



On my honor, I will do my best

A Troop 39 Guide for Families

Revised March 2022



Scouts BSA Troop 39, Chapel Hill, NC

Continuously serving the Chapel Hill community since 1912



Welcome to Troop 39 for Boys and Troop 39 for Girls!

Troop 39 is the best place for Scouting in and around Chapel Hill with a rich heritage of a 110 years of service to Chapel Hill, the University of North Carolina, and our country. Founded in 1912, it is the oldest Boy Scout troop in North Carolina and one of the oldest in the nation. 2019 marks a major landmark in the history of our Troop. After 106 years of service to our community, Troop 39 has formed a troop for girls, offering them the unparalleled opportunities that come with being a member of Troop 39.

Conservation has been a focus of Troop 39 since its inception. Inspired by SOAR (Save Our American Resources), an environmental program started by the BSA, a glass recycling project was initiated in 1970. Over the subsequent decades, the Troop built and maintained a recycling center that is now known as the Orange County recycling Program. Troop 39 was also featured in Boys Life magazine two times, once for their conservation efforts and again for its contribution to the construction of the Mountain to Sea trail in North Carolina.

Troop 39 is a major force in the community and Touch a Truck continues to be the third largest event in Chapel Hill and Troop 39 is now one of the leading donors to the UNC Children's Hospital fund.

Troop 39 has helped mold the character of an estimated 1,500 youth since it was established nearly 110 years ago. In the past 60 years, over 250 members have been awarded the Eagle Scout award and in 2022 we recognized our first two female Eagle Scouts.

Alumni have become leaders in their professions and in their communities. It's a heritage of which we are proud, but we are confident that the best is yet to come! We are excited to have you and your family become apart of the Troop 39 legacy.

Troop 39 Song

Through long tradition, Troop 39 has sung the following lyric (to the [tune of the Notre Dame Fight Song](#)) as a manifestation of Troop spirit.

***We are the Scouts of Troop 39.
This is our song; you'll like it just fine.
Camping trips and learning knots,
These are the things that we like a lots.
Ours is the first troop in Chapel Hill.
Since 1912 we've learned outdoor skills.
On our honor we'll do our best
To live up to Scouting's test.
Rah! Rah! Rah!***

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Introduction to Scouting

Mission Statement of the Boy Scouts of America

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Aims of Scouting

There are three aims of Scouting:

1. Character development
2. Citizenship training
3. Mental and physical fitness

The Methods of Scouting

There are eight fundamental methods for achieving the “Aims of Scouting”:

- **The Ideals** – the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto and the Scout Slogan.
- **The patrol method** – a smaller group within the larger troop that works together.
- **The outdoors** – fun and adventure in the outdoors
- **Advancement** – recognition of a scout’s achievement and a natural outcome of an active troop.
- **Association with adults** – provide positive role models.
- **Personal growth** – the opportunities to seek and find answers.
- **Leadership development** – learning skills through learning to lead.
- **The UNIFORM**– develops a sense of belonging to their patrol and troop.

Troop Structure

Scouts BSA Troop 39 for Boys and Scouts BSA Troop 39 for Girls are both chartered by the [University United Methodist Church \(UUMC\)](#), located at 150 East Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, NC. Both Troops' meetings are typically held on Wednesday nights from 7:30 to 9:00 at the church. "Troop 39" refers to both Scouts BSA Troop 39 for Girls and Scouts BSA Troop 39 for Boys, unless specifically stated otherwise.

This handbook is intended to be a guide. Please note, that it is impossible to include every possible situation that may arise, so please ask your scoutmaster any question you may have. Troop 39 plans its program from September to August. Annual planning takes place in August or May and a calendar is posted on the troop website via google calendar. We do our best to follow the calendar as posted but at times may have to make changes. We will try to give as much notice as possible by email, our website, and phone calls/text messaging when changes are made.

Troop 39's Mission Statement

Troop 39's mission is to assist young men and women as they become knowledgeable, thinking, and responsible citizens of their community, nation, and world. The [BSA](#) teaches basic skills and knowledge needed to prepare young men and women to be well rounded individuals with an awareness of leadership, discipline, service, and study.

We believe that to be effective, the Scouting process must be reinforced by personal challenges, goal setting, structure, and self-discipline. We feel that the worth, potential, and integrity of each Scout must be observed in every area of their personal life. For our Scouts to mature spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually, Troop 39 must strive to achieve the Scouting goals within a wholesome environment in which the Scouting Spirit and principles pervade all aspects of the troop program.

Troop 39's Promise to Parents

- *We, the leaders of Troop 39, promise to educate your scout to the best of our abilities.*
- *We promise to lead by example We promise to enrich our scouts with creative leadership techniques.*
- *We promise to provide strong moral guidance through reverent service.*
- *We promise to teach respect, responsibility, and self-reliance to each Scout.*
- *We promise to stress the importance of community and environmental service.*
- *We promise to see your scout as the individuals they are and to praise them for jobs well done.*
- *We promise to follow all Guide To Safe Scouting requirements.*

What distinguishes Troop 39 from other troops is our history, traditions, our conviction, our concern, and our emphasis on leadership development. While our Scouts are doing the best they can, we strive to do the best we can as well.

BSA Troops are Youth Led

The BSA is a unique organization because it's built around the youth being the driving force of the program and leading themselves. In many youth organizations the members will participate in community service or some type of activity, but the youth have no part in the decision making process or organizing of events. This is not the case in the BSA. Instead, adults are encouraged to work alongside and advise the youth of their Boy Scout troop. The program immerses scouts in camaraderie amongst their peers, both older and younger, while giving rise to the growth and development of their leadership skills.

The troop is broken down into two halves, the adult side and the youth side. The "highest" positions that can be held are Scoutmaster (adult) and Senior Patrol Leader (youth). The two sides of the troop communicate with one another by email or phone in order to function. The adults primarily handle safety concerns, camping permits, money issues, and rank advancements for the Scouts. On the other hand, the youth members focus on creating and implementing a schedule of camp-outs and events throughout the year.

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is typically a Scout that is 15 years of age or older, at least of the First Class rank and has had previous experience as a Patrol Leader, or Assistant Patrol Leader. They are elected by the fellow scouts because they have exemplified the Scout Oath and Law in his everyday life and is worthy of leading them for the next six months. When they takes office, he appoints his own assistant as well as a so called "cabinet" of scouts into numerous positions such as Quartermaster, Treasurer, Historian, Chaplain's Aid and so on.

