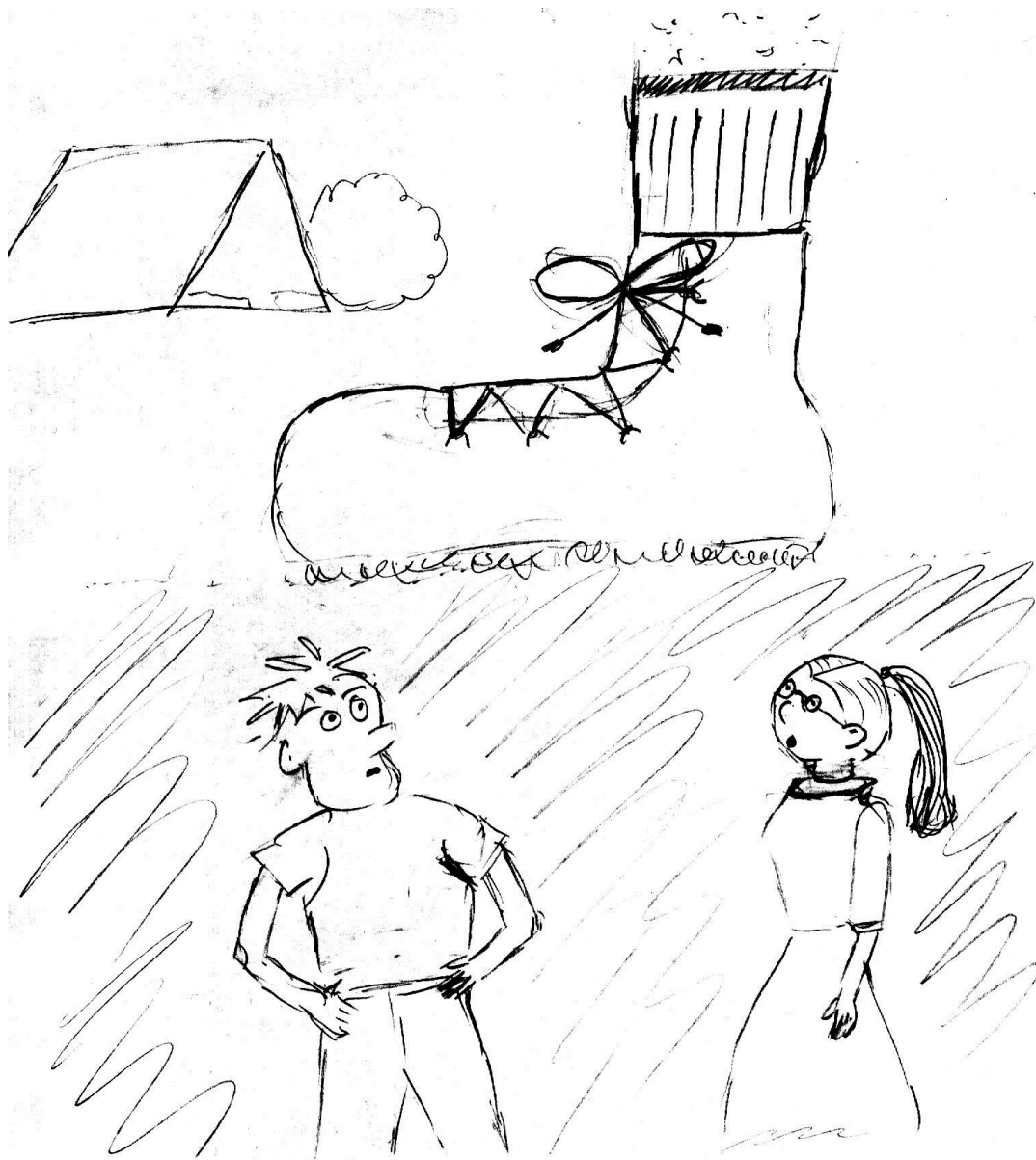


The Boy Scouts of America
Troop 449
Chapel Hill, NC



THE PARENT'S GUIDE BOOK
TO THE FIRST YEAR WITH TROOP 449
Spring 2012

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Acknowledgements:

Thanks and a tip of the hat to Gregg Gerdau, Scoutmaster, Troop 9. He penned the original Parent's Guide Book, and while serving as our Chartered Organization Representative for Troop 449 in 2011, offered it for our usage. We've modified it extensively to fit our specific needs. It's become an important reference document for all the Scouting Parents of Troop 449.

This Document is meant to be an active and ongoing source of information about our Troop. Like any document, it is subject to change, or certain information may become outdated. Your primary source of current information on the Troop, Troop Policy, and Troop Activities are the Troop Scoutmaster, the Adult Committee Chairman, and the Chartered Organization Representative.

