



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

TROOP 7, NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS
LIBERTY DISTRICT, KNOX TRAIL COUNCIL

TROOP
HANDBOOK

Introduction

Boy Scout Troop 7, chartered to St. Linus Catholic Church, is in the Liberty District of the Knox Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Boy Scouting works toward three aims. One is growth in moral strength and character. We may define this as what the boy is – his personal qualities, his values, his outlook.

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

The third aim is development of physical, mental and emotional fitness. Fitness includes the body (well tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self control, courage, and self-respect).

To accomplish these aims, Boy Scouting has developed its program using eight methods.

1. IDEALS. The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, motto, and slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve.
2. PATROLS. The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it.
3. OUTDOORS. Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose.
4. ADVANCEMENT. Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in advancement system help a boy grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others.
5. ADULT ASSOCIATION. Boys learn from the example set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage of a young man's development.
6. PERSONAL GROWTH. As Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. The religious emblems program is also a part of the personal growth method.
7. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT. Boy Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared leadership and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.
8. UNIFORM. The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth that believe in the same ideals.

Once a boy joins Troop 7 he is on his way to earning his Eagle rank, which he can achieve if he wants to. Our program gives Scouts the opportunity to learn the skills and develop the traits that they need in order to achieve that goal. And along the way we intend to have fun!

We encourage parents to become involved in Scouting, as that has been proven to be the best way for a Scout to succeed.

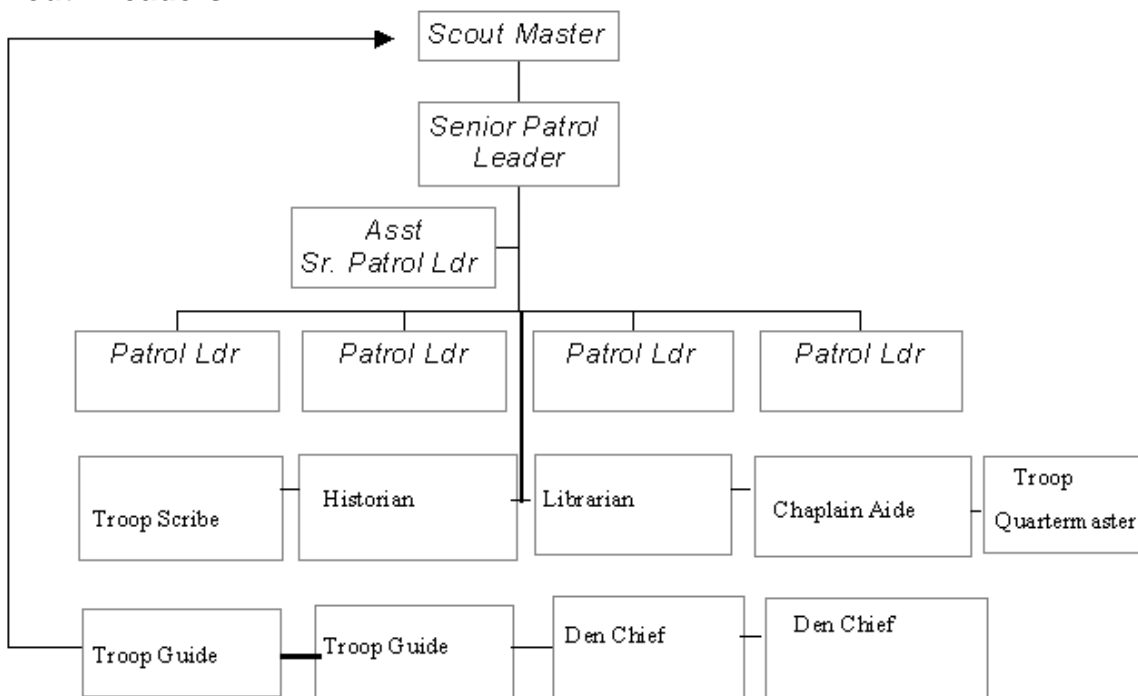
Youth Leadership

Boy Scout troops are meant to be youth-led. Scouts are elected to positions of leadership and responsibility by the other Scouts. These young men plan and execute their own Scouting programs. Adult leaders help by providing support, guidance, and limited participation. The leader of the troop is an older Scout who serves as the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). There is an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) as well as an assortment of other leadership positions such as Quartermaster, Historian, Librarian, Scribe, etc.

