



Troop 33

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church

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**BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA**

Information for Parents

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Welcome!

Troop 33 welcomes you as a new Scout family. Since the Boy Scouts is considerably different than the Cub Scouts, some valuable information is provided here to help you start this program. This guide provides some basic information about the Troop.

We have been chartered by the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church since June 6, 1920. We are part of the White Oak District of the National Capital Council.

Troop 33 Mission Statement

Troop 33 is a special place. The rules are ones we know well – the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. We create a safe haven at Troop 33, a place where everyone should feel physically and emotionally secure. We do this in several ways.

- We create an environment based on fun and learning.
- We seek the best from each member, and we do our best to help each person achieve it.
- We set the example for others and ourselves by always behaving as Scouts should.
- We live the Scout Oath and Law each moment of the day and to the best of our abilities.
- We refuse to tolerate any kind of inappropriate putdown, name calling, or physical aggression.
- We communicate our acceptance of each member and each other through expressions of concern and by showing our appreciation whenever possible.

Troop 33 is a boy-led troop. Empowering boys to be leaders is the core of Scouting. Scouts learn by doing, and one of our most important challenges is to train boy leaders by providing direction, coaching and support. The boys will make mistakes now and then and will rely upon the adult leaders to guide them. But only through real hands-on experience as leaders can boys learn to lead.

Joining

To join Troop 33, a boy must meet the Requirements of the Boy Scouts of America (see Appendix 1). You and your son must complete a Boy Scouts of America application. This application will be turned into the local council office.

A membership fee of \$65.00 for new scouts, or \$30.00 for Webelos crossing over or new scouts joining from March 1 through August 31, covers:

- the BSA registration and insurance
- *Troop 33 Neckerchief*
- *one Class "B" T-shirt*
- BSA Centennial Loops
- Official BSA Handbook

Your Scout can receive the Boys' Life Magazine for an optional additional \$12.

There are *no further fees for membership*. The Troop budget is structured to cover all annual registration with the local council for as long as your young man is in the Troop. Each family is expected to be current with their annual dues and participate with the fundraisers. (See Dues and Additional Fees).

Required Information

Parents must complete a Part A & B of the BSA medical form and a troop medical release before their son can participate in **ANY** outdoor activity with the Troop. The medical form provides leaders with critical information and permission to seek appropriate necessary medical treatment.¹

Any parent transporting a Scout other than their own son to any Scout activity must have adequate insurance coverage and seat belts for each passenger. The BSA requires information pertaining to each automobile and motor vehicle insurance coverage.

In order to minimize the collection of information required for each trip permit, we ask for each potential adult chaperone to give to the Troop vehicle/driver information to be kept on file.

More information on insurance requirements can be found in the Guide to Safe Scouting.²

¹ This form is available online at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsorce/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx>

² <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsorce/HealthandSafety/GSS/gss11.aspx>

Weekly Meetings

Troop meetings are Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m., so Scouts should arrive by 6:50 p.m. to assist with the set-up. Scouts arriving after 7:00 p.m. are considered 'late.'

- Troop meetings are held during inclement weather and will take place unless cancelled (Please refer to our Inclement Weather Policy).
- All Scouts should come to every meeting in uniform with their handbook, a pencil, and paper.
- Parents' Committee Meetings are held monthly.
- Troop Courts of Honor are held quarterly.

The Troop can only function when each Scout attends on a regular basis. The Troop records attendance and encourages Scouts to maintain an 85% attendance level throughout the year. Attendance is also a factor in determining eligibility for leadership posts. A Scout who will be absent from a meeting because of illness, school, family obligation or other conflicts should notify the scoutmaster and his patrol leader in advance to be excused. Absences for family obligations or school are considered 'excused' absences.

Youth Leadership

Patrol Method

Troop leadership is divided into two distinct segments: Scouts and adults. Troop 33 employs the patrol leadership method. Most leadership functions are delegated to the Scouts themselves. The Troop is made up of smaller segments called *patrols*, which are the basic functioning unit of the troop. Each patrol has a leader and an assistant who are responsible for its overall function. All patrols are encouraged to earn the National Honor Patrol Award.³

Overseeing the patrols is the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). The SPL, the individual patrol leaders, and the other Troop officers make up the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC). Troop 33 has two Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPLs), one to work with Patrol Leaders, and one to work with the other troop officers. The PLC plans and organizes the Troop's activities and functions. The PLC is also responsible for helping to conduct Courts of Honor. Elections are held in June and December.

The primary difference between Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts is that the boys, and not the adults, are expected to be their own leaders. This leadership method has proven to be very effective in developing young boys into strong leaders. Sometimes it may appear chaotic, but the method does work and has proven to provide the most benefit to

³ http://www.scouting.org/scoutsourc/Awards_Central/NationalHonorPatrol.aspx

the Scouts themselves. The Scouts are always encouraged to work through their chain of command.

The troop abides by the “Guide to Safe Scouting” and the “Sweet 16 of Scout Safety.”⁴ While events are boy led, adult leaders do supervise all events and intercede to ensure safety.

Youth leaders are expected to be at all Troop functions. If they fail in their duties the Troop will counsel them in how to fulfill their duties. The Troop's leadership guide is available for download on the Troop's website.

Learning to be boy-led does not mean that youth scout leaders have veto power over adults in troop operation. Consistent with this, the Scoutmaster is in charge of the program operation of the troop. The boys should understand that they have only as much authority as allowed by the adults, especially the Scoutmaster and other fully trained troop leaders.

