

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO TROOP 157

Introduction

Welcome to the world of Boy Scouting.

As a parent of new scout, or potential new scout, you probably have a lot of questions. What is scouting all about? What is expecting of my son? What is expected of me? How much does it cost? What are the activities? What does it take to advance? These are all questions that this document will answer.

The Scouting movement started in 1907, under the leadership of Baden Powell, in England. Scouting in the United States was established around 1910. The objective of Scouting is to teach boys self-confidence, leadership, and moral character in a fun atmosphere. In a nutshell, Scouting is about creating good citizens. A majority of congressmen, astronauts, and justices on the Supreme Court were in Boy Scouts as youth.

Troop 157

Troop 157 was established over 50 years ago in Round Rock, Texas. Troop 157 is one of the largest troops in the Capitol Area Council. Troop 157 is sponsored by the First United Methodist Church of Round Rock, hereafter referred to as FUMC. Although many of the 157 scouts are members of FUMC, most of the scouts are not. Troop 157 welcomes all faiths.

Joining Troop 157

Each scout who intends to join Troop 157 should attend a weekly meeting with their parent or guardian. A number of forms will need to be filled out. These include:

- Registration form
- Medical Form
- Consent to Treat
- Troop Resource Sheet

As of 2007, the fees collected are as follows:

Scout Fee: \$36.00

Boys Life Magazine (optional): \$12.00

We also actively encourage adults to join. Adult fees are as follows:

Scouter (registered adult) Fee: \$11.00

Organization of Troop 157

1) Patrols and Patrol Leaders

Boys are organized into Patrols, which typically have 5 to 10 members. The patrol is the primary team in scouting, and many activities revolve around the patrol structure. Each patrol will select a name and wear a patch on their sleeve to designate their patrol membership.

The patrol method is at the heart of the scouting experience. The patrol comes together to form a team. It is in the patrol that a scout learns about working together to accomplish goals, about getting along with others and working out disagreements.

Every 6 months, the patrol will pick a new patrol leader. The leader is responsible for running the patrol. Some of his duties include attending the monthly PLC (Patrol Leader's Council) to make decisions regarding troop activities, setting the duty roster for each camp out, and helping the patrol work through any issues that might arise.

For the first year, new scouts are usually assigned to new-scout patrols. For the first 6 months, a new-scout patrol will be assigned a troop guide. A troop guide is an experienced scout who shows the new scouts how to be successful. The guide provides advice on matters as varied as how to clean up your cookware after a meal on a campout to how to get a patrol to work together as a team.

Each patrol will also have an adult patrol advisor, typically the parent of one of the scouts in the patrol. The advisor's role is primarily to keep an eye on advancements, to ensure that scouts are aware of what is necessary to help them earn their rank advancements. The patrol advisor also offers advice to the patrol to help them through difficulties that may arise on camp outs and during other scouting activities. The patrol advisor attends the vast majority of camp outs and other events. As one might imagine, this role becomes less involved in the patrol operations as the boys mature and become more independent.

Patrols will typically be reshuffled once a year, to even out the numbers or deal with other matters. The scoutmasters try to minimize the number of scouts who change patrols, in order to keep the team working smoothly.

Each month, 2 patrols will have special duties. These patrols are called the service patrol and the program patrol. The service patrol is responsible for the flag ceremonies at both the camp out and the meetings. The service patrol also helps tidy up the church after each meeting. The service patrol is responsible for obtaining a travel permit for the month's camp out, and having an adult cook to for the adult "Lost Boys" patrol at the camp out.

The program patrol is responsible for the month's program, both at the camp out and the meeting. Working with the Assistant Scoutmaster in charge of programs, the program patrol provides a program for the meetings leading up to the camp out, and at the camp out.

Service Patrol and Program patrol responsibility is assigned on a rotating basis to all patrols. While a significant portion of the work falls to the parents of the scouts in that patrol, it is important this does not mean that the parents do all the work. Rather, the patrol ensures that the necessary jobs get done. For example, if the program for the month is fishing, but none of the parents of scouts in the program patrol are experienced fishermen, the service patrol might seek out a volunteer to teach fishing.

