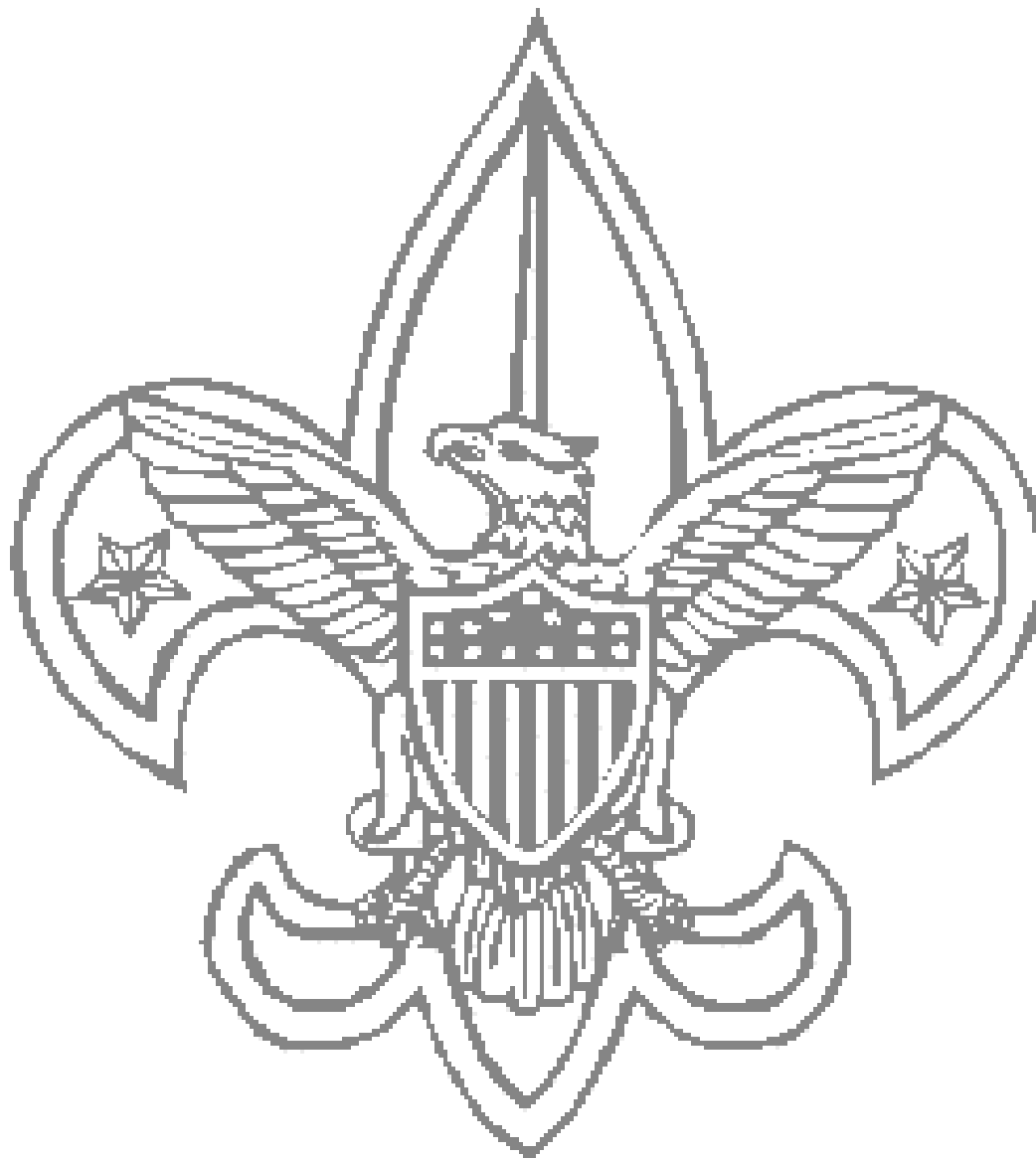


Boy Scouts of America
Troop 29

Chartered by Bashford United Methodist Church since 1925



Handbook

Troop 29 Handbook
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Boy Scout Troop 29, Madison, WI, USA

Revised March 2001
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How to use this handbook

This handbook gives you basic information about Troop 29 and how it works. It was written for both scouts and their parents. Almost no one sits down and reads through an entire handbook at one sitting. In this case, that is unfortunate as there is much information here which you need to know to be an active member of Troop 29. To make the whole process easier, all main information is in bold type.

