

Boy Scout Troop 50 Deerfield, IL 60015



Troop 50 Handbook

Saint Gregory's Episcopal Church, Deerfield, IL

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Aims and Methods of the Boy Scout Program

Aims

Boy Scouting works toward three aims. One is growth in moral strength and character. We may define this as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, and his outlook.

A second aim is participatory citizenship. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligation to other people, to the society in which he lives, and to the government that presides over that society.

A third aim of Boy Scouting is development of physical, mental and emotional fitness. Fitness includes the body (well tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and emotions (self-control, courage and self-respect).

Methods

Advancement – Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome through the advancement process. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. More is discussed about advancement later in this guide.

Adult Association -- Boys learn from the examples set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage in a young man's development.

Ideals -- The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually strives to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them he has some control over what kind of person he becomes.

Leadership Development -- Boy Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. The Troop, Patrols and other parts of the group are boy-led. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and individual leadership situations. This sets Scouting apart from most organized youth activities. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Patrols -- The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating in citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected leaders.

Personal Growth- As Scouts plan their activities, and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The "good turn" concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do good turns for others.

Outdoors -- Boy Scouting is designed to take place in the outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities, learn to live with each other, and also to become self-reliant. It is here where the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive. More is discussed about the outdoor program later in this guide.

Uniform -- The uniform makes the Scout visible as a force of good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform (whether the Formal Class A or informal Class B) shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of shared ideals. More is discussed about the uniform later in this guide.

Introduction

Boy Scout Troop 50 has been an active part of Deerfield and surrounding communities for more than 50 years. The Troop was first chartered in October 1957. It is sponsored by and meets at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church. Troop 50 is recognized as one of the most successful Troops in the Northeast Illinois Council, as evidenced by its repeat designation as a "Quality Unit."

The Troop has consistently enjoyed outstanding boy and adult leadership. The boy leaders participate in leadership training courses at the Troop and Council levels. The Scoutmaster, several Assistant Scoutmasters, and many of the Committee members have taken Boy Scout Leader Basic Training and other leader training courses including Outdoor Skills, Swim Safely and Safety Afloat.

While advancement is considered an important part of our program, it is not overemphasized. Each boy is encouraged to take away from the program what is most important to him. Our Troop is committed to the outdoor spirit, something that can be kindled in every boy. Scouting is where boys can experience exciting outdoor action and have fun.

Membership and Dues

SCOUTS: Membership in Troop 50 is open to all boys between the ages of 11 and 18 or to those boys who have completed fifth grade or earned the Arrow of Light in Cub Scouts and are at least the age of 10. Additionally, the boy must have read the Scout Oath and Law and have promised to observe them. A completed registration and health form must be signed and turned in with the appropriate fee before a new Scout can participate in any outdoor event. This fee covers the National Scout registration fee, "Boy's Life" subscription, insurance, program materials, awards, etc., as well as the Troop 50 dues. Checks should be made payable to BSA Troop 50. Subsequently, an updated registration form, dues payment and medical form are collected annually.

ADULTS: We ask that at least one adult per family be registered, so that he or she is covered by BSA liability insurance when driving to or participating in events. All registered adults need to be complete Youth Protection Training, which can easily be completed on-line.

Troop Committee

When a Scout joins Troop 50, **so can his parents!!!** Troop 50 is an all-volunteer organization. Delivering the Scouting program to the Troop is the shared responsibility. The program is only as good as what the members of the Troop put into it. Each family benefits from the time, talents, and resources of other parents. It is both necessary and equitable that each family participate in some way. Happily, parents who participate find that, in return, they make new friends, do interesting and helpful things, and share and understand their son's Scouting experience.

As discussed in more detail throughout this Handbook, participation can include such things as parents becoming an assistant Scoutmaster, serving on the Troop Committee, driving/participating on campouts, attending summer camp, organizing Troop functions, or serving as a Merit Badge Counselor.

The adult governing body of the Troop is the Troop Committee. The Troop Committee is subdivided into permanent sub-committees or functions based upon recommended Troop organization by the BSA and actual experience. The Troop Committee Chairman is responsible for the smooth running of the Troop Committee. A member representing each sub-committee or function is expected to attend the monthly Troop Committee meeting.

When a parent volunteers for a Troop Committee position, we ask for a two-year commitment. In the first year of the commitment, the adult often serves as an "apprentice" to the chairman of the sub-committee or function, and in the second year serves as the chairman of that sub-committee. The chairman of a sub-committee may volunteer to stay in a position longer than one year, but should always continue to have an assistant who is prepared to assume the chairmanship position the following year. A parent may be released from his or her commitment if their son leaves Scouting, or if other circumstances dictate.

The benefits to the Troop of apprentice/chairman approach to staffing the Troop Committee positions and the reasons this practice has been adopted are:

- Parents of new Scouts can take comfort in knowing they will be "shown the ropes" for a year.
- The apprentice approach allows us to pass on the knowledge and best practices of the Committee position from parent to parent quickly and efficiently.
- It gives the Troop Committee significant "bench strength" and helps compensate for absences due to conflicts, business travel, and other legitimate obligations.
- It provides more adult participation – a key ingredient to the success of the Scouting program--and allows the Committee to spread out the work.
- It provides the Troop with stability and continuity.

