

Troop Resource Guide for Scouts and Parents



Scouts BSA Troop 214
Benson Memorial United Methodist Church
Raleigh, North Carolina
Impeesa District
Occoneechee Council
January 2019

Preface

This guide is written primarily for new Scouts and their parents; however, every Scout and parent of Troop 214 should be familiar with its contents and should use this guide as reference whenever appropriate. These pages explain how a typical Scouts BSA troop operates, with additional information specific to Troop 214 and to the Occoneechee Council. The information comes from many sources including the *Scout Handbook*, *Guide to Safe Scouting*, and *Scoutmaster Handbook*. Every Scout and their parents are encouraged to read this entire guide upon joining Troop 214, and to consult it as a reference guide as needed. It's a bit long, but it had to be to cover everything that inquiring minds want to know!

This guide will be revised as needed.

Table of Contents

Welcome Letter from Scoutmaster -----	5
The Purpose, Mission, Vision, Aims, and Methods of Scouting -----	7
Joining Troop 214 -----	9
Regular Troop Meetings -----	10
Charter Organization -----	11
Information Distribution -----	12
Dues, Fund Raising, and the Cost of Scouting -----	13
Uniforms -----	14
Books and Other Materials -----	16
Medical Forms -----	17
Outings -----	18
Troop 214 Camping Policies -----	19
Camping Program -----	19
Camping Permission -----	20
Patrol Planning for Campouts -----	20
Patrol Gear -----	21
Camping Drop-off & Pickup -----	22
Adult Leadership Requirements -----	23
Smoking and Alcohol Policy -----	23
Transportation -----	24
Tenting Arrangements -----	24
Health & Medical Issues -----	25
Webelos and Arrow of Light Scout Camping with the Troop -----	27
Personal Equipment Guidelines -----	27
Advancement -----	32
Merit Badges -----	35
Summer Camp -----	36
Community Service (Service Hours) -----	37

Troop Organization & Leadership	37
Other Scouting Opportunities	39
Behavior, Conduct, Troop Rules	40
Religious Instruction	41
Hazing and Initiations	41

Appendices

Appendix A - Webelos to Scout Transition	42
Appendix B - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	45
Appendix C - Scouting-related links on the Web	51
Appendix D - Merit Badge Process for Troop 214	52
Appendix E - Guidelines for Grubmasters	56
Appendix F - Directions to Frequently Used Campsites	59
Appendix G - Suggested Shopping List for Personal Equipment	61



Welcome from the Scoutmaster

On behalf of the entire Troop, I want to welcome you and your Scout to Scouts BSA!! We're glad you've chosen Troop 214 and we want to make sure that you have lots of fun and learn lots of Scout skills. This handbook contains our policies and gives you some information that I hope will help you make a smooth transition into the Troop. If you have any questions, please let me know. You can meet me (Scoutmaster Stuart Thomas) at a Scout meeting on Monday nights, call me at home at 504-957-6577, or contact me via email at scoutmaster@troop-214.org.

We are also very proud to have a Scouts BSA Troop for Girls at Benson Memorial! You may contact Scoutmaster Beverley Cash by phone at 919-272-1939 or via email at sm@troop-214.org.

Scoutmaster Philosophy

Our goal is to help Scouts develop the skills of **leadership** as they learn to be **responsible citizens**, all the while having fun and learning **camping skills** in the outdoors. We expect that as the Scouts learn, they will advance in rank. We hope that each youth 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 their goal and to provide support and advice along the way.

The responsibilities of the Scout are to try their best to live up to the Scout Oath and Law and to take the initiative in working toward their goals. The parents' role is to provide love and support, and the willingness to accept that the ultimate responsibility for achievement lies with the Scout. We try to work with each Scout as a unique individual; each has their own set of needs. If you perceive that your Scout needs a different type of support or motivation than we are giving, please come talk to us. We will do our best to meet each Scout's needs. However, no one Troop can be ideal for everyone. If your Scout is not enjoying our program and we can't change it, we encourage you to examine other Troops. We would rather see a Scout transfer and be happy than drop out of Scouting.

As Scoutmaster, I meet with each Scout in a Scoutmaster's Conference several times a year to find out how they are doing and what they need to continue to have fun and advance. Scouts (and parents) do not have to wait for such a conference to talk to me. If there is something you want to tell me, either in public or private, let me know at any meeting and we will find a place to talk. The Assistant Scoutmasters are also available to help you if you have any problem or concern that needs our attention. Remember that we are here to help you in any way we can.

Notes to Parents

Most youth love the "outing" part of Scouting and approach new adventures enthusiastically. However, many parents, especially parents new to Scouts BSA, express their own fears, concerns, and insecurities when talking to their children about scouting events. Some examples include negative comments such as "It's going to be so cold and

wet” before a winter campout, or “I know you’ll be homesick” prior to summer camp. Children pick up on their parents’ comments and are influenced by them, sometimes keeping them from attending events or making them unnecessarily worried or insecure. The Troop’s activities and events have been performed safely for decades. As Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters, we carefully prepare the Scouts for new situations, and they mature, learn, and gain confidence from the challenges. In the Troop meetings prior to events and outings, Scouts are introduced to the skills and equipment needed, and additional training and support during the campouts is provided by both adults and experienced Scouts. Your youth will be fine if you keep your words, tone, and facial expressions positive. Please don’t make the situation harder or less enjoyable for them by being negative. If you have concerns, please talk to me or any of the other adult leaders.

Troop 214 has historically been an active troop. Like other organizations, the larger it is and the more activities it has, the more support the Troop needs. The Troop cannot function well without **active parental support**, which includes the following:

- Ensuring your Scout attends and is prepared for Scout meetings, campouts or other activities.
- Actively following your Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and encouraging your Scout to advance.
- Being aware of the Troop program and annual calendar.
- Attending Courts of Honor and other family activities.
- Supporting Popcorn Sales, Eagle projects, and other activities.

Being an active troop has helped make Troop 214 very successful. It also means that there is always more that needs to be done. Adult leadership is needed at many levels, and there are many ways you can contribute, from being a member of the Troop Committee, a Merit Badge Counselor for the Troop and/or Council, an adult adviser for a youth leader, or a Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster. You are encouraged to read the section of this guidebook on Troop Organization and Leadership, and to contribute in any way that works for you. Most Scout leaders have found that being actively involved is a great way to bond with their children, that adult Scouting is highly enriching and satisfying, and that the more they put into it, the more they get out of it. Some of the adult Scout leader training courses are top notch, and will significantly benefit your business and personal life in addition to honing your Scouting skills. Try it – you might find you like it! Please see any adult leader or Scoutmaster if you want to contribute. Don’t let the youth have all the fun!

A common misperception is that Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters that work with boys must be men – this is not so! Scout youth benefit from positive adult role models of both genders. Scouting has many female Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, and other leaders who have won Scouting’s highest awards for excellence. Female leaders are always welcome in our Troop. Troop 214 is proud to have a “Brother” and “Sister” troop, and welcomes female Scouts and leaders. Occoneechee Council has designed a Scouting Outdoor Skills course for women, taught by women, to facilitate trained, capable, enthusiastic leaders who happen to be female. Women are also welcomed at all other training and leadership opportunities at every level.

National BSA Policies

It is our intent that all policies of Troop 214 be consistent with the policies of the National BSA organization. If National policies should change so that any policies stated here are no longer consistent, we will, as soon as we know about them, attempt to conform to the National policy, even if a new edition of Troop 214 policies have not yet been distributed.

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 214.

Thank you, and welcome to the Troop!

Stuart Thomas
Scoutmaster, Troop 214 (Boys)
Beverley Cash
Scoutmaster, Troop 214 (Girls)

The Purpose, Mission, Vision, Aims and Methods of Scouting

These items are sufficiently important that they deserve to be clearly stated herein:

Purpose

The purpose of the BSA — 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. Using the same curriculum as the Boy Scouts program, **Scouts BSA** is scheduled to launch in February 2019, enabling all eligible youth ages 11-17, to earn the Eagle Scout rank. Scouts BSA will be single gender – all girl troops or all boy troops. This unique approach allows the organization to maintain the integrity of the single-gender model while also meeting the needs of today’s families. Troop 214 has founded a “Sister” troop that will operate with some crossover of leadership, the same advisory committee, and the same charter organization as the “Brother” Troop 214. At this time, “Boy Scouts of America”, “BSA”, and “Scouts BSA” are used interchangeably in literature and materials, including this document.

Mission Statement

The mission of Scouts BSA 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 BSA 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 Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. Scouts measure themselves against these ideals and continually try to improve. The goals are high, and as they reach for them, they have some control over what and who they become.

Patrols

The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches youth 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

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 Scouts gain an appreciation for the beauty of the world around us. The outdoors is the laboratory in which Scouts learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Advancement

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



Associations With Adults

Youth 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 Scouts, encourage them, and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives.

Personal Growth

As Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Youth 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 optional religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Scout to determine their growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development

The Scout program encourages youth 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 youth accept the leadership role of others and guides them toward the citizenship aim of Scouting. Troop 214 scouts are offered formal leadership training twice annually.

Uniform

The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. 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 worldwide group 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.

Joining Troop 214

Selecting a Scout troop to join is an individual decision for each youth and their family. Every troop is different in the kinds of activities they schedule and in their personalities. Youth should choose the troop that they feel will best meet their needs. In selecting a troop, they should consider the following factors: Are the troop activities the kind that they would enjoy? How do the Scouts interact with each other? How do the older Scouts interact with the younger Scouts? Are there older Scouts active in the troop? (This indicates if the troop's program is exciting and interesting for a variety of ages.) Is the troop "youth led" or do the adults lead it? (The best answer is the troop is "youth led".) Are you comfortable with the adult leaders in the troop? Are the adult leaders trained, do they follow BSA policy, and do they welcome input and participation by all parents? In practice, the decision of which troop to join usually comes down to two factors: convenience of the weekly troop meetings (meeting night and location) and which troop a youth's best friends are in.

Note that Troop 214 will try to accommodate and work with Scouts with special needs – please consult with the Scoutmaster if you have a special needs Scout.

A Scout has the freedom to transfer to another troop if, for any reason, they change their mind after joining a troop. When comparing troops it is not too important how large a troop is, or how many Eagle Scouts it has, or how many high-adventure trips they go on. The measure of a successful troop is how well it meets the three aims of Scouting: encouraging participatory citizenship, building strong moral character, and helping youth to grow physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. In other words, do youth leave the troop better people than they were when they joined?

A parent or guardian should accompany their Scout to a troop meeting when they decide to join Troop 214. One of the adult leaders will visit with youth and parents to explain Troop 214's program and procedures. You should receive the following materials and forms either that night or after joining:

- Scouts BSA application
- Personal Health and Medical Record form
- Troop Family Information Survey
- Troop roster (by patrol)
- Adult application
- Current Troop Calendar
- List of adults in Troop

At the next meeting, adults should return the completed Scout application, Personal Health and Medical Record form, and Troop Family Information Survey along with the registration fee of \$85 (see the section entitled "Dues, Fund Raising, and the Cost of Scouting" for additional discussion about these dues). This fee includes your registration with Scouts BSA and a subscription to *Boys' Life* magazine. Please contact either the Scoutmaster or the Committee Chair if the fee presents a financial burden. If you or your youth are transferring from either Webelos II/ Arrow of Light rank or another troop, please include existing membership card or BSA ID number with the application. If your child is a new Scout, review the joining requirements found on page 4 of your *Scout Handbook*. Before you return the above forms, you should complete joining requirement number 9: With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide* which is found inside the front cover of your *Scout Handbook*.

(If you don't have the *Scout Handbook*, see the section of this guide entitled "Books and Other Materials" on page 16 to learn where to get one.)

Please also provide email addresses for the parents and the scout to the Scoutmaster, any Assistant Scoutmaster, or Troop Committee chair. Email is one of the primary methods by which communications are sent to families. We understand and respect the need for privacy and take care to keep email addresses confidential.

Regular Troop Meetings

Troop meetings are held Monday evenings, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., at the Scout Hut at Benson Memorial United Methodist Church. We try and end all meetings promptly at 8:30 p.m., as we realize that both Scouts and adults have probably had a long day and

may still need to do homework or chores after the meeting. Please make arrangements to be at the Scout Hut by 8:30 p.m. so that your Scout (and leaders) will not have to wait to leave. Weekly Troop meetings are held year-round except during summer camp and during the Christmas season. Please check the Troop 214 calendar for the meeting schedules, as some Mondays there will be no meeting, based on various national and WCPSS holidays. The most current Troop calendar is always posted on the website at: <http://www.troop-214.org> (click the Calendar item on the menu bar). Whenever severe weather forces the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) to close schools for the day, all Scout meetings are also canceled.