Read the information in bold type in each section for key points. You can find the information you need quickly this way. I would suggest reading through *all* of the boldfaced print at least once. This will give you an overview Troop 29, its structure and how it, and the boy scouts, works. The rest of each paragraph clarifies or add details to these points and is also well worth reading.

If you have any questions about Troop 29, just ask the scoutmaster or any of the assistant scoutmasters. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions concerning the handbook please direct them to the editor, Chris Neumann.



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Purpose of Scouting

Scouting's Ideal

The purpose of Scouting is to help boys grow into good men. In the Scout Oath, the boy promises to keep himself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight. Scouts develop physically by participating in the outdoor program and working on individual skills through merit badges and troop activities. They gain knowledge as they advance through the ranks of scouting and do the written and oral requirements for merit badges. A scout learns morality by doing service to others, working in his patrol and sharing responsibility and leadership with other boys.





Chartering Organization

Bashford United Methodist Church

The Boy Scouts of America do not "own" any Boy Scout Troops, Cub Scout Packs or Explorer Posts. The BSA grants charters to organizations to form and run a scout unit. Troop 29's chartering organization is Bashford United Methodist Church. The church has provided support for the Troop since 1925 (see Troop History). In addition to Bashford's providing meeting and storage space for the troop, church members have been generous in donating to troop rummage sales, providing cakes for the troop's annual chili suppers and helping in many other ways. Many troop leaders have come from the church congregation.

The troop shows its appreciation by doing "good deeds" for its chartering organization. Our recent efforts have included preparing and serving for homeless meals, assisting with the blood drive, distributing information about church activities and collecting food for the food pantry.

Troop 29 has had a special relationship with Bashford UMC for three-quarters of a century. We are thankful to have such a supportive chartering organization.



Troop History

Over 50 Years of Scouting

Boy Scout Troop 29 was first chartered in 1925 by the Bashford United Methodist Church Men's group. Their meeting location at that time was in the old church on 7th street and East Washington Avenue, which is now the Greek Orthodox Church. The men's group wanted to develop a program for young boys to be actively involved in, which would provide physical, mental and spiritual growth. The charter was let lapse, as happened for so many troops, for a year or so during World War II. In 1945, the men's group renewed the charter. From its beginning, the troop has had the same faithful charter organization.

During these years the troop has produced many Star, Life and Eagle Scouts. The scout office records from 1962 through 2007 show twenty-eight Eagle Scouts have come from Troop 29. Older records, not available, may show more. Many of these boys have continued with the troop helping out and becoming scout leaders. Our most recent Eagle Scout was awarded his badge in March of 2006.

The troop has a rich history of High Adventures including many trips to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, the Boundary Waters in northern Minnesota, the Black Hills in South Dakota, and Florida Sea Base. Plus there have been many more hikes, campouts and summer camps.

The troop also has kept up an annual tradition of serving chili each February as a fundraiser. This tradition goes back at least to the reforming of the troop in 1946 at the old church. The chili supper is an all troop and family event which gives the boys a good exposure to serving the community.

As the troop grows with the community, both are enriched with great blessings from God. The many boys that have been a part of Troop 29 down through the years are now adults that can attest to those blessings and what a great experience scouting was for them.



Troop Structure

“SCOUTING IS A GAME for boys, under the leadership of boys, in which elder brothers can give their younger brothers a healthy environment and encourage them to healthy activities such as will help them to develop CITIZENSHIP.”

- Lord Baden-Powell

Three Parts

Troop 29 is made of three parts. Each part has its own job and its own leadership responsibilities. The first part is the troop itself made up of the boys and headed by an elected senior patrol leader. The second part is the Scoutmaster and the assistant scoutmasters whose job is to provide adult oversight. The final part is the troop committee, headed by a committee chair and made up of parents and other interested adults.

Boy Leaders

The troop is run by the boys. The boys decide what activities they wish to do, plan the activities and then run the activities when they happen.



The senior patrol leader (SPL) is the head of the troop. He is elected by the boys of the troop. His job is to run the weekly troop meetings, lead the patrol leader councils and generally be in charge of all troop activities. He appoints his assistant senior patrol leader.

The patrol is the basic unit of scouting. The troop is made up of patrols. Patrols have five to eight boys, roughly the same age, who are led by a patrol leader (PL). The patrol leader is elected by the patrol members. The patrol leader appoints his assistant. The patrol leader's job is to keep the patrol organized and to represent the interests of his patrol at the patrol leaders council.



