



WELCOME PACKET FOR NEW FAMILIES OF TROOP 50

This is a compilation of forms and handouts used by Troop 50. We hope this information will help you, the new members of Troop 50's Scouting Family, understand how the Troop operates. Of course, this packet probably won't answer all of your questions, so you are invited, nay encouraged, to call and seek answers to your questions.

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GLOSSARY

APL – Assistant Patrol Leader.

ASPL – Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

BOR – The last step a Scout must take in order to advance to the next rank is to sit for a "Board of Review" comprised of at least three adult Scouters, who will question the candidate on his satisfaction of the requirements of the desired rank. BORs are organized at the request of the Advancement Chairman (or designated substitute).

COH – Every quarter (February, May, August and November), the Troop holds a special awards ceremony known as a "Court of Honor" at which time the Scouts are presented with the awards they have earned.

L3 – Life, Long, Leadership is a course unique to Troop 50 that is taught twice each year prior to each Troop election. A Scout must take this course in order to be eligible to run for elected office for the coming term.

OA – Order of the Arrow. A service organization of Scouts and Scouters elected by the Troop members.

PL – The Patrol Leader is the senior elected officer of a patrol.

PLC – The "Patrol Leaders Council" is composed of the SPL, Quartermaster, Scribe and the PL's. The PLC meets monthly, usually the Tuesday following each campout, to plan the Troop's activities for the coming month.

Re-Charter Meeting – In December and January we must bring Troop records up to date in preparation for re-chartering for the coming year. This is the only time the Troop will take subscriptions for BOY'S LIFE. A parent with a check book must attend the designated Re-Charter Meeting day.

Scout Hut – Troop 50's then-current meeting place furnished by our sponsor Arborlawn United Methodist Church.

Scout Office – The Longhorn Council office in Hurst, Texas.

SPL – The "Senior Patrol Leader" is the top Scout leadership position in the Troop. The SPL is elected by the Scouts from the Troop at large.

SOY – Every year at the Scout of the Year Banquet in late February, the Troop bestows the Outstanding Scout Spirit Award on one outstanding "Scout of the Year" who has demonstrated his commitment and understanding of the Scout Oath and the Scout Law in the prior calendar year. At each COH during the year, the Troop also recognizes one Scout as "Scout of the Quarter".

YPT – Youth Protection Training is required for each registered adult leader and must be completed every two years. Current YPT is required for an adult leader to be re-registered with the troop in January at re-charter.



TROOP 50 TROOP POLICY

Membership

1. A Scout must have completed the fifth grade or be 11 years of age or older, but not yet have reached age 18.
2. A Scout must comply with the requirements for the Scout Rank to join the Troop.
3. A Scout must be a Troop member to wear the Scout uniform.
4. A Scout who is absent from all Troop activities for one month may be requested to have a Scoutmaster's conference with one parent present.
5. A Scout who misses 4 continuous monthly campouts may be requested to have a Scoutmaster's conference with one parent present.
6. Upon completion of the Scoutmaster conference as stated above, the Scoutmaster will recommend action to the Troop committee pertaining to said Scout.

Dues

1. Troop dues are \$26.00 per year payable at the Re-Charter Meeting. The Re-Charter Meeting date will be planned in the troop annual calendar and will occur at a regular Troop Meeting date in December or January to support the Longhorn Council re-charter timetable. This price includes your annual BSA registration dues of \$24.00 and council insurance of \$1.50, and is subject to periodic change if BSA or Longhorn Council increase these fees.
2. A new Scout transferring from another unit will be required to pay a \$1 transfer fee, plus \$10 for a Troop neckerchief, for a total of \$11.00.

3. A new Scout joining during the year will need to pay the pro-rated cost of registration (\$2.17 per month until the end of the year, rounded to nearest dollar), plus \$10 for a Troop neckerchief. If a Scout joins in January, the cost will be re-charter fee plus neckerchief cost.

January \$36	April \$30	July \$23	October \$17
February \$34	May \$27	August \$21	November \$14
March \$32	June \$25	September \$19	December \$12

4. Boy's Life subscriptions are handled by the Troop only at the Re-Charter meeting. The current subscription fee is \$12.00 per year.
5. Troop policy allows \$2.50 per Scout per meal on campouts. Collecting this fee is a patrol function and the money is payable to the patrol leader or the designated "patrol buyer" at the meeting preceding the applicable campout (or to the Quartermaster for Troop-wide "Quartermaster meals").
6. Occasionally the Troop participates in Camporees or other special campouts which require additional registration fees, entry fees, or equipment rental costs. These additional fees are announced several weeks before the event.
4. Troop T-shirts and caps are available for purchase, currently at \$10 apiece. The official troop uniform during the summer months is the Troop T-shirt, and all Scouts are strongly encouraged to purchase one.

