

Troop 280



**Flower Mound
Texas**

Scout and Parent Handbook

BOY SCOUT LAW:

A Scout is:

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



BOY SCOUT OATH:

"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."

Letter from the Committee Chairman

Dear New Scout and Parents,

The Scouts, leaders and parents of Troop 280 extend a hearty welcome to your boy and to you!

We are delighted to have you with us and look forward to sharing the joys and challenges, which accompany participation in our dynamic program. We want to be sure that parent's understand what participation means and what opportunities are available for your Scout and you in the coming months and years. We ask that you read carefully through this manual.

Our goal is to help your son develop into a young man conforming to the Boy Scout ideals of physical strength, mental awareness and moral action.

The pre-teen and teenage years are an important time in your son's life. Critical, yet sometimes subtle, choices are made that can shape the rest of his life. Boy Scouts is founded on the belief that, during this time, a boy should undergo the personal growth necessary to move from a state of almost complete dependence upon his family towards increasing self-reliance and independence. A primary vehicle for this change is the opportunity for the Scout to make responsible decisions under diverse circumstances and to experience the consequences of the decisions. We feel privileged to play a part in helping influence some of these choices.

This manual has been prepared to acquaint you with the Troop 280 programs, procedures and expectations. The information is intended to answer frequently asked questions and to acquaint you with our procedures.

We wish your son every success in his Scouting career, and the primary purpose of the adult leadership of Troop 280 is to create and maintain an environment in which he can succeed.

Please contact any of our leaders if you have questions or concerns.

Yours in Scouting,

Jim Robarge
Troop 280 Committee Chairman

Letter from the Scoutmaster

Dear Parents and Scouts,

Scouting is one of the largest and oldest international youth organizations. Scouting is immediately known and respected by people around the world. The parents and adult leaders of Troop 280 strongly believe in the character building that comes from following the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

We also strongly believe in parents' participation in Scouting activities. Parents are key to the success of Scouting and the success of Troop 280. Your excitement and involvement will rub off on your son. Through Scouting, and with your guidance, your son will learn to prioritize and balance the things he WANTS to do, things he SHOULD do, and things he MUST do — an important life skill.

Scouts get out of Troop 280 what they put into it. Leaders try to keep the "outing" in Scouting by offering activities of all kinds. We ask our Scouts to lead the Troop and that includes planning activities, weekly meetings, and the required preparation.

Developing self-confidence, self-reliance and leadership are key goals of the Scouting program.

We hope this manual will be useful to you. Please read it with your Scout along with the first pages of the Scout Handbook.

Being a new Scout family is exciting but can be confusing, even frustrating at times. Get to know the other parents and our leaders. If you have questions, now or at any time in the future, talk, call or email us.

Yours in Scouting,

Jim McKiel
Scoutmaster, Troop 280

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The AIM of Scouting

If you ask a Scout the purpose of Scouting, he's likely to mention things like camping, earning badges, or maybe burning marshmallows over a fire. Ask a Scout leader, however, and you will hear answers like character building, citizenship training, and fitness development.

You see, while camping and badges and other fun activities are a big part of Scouting, they are not the *purpose* of Scouting. Instead, they are *methods* that teach character, citizenship, and fitness. We strive to "achieve excellence in fostering the character development, worldwide citizenship, and the moral, mental, and physical fitness of young people, and in other ways prepare them to make ethical choices by instilling the values found in the Scout Oath and Law."

The aims of the Boy Scout program (rather than Cub Scouting or Venturing) are to build character, foster citizenship, and develop fitness. The methods we use to achieve those aims are ideals, patrols, outdoor activities, advancement, personal growth, adult association, leadership development, and the uniform.

The first is growth in moral strength and character:

We define this as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, and his outlook.

A second aim is participative citizenship:

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

The third aim of the Boy Scout program is development of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual fitness:

Fitness includes the body (well tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think clearly and solve problems), the emotions (courage, self-control and self-respect), and the spirit (relationship with God and respect for all His creations).

The Methods of Scouting

The Boy Scouts of America uses eight fundamental methods to meet boys' hope for fun and adventure, and to achieve Scouting aims of encouraging character development, citizenship, and mental and physical fitness. A Scout Troop functions best when all eight methods are employed.

Method 1 – The Ideals

The ideals of the Boy Scouts of America are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan. Boy Scouts and adult leaders incorporating these ideals into their daily lives are said to have Scout spirit. Scout meetings and Scouting activities reinforce the ideals of Scouting through the message of a Scoutmaster's Minute and in the form of new understandings the Scouts discover for themselves.

Method 2 – The Patrol Method

Within the larger community of the troop, the patrol is a Scout's "family circle." Often made up of boys who are close in age and experience level, each patrol helps its members develop a sense of pride and identity. The boys themselves elect their patrol leader, divide up the jobs to be done, and share in the satisfaction of accepting and fulfilling group responsibilities.

Method 3 – The Outdoors

Boys join Scouting for the challenge, the excitement, and the fun. Much of Scouting is designed to take place in the outdoors in settings where boys can find real adventure. Outdoor activities put the sizzle into Scouting. They keep boys coming back for more. A troop with a strong outdoor program is well on its way to finding success in all areas.

Method 4 – Advancement

The Boy Scouts of America believes that a boy should receive recognition for his achievements. The requirements for the ranks of Tenderfoot through First Class prepare boys to take full advantage of all that Scouting has to offer. Earning merit badges allows them to explore many fields, helps them round out their skills, and perhaps introduces them to subjects that will become lifelong interests and rewarding careers. In addition, advancement sets a pattern of setting positive goals and reaching them throughout life. Star, Life, and Eagle requirements focus on service to others and developing leadership skills.

As one of the eight methods of Scouting, advancement is a natural outcome of the other seven. A boy whose Scouting experience is introducing him to the BSA ideals, the Patrol method, the outdoors, association with adults, personal growth, leadership development, and the uniform will almost certainly find himself moving steadily along the BSA's advancement trail.

Method 5 – Association with Adults

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

Method 6 – Personal Growth

Scout-age boys are experiencing dramatic physical and emotional growth. Scouting offers them opportunities to channel much of that change into productive endeavors and to find the answers they are seeking for many of their questions. Through service projects and good turns, Scouts can discover their place in their community. Many Scouting activities allow boys to associate with boys from different backgrounds. The religious emblems program offers pathways for Scouts to more deeply understand their place in the world. The troop itself provides each Scout with an arena in which to explore, to try new ideas, and sometimes simply embark on adventures with no design other than having a good time with good people.

Method 7 – Leadership Development

Leadership is a skill that can be learned only by doing it. Every boy in a patrol and troop will find that he is filling leadership positions of increasing responsibility. Through leadership experiences, boys learn planning, organization, and decision-making. For many boys, accepting the role of patrol leader is the first real leadership opportunity they have ever had. Discovering that they can do the job will go a long way toward giving them the confidence and ability to be leaders in the future.