Troop Committee Positions

Committee Chairman:

- Organizes the committee to see that all functions are delegated, coordinated, and completed.
- Maintains a close relationship with the chartered organization representative (in our case, St Gregory's church) and the Scoutmaster.
- Sees that troop leaders and committee members have training opportunities.
- Prepares troop committee meeting agendas.
- Calls, presides over, and promotes attendance at monthly troop committee meetings and any special meetings that may be called.
- Sits in on Boards of Review, Eagle Boards of Review and Patrol leaders Council meetings when needed.
- Ensure troop representation at monthly roundtables and council events.

Co-Committee Chairman:

- Assists Chairman or Chairs (in the absence of the Chairman) Committee meetings.
- Helps to recognize the Troop's needs for adult leadership and establishes job descriptions for new positions.
- Helps Chairman fill vacant leadership positions with qualified people.
- Helps in or oversees the annual charter.
- Sits in on Boards of Review, Eagle Boards of Review and Patrol Leaders Council meetings when needed.
- Advises and assists other Committee members when needed.

Secretary:

- Keeps minutes of meetings and send out committee meeting notices. (Phone calls to remind committee of meetings)
- Handles publicity and Monthly Newsletter.
- At each meeting, reports the minutes of the previous meeting.

Treasurer:

- Handles all troop funds. Pays bills on recommendation of the Scoutmaster and authorization of the troop committee.
- Maintains checking and savings accounts
- Keeps adequate financial records.
- Supervises money – earning projects including obtaining proper authorization.
- Leads in the preparation of the annual troop budget.
- Leads the Friends of Scouting campaign.
- Reports to the troop committee at each meeting.

- Arranges for Charter Review and recharter annually.
Prepares documents for annual review by outside CPA.

Advancement Chairman:

- Maintains records of troop advancement (database and blue cards).
- Leads Boards of Review.
- Organizes Courts of Honor.
- Reports to monthly Committee Meeting.
- Turns in forms, purchases badges and pins.
- Procures flag from Congressman for Eagle Scout.
- Develops and maintains a troop merit badge counselor list.

Quartermaster:

- Supervises and helps the troop procure camping equipment.
- Works with the Junior Quartermaster on inventory, proper storage and maintenance of all troop equipment.
- Makes periodic safety checks on all troop camping gear, and encourage troop in the safe use of all outdoor equipment.
- Reports to the troop committee at each meeting.

Outdoor Chairman:

- Makes recommendations to Patrol Leaders Council on where to camp
- Secures permission for use of campsites
- Assists the adult assigned to each outing arrange for transportation.
- Secures permits.
- Helps the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster collect permission slips, money, and keep track of who goes camping.
- Reports to Troop Committee at meetings.
- Inform sScouts of activities.

Eagle Scout Project Coordinator:

- Helps stimulate and develop ideas for Eagle Scout Projects.
- Develops process for Eagle Candidate to follow protocol leading to Eagle rank award.
- Attends Council advancement meetings.
- Serves as liaison to Troop Committee.
- Obtains Eagle letters of commendation.

Website Chairman

- Manage Troop 50's excellent website
- Forward all emails directed to the entire Troop

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Coordinator:

- Organizes and facilitates Troop 50 scouts' participation at Makajawan.
- Holds a Camp Information night for parents and Scouts.
- Secures reservation with council for troop.
- Secures top notch trained adults for camp.
- Collects money from boys.

Recruitment Coordinator

- Manages relations with local Cub Scouts and their leaders
- Facilitates communications with, visits by and events with Cub Scouts

The Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of the troop. The Scoutmaster and his assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. The Scoutmaster's duties include:

Meetings

- Meet regularly with the patrol leaders' council for training and coordination in planning troop activities.
- Attend all troop meetings or, when necessary, arrange for a qualified adult substitute.
- Attend troop committee meetings.
- Conduct periodic parents' sessions to share the program and encourage parent participation and cooperation.
- Take part in annual membership inventory and uniform inspection, charter review meeting, and charter presentation.

Guidance

- Conduct Scoutmaster conferences for all rank advancements.
- Provide a systematic recruiting plan for new members and see that they are promptly registered.
- Delegate responsibility to other adults and groups (assistants, troop committee) so that they have a real part in troop operations.
- Supervise troop elections for the Order of the Arrow.

Activities

- Make it possible for each Scout to experience at least 10 days and nights of camping each year.
- Participate in council and district events.

- Build a strong program by using proven methods presented in Scouting literature.
- Conduct all activities under qualified leadership, safe conditions, and the policies of the chartered organization and the Boy Scouts of America.

Assistant Scoutmasters

To fulfill his obligation to the troop, the Scoutmaster, with the assistance of the troop committee, recruits assistant Scoutmasters to help operate the troop. Each assistant Scoutmaster may be assigned specific program duties and reports to the Scoutmaster. They also provide the required two-deep leadership standards set by the BSA. An assistant Scoutmaster may be 18 years old, but at least one in each troop should be 21 or older, so he or she can serve in the Scoutmaster's absence.