In addition, the youth members of the troop are broken down by age into smaller groups called patrols and they also elect their own Patrol Leader who appoints an assistant. All of these positions require a certain level of commitment that a Scout is responsible for. In most positions, the Scout must be active and present at weekly troop meetings, day events, ceremonies, and camping trips. All of these named positions are part a group called the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC). Each month, a meeting is held and run by the Senior Patrol Leader in which future program ideas are discussed and planning happens. Throughout all of this, adult leaders play a semi-passive, yet supportive role. Along the way they mentor youth, guiding them back on the right path when they go astray.

Patrols

Scouts are assigned to patrol by the Scoutmaster. Adult leadership has the right to make patrol assignments based on the best interests of the troop. Each patrol is assigned an adult patrol advisor and is encouraged use him or her to help develop leadership, prevent discipline problems, and as a resource for planning meetings and advancement.

New scouts are placed in the Phoenix Patrol (Boys Troop) or the White Buffalo Patrol (Girls). New scouts will be members of the Phoenix or Buffalo patrol for their first 3-4 months of joining the troop to achieve the rank of SCOUT. Once the scout reaches the rank of SCOUT they are placed in a patrol with other scouts.

Each Patrol has the opportunity to earn the Honor Patrol award. Honor patrols will be based on the national guidelines established for National Honor Patrol Award. These guidelines can be found in certain issues of the Scout Handbook and also can be obtained from the Scoutmaster.

Troop Rules/Expectations

Annual Dues

The annual dues are set by the Troop Committee each year and are due in September of each year. The amount for dues and collection date will be communicated by the troop committee to the parents as soon as it is known what the amount has been decided.

These funds are used for chartering expenses, the purchase of gas for troop trips, van rentals, awards and advancement supplies, patrol equipment, Courts of Honor expenses, some leadership training, and other miscellaneous administrative expenses.

Dues can be paid online in the troop store or with a check made out to TROOP 39 and received by the troop treasurer. Dues should be received by the troop by the end of September of each new scouting year, or upon joining the troop for new Scouts or crossing over from Cub Scouts.

Troop 39 is committed to providing financial assistance to Scouts and families for which dues and other expenses represent a financial hardship. Scholarship information can be obtained from the troop committee chairperson or by contacting the troop treasurer.

Mandatory Annual Meetings:

- Scout Sunday - February
- Touch a Truck-April (Parents and Scouts)
- Other- To Be Determined by the Leadership

Troop 39 Participation/Attendance Policy

A Scout is required to participate in at least 75% of all Troop meetings and other troop functions **and** 75% of monthly camping outings. Mandatory events include Winter UNC Commencement, Scout Sunday, Touch-A-Truck and Spring UNC Commencement. Should any Scout fail to meet the 75% requirements, the Scoutmasters will review the individual circumstances.

Exemption: Scouts who are in their first year in Troop 39 and Scouts who have earned the rank of Eagle.

Note: Scouts who do not meet this requirement due to extenuating circumstances may petition the scoutmaster or their designee for an exemption.

Cell Phones and Other Electronics:

Cell phones and other electronic equipment are allowed only during transportation events exceeding 2 hours in length, provided ear/headphones are used, but they are not encouraged. Cell phones will be collected and stored for all scouts during all troop outings. The Scoutmaster and/or ASMs will provide cell phones should it become necessary for a Scout to phone home during a trip and/or activity.

Therefore, Troop 39 Scouts should not need a cell phone while participating in any troop activity and/or event. Scouts are discouraged from bringing electronics on trips.

National BSA Behavior Expectations

All members of Scouts BSA are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Law. Physical violence, hazing, bullying, theft, verbal insults, and drugs and alcohol have no place in the Scouting program and may result in the revocation of a Scout's or Leader's membership in the troop.

If confronted by threats of violence or other forms of bullying from other youth members, Scouts should seek help from their troop leaders.

Troop Equipment

Troop equipment is purchased or obtained for use by troop members. All equipment so obtained remains the property of the troop. There are several equipment inspections during the year to identify any lost or damaged equipment, which will be replaced or repaired by the Patrol.

Each camping participant is solely responsible for any and all personal items brought on a camping or other outdoor event. Troop 39, its leaders, and chartering organization(s) are not liable, and cannot be held liable, for lost, stolen, damaged, or destroyed personal items. We sometimes camp in very public places, and a tent is not secure. Items left in the open, or even in a closed tent, are not guaranteed to be where you left them, or in the condition you left them, when you return. Troop 39 camps in any weather, and rain, snow, hail, and wind can damage or destroy, or cause to be lost, personal clothing and equipment.

If a Scout is not willing to have it lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed, the item should not be taken on a trip.

Discipline Procedures

If an altercation or event happens at a troop meeting or outing with a scout or group of scouts, parents are expected to pick their child up and take them home if asked. Leaders may opt to keep the scout when distance is a factor.

- Any unauthorized items will be taken into custody by the adult leadership and returned to a parent.
- Parents of youth members who misbehave will be informed and asked for assistance.
- Scouts BSA does not permit the use of corporal punishment by troop leaders when disciplining youth members.

- The troop committee should review repetitive or serious incidents of misbehavior in consultation with the parents of the child to determine a course of corrective action including possible revocation of the youth's membership in the troop.
- If problem behavior persists, the troop may revoke a Scout's membership in the troop.
- The troop should inform the Eno River District Scout Executive about all incidents that result in a physical injury or involve allegations of sexual misconduct by a youth member with another youth member.
- Scouts will not be disciplined for an addiction or health concerns unless they violate state law or troop policy by possessing an inappropriate item, selling inappropriate items to other scouts, or pressuring other scouts into participating in inappropriate behavior.
- Adult leaders and committee members can provide resources and support to scouts and parents as needed.
- Adult leaders are not investigators. They are required to report suspicion of addictions, health concerns, or abuse. They are required to report abuse to the proper authorities for further investigation.

Troop Meetings

Weekly Troop Meetings

The troop meets every Wednesday night from 7:30 to 9pm at UUMC (University United Methodist Church) unless announced otherwise. Troop 39 follows the Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools calendar and we strictly follow the rule that if school is out, Troop 39 does not meet. Scouts and parents should check the [troops' calendars](#), the [website](#), and email notices.

A patrol is assigned each meeting to organize and plan- as this is youth led, there are good meetings and meetings that can use improvement and may require follow up discussions, but they are the scouts' meeting. They organize, run and execute their own events.

Meetings usually start with a circle up, where all scouts are together to discuss the agenda for the evening, then they may break up into "Patrol Corners" to discuss plans for upcoming trips or activities. Then the main event of the meeting can begin. The troop concludes with another circle time to close the meeting together with a scoutmaster minute.

Scouts need to check in with their patrol leader for attendance and anyone leaving early needs to check in with a Scoutmaster. All scouts are expected to be fully engaged for the duration of each meeting.

The SPLs will announce all trips, hikes, field days, etc., at the weekly troop meetings, and leaders will follow up by email, and updating the [website](#).

