

**Boy Scout Troop 318**  
**www.nctroop318.org**  
**Impessa District - Occoneechee Council**

**North Raleigh United Methodist Church**  
**8501 Honeycutt Road, Raleigh, North Carolina**  
**2015**

Last Revised January 2015

## Preface

This guide is written primarily for new Scouts and their parents; however, every scout and parent of Troop 318 should be familiar with its contents and can use this guide as reference whenever appropriate. These pages explain how a typical Boy Scout troop operates, with additional information specific to Troop 318 and to Occoneechee Council. The information comes from many sources including the *Boy Scout Handbook* and *Scoutmaster Handbook*. Every Scout and his parents are encouraged to read this entire guide upon joining Troop 318, and to consult it as a reference guide as needed.

**Proud To Be – Troop 318**

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## Welcome from the Scoutmaster

On behalf of the entire Troop, thank you for joining or expressing interest in our Troop!! At Troop 318 we want to make sure that you have lots of fun, learn lots of Scout skills and become a good citizen. This handbook contains our policies as we implement the Boy Scout values, mission and vision. Contact information can be obtained from our Web site at [www.nctroop318.org](http://www.nctroop318.org).

We want the scouts to learn and display leadership skills to help make a difference in the community and world. Additionally, we want all the Scouts to have fun while learning. Having fun and learning by doing keeps the Scouts engaged and excited about scouting. In Troop 318, the boys will have the opportunity to hike, camp, explore, travel and truly be involved with the all activities. We expect that as the Scouts learn, they will advance in rank and grow as a person. We hope that each boy will set goals and that for many, that goal will be to earn the rank of **EAGLE**. Our job is to make sure that each Scout has the opportunity to reach his goal and to provide support, guidance and advice along the way.

The responsibilities of the Scout are to live up to the Scout Oath and Law and to take the initiative on working toward his goals. Each Scout, is truly responsible for getting the work done and we want the Scouts to learn through doing. The parents' or guardian's role is to provide support and the willingness to accept that the ultimate responsibility for achievement lies with your son. We work with each Scout as an individual. If you perceive that your son needs a different type of support or motivation than we are giving, please come talk to us.

The Scoutmaster will meet with each Scout in a Scoutmaster's Conference several times a year to find out how he is doing and

what he needs to continue to have fun and advance. Troop 318 aims to administer the values, mission and vision of the Boy Scouts of America in order to help your son develop as leader, grow in citizenship and build character.

### **National BSA Policies**

All policies of Troop 318 are consistent with the policies of the National BSA. We appreciate input from all parents and committee members to help us improve and update these policies to provide the best possible experience for the Scouts of Troop 318. Troop 318 is committed to having trained leaders who run an effective and efficient program. Thank you, and welcome to the troop.

Jeff Allen  
Scoutmaster, Troop 318

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### **About Troop 318**

Troop 318 has a varied program of activities that are fun and support the ideals of Scouting and has a lot to offer boys interested in Scouting. Troop 318 is energetic and growing and welcomes new Boy Scouts, whether they have been in Cub Scouts or are new to Scouting.

Troop 318 is chartered by North Raleigh United Methodist Church and reflects the commitment of the Church to minister to young people through a varied offering of programs. Troop 318 leadership is committed to be true to the values of Scouting and to the values of the Church - all boys are welcome regardless of their religious affiliation.

Membership in North Raleigh United Methodist Church is not required to join the troop, although the church will welcome your membership if you are interested. For more information, see their website at: [www.nrumc.org](http://www.nrumc.org) .

Troop 318 meets Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 at North Raleigh United Methodist Church through-out the year. Most of the year Troop 318 has at least one outdoor activity per month, which usually includes camping. There are breaks for holidays and occasionally meetings are held off-site. The Troop attends Boy Scout Summer Camp for a week each summer. Details are posted on the Troop 318 calendar on the Troop website <[www.nctroop318.org](http://www.nctroop318.org)>.

The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters and Committee Members of Troop 318 are committed to a program that is true to the aims and methods of Boy Scouts of America. Troop 318 encourages parental involvement to support the Scouting program. All participants will receive the appropriate training to help them support the troop.

Troop 318 is boy-led, which means the Scouts discuss possible activities and plan what the Troop will do with the advice and counsel of the adult leadership. Troop 318 is organized into Patrols, which are groups of 5 to 10 Scouts of all ages and rank. The Patrol method is a tried and true method of Scouting with many benefits including providing leadership opportunities for all boys appropriate to their age and skill level.

Note that Troop 318 will try to accommodate and work with scouts with special needs – please consult with the scoutmaster if you have a special needs scout. In addition, we believe that finances should not preclude a boy from joining or participating in Scouting.



## Appendices

### Appendix A - Welcome Webelos and Parents

The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. The Boy Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve.

Bridging from a Cub Scout Pack as a Webelos Scout is a natural next step on the Scouting Trail and a great opportunity for boys that will be growing in maturity and responsibility, as they become Middle School students. Boy Scouts provides the opportunity for young men to become leaders that understand character and service.

As part of the Webelos II program, scouts will begin to explore opportunities in scouting. Their main focus is finding a Troop that appeals to their goals. As part of this process, Webelos will visit numerous Troops to see for themselves how they differ and where they will best fit.

#### **Visitors Camping with Troop 318**

From the Guide to Safe Scouting: A Webelos Scout may participate in overnight den camping when supervised by his mother or father. If a parent cannot attend, arrangements must be made by the boy's family for another youth's parent (but not the Webelos leader) or another adult relative or friend to be a substitute at the campout.

Troop policy is that second-year Webelos Scouts may camp with the Troop as part of their Den, both to complete the requirement for the Arrow of Light and to learn about the Troop as they anticipate moving up to Boy Scouts. When they camp with the

Troop, their Den is expected to have a minimum of two deep adult leadership, with the understanding that boys who do not have a parent with them must have written permission from a parent. The Den Leader, Troop Scoutmaster, and ASMs serving in a Troop function may not be used as a substitute.

Webelos Scouts must have a Class I health form on file with the Troop in order to camp. This may be a photocopy of the back of the Webelos registration form. See the section of this guide entitled "[Medical Forms](#)" for additional information.

Parents of Webelos Scouts are welcome to attend campouts on which their son's Den is included, but must coordinate this with the Webelos Den Leader. All visiting adults should understand that the purpose of Boy Scouting is different from Cub Scouting and should work to facilitate the interaction of the Webelos Scouts with the Boy Scouts with as little adult intervention as possible. The Troop encourages the use of the patrol system for the Webelos Scouts during this campout, with adults present primarily for safety and for functions that are not appropriate to be handled by the Webelos (such as handling propane lanterns and stoves).

### **Joining Troop 318**

The decision of which Troop your scout should join is his decision to make. As his parent or guardian, he will look to you for guidance. Often he will know where he wants to go, but your support of his choice is important.

Scouting provides many exciting opportunities for boys ages 11 – 18 in a program with a focus on character, citizenship and personal fitness. Boys may bridge into the Troop from a Cub Scout Pack or may join at any time while they in the sixth grade until they are 18. We at Troop 318, feel that our program offers

variety and opportunity. We invite you to join our Troop family. A world of adventure is waiting.

The Scoutmaster encourages any boys and their family to talk with him personally about joining Troop 318. This section provides a quick summary of information for Webelos, other boys of Scouting age and their families, although additional information may be found on the Troop website ([www.nctroop318.org](http://www.nctroop318.org)) and in other parts of this Guide.

Scouting is open to boys with special needs. Please consult with the Scoutmaster if you have a special needs scout to discuss what specific support may be needed.

Troop 318 has a focus on the youth leadership model of Boy Scouts in which the Scouts lead the Troop with mentoring and coaching from the Scoutmasters.

The Troop has weekly meetings all year long. There are additional events including a variety of regular outdoor activities ranging from indoor rock climbing to cycling as well as regular camping trips and service projects. Troop 318 attends summer camp during a week agreed upon during annual planning.

**You have decided that Troop 318 is the Scouting home for you:**

- Contact the Scoutmaster. A parent or guardian should accompany their son to a troop meeting when you decide to join Troop 318. One of the adult leaders will walk you through the process.
- Complete the BSA Youth Application (This is needed even if the boy is a Cub Scout as it gives BSA parental permission to add the Scout to the T318 Charter)

- Complete the BSA Personal Health and Medical Record form and Troop annual permission form.
- Pay the joining fee – the cost to join Troop 318 is currently \$100 annually, prorated to the point in the year when the scout joins. For example, a scout joining in March would pay \$75. A neckerchief, slide, book, 318 number patch, and patrol patch are included in the fee.
- Assist your son with getting the proper uniform and gear. See the list included in Appendix B - [Uniform](#) and [Personal Equipment Guidelines](#).
- Add Troop 318 meetings and activities to the family calendar and let the adventure begin!

### **Converting Your Webelos Uniform to a Boy Scout Uniform**

The Boy Scout uniform consists of the tan shirt, green pants, green socks, and green belt. Some Webelos Scouts may already be wearing this uniform. With just a few changes, you may continue to wear your tan shirt from Webelos as long as it still fits. If you are still wearing the blue Cub Scout uniform, you will need to replace it with a Boy Scout uniform.

To convert your tan shirt from Webelos to Boy Scouts, be sure to remove your den number and Webelos patrol patch. Remove the Webelos colors where you display your Webelos activity pins and all of your Cub Scout ranks (Bobcat through Webelos, including arrow points). Your Arrow of Light patch and Religious emblem, are the only Cub Scout badges that transfers to the Boy Scout uniform. However, its position moves to the bottom edge of your left shirt pocket. If you have any Quality Unit patches you should remove those and wait for new ones to be issued by the troop.

