

Troop 80

Handbook

September 2007

Troop 80

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Revision E

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SECTION I

THE AIMS OF SCOUTING

The Boy Scout program works toward three aims. The first aim is growth in moral strength and character. We define moral strength and character as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, and his outlook.

A second aim is citizenship. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. Through Scouting, he comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society in which he lives, and to the government that presides over that society.

A third aim of the Boy Scout program is development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

These aims are accomplished with a good dose of fun by the following methods:

Ideals: The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them, he develops control over what he is and what he becomes.

Patrols: The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where they can easily relate to others. These small groups determine Troop activities through their elected representatives.

Outdoors: The Boy Scout program is designed to take place outdoors, where Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that skills and activities practiced at Troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and mankind's place in it. The outdoors is a laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Advancement: Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and the steps to overcome them through the advancement program. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a boy grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others.

Adult Association: A boy learns from the example of his adult leaders. In his quest for adulthood, every boy needs contact with adults he can emulate. The Scoutmaster and his assistants provide an image of the vitality and sensitivity espoused by the Boy Scout program. Providing good examples of adulthood is one of the methods of Scouting.

Personal Growth: As Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. There

probably is no device so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster also help each Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development: The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Uniform: The uniform makes the Scout Troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. The Boy Scout program is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout an identity with a world brotherhood of youth that believe in the same ideals. The uniform is also practical attire for Scout activities and provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

SECTION II

A SHORT HISTORY OF BOY SCOUTS

(adapted from the Official Scoutmaster's Handbook)

Boy Scouting began as a training program for young soldiers under the command of British Army officer Robert S.S. Baden-Powell, who was dissatisfied with the ability of soldiers to carry out reconnaissance and to care for themselves under primitive conditions.

In India in 1897, with his first regimental command, Baden-Powell had full freedom to use his training ideas. He selected some men to train to be scouts, a somewhat neglected branch of soldiering up to this time. These soldiers received training in small groups, and were given increased responsibilities. To differentiate these men from others in his regiment, were given fleur-de-lis badges to wear on their sleeves. Baden-Powell chose the fleur-de-lis for his scouts because it often appears on the north point of a compass, something essential for all scouts. To record his training methods for scouts, Baden-Powell wrote a small volume, *Aids to Scouting*.

In 1899, the talented but obscure officer found himself in charge of a regiment in Mafeking, South Africa, which was under siege by a force of 9,000 Boers, descendants of the Dutch settlers who had first colonized South Africa. British forces were badly outnumbered, but Baden-Powell kept the Boers from overrunning the city during the 217-day siege by a combination of bluff and boldness. As news of Baden-Powell's resourcefulness and actions reached England, he became a hero.

Boy Scouting evolved in Baden-Powell's mind as a result of two unrelated events. The first was his review, in 1903 and 1904, of the Boys' Brigade, a uniformed, quasi-military organization for English boys. As the hero of Mafeking, the boys accorded Baden-Powell a worshipful reception. Their enthusiasm and interest impressed him, but he was sorely troubled by the militarism shown in their drilling, uniforms, and toy rifles. While there, he agreed to help devise a training regimen

that could be used by the Boy's Brigade to help attract more boys.

The second development was the unexpected success of his manual: *Aids to Scouting* which was enjoying great popularity with English boys. The editor of a boys' paper, "Boys of the Empire" had even serialized the manual under the heading "The Boy Scout" - probably the first use of that term.

Based on the success of the Boys' Brigade and the popularity of his manual, *Aids to Scouting*, Baden-Powell decided to try out the scout training he had promoted for so long on his own. To that end, he organized the world's first Boy Scout camp on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour. Twenty-two boys, from farm and city, attended the camp.

This first Boy Scout camp was not greatly different from Boy Scout camps today. The heart of Baden-Powell's idea was the patrol method, and almost the first thing done was to divide the boys into four patrols. There were also games, competitions, campfires, Scoutcraft practice and overnight camp out of individual patrols away from the rest of the Troop. (Scoutcraft is a term coined by the B.S.A. to describe skills that they feel all Scouts should know.)

Powell told a story about one of his adventures where some Scoutcraft skill helped him. The next morning, he showed the Scouts how to acquire the skill. In the afternoon, he created a situation in which the patrols had to use that skill.

The camp was a rousing success in the eyes of both Baden-Powell and the boys. Baden-Powell felt that the secret was the patrol method of which he said, "Each patrol leader was given full responsibility for the behavior of his patrol at all times, in camp and in the field.... Responsibility, discipline, and competitive rivalry were thus at once established and a good standard of development was ensured throughout the troop."

After that camp, the next big step for Baden-Powell was the writing of a handbook for boys and a booklet for Scoutmasters. The handbook, called *Scouting for Boys*, was published in six parts early in 1908, and later that year in book form. It was an instant success. Within a few months, there were tens of thousands of Boy Scouts in Great Britain, and by the end of 1910 there were over 100,000 Scouts in Great Britain. They were guided by *Scouting for Boys* and a new weekly magazine, *The Scout*.

Scouting had come to America even earlier than 1910. With the publication of *Scouting for Boys* in 1908, troops began forming at several locations in the United States, many in YMCAs, but there was no formal structure or organization for them. This was changed by William D. Boyce. A multi-millionaire and philanthropist, Boyce learned about Boy Scouts on a trip to London in 1909 when he was aided by a Boy Scout. The Scout gave Boyce the address for the Scout headquarters where Boyce picked up a copy of *Scouting for Boys*. Four months later, on February 8, 1910, Boyce founded the Boy Scouts of America.