The boys of the troop are organized into patrols, each with an elected Patrol Leader. The Patrol Leaders, along with the SPL and the ASPL, comprise the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC). The PLC plans the troop's activity calendar and is responsible for its execution. The PLC meets at least monthly with the adult leadership to plan, review, and assess the troop program.

When a new Scout joins the troop he is introduced to the leadership structure. He is given small jobs to accomplish, under the guidance of his Patrol Leader or other older Scouts known as Troop Guides. As he gains experience he tackles more complex responsibilities.

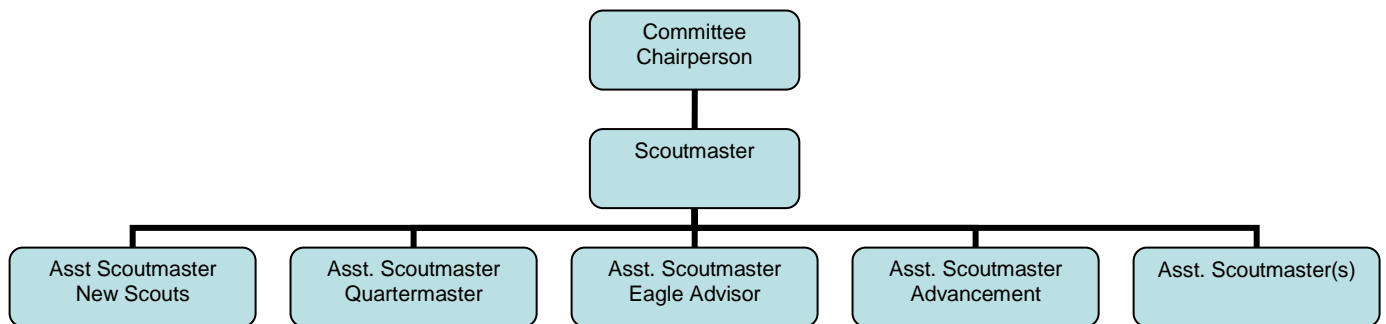
Youth Leaders:



Adult Leadership

The Scoutmaster is the unit leader responsible for guiding the youth program. The troop committee oversees the troop, sets policy, and makes sure the troop has the human and material resources necessary to carry out the program. The Scoutmaster is aided by several Assistant Scoutmasters, some of whom take on specific responsibilities such as the New Scout program, Quartermaster, *etc.* All uniformed leaders are expected to participate in the Council's basic adult leader training, which is offered various times during the year. The relationship between the various youth and adult positions are illustrated in the following charts.

Adult Leaders:



Uniforms

Uniforms are required for any Scout function. Troop 7 recognizes three types of uniform:

Class A: Uniform consists of the official Scout shirt, either long or short Scout pants, Scout socks, web or leather Scout belt, and neckerchief. The neckerchief is worn over the collar which is turned over into the shirt. The Class A uniform is to be worn to all troop meetings, Courts of Honor, and when traveling to or from an outing. A merit badge sash is an optional part of the Class A uniform worn on special occasions, such as at Courts of Honor.

Class A Modified: Uniform consists of the official Scout shirt, either long or short sleeve.

Class B: Uniform consists of the Troop 7 tee shirt.

When uniforms are worn, they will be worn in the proper manner, buttons buttoned and shirt-tails tucked in. Uniforms are expected to be kept in a clean and neat condition.

Additional patches may be worn on the uniform if the Scout has earned them: Arrow of Light, Recruiter strip, Interpreter strip, Trained strip, Religious Award knot with devices, Order of the Arrow Lodge flap, and temporary patch. If worn, these must be in the correct location.. Non scouting hats may not be worn with a uniform.

Camping

The heart and soul of Scouting is found in the outdoors, so we go out as often as we can in all types of weather. We schedule campouts eight to ten times a year and go to places like state parks or scout camps. Every summer, Troop 7 goes to a week long summer camp at Camp Resolute, in Bolton, MA. The PLC designs troop campouts to offer training in Scouting skills, provide advancement opportunities, and to have fun. Over the course of a year we work on rank requirements and on merit badges in camping, cooking, hiking, etc.

Permission Forms

Scouts **must** have a separate permission form for each outing completed and signed by a parent or guardian. Payment for the outing accompanies the permission form. Please pay attention to due dates for permission forms. Late forms may not be accepted – patrol assignments and food budgets need to be settled in advance of the outing. The troop must have a current health form and emergency medical treatment form on file before a Scout can attend any outing and are discussed in the parents' section of this manual.