Service and Program patrol assignments are scheduled well in advance, and posted on the troop calendar at the troop website.

2) Scout Leadership

Troop 157 strives hard to be a boy-run troop. Scout leadership above the patrol level is set up as follows:

- Senior Patrol Leader

The Senior Patrol leader is the top scout leader in the troop. This is a difficult job, and the SPL has many responsibilities. He is expected to run the troop meetings and camp outs, although adults will help him when necessary. A minimum of Life Rank is required to run for SPL.

- Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders

Troop 157 has 3 ASPLs. The ASPLs assist the SPL as necessary.

- Other Leaders

Troop 157 also has other leadership positions for scouts

- Quartermaster
- Troop Scribe
- Troop Historian
- Troop Librarian
- Chaplain's Aide
- Bugler

3) Adult Leadership

At the top of the adult leadership chain is, of course, the scoutmaster. Troop 157 also has a number of other adult leadership positions

- **Committee Chairperson**

The committee chair runs the business of the troop, this includes-running the monthly committee meeting, ensuring that the troop finances are in good shape, and keeping the troop roster up-to-date. The Committee Chairperson also maintains a good working relationship with the Capital Area Council and District Representative, and acts as the go-between between the troop and the sponsor

- **Scoutmaster**

The Scoutmaster runs the people side of the troop. The scoutmaster works closely with the scout leadership to ensure that the troop is running smoothly. As the most visible adult in the troop, the scoutmaster provides guidance to scout and every adult involved with the troop.

- **Assistant Scoutmasters**

Troop 157 has a number of assistant scoutmasters, each with a specific role:

- **ASM - Camping**

The ASM in charge of camping ensures that each month's campout has a location, and that all of the logistics of each campout have been arranged.

- **ASM - Program**

Each month, Troop 157 has a program, which is usually associated with the theme for that month's campout. At each Monday's meeting, a portion is devoted to program. For example, if the campout one month is backpacking, the program one week might cover proper gear and attire needed for a backpacking trip. The selected program will continue to be covered at each month's campout.

The ASM in charge of program ensures that the patrol responsible for that program month has arranged ~~we have~~ the appropriate speakers, teachers, material, etc. to cover the program.

- **ASM - Corners**

Merit badge sessions (“corners”) are also covered in most of the weekly meetings. The troop will typically teach 3 or 4 merit badges during a 6 month period, and this part of the meeting is devoted to having the scouts work on their selected merit badges. The ASM in charge of Corners helps with the logistics for each merit badge being taught, including engaging a qualified instructor/counselor.

- **ASM - Recruiting**

Maintaining contact with area Webelos dens, coordinating troop visits and campouts for those Webelos dens, and arranging needed representation at the Webelos crossover ceremonies is the responsibility of the ASM – Recruiting. Additionally, this ASM is normally the first point of contact for the parents of potential new scouts.

- **ASM - New Scouts**

New scouts often need some extra assistance, and the ASM in charge of new scouts is there to help. In addition, the ASM in charge of new scouts plays a big role in the recruiting of new scouts to join the troop.

- **Advancements Chairperson**

The Advancements Chair keeps track of all the scouts records, such as rank and merit badge progress. Adult scouter records are also maintained.

- **Chaplain**

The chaplain and Chaplain’s Aide (scout position) work together on the services at the campouts, prayers at meetings, and other religious aspects of the troop.

- **Adult Quartermasters**

The quartermasters procure the necessary camping equipment for the troop, and work with the scout quartermasters on the repair, maintenance, and storage of the equipment.

- **Treasurer**

The treasurer is in charge of the troop bank account and checkbook.

- **Secretary**

The secretary keeps minutes at the monthly committee meeting.