Siblings of Scouts should not attend Troop meetings, unless they are youth of Scout age considering joining the Troop, or the meeting is designated as a family-invited event (such as a Court of Honor). But they are welcome as rare exceptions as needed.

Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) meetings are usually held on the first Monday after the first Sunday of each month from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Scout Hut. All Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders, and other junior leaders are strongly encouraged to attend; any interested Troop member is also welcome to attend.

The Troop Committee has two types of meetings each month. The first Troop Committee meeting is usually held on the second Monday, the week after PLC from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. (Note: the Troop Committee sometimes reschedules to accommodate the needs of the Troop or the Troop Committee members, so please check the calendar in the newsletter for all meetings.) Troop Committee meetings are usually held in the Fellowship Hall at the Church or in the Administration building. All interested parents are invited to attend. Subsets of Troop Committee meet the following Monday to conduct Boards of Review (Boards of Review are explained on page 33 of this guide) for Scouts who are advancing.

We understand that Scouts will not be able to make every meeting and every campout. Family, church, and school activities often conflict with Troop activities. High school sports and band activities often demand an inordinate amount of time. But attendance is important. As the *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. All Scouts are appreciated whenever they can attend any event. Our Troop has historically been a very active troop. The strength of Troop 214 depends on the attendance of its members. The Troop activities fall into three primary areas of activities: Troop Meetings, Troop Outings, and Troop Service Projects. Being active in this Troop means being active in all three of these important areas. It is not sufficient to attend only meetings---scouts that do quickly lose interest in the Troop and leave. They also miss the "outing" part of scouting. It is not sufficient to attend only the outings---the meetings are used to teach important skills and allow the older Scouts to teach and prepare the younger Scouts for these activities. Likewise, the Troop Service Projects are where the second point of the Scout Oath, duty to others, is put into practice.

All ranks above Tenderfoot require the demonstration of Scout Spirit, of which an important part is participation with the Troop. The scout ranks of Star, Life and Eagle, as well as Eagle Palms, require an active participation level for rank advancement. Furthermore, the second point of the Scout Law says that a Scout is loyal, and the demonstration of loyalty to your Troop and patrol requires that the Scout participate in their activities. Scouts who involve themselves in other Scout activities outside the troop, such as Order of the Arrow Outings, OA Tapout ceremonies, OA inductions, Scout summer camp counselor, Philmont High Adventure Treks, den chief activities, Cub Scout crossover ceremony participation or other Scout related activities may count those non-troop activities towards their overall participation level, but they do not replace being active in the Troop. Scouts not meeting an appropriate activity level in the three areas of activities may be denied a board of review until they fulfill this requirement.

Sometimes Scouts have trouble attending activities because of conflicts with school, sports, medical issues, or other reasons. We have had several Scouts who have had to take a break from Scouting because of these conflicts. If a Scout finds themselves in this position, they should notify the Scoutmaster of the situation and when they will be able to participate again. A Scout in this situation should realize that their advancement may slow down, but they will be advancing in another area (soccer, baseball, swimming, etc.). A Scout taking such a break should not hold a leadership position during any prolonged absence.

Charter Organization

Troop 214 is sponsored by Benson Memorial United Methodist Church and is open to all eligible youth regardless of gender, race, religion, national origin, or where they attend school. Benson Memorial believes that Scouting is an essential part of their youth ministries programs and provides meeting facilities and other support for our Troop. In return, each Scout is expected to assist in planned service projects that benefit the community as a whole and our sponsor in particular. Membership in Benson Memorial 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 <https://www.bensonmemorial.org/>.

Information Distribution

The most current information, announcements, and schedules for Troop 214 can be found at <http://www.troop-214.org>.

A Troop newsletter is emailed to every family in the Troop each month (please make sure we have your current e-mail address). The newsletter contains the most recent information about upcoming activities and an updated calendar for the coming month, and is a great way to keep up to date on activities in case your Scout forgets to share the information.

Important announcements will be emailed to the families and may also be posted on the bulletin board in the Scout Hut.

Dues, Fund Raising, and the Cost of Scouting

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

The Troop Committee recognizes that Scouting can be expensive and a strain on a household budget. *No Scout should be prevented from participating for financial reasons.* Financial assistance is available for any Scout who is unable to be fully involved in Scouts due to financial constraints. Please contact either the Committee Chairman or the Scoutmaster if you need financial assistance. Scouts must also demonstrate appropriate Scout spirit and adhere to the Scout Oath and Law to receive financial assistance.

Scouts in Troop 214 are expected to participate in fund raising projects to defray the costs of Scouting. This is in keeping with the philosophy that a “Scout is thrifty”, and should earn their own way in Scouting activities. The primary fundraiser currently used by Troop 214 is selling BSA Trail's End popcorn in October and November along with all other Scouts in Occoneechee Council.

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's policy has historically been to allocate 100% of its share of popcorn sales to individual Scout accounts to pay for major Troop activities such as summer camp, some high adventure trips, and other similar events as approved by the Troop Committee. In other words, for every dollar of popcorn sold by a scout, \$0.33 can be used by the Scout who sold it – based on a system that recognizes a Scout's loyalty and service in raising equal funds for the Council. This should encourage Scouts to sell popcorn as it directly benefits them!

Note that in many troops, the profits from popcorn sales go entirely to the troop, or are split between the scout accounts and the troop. This policy is reviewed from time to time by the Troop 214 Committee, and may be changed in the future. Consideration may be given to allocating a portion of popcorn profits and/or sponsoring other fund raising activities to finance costs such as major repairs to the Scout Hut, Troop trailer, etc. Also note that balances left in the individual Scout accounts when the Scout leaves the troop are forfeited and revert to the Troop's general funds.

The annual registration fee (currently \$85) consists of \$35 that goes to the National Council of Scouts BSA, and the remainder goes to the Troop 214 treasury to cover

general operating costs such as patches for rank advancement and merit badges, Troop camping equipment, troop t-shirts/books/neckerchiefs/etc. for new scouts, etc. The Troop Committee has decided to cover such costs from the annual fees rather than have additional fundraisers. Like all Troop policies, this one is reviewed periodically and is subject to change.

Many Troop activities involve expenses for meals and sometimes registration or camping fees. The Troop collects an activity fee from each participating Scout and Scouter to cover the cost of the event, and tries to keep it as reasonable as possible. In addition to the activity fee, each patrol establishes its own budget for food, and the patrol is responsible for collecting the money and purchasing its own food. 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 popcorn sales as previously mentioned). Scouts are expected to earn and save for their Scouting expenses and not simply ask their parents to pay for it.

Friends of Scouting

Each year, the Occoneechee Council operates its 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. Contributions are voluntary, but our Troop has an outstanding record of support for this activity. FOS is a critical source of BSA funding. Supporting the Scouting program through contributions to FOS is a great way to make a difference in your community.

Uniforms

A Scout's full uniform (the "**Field Uniform**"), is to be worn while traveling to, traveling from, and during all Troop functions, Boards of Review (see page 33) and Scout sponsored activities. Uniforms can be purchased at the Occoneechee Council office, located at 3231 Atlantic Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27629.

"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.

A full Scout uniform, also known officially as the **Field Uniform** and more colloquially as a **Class A** uniform, consists of official BSA Scout pants (can be long or short pants) or an optional BSA skirt for women; official BSA Scout shirt (long or short sleeve) complete with patches and green epaulets; Troop 214 neckerchief (see below); Scout belt, and BSA Scout socks. The short-sleeved shirt is more flexible than the long sleeved shirt, and long sleeve T-shirts or similar may be worn under the Scout shirt for added warmth. 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 left shoulder (never hanging from the belt). The *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 https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33066_Scouts_BSA_Insignia_WEB.pdf.

A well-prepared Scout should also have their Scout Handbook, a notebook, and pen or pencil at all functions. A Scout should consider these items as part of the 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. This is known as "the **activity uniform**" or also as a "**Class B**" uniform. Once the Troop arrives at a campsite, it may be acceptable and more practical to change out of uniform and into clothing more suitable for outdoor activities. Troop 214 has had several T-shirts made with Troop 214 insignia; these are available for purchase for \$13 each. These are particularly useful at summer camp, where Scout T-shirts are the standard uniform during merit badge classes and activities. In recent years the Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader have decreed that the Class B uniform can be worn to Troop meetings during hot summer months. This policy is re-considered annually and is subject to change.

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 class A or B uniform is not required is discouraged. Wearing of camouflage items with the BSA uniform is not acceptable.

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

Troop 214 Neckerchief Policy

All registered Scouts are given a neckerchief unique to Troop 214 (red with white piping with the Troop 214 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 / Arrow of Light Scouts bridging over to the Troop). The neckerchief is to be worn to all Troop meetings, campouts and events (unless specified otherwise) with the standard BSA Scout khaki shirt with the collar **rolled under** in the style set by Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of scouting. In the summer, the Patrol Leaders' Council may vote to leave off the neckerchief due to hot weather. Any Scout-related or other appropriate slide may be worn with the neckerchief. Rubber bands and string are not acceptable slides.

The Troop 214 neckerchief is given to Scouts with the explicit understanding that it is not to be sold, traded, or given away without express permission from the Troop Committee in advance. The few times permission has been given were for Scouts or Scouters to carry the neckerchief overseas to be traded with Scouts from another

country, in order to further the brotherhood of Scouting. Any foreign neckerchief received in such a trade is then to be donated to the Troop for its neckerchief collection.

If a neckerchief is lost or becomes ragged due to frequent wear, a new neckerchief may be purchased for \$12 (which is what it costs the troop) – see the Scoutmaster for a replacement.

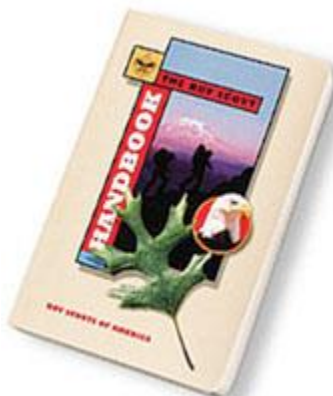
Adult Scouters are provided with a Troop 214 neckerchief when they become fully trained for and are serving in the Assistant Scoutmaster position in the Troop. The same requirements for wear and care of the neckerchief apply to adult Scouters in Troop 214.

From time to time, Scouts may get neckerchiefs from other troops or countries. Occasional wearing of neckerchiefs from other troops and especially from other countries is good for promoting the world scouting organization. However, other troop neckerchiefs should not be worn frequently, as the intent of the Troop 214 neckerchief is to promote troop identity, teamwork, and equality within the Troop.

Similarly, adult Scouters may get other neckerchiefs from participation in District or Council activities, training courses (e.g., Wood Badge neckerchiefs), or working with other troops. But while attending Troop 214 functions, they should normally wear the Troop neckerchief for uniformity and to show allegiance to the Troop. Wearing other neckerchiefs may be appropriate for special occasions, such as when we hold Wood Badge beading ceremonies (to show respect and allegiance to the Wood Badge recipient), or at District or Council events such as Roundtable.

Note that it's not wrong to wear other neckerchiefs, as long as they are official BSA items, but that it's preferable to wear the Troop neckerchief for any Troop 214 activities.

Books and Other Materials

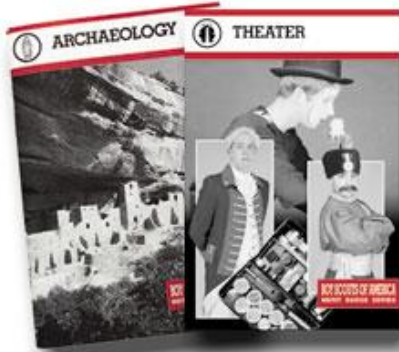


The first book that a Scout should obtain is the current edition of the *Scout Handbook* / *Scouts BSA Handbook*. It contains most of the information they will need to advance in rank along with important information about how a Scout troop functions, and what they will need to be prepared to go camping and hiking. *The Scout should put their name prominently on and in their Handbook when they first obtain it.* Besides it being their guide, it is also a permanent record of their progress and as such, they do not want to lose or misplace it. **They should bring their *Handbook* with them to every Troop meeting and on every campout.** They should start reading their *Handbook* right away. They should become familiar with its contents and should stay aware of what they need to

do next to advance in rank. The Handbook can be purchased at the Occoneechee Council Scout Shop in Raleigh. The Scout Shop also has canvas covers for the *Handbook*, which help protect it.

