

Information for New Troop 1 Parents

April 2015

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Letter from Leadership

Dear Parents,

Scouting makes a difference in a boy's journey to adulthood. That's not a marketing campaign slogan but it is the verifiable result of the oldest chartered Scout Troop in the state of South Carolina – the home troop of some of our state's most distinguished citizens!

These results were not obtained based solely on the quality of the boys, but also on the level of parental participation and support. Together, the scout leaders and the parents work towards simple goals:

1. Create an environment where failures can be turned into successes.
2. Emphasize self worth over self-accomplishment.
3. Temper openness of expression with concern and courtesy.
4. Have fun while learning leadership skills and while advancing in rank.

Just as we want your son to be a responsible scout, we want you to be a responsible scout parent. The following nine things are steps you can take to insure that your son has a happy and successful scouting experience.

1. Read all information that is sent home or emailed to you from Troop 1.
2. Subscribe to the Troop 1 Google Calendar on Google (link available on <http://troop1.me>) and use the calendar to aid with your planning.
 - a. Do not discipline your scout by restricting his time in scout activities.
 - b. Realize that to miss an activity will begin to diminish his interest in the scouting program.
3. Stand behind the Scoutmasters and Leaders in the enforcement of the “Scout Disciplines” procedure.
4. Parents are encouraged to be involved in meetings and in other functions, and both are certainly welcome to be a part of the Troop Leadership Committee.
5. Follow the guidelines for uniform purchases and award placement on those uniforms as found on the inside of the front and back cover of the Boy Scout Handbook.
6. In the event that the costs of Scouting become a financial burden, there are scholarship funds available that may be of assistance. You have only to ask.
7. Once your scout finishes the program, feel free to donate uniforms, equipment, etc. to the troop for those new scouts who may not be able to afford the necessary supplies.
8. Problems or questions that arise should immediately be discussed with the Scoutmasters. Feedback and good lines of communication are essential for a successful program.

9. Your praise and interest in your scout's awards and advancement add value to his hard earned accomplishments. This adds to his feeling of self worth, which is essential to the healthy emotional growth of all children.

As you do your part and your scout does his, the Scoutmasters and the Adult Leadership of Troop 1 will commit their time, resources, and unrelenting dedication to make Boy Scouting one of the most memorable and exciting growing experiences your son will have during these formative years, There is no other organization like it, and the results could benefit him far a lifetime.

Thank you for giving us this special opportunity to help in the development of tomorrow's leaders.

*Scoutmasters and Adult Leadership
Boy Scout Troop 1*

Troop 1 Fees for New Scouts

For current Webelo II's, we will collect a \$50 joining fee to cover initial supplies and advancement materials for the period until we collect regular dues in August as your national BSA dues for the year have already been paid by the Pack through the dues you paid last fall.

For Boys who are not currently a member of the Pack, we will collect a \$100 joining fee to cover initial supplies, advancement materials, and your BSA national dues for this year. Checks should be made payable to Troop 1 BSA.

This includes:

- Boy Scout Handbook
- Troop 1 Neckerchief
- Neckerchief Slide
- "Class B" T-shirt
- Veteran Unit Bar
- Shoulder Loops
- Patrol Patch

Please make check payable to BSA Troop 1.

Uniform Policy

Scouts must wear Class A uniforms to all Scout functions unless instructed otherwise by the Scoutmaster. In order to vote in Patrol Leadership elections, be elected to any office, or to participate in a Scoutmaster's Conference or Board of Review, you must be in proper uniform. A uniform inspection will be part of all Scoutmaster Conferences, with corrections to be made before the Board of Review. On all Scout sanctioned trips, Troop 1 travels in Class A uniforms.

Class A Uniform (meetings and trips)

- Scout Shirt with rank and emblems neatly attached according to The Boy Scout Handbook
- Neckerchief and Slide*
- Scout Shorts, or Khaki Shorts or Trousers (no jeans)
- Official Scout belt (except BSA Switchbacks that have a belt attached)
- Scout socks when wearing shorts
- Closed toe shoes, such as tennis shoes or boots (no sandals)

Class A Dress Uniform (Court of Honor/Scout Sunday, etc.)

