

Here we go!

# **Troop 269 Handbook**

**For Scouts, Parents, and Scouters**

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## **TROOP 269 HANDBOOK**

Troop 269 has developed this manual to help answer questions that scouts or their parents may have about the Troop, and how it functions. It is an attempt to answer the majority of the questions that come up regarding the Troop and how it functions. Our Troop was founded in 1982 and has a proud heritage. These policies are intended to promote the excellence in the program that has allowed the Troop to attain this tenure. We do hope that the parents and the new scouts will read this manual so they understand what is expected from the family, and what should be expected from the Troop.

### **SPONSORSHIP:**

Troop 269 currently has the dual sponsorship of the First Church of the Nazarene and the American Legion, Post 7. The troop uses the facilities of the church to conduct its scouting program and the American Legion, Post 7 provides us with financial support. We are very appreciative of the civic-minded efforts of both the Church and Post 7.

### **TO THE PARENTS:**

We extend a warm welcome to you and your son. By joining Troop 269, BSA, you have given permission for your son to participate in an organization whose purpose is to provide an effective program designed to build the desirable qualities of moral strength and character, the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and the development of strong physical, mental and emotional fitness. How the boys accomplish this involves a diverse program of methods and activities. Scouting should provide many things for your son.

He will learn the ability to accomplish major tasks by breaking them down into smaller, more workable units. He will develop leadership, camping and survival skills that may be utilized throughout his life. He will gain exposure to many hobbies, vocations, places, circumstances and people that may not be available in the single-family unit. He will gain a high self-esteem and a measure of pride—pride in himself, in his work and with his troop. The path to Eagle Scout, even though a lot of fun, is a big challenge. Less than 2% of those who come into the program achieve this goal.

Troop 269 is not a babysitting service for those parents dumping their sons to gain more free time. The Scouting program works at its best when generous amounts of parental motivation and encouragement are there to help the scout along the way. From time to time you will be called upon to provide assistance to the troop, but we will try to keep this to a minimum. Parents are encouraged to be at ALL Courts of Honor and are welcome to observe any meeting. We also encourage a father or stepfather to attend at least one campout. For those who would like to become more active in the organization, we always have openings in the leadership and committee positions.

### **FOR EVERY 100 BOYS WHO JOIN A BOY SCOUT TROOP:**

Twelve will have their first contact with a church or synagogue.

Five will earn their religious emblem.

One will enter the clergy.

Eighteen will develop hobbies that will last through their adult life.

Eight will enter a career that was learned through the merit badge system.

One will use his Boy Scout skills to save a life.

One will use his Boy Scout skills to save his own life.

Seventeen will become Scouting volunteers.

Two will become Eagle Scouts.

### **TO THE NEW SCOUT:**

We would like to welcome you to Troop 269! We are glad that you decided to join us for the fun, excitement and learning experiences we will share. We hope that you find this a rewarding experience and help the troop grow and reach our goals. Good luck on your trail to Eagle!

### **REGISTRATION:**

As in most other active organizations it takes money to be able to run and maintain the program. Scouting isn't free and each scout is expected to pay his fair share when it comes to registration, paying dues, and sharing camping expenses.

Registration fees collected each year are a major income source for the Boy Scouts of America National Organization. Troop 269 recharter and pays registration fees to the National Organization each year. When a youth joins the troop he initially pays a registration fee and a Troop fee. The Troop fee is \$25.00 per year and is used to help defray the cost of the program and equipment. The \$8.00 fee for the Boy's Life subscription is usually paid by our sponsoring organization.

### **THE AIMS OF SCOUTING:**

Boy Scouting works towards three aims. One is growth in moral strength and character. We may define this as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, and his outlook. A 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, to the government that presides over that society. A third aim of Boy Scouting 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).

### **THE METHODS:**

The ideals of scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto and Scout Slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them he has some control over what he becomes. Show Scout Spirit, is a requirement for each rank advancement and means living up to these ideals.

### **THE SCOUT OATH OR PROMISE:**

ON MY HONOR, I WILL DO MY BEST,  
TO DO MY DUTY TO GOD AND MY COUNTRY,  
AND TO OBEY THE SCOUT LAW;  
TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES;  
TO KEEP MYSELF PHYSICALLY STRONG,  
MENTALLY AWAKE AND MORALLY STRAIGHT

### **THE SCOUT LAW:**

A SCOUT IS: TRUSTWORTHY, LOYAL, HELPFUL, FRIENDLY, COURTEOUS,  
KIND, OBEDIENT, CHEERFUL, THRIFTY, BRAVE, CLEAN AND REVERENT

**THE SCOUT MOTTO:**  
BE PREPARED

**THE SCOUT SLOGAN:**  
DO A GOOD TURN DAILY

**PATROL METHOD:**

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. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they easily can relate to each other, These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

**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. Being close to nature helps Scouts gain an appreciation for God's Handiwork and mankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources. We practice and follow the BSA Outdoor Code.

**ADVANCEMENT:**

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and, by participating in the troop program, progresses as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a boy grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others.

**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.

**PERSONAL GROWTH:**

As Scouts plan their activity and progress towards 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. There probably is no device so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program is also a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Scout to determine his growth towards Scouting's aims.

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:**

Boy Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concept of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him towards the citizenship aim of Scouting.

### **THE UNIFORM:**

The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth that believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Scout activities, and provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

### **WEARING THE UNIFORM:**

Troop 269 is committed to the concept of the uniform as established by the Boy Scouts of America. The wearing of the uniform helps the troop in a number of ways:

When smartly worn, the uniform helps build troop spirit, and a Scout's pride in himself. By wearing the uniform the Scouts give each other support, and when properly worn on the correct occasions, it can attract new members. Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive youth image in the neighborhood, thus helping to counteract the negative feelings some adults have about youth. The uniform makes the troop visible as a force for good in the community. By investing in a uniform, a Scout and his parents are really making a commitment to take Scouting seriously. By wearing the uniform Scouts declare their faith and commitment and important beliefs that bind them to ALL people. And finally, as Scouts wear the uniform, they are standing for some principles, in the open, where everyone can see. Scouts are standing with each other, not alone, declaring their intent to support the principles, which Scouting stands for.

The uniform is to be worn to ALL SCOUTING ACTIVITIES, including meetings, campouts, and outings, unless specified by the adult leadership. During the summertime we allow the Class B shirt at outings.

We do not allow scouts to wear any clothing that advertises alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, or has any derogatory or offensive messages.

Troop 269 adheres to the normally required uniform parts that are listed in the BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK. Some parts are optional or provide more than one choice, and due to the cost of the uniform the troop has worked out some alternatives.

### **REQUIRED UNIFORM PARTS:**

**Shirt** – Standard short or long sleeve Class A tan shirt. We recommend the short sleeve, because it is better for year around wear.

**Pants** – Standard long pants for winter wear; standard shorts for summer wear. Red-Top green socks are worn any time the shorts are worn. To reduce the cost, the troop will accept blue jeans type pants if they are in good repair.