- **Membership Coordinator**
The membership coordinator keeps track of the membership of the troop, and assists new members with the forms and other necessary material to join Troop 157.
- **Patrol Advisor**
Each scout patrol has a patrol advisor to help the scouts keep their patrol running smoothly.
- **Committee Member**
A committee member is an active adult who does not occupy one of the other adult leadership positions. Troop 157 strongly encourages active parent participation at all scouting events.

4) Charter Organization

All boy scout troops are chartered by an organization. Troop 157 is chartered by the First United Methodist Church, often called FUMC, of Round Rock. The FUMC provides a place for the troop to meet and works with the troop to ensure a well run troop.

5) Troop Committee

All active adults are considered to be troop committee members. The monthly committee meeting is held the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 at Paine cottage. Paine cottage is on the grounds of the FUMC. Note that if the meeting falls on a holiday, it may be moved, so check the troop's calendar at:

<http://www.troop157rr.org/calendar.htm>

6) Troop Parents/Troop Guardians

The benefits a scout receives from scouting are made possible by active adult participation. The more active adults the troop has, the better the scouting experience. All adults can help in some way. Here are some ways you can help:

- Provide transportation to and from outings and events
- Help teach a merit badge in an area of your expertise
- Assist with troop fundraisers
- Help cook at a court-of-honor
- Provide a bit of manual labor on a scout's Eagle project
- Become an adult leader and actively participate in the scouting program.

Operations of Troop 157

Troop Meetings

Troop Meetings are held every Monday, except for holidays, at the First United Methodist Church at 7pm. Meetings last for about 60 to 90 minutes. Parents are urged not to drop off their son's and leave. There is often a good deal of information that a parent should hear, as well as business (such as summer camp sign-up, medical record updating, etc.) that will need the parent's attention from time-to-time. We hope that you will soon discover the value of being a part of your son's scouting career!

Troop Campouts

Logistics

Troop 157 camps almost every month. The troop will usually meet at 6pm on the Friday of the campout at the FUMC, and be on the road by 6:30pm. The troop returns from campouts at 1pm on Sunday at the FUMC. Exceptions to these times will be announced well in advance.

The typical fee for an adult or scout to attend a camp out is \$10. Each scout or adult who plans to attend a camp out should come to meeting prior to the camp out with their \$10. If the meeting cannot be attended the scout should contact his patrol leader prior to the meeting to ensure that food is purchased for the scout. Adults should contact the scoutmaster. Late sign-up is discouraged, as it places undue stress on the logistical support members. However, exceptions can be made if due to unforeseeable circumstances.

Note that camp out attendance is limited to scouts and registered adults. Siblings are not allowed at camp outs, nor are pets. Please talk to the scoutmaster if you are not a registered adult, but would like to attend a camp out.

Note that upon return to the church, no scout should leave until the troop has been dismissed. This allows the leaders to ensure that all scouts have been accounted for, and that all equipment has been properly put away.

Equipment

The troop provides tents for all scouts. Scouts of Star rank and above are allowed to bring their own tents if they choose to do so. Scouts are expected to take care and properly maintain the troop tents. If a tent is packed wet after the weekend, the patrol leader will choose a scout to take home the tent to set it up and let it dry out.

Scouts need to bring all the clothing they need for the weekend, including **RAIN GEAR** and a sleeping bag. Each scout should also bring a quart of water in a sealable bottle, so they will not arrive at the camp site in immediate need of drinking water. Please mark all equipment with your son's name in permanent ink.

A pocket knife may be carried by a Scout who has earned his Totin' Chip. Fixed blade knives and sheath knives are not permitted. The blade of the knife is to be no longer than 4 inches.

Food

Of the \$10 collected from each scout, \$8 is used to purchase food. One scout will be selected to buy the food for his patrol, and this duty should be rotate among all patrol members. The patrol will make a menu at the Monday meeting prior to the camp out, and the selected scout will purchase the food. An ice chest will almost always be required, along with enough ice to last through the weekend (the troop has some to borrow if the scout does not have a personal/family ice chest he can use). Scouts should eat dinner on Friday prior to arriving at the church. Typically they will prepare all 3 meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. They are responsible for preparing their own meals, and convenience food, such as pop tarts, are not allowed. Scouts should not bring their own food on the camp outs, but rather plan ahead and eat as a patrol. Soft drinks are never allowed on campouts.

