own privacy in similar situations. Where separate shower and latrine facilities are not available, a male or female, occupied or unoccupied sign and/or door latch shall be used.

**Youth Protection** - Boy Scouts of America offers a training program for an adult that provides essential information to members and their families on the issue of child abuse. Every adult associated with the troop, including merit badge counselors, is required to attend this training.

**Buddy System** - The buddy system is used to provide safety and support. Scouts are required to have another person or "buddy" with them when swimming, meeting with a Merit Badge Counselor and during other specified activities.

**Water Safety** - All water activities in Troop 15 are conducted in accordance with the BSA Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat water safety programs.

**Drugs, Alcohol, Controlled Substances and Tobacco** - The Boy Scouts of America and Troop 15 prohibit the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances. BSA recommends that leaders maintain the attitude that young adults are healthier without tobacco. Leaders are encouraged not to use tobacco products in any form. Boy use of tobacco products in any form during Scouting activities is prohibited.

**First Aid and CPR** - BSA recommends first aid and CPR training for its adult leaders as well as maintenance of a troop first aid kit. First aid and CPR trained leaders within Troop 15 are called upon to serve as First Aid Coordinators for the troop. Several well-stocked first aid kits accompany the troop on all campouts.

**Fuels and Fire Prevention** - Adult supervision is required when chemical fuels are being used for lighting and cooking. Fuel is to be stored in approved containers and under adult supervision. Fueling, igniting or operating a stove, heater, lantern, candle, match or other flame or spark source in a tent is strictly prohibited. All fire laws, ordinances and regulations will be obeyed.

**Fireworks, Guns and Fire Arms** - The securing, use and display of fireworks in conjunction with the Scouting program and activities is prohibited. Except for law

enforcement officers required to carry firearms within their jurisdictions, firearms shall not be brought on camping, hiking, backpacking or other Scouting activities except those specifically planned for target shooting under the supervision of a certified BSA or National Rifle Association firearms instructor.

**Knives** - All Scouts in the troop are required to pass the Totin' Chip course before they are allowed to carry a knife. The course is designed to teach respect for and methods of handling a knife. Each boy is issued a Totin' Chip card upon completion of the course. Scouts are required to carry their Totin' Chip card with them each time they have their knife in their possession. If a Scout cannot produce his Totin' Chip card upon request, then his knife handling privileges may be suspended until such time the card is produced. Any Scout who engages in the unsafe handling of a knife will have his knife confiscated immediately. Conditions for return of the knife and/or repeat of the Totin' Chip course will be at the discretion of the Scoutmaster or his Assistants.

Acceptable knives are pocketknives or lock-back knives with a blade no longer than 4 inches. Sheath knives are not allowed during Troop activities by Scouts or adults.

### **Unauthorized and Restricted Activities**

1. All-terrain vehicles (ATV's) are banned from program use
2. Boxing and any type of martial arts are not authorized activities
3. Only trained and properly protected individuals are authorized to use chain saws and mechanical splitters during Scouting activities. You must also be over the age of 18
4. Exploration of abandoned mines is an unauthorized activity
5. Flight training (power aircraft in flight) and hang gliding, microlite and ultralight flying, experimental aircraft flying, parachuting and hot-air ballooning are unauthorized activities
6. Motorized speed or race events including; motorcycles, boats, drag racing, demolition derbies, and related events are not authorized
7. Participation in any rodeo events is not authorized
8. The activity commonly referred to as "War Games" - in which individuals shoot paint, dye or lasers at one another is an unauthorized activity
9. Hunting of any type is not an authorized Boy Scout Activity
10. Motorized personal watercrafts such as jet skis are not authorized for use
11. Parasailing, or any activity in which a person is carried aloft by a parachute, parasail, kite or other device towed by a motor boat or by any other means, is unauthorized
12. All activities that include a bungee cord jump are unauthorized

### **SAFETY GUIDELINES**

The following rules have been adopted for purposes of health, safety and behavioral conduct.

## **General**

The Scoutmaster or Leader in charge is responsible for each boy's safety and will be obeyed to the fullest extent.

1. Scout conduct should be in accordance with the Scout Oath and Law.
2. No Scout should leave the activity and/or designated area without Scoutmaster's or an Assistant Scoutmaster's express permission to do so. Likewise, no Scout shall go to areas other than those for which permission has been granted, nor shall he enter property marked "No Trespassing".
3. The "buddy system" will be used to provide support and safety. Scouts will be required to have another person or buddy with them when swimming, meeting with a Merit Badge Counselor and during other specified activities.
4. Scoutmaster permission and adult supervision is required when exploring physical hazards (i.e. lakes, creeks, streams, cliffs, caves, underground areas, boats, abandoned structures, etc.).
5. There will be no unauthorized or unsupervised water activities. All water activities will be conducted in accordance with BSA Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat water safety guidelines.
6. The intentional destruction of or damage to natural or manmade areas, as well as to personal or troop property is forbidden.
7. The Scoutmaster (with counsel from his Assistant Scoutmasters) reserves the right to determine other forms of unacceptable behavior as they occur.