**Belt** – Standard Scout green web belt with BSA buckle.

**Hat** – BSA red and green ball cap, or troop hat for summer, warm hat or stocking cap for winter.

**Shoes with socks** – Choice is the option of the scout with long pants.

**BSA / Troop neckerchief and slide** – Troop 269's colors are Dark Green with Gold lettering. Slide is the standard BSA neckerchief slide.

**Class B T-shirt** – From time to time the troop has Class B t-shirts silk-screened. They may be purchased from the troop when available, and are used to supplement the uniform when more than one shirt is required, or to reduce wear on the Class A shirt.

**Note: Any Old style uniform parts are appropriate for wear.**

### **UNIFORM INSIGNIA:**

Troop 269 emphasizes correct insignia on the uniform. The scout provides certain insignia, while others are provided by the troop. Your BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK tells you where to correctly sew your uniform insignia.

### **THE FOLLOWING INSIGNIA ARE TO BE PROVIDED BY THE SCOUT FOR HIS UNIFORM:**

**Council Strip** - For the left shoulder.

**Troop 269 numerals** - On the left shoulder below the Veteran Unit Bar.

**American Flag** - On the right shoulder. (Normally included with the uniform.)

**Red Loops** - For shirt Epaulets.

**World Crest** - Above the left pocket.

**Patrol patch** - For the right shoulder.

**Order of the Arrow pocket flap** - (If O. A. member) for right pocket.

### **THE FOLLOWING INSIGNIA ARE PROVIDED BY THE TROOP FOR THE UNIFORM:**

**50 Year Unit Bar** - On left shoulder between council strip and unit numerals.

**Current Badge of Rank** - For left shirt pocket.

**Badge of Office** - (If any) for left shoulder.

**Trained Strip** - for right sleeve (If trained youth leader)

**The Current Quality Unit Award** - For the right sleeve. A maximum of two may be worn.

**Service Star** - Awarded for the number of years with the troop. Worn 3/8" above and centered over the left pocket.

The Troop will provide the above insignia for one uniform shirt for each of the youth member. The scout is responsible for all insignia for additional uniforms he may own.

### **WEEKLY TROOP MEETINGS:**

Troop 269 holds weekly meetings every Tuesday evening from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. at The First Church Of The Nazarene in the fellowship building, just behind the main sanctuary. The meetings are year round with the only exceptions being major holidays or school closings due to inclement weather. The weekly meetings provide time for training and activities planning. It is very important that the scouts attend the meetings on a regular basis so that they can keep up on troop activities, and learn to function within the troop environment. The meetings will be conducted by the patrol method and lead by the Senior Patrol Leader and the adult leadership. All meetings will start with the proper ceremonies. All openings and closings will be performed with scouts in formation and standing at attention. Scouts should be silent when in formation, unless you are supposed to speak. Scouts should give the leadership in charge your respect and attention. When an adult, scout leader or recognized scout is speaking, scouts should be silent. Any time the sign is up, ALL scouts should be silent. Scouts should bring your Scout Handbook, notebook and pencil to every Troop meeting.

### **ADVANCEMENT PLAN:**

Boy Scouts of America has a very specific advancement plan. This program is designed to encourage Scouts to participate in a progressive series of learning experiences. The plan also provides a specific means of measuring and recognizing achievement in these experiences. There are steps that a Scout must go through to advance.

These steps are:

Learning by doing.

Being tested.

Participating in a Scoutmaster Conference.

Appearing before the Board of Review.

Learning by doing:

Here the Scout practices the skill, participates in an activity and completes the assignment with his patrol, counselor or through independent study.

Being Tested:

The Scout is tested over the requirements he has completed. The Scoutmaster or his assistants will do the testing. In the case of merit badges, the merit badge counselor is responsible for determining whether the Scout has satisfied the requirements. Merit badges require independent study and introduce the Scout to specialized subjects that broaden his knowledge and interests. Before starting a merit badge, the Scout must have a blue merit badge card signed by the Scoutmaster. The Boy Scout Handbook contains a listing of all requirements for advancement in rank and a record of the Scout's progress. The Scout should put his name inside the Handbook and on the binding. The Scout should bring the Handbook, a pen or pencil and a notebook to Scout meetings. Once a requirement is completed the Scout's examiner will initial and date the Scout's Handbook, a.k.a. signing off.

Participating in a Scoutmaster Conference:

When a Scout has been signed off on all requirements for advancement in rank, he meets with the Scoutmaster for a conference. This conference is designed to involve the Scout in a review of his progress to date, and have the Scout and Scoutmaster work together in setting goals for further development. It should be noted that the Scoutmaster conference is not designed to determine if the boy should be advanced in rank. The Boy Scouts of America takes the position that this decision should be made by the Board of Review. Thus, the Scoutmaster conference is used mainly to review and set goals.

Appearing before the Board of Review:

As a final step toward advancement, the Scout goes before a Board of Review. The Scout will appear in full Class A uniform. The purpose of the Board of Review is to make sure that all requirements for badges of rank have been met. This means a check of both the technical skills and the scout's attitude and practice of the ideals of scouting.

It should be pointed out that showing leadership, demonstrating Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath and Law in everyday life and actively participating in troop activities are key in attaining the ranks of Star, Life and Eagle. Care is taken to see that the review does not become a re-examination. Spot-checking is all that needs to be done in a board of review. Advancement in rank is not automatic. If the Board feels that the Scout is not ready to be advanced, they will offer constructive suggestions designed to strengthen perceived areas of weakness. A minimum of one Committee member and two or more adult leaders conduct the Board of Review for Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star Scout and Life Scout. Parents may not be present at this Board of Review. The Eagle rank Board of Review is conducted by the District's Eagle Review Board. The Scoutmaster and parents are not present for this Board of Review.

### **Court of Honor:**

Every effort will be made to present scouts with a merit badge or rank patch within a month of the requirements being completed. Additionally, the troop tries to schedule four Courts of Honor each year. A Court of Honor is a special troop meeting where all family members are invited. The meeting is held for the purpose of providing extra recognition to those scouts that have earned rank advancement, merit badges or other accomplishments.

The whole family is encouraged to attend even if a scout has not earned any special recognition because the meetings are also used to discuss the troop's accomplishments and future activities. Courts of Honor are generally scheduled on Tuesday nights.

### **CAMPING:**

Camping is a major part of the scouting program, and our major appeal to the youth. A critical part of our camping program is transportation.

**FOR A SCOUT TO QUALIFY TO ATTEND “OUTINGS” HE MUST ATTEND AT LEAST 50% OF THE WEEKLY TROOP MEETINGS.**

### **TRANSPORTATION:**

The Adult leadership will provide transportation for all troop equipment and as much personal gear as possible, but we do not have enough room to transport all of the scouts. Without parent participation our campouts are limited to wherever the scouts can hike to. The normal procedure is for parents to volunteer to drive on a rotational basis, thereby limiting the amount of vehicles and the number of times that any parent has to drive. The other alternative is that parents will be responsible for delivering their scout to the site of the campout. Some special long distance campouts may require that the drivers camp with the troop.