- Scout Shirt with rank and emblems neatly attached according to The Boy Scout Handbook
- Merit Badge Sash
- Medals, such as God and Country
- Neckerchief and Slide
- Scout or Khaki Trousers (no shorts or jeans)
- Official Scout belt (except BSA Switchbacks that have a belt attached)
- Scout socks when wearing shorts
- Closed toe dress shoes, such as Weejuns
- OA sash (for OA events only)

Class B Uniform

- Official Troop 1 T-shirt
- Shorts or trousers
- Belt
- Scout socks
- Closed toe shoes, such as tennis shoes or boots

*The slide must either be an official Boy Scout slide or a slide made by the scout to demonstrate his skill and craftsmanship. A model car tire, rubber band, length of string or other such item does not qualify.

Attendance Policy

Being “active in your troop” requires that you attend at least 50% of the meetings and at least 50% of the camping trips since the last rank advancement. Participating in an Eagle Project may serve as a substitution to one of the meetings or camping trips.

Time spent working at the Troop 1 Fowl Fest is **not** considered as service hours, but as an obligation if the Scout wants to be a part of Troop 1. It is considered a Troop or Patrol activity for rank advancement, attendance requirements and Scout Spirit.

Discipline Policy

A Scout can receive one warning per meeting. After the warning, if the Scout has to be reprimanded* again, he will be asked to call a parent and leave the meeting. The Scout must, before the next meeting, write the Troop Committee a letter apologizing for his behavior. He is then on probation for one month, and during that month a parent must accompany him to meetings. More severe infractions will be dealt with on a situational basis.

*Reprimands may come from any adult in attendance.

National BSA Policy on Drug, Alcohol, & Tobacco Use and Abuse

The Boy Scouts of America prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the Boy Scouts of America, or at any activity involving participation of youth members.

Adult leaders should support the attitude that young adults are better off without tobacco and may not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth participants.

All Scouting functions, meetings, and activities should be conducted on a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas located away from all participants.

Troop 1 fully indorses the National BSA Policy on Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Use and Abuse.

*The Troop Leadership Committee expects any adults participating in Troop 1 outings to comply with this policy. If we fail to comply, we put our relationship with The Church of the Advent and the Palmetto Council at risk. We also put in jeopardy our Troop 1 charter. **Please realize the importance of compliance with this policy.***

Introduction to the Troop 1 Outdoor Program

Troop 1 schedules at least one troop outdoor outing every month from August-November and January-May. These trips take on many different characteristics and typically include activities such as whitewater rafting, canoeing, backpacking, snow skiing, rock climbing, biking, and motor boating. Many of the opportunities for rank advancement take place on these trips. Often in the summer we will schedule longer trips lasting four to seven nights, which include 50 miler and High Adventure trips such as scuba diving in the Keys. These trips will often have age or rank restrictions depending on the nature of the excursion. There is also a summer camp experience (typically in June), Crossover, which you will soon attend, and district camporees like the spring aquatics we will soon attend.

It is very important to remember that for your child to advance to First Class during his first year he needs to participate in most of the troop outdoor activities. At least five of the required ten troop activities to advance to First Class must be overnight camping trips.

Some trips are what we call “car camping” where scouts can bring most anything they wish, but on other trips, your scout will learn to justify every ounce he packs. Some trips will require each participant to be responsible for bringing and cooking his own food while on other trips the troop will supply all the food and groups of scouts on the trip will take turns preparing the meals for everyone. Other trips will be a combination of these two methods. Most trips will have a fee, which will basically be the cost the troop incurs per participant for the event. Registration and payment for these trips occurs on the Troop 1 website (troop1.me). If your son registers, we view that as a commitment that he will be a participant in the trip, and the trip leader plans logistics based on the number of people registered. You or your son must give the trip leader notice if he will have to back out. Your child needs to experience the whole trip. This means meeting at the scout hut properly attired in Class A uniform at the appointed meeting time to depart on the trip and sticking it out till everything is put away at the end.

Most of our trips will be presented by a trip flier as an attachment to an e-mail with many details about the nature of the trip. These details will also be available on the troop website.

