

Webelos to Boy Scout Transition



A Guide for the Scout and Parent

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Introduction:

Dear Scouting Parent,

My name is Ronald Foster and I am the Scoutmaster for Troop 117. Soon, your son will be able to crossover into a Boy Scout Troop. Much fun and adventure awaits him after he crosses the bridge into his chosen troop.

You should encourage your son to continue his Scouting journey for the following reasons:

1. **Scouting Builds Character** – A Scout is —Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.||

2. **Scouts are more likely than non-Scouts to value education**, the environment and put the needs of others before themselves (According to a poll taken by Harris Interactive).

3. **Scouting teaches leadership** skills, problem solving skills, communications skills, and team building skills.

4. **Scouting opens the door to possible lifelong career and hobby interests**. With over 100 merit badges ranging over many different topics, many Scouts explore opportunities that they ordinarily would not have.

5. **Scouting teaches youth to —Be Prepared**. Whether it's for emergencies (1st aid, emergency preparedness), life skills (personal management, family life, and communication), taking charge and leading others.

6. **Scouting builds confidence**. Scouting puts youth in charge of situations and allows them to overcome obstacles and challenges.

Scouting accomplishes these things through a fun-filled program in an outdoor education classroom. Unlike Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts go camping as troops on a regular basis throughout the year.

As a scouting alumni and scouting parent myself, I understand the fear of the unknown that many boys experience when preparing to cross over. There are so many new things to learn, that at first it may seem overwhelming. With this in mind, I decided to assemble a guide using resources from other scouters throughout the United States to help educate the scouter and parent alike. I hope you find the information in it a useful tool to find a troop and continue the journey in this exciting adventure!

Yours in Scouting,

Ronald Foster
Scoutmaster, Troop 117
Elkhart, IN

The Benefits of Scouting

Boy Scouts with five or more year's tenure are more likely than non-Scouts to:

- Assume a leadership role in clubs or school organizations.
- Put the needs of others before themselves.
- Make the most honest, not the easiest, decisions.
- Value education and the environment.

Boy Scouts with five or more year's tenure are more likely than non-Scouts to have greater future achievement:

- They are more likely to graduate High School – 98% vs. 83%.
- They are more likely to graduate College – 40% vs. 16%.
- They are more likely to earn annual household incomes of \$50,000+ - 33% vs. 17%.

The Boy Scout program teaches strong personal values and character. Parents cited the following reasons for wanting their sons in the program:

- To learn moral values – 94%.
- To learn self-reliance – 95%.
- To become involved in community service – 90%.

The Boy Scout program gives a Scout a positive sense of self-worth and usefulness.

- 50% of Scouts indicate setting personal goals of each meeting.
- 51% of Scouts note that they have to rely on themselves to accomplish goals at the meeting.
- 78% agree, —Being a Scout makes me feel more confident in myself.¶

The Boy Scout program provides/enhances a caring and nurturing relationship with parents, other adults, and peers. At a typical troop meeting:

- 58% are encouraged to do their best by a leader/adult.
- 48% receive verbal encouragement from other Scouts.
- 65% work together, receiving help from other Scouts.

The Scouting program enhances a boy's desire to learn. At a typical meeting:

- 41% of Scouts teach another Scout.
- 39% of Scouts learn from another Scout.
- 53% learn new things.

Scouting is a productive/creative use of time. Boy Scouts agree that:

- Scouting has taught me skills I wouldn't have learned anywhere else – 88%.
- Scouting will help me get a good job – 85%.
- Scouting will help me get into college – 83%.

The Boy Scout program teaches social adeptness. During a typical troop meeting, Scouts:

- Learn to be a team player – 51%.
- Democratic decision making – 43%.
- Planning activities – 41%.
- Taking responsibility for needed supplies/equipment – 31%.

(Louis Harris and Associates)

Boy Scouts of America 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.

Frequent Questions about selecting a Troop

Our pack “feeds” a troop. Are the scouts in our pack required to join a specific troop?

No. Just as each troop is unique, each scout has his own personality. It is more important to find a troop that fits the scout than to not enjoy the scouting experience or worse; to drop out of scouting all together.

