

Scouts BSA Troop 428 Handbook



**Simon Kenton Council
Polaris District**

Chartered Sponsoring Organization: Liberty Presbyterian Church, Delaware, Ohio

**"The Spirit is there in every boy; it has to be discovered and brought to light."
- Lord Baden-Powell (Founder & First Chief Scout of World-Wide Scout Movement)**

Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

The 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.

The Scout Law

A Scout is:

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

The Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to -

- Be clean in my outdoor manners
- Be careful with fire
- Be considerate in the outdoors, and
- Be conservation minded.

Table of Contents

	Page
Mission & Vision Statements, Scout Oath, Scout Law and Outdoor Code	2
Introduction	4
The Aims & Methods of Scouting	5
Troop Structure	6
Typical Monthly Cadence - Meetings & Outings	8
Calendar at a Glance - Historical Outings	9
What Will My Scout Need?	12
Fundraisers / Scout Account Policy	13
Advancement & Recognition (Court of Honor)	15
First Year Scout Boot Camp & Summer Camp	17
High Adventure	18
Expectations & Opportunities for the Scout	19
Expectations & Opportunities for the Parent	20
Troop Code of Conduct & Technology Policy	21
Troop Lingo / Glossary	25
Key Contacts	26
Notes	27

Introduction

Welcome to Troop 428! This handbook is designed to provide an overview on: our Troops' structure and functions, what we're trying to help your scout achieve, the adventures that await your scout, expectations for both the scout and parent, the supporting structure to help scouts on their journey as they advance, and ultimately how you can help. Reading and understanding the contents of this handbook will help give a great start to the Scouting experience. You can also visit our website at <https://www.t428powell.org/> for more information.

How does Scouts BSA differ from Cub Scouts?

This is an exciting time for your first-year scout and family as they set out on this next chapter towards their development. With that excitement comes change. Changes in a number of ways from types of adventures they will go on, what will be expected of them and how you as a parent can engage.

Cub Scouts	Scouts BSA	How will my scout adjust?
Belonging to a Den	Patrol Method	They will become an integral member of a patrol where each member has a role they will be accountable for during various programs, activities and outings.
Guided advancement	Self-directed advancement	Learning is done in a way that mirrors real life...learn by doing in a safe environment.
Family/home	Association with adults	Builds confidence in communication.
Participation in activities	The outdoors	The scout will learn self-reliance, teamwork and leadership.
Serving neighbors/community	Leadership development	Participate or lead for service as they progress through ranks.
Character connections	Personal growth	The scout will grow as they start to put into practice the lessons learned as a Cub Scout.

The Aims & Methods of Scouting - Defining what we do and how we do it

The Aims of Scouting (The 'What' each scout is developing in the program):

Character + Citizenship + Personal Fitness + Leadership

The Methods of Scouting (The 'How' by which the Aims are achieved) are all equally important:

Ideals

The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. The scout measures themselves against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and, as they reach for them, they have some control over what and who they become.

Patrols

The patrol method gives scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches scouts how to accept it. The patrol method allows scouts to interact in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

Outdoor Programs

Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and humankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Advancement

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The scout plans their advancement and progresses at their own pace as they meet each challenge. The scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps them gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

Association with Adults

Scouts 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 the scouts, encourage them, and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives.

Personal Growth

As scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Young people grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with their Scoutmaster help each scout to determine their growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development

The Scouting program encourages scouts to learn and practice leadership skills. Every scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership and becoming a servant leader helps a scout accept the leadership role of others and guides them towards participating in citizenship and character development.

Uniform

The uniform makes the scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for scout activities and provides a way for scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

Troop Structure - Who will support your scout along the way?

The Troop Organization is divided into five main components. The cooperation and support between each component are important to the strength and energy of the Troop. Scouts is a youth-led, adult-mentored organization. We put the youth in as many leadership positions as possible, rotating them through positions of increasing responsibility over time.

1. The Sponsoring Organization

Liberty Presbyterian Church maintains a charter from the Scouts BSA organization to conduct a Scouting program as part of the church's ministry to the youth of the community. The church provides meeting facilities and assists with other needs that are required to make Troop 428 successful. The charter organization appoints a volunteer, other than a unit leader, to represent the troop as a member of the district committee and as a voting member of the local council. The primary responsibilities of the chartered organization representative are to help units be successful, act as a liaison between the Troop and the chartered organization, and to provide coordination between the chartered organization and Scouts BSA.

2. The Troop Committee

Troop 428's committee is composed of adults from the sponsoring organization, the community, and scout parents who are interested in the Scouting program. The Committee Chairperson recruits adults to fill committee positions to help support the unit, conducts a monthly meeting and provides other support requested by the Scoutmaster. The Troop Committee usually meets at 7:00P on the Wednesday following the second Monday of each month. Parents are encouraged to attend committee meetings to better understand how Troop 428 functions and offer any ideas, opinions they may have, and consider volunteering (many hands always make for lighter work!).

3. The Troop Leaders

The adult leadership consists of the Scoutmaster (SM), his Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM) and other members of the Troop Committee that take an active part in the weekly Troop meetings, camp outings and other Troop activities such as community service and Eagle Service Projects. This group varies depending on the needs of the Troop at any one particular time. All adults are encouraged to find their place in the Troop leadership.