Make sure you have the Occoneechee Council strip on the left shoulder.

During the bridging ceremony, your fellow scouts will replace the blue shoulder loops with green ones and switch out your Webelos neckerchief with a Troop neckerchief. We will also give you a troop numeral patch for your left sleeve. You may continue to wear your service stars over your left pocket, but only one per program. If you were in Tiger Cubs you may wear a "1-year" star with an orange background and you may wear a single star with a yellow background showing the number of years you were in Cub Scouts. Other pins such as Summertime Pack awards, sports pins, Webelos activity pins, popcorn and Scouting for Food pins should be removed. If you have a temporary patch sewn on your right shirt pocket or dangling from the pocket button, you may leave it on, take it off, or replace it with the next temporary patch you receive in Boy Scouts. When you are assigned to a Patrol within the Troop, you will receive a patrol patch for your patrol to be sewn on the right sleeve just below the US flag.

If you have any questions about the uniform or patch placement, refer to the inside of the *Boy Scout Handbook*, the uniform inspection form you receive upon joining the troop, or the web at <[bsauniforms.org/#/boy-scout/item-boyscout](http://bsauniforms.org/#/boy-scout/item-boyscout)>.

### **For more information**

A great deal of useful information can be found at the Troop website - [www.nctroop318.org](http://www.nctroop318.org). To arrange a visit to the troop, contact the Scoutmaster at: [allen.troop318@gmail.com](mailto:allen.troop318@gmail.com)

The BSA Webelos to Scout Transition plan can be viewed on the official BSA website at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsorce/BoyScouts/ImprovedWebelosTransition.aspx>

## Appendix B - About Boy Scouts in general

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America—incorporated on February 8, 1910, and chartered by Congress in 1916—is to provide an educational program for boys and young adults to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness.

### **Mission Statement**

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

### **Vision Statement**

The Boy Scouts of America is the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training.

### Scouting will continue to:

- Offer young people responsible fun and adventure;
- Instill in young people lifetime values and develop in them ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law;
- Train young people in citizenship, service, and leadership;
- Serve America's communities and families with its quality, values-based program.

## Aims and Methods of the Scouting Program

The Scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "Aims of Scouting." They are character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness.

The methods by which the aims are achieved follow in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each:



### Ideals

The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the [Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan](#). The Boy Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them, he has some control over what and who he becomes.

### Patrols

The patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where members can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through elected representatives.

### Outdoor Programs

Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. In the outdoors the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for the beauty of

the world around us. The outdoors is the laboratory in which Boy Scouts learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

### **Advancement**

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

### **Associations With Adults**

Boys learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. Scout leaders can be positive role models for the members of the troop. In many cases a Scoutmaster who is willing to listen to boys, encourage them, and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives.

### **Personal Growth**

As Boy 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 Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is as successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Boy Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

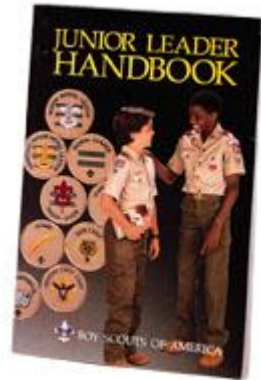


## Leadership Development

The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and individual 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.

## Troop Organization & Leadership

Boy Scouts is a unique organization in that the Scouts are responsible for planning and running most of the activities. The adult leaders are there to provide advice, leadership training, and administrative support. When a Scout has a question or concern about the troop, he should first go to the junior leadership rather than to the adult volunteers. In addition to your *Boy Scout Handbook*, more information on leadership and various junior leaders in a troop can be found in the *Boy Scout Junior Leader Handbook*.



## Patrols

As a member of Troop 318 you will be a member of a **patrol**. Within each patrol, the Scouts elect a **Patrol Leader** who then appoints the other positions within the patrol. The patrol leader must be a Scout who has been active in Scouting for at least 9 months. His assistant patrol leader should also have been in Scouting for a year. This allows first year Scouts to focus on rank advancement and not be placed in the position of directing older Scouts right away. Patrols tent, cook, clean up, and perform other activities as a unit, and learn to work as a team. Your patrol should have its own flag. Each patrol flag must include the patrol name and the phrase "Troop 318". Your patrol flag may also

include other items. The patrol flags should also be smaller than half the size of the Troop flag.

### **Senior Patrol Leader and other Troop Leadership Positions**

The youth leading the troop is the **Senior Patrol Leader** or **SPL**. He is elected to this office by all of the Scouts in the troop. After consulting with the Scoutmaster, the Senior Patrol Leader appoints an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL), and other troop leadership positions including Quartermaster, Scribe, Librarian/Webmaster, Chaplain Aide, Troop Guide(s), Instructors and Order of the Arrow Troop Representative. A Scout must be active in the Troop, be at least First Class in rank, and have been active in Scouting for at least 12 months in order to be nominated for Senior Patrol Leader.

The SPL and assistant SPL typically serve for twelve months, and all other troop leadership positions typically serve for six months. Troop elections are usually held in early April and again in early October, with the SPL elected at the April election.

### **Patrol Leaders' Council**

All of the Patrol Leaders, along with the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and the Troop Guides, make up the governing body of the troop called the **Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC)**, which is headed by the Senior Patrol Leader. The PLC conducts a troop program planning conference annually to plan and schedule the troop activities for the coming year. The PLC meets each month to plan the details of troop meetings and outings for the coming 3 months using the annual plan as a guide.

### **Hazing and Initiations**

The BSA policy on hazing can be found in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, Chapter I - Youth Protection and Child Abuse:

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

**Religious Emblems:**

"A Scout is reverent." All Scouts show this by being faithful in their Duty to God. You may go further and give a special service. This may qualify you for a religious emblem. Each faith has its own requirements for earning its emblem. You should contact your religious leader or the Troop Chaplain for further information if you are interested in earning your religious award.

**Order of the Arrow:**

The Order of the Arrow is a national brotherhood of Scout campers. The honor of becoming a member of the Order of the Arrow is one that scouts cannot set out to earn on their own. The members of the troop bestow this honor on you when you have proven yourself worthy of receiving it through active participation in troop activities.



To be eligible for election into the Order of the Arrow, you must be an outstanding and unselfish camper, be at least First Class in rank, and have 15 days and nights of camping within the past two years including one week at summer camp. Elections for membership in the Order of the Arrow are held annually.

**National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT):**

This is a weeklong junior leadership training course conducted by the Occoneechee Council, usually in July at Camp Durant. A Scout

must be 13-years old and at least First Class in rank to attend. The course teaches advanced leadership skills and has a heavy emphasis on outdoors skills and the patrol method. Any Scout considering being a Senior Patrol Leader or Assistant Senior Patrol leader is expected to attend Council Youth Leadership Training. Anyone interested should inform the Scoutmaster. Applications can be found on the Council website at [www.campdurant.com](http://www.campdurant.com), and scoutmaster approval is required.

### **Adult Volunteers**

Scouting would not exist without adult volunteers. Adults may serve as a uniformed leader who works with the Scouts on a regular basis during weekly meetings and monthly outings, they may provide support for the troop through the troop committee, and/or they may help by being a merit badge counselor.

Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters are the direct adult leadership and work with the youth. One of the most important jobs of the Scoutmaster team is to train and guide the junior leaders in running the troop. The Scoutmasters should not run the troop, as this would deny the boys opportunities to learn leadership, planning and organization skills. As scouts assume the various leadership positions within Troop 318, they can expect both formal leadership training and informal coaching from their Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmasters, the troop committee, and fellow junior leaders.

The troop committee performs three main functions:

- Serve as a board of directors that recruits and appoints adult leadership, provides direction and guidance and establishes policies.
- Provide financial, administrative and logistical support for the successful implementation of the program planned by the Patrol Leaders' Council.

- Conducts the Boards of Review, an essential element of the Advancement process as covered in the *Boy Scout Handbook*.

A Committee Chairman organizes and delegates the tasks within the committee. Other key members of the committee are the Secretary, Treasurer, Advancement Chairman, Equipment Coordinator, Chaplain, and Training Coordinator. There may also be members at large who contribute without holding a designated position.

Scouting could not exist without adult volunteers. We encourage all parents to consider contributing their time and expertise to the troop. A great way to start is to fill out an adult resource survey form, turn it in to the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chairman, and let them know your preferences and expertise. This form, along with many others, can be found at <http://www.scouting.org/forms/>.

### **Friends of Scouting**

Each year, the Occoneechee Council operates an annual Friends of Scouting (FOS) campaign to raise money for the Council operations. The Council is responsible for maintaining the Council Camps, organizing Council Camporees, supporting the troops and districts in the Council, maintaining local BSA administration, providing leader training and materials, and supporting many other scouting activities. Our Troop has an outstanding record of support for FOS which is a critical source of BSA funding.

## Appendix C – More About Troop 318

The following sections provide additional insight into what you can expect from Troop 318 and what Troop 318 expects from you.

### Participation

*As the Boy Scout Handbook puts it, "To gain full advantage of all that Scouting has to offer, you need to be present when things are happening. Take part in meetings, in planning activities, and in the fun of adventures. If you're there, you can do your part to make your patrol and troop a success." - page 169.*

We understand that scouts will not be able to make every meeting and every campout or activity. Family, church, and school activities often conflict with troop activities. School sports and band activities often demand an inordinate amount of time. But attendance is important.