Attendance

2. The Troop will schedule approximately 65 activities per year for attendance of the complete Troop. These activities will be as follows:
 - a. Weekly Troop meetings on Tuesday from 7:00 to 8:30 pm except the last two Tuesdays in December.
 - b. Monthly campouts, except in month of long-term camp.
 - c. Long-term camp during summer.
 - d. Selling tickets to the Chili Supper, the Troop's one fund-raising activity per year.
 - e. Quarterly Courts of Honor (February, May, August and November).
 - f. Eagle Scout service projects and Special Eagle Courts as necessary.
3. Scouts are expected to participate in a majority of scheduled Troop activities. In order for a Scout to request a Troop Board of Review for Star, Life and Eagle (all of which require active participation), he must have participated in at least 50% of scheduled Troop activities cumulatively since his last rank advancement. If a Scout has not satisfied this requirement, the Board of Review will be postponed and the Scout will not be eligible for rank advancement until the Scout's participation meets the requirement.

4. The Scout uniform is required to be worn to all scheduled Troop activities, unless special exception is announced.
5. A Scout must attend and participate in at least one of the four prior Tuesday meetings to be eligible to attend the monthly campout or other special Troop activity.
6. A Scout who attends 80% of the scheduled activities for one charter year will receive the Boy Scout Attendance Award.
7. It is the responsibility of the Scribe to maintain accurate attendance records for troop meetings and campouts and report them on a weekly basis to the Scoutmaster.

Campouts

1. There will be one campout each month. Once planned, the campout will be carried out regardless of the weather, road conditions permitting.
2. A brief Sunday morning devotional service (non-sectarian) will be held on each campout. Scouts not participating in this service because they left early to attend church will not be counted as absent.
3. A Scout who attends every Troop campout for one year (12 consecutive months) will be awarded the Troop Honor Camping Medal.
4. Individual patrol hikes and campouts must be submitted for approval in advance to the Scoutmaster and each of the boy's parents.
5. The handling of volatile fuel on campouts is restricted to adults only.
6. The Outdoor Code is our Troop code on campouts and hikes and is the responsibility of every Scout to uphold.
7. The Scoutmaster may remove any member of the Troop from campouts or other Scout activities for unsatisfactory conduct.
8. Monthly campout departure and return times:
9. One night campouts: 8:00 am from church – 11:00 am from campsite.
10. Two night campouts: 5:30 pm from church – 11:00 am from campsite.
11. Parents furnishing transportation from campsites should arrive at the pickup point between 10:35 and 11:00. Departure will be at 11:00 to arrive at church by noon.
12. Arrival and departure times for long-term and special camps will be furnished with the camp or activity announcement.
13. Swimming will be permitted during campouts under adult supervision only. The 8-point Scout "Safe Swim Defense Plan" will be followed at all times. Tennis shoes or Crocs or any similar footwear must be worn except at approved swimming beaches. Only Scouts who have passed the BSA swimmer test

(or whose sponsor/parent is present) will be allowed to swim.

14. Canoes, boats, etc.: BSA's "Safety Afloat" policy will be enforced for all floating activities, including wearing PFD's. This includes all activities in the water except approved swimming.

Advancements

1. The minimum rate of advancement acceptable in Troop 50 is one rank per year for all Scouts below the rank of Life.
2. Scouts working on lower ranks are instructed and signed off by older Scouts at least 2 ranks above the rank they are working toward. A boy working on achieving the rank of Scout can be signed off by a Second Class Scout or above; the rank of Tenderfoot, by a First Class Scout or above; the rank of Second Class, by a Star Scout or above; and the rank of First Class, by a Life Scout or above. Star Scouts can be signed off by an active Eagle Scout or adult, and Life and Eagle requirements are signed off by adults. After completing all other requirements, Scouts should ask the Scoutmaster for a Scoutmaster conference. After completing the Scoutmaster conference, starting with Tenderfoot rank, Scouts should schedule a Board of Review with the Advancement Chairman, where he will be asked to demonstrate proficiency in the skills he has learned and discuss his growth as a Scout.
3. The ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle require active service as a Troop officer or membership in the Leadership Patrol. This requires attendance at almost all Troop meetings and other meetings required by the program and active participation in Troop programs, including the instruction and advancement of younger Scouts. Leadership Patrol members not holding a specific Troop office will be assigned to work with a patrol as an instructor, trainer or advisor. Junior Assistant Scoutmasters will be assigned specific training duties.