Method 8 – The Uniform

Since 1910, the Boy Scout uniform has been a recognized part of the American scene. Wearing the uniform helps boys develop a sense of belonging to their patrol and troop. It reinforces the fact that all members of the BSA are equal to one another. People seeing a boy in a Scout uniform expect someone of good character who is prepared to the best of his ability to help those around him. Likewise, Scoutmasters in full uniform set a good example for members of their troops and are also seen as community leaders fulfilling a very important role.

Troop 280 History

Troop 280 was established in 1994 and has a long history of service in the Flower Mound and Highland Village areas. During this time, we have had over 54 Scouts reach the pinnacle rank of Eagle Scout. At the end of 2008, we had 62 registered Scouts and 88 registered adult volunteers. Troop 280 and our adults are heavily active in both the Topsanah District and Longhorn Council programs.

Chartered Organization

Our chartering organization is the Highland Village Lions Club. Our primary fundraiser is the *Highland Village Balloon Festival* which is sponsored by the Highland Village Lions Club. The Troop also performs annual Jeepers

Creepers service project for the Highland Village Lions Club, which collects used eye glasses that are provided to the needy.

The troop renews its affiliation with the Chartered Organization and with the Boy Scouts of America each February. This process is known as *Re-chartering*.

Troop Financial Policy

For bookkeeping purposes it is easier for the troop to be paid by check with one check for each function. For example, if you are paying for summer camp and another activity, please submit two checks, one for each event.

Annual Registration Cost

The current Registration/Re-charter fee is an annual payment of \$25 and is required to cover BSA registration for the scout, BSA national insurance and Boys Life Magazine for your Scout. Scouts must re-register with the troop each year in February. Payments should be made to "Troop 280".

Weekly Dues

Instead of collecting dues during each meeting, the Troop has established an annual dues amount of \$50.00 payable in February of each year with the Registration Fee.

Fund Raising

Fund Raising is an essential part of financing the activities of the Troop but also providing Boys with a way to take on responsibility and learn to organize and communicate effectively. Participation in Fund Raising activities is MANDATORY for all scouts. The troop committee schedules 2 to 3 fundraisers throughout the year. The funds raised through these efforts help pay for camping equipment, camping fees, badges, pins, activity fees, trailer expenses, registration costs for adult leaders, program materials, mailings and copying costs. It is vital that the Scouts and their parents participate in every fund raiser to help support the troop.

Annual Popcorn Sales

Troop 280 participates each year in the Longhorn Council annual popcorn sale. This is an important fundraiser for the troop. We encourage the Scouts to sell as much as possible to help pay for their expenses.

Camping/Troop Activity Fees

The troop generally has one outing per month. The theme or purpose of each outing is unique and is determined by the Patrol Leaders Committee each August. The emphasis is to learn outdoor skills, practice

leadership, build confidence and garner an appreciation for the outdoors. In most every case, there will be an "Activity Fee" and a "Grub Fee" associated with each activity.

Activity fees should be paid at the time of sign-up. The fee for adults will include the cost of the activity and meals, the fee for scouts will only be the fee for the actual activity. Patrols take care of their own meal planning and one Scout is assigned as Grubmaster to do the shopping for the patrol meals. The Grubmaster lets the other Scouts know how much they owe to reimburse him for the patrol food. Each Scout is required to pay his "share" before the end of the outing.

Scout Accounts

Troop 280 does **NOT** support or require scouts in maintaining a Scout Account. All funds a scout generates from popcorn sales or other fund-raisers go directly in to the Troop's general fund.

Financial Assistance

It is the policy of the troop that we want every scout to participate in Scouting. We believe that participation in activities and Camp is critical to both having fun and advancement. Finances should never be a barrier to a scout's participation. If families need a bit of financial help, special allowances can be made and fees or a portion of can be waived at the discretion of the Committee Chair and Scoutmaster. This will be held in strict confidence, so please do not hesitate to speak to one of them.

Troop Health and Safety

In the interest of the safety of all Scouts, as well as the enjoyment and successful learning experience of the Scouting program, common sense and good conduct is required at all times.

The following special rules should be noted:

- NO tree or fence climbing without specific leader permission
- NO participating in waterfront activities without proper supervision
- NO throwing of any objects except as part of an organized activity
- NO use of cutting tools (ax, knife, etc.) or matches without successful completion of Totin' Chip and Firem'n Chit Training, respectively. This rule applies to adults as well as Scouts.
- NO food in tents
- NO flame in tents

Youth Protection

Troop 280 follows the policy of the Boy Scouts of America regarding the protection of youth and adult leaders. All leaders in the Troop are required to complete this training every several years, parents and guardians are also encouraged to take this course, which takes less than an hour. To learn the BSA policies for protection of their son, the training is web based and can be found on the BSA website at www.BSA.org.

Most prominent among the safety oriented policies is that of "Two Deep" leadership. It means, quite simply, that if it involves boys, we need two adults. If you counsel a boy on a merit badge, you need another adult in the room or at least several boys. You can drive boys in a car without another adult, but when you get to where you are going, there should be another adult at the activity. When in doubt – get another adult. The purpose of the policy is to both protect the boys AND YOU from the possibility of any perception of bad behavior. Reputations can be ruined by insinuation as easily as by action.

Medication Policy

During Troop activities, an adult leader will be assigned as the *Medic* and will have the responsibility for maintaining and administering ALL prescription medication to scouts. At no time are scouts allowed carrying or administering their own medication, the exception to this rule is Inhalers and EpiPens.

All medications must be in the original container. In the case of prescription medication, a legible label showing the name of the medication, the prescribing physician and prescription number must be affixed to the container.

Medical Forms and Permission Slips

The health of the scouts and adults is very important to us in Troop 280. In order for a scout or adult to attend any activities the Troop requires **everyone** to complete a Medical and Permission Form. BSA policy requires the Troop to have these forms available during each Troop activity.

Note: Medical and Permission Forms are only valid for a period of one year.

Troop 280 Permission Form

This form gives permission for emergency medical treatment for and for the Adult Leaders to take your scout on different activities. Please have your signature notarized, as some state such as Oklahoma requires a notarized signature before treatment can be provided. The Troop has a Notary Public available if needed.

Medical Form

Parts A and C are to be completed annually by **all BSA members**. Both parts are required for all events that do not exceed 72 consecutive hours, where the level of activity is similar to that normally expended at home or at school, such as day camp, day hikes, swimming parties, or an overnight camp, and where medical care is readily available.

Part B is required with parts A and C for any event that exceeds 72 consecutive hours, a resident camp setting, or when the nature of the activity is strenuous and demanding, such as service projects, work weekends, or high-adventure treks.

Transportation

Parents and leaders provide transportation. Our Activity Chair requires information on your car insurance policy and your vehicles in order to file a Tour Permit. This Tour Permit is filed with the Boy Scouts Council and is required for out of Council trips. It lists the destination, the route, a list of the drivers and car insurance information.

While most camping is by the Troop, each Patrol may camp separately as long as BSA guidelines are followed. All Patrol campouts must have the prior approval of the Scoutmaster and at least two deep leadership.