We joined a troop but our scout is not happy there. Are we stuck with the troop?

No. Although every effort to resolve conflicts should be exhausted first, transitioning from one troop to another is possible. Make sure your scout requests a scoutmaster conference in an effort to work out any problems he may have with his patrol/troop.

We have heard a lot about “Patrols.” What are they and why are they important to me/my son?

The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where members can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through elected representatives. Patrols offer each scout an opportunity to lead others on a smaller, more manageable scale. As the scout grows, the opportunity to lead larger groups follows.

We visited a troop where the boys were running the meeting while the scoutmaster stood in the background. Is this normal?

Yes. This is a sign of a boy-led troop. The scouts run the meeting while the adult leadership watches from the sidelines. As one scoutmaster put it “We give the boy’s the chance to make (minor) mistakes and we provide the opportunity to learn from them.” Adult leaders must monitor and guide the leadership techniques used by junior leaders and ensure that BSA policies are followed.

At what age does the scout advance in Boy Scout rank?

This is another difference between cub scouting and boy scouts. In boy scouts advancement is based on achievement, not age, or grade. The higher the rank, the more responsibilities a scout can earn.

How are boy leaders selected?

Through an election similar to how adults select their civic leaders. Troop elections are held on a regular basis. The troop, as a whole elects their peer leaders. Each patrol may have elections as well for various jobs. Advancement is the way you grow as a scout, and become eligible for troop leadership positions and honors.

My scout has heard that he must pass an initiation to join a troop. What is the initiation?

Physical hazing and initiations are prohibited and may not be included as part of any Scouting activity.

How do Boy Scout meetings work?

Scouting is a boy-lead activity. The level of Adult leader involvement can vary from troop to troop. That is probably the biggest difference you will see between Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Senior Scout leadership is composed of the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) plus at least one Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL). These Scouts are responsible for planning and running our meetings. Typically, the SPLs are responsible for managing the meeting plan for a month, with the support of the ASPL, the Scoutmaster, the Assistant Scoutmasters, and other supporting adults (by the way, troops would really like to get new Scout parents involved in this process - ask what you can do). The Scout leadership is also

supported by the Patrol Leaders. Parents are encouraged, but not required, to stay around for meetings. You should check with the troop to see what its policies are.

During a typical meeting, the following activities will occur:

- Opening flag ceremony
- Meeting organizational announcements
- Merit badge and general advancement activities
- Campout planning (if necessary; it also may be held after the meeting)
- Recognition of any advancement earned that evening
- General announcements
- Scoutmaster Minute
- Closing flag ceremony

How does my scout advance in rank?

Rank requirements for Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class are signed off in the Scout Handbook. Most of the information needed to pass these rank requirements can be found in the handbook. Taking the time to read and study a subject thoroughly is important and expected. When a Scout satisfactorily demonstrates that he has a complete knowledge of a skill or requirement, the requirement may be signed off in the handbook by a troop leader.

A Scout is expected to perform service work for advancement as well. Scouts must appear before a Board of Review as a final step for rank advancement. Rank advancement is recognized at a formal ceremony called a Court of Honor. It is meant to be a solemn occasion focusing on each Scout's growth and achievements. All Scouts are expected to wear their full Class A uniforms, including merit badge sashes. Parents/guardians are expected to attend each Court of Honor and will be asked to join their son in front of the Troop when he receives his patch and recognition for rank advancement.

How does my scout earn merit badges?

Merit badges are required for rank advancement from First Class to Eagle. There are more than 100 merit badges in the Scouting program and they offer Scouts an opportunity to explore areas in which they may not have engaged otherwise. A list of merit badges can be found in the Scout Handbook. There are merit badges for many areas of interest, such as sports, hobbies, careers and Scouting skills. Through merit badges a Scout learns to manage himself, his home, his health and others.