From time to time you will also need to purchase merit badge pamphlets for your Scout. 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 your Scout will need to complete the requirements. Any time they are working on a merit badge, they should have the current merit badge pamphlet. These books are updated often, so check the back cover of the current *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. 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 at 1-800-323-0732 (they don't currently sell online, but you can view their merchandise at <https://www.scoutshop.org/literature/for-scouts/merit-badge-pamphlets.html>. Merit badge booklets are also available at the trading posts at most summer camps, but may cost a little more at the camps.

Medical Forms

Everyone who goes camping with Troop 214 must have a Personal Health and Medical Record on file so that proper treatment can be made in the case of accident or injury. **You must have a medical form on file in advance, so plan ahead. There are three classes of medical records – read carefully to determine what is required in your situation:**

Part A and Part B are printed on the same form (Form 680-001). Part A/B is valid for any event that *does not exceed 72 consecutive hours* where the level of activity is similar to that normally expended at home or at school, and where medical care is readily available. Examples: day camp, day hike, swimming party, or a weekend camp. The Part B form is a Personal Health and Medical History. *A parent or guardian must update this section annually.* The Part A section covers the bottom front and top half of the back of Form 680-001.

Part C is needed for any event that *exceeds 72 consecutive hours*, where the level of activity is similar to that normally expended at home or at school, and where medical care is readily available. Examples: **summer camp**, tour camping, and hiking in relatively populated areas. Medical data required is *an annual health history signed by parents or guardian supported by a medical evaluation completed within the past 36 months by a licensed health-care practitioner¹*. The Part C form is designed primarily for Scout summer camp but could be used for any Part C activity. Part C is a *medical*

¹ Examinations conducted by licensed health-care practitioners other than physicians will be recognized for BSA purposes in those states where such practitioners may perform physical examinations within their legally prescribed scope of practice.

evaluation and requires a physical examination within the past 12 months and a doctor's signature.

The Part C Personal Health and Medical Record is required for any event involving strenuous activity such as backpacking, high altitude, extreme weather conditions, cold water, exposure, fatigue, athletic competition, adventure challenge, or remote conditions where readily available medical care cannot be assured. Examples: *high-adventure activities*, jamborees, Wood Badge, and extended backpacking trips in remote areas. Medical information required includes *current health history supported by a medical evaluation within the past 12 months performed and signed by a licensed health-care practitioner*. This form must be updated annually for all individuals planning to participate in high adventure trips or take Wood Badge training, regardless of age.

What this means is: When initially joining Scouts BSA, the Scout needs a physical examination to participate in most camping activities or to go to summer camp. You need to fill in the personal medical history section on the Part A/B Medical Form and take it with you to the doctor for completion and signature. It needs to be updated yearly by the parent. *However, all Scouts and adults* participating in high adventure activities, Jamborees, NOACs, campouts lasting more than 72 hours, etc. must have a physical examination by a medical professional, evidenced on a signed Part C Medical Form, within the preceding 12 months.

Copies of the Medical forms are kept in the Forms Rack in the Scout Hut. Copies may also be obtained over the internet from <http://www.scouting.org/forms/>. *Completed forms should be turned in to the Scoutmaster or their designee.* Please keep several photocopies for yourself, as you may need to provide them for different events.

Outings



"Outing" 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 214 schedules some sort of outing 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. A preliminary schedule of activities is published in the Troop's annual calendar. Adjustments may be made to some of the details, locations, and dates as the year progresses. Final details are published in the monthly Troop newsletter.

Outings usually have an activity fee to cover transportation, lodging (if applicable), admissions, and other costs. Every effort is made to keep activity fees as low as possible.

Activity fees are usually paid to the program committee (see Troop 214 Camping Policies which follow), but may be paid to the Troop Treasury for major events, and may be paid in cash or by check. Fees for major events such as summer camp may be deducted from your Scout's individual account (see the section entitled "Dues, Fund Raising, and the Cost of Scouting"), to the extent there are funds in the Scout's account from participating in Troop fund raising projects.

Your Scout's patrol Grubmaster will determine the amount of the food fee, if any. Food costs are separate from the activity fee. Your Scout's food money should be given to their patrol Grubmaster. Food money should always be paid in cash to make it easier for their Grubmaster to buy the patrol's food. Do not combine food money with the activity fee.

Note that if a Scout signs up for an outing and pays a deposit, that deposit is usually NOT refundable if they do not attend. Fees are calculated on a shared basis and dropping out or being a 'no-show' does not relieve the Scout of responsibility for their commitment. The same principle applies for grub fees, i.e., if the Grubmaster buys food for a Scout who commits, the Scout still owes for their share of the food whether they attend or not.

Scouts are expected to travel to and from outings in full activity uniform and to remain in uniform whenever they are in public. The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) will inform the Scouts when there is an exception to this guideline.

Many of the Troop's outings are in a wilderness setting. To preserve the wilderness experience and for safety, your Scout should not bring extra food or any electronic devices such as games, radios, CD players, cell phones, etc., on outings. Devices may be used while inside vehicles while traveling to/from campouts but are not to be used during campouts.

Troop 214 Camping Policies

Camping Program



Overnight camping is a requirement for rank advancement. The camping program for Troop 214 is planned by the PLC at a special planning session in late Spring, at which time the themes and major activities are chosen for the months from September of that year through August of the following year. Program committees are formed from the Scouts in the Troop for each

theme (one theme per month). Their job is to plan the program for that month and to plan the outdoor activity associated with that theme. There should be at least three

Scouts on each program committee. One Scout is designated by the SPL to be the head of the committee. This Scout's job is to ensure that the program committee meets and plans the activities in a timely manner and to represent the committee to the PLC.

An adult advisor is assigned to each committee. This 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 the Troop Adult Committee.

For each activity, a Troop 214 Campout / Activity Plan sheet (found on the forms rack in the Scout Hut) should be used to assist in the planning. Almost everything that needs to be considered is on this sheet. 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 program committee is expected to give preliminary reports to the PLC at the two PLC meetings prior to this, e.g., for a March activity, the final report is due at the March PLC (assuming that it precedes the activity), with intermediate reports due at the February and January PLC meetings.

Camping Permission

Troop 214 does not ask for separate permission slips for each campout or activity. The parent or guardian signature on the application form is taken as granting permission for all campouts and activities. If parents have a concern regarding a specific event, they are welcome to bring those concerns to either the Scoutmaster or the Troop Committee.

Signup and payment for regular campouts is to be done no later than the Monday prior to the campout. 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 and will depend on the situation. A signup sheet will be posted in each patrol room, and the sheet will have a column for those who plan to attend, and a column for the Scout to sign if they know they will not attend. All Scouts and adult leaders should sign one of these columns on the signup sheet in their respective patrol rooms so their Patrol Leader and the Program Committee can 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 4 members attending an outing, the patrol is expected to function as a patrol without combining with other patrols. If three 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.

Patrols are responsible for planning their own menus for each campout. These 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). The menu should take advantage of supplies in the Scout Hut when possible to save money. The typical cost for a weekend campout, with a bag supper on Friday, three meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday should be about \$12 to \$15 per person.

The Patrol Grubmaster is responsible for purchasing appropriate supplies within the given budget. If they go over the budget, they may be responsible for the additional cost themselves. Likewise, Grubmasters should take care to purchase the most inexpensive foods possible of good quality so that sufficient quantities can be bought with the money given. 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 that must 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.

For many of our outings, the Troop Quartermaster, the adult Quartermaster advisor, and the Patrol Quartermasters meet on the Thursday evening prior to the Friday of departure to assemble the gear needed and to make sure we have the supplies required for the outing. The Patrol Leader is responsible for appointing a Patrol Quartermaster for each trip and for reminding them to load the appropriate gear into the patrol chuck box. This process greatly improves our ability to depart shortly after assembling on Friday afternoon.

Patrol Gear

The Patrol Quartermasters and the Troop Quartermaster are expected to arrive early prior to campouts so they are ready to pack gear when the patrols arrive. They are also expected to remain upon return until all gear is returned to the Quartermaster Storage area. 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 at the Scout Hut to clean it before they can go home. Any gear damaged beyond repair (other than normal wear and tear) will be replaced by the patrol with all patrol members sharing in the cost.

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. The Troop Quartermaster is also responsible for Troop gear (other than Patrol Gear) such as flags, tools, spare parts, etc., and the proper storage of gear in the Troop Quartermaster Area. Their final responsibility is to perform equipment inspections of Patrol 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 will leave without him.

Scouts may not leave in the middle of any campout or event without the Scoutmaster's approval. This approval should be obtained prior to the campout. Scouts must also have prior permission from the Scoutmaster to meet the Troop midway through an event if that is needed, so that appropriate arrangements by the Troop can be made.

Upon return from a campout, several activities must be accomplished. First, 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". Second, gear must be unloaded from the Troop trailer, and the trailer returned to the rear of the parking lot and secured there with the lock and chocks. Third, Troop gear must be returned to the Quartermaster Storage Area by the Patrol Quartermasters and be stored in the bins. Chuck boxes and ice chests are to remain outside the trailer until emptied and cleaned. Lastly, the area around the Scout Hut and Quartermaster Storage Area must be checked for trash or lost items, and the Scout Hut and Quartermaster Storage Area may need to be swept if excessive dirt is tracked into them. The service patrol for that month has responsibility for final cleanup.

No Scout may leave until they have permission from their Patrol Leader. 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, they 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.

Adult Leadership Requirements

From the *Guide to Safe Scouting*: Two registered adults², 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. Co-ed 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.

Troop 214's policy is to have at least one registered adult present for each 10 Scouts involved in an activity. At least two adults, at least one of whom is a registered Scouter, should be present with each "group" of Scouts during an event in which "groups" break up into different areas that are physically separated.

Registered parents, guardians and other interested adults who have taken Youth Protection Training 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 (the Old Goats) 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 Scouts 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.

Smoking and Alcohol Policy

BSA policy is to discourage the use of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco. Thus, Troop 214 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 discreet a manner as possible. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on any Scout trip, campout or activity.

² A registered adult is one who has turned an adult volunteer application form with the applicable annual fee for registration with Troop 214, the Occoneechee Council, and Scouts BSA – and has completed online Youth Protection Training.

Transportation

From the Guide to Safe Scouting: If you cannot provide two adults for each vehicle, the minimum required is one adult and two or more youth members - never one on one.

Seat belts are required for all occupants. The beds of trucks or trailers must never be used for carrying passengers. A driver of a bus or any vehicle designed to carry more than 15 persons (including the driver) is required to have a commercial driver's license.

The guidelines on Transportation in Section XII of the Guide to Safe Scouting will be used for all Troop 214 travel with the only change being that Troop 214 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 themselves and gear (but not pull a trailer) on a campout if they are currently licensed, are driving their own or their family's vehicle with proper insurance, has at least 2 years of driving experience, has the permission of the Scoutmaster, and has permission of their 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. A registered adult leader will have responsibility of maintaining this driver information database. Consult the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair for questions or updates.

Drivers are requested to bring a mobile phone if they have one, and to share their phone numbers with the other drivers for directions and the parents of Scouts on the outing in case of emergency. 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.

Tenting arrangements

From the Guide to Safe Scouting: 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 and Scoutmaster. 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. In Troop 214 a scout must be 14 or older and First Class rank or above to tent alone. Rare exceptions to this rule may be granted by the Scoutmaster for wilderness survival campouts or for OA members. Appropriate hammocks with a rain fly

are acceptable under certain conditions but must be requested prior to the campout. Scouts who use hammocks will be required to bring a tent for emergency use. If a Scout is not well enough to sleep in a typical two-person tent on the ground, they are expected to stay at home to recover their health.

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 a physician's note has been obtained indicating that the Scout poses no threat to other Scouts or Scouters.

See also the section of this guide entitled "Medical Forms" on page 17 for the medical forms and physical examination requirements for participating in scouting activities.

Homesickness

The 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 Scout is going through particular stresses that might make homesickness more likely.

