**Boy Scout Troop 15 Parent’s Guide**

**Revised 4-24-2015**

**Welcome to Troop 15 of New Albany Indiana. We are glad you have joined us!**

**Below is a list of useful information about our troop. If you have any questions, be sure to ask a troop Committee member, Scoutmaster or the parent of an older scout.**

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**I. Scouting at Troop 15**

Troop 4015 is a Traditional Scouting Program with an 86 year history at Trinity United Methodist Church. All Troop Programming is guided by Trained Adults in accordance with the Policies and Procedures of the Boy Scouts of America.

Our emphasis remains on outdoor activity, learning skills, developing leadership ability, service and adventure.

**Mission of Troop 15:**

**To follow the vision of founder Lord Baden Powell, keeping all traditions and adventures alive through a boy led troop, organized in the Patrol Method**

**Mission of the Boy Scouts of America:**

**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.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Scout Oath** |  | **Scout Law** |
| 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. |  | A Scout is:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Trustworthy Loyal Helpful Friendly Courteous Kind |  | Obedient Cheerful Thrifty Brave Clean Reverent | |

**Scout Motto – Be Prepared**

**Scout Slogan – Do a Good Turn Daily**

**II. The Aims of Scouting**

**All levels of the Scouting program share three specific objectives: Character development, Citizenship training, and Personal fitness.**

**Character** is growth in moral strength and conviction. We define this as what the boy is himself; his personal qualities, his values, his outlook.

**Citizenship** is participating citizenship. Citizenship relates to the Scouts relationship to others. He will learn his obligation to others, to his community and to the government.

**Fitness** includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (critical thinking and problem solving), and the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

**The Eight Methods of the Scouting**

The Aims of the Scouting movement can be attained without these methods, the methods make it Scouting. Likewise, our methods can produce quality individuals without the aims. Scouting is a combination of these Aims and these Methods.

**Scouting Ideals**

The ideals of Scouting are captured in the Scout Oath and Law, the Scout Motto and Slogan and the concept of "Scout Spirit". Our ideals define what a Scout should strive to be. Each Scout measures himself against these ideals and strives to improve.

This method permeates everything Scouts do, defining acceptable behavior, challenging the Scout to do his best, and even to do better than his best. Scout spirit describes the level of commitment a Scout has toward these ideals, and challenges him to do what needs to be done.

**Patrol Method**

The Patrol is the basic unit of Scouting. When properly formed, the Patrol is more than a group; it's a team and each member has a job to do. In a Patrol, the Scout first begins learning about citizenship, making decisions, and doing things for himself. He counts on the other members of his Patrol to do their part, just as they count on him to do his.

Membership in a Patrol leads to opportunities for leadership. Patrol leaders have real authority and assign authority. An effective Scouting Program starts with the Patrol method.

**Outdoors**

Scouting is designed to take place outdoors, where Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. Here the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive and have purpose. Outdoors a Scout gains an appreciation for God's handiwork and humankind's place in it, learns ecology and practices conservation of nature's resources.

It is impossible to properly conduct a Scouting program without the outdoors. Scouts learn by doing. As often as possible, Scouts need to get outdoors, follow a dirt trail, camp in the woods, swim in the lake, and all of the other things boys have done for millennia.

**Advancement**

The Advancement Method breaks down the big challenge of Scouting into smaller goals. A Scout can plans his advancement and progress at his own pace. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The Scout learns about his personal abilities and limitations, and ways to use his abilities to overcome those limitations.

Advancement makes a Scout self-reliant and able to help others. Advancement also contributes to a Scout's personal growth, provides opportunities for leadership and adult associations, and quite often a reason to go outside.

**Personal Growth**

Most of Scouting involves boys facing unfamiliar territory and learning to cope with it. This is what we call personal growth. Every Scout develops greater confidence through experience and advancement. He learns to have confidence in himself; to challenge himself, and to learn from his failures.

The Scout Oath pledges duty to God and others. Scouts grow through participation in community service projects and by doing Good Turns for others.Likely, no device is so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn.

The Scoutmaster Conference helps each Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims. Personal growth is a necessary ingredient in Scout Spirit**.**

At every step along the Scout Path the Scout is faced with challenges to overcome. In the process, he learns to see himself differently. He stops saying "I can't" and begins to look for ways to say, "I can." As his confidence grows he is called to greater responsibilities and challenges.

**Adult Association**

Baden Powell said, “Scouting is a game for boys under the leadership of boys under the direction of a man.” A Troop is Boy Led but there are still key roles for adults. The Scoutmasters, Committee Members, Merit Badge Counselors all provide Role Models and mentor relationships for Scouts. For a parent, the Scouting program can provide an opportunity to come alongside their scout and support them from a new direction.

Troop adults provide a living example of the Ideals of Scouting. Trained adult leaders provide the safety net that allows Scouting to work. Scouts Leaders need guidance and support to create an environment in which boys can have safe, challenging fun. The Scout learns to work with adults and develops vital skills needed to navigate the adult world.

**Leadership Development**

In Scouting, adults aren't there to lead the youth, instead they guide the youth through the process of leading themselves. Scouts have many opportunities to participate in leadership situations. As a Scout's experience grows, his opportunities for leadership increase.