### **PLANNING THE CAMPOUT:**

#### **Prior to the Campout:**

The patrols will determine the number of members going, and their menu. The adult leadership will review menu.

*It is very important that a scout find out whether he can go as early as possible. If we do not know how many scouts are participating, it is almost impossible to plan a menu and buy food for the campout.*

A patrol member selected by the Patrol Leader will price the food, and notify the members of the cost.

The scouts must pay prior to the campout, or they will not be allowed to participate.

Any member who pays for the campout and then at the last minute is not able to attend will forfeit their payment. Once the food has been purchased we WILL NOT give refunds.

The cost of food at our campouts is the responsibility of the scout or adult attending. A good rule of thumb for cost is approximately \$2.50 per meal. The troop provides the major pieces of equipment that the scouts will require for camping. (See the Equipment section)

### **PARENT ATTENDANCE AT CAMPOUTS:**

Parents are always welcome at our troop campouts, whether for a short visit or camping with the troop. If you plan to camp with the troop or stay for meals we must insist that you notify the adult leaders in advance so you can be figured in the food budget.

### **CAMPOREES:**

The troop usually participates in the District's Spring and Fall Camporee. The District selects the sites for these events, and if we wish to attend, parent participation in transportation for the scouts is required. At these events we "Troop Camp", and use the Patrol Method. The participating members share the cost of the food, and in addition these events have a registration fee to cover the cost of insurance, running the event, and providing a Camporee patch.

### **SUMMER CAMP:**

The troop participates in a summer camp program, which is a long term camping program (6 days). This camp is VERY IMPORTANT to the advancement growth of the troop's members. A youth member is provided with the facilities and trained leadership to earn rank advancements and merit badges that are difficult or impossible for the Troop to provide during the rest of the year. This opportunity is especially important to those brand new scouts. Summer camp provides a quick start on the Boy Scout program, and gives these scouts 80 to 90 percent of the requirements they will need to achieve all of the advancement ranks up through First Class Scout, usually within one year!

**Informational Meeting** - The Troop will hold a meeting at least one month prior to summer camp to explain summer camp policies and procedures. It is very important that parents attend this meeting so that any questions or misunderstandings can be resolved.

**Camp Fees** - All camping fees must be paid before going to camp. There is a deadline for payment of fees. The troop will begin final collection of the fees two weeks prior to that deadline.

***The Summer Camp usually has a discounted fee if the fee is paid by a certain date. After this date most Camps will raise the fee by approximately 25%.***

**TRANSPORTATION** - The troop leadership will provide Transportation of Troop equipment and as much personal gear as possible. Transportation of youth members is the responsibility of the parents. Normally we try to do this in the manner described in "Transportation" above.

### **TROOP SUMMER CAMP RULES:**

**Conduct** - All Members will conduct themselves as "SCOUTS" at all times, and the "Buddy System" will be used in all non organized activities.

**Programs** - Youth members are required to attend the BASIC ADVANCEMENT program, or if they have reached the rank of First Class Scout, or above, they are expected to take at least 4 merit badge courses. Scouts will be required to participate in all camp Troop activities.

**Meals** - Scouts are required to attend all meals. Class "A" Uniform is required for all meals.

**Formations** - Scouts are required to be at formations on time. Repeated abuse of this rule will bring appropriate disciplinary action.

**Discipline** - Severe discipline problems will result in the parents being called to come pick up their scout.

### **HIGH ADVENTURE:**

The older scouts in the troop often participates in the Summer Camp's High Adventure program. This is typically a long term wilderness backpacking or canoe trip. To be eligible, the scout must have successfully completed a long term summer camp with the troop and attained the rank of First Class Scout. Some Camps also have a minimum age requirement. This opportunity is intended to challenge the scout to use all of their abilities and to provide a life long memorable experience.

## TROOP & PERSONAL EQUIPMENT:

Equipment is a big part of the Scouting program and is often the subject of many questions by the parents and Scouts. What do we need? What type do we need? How good does it need to be? These are the types of questions the leaders hear from the parents.

This section deals with these questions as well as those pertaining to Troop 269 owned equipment.

Camping is more enjoyable when you have the right equipment. The “right” equipment for you may not be the “right” equipment for someone else. Do not rush out and buy equipment if you are unfamiliar with camping equipment. After a few campouts, you will know better what you would like. Use that time to talk to others about their gear. What is good about it? What is bad? Learn from their mistakes. Usually the better quality product (used or new), will give you fewer problems and last you longer. If you do not have much equipment to start, get with the scoutmaster to work out arrangements for borrowing what you need. Parents should check with the scoutmaster before purchasing “essential” equipment the scout says he “has” to have.

**NOTE: Please check with the Troop’s adult leadership before purchasing equipment. Most have years of experience with this type of equipment and what is required. They also know WHERE to purchase these items at the lowest cost.**

## PARENT’S GUIDE:

DO NOT MORTGAGE THE HOUSE. Although it appears you need to spend \$1,000 on equipment, you don’t.

Use what you have until it proves itself unusable or unsuitable.

### EQUIPMENT:

Sleeping Bag:

Use what you have until it proves itself unsuitable. A wool blanket (Army & Navy store for less than \$10) can make a 40°F sleeping bag suitable for most trips. The blanket would be too heavy for backpacking.

When you buy look for these qualities:

Stuff-ability - Be sure the bag can be stuffed into a “stuff sack”. Have the sales people demonstrate and buy the sack with the sleeping bag.

Temperature rating - If a bag is not rated, it probably is 40°F or higher and not advisable for a new purchase. Remember, buy a bag you can afford with a rating of 20°F or lower.

Goose down vs. synthetic filling (such as holofill, qualfill, loft lite, etc.) - Goose down is usually warmer pound-for-pound, but loses insulating value when wet. The synthetics are usually slightly heavier but do not lose as much insulating value when wet. This is a personal (i.e. \$) choice. Either is good as long as it is properly temperature rated, sized adequately, and “stuffable”. Note: To promote longevity, do not store the bag stuffed in the sack. Hang it.

Weight - Remember your son may carry this a few miles at times. Try to keep the weight less than 5 lbs. Less than 4 lbs. is best.

Mummy vs. rectangular - Mummy bags are tapered and thus weigh less. They come with and without hoods. It is possible to buy a bag, which is so snug that it is uncomfortable, so “try it on” for size prior to purchasing. Different models have different fits. Rectangular bags are roomier but weigh slightly more.

Sleeping Bag Pads - Sleeping bag temperature ratings usually assume you are sleeping on a pad. There are several types of pads which can be divided into two major categories - foam, and self-inflatable. Although air mattresses may seem to be another alternative, they are difficult to use in the woods and do not stand the abuse. When buying a pad be careful of the length. Full-length pads are best for our purposes. A pad that is full body length gives more protection from wet tent floors than a shorter pad.

Foam pads - Make sure the pad is closed cell (i.e. won't absorb water). Ribbed pads are better than non-ribbed. These type pads are really all you need for weekend outings and are relatively inexpensive.