Submit corrections, additions, or deletions to Al Townsend

Dear Parents,

It dawned on me a few years ago that parents of new Scouts are clueless. I had this revelation because I was clueless! It was not on purpose. After all, I had been very active in my son's Cub Scout Den and Pack. My wife had been a Den leader for three years. I sort-of knew Cub Scouting. We had done all the things required of the Pack and moved up to Boy Scouts. How hard could "Boy Scouting" be? Then the next level of the "Scouting" organization unfolded before my eyes and I was overwhelmed.

The leaders used words like Roundtable, Council, 1st Class, Tenderfoot, Merit Badge, and the ever elusive Blue Card. All terminology I had never used before, let alone knew what it meant. Oh, I had been to a few Roundtables as a Cub Scout Leader but I was quite clueless about how important all that was.

I soon realized my son was into something important and that I was going to have to know something about it as well. Little by little, the Troop started to become a "known" entity to me. I no longer felt like a "deer in the headlights." My first year's commitment to the Troop was to find out why the Council reports were NEVER correct! (Four months of occasional visits to Council and supporting the Troop's records revealed that the report was being called up for the wrong year. It was an issue unique to Troops with re-charter dates in January.)

The next thing I realized was that a "boy run Troop" meant that things did not always run like a finely tuned machine! The hardest part of that first year was resisting the urge to help too much. I was firmly instructed to sit on my hands; the boys would eventually handle the job themselves. This was excellent advice and I will pass it on to the parents of any bridging Cub Scouts. In Cub Scouts, your job was to present new experiences and help them. Your job in Boy Scouts is to help present opportunities, get out of the way and let THEM DO it themselves.

For parents who are just starting your Scouting experience, my advice is to get involved, be enthusiastic, and join in the fun BUT let THEM DO the work.

I prepared this guide to help parents get through that first year when Boy Scouting is new and confusing. Your son has the potential to achieve Scouting's highest rank, that of an Eagle Scout. Statistics show those boys with active and involved parents tend to soar higher.

Gregg Gerdau, Scoutmaster
Troop 9, Chapel Hill

How Are We Organized?

The National Council of the Boy Scouts of America supports more than 300 local councils that provide quality youth programs, including Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting and Venturing. Our local council is the Occoneechee Council, which serves Chatham, Cumberland, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Lee, Moore, Orange, Vance, Wake, and Warren counties as well as Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base in central North Carolina. This council is divided into smaller units, known as districts. Troop 449 belongs to the Orange District, which serves Scouts in Chapel Hill, Hillsborough and all of Orange County.

So, Just What Is A Troop Meeting?

Let's walk through a typical one and then I will tell you why some are different than others. Troop 449 meetings are always Class A uniform dress, unless his Patrol Leader notifies your Scout otherwise. The boys and their leaders gather at 7:15pm, pledge allegiance to the Flag, repeat the Scout Oath and Law, and the Scribe takes attendance. General announcements follow. Then Troop-wide activities take place, led by the Senior Patrol Leader. This could be teaching a merit badge, working on rank advancements, or learning a specific Scout skill.

After Troop-wide activities, the boys break into Patrol Meetings. These are led by the Patrol Leader and generally focus on preparation for upcoming outings. Duty rosters, meal plans, tent assignments and other outing-related tasks are discussed and agreed upon within the Patrol. Additionally, requirements for National Honor Patrol awards can be accomplished.

Scouts may also request Scoutmaster conferences during the weekly meetings. The Scout requests these when he has completed all requirements for a rank advancement. Once the Scout and Scoutmaster discuss and agree upon goals for the Scout's next rank, then the Scout asks the Advancement Chair for a Parent Board of Review. Upon completing the Parent Board of Review, the Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank advancement.

Patrol Leaders' Councils (known as PLC's) are the first Tuesday evening at 7:15pm, in place of the Troop meeting. In these, the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, individual Patrol Leaders and the Scoutmaster discuss and plan upcoming Troop Meetings and the monthly outing for the next month.

Now—the part you were waiting for—there is a specific rhythm and flow to these meetings. The PLC actually begins the Scouting month. Two or three Troop meetings are used to prepare and plan for the upcoming outing. Outings take place

over a two or three day weekend. Then it is time for another PLC to plan for the next month.

A Word About Attendance...

We know that boys have other activities that will sometimes take precedence over Troop Meetings and outings. The program makes allowances for this, as the only "minimum" time requirement is to reach Eagle rank before their 18th birthday. We generally see Scouts who participate most frequently advancing more frequently. For this reason, new Scouts are encouraged to attend as often as possible, with a target of at least 75% of both Troop Meetings and outings in the first year to develop "Scout Spirit."