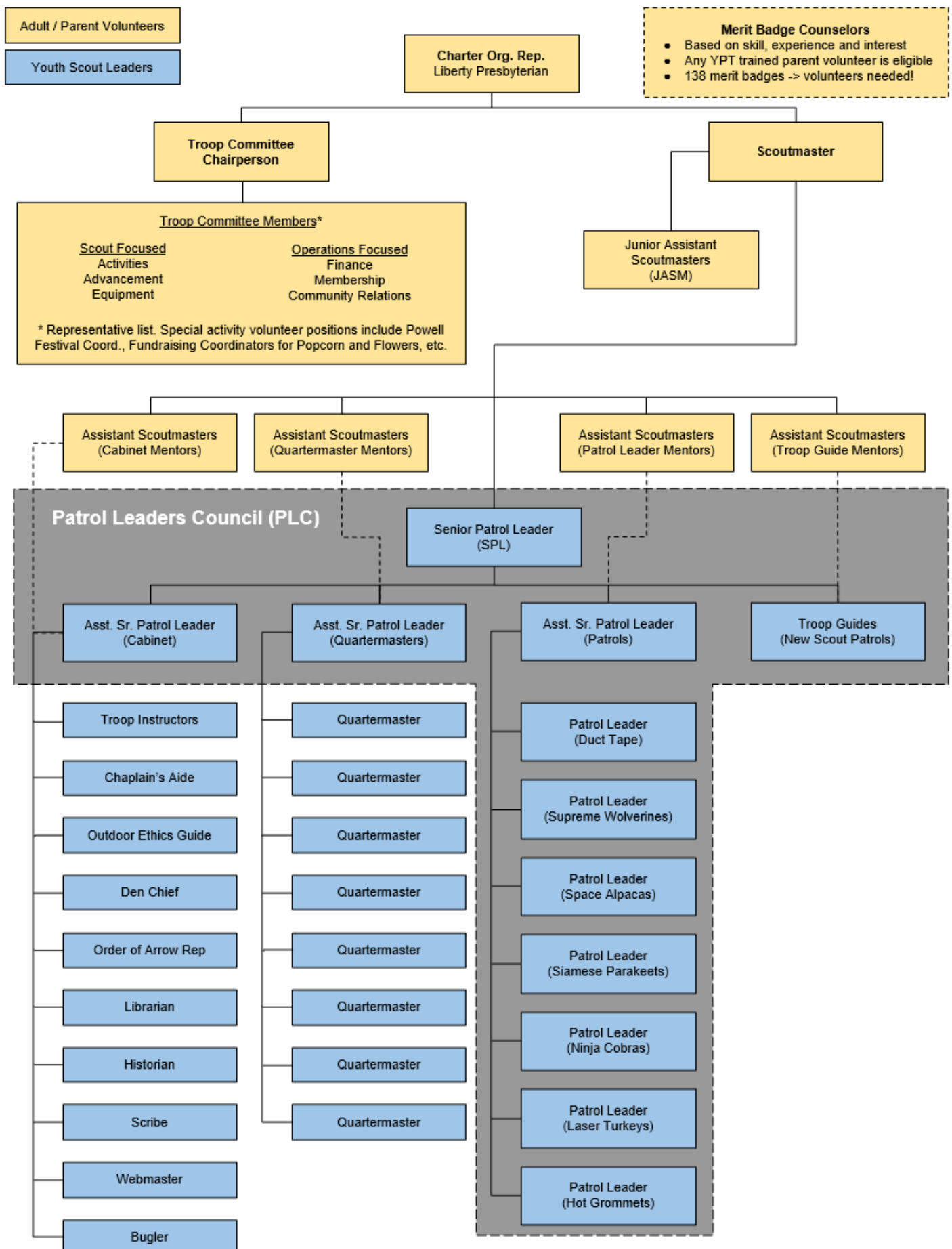
4. The Parents

Parents are vital to the organization. They help support the Troop and the individual needs of each scout. All parents of scouts are invited and encouraged to join the Troop Committee, join as an Assistant Scoutmaster and/or become a Merit Badge Counselor. Volunteers are also needed to support other activities such as driving to / from monthly camp outings. Your reinforcement of Scouting will enrich your scout's experience and will encourage him to stay active and engaged.

5. The Scouts

The Troop is divided into patrols. Each patrol has an adult Patrol Mentor and a Patrol Leader. There is a Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) that acts as the lead youth in the Troop. The SPL, who with the help of his Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL), sets the calendar of programs and activities during the year, conducts weekly meetings, and assists the Patrol Leaders with their patrol activities. The patrols are considered the basic unit of the Troop.

Troop 428 Organization Chart:



Typical Monthly Cadence

How should your scout manage his time throughout the month?

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1		Troop Meeting (7:00P)					
Week 2	Scoutmaster Meeting (7:00P)	Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) Meeting (7:00P)		Committee Meeting (7:00P)		2-Night Campout Weekend (Leave at 6P)	2-Night Campout Weekend
Week 3	2-Night Campout Weekend (Back by 12P)	Troop Meeting (7:00P)					
Week 4		Troop Meeting (7:00P)	Patrol Meeting (TBD - Patrol Leader will communicate details on day and time)				

* Represents a typical month's cadence of activity. Please plan accordingly based on the Scribe's newsletter and Troopmaster calendar.

1) **Troop Meeting:** All members of troop are included. The troop meeting is held at Liberty Presbyterian Church.

- Opening (Flags, Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, Scout Law, Outdoor Code)
- Patrol Time - older scouts:
 - 20-minute presentation based on monthly theme
 - 20-minute activity to reinforce that theme
 - 20-minute patrol meeting to plan for the calendar ahead (e.g., camp out menu, develop program)
- Patrol Time - First year scouts:
 - Troop Guides have lesson plans for each Monday troop meeting.
 - First year scouts cover requirements on their pathway to earn ranks (Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd & 1st Class).
- Announcements, Scoutmaster Minute, Chaplain's Aide prayer, and closing

2) **Scoutmaster Meeting:** Monthly planning meeting chaired by the Scoutmaster, focused on scout development and the outdoor program. The meeting is attended by the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters. Any interested parents are always welcome. This meeting is always held the day before the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meeting.

3) **Committee Meeting:** Monthly planning meeting chaired by the Committee Chair and focused on membership, finances, activities, logistics, etc. Parents are welcome to join to learn more about the troop and offer any ideas. This meeting is always held on the Wednesday following the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meeting.