Self-inflating - These are the “Cadillacs” and the price reflects it. They are not necessary. If you buy one, buy the storage sack that goes with it. The type that folds in half for storage is easier to pack. Note: For longevity, don't store the pad in the bag. Lay it out, perhaps under a bed.

### **Cooking Gear:**

The basic essentials each camper needs are a plate, cup, knife, fork, and spoon. A small camper's pot is also useful (and a necessity on backpacking trips) for boiling water, cereal, etc. You can also eat from the bowl. This saves clean-up. These can be obtained individually or as kits. The basic requirement is that they be unbreakable, washable, lightweight, and packable. Most campers use cooking kits. Again, the price varies widely for different equipment. The kits can range from \$10 to \$100. Stainless steel cook kits are available from camping stores. They cost more and do not often contain a frying pan. A frying pan is not really a necessity, especially on troop trips, since the troop brings frying pans. Often these kits include a series of three or four multi-use pots with handles. You may question their usefulness, but on a camping trip they work fine.

Silverware is available as metal snap-together kits or individual pieces made of “lexan” (i.e. unbreakable plastic). The lexan utensils are durable, inexpensive, and available as a knife, fork, spoon, and soup spoon. Either the metal or plastic utensils are functional, although the plastic utensils can be replaced individually if lost. A ziploc bag is a simple method of organizing/storing the plastic utensils.

**Clothing:** Hiking Boots - It is preferable that Scouts have hiking boots for our camping trips. Sneakers simply do not offer enough protection to the foot from penetration of the sole or support to the ankle. The boots can be either leather or synthetic outer material. Although leather is best, for a Scout with growing feet, it is a bit expensive. Various lining materials are available. Gore-tex is often the most talked about. Gore-tex is a lining material and not the manufacturer of the boot. Gore-tex will definitely waterproof a boot (or anything else) while allowing your feet to breathe properly. It also adds 50% to 100% to the price of boots. Unless you expect to have and use the boots for an extended period of time, Gore-tex is probably not worth the investment.

Scouts must also wear socks. A light sock with a heavier over-sock is OK. In most cases a simple heavy sock is sufficient. Multiple pairs of heavy socks are not recommended. Spare socks are a necessity.

Pants - when in the woods, it is important that Scouts wear pants. Shorts do not protect the lower leg from insects and scratches.

Rain Gear - Rain gear is a necessity on all camping trips. A poncho is relatively inexpensive rain gear. If it is the really inexpensive (i.e. \$3) version, be thankful if it comes back from a trip in one piece, if it comes back at all. As a backup, send a large garbage bag in which slits can be cut for the head and arms. Rain suits (with and without Gore-tex linings) are also available. They cost significantly more than a poncho.

Layering - It is far more comfortable and warmer to layer clothes for the cold weather than to use a single heavily insulated winter coat.

#### **Accessories:**

Important:

Flashlight - Each Scout should have his own flashlight on *all* camping trips. The flashlights should NOT be the large lantern types that are heavy and inconvenient. A small "mini-mag" light with holster is recommended.

Water bottle - Each Scout must carry a water bottle. Whether this is a canteen or a plastic soda bottle with re-sealable lid is unimportant. He must be able to carry the bottle without the use of his hands, and it must be accessible. Shoulder straps or carriers with belt loops are fine.

First Aid Kit - The troop has first aid supplies at all outings. Each Scout should carry some minor first aid supplies, such as bandages, moleskin, etc. Nothing elaborate or expensive is required. Each Scout is required to assemble a sample kit as part of his Second Class requirement.

Desirable - The items mentioned above (Sleeping Bags, Pads, Cooking Gear, Proper Clothing, and certain Accessories) are necessities for boys attending camping trips. The following range in order from desirable to totally optional:

Backpacks - A backpack is desirable and a necessity on some trips where we carry our gear to remote sites. However, many of our trips involve practically driving up to the front door of our campsite. On these trips, a soft suitcase or preferably a duffel bag will suffice. The basic requirement is that a Scout can fit all his clothes, equipment, and food (excluding the sleeping bag and pad) into one bag which can be stored outside the tent (covered with a large garbage bag) overnight. Eventually, every Scout should have a backpack.

Backpacks are available in two different types: External frame, and internal frame. External frame packs have external metal (or plastic) frames from which the actual pack can be detached. Internal frame packs have metal (or plastic) pieces built into the pack for structure.

On all modern overnight packs, the majority of the loaded pack's weight is carried on the hips via a padded waist belt. Packs without this feature should not be considered for a new purchase. They are probably daypacks, which put all the weight on the shoulders. Weight on the shoulders is extremely fatiguing, even for day hikes.

Capacity of all serious backpacks is rated in cubic inches. A pack rated between 4,000 and 5,000 cubic inches is ideal for all Boy Scout trips (including high adventure camping as your son gets older). A pack this size may be unwieldy for younger Scouts, so consider one about 3,300 cubic inches first. Bungee cords (sold separately) may be used to attach sleeping bags and pads to the frame.

Camp Trails is the largest manufacturer of external frame packs. They have a number of different models.

Kelty is another manufacturer. There are often sales on packs early in the season (February, March, early April).

Knife - Scouts may carry pocket knives on camping trips after they receive their "Tote-n-Chip", which instructs them on the proper care and use of knives. Sheathed knives, switchblades, etc. are not permitted. A simple knife such as the standard Boy Scout knife or the "Tinker" model of the Swiss Army knife is all that is needed.

Compass - Compass work is part of the Second Class and First Class requirements. Sufficient compasses are usually around so that a Scout can borrow one if needed to pass the requirements. Since the troop does some orienteering each year, it would be nice for each Scout to have his own compass. It is best if the compass has a plastic base plate. A simple compass, such as the Boy Scout "Polaris" is all that is needed.

Stove - This is really not needed since the troop provides stoves and propane. If a Scout gets into serious backpacking on such events as high adventure outings, this will become a necessity.

Tent - Again, this is not necessary, since the troop provides tents. Should you wish to purchase a tent, people in the troop can provide advice.

Pillow - Scouts can make pillows by stuffing clothes into their sleeping bag stuff sacks. Some Scouts bring small pillows with them when we go to convenient camps. Camping pillows are available from camping stores, but are not necessary.

Cord - It is a good idea for each Scout to bring about 25' of some lightweight cord or twine with him. 550 Cord (white or olive drab) is very strong, lightweight, and doesn't unravel. Military stores and catalogs carry this.

#### **Sources for Equipment:**

Many stores, such as Wal-Mart, Kmart, Service Merchandise, Dick's, etc. carry camping supplies.

Mail Order/Internet through L. L. Bean, Campmor, REI, etc. Mail order is not always the least expensive place to purchase camping equipment. Also, if you need to "try it on", it's difficult to do with mail order.

Best Source - field tested (i.e. used) merchandise that your friends, neighbors, family no longer need.

The above information is provided based on the type of camping we do in the troop. We recognize there are points and counterpoints to each of the above statements. If confused, ask the Troop's leadership.