After a campout, Scouts may need to take equipment home for additional cleaning, repairing and/or airing out. It must be hung or set-up immediately. Once dry, and in good, clean condition, the Scout must repack it properly and return it at the NEXT Troop meeting. Equipment should be returned to the Troop's Quartermaster.

Parent's Role in the Troop

Each young man and his family are important members of our troop. Active, involved parents and family members are vital to a Scout's success.

At a minimum, as a new Scout parent, it will be necessary for you to provide:

- The necessary uniform, equipment and transportation for your Scout so that he is properly clothed, equipped and able to participate in troop and patrol activities.
- Time to review, study and practice his rank requirements.
- Never-ending encouragement to your Scout in his advancement, service and obedience to the Scout Laws.

- Information to the Scoutmaster or one of his assistants regarding problems or concerns you or your Scout may have.

The support and involvement of parents and family members in Troop 280 are what has made the Troop so successful throughout the years. As a parent, you will have to decide how active you can be based on your family situation and its demands, but there are always positions available in which the troop needs help. Many positions honestly will require only a few hours of your time. Experience has shown that parental involvement, either in a leadership or a support role, has a direct bearing on the motivation a Scout has and the accomplishments he achieves.

Parents are always welcome and strongly encouraged to attend our troop meetings, activities, and campouts.

Code of Conduct

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

- Unruly, loud, disrespectful or disobedient behavior will not be tolerated.
- The Scoutmaster or Leader in charge is responsible for each boy's safety and will be obeyed to the fullest extent.
- No swearing or use of unfit language at any Scout function.
- No fires are permitted inside tents or within 10 feet of a tent or dining fly.
- No candles, matches, stoves, heaters or lanterns are to be in or near tents. Only battery operated lanterns or flashlights are permitted.
- No use of liquid fuel by any one, for any purpose, under the age of 21 unless under the direct supervision of an adult. This includes cigarette lighters.
- Cooking and campfires are to be attended at all times and completely extinguished before leaving camp, going to bed or breaking camp.
- Fires are for cooking, illumination and warmth. Any unauthorized use is strictly forbidden.
- Aerosol spray products are prohibited. Authorized medicines are excepted.
- No Scout will carry or use a knife, ax or saw until he has had the proper training and is in possession of a "Tote 'N Chip" card. Saws and axes are to be used only in designated areas.
- Trees, living or dead, will not be downed or struck without the Scoutmaster's permission.
- Ground cover will not be removed or destroyed.
- No bare feet in camp outside of tents.
- Lights out will be respected.
- Campsites will be policed at all times, leaving them cleaner than they were found.
- Raiding or destroying campsites is strictly forbidden.
- No borrowing of any person's or troop's equipment or property without prior consent.
- Sheath knives and knives with blades of more than four (4) inches, as well as axes and hatches will not be carried by scouts or adults.
- No alcohol or any other controlled substances are allowed by Scouts or adult leaders.
- No use of any tobacco products by any boy members. Adults may use with discretion in designated areas out of visual site of all scouts. This includes chewing tobacco.
- Toys, radios, tape players, electronic games or any other electronic equipment are not allowed unless permission is granted by the Senior Patrol Leader.
- Firearms, fire crackers, fireworks, ammunition, black powder, sling shots, cap guns, bows and arrows, paint ball guns or any other are prohibited. Exceptions will be made at troop approved and rifle range practice.
- No food, candy or drinks are allowed in tents.
- There are to be no carbonated drinks on campouts. Exceptions are made only by the Scoutmaster.
- Horse play and fighting will not be tolerated. Nor will the throwing of rocks or other objects.
- The possession of inappropriate literature is prohibited.
- No gambling.
- NO HAZING. This includes "initiation rites", tent dropping, "snipe hunting", and any other form of mental or physical abuse.
- Scout conduct should be in accordance with the Scout Oath and Law.

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

Troop Disciplinary Action

The Scout oath and laws is the corner stone for good behavior. Each Scout learns the oath and 12 points of the law when he joins Scouts. He is expected to practice them throughout his Scouting experience. Occasionally, scouts and the adult leaders may need to remind scouts of these principles.

The objective of the Troop Disciplinary Policy is to ensure that the aims and goals of Scouting are achieved. This policy ensures that all actions taken by any scout that violates the Scout Oath or any point of the Scout Law is handled in a consistent and fair manner. It further ensures that Scouts who consistently violate the policy do not disrupt the operation and activities of the Troop as a whole.

A scout's most important leader is his Patrol Leader. If there is no satisfaction at the Patrol Leader level, then the Senior Patrol Leader should be involved. If no satisfaction is found within the youth leadership, the issue should be escalated to either the Scoutmaster or one of his assistants. The final escalation point is the Troop Committee. We always try to have the youth leaders police their own issues, if possible.

If any issue ever involves conduct that endangers personal safety, involves harassment (or other non-scout behaviors), the process skips directly to the Scoutmaster or one of the Troop Adult Leaders.

The purpose of disciplinary actions is to foster an understanding of "Scout Spirit" as outlined in the Scout Oath, Motto, Slogan and the Outdoor Code. Discipline may include, but is not limited to:

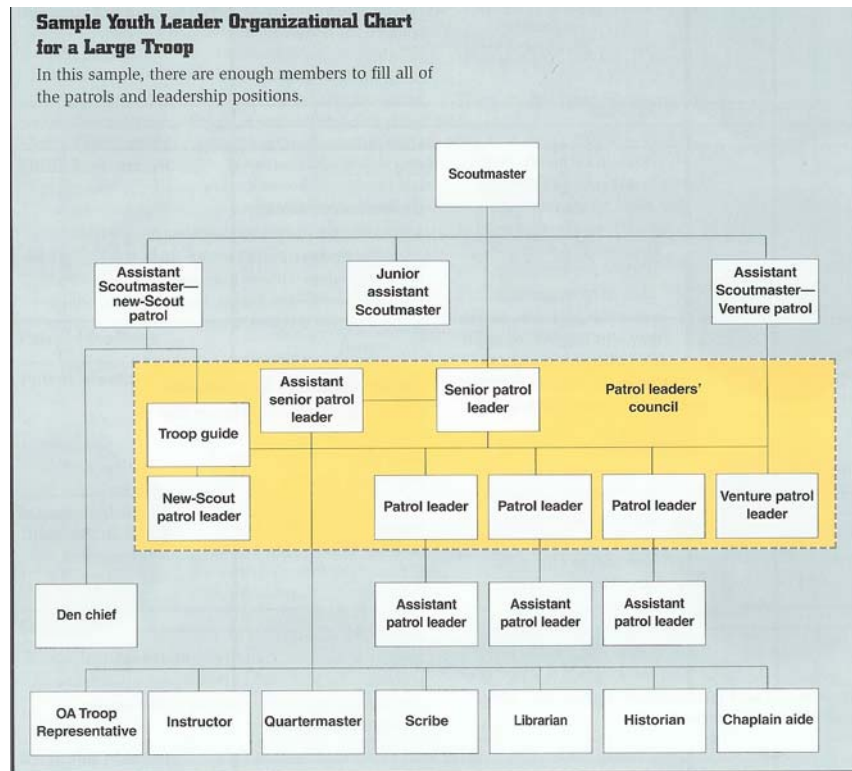
- Sitting out of activities (the person who handed out the discipline will be the one who decides when the disciplined Scout may rejoin the activity)
- Special reports (written or verbal)
- Extra projects reflecting the values and purpose of the Scouting program
- Monetary reimbursement for any damages caused
- Written or verbal apologies
- Probation from current or future activities or campouts
- Service Work
- Conferences with the Scoutmaster
- Expulsion from current or future activities
- Scoutmaster meeting with the parents and scout
- Conferences with the Troop Committee

An appeals process is available via the Chain of Command. Decisions will be made based on the behavior code and Scout philosophy as outlined in the Scout Oath, Motto, Slogan and the Outdoor Code.

