

Boy Scout Troop 555 Parent Handbook



Christ Lutheran Church
Jim Thorpe, Pa. 18229

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America and Troop 555. By becoming a parent of a Boy Scout you are starting your son out on the great adventure of scouting. This is an important and rewarding endeavor that you will share with him.

Our Chartered Organization is, Christ Lutheran Church Outreach Program in Jim Thorpe Pa.. Troop 555 is non-denominational and welcomes all boys ages 11 to 18 to scouting. A boy needs no prior experience to become a Boy Scout.

Troop 555 has five main goals for our Boy Scouts:

- Growth in moral strength and character
- Participate in citizenship
- Development of physical, moral, and emotional fitness
- Be comfortable in and appreciate outdoor activities
- Leadership

Our program will make your son a better person and give him the fundamental tools to be successful in whatever path he chooses in like. These skills are learned by Scouts, working together and doing things themselves. Last, but not least, our goal is to have fun.

BoyScout troops are completely different then cub scouts. Cub scout packs are adult ran, Boyscout troops are boy ran. Meaning that the scouts plan and run meetings with little adult guidance. Some meeting plans will run awesome and some may seem like a failure. We are teaching boys how to be leaders and failure to a degree is the foundation of every great leader.

We have prepared this parent's handbook to answer many of your questions. The following pages describe the organization of our troop and how it functions.

We hope this helps you help your Scout.

YOUTH PROTECTION

The Boy Scouts of America places the greatest importance on creating the most secure environment possible for our youth members. To maintain such an environment, the BSA developed numerous procedural and leadership selection policies and provides parents and leaders with resources for the Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venturing programs.

The Boy Scouts of America takes great pride in the quality of our adult leadership. Being a leader in the BSA is a privilege, not a right. The quality of the program and the safety of our youth members call for high-quality adult leaders. We work closely with our chartered organizations to help recruit the best possible leaders for their units.

The adult application requests background information that should be checked by the unit committee or the chartered organization before accepting an applicant for unit leadership. While no current screening techniques exist that can identify every potential child molester, we can reduce the risk of accepting a child molester by learning all we can about an applicant for a leadership position—his or her experience with children, why he or she wants to be a Scout leader, and what discipline techniques he or she would use.

Youth Protection training is required for all BSA registered volunteers. Youth Protection training must be taken every two years. If a volunteer's Youth Protection training record is not current at the time of recharter, the volunteer will not be reregistered.

The BSA has adopted the following policies to provide additional security for our members. These policies are primarily for the protection of our youth members; however, they also serve to protect our adult leaders from false accusations of abuse.

Two-deep leadership is required on all outings. Two registered adult leaders or one registered leader and a parent of a participant, or other adult, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required on all trips and outings.

One-on-one contact between adults and Scouts is prohibited. In situations that require personal conferences, such as a Scoutmaster's conference, the meeting is to be conducted in view of other adults and youths.

Separate accommodations for adults and Scouts are required. When camping, no youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than his

or her own parent or guardian.

Privacy of youth is respected. Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp, intruding only to the extent that health and safety require. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations.

Inappropriate use of cameras, imaging, and digital devices is prohibited.

While most campers and leaders use cameras and other imaging devices responsibly, it has become very easy to invade the privacy of individuals. It is inappropriate to use any device capable of recording or transmitting visual images in shower houses, restrooms, or other areas where privacy is expected by participants.

No secret organizations. The Boy Scouts of America does not allow any secret organizations as part of its program. All aspects of the Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders.

No hazing. Physical hazing and initiations are prohibited and may not be included as part of any Scouting activity.

No bullying. Verbal, physical, and cyber bullying are prohibited in Scouting.

Youth leadership is monitored by adult leaders. Adult leaders must monitor and guide the leadership techniques used by youth leaders and ensure that BSA policies are followed.

Discipline must be constructive. Discipline used in Scouting should be constructive and reflect Scouting's values. Corporal punishment is never permitted.

Appropriate attire for all activities. Proper clothing for activities is required. For example, skinny-dipping or revealing bathing suits are not appropriate as part of Scouting.

Members are responsible to act according to the Scout Oath and Scout Law. All members of the Boy Scouts of America are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Physical violence, theft, verbal insults, drugs, and alcohol have no place in the Scouting program and may result in the revocation of a Scout's membership.