By now you are probably wondering what you need to run and buy to make a campout work for your son. At this point for fall trips your son needs only the basics. For sleeping he will need a sleeping bag, pad, and ground cover. A 0 degree sleeping bag should be sufficient for all activities he will be involved in during his scouting career. A lighter weight will work better during warmer months. We have found some scouts prefer to have their own tent on campouts to give themselves a little “downtime” while other prefer to see how many they can pile in a tent with. Please make sure in buying a tent that it will protect him from the elements as a wet

sleeping bag can make for a miserable experience in the woods. For eating, he will need a water bottle, and a mess kit with a saucepan he can use to cook on the troop stoves.

As we move toward the Christmas season and he shows a continuing interest in the program and the outdoors, he will need things such as boots, a backpack, and other cooking equipment for the winter and spring trips. By that time your scout will have a better idea of what he needs as he camps alongside the older scouts. Good sources of equipment are the Scout Shop, Diamond Brand, REI, Wal-Mart, and www.campmor.com. Many of these retailers offer a discount with your BSA membership card. Any of the troop leaders will be more than happy to discuss any equipment needs with you before you buy the big-ticket items.

Parental involvement is very important to our outdoor program. We need your help to carry out this program. Dads are always encouraged to accompany us on campouts throughout their son's scouting years. Troop 1 requires a parent or an assigned guardian to accompany each first year scout on all water related activities. The reason for this is for the safety of your sons. Dads are not along on these trips to be their son's chef for the weekend, but to encourage him and other scouts to cook and learn alongside their fellow scouts. Following the crossover weekend scouts may only tent with other scouts. Dads may only tent with other dads and not with their son. The troop has available for dads only some tents to check out should you have the need. We also ask that you read and understand the troop policy on Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Use and Abuse. While on outings, Dads should always feel free to step in, or immediately alert a troop leader to step in where there is a discipline problem with any of the scouts or the safety of the children is at risk. Again, we can not stress enough the importance of parental involvement in the outdoor program during your scout's whole scouting career. You may not always feel your presence is contributing to the effort, but believe me every little bit helps. The troop leaders cannot pull this program off by themselves.

We strive to maintain an outdoor program that will keep your scout's interest during all of his years in scouting. You and your son will have many more detailed questions as your family undertakes this endeavor and the troop leaders will be more than happy to answer them when they come up. Always remember that the word "outing" is three-fourths of the word "scouting" to remind you of how important the outdoor program will be for your son.

Camping Requirements and Opportunities

“Boy Scouts” is largely about camping. It’s a big part of what we do. In order to encourage camping, several awards involve camping requirements. Some of these awards and the camping portion of the requirements are outlined below.

One of the requirements for **2nd Class** is that a scout must participate in five “troop activities.” Two of these must involve overnight camping.

One of the requirements for **1st Class** is that a scout must participate in five more “troop activities.” Three of these must involve overnight camping.

The **Backpacking Merit Badge** involves three treks at least three days long with camping at two different campsites and one trek at least five days long with at least three different campsites.

One of the requirements for the **Camping Merit Badge** is that a scout must participate in twenty days and twenty nights of camping. Only one session of summer camp may be used to qualify. Any “cabin” camping, such as the ski trip when we stay in a house or dormitory, does not count. You must sleep each night under the sky or in a tent.

One of the requirements for the **Wilderness Survival Merit Badge** is that you must spend one night alone in a shelter you have found or improvised with minimal damage to the environment.

To be eligible for **Order of the Arrow** election, you must experience fifteen nights of Boy Scout camping within the two years prior to your election. One, but no more than one long-term camp of five or six nights must be included. The other nights must be on overnight or short-term campouts. Just like the Camping MB, “cabin” camping does not count. (You must also have attained 1st Class.)

The **Leave No Trace Award** involves three camping trips demonstrating and practicing the principles of Leave No Trace.

The **Historic Trails Award** is earned as a troop. One of the requirements is that you must camp two days and one night along the trail or in the vicinity of the site.

The **50-Miler Award** is also earned as a troop. A route of at least fifty miles must be covered over a minimum of five consecutive days.

If you would like to work on any of these awards or have questions about any of this, see Boyce Lawton at a meeting or send e-mail to lawtonbm@gmail.com.

Court of Honor

Court of Honor: Whether a new scout parent or a seasoned veteran, do you know what is expected of you or your scout when you see a notice in the Eagles Nest of an upcoming Court of Honor?