When And Where Are The Meetings?

Generally, the boys' regular meetings are every Tuesday night from 7:15 to 8:45 in the New Fellowship Hall at New Hope Presbyterian Church—but that is sometimes revised due to holidays and other events. We meet year round. Our Troop calendar, available through our internal Google Site, has the meeting schedule.

The Troop Committee meets in the Old or New Fellowship Hall on the second Monday of each month. We ask parents to attend these meetings to receive information about upcoming outings and activities. Occasionally, we have separate parents' meetings to give the adults a chance to participate on Boards of Reviews (to be explained later).

The Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) meets once each month on the first Tuesday. The Senior Patrol Leader chairs this meeting, and the Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders, Quartermaster, Scribe and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader attend. All are welcome, but these Scouts are fulfilling their responsibility to lead their Patrols and the Troop with adequate planning and communication with the Scoutmaster.

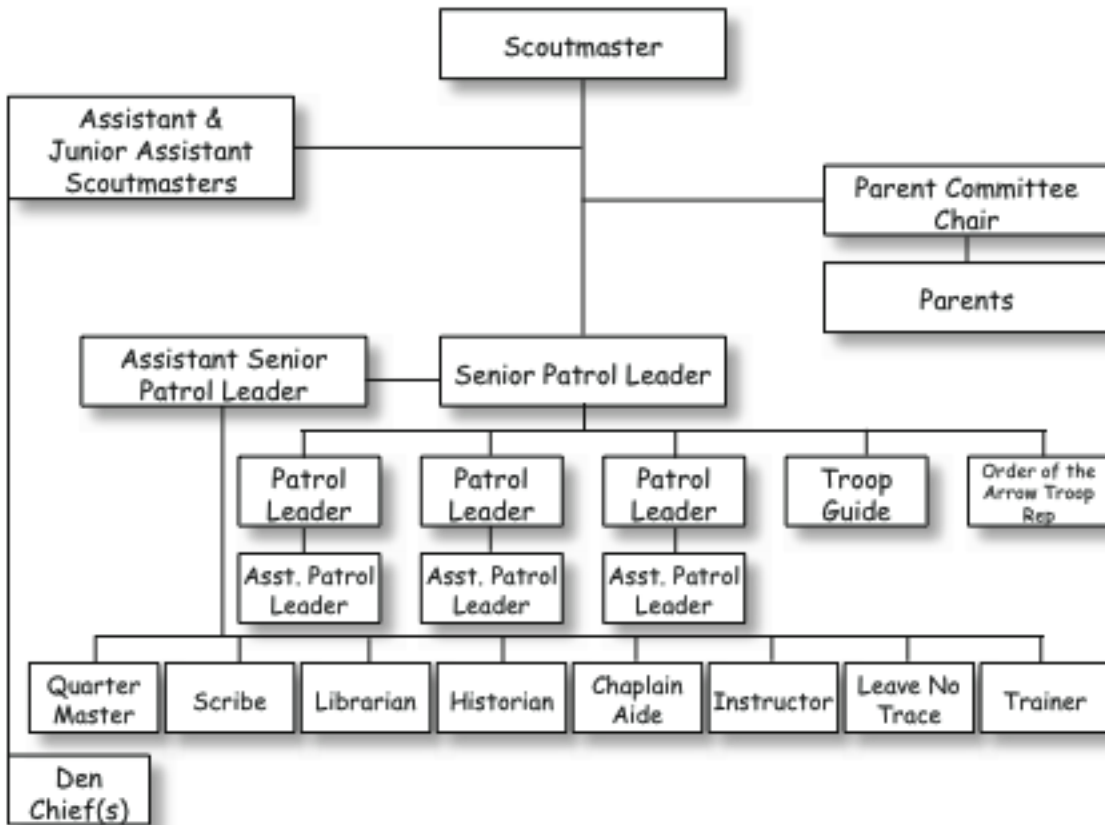
So, What Do I Do During The Troop Meetings?

Parents will generally drop their Scouts off at the rear entrance to the Church by 7:15 pm. When weather permits, many Scouts play outside until the Troop Meeting starts. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to come inside. Parents who stay during Troop Meetings frequently find themselves discussing Troop matters, assisting in Troop logistics, counseling on Merit Badges, participating in Boards of Review, volunteering as drivers for outings, and finding many other adult opportunities to serve the Troop. The Scout Parent is the backbone of the organization, and their contributions are invaluable.

Who's Who In The Troop?