Two other men, Ernest Thompson Seton and Daniel Carter Beard, joined Boyce in his effort to start the Boy Scouts of America. Their influence on Scouting is felt to this day.

Ernest Thompson Seton was world famous as a naturalist, author, illustrator, and lecturer on wildlife and the wilderness. He met with Lord Baden-Powell in 1906 to share ideas about boys' organizations. After this Seton began a boys' group called the Tribe of the Woodcraft Indians, a loose organization of boys who wrote to him after reading his nature books. Seton went on to become one of the founders of the B.S.A. along with Daniel Carter Beard. Seton was the Chief Scout of the B.S.A. from 1910 to 1915 and was responsible for most of the American Indian influences within the B.S.A.. He was also the primary author of the first Handbook for Boys published in 1911.

Daniel Carter Beard, another leader of an existing boys organization, was a writer and illustrator of hundreds of magazine articles on outdoor life. His boys organization was called The Society of the Sons of Daniel Boone. It stressed the lore and pioneering spirit of such great American scouts and outdoorsmen as Boone, Kit Carson, Davy Crockett, and John James Audubon.

With Seton, Beard merged his own boys organization into the young Boy Scout movement. He became one of three national Scout commissioners, a member of the national Executive Board, and chairman of the National Court of Honor. In addition, with his sister, he organized the Camp Fire Girls. Until his death at 91, Beard was a familiar figure at any big Boy Scout event, unmistakable in the frontier garb he wore.

Late in 1910, as a small group of national leaders was struggling with the problems of a new organization, they brought into Scouting a man whose impact upon the movement was to be no less than that of Seton and Beard. He was James E. West, a man as opposite to Beard and Seton as could be imagined. An attorney, he was then making a name for himself in youth work. From having spent his childhood in an orphanage, West had come to know firsthand some of the problems of the young. He was crippled throughout his life by a tubercular hip. Yet these handicaps did not prevent him from working his way through high school, college, and law school. He was instrumental in establishing the juvenile court system, pushing a bill through Congress.

The founders of the B.S.A. talked West into taking the job of executive secretary for 6 months, beginning January 1911. The six months lasted 32 years; West finally retired as Chief Scout Executive in 1943. Seton and Beard had brought to Scouting the magic of the campfire and love of the outdoors. West brought limitless vision and administrative talent.

With the national organization beginning to take shape in 1911, national leaders turned their attention to local and regional organization, and to such vital matters as the Scout Oath and Law, rank requirements, and badges. The B.S.A. closely followed the British Scout Oath, but, thanks in large part to James West, the phrase "to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight" was added. Baden-Powell's Scout Law contained nine points (see back page of this handbook). West pushed to add three parts to this: brave, clean, and reverent.

As in England, Scouting swept the country. As early as 1911, there were already 5,000 troops in the United States. The first merit badges were produced and awarded in 1911 (when 57 merit badges were offered). To keep leaders and boys informed, two magazines were offered. Scouting, for adults, was first published in 1913. The first Boys' Life magazine was independently

published in 1911. The magazine was purchased in 1912 by the B.S.A., making it an official B.S.A. magazine.

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, the Boy Scouts of America were well known, but not a household name. Scouting's work on the home front made it so. Fewer than 300,000 Scouts sold \$3.5 million in Liberty Bonds after others had canvassed the field, raised over \$43 million by selling war stamps, collected over 100 carloads of fruit pits for use in gas mask filters, operated 12,000 war farms and gardens, distributed 30 million pieces of government literature, and cooperated in numerous ways with many organizations. The value of Scout training came home to the American people, and Scouting became part of the American scene.

The services of Scouts in the years since 1910 make an incredible bank of statistics; more than 64 million Americans have been involved in the movement in these decades. The vigor and extent of the movement and its influence have long since grown far beyond the most extravagant dreams of its founders.

Scouting is not just an American phenomenon. Every free country in the world has a variation of the program. Although the United States leads the world in numbers of members, there are millions of Scouts around the world. It is said that one can raise his hand in the Scout sign anywhere in the free world and find a friend. World jamborees and other international visits and correspondence help to maintain and expand the brotherhood of Scouting.

SECTION III **THE HISTORY OF TROOP 80**

Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas chartered Troop 80 in March of 1944. The troop is one of only 250 in the entire nation that has been continuously chartered by the same sponsoring organization for over 55 years. A lot of Scouting history has passed through this Troop and this church. Being sponsored by a church, many opportunities have arisen to attend worship, handle flag bearer duties, represent Scouting to the congregation and the community, and wear the full recognition Scout uniform.

In addition to the over 200 Eagle Scouts who have been leaders in Troop 80, many more have earned the God and Country Award. Troop 80 has been an avid supporter of community service projects, a developer of the outdoor experience for its Scouts on a monthly basis, a presenter of a variety of camping opportunities, and a strong organization in training a Scout in the skills of Scouting.

For over 60 years, Troop 80 has been a leader in fun activities, creatively dealing with challenges and facing problems head on. In 1962, faced with a problem of the Troop getting too large to deliver a quality program to its Scouts, Troop 80 leaders, along with Highland Park Presbyterian Church, sponsored another Troop and saw it off to a successful start. Troop 80 strives to keep its membership at a manageable level of between 40 and 60 boys in order to enable the patrol method and the Patrol Leader Council concepts in Scouting and best manage Troop operation.

Many special events, awards, and adventures have been part of our history, such as 50-Miler hiking and canoeing awards, high adventure trips to mountains and seashores, and attendance at Philmont Scout Ranch or a National Jamboree. The Troop participates in District events such as camporees, Council events such as the Scout Show, and camp cleanup and development projects in the area. Each Scout is individually important and his experience is encouraged to be one that he will remember the rest of his life.