Cub Scout vs. Boy Scout Comparison

Cub Scouts	Boy Scouts
Packs are further divided into smaller groups of boys called Dens based upon the age of the youth members.	Troops are further divided into smaller groups of boys called Patrols. Patrols are led by older experienced scouts.
Programs are planned and directed by adults.	Adult leaders advise but planning and directing comes from the youth leaders.
Learning is “failure proof” on accomplishments.	Learning takes place by demonstration and practicing certain skills with hands on experiences. Advancements are dependent upon demonstrating proficiency in a certain skill. Once learned, the scout can teach others the skill.
Parents and Den Leaders sign off on accomplishments.	Only the BSA trained Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, approved merit badge counselor or older experienced scout can sign off on accomplishments.
Adults plan and lead all outings and programs.	Adults advise and enable the older scouts to plan, organize, and develop their own programs according to their own interests.
Camping is a minor part of overall programming.	Camping is a major component of most Troop programming.
Cub Scouts offer summer day camp or week-long overnight summer camp.	Boy Scouts offer week-long overnight summer camp and extended stay high adventure camping at certain national locations.
Cub Scouts work as a Den on group projects which focus on certain skills.	Boy Scouts advance in rank by working on merit badges which are self-selected according to the youth’s interest areas and scouts work individually at their own pace.
Youth typically follow the lead of the trained adult leader.	Youth members initially follow the lead of the older scouts but with time and experience will be expected to direct other youth in the program. Youth members vote their own youth leaders into important troop leadership positions.
Cub Scouts typically offset the cost of programs by participating in group fundraising.	Boy Scouts typically offset the cost of programs by individual/group fundraising to earn part of their own money needed to participate in outings.
Communication is directed from adult leader to parent or guardian	Communication is handled via general announcements at troop meetings. Youth are typically asked to be responsible for listening and writing down details about upcoming events. Some troops may circulate a monthly calendar and others may have a web site.
Parents may be called upon to help out at certain events and volunteers are recruited from the pool of parents to lead Dens.	Opportunities for parent involvement on the troop level abound. Ask the Scoutmaster what opportunities exist and what you might enjoy doing

Troop Selection Checklist

Use the worksheet below to record information you gather on the Troops. Hopefully it will help you in evaluating the relative merits of each Troop as compared to your boy's and your family's interests. Additional spaces are provided for family specific requirements and comments.

Criteria to be Considered	Our Preference	Troop	Troop	Troop	Troop
<i>Troop Overview</i>					
Focus					
Meeting Time and Place					
Size (Small, Medium, Large)					
Rank Advancement Emphasis					
<i>Troop Leadership</i>					
Adult led					
Boy led					
<i>Activities</i>					
High Adventure					
Outdoor Activities					
Educational Activities					
Service Projects					
<i>Parental Participation</i>					
Level of Involvement					
Opportunities					
<i>Social Makeup</i>					
Friends of Your Scout?					
Adult Friends In Troop?					
Personality of Troop					
<i>Other Personal Criteria</i>					

Your son's Webelos den leader should make arrangements for his or her den to visit several troops in the area. The BSA gives troops a lot of latitude in how they operate so you should notice a lot of variety among the troops. It's also a good idea to visit a few of the troops more than once to get a true impression of how they operate. Webelos den leaders may receive invitations from neighboring troops to visit on particular nights. However, it's not necessary to wait for an invitation because the troops may not have an accurate list of Webelos den leaders.

How Do We Find Troops?

There is a great online tool for that very purpose! The website is called <http://www.BeAScout.org>. It's a very easy to use website where you type in your zip code and then it displays Boy Scout Troops in your immediate area. You can further refine your search on the results page by using your address. The results page will have graphics for the Troop locations as well as a description panel for more details including contact information. Below is a listing which is current as this guide is written to use as a quick reference.