The troop provides a stove and the basic utensils necessary to prepare meals. Items that need to be replaced as used up, such as soap, paper towels, and trash bags, should be purchased along with the food if needed.

As our troop continues to move towards a healthy respect for the environment, we continue to ask the scouts to use a mess kit in place of paper plates. These can be purchased at a reasonable price from local outdoor suppliers

Summer Camps

Troop 157 attends a yearly summer camp each year, typically in early June. These week long camps are a big part of the scouting experience, and all scouts should attend if possible. Many of the merit badges that a scout needs to advance are earned at summer camp.

It is a Troop 157 tradition to attend summer camp out of council and to not repeat attending an individual camp in successive years. Regularly visited camps include Camp Tom Hale in Oklahoma, Buffalo Trails Scout Ranch in west Texas, and Camp Constantin north of Dallas. We will start collecting fees for summer camps in the spring. This allows the troop to pay necessary deposits to the camps, as well as spread the cost to the

family. The cost for a scout to attend summer camp is typically between \$150 and \$200 with adults costing less than that.

High Adventure

Each summer Troop 157 offers a high adventure opportunity to the older scouts in addition to summer camp. For most high adventure, the scout must be at least 13 when the event begins, although the minimum age is 14 for some high adventure. High adventure activities typically last a week, although travel time may make the time spent away from home longer. High adventure costs vary widely, but frequently are higher than summer camp.

Fundraising

To offset the costs of scouting, the troop has two yearly fundraisers. Scouts have an opportunity to earn money to go into their individual accounts. As money is earned, it can be applied to offset the costs of activities such as summer camp, or used to purchase camping equipment. Receipts for equipment can be turned into the treasurer for reimbursement.

In addition, a portion of funds raised during fundraising goes to the troop to cover the costs of camping equipment, the troop trailers, patches and awards. Participation in fund raising activities is strongly encouraged. The yearly dues cover a very small fraction of the costs of running the troop.

If a scout leaves the troop, the money in a scout's account can be transferred to the new troop, upon request.

Popcorn Sales

Popcorn sales are a nationwide fundraiser for scouting in the fall. Popcorn sales provides funds for scouting at the national level, the local level, and the troop level. In addition, Troop 157 allows individual scouts to earn money for activities and equipment through the sales of popcorn.

Details of the popcorn sales, such as the specific dates, are announced each year. An adult volunteer, affectionately known as the "Popcorn Colonel", runs the popcorn sale each year.

Brisket Sales

The annual brisket cook takes place on the weekend of the Texas/Oklahoma football game. Orders and payment are collected prior to the cooking weekend, and customers pick up their briskets on Saturday morning. The brisket sale is the #1 fundraiser for Troop 157, but is also a lot of work. All adults are encouraged to help as much as possible.

Other Fundraisers

Other fundraisers may occur intermittently through out the year. Scouts participating in high adventure often hold additional fundraisers to help offset the higher costs of high adventure.

Communications

There are 2 primary ways that troop news is disseminated. At the start of each Monday meeting, announcements are made regarding troop activities. All adults are encouraged to listen to announcements, as sometimes the scouts pay less than rapt attention.

There is also a troop email list, and all members of the troop can sign up and use the email list to send out notes of general interest to the troop. To participate in this service, sign up at the troop website at <http://www.Troop157rr.org>, and click on "members". Becoming a member requires approval from the webmaster, as some of the information available in the members area is personal and therefore not made available to the general public.

If a scout misses a meeting, or has questions about scouting activities, his first point of contact should be his patrol leader. Part of scouting is teaching responsibility, and the scout, not the parent, should ensure that he is up-to-date on troop news. In addition, if a scout needs to communicate information, for example if illness will prevent the scout from attending a camp out, that scout should call his patrol leader and let him know.