Troop 80 always strives to put the Scout Law into action, and to live life by the Scout Oath, Motto, and Slogan while we seek new opportunities to help with advancement along the “Trail to Eagle.” Troop 80 is dedicated to providing today’s youth with a fun-filled organization designed to promote personal discipline, a sense of responsibility and accountability to others, and the development of leadership skills.

SECTION IV **TROOP ORGANIZATION**

Highland Park Presbyterian Church is the sponsor or chartered partner for Troop 80 in the North Trail District of Circle Ten Council, Boy Scouts of America. The chartering organization provides a liaison person who works with a committee of adults (Troop Committee) to organize and operate the Troop. A Scoutmaster who is selected by the Troop Committee and approved by the sponsor oversees the program.

The Patrol Leaders Council (PLC), consisting of the Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leaders of each patrol, leads the Troop. The PLC meets monthly to plan troop programs. In the summer of each year, the PLC meets to plan the program for the upcoming year. The Troop Committee must approve these plans, prepared under the guidance of the Scoutmaster. As well, the Troop Committee, having approved the program, helps facilitate its success.

As required by the policy of the National Council of the B.S.A., the Troop consists of three types of Scout Patrols: Venturing Patrols (patrols of Scouts who are in high school and who have a high adventure program of rigorous outdoor activities such as canoeing and long-distance backpacking), Core Patrols (made up of Scouts who are typically at least First Class in rank and who participate in an exciting, but somewhat less rigorous outdoor program), and New Scout Patrols (consisting of Scouts who have not yet advanced to First Class and who participate in a program called Trail to First Class or TFC designed to develop their outdoor skills and advancement so that they may safely participate in Core Patrol and Venturing Patrol activities). The adults who regularly attend Troop activities also participate in the form of a patrol called the Blue Ghost Patrol, named after the U.S.S. Lexington currently docked in Corpus Christi Bay. Boys are assigned to patrols with friends and other Scouts of similar skills and abilities. Patrols are encouraged to meet outside the Troop to enhance the patrol experience and to prepare to achieve the goals they set in meetings.

Troop elections are held once a year in September for the position of Senior patrol Leader (SPL). A Scout must be at least Life in rank and an active member of the Troop for at least six months to be nominated for Senior Patrol Leader. Except in New Scout Patrols, a Scout must be at least First Class in rank to serve as a Patrol Leader (PL). The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

(ASPL), Assistant Patrol Leaders (APL), and other Troop and Patrol leadership positions will be appointed by the SPL with the advice of the PLC and approval of the Scoutmaster. Patrol level leaders are selected by the PLs with counsel from an Assistant Scoutmaster.

Adult leadership of the Troop consists of the Scoutmaster and his staff of Assistant Scoutmasters, who are responsible for the day-to-day supervision of the Scouts and their activities. An Assistant Scoutmaster is appointed by the Scoutmaster to each patrol as a Coach/Counselor and is responsible for guiding each patrol through its Patrol Leader. Assistant Scoutmasters are also appointed over the various Troop level leadership positions to assist the Scouts who hold those positions gain valuable leadership experience.

The Scoutmaster and his staff supervise the day-to-day operations of the Troop. They report to the Troop Committee, which has the general responsibilities of providing and supporting competent adult leadership for the Troop, raising money, helping with acquisition and maintenance of Troop equipment, assisting with financing and records, supporting the advancement program of the Troop, helping the Troop recruit new boys, supporting the outdoor program, and keeping the boys and their parents informed.

The Troop committee is in turn responsible to the Chartered Organization or Sponsor, which is the owner and operator of an official Unit of the Boy Scouts of America. Without each of these pieces (a chartered organization, a Troop Committee, a Scoutmaster, and active and interested Boy Scouts and parents), a Troop cannot exist. The pieces have to mix and support each other. We believe that Troop 80 has all the elements of a dynamic Troop that enthusiastically engages in the Scouting program and provides an enjoyable and rewarding program for the Scouts in its program.

SECTION V

TROOP POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PHILOSOPHY

OUTDOOR PROGRAM

Troop 80 has an active outdoor program that is designed to meet the demands and needs of our Scouts. To accomplish this, outdoor activities are planned each month. These activities include day hikes to observe nature and condition our bodies, service projects, District and Council activities, and other over-night camping and/or long-term and high-adventure outings. Our schedule each year culminates in our annual Summer Camp, a week-long camping and advancement experience. (See Summer Camp.)

OUTINGS

For most overnight camp outs, departure is on Friday evenings, between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m., from the east parking area of Highland Park Presbyterian Church (on Park Street). Scouts need to eat dinner prior to departure or pack something to eat in the car. On some occasions, departure will be early on Saturday mornings. Again, Scouts need to eat breakfast prior to departure or bring a breakfast for the car ride. Return is Sunday afternoon at the same location. Return time is usually

projected to be between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. We often stop for a fast-food meal on the return trip.

On Troop camp outs, the boys will share the cost of the meals with their patrols. The approximate cost of food for a two-day camp out is \$15.00 per boy. Patrol cooking equipment is provided by the Troop with each patrol responsible for both checking out needed gear from the Troop Quartermaster and returning it in its proper condition. On backpacking outings, each boy will carry and cook his own food.

Before going on any outing, the Troop must have the Health Record and Consent to Treat/Waiver form for each Scout and participating adult leader. The youth form (CLASS 2 MEDICAL) is good for three years; the adult form (CLASS 3 ADULT AND HIGH ADVENTURE) is good for one year. (See Summer Camp, Joining the Troop, and Equipment Needs.)