Scouts learn to lead by leading and by following their chosen leaders. Leadership in Scouting includes making decisions that guide the troop and/or patrol. Scouts choose their own leaders, plan the program, and conducting meetings. Leadership skills that are developed in Scouting serve each scout throughout his life.

**Uniform**

The uniform has always been an important part of being a Scout. The uniform gives the Scout identity with a worldwide brotherhood of Scouts. Scouting is an action program. The uniform is an action that reveals a Scout's commitment to the Ideals of Scouting.

The uniform is also practical for scouting activities and provides a way for Boy Scouts to wear badges that identify rank and accomplishment. The uniform is more than a set of clothes or a place to display achievements. It is a symbol of commitment to live by the Ideas of Scouting.

The uniform also makes the Scout Troop a visible force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Many believe that the uniform really isn't all that important, however when the community sees a Scout in uniform they can expect someone of good character, who is prepared to the best of his ability to help those around him.

**Scouting at Troop 15 is measured by these Aims and Methods.**

1. **Troop Organization**

A. Chain of Command

Troop 15 is chartered by Trinity United Methodist Church in New Albany Indiana. We represent Trinity in everything we do. Troop 15 is chartered in the Lewis and Clark District, part of the Lincoln Heritage Council.

Troop 15 Chain of Command is as follows:

Charter Organization Representative

Troop Committee

Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)

Patrol Leader (PL)

Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)

The purpose Chain of Command is to support the Boy Led Troop. Leadership is not bossing other Scouts around or making some Scouts do more than their fair share. Scouts must adhere to this structure and be willing to assist leaders when requested.

In matters relating to the leadership of the Scouts, the Scoutmaster has final authority.

*Remember: Leaders cannot address an issue if they are not made aware. Scouts need to follow the patrol method chain of command. Please practice saying, “Ask your Patrol leader.”*

B. Boy Led

The Boy Scout program presents a significant change for cub scouts who cross over into a Troop. The “big change” is that they are being trained in a boy led instead of adult led unit.

Parents should resist the urge to “take charge” when the boys seem disorganized; instead, become a mentor to your scout and encourage him to exhibit good leadership skills, which begin with being a good follower.

“Train ‘em, Trust ‘em, Let ‘em Lead!” – Lord Baden-Powell, founder of Boy Scouts

C. Scouts

1. Patrol Method

The Troop is organized into patrols. Each patrol selects a name and elects a patrol leader (PL) and assistant patrol leader (APL). New Scouts are placed in a New Boy Patrol. The goal is to get each Scout to the Rank of Tenderfoot before crossing them in existing “regular” patrols where they can be mentored by older scouts. Patrol members will grow through scouting together as a “family unit” within the larger troop structure, helping each other to advance and performing many activities as a team.

2. Troop Officers

The troop elects its officers. The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) serves as the overall leader of the troop, runs the troop meetings and directs the scouts on camp outs. Other troop officers include Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Chaplain, and various other positions. When the SPL is not present at an event, another scout is designated the acting SPL.

3. Patrol Leaders’ Council

The SPL, ASPL’s, PL’s, and APL’s together with other troop officers form the Patrol Leaders’ Council (PLC), which meets once a month to plan the upcoming troop activities. A functioning PLC is the key an effective Troop Program.

D. Adults

1. Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster is the key adult leader in the troop. He does not usually provide direct leadership to the scouts, but rather serves as a mentor to the SPL and the PLC and ensures that the patrol method is functioning. He meets with each scout individually at each rank advancement for a “Scoutmaster’s conference,” and provides a “Scoutmaster’s Minute” at the end of each meeting. He is assisted by multiple trained assistant scoutmasters. If you are interested in this Role in Troop 15, inform the Scoutmaster.

2. Troop Committee

The Troop Committee sets policy for the troop, manages finances, forms boards of review for rank advancement, and provides support to the scouts and Scoutmaster. Key positions are:

Charter Rep. – Brook Kramer

Chairman – Dave Powell

Quartermaster – David Kessinger

Vice Chairman –

Webmaster/Database Keeper –

Training Chair– Shawn Ledford

High Adventure – Ben Shiner

Secretary – Kami Kessinger

Advancement – Kerrie Meyer

Treasurer- Betsy Kleehammer

Medical Records – Tonya Beanblossom

Fundraiser Chair –

Pumpkin “King” Kitchen – Sara Wambold

Pumpkin “King” Event –

Troop Master Chair

Summer Camp Coordinator –

We welcome all parents to join the troop committee. The troop committee meeting is held on the 4th Wednesday of every month. The troop committee is a small group of administrative leaders that supports the Scoutmasters and the PLC with administrative functions if you are interested in helping the troop by being a committee member come to one of these meetings.

3. Parents

Parents are encouraged to be involved, whether or not they are registered as committee members. Parents are under the authority of the registered adult leaders (at least one of which must be present at all scout events) and must follow all troop policies. Some of the ways parents can help:

Parents meeting is held on the second Wednesday of every month in Room 38 of Trinity UMC

Provide transportation to/from events (vehicle info needs to be on file with the Database

Keeper)

Attend campouts (make sure you have a medical form on file with the Medical Records officer)

Help the outdoor committee plan a troop or patrol campout.