4) **Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) Meeting:** Monthly planning meeting for youth leadership, chaired by the Senior Patrol Leader. This meeting is always held on the 2nd Monday of each month.

5) **Patrol Meeting:** Patrol Leaders are responsible for setting up a program and / or activity at the patrol level.

6) **Court of Honor:** Recognition of Troop 428 scouts' achievements that is typically held the last Monday on a quarterly cadence in January, April, July and October.

Calendar at a Glance - Historical (Last 5 Years)

What outdoor adventures should my scout expect to do in a typical year?

	Month	Venue	Program / Activity
2023	February	Camp Perry	Shooting Sports Program
	February	Northern Tier – Okpik	High Adventure – Winter Dog Sledding trek near MN Boundary Waters
	January	Camp Tuscazoar	Cultural Sports and Cooking
2022	December	Camp Hugh Taylor Birch Scout Reservation	Winter Hiking
	November	Camp Miakonda	Orienteering
	October	Caesar Creek State Park	Fossils
	September	Camp Butler / Cuyahoga NP	Biking
	August	Lago Linda / Red River Gorge	Memorable - Climbing (Via Ferrata)
	July	Ransburg Scout Reservation	Summer Camp
	July	Northern Tier	High Adventure - Canoe trip on MN Boundary Waters
	June	Cowan Lake State Park	Canoeing
	June	Sea Base	High Adventure – Sailing and aquatics programs located in the Florida Keys
	May	Ross County Fairgrounds	Memorable - Thunderbase - Simon Kenton Council Camporee
	April	Camp Falling Rock	First Year Scout Bootcamp
	March	Burr Oak State Park	Ye Olde – Pioneering and Cooking Skills
	February	Alum Creek St. Park / Vertical Adventures	Conservation (Alum Creek State Park) / Rock Climbing (Vertical Adventures)
	January	Camp Lazarus	Snow Tubing Adventure at Snow Trails

	Month	Venue	Program / Activity
2021	December	Camp Cricket Holler	Museum of the United States Air Force
	November	Camp Falling Rock	Lumber Sports
	October	Muskingum Valley	Shooting Sports Program
	September	New River Gorge, West Virginia	Memorable - White Water Rafting, Ziplining Canopy, Water Park
	August	Hocking Hills State Park	Rappelling & Rock Climbing
	July	Burr Oak	Summer Sports and Cultural Campout
	July	Summit Bechtel Reserve	High Adventure – New River Adventure + Pack and Paddle treks
	June	Philmont Scout Ranch	High Adventure - Backpacking trip located in Rocky Mountains of NE New Mexico
	June	Camp Chief Logan	Summer Camp
	June	Sea Base	High Adventure – Sailing and aquatics programs located in the Florida Keys
	May	Alum Creek St. Park (Equestrian Campsite)	Fishing and Orienteering
	April	Camp Otter Run	First Year Scout Bootcamp
	March	Camp Lazarus	Patrol Camping
	February	Camp Lazarus	Patrol Camping
	January	Camp Otter Run	Patrol Camping
2020	December	Camp Otter Run	Patrol Camping, Conservation
	March - Nov	Camping pause due to pandemic	
	February	Camp Cricket Holler	Museum of the United States Air Force
	January	Camp Lazarus	Cultural Program

	Month	Venue	Program / Activity
2019	December	Cincinnati Zoo	Sustainability
	November	Camp Falling Rock	Wilderness Survival
	October	Hocking Hills	Rappelling and Hiking
	September	Patriots Point	Memorable - U.S.S. Yorktown; Military History knowledge and appreciation
	August	Caesar Creek	Dual Program - Water Sports (Canoeing, Fishing) and Biking
	July	Camp Chief Logan	Summer Camp
	July	Philmont Scout Ranch	High Adventure - Backpacking trip located in Rocky Mountains of NE New Mexico
	June	Muskingum Valley	Shooting Sports Program
	May	Cuyahoga National Park	Backpacking, Wilderness Survival, Train Ride
	April	Camp Otter Run	First Year Scout Bootcamp
	March	High Banks / Vertical Adventures	Conservation at High Banks followed by climbing / camp in at Vertical Adventures
	February	Mega Caverns & Churchill Downs	Memorable - Louisville, KY for Caving, Geology; Horse history at Derby Museum
	January	Camp Lazarus	OKPIK - Winter camping and shelter building
2018	December	Burr Oak	Cooking campout
	November	Camp Chief Logan	Orienteering and Geocaching campout
	October	Camp Hugh Taylor Birch	Biking campout; 25-mile and 50-mile treks
	September	Put-in-Bay	Memorable - Perry's Monument, War of 1812 History, Parade
	August	Caesar Creek	Water Sports Program - Canoeing, Fishing
	July	Cole Canoe Base, MI	Summer Camp
	July	Northern Tier	High Adventure - Canoe trip on MN Boundary Waters
	June	Appalachian Trail	High Adventure - Sectional hike parts of MD, WV, VA
	June	Gettysburg / Shanksville, PA	Memorable - Civil War battlefield; Flight 93 Memorial
	May	Ross County Fairgrounds	Thunderbase - Simon Kenton Council Camporee
	April	Camp Falling Rock	First Year Scout Bootcamp
	March	Camp Cricket Holler	Museum of the United States Air Force
	February	Camp Pioneer	Memorable - Tobogganing @ Pokagon
	January	Blue Springs Caverns	Caving

What Will My Scout Need?