Typically, there are two boys per tent. Although father-son or mother-son tenting is not prohibited, it is discouraged. Tenting arrangements with Scouts and non-related adults is strictly prohibited.

FOOD

Prior to each outing, the members of each patrol will determine their menu and have it approved by the Senior Patrol Leader. One or two patrol members are assigned by the Patrol Leader to purchase the food required for their menu. Each Patrol Leader will be responsible for seeing that sufficient money is collected from each Scout in advance and provided to the food purchaser to procure sufficient food for all outing attendees. Money will be collected two Tuesdays prior to going on an outing in order to ensure the food purchasers have funds to buy food. No refunds will be made to any Scout who fails to attend the outing.

MEETINGS

Troop meetings are held every Tuesday night (except for school holidays and summer break) from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Highland Park Presbyterian Church located at 3821 University Boulevard, Dallas 75205. Meetings are held in Room 229. An exception is the Tuesday meeting occurring immediately following a camp out, which lasts from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and is followed by a Patrol Leader Council meeting.

Regular attendance at Troop 80 meetings is expected of all Scouts, as is consistent attendance and performance at camp outs and other Troop activities. Participation in every Troop activity is encouraged. A Scout who fails to regularly attend Troop activities may be placed on inactive status and, at the discretion of the Scoutmaster, will be ineligible for leadership positions and advancement. Scouts in leadership positions who do not regularly attend Troop activities, or who otherwise do not perform their leadership duties, may be removed from office by the Scoutmaster.

In general, a Troop meeting always begins with the pledge, will contain some opportunity for learning related to advancement, a time for the whole Troop to meet together, a time for Patrol breakouts to plan for upcoming activities, potentially a game or skill time, and potentially a time for

a special presentation. Troop meetings always close with a quiet time, a Scoutmaster minute, and the singing of “Taps.”

From time to time, Merit Badge courses for Scouts First Class rank or above may be held at 7:00 p.m. prior to Troop meetings or on weekends, at the discretion of the Merit Badge Instructor.

ADULT ATTENDANCE AT TROOP MEETINGS

Parents of Scouts and visitors are always welcome to attend Troop meetings. Adults without specific responsibilities during the meeting are expected to be seated at the rear of the meeting room and to maintain proper and respectable behavior. Siblings are discouraged from attending weekly meetings, as it is potentially disruptive to the Scouts.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided for camp outs by parents of the members of each Patrol. All parents are expected to help with transportation during the course of the year. When each parent takes his/her turn, it does not overburden a few. All drivers for a Troop event must be licensed drivers over the age of 21 and should carry the minimum insurance coverage recommended by the Boy Scouts of America (\$50,000/\$100,000/\$25,000). Each passenger is required to use a seatbelt at all times. All vehicles will “caravan” so that adequate assistance will be available to handle any emergency and so that no single vehicle will become lost.

A licensed Scout may drive himself and his siblings to a Scouting event with the prior approval of his parent and the Scoutmaster. Under no circumstances should a Scout transport other unrelated Scouts.

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

HANDBOOK

The first need of a newly registered Scout is “The Official Boy Scout Handbook.” This book contains the basics of outdoor knowledge and skills that every Scout will learn. It can be obtained from any of the Scout Shop locations operated by the Council office. Handbooks should be brought to all Troop meetings and outings.

UNIFORMS

The Scout uniform (also referred to as the “Field or First Class A uniform”) consists of the official tan BSA shirt, short or long pants, B.S.A. socks or short socks, official Scout belt, the Troop cap (optional), and, when required, the Troop neckerchief. Pen or pencil and paper is also considered part of the Scout uniform. The Troop traditionally wears the short pants; however, in cold weather Scout long pants may be worn. As well, a dark, solid color, long-sleeved sweatshirt may be worn beneath the short-sleeved Scout shirt.

Uniforms and patches may be purchased at your local Scout shop or “The Scout Store.” The

patch placement is noted on the inside covers of the Scout Handbook. A complete uniform may cost approximately \$100.00. In addition, the Troop will have for sale "Activity" t-shirts and the Troop 80 neckerchief which can be earned by tying seven prescribed knots in two minutes. Each boy will be given one Troop 80 official cap. Adults may purchase their cap for \$10.00. A replacement cap for a Scout will cost \$10.00. Used uniform parts may be available from time to time and special needs or questions may be directed to the Troop Committee Chairman.

Full Field (Class A) uniforms will be worn at all Troop meetings, Council and District events, when traveling to and from camp and events, and at Boards of Review and Courts of Honor, unless otherwise noted. Scouts are also urged to wear their uniform to church on Scout Sunday in February of each year. When designated, the Activity (Class B) uniform consists of a Scouting t-shirt, Scout shorts, Scout belt, Scout socks, and the Scout hat (optional). Activity (Class B) uniforms may be worn at meetings only the week after campout weekends and only by those who partake in the campout. The Activity (Class B) uniform can be worn to the Troop meeting that follows a camp out. If a Class C uniform is declared, this is to be tasteful and appropriate civilian clothing, usually consisting of blue jeans and Troop t-shirt.

At no time, may Scouts wear jams, parachute pants, military camouflage material, or other fashion items with the Scout uniform. It is the Troop's position that no cap other than the Troop 80 cap or other B.S.A. cap will be worn in Scouting activities. Circle Ten Council policy prohibits the wear of open toed shoes. A strict standard of uniform discipline will be maintained in Troop 80. However, if a Scout is coming directly from a school or sporting event and does not have sufficient time to put on his uniform, he may be excused from wearing his uniform by the Scoutmaster.