Meeting Schedules

TROOP MEETINGS: Troop meetings are held from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings during the school year at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, which is located at the corner of Wilmot and Deerfield Roads in Deerfield. Parents are asked to join the Troop meeting at 8:45p.m. sharp each week for important "circle up" announcements.

The Boy Scout Handbook should be brought to all Scout meetings. The Scout Handbook serves as an excellent reference, and will assist a Scout in working toward advancement and improving his Scout skills

PATROL MEETINGS: A short patrol meeting is held at each troop meeting to deal with current business (menu planning, working on skills, collection of money for campouts). Patrols meet at the call of the Patrol Leader outside the regular Troop meetings to work on advancement or just to have fun. This helps to build team spirit.

PATROL LEADERS COUNCIL: The PLC is composed of the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s) (ASPL), Troop Scribe, Patrol Leaders (PL), Assistant Patrol Leaders (APL), Venture Crew Leader, and Troop Guides. The PLC meets once a month at the church; usually the same night as the Troop Committee, to plan the upcoming Troop program-- which includes weekly Troop meeting as well as monthly campouts. The PLC meets in May with the Scoutmaster and Assistants to plan the programs for the upcoming Scout year, which begins in September.

TROOP COMMITTEE MEETINGS: The Troop Committee meets monthly at the Church, as scheduled by the Troop calendar. Additional meetings may be called as deemed necessary. The Committee consists of the Committee

Chairman, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Committee Members, and any interested parents.

COURT OF HONOR CEREMONIES: The Troop holds three Court of Honor Ceremonies annually (usually in September, January and May). See below for further information

Troop Communications

E-MAIL: A principal form of communication for the Troop is email, so please ensure both scout and parent email addresses are kept up to date. The Committee chair keeps contact information for all Troop scouts and adults and circulates printed rosters regularly.

CIRCLE UP: at the end of weekly meetings, held punctually at 8:45 p.m. for both scouts and adults. Adults are strongly encouraged to attend this briefing.

WEBSITE: Adults and scouts should regularly check this resource and repository of photos of Troop 50 events. Please note the website is NOT password protected, so confidential or sensitive information (such as the Troop roster or last names of scouts) is purposely not located on this site.

PATROLS: Troop 50 uses the Patrol system to get information from the Patrol Leaders' Council to the individual Scouts. The Senior Patrol Leader calls the Patrol Leader or Assistant Patrol Leader, who then call the members of the Patrols. Scouts should call their Patrol Leaders if they have questions. Adult leaders are also available to answer questions about activities.

Advancement

Advancement is a central part of the Scouting program. If a Scout attends meetings, weekend campouts and summer camp on a regular basis, the program balance will help him advance and give him an even greater sense of accomplishment. When a Scout is advancing, he is learning important skills and leadership. The advancement process blends the use of learned skills with new ones to meet challenges in leadership and service to achieve the best results.

RANKS, in order of seniority are:

Scout
Tenderfoot
Second Class
First Class

Star
Life
Eagle

SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCE: To advance in rank, the Scout must meet with the Scoutmaster before his Board of Review. The Scoutmaster will review the record of rank achievements made in the boy's Scout Handbook. The Scoutmaster will also meet with each boy at least once annually, whether or not advancing, to determine the boy's satisfaction with the Troop and his goals in his Scouting career.

BOARDS OF REVIEW: The next step in each advancement rank is a "Board of Review." The Scout must appear in full, correct "Class A" uniform and bring his handbook. The Advancement Chairman and at least two other adult leaders conduct this review. Their purpose is not to retest him, but to make sure he has met all the requirements, to gain feedback about the Troop and its program and, of course, to make sure he is getting along with the Troop and to encourage him to keep advancing.

After passing a "Board of Review," the Scout has earned his new badge of rank effective immediately. He is then formally recognized at the troop's next Court of Honor.

The Northeast Illinois Council conducts Boards of Review for Eagle Scout rank once a month.

COURTS OF HONOR: The merit badges, ranks and special awards earned by the Scouts are recognized in ceremonies called Courts of Honor. There are usually three Courts of Honor held each year: in September, January, and May. These are important family events, and all family members are encouraged to attend. Not only does a Scout get full recognition for all of his work, but Courts of Honor are also used to inform parents of upcoming activities. They also stand as a social event for the entire family, with lots of great refreshments served. Hence, it is very important that every family attends even if their Scout will not be receiving recognition.

MERIT BADGES: One of the truly great resources of Boy Scouting is the Merit Badge program. It gives a Scout the opportunity to increase his knowledge in over 120 diverse fields. Indeed, the program has been credited with introducing many Scouts to the career that they ultimately choose. The requirements for each Badge – which change occasionally – provide a structured learning experience under the guidance of a knowledgeable adult. Basic information is provided in a BSA pamphlet for each Badge.. The Troop does maintain a small library of Merit Badge pamphlets to use or they can be purchased at the Scout Store. Current requirements by merit badge are available on line at meritbadge.org or usscouts.org

The ranks of Star, Life and Eagle require that a Scout earn a certain number of Merit Badges, some required, some elective. As shown on pages 188 – 193 of the Boy Scout Handbook, there are Merit Badges covering hobbies, careers, sports, science, and Scouting skills. A Scout may begin working on Merit Badges as soon as he has joined, and he has until age eighteen to finish any badge he starts.