Leadership

1. The following officers are elected by the members of the Troop and patrols at large:
 - a. Senior Patrol Leader
 - b. Scribe
 - c. Quartermaster
 - d. Patrol Leader
2. Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders are appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leaders with the Scoutmaster's approval.
3. Troop elections shall be held twice a year, with installation of new officers at the May and November Courts of Honor. No elected or appointed Troop leader may serve successive terms in the same office. However, Scouts may run again for leadership positions after the expiration of one intervening election term.

4. Senior Patrol Leader: The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is the principal boy leader in the Troop. His duties and responsibilities in Troop 50 will be in the areas of planning and execution of the Troop programs. Planning duties include: Conducting the Patrol Leaders Council, Planning Special Activities and Troop Training. The execution of these plans is the SPL's responsibility. He will conduct the program at regular Troop meetings, campouts and special activities. His staff includes his appointed assistant, the Scribe, Quartermaster, and the Patrol Leaders. The SPL is responsible for the conduct and department of the Troop in all organized activities. This position is the most time consuming and difficult position in the Troop. The SPL must be prepared to attend all Troop activities and to spend time with his Scoutmaster in coordinating the Troop programs. Because of the many responsibilities of this position, it offers the Scout an outstanding opportunity to grow in his leadership ability. SPL is a leadership position to which every Scout in Troop 50 should aspire. The qualifications for SPL are:

- e. 14 years of age or older and Star rank or higher
- f. Satisfactory function as a Patrol Leader for a minimum of one term
- g. Troop member for at least 6 months
- h. Attendance at one long-term camp held at council level
- i. Consistent attendance at Troop meetings and monthly campouts
- j. Active progress toward next rank, or additional merit badges
- k. Must attend Troop 50's Life Long Leadership Course

8. Qualifications for Assistant Senior Patrol Leader:

- a. 14 years of age or older and Star rank or higher
- b. Satisfactory function as a Patrol Leader for a minimum of one term
- c. Troop member for at least 6 months
- d. Attendance at one long-term camp held at council level
- e. Consistent attendance at Troop meetings and monthly campouts
- f. Active progress toward next rank, or additional merit badges
- g. Must attend Troop 50's Life Long Leadership Course

9. Qualifications for Scribe, Quartermaster and Chaplain's Aide:

- a. 13 years of age or older and First Class rank or higher
- b. Troop member for at least 6 months
- c. Attendance at one long-term camp held at council level
- d. Consistent attendance at Troop meetings and monthly campouts

- e. Active progress toward next rank, or additional merit badges
 - f. Must attend Troop 50's Life Long Leadership Course
10. Qualifications for Patrol Leaders:
- a. 12 years of age or older and First Class rank or higher
 - b. Troop member for at least three months
 - c. Attendance at one long-term camp held at council level
 - d. Consistent attendance at Troop meetings and monthly campouts, patrol meetings and extra patrol activities
 - e. Active progress toward next rank
 - f. Must attend Troop 50's Life Long Leadership Course
11. A den chief serves as a mentor and guide for a Cub Scout den at their request. Qualifications for Den Chief
- a. 12 years of age or older and Second Class rank or higher
 - b. Troop member for at least three months
 - c. Attendance at one long-term camp held at council level
 - d. Consistent attendance at Troop meetings and monthly campouts
 - e. Active progress toward next rank
 - f. Must attend Troop 50's Life Long Leadership Course
12. Appointed Positions: The Scoutmaster may from time to time appoint Scouts to unelected leadership roles, including Chaplain's Aide, Instructor, Librarian, Historian, Bugler, Troop Guide and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, for terms of office at the Scoutmaster's discretion.
13. Leadership Patrol:
- a. The Leadership Patrol is a Troop service patrol. Its purpose is to teach and facilitate leadership and camping skills, especially at the patrol level. Members of the Leadership Patrol will be assigned as mentors to patrol leaders.
 - b. Members are nominated by members of the existing Leadership Patrol and by Adult Scouters. They are selected based on a demonstrated commitment to Troop 50's principles of leadership.
 - c. To serve on the Leadership Patrol, a Scout must meet the following requirements:
 - Be at least 14 years of age;
 - Have been a member of Troop 50 for at least 6 months;