Elkhart, IN Scout Troop Directory

Troop	Charter Organization	Address	City, State	Contact Name	Contact Phone
1	Trinity United Methodist Church	2715 E Jackson Blvd,	Elkhart, IN	Robert Dorsam	574-266-6017
31	Bristol First United Methodist Church		Bristol, IN		
87	Jamestown United Methodist Church	59218 County Road 3	Elkhart, IN	Michelle Metcalf	
103	Winding Waters Brethern Church	420 W County Road 4	Elkhart, IN	David Schwalm	574-262-3490
117	Hillcrest United Methodist Church	4206 E Bristol Street	Elkhart, IN	Ronald Foster	574-206-5939
121	Augustana Lutheran Church	1133 Kilbourn St	Elkhart, IN	Christopher Kauffman	574-295-4554
122	Osceola United	431 N Beech Rd	Osceola, IN	Bonnie Clay	574-315-6253

	Methodist Church				
714	LDS-Elkhart Ward 2 - South Bend Stake	3415 Pleasant Plain Ave	Elkhart, IN	Joseph Null	
715	LDS-Elkhart Ward 1 - South Bend Stake	LDS-ELKHART STAKE	Elkhart, IN	Sean Calkins	
733	Nappanee Noon Kiwanis				
744	Dunlap United Methodist Church	23674 U.S. 33	Dunlap, IN	Bryce Kime	574-293-8768
747	Elkhart Conservation Club	PO Box 784	Elkhart, IN	Kimberly Griman	574-266-8778
750	St. Thomas The Apostle Catholic Church	1405 N Main St	Elkhart, IN	James Liponoga	574-264-5257
776	Beulah Missionary Church				
794	Simonton Lake Sportsman Club	25940 N Shore Dr	Elkhart, IN	Andy Carpenter	574-266-0080

Webelos Troop Visit Checklist

Troop Number: _____ Date of Visit: _____

Meeting Place: _____ Day and Time: _____

Scoutmaster's Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Senior Patrol Leader's Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Number of scouts in the troop: _____ How many were at this meeting: _____

My evaluation of the troop: (circle the answers)

Notes:

- | | | | |
|---|-----|----|---------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Are all the boys in full uniform? | YES | NO | Uniform Rule? |
| <input type="radio"/> Was the meeting organized? | YES | NO | |
| <input type="radio"/> Is the meeting run by the boys? | YES | NO | |
| <input type="radio"/> Do they have boys of all ages? | YES | NO | |
| <input type="radio"/> Did I feel welcome? | YES | NO | |
| <input type="radio"/> Did their campouts sound like fun? | YES | NO | |
| <input type="radio"/> Did their other activities sound like fun? | YES | NO | |
| <input type="radio"/> Do they have a calendar? | YES | NO | |
| <input type="radio"/> Do I already know boys in the troop? | YES | NO | |
| <input type="radio"/> Are there plenty of adult leaders involved? | YES | NO | |
| <input type="radio"/> Were the older scouts helpful? | YES | NO | |
| <input type="radio"/> Did they answer my questions? | YES | NO | |
| <input type="radio"/> Do they have a program for new scouts? | YES | NO | |
| <input type="radio"/> Is the Troop going to Summer Camp? | YES | NO | Where: |
| <input type="radio"/> Do they do High Adventure activities? | YES | NO | Any Planned: |

MORE NOTES:

Adult Troop Visit Checklist

Troop Number: _____ Date of Visit: _____

Sponsored by: _____ How Long: _____

Scoutmaster's Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Meeting Place: _____ Day and Time: _____

Quality Unit: YES NO

Meeting Run By: Youth Adults Mixed

Was the meeting organized: YES NO

Does the troop have an active boy leadership corps: YES NO

How often do they meet: _____ How many boys in the leadership corps: _____

How is the boy leadership decided: Elected by the boys Appointed by the adults

How often does the troop hold elections: _____

Does the troop produce a calendar of events: YES NO Copy Provided: YES NO

How often does the troop camp: _____

What type of camping does the troop do? (check all that apply)

- Summer Camp In Council Out of Council
- Winter Camp
- Camporees
- High Adventure
- Backpacking
- Canoeing
- Alternate

Frequency: Where:

Do all the boys get to go on all of the outings:

Are there any age or rank requirements:

Does the program schedule change from year to year or are the events the same:

Do campouts have a theme, merit badge or rank requirement focus:

What type of special events does the troop participate in (i.e. Scouting for Food,