Program Patrol and Service Patrol

To function properly, each patrol is expected to take a turn to help lead the troop. Assignments rotate through all the patrols. The period of service is normally one month, but can be tailored for unique situations such as summer camp or a troop trek.

Program Patrol

At each meeting, the Program patrol will:

- Be the color guard for Troop activities and outings
- Present any skills instruction per the Troop Meeting Plan
- Lead Troop games as coordinated and approved by the PLC.

At each campout, the Program patrol will:

- Plan and arrange the program at the activity
- Organize and Lead/MC the Troop Campfires

Service Patrol

At each meeting, the Service patrol will:

- Arrive at Troop meetings 15 minutes early to set up the meeting area.
- Lead the Troop in cleaning the meeting room and returning furniture to its proper position.

⁴ Please see “Qualified Supervision” in the Sweet 16 of Scouting Safety at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS/gss08.aspx#a> for more detailed information.

- Assist Troop Quartermaster in maintaining the equipment (i.e., service Troop axes and saws, first aid kit – not patrol equipment)
- Help set up for Courts of Honor or other special events.

At each campout, the Service patrol will:

- Build and tend to Troop campfires to include extinguishing and scattering ashes.

Uniform Policy

We **STRONGLY** encourage scouts to wear the official dress uniform to every meeting, especially if you are participating in a Scoutmaster Conference, Board of Review or if you are a Troop Leader (SPL, ASPL, and preferably PL).

The official dress uniform is to be worn when traveling to and from any scouting related activity. Occasionally, we allow Class B for some trips - but scouts will be told of this ahead of time. It is also to be worn at EVERY ceremonial function, for example, Courts of Honor.

It is also to be worn when attending an event as a representative of Troop 33 and/or BSA - for example, the Wreath Laying Ceremony. Please note: The official dress uniform is commonly referred to as the '*Class A*' uniform and the activity uniform as '*Class B*' even though these are not correct BSA terms.

For more on the BSA Standards and for photos of the patch placement, see the BSA Uniform Inspection Sheet.⁵

The official dress uniform consists of:

- BSA Shirt (long or short sleeve) with proper insignia
 - The Council Shoulder Patch and Troop Number, OR the combined Troop 33 Patch
 - A US Flag on the right shoulder
 - Centennial epaulets
 - A rank patch on the left pocket
- BSA Pants (long, short or convertible) - in emergency MAY substitute pants of a dark green color (olive)
- BSA or suitable belt
- BSA socks - in emergency MAY substitute socks of a dark green color, with shorts and dark socks with the long pants
- Brown or Black shoes or boots, NOT tennis shoes or Keens, or similar
- Neckerchief WITH slide, sometimes we must all be alike (Horseshoe, for example), otherwise, somewhat optional
- Head gear is optional, unless the Troop votes to wear hats

⁵ <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34283.pdf>

As appropriate, the shirt may also have:

- A [patrol patch](#) on the right sleeve under the flag
- A [journey to excellence](#) patch earned in Troop 33, on the right sleeve, under the patrol patch
- The [badge of office](#) on the left sleeve, under the Troop number
- A [Trained patch](#), if earned, on the left sleeve, under the badge of office
- An [Arrow of Light](#), below the left pocket and centered
- A [religious emblem knot](#) above the left pocket (centered)
- An [Interpreter Strip](#), if earned, above the BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA, above the right pocket
- An [Order of the Arrow lodge patch](#) on the right pocket flap (if the Scout is a member and is current with their dues)
- One Temporary, Boy Scout related patch may be on the right pocket (i.e. Camp Horseshoe patch; a Totin' Chip patch)

If you have a particular situation that makes obtaining a full Class A uniform a difficulty, PLEASE contact the scoutmaster about this, rather than have your Scout be out of uniform. The troop maintains a uniform exchange with numerous high-quality uniform parts available to you quickly and affordably.

Class B shirts

The Troop has a number of Class B shirts for sale.

Finances

The annual membership fee is \$52.00 for returning scouts. This provides registration and insurance.

A Scout is Thrifty – personal responsibility is a core Scouting value. Parents should review the following guidance taken from the BSA document, *Who Pays for Scouting?*⁶:

Youth Members

Assisted by their parents or guardians, boys in Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Varsity Scouting, and young men and women in Venturing pay their share from personal savings and participation in money-earning projects. Scouts buy their own uniforms, handbooks, and personal equipment and pay their own camp fees.

Units

Weekly or monthly dues and funds from approved money-earning projects meet expenses for supplies and activities in the Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, and Venturing crew. These monies help pay for camping equipment, registration fees, Boys' Life magazine, uniform insignia, special activities, and program materials.

⁶ <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/02-506.pdf>

Dues

The dues are \$1.00 per week from September 1 until August 31. There are two payment options. Dues can be collected weekly at the Troop meetings by the patrol leaders. The Troop Scribe is responsible for the collection of all dues from the patrols. The Troop Scribe gives the dues collected to the Troop Treasurer for the Troop. There is also the option of paying for the entire year on September 1. Dues cover the following:

- Craft supplies and materials
- Refreshments at quarterly Court of Honor
- Development of Troop Reference Library
- Re-registration and Boys' Life for the following year
- Awards

Dues are paid by cash or check (make checks payable to Troop 33).

The Troop encourages families to expect their sons to work for their activities through Scoutscapes or to pay from their allowance to help them learn financial responsibility. Scoutscapes is a troop run program where scouts work in the neighborhood to earn money for the BSA related expenses.