- ☐ Uniform ^a –
 - Get at the Simon Kenton Scout Shop - (807 Kinnear Rd Suite 120, Columbus, OH 43212; Ph. 614-481-4270) or you can purchase items online at <https://www.scoutshop.org/scouts-bsa-collection>
 - ☐ Field Uniform / Class A Shirt (troop provides red epaulets; unit numbers provided at cost – see Scoutmaster)
 - ☐ Scout Pants / Shorts
 - ☐ Scout Belt
 - ☐ Scout Socks
 - ☐ Scout Hat (optional)
 - Troop will provide ^b
 - ☐ Neckerchief (no cost to the scout)
 - ☐ Activity / Class B T-Shirts for purchase (Troop Committee will communicate instructions on how to order)
- ☐ Hiking Boots - water-resistant, mid-cut to protect ankles; does not need to be top-of-the-line as your scout will outgrow them before you know it. An investment in more top-of-the-line boots that are broken in will be a need as your scout gets older and attends a high adventure trip.
- ☐ Current BSA Handbook (purchase at Scout Store). Recommend getting the spiral bound handbook and canvas cover since your scout will have it throughout his Scouting career.
- ☐ Personal Camping Gear Checklist –
 - NOTE: We recommend the basic list of items below for first year scouts to start out the weekend campouts and Summer Camp. Your scout will acquire additional gear during his Scouting career and High Adventure trips, but we recommend spending no more than what's needed to start out.
 - ☐ Basic Equipment Checklist
 - ☐ Personal First Aid Kit
 - ☐ Pocketknife (MUST earn Totin' Chip and carry on person at all times if packed)
 - ☐ Matches / Fire Starter materials, (MUST earn Firem'n Chip and carry on person at all times if packed)
 - ☐ Sun Protection
 - ☐ Compass and map (if applicable)
 - ☐ 1 or 2-32oz Water Bottles (e.g., Nalgene)
 - ☐ Small Flashlight or Headlamp and extra batteries
 - ☐ Rain gear - poncho is sufficient; rain jacket and rain pants for high adventure trips
 - ☐ Extra clothes (see below for details)
 - ☐ Sleeping Bag
 - ☐ Sleeping Pad
 - ☐ Backpack & Pack Cover
 - ☐ Mess Kit (eating utensils, cup and plate)
 - ☐ Personal Care Kit
 - ☐ Storage options (dry sacks, ditty bags, gallon freezer bags), e.g. dirty laundry
 - ☐ Day Pack (20L max) to keep essentials together during camp out
 - ☐ Clothing Checklist - Scouts should wear layers, adapting to weather conditions
 - ☐ Long sleeve shirts (2) - one of these can be the Troop Activity / Class B long sleeve shirt; should be moisture wicking / synthetic materials (NOT cotton)
 - ☐ Activity / Class B T-shirts (2) - Troop design with 3 colors to use in blue, orange and yellow. We wear blue on Friday night when leaving for camp out, orange on Saturday and yellow on Sunday when returning.
 - ☐ Pants and/or Shorts (2) dependent on time of year - Field Uniform / Class A pants and extra durable / moisture-wicking (NOT jeans)
 - ☐ Performance Underwear (2) - moisture-wicking
 - ☐ Fleece long sleeve shirt / jacket
 - ☐ Winter hat, gloves / mittens, and gaiter
 - ☐ Hiking socks (2 pair) - comfortable & moisture-wicking such as wool (NOT cotton)
 - ☐ Wick-dry sock liners (2 pair)

Footnotes:

a) For adult leaders, the uniform requirements mostly follow that of the youth (e.g. Field uniform, scout pants, scout socks, scout belt, troop neckerchief or BSA bolo tie).

b) Note that there is a surplus inventory maintained of scout items that may address needs (shirts, pants/shorts, etc.). Contact Troop Committee if you would like to view what is available.

Fundraisers / Scout Account Policy

Fundraisers

Scouts in Troop 428 have the option of participating in two fundraisers each year to help subsidize costs associated with Scouting for the individual Scout. A portion of your son's individual sales will be applied to his Scout Account.

- Flower Sale: April – May
- Popcorn Sale: September – November

Troop 428 also participates in Powell Fest each June. This serves as the only fundraiser benefitting the Troop for the year and helps subsidize the cost of activities and operations for the whole Troop. **Everyone's participation is required to make this event a success and maximize the benefit for all in the Troop.**

Scout Account Policy

Funding and Purpose

It is the intent of Troop 428 to make Scouting as cost-effective as possible for the Scouts and parents we serve. This policy formalizes the Scout Account practices for all Troop Scouts and their families.

A Scout Account will be established for a Scout if they participate in fundraising activities. This functions as a savings account for the Scout, managed within the Troop treasury. Scout Accounts can be funded through Troop-sponsored fundraising activities only. No outside funding can be added to Scout Accounts.

Scout Accounts are intended to contribute to a Scout's ability to participate in scouting-related activities. Funds raised in the name of Scouting must be used for Scouting. Therefore, Scout Account funds must be used for Scouting activities (e.g., camping, high adventure trips, Eagle projects) or for gear used while participating in Scouting activities (e.g., camping gear, uniforms) while registered as a member of Troop 428.

Spending and Reimbursement

The Troop Treasurer maintains the balance of all Scout Accounts. You may check your Scout Account balance by emailing t428treasurer@gmail.com. You should receive your Scout Account balance within three days of the request. Most Troop events will allow you to use a Scout Account for payment, and funds will be deducted from the Scout Account when you select this payment option. If there are not sufficient funds in the Scout Account, the Scout will be responsible for the outstanding balance prior to attending the event.