Sometimes scouts have trouble making activities because of conflicts with school, sports, medical, or other reasons. If a scout finds himself in this position, he should notify the Scoutmaster of the situation and when he will be able to participate again. A scout in this situation should realize that his advancement may slow down, but he will be advancing in another area (soccer, baseball, swimming, etc.). Although it should be obvious, a scout taking such a break should not hold a leadership position during this time.

### Adult Leadership

***From the Guide to Safe Scouting: Two registered adults, or one adult and a parent of a participating Scout, one of whom must be at least 21 years of age or older, are required for all trips or outings. There are only a few instances, such as***

***patrol activities, when no adult leadership is required. Coed activities require male and female adult leaders, both of whom must be 21 years of age or older. No fewer than four individuals (always with the minimum of two adults) are to go on any backcountry expedition or campout.***

Parents, guardians and other interested adults may camp with the Troop with prior permission from the Scoutmaster on an occasional basis. Only those adults who are registered Scouters and have successfully completed BSA training in the prescribed sequence up to and including the BSA course “Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills” may camp with the Troop on a regular basis. Adults camping with the Troop will camp as an adult patrol and will not tent with the Scouts. The adults are also expected to set a good example and will abide by the same camping rules as the Scouts. They may not use unusual equipment not available to the Scouts, such as pop-up campers, heaters, or sleep in their cars, except in emergencies. Parents should let their sons carry out their scouting responsibilities on their own and should not perform the scouts tasks for them, and should discourage the scouts from hanging around their parents or other adults when the scout should be with their patrols.

### **Transportation**

**From the Guide to Safe Scouting: two adults are recommended for each vehicle - the minimum required is one adult and two or more youth members - never one on one unless it is parent/guardian and child.**

Seat belts are required for all occupants. The beds of trucks or trailers must never be used for carrying passengers. Specific training is required by NRUMC to operate the Church bus – contact the church office to schedule this training.

The guidelines on Transportation in Section XII of the Guide to Safe Scouting will be used for all Troop 318 travel with the only change being that Troop 318 states that all drivers who carry Scouts must be age 21 or older (a stricter requirement than that listed in the Guide to Safe Scouting). A registered Scouter, age 18 to 20 (inclusive) may transport himself and gear (but not pull a trailer) on a campout if he is currently licensed, is driving his own or his family's vehicle with proper insurance, has at least 2 years of driving experience, has the permission of the Scoutmaster, and has permission of his parents or guardians.

All adult drivers for the Troop must have registered their vehicles and insurance information with the Troop, and all adult drivers for a given trip and their vehicle and insurance information must be listed on the respective BSA Tour Permit for each outing.

We don't complete a tour permit for each trip, only those out of council or involving high adventure.

In accordance with BSA policy, drivers should NOT travel caravan-style in close proximity to each other. However, drivers often agree to meet at pre-determined stops along the way for meals or to re-group. Trips of greater than 300 miles each way require two drivers (one 'relief-driver') in each vehicle

### **Parental Involvement**

A troop functions best with **active parental support**, which includes the following;

- Ensuring your scout attends and is prepared for Boy Scout meetings, ceremonies, campouts or other activities sponsored by the Troop.
- Actively following your Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and encouraging your Scout to advance.



- Understand the Troop program and annual calendar of events.
- Attend Courts of Honor and other family activities.
- Provide support for funding like fundraisers, popcorn sales, Eagle projects, and other activities.

Adult leadership is needed at many levels, and there are many ways you can contribute - member of the Troop Committee, Merit Badge Counselor or Assistant Scoutmaster to name a few.

Most scout leaders have found that being actively involved is a great way to bond with their sons, that adult scouting is highly enriching and satisfying, and that the more they put into it, the more they get out of it.

Boy scouts benefit from positive adult role models of both genders. Scouting has many women scoutmasters, assistant scoutmasters, and other leaders.

See [Adult Volunteers](#) section for more information.

## **Uniform**

The uniform makes the Boy Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. The uniform gives the Boy Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Boy Scout activities and provides a way for Boy Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

### **Field Uniform or Class A Uniform**

The field uniform is to be worn while traveling to, traveling from, and during regular meetings, Boards of Review and other Scout sponsored activities. The uniform consists of Scout pants (can be long or short pants); official BSA Scout shirt (long or short sleeve)

complete with patches and green epaulets; Troop 318 neckerchief (see below); scout belt, and scout socks. The troop doesn't require a scout hat, but if hats are worn, they must be scouting related. A merit badge sash is worn only on formal occasions such as Courts of Honor, and must be worn over the right shoulder.

A well-prepared Scout should also have his Boy Scout Handbook, a notebook, and pen or pencil at all functions. A scout should consider these items as part of the uniform.

### **Activity Uniform or Class B Uniform**

For some outings or similar events involving a lot of physical activity, the scoutmaster or senior patrol leader may designate that a BSA T-shirt with the BSA insignia should be substituted for the Scout shirt Troop 318 has had several T-shirts made with Troop 318 insignia; these are available for purchase. The activity uniform is particularly useful at summer camp, where Scout T-shirts are the standard uniform during merit badge classes and activities.

### **Troop 318 Neckerchief Policy**

All registered Scouts are given a neckerchief unique to Troop 318 (black and neon green) with the Troop 318 logo patch upon payment of their registration or transfer fee, usually at an appropriate ceremony as part of a Troop meeting, Court of Honor, or Blue and Gold Banquet (for Webelos bridging over to the Troop). The neckerchief is to be worn to all Troop meetings, campouts and events (unless specified otherwise) with the standard Boy Scout Khaki shirt with the Neckerchief under the collar and secured with an approved woggle or slide. In the summer, the Patrol Leaders' Council may vote to leave off the neckerchief or move entirely to an Activity uniform due to hot weather.

Scouts First class and above may choose to wear a BSA bolo tie in place of the neckerchief at events other than Court of Honors. If a neckerchief needs to be replaced, a new neckerchief may be purchased – see the Scoutmaster for a replacement.

### **Footwear**

Note that for safety, sandals, flip flops, any open-toed or open heeled shoes, or bare feet are not allowed at meetings or on outings, except for specific aquatics activities where special permission is given in advance.

### **Where do I get a uniform?**

Uniforms can be purchased at the Occoneechee Council office, located at 3231 Atlantic Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27629. The staff there is knowledgeable and helpful.

- Scout book – the book goes lots of places so a cover may be advisable
- Scout shirt – tan with required patches. T318 provides the 318 number patch. The Scout Shop offers sewing services for a fee.
- Activity t-shirt – available for purchase from the Troop
- Neckerchief – provided by T318
- Olive green pants – these may be the official BSA pants or other appropriate pants suitable for Scouting activities. Check with Scoutmaster for acceptable options.
- Scout belt – some of the BSA pants come with a belt and belts may also be purchased at the Scout Shop.
- BSA or olive green socks
- Closed toe shoes
- Water bottle or water reservoir such as Camelback
- Moderate size sturdy backpack

“Experienced” uniforms can sometimes be obtained through a uniform exchange within the troop. The Troop Quartermaster supervises the supply of experienced uniforms. You may contact the Quartermaster at any time to obtain a uniform from the exchange or to donate a uniform.

The *Boy Scout Handbook* provides some information regarding the placement of insignia on the uniform and for wearing the uniform, but no longer contains the complete rules. The full rules for the placement of patches can be found on the web at <http://www.scoutstuff.org/misc/isheets/>.

National BSA policy and its Congressional Charter forbid the imitation of military uniforms by scouts and scouters while participating in BSA activities. Wearing of camouflage items (“camo”) when the Field or Activity uniform is not required is discouraged. Wearing of camouflage items with the BSA uniform is not acceptable.

### **Dues, Fund Raising, and the Cost of Scouting**

The ninth point of the Scout Law: *A Scout is Thrifty*

Scouts in Troop 318 are expected to participate in fund raising projects to defray the costs of scouting. This is keeping with the philosophy that a Scout is thrifty and should earn his own way in Scouting activities. The two primary fundraisers currently used by Troop 318 is selling BSA Trail's End popcorn in September/October along with all other Scouts in Occoneechee Council. In addition, we have 2 barbeque fundraisers (one in the spring and one in the fall), to give scouts further opportunities to earn credit of their activities.

In accordance with Occoneechee Council policy, revenues from the popcorn sales are divided as follows:

1/3 pays for the cost of the popcorn;  
1/3 goes to the Council to help support Council activities; and  
1/3 goes to the Troop.

The troop will allocate its share of popcorn revenues based upon the needs of the Troop and the Scouts. The allocation will be reviewed annually by the Troop Committee and will be adjusted based upon current needs for the Troop and Scouts.

Other fund raising activities will be planned and scheduled as needed to meet the financial needs of the Troop and Scouts. Allocation of funds from each activity will be reviewed and set during the planning stages for the fund raising event.

### **Annual Registration**

Troop 318 has an annual registration fee that covers registration fees with the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the remainder goes to the Troop 318 treasury to cover general operating costs such as patches for rank advancement and merit badges, small troop camping equipment, etc. The Troop Committee has historically decided to cover larger funds through fundraising and scouts will be required to participate to help the Troop. Like all troop policies, this one is reviewed periodically and is subject to change.

### **Activity Fees / Expenses**

Many Troop activities involve expenses for meals and sometimes registration or camping fees. The troop collects an activity fee in advance from each participating Scout and Scouter to cover the cost of the event with an effort to keep it as reasonable as possible. The fee for the activity covers both the cost of the activity and food. Patrols are responsible for purchasing their own food and turning in their receipt for reimbursement. Scout

fundraising (scout account) can be used to pay the activity fees of any trip.

