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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 800. Our Troop is a ministry of Sycamore Tree United Methodist Church, which is our Chartering Organization. We have prepared this booklet to help Scouts and Scout Families understand how this Troop operates.
Scouts should refer to the current edition of the Boy Scout Handbook for a thorough explanation of all rank and advancement requirements.
The safety and security of your sons is vitally important to us. This Troop strives to operate its active outdoor program in a safe and conscientious manner. The assistance and support of all parents is important to us. We invite comments and questions concerning this handbook and any Troop operation.

THIS HANDBOOK AND ALL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR TROOP (i.e. PROGRAM CALENDAR, POINTS OF CONTACT, RULES, RESPONSIBILITIES, INFORMATION ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE TROOP AND THE TROOP COMMITTEE, FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, ETC.) IS MAINTAINED ON THE TROOP WEBSITE:

http://www.bsatroop800.com/

Mission of the Boy Scouts of America
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 Law.

Goals of Troop 800
Troop 800 is dedicated to providing a safe and fun program of service to others, leadership development, and outdoor high adventure to its youth members, based on the values contained in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Being chartered by the Sycamore Tree, we also want the Scouts to learn more about matters of faith so we emphasize the need to honor God in all we do. Using the Patrol Method of organization, the Troop is “Scout led”, with Adult Scouter serving as mentors and advisors.

Open Letter to Scout Parents
Dear Scout parents,
We, the Scout Leaders of Troop 800 and Sycamore Tree United Methodist Church, would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for entrusting us with your sons by allowing them to become Scouts in our Troop. To express our appreciation, we will do our best to provide the boys with the best Scouting program possible.
As Scout Leaders, we have committed our time and effort to help your boy(s) become worthy members of society. To us, your sons are very important and special. We welcome any and all constructive suggestions and comments that could make our scouting experiences better.
Good communication between you and us plays a big part in maintaining the best possible Scouting program. Our primary method of communication is through the use of e-mail. Because of time sensitive information, we ask that you respond promptly when requested. Our ultimate goal is for your sons to learn, to achieve, and to have fun while they are in our program. With your cooperation, help, trust, and understanding, we are confident that we all will have a great scouting adventure in the years to come.

The Scout Leaders

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Parent Meetings
Parent meetings will occur just a few times each year. The Scoutmaster will notify everyone by separate email and the meeting will be posted on the online troop calendar. The meetings are usually held to discuss the progress of the Troop, major changes to the events calendar, summer camp and other troop related discussions. It is mandatory that at least one parent attend these infrequent but important meetings.

What You Can Do To Help
As with any volunteer organization, the real backbone is support. The Troop needs the active support of parents to be successful. If you are a parent or guardian of a Scout in Troop 800, or an interested former leader, your assistance is appreciated. One part of our Troop’s vision is to create a family environment and to strengthen family bonds. Upon joining the Troop, we ask that each family volunteer for at least one area of service support in order to provide the quality Scouting program your son deserves. Talk to the Scoutmaster, the Committee Chairperson, or one of the Adult Leaders. Every parent can help the Troop in some way with their skills, resources, or contacts.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Get trained in Youth Protection, Safety Afloat, etc.
- Become a merit badge counselor
- Become an Assistant Scoutmaster
- Serve on the Troop Committee and attend Troop Committee Meetings
- Attend and participate in Parent Meetings
- Assist on outings, camping, and Scouting related activities
- Help organize events i.e. archery, swimming, picnic, etc.
- Transport Scouts to and from meetings and outings
- Volunteer for an ongoing or event related leadership position
- Serve on the Board of Review
- Help with fund raising

The role of parents within Troop 800 is to be supportive of the Troop’s efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

- Read their Scout’s handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting
- Actively follow their Scout’s progress (or lack thereof and offer encouragement and support when needed)
Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Award Ceremonies (we refer to this ceremony as a “Court of Honor”)

- Assist, as required, in all Troop activities especially on campouts
- Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar
- Encourage your son to attend every event
- Talk to your son about his Scouting experiences
- Be an active part of your son’s Scouting career

Youth Protection Training
The BSA places the greatest importance on creating the most secure environment possible for our youth members. Any parent/individual desiring to be a registered adult leader with the BSA must complete mandatory trainings. All registered adult leaders are required to take “This is Scouting” on one occasion. They are also required to take “Youth Protection Training” every two year (all parents are encouraged to take this training also). It covers the BSA’s Youth Protection policies, kinds of abuse, signs of abuse, how to respond to disclosure of abuse, and proper reporting procedures. It does so by taking you through situations that require choices and produce consequences. These and other BSA trainings are available online at http://myscouting.org

Additional training may be required by the Scoutmaster and Committee for job specific responsibilities and activities in which the adult will be participating.

