

TROOP 42

Parent Guide

Chillicothe District

Tecumseh Council, BSA

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America!

By becoming a parent of a Boy Scout, you are setting your son out on the grand adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him. What is it all about? What will you be expected to do? What does it cost? We have prepared this booklet to answer these questions.

The following pages describe the organization of a Troop and the model advancement pattern. We hope booklet will help you understand how your boy can progress through the ranks with your help. It will help you understand how you can help and what the various adult volunteers are doing to help the Troop.

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

SCOUTING'S AIMS:

- To build character
- To foster citizenship
- To develop fitness
- To develop leadership

These aims are the bedrock of the American Scouting movement. They represent the long-term outcomes we want for every boy. It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people, and in other ways to prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetimes in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Boy Scout Oath and Law.

Another aim can be added: To have fun.

SCOUT LAW

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

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.

Since 1910, these principles have been taught in an atmosphere of fun, which allows young people to develop self-confidence, leadership and moral character. More and more men, trained as Scouts, are taking their places in today's world as responsible adult leaders.

YOUTH LED

Unlike Cub Scouting, which many of you are familiar with; Boy Scouting is a youth led organization. The boys learn how to organize and lead the Troop. After training, and with supervision from the adult leaders, the boys run the show.

As they advance, the boys will not only learn how to lead a team to a goal, but they will actually lead teams of scouts in a number of situations. Many Eagle Scouts put their accomplishments on their resumes and find they are often given higher consideration in obtaining acceptance into college or the work force.

GROWTH

Boy Scouting also provides for growth of moral strength and character, teaches citizenship, and enhances the development of physical, mental and emotional fitness. This is all done in the spirit of fun and adventure.

Please take a few minutes to read Chapter 1 of your son's Boy Scout Handbook.

ORGANIZATION

Troop 42 is a participating member of the Chillicothe District of the Tecumseh Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Troop 42 holds meetings every Monday; from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as early as possible to allow for proper planning. During the school year, Troop 42 does not meet on holidays and any other Monday that school is not in session, unless otherwise noted.

CHARTERED ORGANIZATION

The Troop's Sponsor, or Chartered Organization, is Hawker United Church of Christ. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and insures that there is adequate, trained leadership.

A representative of the Chartered Organization acts a liaison between the Troop and the Church.

ADULT LEADERSHIP

Adult leadership in Troop 42 falls into two categories: Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters, and Troop Committee. Both are periphery roles which work around the Troop and Patrols.

All registered adult leaders participating in any event or activity must have completed the BSA Youth Protection Training. At least two registered adult leaders, who have completed BSA Youth Protection Training, must be present at all events and activities that require a tour permit. Troop 42 prefers all participating adults to be registered leaders.

- **SCOUTMASTER**

The Scoutmaster is the senior Adult Leader of the Troop. The Scoutmaster trains Scouts to be leaders, makes available to them resources and guidance they need to lead well. He then steps into the background and lets the youth leaders do their jobs.

The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster function as coaches and mentors for youth leaders.

Assistant Scoutmasters assist the Scoutmaster with his duties. The Scoutmaster can assign each Assistant Scoutmaster to specific responsibilities. For example, Assistant Scoutmasters often assist with planning outings. Designated Assistant Scout Masters provide advice and counsel to Troop Guides.

- **TROOP COMMITTEE**

The Troop Committee functions as an administration and support organization for the Troop. The Committee supports the Scoutmaster in delivering a quality troop program. For example, the Troop Committee manages the relationship between the Troop and the Church and the Troop and local Cub Pack 74.

The Troop Committee publishes a newsletter, conducts membership drives, obtains activity permits, keeps advancement records, procures and maintains Troop equipment, supports Scout fundraising activities.

The Committee is organized according to BSA guidelines. It is the Troop's "board of directors" and supports the troop program and manages Troop funds.

The Committee meets monthly. The meetings are open and all parents and other interested adults are encouraged to attend.

SCOUT LEADERSHIP

A Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) leads all of the Troop leaders with help from the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL).

Other Scout leadership positions include: Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Scribe, Quartermaster, Historian, Librarian, Chaplain's Aid, Instructor, Den Chief, Bugler, Webmaster and Leave No Trace Trainer. These positions primarily report to the ASPL. The Scoutmaster may appoint Junior Assistant Scoutmaster.

Each leadership position has responsibilities established by the Boys Scouts of America. Youth leaders are expected to satisfy their responsibilities. They must take initiative and work with fellow leaders. The Scoutmaster conducts Troop Leadership Training sessions, evaluates each Scout's leadership performance, and provides feedback and counseling as part of the advancement process.

The Troop holds elections to fill the leadership positions. These elections are held every six months, usually in October and April of each year. Some positions are limited to older Scouts and some are subject to Scoutmaster approval.