In the event the Scout who is being brought before the Patrol Leaders Council has a close relative in the Council, that Troop Leader will be excused from the proceedings. If that Scout has requested a special hearing which concerns one of the Troop Leaders, that Troop Leader will be asked to leave the meeting for that portion. He can be brought back at a later time to discuss his/her actions.

Troop Leadership

Troop Leadership Organization



Adult Leaders

Committee

The troop committee includes the Troop Committee Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Quartermaster, Outdoor/Activity Chairman, Chaplain, and the Advancement Chairman as well as other adults interested in providing a quality program.

Assistant Scoutmasters and troop committee members may be assigned specific responsibilities within the areas of administration, logistics, program, advancement and quartermaster. These positions include:

- Merit Badge Coordinator
- Adult Training Advisor
- Special Events Coordinator
- Order of the Arrow Advisor
- Fund Raising Coordinator
- Quartermaster Assistants
- Recruiter
- Instructor Corps Coordinator
- New Scout/Scouter Advisor
- Board of Review Staffer

Scoutmasters

The Scoutmaster is responsible for the image and program of the Troop. He works directly with the Scouts. His duties include training and guiding boy leaders; working with other responsible adults to bring Scouting to boys and uses the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting.

Assistant Scoutmasters are assigned specific program duties that help operate the troop. The Assistant Scoutmasters reports to the Scoutmaster and may serve in his absence.

Boy Leaders

The troop is actually run by its boy leaders. With the guidance of the Scoutmaster and his assistants, they plan the program, conduct troop meetings, and provide leadership among their peers. Most importantly, boy leaders set the example for others, they wear the uniform correctly, live the Scout Oath and Law, and Show Scout spirit.

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)

An experienced Scout elected by all boy members of the troop. The Senior Patrol leader has the most responsibility in a troop. He is in charge of troop meetings from beginning to end. He chairs meetings of the patrol leader's council as they plan troop activities and programs. His job is to see that the troop runs in an orderly and timely manner.

Reports to the Scoutmaster

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)

With the approval of the Scoutmaster, the Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders are appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader, serves as his assistants, and takes his place when absent. An ASPL is responsible for training and providing direction for other senior positions within the troop.

Reports to the Senior Patrol Leader

Patrol Leader

The Patrol Leader is the elected leader of his patrol. He represents his patrol on the Patrol Leaders' Council, plans and steers patrol meetings, keeps patrol members informed, knows what his patrol members and other leaders within the Troop can do.

Reports to the Senior Patrol Leader

Assistant Patrol Leader

Appointed by the patrol leader of each Patrol to serve with him, and assumes the duties of the Patrol Leader in his absence. The Assistant Patrol Leader represents his patrol at the Patrol Leaders' Council meeting whenever the Patrol Leader cannot attend.

Reports to the Patrol Leader of his Patrol

Troop Guide

Both a leader and mentor to the members of a new-Scout patrol. His is an older Scout, at least First Class in rank, who helps the patrol leader of a new Scout patrol in much the same way that a Scoutmaster works with a senior patrol leader – providing direction, coaching, and support as determined by the skill level and morale of the patrol leader and members of the new-Scout patrol. Troop Guides are appointed by the Scoutmaster and works closely with an Assistant Scoutmaster to ensure new Patrols are adapting well within the Troop.

Reports to Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Scoutmaster

Quartermaster

Is responsible for the Troop's supplies and equipment and works with the Adult Quartermaster. He keeps a current inventory of the troop equipment and sees that it is in good condition. He works with the Patrols as they check out equipment and return it, and reports to the Patrol Leader's Council on status of the troop's equipment. The Quartermaster is responsible for the loading and unloading of the Troop trailers on all campouts.

Reports to Senior Patrol Leader

Scribe (Troop/Patrol)

The secretary for the troop or patrol and records attendance at the troop meetings and keeps a logbook of meeting discussions, but is not a voting member of the Patrol Leaders Council.

Reports to an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader or Patrol Leader

Chaplain's Aide

The Chaplain's Aide works with the Troop chaplain to meet the religious needs of Scouts in the Troop. He also works to promote the religious emblems program. Primary duties are to Assist the Troop chaplain with religious services at Troop activities, helps plan for religious observance in Troop activities.

Reports to an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

The Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC)

The Patrol Leaders' Council, **not the adult leaders**, is responsible for planning and conducting the troop's activities. The Patrol Leaders' Council is composed of the following voting members: Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leaders, Troop Guide.

The Troop's activities are selected and planned at the annual program planning conference which usually happens in August of each year. The troop's yearly plan is then submitted to the Troop Committee for approval. The Troop Committee either approves the plan or makes alternative suggestions for the Patrol Leaders' Council to consider. At its monthly meetings, the Patrol Leaders' Council organizes and assigns activity responsibilities for the weekly Troop meetings. The Troop committee interacts with the Patrol Leaders' Council through the Scoutmaster.

Elections

Troop 280 holds elections two times each year. All registered Scouts are eligible to participate in elections. Adult leaders monitor the election process but do not vote. The Scoutmaster will determine the availability and eligibility of the Scout candidates qualified to serve. The Scoutmaster will also determine with each Scout their willingness to serve. Candidates will be presented to the Troop for election by popular vote.

A Scout must be in attendance on election night to be elected, or he must receive prior Scoutmaster approval to run in absentee, given a valid excuse.

Candidates for elections are required to give a two-minute speech to:

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

Elections will be held in the following manner:

- Upon the closing of nominations for office, a secret ballot will be cast by all Scouts who are current registered members of Troop 280.
- If no Scout secures a majority of the votes, a runoff will occur between the two candidates receiving the most votes.
- Each patrol elects a Patrol Leader who in turn appoints his own Assistant Patrol Leader to assist in the performance of his duties. The Assistant Patrol Leader serves as patrol leader in the event the Patrol Leader is absent.

Criteria have been set as prerequisites for holding leadership positions in the troop. In the event all the requirements cannot be met, the Scoutmaster may elect to waive some requirements under the condition that the Scout agrees to complete the requirement during his term of office.

Junior leaders may serve in a particular leadership position any number of terms, but only two, which are consecutive.