Costs of summer camp and high adventure trips are paid in full by the Scout (although these costs may fully or partially come from balances in the scout accounts from Troop fundraising as previously mentioned). Scouts are expected to earn and save for their Scouting expenses and not simply ask their parents to pay for it.

The Troop Committee recognizes that Scouting can be expensive and a potential strain on a household budget. *No Scout should be prevented from participating for financial reasons.* Please contact either the Committee Chairman or the Scoutmaster if you need financial assistance.

### **Health and Medical Issues**

There are three primary issues with respect to health, developmental, and medical issues at a scouting activity:

1. Informing the Scouting Adult Leadership of health problems that have an impact on a Scout's participation.
2. Medication that must be taken by Scouts during campouts or events.
3. Special situations, such as diet or limitations of activity, which must be planned for in advance.

***From the Guide to Safe Scouting: The taking of prescription medication is the responsibility of the individual taking the medication and / or that individual's parent or guardian. A Scout leader, after obtaining all the necessary information, can agree to accept the responsibility of making sure a Scout takes the necessary medication at the appropriate time, but BSA policy does not mandate nor necessarily encourage the***

***Scout leader to do so. Also, if your State laws are more limiting, they must be followed.***

For each activity or campout, an adult (age 21 or higher) will be assigned the duty of Medic.

This person has the following responsibilities:

1. To ensure that proper medical forms are in hand.
2. To collect medications and their instructions for their use from the parents of any Scout who requires medication during the activity and requests that an adult administers the medication to ensure that it is taken (as stated above, taking prescription medications is the responsibility of the individual and/or that individual's parent or guardian.) *To ensure that medicines are properly administered, the Troop requests that any parent requesting asking for adult assistance with their son's medication provide the necessary medication in a zip-lock bag(s) with the scout's name clearly marked in large letters, and containing clearly written or typed instructions for dosage, timing and other necessary instructions for each medication, along with written & signed authorization for administration by an adult leader. Written authorization is required for non-prescription medication. Prescription medications must be in their original packaging or containers.*
3. To ensure that an appropriate Troop First Aid kit is in hand.
4. To maintain a First Aid log to record any accidents that require treatment during the activity.
5. To receive from parents' information as to any special situations that require special treatment.
6. To have in hand a plan for emergency care for a critical injury or illness. This should include the name and

location of the nearest medical facility to the site of the activity and may require additional consideration where aquatic, high adventure, or backcountry events are involved.

As above, if a Scout is not healthy enough to participate fully in an activity, the Troop policy is that the Scout should remain at home to get well. Scouts with contagious diseases should not participate in Troop activities until they are well.

See also the section of this guide entitled "[Medical Forms](#)" for the medical forms and physical examination requirements for participating in scouting activities.

### **Homesickness**

Adult leaders understand that young Scouts who have not been away from home very often may experience homesickness as they begin to camp with the Troop without their parents. Homesickness most often shows up at summer camp, when the Scout realizes they are away from their own environment for an extended period. Our experience has taught us that Scouts who leave campouts due to homesickness often never return to Scouting, whereas those who stick it out learn an important lesson in developing independence and have much greater success in Scouting later. However, we understand that every situation is different, and some Scouts may have personal situations that may lead to anxiety when they are away from home. Please help us by informing us if your son is going through particular stresses that might make homesickness more likely.

### **Behavior, Conduct, Troop Rules**

All members of Troop 318, both youth and adults, are expected to live their daily lives in accordance with the Scout Oath and the



Scout Law. The Oath and Law embody the expectations of everyone's behavior and conduct.

When a Scout misbehaves, the Scoutmaster or an assistant Scoutmaster will evaluate the situation, consider the circumstances, and then use his or her best judgment to make a decision that is fair and just. The response to misbehavior may come from the junior leaders in the troop or it may come from the adults. Disciplinary actions and responses to misbehavior should never involve corporal punishment, denial of food, or belittling of a Scout.

Boy Scouts promise to keep themselves "morally straight" and "clean." The Boy Scout Handbook advises boys that being "clean" goes beyond washing off dirt; it means getting in with a "clean crowd," having a "clean outlook on life" and staying away from "swearing and telling dirty stories." Adults and Scouts are asked not to participate in swearing, lewd behavior or telling dirty stories.

One of the aims of the Boy Scouts of America is help young men develop strong moral character. Being a good father, a good husband, and an effective leader requires critical thinking and the ability to make sound judgments and ethical decisions.

### **Smoking and Alcohol Policy**

Boy Scouts of America policy is to discourage the use of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco. Thus, Troop 318 requires that no adult smoke in the obvious presence of the Scouts. Smokers who camp with the Troop shall smoke only in private, away from the Scouts, in as discrete a manner as possible. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on any Scout trip, campout or activity.

## **Religious Instruction**

"A Scout is reverent." All Scouts show this by being faithful in their duty to God.

Troop 318's practice on religious instruction is consistent with BSA guidelines in that we do not endorse nor promote any one faith over another. Although we regularly conduct a religious observance during outings on Sunday morning, these are interfaith-based, without preference to any specific set of religious beliefs. BSA policy states that specific religious instruction belongs in the family.

## **Community Service**

Scouts should seek out opportunities for performing community service and they should participate in the community service projects that are scheduled by the troop. Rank advancement requires increasing levels of service hours - see rank advancement requirements for exact requirements.

## **Boy Scout Slogan: Do A Good Turn Daily**

**The Boy Scout Oath includes the phrase: To help other people at all times**

Every Scout is expected to perform acts of charity and kindness and to develop a lifelong habit of community service and helpfulness towards his neighbor. Many Scouting awards and most of the ranks in Boy Scouts have a requirement to perform a certain number of service hours. These service hours may be earned by giving your time to our chartering organization, the community, or for a neighbor.

For the purpose of rank advancement, Scouts may not count service hours performed to meet other community service

requirements from their school and church. Service activities must be approved, so the Scout should check with the Scoutmaster prior to starting the service project to ensure that the activity will qualify.

## Appendix D - Outdoor Activities

Being outdoors is a major part of Scouting. Camping, hiking, canoeing, and all kinds of outdoor activities are an important means for achieving the three aims of Scouting. Outdoor activities are the central part of the fun of Scouting and are a major source of advancement opportunities. Troop 318 schedules outings every month of the year. We have fun outdoors regardless of what the weather conditions may be. We certainly learn more and gain greater confidence when we are camping during "adverse" weather.

Scouts will advance faster, become more proficient in Scout skills, and enjoy scouting more if they participate regularly in troop outings. The patrol grubmaster will purchase the food for the patrol and submit the receipt for reimbursement from the activity fees.

Note that if a Scout signs up for an outing and pays, that fee is only refundable if he advises the scoutmaster at least one week prior to the trip, that he will be unable to attend. Fees are calculated on a shared basis and dropping out or being a 'no-show' does not relieve the Scout of responsibility for his commitment.

### **Electronics Policy**

Given that electronic communication is increasingly important in our world, we expect all scouts to complete the Cyber Chip program for online safety. Troop 318 DOES permit electronics during the travel part of most outings. Electronic devices (phones and gaming consoles) are to be left in the vehicle once we arrive at our destination. The Troop and/or Scoutmasters are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices. On rare occasions, individuals may need to look something up while

planning an activity during a troop meeting. The scout MUST have completed the Cyber Chip program to use any electronics during the meeting, and only at the direction of the SPL.

### **Camping Program**

Overnight camping is a requirement for rank advancement. The camping program for Troop 318 is planned by the PLC at the annual planning meeting, at which time the themes and major activities are chosen for the next six and twelve months.

The SPL will assign a Scout to work with an adult adviser to research and coordinate the program for a specific month. The scout is responsible for planning the logistics of the program and regularly communicating with the PLC on the progress of the trip.

The adult advisor's job is to ensure the safety of the planned activities in accordance with *The Guide to Safe Scouting*, to help develop a time-line for the planning, to serve as a resource for information or ideas, to make reservations when an outside source requires



contact with an adult representative of the Troop, and to serve as a communications link to the Scoutmasters and adult leadership.

For each activity, a Troop 318 Campout / Activity Plan sheet (found on the website) should be used to assist in the planning. Copies of the final version of this sheet should be turned in to the SPL and the Scoutmaster no later than the PLC immediately prior to the campout or activity. In addition to this final report, the

scout is expected to give progress reports to the PLC during the preparation phase.

### **Camping Permission**

Troop 318 uses an annual permission slip collected in the spring. The parent or guardian signature on the application form is also grants permission for all campouts and activities. If parents have a concern regarding a specific event, they should bring those concerns to the Scoutmaster or the Troop Committee.

Signup and payment deadlines for campouts will be announced when activities are promoted. Earlier signups may be required for certain trips when reservations or deposits are needed at an earlier date. Requests to attend a campout after the signup date must be approved by the Scoutmaster. An RSVP will be placed on the website as a Paypal option. Youth and adult leaders should sign up on the RSVP link on the website to allow us to plan accordingly based on the number attending.

### **Patrol Planning for Campouts**

The Patrol Leaders' Council and Troop Scoutmasters have agreed that if a patrol has at least 3 members attending an outing the patrol is expected to function as a patrol without combining with other patrols. If 2 or less members attend, they may choose either to function as a patrol or they may be combined with another patrol as assigned by the Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader.

### Meal planning

Patrols are responsible for planning their own menus for each campout. Menus must be approved by the Troop Grubmaster (an older Scout with extensive cooking experience), Senior Patrol Leader, or an Assistant Scoutmaster. Meals are expected to be reasonably balanced and appropriate to the type of campout

planned (i.e., backpacking food versus Dutch oven cooking). Menus should take advantage of supplies purchased for earlier trips when possible to save on money. The typical cost for a weekend campout, excluding a bag supper on Friday, (three meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday) should be about \$10 to \$20 per person.