Use of Cell Phones and other electronics by youth members is prohibited during meetings unless required by the scoutmaster.

Patrol Leaders Conference (PLC)

PLC is held the 2nd Monday of the month at UUMC 7:30-8:30pm. All Patrol Leaders, SPLs, and anyone with a leadership position are required to attend. Senior Patrol Leaders are responsible for the agenda and topics for this meeting. Troop Leadership is there to guide the scouts and ensure that the meeting planning is well thought-out and available for support.

Brownsea- Troop Annual Planning Meeting

The troop schedules a weekend retreat meeting in August or May prior to the beginning of the school year. All scouts with leadership positions and Scouts with the rank of first class or above are invited to this event to brainstorm and plan the years events.

Troop Committee Meeting

The Troop Committee meets once a month during the weekly scout meetings at UUMC. Scoutmasters and Committee members are required to attend to discuss the business end of the troop. Reviewing the budget, Charter organization report, Scoutmaster reports and upcoming events for the committee. Parents are welcomed to attend these meetings.

Adult Leader Meetings

Troop Leadership will meet on Mondays, prior to the PLC meeting to discuss the program portion of the troop. Topics include upcoming events, troop concerns, advancement, trip coverage, and any announcements that need to be communicated to the parents and scouts.

Troop Communication

To be properly informed, Troop 39 does not distribute newsletters. The troop has opted for a paperless form of communication including our website, emails, and texting. The troop's primary communication is via google groups and the troop website calendar.

Troop Website and Calendar - is updated in real time and should be checked regularly for updates. All trips and meetings are scheduled at the beginning of the year to allow leaders and families to plan availability. Our troop website is <http://www.troop39nc.org>. It is updated frequently and often within hours of receiving information.

Troop Emails- Leaders and Senior Patrol Leaders use Google Groups to communicate with the membership of the troop. Parents and Scouts are able to opt into or out of this communication. Please let the Scoutmaster know of any changes to your email address. **This is the PRIMARY form of communication.**

Between Scoutmasters and Scouts - Email communication between scouts and Adult Leaders should always include a parent copied on the message.

Texting is also possible if scoutmasters and parents/scouts exchange phone numbers.

Scouts should email their patrol leader and scoutmaster if they are unable to attend weekly meetings or outings preferably 48 hours in advance and with a reason as to their absence.

Trip/Activity Transportation

- Troop 39 is fortunate to have a BUS to transport the majority of our 70+ scouts to and from our planned activities. When the bus is not available, Troop 39 will use a variety of transportation options to insure that our Scouts are safe when being transported to and from any and all troop trips.
- The Troop Committee budgets a certain amount each year to cover transportation. These funds are raised for the troop through fundraisers and partially through Troop Dues.

- When using personal vehicles, each vehicle used must have seat belts for each passenger. Parents driving other Scouts, even to and from meetings, accept liability on their personal insurance.
- Scouts under the age of 18 are not allowed to drive themselves to and from troop activities outside of regular meetings.

Troop Outings and Activities

Once a month a domestic trip is planned- This is usually a camping trip of some sort or a planned activity. The troop tries to plan no more than 2 “Money” trips a year. (Money trips are trips over \$75/scout). The usual cost for monthly trips ranges from \$10-\$50.

Summer Camp -Each summer the troop will attend at least one summer camp and it is planned a year in advance so parents have the dates for their calendars. Troop 39 has traditionally gone to Camp Durant, Carthage, NC- the council flagship property.

High adventure trips are planned on the availability of the leaders and interest of the scouts. Scouts must be at least the Rank of First Class to attend and some require an age minimum. Examples of High Adventure trips Troop 39 plans:

- British High Adventure- Every 2 years in July/Aug- For Middle school aged scouts- 3 weeks in England with the Bristol 26th troop- Unique to Troop 39
- ACE Adventures- Outdoor adventure Center in WV- one week in July/Aug
- BSA SeaBase High Adventure - Florida or Bahamas- Scheduled upon request
- BSA Philmont Scout Ranch- NM- Approximately every 3 years
- Kandersteg, Switzerland- - International Scout Center, every 3-4 years
- BSA National Scout Jamboree - WV, Every 4 years
- Other Adventures - Based on Scout and Parent/Leader Interest and timing

Parent Involvement

Scouting is a family activity. There are many ways in which parents can help their scout make the most of the opportunities provided by Troop 39 – and at the same time, share in the learning and fun!

First and foremost, it is important that parents encourage their scout to participate in all aspects of the troop program. Many times this means scheduling other activities so that they don't conflict with Scouting events. Secondly, parents should support their child's involvement by taking an interest in their Scouting activities. By attending Courts of Honor, helping with advancement, and participating in troop events, parents send a message that Scouting is important.

Last but not least, there are many volunteer opportunities for parents to help Troop 39BG operate as quality units. **Parents are expected to contribute 25 hours back to the troop during the scout year.** The adults who plan and supervise the many activities of the troop are volunteers and need the help of parents to raise funds, plan programs, organize events, and help with communication.

Committees

Several committees assist the Scoutmasters with the operation of the troop. Parents are needed to help with the projects coordinated by these committees:

Troop Committee – This parent-run committee develops policies and programs, coordinates fundraising activities and allocates funds, and provides support to Scoutmasters.

Touch-a-Truck Co-Chairs – Our largest fundraiser of the year, held since 2009, supports the troop and the UNC Children's program. The TAT chair(s) is an important position and one that is well supported by all of the parents of both troops.

Merit Badge Coordinator(s) – The designated parent volunteer that coordinates matching scouts with the appropriate merit badge counselor.

Merit Badge Counselors – The counselor's job is to act as a coach and an examiner. As a coach you help the Scout over the hurdles of the requirement developing their self-confidence as you proceed. Through your expertise and experience, you also make them aware of the broader and deeper aspects of the subject, developing in them an interest which may lead to further explorations of their own. As an examiner the counselor must be satisfied that each Scout meets all requirements for the merit badge and that all youth are treated equally. This position is registered with the BSA, at no cost, and requires training.

Mulch spreading Coordinator(s) – Receive calls from clients and schedule spreading and track payments.

Advancement Chair – The member of the troop committee that coordinates all scout advancements.

Webmaster – Contribute to the development and maintenance of troop website.

Eagle Court of Honor coordinator – Supervise set-up and clean-up; order refreshments.

Publicity Coordinator – Work with local news outlets to publicize service projects and other activities of Troop 39.