Our policy on homesickness on regular campouts is to encourage the Scout to stay involved with their patrol and in the planned activities as much as possible, to buddy up with a friend, and to avoid dwelling on being alone or away from home. Our experience is that having a Scout call home only makes the situation much worse, thus, we will not have them call unless we decide that they must return home, in which case the adult leader of the activity will call home and arrange for the parents to come pick up the Scout. The adult leaders will not leave the event to bring the Scout home! If the Scout begins to display symptoms of real illness, we will treat it as just that and will try to get the Scout medical treatment as necessary. Often the thought of going to an emergency room has convinced a Scout that they doesn't feel all that bad. We are aware, however, that some homesickness-type complaints, such as stomachache, can be signs of illness such as appendicitis, so we will err on the side of caution if we think the Scout may really be ill.

Our policy at summer camp is that no Scout will be allowed to call home unless there is a true emergency. During this time we will be very busy working to get the Scouts involved in their classes. We believe that if a Scout is absorbed in the activities, they will not have time to sit and worry about being away from home. If a Scout continues to insist on calling home, and refuses to take part in activities, we will first have a Camp Chaplain trained in dealing with homesickness meet with the Scout. If that doesn't work, we will then take them to the infirmary to be examined by the medical staff to make sure they are not sick from other causes. We will then follow the medical staff's recommendations for treating the illness or having the Scout taken home and will call you accordingly. Please do not ask your child to "call me when you get there". A Troop 214 adult leader will call you if there are any serious problems. Please do let us know if

your child has been homesick before and how they expressed themselves. This will help us recognize their symptoms, perhaps curtailing it before it gets too bad.

Webelos / Arrow of Light Scout Camping with the Troop

From the *Guide to Safe Scouting*: A Webelos Scout may participate in overnight den camping when supervised by their mother, father, or legal adult guardian. If a parent cannot attend, arrangements must be made by the youth's family for another adult relative to be a substitute at the campout.

Troop policy is that second-year Webelos/Arrow of Light (AoL) 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 Scouts BSA. When they camp with the Troop, their Den is expected to have a minimum of two deep adult leadership, with the understanding that youth who do not have a parent along must have written permission from a parent indicating that another adult relative will serve as the parental substitute. The Den Leader, Troop Scoutmaster, and ASMs serving in a Troop function may not be used as a substitute.

Webelos/AoL Scouts must have a Class I/A 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/AoL Scouts are welcome to attend campouts on which their Scout's Den is included, but must coordinate this with the Webelos Den Leader. All visiting adults should understand that the purpose of Scouts BSA is different from Cub Scouting and should work to facilitate the interaction of the Webelos Scouts with the older 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).

Personal Equipment Guidelines

Proper equipment and clothing are essential for safe and enjoyable outdoor activities. 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.

Each individual Scout is expected to provide their own personal equipment and clothing. A list of suggested equipment and clothing is found on pages 224 and 225 of your *Scout Handbook*. Some outfitters, such as the Greater Outdoor Provision Company, offer discounts on camping equipment if a Scout presents their current BSA

card – so ask if there is a discount for Scouts. 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 have your child compare with their fellow scouts and Scoutmasters to learn what works well and what doesn't.

Many items are available over the internet at less cost than you can find at local outfitters, at websites such as www.campmor.com, www.rei.com, and/or www.backcountrystore.com. However, some items need to be properly fitted, notably backpacks and hiking boots. For such items, local outfitters with trained staff are worth the possible extra costs for their knowledgeable advice and their fitting skills. Stores in the area that generally have well-trained staff and a good selection include REI and Great Outdoor Provision Company, although other stores are also good.

There is no need to buy everything at once – one can start with the critical items at first, and then put additional items on birthday and holiday lists, and be well equipped over time. Popular myth holds that better quality gear costs a fortune. Quality brand-name gear can be found locally or over the internet at very reasonable prices if one is willing to be patient and sometimes shop out-of-season, i.e. buy winter gear in spring and summer gear in the fall. The markups are relatively high, so when items go on sale, the discounts can be relatively high also.

A final note: a Scout often must carry everything on their back, sometimes for a distance, so pay attention to what things weigh. Generally speaking, assuming equal quality, the lighter equipment costs a little more, but your Scout will thank you for it.

Backpacks A new Scout doesn't have to buy their own backpack immediately upon joining the Troop, but generally will want to acquire one within the first year. When the campsite is within a relatively short distance of parking, a simple duffel bag or gym bag will suffice. When the time comes for a Scout to go on their first backpacking trip, they should borrow a backpack from the Troop or another Scout and see how they like backpacking. Trying on different models owned by other Scouts is encouraged.

Troop 214 generally recommends that a Scout's first backpack be an external frame (pictured) that is adjustable to accommodate growth in the early years. Internal frame packs are sometimes more comfortable, and may put the weight closer to the body, which is advantageous, but they usually aren't as adjustable as external frames, which is more critical with growing Scouts. Many manufacturers offer adjustable "youth" models. Do not buy a large backpack to "grow into". An ill-fitting backpack can cause a lot of discomfort and result in a miserable hiking experience. When trying on packs, make sure they are loaded with plenty of weight for a more realistic experience. If they can't find a youth model that they like, you should also look at women's models, which are typically smaller than full-size packs for men, and can be a good fit for a young Scout, male or female. Many malescouts in Troop 214 own a "woman's" pack. External frame packs typically load from the top and the rear, whereas some internal frame packs load only from the top (although most newer



internal frame packs also load from the side or rear). Packs that load from the rear as well as the top are easier to pack than a backpack that loads from the top only, and most importantly, are easier to retrieve items from in a hurry when you need something. Generally, the more separate pockets there are, the better, as long as the pack fits well. A capacity of 2500 to 3000 cubic inches is sufficient for a beginning pack. A pack rain cover is a good idea, as most packs will leak in heavy rain. Pack covers can be purchased relatively inexpensively, but a large plastic trashcan liner will work, is very cheap, and lightweight.

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 are not a good choice for youth, as 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, as the fleece liner is adequate when the lowest temperature won't go below 60°F. A stocking hat may also be needed for very cold weather as most body heat is lost through the head. Get a stuff sack when purchasing the bag or use a trash can liner in the interim. A compression sack is nice to have but not required.



A ground pad is an important part of a sleeping system. The pad is important for more than just comfort. The pad provides vital insulation between your body and the ground. A half-inch thick closed cell foam pad such as the Z-Rest is 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 much 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. These other brands may be a good choice for adults, but are too heavy and bulky for scouts. Avoid foam rubber or other open cell foam pads (i.e., egg crate pads) because they soak up water and do not cushion, insulate, or hold up well. Also avoid simple inflatable air mattresses because they have no insulating value and are easily punctured in the rough.



Rain Gear Staying dry is critical to staying warm. Raingear is an absolute necessity for camping, and can serve double duty as an outer windproof layer. High-tech rainsuits are available from many sources, and work very well, but are not a necessity. A Scout does not have to have an expensive rainsuit and is likely to grow out of it. A durable poncho can be adequate and is much cheaper. Avoid buying the cheap plastic ponchos that are like garbage can liners because they will not last even a single campout. Rain gear should be taken on **all** campouts, as it often rains when we camp!

Foot Gear Many youth wear athletic shoes everywhere: school, church, and during play. In good weather you may get by wearing them on a campout. However, a

waterproof hiking boot will stand up better to the rain, mud, and other conditions encountered on a campout and will protect their feet better than an ordinary athletic shoe. Under some weather conditions, an ordinary athletic shoe may be a serious health risk. Comfort is critical when hiking, so make sure they fit properly. Trying them on with thick socks is recommended.

Don't compromise the comfort and health of their feet by wearing cotton socks. They should use synthetic liners under a medium-weight synthetic/wool sock whenever they 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 they do a better job of keeping feet warm and comfortable under cold and wet conditions than pure wool socks. These synthetic blends are available over the internet or at most local outdoors stores. BSA now offers Class-A socks in a synthetic blend (made by Thorlo) that are excellent year-round socks, and they also comply with BSA uniform requirements.

Personal Clothing For a lot of youth, blue jeans are the all-purpose uniform for playing outdoors. However, because cotton loses its insulating value when wet, denim jeans and cotton sweatshirts are generally unsuitable as camping clothes. “Cotton kills” is a common expression in the outdoors and refers to cotton’s undesirable ability to hold moisture for a long period and the evaporative cooling that goes with it. Hypothermia can be a serious risk even in the warmer months. Therefore, their first or base layer should be a synthetic (usually some form of polyester). To ensure warmth and comfort, they should dress in layers of loose clothing. In colder weather, subsequent layers should also be of a fleeced synthetic, most commonly also made of polyester.

Tents 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 (i.e., the number of people it can comfortably hold), the materials used, and weight. Remember that Troop policy is that the Scouts must share a tent, so getting a tent as soon as the Scout joins the Troop is not required.

The main advantage of dome tents is that they are roomy and quite inexpensive – many can be found for less than \$75. The main disadvantage is usually weight; ranging from 10 –15 pounds, they usually are too heavy for anything other than car camping (sites where it’s a short walk from the car). Also, some of the lower-end tents have very small rain flies that only cover the top third or half of the tent, which will not be sufficient protection. Be sure to select a tent where the rain fly covers at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the tent, and that when erected, the bottom seams (where the bottom of the tent meets the sides) are at least 2 to 3 inches off the ground. A quality 3-season tent is recommended. We rarely if ever have a need for a 4-season or winter tent. Ventilation (lots of mesh) is much more valuable in our climate.

Dome tent with $\frac{3}{4}$ length rain fly



Backpacking tent, A-frame style



The ideal Scout tent usually should be less than 6 pounds (no more than 3 pounds per occupant). There are many styles to choose from, and costs for new tents typically start around \$100 and can go much higher. Places like www.campmor.com often have older models on sale that are just as suitable as the current year models. Given the many choices, styles, and weights, discussing options with other Scouts, Scoutmasters, or other campers is recommended.

Since a tent is usually the most expensive purchase and since the youth must share, it is not necessary to buy a tent immediately upon joining a Troop. Used tents sometimes can be found, sometimes at the bulletin board at the scout hut. However, if you don't know the history of a particular tent, be careful. Nylon and polyester rain flies lose their waterproofing ability in direct proportion to the amount of exposure to direct sunlight and their care in proper storage, and it is not easy to renew the original waterproofing once it is lost.

Most tents are waterproofed at the factory, and most are also seam-sealed or seam-taped, but if you purchase a tent that is not seam-sealed, you will have to perform this procedure yourself prior to the first use. Tents usually need to be waterproofed annually or bi-annually. Seam sealer and spray-on coatings can be found at most outdoors and hardware stores, and often at grocery and drug stores.

A ground cloth is a necessity for any tent to keep out dirt and moisture and to protect the tent floor from abrasion. Manufactured ground cloths are usually either a heavy-duty sheet of plastic or waterproofed nylon made to fit the shape of the tent floor. Another option is to purchase plastic sheeting (2 or 4-mil. black) at a hardware store and cut it to fit. When trimming, it is best to cut the ground cloth about 2 inches smaller than the tent footprint so that rain will not collect on the plastic and run under the tent.

Knives - Since inception, teaching youth how to use, handle, and store legally owned knives with the highest concern for safety and responsibility has been an integral part of Scouting. A sharp pocketknife with a can opener on it is an invaluable backcountry tool. **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 not allowed in the Troop.

A suggested shopping list for personal equipment is included in Appendix G to this Guide, starting on page 61.

Advancement



Advancement is an important part of Scouting as a measure of the Scout's growth and progress. Each Scout keeps their own personal advancement record in their *Scout Handbook*, and should also record their service hours, campouts, Troop activities, and leadership positions in their *Handbook*. The Troop also keeps advancement records on each Scout. The *Scout Handbook* identifies and explains all rank advancement requirements, so they should read it carefully. Information on merit badge requirements is found in the appropriate merit badge pamphlets, most of which are available in the Troop library. See also the following section of this guidebook on merit badges.

When crossing over to Scouts BSA from Cub Scouts, most Scouts observe a significant difference in the standards for rank advancement. In Cub Scouts, the standard was to "Do Your Best". Scouts are expected to complete the stated requirements exactly as written and satisfy the standards of each rank and merit badge. Sometimes the Scout may find that they must work hard and grow beyond their current capabilities to obtain their goals.

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 cannot be mastered by performing them just once. These skills should be practiced repeatedly, even after a skill has been "signed-off".

