

New Scout Guide

BSA Troop 42

Hopewell Presbyterian Church Huntersville, NC

New Parents Guide

Boy Scouts of America – Troop 42, Huntersville, NC

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America! By becoming a parent of a Boy Scout you are setting your son out on the grand adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him. This guide has been prepared to help you support your son and describe some of the unique features of Boy Scouts. Your primary source of information should be the Boy Scout Handbook which is a wonderful reference for everything your son will experience. Welcome to the Troop!

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Introduction

Welcome to Boy Scouts! What is it all about? What will you be expected to do? What do you need to get? We have prepared this document to answer these questions.

The following pages describe the organization of a Troop and the advancement pattern that each boy will follow. Reading this will help you understand how your boy can progress through the ranks of Boy Scouts. It will help you understand how you can help and what the various adult volunteers are doing to help the Troop.

Please feel free to bring any questions or concerns you may have to the attention of any of our uniformed leadership. We look forward to working with your son over the coming years and to your support for Scouting and our Troop.

Scouting Methods

The Scouting program achieves its mission by the following methods: the ideals of Scouting, the Patrol Method, the outdoor program, advancement, association with adults, personal growth, leadership development and the uniform. Each of these methods is equally important. Here is a summary of each of these methods.

Ideals – The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, the Scout slogan and the Outdoor Code.

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.

Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly,
courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful,
thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Scout Slogan

Do A Good Turn Daily

Scout Motto

Be Prepared

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.

These ideals are the personal behavior guides and standards that the Boy Scout commits to when he joins Scouting. The Scout Oath, Law, Motto, Slogan and Outdoor Code give the boy guidelines for living. Growth in moral strength and character is one of the aims of Scouting. By developing his relationship to others he learns about his obligation to other people, to the society he lives in and to the government that presides over that society. This accomplishes our aim of having a boy become a participating citizen.

The Boy Scout is expected to learn to live by the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Each Scout must measure himself against these ideals and should continually try to improve. Where discipline issues arise, the Scout Oath and Scout Law form the basic framework within the Scout's behavior is evaluated. Parents are encouraged to remind their Scouts of the various elements of Scouting's ideals and to praise their Scouts when they demonstrate these ideals in their daily lives whether inside or outside of Scouting.

Patrol Method – Patrols are the essential building blocks of a Boy Scout troop. A patrol is a small group of boys who are similar in age, development and interests. Patrols camp together, cook together, play together and learn together. Patrols are where Scouts learn citizenship at the most basic level. They also take on responsibilities within the patrol and learn teamwork and leadership. Working together as a team, patrol members share the responsibility for the patrol's success. They gain confidence by serving in various positions of patrol leadership. All patrol members enjoy the friendship, sense of belonging and achievements of the patrol and of each of its members.

Outdoor Programs – Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. Outdoor programs are important because they provide Scouts with the opportunities to practice the skills and activities they learn about in Troop meetings and to engage in the activities, which are, required for rank advancement and various merit badges. The outdoor programs also help our Scouts learn about ecology and practice conservation including the principals of Leave No Trace.

Advancement – Boy Scouting has a system of ranks in which Scouts learn progressively more difficult skills and take on progressively greater responsibilities. Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement,

which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

Associations with Adults – Boys learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. Scout leaders can be positive role models for the members of the Troop. In many cases a Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, merit badge counselor or other adult volunteer who are willing to listen to boys, encourage them and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives.

Personal Growth – As Boy Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals they experience personal growth. Scouts also grow as they participate in community service projects and do good turns for others. Personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Boy Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development – The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills such as planning, organization and decision-making. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to lead in some way whether as part of a team, as the leader of his patrol or as the senior patrol leader or as another youth leader of the Troop.

Uniform – Like most sports teams we expect our Scouts to wear the uniform when they are doing Scouting and to wear it properly. It is a visible symbol in our community at large of who we are and what we do. Accordingly, we expect all Scouts to behave according to the Scout Oath and Law whenever wearing their Scout uniforms.

Youth Organization

I. Youth

A. Patrols

Scouts are organized into patrols generally groups of between 6-10 Scouts which serve as the basic building block of Scouting. Patrol members experience Scouting together as a "family unit" within the larger Troop structure, helping each other to advance and performing many activities as a team.