## SCOUT'S GUIDE:

The Scout Handbook has a suggested list to follow in selecting the gear needed on a campout.

Pack for hot, cold, dry and wet. Be prepared for mosquito attacks and for intense sun by bringing bug repellent and sunscreen. Be sure to pack spare clothes in case of calamity!

**Do not pack gear in paper bags, cardboard boxes, plastic grocery bags, suitcases or footlockers.** An "Action Packer" is light weight and waterproof. You may use a rucksack, backpack or duffel bag to bring your gear, but they won't keep your gear dry.

If you forget to bring an item, DO WITHOUT! Learn from the experience and be better prepared the next time. Do not "borrow" anything without the expressed permission of the owner. This includes even a drink from someone's canteen. This amounts to stealing and a scout is always Trustworthy.

**Sleeping bag or bed roll** – The Troop camps many nights per year, in all types of weather. A middle weight bag is recommended for most of the troop camping. "Slumber party bags" that you use in your home are only suitable for the warmest weather camping. During winter camping, if you do not believe your son's sleeping bag is warm enough, extra blankets are needed to increase the sleeping bags ability to retain heat. We sometimes camp in near-zero temperatures. Appropriate equipment and clothing are a must. A sleeping bag may be supplemented with blankets or a lighter sleeping bag inside a middle weight bag.

**NOTE: There is NOTHING more uncomfortable than spending the night COLD.**

**NOTHING!**

## Poncho or raincoat.

**Change of clothing** - On a summer overnight campout usually one change of clothes is all that is needed. During cold weather or snow campouts 2 or more changes of clothes and boots are required.

**Outer clothing** - In the summer we only carry light jackets, winter ware is warm coat and hat; (preferably a stocking cap) and gloves. Remember you will stay warmer dressing in layers. Members should wear hats at all times outdoors. This is for warmth in the winter, sun protection in the summer.

**Toilet Articles** - Soap, Washcloth, towel, deodorant, tooth brush, tooth paste, comb or brush, and what ever you do, don't forget the "TP". (Toilet Paper)

## OTHER:

**Flashlight and Spare Batteries** - A must have item, and it must be battery powered. Each scout needs a light source for campouts. For one thing it keeps away lions, tigers, elephants and ghosts. Remember, "bigger" does not mean "better". The flashlights should NOT be the large lantern types that are heavy and inconvenient. A small "mini-mag" light with holster is recommended.

**Insect Repellent** – We would prefer the non-aerosol type because insect repellent sprayed on a tent removes the waterproofing.

**Trash Bags** – this item has a multitude of uses at camp besides taking care of trash. Scouts should keep a couple extra on hand.

**Personal First Aid Kit** – Consisting of a Band-Aid a small bar of soap (like hotel soap). The troop carries a well stocked first aid kit, but scouts are not always in the immediate vicinity. A personal first aid kit should be small enough to carry in the pocket, and is designed for minor scratches and cuts. Every scout prepares one of these as a Second Class scout.

**Boy Scout Handbook, Pencil and Paper.**

**Totin' Chip and Firem'n Chit** - The scouts are required to carry these cards whenever they are at a scout function.

**Back Pack or Duffel bag** - Make certain that the pack is properly sized. Often, scouts will sell or trade up with other members of the Troop as they get older and their needs in the size department change. The Scout's name should be placed on the outside of the pack and other belongings.

**OPTIONAL:**

Closed Cell Foam Sleeping Mat - If possible a closed cell foam sleeping mat used by hikers is a good item to have. it rolls up in a small space, and provides some ground cushion, and in the winter it provides ground insulation for warmth. Many types are available and range in cost.

Pajamas, Sweat Suit or Polypropylene long johns - for sleeping

Compass - A good item to have. Many times scout functions include "Compass Courses" where 8 scouts are trying to share 1 compass.

Canteen - They should be plastic or metal, and have some way to attach to the clothing, or hang from the shoulder. Carrying a water bottle in your hands for 10 miles is no treat.

**ALL PERSONAL EQUIPMENT ITEMS EXCEPT FOR THE SLEEPING BAG SHOULD FIT IN THE PACK and MUST BE LIGHT ENOUGH FOR THE SCOUT TO CARRY FOR SOME DISTANCE WHERE A LONG HIKE OR "PACK IN" IS REQUIRED.**

## **PROHIBITED ITEMS**

We have listed a certain amount of personal equipment, which is needed by each scout for participation in the camping and outdoor activities conducted by the troop. There is also a list of **PROHIBITED** items that have no place during a scouting activity or campout.

**Sheath or large “Bowie Type” knives** - These knives are only useful for skinning a large - animal or cutting someone. Neither of which you are allowed to do at a scout function. BSA has banned all use of these types of knives. Accepted knives include any Official Scout Knife, or any folding blade knife with blades no longer than 3+ inches. Banned knives will be confiscated and held for the parents if they are brought to a scout activity.

**Any weapons** - including sling-shots, pellet or BB guns, pea-shooters, blackjacks, brass knuckles, etc.

**Radios, T.V.'s, Tape/CD players, or Electronic Games** – These are not appropriate for scout functions, especially an outdoor experience. The boys have plenty of time for this at home. Anyone found with these items will turn them over to an adult leader, and may not have them back until the outing or meeting is over.

**Any obscene, vulgar, or questionable material including adult magazines** - These items will be confiscated by the adult leadership and be held for the parents.

### **DAY TRIPS OR OUTINGS:**

The Troop periodically schedules a day trips that we think will be fun or educational for the scouts. Places such as local businesses, skating ponds, local parks, military bases, museums, etc. are some of the sites we visit. There is usually a fee and again these outings are limited by the transportation available.

### **TROOP 269 EQUIPMENT:**

Troop 269 owns a large amount of camping and associated types of equipment of substantial monetary value. This equipment has been purchased over the years with Troop funds. The troop is well equipped with tents, propane stoves and lanterns, propane tanks and equipment, patrol cooking gear, dining flies, patrol boxes, etc. We also have a trailer/chuckwagon for hauling this equipment to our activity and camping locations. Troop ownership of this equipment saves the individual scouts from having to buy this equipment, but it carries with it the responsibility of each scout taking care and maintaining this equipment for use by future members of the troop.

A series of rules pertaining to troop owned equipment have been established:

Any equipment in a Patrol Box is the responsibility of the Patrol. It is the responsibility of each scout to use and maintain any troop owned equipment in the manner for which it is intended in order to keep it in working order. Any malfunctioning or damaged equipment should be reported to the adult leadership immediately. This is primarily the responsibility of the Patrol Leaders and the Troop Quartermaster.

Any scout who damages any troop owned equipment is responsible for fixing or replacing that piece of equipment. If a specific person can't be isolated, or the damage was due to horse-play by several members of the patrol, then the patrol will be responsible for the cost or repair.

Damage through ignorance of how to use a piece of equipment is NO EXCUSE for a scout not replacing the damaged item. There are plenty of other scouts and adult leaders who can help. If you don't know the equipment - - - ASK BEFORE YOU USE IT!