### Patrol Grubmaster

The Patrol Grubmaster is responsible for purchasing appropriate supplies within the given budget. If he goes over the budget, he may be responsible for the additional cost himself.

- He should take care to purchase the most inexpensive foods possible of good quality so that sufficient quantities can be bought.
- The Patrol Grubmaster should work closely with the Patrol Quartermaster (who is appointed before each outing much the same as Patrol Grubmasters are appointed) to make sure that the appropriate cooking gear is brought on the campout. *A list of guidelines and tips for being a Patrol Grubmaster is contained in Appendix E to this guidebook.*

The Patrol Leader is responsible for drafting a Duty Roster to be approved by the Senior Patrol Leader. As Scouts are both Helpful and Cheerful, they are expected to willingly do what is necessary to help the patrol throughout the campout. The Patrol Leader is also responsible for assigning which Scouts will tent with each other during the campout and making sure appropriate tents are brought.

### **Tenting arrangements**

Troop 318 follows the Guide to Safe Scouting to insure the safety of all on the outing.

- Male and female leaders require separate sleeping facilities
- Married couples may share the same quarters if appropriate facilities are available
- Male and female youth participants will not share the same sleeping facility
- When staying in tents, no youth will stay in the tent of an adult other than his or her parent or guardian

Troop policy is that Scouts are expected to sleep in tents with members of their patrol. They may tent with other Scouts only with the permission of the Senior Patrol Leader. Scouts are expected to sleep two (or three) to a tent, depending on tent size, and may tent alone only when odd numbers exist that cannot be resolved given the available tenting. Appropriate hammocks with a rain fly are acceptable under certain conditions though their planned use must be reviewed prior to the campout. If a Scout is not well enough to sleep in a typical two-man tent on the ground, he is expected to stay at home to recover his health.

### **Patrol Gear**

- Scouts may be asked to take a tent home following a campout to be hung out for drying and returned the following week. Otherwise, no Troop-owned gear is to go home with the Scouts.
- All cookware and utensils are to be cleaned on the campout to the satisfaction of the Troop Quartermaster. If gear is brought back from a campout in a substandard condition, the patrol members will stay to help clean it before they can go home.
- Any gear damaged beyond repair either on purpose or through preventable causes, like horseplay, will be replaced by the scout(s) involved.



The Troop Quartermaster position is a Troop leadership position. The Patrol Quartermaster position is a temporary position appointed by each Patrol only for the duration of that outing, just like a Patrol Grubmaster.

The Troop Quartermaster is;

- Responsible for communicating equipment needs from the Patrols to the Adult Quartermaster Adviser for replacement or repair.
- Responsible for Troop gear such as flags, tools, spare parts, etc., and the proper storage of gear in the Troop trailer and shed.
- Responsible to perform equipment inspections of gear at the conclusion of each outing, while still at the outing prior to packing. Patrol gear that is not clean, dry, and ready for camping again the next day will not be packed until the responsible patrol has made it so. The ultimate responsibility for Patrol gear rests with each Patrol, NOT the Troop Quartermaster.

### **Camping Drop-off / Pickup**

Scouts should be at the designated meeting place on time. If the Troop is ready to leave and no prior arrangement has been made with the Scoutmaster to allow for a Scout to arrive late, the Troop may leave without him.

Scouts may not leave in the middle of any campout or event without the Scoutmaster's approval to be obtained prior to the campout. Scouts must also have prior permission from the Scoutmaster to meet the Troop midway through an event.

Upon return from a campout, several activities must be accomplished;

- Vehicles used for transportation must be unloaded and cleaned by the Scouts who rode in them to insure that the vehicles are left “better than we found them”.
- Troop trailer returned to the rear of the parking lot and secured there with the lock and chocks.
- No Scout may leave until he has permission from his Patrol Leader and the SPL.
- Patrols may not begin to leave until the Patrol Leader has obtained permission from the Senior Patrol Leader. If a Scout needs to leave early, he must have the Scoutmaster’s permission. If allowed, it may be with the provision that extra duties will be taken on by the Scout during the campout to make up for being unable to help unload / cleanup upon return. Since a scout is helpful, these duties should be taken and performed cheerfully.

### **Summer Camp**

Summer camp is the highlight of the year for most Scouts. Every Scout should plan on attending summer camp, especially in the first year. Being away from home, managing daily schedule, and being immersed in scouting for a week provides an outstanding educational, healthy, and fun experience for the scouts.

The youth of Troop 318 will decide on what summer camp the Troop will attend each summer with Scoutmaster approval. Details of which camps have been selected by the boys and the week that the troop plans to attend are published on the troop website. Details will be available in advance including activities and merit badge opportunities, costs & timing of payments, packing list, travel arrangements, emergency contact and other details.

Most summer camps run from Sunday afternoon through Saturday morning. A full medical form including a physical from a healthcare provider is always required, along with a swim test.

Most scout camps have very informative websites along with information specific for adult leaders. Additional adult leadership is often needed for summer camp. Summer camps typically have adult leader educational and/or recreational activities so that the week can be a positive experience for adults. This may include CPR training, climbing instructor training, scheduled tours or hikes of scenic or historic sites in the area, or other similar activities. Most adults who attend summer camp find it a rewarding and educational experience, and many go every year. If you are interested

in attending summer camp as an adult leader, please see the Scoutmaster. Online training is available to prepare adult leaders for a safe and rewarding experience.

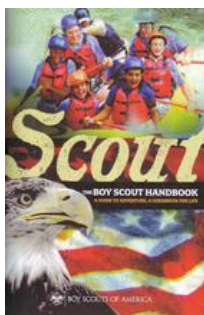


Flag Raising at Camp Durant

## Appendix E - Rank Advancement and the Merit Badge Process

### Books and Other Materials

- ❖ Troop 318 will provide you the *Boy Scout Handbook* at the time of joining.



Besides it being your guide, it is also a permanent record of your progress and as such, you do not want to lose or misplace it. Put your name in your handbook and start using it right away. **Bring your Handbook with you to every troop meeting and on every campout.** You should become familiar with its contents and you should be aware of what you need to do next to advance in rank. The

Handbook, along with a cover, can be purchased at the Occoneechee Council Scout Shop in Raleigh.

From time to time you will also need to purchase merit badge pamphlets. Each of the 100 plus merit badges has its own pamphlet that contains not only the requirements for the badge, but also much of the information you will need to complete the requirements.

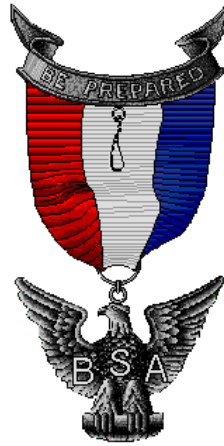
These books are updated often, so check the back cover of the current *Boy Scout Requirements Book* for a list of the latest revision dates for each of the merit badge pamphlets. The troop library has a limited



number of merit badge pamphlets available for loan. See the Troop Librarian to borrow something from the library. In addition, many of the more popular pamphlets are available in digital form on our Troop website [www.nctroop318.org/scouts](http://www.nctroop318.org/scouts). If you purchase your own copy of a merit badge pamphlet, please consider donating it to the troop library when you are finished with it.

Merit badge pamphlets can also be purchased at the Occoneechee Council Scout Store in Raleigh, or from the BSA National Distribution Center ([www.scoutstuff.org/bsa/literature-media/merit-badge-pamphlets.html](http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsa/literature-media/merit-badge-pamphlets.html))

## Rank Advancement



Advancement is an important part of Scouting as a measure of the Scout's growth and progress. Each Scout keeps his own personal advancement record in his *Boy Scout Handbook*, and should also record your service hours, campouts, troop activities, and leadership positions in their *Handbook*. The troop also keeps advancement records for each Scout. The Scout may view these at any time by going the Troop website, [www.nctroop318.org/scouts/](http://www.nctroop318.org/scouts/).

When bridging over to Boy Scouts from Cub Scouts, most youth and adults observe a significant difference in the standards for rank advancement. In Cub Scouts the standard was to "Do Your Best". Boy Scouts are expected to complete the stated requirements exactly as written and satisfy the standards of each rank and merit badge.

Scouts should work on advancement with their parents, fellow Scouts, Scout leaders, and merit badge counselors. They should work on advancement on their own, in patrol meetings, during Troop meetings, and during other Troop functions such as

campouts. Scout skills should be practiced to become and remain proficient, even after a skill has been "signed-off".

After you master a skill, ask the appropriate Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, or merit badge counselor to sign off. Certain scouts who have achieved Star rank or higher have been approved to sign off rank advancements for scouts who are working on ranks below First Class.

A greater variety of experiences is available to Scouts that are First Class in rank or higher. While you may work on any merit badge (p. 184 - 193, *Boy Scout Handbook*) at any time, you should concentrate on achieving the rank of First Class before devoting much time working on merit badges.

From entering the Troop until earning his First Class, the Scout will learn basic Scouting skills that will enable him to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, and work as a member of a team. Through First Class, the Scout begins to build himself physically, mentally, and morally and starts to live with the Scout Oath and Law. Troop 318 hopes all Scouts will achieve First Class within their first year in the Troop. The rank of First Class shows that the Scout has mastered the fundamentals of Scouting and can begin to start leading others, refining basic scout skills, and learning more advanced skills.

From the achievement of First Class through Eagle, the Scout will be demonstrating leadership, performing service projects, earning merit badges, and using the skills learned by earning the rank of First Class. The next ranks are Star and Life. Upon completion of all the requirements for Star and Life, the Scout will be eligible to work for Eagle.