The Merit Badge program is set up to be largely self-directed. Some merit badge “clinics” are offered by the Troop, at offsite clinics, and at Makajawan, . While these opportunities are well publicized, ultimately it is up to each Scout to learn what Badges are required for his advancement; learn the requirements for the badge; find and work with an approved merit badge counselor, and execute the achievements.

SERVICE PROJECTS: To help foster a sense of personal responsibility and citizenship, Scouts are required to participate in service projects, approved beforehand by the Scoutmaster, which benefit the Scout’s religious institution, school, or community. Such service work must be done solely to satisfy his Scouting requirement; projects done for other reasons (such as part of a school project or to serve the Troop itself) do not qualify. Frequently, the Troop or District will originate a service project for its Scouts to perform.

Scout Leadership

An important part of Scouting is leadership. A Scout cannot attain the senior ranks of Star, Life or Eagle unless he has actively and satisfactorily served in one of the specified leadership positions. Merely holding a position is not adequate. Because Scouts run the Troop, the quality of the Troop program depends on active involvement by the junior leadership.

ELECTED POSITIONS: The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and Patrol Leader (PL) positions are elected positions. Patrol Leaders are normally elected in May for the following year. The SPL is normally elected in May by the troop and must be a Scout who is agreeable to the Scoutmaster.

APPOINTED POSITIONS: With the advice of the Scoutmaster, the SPL appoints the remaining Troop officers: Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s), Scribe, Quartermaster, Troop Guide(s), Historian, Librarian, etc. Each Patrol Leader appoints his Assistant Patrol Leader(s), Scribe, Quartermaster, etc. Elected leaders serve until their successor has been installed, but may be dismissed for cause by the Scoutmaster. When a leader ceases to actively serve, his assistant becomes the acting leader, until the next regular or special election.

JUNIOR ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER (JASM): The Scoutmaster may appoint any High School Junior or Senior Scout – usually of Eagle rank – to be a JASM. He may then function as an Assistant Scoutmaster.

RECOGNITION: At the discretion and timing of the Scoutmaster, Scouts may receive a recognition certificate for their position. Scouts, who complete the Troop Leader training course and/or the Council Den Chief training course, have warranted that they have read the Junior Leader handbook (or the Den Chief handbook) and are familiar with the duties of their position. The Scout may also, at the discretion of the trainer, be given a certificate of completion and a “Trained” patch to wear underneath their position patch. Scouts who have completed the Brownsea course are entitled to wear the BSA “JLT” patch on their right pocket.

Ways and Means

To raise money to cover most of the Troop’s operating and equipment-replacement costs, the Troop offers the community an annual fundraising “Spaghetti Dinner” event in the Spring. Each Scout and his family are expected to participate in this effort. Each family is also strongly encouraged to contribute its fair share to the Northeast Illinois Council’s Friends of “Scouting Campaign”, which is an essential part of its annual budget.

Tax Exempt Purchases

Food, supplies, or equipment purchased for a Scout activity or the Troop are exempt from Illinois Sales Tax. To claim the exemption, advise the cashier before the sale is rung up that it is a tax-free transaction. If the cashier asks if your organization has a letter on file, tell the cashier that the exemption applies to all Scout units in the Northeast Illinois Council. The cashier may request that BSA identification be shown. It is a good idea to write the tax-exempt number on the identification card. Copies of the Tax Exempt letter are available from the Troop treasurer.

Safety and Youth Protection

The Boy Scouts of America has policies and programs designed to promote safety and to protect Scouts from abuse. Scouting takes this very seriously.

One of these policies is “Two-Deep Leadership,” which means that there must always be present at Scout activities at least two registered adult leaders, or one adult and a parent of a participating Scout. At least one adult must be age 21 or older.

Specific policies and procedures, reflecting eighty-plus years of experience, are contained in the 42-page BSA publication, Guide to Safe Scouting. The Scoutmaster is responsible for ensuring that these policies are known.

The Boy Scouts of America also seeks to educate its Scouts, leaders, and families on the subject of Child Abuse. This includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional maltreatment, or neglect. This education starts with the pamphlet attached inside every new copy of the Boy Scout Handbook, which each Scout must review with his parents. Further education is provided at the Troop level by the periodic showing of the BSA video, *A Time to Tell*.

All adult volunteers MUST undergo Youth Protection training , and update it every two years (available on line at scouting.org)

So that no questions may arise with in scouting activities, standing rules prohibit any adult from private one-on-one contact with a Scout who is not his or her son. Any one-on-one contact must be in open view, and private contact must have a ratio of 2:1, either adults or Scouts.

Proper Scout Behavior

While attending Scout meetings and activities, all boys are expected to act in a manner becoming of Scouts. Scouting has its own standards and code of behavior, set forth in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The founder of Scouting, Lord Baden-Powell, largely based these upon the Chivalric Code of Knights. He sought to instill the most universally admired qualities a man could have. As such, these are an elite system of values, not easily attained. Hence, some types of behavior that may be common or acceptable within a typical boy's peer group are not acceptable for a Scout.