CAMPING EQUIPMENT

For a boy to participate in our active outdoor program, enjoy himself, and have fun, he will need certain equipment. While the total cost may seem high, it can be purchased over the span of a year or so. The best advice to parents is DON'T BUY JUNK. If you have any doubts about the quality or serviceability of equipment, please talk with the Scoutmaster.

Sleeping Bag - The first item you should buy. Check the temperature rating on the bag. Although temperatures in Texas rarely drop below 32-degrees F, our coldest camp outs have been in the 10-degree range, so a bag that is rated to go to zero (0) degrees should be considered. A down bag will not retain water if it gets wet, whereas a fiber fill bag will. Total weight of the bag should not be more than six to eight pounds. Be conscious of cost. Try not to spend an exorbitant amount on the bag. You can get a good bag for around \$100.00.

Ground Pad, Foam Pad, or Air Mattress - Buy a good one for your Scout; preferably a closed-cell system or one that expands on release. Since we sleep on the ground, it will be a more comfortable sleep.

Tent - Probably not needed immediately as patrols will double up with two boys to a tent. This gives the boys and parents a chance to see tents in action in order to make a good choice. Tent prices will run from \$40.00 to \$200.00. In purchasing, remember what the use is and where your

Scout is camping. Two-man tents are suggested. It is Troop policy that tents be occupied by two Scouts. Large or family-sized tents are prohibited.

Backpack - Probably not needed immediately. Small boys need a small or medium frame. Adjustable ones are best. Internal framed packs tend to be less adjustable than external framed packs. Additionally, items can be strapped to external framed packs more readily than internal. A padded hip belt that fits is a must. A good pack will cost \$80.00-\$125.00. Please consult the Scoutmaster before you invest in a pack.

Mess Kit - Approximate cost is \$10.00. One can easily use a plastic plate or bowl and utensils; however, the self-contained mess kit for the Scout keeps things organized and together. Utensils are also important, but are usually not part of the mess kit.

Rain Poncho

Canteen

Flashlight

Small Personal First Aid Kit

Compass

Comb, Toothbrush, and Personal Necessities

Note: A comprehensive list of items to take on an overnight camp out or a long-term camp out can be found in the Scout Handbook and on the Troop Website (www.troop80.org). Parents, these items make great Christmas and birthday gifts. Also, consider letting the boy earn the money and buy some of these things himself.

Important: Put the Scout's name on everything!

ADVANCEMENT

Troop 80 pursues an active program designed not only for enjoyment, but also to encourage and facilitate advancement along both individual and group paths. Each Scout is strongly encouraged to work toward and earn Scouting's highest honor, the rank of Eagle Scout. The Troop will closely monitor each Scout's progress along the advancement trail, both to keep interest at a high level and to maintain a desired high level of quality in the advancement program. Scouts and parents are reminded that Scouting stresses both individual initiative and close participation in group accomplishments.

A Scout advances from one rank to the next by fulfilling certain requirements as set forth in the Official Boy Scout Handbook, which include adherence to the high standards of the Scout Oath and Law (Scout Spirit), participation in Troop activities and in selected projects of community service, learning and demonstrating various Scout skills, tenure in Troop level leadership positions,

and by earning various Merit Badges. Rank Advancement and Merit Badges are earned by participating in the Troop's program under the direction and guidance of the Scoutmaster, his assistants, and members of the Troop Committee, and by individual efforts under the direction of specific counselors approved by the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee. Unlike Cub Scouting, there are few requirements and badges that can be pursued in their entirety under the direction of a Scout's parents. It is Troop policy that a Scout's parent should not be his Merit Badge counselor unless that parent is also teaching the Merit Badge as part of a class or that parent is the only certified Merit Badge counselor for that badge. A Merit Badge or a badge of rank is recognition of what a boy is able to do, not a reward for what he has done.

It should be a major goal of each Scout to achieve the rank of First Class within one year of joining Scouts. The attainment of this rank signifies that a Scout has learned the skills required to enjoy the outdoors safely. Without these skills, a Scout cannot participate in the more advanced and more exciting activities enjoyed by Core Patrols and Venturing Patrols. Every Scout is provided a high level of encouragement and numerous opportunities to learn the skills required for First Class. Numerous opportunities are also provided for the remaining advancement to the rank of Eagle, but the level of active encouragement is reduced. Troop 80 emphasizes character building over that of emphasizing the attainment of Eagle, leaving the incentive to the boys. Each Scout's advancement beyond First Class is dependent upon his own ambition and initiative. Our Troop goal is to build safe and competent campers. Personal drive is required to attain further advancement.

NECKERCHIEF

The Troop 80 neckerchief is earned by tying 7 knots in 2 minutes (square knot, sheet bend, taut line hitch, clove hitch, bowline, timber hitch, two half hitches). No Scout may advance to a rank above First Class without first earning his Troop 80 neckerchief. The Troop 80 neckerchief is an outward sign of dedication to the Troop and will be considered as an element of Scout Spirit for ranks above First Class.

MERIT BADGES

Merit Badges, required for all ranks beyond First Class, involve specialized study in a wide variety of areas, including: arts and crafts, hobbies, sports, trades, professions, agribusinesses, service, and self-improvement. Generally, we believe that Scouts below the rank of Second Class should not work on Merit Badges because the basic Scout skills required for advancement to First Class are more important. An exception is that all Troop 80 Scouts are automatically enrolled for the Camping Merit Badge upon joining the Troop.