As a parent, questions will come up, and you may not be sure who to ask. The patrol advisor is usually the best person to contact. Although the advisor may not always have the answer, he or she will know who has the answer.

Advancement

Advancement through the ranks is a big part of the scouting experience, and many of the activities of Troop 157 are geared towards helping scouts advance. While we do not endorse any “coercion” or “peer-pressure” for a scout to advance, we certainly encourage them to do so, and hope that all in the troop will at least achieve the rank of First Class Scout.

Ranks

In general, advancement in scouting is based on a 4-step process. These are:

- The Boy Scout Learns
- The Boy Scout is Tested
- The Boy Scout is Reviewed
- The Boy Scout is Recognized.

The requirements for each rank advancement are spelled out in the Boy Scout Handbook. The scout and his parent are encouraged to become familiar with these requirements. When a requirement has been achieved and demonstrated, that requirement is signed off and dated by an adult. Note that a parent CANNOT sign off on their own son’s requirements. It is also important to note that all requirements must be signed off and dated before the last 2 steps of a rank advancement, the Scoutmaster conference and Board of Review, can take place.

Scout to 1st Class

As a new scout joins the troop, the emphasis is on learning the skills that will enable him to be an effective scout. He will be taught the basic skills of scouting such as camping, cooking, and first aid. In addition, however, and more importantly, he is learning the skills of teamwork and leadership. The 12 points of the Scout Law and the Scout Oath are becoming a part of his life.

When a Scout obtains his first class rank, he has demonstrated that he is ready for greater responsibility. He has learned not only how to be a successful camper, but also how to interact with others in the troop.

1st Class to Life

After a scout achieves the 1st class rank, the next advancements to Star and Life put an emphasis on leadership and service. The expectations for these ranks are higher than the earlier ranks, and a scout is expected to demonstrate his understanding of the Scout

Law and Oath both in word and deed. In addition, completion of merit badges is now required for advancement. At each advancement step, a portion of the 12 Eagle-required merit badges must be completed.

Life to Eagle

The rank of Eagle Scout is the pinnacle of all scouting advancements. A scout that has achieved this prominent role in the troop has served in a valued and senior leadership position, has completed a substantial service project benefiting his community, and has demonstrated a certain level of dedication to scouting and its ideals. In short, a scout “becomes” an Eagle Scout, rather than simply “making it” to the Eagle rank. Troop 157 is proud of the 8 to 12 young men each year that accomplish this goal. Some stay active in the troop and go on to attend campouts, provide skills training, serve as Assistant Junior Scoutmasters, and perhaps most importantly become admirable role models to the younger scouts in the troop.

The Eagle project is large part of obtaining the Eagle Rank. Troop 157 is fortunate to have experienced leaders to assist scouts with their Eagle project. Scouts ready to start their Eagle project should talk to the Scoutmaster, so he can provide contacts to help the scout get started.

Merit Badges

In addition to the 12 Eagle-required merit badges, Scouting has many other merit badges that a scout can earn. Some of these teach new scouting and outdoor skills. Others provide a taste of possible future career opportunities. Still others teach a skill or subject that may spark a new interest or hobby.

Although earning merit badges on one’s own is certainly encouraged, there are ample opportunities to earn merit badges in scouting. Summer and Winter camp provide an opportunity to earn merit badges. Within the troop, merit badges are taught at the weekly meetings as part of the “corners”. In addition, many of the camp outs and activities leading up to that camp out are part of earning a particular merit badge. Finally, the district often holds merit badge fairs, where scouts can earn merit badges.

Troop 157 is always in need of adults to help with merit badges. Please contact one of the scoutmasters if you can lend a hand with any merit badge. A full list of merit badges and requirements can be found at: <http://www.meritbadge.com>

Leadership

All ranks beyond first class require a scout to serve in a leadership position. These positions are outlined in *Scout Leadership*. The term of service in the leadership position, as outlined in the Boy Scout Handbook, must be 100% complete before a scout can participate in his Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review.