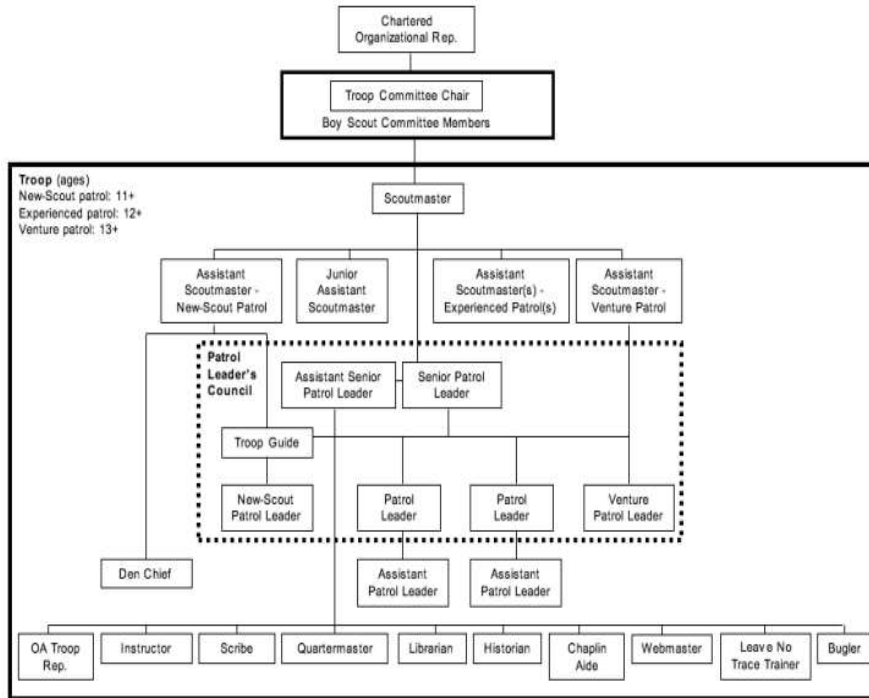
Units are responsible to enforce Youth Protection policies. The head of the chartered organization or chartered organization representative and the local council must approve the registration of the unit's adult leader. Adult leaders of Scouting units are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and interceding when necessary. Parents of members who misbehave should be informed and asked for assistance. Any violations of the BSA's Youth Protection policies must immediately be reported to the Scout executive.

For more information or to complete Youth Protection Training visit:

<http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx>

TROOP STRUCTURE

Boy Scout troop organization chart



Boy Scout troops are organized using the patrol method. Each patrol consists of 4 to 8 scouts with one scout elected as a **patrol leader**. Patrol leaders learn how to manage troop activities by working under the direction of a **senior patrol leader** and **assistant senior patrol leader**. Older experienced Scouts may serve as **troop guides**, to assist new scouts in learning scout skills.

TROOP LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)

The leader of the troop. He is responsible for the troop's overall operations. He runs the weekly meetings, patrol leader's council and all troop activities. In troop 555 the ASPL will move up to this position every 6 months

Assistant Patrol Leader (ASPL)

The **Assistant Senior Patrol Leader** is the second highest-ranking youth leader in the troop. The assistant senior patrol leader acts as the senior patrol leader in the absence of the senior patrol leader or when called upon. He also provides leadership to other youth leaders in the troop. Elected by all scouts every six months

Patrol Leader (PL)

The leader of a patrol. Elected by the patrol every six months.

Troop Guide

Must be First Class or higher rank. Mentors a newly formed patrol of new Scouts. Elected by all scouts every six months

Quartermaster

The troop's supply boss. Keeps tabs on the troop's equipment. Elected by all scouts every six months

Scribe

The troop's secretary. Keeps minutes of the patrol leaders' council meetings, keeps attendance for campouts and meetings. Elected by all scouts every six months

Chaplain's Aide

Coordinates the troop's religious observances and promotes the religious emblems program. Elected by all scouts every six months

Webmaster. Elected by all scouts every six months

Den Chief

Works with a den of Cub Scouts

TROOP COMMITTEE

The role of the Troop Committee is to support the Scoutmaster and the troop leadership in running a successful, safe, and sound program. The committee aids the Scoutmaster in four areas, program planning, advancement, outdoor program and administration.