Additional Fees

Throughout the course of the Scouting year, additional fees are required (to be paid by Scouts). These are primarily for the various outings and activities that occur during the year. Campouts are typically \$30.00 per Scout, which covers camp fees, meals and travel.

The Troop holds fundraisers each year to defray the cost of its operations; usually one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Every family is expected to participate. Each fundraiser offers the Scouts the opportunity to earn funds for their outings and registration. The Troop also supports the local council by participating with the annual Friends of Scouting campaign.

Financial Assistance is available. Please contact the Scoutmaster or the Committee Chair for more information.

Troop Camping and Outings

An active camping program is a key element to Troop 33's outdoor program. We are lucky to have an abundance of campgrounds in this area available for our use, including our own Camp Schmitt. The Troop camps throughout the year in all types of weather conditions except severe electrical storms. The Troop typically schedules one activity each month, and eight weekend campouts in a year. Weekend campouts usually start

on Friday evenings (5:30 PM) and end on Sunday mornings. The Troop returns to the church typically around 3:00 P.M. Sundays. We return to the church to store our gear.

Unless otherwise stated, if the Troop has a Friday evening departure, Scouts are expected to provide their own sack-dinner.

Each outing will have a designated Tour Leader in charge of coordinating the logistics of the trip. Each outing will have a designated patrol in charge of helping to program the theme of the outing or the campout.

For weekend outings, we try to stay relatively close to home to ease logistical problems associated with traveling a long distance with 25 or 30 boys. Parents of new Scouts should refer to *The Boy Scout Handbook* for a listing of personal gear and clothing required for each Scout. Scouts are required to have their own sleeping bag and a durable bag or pack to transport their belongings.

Once again, thrift shops and garage sales are good sources for used camping equipment. If you're going to purchase a tent for your Scout, it's recommended that you don't go overboard. A small, inexpensive dome tent is sufficient for short-term camping. The tent should be easy to set up by one or two Scouts in dwindling light. Canvas tents should generally be avoided simply because they require more dedicated effort to maintain.

Scouts are encouraged to begin the process of travel planning well in advance. The planning process itself is a learning experience and integral part of the Scout program. Youth-led planning will take more time than if adults do all the trip planning. To ensure that any travel we do with scouts infuses the Boy Scout Leadership Experience at every opportunity, we limit our role to facilitating the boys' brainstorming and planning - but never doing the work for them. We allow the scouts to lead, learn collaboratively, and learn by doing (and by making mistakes). All the while, however, provide ideas and insight, ask tough questions when we have to, and support all their decisions with enthusiasm and encouragement!

Menu Planning and Purchasing

Each patrol is responsible for planning its own menu and purchasing its own food for campouts. For each outing, one Scout is assigned as the patrol's Grubmaster.⁷ This assignment is made on a rotational basis and each Scout is required to perform this function when it's his turn. The patrol, as a group, decides what their menu will be for the outing. This occurs a minimum of two weeks prior to the campout. Once a *well-balanced* menu has been written and approved, the patrol then sets a budget target for their food and other supplies (e.g., charcoal, dish soap, trash bags, camp fees, etc.). Special menu needs

⁷ This should be a Scout who needs to earn the First Class menu planning requirement.

due to allergies, religion, etc. can be accommodated. Scouts with special needs are asked to be active in the menu planning.

When is a Scout committed to going?

The Troop asks that all Scouts RSVP two meetings before an outing. This is done to help in the planning and purchasing of the food, and to help plan the transportation. In some cases, Scouts may be asked to RSVP more than two weeks beforehand. If for some reason a Scout is unable to attend the outing, and he has already RSVP'd, he will owe the Troop any activity or camp fees paid on his behalf.

At the Troop meeting before the campout, the Patrol Leader collects money from each Scout attending the campout. A portion of the money is then turned over to the Troop to cover the camping fees, and the balance to the Grubmaster to purchase the food and supplies.

If for some reason a Scout is unable to attend the outing, his money *will not be refunded*. This has proven to be the fairest thing to do for the other Scouts so they don't end up having to pay for the other person's share once it has already been purchased. Questions regarding this policy may be addressed to the adult leadership.

Travel Protocol

Troop 33 prides itself on promoting and maintaining a safe environment for all of its activities. This practice includes the trips we take to and from the activities. The following protocol is for use whenever there is more than one vehicle driving, so that the group will travel in an organized and safe manner.

- All travel will be in accordance with the BSA's Guide to Safe Scouting under the following sections : "Leadership Requirements for Trips and Outings" subparagraph 2, and "Transportation/Automobiles"
 - These sections detail who can drive, speeds, use of seatbelts, and establishment of pre-planned meeting places checkpoints and rest stops
 - The BSA guide also stresses to not drive in a convoy and to avoid driver fatigue
 - The troop regularly collects driver, insurance and automobile information in accordance with the Guide to Safe Scouting.
- In accordance with the Guide to Safe Scouting, one adult leader is assigned as the Tour Leader. This leader will, in addition, be designated as the leader for the drive or if required, the Tour Leader can designate an alternate leader for coordinating the driving to and from the destination.
- Before the trip begins, the plan for the trip from beginning to end will be reviewed by the Scoutmaster and the parent committee, so all adults understand the trip plan prior to departing.