Our Google Site has a general directory with names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses for both the boys and the adults in the Troop, as well as a Scoutmaster Directory, and a Committee Directory. These lists are updated periodically. If you have not have access to the Google Site, or don't know how to get in, ask any Troop Adult to refer you to the appropriate person. Feel free to call anyone on the list if you have questions.

Following is a Troop organization chart. The Patrol Leaders' Council is made up of the Sr. Patrol Leader, Asst. Sr. Patrol Leader, Patrol Leaders and Troop Guides.



Class A, B, And C Uniforms—He DOES Have A Thing To Wear!

The boys have three classes of uniforms. They should check with their patrol leader if they have a question about which uniform to wear to a specific event.

The Class A uniform is the full dress uniform, with bolo and slide, every patch in the proper place, Scout belt, Scout pants and socks (Scout socks required with Scout shorts). This is the required uniform for all special ceremonies, for public events, and for weekly Troop meetings (sash optional). Unless otherwise directed, we also travel in Class A (minus the sash).

The Class B uniform is slightly less formal. It's the T449 gray quick-dry T-shirt and Scout pants/shorts. This is the dress for less formal, less public events, including service projects.

The Class C uniform requires any Scouting T-shirt and/or Scout pants or shorts. All the rest is optional and completely dependent on the activity or type of outing event.

What Do I Need To Buy?

The Troop provides your son with uniform shirt insignia: a Troop numeral patch, red (not green) epaulet ribbons, Scout World Crest, Occoneechee Council patch, and patrol patch. You will need to buy a uniform shirt and pants. He will eventually need a Merit Badge sash but this can wait until he earns one or two. I suggest buying the long sash as the boys grow into them by the time they are 18.

The Boy Scout handbook is required for tracking Scout advancement. Fees for these handbooks change annually but are generally in the \$10 to \$15 range.

New uniforms are very sturdy, somewhat expensive and our boys tend to grow out of them before we know it. We have some gently used cotton Scout uniform shirts and pants of various sizes available. Check with the Scoutmaster or Quartermaster to see if we have the necessary sizes.

We also have quick-dry class B t-shirts with the Troop 449 logo available for purchase. Most of our Scouts purchase one or two of these.

Current BSA Uniform Shirts are now made of 100% polyester and are extremely durable. BSA Uniform pants (called Switchback pants) are now made of 100% Dupont® Supplex nylon and include a nylon web belt with the Universal Emblem embossed on the buckle. In addition to all the features of modern "cargo pants", Switchbacks have zip-off pant legs, turning long pants into knee-length shorts. These are ideal for all season backpacking and camping activities. Additionally,

they serve as Class A uniform pants. We recommend you and your Scout try them on at a Scout Shop, as the polyester and nylon fabrics are difficult to alter.

Uniforms can be purchased at the Scout Shops inside the Council Headquarters in Raleigh and at the Cumberland Scout Shop in Fayetteville. They are also available online at <http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsasupply/>.

Occoneechee Scout Shop	Cumberland Scout Shop
Council Service Center	Frontier Shopping Center
3231 Atlantic Avenue	717 Hope Mills Road (Hwy. 59)
Raleigh, NC 27604	Fayetteville, NC 28304
(919) 850-0301	(910) 426-5684
Fax: (919) 850-0392	Fax: (910) 426-5670
Toll-Free 1-888-421-4744	Toll-Free 1-888-421-7268
HOURS	HOURS
Monday through Friday: 9 A.M - 6 P.M.	Monday through Friday: 9 A.M - 6 P.M.
Saturday: 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.	Saturday: 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.
Closed Sunday	Closed Sunday

Recommended camping and hiking equipment checklists for various types of outings (car camping, backpacking, canoe camping, summer camp, etc.) on the Troop 449 Google Site under Equipment Lists. You do not have to get everything at once, but a good sleeping bag and ground pad are essential. Hiking boots, while expensive and frequently out-grown, are also essential for most camping and backpacking trips.

Some of the items make excellent birthday gifts. Remember that we want equipment to be functional. Nalgene water bottles are not as "neat" as a camelback water container for hiking but work just as well. Both are acceptable.

The first rule of thumb for clothing for almost all outdoor activities is NOT to wear clothes made of cotton. When wet, cotton does not keep you warm and it takes a while to dry. When we are doing outdoor activities, cotton will soak up sweat and keep the moisture touching the body, increasing chances of getting hypothermia. Today, clothing companies make everything from t-shirts to tank tops to thermal underwear out of synthetic fabric.

You will want to have your Scout wear long johns or long underwear made of synthetic fabric for added protection. Cotton long underwear should not be worn. The same goes for socks: no cotton. A guide to outdoor clothing is on the Troop 449 Google Site under Equipment Lists.