REGISTRATION, FEES, AND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Registration, Fees, and Annual Dues
An annual fee of $36.00 per Scout called “Troop Dues” is collected in August. These dues are intended to cover the costs of awards and/or patches the boys earn during the year, basic Troop gear (i.e. dining shelter, grills, utensils, etc...), and one (1) Class B Uniform shirt provided by the troop. Annual BSA registration fees (includes mandatory insurance) are due each year in January. These fees are currently $24 a year. Registered adult leaders are also required to pay the annual BSA registration fee. “Boy’s Life” magazine is a subscription renewed on an annual basis and is an extra $12.00 per year collected in January on a voluntary basis. Please make an effort to ensure that these dues are paid in a timely manner.

Note: Troop dues do not cover the cost of food and other expenses incurred for particular outings (i.e. kayaking fees, summer camp fees, etc.). The Troop pays for all Troop equipment and repairs, as well as Troop supplies (propane, charcoal, water, etc.). Scouts and their families are expected to pay for their own food.

Fund Raising
Fees and dues only fund a small fraction of the Troop’s annual operating budget. The balance is raised through donations and specific fund raising events (i.e. hosting pancake breakfasts, golf tournaments, etc.). Each Scout is expected to actively participate in all fund raising events. We are blessed with a large and very active Troop and we need to leverage our size and community reach during fund raising as well. The proceeds of some events will be directed to off setting costs of specific activities (i.e. summer camp registration fees) or equipment needs as determined by the Troop Committee. The amount raised by each Scout will be tracked. The Troop
Committee may allocate a portion of the funds raised by each Scout to offset their respective Scouting expenses such as summer camp or other trip fees. We also encourage scout families, friends, relatives and businesses to consider a tax deductible donation to Troop 800 through Sycamore United Methodist Church, since our troop is a ministry of the church. The check can be made out to Sycamore Tree United Methodist Church with “Troop 800” in the Memo line. This will ensure that the donation is routed to the Boy Scout Troop. These funds are used for specific fundraising items such as Troop equipment as well as to help fund a “hardship fund”, which can be utilized to fund specific activities for scouts whose families have financial hardships. Parents can confidentially request assistance through the Scoutmaster and/or Troop Committee. These requests are approved by the Troop Committee and are dependent upon fund availability.

**Personal Health and Medical Records**

Part of keeping your son safe is ensuring we have his latest medical information on file and that he has had a physical examination as documented by the appropriate BSA form signed by a doctor within the last twelve months. The required form is located on the BSA web site ([http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx)). Due to the high adventure orientation of our troop we recommend that all four parts (A, B, C, D) of the form be completed. These forms are kept secure and a copy of them accompanies your Scout during Troop activities to ensure the information is immediately accessible in the event of an emergency.

**TROOP 800 ORGANIZATION (THE SCOUT TROOP)**

Troop 800 is a participating member of the Tuckaleechee District of the Great Smoky Mountain Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Every Boy Scout Troop has at least one Chartering Organization, which assists the Troop by providing guidance and leadership. Sycamore Tree United Methodist Church proudly charters Troop 800. Sycamore Tree charters this Troop as a ministry of the church and therefore the Troop practices the religious teachings of the United Methodist Church. Scouts of other faiths are welcomed.

**The Troop Committee**

The Troop Committee, generally parents/guardians of the Scouts, functions as an administration and support organization for the Troop. All parents can become a member of the Troop Committee by attending the meetings and registering as an adult member of the Boy Scouts of America.