Scout Show, etc.): What re the uniform requirements of the troop:

Were the Scouts in full uniform: YES NO

Were the adults in full uniform: YES NO

Are there any additional costs to join the troop:

Other Notes:

Webelos Troop Visit Checklist

Troop Number: _____ Date of Visit: _____

Meeting Place: _____ Day and Time: _____

Scoutmaster's Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Senior Patrol Leader's Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Number of scouts in the troop: _____ How many were at this meeting: _____

My evaluation of the troop: (circle the answers)

Notes:

- | | | | |
|---|-----|----|---------------|
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| <input type="radio"/> Do they have a program for new scouts? | YES | NO | |
| <input type="radio"/> Is the Troop going to Summer Camp? | YES | NO | Where: |
| <input type="radio"/> Do they do High Adventure activities? | YES | NO | Any Planned: |

MORE NOTES:

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Quality Unit: YES NO

Meeting Run By: Youth Adults Mixed

Was the meeting organized: YES NO

Does the troop have an active boy leadership corps: YES NO

How often do they meet: _____ How many boys in the leadership corps: _____

How is the boy leadership decided: Elected by the boys Appointed by the adults

How often does the troop hold elections: _____

Does the troop produce a calendar of events: YES NO Copy Provided: YES NO

How often does the troop camp: _____

What type of camping does the troop do? (check all that apply)

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- Canoeing
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Frequency: Where:

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Are there any age or rank requirements:

Does the program schedule change from year to year or are the events the same:

Do campouts have a theme, merit badge or rank requirement focus:

What type of special events does the troop participate in (i.e. Scouting for Food,

Scout Show, etc.): What re the uniform requirements of the troop:

Were the Scouts in full uniform: YES NO

Were the adults in full uniform: YES NO

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Does the troop produce a calendar of events: YES NO Copy Provided: YES NO

How often does the troop camp: _____

What type of camping does the troop do? (check all that apply)

- Summer Camp In Council Out of Council
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Frequency: Where:

Do all the boys get to go on all of the outings:

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Does the program schedule change from year to year or are the events the same:

Do campouts have a theme, merit badge or rank requirement focus:

What type of special events does the troop participate in (i.e. Scouting for Food,

Scout Show, etc.): What re the uniform requirements of the troop:

Were the Scouts in full uniform: YES NO

Were the adults in full uniform: YES NO

Are there any additional costs to join the troop:

Other Notes:

Glossary of some common Scout terms

As in any organization, acronyms and unfamiliar terms are often used that can be confusing. Does your son return from a scouting activity and seem to be speaking a foreign language? Do you note some strange words on a flyer or calendar? This glossary is an effort to help define some of the more frequently used terms. If someone uses a term you are not familiar with simply ask them to explain it (we too all had to learn it somewhere), or sneak a glance at this glossary if your bashful about asking. It is important to note that not all terms are used in every troop. Again, if you have a question that is not addressed in this glossary, ask any troop leader.

Adult Patrol : When the troop goes camping, all of the adults form their own patrol for meal planning, shopping, cooking, eating, and sleeping. The adults try and set a good example of how a patrol should operate.

Annual Planning Meeting : The PLC (see below) meets to plan the next years activities with the guidance of the Scoutmaster. This plan is then present to the Troop Committee (see below) for approval to make sure the plan meets BSA guidelines and that necessary resources can be provided. This normally occurs in the spring to plan the next school years activities.

APL - Asst. Patrol Leader : See Patrol Leader below.

ASM - Asst. Scoutmaster : See Scoutmaster below.

ASPL - Asst. Senior Patrol Leader : See Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). Troops often have more than one ASPL

Baden-Powell: Lord Baden-Powell was the founder of the scouting movement.

Be Prepared: The motto of Boy Scouting.

Blue Card: In order to work with a Merit Badge Counselor the scout must first obtain a Blue Card from the Scoutmaster. Blue Cards are the record of Merit Badge progress and are turned in to receive the Merit Badge after all the requirements have been met and the counselor has signed off the card. The scout should keep his copy of the blue card until after he has reached the Rank of Eagle. The plastic baseball trading card holders work well for storing completed Blue Cards.