The Senior Patrol Leader holds a Scout committee meeting called the Patrol Leaders' Conference (PLC). The Senior Patrol Leader holds a PLC once a month, typically on the last Monday of every month. The members of the PLC include the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leaders, Scribe and Troop Guide. The Scoutmaster attends the meeting to advise and counsel the Senior Patrol Leader. The Scribe attends the meeting to act as Secretary. Otherwise, those wishing to attend must obtain permission from the Senior Patrol Leader prior to the meeting. Except for the Scoutmaster, adults must be in a separate room, unless they have a presentation to make to the PLC and have obtained prior permission from the Senior Patrol Leader.

PATROLS

The Troop is divided into patrols. Individual patrols are led by Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders. Patrols may be reorganized at the discretion of the Scoutmaster.

- **NEW SCOUT PATROL**

A New Scout Patrol consists of younger scouts, usually those who have crossed over from Cub Scouts. A Troop Guide works with each New Scout Patrol to complete advancement requirements. Eventually this patrol ceases, as the "new Scouts" are merged into existing patrols.

- **LEADERSHIP PATROL**

Once a Scout has earned the rank of Eagle or has served as Senior Patrol Leader, he becomes part of the Leadership Patrol. This patrol gives leadership and guidance to other patrols. They set the example for all other Scouts.

- **VENTURE PATROLS**

BSA provides Venture Patrols for Scouts who are 14 years old or older. These patrols are encouraged to participate in high adventure activities, for example white water rafting. The purpose of Venture Patrols is to provide interesting activities for older Scouts.

TROOP PARENTS

The role of parents is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. The Troop needs parents to serve as Committee members and adult leaders.

Generally speaking, parents should try to:

- Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting.
- Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement when needed.
- Show support for both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
- Assist, as requested, in all Troop fund-raisers.

ADVANCEMENT

There are many definitions of advancement, but the Scouting definition might well be simply, "the art of meeting a challenge". For that is exactly what the Boy Scout advancement program asks the boys to do. The Boy Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a Scout climbs at his own pace. As he acquires these skills, he moves up through a series of ranks, which he is awarded badges: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher he climbs, the more challenging but rewarding his tasks become.

Each Scout is responsible for his own advancement. He should read and regularly review the rank requirements in his Scout book. He should take the initiative to fulfill each requirement.

All rank badges are presented to Scouts during the Troop's quarterly Court of Honor.

We do not look at advancement as a goal, but as a natural outcome of a planned, quality Troop program. Details for advancement are contained in the Boy Scout Handbook. Advancement includes four steps:

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

ADVANCEMENT THROUGH FIRST CLASS

Scout ranks through First Class focus on basic scouting skills necessary to enable Scouts to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, and perform other tasks in the outdoors and to work as a member of a team.

ADVANCEMENT FROM FIRST CLASS THROUGH EAGLE

Scout ranks from Star through Eagle focus on developing leadership skills, performing service projects, earning merit badges, and using skills learned in earlier ranks.

SIGNING BOOKS

As Scouts complete rank requirements through First Class, generally the books are signed by other Scouts who are First Class or higher. For Star, Life and Eagle, the Scoutmaster signs the Scout's book. Parents do not sign their son's books.

SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCE

After a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank he contacts the Scoutmaster to request a Scoutmaster Conference. The purpose of the conference is to review the Scout's progress, set new goals, and determine whether he is ready to go before the Board of Review. The Scoutmaster conference can be used as a counseling tool and for a variety of other reasons.

To set up a Scoutmaster conference:

- The Scout sets up a meeting time and date with the Scoutmaster.
- He presents himself in full uniform, with Scout book, prepared to demonstrate his new skills as well as any skills learned in previous ranks.

A Scoutmaster conference may also be held to counsel a Scout.

BOARDS OF REVIEW

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, and has had a Scoutmaster conference for that rank, he appears before a board of review composed of members of the Troop committee. The purpose of the review is to:

- determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals,
- to ensure that the requirements for advancement have been met,
- to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program, and
- to encourage him to keep working towards advancement.

A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a Scout.

To schedule a Board of Review, the scout must contact the Advancement Chairman. The Advancement Chairman will then give the scout a date and time to appear before the Board. Generally, Boards of Review will be held at least one week after the Scoutmaster conference. The Scout appears before the Board in full uniform, with Scout book. For rank advancement to be included in the next Court of Honor, all Boards must be scheduled and completed two weeks prior to the Court of Honor.

COURTS OF HONOR

Troop 42 conducts a Court of Honor (COH) once a quarter. The Court of Honor recognizes all awards and advancements since the last Court of Honor. Adult recognition may be presented at the Court of Honor. The Troop Committee to plan the Court of Honor.

The Court of Honor is a public ceremony, and is a chance for the Scouts to be publicly recognized for their achievements. Parents and all other interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

MERIT BADGES

The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a Scout's areas of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. Merit badges are earned by a Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor.