**Offices & Responsibilities of the Committee**

The goal of the troop is to have enough parent/adult participation to fill all positions on the Committee. When this does not occur, the Scoutmaster and Committee will combine jobs/responsibilities to meet the needs of the Troop. Committee positions are as outlined below.

Advancement / Merit Badge Coordinator

- Keep records of advancements and merit badges of all Scouts
- Check the progress of the Scouts in their advancement and merit badges
- Remind the Scouts of their progress and encourage them to achieve
- Handle all documents in recording of advancements and purchasing of badges
- Chair the Board of Review
- Forward results of Board of Review to the Scoutmaster

**Board of Review Coordinator**
- Maintain parent roster of Board of Review
- Forward results of Board of Review to Advancement Chair
- Arrange quarterly Board of Review

**Fundraising Coordinator**
- Understand the financial needs of the Troop
- Plan and organize activities to raise enough funds to meet the needs of the annual budget

**Outdoor Activity Coordinator**
- Take interest in collecting information and resources on outdoor activities for Scouts
- Plan and lead outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, nature studies, visits, travels, etc.
- Handle all paperwork in obtaining permits, consent forms, and medical records
- Maintain and safe keep all paperwork and records

**Transportation Coordinator**
- Maintain driver license and insurance records of parents authorized to drive Scouts
- Arrange rides for Scouts
- Account for the whereabouts of all Scouts during trips

**Quartermaster**
- Understand the needs for gear and equipment in various Scouting activities
- Maintain records of all equipment acquired, issued, and returned
- Maintain all equipment in operational condition
- Locate and acquire gadgets, gear, and equipment suitable for Scouting activities

**Historian**
- Maintain stories, accounts of activities, and pictures of all events of the Troop

**Secretary**
- Maintain all documents and paperwork
- Maintain list and contact information for all Scouts, parents, leaders, and Committee Members
- Periodically update the Scout roster

**Special Events Coordinator**
- Plan, organize, and coordinate all parties and special events such as Parent Meetings, Scout Expo, awards, presentation, barbecues, dinners, ceremonies, etc.

**Treasurer**
- Prepare the annual budget
- Maintain the checking account and prepare a quarterly financial statement
- Collect dues and fees.
- Reimburse leaders and parents on expenses incurred for the Scouts
Training Coordinator
- Work closely with the Scoutmaster to ensure adequate training of various skills are included in the programs and activities for the Scouts and Adult Leaders
- Search for and invite professionals or specialists to give quality training classes to the Scouts

Troop Committee Chairperson
- Work with the Scoutmaster and all Troop Committee chairpersons to ensure quality programs are developed and executed for the Scouts
- Represent the Scouts when dealing with outside agencies and organizations, parents and concerned persons

Troop Committee Secretary
- Prepare agendas for, record the minutes of, all Committee meetings and keep file
- Correspond with parents, other agencies and organization
- Prepare certificates for awards and appreciation

The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters
Registered adult leaders act as positive role models for Boy Scouts. To fulfill his obligation to the Troop, the Scoutmaster, works together with Assistant Scoutmasters and Troop Committee Chairperson to help operate the Troop. Each Assistant Scoutmaster is assigned specific program duties and reports to the Scoutmaster. Consistent with the BSA's Youth Protection Program, the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters provide and ensure the required two-deep leadership standards set by the BSA are followed.

Patrol System
Each patrol consists of approximately 10 Scouts with one Scout elected as the Patrol Leader and one assigned as an Assistant Patrol Leader. Patrol Leaders learn how to manage Troop activities by working under the direction of a Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. The patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept, respect, and do their best to live up to the responsibility entrusted to them. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where members can easily relate to each other. Scouts and their Patrols determine Troop activities as represented by their Patrol Leader or elected representative.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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

Elections
All junior leadership positions are elected by the Scouts of Troop 800. Elections are held semiannually in May and December. Adult Leaders usually decide before each election whether some positions are necessary and adjust accordingly. Prior to the elections, a Scout must declare
his intention to run for a specific position and must interview with the Troop Committee. This interview process allows the Committee to determine if the Scout is prepared and committed to serve in this important role. The qualifications and description of all positions are listed below.