Removal from Office

The Senior Patrol Leader (after consultation with the Scoutmaster) has the authority to remove any Scout elected or appointed to office at anytime for failure to perform his duties or meet the following leadership expectations, live by the Scout Oath and Law, set a good example in uniform, manner and attendance attend Junior Leader training, and actively pursue advancement.

Boy Leadership Training Opportunities

Troop Leadership Training

Troop 280 conduct Leadership Training for all new Boy Leaders. Adult leadership and senior troop leadership staff the program, organize activities, present information. The main purpose of the program is to build and improve Scout leadership skills and better prepare our Scout for present and future leadership roles.

Brownsea

This training course sponsored by the District Training Committee is designed to give Scouts knowledge and understanding of the patrol method and the leadership skills useful in fulfilling their patrol responsibilities.

Participants must be First Class or above and have shown leadership potential. It is recommended that participants be at least twelve years of age. The course involves a combination of a indoor/outdoor sessions over one weekend. The participants should have a good back ground in overnight camping. This training is required for Scouts wanting to attend Twin Arrows.

Twin Arrows – National Youth Leadership Training

Twin Arrows is a six day training course provided by the Longhorn Council that provides youth leaders with an opportunity to enhance their leadership skills while living by the Scout Oath and Law in an exciting outdoor environment. The purpose of Twin Arrows is to assist the Scoutmaster in training youth leaders.

Twin Arrows is an exciting, action-packed program designed to provide youth members with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home troops and in other situations demanding leadership of self and others. The Twin Arrows Troop works as an ideal troop using the patrol method and rotating leadership responsibility. Twin Arrows is not designed to teach basic Scout skills. Participation is by the recommendation of the Scoutmaster which helps make this training more effective by recommending Scouts who are prepared for this special leadership training.

Twin Arrows integrates the best of modern leadership theory with the traditional strengths of the Scouting experience. Through activities, presentations, challenges, discussions, and audio-visual support, Twin Arrow participants will be engaged in a unified approach to leadership that will give them the skill and confidence to lead well. Through a wide range of activities, games, and adventures, participants will work and play together as they put into action the best Scouting has to offer.

Den Chief Training

This is a BSA District annual training program for First Class Scouts and above, interested in serving in the leadership position of Den Chief. Den Chiefs are a special kind of junior leader who are active members of their patrol and troop as well as their assigned Cub Scout Pack and Den. A Den Chief is a leader who is a guide, instructor, activities assistant and recruiter.

Completion of this training is required prior to placement as a den chief. Participants in this junior leader training course learn effective teaching methods, leadership skills and fun activities to aid them in working with Cub Scouts and their Den Leaders.

Troop Uniform

All Scouts and Adult Leaders are expected to wear the complete Class 'A' uniform to all troop activities. Any exceptions to the Class A uniform requirements are established by the Patrol Leaders Council.

When in doubt, wear the Class 'A' uniform.

The troop does not have a troop neckerchief. The neckerchief is an optional part of the official uniform, which the PLC has chosen not to have as part of our troop uniform. If a Scout attends a camp in which a neckerchief is received or purchased for the event, or is an Eagle scout and has an Eagle Scout neckerchief, he may wear the neckerchief. The neckerchief would typically be worn on ceremonial occasions and not to regular troop meetings.

Scouts may **not** wear camouflage – patterned clothes to or on Troop activities, especially camping trips.

Class 'A' Uniform

The class 'A' uniform is the Scout shirt with all badges and insignia in the proper place. A Scout should always look his best and have his shirt on and tucked in. This is considered "Class A". The Class A uniform must be worn when traveling as a troop to and from scout events. A uniform include Scout pants, Scout shorts, Scout belt and Scout socks.

- Exception to this rule for new first year scouts:
During the first year for a new scout, they will not be required to wear scout pants and socks until they earn the rank of First Class. New scouts must wear the official scout belt and scout shirt.

Merit Badge Sash

The merit badge sash is used by scouts to display the merit badges they have earned. It is worn during **formal activities and events**, and not during Troop meetings or campouts. A "Formal activity" is an awards ceremony, a Blue and Gold banquet, a Troop Court of Honor or special activities which lends itself to wearing the merit badge sash.

Class 'B' uniform

The official Class 'B' uniform consists of the red Troop 280 "T" shirt with appropriate shorts or jeans. The troop red t-shirt is provided to all new registered scouts after they join. Replacement t-shirts are available for a fee.

The troop has t-shirts and polo class 'B' shirts available in adult sizes.

Patches

The troop will supply, as part of the funds raised from dues and other activities, all patches earned as the result of advancement, from earning merit badges, and election or appointment to troop/patrol positions.

Quite often, the fees for camporees, summer camps, and other special events will include a patch. All other patches will be the responsibility of the Scout to purchase if desired or required to complete his uniform, such as council strips, etc. Any duplicate patches needed because they were lost or for additional uniforms will also be the responsibility of the Scout.

Troop 280 provides every scout with one Troop 280 patch when they join the troop. Additional patches are available as needed through the Advancement Chair.

The Troop also provides each scout their Rank and Merit Badges when a scout earns them.

Meetings

Troop Meetings

Troop meetings are held on Thursdays (with the exception of Holidays, Spring Break, Summer Camp) at 7:30 - 9:00pm. Patrols responsible for cleanup will stay until approximately 9:15pm. Check your troop calendar to verify troop-meeting dates.

- It is important that Scouts be present, on time and in full uniform for their rank (shirt and belt is only required for scouts that have not earned their First Class Rank) for troop meetings. Scouts regularly meeting these objectives will be considered to have high Scout Spirit.
- Scouts are required to bring their Scout Handbook, paper and pencil to every meeting.
- Attendance will be taken during the Patrol discussion as part of the meeting.

It is important to encourage Scouts to attend as many meetings as possible. Each meeting has a theme or emphasis. Skills or knowledge required for a merit badge or rank advancement is taught, giving the Scouts an opportunity to learn and earn.

Presentations of rank advancements are made at troop meetings. Troop meetings are also a way of keeping informed of upcoming Troop activities.

Boys holding leadership positions have a responsibility to their fellow Scouts and adult leaders of the troop. If a boy or boy leader is going to be absent for any reason, the courtesy should be extended to notify his patrol, other boy leaders, or the adult leaders, to assure the program does not fall short due to his absence.

Committee Meetings

The troop committee meets every second Tuesday of the month from 7:30 – 9:00PM at Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church.

The primary purpose of the meeting is to support the troop program, but also discusses future troop activities, solving troop issues, and monitoring the troop's progress.

The committee meeting should be attended by all committee members and the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster is not actually a member of the troop committee, and has no vote.

The support and administration of an active troop requires the participation of every committee member.

Parents are urged to join the Troop Committee. Parents are also encouraged to serve as a Merit Badge Counselors in your areas of expertise.