Each Scout takes an oath, on his personal honor, to do his best to obey the Scout Law and be Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent. These principles should govern his conduct in all aspects of his life, not just at Scout functions or when adults are present. The Scout Handbook expressly states that "Scout Spirit" means living the Scout Oath and Law in one's everyday life. Hence, incidents of un- Scout-like behavior, which occur anywhere, will be considered in determining whether a Scout has shown Scout spirit for purposes of advancement.

Regardless of his age, size, rank, or office, no Scout is above or below any other Scout in deserving respect and being expected to pitch in and help. During its functions, Troop 50 considers the following conduct unacceptable:

1. Picking on another Scout, either physically or by mental cruelty.
2. Using profane or vulgar language.
3. Using alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
4. Refusing to share equally in work or the activity at hand.
5. Engaging in inconsiderate, unsafe, or reckless behavior.
6. Being disrespectful to adults or junior leaders or discourteous to anyone.
7. Vandalizing or taking others' property, including food on campouts.
8. Disregarding Troop Rules or Policies.

The Patrol Leaders' Council has instituted a method to deal with a Scout whose behavior shows a disregard for the Scout Oath, The Scout Law or the Scout Motto. When Scouts break the rules and need to be disciplined, the general rule for the Troop will be that the Scouts will suffer the consequences of their behavior immediately. The Scoutmasters and the Senior Patrol Leader will review the matter and decide on the appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary action consisting of suspensions from leadership positions and Scouting activities will be avoided and used only in the most serious case.

Honor Code

A Scout takes an oath on his honor to do his best to obey the Scout Law. These are not empty words. A Scout should be prepared to have his conduct reviewed by this standard and to take the consequences when he falls short. A Scout should never try to hide a misdeed, but should instead report it himself. If someone else reports him, he should not hold it against him or her, because the conduct was his own. As the Scout Handbook says, "There will be times when your judgment fails and you make mistakes. Everyone does." It adds, "If you quickly admit what you have done and make good on any damage, others will soon forget the incident. By learning from these mistakes, you can do better in the future." As the Handbook points out, this demonstrates bravery. "You are brave every time you do what is right in spite of what others might say. You are brave when you speak the truth and when you admit a mistake and apologize for it."

It follows that a Scout does a disservice to the Troop and, ultimately, to the Scout himself when he witnesses improper behavior by another Scout and he doesn't try to stop it and/or he fails to promptly report it to his leaders. This is false loyalty. Indeed, it is disloyalty to the Troop, which depends on having complete, and correct information at all times. Typically, a Scout's true motive in remaining silent is his fear of how the other Scout(s) will deal with him if he speaks out.

Camping Program and Gear

Troop 50 is a camping Troop. In addition to one or two weeks at Summer Camp, there are campout and other special outings every month of the program year.

Usually each Patrol plans its own food menus, cooks as a group, and then cleans up afterwards. The Scoutmaster or other adult leader in advance of the campout approves menus. Parents are encouraged to know and approve of what their son eats on campouts. A balanced menu is expected for every meal. No soft drinks or junk foods are allowed on campouts.

Most campouts leave from St. Gregory's Church late afternoon on Fridays. The Troop normally returns late morning or midday on Sunday. Scouts should arrive about one-half hour before departure and have eaten dinner.

To make sure that all parent and guardians share the responsibility for transportation, parents will be requested to drive for at least one campout during the year. For adults who stay at the camp with the Troop, the Troop will provide tents. The adults may form their own group to function similar to a Patrol in preparing their meals, and separate fees will be collected from them to cover the cost of food. The Troop will pay all other fees.

Weekend camping trips are self-supporting with each Scout paying his Patrol for food and the Troop for any added fees. For budgeting purposes, the cost of food is approximately \$10.00-\$15.00 per campout plus fees. All money should be turned in two (2) meetings in advance of the campout. The money is given to the Scout responsible for buying the food, so please provide cash.

At the Troop meeting immediately before the outing, all drivers and overnight adult leaders must be finalized. Each patrol finalizes its menu at this meeting, and checks its equipment.

Before a Scout is allowed to leave on an outing, a signed permission slip must be turned in to the Scoutmaster or Senior Patrol Leader. In addition, the Scout's annual Health Form must be up-to-date and on-file with the Troop. **No Scout can go on a campout without a signed permission slip and valid Health Form.**

The Troop provides tents and a Patrol Box with the necessary cooking gear for Patrol food preparation. All of the equipment needs to be treated with at least as much care as one's personal possessions would be, instead of being viewed as "somebody else's stuff" which can be abused with no consequences. An important part of the Scouting program is to teach an individual's responsibility toward a larger group. Parents must support this process and be a part of it.

Accordingly, each Scout (and his parents) is personally responsible for any damage done to Troop equipment by him, or by others while he is entrusted with the equipment.

Scouts are required to bring certain personal gear for campouts. The following items are generally needed on a campout:

- Personal first aid kit
- Extra clothing for the season
- Rain gear or rain suit
- Flashlight
- Water bottle
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad or air mattress
- Bag for gear
- Spoon, fork, and knife
- Cup
- Dish dip sack
- Scout Handbook
- Scout uniform
- Extra shoes or boots
- Towel, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste

Optional Gear

- Watch
- Camera and film
- Notebook and pencil/pen
- Insect repellent
- Sunglasses
- Matches
- Scout Field book\Compass
- Scout knife (Scout must earn privilege)

The following are **prohibited items** for Troop camping trips:

- Fireworks
- Tobacco *
- Drugs or Alcohol *
- Candy or cookies
- iPods or video games**
- Electronic Games
- Soda pop

- Aerosol Spray Cans
- Excessive money
- Sheath Knives

* Scouts who are found with these items will have their parents notified to pick them up immediately.