After selecting a Merit Badge of interest, the steps a Scout takes to earn it are as follows:

1. Get a signed Merit Badge Card (sometimes called a "blue card") from the Scoutmaster. He will provide a merit-badge counselor list from which the Scout may choose an approved counselor.
2. Contact the Merit Badge Counselor. Visit the counselor to learn what is expected.

3. Get the Merit Badge book from the Troop library or purchase it from The Scout Store.
4. Learn and do the things that the pamphlet describes as required for the badge.
5. When ready or on an agreed check-in schedule with the counselor, set appointments and visit the counselor. Bring along the things completed to meet the requirements. The counselor will spend time with the Scout to confirm that he has met the requirements. When he is satisfied, the counselor will sign the Merit Badge card.
6. Return the signed card to the Scoutmaster who will sign it himself and pass it on to the advancement chairman for presentation of the merit badge at the next troop meeting.

Until the Merit Badge card is returned to the Scoutmaster, the requirements have not been completed and no credit can be given for the work performed. Additionally, the Scout will not receive credit for requirements met before he has obtained a blue card.

TROOP LIBRARY

Troop 80 maintains a library of Merit Badge books that are available for loan. Contact the Troop Librarian to determine whether he has the Merit Badge book you need. Take care of each Merit Badge book as you would any valuable reference book, returning it in good condition as soon as you are done with it.

The Troop always welcomes donations of used Merit Badge books. If you purchased a book and have completed the merit badge, please consider donating your book to the Troop Library for other Scouts to use.

SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCE

After completing all the requirements for his next rank, each Scout must schedule a conference with his Scoutmaster. The purpose of this conference is to review the Scout's qualifications for advancement and to prepare him for the Board of Review.

During his Scoutmaster Conference, each Scout will review his activity and achievements both in Scouting and in other areas. He will be questioned about the things he has learned in Scouting. At the conclusion, he will be provided with information concerning his Board of Review and some advisory activity to help him understand and prepare for the types of questions that the Board might ask him. In addition, he will be counseled as to setting his goals for his next rank, including service project ideas, specific merit badges he might work on, leadership needs, and an estimated completion time. The Scout should be prepared to discuss these goals with the Board of Review as well.

Finally, the Scoutmaster will usually discuss the Scout's "Scout Spirit" during the Scoutmaster conference, as "Scout Spirit" is a requirement for every rank. Things to consider in

determining “Scout Spirit” are participation with the Troop and living the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan in the Scout’s everyday life.

BOARD OF REVIEW

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, including his Scoutmaster Conference, a Board of Review evaluates his work. This assessment has three objectives: to determine the extent to which the Scout has had an effective experience in the Troop; to make certain the advancement standards have been met; and to encourage the Scout to progress further. All Boards of Review are the responsibility of the Troop Committee and consist of three to five Committee members (not Assistant Scoutmasters), headed by the Advancement Committee Chair.

Boards for ranks up to and including Life are held by the Troop and are scheduled, as fitting, by the Troop Committee. Boards typically take place on the Sunday afternoon of the weekend following a camp out. Eagle Boards of Review are scheduled separately from other Boards. The Scout must appear before the Board in Field (Class A) uniform and neckerchief with his Boy Scout Handbook and be prepared to discuss all of his achievements since joining Scouts. If the Scout has a Merit Badge sash with Merit Badges sewn on, or if he has an Order of the Arrow sash, it would be advisable to consider that as part of his uniform for a Board of Review. Remember that the adults who sit in Boards of Review may not know all the achievements of each Scout.

COURT OF HONOR

After successful completion of the Board of Review, the new Rank will be conferred to the Scout at the next weekly meeting and again at the next Court of Honor. This is another time when the “full” field uniform should be worn. Troop 80 encourages each Scout to be proud of the awards and advancements he has achieved and to be proud to display those at appropriate Scouting events such as Courts of Honor. Eagle awards are presented at special Eagle Courts of Honor that may be conducted following regular Courts of Honor if approved by the Troop Committee.

All Scouts who have advanced are recognized at a Troop Court of Honor. Courts are held three times a year. Merit Badges, Special awards, and Rank cards and insignia are presented at this public ceremony. Parents, family members, and guests are invited and encouraged to attend Courts of Honor.

TROOP LEADERSHIP

Various Leadership positions credit toward the attainment of rank for each Scout. Noted leadership positions for Troop 80 are as follows:

Troop Leadership positions -

- *Senior Patrol Leader*
- *Assistant Senior Patrol Leader*

- *Scribe*
- *Quartermaster*
- *Librarian*
- *Historian*
- *Chaplain*
- *Bugler*
- *Den Chief*
- *Scoutmaster assigned leadership project.*

The Scoutmaster of Troop 80 has established several standing Scoutmaster assigned positions. They are:

- *Cheerleader*
- *Camp Gadgetmaster*

Patrol Leadership positions -

- *Patrol Leader*
- *New Scout Patrol Leader*
- *Adult Patrol Leader*
- *Music Patrol Leader*

A description of each position is available in the Junior Leader Handbook. All Scouts in Troop 80 will benefit from a Junior Leader seminar given in the Troop each year. If a Scout does not have an advancement creditable leadership position, he should see the SPL or Scoutmaster for a special project to be assigned for leadership credit. In order to qualify for a Troop leadership position (other than SPL or PL), the Scout must fill out an application form and submit it to the SPL to be presented to the PLC for its advice on whether the Scout should be appointed to the position. The Scoutmaster has final approval on all appointments for leadership positions and reserves the right to remove a Scout from a leadership position for lack of participation or misbehavior.