The troop committee is composed of a group of adult leaders charged with the duty to support the Scouting program and handle troop administration. These duties include but are not limited to:

- Appointing a Scoutmaster
- Carrying out the policies and regulations of the BSA
- Providing the ways and means to run a quality program
- Obtaining and maintaining the troop's equipment
- Supporting and providing a camping and outdoor program
- Insuring that quality adult leadership is recruited and trained.

Troop Camping and Activities

Troop Camping

Camping activities are a major part of the Scouting program. Troop 280 plans a campout or troop activity each month, with campouts held on private, state or national lands. Doing so gives the boys 12 opportunities to work on related advancement requirements. Short backpacking hikes are incorporated into most of our campouts and while planned for fun, many of our camping activities advance Scouts through rank requirements or Merit Badges.

The troop has two troop trailer which are used to move patrol boxes and other equipment to camp. The large trailer has been named 'Moby' and the smaller trailer has been named 'Flipper'. The troop also has a canoe trailer for transporting canoes on trips. Most campouts are patrol style campouts, which means each patrol plans its menus, purchases its own food, cooks, works and camps as a patrol. Please make sure your son's patrol leader and the Scoutmaster know if your son has food allergies or dietary restrictions.

Cancellation

Troop 280 will camp in all types of weather. Unnecessary risks are never taken. Safety is the foremost consideration during all outings. Cancellation of any troop function is at the discretion of the Scoutmaster.

Camping & Food Fees

Each troop camping event stands on its own financially - fees collected meet expenses for that event. Scout and adult leader camping fees will vary depending on the length of the campout, the distance traveled and whether or not registration or park fees are required. Refunds of camping fees are subject to approval by the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair. The food fee for campouts will vary based on the duration of the campout, the method of cooking used and the number of meals to be prepared. Food fees are non-refundable and are due at the end of the campout.

Scout Tenting

Each Scout is required to have a tent partner. Exceptions are at the permission of the Scoutmaster. In the event an odd number of Scouts in a patrol attend a campout, one Scout may be assigned a partner from another patrol. Three Scouts will not be permitted to tent together in a two man tent. Tenting will be done by patrols during patrol campouts.

Adult Camping

Adult leaders and Scout parents camp together in their own area and function as a patrol with their own duty roster and camp responsibilities. Volunteers are always needed to help shop for and prepare food in the adult area. Parents do not tent with their Scouts, nor are they permitted to tent in the Scout patrol areas.

Troop 280 supplies its Scout patrols with patrol boxes, cooking equipment, dining flies and other patrol style camping equipment. It is the responsibility of each Scout to take care of equipment used. Troop equipment assigned to a patrol MUST BE returned clean and in good condition.

Equipment will be inventoried and inspected at the end of each campout by the Quartermaster. Sometimes equipment is broken or wears out in the normal course of events. When this happens, the troop will fund replacement of the gear. If, however, any troop equipment is lost or broken due to misuse or carelessness, the person responsible will be held accountable for the replacement or repair cost of the item as determined by the troop adult quartermaster. If the person who damaged the equipment cannot be determined, then the patrol as a whole will be held accountable and each patrol member will pay his prorated share of the replacement or repair cost.

Summer Camp

Troop 280 attends a week long summer camp usually in June or July. The troop supports the Council camps by camping in council every other year. Cost varies depending on the Boy Scout Camp the troop is attending. This is a time honored core activity for all Scout troops. Scouts get super charged while attending summer camp by making new friends, learning new skills, and simply being a part of the outdoors. Summer camp provides a unique opportunity for a Scout to focus on Scouting and build confidence while learning new skills and trying some really cool activities. Most Scout memories are made

at Summer Camp. Adults are always needed to provide transportation and attend to help with the daily activities of summer camp.

Service Projects

One of the most valuable aspects of our scouting program is the opportunity to participate in community service projects. Since 1994, the scouts of Troop 280 have been ready, willing and able to lend a hand in their community when called upon in the support of worthy causes.

All Troop 280 scouts are required to participate in community service projects, both as a group and individually from time to time.

Community Service Hours

We may be asked to help clean up the waterways, collect donations of canned goods to benefit disaster relief or to volunteer our services for charity events. Sometimes we are invited to provide color guard services at public functions.

School Requirements

Many schools require students to participate in community service opportunities as a condition of graduation. Your scouting program meets these requirements, and some scouts have received special recognition for their participation above and beyond the minimum requirements in the form of special awards from their school and scholarship opportunities.

Scout Advancement Service Projects

Many scouts have pro-actively identified projects of a volunteer nature to which they can apply their skills of leadership, planning and management toward a positive outcome. Every Eagle Scout in the history of our troop has organized and executed a well developed community service project as the final requirement to earn that ultimate rank.

All scouts are encouraged to participate in the Eagle projects of their troop members. When project tasks require a team effort, all scouts should be prepared to lend a hand. With this spirit of companionship and cooperation, you can count on your fellow scouts to be there and help make your Eagle project a great success.

Troop Service Hours

Troop service tasks usually involves doing a small project for one of the many camp sites we visit, helping the church landscaping needs, helping our sponsoring organization where needed, just to name a few examples.

Advancement

Unlike the Cub Scout and Webelos programs, parents may **not** sign off on Boy Scout rank requirements. Parents should however encourage their sons to advance, help them to review, and work with the troop adult leaders to help their sons advance.

The Scout is recognized as soon as possible for his rank advancement. When the Board of Review has certified a boy's rank advancement, the Scout will receive his rank advancement patch at that troop meeting. The achievement card or certificate will be presented at the next Court of Honor, along with a mother's pin.

After attaining the rank of Tenderfoot, a Scout has a "show Scout Spirit" requirement for each of the ranks on the Trail to Eagle. This is perhaps the most important requirement a Scout must meet in order to attain his Eagle rank. Scout Spirit is the temperament and attitude of a Scout that defines his ability to lead and to be lead.

Scouting Spirit is a feeling of pride in belonging to and carrying on the traditions of Scouting. This pride shows itself in the actions exhibited by a Scout, both as an individual and as part of a group. Scout Spirit is demonstrated through deeds and actions and pride in being a Boy Scout.

There are certain things Troop 280 expects a Scout to do to show that he has Scout Spirit. These things include:

- Living by the Boy Scout Oath, Laws, Motto and Slogan.
- Wearing the complete Scout uniform correctly to Scout functions.
- Helping when asked.
- Attending as many Scout functions as possible, and actively participating in troop and patrol activities.
- Volunteering for activities and opportunities.
- Reading and using the Boy Scout Handbook to study and learn Scout skills required for rank advancement.
- Bringing proper equipment to troop meetings and campouts.
- Calling the patrol leader or troop adult when not able to attend troop meetings and activities.
- Having a positive attitude.

Four Steps of Advancement

A Boy Scout advances from Tenderfoot to Eagle by doing things with his patrol, his troop, his leaders, and on his own. It's easy for the scout to advance, if the following four opportunities are provided for him.