The Scouts permission slip must include a phone or phones at which you can be reached day or night during our trip. Over the past 3 years, more than once we have been unable to reach any parents when a boy was ill and wanted to go home. This is unfair to the Scout as well as the adult volunteers on the camping trip. If your schedule forces you to be inaccessible, please give another person (neighbor, relative, or closer friend) that we may call. We will always try to reach you first.

Schedule

Most campouts start at the parking lot of St. Linus at the time listed on the permission slip flyer. The troop is usually there 15 minutes to reload packs and material from arriving Scouts or from the Scoutroom. Most trips, we drive Scouts directly home on our return day. Our return time depends on many factors, including distance traveled and the weather. An estimated time is on the permission slip flyer.

Transportation

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

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

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

Summer Camp

Each year boys have the opportunity to attend summer camp at Camp Resolute in Bolton, MA... Compared to non-Scout camps, these camps are very inexpensive and are a highlight of the Scouting Program. Boys who attend summer camp generally remain in Scouting longer and achieve higher rank than those who do not. We would like the entire troop to attend so that each Scout can complete rank advancement requirements, earn merit badges and most of all, to be together and HAVE FUN!

Schedule conflict? Family schedules may conflict with summer camp. Your son can attend summer camp 'solo' as a "provisional" camper. He will be assigned to a troop by the Camp and under the supervision of that Troop's Scoutmaster. Camp Resolute actively recruits provisional campers and make them a troop. A paid provisional Scoutmaster is part of the camp staff. Attending a different week with another Troop, is a third option.

Camperships—These are like scholarships for summer camp. They are awarded based on need. Summer camp is an important part of Scouting, often the highlight of the year. Don't let your son miss out. Contact Knox Trail Council for more information.

Gear

For regular troop campouts you need only bring your personal gear. There is a recommended list of personal gear at the end of this manual (to make it easy to find quickly) as well as in your Boy Scout Handbook. Troop 7 has excellent tents (many less than a year old) for use by Scouts on Troop 7 camping trips. Troop 7 also has a variety of pots and pans for use by Patrols for cooking.

Food Shopping & Cooking

During the troop meeting before each campout the Scouts in each patrol get together and plan their own menu, subject to the Scoutmaster's approval. The Patrol Leader is given a troop check to pay for the food and arranges to meet one or more patrol members at a local grocery store to do the patrol's shopping. The Patrol Leader has a cooler and a dry goods box for the weekend's provisions. Scouts pride themselves in being able to provide for themselves, and do so in fine fashion. There are several cooking-related items in the scouting skills requirements leading up to First Class rank. We always try, and usually manage, to eat quite well on a weekend outing.

Weather

Troop activities are seldom if ever canceled on account of the weather, usually only for safety reasons. Part of Scouting is learning how to have a good time in less than perfect conditions. Most Scouts soon learn that a wet or cold camping trip with their buddies, *if properly prepared for*, is still more fun than sitting at home. In winter months the troop might have a "cabin campout" at one of several suitable facilities that are available for troops' use.

Troop Equipment

The troop has a supply of high-quality tents, flies, cookware, stoves, lamps, and other camping equipment. This is a great asset to the troop and a significant investment. Troop equipment needs to be kept in good working order. Any broken or unusable equipment could require that an outing be cut short or make it much less pleasant to continue. Report any damaged equipment to the Scout Quartermaster

In rare cases (such as rain) you may be entrusted with troop equipment to take home to dry. It should be safeguarded so that it is not lost or damaged and returned at the next meeting.

Advancement

Unlike a Cub Scout or Webelos den in which all boys typically advance in rank at the same time, each Boy Scout advances at his own rate according to his desire, initiative, and degree of participation in the troop's program. There is no right or wrong rate of advancement as long as you are benefiting from the program. The troop encourages advancement to the best of the your ability, but it is neither a "merit badge factory" nor an "Eagle mill." Troop 7 organizes its program for younger Scouts so that you can make First Class in one year if you participate in most activities. It is our experience that most Scouts find great personal satisfaction in reaching this milestone rank, and you are more likely to enjoy and stick with Scouting if it is reached relatively quickly.

Look at the requirements for ranks up to 1st Class and then at those for Star, Life, and Eagle. The requirements for the lower ranks are all the basic Scouting skills that go into the *making* of a Scout. The requirements for the higher ranks, besides the merit badges, are participation, service, and filling a leadership position in the troop – *being* a Scout. As boys get older they naturally want to take on more responsibility in the troop, and rank is required for that.