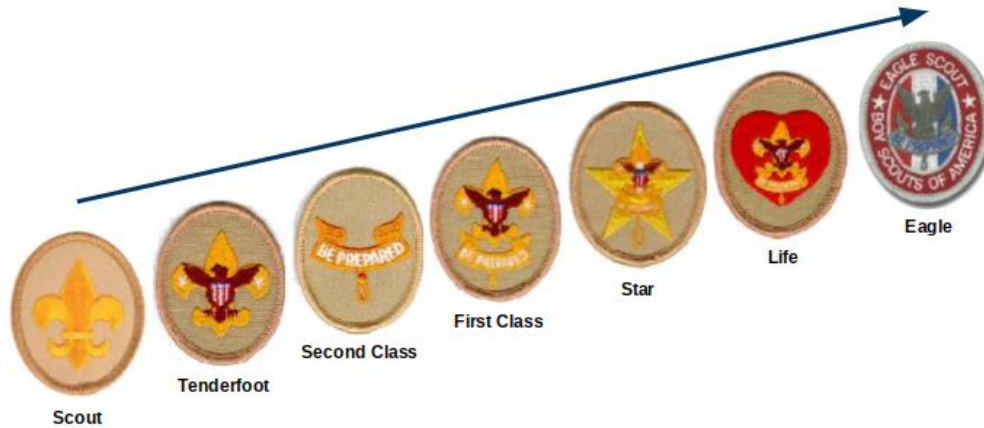
Reimbursement requests for purchasing scouting-related gear can be submitted using the *Troop 428 Reimbursement Form* (<https://forms.gle/iG1iDqg66URNASZ59>). Receipts are REQUIRED for reimbursement. Legible photos of receipts are preferred and can be sent to t428treasurer@gmail.com upon submitting the form.

Scout Account Balances upon Leaving the Troop

All funds held in Scout Accounts belong to the Troop and are available for use by Scouts while they are registered members of Troop 428. When a Scout becomes inactive in the Troop (fails to recharter) or ages out, funds in the Scout Account revert to the Troop's general fund. A Scout Account balance may be transferred to the Scout Account of a registered sibling by request. A generic disbursement of the funds held in a Scout Account to an active Scout or a recently inactivated Scout is never permitted.

Advancement & Recognition (Court of Honor)

The Trail to Eagle - Scout Ranks



Advancement

Advancement is one of the key methods of Scouting. Scouts are provided opportunities and encouraged to work with their elder scouts, adult leaders and parents on requirements for rank awards on the Trail to Eagle. More information, including individual rank requirements are listed in the rear of their BSA Handbook and on the BSA website.

There are 4 steps to Advancement:

1. A Scout learns.
2. A Scout is tested.
3. A Scout is reviewed.
4. A Scout is recognized.

EVERY SCOUT ADVANCES AT THEIR OWN PACE. The destination is the same, but for some it may feel more like a marathon while others make more of a sprint to the finish line. The key is to encourage your scout to stay engaged and to have a plan.

The first 4 Ranks, **Scout**, **Tenderfoot**, **Second Class** and **First Class** are focused on Scouting skills, fitness and citizenship along with activities and service participation. The last 3 Ranks, **Star**, **Life** and **Eagle** are focused on Merit Badges, Leadership, and Service. **Eagle Palms** are earned for every 5 Merit Badges earned beyond the 21 required for Eagle.

First year of scouts will be spent working on scout skill requirements for the first four ranks ("T to 1 Track").

Advancement is encouraged, but not a requirement to participate in Scouting. The Troop will provide many opportunities for rank advancement and earning merit badges, but adult leaders will NOT force a scout to participate or complete the work needed to receive recognition. Scouts need to find the motivation themselves to prepare for and complete the work. Also, with the exception of requirements with a built-in time component, rank advancement can be done at the scout's pace.

Merit Badges

Merit badges are topic specific, research projects with exercises to be shared and reviewed by a certified adult partner. These topics cover a wide range of career, hobby and life skill related areas. Thirteen (13) specific merit badges are to be required for the rank of Eagle Scout, three of which have alternate choices.

There are opportunities to earn multiple merit badges at summer camp, council sponsored merit badge days as well as special programs (e.g., SKC Zoom, Columbus Zoo, COSI), all of which will be communicated by the Scoutmaster or by the Troop Committee. However, for any Eagle required merit badges, we ask that your scout works directly with a Merit Badge Counselor from the troop to ensure the scout is getting the most out of his learning experience.

The process of obtaining a merit badge:

1. Go to <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/> to get an idea and background on both required merit badges and elective merit badges that may be of interest.
2. Obtain a Blue Card and a signature from the Scoutmaster or an ASM before you start the merit badge requirements.
3. Contact a Merit Badge Counselor and set a plan. Start the work on the merit badge only after talking with the Merit Badge Counselor who will confirm expectations. The scout can obtain a merit badge book from the Troop Librarian or purchase at the SKC Scout Shop to help as a guide to work through the requirements.
4. Have the Merit Badge Counselor initial any completed requirements on your Blue Card as you progress and sign it once it's fully complete.
5. Have a unit leader (Scoutmaster or ASM) sign the back of your completed Blue Card.
6. Turn in your completed Blue Card to the Troop Advancement Coordinator.
7. Retain the Applicant Portion for your records.
8. Receive your merit badge at an upcoming Court of Honor.
9. Keep your applicant portion (#7 above) in a safe place as this will be needed for your Eagle Board of Review. We recommend keeping sport card holders within its own binder to store these.

Advancement Review & Completion Process - Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review

All Ranks require a Scoutmaster Conference (SMC) to complete the rank. All ranks beyond Scout rank require a Board of Review (BOR) to complete the rank. A Board of Review is a short interview between the Scout and 2 to 4 members of our adult leader / parent group to review the scout's progress and get their impressions of how our Scouting program is being conducted. Neither the Scoutmaster Conference nor the Board of Review are tests.

Boards of Review are scheduled during Troop meetings, usually 2 to 3 meetings each month. More BORs can be scheduled in the weeks preceding a Court of Honor to accommodate demand. However, there is no need to wait for the weeks before a Court of Honor to complete your rank requirements. A scout will have earned the rank upon completion of the Board of Review, not when the rank patch is presented to the scout.