**Leadership Description & Expectations**

**General Responsibilities (All Positions)**

Set the example by:
- Living by the Scout Oath and Law in everyday life
- Enthusiastically wearing the uniform correctly
- Showing Scout Spirit
- Being an active Scout
- Being on-time for meetings and activities

**Senior Patrol Leader**

The Senior Patrol Leader is promoted into this position after having been elected by the Scouts as the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and having successfully served for 6 months in this role. He is the top junior leader and focal point of the Troop.

Specific Responsibilities (not limited to)
- Plan and lead Troop meetings, campouts, and Patrol Leaders’ Council meetings
- Collect permission slips for all activities
- Keep Patrol Leaders and Adult Leaders informed
- Share leadership opportunities with others by assigning duties and responsibilities with junior leaders
- Prepare Patrol Leaders to take part in all Troop activities
- Develop Scout Spirit and patrol competition
- Make sure that the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader is ready to assume responsibilities in his absence
- Serve as a member of the Patrol Leaders’ Council

**Qualifications:**
- Rank: 1st Class or above
- Attendance: at least 75% participation is required

**Assistant Senior Patrol Leader**

The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader is the second highest ranking junior leader in the Troop. He also acts as the Senior Patrol Leader in the absence of the Senior Patrol Leader or when called upon. Lastly, he provides leadership to other junior leaders in the Troop.

Specific Responsibilities (not limited to)
- Assist the Senior Patrol Leader in planning and leading Troop meetings, campouts, and Patrol Leaders’ Council meetings
- Lead the Troop in the absence of the Senior Patrol Leader
- Serve as a member of the Patrol Leaders’ Council

**Qualifications:**
- Rank: 1st Class or above
- Attendance: at least 75% participation is required

**Troop Guide**
The Troop Guide generally helps new Scouts to become comfortable with the Troop. He also records advancements for the Troop and tracks each Scout’s progress.

Specific Responsibilities (not limited to)
- Introduce new Scouts to Troop operations
- Keep track of individual Scout progress
- Motivate and encourage Scouts to advance and earn merit badges
- Register Scouts for Board of Review and Scoutmaster Conference
- Provide guidelines to newer Scouts
- Work closely with the Instructor
- Serve as a member of the Patrol Leaders’ Council

Qualifications:
- Rank: 1st Class or above
- Attendance: at least 75% participation is required

**Instructor**
The Instructor teaches Scouting skills. He works closely with the Troop Guide for new Scouts. The Instructor does not have to be an expert but should be able to teach the Scout skills needed for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks.

Specific Responsibilities (not limited to)
- Teach Scouting skills to the Troop
- Prepare, coordinate, and/or make presentations that will be educational to the Troop.
- Work closely with the Troop Guide
- Recruit merit badge counselors if unavailable within the Troop
- Serve as a member of the Patrol Leaders’ Council

Qualifications:
- Rank: 1st Class or above
- Attendance: at least 75% participation is required

**Patrol Leader**
The Patrol Leader is easily one of the most important positions in the Troop. He has close contact with the patrol members and is in the perfect position to help and guide them.

Specific Responsibilities (not limited to)
- Lead the Patrol
- Plan and lead Patrol meetings
- Help any member of the Patrol with advancements either by teaching the required skills or by setting up situations for meeting the requirement
- Keep patrol members informed
- Represent the patrol in Patrol Leaders’ Council meetings
- Serve as a member of the Patrol Leaders’ Council

Qualifications:
- Rank: 1st Class or above
- Attendance: at least 75% participation is required

**Assistant Patrol Leader**
Assistant Patrol Leaders lead the patrol in the Patrol Leader’s absence. He also actively helps run the Patrol. This is the first step into a leadership role.

Specific Responsibilities (not limited to)
- Represent the Patrol at Patrol Leaders’ Council meetings when the Patrol Leader cannot attend
- Assist the Patrol Leader in planning and leading Patrol meetings
- Lead the Patrol in the absence of the Patrol Leader

Qualifications:
- Rank: Tenderfoot or above
- Attendance: at least 75% participation is required

**NOTE:** Other Troop leadership positions will be appointed semi-annually following Scout elections (Scribe, Quartermaster, etc.). Responsibilities of these positions can be found on Scouting.org

**Troop Program Planning**
A successful Troop plans exactly where it is going and how it is going to get there. The Troop program is planned by the Patrol Leaders’ Council (PLC) which is made up of the Senior Patrol Leader and his staff.