Attend courts of honor and special events (or bring food)

Sign up as a merit badge counselor

Mentor scouts through their advancement

Help with fund raising

Become a registered committee member to lead events and serve on boards of review

**IV. Communications**

Announcements are made at the closing of each meeting; parents are encouraged to join the meeting at 8:20 PM to hear announcements. Newsletters and other announcements are also sent out via email.

Make sure that the Webmaster has your email address(es) on the mailing list! The troop web site at <http://troop4015newalbany.ScoutLander.com> also is a source for information and forms.

The troop roster is kept in a database and sent to the email list periodically when there are significant changes. When your contact information changes, please let the Webmaster know. Please respect the privacy of other scouting families and use the roster for scouting purposes only.

**V. Meetings**

Regular meetings are held on Wednesday nights from 7-8:30pm. (e.g. holidays). Troop meetings are usually held at Trinity United Methodist Church, our chartering organization.

Scouts are expected to stay in the Scout House or designated areas of the church, and exhibit good behavior while on church property. No food or drink is allowed during normal scout meetings (especially no soda from the soda machine). No food or drink is permitted in the sanctuary at any time, and no red or orange drinks are permitted anywhere in the church.

Meetings start with a Circle Up which includes a prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, and Scout Law. This is followed by the program as planned by the PLC, which ranges from a guest speaker to a merit badge workshop to campout preparations to working on individual advancement. Please be on time for the meetings.

**VI. The Uniform**

The standard scout uniform is called “class A” or “field dress”. Uniforms may be purchased at the scout store at in Jeffersonville IN. The Troop also maintains a Uniform closet for our Scouts.

The scout handbook describes the various patches and insignia. Patches can be sewn on or you can use iron-on tape.

Class A uniforms and patch placement are described in the Scout Handbook. We encourage scout pants and belt as part of the uniform, but it is not required.

T-shirts or sweatshirts with scouting logos are called “class B” uniforms. They should be worn with clean dark color pants in good condition. The troop periodically places orders for shirts with the troop logo, such as maroon sweatshirts in the fall and t-shirts for summer camp.

Class A uniforms are required for parades, courts of honor, travelling to/from camp outs, receiving rank awards, and for flag ceremonies. Class B uniforms are acceptable for many less formal scouting activities, such as during the day at a camp out.

**VII. Advancement**

A. Scout Handbook

It is important to bring the scout handbook to **all** scout meetings and camping events. The scout

handbook is not only the primary reference for advancement (it contains everything needed for all ranks advancements up through first class and lists requirements for higher ranks), it also contains the sign offs for rank advancements. Scout needs to have his book for “sign off” on rank requirements! Scouts should use zip-lock bag or nylon covers to preserve his Book.

B. Rank Requirements

When a scout completes the joining requirements, they receive the rank of “Scout”. The other ranks that may be earned are: Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle.

The ranks up through First Class generally involved reading material in the Scout Handbook, then demonstrating skills and knowledge. Requirements for these early ranks are signed off by scouts of 1st Class rank or above (preferred), the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or other registered Adults (least preferred). **Parents do NOT** sign off on rank requirements.

During the process of earning each rank your scout will learn skills that will serve him his entire life. Each rank requires progressively more knowledge, but requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class may be “earned” in any order. The ranks themselves must still be earned in order. Participation and service requirements may be verified through the troop Database Keeper or Advancement Chair. Rank advancement is at your own pace, although some requirements have time intervals specified (e.g. hold an office for a specified time period).

All requirements for Eagle rank MUST be completed by the scout’s 18th birthday. Scouts who reach Life rank will be assisted by an Eagle Advisor (adult mentor) to help them complete their Eagle rank requirements.

C. Scoutmaster’s Conference

When all other requirements for a rank are completed and signed off in the scout’s handbook, the scout must meet with the troop guide for a rank review then the Scoutmaster for a Scoutmaster’s conference. During the Scoutmaster's Conference the Scoutmaster will verify that all requirements for Rank have been completed, discuss their Troop and Patrol participation, how Scouting influences their life, and how they are doing in general. Scouts will also make a Personal Growth Agreement with the Scoutmaster towards their next Rank. When this is completed, the Scoutmaster will sign this requirement and the “demonstrate scout spirit” requirement.

D. Board of Review

After completing the Scoutmaster’s conference, the scout should ask the Troop at “Circle up” for a Board of review. For ranks up through Life, the board consists of three to six committee members, and may not include the scoutmaster or assistant scoutmasters. The board reviews the scout’s progress, and then signs off on the rank advancement. Often these can be held during a regular scout meeting if enough committee members are present.

Eagle boards of review have participation from the Lewis and Clark District advancement committee, and are scheduled ahead of time.

E. Merit Badges

Ranks from Star and above require merit badges to be earned. Some of these merit badges must be from the list of Eagle required merit badges, others the scouts may choose from any of the over 100 available.

To complete a merit badge, a scout:

1. Chooses the merit badge to work on

2. Checks out a merit badge book from the troop library. If a desired merit badge book is not

available, ask the troop librarian if one can be added to the library. Books can also be purchased at the scout store.