All parents can become a member of the committee by attending the meetings and registering as an adult member of the Boy Scouts. The intent of the committee is to spread the work of the troop around and not to burden a few adults with such an epic task. Please contact our Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman for an adult application.

ADULT LEADERS

Chartered Organization Rep.	Pastor John Hassler	revjp@ptd.net
Troop Committee Chairman	Rob Renode	rrenode@gmail.com
Scoutmaster	Dan Ward	dmward@ptd.net
Advancement Chairman	Thea Bierman	tbierman@ptd.net
Treasurer	Julie Renode	lilbunny23@gmail.com
Secretary	OPEN	
Fundraising Chair	Natalie Rodgers	noahrodgers2000@gmail.com
Summer Camp Coordinator	Shawn Bierman	sbierman@ptd.net
Outdoor/Coordinator	Kenny Meckes	kenny.meckes@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Will Bauer	wbauer@outlook.com
Life to Eagle Coordinator	Carol Teets	cmtets@ptd.net
Committee Member	Holly Mordaunt	hmordaunt@jtasd.org
Assistant Scoutmasters	Shawn Bierman	sbierman@ptd.net
	Bob Thomas	bobthomas22750@yahoo.com
	Will Bauer	wbauer@outlook.com
	Jason Teets	jteets@ptd.net
Patrol Leader Coordinator	Jason Teets	jteets@ptd.net
New Patrol Assistant SM	Will Bauer	wbauer@outlook.com
Merit Badge Clinics	Dan Ward	dmward@ptd.net

Troop 555 has in troop merit badge counselors for 23 badges, ask a scoutmaster!!

ACTIVITIES

TROOP MEETINGS

Troop 555 meets every Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 in the Christ Lutheran Church social hall. The troop meets year round with a few exceptions for holidays.

Scouts are required to attend each meeting in his troop B t-shirt or Class A uniform.

TYPICAL AGENDA:

Opening

Announcements

Skill Instruction

Patrol Meeting

Skill based games

(rank advancement, merit badges, campout planning and Scoutmaster conferences)

Closing Circle

• *Facilities Guidelines*

Boys play. Damage happens. Whenever a scout damages anything from a wall to a light bulb he should report it to the Senior Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster or any Assistant Scoutmaster wearing a uniform. Early warning equals early repairs, and more importantly allows for the best possible relationship between Troop 555 and Christ Lutheran Church. RESPECT THE FACILITIES.

TROOP CALENDAR

Troop Calendars can be found in ScoutBook and our troop website
www.bsatroop555.com

ADVANCEMENT

THE BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK

Both Scouts and parents should become familiar with the contents of the Official Boy Scout Handbook, as it will provide answers to many questions. Descriptions of the requirements for each Scout rank are covered in the book. As your son advances in rank, Scout leaders will date and sign off on the completion of each requirement on the handbook. Encourage your son to take his handbook to all campouts and weekly meetings. Over time this book will become a valuable record of your sons achievements. It should be brought to every weekly meeting. Encourage your Scout to take good care of his book as they have to last a long time, and the records of achievement they contain are critical to each Scout's personal advancement through the ranks. The purchase of a protective cover is recommended and writing the last name along the pages to be read from the side is also a good idea. We also use a cloud based troop management program owned by bsa called scoutbook. see scoutmaster for access to your sons account (*The Troop 555 Advancement Chair will record your Scout's achievements in a database after he has earned each rank.*)

BOY SCOUT RANKS



Typically, boys enter Boy Scouts after earning the Arrow of Light or being 11 years old. Experience as a Cub Scout is not required. The first three ranks (Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class) must be obtained in sequence, but may be worked on simultaneously. A detailed list of requirements is in the Official Boy Scout Handbook. Scouts work toward achieving the First Class rank by the end of their first year in Scouting. During the first year scouts will learn basic skills but also learn to work together which is often more essential than rank advancement.

Summer camp is an excellent opportunity to quickly move through the first three ranks.

Merit Badges:

No merit badges are required to reach First Class Rank, so it is not necessary to focus on merit badges during the first year of scouting, but scouts can earn any merit badge they want to earn at any time during their scouting career.