During campouts, all cooking equipment is to be thoroughly cleaned by the scouts and all scouts will be expected to participate in equipment clean-up the first meeting after the outing.

DO NOT spray insect repellent in or near the tents. It WILL ruin their water proofing.

Troop owned equipment MAY NOT be borrowed by Scouts for non Scouting events.

### **DISCIPLINE:**

The Scouting program is not designed to solve youth discipline problems — on the contrary it's designed to build into youth the necessary character and responsibility to prevent discipline problems. The program needs all of the time available to it to accomplish these aims — thus administering the program to Troop 269's membership does not provide troop leadership any extra time to waste dealing with discipline problems. We believe it is the PARENTS who should have the direct responsibility to instill and reinforce good manners, socially acceptable behavior, and respect for authority in their boys.

The Troop Committee has established the following procedures concerning discipline:

Youth members are expected to live and act according to the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Slogan and Scout Motto.

Rules infractions warrant verbal warnings or corrective actions and are administered by the Scoutmaster or Adult Leader supervising the activity. Examples of infractions include: vulgar or profane language, disruptive behavior, cheating, lying, and disrespect for adult and/or youth leadership.

Corrective actions the Scoutmaster may take (but is not limited to) are outlined in the official Scoutmaster Manual of the Boy Scouts of America.

They include:

“Time Out”: A scout who is rowdy during a troop meeting is asked to sit away from the group for 10 to 15 minutes.

“Loss of Privilege”: Free time or participation in a monthly scout outing is denied to those scouts who breach the limits of acceptable behavior.

“Meeting Expulsion”: A scout who misbehaves during a troop meeting might be asked to call his parents to take him home and not finish the meeting.

Severe or continued rule infractions including theft, vandalism, the use of alcohol or drugs, fighting or any other physical abuse, will not be tolerated. The parents will be called to pick up their scout immediately, whether at a troop meeting or a distant camping trip.

The parents are required to counsel the scout about his problematic behavior, and a follow-up call by the parents to the Scoutmaster to discuss the situation is required before the Scout may participate in any further troop meetings and/or activities.

The next stage of discipline is a 30 to 90 day suspension. At this time the Scoutmaster will meet with the parents to try to resolve the problem.

Further severe infractions may lead to expulsion from the troop. In these cases the Troop Committee will meet with the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters, and make a decision on the expulsion.

#### **HEALTH FORMS:**

The Boy Scouts of America and the Troop 269 Committee have established policies and procedures in dealing with the necessary question of Health Forms and Accident Insurance. A good part of the Scouting program consists of an active and sometimes rigorous outdoor program and it is necessary to take basic steps to protect the health and welfare of the scouts and the troop.

Each youth member and adult leader must have the appropriate medical examination form on file with troop leadership. The Boy Scouts of America requires that a scout and adult leader have an annual health history attested by a parent or guardian and supported by a medical evaluation by a physician licensed to practice medicine. The physical must have been within 36 months unless specific conditions dictate more frequent examination.

Youth member’s Personal Health and Medical Record, Class 2 #4414 is the required form and this is to be on file with troop leadership before any new or existing scout can participate in troop activities. You must attach a copy of the scout’s last physical (within 36 months) signed by a Physician. In addition form 4414 must have the scout’s social security number in the upper left hand corner of the form. The Scoutmaster will issue these forms as needed to the scouts.

Adult member Personal Health and Medical Record Form, Class 2 #4416A is the required form for adult leaders that is to be on file with the Scoutmaster. This form also requires the Social Security number in the upper left corner of the form.

### **ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

Troop 269 and the Blue Grass Council maintain a Unit Accident Insurance Policy as required by the Boy Scouts of America. Parents should be aware of the fact that this is a SUPPLEMENTAL accident insurance policy, and as such has limited coverage. It only pays costs that are not covered by your existing medical insurance, and the injury must occur at a scout function.

The troop activity plan usually involves travel to other locations in a parent or adult leader owned vehicle. The Boy Scouts Of America has established policy regarding drivers, vehicles, and insurance.

### **TRANSPORTATION:**

The troop will enforce reasonable travel speed in accordance with state and local laws in all motor vehicles. Proof of Insurance is required for all vehicles used in scout functions or transportation.

If Scouts are transported by a motor vehicle:

**DRIVER QUALIFICATIONS:** All drivers must have a valid driver's license and be at least 18 years of age.

Driving time is limited to a maximum of 16 hours per day and must be interrupted by frequent rest, food, and recreation stops.

Seat belts are provided, and **MUST BE USED**, by all passengers and driver. Exception: A school or commercial bus.

Passengers will ride only in the cab if trucks are used.

Parents providing vehicles for transportation of their son and/or other scouts **MUST** adhere to the above stated rules.

### **VEHICLE INSURANCE:**

**A PUBLIC LIABILITY AND PROPERTY DAMAGE LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY MUST COVER ALL VEHICLES. THIS IS THE LAW FOR VEHICLES OWNED BY RESIDENTS OF THE STATE OF KENTUCKY.**

### **YOUTH OFFICERS & ELECTIONS:**

The scouting program is designed to teach, and promote leadership skills. The program structure contains a number of levels of youth leadership. The youth leaders (with guidance from the adult leaders) execute the troop program. These leadership programs are not taken lightly, they are considered very important. A Scout is **REQUIRED** to be involved in leadership if he is to advance in the higher ranks of Star, Life and Eagle. The top leadership positions are elected while the Scoutmaster/SPL appoints some. Elections are held one time a year.

## RESOURCES FOR ALL YOUTH LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:

A youth leader has many resources available to you to help you do your job. These include people such as your Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, and Troop Committee members. Other resources include your fellow troop junior leaders, teachers, religious advisers, and community leaders. Some literature that can help you follow:

- Boy Scout Handbook
- Junior Leader Handbook
- Boy Scout Requirements, No. 3216B
- Copies of work sheets from Scoutmaster's Junior Leader Training Kit that relate to your specific leadership position

- Boys' Life
- Merit Badge pamphlets
- Copy of troop rules and policies
- Troop and patrol rosters
- Activity calendars (troop, district, school)
- Campfire planner sheets, No. 3696
- BSA equipment catalog

**Senior Patrol Leader:** The Senior Patrol Leader is the top youth leader in the troop. He has the energy and training to make the Troop work as well as possible. When you accept the position of Senior Patrol Leader, you agree to provide service and leadership in our troop. This responsibility should be fun and rewarding. This job description provides some of the things you are expected to do while serving as a junior leader.

**Responsible to:** Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmasters

**Qualifications:** Scoutmaster approval.

### **Specific Duties:**

- Plan and lead Troop meetings and activities.
- Keep Troop members informed.
- Assign non-elected leadership positions.
- Represent the Troop at all outings.
- Prepare the Troop to take part in all activities.
- Develop Troop spirit.
- Work with other youth and adult leaders to make the troop run well.
- Know what other youth leaders can do.
- Set a good example.
- Wear the uniform correctly.