3. Obtains a signed “blue card” from the Scoutmaster

4. Meets with a counselor to discuss the requirements for the badge

5. Works on the badge requirements

6. Meets with the counselor one or more times to be signed off on the blue card

7. Turns in the completed blue card (minus the counselor’s portion) to the Advancement Chairman. When a merit badge is taught in a group setting (such as at summer camp or in a scout meeting), the counselor may choose to keep requirements on a separate sign off sheet and transfer to the blue card when all requirements are complete. The list of all merit badges and their current requirements is available at <http://www.meritbadge.com> and also in a reference book available at the scout store.

A list of Merit Badge Counselors is available from the Advancement Chairman. Parents are encouraged to sign up as counselors for badges they are qualified to teach; the advancement chairman can provide necessary forms to register as a counselor.

When meeting with a merit badge counselor, please ensure that Child Safety rules are followed.

F. Service Projects

Many of the ranks require one or more service hours. The troop provides service opportunities during various times per year, serving meal’s at the church, or working on Eagle projects. Service hours are tracked in the troop database; make sure all service hours worked are reported to the Database Record Keeper.

Eagle projects are substantial service projects required to reach Eagle Rank. The scout demonstrates their leadership ability by planning and executing a project for the benefit of a non-scouting community organization such as the city, a school or church. Younger scouts are encouraged to participate in these projects.

G. Courts of Honor

Courts of honor are held two times per year, and parents are encouraged to attend. These events are where rank advancements, merit badges, and other special awards are given. The scouts also give reports on their recent activities and Eagle projects. Refreshments are usually served. Special courts of honor are held for those reaching Eagle rank, organized by their family and the Eagle Coordinator.

**VIII. Finances**

A. Scout Accounts

The troop treasurer keeps a “scout account” balance for each scout. Charges for activities such as camping (fees and food) are subtracted from this account. Funds can be added to the account by the parent (cash or check made out to “BSA Troop 15”) or through fund raising proceeds. The amount to be deducted from a scout’s account is usually calculated after the event when the total cost is known.

Note: If your son is serving as “grubmaster”, be sure to turn in food receipts to the Treasurer promptly for reimbursement to help this happen in a timely manner.

If your scout’s account balance goes negative, funds must be added to the account to bring the balance back to zero before the next event. Fund balances are provided at Parents Meetings.

If your scout signs up for an event and drops out after the sign up deadline, the scout’s account will still be charged as if he had attended. Scout account funds can also be used for scouting equipment and clothing that is used specifically for scouting activities. Please obtain prior approval from the troop Treasurer for these purchases to ensure the item is allowable and sufficient funds are in the account, and then provide the receipt(s) to the Treasurer for reimbursement from the scout account. Some scouting events will require a small amount of personal cash. Scouts will be notified in advance of an event when this is the case.

Parents and scouts will receive a scout account balance sheet every three months.

B. Annual Dues

The Troop Committee sets an annual dues amount by dividing the normal troop expenses (after fundraising proceeds) by the number of scouts. Currently this is set at $104.00, and is deducted from Scout accounts quarterly. New scouts crossing over from cub scouts do not pay annual dues until the fall of their first year, however they are expected to pay a "joining fee" (currently $10.00) to help offset the cost of the t-shirt, book and transfer fee which the troop provides.

C. Fund Raising

The troop provides multiple opportunities for fund raising. Usually the majority of profits go into the scout accounts, and a small portion goes into the troop general fund. While scout participation in fund raising in strongly recommended, we understand some families may choose other means to pay for scout activities such as a scout paying from their part-time job earnings or the parents providing funds.

FYI- Our Troop, Council and National Bases offer Scholarship help in financial hardship cases. However, participation in Troop Fundraisers weighs heavily in the distribution of those funds.

IX. Medical

Medical forms must be on file for all scouts and adults attending outdoor events. These forms are kept on file by the Medical Records Chair, and are kept confidential. The forms for those attending an event are placed in a binder and given to the registered adult in charge for emergency use. Blank medical forms are on the troop web site.

A “Class 1” medical form does not require a doctor’s signature and must be updated annually. It is valid for activities such as: Day camp, overnight hike, or other programs not exceeding 72 hours, with level of activity similar to that of home or school, and where medical care is readily available. Current personal health and medical summary (history) is attested by parents to be accurate.

A “Class 2” form requires a doctor’s signature and is required once every 36 months for all participants under 40 years of age for activities such as: Resident camp or any other activity such as backpacking, tour camping, or recreational sports involving events lasting longer than 72 consecutive hours, with level of activity similar to that at home or school, and where medical care is readily available.

A “Class 3” form requires a doctor’s signature and a health examination within the past 12 months. This form is used for youth and adult members participating in high-adventure activities, athletic competition, and world jamborees. This form is to be used by adults 40 years of age or older for all activities requiring a physical examination.