The Boy Scouts define a Court of Honor as a recognition ceremony for those who have met the requirements of any one of the Boy Scout ranks, merit badges or other awards. In addition to Eagle Ceremonies, Troop 1 has about three Courts of Honor each year. The first is in September, another in January, and the third is held in conjunction with our Crossover celebration in April.

A Court of Honor is a time for Boy Scouts **and their families** to meet and celebrate. In the months between these events, your scout is busy earning badges and achieving rank advancement. Badges are handed out in regular meetings as they are earned, with the Court of Honor being the time for a public recognition of the advancements each scout has made and to laud the achievements of the entire troop.

We also use Courts of Honor as a communication tool to fill you in on everything that is happening in Troop 1. Dates and times for Courts of Honor can always be found in the Eagles Nest or the troop website (troop1.me).

Earning Merit Badges

(from BSA Publication 33215 - pages 22-23)

Scout Buddy System

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

Call The Counselor

Get a signed merit badge application from your Scoutmaster. Get in touch with the merit badge counselor and tell him or her that you want to earn the merit badge. The counselor may ask you to come and see him so he can explain what he expects and start helping you meet the requirements. When you know what is expected, start to learn and do the things required. Ask your counselor to help you learn the things you need to know or do. You should read the merit badge pamphlet on the subject. Many troops and school or public libraries have them.

Show Your Stuff

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

Get The Badge.

When the counselor is satisfied that you have met each requirement, he or she will sign your application. Give the signed application to your Scoutmaster so that your merit badge emblem can be secured for you.

Requirements

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

Board of Review

What is a Board of Review?

A Board of Review is the final step in the process by which a Scout advances in rank—eventually to Eagle. It also encourages Scouts to review "the basics" and gives troop leaders valuable feedback. Boards of Review are conducted by 2-3 Scout leaders. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks the board may be conducted by three Scouts who have obtained the rank of Star or above, with an adult observer. For Star and Life ranks, adult leaders conduct the board. For Eagle the board is appointed from outside the troop.

How do I schedule a Board of Review?

Arrange a Scoutmaster's Conference and review the requirements for your rank with him. A Scoutmaster's Conference for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class may be held with one of the Assistant Scoutmasters. For Star, Life, and Eagle it must be held with the Scoutmaster. You should then call the Troop Advancement Chairman to schedule a Board of Review for the next troop meeting.

What do I need to bring to my Board of Review?

You need to be neat and in complete uniform (see Troop 1 Uniform Policy). The board will be provided a computer printout of your advancement history. For an Eagle Board of Review, you must wear official Scout pants.

What happens during the Board of Review?

During the Board of Review you will be asked certain questions relating to Scouting and the advancement you seek. You may be asked to show the scout sign and repeat the oath, scout law, motto, and slogan. You may be asked to explain, in your own words, what each of these mean. You may also be asked to explain the symbolism of the first class badge. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks you may be asked to demonstrate your knowledge of the basic scout skills, including knots, first aid, and compass. For Star, Life, and Eagle you may be asked about the merit badges you have earned. You probably will also be asked certain questions about your goals in life and in Scouts, your work at school, and about your suggestions to improve the troop. The purpose of these questions is not to embarrass anyone, but to get you ready for an eventual Eagle board. It also gives the troop leadership a good picture of how well it is doing in teaching you the skills of Scouting, and how it can best meet the needs of each individual Scout.

How will I know if I passed?

You will know within a few minutes if you did well enough to advance in rank. Nearly everyone does. However, if you have problems, the board may ask you to study a bit, and report back the following week. Remember, "Be Prepared." A Scout prepares for whatever comes his way by learning all he can. He keeps himself strong, healthy, and ready to meet the challenges of life. The better prepared you are, the easier and faster the Board of Review will be.

(revised 5/2011)

Policy on Scout Spirit, Activities, and Service Hours

Scout Spirit

Scout Spirit is defined in the Scout Handbook as living by the Scout Oath and Law in your everyday life. That implies that doing a good turn or providing service to others should be something you do regularly by choice – not just once in a while to satisfy a requirement for another organization or to obtain a certain rank in scouts. Being an active member of your troop also shows good Scout Spirit.