Personal Health and Medical Records

It is important to have current medical forms on file with the Troop. Blank forms can be found on the internet on this link:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsorce/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx>

Or on our Google Site under Links, then Forms, Annual Health and Medical Form

This is a new form that, beginning in 2009, must be filled out annually by all participants—youth and registered adults.

The Troop also maintains a Parental Permission and Release and non-prescription medication permission form for each Scout.

Fire, Knives and Rifles

Fire, knives and rifles means SAFETY, SAFETY, AND SAFETY!

The boys are required to attend and pass several safety classes before they are allowed to light a fire, carry or use a pocketknife, or get anywhere close to a rifle. The Troop runs fire safety and knife safety classes from time to time for Scouts, but are always available at Summer Camps. A boy who demonstrates that he knows the necessary skills is given a "Firem'n Chit" and/or a "Totin' Chip." The boy is required to have the card with him whenever he is working with fire or a knife. Violations of safety rules result in a corner of the card being cut off. Cards without any corners require the boy to take the safety class over to obtain a new card.

Rifle safety is not as lenient. Boys taking Rifle or Shotgun related Merit Badges at a BSA Council Camp will be taking a safety class as part of the merit badge. This is probably THE Merit Badge area that BSA does best! It is a well run, well controlled and VERY well supervised program. Boys coming out of the training do not mess around!

Rank Advancement

Your son will advance through the Boy Scout ranks in the following order: Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Star Scout, Life, and Eagle. Your son's Scout Handbook details the various rank requirements in detail and with a great deal of explanation for HIS reading. The requirements at each level become more and more difficult.

The first four ranks are very important and teach the skills for Scouting. Your son should reach the rank of 1st Class after approximately one year with the Troop. I strongly suggest that your Scout attend a Council-run BSA camp during his first summer. They have special courses for the new Scout that really jump-starts the rank advancement process. The courses cannot take care of all the requirements but they are real close!

Parents are welcome to help the boys learn the skills in the first few ranks but the Scout must be able to demonstrate their abilities to someone other than Mom or Dad. A Scout Leader or Counselor makes the decision on whether or not a rank or merit badge requirement has been accomplished.

There is a whole strategy about getting from 1st Class to Eagle Rank. Do not worry about that yet. By the time your son gets to 1st class, you will be much better informed about the remainder of the Ranks.

Each time a boy finishes the requirements for his next rank, he meets with the Scoutmaster in a "Scoutmaster Conference." The Scoutmaster checks the Scout's manual and confirms that the technical requirements of the rank have been met. He also discusses "Scout Spirit" with the Scout to determine how he is integrating the lessons of Scouting into his daily life. The Scout then has a separate meeting with a three-member adult board, called a "Board of Review." The board is made up of non-leader parents who ask questions appropriate for the rank involved. The adults may ask any questions, but we do have a "sample" list available as well. It is an opportunity for a boy to get more comfortable talking to adults and for him to voice his likes or dislikes about the Troop. A boy must be in full uniform to participate in a Scoutmaster Conference and a Board of Review.

Merit Badges

Scouting allows boys to follow some of their own interests by offering 120 different merit badge opportunities. Scouts can earn merit badges as a Troop, with their patrol, with friends, at camp, or on their own. Twelve specific badges (the silver-rimmed badges) and nine miscellaneous badges (the green-rimmed badges) are required for the rank of Eagle. Our Troop allows even the new Scout

to work on merit badges while he is learning the skills required to achieve his 1st Class rank.

The badges offered are listed in your son's Scout Handbook. A separate merit badge pamphlet, or "book," is available for every merit badge. Each pamphlet lists the requirements and contains information about the topic.

When a Scout decides to work on a merit badge, he should first request permission from the Scoutmaster and receive a "Blue Card". The Scoutmaster may recommend a specific Counselor or refer the Scout to our Google Site for a list of active Counselors. Many counselors want to talk to the Scout BEFORE he begins his actual requirements. They want to know how the boy plans to progress through the requirements and often times have some specific issues they want to cover. Do not assume that the book covers everything. Requirements occasionally change without the pamphlet being re-published. Please make sure your Scout checks with the counselor before he starts his work. Once the Scout has contacted and gotten the Counselor's approval, he should then obtain and read the appropriate pamphlet. The Troop has a library of some pamphlets. They can also be purchased at the Scout stores or online.

The following web site is a comprehensive site for BSA merit badges <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges.aspx>. While this is a wonderful service to the leaders and Scouts, it is no substitute for reading the pamphlet.