- For trips which are longer than three hours a designated checkpoint will be established approximately two hours into the trip. This is to avoid driver fatigue and allow the group to catch up
 - For trips which are less than three hours, all cars will meet at the final destination
 - Any driver may request to stop at any time
 - If a driver needs to make an emergency stop, bathroom, etc., the leader must be informed so that, if necessary, arrangements can be made for an additional checkpoint stop
 - The final meeting place will be at the destination where all will be accounted for prior to check-in with the camp and heading out to the camp site
- Within each car, there is to be a list of the cell phones to reach each of the other cars provided prior to departure. To avoid having a driver distracted by talking on the phone, there should be a number for an alternate adult within the car or there should be an alternate person who can access the cell phone. All cell phones must be turned on.
 - Each adult should have a roster of those in attendance with the emergency contact information provided.
 - Both the car phone list and roster will be provided to at least one “at-home” person.
- Driving directions, maps, and any other pertinent information will be distributed by the tour leader prior to departure.
- Any change from the planned trip, whether arranged beforehand or during the trip, must be communicated with and approved by the tour leader.
- As a rule the Troop travels together. That means unless otherwise arranged by the tour leader, the Troop will meet, get organized, and depart together. If established, they will meet at the designated checkpoint, otherwise meet at the destination and wait for all to arrive before proceeding to the camp site. This does not mean cars drive in a convoy.
 - All registered members of the Troop travel in Class A or Class B uniform. Travel clothes will be communicated by the Scoutmaster prior to departure.
 - Upon departing from the campsite to return home, no car will leave without first getting the clearance from the tour leader and a head count is performed.
- Having an EZ Pass is strongly encouraged.
- All drivers should have their vehicles “topped off” with gas before meeting the Troop for departure and have their vehicle in good mechanical and safe working order.

Questions about costs, departure time, etc. should be directed to the Patrol leaders. Parents who have questions about driving, directions, etc., should call the adult leadership.

Whenever possible, the Troop will depart at its schedule time and arrive home at its scheduled time.

Scouts may not drive themselves to events and outings.⁸

The Driver's Pledge⁹

- **I will not** text or talk on my phone while I am driving. Texting and talking take my eyes off the road, hands off the steering wheel, and my mind off what I am doing.
- **I will** put my phone in my backpack or in the glove box before I get behind the wheel. I will only check it when I have safely parked the vehicle.
- **I will not** become distracted by things going on inside and outside the vehicle. I will concentrate on my driving and my travel plans.
- **I will not** drive when I feel fatigued. I realize that when I am fatigued, I process information more slowly and less accurately and this impairs my ability to react in time to avoid accidents.
- **I will** arrange my schedule so that several days before a Boy Scout "driving trip," I will get a good night's sleep every night to avoid the cumulative effect of not getting enough sleep.
- **I will** make trip preparations far enough in advance so that last-minute preparations don't interfere with my rest.
- **I will** make travel plans and drive only during the part of the day when I know I will be alert.
- **I will** be smart about engaging in physical activities during Scouting outings and will make sure that I will be ready to drive alertly.

I am the only person who can make these decisions for me. **I will:**

1. Follow this driver's pledge.
2. Be risk ready.
3. Do everything that I can to keep Scouts safe.

Prohibited Items

A number of items are prohibited at Troop activities. The following items will be confiscated and returned to the parent of the Scout:

- Alcohol
- Cash in excess of \$20.00 (unless otherwise specified)
- Drugs (unless prescription, under control of Adult Scouter)
- Electronic games
- Firearms, BB-guns, CO₂ pistols, etc.
- Fireworks
- Sterno

⁸ Guide to Safe Scouting > Transportation

⁹ <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/Resources/driverspledge.aspx>

- Offensive or pornographic materials
- Pets
- Sheath knives or personal axes
- Other items deemed to be distracting to a meeting, campout or other Troop event will be confiscated.

Knives are not allowed at meetings unless the Scout holds a Totin' Chip card.

Adult Leadership

The Troop encourages each family to have one parent or guardian registered as an adult volunteer either as an Assistant Scoutmaster or Committee Member. Registration with the BSA offers access to the BSA resources, and coverage by the liability insurance.

Troop Leaders

Troop 33 selects adult leaders (Scouters) based on commitment, ability, and adherence to Scout principles. All direct contact leaders¹⁰ (including drivers) must take the online Youth Protection Training. Troop 33 follows the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#). The Troop maintains a corps of Assistant Scoutmasters to assist the Scoutmaster. Among these leaders are the Patrol Advisors. All adult leaders should expect to assist the scoutmaster in providing a safe, fun experience for the Scouts. Leaders are:

- Responsible for maintaining unit safety and discipline at all times. This includes to and from all activities.

The adult leaders are responsible to ensure that the overall goals of Boy Scouting are achieved and oversee the PLC. The adults provide guidance and leadership, when and where it is appropriate. However, the primary function of the adult leadership is to ensure the safety and well-being of the Scouts.

Every BSA activity should be supervised by a conscientious adult who understands and knowingly accepts responsibility for the well-being and safety of the children and youth in his or her care. The supervisor should be sufficiently trained, experienced, and skilled in the activity to be confident of his/her ability to lead and to teach the necessary skills and to respond effectively in the event of an emergency. Field knowledge of all applicable BSA standards and a commitment to implement and follow BSA policies and procedures are essential parts of the supervisor's qualifications.¹¹

¹⁰ Per BSA guidelines, direct-contact leaders are anyone who comes into direct contact with youth members, and includes assistants to the top leaders and all den leaders.

¹¹ The Sweet Sixteen of BSA Safety #1

No supervisor is effective if he or she cannot control the activity and the individual participants. Youth must respect their leader and follow his or her direction.¹²

- Responsible for coordinating all unit and individual activities to ensure maximum benefit to participants.