Scouts generally earn most of their merit badges at Summer Camp and at a District-sponsored event called Merit Badge Trail Drive (which is usually held over three weekends in February and March). Scouts may earn additional merit badges at, Troop meetings, Camporees and planned outings.

A Scout may also work on a merit badge on his own by contacting a counselor who is willing to teach a merit badges course. Our Troop has a list of adults merit badge counselors. The Council also publishes a list of such counselors. In order to begin a merit badge on his own, a Scout must find a buddy who also wants to earn the merit badge. The Scout then will contact a counselor to arrange for times and places to meet.

Before a Scout begins any merit badges he must:

- Obtain and fill out a "Blue" card.
- Get the Scoutmaster's signature of approval

After the Scout has satisfied all of the requirements for earning the merit badge, the counselor will sign the Blue card. The Blue card has three portions. Counselors keep a first portion of the Blue card for their records. The Scout keeps a second portion for their records, and gives the rest of the Blue card to the Troop Advancement Chairperson. The Troop Advancement Chairperson then logs the information into the Troop's advancement database and submits the advancement information to Council.

Earned merit badges are presented to Scouts during the Troop's quarterly Court of Honor.

Parents may become Merit Badge Counselors for the Troop and/or for the Council. Contact the Troop Advancement Chairperson for more information.

ADMINISTRATIVE

ANNUAL PLAN

The Scout year runs from August through July. The Council calendar provides much of the schedule. The PLC plans weekly meetings, monthly Troop outings and Troop service projects.

Once a year, in mid-summer, the PLC meets for their annual planning conference. This conference is attended by the PLC and Scoutmaster. Other Scouts or adults must have the permission of the PLC to attend. This planning conference establishes the Troop calendar, by deciding the types of activities to schedule. The annual planning conference will pick summer camp location.

PHYSICALS AND HEALTH FORMS

The BSA uses one health form which can be found on the forms section of our web site.

Parts A and C are to be completed annually by all BSA unit members. Both parts are required for all events that do not exceed 72 consecutive hours, where the level of activity is similar to that normally expended at home or at school, such as day camp, day hikes, swimming parties, or an overnight camp, and where medical care is readily available.

Part B is required with parts A and C for any event that exceeds 72 consecutive hours, or when the nature of the activity is strenuous and demanding, such as a high-adventure trek. Service projects or work weekends may also fit this description. It is to be completed and signed by a certified and licensed health-care provider.

When the Troop (or a patrol) participates in any outdoor activity, adult leaders must carry the health form of every participating Scout and adult to the activity.

RECHARTERING

The process of rechartering is the annual collection of registration fees for the Scouts and Leaders.

The Troop also makes a formal visit to the chartering organization to renew their commitment for the coming year. The Troop Committee completes the process of rechartering by the end of December of each calendar year.

No adult can be included in the recharter who has not have a valid Youth Protection training.

ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEES

How much does Boy Scouting cost? As little as possible, but nothing worthwhile is free. The annual cost for each Scout in Troop 42 is \$23.00, which includes \$10.00 for national BSA membership, \$1.00 insurance, and \$12.00 for Boys Life magazine. Troop 42 is very proud of a long history of providing these fees for each scout.

DUES

Troop 42 collects \$48 in dues from scouts on a yearly basis. Dues pay the annual registration fees and provide income to the Troop.

Dues must be paid in advance on in advance. A Scout may pay his dues all at once (in January) or on a quarterly basis. If paid on a quarterly basis, dues are \$12.00 per quarter. The Scout pays his dues to the Troop Scribe, either in cash or using the Scout credits form. If a Scout joins in mid-year, dues are pro-rated to \$4 per month.

Dues must be paid current in order to advance to the next rank.

SCOUT CREDITS

Profits from fund raising activities are apportioned with a portion going to the Troop fund and a portion going into the Scout's funds. These funds are referred to as credits. Percentages vary with each fundraising activity and are determined by the Committee.

Scouts may use their Scout Credits for summer camp, other campout fees, dues payments and, with the written authorization from a parent and Scoutmaster approval, for other camping or Scouting related expenses. Individual Scout Fund money earned by any Scout and not used by the time that Scout leaves the Troop is returned to the Troop Fund.

FEES FOR OUTINGS/ACTIVITIES

Individual activities may have fees associated with them.

FUNDRAISING

Additional funds are raised by the boys through various fundraising activities. The Troop plans two to three major fund raising projects a year. Our fund-raisers are designed so that, once the Troop budget is met, additional funds raised by your son will be put into his individual account to defray scouting costs. Details on this year's fund-raisers will be available at future Troop meetings.

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING

Each year, the Council operates its Friends of Scouting (F.O.S.) campaign to raise money for the Council operations. The Council is responsible for maintaining: Council Camp, Council Camporees, other Council activities, Local BSA administration and local advertising. Contributions are voluntary.