Sign-Offs

Requirements in the Scout Book may be signed off only by uniformed, trained leaders or older Scouts when so directed or approved by the Leadership. This is a big change from Cub Scouts. Parents do not sign off in their sons' books. Uniformed leaders do not sign off in their own sons' books. The rule is important because part of advancement is for a Scout to obtain the signature and recognition of another older member of the Troop.

The Tenderfoot rank has requirements for recording physical performance before and after a 30- day conditioning period. Your parents may help you do this and record your performance. That may be the only way you will get this finished if you miss specific opportunities for doing this with the troop. But an adult leader will review the results with you and do the actual sign-off. Requirements for Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, and 1st Class can be worked on in any order; you do not have to finish one of these ranks before starting on the requirements for the next.

Participation

You are expected to be present for as many activities and meetings as possible. Part of all rank advancements is the requirement to be active in your troop. An active Scout can be seen participating in troop meetings and functions. This is something that the Board of Review takes into consideration when you are up for advancement. Troop 7 has established a 60 % guideline for participation. Every Troop activity counts toward this requirement. If a Scout does not meet this requirement, Rank advancement will not be approved.

Scoutmaster's Conference

A Scoutmaster's conference is needed for each level of the Scout's rank advancement. The conference may be requested prior to any regular troop meeting. The conference may be held before or after the meeting as time permits. You frequently can get a conference while at campouts, too.

Boards of Review

All ranks beyond Scout require a Board of Review. A Board of Review is conducted between the Scout and three to six adults. Some members of the Board may be interested adults who are not registered leaders with the troop.

The purpose of a Board of Review is to make sure that you have completed the requirements for the rank, to see how good an experience you are having in the troop, and to encourage you to progress further. The Board is interested in your attitudes, accomplishments, and acceptance of Scouting's ideals. The Board also wants you to tell them what is good about the troop and what needs improvement.

It might seem intimidating if you haven't done it before, but it is not meant to be. The adults conducting the review are genuinely interested in the Scouts progress. Scouts should look the adults in the eye, and speak clearly and confidently. Self confidence gained from experience with Boards of Review can benefit Scouts in future dealings with adults, such as high school interviews, job interviews, *etc.*

Boards of Review for ranks through Life Scout can be arranged through the Advancement Chairman or the Scoutmaster whenever there is time and there are potential Board members present, such as after troop meetings or during campouts.

Boards of Review for Eagle Scout require additional planning.

Scouts must present themselves to the Board of Review in full Class A uniform. Scouts should be sure that they know the Oath and Law well!

Merit Badges

The requirements for Star, Life, and Eagle ranks ask that you earn merit badges. Some, including First Aid, Family Life, and Camping, come from a list of required badges that round out the skills expected of every Eagle Scout. The others may be chosen from more than a hundred merit badges that allow you the freedom to explore subjects from Astronomy to Woodwork, and from Backpacking

to Canoeing. Instruction in merit badges is given by registered counselors who have a degree of expertise in the particular area of study. **Before a Scout begins work on a merit badge he must get a Merit Badge Card signed by the Scoutmaster.** The merit badge counselor must sign off on the card when all the requirements for the badge are completed. The Scout must then turn the card in to the troop Advancement Chairman so that the badge can be recorded and awarded.

The opportunity to earn merit badges comes four ways:

1. The troop arranges for instruction and certification in some merit badges in its yearly program. A number of merit badge counselors are affiliated with the troop and generously volunteer their time to the troop's Scouts.
2. Merit badge instruction is a big part of summer camp. Most Scouts earn several merit badges at each year's camp. Summer camp is the only practical way to earn certain merit badges like swimming and lifesaving.
3. For two Saturdays in March, Knox Trail Council sponsors a Merit Badge College. Signup closes in December and information on this is always distributed late in the year. By attending two Saturday's, a Scout can earn 3 Merit Badges. While the badges offered at Merit Badge College are not Eagle required, they meet other advancement requirements and usually are easier and along the interests of the Scouts.
4. Knox Trail Council has a list of all currently registered merit badge counselors. This list is available through the Committee Chair of Troop 7. Whenever you want to pursue a particular badge you can use the list to find one or two counselors to call and make arrangements to pursue the badge. You must have another person with you at each meeting with the merit badge counselor. This person can be another Scout, your parents or guardian, a brother or sister, a relative, or a friend. Participation in a merit badge class does not mean that you will automatically be awarded the badge. The merit badge counselor must be satisfied that you have met the stated requirements for the badge. Be prepared – get a copy of the merit badge book before meeting with the counselor, and be sure you review the requirements beforehand. Some summer camp merit badge classes have requirements that must be prepared beforehand.
5. Troop 7 will allow for experience or classes you take outside of the Scouting program. However, **only a BSA approved Merit Badge Counselor can sign off the requirements.** If you are completing part of the merit badge requirements as part of a program with another organization, please see the Scoutmaster PRIOR to beginning the class. After the class, we will make arrangements for you to be tested and signed off by someone in the Troop. You must still complete all the requirements of the Merit Badge you are pursuing.