New Scouts that join are placed into first year patrols where they can be led by a Troop Guide who is an experienced Scout appointed to this position. Other patrols are led by Patrol Leaders elected by the Scouts. The Troop elects new Patrol Leaders twice a year. Currently their terms of office begin on Jan. 1 and July 1. Patrol Leaders also designate an Assistant Patrol Leader.

For Patrol and Troop activities the Patrol Leader will generally ask for volunteers or designate individual Scouts for specialized jobs such as quartermaster and grub master (the organizer for meals on a campout).

These jobs give Scouts a good first opportunity to learn responsibility and leadership and help to integrate them within the Patrol.

Your Scout's Patrol Leader acts as your Scout's mentor and coach and gives your Scout a voice in Troop activities. In the first instance your Scout should address any questions or concerns he has about rank advancement, merit badges, camp-outs or other Scouting issues to his Patrol Leader.

B. Senior Youth Leaders

The Troop also elects one usually older Scout as the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), who then chooses an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) to assist him. When the SPL is not present at an event another Scout is designated the acting SPL (usually an ASPL or the highest-ranking Scout present).

The SPL serves as the overall youth leader of the Troop. The SPL runs the Troop meetings and directs the Scouts on campouts. The SPL mentors and coaches the PL's and other youth leaders. If your Scout has a question or concern that can't be or isn't being addressed by his Patrol Leader you he should then discuss the matter with the SPL or ASPL.

Other Troop officers include the Quartermaster (manages Troop equipment), Librarian (manages merit badge books), Scribe (keeps Troop records), Chaplain's Aide (prepares and leads Interfaith Services), Den Chief (works with Pack Dens) and various other positions.

C. Patrol Leaders' Council

Together, the SPL, ASPL's, PL's and Troop officers form the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC). The PLC meets monthly to map out the program activities for the coming month. PLC meetings are chaired by the SPL. The Scoutmaster or ASMs may attend and address PLC meetings but like Troop meetings the PLC meetings are run by the Scouts. All scouts in the troop may attend the PLC even if they don't hold a leadership position.

II. Adults

The adults involved in the Troop consist of the Chartered Organization, the Troop Committee, the Troop's uniformed adult leaders and non-uniformed parent volunteers (such as merit badge Counselors).

A. Chartered Organization (Sponsor)

Every Troop is created by a sponsoring organization. The Chartered Organization for Troop 42 is Hopewell Presbyterian Church. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys. A Chartered Organization Representative acts a liaison between the troop and the sponsoring organization. Troop meetings and most non-camping events are held at the Scout Hut at Hopewell Presbyterian Church.

B. Troop Committee

The Troop Committee functions as the Board of Directors for the Troop, overseeing the adult leadership. At the same time the Troop Committee acts as an administration and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee assists with securing our meeting facilities, obtaining permits, ensuring adequate Troop equipment and maintaining advancement records. The Troop committee also takes care of a variety of non-program issues surrounding the Troop such as newsletters, accounting for Troop funds and coordinating membership drives. Troop committee members also conduct Scout board of reviews for all rank advancements other than for Eagle Scout and may become involved in resolving serious disciplinary problems.

C. Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters

The Scoutmaster and ASMs have the responsibility to assist the boys in planning and running the program. All questions from adults regarding the program need to be addressed to these trained, uniformed leaders. As a new parent trying to help your son the uniformed leaders encourage and are happy to any answer any of your questions, so long as this does not act as a substitute for your Scout to work with his PL and SPL to answer any questions he may have. Questions about your son's advancement,

camping, merit badges or any other subjects are best when they come directly from him to his PL or SPL (or SM/ASM if necessary). This is part of the growth process with which Scouting will assist him.

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 PLC and also ensures that the patrol method is functioning. The SM's role is to provide guidance, training, coaching and support rather than to "take charge." He is assisted by multiple Assistant Scoutmasters (ASMs). The Scoutmaster or ASM meets with each Scout individually at each rank advancement for a "Scoutmaster's conference" and may provide words of wisdom as a "Scoutmaster's Minute" at the end of each meeting. Perhaps most importantly the SM and ASMs provide positive role models for the Scouts and they are also expected to emulate the Scout Oath and Law.