**iPods and electronic games may be used during the drive to the campsite and back, but not on the campout.

Note to Parents: If you are uncertain about what equipment to buy, talk to the adult leaders. Many times the best equipment may not be the most expensive.

Summer Camp/Makajawan

Troop 50 attends a long-term camp every summer. One or two weeks in the middle of July are spent at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation, which is located near Pearson, Wisconsin (approximately 40 miles southeast of Rhinelander, Wisconsin). Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan is owned and operated by the Northeast Illinois Council. A Scout can attend for either one or two weeks.

The cost for the camp is \$240.00 per week in 2011—a great bargain. Financial camperships are available for Scouts who need help with the cost. Since we are required to provide our own adult leadership, we count on several parents or guardians each year to help us out at camp. Camping at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan is a great experience for both the Scouts and their parents.

A completed medical form signed by a doctor is required to attend camp. More information about camp is available from the Makajawan coordinator of the Troop. Incoming Webelos and other new Scouts are encouraged to attend camp.

Parents (Guardians) Responsibilities

Beyond the need to assist with transportation, parents are encouraged to attend campouts, as well as serve in adult leadership positions. BSA policy requires that at least two registered adult leaders be present on each campout, having more adults however is preferable.

Parents who participate in campouts or other off site events should follow these guidelines:

A. DRIVING:

1. All occupants must wear seat belts.
2. All drivers must be licensed at least 18 years old and be a registered driver with the Troop.

3. An adult leader (age 21+) must be in charge and accompany the group.
4. Passengers must ride in the seats.
5. Passengers in trucks must ride in the cab.
6. Driver and vehicle must have adequate automobile liability insurance.
7. No alcoholic beverage consumption before or during trip.
8. No smoking during the driving trip
9. No speeding or reckless driving.
10. Minimum ratio in vehicle: If only one Scout is in the vehicle there must be at least two adults present in the vehicle, unless the Scout is your son, in order to conform with official BSA Youth Protection Policy.

B. CAMPING:

1. No consumption of alcoholic beverages – anywhere – during campout.
2. No smoking in front of Scouts, if at all.
3. No use of profanity or comments in bad taste in front of Scouts.
4. No leaving campsite without minimum ratio of two adults and /or two Scouts (unless son). For any extended expedition, must have no fewer than four individuals (two being adults). If accident occurs, one stays with injured person and two go for help.
5. Be attentive, but not intrusive. Keep in mind that this is the Scouts' activity. They should be given considerable latitude in running it, however imperfectly. If you have a criticism, try to deal through the senior Scout present. If you deal directly with a Scout – including your own son – avoid making comments likely to embarrass or anger him.
6. Promptly intervene to stop dangerous, violent, or socially inappropriate behavior. Advise the adult Leader and senior Scout of any incident.
7. Enforce Troop rules against having prohibited items (*e.g.*, fireworks, alcohol/tobacco, sheath knives, radio/walkman, pop, sweets, personal food, or aerosol spray cans). Confiscate and report.
8. If a Scout asks you questions, which are more appropriately answered by the Senior Patrol Leader or a more experienced Scout, please encourage the Scout to the appropriate Scout leader.
9. In teaching Scouts, try to draw them out by using questions and giving them hands-on experience. Be patient. Avoid simply lecturing them.

Order of the Arrow

The Order of the Arrow is an honorary society within Boy Scouts. Its purpose is to develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit, and to promote Scout camping. It does this by recognizing those campers – Scouts and Scouters- who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Such recognition is intended to cause other campers to conduct themselves in a similar matter, leading to life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others

New members are not selected by the existing members, but by a Scout's entire Troop. New members of the troop are not allowed to vote until they have been on a couple of campouts and have gotten to know the potential Scout candidates. Elections are held each winter. To qualify a scout must be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America, must hold First Class rank, and have attended summer camp and a specified number of regular Troop campouts. Only a limited number of Scouts from a Troop may be elected. Scouts are expected to vote for the most exemplary persons, not the most popular.

Service Projects

In addition to individual service projects, the Troop as a whole may do a service project for the Church, community, or some other organization. Annually, in the spring, there is the District/Council drive to gather food for the needy: *Scouting for Food*. In these situations, the Scoutmaster may deem participation to satisfy an activity requirement and/or credit service hours.

Troop Rules

A. Meetings

1. Be at least 5 minutes early for meetings.
2. Do not go outside the meeting room without the permission of a Scoutmaster. When you leave with permission, go directly to your destination and come back as soon as possible.
3. Do not wear a hat or any garment over the Scout uniform – inside the meeting room
4. Do not bring a drink can into the meeting room.
5. Do not make loud noises.