Service Projects

Several of the ranks require a minimum number of hours be spent in service to others, and there are several opportunities for service work through the year. But the time spent in service to others is much more meaningful than meeting a minimum requirement for a sign-off. A Scout promises to "help other people at all times." We help others with real needs with some projects; we show our loyalty and appreciation to our sponsoring organization with others; and we learn that it can be fun working with our friends for a good cause.

Any work that helps others is good and to be commended – you're always a good Scout for helping. But to get credit for rank advancement a service project must be approved by the Scoutmaster. The work must benefit others outside of Scouting to count for rank.

When a Scout is working towards his Eagle rank he conceives, plans, arranges financing for, and oversees a significant service project of his own. He organizes others to assist in the project rather than doing it all himself. Troop 7 policy is that a Scout's work on Eagle projects does not count for Community Service for rank advancement.

Meetings

We use troop meetings to prepare for upcoming outings, work on advancement or other scout skills, and, hopefully, to have some fun. These meetings are also the troop's primary means of communication. You are expected to make it to every troop meeting that you can. You cannot stay connected with the troop's program if you don't.

There are two to three troop meetings each month, September through June. All Troop meetings are in the basement of St. Linus church, on assigned Wednesdays, between 7 PM – 8:25. Each troop meeting will be assigned to one patrol by the SPL. The assigned patrol is responsible for setup, the opening and closing, and cleanup. Arrive a little early when your patrol is assigned to the meeting.

The troop committee usually meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Committee Chair's house. Every parent is invited and encouraged to attend one, two, or all Committee meetings. The meetings start at 7:30. If you are interested, call Bob Alich or email chair@troop7natick.org for directions.

Courts of Honor

A Court of Honor is a special troop meeting held three or four times a year. Rank advancements, merit badges, and activity patches are awarded at Courts of Honor. Families are highly encouraged to attend. Refreshments are served after many Court of Honors. You may be asked to bring a specific item, such as a bag of cookies, a bottle of soda, *etc.*, to a Court of Honor.

It is a very special thing for a Scout to reach the rank of Eagle. An Eagle Court of Honor is held to honor just that Scout. Sometimes a couple Eagle Scouts will share an Eagle Court of Honor. The whole troop tries to attend all Eagle Courts of Honor in order to honor and show solidarity with the Eagle Scout being recognized. It is unique and special ceremony that should make you proud to be a Boy Scout and further inspire you to attain the rank of Eagle.

Fees

The troop collects \$50-annually from each Scout for dues. This pays for both the Council Fee's and for part of the operating costs of the Troop. If the Scout would like Boys Life, that cost is an additional \$10.

Activity fees may vary by the cost of the activity. Summer camp cost is whatever Knox Trail Council charges that year.

Fundraising

Fees do not cover the whole operation of the troop. Troop 7 holds one major fundraiser each year; Holiday wreath sales. For the most part these cover the cost of rank badges and and troop equipment. Their success is vitally important for the troop's operation. You are expected to participate in sales at the church and in your neighborhood. Don't worry – that is not at all difficult with a minimum of effort.

Health Forms

Scouts must have current medical information on file. The basic white health form is good for three years from the date of the doctor's signature. If you had one of these filled out and signed for your son to attend Webelos camp it is still good for three years – you won't need another trip to the doctor's just yet. The white form must be updated annually with a "buff" colored form which requires a parent's or guardian's signature but no doctor.

Whenever the Scout has a health information change, whether temporary or permanent, a new buff form should be filed and should explain in plain language the health problem and any restriction the Scout may have.