WHERE TO RECORD RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Troop 555 records all rank advancement activities in the advancement section in the back of the book as well as scoutbook.com. records are also reported to Minsi Trails Council.

WHO RECORDS RANK ADVANCEMENTS/REQUIREMENTS?

Each Boy Scout is responsible to have his requirements to be signed off in his handbook and update scoutbook rank requirements, track camping trips, track hikes, track service hours. Logs are in the handbook and on scoutbook. Patrol leaders, ASPL and SPL will sign advancement requirements in the handbook. The Scoutmaster, or Assistant Scoutmaster will sign each advancement during the scoutmaster conference and approve advancement in scoutbook. All advancements are reported to the advancement chair to record.

Exceptions:

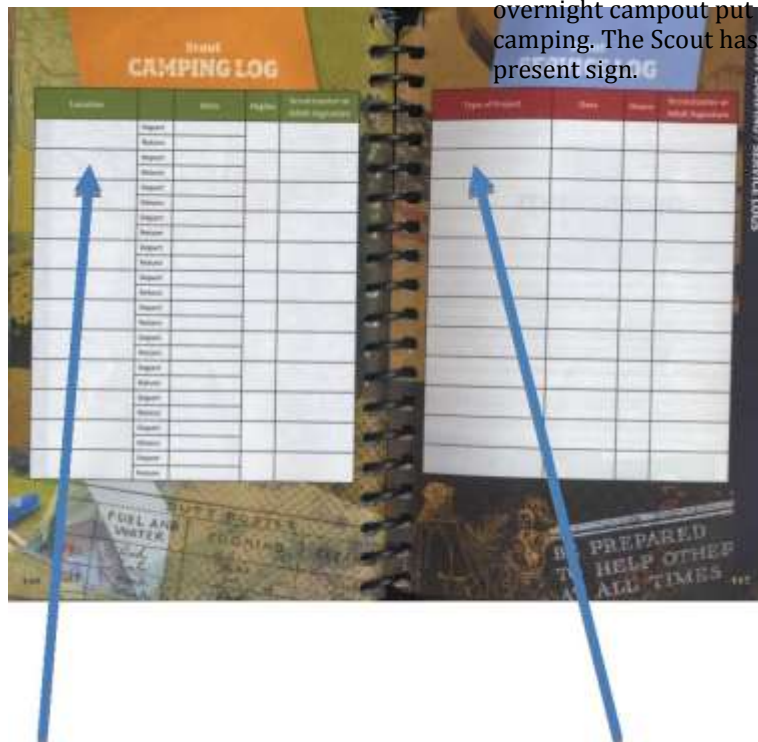
- Merit Badges—Only registered Merit Badge Counselors

SERVICE HOURS

Service hours are a requirement for rank advancement. Activities that qualify don't have to be scouting events. Any community service activity can count including school, church or scouting service activities.

GET IT LOGGED AND SIGNED by the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster.

Troop Events entered here. If not an overnight campout put "0" for night of camping. The Scout has adult leader present sign.



TROOP EVENTS

Troop events are a requirement for rank advancement. Activities that are considered any official troop or patrol activities including campouts, courts of honor, Eagle service projects or any other special scouting events.

GET IT LOGGED AND SIGNED by the Scoutmaster or Assistant scoutmaster.

WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU LOSE YOUR SCOUT HANDBOOK?

All rank advancement must be recorded in your Scout handbook, so don't wait too long to get a new one; however, don't panic over lost work. All work done toward ranks for which boys have already had a scoutmaster conference and Board of Review will have been saved on the troop database. The merit badge a scout has earned is recorded in the troop database as well.

SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCE AND BOARD OF REVIEW

At the completion of each rank from Scout to Eagle, the Scout is required to participate in a conference with the Scoutmaster. This is to ensure that all requirements have been satisfactorily completed. When a scout has completed his requirements it is **his** responsibility to request a Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review. The Board of Review is conducted by adult scouters and is required for all ranks. The Board of Review in the lower ranks may include general questions related to the skills he has learned, but will not be a re-test of those skills. As the Scout advances in rank these questions will be more centered on leadership, citizenship and character.

The Scout must present himself to the Board in the Class A uniform..