After they master a skill on their own, with their parents, or in school, they must ask the appropriate Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or merit badge counselor to sign them off. Additionally, 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. The list of approved Scouts is kept on a white board near the Scoutmasters' Office in the Scout Hut.

A greater variety of experiences is available to Scouts that are First Class in rank or higher. While they may work on any merit badge (p. 184 - 193, *Scout Handbook*) at any

time, they should concentrate on achieving the rank of First Class before devoting much time working on merit badges. A certain minimum number of camping nights is a requirement for each rank.

Until a Scout reaches First Class, they should bring the Scout Handbook to every meeting and campout.

From entering the Troop until earning First Class, the Scout will be learning basic Scouting skills that will enable them to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, and to work as a member of a team. Through First Class, the Scouts begin to build themselves physically, mentally, and morally and starts to live with the Scout Oath and Law. Troop 214 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. Parents should realize that this is a goal, not a requirement. Scouting has much to offer besides earning ranks. Some Scouts take longer to earn First Class than others and they are still benefiting from the program. Scout leaders understand this and will work with each youth accordingly.

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 achieving the rank of First Class. The next ranks are Star and Life. These ranks are harder to obtain but are more interesting for the older Scouts. Upon completion of all the requirements for Star and Life, the Scout will be eligible to work for Eagle. The final steps towards Eagle are filled with leadership experiences.

Becoming an Eagle Scout carries special significance, not only in Scouting, but also in higher education, business, and community service. The award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well maintained over the years. Only about 4% of all 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 their goals and accomplishments and is required for each rank advancement. They do not have to wait until they have completed the requirements for another rank before asking for a Scoutmaster conference. Scouts may talk with the Scoutmaster at any time.

A **Board of Review** is a requirement for each advancement in rank. The Board consists of three to six registered members of the Troop Committee, but may not include Assistant Scoutmasters, the Scoutmaster, or the Scout's own parents. The Scout needs to bring their *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. Their uniform may be inspected for completeness and appropriate placement of patches. After this introduction, the Scout will be invited to be seated. During the review, the board will discuss their development along your trail to

A Scoutmaster Conference at
Camp Reeves



Eagle, quiz them on skills that were required for their particular rank, and evaluate them in terms of Troop activities and worthiness for the next rank. Scouts will be encouraged to give constructive feedback to the Troop Committee on activities, improvement opportunities, and the Scouting experience in Troop 214. 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 them either that they qualify for the next rank or what additional actions they must take to qualify. Scouts must truly earn their rank before it is awarded. Boards of Review are held during the Troop meeting, typically on the third Monday of every month, and may be held at other times if needed.

Scouts must sign-up at least a week in advance on the bulletin board in the Scout Hut to schedule a Board of Review for themselves. Each Scout should be reviewed every year whether they are ready to advance in rank or not. This helps the adult leaders monitor Scouts that are advancing and those that are not and to offer appropriate encouragement and guidance.

Following a successful Board of Review, the applicable new rank badges are awarded to the Scouts at the next possible 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 214 schedules three Courts of Honor each year. Parents and family should 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 their *Life to Eagle Pamphlet*. This meeting is to discuss ideas and suggestions for their **Eagle Service Project**. Special guidelines have been outlined by Scouts BSA for this project and their Eagle Service Project must conform to these guidelines. The Scout's Scoutmaster, Troop Advancement Chair, and District Advancement Chair must approve their project before their project begins.

Additional information and detailed rules on advancement may be found on the web at <https://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/>.

Merit Badges



The 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 their experience with the merit badge program. The program also gives the Scout the opportunity to learn an important life skill: to make an appointment to work with someone that they do not know.

Scouts may work on merit badges at any time, but they must have the merit badge blue card approved and signed by the Scoutmaster before working with a counselor. Merit badges are not required to advance through the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. Therefore, until a Scout has completed First Class, his time is better spent focusing on the requirements of the first three ranks rather than earning lots of merit badges. 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. Required merit badges have a silver border and the others have a green border. Some merit badges (Personal Management, for example) may not be a good fit for very young Scouts and should be deferred until the Scout is older and better suited to meet the requirements. such as Personal Management.

Many merit badges can be earned at summer camp. In the spring, all of the Scouts going to summer camp will consult with the Scoutmaster and select which merit badges they wish to work on during camp. First-year Scouts should select no more than two or three merit badges. 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.

If a Scout does not complete a merit badge with the counselor that they start with (such as completing only part of the requirements during summer camp), the Scout has until their 18th birthday to complete the merit badge with another counselor. The Scout must still ask the Scoutmaster for the name of another counselor. In all cases, the final counselor who signs the completed merit badge application has the obligation to ensure that the Scout has properly completed the merit badge. It is up to the counselor how much work with a prior counselor will be accepted, but the counselors should give the Scouts the benefit of the doubt whenever possible.

The procedures for earning and receiving merit badges in Troop 214 can be found in Appendix D at page 52 to this guide. Scouts should read it carefully before starting their first merit badge in the troop.

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 <https://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>. Also see http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Scouts_BSA_Portal.

All parents and guardians in the Troop probably have hobbies, professions, or interests that correspond to one or more of the merit badges. Parents are encouraged to share their expertise and enthusiasm for a subject by being a merit badge counselor. A merit badge counselor coaches and helps Scouts with the requirements of a specific merit badge and helps the Scouts become aware of the deeper aspects of the subject. Only registered merit badge counselors may sign the merit badge application card. To become a merit badge counselor, contact the troop Advancement Chair for the appropriate registration forms. New rules specific to Occoneechee Council also require merit badge counselors to complete merit badge counselor training. To learn more about being a merit badge counselor, see <http://usscouts.org/boyscouts/MBCounseling.html>.

Summer Camp



Flag Raising at Camp Durant

Summer camp is the highlight of the year for most Scouts. Every Scout should plan on attending summer camp. 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 that cannot be fully explained in words.

Troop 214 usually goes to a different summer camp each summer. Details of which camps have been selected by the Scouts and the week that the Troop plans to attend are published in the Troop newsletter. Additional information, including handouts, will be provided in advance at Troop meetings. This information will cover activities and merit badge opportunities, costs & timing of payments, what to bring, travel arrangements, emergency contacts, visitation, and etc. Most Scout camps have very informative websites, which usually can be found by performing a search on the internet. Frequently, the best section of Scout camp websites to find out details will be in the section for adult leaders, so reviewing those sections is encouraged for everyone.

Additional adult leadership is almost always needed for summer camp, so parents are encouraged to volunteer to go for the week as adult scout leaders. Summer camps typically have adult leader educational and/or entertaining activities so that the week can be a positive experience for adults. Such activities can 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 relaxing, 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 or Assistant Scoutmasters. All adults interested in camping with the troop must complete an adult member application and must complete online Youth Protection Training, before attending troop campouts.

Community Service

Scout Slogan:

Do A Good Turn Daily

The Scout Oath includes the phrase:

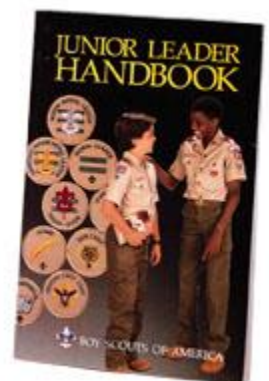
. . . To help other people at all times; . . .

Every Scout is expected to perform acts of charity and kindness and to develop a life long habit of community service and helpfulness towards their neighbor. Many Scouting awards and most of the ranks in Scouts have a requirement to perform a certain number of service hours. These service hours may be earned by giving time to our charter organization, the Scout's 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. Note that the requirement states that service activities must be approved, so be sure your Scout to checks with the Scoutmaster prior to starting their service to ensure that their activity will qualify.

Scouts should seek out opportunities for performing community service and they should participate in the community service projects that are scheduled by the Troop.

Troop Organization & Leadership

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



Patrols

As a member of Troop 214, Scouts 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. Patrols tent, cook, clean up, and perform other activities as a unit, and learn to work as a team. Each patrol should have its own flag. Each patrol flag must include the patrol name and the phrase "Troop 214". Patrol flags may also include other

items such as "Raleigh, North Carolina" or names of individual patrol members. The patrol flags should also be smaller than half the size of the Troop flag.

Senior Patrol Leader and other Troop Leadership Positions

The person in charge of the troop is the **Senior Patrol Leader** or **SPL**. The SPL is elected to this office by all of the Scouts in the Troop during a secret ballot. After consulting with the Scoutmaster, the Senior Patrol Leader appoints an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL), and other Troop leadership positions including Quartermaster, Scribe, Troop Historian, Librarian, Chaplain Aide, Bugler, 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 serve for twelve months, and all other troop leadership positions 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 in June to plan and schedule the Troop activities for the coming year. The PLC meets each month to take this outline and plan the details of Troop meetings and outings for the coming month. Patrol Leaders' Council meetings are usually held on the first Monday after the first Sunday of each month (i.e., after the ASM meeting) from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Scout Hut.

Adult Volunteers

Scouting would not exist without adult volunteers. Adult volunteers can fill one or more of several roles. They 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 can help by being a merit badge counselor.

The adults who work directly with the Scouts are the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters. One of the most important jobs of the Scoutmaster corps is to train and guide the junior leaders in running THEIR Troop. The Scoutmasters should not run the Troop, as this would deny the youth opportunities to learn leadership, planning, and organization skills. As Scouts assume the various leadership positions within Troop 214, 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: They serve as a board of directors that provides direction and guidance and establishes policies. They provide much financial, administrative and logistical support that makes the program planned by the

Patrol Leaders' Council a reality, and support advancement and other aspects of the Scouting program. They also conduct the Boards of Review, an essential element of the Advancement process as covered in the Advancement section of this guide (see page 32) and in the *Scout Handbook*.

Troop 214's practice has been to that anyone wanting to serve as an Assistant Scoutmaster should first serve at least a year on the Troop Committee to learn Troop policies and how the Troop works and is supported, and must attend Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster and IOLS training in order to receive a Troop neckerchief and ASM designation. Individuals who have earned the Eagle rank in Troop 214 and who are age 18 or older may be exempted from the prerequisite year of Troop Committee service and IOLS training if interested in becoming an Assistant Scoutmaster, at the Scoutmaster's discretion.

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

Since Scouting could not exist without adult volunteers, Troop leadership encourages all parents to consider contributing their time and expertise to the Troop. Parents can contribute as little or as much as they like; there is no minimum, and all assistance is greatly appreciated. A great way to start is to fill out an adult resource survey form, turn it in to the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair, and let them know your preferences and expertise. This form, along with many others, can be found at <http://www.scouting.org/forms/>. Also, the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chairman usually has copies of this form.

Other Scouting Activities

Religious Emblems:

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

Order of the Arrow:



The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society. 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 Scouts when they have proven themselves worthy of receiving it through active participation in Troop activities. To be eligible for election into the Order of the Arrow, a Scout 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 in the first quarter of the year.

Youth Leadership Training Conference (YLTC):

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, and Scoutmaster approval is required. Traditionally, the Troop has subsidized 50% of the cost of attendance at YLTC.

National Youth Leader Instructor Camp:

This is a weeklong training session at Philmont, the National Scout Reservation in Cimarron, New Mexico. This camp is designed to train Youth Leaders to teach in their Council's Youth Leadership Training Conference. It provides an opportunity for a Scout to meet the very best youth leaders from around the US and to learn both advanced skills and teaching techniques that will be useful in many aspects of a Scout's life. A Scout must have successfully completed his Troop's youth leadership training program, his Council's YLTC, and receive a recommendation from the Council to attend this course. Troop 214 has traditionally funded 50% of the cost, including transportation, of attending NYLIC for our Scouts.

Behavior, Conduct, Troop Rules

All members of Troop 214, 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 in the absence of the Scoutmaster, will evaluate the situation, consider the circumstances, and then use their best judgment to make a decision that is fair and just. Youth leaders in the Troop may act to put a stop to inappropriate or unsafe behavior, but they cannot administer discipline. Disciplinary actions and responses to misbehavior must never involve corporal punishment, denial of food, or belittling of a Scout. Multiple Scouts will not be disciplined for the actions of one or more Scouts, if they themselves aren't guilty of negative behavior that may warrant discipline.

Scouts who misbehave will be appropriately counseled in a Scoutmaster conference by the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster in the absence of the Scoutmaster. Serious misconduct or multiple infractions may result in a period of Troop suspension, as determined by the Scoutmaster and in consultation with the Committee Chair. Very serious misconduct may result in Troop expulsion, in consultation between the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair. Consultation may or may not also include the Chartered Organization Representative or the Benson Memorial Pastor.