Troop 42 has a good record of support for this activity. As years go by, F.O.S. is becoming a critical source of BSA funding.

EQUIPMENT

The Troop provides tents and cooking equipment. Each Scout is expected to provide his own sleeping bag, ground mat, personal equipment, and mess kit. See the attached lists for additional equipment: Boy Scout Troop 42 Camp-Out Equipment List, and BSA Recommended Personal Overnight Camping Gear.

Additional equipment requirements will be dictated by planned outings (e.g., caving equipment, backpacking equipment, and fishing equipment, summer camp).

UNIFORM

The Scout uniform helps to achieve the objectives of Scouting. The uniform by itself cannot make a good Scout or a good Troop, but its use has been proven to improve both the Scout and the Troop because it is a visible symbol of Scouting and unity.

Each scout is required to have and wear, within a reasonable amount of time after joining the Troop, the following uniform items:

- **FIELD UNIFORM**

- Tan scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches (Tecumseh Council strip, shoulder loops, troop number, patrol emblem, etc.)
- Troop 42 neckerchief (obtained from Troop)
- Neckerchief slide (can be purchased or made by Scout).
- Olive Scout pants or shorts.
- Boy Scout Socks, for wearing with shorts.
- Scout belt
- Boy Scout Hat (optional).

You can purchase the Field uniform from our Scout shop in Springfield.

Uniforms and insignia are worn in a defined way. The Troop Leaders and staff at the Scout Shops will be able to answer any questions you might have. The inside the cover of the Scout Handbook has a uniform guide.

- **ACTIVITY UNIFORM**

- Troop 42 T-shirt (worn, as instructed by Troop leadership, when activities may cause damage to the field uniform).
- A couple times of year the troop has an apparel sale where these type shirts can be purchased.

SCOUT STORE

The Scout Shop for the Tecumseh Council area where you can purchase scout uniforms and supplies:

326 South Thompson Ave.
Springfield, OH 45506

937-325-6449

FAX: 937-325-6574

AND FINALLY

You are joining a great organization that includes tens of thousands of adult leaders, interested parents, and the BSA professional staff. Scouting is much more than enjoying the outdoors. The Troop teaches leadership skills and community skills. Scouting also shows the boys how they can keep themselves strong and healthy and make the most of school. With hard work and dedication, your son will be able to serve as a leader in the Troop and advance in rank along the trail to Eagle.

OUTDOOR CODE

We use “leave no trace” principles in all of our outings. Troop 42 lives by the Outdoor code, which says:

As an American, I will do my best to
Be clean in my outdoor manners,
Be careful with fire,
Be considerate in the outdoors,
And be conservation minded.

TROOP 42 CAMP OUT EQUIPMENT LIST

ARTICLES TO TAKE CAMPING

(Be sure to put your name on your personal gear)

- Extra Scout clothing
- Underwear
- Extra socks
- Hat
- Boots (generally tennis shoes are a bad idea, because they do not keep your feet dry; Camp Birch prohibits open toed shoes and sandals)
- Rain gear (if needed)
- Coat (if needed)
- Mess kit and cup (we recommend plastic bowls, flatware and cups)
- Water bottle or CamelBak™
- Personal hygiene items (soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, etc)
- Wash cloth and towel
- Sun screen and bug deterrent (no aerosol sprays are permitted)
- Flashlight
- Compass
- Note pad and pen/pencil
- Scout Handbook
- Camp chair (optional)
- Sleeping bag (you must NOT use a cotton filled bag for cool and cold weather camping) – We recommend a mummy bag and a fleece liner. You can use the fleece liner in warm weather.
- Foam pad or air mattress
- Pillow
- It is best to have a back pack or duffel bag since a scout carries his own gear
- Other gear may be necessary for specialized outings.

DO NOT BRING

- Sheath knives
- Radio
- Video Games/CD/MP3 players/Any electronic gaming devices
- Jolt, Kick or any other highly caffeinated drinks or foods
- Excessive money
- Fireworks of any kind
- Guns

BSA RECOMMENDED PERSONAL OVERNIGHT CAMPING GEAR

Scout Outdoor Essentials (Hiking and Camping)

- pocketknife
- first aid kit
- extra clothing
- rain gear
- waterbottle
- flashlight
- trailfood
- matches and firestarters
- sun protection
- map and compass
- clothing for the season
- long sleeved shirt
- long pants
- sweater
- long underwear
- hiking boots or sturdy shoes
- socks
- insulated parka or coat with hood
- warm hat
- mittens
- rain gear
- extra underwear
- backpack
- rain cover for backpack
- sleeping bag or two to three blankets
- sleeping pad
- ground cloth
- eating kit
- spoon
- bowl
- plate
- cup