Medications

Scouts may not keep any prescription or non-prescription drug on their person. All such drugs must be labeled with the Scout's name and dosing times, amounts, indications, and any other pertinent information.

There will be one adult leader responsible for keeping track of all the Scout's medications on each outing. Find out who that adult is when you bring your son to our gathering place and give the drugs and dosing information to him.

Web Site

www.troop7natick.org

What Adults Do on Boy Scout Campouts*

Camping is the heart of Boy Scouting, so please take a few minutes to read this sheet. Boy Scouting is very different from Cub Scouting or Webelos! And while parents often accompany the Scouts on campouts, the Scouts camp with their patrol and not with their parents and family members.

POLICY SUMMARY

Here is a summary of Troop and BSA policies, followed by the rationale for the policies. There are exceptions, but these policies are in effect on most outings.

Scout Tenting & Meals

Scouts tent with their patrol in a patrol site separate from the other patrols. Patrols plan their own menus, and cook and eat together as a team. In general, adults do not eat or tent with a boy patrol.

Adult Tenting & Meals

Adults tent with the adult patrol in a patrol site separate from the other patrols. We plan our own menu, and cook and eat together as a team. In general, adults do not eat or tent with a boy patrol.

Adult/Boy Tenting

BSA youth protection policies forbid an adult and a boy sharing the same tent. While youth protection policies may not apply to a father and son tenting together, it is troop policy that boys tent with boys and adults with adults. If a father tents with his son, it has been our experience that the boy will lose out on many opportunities to make decisions and be part of the patrol team!

Alcohol & Tobacco

Drivers may not smoke while Scouts are in the car. Adults may not drink alcoholic beverages during a Scout activity. Adults who *must* smoke must do so discretely out of sight of the Scouts.

Boy Leadership

Adults should not interfere with the functioning of boy leaders, even if they make mistakes (we all learn best from our mistakes). Step in only if it is a matter of immediate safety or if the mistake will be immediately costly. If possible, involve a uniformed adult leader first.

Boy Growth

Never do anything for a boy he can do himself. Let him make decisions without adult interference, and let him make non-costly mistakes.

Adult Training & Resources

The Boy Scouts of America provides an outstanding handbook for adults, and an excellent training course to help us understand the goals of Scouting and how to attain them. The adult manual is called the Scoutmaster Handbook, and it's worth your time to read it. The training is called Scout Leader Basic Training, and is offered in our area twice a year. It's also a good investment of your time. Troop 7 requires that uniformed adult leaders complete Scout Leader Basic Training.

Rationale for the Adult role in Boy Scout camping

Boy Scout camping activities center on the patrol, where boys learn teamwork, leadership, and most camping skills. It is important that adults not be in the middle of patrol activities such as site selection, tent pitching, meal preparation, and anything else where boys get to practice decisionmaking. A key difference between Boy Scouting and Cub Scouting/Webelos is leadership. Look for the word "leader" in a job title, and you will begin to appreciate the difference. The responsible person for a Cub/Webelos den is the adult Den Leader. The responsible person for a Boy Scout patrol is the boy Patrol Leader.

This isn't token leadership like a Cub Scout denner. A Patrol Leader has real authority and genuine responsibilities. Much of the success, safety, and happiness of six to ten other boys depends directly on him. Boy Scouting teaches leadership. And boys learn leadership by practicing it, not by watching adults lead.

So what do we adults do, now that we've surrendered so much direct authority to boys? Here are our troop's guidelines on the indirect, advisory role you now enjoy (and you should enjoy watching your son take progressively more mature and significant responsibilities as he zooms toward adulthood). The underlying principle is never do anything for a boy that he can do himself. We allow boys to grow by practicing leadership and by learning from their mistakes. And while Scout skills are an important part of the program, what ultimately matters when our Scouts become adults is not whether they can use a map & compass, but whether they can offer leadership to others in tough situations; and can live by a code that centers on honest, honorable, and ethical behavior. Boys need to learn to make decisions without adult intervention (unless it's a matter of immediate safety). Boys are in a patrol so they can learn leadership and teamwork without adult interference. Being an adult advisor is a difficult role, especially when we are advising kids (even worse, our own sons). Twice each year, the Boy Scouts of America offers special training on how to do this, which we expect our uniformed adults to take. And any adult is welcome to take the training.