Worksheets for the Merit Badge requirements can be downloaded and printed from http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Merit_Badge_Worksheets

Merit Badge College

Orange District, other Districts and Occoneechee Council, host intensive days of selected merit badge classes and/or appointments with Counselors several times year. Although many of the classes require the Scout to complete some prerequisites before attending, some do not. If the Scout reads the merit badge pamphlet and comes prepared, he often finishes the day with one or two merit badges completed. Reminders to sign up for these events are given at the Troop meetings.

Adult leadership classes are also offered at Merit Badge Colleges. They are open to all parents and some of the classes fill up quickly. CPR is especially popular.

What's a Blue Card and Will It Survive the Washing Machine?

I'll explain the official Blue Card procedure, and then I'll let you in on what we actually do in practice.

The Blue Card is a three-section card used to track progress of work performed toward Merit Badge requirements. The Scout obtains a blank Blue Card from the Scoutmaster, fills out the application section, and takes it back to the Scoutmaster for authorization to start the Merit Badge. He also gets the name and phone number of a counselor for the merit badge from the Scoutmaster. It is the Scout's responsibility to get this information and to contact the counselor. He should do this before he starts the merit badge because some counselors want to see the Scout throughout his time working the badge. Others do not but it is up to the Scout to find out.

After the Scout is done working the merit badge, the counselor will sign the appropriate sections of the Blue Card, keep one section and return the others to the Scout. These two remaining pieces of the card are given to the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster signs the card and gives the two sections to the Troop's Advancement Chairperson, who is responsible for purchasing the awards for the next Court of Honor. That Advancement Chairperson submits a request to Occoneechee Council to document the merit badge award. The badge and the Scout's section are returned to the Scout at the awards ceremony—the Court of Honor. The boy is then responsible for safekeeping of the Applicant's section in case the council record gets fouled up (not unheard of), or he moves to another council.

Reality time: The boys are not especially good at keeping the Blue Cards; no matter what precautions they are given. The cards get "lost," "washed," "eaten by the dog," etc. The merit badge is attached to a presentation card and the Blue Card. These cards should be kept and saved by the boy. They have the same information as the Council record and are the official documentation needed by Boy Scout Councils if there is a dispute.

This process of holding onto the Blue Cards has simplified merit badge disputes many times. In one case the Scout was SURE he had done a specific Eagle required badge when, in fact, it had been a completely different badge. The Blue Card in the file was the only thing that jogged his memory. (He was not one of the boys who made a habit of keeping his cards safe.) There have been other occasions to correct council's records before the boy even knew there was an issue.

By the way, the answer to the question about a Blue Card surviving the washing machine is a definite, unquestionable "NO." Those tucked away in a boy's pocket

Dues

Troop dues are set annually in September by the Parents Committee, after a review the Troop's annual plan to determine the cost of running the Troop for the next year. For 2012-2013, the dues will be \$80 for each boy. A 50% discount is given to siblings of current Scouts. Additional fees for expenses related to specific outings events will be required separately. Our Troop Treasurer maintains an accounting file for Troop Finances, and arranges for each Troop Member to have their own account. Invoices are rendered periodically, and are due upon receipt.

Food aka "Grub"

Meal plans (known as "duty rosters") are drawn up by patrols before each outing. The boys are responsible for obtaining, transporting, cooking and feeding themselves. Adult leaders draw up their own "duty rosters" for each outing.

Finances (advances or reimbursement) for "grub" are also handled by the patrols.

What Can I Do?

There are many ways you can support the Troop. Here are some of the opportunities available.

Become a Board of Review Member

Rank advancement "reviews" are done during Troop meetings on selected dates posted on the calendar. We typically assemble one or more Boards of Review from the parents in attendance. Boys must be in full uniform to be reviewed.



Boards of Review are explained in the "Rank Advancement" section but I do not want to discourage those of you who jumped to the "What Can I Do?" section. Therefore, here is a reminder. Each time a boy finishes the requirements for his next rank, he meets with the Scoutmaster in a "Scoutmaster Conference." The Scoutmaster checks the Scout's manual and confirms that the technical requirements of the rank have been met. The Scout then has a separate meeting with a three-member adult board, called a "Board of Review." The board is made up of non-leader parents who ask questions appropriate for the rank involved. The adults may ask any questions, but we do have a "sample" list available as well. It is an opportunity for a boy to get more comfortable talking to adults and for him to voice his likes or dislikes about the Troop. A boy must be in full uniform to participate in a Scoutmaster Conference and a Board of Review.

Assist on an Activity Plan

Many times, we need someone to coordinate an outing or activity. Having someone reserve the campground or park may be the extent of the need. However, some events require more logistical support. We'll recruit leaders for all of Activities including Service Projects, Camping Trips, and High Adventure Trips. These persons will coordinate with the Scoutmaster Corps and our Outdoor/Activities Chair to ensure safe and successful boy-led activities.