6. While in troop formation, do not speak unless recognized by the SPL or Scoutmaster. Listen instead.

B. Campouts

1. On every campout, carry a compass, flashlight, pocketknife (if Totin' Chip card is on person), and a small personal first aid kit.
2. No canned drinks, juice boxes, candy or personal food are allowed on campouts. Also not allowed are aerosol spray cans, controlled substances, electronic devices, fireworks, sheath knives, switchblades, or large knives.
3. No illegal substances (alcohol, drugs, tobacco). Scouts in possession of them will be removed from the campsite immediately. His parents will be notified and required to pick him up from the campground authorities as soon as possible, at their own expense.
4. Any equipment taken out by a Scout must be put back by him – in the same condition – as soon as possible.
5. The Patrol Leader is responsible for making sure that the Patrol site is policed prior to Patrol members leaving. Likewise, the Senior Patrol Leader is responsible for making sure that the Troop site is presentable.
6. If you see litter on the ground, it is yours. If you fail to pick it up, you have littered.

C. General Rules of Conduct

1. If I open it, I will close it.
2. If I turn it on, I will turn it off.
3. If I unlock it, I will lock it back up.
4. If I break it, I will admit it.
5. If I can't fix it, I will find someone who can.
6. If I borrow it, I will return it
7. If I value it, I will take care of it.
8. If I make a mess, I will clean it up.
9. If I move it, I will put it back.
10. If it belongs to someone else, I will get permission to use it.
11. If I don't know how to operate it, I will leave it alone.

As mentioned previously, the Patrol Leader's Council has instituted a method to deal with Scouts whose behavior shows a disregard for the Scout Oath, The Scout Law or the Scout Motto.

Policy on Determining Preference for Crew Participants on High Adventure Activities

Adopted on June 9, 2008

The availability of spots on High Adventure crews such as Philmont is usually limited; therefore the criteria for selecting Scout participants must be objective.

All High Adventure crews must have a predetermined trained Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster to serve as the primary adult leader. Once an adult leader has been determined the activity must be offered to all scouts that meet the requirements of the activity (age, physical condition).

Upon completion of a reasonable sign-up period the primary adult leader and or scoutmaster will select secondary adult leaders as needed from volunteers based on qualifications. The sons of the adult leaders will receive spots on the crew if they meet the requirements of the activity.

If there are not enough spots available, the following criteria in the order listed shall be used to determine which scouts will attend.

1. School grade level
2. Age by full year at the time of sign-up.
3. Rank. Current rank only, though consideration may be given if a scout lacks only a Scoutmaster Conference and/or Board or Review to advance to the next rank.
4. Participation in troop camp outs.
5. Lottery (pull names out of a hat)

Example: Two boys are both freshmen, both are 14 years old (even if one will turn 15 in a month and the other will turn 15 in 6 months), one is 1st class and one is Star. The boy who is Star will go. If both are first class the boy who can show the scoutmaster he has participated in more campouts will go. If both boys are equal at this point, flip a coin.

Troop 50 Financial Policy

Adopted on September 19, 2005

Purpose

To establish a set of Troop financial policies that can be consistently followed regardless of the size of the Troop or the Troop's financial condition.

Policies

Troop 50 does not want any Scout to be excluded from any Troop sponsored event because of costs. If any event creates a financial hardship the parents of the scout should contact the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman. The Scoutmaster and/or Committee Chairman will review the scouts' participation in meetings, activities and fundraisers in the decision.

Dues are collected once a year in January, rather than paying a small amount each week or month. Dues are used for Council registration, insurance, Boy's Life, Program Materials, Awards etc. The amount of the annual dues will be decided by the Troop Committee each year.

Monies earned by a scout will remain in his passbook account as long as he is a registered scout. The funds in these accounts are to be used by that scout for any Troop sponsored activity or scouting related equipment. Should the scout not re-register the account is closed and the monies revert to the Troop Treasury.

From time to time the troop conducts fundraisers like our annual Spaghetti Dinner. Revenues from fund raisers can be shared with the individual scouts and placed in their passbook account. The Troop committee decides how the funds will be allocated between the troop and the scouts. The committee can award prizes for top selling scouts and patrols.

At the discretion of the Treasurer, refunds due scouts can be credited to the scout's passbook account.

The Troop Treasury pays for Brownsea training for scouts nominated by the Scoutmaster and selected by the Committee Chairman.

The Troop Treasury pays for Junior Leader training for all Junior Leaders.

The Troop Treasury pays for refreshments (cake and coffee) after special events such as Court of Honor and Eagle presentations.

The Troop Treasury pays for a plaque for Eagle scouts.

Registered scouts are entitled to 1 free red class B t- shirt.

Scout Activity Expenses

Most Troop camping trips and activities will be funded by the scouts who attend and the troop. The outdoor chairman will determine how many adult leaders are necessary to participate in the outing to make the outing work. This is usually determined by how many boys are going and how many cars it will take to get them there. Per scout rules you need a minimum of 2 adult leaders per event.

The Outdoor Chairman will estimate the event's total cost and determine the per person activity fee. Items to be included but not limited to are camping fees, lodging and transportation expenses. All leaders required to transport scouts or equipment attending the activity will be reimbursed for any transportation costs and activity fees for events farther than 50 miles one way. Expenses for pulling the trailer will be reimbursed for all events. Any unexpected shortage will be made up by the Troop Treasury; any unexpected overage will returned to the Troop Treasury.

