

# Boy Scout Troop 8

## Parent Guide



September 2000

## **Boy Scout Troop 8**

### **Information for Scouts and Parents**

The diverse opportunities in scouting offer youth fun and excitement while providing guidelines and skills for daily living. It is our primary interest that scouts enjoy their scouting experience and that scouting activities be conducted in a safe manner. The rules are designed to teach scouts to be courteous and respectful to themselves and others, to promote troop unity, and to develop individual leadership skills.

The expectations for scouts behavior and attitude are summed up in the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto, and Slogan.

### **Purpose of the Boy Scouts of America**

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to provide an effective program designed to instill within the youth desirable qualities of character, to train them in the responsibilities of participative citizenship, and to help develop their personal fitness, providing this country with citizens who:

1. Are physically, mentally and emotionally fit.
2. Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidence in such qualities as initiative, courage and resourcefulness.
3. Have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts.
4. Have the desire and skills to help others.
5. Understand the principles of the American social, economic, and government systems.
6. Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
7. Have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
8. Are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society and in other forums of the world.

### **Boy Scouts of America Mission Statement**

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 during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law.

### **The Scout Oath or Promise**

On my honor I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times:  
To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

### **The Scout is:**

Trustworthy  
Loyal  
Helpful  
Friendly  
Courteous  
Kind  
Obedient  
Cheerful  
Thrifty  
Brave  
Clean  
Reverent

### **Scout Motto**

Be Prepared

### **Scout Slogan**

Do a Good Turn Daily

## Troop Organization

Troop 8 is a boy-run troop. Leadership is one of the methods of Scouting. Every boy will have an opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership. Meetings are planned and carried out by the patrol leaders' council. All duties for patrol activities are assigned by the patrol leader. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps the boy accept the leadership of others and helps him to grow into a more responsible adult. The troop organization chart outlines the complete organization of the troop. The following is an outline of the duties of the key leaders within the troop.

### Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible of the image and program of the troop. The Scoutmaster and his or her assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. The general response=abilities of the Scoutmaster include:

- \*Train and guide boy leaders.
- \*Work with other adult leaders to bring Scouting to boys
- \*Use the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting.

### Assistant Scoutmasters

Assistant Scoutmasters are recruited by the Scoutmaster and approved by the troop committee to assist the Scoutmaster in the operation of the troop. Assistant Scoutmasters are assigned program tasks by the Scoutmaster and provide guidance to the boy leadership. He provides the required two deep leadership, ( two adult leaders present at every boy Scout activity).

### Senior Patrol Leader

The senior patrol leader (SPL) is the top boy leader in the troop. He leads the patrol leaders council and in consultation with the Scoutmaster, appoints other junior leaders and assigns specific responsibilities as needed.

### Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

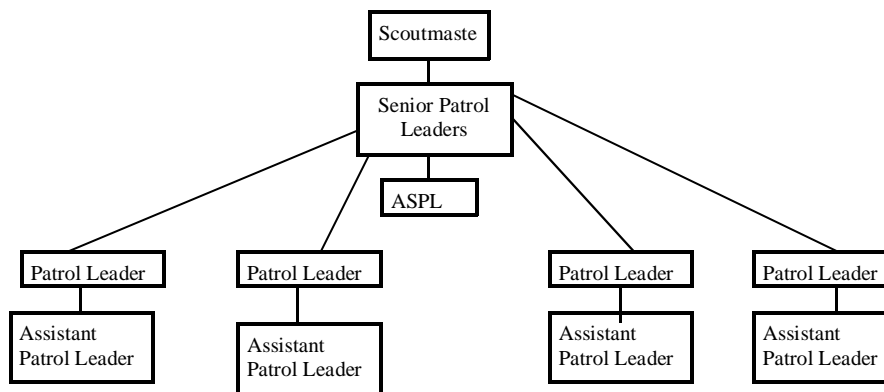
The assistant senior patrol leader (ASPL) fill in for the SPL in his absence. He is also responsible for training and giving direction to the quartermaster, and instructors.

### Patrol Leaders

The patrol leaders (PL) are responsible for giving leadership to the members of their patrols. They are their representation on the patrol leaders council. The PL is also responsible for holding patrol meetings outside of the regular troop meetings.

### Assistant Patrol Leaders

Assistant patrol leaders help the PL run the patrol and fill in for him in his absence.



## Weekly Meetings

Scouts are expected to attend weekly meetings to learn scout skills, to prepare for outings, service projects and to qualify for advancement in rank. Scouts are expected to contact their patrol leader, in advance, if they are unable to attend a meeting. Failure to attend weekly meetings may result in loss of privilege to participate in other scout activities. It is important that scouts be at the appointed meeting location, on time and in uniform. This will assist

the Troop in conducting our business and dismissing at the scheduled time. Scouts are encouraged to develop good listening habits and will be expected to carry home information that is disseminated at the meeting. Scouts should bring their Scouting Handbook, with their name written on the front to every meeting.