Service and Service Hours

Many of the rank advancements require a specific number of hours of service. The requirements for service hours:

- They must be served “in rank”. Hours earned prior to the last advancement do not carry over. With each rank advancement, the counter on service hours is reset.
- They must serve the community-at-large, not just scouting. For example, maintenance on a scout property does not count as service hours.
- All service projects and service hours must be approved by the Scoutmaster in advance. Eagle projects have been approved by the Scoutmaster prior to the candidate presenting his project to the Troop Committee for approval, so any service on an Eagle project will receive credit.
- Should be signed off by an adult or Eagle-candidate at the time the service is performed.

Many scouts earn their service hours by assisting Eagle-candidates with their Eagle projects.

Scoutmaster Conference/Boards of Review

When a scout believes that he is ready for a rank advancement, he should present his handbook to the Advancements chair to ensure that all requirements are met and signed off. He must also have his Patrol Advisor ensure all signatures have been recorded in his scout book ahead of time. At this point, all items except for Scout Spirit, the Scoutmaster Conference, and Board of Review should be signed and dated. Note that almost all Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review take place at camp outs. The only exception to this is Eagle rank Scoutmaster Conference and Board-of-Review. Scouts who believe that they are ready for advancement must bring their handbook to the camp out.

The Advancements Chair will make arrangements with the appropriate Scoutmaster for a conference. If the Scoutmaster signs off on the Scout Spirit and conference requirements, the scout should return to the advancements chair, who will arrange for a Board of Review.

A Board of Review is conducted by between 3 and 6 adults who are knowledgeable in the fundamentals of scouting. The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, nor parents of other scouts in the candidate's patrol will serve the Board.

A Board of Review is not an examination. The scout demonstrated the objectives when the requirement was signed off. Instead, the Board provides a discussion:

- To determine the scout's attitude towards scouting and troop.
- To review the scout's experiences
- To encourage the scout towards further participation and advancement

A full Class A uniform is required unless the scoutmaster approves an exception.

Courts of Honor

Troop 157 conducts 2 Courts of Honor a year, typically in August and January. The Court of Honor recognizes the achievement of scouts, and participation by the family and extended family is strongly encouraged.

Uniforms and Equipment

The standard Class A uniform is required for most scouting events. Troop 157 requires only the Class A shirt, not the trousers or socks. In addition, the neckerchief is worn during camping or other events when the troop will be on display to the general public, events with other troops present, or at Courts of Honor. A merit badge or Order of the Arrow sash is also worn at Courts of Honor, along with other events that it makes sense to do so.

The Class A is worn traveling to and from camp outs, and during flag ceremonies. Typically the Class B uniform is worn at other times during camp outs. A Class B is simply a shirt which has some sort of scouting insignia, although the preferred Class B is Troop 157-specific. Each scout receives a Troop T-shirt when joining the troop, and additional shirts can be purchased for a nominal cost. Additional opportunities to purchase Class-B shirts can be found at summer camp, winter camp, and many other scouting events.

If a scout does not have sufficient scouting shirts for a camp out, the scout should wear clothes with no objectionable decoration. School T-shirts are fine.

Troop Safety/Troop Rules

General Rules

Safety is at the heart of Troop 157 and BSA rules.

- Every scout and scouter who attends scouting activities must have a current medical form on file with the membership chairperson.
- No open food in tents.
- No flames in tents.
- No sheath knives or knives with blades longer than 4 inches.
- Shoes are to be worn at all times, except when in a tent or participating in a water activity.
- No fireworks. No volatile substances are to be thrown into the fires or stoves.
- Troop 157 leaves every camping area in better shape than when we arrived. Absolutely no trash in the ground.
- Adult leadership must always be 2-deep. This means that no adult should be alone with any youth other than his child. Another adult should be present at all times. One exception is while traveling to and from a camp out, a boy may be alone with the driver of the vehicle, but the vehicle should be in sight of another troop adult.
- All adults must have the required Youth Protection Training. This training can be done online at <http://olc.scouting.org/>, and a certificate of completion must be filed with the membership chairperson.