## **Behavior**

1. Hazing will not be tolerated. This includes "initiation rites", tent dropping, "snipe hunting", and any other form of mental or physical abuse. Unruly, disrespectful or disobedient behavior will not be tolerated.
2. The "lights out" policy will be respected.
3. No swearing or use of unfit language at any Scout function.
4. Raiding or destroying campsites is strictly forbidden.
5. There are to be no carbonated drinks on campouts.
6. Throwing of rocks or other objects is forbidden.
7. Horseplay and fighting will not be tolerated.
8. No borrowing of any person's or troop's equipment or property without prior consent.
9. The possession of inappropriate literature is prohibited.
10. Gambling is prohibited.
11. No radios, tape players, or hand-held video games are allowed on any outings. Two-way communication devices are allowed with the approval of the Scoutmaster.

## **Camping Safety**

1. No fires are permitted inside tents or within 10 feet of a tent or dining fly.
2. Aerosol spray products are prohibited. Authorized medicines are excepted.
3. No bare feet in camp outside of tents.
4. No sandals will be allowed in camp unless at a designated water events.
5. No Scout will carry or use a knife, ax or saw until he has had the proper training and is in possession of a Totin' Chip card.

6. Saws are to be used only in designated areas.
7. Fires are for cooking, illumination and warmth. Any unauthorized use is strictly forbidden. Anyone poking at the fire with a purpose other than maintaining it will be asked to leave the campfire.
8. Liquid fuels will be stored with adults and are not allowed in the immediate campsite.
9. Cooking and campfires are to be attended at all times and completely extinguished before leaving camp, going to bed or breaking camp.
10. No use of liquid fuel by any one, for any purpose, under the age of 21 unless under the direct supervision of an adult. This includes cigarette lighters.
11. No candles, matches, stoves, heaters or lanterns are to be in or near tents.
12. No food, candy or drinks are allowed in tents.

### **Outdoor Safety**

1. Trees, living or dead will not be downed or struck without the Scoutmaster's permission.
2. Living ground cover will not be removed or destroyed.
3. Campsites will be policed, leaving them cleaner than they were found.
4. Sheath knives and knives with blades of more than four (4) inches, as well as axes and hatches will not be carried by boys or adults.
5. Scouts or adult leaders may use no alcohol or any other controlled substances at any time while scouting.
6. No use of any tobacco products by any boy members. Adults may use with discretion in designated areas. This includes chewing tobacco.

### **BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE POLICY**

The behavior required of a Scout is set forth in the Scout Law, Scout Oath, BSA and Troop 15 Safety Guidelines ("Code of Conduct"). Each Scout must understand the meaning of the Law and the Oath and apply those ideals to his daily life. All Scouts are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct. If a Scout cannot or will not abide by the Code of Conduct, he shall be subject to the discipline policy of Troop 15 and BSA.

Discipline Policy - If a Scout is abusing the Code of Conduct, adults will be selected to review the incident and correct the situation within the troop. It is the ultimate responsibility of the Scoutmaster, or the adult leaders in charge, to discuss and resolve the situation. The Scoutmaster or adult leader in charge may, in his or her discretion, find it necessary to advise the Senior Patrol Leader of the situation and seek his advice. The severity and number of incidents will determine the course of action. The following may occur:

1. Two adults will issue the Scout a verbal warning. BSA Youth Protection Guidelines will be followed.
2. If the violation is more severe, or if the Scout's actions are continually distracting or disruptive to the operation of the troop, or are beyond the control of the patrol leader, Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster, the Scout will be asked to leave the activity. In this event the Scout's parents will be notified and will be asked to take the Scout

- home. If a parent cannot be contacted the Scout will sit out the activities under supervision until such time the parents can be contacted and the Scout sent home.
3. If the situation is not resolved the Scout may be asked to leave the troop.

**Follow-up Procedures with Parents** - On the occurrence of the first violation of the Code of Conduct, the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters or members of the Troop Committee may convene to discuss the details of the offense. A troop designee will be appointed to notify the parents or guardians of the Scout involved and any action taken. This will serve as a warning to the Scout and his parents or guardian.

On the occurrence of the second violation of the Code of Conduct, or dependent on the severity of the violation, the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, and members of the Troop Committee may convene to discuss details of the offense. A troop designee may be appointed to notify the parents or guardian of the Scout involved and request that they meet with the Troop Committee or selective representatives to discuss the problem and the corrective action(s) to be taken.

Following the third violation of the Code of Conduct, or depending on the severity of the violation, (generally occurring within a 6-month period) the parents or guardians will be notified and a hearing will be scheduled. At the hearing with the Troop Committee, actions will be discussed and the disposition of the scout will be decided, including and possibly the Scout's eligibility to remain a member of Troop 15.

**Adult Behavior** - Scouts are greatly influenced by the behavior that takes place around them. All adults are expected to comply with the Code of Conduct and to conduct themselves in a courteous and professional manner. The troop committee and all other concerned adults will deal with adult behavior problems in a professional and timely manner.

## **REFERENCES**

- Advancement Policies and Procedures Committee Guide, BSA publication number 33088
- Boy Scout Handbook, BSA publication number 33105 3rd edition
- Boy Scout Requirements, BSA publication number 33215E
- Den Chief Handbook, BSA publication number 3211A
- Guide to Safe Scouting, BSA publication number 34416C
- Insignia Guide, BSA publication number 33066B
- Junior Leader Handbook, BSA publication number 33500A
- Rules and Regulations of the BSA, BSA publication number 57-492
- Scoutmaster's Handbook, BSA publication number 33009
- Troop Committee Guide Book, BSA publication number 34505B