On outdoor events medicines should not be kept by scouts, with exception of emergency devices such as inhalers or epi-pens. Place the medicines in their original container inside a zip lock bag. Please include a separate note with detailed instructions for administering any medication. Write the scout’s name on the outside of the bag with a black permanent marker. The adult in charge will keep and dispense medicines. At summer camps, medicines may need to be turned over to the camp medical officer who will dispense to the scout. Please discuss any concerns with the Medical Records officer.

X. Camping

A. Frequency

Generally there is one weekend camping event each month, and one week of summer camp during July. During the annual planning meeting, a rough calendar for camping events is created by the scouts. The Outdoor committee then makes arrangements with camps and assigns one adult per event to coordinate. Generally, the troop participates in three district events each year (fall and spring Camporees and the Klondike Derby), and has several other regular camping favorites (e.g. Living Springs cabins in February, Shooting Weekend in the summer).

B. Troop Preparation

The adult in charge establishes a sign-up deadline at least one week prior to the event, creates and posts a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, and announces the event to the troop. At least one registered adult must attend the event; two-deep adult leadership must be assured (see Child Safety). The scouts decide on who will be “grubmasters” for the event. The grubmasters help create the menu, buy the food and oversee the kitchen for the event, including setting up the cooking and cleaning schedules. A form for the menu, shopping list, and duty roster is on the troop web site. **Serving as a grubmaster helps fulfill several requirements for Second and First Class ranks**. If your scout is “grubmaster” for the first time and you aren’t sure what or how much food to buy, please check with more experienced parents. (Rule is not to go over $10 per scout for a weekend) Be sure to turn in receipts for food to the Treasurer for reimbursement. The troop quartermaster organizes a group of scouts to check troop equipment before the event and make sure everything is in proper condition.

C. Gear

Typical camping gear is listed in the scout handbook and on the troop web site. One critical item is a mess kit (including silverware). The troop does not provide paper plates or plastic silverware on camp outs. Other important items include: sleeping bag, sturdy footwear (e.g. hiking boots), Scout Handbook, personal first aid kit, compass, and a sense of humor.

Make sure your gear is marked! Metal items can be etched; other items should be marked with a permanent marker. We are always surprised at how much unclaimed gear gets left in the trailer after camp outs. Tents are needed for most camp outs; scouts are encouraged to share tents. The troop does have a few tents available to use on campouts; see the quartermaster. Gander Mountain, Quest Outdoors will give scouts a 10% discount on camping gear if you show your BSA membership card, and older scouts may have used gear to share.

Rules for adults on tent camp outs follow the guide to safe scouting.

Do not bring portable electronic devices on camping events. For longer trips (over a 45 minute drive) they may be used in the vehicles, but must be left there and not taken into the camp site. Cell phones may only be used by scouts only for calling a parent/guardian (e.g. calling a parent to tell them you have safely arrived, calling a parent to pick you up at the church upon arriving home, or making an emergency call). Cell phones must stay off and stowed at all other times while camping.

D. Transportation

Parents are always needed to provide transportation to/from camping events. If you have signed up to go on a campout, plan on putting your gear in the troop trailer not in your back seat, as usually all available seats are filled with scouts. The troop will reimburse the cost of fuel for any transportation made over 100 miles or outside the LH Council. BSA requires that we file a trip plan (called a “tour permit”) with the council office listing each driver and vehicle with related information. The Database Keeper records this information to assist the Outdoor committee with filing the tour permit. Before driving on any event, please provide the following information to the Database Keeper:

Your name, birth date, and driver’s license number

Your make and model of vehicle and number of seat belts

Your insurance coverage levels in thousands (Person/Accident/Property, e.g. “100/300/100”)

This information will be kept confidential except for usage on the trip permit form.

E. Timeline

The general agenda for a weekend campout is:

Friday night

o Meet at the church ~6pm. Load packs in trailer, scouts in cars/vans

o Travel to the location, set up camp

o Normally no dinner is planned, but scouts bring snacks to mix/share (cracker barrel)

Saturday

o Breakfast, lunch and dinner is cooked and cleaned up after

o Activities vary depending on events

Sunday

o Gear is packed up before breakfast

o Breakfast is light fare (usually cereal)

o Usually leave for the church by ~9am

o Parents pick up scouts and their gear at the church. In order for your scout to receive credit for these camping events and blend into a patrol, he must begin and end at the Church.

F. Summer Camp

Summer camp is a high point of the year for most scouts, and all scouts are encouraged to attend. It is an opportunity for younger scouts to complete many of the requirements up through First Class, and an opportunity to earn many merit badges that may be difficult in other venues (e.g. swimming or archery). Summer camp is usually the first week of July. Typically, every other year we go to Camp Friedlander in northern Kentucky (out of council camp at this time), and the other years we go to another camp for variety. In recent Adults are needed to stay for part or all of the week, and to provide transportation to and from camp. Training opportunities for these leaders may be required.

**XI. Child Safety**

BSA has a strong child safety policy. Reviewing this policy with your son is part of the joining

Requirements; it is in the front of the scout handbook. The key principle is that an unrelated adult and child should not be alone together. To help ensure this, Troop 15 uses a buddy system of groups of two or three scouts. When an adult and scout must talk together one-on-one (e.g. a Scoutmaster’s conference or talking to a Merit badge counselor), this should occur within sight of a larger group (e.g. the corner of a meeting room where others are present).