Our meetings are held on Monday's from 7:00 to 8:00 PM at Vine Congregational Church

Our Charter Organization for Troop 8 is Vine Congregational Church and Reverend Ross Tyler

### **Scout Behavior**

Scouts are expected to behave in a manner befitting a scout and as prescribed by the Adult Committee. A Scout should respect the rights and feelings of others, respecting the property of the troop, church and other people. They should practice all aspects of the Scout Law .

Failure to follow the Troop expectations will be addressed directly with the Scouts and may result in immediate loss of privileges. Repeated violations will be addressed with the Scout and his parent/guardian and could result in loss of privileges.

Violence toward another person or the use of illegal substances may result in permanent suspension at the discretion of the Adult committee.

Scouts who are of age to drive will not drive vehicles around a campsite except to arrive and depart from the event. Driving age scouts will not transport other scouts to and from meetings or other scout events.

### **Troop Parents**

The role of parents within Troop 8 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

1. Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting. Parents should attend an informal Boy Scout Fast Start Training hosted by the Troop Parent's Committee.
2. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
3. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
4. Assist, as requested, in all Troop fund-raisers and other such activities. All such assistance lowers the cost of the program we offer to the Scouts and, therefore, lowers each family's cash outlay for their Scout.
5. Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar.

### **Scout Uniform**

Scouts in uniform are conscious of their rank and make a greater effort to advance. Only the uniform provides a place for display of badges-important symbols of achievement. Troop 8 Scouts have two official Uniforms. The khaki "dress" uniform will be required at all weekly meetings, Courts-of-Honor, and other activities as directed by the Scoutmaster. The class A uniform consists of:

- \*Khaki shirt with appropriate insignia, patches and red shoulder loops
- \*Scout pants or clean jeans
- \*Scout shorts
- \*Scout socks or coordinated respectable socks
- \*Troop 8 neckerchief
- \*Neckerchief slide or bolo tie
- \*Tennis shoes or hiking boots

Official placement of insignia may be found on the inside front and back cover of the Scout Handbook.

The activity uniform will be allowed for campouts, service projects and activities as directed by the Scoutmaster.

The activity uniform consists of:

- \*Official scout activity shirt
- \*clean shorts or pants

### **Advancement in Rank**

Advancement is the process by which youth members progress through the ranks in the Scouting program by the gradual master of Scouting skills. Ranks are simply a means to an end, not an end in themselves. Everything boys do to advance and earn these ranks, from the day they join until the day they leave the program., should be designed to help boys have an exciting and meaningful experience.

**Boy Scout advancement, is a four step process:**

**1. The Boy Scout learns**

A Scout learns by doing. As he learns, he grows in ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and the troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others. In this way, he begins to develop leadership.

**2. The Boy Scout is tested**

A Scout may be tested on requirements by his patrol leader, Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, a troop committee member or a member of his troop. The Scoutmaster maintains a list of those qualified to test and pass candidates.

**3. The Boy Scout is reviewed**

After a Scout has completed all requirements for a rank, he has a board of review. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Palms, the review is conducted by members of the troop committee. The Eagle board of review is conducted by members of the district advancement committee.

**4. The Boy Scout is recognized**

When the board of review has certified a boy's advancement. he will be recognized the next court of honor.

Troop 8 Scouts are expected to work steadily toward advancement in rank. Some scouts are self starters and need little guidance, but most scouts need parental encouragement and assistance to meet their goals for advancement in rank.

Scouts should advance at a rate that is comfortable for them, but usually Scouts achieve the rank of First Class Scout by the end of the first year. Parents can assist their son by reviewing the requirements for rank and working with him to make sure he understands and completes the requirements. Troop 8 Scouts receive assistance toward advancement at weekly meetings and at campouts. It is the responsibility of scouts and their parent/guardian to contact merit badge counselors to insure that advancement requirements are being completed. Merit badge requirements must be certified by a counselor that is registered with the local scout office. Adult committee members cannot sign-off on merit badge requirements.

There are six levels of Scouting your son can attain:

Rank	Typical Time Period	Skill Emphasis
Tenderfoot	1st 3 months	Camping
2nd Class	6 months	Camping
1st Class	1 year	Camping
Star Scout	2 years	Merit Badges
Life Scout	3 years	Merit Badges
Eagle Scout	15 to 16 years old	Merit Badges

**Court of Honor**

When a Scout advances, he is recognized at a public ceremony called a court of honor.

The main purpose of the court of honor is to furnish formal recognition for achievement and to provide incentive for other Scouts to advance.

Troop 8 has formal courts of honor three times a year. All families are asked to attend and guests are certainly welcome. Every boy who advances deserves to be recognized in front of his family. The court of honor is the boy's special night.

**Adult Volunteers**

Troop 8 benefits from the adult volunteers who help with transportation, fund raising, and adult supervision on outings and service projects. All parents/guardian will be contacted and asked to help out with some of the troop activities. We appreciate the help and time you can give to the troop. With everyone helping the burden does not become too much for any one individual.

Adults are encouraged to register with the Scout Office as merit badge counselors in areas they have a particular expertise and interest. You have the choice of limiting yourself to counseling just Troop 8 Scouts or being available to the entire council.