Vehicle maintenance Coordinator– Provide routine maintenance and schedule repairs for troop vehicles

Other volunteer positions: Groups of volunteers are needed to coordinate other important services which help the troop operate efficiently

Uniform Standards

National BSA Uniform Expectations

Uniforming is one of the eight Methods used to accomplish the Scouting Aims of Character, Citizenship, & Fitness. The uniform is practical attire for Scout activities and provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

When to Wear the Uniform

Scouts and Scout leaders proudly wear the uniform for all ceremonial and indoor activities including troop meetings, Boards of Review, and Courts of Honor. The uniform should also be worn during special outdoor occasions, such as flag ceremonies, Scout shows, and special times during summer camp.

When Not To Wear the Uniform

Do not wear the uniform while selling a commercial product or service.

Do not wear the uniform in situations that might mistakenly imply an endorsement by the Scouts BSA of a product, service, political candidate, or philosophy. Scouts and Scouters are encouraged to take part in political matters as private individuals but not while wearing the uniform.

Do not wear the uniform while engaged in any activity that could dishonor or discredit the Scouts BSA, the uniform, or the person wearing it.

Troop 39 Uniform Expectations

We are a Scouts BSA troop and we wear the Scout uniform with pride. All troop functions require wearing the Scout uniform unless specifically announced otherwise (e.g. mulch or yard work as work clothes are more appropriate).

Being “in uniform” means being in complete uniform. This includes wearing the official shirt, pants, socks, and belt. Any non-uniform items (including non-scouting hats or earrings) must not be worn with either Class A or B uniform. Parents can shop online for uniform parts and all BSA items online at [Scout Stuff](#).

The Occoneechee Council Scout Shop in Raleigh also allows parents to shop by phone with a credit card and will mail the item(s) to your home. The Occoneechee Council scout shop in Raleigh is located at 3231 Atlantic Avenue and their phone number is (919) 850-0301.

A Scout attending a Scout function must be in uniform at all times. They may be sent home if they are not in FULL uniform. The Scout uniform may not be worn at times other than during official approved Scout functions. On camping trips we take clothes appropriate to the weather, but the uniform is always worn traveling to and from the campsite. We also wear the uniform during church services.

The uniform to be worn will be announced by the Senior Patrol Leader.

Class A Uniform

- Official Scout shirt (either long or short sleeve) with olive epaulets
- Scout trousers (short or long), Skirt or Skort
- Scout belt
- Scout socks
- Appropriate shoes
- Neckerchief slide
- An official Troop 39 neckerchief and set of uniform patches are given to each new Scout.
 - Replacement neckerchiefs can be purchased for \$25.
 - Neckerchiefs are never sold or traded.
 - If a Scout leaves the Troop before earning the rank of Eagle, they must return the troop neckerchief.
 - Replacement patches for the Class A uniform can be purchased as follows: the community rocker – \$3, the troop number – \$1, and the year bar – \$1.
 - New members receive a complete set as part of their troop fees.

Class B Uniform

- Troop 39 approved T-shirt
- Scout trousers (short or long), shirt or skort
- Scout belt
- Scout socks
- Appropriate shoes
- Scouting T-shirts other than official Troop 39 (e.g. camp, high adventure etc.) are not acceptable.
- Scouts new to Troop 39 will receive the following items as part of their troop fees: one neckerchief, and a set of uniform patches.
- Scouts new to Troop 39 receive 1 Class B shirt.

Uniform Exchange

Troop 39 maintains a uniform exchange that allows new Scouts and Scouts who outgrow their current uniform to exchange it with uniform parts that have been turned in by other Scouts.

Personal Equipment

Each patrol is issued a set of camping equipment and is responsible for its upkeep and proper maintenance. Patrols are issued camp stoves, basic pots and pans, cookware, a patrol box, and a lantern.

Scouts are responsible for their own tents, sleeping bags, mess kits and water bottles.

Scouts are required to invest in their own tents, 32 Degree sleeping bag, sleeping pad, mess kit, hot beverage mug, water bottle, head lamp, first aid kit, and wool socks.

Items encouraged to invest in are: water proof hiking boots/shoes, rain jacket/rain pants, pocket knife.

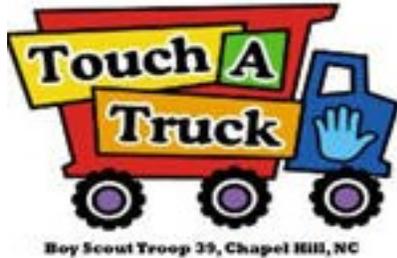
Please consult with your scout's scoutmaster for other ideas and items the scout may need.

Scouts receive a 10% discount off camping equipment at Great Outdoor Provisions if you tell them you are a scout with troop 39.

Each trip, there will be a designated patrol member responsible for purchasing food based on the menu derived by the Patrol. That patrol member should be reimbursed by patrol members no later than the Wednesday meeting following the trip. Scouts who make a commitment to a trip will be held accountable for reimbursing the patrol member who is responsible for the food regardless of whether they are able to attend the trip or not.

Fundraising

Troop 39 sponsors a number of fundraisers which help pay for charter dues, vehicle maintenance, insurance, and other expenses. All parents can help by volunteering to work on these projects:



Touch a Truck - Annual event in April

This event provides a unique opportunity for children and families to explore vehicles of all types, in one place! Held each spring, the event is mandatory for all scouts and families to attend and is a fundraiser both for the troop and the North Carolina Children's.

Scout Account Fundraising

Each scout has an account that is maintained by the troop. All money raised from fundraising (except Touch a Truck) is added to the Scout's Account. The scout can use this money to pay for monthly trips, dues, summer camp or high adventure. Scouts will not receive any cash from this account, only credit toward troop activities. Some scouts have raised enough money doing the following fundraising to pay for International scout high adventures.

Mulch Spreading- Year Round

Troop 39 provides a mulch spreading service typically in Spring and the Fall. Scouts and parents earn money in their scout accounts that can be used to pay for their scouting adventures.



Camp Cards- Annual

The Camp Card Program is a product sale. The product is a plastic card with Discount Offers. The program is designed to create a diverse year- round fundraising strategy to support local units and strengthen council programs. The price point is perfect and sells for only \$5.00! The consumer instantly gets their money back after redeeming the \$5.00 off coupon. The Camp Cards have a great value and are easy to sell!

Scouts earn \$2.50 for each card sold and the funds are added to their scout accounts.



High Adventure Fundraising-On Demand

Scouts and leaders participating in high adventure trips or activities sponsored by the troop may elect to engage in additional fundraising activities to offset the cost of the trip. Projects have ranged from Courts of Honor Dinners, raffles, car-washing, doughnut sales and holiday greenery sales. Such projects are in addition to any troop level fundraiser. Participation is expected if the group agrees to a project.

Health Matters

Medical Forms

Each Scout and leader is expected to keep a current health form on file with the troop. The BSA health form is in 3 parts. Part A & B: These parts are taken on each activity in the event medical attention is needed. This includes, allergies, general health information and parent permission.