(Troop 555 only requires a class A shirt but encourages a complete uniform, full class A uniform will be required for eagle board of review)

MERITBADGES

There are over 130 Merit Badges (MB) available in Scouting today with more being added each year. To obtain the highest Scouting rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn a minimum of 21 MBs. Of the 21 MBs, 13 are required. This means that the Scout must earn these specific MBs, the remaining 9 MBs can be any MBs the Scout wants to earn. To advance from First Class to Star, Scouts are required to start earning MBs. The same is true from Star to Life and Life to Eagle. That said, a Scout could start earning MBs as soon as they become a registered Boy Scout.

Blue Cards are the record of Merit Badge progress and are turned in to receive the MB after all the requirements have been met and the counselor has signed off on the card.

Prior to beginning any merit badge work, the Scoutmaster must sign the blue card.

Blue Cards are always required. First step when using a Blue card is to find an approved MB Counselor. You will need to have the counselor fill out their information, have Scout Master sign card and start working on your MB. Once you start a card there is no time limit in completing except a Scout's age.

There are many different ways Scouts can earn MBs; these different methods are listed below.

TROOP MEETINGS

We do not work on merit badges during regular scheduled troop meetings. Troop meetings are designed for Skill and leadership training and most importantly FUN!!!

SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp is where a Scout will earn most of the MBs they will receive.

DISTRICT AND COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

These announcements go out to the leaders every now and then. They are forwarded to the troop via Constant Contact emails.

INDIVIDUALLY

If your son interested in a particular merit badge, he can ask the Scoutmaster. The scoutmaster will put you and your son in contact with a merit badge counselor.

Once a MB is started, a Scout can take as long as he wants to finish it. As each requirement is finished, he needs to let the Advancement Chair and Scoutmaster know so it can be logged in the official Troop record. It is the Scouts responsibility to keep his blue card. If lost before it is recorded it will have to be redone.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents signing off on requirements for their Scout, either for rank advancement or merit badges is strongly discouraged within Troop 555. There are plenty of adult leaders that can sign off on requirements at any tuesday meeting. The exception for this is the teaching of a Merit Badge class. If a parent becomes an approved MB counselor and holds a class open to other Scouts, Counselor can sign off on his son if he is in class.

1. American Business
2. American Cultures
3. American Heritage
4. American Labor
5. Animal Science
6. Animation
7. Archaeology
8. Archery
9. Architecture
10. Art
11. Astronomy
12. Athletics
13. Automotive Maintenance
14. Aviation
15. Backpacking
16. Basketry
17. Bird Study
18. Bugling
19. Camping
20. Canoeing
21. Chemistry
22. Chess
23. Citizenship in the Community
24. Citizenship in the Nation
25. Citizenship in the World
26. Climbing
27. Coin Collecting
28. Collections
29. Communication
30. Composite Materials
31. Cooking
32. Crime Prevention
33. Cycling
34. Dentistry
35. Digital Technology
36. Disabilities Awareness
37. Dog Care
38. Drafting
39. Electricity
40. Electronics
46. Exploration
47. Family Life
48. Farm Mechanics
49. Fingerprinting
50. Fire Safety
51. First Aid
52. Fish and Wildlife Management
53. Fishing
54. Fly Fishing
55. Forestry
56. Game Design
57. Gardening
58. Genealogy
59. Geocaching
60. Geology
61. Golf
62. Graphic Arts
63. Hiking
64. Home Repairs
65. Horsemanship
66. Indian Lore
67. Insect Study
68. Inventing
69. Journalism
70. Kayaking
71. Landscape Architecture
72. Law
73. Leatherwork
74. Lifesaving
75. Mammal Study
76. Medicine
77. Metalwork
78. Mining in Society
79. Model Design and Building
80. Motorboating
81. Moviemaking
82. Music
83. Nature
84. Nuclear Science
85. Oceanography
91. Photography
92. Pioneering
93. Plant Science
94. Plumbing
95. Pottery
96. Programming
97. Public Health
98. Public Speaking
99. Pulp and Paper
100. Radio
101. Railroading
102. Reading
103. Reptile and Amphibian Study
104. Rifle Shooting
105. Robotics
106. Rowing
107. Safety
108. Salesmanship
109. Scholarship
110. Scouting Heritage
111. Scuba Diving
112. Sculpture
113. Search & Rescue
114. Shotgun Shooting
115. Signs, Signals, and Codes
116. Skating
117. Small-Boat Sailing
118. Snow Sports
119. Soil and Water Conservation
120. Space Exploration
121. Sports
122. Stamp Collecting
123. Surveying
124. Sustainability
125. Swimming
126. Textile
127. Theater
128. Traffic Safety
129. Truck Transportation
130. Veterinary Medicine