STEPS THAT SCOUTS SHOULD COMPLETE TO REQUEST A SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCE AND BOARD OF REVIEW:

- 1) The scout should verify that all rank requirements have been met other than those related to Scout Spirit, Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review. Rank requirements can be found in your BSA Handbook or in Troopmaster. If you have questions about a requirement you believe has been earned and not recorded, please contact an adult leader like an Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, Advancement Coordinator or the Committee Chair.
- 2) The scout should complete the Troop 428 Scoutmaster Conference form here (<https://www.t428powell.org/forms>). Once the scout completes the form, an adult leader at a troop meeting will help coordinate scheduling of the Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review.
- 3) Prepare for the Board of Review by being able to recall from memory, and discuss the following Scouting tenants:
 - Scout Oath
 - Scout Law
 - Outdoor Code
 - Scout Motto
 - Scout Slogan
- 4) When attending the Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review, the scout should wear their **Field / Class A** (Tan Scout shirt, Scout shorts, Scout belt, Scout socks, Troop Neckerchief) uniform. Wearing your Merit Badge sash, if you have one, is encouraged, but not required.

Other TIPS for both the Life and Eagle ranks Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review:

- Copy advancement pages in your scout's handbook periodically
- A binder with baseball card holders is perfect for rank cards and merit badge blue cards

First Year Scout Boot Camp & Summer Camp (attendance is IMPORTANT for first year scouts)**First Year Scout Boot Camp**

First Year Scout Boot Camp is held annually in April at Otter Run Scout Camp. This is a great opportunity for first year scouts to learn the basics for a camping trip. The older and more experienced scouts will set up stations to go through tents, cook kits, trailer equipment, how to set up a campsite, etc.

Summer Camp

Summer Camp is the highlight of the scout year. Usually in the third week of July, summer camp is a 6 night and 5 day experience (Sunday afternoon through Saturday morning). There are many opportunities for the scouts to earn merit badges, learn new skills, meet scouts from other troops and grow. The troop typically will camp on a rotation every other year at a camp within Simon Kenton Council and outside council to give the scouts a new experience. Parents should encourage their scout to take part in this experience and it is highly recommended for first year scouts in particular. History has shown that first year scouts that attend their first summer camp are much more likely to advance in their Trail to Eagle as it sets a solid foundation. Details on the cost and location will come from the Troop Committee. Fees include all meals, merit badges, programs and activities, though some Merit Badges require the purchase of additional supplies for a small fee.

Each participant is required to have a BSA Annual Health and Medical Record, Parts A, B and C. The form can be found on the Troop 428 website or online with BSA. The Troop Committee can provide necessary forms if required.



High Adventure

Troop 428 plans for one to two high adventure trips each year for more experienced and older scouts. A high adventure experience includes several days of trekking in the wilderness and rugged, remote locations. Here, your scout will enjoy the wonders of nature, be part of a challenging and great learning experience and get a chance to be either a leader or play an integral role as a team member of a crew.

Scouts BSA operates four national high adventure facilities and the Troop has planned its own high adventure trips to places like the Appalachian Trail.

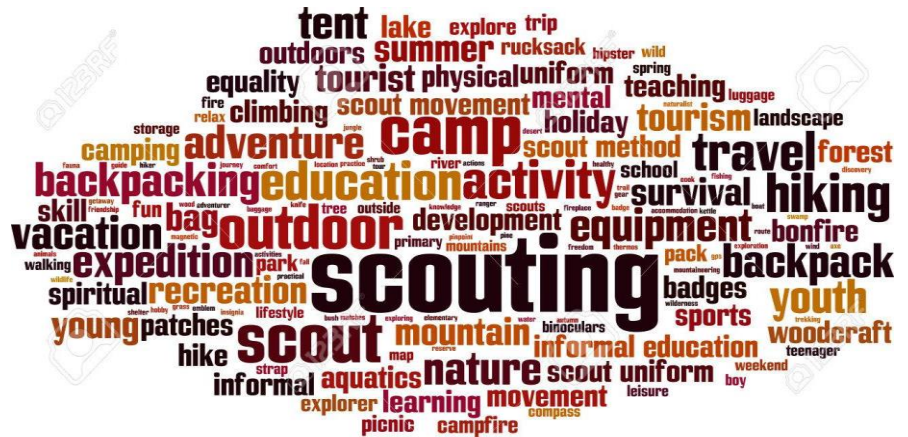
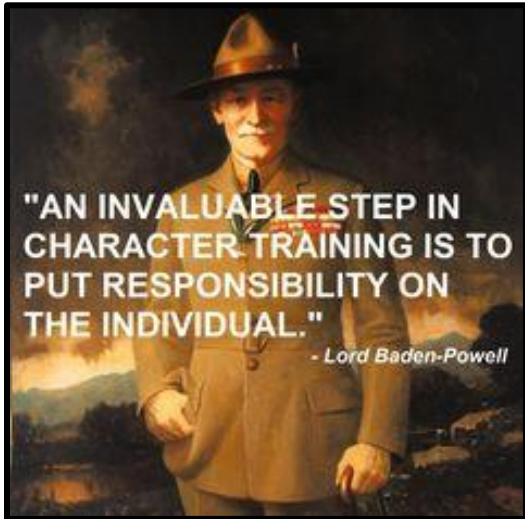
The requirements for scouts attending include the rank of First Class and an age of 14 and older (or 13 and have completed 8th grade prior to the trip).



Expectations & Opportunities for the Scout

Expectations

- Be active -> Monday meetings, monthly camp outs (minimum of 2 per year is expected)
- Understand the role you play -> either as a leader and/or a patrol member (PLC member, Grubmaster, etc.)
- Be Prepared -> plan the work and work the plan, but know that it's okay to fail and learn from your mistakes in a safe environment
- Know what to pack -> plan for the expected weather, planned activities, etc.



Opportunities

Patrol Method -> Teamwork



Leadership



Citizenship & Service



Expectations & Opportunities for the Parent

Expectations

Let your scout learn self-reliance. The biggest transition from Cub Scouts to Scouts is accountability switches from the parent to the scout. It's okay if your scout fails along the way. From those experiences he will learn and grow.

If your scout has a position such as Grubmaster, let him lead the planning and preparation. You will help him shop, but he should be managing what he needs according to the planned patrol menu.