Becoming an Eagle Scout carries special significance, not only in Scouting, but also in higher education, business, and the community. The Eagle award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well maintained over the years. Only about 4% of all Boy Scouts who join complete the journey to Eagle.

Each Scout should meet regularly with the Scoutmaster for a **Scoutmaster Conference**. This conference is used to discuss goals and accomplishments and is required for each rank advancement. A Scout may talk with the Scoutmaster at any time.



A **Board of Review** is a requirement for each rank advancement after the Scoutmaster Conference. The Board consists of three or more adults - one or more representatives from the Troop Committee along with other adults, but may not include assistant Scoutmasters, the Scoutmaster, or the scout's parents.

### **Board of Review Procedure**

- The scout should bring their *Boy Scout Handbook* and be in full uniform to appear before a Board of Review.
- At the beginning of the review, the leader of the Board will bring the scout into the room and make introductions.
- The scout may be asked to stand before the Board and recite either the Scout Oath or Scout Law or other items that all Scouts are expected to know.
- The uniform may be inspected for completeness and appropriate placement of patches.



- During the review, the board will talk with the Scout about his accomplishments and goals in Scouting.
- Scouts will be encouraged to give constructive feedback to the Troop Committee on activities, improvement opportunities, and the Scouting experience in Troop 318.
- At the end of the review, the Scout will be asked to leave the room while the board confers. The board will then call the Scout back into the room to inform him of the Board's decision.

Following a successful Board of Review, new rank badges are awarded to the Scouts not later than the next troop meeting. Formal recognition of advancements and merit badges are made in front of family and friends during a ceremony at a **Court of Honor**. Troop 318 schedules several Courts of Honor each year. Parents and family are encouraged to attend all Courts of Honor as this is a family event, and friends are also welcome. The Scout should keep track of any documentation (Merit Badge and Rank cards) issued, as they may be necessary to advance to the next rank.

After attaining the rank of Life Scout, the Scout will meet with one of the adult leaders in the troop and receive the *Life to Eagle Pamphlet*. This meeting is to discuss ideas and suggestions for your **Eagle Service Project**. Special guidelines have been outlined by the Boy Scouts of America for this project and your Eagle Service Project must conform to these guidelines. Your Scoutmaster, Troop Advancement Chairman, and District Advancement Chairman must approve your project before your project begins.

Additional information and detailed rules on advancement may be found on the web at <http://www.usscouts.org/advance/boyscout/intro.html>.

## Merit Badges



The Boy Scout merit badge program is an excellent way for Scouts to learn important Scout skills in more depth and to explore many different careers and hobbies. It's not uncommon for a Scout to select a career or lifelong hobby from his experience with the merit badge program.

Scouts may work on merit badges at any time. A certain number of merit badges must be earned for the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle. A portion of those merit badges must come from the list of "required" merit badges. Merit badges required for the Eagle rank have a silver border and the others have a green border. It is recommended that a Scout carefully plan what merit badges will be obtained during each of their ranks – especially in preparation for their Eagle.

Many merit badges can be earned at summer camp. The Youth will consult with the Scoutmaster and select merit badges they wish to work on during camp. There will be a list of prerequisites for each merit badge. It is the Scout's responsibility to obtain the merit badge pamphlet, **read it**, and to complete the prerequisites prior to camp.

It is very important that a Scout manage and keep record of merit badges earned and needed for proper rank advancement.

There are generally three ways in which Merit Badges may be earned: at Summer Camp, during a Merit Badge weekend, or

working individually with a counselor. Youth Protection guidelines are followed at all times, especially when a scout works individually with a counselor.

### Merit Badge Process

- **Step 1:** The Scout decides on a badge he'd like to work on and approaches either the Scoutmaster or Advancement scouter about it.
- **Step 2:** The Scoutmaster or Advancement scouter discusses the merit badge with the youth and helps find a Counselor. The scout and adult leader decides if this is an appropriate badge for the young man. Note: Troop 318's practice is that if the Scout's parent is the appropriate Counselor, we require that at least one other Scout be involved, so that the badge is taught as a class to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest. Consult with the Scoutmaster before working on any merit badge at home.
- **Step 3:** The Scout fills out a "blue card" and gets it signed by the Scoutmaster.
- **Step 4:** The Scouts take their signed blue cards and give them to the Counselor, who holds on to them and fills them out as the Scouts complete their requirements.
- **Step 5:** When the badge is complete, the Counselor signs the card, and tears off his/her third of the card to keep as a record. The Counselor then turns in the other two thirds to the Scout who gives it to the Scoutmaster, who signs the card and gives one third to the Scout, and keeps the last third to use to write the information on a Troop Advancement Report. This final portion of the blue card goes into a file in the Scoutmaster's office, and the Scoutmaster also makes a note in a Troop Merit Badge notebook that the badge is complete.
- **Step 6:** The Troop Advancement scouter takes the report to the Council office, gets the badge, fills out the

accompanying recognition card, and returns the badge and card to the Scoutmaster while giving a copy of the Advancement Report to the Troop Advancement Chair.

- **Step 7:** The Scout is presented the badge at the next opportunity, usually a Troop meeting, while the card is saved to be given at the next Court of Honor to recognize the Scout's achievement. The Advancement Chairperson records the badge in Scoutbook, our Troop database for recordkeeping.

Ultimately, it is the Scout's responsibility to keep a record of rank and merit badge achievement. A Scout may always request a copy of his records from the Advancement Chair, so that he can see exactly where he stands with merit badges.

### **Completing Merit Badges**

The most common challenges for Scouts in completing merit badges are:

1. loss of interest over time,
2. not understanding the requirements before starting a merit badge, and
3. failure to complete a badge as part of a class, either with the Troop or at summer camp, and having to work on one's own.

Consequently, the Scouts who start a badge that they're really interested in or motivated to earn usually do well and finish in a minimum of time. Those badges that don't get finished right away are the tough ones for the scouts to complete. Here are some ways the Troop tries to address these problems, with some suggestions for what a parent can do as well.

A Scout should choose a badge based on his real interests, not on what everyone else is doing.

You can help your Scout by:

1. Knowing what Merit Badges he's chosen to work on, both at home and at camp
2. Talking with the Scout about his goals and progress
3. Congratulating the Scout on his success
4. Ensuring that he keeps a record of his achievement

Parents are encouraged to share their expertise and enthusiasm for a subject by being a merit badge counselor. Only registered merit badge counselors may sign the merit badge application card. To become a merit badge counselor, contact the troop Advancement Chairman for the appropriate registration forms. To learn more about being a merit badge counselor, see <http://usscouts.org/boyscouts/MBcounseling.html>.

Additional information on merit badges and the current requirements for all merit badges can be found on the web at <http://usscouts.org/usscouts/meritbadges.asp>. A listing of all current merit badge pamphlets, indicating the most recent edition for each pamphlet, can be found on the web at <http://usscouts.org/mb/mbbooks.html>. Also see <http://meritbadge.com>.

## Appendix F - Guidelines for Grubmasters and Quartermasters

The Patrol Grubmaster and Patrol Quartermaster are key jobs. No one should be Grubmaster or Quartermaster all the time, so that everyone has an opportunity to learn to plan, shop, and prepare for camp cooking. These guidelines are some hints that have been collected from years of experience.

1. Make the appropriate menu based on the type of trip!  
Backpacking trips and gear require different menus from “car camping”
2. Get a copy of the recipe for anything that requires multiple ingredients and calculate what you need based on the number of Scouts you are buying for. Some recipes for 4 servings may have to be doubled if you’re cooking for eight, or multiplied by 1.5 if you’re cooking for 6.
3. Check what the Troop has left over in the quartermaster area.
4. Do not buy sodas or other soft drinks in cans or bottles.  
Approved drinks: Juices (100%), milk, Gatorade mix (not premade), Kool-Aid mix. Buy the minimum amount you need (for example, orange juice for breakfast, and milk for cereal or cooking). Water is often better for you and reduces what you have to carry.
5. Do not buy already cooked foods unless absolutely necessary. They are much more expensive. This also goes for freeze-dried food. Only buy these for backpacking trips or for special treats.
6. Try to buy store brands, as they are usually less expensive. Buy bulk amounts instead of individual servings when possible. For example, a big bag of chips is much cheaper than buying a box of individual bags for everyone.
7. Consider preparing foods at home ahead of time. It is much easier to chop carrots and onions at home than on the

campout. You can store them in zip lock baggies in the refrigerator before you leave.

8. Freeze foods that will allow it if you know you won't need them right away on the trip. For example, make hamburger into patties and freeze them in double plastic bags prior to leaving on the trip.
9. Remember to include spices (salt, pepper, cinnamon, sugar, etc.) and condiments
10. Many items need no refrigeration until they are opened, but will spoil in a short time once opened if not kept cold. Some items, mustard, ketchup, syrup, and peanut butter will last a long time at room temperature. Mayonnaise and most salad dressings will spoil quickly if not kept cold. Restaurant style packets can be an excellent solution. They need no refrigeration and take up little room.
11. Remember to buy ice, charcoal, aluminum foil, paper towels, etc., if you need it. Some supplies are kept in the quartermaster area, but don't assume there will be enough unless you check there first. Extra plastic bags are always useful.
12. Ice in coolers will melt gradually and create a water bath in the bottom of the cooler. Using an old plastic milk carton filled with water and then frozen helps keep the ice from melting into a pool in the bottom of your cooler. Any food that might be damaged by water should be protected in heavy-duty zip lock bags.
13. Understand the type of cooking and cook gear you will take (backpacking vs. "car camping"). Make a list of the cooking gear you will need. For example, do you need the Dutch oven for a cobbler, or just pots for boiling water? Do you need a charcoal starter (chimney), or will you cook on gas stoves? Do you need isobutene for your backpack stove? Give the list to your patrol Quartermaster so he gets all the right stuff from the quartermaster storage area.