The patrol leader council (PLC) is the planning body for the troop. Run by the SPL, the council plans all the meetings, outings and other activities for the troop. The council consults with the scoutmaster and the troop committee to acquire and coordinate everything needed for the activities to be successful.

Boys hold other positions of responsibility as well. Some of the more common positions are described here. The troop scribe collects and keeps account of the dues. The troop quartermaster inventories and tracks troop equipment. Den chiefs assist in the leadership of cub scout dens. Other positions are troop guide, junior assistant scoutmaster, chaplain aide, historian, bugler, librarian and instructor.

The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters

The job of the Scoutmaster and the assistants is to understand the scouting program, to guide the SPL and other boy leaders in their duties and to act as primary liaison between the PLC and the troop committee. The scoutmaster trains the senior patrol leader and his assistant and, with the assistant scoutmasters, provides primary adult oversight. They teach when there is no older boy with the skills to teach in a specific area.

The scoutmaster is the main channel of communication between the boys and the committee. He or she also has the primary responsibility to keep the troop program in line with the national scouting program objectives and guidelines. The scoutmaster works with the SPL to make sure everything stays on track.





The Troop Committee

All parents are members of the troop committee. The committee's job is to support the troop program. The troop committee meets monthly. Duties include providing transportation, fund raising, managing the troop treasury and sitting on the boards of review. The committee chair is in charge of the committee.

Many of the committee jobs mirror those of the boys; others are unique to the committee. The treasurer accepts dues from the scribe, profits from fund raising projects and handles the checking and savings accounts. The quartermaster works with the troop quartermaster to maintain equipment. The outings chair organizes transportation and manages outing registrations. The secretary records the meeting minutes and provides copies to the other committee members. Advancement chair tracks the boys' advancement and helps plan courts of honor. The chaplain works with the chaplain's aide to develop non-denominational services for trips. Other positions are appointed as needed, such as chairs for special events. Anyone without a specific position is a member at large.



Advancement

Goal

The goal of Boy Scouting is for each scout to become a First Class Scout. A First Class Scout has gained basic skills and experience that will help him throughout his life. The opportunities for learning skills, performing service projects and gaining experience for advancement are provided in troop meetings, outings, scout summer camps and other scouting events. In order to advance, scouts must participate.

Advance to First Class

The first three ranks of Boy Scouting are Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class. Requirements for these three ranks may be signed off in the handbook by a leader as they are done, but ranks must be earned in order. After having all the requirements signed, the scout should request a scoutmaster's conference. The last requirement for each rank is to have a board of review. A group of committee members will talk with each scout individually about what he has learned for that rank. Boards of Review are conducted at least quarterly. Rank badges will be presented at a troop ceremony called the Court of Honor.

Road to Eagle

The next three ranks are Star, Life and Eagle. Eagle is the highest rank in Scouting. Each of these ranks require the Scout to hold a position of responsibility in the troop, take part in service projects and to earn merit badges. See the scout handbook for required merit badges for each rank. Some merit badge classes will be offered at troop meetings and some at summer camp. If a scout wishes to earn a particular badge, he must get the Scoutmaster's permission. He can also ask the Scoutmaster to help him find a counselor for the badge. For any merit badge meeting, a minimum of two scouts must be present.

Our Troop has some merit badge booklets that Scouts are welcome to borrow from our library. Others are available at the scout office. Merit badges will be presented at the next Court of Honor. Up to six merit badges may be worn on the right sleeve of a long sleeved uniform shirt. They may also be worn on a merit badge sash.



Outings

The Best Part of Scouting

While troop meetings and patrol activities are fun, "outing" is the most fun part of "scouting". Outings can range from day hikes, to overnights, to high adventure experiences. Outings can be planned on the patrol level as well as the troop level. Here are some general procedures.

Trip Organization

The troop has a committee member designated as an outings coordinator. It is the outings coordinator's responsibility to:

1. Have a sign up sheet for each outing.
2. Provide each interested scout with a permission slip (which includes a short description of the outing, when, where, and how much it will cost.)
3. Set the deadline for signing up and paying deposits or fees.
4. Collects the fees, permission slips, and health forms (if it is necessary to have one.)
5. Help make arrangements for the outing and obtain necessary tour permits.
6. Help organize the parents who will assist with the trip.

Each scout participating in an outing must have a permission slip signed by a parent or legal guardian, and, if required for the outing, an up-to-date health form. Without these important documents the scout will not be allowed to participate in the outing. Health forms are needed for summer camp and other council or national sponsored events.