Board of Review - BOR : As a requirement for each rank advancement a scout must appear individually before a group of three to six adults (members of Troop Committee) to ensure that the scout has met the requirements for that rank. By policy the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters cannot sit on a BOR. A Board of Review takes place after a Scoutmaster Conference.

Boy Scout Ranks (in order of increasing rank)

Tenderfoot

Second Class

First Class

Star

Life

Eagle

Eagle Palms: Bronze, Gold, Silver

Bridging: A ceremony where Webelos Cub Scouts cross a ceremonial bridge to signify their transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. This is normally done at a Cub Scout Pack Meeting with Boy Scouts from the Webelos' new troop participating. This is NOT a graduation ceremony from Cub Scouts, it is rather an induction ceremony into Boy Scouts.

BSA Lifeguard: A 3-year certification awarded to scouts or scouters who meet prescribed requirements in aquatic skills.

Buddy System: Whenever a scout needs to go somewhere at camp, hiking, Merit Badge Class, etc. it is always done in groups of at least two. A scout always takes a "buddy" scout with him. Also used as part of the "Safe Swim Defense" program.

Camporee: Campout attended by several troops within the district.. Usually there are various competitions between the patrols attending.

Chaplain: Adult member of the Troop Committee who provides guidance to scouts related to observance of the 12th point of the Scout Law - A Scout is Reverent. This adult works with the Chaplain Aide, a youth leader.

Charter Organization: The organization that is officially chartered by the Boy Scouts of America to carry out the scouting program. The main liaison between the charter organization and the troop is the Chartered Organization Representative (COR). Your COR could be a church, school, PTA/PTO, civic club or a business.

Class A or B Uniform: Different types of activities require different uniforms. Class A is a complete uniform, Class B is a scout polo shirt or T-shirt often worn for camp or for other activities.

Commissioner: Adult volunteers working at the district or council level. Unit commissioners are assigned to units and should be a friendly resource to the unit leaders.

Committee Chairperson: A registered adult appointed by the Chartered Organization to chair the Troop Committee. This person presides at Troop Committee meetings and works

closely with the Chartered Organization Representative (COR) and Scoutmaster (SM) to ensure the scouting program meets BSA guidelines.

COPE: Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience. (Boy Scout activity involving heights, trust and team building).

COR: Chartered Organization Representative - A person assigned by the chartering organization to be the liaison between the troop and the charter organization.

Council: A group of Districts make up a Council.

Court of Honor – COH: An awards ceremony usually held quarterly, at which scouts are recognized for their rank advancements, merit badges earned, and other awards.

Cracker Barrel: A scout term for a social gathering with refreshments after a meeting or activity. Often an evening activity at camp before taps.

Den Chief : A Boy Scout who helps a Den Leader direct the activities of a Cub Scout den.

District: A subdivision of a council. The Longs Peak Council has six districts: Arapahoe, Centennial, Cheyenne, Great Plains, Snowy Range, and Thompson-Poudre.

Dutch Oven: A large cast iron covered pot used to bake and cook in over a wood or charcoal fire.

Fast Start Training: This online training is a quick orientation for new leaders. See www.scouting.org/boyscouts/faststart/

Fireman's Chit: A certification given to Scouts who know and understand fire safety rules.

Friends of Scouting (FOS) : Friends of Scouting - annual fund raiser for the council. The council does not get any share of your registration fee and is grateful for your donation.

Good Turn: "Do a Good Turn Daily" is the scout slogan. A good turn is something you do without being asked or expected to do it and for which you expect no reward.

Guide to Safe Scouting: This booklet is the Bible when it comes to safety related issues in scouting. Those items in **BOLD** print are rules that **MUST** be followed. Everything else in the booklet are recommendations that should be followed. Troop leaders frequently consult this to see if planned activities are being done safely and within prescribed BSA policy.

Jamboree: Scout meeting or camp out on a grand scale. There are district, regional, national and international jamborees.

Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) : Scouting and ham radio join forces to make many international contacts through the

"air" waves. Traditionally the 3rd weekend in October.

JASM - Junior Asst. Scoutmaster: A youth between 16 and 18 who has already held major leadership positions within the troop. Appointed by the Scoutmaster to help in guiding the troop and youth leaders.

Junior Leader Training (JLT): A training class taught by the senior youth leaders for newly elected and appointed youth leaders generally in the fall.

Klondike Derby: A winter/snow oriented camporee. Overnight camping experience in the snow with team building games and activities.

Leadership: To advance in the more senior ranks a scout must hold a leadership position for a set period of time. The rank requirements in the Boy Scout Handbook (as revised) list the leadership positions that qualify.

Leave No Trace (LNT) : A set of guidelines that set standards for outdoor activities that are environmentally sound and considerate to others using the same area. For more information visit lnt.org

Lock In: An indoor over-night experience usually consisting of games, food and fun. Not a lot of sleeping.

Merit Badge Sash: As scouts earn Merit Badges they are sewn on a Merit Badge Sash (available at the Scout Store). The Merit Badge Sash is normally worn only for formal occasions such as a Court-of-Honor.

NESA: National Eagle Scout Association. Open to membership to any youth or adult who attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

New Leader Essentials (NLE): An introductory training session that highlights the values, aims, history, funding, and methods of Scouting.

Northern Tier High Adventure Base: Northern Tier is a Boy Scout High Adventure Base which is focused on canoeing in the Boundary Waters area of Minnesota and Canada.

Order of the Arrow (OA): A national brotherhood of scout honor campers of the Boy Scouts of America. Members are elected by their peers after meeting basic requirements of camping knowledge and experience. Boys and adults leaders can be elected to the OA. The OA motto of "Cheerful Service" indicates their purpose. They are often found improving scout camps, running council events, and providing service to the scouting community.

OA Ordeal: The initiation ceremony experience for new OA members generally involving personal introspection, service to improve camp or trail and ceremonies based on Indian legend or lore.

Palms, Eagle: After a scout reaches the rank of Eagle, they can earn a Palm for every 5 additional Merit Badges they

complete. You may wear only the proper combination of Palms for the number of merit badges you earned beyond the 21 required for the rank of Eagle. The Bronze Palm represents five merit badges, the Gold Palm 10, and the Silver Palm 15. For example a scout with 20 additional Merit Badges would wear a Silver and a Bronze Palm.

Patrol: The Patrol is the basic unit within a troop. Made up of 6-10 scouts who camp, cook and eat together. They work as a team at various activities and events. They elect their own leader.

Patrol Equipment: The Patrol Equipment consists of tents, stoves, lanterns, and cooking equipment. The Patrol is responsible for the storage and upkeep of this equipment. This equipment is stored and transported in Patrol Boxes which need to be cleaned after each outing.

Patrol Leader (PL) : The elected leader for the patrol. An Assistant Patrol Leader can be elected or appointed by the PL to help in running the patrol.

Patrol Leaders Council (PLC): Made up of the youth leadership of the troop. They meet once a month to plan the following month's activities and annually to plan the upcoming year.

Permission Slip: In order to go on any outing the scout must have a Permission Slip signed by his parent. The Permission Slip also provides details about uniform, departure time, food, etc. Many troops post Permission Slips on their web sites. It is the Scout's responsibility to make sure they have the appropriate Permission Slip signed and turned in by the due date noted on the Permission Slip.

PFD: Personal Floatation Device (PFD) otherwise known as a life vest. Those used in scouting must be U.S. Coast Guard approved.

Philmont: A high adventure Boy Scout camp located in the northeast corner of New Mexico.

Pow Wow: Pow Wow is a one-day training program for Cub Scout leaders held each November. Pow Wow provides training beyond basics with a wide variety of topics including ceremonies, games, songs, crafts, advancement ideas, Scout skills and much more.

Re-charter: Annual process of re-registering the troop, scouts and scouters. Each unit designates leaders to collect the information and present updated paperwork to the council.