Part C: is a physical form that is due annually and needs to be conducted and signed by a medical professional. This form is needed for any trip that is more than 72 hours, all camps, all high adventure and trips that require a medical examination.

*Examinations conducted by licensed health-care practitioners, other than physicians, will be recognized for BSA purposes in those states where such practitioners may perform physical examinations within their legally prescribed scope of practice.

Parents should report to the troop leadership any concerns they have about the health and wellbeing of their scout. All medical allergies and issues should be disclosed on the health forms and any new diagnoses should be immediately updated on the forms.

Any scout that is not mentally or physically fit for an outing should not attend any outings or meetings until the issue(s) are resolved.

Prescriptions

Any prescription medications taken by a scout are the responsibility of the individual taking the medication and/or that individual's parent or guardian. A Scout leader, after obtaining all the necessary information, can agree to accept the responsibility of making sure a Scout takes the necessary medication at the appropriate time, but Scouts BSA policy does not mandate nor necessarily encourage the Scout leader to do so.

Medications are locked in a box on all trips and scouts need to bring their medication in a ziplock bag marked with their Name, AM or PM time for consumption, and an updated copy of their medical forms if needed.

Medical Care

The following is the policy of the BSA regarding medical requirements:

- Medical examinations for camp attendance are required of all campers for the protection of the entire camp group. The immunization requirement is waived for persons with religious beliefs against immunization.
- All Scouts and Scout Leaders need to learn first aid, not for their own use, but for service to others who may require it. A Scout or Leader may ask to be excused from first-aid instruction, but no advancement requirement will be waived except as indicated.
- Requirements 1 and 5 for the Personal Fitness merit badge call for examinations by a physician and a dentist with appropriate follow-up recommendations. This may be set aside on presentation of a certificate by the Scout's parents and a proper church official that a definite violation of religious conviction is involved.

Scouts with a Disability

The BSA's policy has always been to treat members with disabilities and special needs as much like other members as possible, but a local council may make some accommodations in advancement requirements if necessary. A Scout with a permanent physical or mental disability may select an alternate merit badge in lieu of a required merit badge if their disabling condition prohibits the Scout from completing the necessary requirements of a particular required merit badge. This substitute should provide a "similar learning experience."

This policy is designed to keep youth with disabilities and special needs as much in the mainstream as possible. Practical suggestions are made to leaders as to approaches and methods they can use. Thus, a youth in a wheelchair can meet the requirements for hiking by making a trip to places of interest in their community. Giving more time and permitting the use of special aids are other ways leaders can help youth with disabilities and special needs in their efforts to advance. The unit leader plays a crucial role in that effort.

Troop Leadership

The Troop Committee for both troops is the same entity. The committee consists of the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Scoutmasters, Touch a Truck Chair, and Charter Organization Representative or their designee. This group is responsible for ensuring Troop 39 abide by all BSA policies and guidelines, finds adequate adult leadership for the Troops, and manage funds raised by the Troops.

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the program of the Troop. The Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts and Youth leadership. The importance of the Scoutmaster's job is reflected in the fact that the quality of their guidance will affect every youth and adult involved in the Troop. General duties include training and guiding youth leaders, working with other responsible adults to bring Scouting youth, and using the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting.

To fulfill their obligations to the troop, the Scoutmaster, with the assistance of the Troop Committee, recruits Assistant Scoutmasters to help operate the troop. Each Assistant Scoutmaster is assigned specific program duties and reports to the Scoutmaster. They also provide the required two-deep leadership standards set by the Scouts BSA (there must be at least two adults present at any BSA activity). An Assistant Scoutmaster may be 18 years old, but at least one in each troop should be 21 or older, so he or she can serve in the Scoutmaster's absence. Troop 39's Assistant Scoutmasters share responsibility for planning monthly trips, high adventure opportunities, advancement, merit badge instruction, and assisting the Scoutmaster as asked.

Expectations for Adult Leaders

Uniforms

Adult leaders are expected to set the best example for scouts through uniform, words, and deeds. Those working directly with the youth on the troop level are expected to wear official Scouts BSA uniforms based on the description provided in section. Members of the troop committee and boards of review, parents participating on weekend trips or assisting with weekly meetings, and merit badge counselors do not have to follow uniform expectations.

Training

Adult volunteers must register with the Scouts BSA. This includes merit badge instructors, troop leaders, and committee members. This does not include parents who volunteer for troop events.

Adult leaders are expected to complete the official Scouts BSA Youth Protection training and all other position specific training. Our Eno River District training staff offers New Leader Essentials and Scouts BSA Leaders Specific training. Troop 39 will only be as good as the leaders who supervise the troop.

Youth Protection Training- YPT- Required for all adults in leadership positions with the troop and those that attend any overnight events.

Youth Protection Training accomplishes the following objectives:

- Informs leaders and parents of Scouts BSA's Youth Protection policies and materials, including videos for each level in Scouting.
- Increases the protection of children by discussing the procedures for prompt reporting of suspected abuse.
- Enables Scouting's leaders and parents to recognize indicators of abuse.

The goal of youth protection training is to make everyone aware of the BSA guidelines and what is considered acceptable behavior. These training programs educate participants on what constitutes physical, emotional, neglect and sexual forms of abuse, assault, harassment and hazing. On the youth level, it teaches the three "R's": Recognize, Resist, and Report. On the parent and Scouter levels, it teaches how to recognize indications of child abuse and how to handle such situations.

Youth Leadership

Youth leadership is an important aspect of the Scouting program since leadership experience is required for rank advancement to Star, Life, and Eagle, Troop 39 leadership development is designed:

- to help each Scout learn the art of leadership.
- to offer each Scout specific, guided opportunities.
- to develop quality leadership skills as a youth.
- to create a personalized approach to tracking leadership development for each leadership position.

Acquiring a Leadership Position:

When a Scout needs a leadership position for a rank advancement, they should contact the Senior Patrol Leader. The following is the process for fulfilling a leadership requirement:

- A Scout must declare to the Senior Patrol Leader and the Scoutmaster their need for a leadership position.
- The Scoutmaster and SPL will discuss possible positions for the Scout and reach a mutual decision.
- The SPL will appoint the Scout a leadership position.

Once a leadership position has been assigned the Scout will receive training and expectations of the leadership position. This booklet contains the duties, a description, and the prerequisites for each Troop-level position.

The Scout will have goals to complete during their term. The Scout understands the time frame for the rank requirement is a guide, not an absolute.

Troop 39's main leadership positions (SPL and Patrol Leaders) are elected in the Spring for the next Scouting year. Scouts are expected to hold their leadership positions for a scouting year (Aug-June). Scouts may advance in rank during this time and scouts that achieve the rank of 1st class during the scouting year may acquire an open leadership position. Again, the scouts need to communicate with their SPL and scoutmasters about obtaining an open leadership position.