Parents supply the transportation and help provide adult presence. There can be no outings without parent support. Boy Scout rules require "two deep leadership". If adults are going on the trip, two adults are required for the first eight boys, and one additional adult for each 6-8 additional boys. For short hikes, no adult presence may be needed. For almost all outings, transportation is required. Parents receive a form requesting information about their vehicles and auto insurance when their son joins the troop. The outings coordinator uses this information when applying for the required BSA tour permits.



Day hikes

Day hikes are a popular patrol, as well as troop, activity. They can be set up without much long range planning (usually 1-2 weeks notice) depending on the location of the hike. These walks are a fun way to see some of the beautiful countryside around Madison. Some past hikes have been to Hemlock Draw in the Baraboo hills, Cherokee Marsh, and Devil's Lake.



Bike trips

Bike trips are much like day hikes. They can be planned on short notice and are great trips for patrols. Past bike trips have included riding around Lake Monona, bike-a-thons to Fitchburg and Paoli, a ride out to Token Creek, and riding back from Governor Dodge State Park along the Military Ridge bike trail. A bike helmet is required equipment for any bike trip.

Overnights

The troop goes on several overnights throughout the year.

Overnights take more planning. Questions to be answered include where to go, how to get there, what to eat when we get there, and where are we going to stay (tents? cabins?) Past overnights have been to the Oscar Mayer Lodge at Ed Bryant Scout Reservation, Eagle Cave, canoeing on the Wisconsin River, the annual troop family campout and the fall Boy Scout Camporee, which is held at various locations in southern Wisconsin.





Summer Camp

Each year, the troop participates in a week-long summer camp. This is traditionally at Ed Bryant Scout Reservation (EBSR). EBSR is the Glacier's Edge Council's, 200-acre Scout Camp on the Castle Rock Flowage in Juneau County. Troop 29 usually goes to camp in early July. Camp activities are too numerous to list, but include swimming, sailing, archery, nature activities, basic scout skills and a long list of merit badges. Summer camp is a great way to have fun and advance in scouting at the same time.

High Adventure

High adventure camping is an experience a scout will never forget. Hiking in the rugged San Christo mountains of New Mexico, sailing a schooner and snorkeling in the Florida Keys or canoeing serene northern lakes in Minnesota are in some of the adventures. There are three official high adventure areas run by the Boy Scouts of America; Sea Base in the Florida Keys, the 158,000 acre Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, and the Boundary Waters Canoe Base out of Ely, Minnesota. High Adventure trips are for older boys who are at least age 13 (specific programs may have different requirements) and 1st class. The troop has been to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, the Black Hills, Isle Royale and Ontario. The troop plans alternating trips to Philmont or Seabase in odd numbered years and usually something closer to home in even numbered years.

Other Trips

Troop 29 has participated in many other trips. These have included Fort McCoy, Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, the Minnesota Zoo, Noah's Ark in the Dells, Horicon Marsh, Eagle Cave, Mirror Lake State Park ... and more!!!!



Outings are lots of fun, as any of the scouts can tell you. This is even when the weather doesn't cooperate because sometimes those are the best trips.

See you on the outdoor trail!



Money Matters

Dues

Dues are \$25.00 a year. They primarily cover national B.S.A. fees. The rate for annual dues is set by the troop parent's committee. The dues are intended to cover national registration with the BSA and a one-year subscription to Boy's Life magazine. The little bit that is left goes toward advancement badges. Scouts can earn the full value of the annual dues through participation in troop fund-raising activities, including expected duties at the annual Chili Supper (flier delivery, prep night, and serving). Dues can be paid all at once in September or in installments. The dues are collected by the troop scribe who keeps records of the amount paid by each scout. He turns over dues collected to the committee treasurer who keeps a mirror record of the dues paid. Any questions about dues should be directed to the scribe or the treasurer.

Fund Raising

Fund raising pays for the entire troop program. All scouts and parents are expected to participate. Fund raising pays for troop camping equipment, materials for troop meetings, subsidies for outings, merit badges and special awards, postage and all the miscellaneous expenses of an organization.

Several different types of fundraisers are held each year. Some involve selling. Others involve being present to work. All involve organizing. There are enough different things to do that everyone can put their talents to work. Our three major fundraisers have been the annual chili supper, Boy Scout popcorn sales and wreath sales. We have also had car washes and rummage sales.