Drugs, Tobacco, and Alcohol

The use of alcohol is prohibited at scouting property and at scouting events. This includes both youth and adults.

Tobacco, in any form, is not to be used by any youth at a scouting event. Adults are encouraged to not smoke at any scouting event. If an adult must smoke, it must be out of the sight of any scouts.

Any scout guilty of using, distributing, or possessing a controlled substance will be subject to a disciplinary board.

Insurance

Troop 157 carries insurance for all registered adults and scouts. However, this insurance only covers costs which are not covered by individual insurance.

Guidelines for Adults

Adult participation is absolutely essential for the success of Troop 157. Troop 157 actively encourages participation by adults.

Adult Rules:

- Adult leadership must always be 2-deep. This means that no adult should be alone with any youth other than his child. Another adult should be present at all times. One exception is while traveling to and from a camp out, a boy may be alone with the driver of the vehicle, but the vehicle should be in sight of another troop adult.
- All adults must have the required Youth Protection Training. This training can be done online at <http://olc.scouting.org/>, and a certificate of completion must be filed with the membership chairperson.

How can I help?

Driving

The troop often needs help transporting scouts to various scouting activities.

Adult Camping Guidelines

Adults camp as a patrol, just like the scouts. This means:

- 1) Adults pitch their own tents, and sleep in those tents.
- 2) Adults cook their meals, eat their meals, and clean up after meals as a patrol. The adult patrol leader will make a duty roster, and assign jobs. Ensuring that an adult is covering the role of adult patrol leader is the responsibility of the service patrol.

- 3) Adults are expected to stay at the campsite, and participate in the events.
If you must leave the campout for any reason, please speak to the scoutmaster.

Guidelines for Scouts

Scout Camping Guidelines

- No participation in water activities without adult supervision.
- No use of cutting tools unless the Totin' Chip has been earned.
- All scouts and adults must ride inside a vehicle, and with a seat belt.
- Scouts should stay in their own patrol areas during camp outs, unless given permission to enter. This rule applies to the adult camping area as well.
- No pets or siblings at scouting events.

Prescriptions Drugs

Prescription medications to be taken at a scouting event should be given to the scoutmaster or their designate. It must be in the original bottle with a current and valid label on it. The adult leader in charge will administer medications. If the parent of the youth taking the prescription is present, however, the parent will be asked to administer the prescription.

Discipline

Most discipline problems will be dealt with at the time of the infraction. Serious problems which cannot be remedied at the event may result in the scout being asked to immediately leave, and the parent will be responsible for picking up their son. It is the responsibility of the parent, when contacted by the adult leader, to come directly to the site location to get their son. **Distance from home or other activities are not acceptable excuses in such circumstances.**

The first step of the formal disciplinary process is for the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) to conduct a Discipline Review Board. Usually they will hear from the Scoutmaster what

the accused infraction is, then talk with the accused and any witnesses. Then they can deliver any one of the following decisions:

- Dismissal
- Verbal admonishment
- Referral to the Scoutmaster for further review.

The next step is a discussion with possible action from the Scoutmaster. Outcomes can include:

- Dismissal
- Verbal admonishment
- Suspension from one or two campouts/events
- Loss of a current leadership position (if applicable).
- Referral to the committee for further review

More serious situations will result in a disciplinary board, which is typically held at the next troop meeting. At the board, the scout, the parents, and a group of adults will discuss the infraction and decide on the appropriate action. Actions may include:

- Suspension from additional campouts/events.
- Temporary suspension from the troop
- The loss of a current leadership position.
- Additional duties at upcoming scout events.
- Expulsion from Troop 157

A Final Word

Scouting is a great organization. The memories made during a boy's time in scouting last a lifetime. When questions pop up that are not covered in this guide, or if you have any concerns, please contact one of the many adult leaders. The Scouting Experience can really make a difference in the life of both boy and parent.