Troop 39 considers safety a primary concern. The Troop Committee approved the following safety rules, which Troop members are to follow:

- One or more adults must be present at all times, preferably the parent(s) of the scout leading the project.
- A scout with a driver's license shall only operate a vehicle in accordance with the current [Guide to Safe Scouting](#).
- Scouts shall only operate power equipment and tools while under the direct supervision of an adult, in accordance with the current [Guide to Safe Scouting](#).
- Scouts shall never ride in open vehicles such as truck beds, trailers, tractors, etc.

If there is an injury during a troop activity, the adult present at the time of the injury shall notify the Scoutmaster.

Leadership Positions: Positions not specified in the requirements for each rank will not count toward a rank advancement, as per BSA policy.

Senior Patrol Leader – top youth leader in the troop. They lead the patrol leaders' council and appoints other youth leaders and assigns specific responsibilities as needed.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader – fills in for senior patrol leader in their absence. They are also responsible for training and giving direction to the quartermaster, scribe, historian, librarian, and troop guides.

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster – a Scout 16 or older who supervises and supports other scout leaders as assigned.

Patrol Leader – gives leadership to members of their patrol and represents them on the patrol leaders' council.

Assistant Patrol Leader – fills in for the patrol leader in their absence.

Den chief – works with a Cub Scout Den as a guide.

Troop Guide – teaches one or more advancement skills to troop members and mentors the scouts in the Phoenix and Buffalo patrols in each troop.

Quartermaster – responsible for troop supplies and equipment.

Scribe – the troop secretary.

Historian – collects and maintains troop memorabilia and information on former troop members as well as documenting through photos and articles all current troop outings and activities.

Webmaster - The troop webmaster maintains the website information and updates as well as assists the scoutmasters with social media posting.

Librarian – keeps troop books, pamphlets, magazines, audiovisuals, and merit badge counselor list available for use by troop members.

Chaplain aide – assists in troop religious services and promotes religious emblems program.

Leadership Alternative: A substantial alternative, of equal duration to a Troop position (6 months), may be substituted as proof of leadership under certain circumstances. A scout may suggest a project with a written description to the Scoutmaster. If approved, the scout may continue with the project.

Advancement

A Scout advances from Scout to Eagle by attending and participating in troop activities, learning outdoor skills, demonstrating leadership, and living the ideals of Scouting.

As they acquire new skills and assumes increasing leadership responsibilities, they earn a series of Ranks – [Scout](#), [Tenderfoot](#), [Second Class](#), [First Class](#), [Star](#), [Life](#), and [Eagle](#)– with each award more challenging (and more rewarding) than the one before.

There are four basic steps of advancement that are common to each rank:

1. **The Scout learns.** A Scout learns by doing. As they learn, they grow in ability to do their part as a member of the patrol and the troop. As they develop knowledge and skill, they are asked to teach others, and in this way they begin to develop leadership.
2. **The Scout is tested.** Completion of each individual requirement for Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class awards is documented in the Scout Handbook.
3. A Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop Committee member, or another member of the troop who is a Star Scout or above may sign for these requirements.
4. **The Scout is reviewed.** After a Scout has completed the requirements for a Rank and has been tested, they have a Scoutmaster's Conference and appears before a Board of Review.
5. **Scoutmaster Conference:** The Scoutmaster's Conference is an opportunity for the Scout to have a discussion with the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster. It gives the Scoutmaster a chance to learn more about each individual Scout, and gives the Scout a chance to discuss their views of the strengths and weaknesses of the troop's programs. The Scout's progress is reviewed and an agreement is made for their continuing growth. The Scout should personally contact a Scoutmaster when they are ready for a Scoutmaster's Conference. These are often conducted during troop meetings.
6. **Boards of Review:** The final step for a Rank Advancement is to appear before a Board of Review. A Board of Review is made up of three to six members of the Troop Committee. This meeting has four purposes:
 - A. To make sure that the work has been learned and completed.
 - B. To discuss the Scout Oath and Law including their duty to their God.
 - C. To see what kind of experience the scout is having in their patrol and troop.
 - D. To encourage the Scout to advance to the next rank.

This review is not an examination — the Scout has learned their skills and has already been tested. They may be asked where they learned their skill, who taught them, and whether the experience has been valuable.

These meetings should be scheduled at least one week in advance with the Advancement Chairperson.

The Scout must wear a Class A uniform when meeting with a Board of Review.

The Scout is recognized: After the Board of Review has certified a Scout's advancement, they will be recognized at a troop meeting. The certificate and badge for their new rank will be presented later at a formal Court of Honor.

Merit Badges

When a Scout is seeking a particular **merit badge** they should:



1. Consult with your Scoutmaster about the merit badge(s) you wish to work on.
2. Obtain and study the current issue of the Merit Badge Pamphlet, which may be borrowed from our Troop Library, purchased from Occoneechee Council Service Center in Raleigh or ordered from the Scout catalog (<http://www.scoutstuff.org>). Current merit badge requirements, information, resource sheets, and other documents are available at www.meritbadge.org.
3. Contact the Merit Badge Coordinator who keeps a current list of **Approved Merit Badge Counselors**. They will provide the scout with an assigned MBC (Merit Badge Counselor).
Parents of a scout are not allowed to be a Merit Badge Counselor for their own scout without prior approval of the Scoutmaster.
4. Contact your counselor **BEFORE** you begin the merit badge for guidance, review, and help.
5. All Merit Badges are first approved by the Advancement Chair and/or the Scoutmaster.
6. When the MBC thinks that you have qualified for the Merit Badge, they will sign completion of your Merit Badge in the electronic Scoutbook Portal.
7. The Merit Badge will be awarded at the next Court of Honor.

Progress Records

- Each Scout must keep a copy of their progress in their own Scout Handbook.
- The Handbook lists each step required for advancement and must be precisely followed to assure acceptance by the Scouting National Office.
- We recommend scouts keep careful notes of the dates that they complete the requirements for each merit badge, the date the badges were awarded, and the dates of advancement.
- Many Scouts have found their personal records to be invaluable for verification when uncertainty arises in regard to their progress through Scouting ranks.
- Patrol Leaders who are First Class and Star Scouts and above may sign for requirements for Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class.

Trail to Eagle

Commitment to the Eagle Trail

During the Scoutmaster Conference for Star rank, the Scoutmaster discusses the Trail to Eagle process with the Scout and determines whether or not the Scout is willing to make the commitment to this achievement. Because of age limits and time in rank requirements, or because of other commitments and interests outside of Scouting, some Scouts cannot be expected to achieve the Eagle rank. We honor and respect every achievement by our Scouts.