**Assistant Senior Patrol Leader:** The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader is the SPL's assistant. He stands-in for the Senior Patrol Leader when the SPL is unavailable. He is appointed by the SPL. He has the energy and training to make the Troop work as well as possible. When you accept the position of ASPL, you agree to provide service and leadership in our troop. This responsibility should be fun and rewarding. This job description provides some of the things you are expected to do while serving as a junior leader.

**Responsible to:** Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmasters/SPL

**Qualifications:** Appointed by SPL with Scoutmaster approval.

### **Specific Duties:**

- Assist Senior Patrol Leader.
- Perform all duties listed for Senior Patrol Leader.

**Troop Guide:** The Scoutmaster appoints the Troop Guide. He is the Patrol Leader of the New Scout Patrol. He reports to the Assistant Scoutmaster assigned to that patrol. He has the energy and training to make the patrol work as well as possible. When you accept the position of Troop Guide, you agree to provide service and leadership in our troop. This responsibility should be fun and rewarding. This job description provides some of the things you are expected to do while serving as a junior leader.

**Responsible to:** Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmasters/SPL

**Qualifications:** Appointed by Scoutmaster.

**Specific Duties:**

His job is to help the new scouts learn how the troop operates and assist in their rank advancement.

Perform all duties listed for Patrol Leader.

**Patrol Leader:** The Patrol Leader is the leader of the patrol. He has the energy and training to make the patrol work as well as possible. When you accept the position of patrol leader, you agree to provide service and leadership in our troop. This responsibility should be fun and rewarding. This job description provides some of the things you are expected to do while serving as a junior leader.

**Responsible to:** Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmasters/SPL/ASPL

**Qualifications:** Scoutmaster approval.

**Specific Duties:**

Plan and lead patrol meetings and activities.

Keep patrol members informed.

Assign each patrol member a job and help them succeed.

Represent the patrol at all patrol leaders' council meetings and at the semi-annual program planning conference.

Prepare the patrol to take part in all troop activities.

Develop patrol spirit.

Work with other troop leaders to make the troop run well.

Know what patrol members and other leaders can do.

Set a good example.

Wear the uniform correctly.

Live by the Scout Oath and Law.

**Assistant Patrol Leader:** The Assistant Patrol Leader is the Patrol Leader's assistant and replacement for the PL when he is unavailable. He has the energy and training to make the patrol work as well as possible. When you accept the position of patrol leader, you agree to provide service and leadership in our troop. This responsibility should be fun and rewarding. This job description provides some of the things you are expected to do while serving as a junior leader.

**Responsible to:** Patrol Leader

**Qualifications:** Scoutmaster approval.

**Specific Duties:**

Take charge of the patrol in the absence of the patrol leader.

Perform all duties listed for Patrol Leader.

**Troop Scribe:** Responsible for Troop records and finance **Responsible to:** Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmasters/SPL **Qualifications:** Appointed by SPL with Scoutmaster approval.

**Specific Duties:**

Attend and keep a log of patrol leaders' council meetings.

Record attendance at all Troop functions.

Work with appropriate Troop adult leadership responsible for finance, records, and advancement.

Set a good example.

Wear the uniform correctly.

Live by the Scout Oath and Law.

**Troop Librarian:** Responsible for Troop Library and all literature within.

**Responsible to:** Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmasters/SPL

**Qualifications:** Appointed by SPL with Scoutmaster approval.

**Specific Duties:**

Establish and maintain a troop library.

Keep records on literature owned by the troop.

Add new or replacement items needed.

Have literature available for borrowing at troop meetings.

Keep a system to check literature in and out.

Follow up on late returns.

Set a good example.

Wear the uniform correctly.

Live by the Scout Oath and Law.

**Troop Historian:** Keep a record of Troop activities.

**Responsible to:** Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmasters/SPL

**Qualifications:** Appointed by SPL with Scoutmaster approval.

**Specific Duties:**

Gather pictures and facts about past and present activities of the troop and keep them in scrapbooks, wall displays, or information files.

Take care of troop trophies and keepsakes.

Keep information about troop alumni.

Set a good example.

Wear the uniform correctly.

Live by the Scout Oath and Law.

**Troop Quartermaster:** Attend to and maintain Troop's equipment.

**Responsible to:** Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmasters/SPL

**Qualifications:** Appointed by SPL with Scoutmaster approval.

**Specific Duties:**

Keep records of Troop equipment.

Keep equipment in good repair.

Issue equipment and see that it is returned in good order.

Suggest new and replacement items.

Work with troop adult leadership responsible for equipment.

Set a good example.

Wear the uniform correctly.

Live by the Scout Oath and Law.

**Den Chief:** Assist the Den Leader in preparing the boys to advance to the next level of Cubs or if a Webelos den chief, prepare the boys to join Boy Scouting.

**Responsible to:** Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmasters/SPL

**Qualifications:** Appointed by SPL with Scoutmaster approval.

**Specific Duties:**

Serve as activities assistant at den meetings.

Meet regularly with the den leader to review the den and pack meeting plans.

If serving as a Webelos den chief, prepare the boys to join Boy Scouting.

Project a positive image of Boy Scouting.

Set a good example.

Wear the uniform correctly.

Live by the Scout Oath and Law

### **YOUTH LEADERS:**

In the previous six months a scout must have attended at least 50% of the troop meetings.

Scouts nominated for elective positions must have the approval of the Scoutmaster.

A youth member may be removed from a leadership position if in the judgment of the Scoutmaster the scout is not fulfilling the duties of the position or is performing his duties in a way that has a negative effect upon the operation and welfare of the Troop.

### **ELECTIONS:**

Elections will be conducted at a regular troop meeting by secret ballot.

The current SPL will conduct the election.

The current SPL will call for nominations from the Troop for the Senior Patrol Leader.

There is no limit to the number of nominations of qualified candidates.

Potential nominees can accept or reject nomination.

Attendance for the last six months is checked.

Scoutmaster gives his approval.

Ballots are passed out to the membership, the SECRET vote is taken and the ballots are collected and counted by the SPL and Scoutmaster.

The newly elected SPL is announced to the membership. The new SPL immediately takes charge and after conferring with the Scoutmaster, conducts the election/appointment of the other officers.

Patrol Leaders are elected by their own patrol members.

The new PL chooses the APL's with the approval of the Scoutmaster.

### **SCOUT SPIRIT:**

It is easy to become a Scout. It is not easy to BE ONE. To be a good scout you need guts and determination. It means knowing and living the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto, and Scout Slogan. It means PARTICIPATING and playing by the rules of the game to be a good member of the team. The Troop 269 Committee has established that a minimum of 50% attendance is required at all meetings and events for those youth working towards rank advancement.

### **SERVICE PROJECTS:**

Service projects shall be meaningful service not normally expected of a scout as part of his school, religious, or community activities. Service projects MUST BE approved by the Scoutmaster, and are only valid for a period of 6 months, and if a scout does not use the service project for rank advancement within that time it is no longer valid.

### **CAMPING:**

The Troop Leadership will establish boundaries on all campouts. These boundaries are established for the health and welfare of the scouts and must be obeyed at all times.