The Scoutmaster is the person in charge of implementing the Troop program and working with the youth. While this is a boy-led unit, the adults are ultimately responsible for the operations of the troop.

- To be aware of each youth's personal goals and objectives in order to promote Scouting's advancement program and to provide counseling, guidance, and encouragement.

The adult leaders are there to support each scout, the patrols and the PLC.

Troop Committee

The troop is "owned" by a chartered organization. The Takoma Park Presbyterian Church holds the troop charter and has been a stalwart champion of local scouting through since 1920. The troop committee is the troop's "board of directors." The troop committee is responsible for conducting the business of the troop, setting policy, and supporting the Scoutmaster and Scouts with the outdoor program and other planned activities. The troop committee welcomes the involvement of all parents, caregivers, and legal guardians. The troop committee meets monthly and on an ad hoc basis as specific needs arise.

It is the policy of the troop that each troop parent is an ad hoc member of the troop committee. We encourage an adult from each family to register with the BSA, but do not consider the failure to do so a disqualification from service. All parents or volunteers who are registered with the Boy Scouts of America are official members of the troop committee. At the request of any registered member of the troop committee, a quorum of thirty percent (30%) of the families involved in the troop is required for formal votes and to conduct official business. Families is defined as those having scouts in the troop and those leaders without sons in the troop but who are registered as leaders.

The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters are not formal members of the committee. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters are advisers to the committee. They are welcomed at troop committee meetings to communicate scout plans and to coordinate the needs of the Scouts. Youth Protection Training is required for all BSA registered volunteers, regardless of their position. Please refer to the Troop Committee Guidebook.

¹² The Sweet Sixteen of BSA Safety #16

Other Important Committee Positions: Secretary, Treasurer, Fundraising Chair, Advancement Chair, Outdoor Programs Chair, Transportation Captain, Equipment Advisor, and Publicity Chair

Unregistered Adults: A Troop cannot function without the help of every family. During the course of the year each family will be expected to help with driving, chaperoning events, etc. The opportunities for an unregistered parent are endless. Any Scout unit can always use extra help, whether it is driving to an activity, helping organize an activity with the unit's leadership (including PLC), making phone calls, doing a newsletter, etc. The limiting factor is time and imagination.

For the success of the troop it is strongly encouraged that parents:

- Volunteer for two of the largest fundraisers (pancake supper/mulch delivery)
- Volunteer for at least two service projects (church work day and bazaar)
- Volunteer for two other activities

Advancement and Training

Advancement

The Troop follows the 2015 BSA Guide to Advancement¹³

BSA Mission Statement

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

The Aims of Scouting

Every Scouting activity moves boys toward three basic aims: character development, citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness.

Advancement is one of the eight methods used by Scout leaders to help boys fulfill the aims of the BSA.¹⁴

Policy on Unauthorized Changes to Advancement Program

No council, committee, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to, or subtract from, advancement requirements. There are limited exceptions relating only to youth members with special needs.

Service Project Guidelines

A service project is a special Good Turn that puts Scout spirit into action. Projects can take many forms. You might take part in a community

¹³ <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsorce/GuideToAdvancement.aspx>

¹⁴ <http://www.nesa.org/methods.html>

cleanup; repair a place of worship, a museum, or the home of an elderly person; improve a wildlife habitat; volunteer at a hospital or with a public safety group; organize a recycling effort; or conduct a clothing pickup or food drive."¹⁵

Service projects become more challenging with each rank, culminating in the Eagle Project. These projects must be pre-approved by the Scoutmaster.¹⁶ These are the service requirements by rank:

- [Tenderfoot rank](#)
7b) Participate in a total of one hour of service in one or more service projects approved by your [Scoutmaster](#). Explain how your service to others relates to the Scout slogan and Scout motto.
- [Second Class rank](#)
8e) Participate in two hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your [Scoutmaster](#). Tell how your service to others relates to the Scout Oath.
- [First Class rank](#)
9d) Participate in three hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your [Scoutmaster](#). The project(s) must not be the same service project(s) used for Tenderfoot requirement 7b and Second Class requirement 8e. Explain how your service to others relates to the Scout Law.
- [Star rank](#)
4) While a First Class Scout, participate in six hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your [Scoutmaster](#).
- [Life rank](#)
4) While a Star Scout, participate in six hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your [Scoutmaster](#). At least three hours of this service must be conservation-related.

These projects need to help the community. Examples include: collecting food for a food bank or soup kitchen, helping an elderly neighbor, volunteering at Meals on Wheels. You can be creative and come up with your own idea.

Service projects required for ranks other than Eagle must be approved according to what is written in the requirements and may be conducted individually or through participation in patrol or troop efforts. They also may be approved for those assisting on Eagle Scout service projects. Service project work for ranks other than Eagle clearly calls for participation only. Planning, development, or leadership must not be required.¹⁷

2015 Guide to Advancement

¹⁵ Page 84 of the Boy Scout Handbook (12th Edition 2009)

¹⁶ Advancement Policies #33088, page 27 <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>

¹⁷ [Advancement Policies #33088, page 26](#)

Double dipping

It is *troop policy* that service done for a Scouting rank or badge requirement may not count twice (i.e. no double-dipping).¹⁸

It is *troop policy* that service done to satisfy another requirement outside of Scouting (e.g. SSL hours, National Charity League required hours, a class assignment, or terms of probation), may not count as credit towards a rank or a badge (i.e. double-dipping).¹⁹ All Scouting-related service hours may count toward SSL hours, providing scouts submit the proper paperwork for signature.