14. Try to stick to your budget. If you spend less, that's great as long as you have enough food for everyone. If you have to spend more in order to get the food required, you can ask all members of the patrol to chip in to pay the difference. But if you go over by too much, you may be asked to explain why you spent so much.
15. This is your job, not your parents. Don't change the menu just because your parents think that they know what your patrol should eat. However, you may get some good advice from your parents as they probably have lots of experience with certain foods and recipes. But your job is to provide for the patrol, based on the money they give you and the menu they helped plan.
16. The Patrol Quartermaster is responsible to ensure that Patrol gear is clean, ready, and complete to meet the requirements of the Grubmaster's menu. If you find deficiencies, report these to the Troop Quartermaster PRIOR TO the outing, so he can do something about it. The Patrol Quartermaster is also responsible to ensure at the end of an outing that gear is clean, dry, complete, and inspected prior to loading gear back into the Troop trailer, and is approved by the Troop Quartermaster.



## Appendix G - Suggested Shopping List for Personal Equipment

### Personal Equipment Guidelines

Proper equipment and clothing are an important part of safe and enjoyable outdoor activities.

Typical gear that a scout may bring on an outing would include a mess kit with utensils, a pack (backpack or day pack), and a sleeping bag. You should have shoes appropriate for the activity and always be ready for changes in the weather.

Scouts that have gotten to First Class, are permitted to bring hammocks, but understand that the Troop is not responsible for loss or damage.

Some equipment is owned and maintained by the troop, including equipment that must be shared such as cooking equipment. Troop equipment is assigned to individual patrols. The patrols are responsible for the care of the equipment and bringing the appropriate equipment for each outing. The patrols work with the troop quartermaster when troop equipment needs servicing or replacing.

Scouts will take care for all Troop gear in a respectful manner.

Each Scout is expected to provide personal equipment and appropriate clothing.

A basic list can be found in *Boy Scout Handbook*, however individual needs may vary depending on the activities and the location of the activities.

Some outfitters, such as the Coleman Store outlet in Smithfield and the Neuse Sport Shop in Kinston, offer discounts on camping equipment if you present your current Boy Scouts of America membership card.

While it is not necessary to purchase the most expensive equipment and clothing, the cheapest may not hold up long or perform well, so it may not be a bargain. It's always a good idea to compare with your fellow scouts and scoutmasters to learn what works well and what doesn't.

Online resources include

[www.campmor.com](http://www.campmor.com)

[www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com)

[www.backcountrystore.com](http://www.backcountrystore.com).

Proper fit is a key factor in some equipment, notably backpacks and hiking boots, so seek out knowledgeable advice or try out different styles or versions before purchasing if possible.

There is no need to buy everything at once. Start with most used or needed items first and then build over time or as need dictates. Birthday and Christmas or holiday wish lists can be an excellent way to get additional items. Shop sales at online and local sources to get high quality gear at a savings.

Consider individual needs in selecting gear. For example, a Scout that does a lot of backpacking and hiking will have a greater need for light weight gear.

## **Backpacks**

This is a basic equipment item, but does not have to be elaborate or expensive. The minimum requirement is a field pack or day back appropriate for carrying basic Scout essentials. Last year's school back pack may be sufficient. For many camping activities, camp sites will be close to transportation so clothing and camping items can be packed in a small duffle bag. For a first backpacking trip, it's ideal to borrow a backpack. Instructions on proper size, fit and adjustment are important. A decent quality pack rain cover is desirable as most packs are not waterproof.

## **Sleeping system**

In North Carolina, a 3-season, synthetic-insulated mummy bag rated at 20 to 30 degrees is the most versatile bag to own.

Down bags are quite warm but they do not retain heat if they get wet. A fleece sleeping bag liner can also be used as a supplement for very cold weather, and is nice to have for a lightweight sleeping bag by itself in the summer or warmer weather.

A stuff sack or compression sack are useful to keep a sleeping bag clean and compact on a trip, however bags should not be stored compressed for long periods of time.

### **Recommended sleep clothes**

A stocking hat for very cold weather helps retain body heat as significant heat loss is through the head.

A ground pad is an important part of a sleeping system. The pad provides and insulation between the body and the ground.



A half-inch thick closed cell foam pad such as the Z-Rest is generally the least expensive (around \$20), lightest (about one pound), and most durable choice.

Self-inflating insulating foam sleeping pads such as the Thermarest brand are more comfortable, a little heavier (around 3 pounds, depending on the style and size), and more expensive (around \$60 to \$120).

There are other self-inflating pads in other brands that generally are significantly cheaper than the Thermarest brand (e.g., Wenoka), but are also heavier (around five to six pounds), and bulkier, although they may be more comfortable because of their size.

Foam rubber or other open cell foam pads (i.e., egg crate pads) soak up water and do not cushion, insulate, or hold up well. Avoid a simple inflatable air mattress because they have no insulating value and are easily punctured.



**Rain Gear:**

Raingear is an absolute necessity for camping, and can serve double duty as an outer windproof layer. High-tech rain suits are available from many sources, and work very well, but are not a necessity. A durable poncho can be adequate and is much cheaper. Cheap plastic ponchos are often one-use items.

**Foot Gear: Shoes and socks**

Athletic shoes appropriate for general outdoor wear and activities are suited for many Scout activities.



For longer trip, extended hikes, rough terrain, wet weather, and other conditions, a waterproof hiking boot will protect the feet better than an ordinary athletic shoe.

Proper fit and the appropriate sock is important.

Don't compromise the comfort and health of your feet by wearing cotton socks. Use synthetic liners under a medium-weight synthetic/wool sock whenever you are hiking or wearing boots. Synthetic blends that combine the best of polyester and wool into a single sock and other similar blends are a more expensive alternative, but are better at keeping feet warm and comfortable under cold and wet conditions. Look for the wool/wool blend hiking socks at the scout store. They are perfect for keeping your feet warm and cushioned.

**Personal Clothing**

Cotton loses its insulating value when wet, so denim jeans and cotton sweatshirts are not the best as camping clothes. Multiple layers that can be adjusted during a trip or even over the course of a day is the best approach to outdoor clothing. Jacket weight will depend on the temperature and conditions, however the ever present rain coat can also serve as a layer to protect from the wind.

**Tents**

Tents are part of the Troop inventory and are not among the items a Scout will need. There are many different styles of tents,

although most will fit under the headings of dome tents and A-frame tents. The critical differences are found in the shape, size the materials used, and weight. Remember that troop policy is that the boy scouts must share a tent at least through First Class, so getting a tent as soon as the scout joins the troop is not necessary. Tents are purchased by the Troop. A ground cloth is a necessity for any tent to keep out dirt and moisture and to protect the tent floor from abrasion. Many tents have ground cloths designed specifically to fit the tent.

We use a standard tent (Half Dome 2plus from REI), as the scouts must learn to set it up in the dark and sometimes rain. Standardization is the fastest way to teach this.

### **Knives**

Since inception, teaching boys how to use, handle, and store legally owned knives with the highest concern for safety and responsibility has been an integral part of Boy Scouting.

After earning the Totin' Chip, a Scout is encouraged to keep one with them on all outings, and to keep it clean and sharp. Youth members are not allowed to carry large sheath knives, which are heavy, awkward to carry, and unnecessary for most camp chores. Butterfly knives are *absolutely* not allowed in the troop. Pocket knives with a 4" or shorter blade – or – a multi-tool is the most handy and useful tool to have.

## Appendix H - Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why does the Troop always travel in the Field Uniform?**

The uniform represents the positive influence Scouting has on our youth and creates a visible image in the community. By wearing his uniform, a Scout reaffirms his commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. It is also required in order to be covered under the BSA insurance policy.

### **My son has never been grubmaster before.**

Guidance and assistance is always available from the patrol leader, the troop guides, and the assistant and senior patrol leaders. See [Appendix F - Guidelines for Grubmasters and Quartermasters](#) for additional information.

### **How do we transport the food the grubmaster has purchased?**

This depends on the type of outing. If it is a mountain backpacking trip, non-refrigerated backpack type foods should be selected and will be divided among the Patrol members to carry. If it is “car camping” where we will be camping a very short distance from a parking lot, bulkier or refrigerated items could be considered. Safe food handling procedures involving temperature need to be considered along with the menu. (Example, if your second night meal consists of hamburgers, how are you planning to keep the meat below 40 degrees for two days?) The troop has grub boxes and coolers to help in the transport of food.

### **Can I get a refund if my son is unable to attend a trip?**

In most cases, the answer is no. The reason is that the outing fee covers the cost of the campsite rental, equipment rental, etc and these costs will still be incurred. Likewise, the grubmaster probably has already spent the food money for the patrol for the weekend. The exceptions would be if there was a per person charge for an activity and the minimum amount of participants

has been met such that the supplier is not charging for people not attending, or if someone attends in your son's place who had not previously planned to go.

**What should I do with my son's medication?**

If a Scout is capable, he can take responsibility to administer his own medication. However, if there is a concern about the effect of missed medication, an adult designated as the medic for the trip will be willing to monitor the administration of medication. Discuss this with the Scoutmaster.

**Why does my son always come home with a tent to dry?**

Frequently, the tents are still damp from rain or dew when the troop packs up to leave. Tents and any other damp equipment should always be dried prior to storage so they won't mildew. Scouts share responsibility in taking tents home for proper drying. It is important to take proper care of troop tents to extend their life and minimize troop expenses.