Boy's Accounts

A portion of profits from each fund raising event goes into participating boys' accounts. Each scout has a troop account which the treasurer tracks. The scouts may use their accounts to pay for any troop activities, official B.S.A. activities (such as summer camp), uniforms, scout books, camping equipment and dues. To use account money, the scout or his parent should talk to the troop treasurer. The troop committee decides before each fundraiser how much of the profits will go to the scouts.



Meetings

Troop Meetings

The troop holds its meetings on Monday nights from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Bashford United Methodist Church, 329 North Street. Troop 29 does not meet on most school holidays. Consult the troop calendar for specifics.

Committee Meetings

The troop committee meets once each month. All parents are members of the troop committee. It is important to attend committee meetings. Without a troop committee, there is no troop. Refer to the troop planning calendar for a schedule of meeting times.

Patrol Leader Council

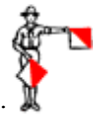
The patrol leaders council meets once each month*. This meeting is for the patrol leaders and their assistants, the senior patrol leader and his assistant, and the scribe only. At this meeting the patrol leaders plan upcoming meetings and troop activities. Refer to the troop planning calendar for a schedule of meeting times.

Merit Badges

Merit Badge meetings are arranged with the merit badge counselor. Some merit badges may meet during the troop meetings. Others may be arranged at a different time due to availability of a counselor, necessary equipment, location or some combination of the above.

Communication

Anyone missing a meeting must let his leader know. This is common courtesy. It is also very important if you are in charge of part of the meeting. Many meetings are in preparation for an outing or other event. If you do not attend the meetings, you may not be allowed to attend the event.



Who Should You Call?

Who to call* if you will be missing a meeting:

Absentee	Call:	Can't Contact? - Call:
Patrol member	Patrol leader	Asst. Patrol Leader
Asst. Patrol Leader	Patrol leader	Senior Patrol Leader
Asst. Senior Patrol Leader	Senior Patrol Leader	Scoutmaster
Senior Patrol Leader	Scoutmaster & Asst. Senior Patrol Leader	Asst. Scoutmaster
Asst. Scoutmaster	Scoutmaster	Another Asst. Scoutmaster or Senior Patrol Leader
Scoutmaster	Senior Patrol Leader & Asst. Scoutmaster	Another Asst. Scoutmaster
Committee Member	Committee Chair	Scoutmaster
Committee Chair	Scoutmaster	Asst. Scoutmaster
Merit Badge class member	Merit Badge Counselor	Scoutmaster
Merit Badge Counselor (at regular troop meeting)	Scoutmaster & Senior Patrol Leader	Another Asst. Scoutmaster
Merit Badge Counselor (at merit badge only meeting)	Class members & Scoutmaster	Another Asst. Scoutmaster or Senior Patrol Leader

*See Troop Roster and Troop Leader list for phone numbers.





Behavior Plan

Expected Behavior

Appropriate behavior is expected of all Scouts at all troop meetings and outings. Boys must work together to accomplish a goal and have fun. Attention must be given to those in charge. Follow the Scout Law and behavior won't be an issue.

1. A Scout is trustworthy - be honest.
2. A Scout is loyal - wear your uniform with pride.
3. A Scout is helpful - work together as a patrol and as a troop.
4. A Scout is friendly - make others feel welcome in the troop.
5. A Scout is courteous - listen when others are speaking.
6. A Scout is kind - treat other people and other's property respectfully; do not tease or fight.
7. A Scout is obedient - follow the directions of patrol leader, SPL and adult leaders.
8. A Scout is cheerful - willingly do what needs to be done.
9. A Scout is thrifty - use troop materials wisely.
10. A Scout is brave - do what you know is right.
11. A Scout is clean - do not use name calling or bad language; leave your meeting place and campsite in better condition than you found it.
12. A Scout is reverent - live your beliefs

Serious Behavior Problems and Their Consequences

Serious Behavior Problems

- Fighting
- Throwing objects to hurt someone
- Refusal to help with Patrol or Troop tasks

Consequences of Serious Behavior

- Scout may be suspended from one or more meetings.
- Parent or guardian may be asked to attend meeting with Scout.
- Two Scout leaders may meet with parent or guardian to determine necessary actions.
- As a very last resort, Scout may be asked to leave Troop.



Personal Outing Gear

A checklist for scouts, parents and everyone.