D. Parents

The role of parents within Troop 42 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should:

1. Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting.
2. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer gentle encouragement and a push when needed.
3. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
4. Assist as requested in Troop activities. Be involved.
5. Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar.

Please direct any questions you may have to the uniformed adult leaders so that we can ensure you obtain correct information and can also use your questions to identify any potential issues that need to be addressed by uniformed leadership with the Troop's youth leaders.

III. The Boy Led Troop

"Train Scouts to do a job, then let them do it. Never do anything a boy can do."

- Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of Boy Scouts

Implicit in our Troop organization is the basic concept that our Troop is a "boy-led" Troop. Many boys join Boy Scouts after participating in Cub Scouts. One of the major differences between Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts is in the Boy Scout method of leadership development. In order to teach leadership you have to let the boys lead. If you were involved with Cub Scouting this is a very different role that can take some getting used to.

Unlike Cub Scouts, where Cub Scouts come in as boys and leave as boys where parents plan and lead Cub Scout activities, Boy Scouting is different. In Boy Scouts:

- . Scouts come in as boys, and leave as young men.
- . Scouts plan and lead their activities.
- . Parents focus on maintaining safety and providing logistical support.

At Troop 42, the Scouts plan and decide on the program, run the meetings, manage the equipment, plan and execute the trips and become self-motivated to advance.

Examples of what is important for the troop is:

- Not the food on the campouts, but that the boys cooked it.
- Not that the Scout had all the right gear for the campout but that he packed it.
- Not who would make the best patrol leader but that the boys elect one.
- Not that a Scout learns to perform first aid perfectly but that another Scout teaches him.
- Not that we cover everything on the meeting agenda but that the Senior Patrol Leader is in charge.

The Scouting environment means that sometimes the boys will fail but will learn from their mistakes and help others to learn with them. This can make meetings and campouts seem pretty chaotic. Sometimes the boys have tremendous success and sometimes it isn't pretty. What we typically find is that the most challenging situations tend to be the ones remembered most vividly.

Advantages of a Boy Led Troop

- Boys learn critical planning skills.
- Boys learn to lead in a safe environment.
- Boys learn from mistakes.

- Boys learn to lead others and work in teams.
- Boys learn respect when treated with respect.

It is naturally very tempting for adults to jump in and sort things out but we have to remember the process of Scouting. Scouts learn by doing even if that means learning from disorganization and sometimes failure. It is up to the Scouts to get things done; it is up to us to make sure the Scouts have what they need, but (within the bounds of health and safety) not what they do with it. The uniformed leaders are there to praise the successes and help the boys reflect and analyze things that didn't work. The uniformed adult leaders thus act as coaches and mentors to the youth leaders, then step back and let them lead.

Advancement

There are many definitions of advancement but the Scouting definition might well be simply, "the art of meeting a challenge." For that is exactly what the Boy Scout advancement program asks the boys to do. The Boy Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a Scout climbs at his own pace. As he acquires these skills he moves up through a series of ranks for which he is awarded. Starting with Scout and then progressing to Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle Scout. The higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks -- and the more rewarding. Achievements include:

- Learning skills that qualify for Scouting's more rugged and exciting outdoor challenges.
- Developing body and mind, growing self-confidence, and helping younger Scouts climb the advancement ladder.
- Discovering how it feels to go further than he ever thought he could.

Parents must understand that ranks are simply a means to an end, not an end in themselves. Everything boys do to advance and earn these ranks from the day they join until the day they leave the program should reflect the Scout's personal goals, not his parents. We strongly encourage advancement but we never force it, advancement is the Scout's choice and he sets his own pace. We don't do "lockstep" advancement.

I. Advancement Process

Advancement in Boy Scouting is a four-step process:

1. The Boy Scout learns. A Scout learns by doing. As he learns he grows in ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and the Troop.

As he develops knowledge and skill he is asked to teach others. In this way he begins to develop leadership.

2. The Boy Scout is tested. A Scout may be tested on requirements by his patrol leader, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster or a member of his Troop with the rank of Star or higher.