Order and discipline on campouts is generally in the hands of the Scoutmaster and ASMs.

Parents who are assisting with the campout and program activities camp with the patrol consisting of adult leadership and, on occasion, a few senior Scouts who also camp and cook as a separate patrol with adult leadership's equipment.

Most Troop campouts focus on Scouting skills; as a result, attendance at campouts of non-Scout siblings is discouraged. This practice tends to detract from the program focus and undermine enforcement of Troop and camp rules.

Senior patrol members, patrol leaders, and other boy leaders are trained and capable. Most need little of no adult assistance or intervention. The skills and self-reliance developed by doing for yourself are the foundations of good campers. Thus, adults should resist the temptation to assist, unless absolutely needed.

When with Scouts, all adults camp in the same manner as the boys. For example, there will be no sleeping in cars or campers, listening to radios, or watching TV. Troop rules that apply to boys, also apply to adults. Alcohol and Tobacco are prohibited.

Campouts ordinarily begin on Friday evening and end around mid-day Sunday. The Troop will complete a clean sweep of the camping area at the end of each campout. Scouts are strongly encouraged to attend the entire campout. Unless a Scout has an urgent need to leave early, and has been excused by the SPL and Scoutmaster, all Scouts are expected to remain in camp until dismissed by their Patrol Leader after the clean sweep. Scouts should notify the Scoutmaster of their departure.

### **CAMP RULES:**

Scouts and adults leadership will follow the Scout Oath and Law at all times.

Scouts should be discouraged from being in all adult leadership areas, unless they have a specific need to be there.

Leader's Chairs are for LEADERS ONLY.

Scouts who are not cooking should **NOT** be in the cooking area.

There will be no hazing or harassing (physical or verbal) of any kind.

Fighting, hitting, wrestling, or rough horseplay is not permitted.

A Scout will not put himself or another Scout in physical danger.

A Scout may not touch another Scout's equipment, tent, or belongings, unless the Scout has the owner's prior permission.

Scouts may build and light ground fires (cooking and campfires) only when and where authorized by the Scoutmaster, an Assistant Scoutmaster, or SPL. No unauthorized fires are permitted.

The "Buddy System" is in force for all water activities, when outside immediate camp area, or when separating from the main group when traveling.

Scouts and Adult leadership will follow Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense procedures and policies at all times for all water activities.

All Scouts will be inside their tents at 11 P.M. (or otherwise at the Scoutmaster's discretion). Lights will be out and talking will stop by 11:30 p.m. No Scout should leave his tent (except for brief trips to the latrine or to report illness or other emergency) until reveille the next morning.

Scouts will maintain their tents and gear in a clean and neat condition. The Troop completes a clean sweep of the camping area at the end of each campout.

### **CAMP SET-UP:**

Upon arriving at a campsite, all troop and personal equipment is removed from the vehicles.

The Troop leadership looks over the site and determines the location where the dining fly and tents will be set up.

The first item to be set up is the dining fly. In bad weather all troop and personal equipment can be stored under the fly until the tents are set up.

Set up tents and store personal gear.

Establish a fire pit and safety zone if one is not provided.  
Set up kitchen and dining area, and unpack patrol box. Setup propane tank, stove, and lantern.

Establish an ax yard with barrier walls and an entryway.  
Check with the SPL or Patrol leader for other assignments.

### **FOOD:**

If your Patrol forgot some food item – DO WITHOUT.

Learn from your mistake. Food items may not be borrowed from another Patrol or the adult leadership.

**No food in the tents.** It draws insects and animals, and sharing a tent with a hungry raccoon is not an experience that the scouts will enjoy.  
Food will be stored in the food boxes provided at all times. Any food left out may be eaten by non-paying patrol members (animals). This is more of a problem at campsites, because the animals are often used to being around people.

Garbage and trash must be kept picked up and placed in the trash containers at all times for the above stated reasons.

Do not throw food scraps and garbage into the Campfire. Paper items may be burned, but food soaked items will only smolder and stink.

### **CUTTING YARD:**

The use of an ax, saw or hatchet is restricted to an established cutting yard, unless approved by the adult leadership. Scouts using these tools must attend a "WOODS TOOL SAFETY" training course, and have a "Totin' Chip" card in their possession.

Only one person at a time is allowed in the ax yard.

Check for proper tool clearance.

Store tools properly after use.

Cutting or damaging a live tree or bush is prohibited, except by prior approval of the adult leadership.

Anyone using a knife will maintain a "Safety Zone" around them, and if someone enters that zone they must stop using the knife immediately.

**FIRES:**

Fires will only be allowed in established fire pits. Anyone who wants to light a fire must attend a "Fire Safety" training class, and have a "Firem'N Chit" card in their possession.

Establish a 5 foot clear zone around the fire pit before lighting a fire.

Playing in the fire or removing a burning item from the fire and playing with it will not be tolerated, and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

**AQUATICS:**

Swimming is only allowed at established swimming areas, whether provided or troop established. A BSA Lifeguard must be present.

The buddy system will be used at all times in any type of aquatic activity.

Buddy checks and tag systems will be established and used.

Anyone using any type of boat will wear a personal flotation device at all times.

Boats will be properly stored after use.

**ITEMS NOT COVERED:**

Items not covered in this policy manual will be interpreted by the Scoutmaster when on an outing and taken up by the Troop Committee at the next meeting. Pertinent decisions will be incorporated into this document.

## Sample Camping Checklist (not for All Scouts or All campouts)

### Camp Gear

- Tent
- Ground cloth
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping Pad
- Small flashlight or headlight
- Spare batteries
- Bowl
- Cup
- Knife, Fork, Spoon
- Backpacking stove
- Fuel bottle
- Chair or stool
- Water filter
- Backpack
- Hip pack or daypack
- Water bottle(s)
- Holders for water bottle(s)
- Platypus
- Spade
- Zip Lock bags
- Heavy plastic bags
- Clorox
- 

### Clothes – standard

- Shirts
- Belt
- Underwear
- Walking Shorts
- Pants
- Sleep shirt
- Cap/Hat keeper
- Swimsuit

### Clothes - Cold & Wet Weather

- Parka
- Rain gear
- Polyester fleece pullover
- Poly long underwear
- Stocking cap
- Hat keeper
- Gloves
- Wool or polyester socks

#### Scout Stuff

- Scout shirt
- Scout socks
- Scout pants
- Scout shorts
- Scout belt
- Scout Book

#### Footwear

- Boots
- Sandals
- Hiking socks
- Sock liners

#### Accessories

- Handkerchief
- Toiletries
- Camp towel
- Toilet paper
- Towelettes
- Sunglasses
- Glasses keeper
- Camera
- Compass & ruler
- Binoculars
- Duct tape
- Walking stick
- Books

#### Toiletries

- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent (liquid only)
- Camp soap
- Deodorant
- Hair brush/comb
- First aid
- Eyeglasses
- Chapstick

#### River/Water Gear

- PFD
- Swimsuit
- River shoes
- Polartec socks
- Dry bag
- Fishing gear
- Tackle box
- Plastic bags