Scouts promise to keep themselves "morally straight" and "clean." The *Scout Handbook* advises youth 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 Scouts BSA is help young people develop strong moral character. Being a good parent, a good partner, and an effective leader requires critical thinking and the ability to make sound judgments and ethical decisions. In an effort to serve as effective role models, the adults in Troop 214 will try to exercise these characteristics and not hide behind a long list of inflexible rules. Comprehensive by-laws, codes of conduct, and behavior consequence plans tend to preclude the application of common sense, fairness, and justice.

Religious Instruction

Troop 214 policy on religious instruction is consistent with BSA guidelines in that we do not endorse nor promote any one faith over another, and we are respectful of other faiths and to those who practice them. Although we regularly conduct a religious observance during campouts 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.

Hazing and Initiations

All Scouts, Scouters, and parents should know that hazing is forbidden by the BSA and will not be tolerated in Troop 214. Every troop member is expected to treat all others with kindness and respect, which precludes hazing.

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 BSA 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.

Parents and guardians are welcome to observe all Scouting activities and ceremonies and to visit camp. Scouts and parents should know that secret organizations are not permitted in Scouting. There are some ceremonies that are not revealed to a Scout in advance to keep it special. However, parents, guardians, and ministers are welcome to observe the ceremonies in advance.

Scouts will participate in induction or investiture ceremonies. This is different from an initiation, which is not permitted. In an induction ceremony, the person should feel honored and welcomed. Initiations are characterized by belittling and embarrassing activities and having fun at someone else's expense. These kinds of activities are not part of Scouting's character building mission and have no place in Scouting.

Appendix A

Webelos to Scout Transition



Scouts transitioning from Webelos / Arrow of Light Scouts to Scouts BSA usually have a lot of questions, such as:

- What are the Troop's expectations for Scouts and for their parents?
- What will a Webelos/AoL Scout have to do differently once they are in a troop?
- What will a Scout's parents have to act differently once they are in a troop?
- What is the parents' role and involvement in their child's Scouting career and their Troop?
- What is the cost of Scouting and how is it financed?
- What books, uniforms, camping equipment, and camping clothing is needed now and in the future?
- When and where will the Troop go to summer camp? What preparations are needed for going to summer camp?

The purpose of this section and this handbook is to answer those questions and more.

Scouts BSA is a whole lot different than Cub Scouts or Webelos Scouts. The idea of graduating from a Cub Scout pack to a Boys/Girls Scout troop may be intimidating for some Webelos Scouts and their parents. Other Webelos may not be sure they want to cross over into Scouts BSA because they believe it will just be more of the same thing that they did in Cub Scouts.

The best way for a Scout to make their decisions, to choose the right troop, and to get their questions answered is to visit several troops that meet close to their home. This section is designed to help the Webelos Scout, their parents, and their Den members begin the Webelos to Scout transition. Troop 214 would like to help make that transition as smooth as possible, regardless of which troop a Scout decides to join.

How does the transition begin?

During the fifth grade, a typical Webelos/AoL den continues to meet until February. During this time, the Webelos will earn additional activity badges and work to complete the Arrow of Light. The requirements for the Arrow of Light are designed to prepare a Webelos Scout to join a Scouts BSA troop. The requirements for the Arrow of Light

include learning the basics about Scouts BSA (Scout Oath, Scout Law, motto, slogan, handshake, salute, and uniform differences). The requirements also call for the entire den to visit a troop meeting and to participate in a troop outdoor activity. After all of the other requirements are complete, the last Arrow of Light requirement is for the Webelos Scout and their parents to visit a troop and meet with the Scoutmaster to complete the Scouts BSA application.

How does a Webelos Scout select a troop to join?

Selecting a Scouts BSA troop to join is an individual decision for each Webelos Scout and their parents. Every troop is different in the kinds of activities they schedule and in their personalities. Each family must choose the troop they feel will best meet their needs. In selecting a troop, you and your Scout should consider a variety of factors, which are discussed in the earlier section of this guide entitled “Joining the Troop” starting on page 9.

Every Webelos den leader should make arrangements for their den to visit several troops in the area. BSA gives troops a lot of latitude in how they operate so you should notice a lot of variety among the troops. It's also a good idea to visit a few of the troops more than once to get a true impression of how they operate. Webelos den leaders may receive invitations from neighboring troops to visit on particular nights. However, it's not necessary to wait for an invitation because the troops may not have an accurate list of Webelos den leaders. Den leaders are encouraged to initiate contact with any troop they wish to visit.

To fulfill the Arrow of Light requirements, the Webelos den leader should make arrangements for their den to attend an outdoor activity with one of the troops. Ideally this should be with a troop that the youth in the den have a lot of interest in. However, this can be done with any troop. Try to schedule your troop outing early because it may be difficult for troops to take Webelos Scouts camping during the winter.

When do Webelos Scouts cross over into a troop?

After the list of troops has been narrowed down a bit, it might be useful to invite the Scoutmasters of those troops to one of your Webelos den meetings to meet the parents and to answer questions. By the end of January, every Webelos Scout should have a good idea of what troop they want to join and they can begin attending weekly meetings with that troop at that time. Most Cub Scout packs have a crossover ceremony for the graduating Webelos during the Blue and Gold, usually held in February. Representatives from the appropriate troops participate in the crossover ceremony to welcome the new members. Most troops present the new members with some welcoming gift. Troop 214 presents the Scouts with its unique troop neckerchief (refer to the Troop Neckerchief Policy on page 15 for more information), a neckerchief slide, green shoulder epaulets, and troop numerals.

Converting a Webelos Uniform to a Scouts BSA Uniform

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

To convert the tan uniform shirt from Webelos to Scouts BSA, be sure to remove Den numbers and the Webelos patrol patch. Remove the Webelos colors (where they displayed their Webelos activity pins) and all of their Cub Scout ranks (Bobcat through Webelos, including arrow points). Your Arrow of Light patch is the only Cub Scout rank that transfers to the Scouts BSA uniform. However, its position moves to the bottom edge of their left shirt pocket. If they have any Quality Unit patches, you should remove those and wait for new ones to be issued by the Troop. Any previously earned religious emblem knot patches may stay on the tan uniform shirt as well.

Replace the blue shoulder loops with green ones. Make sure the Occoneechee Council strip is on the left shoulder and "214" is on the left sleeve. Just below, but touching the Council Strip, Scouts may wear the 50-year strip (because our Troop has been in existence more than 50 years). Scouts may continue to wear their service stars over their left pocket, but only one per program. If they were in Tiger Cubs, they may wear a "1-year" star with an orange background and may wear a single star with a yellow background showing the number of years they 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 they have a temporary patch sewn on the right shirt pocket or dangling from the pocket button, they may leave it on, take it off, or replace it with the next temporary patch they receive in Scouts BSA. When they are assigned to a Patrol within the Troop, they will receive a patrol patch for their 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 *Scout Handbook*, the uniform inspection form the Scouts receive upon joining the Troop, or the web at

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33066_Scouts_BSA_Insignia_WEB.pdf.

For more information

Troop 214 will email our monthly Troop newsletter to the Webelos/Arrow of Light den leaders in the area upon request. Webelos Scouts can get their own copies of those newsletters just by asking to be added to our mailing list. A great deal of useful information can be found at the Troop website. To arrange a visit to the Troop contact the Scoutmaster at home at (504) 957-6577 or e-mail to scoutmaster@troop-214.org. The Girls Troop Scoutmaster can be reached via phone at 919-272-1939 or via email at sm@troop-214.org.

The BSA Webelos to Scout Transition plan can be viewed on the official BSA website at https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/membership/pdf/Webelos_to_Scout.pdf.

Appendix B

Frequently Asked Questions

Equipment: Does my Scout need to buy a backpack? A tent?

Our Troop does participate in backpack style camping, therefore a backpack is required. A backpack is convenient because it keeps a Scout's gear in one easily carried bundle. A tent is not an absolute necessity, since youth will tent two or three Scouts in a tent, however, not having a tent places a burden on the Scout of finding a tent partner who does have one.

Uniform questions: What is Class A? When does my Scout need to be in Class A?

The answer to this question is fully addressed in the Uniform section of this guide – see page 14.

Why does the Troop always travel in Class A?

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 their commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting.

What are service hours?

Service hours are ways for the Scout to give back to their community, church, or school. Scouts often help out in their church after-school care, assist at the library, etc. Service hours are a requirement for advancement for certain ranks. See page 37 for additional information.

Do I just tell you what my Scout did for their service hours?

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

Monthly Outings

If my Scout is signed up and paid for a trip and gets sick at the last minute, do I get a refund?

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 Scout's place who had not previously planned to go.

Should I give my Scout's medication to a Scoutmaster to administer?

The Scout should take responsibility to administer their own medication. However, if there is a real 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 for your peace of mind. See page 25 for more information. Summer Camps may have varying rules on medicine storage and distribution, which parents will be informed of.

Why does my Scout 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.

Why can't I write one check for food and outing fees?

The food money is going to be given to the patrol's Grubmaster to purchase groceries while the outing fee is given to those in charge of the trip or to the Treasurer to pay for the costs of the trip. Since they are going to different people, they need to be paid separately.

Why should the money for food for the weekend be in cash?

The parent of the patrol Grubmaster doesn't want to have to go by the bank to deposit these checks before they go to the grocery store to buy the food. Please make it easy on them, as they are going out of their way for your Scout. You'll appreciate this practice when your Scout is the Grubmaster.

Can a parent go camping with the Troop on the monthly outing?

Any parent is welcome to go on the trips with the Troop on an occasional basis – see page 23 for more information. 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 Scout's parent.

Is it a good idea for me to go camping with my Scout during the first year?

Usually it is not a good idea to go on frequent outings with the Troop during your Scout's first year. This gives your Scout the opportunity to learn how to work with their patrol and do things for themselves without relying on you. Exceptions are made for parents of Scouts with special needs.

My Scout has never been Grubmaster before. Will someone help decide how much food to buy?

Guidance and assistance is always available from the Patrol Advisor, Patrol Leader, the Troop Guides, and the Assistant and Senior Patrol Leaders. Additionally, please review the "Guidelines for Grubmasters" section of this guide starting on page 56.

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 is the Grubmaster planning to keep the meat below 40 degrees for two days?)

If there is money left over after the food is bought does it get returned to the youth who went on the trip?

This is rarely an issue because the amount collected for each weekend is not that large. Nominal leftover funds are usually used to purchase extra supplies such as aluminum foil or paper plates for the next trip. Significant amounts would be refunded to the Scout or parent in cash.

How do I contact my Scout in case I have to during a camping trip or other outing?

Most adult leaders carry cell phones, so ask them for their cell phone numbers prior to them leaving. Also, the spouses of the adult leaders will know how to get in touch with them, so you may call other parents if you didn't get the cell phone numbers. When you join the Troop you may receive a list of adults in the troop with their phone numbers.

Merit Badges**How does my Scout get a blue card?**

Your Scout should obtain a blue card from the designated adult leader, indicating the start date of the badge and obtaining the Scoutmaster signature **prior to working on a merit badge**. The answers to most questions on merit badges can be found in the Merit Badge section of this guide starting on page 35 and in the Appendix on the Merit Badge Process in Troop 214 starting on page 52.

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

Unlike Cub Scouts, the 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 Scout work on merit badges as a first year Scout?

Yes. Scouts will probably work on merit badges at summer camp and possibly on merit badge programs sometimes held on weekends or at District and Council events. However, outside of these events, their first priority should be to finish the rank requirements through First Class before focusing heavily on merit badges.

How do I know which partial merit badges my Scout has and what requirements are left?

Your Scout is responsible for keeping up with their progress towards the next rank and on partial merit badges. In case of questions, your Scout should contact the applicable merit badge counselor.

How do we find out who the merit badge counselor is for a particular merit badge?

A list of the current merit badge counselors for the Troop is posted on the bulletin board outside the Scoutmaster's office in the scout hut. Should the list be missing, the Troop Committee Chair should have a complete listing of the counselors.

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

A Scout must see a skill demonstrated, learn it, and demonstrate that they have mastered it. Their Troop Guide, other approved experienced Scouts, Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, or an Assistant Scoutmaster will be happy to sign these requirements off for them. Please see the section of this guide on Advancement on page 32 for more details.

