

Troop 364
Boy Scouts of America
Bayside Presbyterian Church
Approved JAN 2020

TROOP OPERATING RULES

1.0 **General:** Troop 364 will follow the rules and guidelines set forth by the Boy Scouts of America and the Tidewater Council. More specific rules for Troop 364 are described below. These Troop 364 operating rules have been approved by the Troop Committee.

2.0 **Meetings:** Troop 364 has established the following meetings:

WEEKLY TROOP MEETING

Weekly Troop meetings are held each Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at Bayside Presbyterian Church. The Patrol scheduled for set-up must arrive by 6:45 pm as indicated on the posted schedule. Attendance is expected. Without notifying the adult leadership in advance, Scouts arriving later than 10 minutes after the start of a meeting will be marked as absent. Scouts requiring early departure before the meeting ends must request permission from the senior patrol leader (SPL) and the scout master (SM). The weekly meeting is conducted by Scout leadership, with adult leadership in attendance. Parents are invited to observe these meetings.

Individual work on advancement and/or merit badge requirements is NOT to be conducted during regular Wednesday weekly meetings WITHOUT PRIOR SM approval.

MONTHLY PLC MEETING

The Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) will meet monthly to review and plan the next month's weekly meetings and or activities. The SPL, ASPL, PL, and Troop Guide from each Patrol are expected to attend. The SM will attend to observe and provide guidance to Scout Leadership.

PATROL MEETINGS

Patrols are encouraged to hold at least one meeting per month. If these meetings are not held as a part of the troop meeting, the patrol assigned ASM or other leader assigned by the SM should be in attendance. The SPL should be notified of these meetings in advance.

TROOP COMMITTEE MEETING

A monthly meeting is held to discuss how the Committee can best support the needs of the SM and Troop. Membership is open to all interested adults. Only registered Committee Members can vote on Troop decisions. Parents and other concerned adults are encouraged to attend as observers and they may be recognized by the Chairman during discussions. The SM and ASM will utilize this forum to discuss troop operations, Scout leadership, training, and other concerns of the SM, ASM's or PLC.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Boards of Review (BOR) for First Class and below will normally be scheduled to be conducted on a Troop meeting night or monthly troop outing but not to conflict with the scheduled program. BOR for Star and Life will be conducted before monthly Committee

meetings made up of 3 to 6 official members, all others in attendance will be considered guest observers. No Committee Member may sit on any board reviewing his or her Scout. Special BOR may be convened at the request of the SM. Parents or other concerned adults may attend any BOR as an observer except that parents may not attend their Scout's BOR. Boards for Life and below will take approximately 30 minutes; Eagle Boards will take approximately 45 minutes.

3.0 Activities: In addition to the scheduled meetings, Troop 364 participates in hikes, campouts, and other special activities normally once a month. The following criteria has been established for attendance at these activities:

3.1 Be current in dues and fees.

3.2 Pay any activity and/or meal fees as required on or before the date specified by the adult leadership. Whenever possible, for acceptable reasons and sufficient advance notice to the adult leadership and the person responsible for the meals, fees (or a portion of the fees) may be reimbursed to the Scout.

3.3 Return the completed and signed permission slip on the designated date.

3.4 Have a current health form on file with the Troop.

3.5 Uniform for the activity will be as specified by the SM.

The SM has the authority to waive criteria 3.1 through 3.3 above in special circumstances.

4.0 Uniforms and appearance: Scouting is a uniformed organization with published recommendations for various activities. All Scouts and Leaders are expected to have Official Scout Uniforms within 60 days of registering with the Troop. Scouts are required to wear the uniform prescribed by the SM to every meeting and activity. Scouts are expected to present a neat and clean appearance at all times. (Remember the Scout Law). This means shirts are tucked in and buttoned prior to entering the building and must remain so throughout the meeting, unless the game or other activity is authorized. Remember that your Scout handbook is part of your uniform, and it should be with you at all times. It is recommended that a complete Scout Field Uniform (Class "A" uniform) as described in the BSA handbook be worn, however, an acceptable uniform will consist of:

1. BSA Shirt, complete with properly placed insignia, correct rank and leadership position.
2. A BSA neckerchief and neckerchief slide. Eagle Scouts may wear the Eagle Scout or BSA neckerchief or bolo. Adult leaders may wear a BSA bolo.
3. BSA caps are optional at meetings and on outings. However, if a scout wears a cap with a Field Uniform (Class A) or an Activity Uniform (Class B) uniform, it must be a BSA cap.
4. BSA belt (preferred)
5. BSA socks (preferred, optional)
6. BSA pants or shorts. If the BSA pants or shorts are not worn due to availability or due to the planned activity then dark or solid pants or shorts with belt loops (not cutoffs or gym shorts) should be worn.
7. Close toed shoes in accordance with the Guide to Safe Scouting. Open toed sandals or flip flops are NOT allowed with exception of camp shower facilities.
8. Official Boy Scout Handbook, with name clearly printed on spine or cover.