Being active means participating in:

- 50% (minimum) of Troop 1 meetings
- 50% (minimum) of Troop 1 activities
- Other activities / events designated by troop leadership.

Scouting Activities

A scouting activity is anything the Scouts officially do together other than a meeting. One of the requirements for 2nd Class is that a scout must participate in five “scouting activities” of which two must involve overnight camping. He must participate in five more for 1st Class rank of which three must involve overnight camping. The activities may be completed anytime since you became a Boy Scout. If you spent the night at Crossover, that counts as your first activity.

Qualifying Scouting Activities include but are not limited to:

- All camping trips
- The fall BBQ
- Marching with the troop in the Veterans Day parade
- Attending Crossover, provided you spend the night
- Working on an Eagle Project for another scout

Non Qualifying Activities include:

- Participating in a Court of Honor
- Attending Crossover without spending the night
- Scout Sunday

Service Hours

Service hours are required for advancement to the rank of 2nd Class Scout (1 hr.), Star Scout (6 hrs.) and Life Scout (6hrs.). Service hours include participating in a project benefiting the “community” as opposed to helping an individual. A service project done for another group (church mission trip, school citizenship project, etc.) does not count for scout service hours. This is because scouts should not get “credit” from two groups out of one act of service; this goes against Scout Spirit. The Troop Advancement Chairman must approve any project before the scout participates for service hour credit.

Unless the scout is asked to participate in an event by another organization, the following projects are always approved:

- TOTAL Ministries
- Soup Kitchen
- Goodfellows
- Mobile Meals
- Working on an Eagle Project for another scout

Helping one of these organizations is usually approved, but you must ask in advance:

- Advent Bazaar
- Christmas in Action
- Habitat for Humanity

Scouts are encouraged to do projects in different areas of the community, not just on the above lists. If a scout has a project in mind, he must have it approved, in advance, by the Advancement Chairman. Asking for approval (via e-mail or voice mail a day or two before the project) without receiving an answer does not mean the hours will be approved.

Here are several questions you will be asked of any project:

- Is the scout using this project to get “credit” from another group?
- Does this project benefit the “community”?
- Is this truly a “project” consisting of a group helping the “community” or is it a scout doing a good turn?

Upon completion of your service, be sure to get the scout or adult in charge of the project to write a note saying when and how long you worked.

Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge

New requirements 7a, b and c (as revised by BSA in 2005)

Scouts working on this badge are required to choose and learn about a group that brings volunteers together in our community (requirements 7a & b) and volunteer for that group for at least 8 hours (requirement 7c). You must share your research for requirements 7a & b with your counselor and gain their approval before starting requirement 7c. You must use the same counselor for all three parts of this requirement, but it does not have to be the same counselor you used for the rest of the badge. Remember, as with all Merit Badges, any counselor not teaching this badge at Summer Camp or Merit Badge College must be approved in advance.

Forms, Forms, Forms...

We need several different forms to register your son with Troop 1. It seems like all of these forms ask for the same things. There is a lot of repetition. Here's what we actually need from you:

Youth Application Form

The Youth Application form is the basic registration form for BSA. We turn in this form to the local council to register your son with BSA. We also enter this information in our computer records.

Adult Application Form

The Adult Application form is for those of you who wish to join Troop 1 as a Committee Member or an Assistant Scoutmaster. Becoming registered means that you will be covered under BSA's liability insurance policy while involved in Scouting activities (campouts, field trips, etc.) You will also receive "Scouting" magazine.

Annual Health and Medical Record

- Parts A and B of this form should be filled out by a parent. We need this form on file before participating in any of our activities.
- Part C is to be filled out by a doctor. We need this form on file before going to summer camp or any campout longer than 72 hours or involving strenuous activity.
- Any parent who will be camping should have a physical form completed and either a) given to the Campout Leader before each campout or b) given to us to keep on file. We do not enter the adult forms into our computer records unless you request it.

There is also a page of supplemental information we need. Although the Application forms only ask for information on one parent, we would appreciate your telling us about both – along with any special circumstances. Please fill this out as appropriate and bring it to a meeting.

How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide

Lastly, in the front of the Boy Scout Handbook is a removable pamphlet entitled *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*. Please complete the exercises in this pamphlet with your son and e-mail me that it has been done. It is one of the requirements for him to earn his first rank.