How do I request a Scoutmaster conference?

Scouts may request a scoutmaster conference by signing up for it on signup sheet on the bulletin board outside the Scoutmaster's office in the scout hut. Parents do not request a Scoutmaster conference, the Scout must do that themselves.

How is a Board of Review requested?

After the Scoutmaster conference is completed, the Scoutmaster who did the conference will sign on the signup sheet on the bulletin board outside the Scoutmaster's office. The Scoutmaster will then contact the Troop Committee Chair to request the Board of Review. The Scout will be informed of the date of their Board of Review if it is anything other than the standard schedule (see page 33).

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

A main foundation of Lord Baden Powell's vision for the 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 Scout request a leadership position and when?

Your Scout may start holding positions of leadership at any time although it is usual for them to focus on Patrol Leader or Assistant Patrol Leader until they achieve First Class rank. These positions are elected by their respective patrols, so if your Scout should tell their fellow patrol members if they are interested. The Scout may ask the Scoutmaster to become a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop Guide, or Den Chief. The Senior Patrol Leader is elected by the troop. For all other positions, the Scout should ask the current Senior Patrol Leader, as they will be the one to decide on the positions for the next 6-month period with Scoutmaster review and approval.

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 of each patrol, and the Troop Guides, who each have a vote. They are responsible for planning and conducting the troop's activities. In addition, the other troop positions (Librarian, Historian, Scribe, Chaplain Aide, Instructor, Quartermaster, Assistant Patrol Leader, and Instructor) are also encouraged to attend. See the section on Troop Organization and Leadership on page 37 for more information.

What is a SMC?

SMC stands for Scoutmaster Conference. When a Scout has completed the requirements for a rank, they ask 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 them to set goals for future advancement. Also, the Scoutmaster makes sure that the Scout is ready for their Board of Review. See the section on Advancement on page 32 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 their 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, Scouts are asked what they think is going well with the Troop and what they would like to be changed. The Committee values these suggestions and will pass them along anonymously to the Scoutmasters.

Summer Camp

Will my Scout work on merit badges at summer camp?

First year Scouts will focus primarily on rank advancement at camp. However, their schedule will still allow them to work on merit badges.

Is it really important that my Scout 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 that cannot be fully explained in words. 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. Summer camp also allows an opportunity to acquire several merit badges in a short period of time, which helps the Scout to progress through the various ranks. Please see the section on summer camp on page 36.

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 their parents may increase their homesickness and make the rest of the week much harder.

Why doesn't the physical form that I filled out with my Scout's Scout application work for summer camp?

Since the activities at summer camp are more physically demanding than those encountered on a normal weekend trip, BSA wants to have your Scout's ability to participate certified by a doctor. This is consistent with other types of weeklong camps. Please see the section on Medical Forms on page 17 for more information.

What is a Class 2/Form C physical and how long is it good for?

A Class 2/Form C physical signed by a doctor is required for all Scouts and leaders who will be participating in a scouting activity that lasts longer than 72 hours or involves strenuous physical activity.

Why don't you want my Scout to call me while he's away at camp?

Summer camp is a time for your Scout to grow independent, and expected phone calls would diminish this opportunity for growth. In addition, most camps have very few public phones and several hundred boys would want to use them. During the free time that the Scouts have, it would be impossible for all of them to use the phone. Additionally, many camps do not have mobile signal. Calls for emergency purposes are always allowed.

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

The High Adventure outings are ones that are directed at youth at least 13 years old. They are usually more physically challenging than the normal monthly outing. The addition of these activities help the older Scouts stay interested in Scouting and stay with the Troop as role models and leaders.

My child is mature for their 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. Your Scout's chance to attend will come.

Appendix C

Scouting-related links on the Web

Note: Troop 214 does not endorse any of the following websites. They are included for your convenience.

- BSA National Council at www.scouting.org
- Occoneechee Council www.campdurant.com
- Merit badge information at https://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Merit_Badges
- 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>, and also at <http://www.scoutorama.com/>
- 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 <https://www.animatedknots.com/>
- Outdoor Action Guide to Winter Camping at <http://www.princeton.edu/~oa/winter/wintcamp.shtml>
- Order of the Arrow at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/>
- Benson Memorial United Methodist Church at <https://www.bensonmemorial.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/>

Appendix D

Merit Badge Process for Troop 214

Merit Badges are an important part of Scouting. Not only are some required for advancement beyond First Class, but many teach skills that can be valuable years into the future, such as Lifesaving and Personal Management. Even the optional ones are important, as many former Scouts attribute their interest in their current career or their hobbies to an introduction to a subject by a dedicated Merit Badge Counselor. Thus, it's important for everyone to understand just what the process is for a Scout to earn a Merit Badge. This appendix describes some of the details of how a Scout goes about earning a Merit Badge.

There are generally two forums in which Merit Badges may be taught by a local counselor associated with the Troop or District or at Summer Camp. There are some minor differences, mostly because some camps don't have the same "paper trail", but the process should go as follows:

Step 1: The Scout decides on a badge they'd like to work on, and approaches the Scoutmaster about it.

Step 2: The Scoutmaster decides if this is an appropriate badge for the youth, finds out who the appropriate Counselor is, and makes sure the Scout knows that they must have at least one more Scout sign up with them so that the Scout and Counselor are never working one-on-one, alone. In some rare cases, a sibling or friend might substitute for another Scout in the meeting with a counselor. (Note: Troop 214's policy 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 and we avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.)

Step 3: The Scout fills out a "blue card" and gets it signed by the Scoutmaster. These are available at the Scout Hut in a tray just outside the Scoutmaster's office. This card is the Scout's permission slip to begin to work, and no Counselor should begin to help a Scout with a badge until they are presented with a blue card signed by the Scoutmaster. The reason for this is that some badges require other badges as a prerequisite (Swimming must be earned before starting Lifesaving, for example), some Scouts try to sign up for too many badges at once, and other badges are most appropriate for older Scouts (Personal Management and Family Life, for example, for when the Scout is more likely to have an income and is better able to appreciate the topics addressed). The Scoutmaster makes a note in a Troop Merit Badge Notebook that the Scout has started a badge. This helps the Scoutmaster know whether a Scout has, for example, begun 6 badges in the last year, all of which are still "in progress", or whether the Scout needs a particular badge to get to that next rank. The Scoutmaster can then counsel the Scout as necessary to help them be efficient and stay on track.

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. We recommend that the Scout purchase the latest edition of the appropriate merit badge pamphlet and use this not only as a guide, but also as a way of keeping track of which

requirements they have finished and which they have left to do (requirements are also available on-line at <http://www.meritbadge.org/>). The Scout should be keeping track of what they have done, but if a Scout has any questions, they should approach the Counselor to verify their achievements.

Step 5: When the badge is complete, the Counselor signs the card, and tears off their third of the card to keep as a record. The Counselor then turns in the other two thirds 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 Awards Chair 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 Chair records the badge in our Troop database for recordkeeping.

Thus, we have multiple places where the Scout's achievement is recorded. A Scout may always request a copy of their records from the Advancement Chair, so that they can see exactly where they stand with merit badges.

Challenges in Completing Merit Badges

Getting Scouts to start a merit badge is not usually a problem; it's getting them to finish ones they have started that can be the challenge. There are a couple of reasons this can be difficult for our Scouts, so this section addresses the challenges and some things a parent can do to assist their Scout.

Scouts typically start merit badges in one of three ways: as an individual expressing an interest in a particular badge by themselves or with a friend, as part of a "class" in the Troop all taking a badge together, or at a summer camp or camporee. Very few Scouts work on merit badges during their first year in scouting; that's a time when the Scout is, and should be, focusing on learning the basic skills that lead to First Class. Merit badges are not required until the Scout is ready to work toward their Star rank, so there's no need to rush the process during the first year. First-year Scouts may have an opportunity to work on a couple of merit badges at summer camp, but these are usually craft-related badges, such as Basketry and Metalwork, that are easy to complete in a couple of days at camp.

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.

First, a Scout should choose a badge based on their real interests, not on what everyone else is doing. (The exceptions to this are the required badges; see their Scout Handbook for a list of these.) Most merit badges require work over weeks or months, and if a Scout is only starting the badge because others are doing it, they will likely lose interest when the time comes to write a report or do some research at home away from their friends. Also, some badges are too difficult for young Scouts whereas others are so simple that an older Scout may be bored. As Scoutmaster, I try to counsel Scouts when they come to me for a Blue Card (the permission slip to start a merit badge; see the first page of this section for details) and I will not give permission for Scouts to take on too many badges at once, or to take on a really difficult badge if they are quite young. You can help your Scout when they express an interest by getting a copy of the requirements, either from the specific merit badge pamphlet, from the Requirements Guide (a book you can purchase from the Scout office), or from <http://meritbadge.org/> (a great website with frequent updates). Go over the requirements with your scout and make sure that they think this is something they will enjoy enough to follow through. Perhaps the most difficult challenge, and the most frequent, is when a Scout doesn't complete a badge at summer camp or camporee, or with a class with the Troop, and then must work on their own.

There are several reasons a badge might not be completed. Some badges cannot be completed during class time, even over a week at camp. Family Life, for example, requires that a Scout do projects at home with their family and keep records of chores for 90 days. Camping Merit Badge requires a Scout to have 20 days and nights of camping; obviously, this takes close to a year at best to complete. Still another reason is that the Scout simply misses the classes offered. This may happen when the Troop teaches classes because the Scout may have a conflict at the time of a group class, hike or activity that's part of the requirement. But it also happens at summer camp when the Scout decides it would be more fun to go play in the creek with their friends than go to their class. The Scoutmasters sometimes don't learn that a Scout has been skipping class until the end of the week when they get a report from the camp's merit badge counselors as to what was completed.

These situations mean that the Scout finishes the class, or comes back from camp, with a "partial". For badges started with us at Troop 214, you or your Scout should simply approach the counselor and inquire what needs to be done. If a counselor is difficult to reach or fails to give you a response, please bring it to the attention of the Scoutmaster and we'll try to resolve the issue. Of course, if you wait two years, the information may not be readily available as people move and records of any kind can be lost over long periods. The lesson for the Scout is to finish the project right away, which is an important lesson for anyone to learn.

The most frequent "partials" we have are from Scout Camps or camporees that hold merit badge "Midways". In most cases, these groups will give us a list of which requirements have been completed and which have not. Our procedure is to take this

information, transfer it onto a blue card and give that card to one of our own Merit Badge counselors. The original information from the camp has, in the past, been given to the counselor as well, but we are now keeping originals in a file at the Scout Hut. (With more than 30 youth at camp each summer, and an average of 4 or more merit badges per Scout, you can see that this information piles up in a hurry.) We then tell the Scouts who the counselors in our Troop are for the badges they started (I usually write the list on the white board outside the Scoutmaster's office after summer camp and leave it there for several months). We encourage the counselors to make announcements at Troop meetings, and many do this repeatedly, sometimes with no response from the Scouts who have the partials. We do not have the counselors call every Scout on their list to nag him about the badge. Our policy is that the Scout must accept responsibility for paying attention and contacting the counselor. It is up to the Scout to take the initiative to complete what they have started, much as they have to do for schoolwork.

We usually find that Scouts who start right away to finish these do well, but those that wait six months to a year to ask, "What do I have to do for that badge I started back at camp?" may find it harder to finish. Again, sometimes counselors leave the Troop, sometimes the camp paperwork is misplaced, and sometimes the Scouts find they've forgotten the material they learned at camp that would have made that report easier to write and the energy barrier to completing it gets much greater.

You can help your Scout by:

1. Knowing what Merit Badges they've chosen to work on, both here and at camp
2. Knowing the requirements they'll need to fulfill and supporting them when they need to get to a class at the Scout Hut or do a project at home, and
3. Gently asking, especially after summer camp, which badges they started, which are finished, and who is their counselor here with the Troop.

I try to encourage Scouts who are stuck on a big project to take it little bit by little bit, getting a small item finished each day or week. They'll be surprised how quickly big tasks can be finished this way. You can encourage your Scout this way as well. Please talk to me if you're concerned that there are problems and we'll see how we can solve them.