For most events we prefer to have four adults present, such that if there is an emergency two adults would be able to take the injured scout for care while the other two would remain with the troop. At a minimum, two-deep adult leadership must be present. We are required to report any abuse or suspected abuse of a scout to the Council, even if it is your own child. We also communicated only through e-mail and require two deep leadership on all e-mails to scouts.

**XII. Troop Behavior**

The Guide to Safe Scouting: It all starts with adherence to the BSA Rules and Guidelines available online at: <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS/toc.aspx>

**Scout Conduct:** To demonstrate Scout Spirit youth (Scouts) and adult leaders (Scouters) must live according to the Scout Oath and Law. Good behavior is essential to any successful program.

Scouts will not participate in any activity that could be considered dangerous to their fellow Scout. This includes but is not limited to hazing, harassing, abuse of fire or flammable materials, or abuse of sharp instruments.

Scouts will conduct themselves properly during all Troop 15 activities. If a behavior isn’t allowed at school or church, it’s not acceptable behavior.

When leadership at a meeting or activity presents The Scout Sign, all Scouts and adults must immediately cease talk and movement, and display the same sign.

Visitors are welcome to attend troop meetings. Prior approval is recommended.

**BSA Buddy System** will be followed whenever appropriate. Examples include water activities, whenever a Scout is to go beyond visual range of a campsite, when Scouts are interacting with large groups of people not known by the troop, and whenever Scoutmaster declares the Buddy System is in effect.

Scouts will attend assigned patrol activities and remain with their assigned patrol unless given permission by their Patrol Leader to meet with the Scoutmaster, go to the restroom, etc. It is necessary for a Patrol Leader to know the whereabouts of his Scouts. Scouts should never leave a Campsite or Patrol Activity without the permission of the Patrol Leader or his designate. A Patrol Leader should get permission from his Senior Patrol Leader in order to leave.

**General Discipline:**  Obedience to the Scout Law will produce respect for youth and adult leaders, fellow Scouts and guests of the troop. Respect for leadership is required.

Once again, all participants in Troop activities must be willing to live by the ideals of Scouting contained in The Scout Oath and Law.

Adherence to the Chain of Command and the Conduct and Discipline Policies is required to maintain safety, avoid property damage, and avoid disrupting others. Bad Behavior will not be tolerated. Scouts who will not behave may be sent home. Parents must agree to support adult leadership at the time of the discipline, which may include picking up their Scout from an outing. (This is a rare occurrence since scouts enjoy the outings issues are typically resolved before this step.) If this disciplinary step is required, a Scoutmaster Conference will automatically be held with the Scout and Parent ASAP.

Under NO circumstances will an adult or youth administer physical punishment. Hazing, of any type, is not tolerated. Scouts or adults observing improper conduct will take measures to stop it and immediately report to the Scoutmaster.

**Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco**: No Scout shall use, possess, or distribute tobacco or any controlled substance or alcohol. Any violation forces immediate disciplinary action. Adults are held to the same standard.

Note: Parents of Scouts required to take prescription medication over the period of a troop event are required to present all medications to a Trained Scouter in the original prescription bottle indicating medication type, dose, frequency and emergency contact information prior to Scout leaving with the Troop on any event. Serious medical requirements may require a parent to attend an event and administer medication.

**Fighting:** Troop 15 has a zero tolerance policy for fighting. Any violation will force disciplinary action. Parents may be required to remove their Scout.

**Language**: Foul language, swearing, cursing and abusive/suggestive/offensive gestures are not in keeping with the ideals of Scouting and will not be allowed. A Scout is Reverent, Courteous, and Clean. Disrespectful language is not allowed.

**Electronics:** Radios, Smart Phones, Tablets, music devices and video games have limited use in Scouting and are banned from regular Scouting activities. There are times when adults may supervise special use if beneficial to the Scouting experience. Examples include, digital camera, smart phones equipped with a camera, a GPS, etc. These items will be used only under adult supervision. The Scoutmaster reserves the right to prohibit Scouts from using electronic devices. Devices will only be used with permission and supervision of trained adult leaders. The Scoutmaster/adult leader has the authority to confiscate items deemed inappropriate or dangerous. Personal items confiscated will be returned to the Scout’s parents.

**Patrol Outings:** All Patrol/Crew Outings must be pre-approved by the Scoutmaster. A completed Patrol Outing Checklist must be filed before the activity begins.

**Adult Leader Conduct**: Adult leaders must exhibit the ideals of Scouting (Oath and Law) when working with Scouts. A Trained Scouter and 2 Deep Leadership must be present at every Troop activity. Standards of conduct in personal habits, language, hygiene, and interaction with Scouts will be in accordance with the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. The Committee Chair is responsible for the conduct of adult leaders. Conduct befitting a Scout is expected of adult participants as well, especially in regards to the Do’s and Don’ts. Be a good example.

**A Scout Uniform is required for all Troop Meetings**. The PLC has determined the rule and communicated the expectation. The PLC and the Scoutmaster will enforce compliance.

**The BSA prohibits** use, and display of **fireworks** except where conducted under the auspices of a certified or licensed fireworks control expert. No fireworks in Scouting!