Roundtable: Monthly meeting for leaders to exchange ideas, fellowship, and, a few announcements that is run by the district.

Safe Swim Defense: A eight-step plan for conducting swimming activities in a safe manner.

Safety Afloat: Guidelines for safe troop activities utilizing water craft.

Safety Circle: A safety zone around someone using a pocket knife, hatchet, ax, or other sharp tool. Basically it is an arm's length plus the length of the tool in all directions. No one should be in another person's Safety Circle when a sharp tool is in use. Be sure to check the Safety Circle when your knife is closed.

Scouter: Any registered adult leader.

Scoutmaster (SM): Adult leader who trains and guides the youth leaders in carrying out the scouting program. One or more Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM) help the Scoutmaster and are often assigned specific roles and duties.

Scoutmaster Conference: A formal meeting that takes place at a Troop meeting or activity between a Scout and the Scoutmaster, or a person he designates, to review a scout's progress. A Scoutmaster Conference takes place at advancement time prior to a Board of Review, when a Scout requests it or if the Scoutmaster feels the Scout needs it.

Scoutmaster-Specific Training : The basic Adult Leader Training. Although this is sometimes called Scoutmaster Fundamentals, this is an excellent training program for any adult wanting to become more involved in the Boy Scout program, or who just wants to learn more about how the program works.

Scouting for Food: National Good Turn: Every year, Scouts collect food for the fight against hunger. The food is turned over to local food banks for distribution to needy families. Scouting for Food is a national "Good Turn" of the Boy Scouts of America.

Scout-O-Rama: Large scouting event. Cub Scout Packs and Boy Scout Troops display some of their favorite activities. The scouts help out their units and also get time to visit other units displays.

Scouts Own: Non-denominational religious observance of reflection usually conducted on camp outs. Allows each Scout the opportunity to obey the twelfth point of the Scout Law in his own way Let your troop leaders know if you do not want your son to participate in this activity, as we wish to respect every family's religious beliefs.

Scout Spirit: The way a scout tries to live up to the Scout Oath, Law, Slogan, and motto in his everyday life.

Seabase: A high adventure Scout camp located in the Florida Keys.

Service Star: A pin worn over the left shirt pocket of the uniform to denote the number of years of service.

Silver Beaver: A recognition given by the National Court of Honor for distinguished service to youth within the council.

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) : The senior most elected youth leader of the troop. The SPL is in charge of the troop at all functions and activities. He appoints one or more assistants (ASPL) to help him in running the troop.

Totin' Chip: A certification that enables the bearer to use knives, axes, and saws. It must be earned by the Scout through educational and hands-on safety sessions led by an adult leader or older scout appointed by the scoutmaster. Any time a Scout is observed doing something unsafe with a sharp tool, a corner is cut off his Totin' Chip card. When all four corners are gone, the card is taken away and must be re-earned.

Tour Permit: A document that must be filed with the council office before any official scouting activity can take place. Special permits are required for travel out-of-state, over 500 miles, or for flying activities.

Troop Committee: Adult committee of registered adults that provide oversight, assistance, and guidance to the Scoutmaster in carrying out the scouting program within the troop. The Troop Committee is responsible to provide the necessary resources requested by the PLC and Scoutmaster that are required to carry out the scouting program. All registered adults are part of the Troop Committee, key members include the Committee Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Outdoor/Activities Coordinator, Advancement Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, Equipment Coordinator, and Fund Raising Coordinator.

Two Deep: Two Deep Leadership is a Boy Scout Policy. A minimum of two adults must always be present with any youth. One of these adults must be 21 years old. This is part of the BSA Youth Protection Guidelines.

Wood Badge: Advanced Training for Boy Scout adult leaders. Any adult who has taken Basic Leader Training can attend this advanced training course to expand their knowledge of the scouting program and be of more help to the troop.

Youth Protection Training: A 30-minute interactive video presentation and training program that is offered several times a year. Each unit should encourage all leaders to attend one of these sessions that provide valuable information on how to recognize child abuse, how to set up safe guards, and how to report suspected abuse. The training can also be done online through the link on this page: myscouting.scouting.org