Remember that this is **your Scout's** badge to earn. While it is fine for you to help them pick fun merit badges, identify resources, and make it to meetings, it is their job to do the research, keep track of their activities, do their exercises and write their reports. If your Scout struggles with these, encourage them as best you can and by all means let us know so we can encourage them, too. But the work remains theirs to do. This way, your Scout learns to accept responsibility, learns they must take initiative to complete a project, and will feel that **they** have really accomplished something when they receive that badge. It's this ability to take a project to completion that will put your Scout ahead on the "Trail to Eagle."

Finally, I should point out that the Troop Committee keeps a list of the current merit badge counselors, and that a copy of this list is posted in the Scout Hut.

Appendix E

Guidelines for Grubmasters and Quartermasters

The Patrol Grubmaster and Patrol Quartermaster are critical jobs. Often the success or failure of a campout can depend on whether a patrol eats well or poorly, and that often depends of the Grubmaster and whether they buy the right foods in the right amounts, and that the Patrol Quartermaster ensures that Patrol gear is ready and complete. If your Scout does their best, their Patrol will learn to appreciate their abilities.

No one should be Grubmaster or Quartermaster all the time. With about 8-10 members in each Patrol, even if some don't go camping, your Scout should only have to be Grubmaster or Quartermaster about 2 times per year. If you think that they are doing more than their share, ask them to talk to their Patrol Leader, or the SPL, or the Scoutmaster, if necessary. Even if they like doing it, everyone should have 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. If you or your Scout have other ideas or suggestions, pass them on to the Troop Grubmaster, and they will add them to this list.

1. Make the appropriate menu based on the type of trip! Backpacking trips and gear require different menus from "car camping".
2. You and your Scout are not required to buy food for anyone who has not given you money by the Monday prior to the trip if needed for shopping. You may, if you wish, buy food for someone who asks for extra time, or says they will pay you when we meet to leave, but this is up to you. A scout is kind, but a scout is also thrifty.
3. Help your Scout get a copy of the recipe for anything that requires multiple ingredients and calculate what they need based on the number of Scouts you are buying for. Some recipes for 4 servings may have to be doubled if your Scout is cooking for eight, or multiplied by 1.5 if they're cooking for 6.
4. Check what the Troop has left over in the Quartermaster area. We usually have lots of oatmeal and hot chocolate, along with pancake syrup and peanut butter.
5. Do not buy sodas or other soft drinks in cans or bottles. Approved drinks: Juices (100%), milk, gatorade, kool-aid mix. Buy the minimum amount needed (for example, orange juice for breakfast, and milk for cereal or cooking). Water is often better for the scouts and reduces what they have to carry.
6. 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.

7. Try to buy store brands, as they are usually less expensive. Also, 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.
8. Try to help your Scout prepare foods at home as much as possible. It is much easier to chop carrots and onions at home than on the campout. They can store them in zip lock baggies in the refrigerator before they leave.
9. Freeze foods that will allow it if your Scout knows they won't need them right away on the trip. For example, they could make hamburger into patties and freeze them in double plastic bags prior to leaving on the trip.
10. Remember to include spices (salt, pepper, cinnamon, sugar, etc.) and condiments (such as butter and syrup for pancakes, mayonnaise and mustard for sandwiches).
11. Remember that 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.
12. Remember to buy ice, charcoal, aluminum foil, paper towels, etc., if they need it. Some supplies are kept in the Quartermaster area, but don't assume there will be enough unless they check there first. Extra plastic bags are always useful.
13. Remember that the 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 the cooler. Any food that might be damaged by water should be protected in heavy-duty zip lock bags.
14. They should understand the type of cooking and cook gear they will take (backpacking vs. "car camping"). They need to make a list of the cooking gear they will need. For example, do they need the Dutch oven for a cobbler, or just pots for boiling water? Do they need a charcoal starter (chimney), or will they cook on gas stoves? Do they need isobutene for their backpack stove? They should give the list to their patrol Quartermaster so they get all the right stuff from the Quartermaster storage area.
15. Scouts need to try to stick to their per-person budget. If they spend less, that's great as long as they have enough food for everyone. If they have to spend more in order to get the food required, they can ask all members of the patrol to chip in to pay the difference. But if they go over by too much, they may be asked to explain why they spent so much. If there is a disagreement, the SPL should help them and the patrol work out their differences.
16. This is the Scout's job, not yours as a parent. Your Scout shouldn't change the menu just because their parents think that they know what their patrol should eat.

However, as a parent, you may certainly give good advice as you probably have lots of experience with certain foods and recipes. But the Scout's job is to provide for the patrol, based on the money they you are given and the menu that they helped plan.

17. 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 your Scout finds deficiencies, they should report these to the Troop Quartermaster PRIOR TO the outing, so that the Quartermaster 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 F

Directions to frequently used camping locations:

Camp Durant and Camp Reeves:

FROM RALEIGH (Note – a map can be found at <http://wp.campdurant.com/wp-content/uploads/map-to-durant.pdf>)

Take US-1 south from Raleigh past Sanford to the US-15/501 exit to Carthage and Pinehurst (you will see the Regal Inn on your right just before you exit to the right). Take US-15/501 South to the outskirts of Carthage where the speed limit drops to 35 mph (**enforced!**). Where 15/501 veers left and continues to Pinehurst, you will continue to head straight (west) where NC-24/27 peels off into Carthage.

Continue into town until you reach a traffic circle that goes around the town's courthouse. Turn right and go halfway around the traffic circle (as if you had gone straight through the courthouse) and continue on NC-24/27 to the outskirts of town. After you have passed a couple of convenience markets and a graveyard on your right, you will come to a "Y" intersection where you will turn left onto Bethlehem Church Rd. (On your right will be a green highway information sign with "Occoneechee Scout Camps" and an arrow pointing the way). What used to be an old gas station will be on your left in the "Y". You will come to a very sharp curve almost immediately after turning ... go slow!

After about 8 miles of twisting country road, you will come to a stop sign. After stopping, go through the intersection for less than a mile. On your left you will pass a brick Methodist church before coming to the service entrance to Camp Durant. The main entrance to Durant is about a half-mile further on the left. Park in the parking lot and check in at the adjacent Administration Building.

Camp Durant phone: 910-948-3258

The Ranger's residence is about a mile-and-a-half further down Bethlehem Church Rd. on the left at **the entrance to Camp Reeves**. You must check in with the Ranger if the main gate to Durant is locked. Ranger's phone: 910-824-6201.

B. W. Wells Campsite at Falls Lake

From Benson Memorial United Methodist Church, go north on Creedmoor Highway to Highway 98

Go East (right) on Highway 98 approximately 5 miles

Turn left (north) on Stony Hill Road

Go left onto Bud Morris Road

Go left onto Bent Road and follow to the end

Oddfellows Campground

From Benson Memorial United Methodist Church, go south on Creedmoor Road towards Glenwood Ave. Creedmoor Road becomes Edwards Mill Road.

Continue on Edwards Mill Road until it intersects with the Wade Avenue extension (near the RBC Center).

Turn right (west) onto the Wade Avenue extension, which merges with I-40 west. Go to the Harrison Ave exit (Exit 287) and go up the exit ramp to the stoplight.

Turn left at the stoplight onto North Harrison Ave and go about 0.5 mile, just past the Sam's Warehouse on the right, to a stoplight.

Turn right at the stoplight at Weston Parkway and go about 0.6 miles.

Turn right on Old Reedy Creek Rd. and follow it until it crosses back over I-40 (about 1 mile).

Look for a set of concrete barriers on the right, which mark the entrance to Oddfellows.

Appendix G

Suggested Shopping List for Personal Equipment:

Before purchasing any of the following equipment for your Scout, make sure you have thoroughly read the “Personal Equipment Guidelines” section of this guide starting on page 27. You and your Scout should also read the applicable sections of the *Scout Handbook* that are contained in the “Personal Equipment Guidelines” section. This suggested list contains the combined input from several adult leaders in the Troop. Please note, however, that equipment alternatives change frequently, so researching current developments is always a good idea. This is for “personal equipment”, and you and your Scout are responsible for your personal choices of styles, brands, etc.

Sleeping Bag: 3-1/2 pounds or less, synthetic-insulated mummy bag rated for 20 degrees.

Sleeping pad – see page 28 for guidance on styles.

Backpack: 2500-3500 cubic inch, preferably external frame, but the key point is that it should fit well to begin with, and the fit should be adjustable as the Scout grows.

Tent: Under 6 pounds, 2-person, 3-season. Domes or A-frames with 2 doors and 2 vestibules are ideal. A tent is likely to be the most expensive single purchase and can be deferred for a while.

Hiking Boots: Waterproof, leather, or leather/nylon. Boot height just over the ankle is preferred. Insulated is not necessary, but is good to have in cold weather. Allow room for thicker socks for cold weather.

Socks: One or two pairs of synthetic/wool blend midweight hiking socks, and one or two pairs of synthetic liners.

Rain gear: A waterproof breathable single layer nylon (lighter weight) rain coat (not plastic or vinyl) is ideal, but a quality nylon (not plastic or vinyl) poncho will also work quite well. Look for ‘waterproof’, not ‘water-resistant’. Lightweight waterproof rain pants are nice to have but are not essential.

Clothing Layering System:

- Base layer (wicking) - polyester short-sleeved T-shirt (long-sleeved crew or turtleneck for colder weather optional). Synthetic long underwear for winter should be included.
- Intermediate layer (insulation) – fleeced polyester sweatshirt-type pullover (could be turtleneck, zip-up, or mock crew).
- Outer Layer (windproof) – nylon windbreaker or if you purchased a waterproof rain jacket above, they are also perfect as a windproof outer layer.

- Pants – The Scout Class-A pants and shorts are 100% polyester, well-made, tough, and will stand up to years of abuse. You could supplement these with rain pants or a pair of lightweight nylon pants or shorts in summer. Lightweight nylon shorts can double as swimwear. Synthetic convertible cargo pants are a nice-to-have *option* - these serve as long pants when it's cold, and when the day gets warmer, the legs can be zipped off, changing them into shorts.

Other 'Essentials' (Pg. 224-225 & 207 of the *Scout Handbook*):

Personal Water Bottle: Dehydration is one of the most frequently encountered conditions Scouts experience. Each Scout should have **at least** one 1-quart water bottle (Nalgene, GSI, or similar). Old-fashioned canteens are too big and bulky. These can be carried using carabiner to attach them to one's belt or backpack. Separate carrying pouches (i.e., fanny-pack style) that can carry water bottles and other gear, thereby doubling as a light daypack, are optional.

Flashlight: The two most popular and practical are compact headlamps and/or a Mini-Maglight or similar using 2-3 AA batteries. Lights made with LED bulbs are usually lighter and the bulbs will last longer, but may cost a little more. Spare batteries should be taken on camping trips. Lithium batteries cost more but last much longer in cold weather. The smaller and lighter the flashlights, the better. Please do not send your Scout out with a heavy multiple D-cell flashlight. The Troop provides a large propane lantern for each patrol for area lighting, so the flashlight is only for personal use.

Compass: Simple, inexpensive plate compasses are adequate, and are needed for instruction and advancement.

First-Aid kit: Can be as simple as a zip-lock bag containing basic gauze, band-aids, etc. Refer to the Handbook for suggestions. This is also an instruction and advancement item.

Sunscreen: SPF 15-30 is adequate; waterproof compounds will stay on longer.

Personal mess kit: you can purchase one or your Scout can assemble their own from a leftover container, a hard plastic plate, spoon, and fork. The Troop provides cooking gear, stoves, and fuel for each patrol.

Personal toiletry kit: liquid soap in a small container along with a small sponge and towel are adequate. Synthetic camping towels are lighter and work well; they are available from most outfitters. Toothbrush with travel-size toothpaste and comb completes the kit.

Miscellaneous:

- Toboggan cap in winter (most heat loss is through the head).
- Lightweight glove liners, with full gloves in winter.
- Small notepad with pen or pencil.
- Sunglasses that protect against UV are strongly recommended. A strap to minimize the chance of loss is a desirable option; floating straps are even better.

- Trail Food: Usually not necessary or desirable unless hiking, particularly if the 'trail food' is candy.

The following items are to be carried only after completing applicable Troop training:

- Pocketknife: Scouts may carry a pocketknife only after earning their Totin' Chip. Sheath (fixed blade) knives are not permitted at some summer camps. Pocketknives are limited to no more than 4" blade length, folding type, preferably locking (see first-aid kit above).
- Matches and Fire Starter: Scouts in Troop 214 may carry or use matches only after earning their Fireman's Chit or attending a Troop wilderness survival campout.