**Patrol Leaders’ Council Meeting**
Each quarter the Patrol Leaders’ Council (PLC) will meet to plan (in detail) the program for the coming quarter based on the annual program planning.

**Annual Program Planning**
An annual meeting with the PLC will be held once a year in the summer to plan the next 12 months of meetings and to schedule significant trips, campouts, and other activities.

**UNIFORM**

The Scout uniform is an important part of Scouting. It signifies who we are as an organization, and our roles within the Troop. The Troop requires that each boy has a full uniform and wears it correctly. Older Scouts typically outgrow gear and at least one uniform during the Scouting career so please ask around if you are in need of equipment, uniforms, etc. before you buy. If a family cannot afford a uniform, speak with the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairperson.
To get you started, here is what you will need to purchase from the Scout Shop:

- Centennial Boy Scout Short Sleeve Shirt
- Centennial Boy Scout Pants
- World Crest Emblem
- Centennial Boy Scout Shoulder Loops
- Centennial Merit Badge Sash (to be worn at formal events only i.e. Court of Honor)
- Centennial Boy Scout Web Belt
- Great Smoky Mountain Council Patch
- Centennial Unit Numerals – 8, 0, 0
- Boy Scout Handbook (coil bound preferred)
- Boy Scout neckerchief – burnt orange in color (the Troop will provide the slide)

The Scout Shop is located at:
Scout Store
1333 Old Weisgarber Rd
Knoxville, TN 37909-1284
865-588-6514

Hours (call and check to be sure):
Monday thru Friday 9:00 am - 6:00pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Closed Sunday

TROOP MEETINGS

Weekly Troop Meeting
Troop 800 meets every Monday evening from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Sycamore Tree Methodist Church, unless otherwise stated. Meetings are not scheduled during holidays or during Maryville School System holidays. It is important that each Scout attends all meetings. Essential information is provided at every Troop meeting. Parents are also encouraged to attend meetings to stay informed. Changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as early as possible to allow for proper planning and the definitive meeting schedule is maintained on the Troop’s web site.

Scoutmaster Conferences and Board of Reviews are held at regular meetings as requested.

Items to Bring to Every Meeting
- Pens and Pencils
- Notebook
- Boy Scout Handbook
Patrol Leaders’ Council & PLC Meetings
As described above in Leadership Opportunities

Patrol Meetings
Patrol Meetings are conducted by each Patrol Leader, and are typically held monthly. Its purpose is for each Patrol member to have the opportunity to sharpen Scout skills and to prepare the Patrol Leader to lead the Troop in the future.

CAMPOUTS & OUTINGS

Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors, where Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. The skills and activities practiced at Troop meetings come alive with purpose in the outdoors. The outdoors is the laboratory in which Boy Scouts learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Two-Deep Leadership Required
It is the policy of the Boy Scouts of America that trips and outings may never be led by only one adult. At a minimum, two registered adult leaders or one registered adult leader and a parent of a participant, one of whom must be at least 21 years of age, are required for all trips and outings. Sufficient adult leadership with appropriate training for the activity must be provided on all trips and outings based on the total number of youth attending.

Parental Permission
Permission slips are contained on the health form. Please refer to the health form for more details.

Food allergies
In order to ensure the safety of our Scouts and adults, we must have parents and Scouts communicate any and all food allergies (or other serious allergies such as plant, chemical, etc.) at the beginning of each scouting year or when these problems arise. Food allergies can be serious and even life threatening and we must practice due diligence to avoid these preventable situations. Not only does direct ingestion or contact with the allergic food put the individual at risk, but the cross contamination of anything that the individual is exposed to (food, clothing, water bottles, etc.) can lead to a potentially serious situation. At the beginning of each scouting year (and during the year when situations arise), the Troop will establish a list of food(s) or other items that will be prohibited from being brought to Troop activities. Prohibited foods are those containing tree nuts, peanuts, and shellfish. The list of prohibited foods will be maintained on the web site.