Leaders and scouts will pay for their own food.

Generally adult leaders will be responsible for 'special' discretionary and or expensive activities such as rock climbing, football tickets, Philmont high adventure etc. At the discretion of the committee some or all of the activity's costs may be paid by the troop.

With committee approval the troop may from time to time hold events that are funded from the treasury where there is no charge to the scouts.

How Activity Fees are Determined

Fuel reimbursement will be determined by dividing the miles traveled by 16 mpg times the current price per gallon of regular gasoline or diesel fuel or the actual cost paid for the fuel with a submitted receipt. Where applicable toll charges will be estimated and added to the drivers' travel reimbursement and the participant's fee costs. The reimbursement for a driver pulling the troop trailer or another trailer for the troop will be 150% of the standard driver's rate or the actual cost paid for fuel with a submitted receipt.

Example: The troop goes on a camping trip that's 150 miles away (300 round trip)

Fuel = 300 miles x 5 (drivers) / 16 miles per gallon x 2.00 per gallon = 187.50

Tolls = 3.00 each x 5 = 15.00

Camping fees / park fees = 200.00

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Total estimated Fees = 402.50

Boys = 16

Adults = 5

Total attending = 21

Cost per person 19.16 (In reality this would probably be rounded to 20.00)

Each boy pays 19.16 and the troop pays for the 5 adults (5 x 19.16 = 95.80).

Scouts who sign up and pay for an activity who don't show will not receive a refund unless they have a note from their parents stating that they were sick or there was a family emergency.

In the rare case where an event is cancelled the fees will normally be reimbursed to the scouts' troop account. Money for food that has already been purchased will not be reimbursed but an effort to use or split up the food will be made.

First year initiation fees for Scouts recommended for the Order of the Arrow will be paid by the Troop. All other OA expenses and fees such as MaKajaWan camping expenses will be the responsibility of the scout.

Any expenditure over \$50, other than those required by position (Advancement or Outdoor Chairman) needs the committee's approval at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Anyone making purchases for the Troop should use the Troop's tax exempt number -E9982-8707-03.

Any changes or additions to the Troop's financial policies will require that the entire committee (all registered leaders) be notified of the suggested change prior to the next committee meeting. A majority vote of the members in attendance will change the policy.

Summer Camp Policy

Summer camp is self funding. The scout will be advised of summer camp fees and transportation expenses. The camp fees, fuel and transportation expenses for required adult leaders necessary to chaperone or transport scouts to Summer Camp will be figured into the fees scouts are charged for camp and reimbursed to the leaders. **The maximum reimbursable amount for a scout leader's transportation will be the round trip bus fare.** The scout will also be advised of other costs he may expect while at the camp so that he will bring that amount with him.

Scouts participating in weekend only camp activities will be expected to purchase meal tickets and reimburse the Troop for all fees and expenses paid by the Troop.

Required leaders will be chosen by the Troop's summer camp coordinator and the scoutmaster based on qualifications with a bias towards first come first serve. A reimbursable leader must be a registered adult leader with the Boy Scouts of America. The amount of adult leadership positions is determined by the camp and is presently one leader per 8 boys per 1 week session. In the case where the amount of boys attending camp is over a number divisible by 8 another leadership position is required. Presently MaKaJaWan doesn't charge for the first 2 adult leaders. The camp also requires adult chaperones on the camp bus when more than 8 boys are traveling in a troop. A typical session requires 3 to 4 adult leaders. Sometimes it's not possible to get enough adults who can stay for the whole week. In this case the leadership positions are split between 2 or more adults.

An estimated cost per camper will be determined by the troop Treasurer and the summer camp coordinator based on the following example. The estimate will be high in order to cover unanticipated expenses because it is usually not practical to go back to the parents for more money once they have paid. Any excess money collected will be refunded to the scouts.

Example: (Because camp policies and fees change from year to year the details in this example are for illustration only and subject to change).

The troop has 22 boys going to camp for one week. The amount of leadership positions will be three. Two leaders volunteer to stay for the whole week and two volunteer to split the 3rd leadership position. One parent volunteers to cover from Sunday to Wednesday and the other volunteers to cover from Thursday to Saturday. The troop will pay the camp fees for all the adults. In this case since the first 2 adults are free the troop has to pay for one extra adult. Round trip bus or fuel will be paid to each of the 4 leaders.

Camp fee per Scout = 185.00 / week

Bus fare per Scout = 90.00 round trip

Leader expense:

90.00 fee the 3rd leader

360.00 Round trip transportation for 4 adult leaders @ 90.00

450.00 Total leader expense

450.00 / 22 boys = 20.45 share. Make it 25.00 to cover unanticipated costs.

Boys Camp Fee:
185.00 camp
90.00 for the bus
25.00 share of the adult expense
300.00 Total per Scout

If you don't register in time the camp charges a late fee which will be paid by the scout. If your late registration causes the requirement for another adult leader you may be refused.

Any other adults are welcome to come up at their own expense per camp rules.

If one of the partial week leaders decides to stay another day he / she will have to purchase their own meal tickets.