## **Campouts**

Camping and outdoor activities are the main reason Scouts belong to boy Scouts. Campouts are a time when Scouts practice being prepared and planning. When a Scout indicates he will be going on a campout, the patrol and troop plans on his attendance. This includes arranging for enough equipment, having enough transportation and buying enough food. In some cases it also included paying the Scout Office for badges and other costs associated with a council/district campout. It is the policy of Troop 8 that Scouts who sign up for an outing or other Scout function and then do not attend will still be charged for the costs associated with the function. We appreciate your carefully planning attendance at our outings.

Each Scout is asked to deposit \$20.00 in his camp fund. This money is used to buy food and to pay for other costs that are directly related to a campout. Scouts will be notified when their camping fund is running low so that additional funds can be deposited.

## **Dues**

Annual Troop 8 Scout dues are \$40.00. Checks should be made out to Troop 8 and can be brought to the first meeting of the year or mail to the troop treasurer.

## **Rules for Summer Camp**

### Prerequisites

1. All Scouts participation in summer camp must be registered members of Troop 8. All dues must be paid.
2. All camp fees must be paid
3. Health Forms Must be current

### Behavior/Expectations/Responsibilities

1. Each Scout must conduct himself according to the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
2. Scouts must attend all activities which they are signed up for. If you cannot attend an activity, let one of the adult leaders know at least one hour before that activity is to take place. Scouts must attend all flag ceremonies and other mandatory camp events.
3. All scouts must be in proper uniform for all activities requiring a uniform, such as flag ceremonies and campfires. During traveling, Scouts must wear either a Class A uniform, official scout activity shirt, or Troop 8 T-shirt while in public.
4. When traveling, Scouts will follow any rules established by the driver regarding food or beverages, noise, etc.
5. Attend all meals
6. At times when our troop is responsible for serving or clean-up, you must be on time to help. Check the duty roster in camp daily for your patrol's assignments.
7. No Sheath knives, firearms, personal archery equipment, fireworks, liquor, drugs, pornographic material, or t-shirts that are inconsistent with Scout values. (if you can not wear the shirt at school, do not bring it to camp.)
8. Observe curfews and lights out. No noise or leaving tents after lights out. Except to use the latrine.
9. No food in tents. No cots in troop tents.

### Safety

1. Each Scout has responsibility for his own safety and health. Remember to use sunburn lotions, insect repellants, etc. as needed. Take any medications according to the prescribed schedule. Follow common rules of personal safety.
2. All Scouts shall use the buddy system at all times when in the swimming pool or the waterfront area, or on hikes.
3. Let the adult leaders know where you are at all times
4. Any Scout currently taking any medication must let the adult leaders know. The camp medical officer will control and dispense all medications.
5. In all cases where the Scout feels he needs to call home let an adult leader know in advance and the reason

for the call. (The Scout should inform an adult leader of any problems the Scout is having and any arrangements for early departure.)

6. If a Scout leaves camp for any reason prior to the end of camp, he must notify all the leaders present of his intent and the reasons. If this does not happen, the Scout will be listed as a lost boy, and a search initiated. Parents are liable for any costs of the search.

#### Suggestions

1. It is the Scout's responsibility to take care of his own swimming tag. This tag must be used for all swimming and boating activities and cannot be lost.
2. Those items to be taken to camp should be marked with the Scout's name, address, and troop number. This is to help retrieve lost or stolen items. The leaders cannot be responsible for keeping track of personal items for the Scouts.
3. Do not bring expensive personal items such as CD player, costly watches etc.
4. Remember there are special fees for supplies for certain activities. Be sure to budget your money to cover these fees,

#### Consequences

1. Additional specific rules may be imposed if needed.
2. A Scout who shows major problems of behavior or repeated failure to follow rules is not showing Scout spirit. The Scoutmaster will determine what impact the Scout's behavior at summer camp may have on advancement. For any Scout causing excessive problems. The adult leaders in charge may notify the Scout's parents or guardians to pick him up and take him home. The parents or guardians must pay any expenses of returning the Scout to home; the camp will not refund the unused portion of camp fees

#### **Fundraising**

This is a major fundraiser for Troop 8. In order to provide your son an exciting and affordable scouting experience it is necessary to raise funds to finance the various operations of the Troop. We raise funds primarily through the sale of Christmas trees, Popcorn and an annual Pancake Feed.

##### *Christmas Tree Sales*

From the end of November through the middle of December Troop 8 has a Christmas Tree Stand. Normally a parent and son work one 4 hour shift. The hours of operation are

##### *Pancake Feed*

Each scout is expected to work one shift helping with the Pancake Feed, usually held in February or March. Scouts are expected to sell 5 tickets each and help during the event.

##### *Popcorn Sales*

Every Fall the Boy Scouts of America have a national popcorn fundraising event. Troop 8 Scouts participate in the fundraiser by selling popcorn.

#### **Troop 8 Boy Scouts**

You are joining a great organization that included 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.

Above and beyond anything else the boys and us "big kids" are in Scouts to have fun!

If you need more information please contact: Larry Holmes or Joe Vance