Eagle Mentors

If the Star Scout expresses an interest in committing to the Eagle rank achievement, an Adult Mentor is assigned to counsel the Scout through the various steps along the Eagle Trail. This requires a significant commitment on behalf of the Mentor too. Zoom calls/Emails and frequent progress reviews are recommended. The advantages are numerous:

- Fewer problems with rank approvals
- Better communication with Scouts and parents
- Peer level leadership opportunities for Scout with adult leaders
- More visibility into the Eagle process for younger Scouts

Life Scouts

At the time of the scout's scoutmaster conference for Life rank, the scoutmaster once again determines the scout's progress, attendance, scout spirit and completion of their leadership position prior to recommending the scout for a board of review for the rank of Life Scout.

Once these requirements are approved and the scout has completed a board of review for the Life rank, is the scout considered an Eagle Candidate. With the guidance of their mentor, the Life scout can select and plan an Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project.

Attaining the Eagle Scout Rank

The Scout, *not the parent*, must be the driving force behind their quest to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. The Mentor will provide the Scout with guidance on where to obtain the Eagle documentation and submission of the application.

The Eno River District website provides each Eagle Candidate with a review and approval to start their Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project, advice on completing

the other requirements and how to print an application in scoutbook for the Eagle Scout rank.

Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project

The selection and completion of the Eagle Candidate's Eagle Scout leadership service project is the sole responsibility of the Scout. The eagle mentor, troop leadership, parents, project recipient and fellow scouts have a role in assisting the eagle candidate in properly carrying out their Eagle Scout leadership service project, the failure of any or all of these persons to see the project to a timely and satisfactory conclusion does not relieve the Scout of their obligation to see the project to a timely and satisfactory conclusion.

The Eagle Candidate's project plan must be formally approved by the chair of the [Eno River District Eagle Committee](#), before the Eagle Candidate begins work on the project.

Requests for a time extension to complete an Eagle project will not be considered, nor granted, if the request is based on the lack of cooperation on the part of the troop, project recipient, parents or fellow scouts. Requests for extension are only approved by BSA National.

Submission of the Eagle Packet

The scout and mentor will review all of the requirements for the Eagle Rank Application. The project is only one part of the Eagle rank application. You will find numerous resources on the ENO River District Eagle webpage and the eaglerefs.org portal for submission of your project.

1. Each scout must earn 21 merit badges, 14 of them are Eagle Required as of July 1, 2022
2. A Scout must be in good standing with Troop 39.
3. Must be a Life Scout for at least 6 months
4. Serve in a leadership position in the troop and complete the duties of this position for at least 6 months as a Life Scout.
5. Complete the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project
6. The Scout must prepare a Statement of Life Purpose
7. The Scout must provide a list of all leadership roles, honors and activities outside of scouting.
8. Have 5 letters of reference completed via the EagleRefs.org web portal
9. The scout must also participate in a Scoutmaster conference and have their scoutmaster sign off.

The completed packet will still need to be printed and either mailed or hand delivered to the Occoneechee council office for review prior to the scout's 18th birthday. Once received it will then be sent to the district committee for review and board of review scheduling.

Eagle Board of Review

The Eno River District Committee is responsible for upholding the standards of the Eagle Rank award. They ensure that fair and consistent standards are applied to the planning of Eagle Scout Leadership Service Projects and in Eagle Boards of Review, and that these standards are consistent with National BSA and Occoneechee Council advancement policies.

The Board of Review determines the Scout's preparedness for the Eagle rank. It does not re-examine them on their merit badges or previous ranks.

If the Board unanimously approves the Scout, the Board chairman and district member ceremoniously sign the Eagle application and explain the remaining process to the Scout:

- The application is approved only after the Council Scout Executive and the National Eagle Scout Service Office signs it.
- Though the Board recommends the Scout, only the National Eagle Scout Service can approve the Eagle Scout award.
- The average time for the National Court of Honor to send the Eagle Scout certificate to the council is four to eight weeks.
- The Eagle award is not available to the Scout until the Eagle Scout Certificate is received in the Council office, without exception.

If the vote on the recommendation is not unanimous, the Board discusses with the Scout the reasons why they were not approved. The committee will inform the scout of the courses of action open to them.

Glossary of Scouting Terms and Acronyms

- APL – assistant patrol leader
- ASM – assistant Scoutmaster
- ASPL – assistant senior patrol leader
- B-P – Baden-Powell
- BSA – Boy Scouts of America
- COR – chartered organization representative
- CSE – Chief Scout Executive
- FOS – Friends of Scouting
- JASM – junior assistant Scoutmaster
- JOTA – Jamboree-on-the-Air
- KISMIF – Keep It Simple, Make It Fun
- LNT – Leave No Trace
- NESAs – National Eagle Scout Association
- NYLT – National Youth Leadership Training
- OA – Order of the Arrow
- P.R.A.Y. – Programs of Religious Activities With Youth
- PL – patrol leader
- PLC – patrol leaders' council
- SPL – senior patrol leader

Advancement- The process by which a youth member meets certain requirements and earns recognition. There is no advancement program for adults. See also “methods of Scouting.”

Aims of Scouting- The Scouting program has four specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "aims of Scouting." They are character development, citizenship training, leadership, and mental and physical fitness.

Arrow of Light- (AOL)- The seventh and highest rank in Cub Scouting. The Arrow of Light badge is the only Cub Scout badge that may be worn on the Scouts BSA uniform. Examples: “Arrow of Light badge,” “Arrow of Light rank.”

Assistant Patrol Leader- (APL)- A Scout who is appointed by the patrol leader as a helper and to take the patrol leader's place in that youth leader's absence.

Assistant Scoutmaster- (ASM)- A volunteer Scouter, 18 or older, appointed by the chartered organization to help the Scoutmaster by working with a new-Scout patrol.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. (ASPL)- A youth leader, usually in larger troops, who helps the senior patrol leader. Appointed by the senior patrol leader with the Scoutmaster's advice and consent.

Baden-Powell,- Founder of the worldwide Scouting movement. He was born Feb. 22, 1857, in London, was made a baron in 1929, and died Jan. 8, 1941. He is referred to as Lord

Baden-Powell of Gilwell, Chief Scout of the World. Abbreviate B-P (without periods). Do not use his first name with his title: “Lord Baden-Powell,” but never “Lord Robert Baden-Powell.”

“Be Prepared”- The Scout motto. The initials of the motto are the initials of Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting. Capitalize only if standing alone: “The Scout must always be prepared.” “The Scout motto is Be Prepared.”