Equipment
Safety and comfort depend on having the right equipment on each outing. For advice on what to look for in equipment, feel free to ask any Adult Leader.
Ten Essentials - Equipment Required For All Camping & Hiking

- Pocketknife (only used if Scout has Totin’ Chip)
- First-Aid Kit
- Extra Clothing (dress according to the weather)
- Flashlight or headlamp w/ Extra Batteries
- Rain Gear
- Water
- Map and Compass
- Fire Starter (only used if Scout has Firem’n Chit)
- Sun Protection
- Trail Food (no tree nuts or peanuts – see food allergies)

Recommended Personal Overnight Camping Gear

- Sleeping Bag or Hammock
- Eating Utensils (bowl, plate, fork, knife, spoon, etc.)
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Scout Handbook
- Toilet Paper
- Comfortable Hiking/Walking Shoes
- Whistle
- Pen and Paper

The above items only represent the essential items to bring on every outing. Scouts can bring additional items but refer to the Troop’s Rules and Regulations for a list of banned items.

ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

Boy Scouts teach boys how to overcome obstacles through the advancement method. As a Scout meets each challenge, he plans his advancements and progresses at his own pace. This allows him to become independent and self-reliant while learning to help others. Rewarding him for each achievement instills self-confidence.

Rank Advancement Overview

Listed below are the ranks of Scouting. A Scout can learn skills of any rank; however, leaders can only sign off requirements for the next subsequent rank. Swimming requirements are the only exception. It is the Scout’s responsibility to get requirements signed off by any Eagle Scout of Troop 800 or REGISTERED Adult Leader.
The following guideline on time periods between ranks, leadership positions, and service projects are to be observed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Minimum Time in Rank</th>
<th>Leadership Position</th>
<th>Service Project Hours Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scout</td>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenderfoot</td>
<td>4 months</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Class</td>
<td>4 months</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Class</td>
<td>4 months</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star</td>
<td>4 months</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>6 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>6 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Special Project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Steps in Advancement
1. The Scout learns the skills through the Troop program that Scouts will plan and provide with the help of Adult Leaders as required. Some skills will be taught at meetings while others such as pitching a tent and using a compass will be taught in the outdoors.
2. The Scout is then tested on these skills, whether by verbal testing or demonstration of the skills.
3. In order to advance in rank the Scout must complete all requirements, have a conference with the Scoutmaster, and pass a Board of Review. For the rank of Eagle Scout, the district, local council, and finally, the National Council must also approve the rank advancement recommendation. Reviews and approvals ensure that all requirements for advancement have been met, including the Scout’s attitude and his practice of the ideals of Scouting.
4. Lastly, the Scout is recognized for his hard work, which involves a presentation of the badge for his new rank. This is usually done at a Troop Court of Honor ceremony.

Scout Spirit
A Scout is required to demonstrate Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law in everyday life in all ranks, from Tenderfoot to Eagle Rank. Though each of these ranks may have this requirement, each is approached differently.

Scoutmaster Conference
It is a requirement for a Boy Scout to participate in a Scoutmaster conference, in order to advance. These conferences are important in helping a Scout evaluate his accomplishments to date and set new goals in line with his individual talents and abilities.
To complete this requirement, the Scout must complete all requirements except the Board of Review.

**Board of Review**

After completing the Scoutmaster Conference the Scout must attend and be recommended by the Board of Review (BOR) in order to proceed to the next rank. BORs are held as requested by the Scout and Scoutmaster. For all ranks, except Eagle, the Board of Review consists of three or more adults from the Troop and/or from the Troop Committee. The Scoutmaster and parent/guardian of the scout will not serve on the BOR. The BOR provides “quality control” on advancements within the Troop and an opportunity for Scouts to develop and practice interview skills. Rather than testing on skills, it is used to:

1. Determine the Scout’s attitude and acceptance of Scouting ideals
2. To ensure that all requirements have been met for advancement
3. To discuss the Scout’s experiences in the Troop and the Troop’s program
4. To encourage the Scout to work hard to achieve the next rank

**Service Projects**

From Second Class to Eagle Rank, a Scout must plan, lead, and participate in service projects. When a Scout has reached the rank of Star or Life he can immediately start preparations for his Eagle service project. A formal proposal (Service Project Plan) must be submitted to the Scoutmaster for review and approval **before** starting any project.