**Can a parent go camping with the troop on the monthly outing?**

Any parent is welcome to go on trips with the troop on an occasional basis. Sometimes there may be a limit on participants and registered leaders would be given preference. When accompanying the troop, however, always keep in mind that you are there under the direction of the Scoutmaster as a leader and not as your son's parent.

**Can I go camping with my son the first year?**

Usually it is not a good idea to go on frequent outings with the troop during your son's first year. This gives him the opportunity to learn how to work with his patrol and do things for himself without relying on you. Exceptions are made for parents of scouts with special needs.



**What if money is left over after the grub is purchased?**

Unless there are special circumstances, excess funds are returned to the Troop and are used to offset shortages when they occur.

**Does my son need to buy a backpack or a tent?**

Our troop does participate in backpack style camping, therefore a backpack will be needed at some point. We encourage you to discuss the proper backpack for your Scout with a Scoutmaster prior to making the purchase. A tent is not necessity, since boys will tent two or three Scouts in a troop provided tent.

**How do I contact my son in case of an emergency?**

Adult leaders carry cell phones, so ask them for their cell phone numbers prior to them leaving. Scouts will be asked to keep their electronic devices shut off during weekend camping.

**What are service hours?**

Service hours are ways for the scout to give back to his community, church, or school. Scouts often help out in their church nursery, assist at the library, etc. Service hours are a requirement for advancement for certain ranks. See section [Community Service](#) for more information.

**Do I just tell you what my son did for his service hours?**

No. The scout should ask the Scoutmaster for approval of his proposed service before he performs it. When complete, the scout should inform the Scoutmaster or give him a letter or similar documentation from the organization receiving the assistance for the Scoutmaster's review.

**How does my son get a blue card?**

Your son should obtain a blue card from the Scoutmaster **prior to working on a merit badge**. The answers to most questions on

merit badges can be found in the Merit Badge section [Appendix E - Rank Advancement and the Merit Badge Process](#).

**Can I sign off on the requirements for a merit badge?**

Unlike cub scouts, parents do not sign off on requirements unless they are a registered merit badge counselor for the merit badge in question. In the latter case, work should always be done along with another scout.

**Can my son work on merit badges as a first year scout?**

Yes. He probably will work on merit badges at summer camp and possibly on merit badge programs sometimes held on weekends or at district and council events. His first priority should be to finish the rank requirements through First Class before focusing on merit badges.

**How can I help my son with partial merit badges?**

Your son is responsible for keeping up with his progress towards the next rank and on partial merit badges. You can encourage him to complete the remaining requirements in order to achieve the merit badge. In case of questions, your son should contact the merit badge counselor or Scoutmaster. Scouts should maintain good record of their merit badges and advancement - this will be critical when preparing their application for Eagle.

**How to find merit badge counselors?**

A list of the current merit badge counselors for the troop is available from the Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair.

**How do the requirements for the various ranks get signed off?**

A scout must see a skill demonstrated, learn it, and demonstrate that he has mastered it. His troop guide, other approved experienced scouts, junior assistant scoutmaster, or an assistant scoutmaster will be happy to sign these requirements off for him.

**How is a Scoutmaster conference scheduled?**

The Scout should request a scoutmaster conference from the Scoutmaster.

**How is a Board of Review scheduled?**

After the scoutmaster conference is completed, the Scout should ask the Advancement Chair to schedule a BOR.

**Why is there a requirement for Scout Spirit at each rank?**

A main foundation of Lord Baden Powell's vision for the boy scouts was the patrol method. This means that everyone chips in to tackle the necessary tasks and also to support each other. Without attending a certain amount of troop meetings and outings the scout is not able to get as much out of their scouting experience because they don't get to bond with their group, form a team, and master the basic scout skills.

**How does my son request a leadership position and when?**

Your son may start holding positions of leadership at any time although it is usual for them to focus on Patrol Leader or Assistant Patrol Leader, positions which are elected by the patrols, until they achieve First Class rank. The Senior Patrol Leader is elected by the troop. For all other positions, the scout should talk with the current Senior Patrol Leader.

**Summer Camp****Will my son do merit badges at summer camp?**

Yes, a number of merit badge opportunities are available at Summer Camp. The Scout should discuss which merit badges to sign up for with the Scoutmaster or designated Assistant Scoutmaster.

**Is it important that my son go to summer camp?**

Yes, especially for the first year because it offers an opportunity to bond with the other first year scouts and to advance in rank together. In addition they will get to know the other scouts and scoutmasters in the troop better.

Summer camp is usually the premier scouting event of the year.

Being away from home, managing their daily schedules, and being immersed in scouting for a week all combines into an outstanding educational, healthy, and fun experience for the scouts. Every Scout is strongly encouraged to attend summer camp. In subsequent years, summer camp attendance allows older scouts to take up leadership roles, experience new activities (often fun, high-adventure activities), and continue merit badge classes.

**Should I drive up for the Parent's Night?**

Every family is different and you will need to answer this question for yourself. Many times, though, the scout has settled into the groove of summer camp by mid-week and seeing his parents may increase his homesickness and make the rest of the week harder - so it generally not recommended.

**Why is an additional physical form required for summer camp?**

The length of Summer Camp and the range of activities, including waterfront activities, create the need for the physical form completed by a doctor. This BSA requirement is consistent with other types of weeklong camps. The required health forms for all BSA activities can be found on the Troop website.

**Can my son call me while he's away at Summer Camp?**

Summer camp is a time for your son to gain independence and expected phone calls from home would diminish this opportunity.

The adults attending summer camp with your son may allow short phone calls or texts. It is best to leave it to their judgement.

### **High Adventure Activities**

#### **What are these High Adventure outings that I hear about?**

The High Adventure outings are ones that are directed at boys at least 14 years old. They are usually more physically challenging than the normal monthly outing. The addition of these activities help the older boys stay interested in scouting and stay with the troop as role models and leaders.

#### **My son is mature for his age and wants to go on these High Adventure outings. Why is there an age limit and can it be waived?**

Due to the nature and established purpose of these trips, age limits are established and will be adhered to. Most of the minimum age limits for various activities are set by national BSA policy.

### **Abbreviations**

#### **What is the PLC?**

The PLC is the Patrol Leaders' Council. It consists of the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, the Patrol Leaders and Assistants of each patrol, Librarian, Scribe, Chaplain Aide, Instructor, and Quartermaster who each have a vote. They are responsible for planning and conducting the troop's activities. See the section on Troop Organization and Leadership.

#### **What is a SMC?**

SMC stands for Scoutmaster Conference. When a scout has completed the requirements for a rank he asks for a Scoutmaster Conference. This is a chance for the scout and Scoutmaster to get to know one another better. The Scoutmaster gets to review the scout's growth and work with him to set goals for future

advancement. Also, he makes sure that the scout is ready for his Board of Review. See the section on Advancement for more information.

**What is a BOR?**

A BOR is a Board of Review. This is the scout's chance to meet with the troop committee before his rank is awarded. It is NOT to be a retest of the scout's mastery of the skills for the rank. That is the responsibility of the scoutmasters. Questions may be asked about some of the requirements as a means of getting to know the scouts. In addition, he is asked what is going well with the troop and what he would like to be changed. The committee values these suggestions and will pass them along anonymously to the scoutmasters.

## Appendix I - Reference Links

- Troop 318 - [www.nctroop318.org](http://www.nctroop318.org)
- Follow us on Twitter #nctroop318
- North Raleigh United Methodist Church - [www.nrumc.org](http://www.nrumc.org)

**Note: Troop 318 does not endorse any of the following websites. They are included for your convenience.**

- BSA National Council at [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)
- Occoneechee Council – [www.campdurant.com](http://www.campdurant.com)
- Merit badge information at <http://meritbadge.com/>.
- The *Guide to Safe Scouting* can be found at <http://www.scouting.org/pubs/gss/>; note that this publication is usually updated several times a year, and that the updates are described in an appendix.
- EagleScout.Org is dedicated to helping Scouts become Eagle Scouts at <http://www.eaglescout.org/>
- A huge amount of information can be found at <http://scouter.com/>, <http://www.macscouter.com/>, <http://www.netwoods.com/> and also at <http://www.scoutorama.com/>
- Scouts-L, the "Electronic Roundtable that Never Ends", at <http://www.engr.tcu.edu/%7Eeidson/scouts-l/>
- Just about everything you could want to know about scouting can be found at the [U.S. Scouting Service Project \(USSSP\)](http://www.usscouts.org/) at <http://www.usscouts.org/>
- Animated Knots at <http://www.mistral.co.uk/42brghtn/knots/42ktmenu.html>
- [Outdoor Action Guide to Winter Camping](http://www.princeton.edu/~oa/winter/wintcamp.shtml) at <http://www.princeton.edu/~oa/winter/wintcamp.shtml>
- Order of the Arrow at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/>

## Equipment

- Campmor at <http://www.campmor.com/>
- REI Recreational Equipment Inc. at <http://www.rei.com/>
- L. L. Bean at <http://www.llbean.com/>
- Great Outdoor Provision Company at <http://www.greatoutdoorprovision.com/>
- Wood Badge and Eagle Scout Gifts and Collectables - [Spirit Signs](http://www.spiritsigns.com/) at <http://www.spiritsigns.com/>
- Johnson Worldwide Associates, including [Eureka!](http://www.jwa.com/), [Camp Trails](http://www.jwa.com/), [Silva](http://www.jwa.com/) and more at <http://www.jwa.com/>