We need and encourage all parents to BE ENGAGED! If your scout sees that you are committed and sees the importance of Scouting, he will be more likely to see its importance and work up through the Trail to Eagle. While the program is scout led, parent volunteers enable and bring the scouts' vision to life. There are a number of volunteer positions that could let you support both your scout and the troop.

All parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend the Troop Court of Honor which is held on a quarterly basis. The Court of Honor is a public ceremony and is a chance for the scouts to be publicly recognized for their achievements. Attendance is encouraged, regardless if your scout is being recognized or not, to help celebrate all.

Opportunities - Current Volunteers Needed

What are your interests? We are all volunteers, so any help is appreciated. You don't have to have any prior Scouting experience! We are looking for:

- Assistant Scoutmasters
- Drivers
- Merit Badge Counselors
- Board of Review Participants
- Troop Committee Members

Training for Parents

- BSA Youth Protection - REQUIRED (online at myscouting.org)
- Additional adult leader training can be taken with Simon Kenton Council (<https://skcscouts.org/adult-training>). Also, contact any one of the Key 3 adult leaders (Charter Organization Representative, Troop Committee Chair, or the Scoutmaster) for additional details on other adult unit leader training opportunities (ASM, Merit Badge Counselor, etc.).



Troop Code of Conduct & Technology Policy

Copy of Scouts BSA Troop 428 Code of Conduct & Technology Policy (each scout in the troop will acknowledge as part of recharter process):

PLEASE READ
Boy Scout Troop 428
Code of Conduct

Each Scout in Troop 428 is expected to live by the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout Motto, and the Scout Slogan in his daily life and at all Troop functions. Any situation that is not covered below will be decided upon by the present Scoutmaster or Committee Member and discussed with a parent and the Scout.

I, as a member of Troop 428, agree to the following:

1. I will behave in accordance with the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto, and Scout Slogan.
2. I will show respect to Scoutmasters, my fellow Scouts, parents and guests at all times.
3. I will consider the feelings of my fellow Scouts and adult leaders and I will not do anything, either physically or verbally, that will put them in an uncomfortable position or in a situation which will make them feel threatened.
4. I will take care of all Troop equipment and any personal equipment entrusted to my care.
5. I will use proper language at all times.
6. I will not be disruptive and I will show the attention, cooperation, and respect expected of me.
7. I will not do anything that will endanger another Scout, an adult leader, or myself.
8. I will bring to the attention of an adult leader or SPL any situation with which I am not comfortable.
9. I will use the Buddy System at all times.
10. I will treat knives, fire, and axes as tools and use them in accordance with BSA and Troop 428 policy.
11. I will use any form of technology (smartphone, laptop, cameras, drones, etc.) in a way that is aligned to the Scout Oath and Law. The use of smartphones, cameras, mirrors, drones, etc., in places or situations where privacy is expected is strictly prohibited. I will read and attest to the Troop 428 Technology Policy (see addendum A on next page).
12. I will abide by the principles of Scouts BSA Youth Protection.

I understand that verbal reminders of the Code of Conduct will be given for more minor infractions. I also understand, however, that the Scoutmaster may decide that my behavior is inappropriate enough that a call will be placed to my parents and that my parents will have to remove me from the Troop event. This is to be done for my safety and/or in the best interest of the other Scouts attending the event. In such a case, a meeting will take place with my parent(s), a Scoutmaster, and a Committee Member to discuss my future behavior and participation in future events. I understand that as circumstances dictate, at the discretion of the Scoutmaster, the following general process will be adhered to (in addition to any legal obligations to report):

- Initial offense: If a Scout hits another Scout, uses profanity, violates the Troop 428 Technology policy, or violates Youth Protection Training guidelines, his parents will be called immediately. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, a parent may need to pick up their Scout and leave the event.
- Repeat offense: Depending on the circumstances of the infraction, additional actions may need to be taken, including, but not limited to:
 - May require the Scout's parents to attend EVERY activity with him for a period of 6 months.
 - May result in the Scout being dismissed from the Troop.

By signing your name (on next screen), you agree to all the following stated above.

Addendum A: Technology Policy

Troop 428 Technology Policy

General guidelines

1. Use the technology to build relationships with the troop, find useful information, communicate and share excitement about Scouting.
2. Updates to social sites using appropriate, (non-embarrassing), photos or clips can share and build excitement about Scouting.
3. Don't let technology detract from the outdoor experience, the program experience, or the Scouting experience for the troop or patrol.
4. I will abide by the principles of the Cyber Chip requirements and internet safety pledge.

Trustworthy

- A Scout is truthful with others online and is careful of the information shared.
- He does the right thing when sharing and makes sure to have permission to share the words or pictures of others.

Loyal

- A Scout uses his phone or device in a way that adds to his troop or patrol.
- A loyal Scout is careful to post only appropriate photos or clips and would never want to embarrass others with his updates or communication.
- A loyal Scout would not use a phone to exclude some Scouts from the conversation, for example with secret messages.

Helpful

- A Scout could use applications that can add to the outdoor experience, such as a star-map, first aid or GPS.
- A Scout should alert others to scams, cheats, and suspicious sites and point them to reliable sources of information. Encourage people to report bad online behavior.
- A Scout may use a phone to take appropriate photos of events or situations for the troop or for personal memories.

Friendly

- A Scout could use his phone to assist someone else with information or access to communication.
- A Scout could use his phone to invite others to join Scouting or to remind his fellow Scouts of important events and activities.