Quite simply, our troop policy requires adults to cook, eat, and tent separately from the Scouts (even dads & sons). We are safely nearby, but not smotheringly close. Sure, go ahead and visit the patrol sites (not just your son's), talk to your son (and the other Scouts), ask what's going on or how things are going. But give the guys room to grow while you enjoy the view. Show a Scout how to do something, but don't do it for him. Avoid the temptation to give advice, and don't jump in just to prevent a mistake from happening (unless it's serious). We all learn best from our mistakes. And let the patrol leader lead. Your job is tough, challenging, and ultimately rewarding, because your son will be a man the day after tomorrow.

Things you can do to help your Scout

- Scouting's goal is to create young men of good character with strong organizational and leadership skills. Boys who lose interest tend to be those who are disorganized, lose things, and who don't know where they are headed. Parents can help. Here are some proven ideas. Scouts should keep track of scout materials and records. A pocket folder will help. Plastic photo holder sheets made for a three-ring binder are perfect for badge and rank completion cards, totin' chits, and unsewn or unworn patches. Some self-laminating sheets make totin' and firemen's chits last a lot longer.
- Write troop events on the family calendar so conflicts can be minimized. Attendance is the key to keeping up, advancing, and liking Scouting. Keep up with the troop calendar.
- Teach your Scout to call his Patrol Leader with any questions. Your Scout, not you, should be responsible for getting any of his questions answered, and his Patrol Leader is the Scout he should ask first. If the Patrol Leader is not available or doesn't know, the SPL should be asked. Adult leaders should not be answering routine questions better directed to the youth leadership. This is not meant to prevent the Scout from contacting adult leaders, but rather to provide a framework in which most issues can be handled by the Scouts themselves.
- Stay for troop meetings and share your time and skills to strengthen the troop. You will know what is happening and how your Scout relates to your troop. You can help provide a more complete experience for your son if you are involved. Parental involvement and encouragement has been proven to be the single most influential factor in keeping boys interested in Scouting. Don't worry about not knowing much about Scouting yet – all the current adult volunteers had to learn, too. Please don't be bashful.

Adult Tasks

The registered, uniformed adult leaders cannot do it all! We rely on the help of each scouting family. The troop's Committee Chairman maintains a list of tasks for adults, and we ask that each family commit to helping.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT LIST

Packing

- ___ 1 pack or
- ___ 1 pack frame w/hip strap
- ___ 50' 1/8" nylon cord
- ___ 12 plastic bags-assorted sizes

Sleeping

- ___ Sleeping bag in waterproof stuff sack
- ___ Plastic ground cloth
- ___ Foam pad (shoulder to hip length)

Wearing Apparel (in plastic bags)

- ___ 2 pr. wool socks
- ___ 2 pr. light inner socks
- ___ Hiking boots (broken in)
- ___ Scout long pants
- ___ Scout shorts (optional)
- ___ 2 pr. Underwear
- ___ 2 t-shirts
- ___ 1 sweatshirt or sweater
- ___ 1 nylon windbreaker
- ___ Poncho or rain suit
- ___ Wide brimmed hat
- ___ Scout belt
- ___ 1 stocking cap

In Your Pockets

- ___ Pocket knife (no sheath knives)
- ___ Matches (waterproof)
- ___ Toilet paper-Kleenex
- ___ Compass (liquid filled)
- ___ Whistle (for emergency use)
- ___ Sunglasses
- ___ Money (recommend \$___for trail)

Eating

- ___ Sierra cup
- ___ Spoon
- ___ 1 qt. plastic water bottle
- ___ Plate (optional)

- ___ Toothpaste
- ___ Comb
- ___ Metal mirror
- ___ Bandannas
- ___ Small towel
- ___ Band-aids or First Aid Kit
- ___ Sunscreen

Other Stuff

- ___ Flashlight AA size
- ___ 2 extra batteries
- ___ 1 or 2 extra bulbs
- ___ 10 books matches

Optional Gear

- ___ Camera and film
- ___ Fork
- ___ Watch
- ___ Fishing gear
- ___ Long underwear
- ___ Swim trunks(use scout shorts)
- ___ 1 pr. moccasins or sneakers

Crew Gear

- ___ Tent
- ___ Stove
- ___ Pots
- ___ Water bags
- ___ Water purifiers
- ___ Fuel bottle
- ___ Flags
- ___ Program gear
- ___ Maps (at least 1 for every 3)

Keeping Clean

- ___ Chapstick
- ___ Insect repellent
- ___ Small bar soap
- ___ Baby Wipes
- ___ Toothbrush

*****LABEL EVERYTHING*****