**Eagle Scout Award**

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, the highest advancement rank in Scouting, a Scout must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills. Although many options are available to demonstrate proficiency in these areas, a number of specific skills are required to advance through the ranks—Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. To advance, a Boy Scout must pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges.

The fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting but also as he enters higher education, business or industry, and community service. The award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well maintained over the years. Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank; only about 5 percent of all Boy Scouts do so. This represents nearly 2 million Boy Scouts who have earned the rank since 1912. Nevertheless, the goals of Scouting—citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness—remain important for all Scouts, whether or not they attain the Eagle Scout rank.

**Award Ceremonies – Court of Honor**

A Court of Honor is held approximately three to four times each year. The parents and family of each Scout are encouraged to attend the Troop Court of Honor ceremonies. It is important to applaud and commend Scouts for their achievements. Troop 800 makes advancements special by having unique presentations. Award ceremonies in our Troop build tradition, encourage Scouts to advance, and help to hold their interest in Scouting.
MERIT BADGES

Merit badges are a special part of a Scout’s learning adventure.Merit badges are awards presented to a Scout when he completes the requirements for one of the merit badge subjects. There are more than 120 merit badges a Scout may earn. The subject matters range from vocational and career introduction to personal development, hobbies, sports, high adventure, citizenship, and life-skills development.

Every merit badge is designed to teach the Scout new skills while outwardly encouraging him to challenge himself and have fun in the process. Merit badges offer a range of difficulty over a breadth of subject matters, and a Scout is free to pursue any merit badge he wishes. The merit badge itself is a simple embroidered patch, but the intangible end result of earning it is that the Scout gains self-confidence from overcoming obstacles to achieve a goal.

Any Scout may earn any merit badge at any time. He does not need to have had rank advancement to be eligible.

Blue Cards and Merit Badge Worksheets

The requirements for each merit badge appear in the current BSA merit badge pamphlet, available at Scout Shop, and on the BSA web site (http://www.scouting.org/meritbadges.aspx). When a Scout has decided on a merit badge he would like to earn, he obtains from his Scoutmaster a signed Application for Merit Badge (Blue Card) or prints off the Merit Badge Workbook. We encourage each scout to visit meritbadge.org to print the Merit Badge Workbook on which documentation of each completed requirement can be recorded.

Merit Badge Counselors

A merit badge counselor is both a teacher and a mentor to the Scout as he works on the merit badges. Merit badge counselors should be satisfied that each Scout under their guidance meets all the requirements set forth for the merit badge.

For more information about locating merit badge counselors, consult with an Adult Leader or a Troop Committee member.

Completion of Merit Badges

The Scout returns his “Blue Card” or completed workbook to the Scoutmaster after he has completed the merit badge. A Merit Badge Counselor or registered adult will then review the completed Merit Badge with the scout (in the presence of another adult) in order to verify satisfactory completion and knowledge of the Merit Badge requirements. A completed Merit Badge workbook is preferred since completion of work can be verified more easily. In the event that a “Blue Card” is presented as proof of completion, the Scout must be able to answer questions and show knowledge of the Merit Badge requirements in order for the Merit Badge to be awarded.

Also, in an effort to maintain integrity within the troop, we ask that parents/guardians not serve as Merit Badge Counselors for their own Scout (when possible). There are instances when a parent/guardian will teach a Merit Badge in a group setting. In this instance, it is reasonable to
allow the Scout’s parent/guardian to sign off on completion of work. We also will accept requirements which are met and documented at Summer Camps or as part of Merit Badge Colleges. The Scout will be responsible for satisfactory completion of any remaining requirements not covered/signed off in these group settings.