1. ***The Boy Scout learns.*** A Scout learns by doing. As he learns, he grows in ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and the troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others; and in this way he begins to develop leadership.
2. ***The Boy Scout is tested.*** A Scout may be tested on rank requirements by his patrol leader, Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, a troop committee member, or a member of his troop. The Scoutmaster maintains a list of those qualified to give tests and pass candidates. The Scout's merit badge counselor teaches and tests on the requirements for merit badges.
3. ***The Boy Scout is reviewed.*** After a Scout has completed all requirements for a rank, he has a board of review. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle Palms, the review is conducted by members of the troop committee. The Eagle Scout board of review is conducted in accordance with local council procedures.
4. ***The Boy Scout is recognized.*** When the board of review has certified a boy's advancement, he deserves to receive recognition as soon as possible. This should be done at a ceremony at the current troop meeting. The certificate for his new rank may be presented later at a formal court of honor.

Trail to First Class

Scouts new to Boy Scouts are involved in a program called Trail to First Class (TFC). This program is designed to meet the specific needs of first year Scouts by providing structure, supervision and specialized skill instruction.

During the first months after bridging, activities are scheduled at campouts to introduce new Scouts to the ways of Boy Scouting and to help them master the skills necessary for patrol style camping.

A Troop Guide is appointed to each new patrol to give overall leadership and guidance of the Trail to First Class program to the scout. An Assistant Scoutmaster is appointed to give overall adult supervision coaching and guiding the Troop Guides. Topics covered include:

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

Learning these skills will be a big focus at the scout's first summer camp. This is why it is so important that a scout attends summer camp the first year in the troop.

Earning Merit Badges

Merit Badges fall into two categories, required for the rank of Eagle Scout and those that are not. Boys can earn merit badges at any time once they are members of the troop. Topics range from Basketry to Atomic Energy. Some are fairly easy, and some are hard, but all are educational and will teach skills that can be used later in the Scout's life.

The requirements for Eagle merit badges are listed in the Scout Handbook. Lists of all the available merit badges are listed in each Merit Badge pamphlet. In order to earn a merit badge, the scout will work with a merit badge counselor. The counselor, a person with in-depth knowledge of the subject, will help teach the subject and ensure that the scout has completed the requirements for the badge.

As a troop, we will sometimes work on a merit badge the Patrol Leaders Council has decided on, so be sure your Patrol Leader knows which merit badges you want to earn. Even those we work on as a troop may have requirements that you must complete on your own initiative. You can also earn badges as a patrol activity.

1. Decide which badge you want to earn.
2. Obtain the merit badge book so that you know what the requirements are. This can be found on the Troop's website or other locations on the web.
Note: You can find merit badge worksheets on the web also. These are very useful in helping you complete your merit badges.
3. Find out who a Counselor is for the merit badge and contact him/her. The Advancement Chair and the Troop website have a list of counselors by merit badge. Scouts should avoid, if possible, having their parents as the merit badge counselor unless they are the counselor for a group of scouts.
4. Complete the *Troop 280 Request for a Merit Badge* form.
5. Speak with the Scoutmaster about the merit badges you would like to complete. He will issue you a Merit Badge Blue Card by the next Troop meeting.
6. Complete the requirements and earn the badge.
7. Bring the completed Blue Card back to the Scoutmaster to sign.

BSA rules require that you attend any meetings with the Counselor with a "Buddy". If you cannot find a scout in our troop that is interested, contact the counselor anyway and perhaps he knows of another boy who is working on the same merit badge. In addition, a Buddy can be a parent, a friend, a brother, sister or other relative.

There are several people who are merit badge counselors so finding a counselor may not be as difficult as you might think. The ranks of Star, Life and Eagle require that a Scout earn a certain number and type of merit badges. The current Boy Scout Requirements Book lists the requirements for earning each of the more than 100 merit badges offered.

Boy Scouts of America publishes merit badge pamphlets on each chosen subject. A pamphlet on your selected topic may be available from the troop library or you may purchase the Scout Shop or the BSA Catalog. Copies of many merit badge pamphlets may also be available through the public library.

Scoutmaster Conference

Each rank in Scouting contains the requirement "Participate in a Scoutmaster Conference." The purpose of the conference is to develop trust and understanding over time.

This conference helps the Scoutmaster get to know each Scout better by giving him a clearer idea of what individual Scouts can contribute to their patrol and to the troop. The conference assists the Scoutmaster in discovering what the troop can do to bring a quality program to the Scouts. Each Scoutmaster's Conference is an opportunity for Scouts to learn more about the Scoutmaster and his expectations, bring up any concerns, and, discuss anything not understood about the Scouting program. The Scoutmaster and Scout will also talk about goal setting and achievement. Another purpose is to assess the Scout's knowledge of the subject matter required for that particular rank and all previous ranks. This conference may be given by an Assistant Scoutmaster if needed.

Star and Life Scoutmaster Conference will be a bit longer than previous ones. Leadership skills should be reviewed as they are exhibited, not held over to a Scoutmaster conference. However leadership

achieves/goals for the next rank will be one of the significant topics to be discussed. Each of these ranks involves a service project, and you should be ask about these projects.

Eagle Scoutmaster Conference is an occasion to review the Scout's Eagle service project with him so that he will feel comfortable explaining it to his Eagle Board of Review. He will also discuss with the Scout believes he is prepared for his Board of Review. Of course, Scout spirit is a part of his discussion. The Eagle candidate's spirit should be such that he is an example to other Scouts. The Scoutmaster should listen carefully to what the Scout says. It is an opportunity to have a give-and-take discussion with the very best in Scouting.

Eagle Scouts are encouraged to remain visibly connected to the troop. Leaders should not be discouraged if a high school student is less able to devote his spare time to scouting alone. We may notice that the Scout's activity with the troop is less that the leaders would desire, but **we should be able to tell if a Scout is living up to the ideals of scouting outside the troop as well as inside.**

Requesting a Scoutmaster Conference

1. Ensure your Scout Book has all requirements signed off for the rank you want to complete
2. Speak with the Advancement Chair to ensure Troopmaster is updated with all your completed requirements.
3. Schedule a Scoutmaster conference with the Scoutmaster.

Day of the Scoutmaster Conference

1. Be in complete uniform
2. Bring your Scout Handbook

Board of Review

After completing the Scoutmaster's Conference, it is the Scout's responsibility to contact the Committee Chair to schedule his own Board of Review. The Board of Review is made up of a panel of adult committee members of the troop for the purpose of discussing and determining the Scout's knowledge in various requirements for rank advancement.

The members of a Board of Review should have the following objectives in mind:

- To make sure the Scout has completed the requirements for the rank,
- To see how good an experience the Scout is having in the unit, and
- To encourage the Scout to progress further.

Additionally, the Board of Review provides "quality control" on advancement within the unit, it provides an opportunity for the Scout to develop and practice those skills needed in an interview situation, and it is an opportunity for the Scout to review his accomplishments.

The Board of Review is NOT a retest; the Scout has already been tested on the skills and activities required for the rank. However, the chairman of the Board of Review should ensure that all the requirements have been "signed off" in the Scout's handbook. Additionally, the chairman should ensure that leadership and merit badge records are consistent with the requirements for the rank.