DUTY TO GOD, COUNTRY, AND SELF

The three points of the Scout Oath or Promise, “duty to God, duty to country, duty to self,” are a part of Troop 80's program. Each Scout is urged to earn the religious award of his faith. Each Scout is also encouraged to remain active physically. This should include our vigorous Troop

outdoor program and participation in organized, individual and group sports programs. Allowances will be made, where possible, for Scouts participating in swimming, soccer, etc. such that every Scout may enjoy the benefits of both Scouting and team sports. Troop 80 will also pursue an active role in community service, with regular “good Turns” done for our sponsor and for our community as a whole. Our Scouts will participate with the Troop in group service projects, such as the annual “Scouting for Food” program, and in individual acts of service to their community and to others, not only to fulfill requirements for advancement, but also for the sake of giving.

SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp is the singular activity that sets Scouting apart from most other youth programs and is the culmination of a Scout’s participation in Troop meetings and weekend camp outs. National statistics show that Scouts who attend Summer Camp are more likely to remain in Scouting and advance to higher ranks than non-attendees. In Troop 80, our goal each year is to attend a Summer Camp that will be exciting and educational for our Scouts. To accommodate our Troop as it grows and changes in skill level and maturity, Troop 80 utilizes several different camps in and out of Council. Each fall, the Patrol Leader Council (“PLC”), which is made up of the Senior Patrol Leader and the Patrol Leaders with the Scoutmaster as advisor, selects the Summer Camp(s) for the coming year based on data gathered concerning camp programs, locations, costs, reputations, and other factors. The dates of Summer Camp are also determined based on the Troop schedule and campsite availability. Summer Camp opportunities and dates are announced to the entire Troop as soon as they are available. Departure for Summer Camp is on a Sunday morning and, unlike other camp outs, is from the parking garage in Preston Center bounded by Berkshire Lane, Luther Lane, Westchester Drive and Kate Street. Scouts return the following Saturday after lunch and should be picked up at Highland Park Presbyterian Church. While at the week-long Summer Camp, Scouts have the opportunity to improve their Scout skills, earn advancement, meet new friends, and enjoy good wholesome fun. Camp offers the fun of obtaining merit badges not available in the city, hiking through the woods, learning to handle a canoe, swimming, and sharing with their brother Scouts the inspiration of an evening campfire program, all in one setting. The cost of Summer Camp is inexpensive compared to other week-long activities, and includes all meals. Most summer camps in Scouting will cost between \$175.00 to \$195.00 per Scout per session. Other costs may include transportation, special event or high adventure fees, merit badge books, supplies, snacks, souvenirs, etc. Troop 80 will announce the costs as early as possible so that budgets can be planned to pay for camp. Anyone experiencing an issue with funds for camp need only talk to the Scoutmaster or the Troop Committee Chairman. Scholarships can be applied for and other options may be available as well. No Scout in Troop 80 who wants to attend a Summer Camp will be denied due to financial difficulties. Please understand that all personal issues will be treated confidentially.

INSURANCE

The medical and liability insurance provided by the Council to all registered Scouts and adult leaders is briefly described below. Any questions concerning coverage should be directed to the Troop Committee Chairman or the Circle Ten Council Office at 214-902-6700.*MEDICAL*

Accident and Sickness Insurance is provided for all registered Scouts

and leaders, covering them for accidents and sickness while participating in any official Scouting activity. Details of the coverages can be obtained from the Council service center.

LIABILITY

Each registered adult leader is covered by a Comprehensive General Liability policy. This insurance does not take the place of any volunteer's personal liability insurance under a homeowner's or automobile liability insurance policy, nor does it provide medical payments for injuries. This coverage is in excess, over other valid and collectible insurance carried by volunteers.

TROOP 80 DUES

Annual Troop dues and fees are \$120.00 per year assessed in February of each year for the purposes of re-chartering the Troop with Circle Ten Council. An optional semi-annual payment plan is available. Dues are designed to cover the boy's registration with the Boy Scouts of America, the subscription fee for the Boy's Life magazine, and the operating costs of the Troop including all awards and advancements which may be presented to the Scout. New Scouts will also be issued a Troop 80 cap and two Troop 80 t-shirts when initially enrolling in the Troop. If a Scout's dues are not paid upon joining or upon re-chartering, the Scout will be considered inactive and not able to be advanced in rank. Troop 80 encourages each Scout to earn all or part of the annual dues as a way of teaching monetary responsibility and the well-learned lesson that one earns his way in life. If a parent or friend wishes to contribute funds to the Troop, it is best made in the form of equipment or in fulfilling the needs of a needy Scout. Please contact the Troop Committee Chairman regarding such interests.

BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE POLICY

In view of the liability of the Troop members, Troop leaders, and the Troop Committee members in the case of an injury to a Scout or property damage done by any Scout when at a Troop-sponsored activity or camp out, the Troop committee has adopted the following discipline policy. Any Scout who intentionally participates in an activity that has the potential to cause harm to himself or to other Troop members, or who behaves in such a manner that reflects negatively upon Troop 80 or the Boy Scouts of America, or intentionally participates in any activity that may cause damage to public or private property, will be disciplined. Behavior that is cause for disciplinary action as outlined in the Discipline Policy Procedures includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:

1. Not following the Scoutmaster's or Leader's orders or directions.
2. Significantly unsafe actions (putting a life or limb in jeopardy).
3. Physical or verbal hazing or harassment of another person.