Volunteer to Work an Outing

Scouting is "Fun with a Purpose." There are many occasions when the adults are training the boys at the same time the event is in process. You might volunteer to be the second or third adult on a backpacking trip. Help the boys plan menus. Take your son and his "buddy" to the store to purchase food on their shopping list for an outing.

Become a Merit Badge Counselor

This one is a little scary at first. However, if you have a hobby or profession that you would like to share with the boys, there is probably a Merit Badge for it. Specific Merit Badges are listed in your son's Boy Scout Handbook. If you are interested, the Troop will obtain a current Merit Badge requirement list for you.

There is one training class required for Counselors. It is a one-hour course on general conduct and safety including the rules on "two deep" requirements. (See "Training Classes for ME?" section on Youth Protection for an explanation of "two deep.") Parents may also wish to take this class just to be more informed about what to expect from a counselor meeting.

Be our Representative at Roundtables (Roundtable is not pizza!)

A Roundtable is a monthly meeting held by the Orange District to keep the adult leadership up-to-date on upcoming events and to give them special training. It is also a place to find out what the other Troops are doing or talk about your Troop ideas with other trained adults. The meetings are open to anyone involved in Scouting and parents are welcome. Meetings are the 1st Monday of every month (except July) from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Sunrise Church, 1315 New Hope Trace Rd., off New Hope Church Rd., just north of I-40.

Training Classes for ME?

Youth Protection Class

Every Troop outing must have at least one adult who has taken the Youth Protection Class and there must always be "two deep" leadership. "Two deep" means at least two adults are present. However, there are some occasions when it might be one adult and two or more boys. This often happens when we are

traveling and have to take multiple vehicles. The only time an adult can travel alone with a solo Scout is when they are family members. It's a safety precaution required for both the boys and the adults.

We would like all our adults to take the "Youth Protection Training". It can also be taken online by creating an account at <http://www.myscouting.org>

Other Training

Parents who wish to participate in Troop Activities or serve on the Adult Committee are required to take the "This is Scouting", an overview of the Scouting Program (available online) and the "Troop Committee Challenge", an overview of the Adult Committee Structure and Goals (available online).

Additionally, many of our events require an adult who is CPR certified. A few of the events require adults to be "Safety and Water Afloat" trained. Please let us know if you are CPR certified or would like to take training. Occasionally, Orange District conducts classes in these areas and we'll let you know when they will take place. Merit Badge Colleges are another opportunity to get additional training for a minor fee.

Adult Leaders who have completed their Position Specific Training, Youth Protection Training (online), Boy Scout Fast Start (online), This is Scouting (online) and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills training may wear the TRAINED strip on their uniform. If you are interested, please notify the Scoutmaster who will put you in touch with the resources you need to obtain this training.

BSA Activities vs. Troop Activities

BSA activities are attended by the boys and trained leaders only. Trained leaders are required to have a current Youth Protection certificate. Examples of BSA activities are the BSA Council run summer camps.

Troop activities are attended by the boys, parents, and trained leaders. At least one trained ASM (or SM) is needed for every activity. This is to ensure the Guide to Safe Scouting, patrol method and other scouting methods are followed.

Annual Events

September: Annual Dues Collection

January: Troop Re-charter

April: Orange District Camporee

July: Summer Camp

December: Last Court of Honor of the calendar year

Other Courts of Honor are scheduled at least twice a year and more often when necessary (Eagle Courts of Honor).

Financial Grants

The leaders of Troop 449 have made it a priority that any boy who is active in the Troop, supports his Troop with his time and talent, and wants to go to camp, will not be denied the opportunity for financial reasons. Please contact the Scoutmaster for an application for a grant. All such information is confidential.

Where Do I Put Those Patches?

Every patch has a place. The following page is an "Official Placement of Insignia Inspection" sheet. Your son will not have every patch that is on the inspection sheet (yet). He may

receive a patch for attending a special event. The special event patches are "temporary" patches and may be worn on the right pocket below the button. The adult leaders sometimes sew them on a jacket or remembrance blanket. The boys may do that also but keep in mind; those boys will be big men by the time they graduate. Get something that will grow with them.

BOY SCOUT/VARSITY SCOUT UNIFORM INSPECTION SHEET
OFFICIAL PLACEMENT OF INSIGNIA

SHOULDER EPAULETS AND LOOPS

RIGHT SLEEVE

LEFT SLEEVE

RIGHT POCKET

LEFT POCKET

Conduct uniform inspection with common sense; the basic rule is neatness.