The Board of Review is an opportunity to review the Scout's attitudes, accomplishments and his acceptance of Scouting ideals.

Totin' Chip

A Scout is not allowed to use a knife without a totin' chip. All boys using or carrying a knife must have earned the totin chip and must have the totin' chip with them. If they are using the knife in an unsafe manner, a corner of the card can be removed. If all four corners get removed, he must repeat the knife safety course to earn another totin' chip.

If he does not have a totin' chip and has his knife out, he will be asked to put the knife away. Any problems with this policy could result in the confiscation of the knife which will be given to his parents and loss of his totin' chip.

A boy may have to repeat the knife safety course if the Scoutmaster feels it is necessary. Not following these rules could result in the loss of the privilege to carry a knife at outdoor events. The knife is a camp tool and should be reserved for outdoor events. Knives are not needed or allowed at troop meetings.

Sheath knives are not approved for use by the BSA for either Scouts or adults. Acceptable knives are pocket knives or lock-back knives with a blade no longer than 4 inches.

Fireman's Chit

A boy must earn the fireman chit to be allowed to start the campfire. He must have in his possession the Fireman chit. If a Scout conducts himself in an unsafe manner around the campfire or cooking stove, a corner of the card can be removed.

Any problems with policy could result in the loss of the privilege to start or tend the campfire. This is at the Scoutmaster's discretion.

Court of Honor

Troop Court of Honor

The court of honor is a formal recognition of the Scout's achievements, with family and friends attending. It is designed to publicly recognize the hard work and achievement of those Scouts earning awards. In Troop 280, Courts of Honor are held usually in April, August and December. The troop makes Courts of Honor special by holding them in a dignified manner with special ceremonies. Parents and friends of the scouts are strongly encouraged to attend these celebrations. Refreshments are served afterwards to provide a social setting for the troop to celebrate each other's accomplishments.

During the Troop's Court of Honor, new scouts will be given '*Mother Pins*' to be presented to their mothers. The pin should be worn during all Court of Honors by the scout's mother.

Eagle Court of Honor

The official recognition of a Scout's tremendous achievement of earning the rank of Eagle Scout is the Eagle Court of Honor. The Scout and his family host the event. The troop encourages every member of the troop to attend and witness this special occasion. Each Eagle Court is unique in that the Eagle Scout and his family add their personal touch (guest speakers, video and power point presentations, display tables, refreshments, music, etc.). The troop helps with a portion of the costs associated with an Eagle Court of Honor.

High Adventure

Scouting should be an Adventure for all Scouts. But once a Scout has experienced the year-round troop program, and learned the basic Scout skills (reflected by earning the First Class rank), he should have more challenging Adventure opportunities - High Adventure.

High Adventure goes well beyond the normal Scouting program. It lets experienced Scouts do things most adults have never done. It provides real physical and mental challenges that help develop maturity and leadership. It's a new kind of fun—a deeper, more satisfying pleasure that comes from knowing you've met real challenges and grown from them.

Why do we make the effort to offer at least one week-long High Adventure trek every year?

- because it develops maturity, leadership, self-confidence, initiative, & teamwork
- because it helps develop our boy leadership team for the coming year
- because it's key to keeping boys in the troop years longer than the national average, often right up to age 18

The Troop has sent crews to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, Sea Base in the Florida Keys as well as a contingent to the World Jamboree in the Netherlands.

Age requirements for high adventure scouting activities vary. National Jamboree requires age 12 and above. All others require First Class rank and 14 years of age.

The Order of the Arrow

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is a national brotherhood of Scout honor campers that originated in 1915 to strengthen troops and encourage outdoor experiences. It is based on brotherhood and cheerful service to fellowmen. Troop members are nominated and elected to membership by fellow Scouts in their own troops. They must meet certain entry qualifications established by the OA. Troop 280 holds an election once a year. The number of Scouts a troop may nominate depends upon the number of eligible candidates. All registered members under the age of 18 in the troop may vote. Adults may be inducted as members to support the boys, serving as advisors to youth members who lead the lodge program.

Lodges conduct youth-led meetings, plan and carry out activities, organize council service projects and develop summer camp promotion plans. The Order of the Arrow provides broad-based leadership opportunities that strengthen personal development for individual Scouts and maintain interest in the Scouting program.

Camping Equipment for Scouting

When you first join Boy Scouts and excited about all the camping that will be done, you will most likely purchase a whole lot of camping gear that is not really required. We recommended that for your first few campouts that you just bring as much of the following equipment as you already own or can borrow. You will need a warm sleeping bag and a closed-cell foam sleeping mat right away, but try not to buy any other new equipment until you have been on a couple of campouts and had a chance to talk to other scouts or your Scoutmaster about what to buy. Personal items have a tendency to become lost from their owner, so put your name on everything so if found, it can be returned.

Weekend Campout Gear Requirements

Scouts are requested to have and bring the following equipment on each weekend campout:

- Sleeping bag or warm blankets
- Closed-cell foam camp sleeping pad (Walmart's camping section)
- 2 one-quart water bottles ("Nalgene" brand bottles are the most dependable)
- Backpack or duffel bag
- Clothing appropriate to the season
(Refer to the Scout Handbook for personal camping list suggestions) Always pack for one season **COLDER**.
- Extra pair of shoes or boots
- Personal kit (small hand soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, floss, fast-drying Camp towel)
- Raincoat or poncho
- Insect repellent (Deet based is the best, non-aerosol)
- Hat (to protect against the sun)
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Official Scout Handbook
- Notebook and pen or pencil
- Scout Fieldbook (optional)

NOTE: Tents and other major camp gear are provided by the troop. From time to time other gear may be necessary depending on the type of outing.

Summer Camp Gear Requirements

- Sleeping bag or warm blankets
- Closed-cell foam camp sleeping pad (Walmart's camping section)
- 2 one-quart water bottles ("Nalgene" brand bottles are the most dependable)
- DAY PACK (like a school backpack)
- Clothing appropriate to the season
(Refer to the Scout Handbook for personal camping list suggestions) Always pack for one season **COLDER**.
- Extra pair of shoes or boots
- Swim Suit
- WATER SHOES (must be closed toe)
- Raincoat or poncho
- Insect repellent (Deet based is the best, non-aerosol)
- Hat (to protect against the sun)
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Official Scout Handbook
- Notebook and pen or pencil
- Scout Fieldbook (optional)
- Footlocker
- Cot (depends on the camp)
- Folding Chair
- 5 x 7 Tarp

Items Not Permitted

This is a short list of items that are not permitted by a scout or adult attending a Troop campout.

- Sheath knives
- Axes or saws
- Matches and pocketknives UNLESS the Scout has earned his Firem'n Chit and Totin' Chip
- Alcoholic beverages
- Firearms, ammunition or fireworks
- Drugs of any kind

All medications must be given to the designated adult medic and should be in the original container. In the case of prescription medication, a legible label showing the name of the medication, the prescribing physician and prescription number must be affixed to the container.

- Snack food or candy unless approved by the Senior Patrol Leader