RULES & REGULATIONS
Troop 800 has established several Troop rules and regulations, which are to be followed at all times by all Scouts and adults. These rules are set for the safety of the Scouts and must be respected and observed by the Scouts and adults at all times. A Scout is responsible for his own conduct at all times. He is expected to take the Scout Oath and Law seriously and exhibit those ideals in his daily life. The following rules are always in effect during Troop 800 activities and meetings:

1. The Scout Uniform is required during all scout meetings, formal occasions involving scouting and otherwise as directed by the adult leaders or the Scoutmaster.
2. The "BUDDY SYSTEM" is to be followed at all times.
3. Bows, arrows, firearms, paintball guns, slingshots, and fireworks are not to be brought to any Scouting activity.
4. Each Scout must have successfully completed his Totin’ Chip certification prior to opening or using a knife, saw, or axe of any kind.
5. No sheath knives or fixed blade knives are permitted. The Scoutmaster must approve all knives, axes, saws, and hand axes. Any unapproved items will be confiscated and returned to the parent upon returning from the outing.
6. Scouts are not allowed to leave the campsite after dark unless they have prior permission from a leader and have a buddy with them.
7. No illegal drugs or alcohol.
8. No electronic devices unless used as part of the scouting program.
9. The use of foul and mean spirited language in any language is prohibited.
10. Horseplay or rough housing is not allowed i.e. tackling, tripping or punching.
11. No “playing” with fire especially near or inside a tent. All fires must be contained within the fire ring or cooking areas. Any Scout starting a fire must have a Firem’n Chit card.
12. Smoking is not permitted during any Troop activity, including campouts.

General Rules
1. Only immediate family members are be allowed to attend Troop events unless otherwise approved by the Scoutmaster. Family members are not allowed to be disruptive in any way.
2. Camping gear for family members shall be their own responsibility. Fees and all other necessities shall also be their personal responsibility.
3. Troop Committee and/or Adult Leaders shall, on a case by case basis, have the authority to limit family member participation on any Troop event.
Punctuality
Scouts are expected to be on time to all meetings and outings. If a Scout is late to an activity, he must notify the adult leader in charge as soon as possible to ensure his arrival is noted. If a Scout expects to be unable to attend a meeting he needs to inform his Patrol Leader and he is also responsible for finding out any information he needs to know that was discussed at the meeting. If a Scout is unable to attend an outing as planned he needs to contact the outing coordinator in advance and as early as possible.

Troop Discipline Policy
An adult leader, according to BSA Policy, will discipline any scout who breaks one of these rules. Most cases will earn the Scout some type of "Special Duty", (i.e. empty a water bucket, carry the garbage to its disposal area, or some type of other small extra job on the outing), which will be assigned by an adult leader. If the Scout blatantly breaks a rule, it is up to the adult leaders to decide how to approach the situation (according to BSA Policy). The most serious situations would result in a phone call to the parents who will be asked to come to the outing and take the Scout home.

Registering a Complaint
If an issue arises with a scout, parent or adult leader, we request that you make the Scoutmaster, Committee Chairperson, and/or another registered leader aware of the problem as soon as possible. Any serious matter that is in violation of BSA policy will be addressed as outlined by BSA. Other complaints will be handled by the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee depending upon the nature of the complaint.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What to do if:

Financial resources are limiting your Scout’s involvement in the Troop.
• Contact the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair as scholarships are available to ensure every boy has an opportunity to fully participate in our Troop

You know of another family that would like to visit or join our Troop.
• Contact the Scoutmaster

You have a concern with anything related to the Troop or its program.
• Contact the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair.

You want to make a donation or help with raising funds to expand the Troop program.
• Contact the Scoutmaster, Troop Committee Chair, or Fundraising Chair
My Scout woke up ill the morning of a camp out or an event.
• Contact the Scoutmaster or an adult who is attending the event. If unable to reach either, go to the meeting place to inform them of the situation.

My Scout can’t make it to a weekly Troop meeting.
• He (the Scout) should inform his Patrol Leader prior to the missed meeting.

Your Scout brings home patches and you don’t know where they should be attached to his uniform.
• Consult the Boy Scout Handbook or ask the Scoutmaster.

Your Scout is unsure of the requirements for his next rank.
• The Scout should consult his Boy Scout Handbook or see the Scoutmaster.

Your Scout earns a rank or Merit Badge…
• Attend all Award Ceremonies to show your support for the Scouts and your pride in their accomplishments.

Acknowledgement Form

We have read and we understand the information contained in Troop 800’s Handbook (Version 2015)

____________________________________  ____________________________________
(Parents signature and date)          (Scout’s signature and date)