- Have a record of consistent attendance at Troop functions;
 - Agreed to continue leadership development training; and
 - Committed to putting additional training into practice by accepting either a Troop officer position or assignment to a patrol as an instructor, trainer or advisor.
- d. The current SPL is automatically a “Pro Tem” member of the Leadership Patrol. Upon termination of his office, a former SPL will automatically be nominated if they are otherwise qualified.
 - e. Becoming an Eagle Scout and remaining active in the Troop confers an automatic nomination.
 - f. Nominated members are to be elected by the Leadership Patrol with the advice and consent of the Scoutmaster.
 - g. The Leadership Patrol will camp as a patrol at all Troop campouts. They will not have a chuck box, but will eat with their mentor patrol. They are expected to ensure that all meals are planned in consonance with good nutritional practices and prepared under sanitary conditions, and that clean-up is both timely and sanitary. A “reward” camp-out will be planned and executed on an annual basis for all members and alumni of the Leadership Patrol.

Automatic Suspension of Elected Officers

1. The Boy Scouts of America program places very high emphasis on the principle that the Troop is “Boy Run and Boy Led.” Therefore, one of the basic tenets of Boy Scouting is the instilling and development of the principles of leadership and the responsibilities thereof. Each Scout seeking an elected office is made fully aware of not only the requirements of that office, but the responsibilities entailed in that office as well. One of the most important of these responsibilities is the six-month commitment (the term of elected office) that each Scout makes in running for and accepting the office to which he is elected. Accepting a role of leadership in a “Boy Run and Boy Led” Troop must by its very nature mean, first, that an elected officer must be present to lead and then, second, being present to carry out the responsibilities of that elected office. The seeking and accepting of an elected office is a “promise” by the Scout that he will carry out these two tasks and each Scout should, before he seeks an elected office, be fully aware of what his personal schedule and the Troop’s schedule is for the next six months so that he can adequately assure his electors that he will be able to carry out his “promise.”
2. After careful review, the Troop Committee has come to the conclusion that some Scouts seeking and obtaining elected office may subsequently allow other interests to interfere with the carrying out of this “promise.” It is certainly understood that the Scout may, from time to time, run into conflicts with home, church and school which prevent him from being in attendance at a regularly scheduled Troop function, but it is also believed that there are other occasions of conflict that are avoidable and that the Scout simply makes a choice to ignore his “promise.” While it is true that each significant elected leadership position does have an appointed assistant, who may fulfill the responsibilities of the office,

the important thing to remember is that these appointed assistants were not elected to that office and as such made no such “promise” to the electors.

3. Therefore, the Troop Committee, in order to carry out its primary function of helping each Scout to develop good qualities of leadership, citizenship and maturity, has adopted the following policy respecting elected Scout officers of Troop 50.
4. Should an elected or appointed Scout officer miss two out of three consecutive scheduled Troop events (i.e., Troop meetings, PLC’s, campouts, Courts of Honor, Chili Supper, etc.) without an excuse acceptable to the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster in charge, the elected or appointed officer shall be automatically suspended from his office and the appointed assistant for that position shall assume the duties of that office until the suspension is lifted or a new election is held.
5. The suspension of the elected officer will be placed before a called meeting of the Troop Committee at which meeting the suspended officer has the right to be present and assert his reasons why he should be excused for his absences and the suspension lifted. A simple majority of those members of the Troop Committee attending the called meeting shall determine to either lift the suspension and reinstate the elected officer, or remove the Scout from office.
6. Should the Scout be removed from office, the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster in charge shall schedule an election at the next regularly scheduled Troop meeting for the purpose of fulfilling the unexpired term of the vacated office.
7. It is to be emphasized by the Troop Committee that the purpose of this section of the Troop policy is not for punishment of any Scout; to the contrary, its purpose is to help make each Scout more aware of the high degree of trust that the Adult Leaders have bestowed upon the elected Scout.

This revised Troop policy has been voted on and approved by the Patrol Leaders Council, the Troop Committee, and the Scoutmaster and will remain in effect until superseded. The effective date of this revised policy is January 1, 2015.