Board of Review (BOR)- A review held to determine if a Scout has satisfactorily completed rank requirements. A review may be held also to encourage Scouts who are not advancing. For the Tenderfoot through Life ranks, the board of review is conducted by the troop committee. For the Eagle Scout rank, the council decides whether the unit committee or the district or council committee responsible for advancement conducts the board of review. At least one district or council advancement representative shall always be a member of the unit board of review.

Boy Scouts of America®- The legal name of the organization is singular. Example: “In 2010 the Boy Scouts of America celebrated its 100th anniversary.” The abbreviation is BSA (without periods) and is used with the article (“the BSA”) when used as a noun. The registered mark should appear at the end of “America” at the top corner on first reference in running text and in general in a stand-alone reference.

Brotherhood membership- The second and final induction phase of membership in the Order of the Arrow. Capitalize Brotherhood only when referring to membership or to the ceremony. Do not capitalize when referring to friendship.

BSA Mission Statement- The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law

BSA Vision Statement- The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

Buddy System- The safety system where Scouts group together and keep an eye out for each other during Scouting activities such as camping, aquatics, hiking, and other activities. For aquatics activities, swimmers of like ability are grouped, check in and out of the water together, and monitor the safety of each other during the swim.

Chartered Organization- A religious, civic, or other community-based organization that has applied for and received a charter to operate a Scouting unit. Do not use “chartered partner” or “sponsoring unit.”

Chartered Organization Representative (COR)- A manager of Scouting in a chartered organization who also represents this organization in the local council and district.

Court of Honor (COH)- A recognition ceremony for those who have met the requirements of any one of the Scout ranks, merit badges, or other awards. Always lowercase: “Eagle Scout court of honor.” See also “National Court of Honor.”

Do a Good Turn Daily- This is the Scout slogan.

Dutch oven- A heavy iron or aluminum pot used for cooking food over an open fire or coals. A traditional Scout dessert is peach cobbler baked in a Dutch oven.

Eagle- The highest rank for Scouts BSA members.

Friends of Scouting (FOS)- An annual opportunity for Scouters and interested people in the community to be identified with the local council through their financial support and influence in the expansion of the council program. Enrollees are known as “Friends.” See also “Annual Giving Campaign.”

Grubmaster- The informal name of the Scout in charge of patrol hike and camp menus and assembling food for outdoor patrol activities; appointed by the patrol leader.

Guide to Safe Scouting- An overview of Scouting policies and procedures gleaned from a variety of sources first published in 1991. It is available in print, as a PDF to download, and as HTML.

Honor Patrol Award- An embroidered star worn beneath the patrol medallion distinguishes a member of a patrol that has won this award by meeting requirements in patrol spirit; patrol meetings; hikes, outdoor activities, and other events; Good Turns or service projects; advancement; membership; uniform; and patrol leaders’ council attendance. Formerly known as the Baden-Powell Patrol Award.

Leave No Trace- The BSA is committed to this nationally recognized outdoor skills and ethics awareness program to reduce impacts on the environment and other people. The seven principles should be followed at all times in the outdoors: Plan ahead and prepare; travel and camp on durable surfaces; dispose of waste properly (pack it in, pack it out); leave what you find; minimize campfire impacts; respect wildlife; and be considerate of other visitors. When used as an adjective, capitalize and do not hyphenate: “Follow all Leave No Trace principles in the backcountry.” Always spell out.

Merit Badge- A recognition given to a Scouts BSA member for completing the requirements for the badge. There are more than 130 subjects in life skills, hobby, and career fields, with requirements and supporting pamphlets to help Scouts broaden their outlook. Capitalize the name of the badge but not the words “merit badge.” Example: “earn the Lifesaving and Swimming merit badges.” When referring to the merit badge pamphlet, italicize the title. Example: “*Journalism* merit badge pamphlet.”

Merit Badge Counselor (MBC)- A registered adult volunteer at least age 18 who is expert in a merit badge field and shares enthusiasm for that field with Scouts and who certifies that requirements have been met.

Order of the Arrow (OA)- Scouting’s national honor society. Youth members of Scout troops, Venturing crews, and Sea Scout ships are elected by all youth members of their unit based on their Scouting spirit and camping ability. The aim of the OA is to promote the outdoor program and service to Scouting.

P.R.A.Y.- Abbreviation for Programs of Religious Activities With Youth. An organization outside the BSA that administers religious emblems for youth-serving organizations, including, for example, the BSA, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire. Note the periods in the abbreviation.

Patrol- A small group of Scouts (usually five to eight) who belong to a troop and work together in and out of troop meetings. Normally, there are several patrols in one troop. Capitalize only when part of a title, such as “Fox Patrol.” Note: Webelos dens are not patrols.

Patrol leader (PL)- Elected by the patrol members, this Scout leads the patrol and represents it on the patrol leaders’ council, which plans the troop program.

Patrol leaders' council (PLC)- Each patrol leader, representing a patrol, meets with other patrol leaders and the senior patrol leader to plan their troop program. The Scoutmaster advises the patrol leaders' council.

Scout benediction- May the Great Scoutmaster of all Scouts be with us until we meet again.

Scout handshake- This unique greeting is given with the left hand, the thumb separated from the fingers.

Scout Law- A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. (There are 12 points to the Scout Law.)

Scout motto- Be Prepared.

Scout Oath- 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.

Scoutbook- A unit-serving tool that includes an app called Scouting and allows leaders and parents to track individual advancement progress for their Scouts online or using their mobile phone.

Scouter- An adult registered with the Boy Scouts of America who serves in a volunteer or professional capacity.

Scoutmaster- A volunteer Scouter, 21 or older, appointed by the chartered organization to lead a Scout troop.

Scoutmaster conference- A distinctive feature of the troop advancement plan in which a Scoutmaster helps a Scout accept the responsibility for the youth's own growth toward each rank.

Scoutmaster's Minute- A part of the closing ceremony of a troop meeting or campfire in which the Scoutmaster encourages Scout-like conduct by telling a story.

Senior patrol leader (SPL)- Each troop has one senior patrol leader, a Scout elected by the troop members to help all the patrols succeed. This youth leader may be assisted by one or more assistant senior patrol leaders.

Troop Committee (TC)- Group of volunteers, parents that make up the troop committee to conduct the business of the troop and work directly with the chartering organization.

Totin' Chip- A recognition given to Scouts who subscribe to the Outdoor Code and understand and can demonstrate the proper handling, care, and use of woods tools.

University United Methodist Church (UUMC)- Chartering Organization and troop meeting place

Youth Protection program (YPT)- This BSA emphasis fights child abuse by teaching youth the "three R's": Recognize, Respond, and Report child abuse; by helping parents and Scouters learn to recognize indications of child abuse and situations that could lead to potential abuse; and by teaching them how to handle child abuse situations or reports. Youth training is called personal safety awareness. For all registered adults (volunteer and professional Scouters), Youth Protection training is mandatory.