41. Emergency Preparedness
42. Energy
43. Engineering
44. Entrepreneurship
45. Environmental Science

86. Orienteering
87. Painting
88. Personal Fitness
89. Personal Management
90. Pets

131. Water Sports
132. Weather
133. Welding
134. Whitewater
135. Wilderness Survival
136. Wood Carving
137. Woodwork

EAGLE REQUIRED MERIT BADGES

- 1 Camping
- 2 Cycling *or* Hiking *or* Swimming
- 3 Citizenship in the Community
- 4 Citizenship in the Nation
- 5 Citizenship in the World
- 6 Communications
- 7 Cooking
- 8 Emergency Preparedness *or* Lifesaving
- 9 Environmental Science *or* Sustainability
- 10 Family Life
- 11 First Aid
- 12 Personal Fitness
- 13 Personal Management

EAGLE COURT OF HONOR

An Eagle Court of Honor is the ceremony during which a Scout receives his Eagle Badge and scarf and other regalia. Bring your young scout to as many of these as you can. This is a formal event in the sanctuary of St. James UMC. It requires Class A uniforms for scouts attending and counts as a Troop Event to be logged in The Scout Handbook.

CAMPING

TROOP 555 PACKING LIST

Items in italics are essential (except for cold weather items when summer camping).

Carry in Pocket

Wallet w/money

Basic Camping Equipment

Pack or Duffel Bag

Waterproof pack cover (or large garbage bag)

Sleeping bag in waterproof stuff sack or plastic bag

*Tent, with ground cloth***

Plastic zip bags for gear (to hold small items)

Foam sleeping pad

Kitchen

Water bottle(s) (1-2 liters)

Trail snacks (dried fruit, granola bar, etc.)

Clothing

Rain jacket or poncho

Rain pants

Extra shoes

Wool sweater or fleece

Hat or cap

Socks

Shirt

Clothes for sleeping

Long pants

Shorts

Swimsuit

Underwear

Shirt

Sunglasses

Toilet Articles

Soap

Small towel

**Either bring your own tent,
arrange to sleep in another scout's
tent.

*Depends on weather.

Washcloth
Toothbrush & toothpaste
Comb
Toilet paper (in plastic bag)
Metal mirror
Chapstick
Personal prescription medicines
Personal first aid kit
Insect repellent
Sunscreen

Garage

Official Boy Scout Handbook in a plastic Ziploc® with a ball point pen
Nylon cord (25' of 1/8" to 3/16")
Pocketknife
Compass
Matches in waterproof case or bag
Whistle
Small rope or twine
Boy Scout Handbook (in ziploc bag)
Camera and film
Fishing gear
Small Notepad and Pen
Small amount of duct tape
Small sewing repair kit
Flashlight (with extra batteries and bulb)
Watch

BACKPACK CAMPING

Basic Camping Equipment

Backpack - Approximately 3000 to 3800 cubic inches in volume; Internal or external frame
Waterproof pack cover (or large garbage bag to cover pack)
Sleeping bag in waterproof stuff sack or plastic bag - 20-25 degree rated
*Tent, with ground cloth***
Plastic zip bags for gear (to hold small items)
Foam sleeping pad

Plastic Ground Sheet (5' x 7' - to go under tent)
Head Lamp (LED type)

Bandana
Sturdy pair of shoes with a deep treads

OPTIONAL

Two-person Backpacking tent
Tarp for shelter tent (10' x 12')
Backpacking stove (butane/propane or liquid fuel)

SUPPLY CLOSET

Troop 555 has a large shed of camping supplies.

List of Available Items

Cooking stoves and single burner (for backpacking)
Pots, pans, and cooking utensils

During the meeting prior to a campout your scout needs to seek the Quartermaster (another scout) or an Assistant Scoutmaster to help him with the necessary supplies. Simply return to the supply closet the following week. The scout needs to sign out and sign in items in clean, dry condition.