3. The Boy Scout is reviewed. After a Scout has completed all requirements for a rank he generally has a Scoutmaster Conference followed by a Board of Review as discussed below. However no board of review is required for the Scout badge. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Palms the review is conducted by members of the Troop committee. The Eagle board of review is conducted by members of the district advancement committee and other selected leaders.

4. The Boy Scout is recognized. When the board of review has certified a Scout's advancement his rank will be presented to him at the next Troop Court of Honor.

II. Scout Handbook

It is important for your Scout to bring his Scout handbook to all Scout meetings and camping events. The Scout handbook is the primary reference source for rank advancement requirements. It identifies and explains everything needed for all ranks advancements up through first class and lists the requirements for higher ranks.

The handbook also serves as the tangible record for completion of these requirements, as your Scout's PL and SM/ASMs sign-off in the handbook as rank advancement requirements are completed. After his Board of Review, the Scout needs to turn in his Scout Handbook with the approved requirements for the rank to the Advancement Chair. If your Scout does not have his book, no one can sign him off on rank requirements! It is highly recommended that your son write his name in his Scout handbook.

III. Rank Requirements

Details for advancement are contained in the Boy Scout Handbook, which every Scout should obtain as soon as possible after joining the Troop. The ranks up through First Class generally involve reading material in the Scout Handbook then demonstrating skills and knowledge. Requirements for these early ranks are signed by the SM or an ASM and sometimes older boy scouts in leadership positions. Parents do not sign off on rank

requirements (other than those specifically required to be signed by the parent for joining as a Scout) but may assist Scouts by teaching and demonstrating skills.

Each rank requires progressively more knowledge but individual requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class may be worked in any order. For example if your scout completes a requirement for First Class while a Tenderfoot Scout he can get that task signed off even though his next rank is Second Class. The ranks themselves must still be earned in order. Requirements for Star, Life and Eagle (other than required merit badges) may only be worked on once the preceding rank has been earned.

A. Advancement through First Class

From the time the Scout enters the Troop through the time he earns advancement to First Class he is learning basic Scouting skills to enable him to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid and perform other tasks in the outdoors and to work as a member of a team. With those first steps the Scout begins to build themselves physically, mentally and morally.

B. Advancement from First Class to Eagle

From the achievement of First Class through Eagle the Scout will be demonstrating leadership, performing service projects, earning merit badges and using the skills learned while achieving the rank of First Class. The next ranks he will earn are Star and Life. These ranks are harder to obtain than the earlier ranks but are also more interesting for the older Scouts. These are the first ranks, which require merit badges (discussed separately below).

Upon completion of all the requirements for Star and Life the Scout will be eligible to work for Eagle. The original principals, the Scout Oath and Law now have fuller meaning for the Scout and their understanding of them is much greater. The final steps towards Eagle are filled with leadership experiences. Becoming an Eagle Scout is an important achievement of which your son will be proud his entire life. However turning out Eagle Scouts is not what the Boy Scouting program is all about. Only around 5% of Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

As your Scout progresses through Scouting he will need to retain very careful records to support his ultimate application for Eagle Scout. All blue cards and rank cards which are handed out at the Courts of Honor should be retained. A binder with plastic pages for collecting baseball cards works great for this purpose. Additionally, we recommend taking a photocopy of all completed rank advancement pages in the Scout handbook and putting them in a plastic binder sleeve just in case the handbook gets severely damaged or fails to return from a campout.

C. Scoutmaster Conference

When all other requirements for a rank are completed and signed off in the Scout's handbook the Scout must meet with the Scoutmaster or an ASM 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. When this is completed the Scoutmaster will sign this requirement and the "demonstrate Scout spirit" requirement.

D. Boards of Review

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for his next rank (other than Eagle Scout) he appears before a Board of Review composed of members of the Troop committee. The purpose of the review is not an examination. Instead the Board seeks to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals, to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement, to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program and to encourage him to keep working towards advancement. It should be noted that with the first rank earned, the Scout Badge does not require a Board of Review. It is considered to be part of the joining process of Boy Scouts with a Scoutmaster Conference in order to help him get to know the Troop and the adult leadership.

IV. Merit Badges

Scouts are required to earn merit badges in order to attain the ranks of Star and above. Some of these merit badges must be from the list of Eagle required merit badges. For other merit badges the Scouts may choose from any of the over 120 available. The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a Scout's areas of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject.