Outdoor Essentials

(Day trips & Weekend outings)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra clothes, including hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Compass & maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen, sunglasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra trail food (gorp, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight, spare bulb, batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rain Gear | <input type="checkbox"/> Matches, firestarter (lighter) | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Repellent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket knife | <input type="checkbox"/> Canteen or other water bottle | |

Three Season List

(Weeklong Summer Camp)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rain Gear | <input type="checkbox"/> Mess kit - plate, cup, fork, spoon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 pr. underwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 pr. liner socks | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping pad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 pr. outer socks | <input type="checkbox"/> Ground cloth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pr. shorts | <input type="checkbox"/> Pack |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pr. long pants | <input type="checkbox"/> Stuffsacks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 short sleeve shirt | <input type="checkbox"/> Ziplock bags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 long sleeve shirt | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash bags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 sweater, sweatshirt, flannel shirt or fleece shirt | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jacket/parka/anorek/vest - according to season | <input type="checkbox"/> Soap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves/mittens according to season | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothpaste, toothbrush |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 windproof layer (wind breaker, jacket or shirt) - breathable rain gear is OK | <input type="checkbox"/> Comb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 set long underwear (wool, silk, synthetic or blend) or 1 set athletic sweats for sleeping in. | <input type="checkbox"/> Washcloth, towel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking boots | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal first aid kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sneakers or aquasocks or aqua sandals | |
| | Extras: |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Watch |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Notebook & pencil |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Book |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Cards |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Field guides |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Binoculars, camera, harmonica, yo-yo, Frisbee |

Except for cameras, electronic equipment should be left at home for scout outings. Music players, cell phones and handheld game systems may be allowed in vehicles for travel only.



New Scout Family Checklist

Forms you need to fill out

- Scout Registration Form
- Medical Form Class 1 & 2
- Adult resources sheet
- Troop database sheet

Fees to be paid

For incoming Webelos - \$12.00

This covers transfer fee, patrol patch and official scout handbook.

For boys not currently registered as scouts - \$40.00

This covers national BSA registration, insurance, 1-year subscription to Boy's Life magazine, council patch, troop number, fifty year bar, patrol patch and scout handbook.

Other things you will need

Official tan scout shirt

Used, from Troop 29, \$5.00 (when available). New short sleeve shirt, about \$25.00 to \$53 (or more depending on size and fabric choices), available at the Council Scout Shop.

Scouts are expected to wear the official uniform shirt at all scout meetings and for travel and mealtimes while on outings. Scout activity shirts are appropriate for workdays, high adventure outings, and summer troop meetings. Uniform pants or shorts, hat, and socks are optional, but some activities for advanced scouts may require more complete uniforms.

Other things to know

Troop Meetings: Monday nights, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Bashford United Methodist Church

Acknowledgments

Many people worked to put this handbook together. The following Troop 29 scouts wrote sections: Pam Neumann - advancement, behavior plan (the latter based on PLC plan, November 1994); Ritchie Rheume - purpose of scouting; Larry Gifford - troop history; Julian Rheume - personal camping gear; Bob Szewczyk - outings. The following people read drafts and made suggestions for changes - Art Hackett, Ellen Hadidian, Ellen Magee, Cindy McCann, Steve McCann, Pam Neumann, Bev Scheuers, Bob Szewczyk, Pat Smith and Larry Gifford. Jim Lindemann, Scoutmaster of Troop 53, McFarland, Wisconsin, acted as a valuable sounding board. Thanks to Judy Bungee, Woodbadge counselor, and the members of the Busy Beaver Patrol, Woodbadge Course C-13-96, for their encouragement. Two very different handbooks from Troop 16 of Evanston, Illinois and Troop 93 of Des Moines, Iowa served as initial inspirations for this endeavor.

The drawings are by Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the scouting movement and first Chief Scout of the World. They are from his books *Scouting for Boys* and *Aids to Scoutmastering*. The quote is also from his *Aids to Scoutmastering*.

The pictures of the Scouts doing semaphore are from the Boy Scouts of America web site, <http://www.bsa.scouting.org/>. Did you decode what they said?

Finally, I would like to thank the scouts of Troop 29. They make it all worthwhile.

Chris Neumann, editor



Over the course of a decade, one eventually realizes that a few things have changed. Aside from the obvious price changes for uniforms and unit chartering, the troop committee found it necessary to review and update the Troop Handbook. Thanks are due to Chris Neumann for sharing the original electronic files. Even though changes in word processing programs meant that numerous format shifts had occurred, having these files made significant savings in time. Thanks are also due to proofreaders including Chris Neumann, Cindy Gross, Kathy Last, Ron Last, and Mike Beck. It is our hope that the new version again serves the scouts and families of Troop 29 for years to come.

George Alexander, 2007 revisions editor



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