4. Assault
5. Leaving designated areas without Scoutmaster's permission:
 - Not telling the Scoutmaster of his whereabouts at all times.
 - Going to an area other than that requested.
 - Entering property marked "No Trespassing."
6. Exploring physical hazards without the Scoutmaster's permission and supervision (i.e. lakes, creeks, cliffs, caves or underground areas, boats, abandoned structures, etc.)
7. Going near any type of vehicle, machinery, or equipment without the permission of the Scoutmaster.
8. Any type of property damage to a natural or man-made area.
9. Excessively rowdy, unruly, loud, disrespectful, disobedient, or disruptive behavior.
10. Use of cursing or foul language.
11. Smoking
12. Use of alcohol or any controlled or illegal substance.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

The leader in charge will discuss the infraction with the Scout at the time of the violation, reminding him of the Behavior and Discipline Policy and Procedure, and the Scout Oath and Law. On the first offense, the Troop Committee Chairman must be notified by the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or leader in charge and given all the details of the offense. The Troop Committee Chairman will see that the parents or guardians of the Scout involved are notified, informing them that this behavior will not be tolerated. This will serve as a first warning to the Scout and the parents. On the second offense, the Troop Committee Chairman must be notified by the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or leader in charge and given all the details of the offense. The Troop Committee Chairman will see that the parents or guardians of the Scout involved are notified and the parents or guardians and the Scout must appear before the Troop Committee to discuss the problem. On a third offense, notification follows the same pattern as above and the parents or guardians will be requested to remove the Scout from Troop 80. Each Scout and his parent(s) will be required to sign a form acknowledging their understanding of the Troop 80 Behavior and Discipline Policy and agreeing to abide by this safety measure necessary for the safety of all Troop members. In addition to the foregoing, the parent(s) of any offending Scout will be financially responsible for any damage caused by the Scout.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Troop 80 encourages the parents of all of our Scouts to get involved with our Troop. We have a place for everyone. Our active and outstanding program is only possible due to the support and involvement of our parents. We encourage all parents to register as adult Scout Leaders with the Troop. The cost is \$20.00 per year. For more information, contact the Troop Committee Chairman. (See Adults joining the Troop.)

THE TROOP COMMITTEE

Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend our Troop Committee meetings held monthly, except in summer. The Troop Committee will meet on a designated day of each month at a place to be determined by the Troop Committee Chairman. The Troop attempts to communicate fully with all parents by encouraging their membership and participation in the Troop Committee, by welcoming their attendance at Troop meetings and all Troop outings, and by distribution of pertinent information from the Troop. (The Troop will use its web site as the primary source of information and communication.) Please refer to www.troop80.org on the internet. Numerous training opportunities are available for Committee members. These courses range from introductory level to advanced level including internet and videotape courses that can be viewed individually or in small groups. More information on available training courses can be obtained from the Troop committee Chairman or the Council office at 214-902-6700 or www.circle10.org.

INSERTS

Waiver and Consent to Treat Form

Discipline Policy Signature Form

Scout Health Form (Class 2)

Troop Information Form

SECTION VI

JOINING THE TROOP

SCOUTS: A boy must be 11 years of age or have completed the fifth grade or 10 years of age and have completed the Arrow of Light award in Cub Scouting, to become a Boy Scout. Troop 80 feels strongly that we have one of the best programs in Scouting; however, it is highly recommended that a Scout visit several Troops prior to making a final decision on which to join. See the Troop Committee Chairman for information on other Troops in the area. To join Troop 80, a Scout must fill out the B.S.A. application form and submit a check for \$120.00 made payable to "Troop 80" to cover the national B.S.A. fee, the Boy's Life subscription, and the Troop dues for the first year. Further funds for special activities will be assessed as needed. Each Scout must provide CLASS 1 and 2 medical forms and a medical treatment waiver including a "consent to treat." Each Scout will be required to fill out a Troop Information Form to enable a detailed Scout record to be established

with the Troop. Each Scout will be required to read and sign the Troop Discipline Policy and Procedure along with his parents or guardians. In summary, we need:

- A. B.S.A. application
- B. Check for \$120.00
- C. Class 1 and 2 Medical Forms and Consent to Treat
- D. New Scout Information Form
- E. Signed discipline policy

ADULTS: Adults who would like to assist the Troop by serving on the Troop Committee or as an Assistant Scoutmaster, Merit Badge Counselor, or other special activity coordinator should fill out two (2) Adult Leader Applications and include a check for \$20.00 to cover the registration fees. The two applications are for (1) registration as an Adult Leader and (2) registration as a potential Merit Badge counselor in Troop 80. Additionally, an annual Class 3 Health Form must be submitted, if the adult leader is planning to attend any outdoor activities. This form requires a physical exam and signature of a physician. Registration as an Adult Leader includes the “Scouter” magazine and the local council magazine, “Full Circle.”

TROOP 80 - EAGLE HONOR ROLL

Troop 80 Eagle Scouts began achieving rank in August of 1946, only two years after the chartering of the Troop. Over 200 Scouts have earned the rank of Eagle in Troop 80 in its over 60 years of operation.

THE ORIGINAL PROMISE

On my honor I promise that -

1. I will do my duty to God and the King.
2. I will do my best to help others, whatever it costs me.
3. I know the Scout Law and will obey it.

THE ORIGINAL LAW

1. Scout's honor is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal.
3. A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others.
4. A Scout is a friend to all, and a brother to every Scout, no matter to what social class

the other belongs.

5. A Scout is courteous.
6. A Scout is a friend to animals.
7. A Scout obeys orders.
8. A Scout smiles and whistles.
9. A Scout is thrifty.