UNIFORM

CLASS A UNIFORM



The Class A uniform is worn to special Scout meetings, on Scout Sunday, for flag ceremonies, and for Courts of Honor. The Class A Uniform consists of a scout shirt, scout shorts or scout pants, scout belt, scout socks and closed toed shoes. A neckerchief, slide and sash should be worn to all Courts of Honor and on Scout Sunday. (Troop 555 only requires a class A shirt until scout reaches the rank of life, we highly recommend a sash for merit badges) Insignia placement can be found online at:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsorce/Media/InsigniaGuide/06.aspx>

CLASS B UNIFORM

The Class B Uniform is worn to most scout meetings, at summer camp (except to dinner), while on campouts and during sporting activities. The Class B Uniform is a scout t-shirt, any summer camp t-shirt, or any of the t-shirts specially made for our high adventure treks.

Troop 555 provides a new scout with a troop-specific red Class B t-shirt.

PAPERWORK

REGISTRATION AND FEES Registration:

Each new scout must fill out a new registration form, even if he was a Cub Scout We also recommend that at least one parent register, particularly if you intend to drive to outings or go camping.

Annual Registration Fees: \$85 Per Boy Scout

Fees for Outings/Activities:

Individual activities may have additional fees associated with the event.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Troop 555 is a boy led troop, a troop environment where the boys provide the leadership and adults play pure advisor, safety net and logistics roles in the background. Parents are an integral part of supporting the boys and can help in many ways.

ACTIVITY VOLUNTEER

Requests for help for specific activities such as preparations for Courts of Honor and fundraisers are sent via email as needed and include details and contact information.

ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER

Any adult male or female who is willing to wear a scout uniform and offer general assistance to individual scouts or with troop activities may carry the title of ASM. These volunteers are often seen hanging out at scout meetings waiting for boys to ask them for help with particular requirements. They take forms, help keep order when an adult voice is needed and jump in when the situation needs another hand.

MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR

The troop needs your talents to help out boys advance toward Eagle. There are currently more than 135 merit badges the boy can earn. Decide which you would like to offer to counsel either as a class or individually, and contact Dan Ward, our merit badge coordinator. A complete list of merit badges and their requirements can be found at www.meritbadge.com.

CAMPOUT ATTENDANCE/DRIVERS

Adults are needed for every campout! Parents of younger scouts sometimes worry if they will be a nuisance or distract from the trip for their boy. Honestly, the boys tend to do their thing, and the adults do theirs. As long as you respect the “boys lead troop” ideal, you’ll be fine. Parents are always welcome, but younger non-scout siblings and pets may not attend.

ASSISTING THE PATROL SHOPPER

For most weekend campouts, the boys will form cooking patrols of 4-8 Scouts, and they will plan a menu and create a grocery list with estimated costs. If your son is designated to be the Patrol Shopper for the campout, please take him to the grocery store and help him complete his shopping duties. Remind him to be respectful of the patrols’ food choices and be considerate of the budget for the campout. Before arriving at the Church for the campout, the Scout should place the refrigerated items in a cooler and pack the other food items in sturdy box or other container. The budget is an important part of the planning process, but do not be concerned if you run a few dollars over; the Troop will reimburse the reasonable costs of the groceries, and the boys will discuss what might have been done to stay within the budget.

TROOP COMMITTEE

The Troop Committee functions as an administration and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of newsletter, troop funds, fundraising, membership, advancement records and procurement and maintenance of troop equipment. Troop Committee meetings are open and attendance by all parents is encouraged. The Troop Committee meeting will be announced well in advance.

TRAINING

For many reasons, including training, it is best to register yourself as a member of the troop when you register your boy. Many training courses are available online, such as Youth Protection, Safety Afloat, Safe Swim Defense, and This is Scouting. Anyone can log on and take these courses at any time at www.myscouting.org. You do have to create an account, which will ask for your BSA number. If you don't have your number yet (these are assigned by the council with your adult registration), just proceed without one, and you can link your record with your training later when you get your number.

FACEBOOK

Did you know that Troop 555 has its own Facebook page? Event updates, photos and calendars information are posted frequently.

Look for "Troop triple Nickel" or type this
into your browser's URL bar:
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=troop%20triple%20nickel>