Approval process

Before working on a project, Scouts working on Tenderfoot, Second Class or First Class ranks should confirm with the Scoutmaster that their project will satisfy the requirement.

It is *troop policy* that each scout working towards Star or Life must submit a written proposal that states the service project they intend to do, who will benefit from the work and how long the project will take. The written (on paper or via email) proposal must be presented to the scoutmaster for approval prior to starting work on the project. A summary of the finished work, including what was learned from the service, should be prepared and presented to the scoutmaster for the requirement to be recorded as completed.

Service for the TPPC, eagle projects, and how we give credit

All work done for the benefit of the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, or for Eagle projects, may be counted towards a badge or a rank. Alternately, Scouts can earn SSL hours for working on these projects.

All Scouts are expected to work for the three projects the troop does for the Church: the garden cleanup, Bazaar cleanup, and snow removal. These are how we give thanks to the Church for being our sponsor for almost 100 years. Participation in these efforts does not count towards the Star or Life service requirements without Scoutmaster approval as explained above.

Training

Each year the troop holds an Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST) course for the members of the troop to learn leadership skills.²⁰ We also encourage scouts to be Den Chiefs and attend Den Chief Training. In addition, we sponsor scouts to attend the National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) course hosted by NCAC, locally known as Impeesa.

¹⁸ Advancement Policies #33088, page 30 - 4.2.3.6 Fulfilling More Than One Requirement with a Single Activity

¹⁹ Advancement Policies #33088, page 30 - 4.2.3.6

²⁰ <http://www.scouting.org/Training/Youth.aspx>

The troop has implemented the “Target First Class” program to help its new scouts learn all the basic scout skills.²¹

Whenever possible we encourage volunteers to get Adult Leader Training in their first year as a registered volunteer. Every boy deserves a trained leader.

Code of Conduct

All members of Troop 33 (youth and adults) are to represent the Boy Scouts of America based on character, camping skills, physical and personal fitness, and leadership qualities. Therefore, all members, including parents/guardians, are asked to read our Statement of Understanding and Code of Conduct as a condition of participation.

Please see Appendix 4.

Inclement Weather Policy

Troop 33 follows the Guide to Safe Scouting²² and the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) closure policy during inclement weather. MCPS status is reported on TV and radio stations, as well as the MCPS home page (<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency>).

- If MCPS is closed all day for inclement weather, all Troop and/or patrol activities are cancelled.
- If MCPS cancels all afternoon and/or evening programs, all Troop and/or patrol activities are cancelled.

Scouts, scouters, and parents who can make it safely are encouraged to respond if TPPC asks for Troop assistance in clearing snow and/or ice from sidewalks and walkways.

For Patrol weekend activities/outings, the Patrol Advisor in charge of the activity/outing (in consultation with the Troop Leadership) is responsible for deciding whether or not to cancel the activities based on the safety of the scouts.

For Troop weekend activities/outings, the Scoutmaster, in consultation with the other Troop leaders, is responsible for deciding whether or not to cancel the activities based on the safety of the scouts.

²¹ <http://www.boyscouttrail.com/boy-scouts/1st-scout-schedule.asp>

²² <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>

This Troop information was updated by the parent committee on April 20, 2017.

Committee Chair

Scoutmaster

Our thanks to Troop 625 for providing us with a template for this document.

http://webspace.webring.com/people/gu/um_12747/new-par.html

Appendix 1

Joining the Boy Scouts and Troop 33

In order to become a Boy Scout, you must:

JOINING THE BOY SCOUTS

- Be a boy who has completed the fifth grade, or who has earned the Arrow of Light Award, or be 11 years of age, but not yet 18.
- Submit a completed Boy Scout Application and health history signed by your parent or guardian.
- With your parent or guardian complete the exercises in the pamphlet *How to protect your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*

***You did all of these Things?
Welcome!! You are a Scout!***

Boy Scout Oath or Promise

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

Boy Scout Law

A Scout is:

Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly,
Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful,
Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

Boy Scout Motto

Be Prepared!

Boy Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily!

The Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to -
Be clean in my outdoor manners
Be careful with fire
Be considerate in the outdoors, and
Be conservation minded.

Appendix 2

Prices for Gear and Other Stuff

What you can expect to spend:

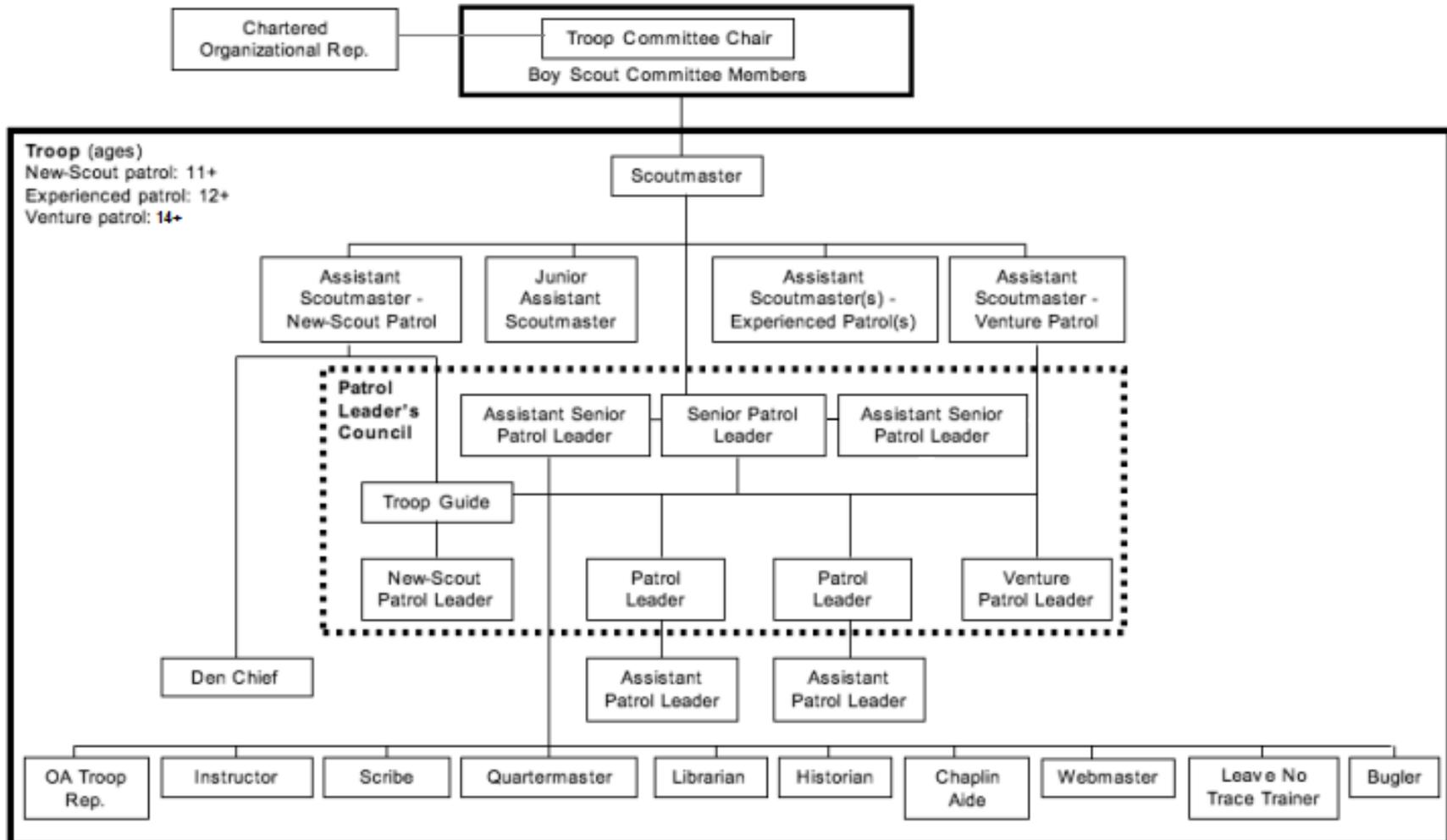
- BSA Handbook \$8.00
- Short Sleeve Shirt \$21.60
- Neckerchief \$5.00
- Neckerchief Slide \$2.00
- Belt \$6.00
- Patches \$9.25
- Shoulder Loops \$1.50

Optional

- Long Sleeve Shirt \$27.10
- Trousers \$28.00
- Summer Shorts \$23.15
- Hat \$10.00
- Socks \$3.00

Appendix 3

Troop organizational chart



Thanks to: http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Troop_organizational_chart

Appendix 4

Statement of Understanding and Code of Conduct

All members of Troop 33 (youth and adults) are to represent the Boy Scouts of America based on character, camping skills, physical and personal fitness, and leadership qualities. Therefore, all members, including parents/guardians, are asked to read this Statement of Understanding and Code of Conduct as a condition of participation. It is with the further understanding that serious misconduct or infraction of rules and regulations may result in expulsion. Ultimately, we want each person to be responsible for his or her own behavior, and only when necessary will the procedure be invoked to discipline a member.

Statement of Understanding

1. I agree to live by the Scout Oath and Scout Law and to obey and cooperate with the troop leadership.
2. I agree to meet my full responsibilities as a member of the troop and to wear the official uniform when appropriate.
3. I further agree to submit evidence of fitness when required on the official health form signed by a licensed health-care practitioner, and I will obtain required immunizations.
4. In consideration of the benefits to be derived from participation in troop, any and all claims against the Boy Scouts of America or its local council, the United States of America, or any of the officers, employees, agents, or other representatives of any of them, or any other persons working under their direction or engaged in the conduct of their affairs, arising out of any accident, illness, injury, damage, or other loss or harm to or incurred or suffered by the troop member named above or to his property, in connection with or incidental to the troop, including travel, are hereby expressly waived by the scout or parent/guardian.

Code of Conduct

All troop members are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct as follows:

1. The units' adult leaders (Scoutmaster and assistants) are responsible for the supervision of their membership in respect to maintaining discipline, security, and the troop Code of Conduct.
2. The Scout Oath and Scout Law will be my guide throughout all troop activities.