Merit Badge Sash. If worn, merit badges are attached to front (and back, if needed) of sash. Venture/Varsity letter is attached at bottom front corner. Temporary insignia may be worn on back.

Shoulder Epaulets. Red shoulder loops identify Boy Scouting (all members of a troop). Blaze (orange) loops identify Varsity Scouting.

Left Sleeve. Council patches, unit numeral, and badge of office are worn as shown snug up, and touching each other. Badge of office is centered below and touches unit numeral. The veteran unit bar (25, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, or 80 years) is positioned above and touching troop numeral and in turn touching council patch. Den chief cord is worn over the left shoulder and under epaulet.

Left Pocket. Service stars above the pocket. If a medal or embroidered knot for youth members is worn, service stars are raised. Embroidered square knots are worn centered above the pocket in rows of three. Not more than five medals may be worn, pinned centered immediately above the pocket (extending over knots if both are worn). The wearing sequence for knots or medals is at the wearer's discretion and lead color is to the wearer's right. Badges of rank are worn centered on the pocket above the Arrow of Light Award. Flap buttoned. The World Crest is worn centered horizontally over the left pocket and vertically between the left shoulder seam and the top of the pocket.

Right Sleeve. U.S. flag. Only the most recently earned Quality Unit Award may be worn below patrol emblem or below National Honor Patrol star. Musician badge, if in band or drum corps, is worn 1/2 inch below patrol emblem. Up to six merit badges may be worn on the long-sleeve shirt in two columns of three starting 3 inches above the bottom edge of the cuff.

Right Pocket. Jamboree insignia (only one) worn above BSA or interpreter strip. Order of the Arrow lodge insignia worn on pocket flap. Temporary insignia worn centered on the pocket. Flap buttoned. The Varsity or Venture strip is worn above the BSA strip or above the interpreter strip. Nameplate, if worn, is centered above the BSA strip, interpreter strip, and Venture or Varsity strip.

SHOULDER SEAM

GULF COAST

ASSISTANT SENIOR

Position above diagram on left sleeve to guide you on proper placement of insignia.

The Scouting Seal Is Your Guarantee of Quality, Excellence, and Performance.

OVER

What Defines the Boy Scout Program I Have Heard So Much About?

The entire program focuses on the aims and methods of Boy Scouting. Although they can be found elsewhere in Scouting literature, new parents will quickly understand many of the Troop's actions by referring to these aims and methods section. They can help explain almost every aspect of the Scouting program.

Boy Scouting works towards three aims. One is growth in moral strength and character. We may define this as what the boy himself is: his personal qualities, his values, his outlook.

A second is participating citizenship. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn obligations to other people, to the society he lives in, and to the government that presides over that society.

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

It is important that we know and use the **Methods of Boy Scouting**. Other methods are good, but they may bring different results—results quite different than we are seeking. The methods are designed to accomplish these aims:

Advancement

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

Ideals

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

Patrols

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

Outdoors

Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose.

Being close to nature helps Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and humankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Adult Association

Boys learn from the examples set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage of a young man's development.

Personal Growth

As Scouts plan their activities, and progress towards their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. There probably is no device so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn.

The religious emblems program is also a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Scout to determine growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development

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

Uniform

The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals.

The uniform is practical attire for Scout activities, and provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

E-mail Access:

There are four primary E-mail List Serves for Troop Use. They are:

BSA Troop 449 (at large)

BSA Troop 449 Parents

BSA-Troop 449 Committee

BSA T449 Eagles Nest

Each of these List-serves has a specific function, as evidenced by title.

Enrollment/Subscription is necessary for access to these lists, and is managed by the Troop Committee Communications Chair. Once enabled, e-mails will be received on a variety of Troop topics.

Please follow protocol and respond to sender of specific announcements rather than to group at large. This limits the "traffic" on the List-serves. When correspondence with a specific individual is desired, individual e-mail addresses are available in the member directory of the BSA Troop 449 Google Site.

Internet Information

There are a huge number of Scouting web sites but there are only a few that you might be interested in during the first year. They are:

<https://sites.google.com/site/bsatroop449> Troop 449 Google Site by enrollment only. This is a PRIVATE Site for members only. Includes calendar, extensive web links, spreadsheets, rosters, equipment lists, and other information necessary for Troop activities. See Committee Chair or Communications Chair for access.

<http://www.bsaorange.org>

Orange District's Web Site

<http://www.ocscouts.org>

Occoneechee Council's Web Site

<http://www.meritbadge.com>

Detailed Information on Merit Badges

<http://www.scoutstuff.org>

Online Scout Shop