**Scouts are not permitted to possess a firearm**. Firearms will be permitted at troop meetings only if called for in the troop program. Any activity using firearms must have the prior approval of the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee. No exceptions!

**Sheath knives are not permitted** (with rare exceptions). Lock-blade and pocket-knives are permitted. Blade may not exceed 4 inches. Scouts carrying knives must have a Totin’ Chip Card in their possession per BSA training requirements. No Totin’ Chip? The knife may be confiscated and returned at the end of the activity.

**Sexually explicit materials** in ANY media format are not part of Scouting. If found, such materials will be confiscated and returned to the parents of any scout involved.

**XIII. Discipline Policy**

**Enforcing Discipline:**

1. Scouts (youth leaders) are responsible for maintaining discipline (SPL, ASPL, PL).

2. Discipline in patrols is handled by the Patrol Leader. When the Patrol Leader cannot handle a problem, he gets help from the SPL. A Patrol Leader has the authority to ask a patrol member to “behave and/or leave” a meeting/activity and “report to the SPL.” An adult leader should also be notified if the situation warrants. If the SPL cannot handle the situation, he gets help from the Scoutmaster. The SPL can ask a Scout to leave a meeting/activity and report to the Scoutmaster.

3. The Scoutmaster determines disciplinary action according to the following process:

a. First Occurrence – Conference with the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster. All Conferences must be attended by trained Boy Scout Leader and another adult leader.

b. Second Occurrence – Conference with the Scoutmaster, a phone call or meeting with parents explaining the problem with a possible suspension of activity for a period of time relative to the severity of the offence. A Scout may be required to appear before a Board of Committee members as an alternative to suspension from troop activities.

A written explanation of the offense will be presented to the parent(s) and Troop Committee Chair (in case further action is necessary). A parent may be required to attend meetings and activities to help supervise their Scout.

c. Third Occurrence – Conference with the Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, and parents. Based on the recommendations listed in the written record, the Scout will likely be suspended from all Troop activities for a period of time, as established by the Scoutmaster.

d. At this point, discipline issues are forced up to the Troop Committee. A recommendation by the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair (with documentation), will likely result in dismissal from the Troop. This is extremely rare.

Scoutmaster and/or Troop Committee may proceed with any discipline without conducting previous lower levels of discipline, if the circumstances warrant such action.

Appeal - If a Scout feels he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by another scout, he may seek help of the Senior Patrol Leader. If a Scout he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by the Senior Patrol Leader, he may seek help of the Scoutmaster. If a Scout feels that he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by the Scoutmaster he may seek the help of the Troop Committee Chair.

Please feel free to ask any questions.

Scoutmaster Meyer

Revised 11/19/19

**Troop-15**: **New Scout Parent Survival Guide**

Your son is now a Boy Scout! As a Scout Parent, we expect that you have questions about how you can best support your scout and make him successful in Scouting. We hope that this list answers many of your questions and gives you an idea of the parent’s role in Troop 15.

**How does a New Scout fit into a Patrol?**

A new patrol is formed of all new scouts entering the troop. If there are more than 12 scouts, two patrols may be formed. Each patrol will be assigned an older, experienced scout as a Troop Guide’ to show the patrol how things work, what is expected, and provide leadership. The patrol will immediately be provided a ‘Patrol Leader’ who will appoint an ‘Assistant Patrol Leader’. These leadership roles usually have a term of 6 months, but in a New Scout Patrol, a new Patrol leader are elected once a scout has made 1st class. An important part of scouting is growing in leadership skills and scouts are expected to take on leadership positions to practice their skills. Being led by older scouts will help them lead when it is their turn. The patrol will also choose a patrol name, yell, and create a flag.

* The patrol works together, learns together and grows together. It supports and directs itself with guidance from the older boys and adult leaders. **This is why your scout’s attendance is so important to making the program work. Your scout cannot fit into a patrol if he only attends once in a while, and will have a difficult time advancing in rank or preparing for outings.**

In addition to the monthly Troop meetings, your scout's patrol should plan monthly patrol meetings. The elected patrol leader is responsible for scheduling and planning these meetings with input from the rest of the patrol. A goal of these meetings is to learn skills that fulfill rank advancement requirements so the patrol members can reach ‘First Class’ scout rank in their first year or eighteen months in the troop.

The patrols are "Boy Led" so the patrol should take ownership of the scheduling, planning, and running of the patrol meetings. Each new scout patrol will also have an adult ‘Assistant Scout Master’ (ASM) assigned to it to be a resource for scouting rules, requirements, and regulations. If you notice that patrol meetings are not happening or have no substance, please make the Scoutmaster or the ASM aware of your concerns. The ASM advising the new patrol, along with the patrol's Troop Guide, will provide direction and help as needed.

Patrol meetings are great opportunities for the new patrol to become a unit. Depending on the agenda for the meeting, it may take place on a camp out or at a troop meeting. An adult or older scout will often be used to present information for the new scouts to learn. (As with all BSA events, the "2 deep leadership" rules apply to patrol meetings.)