Merit badges are earned by a Scout working under the periodic supervision of a registered merit badge counselor who will sign off as the merit badge requirements are completed. Merit badges may be earned at any time during the Boy Scout experience even though they are only required for the ranks of Star, Life and Eagle. Scouts may, and frequently do, work on multiple merit badges at the same time and sometimes focus more on earning merit badges than rank advancement. Some merit badges are "required for Eagle" and are bordered in white. They are more time and information intensive to earn.

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 or at the Scout store.
3. Obtains a signed "blue card" from the Scoutmaster or ASM signifying the SM's approval for the Scout to start working on the merit badge.
4. If needed obtains a merit badge counselor contact from the SM. Sometimes the scout will be taking a class or merit badge workshop where the counselor is already chosen.
5. Speaks with a counselor to discuss the requirements for the badge.
6. Works on the badge requirements.
7. Meets with the counselor one or more times to be signed off on the blue card.
8. Turns in the completed blue card (returned by the counselor to the Scout, minus the counselor's portion) to SM to sign.
9. Turns the blue card into the advancement coordinator.

When your Scout is meeting with a merit badge counselor, or you are acting as a merit badge counselor for another Scout, you must ensure that Youth Protection rules are followed at all times.

V. Courts of Honor

Troop 42 typically conducts a Court of Honor three times each year (usually in January, May and September). The Court of Honor recognizes all Scout advancements, merit badges and other awards since the last Court of Honor. Each Scout is presented with the rank badge, merit badge or other award at Troop expense (parents do not buy these for their Scout). Adult recognition may be presented as well. It is the responsibility of the Patrol Leaders Council to plan and conduct the Court of Honor. The Troop Committee will support the Courts of Honor as requested. The Court of Honor is a public ceremony and is a chance for the Scouts to be publicly recognized for their achievements. Parents and all other interested individuals are strongly encouraged to attend.

General Information

A. Communications

The Troop has many conduits for communication. Regularly attending the Troop meetings and hearing the announcements during them is the best source of up to date information. Troop e-mails are sent out by the SM, ASM's and Youth Leaders. These emails will sometimes have permission slips for upcoming events. It is important for the scout and scout parent to have an up to date email account that can be used. The troop has a private Facebook group that parents can join and see posts from various scout activities (Troop 42, Hopewell Presbyterian Church). The Troop website (www.bsatroop42.com) is another source of information which is updated by the troop Webmaster.

B. Meetings

Meetings are generally held every Tuesday from 7:00-8:30pm in the Scout Hut of Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Hours are normally changed in the summer out of school months to 6:30 - 8:00.

C. Service Projects

Some rank advancements such as Star and Life Scout require service hours to be performed. Throughout the year your son will be invited to participate in service projects specific to the Troop as well as being made aware of opportunities outside of the Troop. The Troop will conduct a Scouting for Food project each winter. Our Troop has two Adopt A Stream events in the spring and fall. Additionally, Scouts working on their Eagle Scout rank need to organize and conduct a large service project. The Eagle candidate will very much appreciate your Scout's assistance with his project - think of it as a down payment on the request for service hours your Scout will make when he is working on his Eagle Scout project.

D. Uniforms

In addition to providing a positive youth image in our community, the uniform creates a sense of belonging for your Scout. To get your new scout started you should acquire:

- CLASS A Uniform - Required for Troop meetings and travel to and from campouts. This composes of the class A shirt, class B shirt underneath, scout pants or shorts, scout belt and scout socks. Sashes should not be worn to regular troop activities. Sashes are worn to Court of Honors and other special events.
- CLASS B - Required for campout activities, projects and other outings. This is an approved Scouting related t-shirt. Any Scout related t-shirt is ok.

Uniform inspections may occur during Troop meetings.

E. Equipment

Typical items your Scout will need include: a backpack, sleeping bag, sleeping mat, rain gear, hiking boots, water bottle and personal first aid kit. The Troop provides cooking gear and stoves. He may want a tent but will be partnering with other scouts so a tent is not required immediately.