Addendum A: Technology Policy (continued)

Courteous

- Ringers and alert messages should be muted — beeps, rings, and recorded music take away from the outdoor and Scout experience.
- A device should not be a distraction. Scouts should pay attention to the program and fellow Scouts. In a program or troop situation, a Scout should avoid checking his phone for incoming messages or emails, unless messages related to the program are expected. Consider using “airplane mode” and wait to check at designated free times.
- A courteous Scout does not interrupt a conversation with others to stop and check for inbound messages. The courteous Scout focuses his attention on his personal interactions, such as conversations in which he is engaged.
- A phone should not be used to insulate a Scout from the outdoors or others. For example, a Scout should not use headphones during a Scouting activity. During a Scout outing a phone should not be used for entertainment such as playing solo electronic games, idle web surfing, shopping, etc.
- A phone should not be used to play music or videos — for himself or for others — at an outdoor experience. Phone music at a campsite or campfire will take away from the outdoor experience for others.

Kind

- Not everyone can afford a smartphone. A Scout needs to be sensitive to others and avoid using his phone in a way that looks like boasting and makes other Scouts disappointed that they cannot afford such a device. This is no different from any other piece of gear.
- A Scout always treats people with respect while on social networks, playing games, talking, texting or in other digital activities.

Obedient

- When using digital devices, a Scout follows the rules and examples set by parents, guardians, teachers, and Scout leaders.
- A Scout abides by the rules on websites, services, devices and games.
- A Scout is aware that different settings, events or locations will have different rules for use of electronics.

Cheerful

- A Scout uses games, messaging tools and social forums to build relationships with others while having fun.

Thrifty

- A Scout recognizes that his phone may run out of power, and learns to take measures to conserve power in his device such as by turning it off when not in use or by switching to “airplane mode” to conserve his battery.
- A Scout should not become overly reliant on his device. For example, a Scout should be ready with his map and compass rather than rely on his smartphone GPS.
- A Scout is a smart consumer. He knows his voice, text, and data plans and uses them wisely, careful not to run up charges on apps and sites.

Addendum A: Technology Policy (continued)

Brave

- The Scout should not normally be calling home, or sending text messages back and forth with home. If the Scout thinks there is an urgent need to contact home, he should consult an adult leader first.
- Parents need to understand and agree that they are normally not to send messages or call their Scout while he is out with the program. Communication from home should be routed through an adult leader.
- Stand up for what is right. Do not participate in mocking or bullying others, even if others are doing it. Report suspected abuse to a trusted adult, like a parent or leader or call 911 as appropriate.

Clean

- A Scout uses clean language and only discusses appropriate topics when using digital devices to communicate with others.
- A Scout needs to take responsibility and take care of his device against damage from dirt, drops, water or other hazards. He may want to keep it carefully packed away against damage. He keeps his gear in good, working order.

Reverent

- A Scout respects the feelings of other people and would never use digital devices to spread irreverent ideas.

Troop Lingo / Glossary

General Troop Lingo:

Blue Card - a two-sided, tri-section document, which is formally known as The Application For Merit Badge. It is an official Scouts BSA document that serves as a record of progress toward completion of a merit badge.

Charter Organization - can be a place of worship, school, or other community group that has the same interests as the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The chartered organization relationship is the cornerstone of the Scouting program.

Court of Honor - Quarterly troop ceremony held to celebrate the accomplishments of the troop's scouts.

Uniform - "Class A" / Field - includes the uniform shirt, scout pants / shorts, scout belt, scout socks and Troop neckerchief. It is the primary uniform worn at Troop meetings, Courts of Honor, and other formal gatherings.

Uniform - "Class B" / Activity - worn for work projects, sporting activities, and other events in which the dress uniform might get damaged.

Adult Leader Positions:

ASM - Assistant Scoutmaster, an adult leader over the age of 18 who helps the Scoutmaster deliver the promise of Scouting. Each assistant Scoutmaster is assigned specific program duties.

Scoutmaster - responsible for training and guiding youth leaders in the operation of the troop, and for managing, training, and supporting his or her Assistant Scoutmasters in their role.

Youth Positions of Responsibility:

ASPL - Assistant Patrol Leader, who is a senior level scout that assists the Senior Patrol Leader in conducting the planned programs and activities at all scout events including troop meetings, camp outs and other scout events.

Chaplain's Aide - works to meet the religious needs of the Scouts in the troop. He also works to promote the religious emblems program. "Duty to God" is one of the core beliefs of Scouting. The Chaplain Aide helps everyone in the troop by preparing short religious observations for campouts and other functions.

Grubmaster - responsible for making sure that the patrol has healthy and nutritious food for campouts. This is a non-PLC temporary leadership role and is typically shared amongst different scouts for different camp outs.

Patrol Leader - carry out planning, leading, and evaluating patrol meetings and activities, and assure patrols are prepared to participate in all troop activities. They keep their patrol intact so they can work together and share responsibilities to get things done.

PLC - Patrol Leader Council, which consists of the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leaders, and Patrol Leaders. Once per 6-month PLC term, each patrol will fill the role of:

- Slags Patrol – responsible for set up before troop meeting, serve as Color Guard, and clean up after the meeting.
- Program Patrol – responsible for pulling together materials to help guide the troop on the monthly theme.
- Activity Patrol – responsible to develop activities that tie with the program and monthly theme.

Quartermaster - keeps track of troop equipment and sees that it is in good working order.

Scribe - PLC member that keeps the troop records. Primary responsibilities include recording notes on the activities of the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC), and works with adult leadership to send out a monthly email newsletter.

SPL - Senior Patrol Leader, who is the most senior youth leader among the Scouts. He is the executive officer of the troop who works closely with the PLC to effectively run the Troop, with advice from the scoutmasters and other adult leaders.

Troop Instructor - The Instructor teaches scouting skills required for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class scouts.

Troop Guide - Experienced scouts that serve as both a leader and a mentor to the members of the first year scout patrol.

Key Contacts

Scout & Parent,

If you have any questions, whether on any of the materials within this handbook or another matter, don't hesitate to reach out to any one of the Key 3 Leaders (Charter Org Representative, Troop Committee Chairperson, Scoutmaster), Assistant Scoutmasters or Committee Members to assist.

We are here to help all of our scouts succeed!

Key 3 Troop Leaders Email: key3.T428Powell@troopmaster.email

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