* Can you supervise a meeting?
* Would you like hike with you son and his patrol, or the Troop?
* Would you like to Canoe, Backpack, Rock climb, or visit a WW-2 Air craft carrier with your son and his patrol?
* Do you believe that you have moral fiber, strong character, and values that which would complement the scout oath and law? Do you ever wonder if society is heading in the right direction, and feel helpless that you cannot make a difference? Here is your chance!

**How can a Parent fit into the new Patrol?**

In Boy Scouts, we do not have Den Leaders – there is no adult leader running a patrol or the troop. Adult assistance comes from an Assistant Scout Master (ASM) who is a registered adult scouting volunteer that wears a Scout uniform. More ASMs means that adult participation in activities can be better distributed. If you would like to become an ASM, please let the Scoutmaster know since he appoints ASMs.

Parents supporting the patrol have 3 main tasks:

- Provide a safe environment.

- Provide services that the boys cannot. Driving is the main thing. Also, many activities require an adult ‘in charge’. Perhaps obtaining maps or permits?

- Monitor advancement. Help in tracking the requirements completed by the scouts.

**Troop-15 boasts A Pure Boy Led Unit!**

Any task that *can* be done by a Scout *should* be done by a Scout! ASMs are like chaperones at dances, except that we also get to participate and learn along with the scouts.

* At this time your Parent Guide will tell you about the experiences and outings they have been on, and what leadership development they have witnessed!

A difficult thing for a scouting parent is to ***watch the Scouts fail*** – but this is an extremely important thing to do. You are needed to make sure that they are failing safely. You are not there to fix it for them or to prevent them from failing. This robs them of a tremendous learning opportunity.

An example is the Troop’s first campout with a new patrol. The patrol has a Patrol Leader, has been given tents and a patrol box, has had the patrol method explained, and is now setting up their first campsite. Chances are good that every other patrol will have their tents up and be waiting for the new patrol to finish – even with their ‘Troop Guide’ offering direction. This was the most frustrating thing for me to watch as a new ASM. But, no one got hurt; nothing got destroyed; and most importantly, the patrol solved its own problem and accomplished its goal! The second time was less traumatic. After a while, this became routine for them.

**How does a New Scout fit into the Troop?**

Each new scout has to find his niche in the troop. Some have a natural tendency to lead while others are content to follow. Each one has a lot to learn. An open, accepting attitude will help your scout become part of an existing group. There are also a handful of things for him to keep in mind to make the transition easier:

- Be prepared. It’s the Scout Motto, and it is very important. Always be in uniform, bring your scout book, dues, notebook, and pen to every meeting.

- Perform all of the tasks defined in the Troop’s New Scout Guide as quickly and thoroughly as possible. These tasks start a solid foundation on which to expand and get the new scout on his way.

**How can a Parent fit into the Troop?**

Troop 15 is “Boy Led” – that means as an adult you have very little say in how the troop operates, what they do for activities, and what mistakes they make. You provide safety and adult-only services. The Scoutmaster provides guidance as needed and members of the Troop Committee provide assistance in making the scout’s program happen, perform administrative duties, and assist in long-term direction.

* At the Troop level, an ASM’s role is to support the Scoutmaster and the scouts. These are traits you should develop in yourself:

- Be open to trying new things. As a new ASM, for the first time in my life I kayaked whitewater, climbed rocks, and snow camping.

- Be ready to fail at something new. A good way for a boy to learn how to deal with and grow from failure is to see it happen to a mature person.

- Make the best of challenging situations. If you are not enjoying yourself, the scouts will know. Keep a positive attitude.

- Support a team rather than individual accomplishment. Each scout advances and grows individually, but the larger goal is to prepare him for a leadership role in society; which means leading a team of some size.

- Look for small positives in large negatives. An entire structure of lashings collapsed, except for one well-done square lashing – that knot was a success and it should be recognized.

**What else Can I Do?**

There are many other roles you can play as adult. Here are some of them:

- Merit Badge Counselor Lead the scouts through the requirements to earn a merit badge. Look through the merit badge list and find some that interest you and you are qualified to teach. Ask any ASM or the SM how to sign up, obtain the Troop-15 training and work with the PLC. (There are BSA forms to fill out.)

- Troop Committee Member we often need people to help conduct boards of review and fill committee positions such as activity coordinators, secretary, treasurer, fundraising coordinators, etc. The troop relies on a strong, supportive committee for its success.

- Attend some outings. We always need drivers. Not all outings involve camping. Get involved in those that interest you. Sign up to organize an outing or two.

- Help plan courts of honor and special ceremonies.

- Read his scout handbook to better understand the program and Troop methods.

**Know the Lingo**

Your scout will be doing a lot of memorizing at the start. You can help him by showing your interest in what he is memorizing. Help him apply the words in his everyday life. The Scout Oath and Law provide important rules to live by. Our goal is to help scouts build these character qualities into their value system so that they become part of who he is.

These are some of the important things that he will be expected to memorize:

**1. 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.

**2. Scout Law**

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

**3. Scout Motto -** Be Prepared

**4. Scout Slogan** – Do a Good Turn Daily

**5. Scout Benediction-**

And now, may the Great Master of all scouts be with us until we meet again.

6. 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,

Be Conservation-min