3. I will set a good example by keeping myself neatly dressed and presentable. I will wear the official Scout uniform when requested.
4. In consideration of other troop members, I agree to follow the bedtime and sleep schedule of the unit, unless otherwise directed by the troop program.
5. I will be responsible for keeping my tent and personal gear labeled, clean, and neat. I will adhere to all troop recycling policies and regulations. I will do my share to prevent littering.
6. I understand that the purchase, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is prohibited.
7. Serious and/or repetitive behavior violations by youth, including use of tobacco, cheating, stealing, dishonesty, swearing, fighting, and cursing, may result in expulsion from the troop activities or serious disciplinary action and loss of privileges.
8. I understand that gambling of any form is prohibited.
9. I understand that possession of lasers of any type and possession or detonation of fireworks is prohibited.
10. I will demonstrate respect for unit property and be personally responsible for any loss, breakage, or vandalism of property that is a result of my actions.
11. Neither the unit leader nor the BSA will be responsible for loss, breakage, or theft of personal items. I will label all my personal items and check items of value at the direction of unit leaders. Theft will be grounds for expulsion.
12. All scouts and leaders are prohibited from having firearms and weapons in their possession.
13. Scoutmasters and assistants will be guided by the Scout Oath and Scout Law and will obey all applicable laws.
14. Scoutmasters and assistants must receive Youth Protection Training and follow the guidelines therein.
15. Hazing has no place in Scouting, nor does running the gauntlet, conducting a belt line, or similar physical punishment. Leaders and older youth must prevent any youth from being "initiated" into the troop with hazing.
16. Adult leaders should have the good judgment to avoid trading souvenirs or patches with a child or youth member in Scouting. Youth members may trade with other youth members. Adult leaders may trade only with other adults 18 years of age or older.
17. Serious violation of this code may result in expulsion from a troop outing at the member's own expense. All decisions will be final.

Appendix 5

Discipline Policy

TO BE DETERMINED

**EMERGENCY CONSENT FOR MINORS
AND
TALENT RELEASE AUTHORIZATION**



I/We, the undersigned, parent(s) or guardians(s) of, _____, a minor, do hereby authorize the adult leader(s) in charge as agents for us to consent to any x-ray examination, anesthetic, medical, dental or surgical diagnosis, care or treatment and hospital care which is deemed advisable by the medical staff of any accredited hospital, or a licensed dentist, as the case may be.

This authorization is in effect whether such diagnosis or treatment is rendered at the office of said physician or dentist or at said hospital, or elsewhere as circumstances may require in the discretion of the treating physician or dentist.

It is understood that this authorization is given in advance of any specified diagnosis, medical or dental care and hospital care being required, but is given to provide authority and power on the part of the aforesaid agents(s) to give specific consent to any and all such diagnosis, medical, dental or hospital care which the aforementioned physician or dentist, in the exercise of their best judgment, may deem advisable.

This authorization shall remain in effect for one year after the date of this document, unless sooner revoked in writing, delivered to said agent(s).

Talent Release Authorization

I hereby assign and grant to Troop 33 the right and permission to use and publish the photographs, film, video tapes, electronic representations, and/or sound recordings made of my Scout this date by the Boy Scouts of America, and I hereby release the Boy Scouts of America from any and all liability from such use and publication.

I agree _____

I do not agree _____

Parent Initials Date

Parent

Date

Parent

Date

New Scout Slip

To: Troop 33

We have reviewed Troop 33's New Scout Pamphlet. We agree to follow the Troop guidelines.

Additionally, we have reviewed the Youth Protection pamphlet from the Boy Scout Handbook.

Sincerely,

Scout Date Parent Date

Other items to be included

- Roster
- Calendar

Appendix 6

Cell Phone Policy

One of the main principles of attending any scout camping trip is to give the boys a chance to experience life in the outdoors ... usually without such luxuries as flushable toilets, air conditioning, and electronics. Scout-sponsored activities are designed to foster Scouting's goals of character-building, citizenship, fitness, and fun utilizing the patrol method. The patrol method emphasizes the skills of team building, boy leadership, and face-to-face communication to help make the patrol a success. Troop leaders have noted that scouts are increasingly answering phones or texting during meetings and outings to friends and contacts outside the structure of the troop. This situation is not only disrespectful to whoever is giving a presentation or otherwise conducting a meeting, but is very distracting to the others in attendance, and focuses the attention of the scout away from the issue at hand. To prevent this from occurring in the future, a Troop 33 Scout Cell Phone Policy has been established.

It is the position of the leadership of Troop 33 that no scouts shall utilize cell phones or other wireless communicating devices during troop meetings (7:00 pm - 8:30 pm) unless they are being used as a tool designated as necessary for the completion of a scout activity and approved by the agreement of the Senior Patrol Leader and the Scoutmaster. Cell phones, etc. may be taken to camp or scout-sponsored activities and utilized during transportation to and from the event ... BUT upon arrival they will be collected and held by the troop leadership in a secure location or locked vehicle for the duration of that event. Scouts not willing to have their phones or devices collected may elect to leave them at home. The Troop is not responsible for any device brought to a scout activity.

Because troop leaders recognize that in rare cases some scouts require communication, very limited use of electronic devices at camp and scout-sponsored activities may be allowed at the discretion of the Troop Committee. Requests should be made by the scout's parent at least a week in advance. The Scoutmaster or a designee will administer any approved use of electronics. Scouts found with or using electronic devices without advance permission may have their device confiscated by a registered and trained adult leader, and may lose their privilege to use their device for the duration of the activity.

Parents are asked to respect, support, and enforce this policy. Troop leaders do not want to have to act as "cell phone police." Nevertheless, if a scout is found with a cell phone or other wireless communicating device without advance permission, the item may be confiscated. Parents will be notified of any infraction.

If an urgent message must be delivered to a scout, please call any of the troop leadership in attendance. Should any leader's cell phone numbers be required by parents, it will be available at the beginning of the event.

Appendix 7

Troop 33 Volunteer Service Sheet

Name of Scout _____

Name of Beneficiary _____

Date of Service _____ Hours of Service _____

Type of Service

After completion summary

Signature of Volunteer Supervisor