Please consider weather conditions for campouts - we tend to have a least one night each year below freezing. If you and your Scout do not have camping gear don't feel like you need to buy it all at once. More experienced Scouts and adults can provide plenty of solid advice on what you really need and the best sources. This is an area where it pays to wait for sales and to pay close attention to details about equipment capabilities and quality. Inexpensive is not necessarily a bargain and expensive is not necessarily high quality. Camping gear makes great birthday and Christmas gifts!

F. Camping

We camp. We hike. We get dirty. Sometimes it rains and sometimes it's cold. Our program is largely built around outdoor activities. Expect to have more laundry after a campout and to hear some interesting stories. Most boys enjoy being outdoors and chose to participate in Scouting because of this. Most boys learn best in situations, which the outdoors provides. The outdoors is also the best place for boys to employ the patrol method, which is another one of Scouting's eight tools. Participation in campouts is vital for rank advancement as a large portion of early rank advancement is related to camping skills. Many of our Scouts participate in soccer, football, basketball, baseball, band and other activities, which may preclude attending some of our meetings or campouts. While Scouts are encouraged to participate in all meetings and events we recognize this is unlikely and Scouts are not penalized for failing to attend. Nevertheless, it is important for Scouts to attend Troop meetings and outings whenever possible. A significant degree of involvement in Troop activities is essential for your Scout to cement his relationships with other Scouts, particularly those he did not know before joining and to give him a sense of belonging.

It's important for parents to know how Boy Scout campouts are run, so here is a brief overview of some of the important points for our campouts:

- . The Scouts plan and run the campout. That means that few outings will run perfectly smoothly. That's okay as long as the boys learn from the experience.

- . The boys are grouped into patrols for each campout. Ideally the patrols for the campout have the same composition as the Troop's regular patrols, but sometimes campout attendance requires that existing patrols are combined into "ad hoc" campout patrols. The composition of patrols for

the campout will be determined by the campout's Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster at the Tuesday Troop meeting prior to the campout.

. At the campout, the boys are under the leadership of a fellow Scout designated as the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) for the event who may not be the actual Troop SPL. The SPL reports to the SM/ASM in charge of the campout. All campouts are planned by the SPL and PLC with the assistance of one of the Troop's ASMs. Just like in other Scouting events each boy reports to his patrol leader (PL); all PLs in turn report to the SPL. All boys should follow this reporting structure during the campout. If a boy has a question about the campout agenda or needs permission to do something he should ask his PL. If the PL does not know he should ask the SPL. If the SPL does not know he should ask the SM/ASM. If a Scout asks you for instructions or permissions the answer should always be, "What did your patrol leader tell you when you asked him that question?" They'll get the hang of it eventually - and so will you. If you are a parent joining the campout and are not an ASM, you should always refer Scouts to the Troop leadership structure for all questions and concerns.

. At the campout, the boys will camp, cook and eat as patrols. Your Scout's patrol will typically create a duty roster/menu for the campout and select a "grub master". It is important for you to know if your son has been selected for a role for the upcoming campout such as acting as grub master (planning the menu, shopping for food and organizing cooking activities for his patrol). We strongly urge you to confirm what, if any role has been assigned to your Scout before leaving the pre-campout meeting.

. The Scoutmaster-in-charge is the ultimate authority at a campout. Our SM and ASMs are trained in BSA methods and they know how to run campouts in accordance with BSA policies. Sometimes BSA policies may not be popular (e.g. the requirements for safe swimming can be very restrictive), but we are required to adhere to them.

. The adults are a separate patrol in a separate (but not distant) part of our designated camping area and eat as a separate "adult" patrol. Adults attending typically coordinate food and cooking gear for communal adult meals. There will rarely be a reason for an adult to venture into a boys' patrol campsite other than periodic check-ins by the SM/ASM. The one exception to this will be if something dangerous is imminent or if behavior is becoming un-Scout-like. There will be disagreements among patrol mates, the food will be overcooked, and tents will occasionally collapse. No problem - as long as it's safe, the Scouts will be learning.

G. Transportation

All transportation is provided by adults associated with the Troop utilizing private vehicles and sometimes the church van. All adults providing transportation must have taken Youth Protection Training.

Please be on time for departures for events so the Troop is not waiting for you. Your son will either be dropped off at Hopewell Presbyterian Church at the end of an event. Expect a phone call from your Scout when they we are heading back home to let you know when to expect your Scout at the church.