5.0 Fees and Dues: Scouts joining will pay fees and dues as described below:

DUES – Dues are to be paid at the weekly meeting in the amount of \$5.00 per month. Dues must be paid whether or not the Scout attends the meeting. All dues must be up to date for a Scout to be eligible for an outing, advancement, or other planned Scouting activities.

FEES- Fees (initial membership and annual recharter) will be paid as established annually by Troop Committee.

ACTIVITY COST- Costs may include an activity and/or meal fee. The activity fee is established by the Troop leadership, while the meal fees will be determined by each Patrol. These costs will usually change with each activity. Activity fees must be paid in advance (in most cases, two meetings prior to the date of the activity). This payment is required of all Scouts and adults attending the activity. Patrol meal costs must be paid prior to activity departure.

6.0 Advancement: Advancement is an essential part of Scouting and all Scouts are expected to continually work on the requirements for advancement to the next rank. All Scouts should strive to advance to the limits of their potential as described in the BSA Handbook. Immediate family members are not allowed to sign off that scout's advancement activities or merit badges if reasonable alternatives exist. To advance, each Scout must:

First Class and Below

1. Complete and have certified the rank requirements in any order and at any time.
2. Schedule and attend a SM Conference for each rank.
3. Attend a regular BOR, normally scheduled on a Troop meeting night.

Rank of First Class and below skills and requirements may be signed off by the SM or ASM. Additionally, skills and requirements may also be signed off by the SPL, ASPL, JASM, Troop Instructors, Troop Guides or designated Patrol Leaders.

Star and Life

1. Complete and have certified the rank requirements in any order.
2. Schedule and attend a SM Conference for each rank.
3. Attend a regular BOR normally scheduled prior to the start of a monthly Committee meeting night comprised of 3 to 6 Committee Members. A Life to Eagle Advancement Package will be presented within 30 days, to all Scouts achieving the rank of Life.

Rank of Star and Life skills and requirements can only be signed off by the Troop 364 SM or ASM. Any person signing off merit badge requirements must be registered with the BSA as a merit badge counselor.

Eagle

1. Attends special reviews at six-month intervals to review the Scout's progress in attaining the rank of Eagle.
2. Complete and have certified the rank requirements.
3. Schedule and attend a SM's Conference.
4. Schedule and attend a BOR conducted by the troop committee

Eagle Scout skills and requirements can only be signed off by the Troop 364 SM or ASM. Any person signing off merit badge requirements must be registered with the BSA as a merit badge counselor.

Any contention, difference of opinion, or question of a Scout's qualification for advancement will be discussed by the adult leadership (SM, ASM, and Committee, as required) prior to scheduling a SM Conference. This procedure allows the adult leadership to review a Scout's qualifications without the Scout being present and eliminates placing the Scout in an awkward Leadership/Scout situation.

6.1 Eagle Palms: After successfully completing an Eagle Scout board of review on or after Aug. 1, 2017, and being validated as an Eagle Scout by the National Service Center, you will be entitled to receive an Eagle Palm for each additional five merit badges you completed before your Eagle BOR beyond those required for Eagle. All current Scouts who have completed their Eagle BOR and who had not passed their 18th birthday before Aug. 1, 2017, are also entitled to receive Eagle Palms. For these Palms only, it will not be necessary for the Scout to complete the requirements stated below.

After becoming an Eagle Scout (and receiving the Eagle Palms as required) the Scout may earn additional Palms by completing the following requirements: have completed the requirements of three months active service, earn five additional merit badges, and completed a SM conference. The Scout will then request a BOR from the Committee Chair.

7.0 Discipline: Good behavior and discipline are absolutely essential to have an active, harmonious Troop. Therefore, any Scout who demonstrates unacceptable behavior or whose conduct is considered disruptive during Troop meetings and /or activities will be subject to the following progressive steps of disciplinary action:

1. Be counseled (in order listed) by Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, ASPL, SPL, ASM, SM and other adult leadership.
2. Appear before a Review Board conducted and attended by the PLC.
3. Have parents notified of concern and actions taken or pending.
4. Appear before Troop Committee BOR.
5. With Committee approval, be suspended or expelled from the Troop.

Whenever an offense of a serious nature occurs, the SM or other adult in charge may, at his or her discretion, dismiss the Scout from the meeting or activity into the custody of his parent/s or guardian. Any Scout who is subject to such dismissal shall be considered temporarily suspended from the Troop. To be readmitted to the Troop, the Scout must appear at the next scheduled weekly meeting and be counseled at that time by adult leadership. The Scout may also be required to appear before a Troop Committee BOR.

JHW
1/28/20

