

Boy Scout Troop 370

Parent Handbook



St. James UMC
4400 Peachtree Dunwoody Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30342

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America and Troop 370. By becoming a parent of a Boy Scout you are starting your son out on the great adventure of scouting. This is an important and rewarding endeavor that you will share with him.

Our sponsor, or Chartered Organization, is St. James United Methodist Church. Troop 370 is non-denominational and welcomes all boys ages 11 to 18 to scouting. A boy needs no prior experience to become a Boy Scout.

Troop 370 has five main goals for our Boy Scouts:

- Growth in moral strength and character
- Participate in citizenship
- Development of physical, moral, and emotional fitness
- Be comfortable in and appreciate outdoor activities
- Leadership

Our program will make your son a better person and give him the fundamental tools to be successful in whatever path he chooses in life. These skills are learned by Scouts, working together and doing things themselves. Last, but not least, our goal is to have fun.

We have prepared this parent's handbook to answer many of your questions. The following pages describe the organization of our troop and how it functions.

We hope this helps you help your Scout.

YOUTH PROTECTION

The Boy Scouts of America places the greatest importance on creating the most secure environment possible for our youth members. To maintain such an environment, the BSA developed numerous procedural and leadership selection policies and provides parents and leaders with resources for the Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venturing programs.

The Boy Scouts of America takes great pride in the quality of our adult leadership. Being a leader in the BSA is a privilege, not a right. The quality of the program and the safety of our youth members call for high-quality adult leaders. We work closely with our chartered organizations to help recruit the best possible leaders for their units.

The adult application requests background information that should be checked by the unit committee or the chartered organization before accepting an applicant for unit leadership. While no current screening techniques exist that can identify every potential child molester, we can reduce the risk of accepting a child molester by learning all we can about an applicant for a leadership position—his or her experience with children, why he or she wants to be a Scout leader, and what discipline techniques he or she would use.

Youth Protection training is required for all BSA registered volunteers.

Youth Protection training must be taken every two years. If a volunteer's Youth Protection training record is not current at the time of recharter, the volunteer will not be reregistered.

The BSA has adopted the following policies to provide additional security for our members. These policies are primarily for the protection of our youth members; however, they also serve to protect our adult leaders from false accusations of abuse.

Two-deep leadership is required on all outings. Two registered adult leaders or one registered leader and a parent of a participant, or other adult, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required on all trips and outings. The Troop requires all adults at outings (including unregistered volunteers) to have completed Youth Protection training.

One-on-one contact between adults and Scouts is prohibited. In situations that require personal conferences, such as a Scoutmaster's conference, the meeting is to be conducted in view of other adults and youths.

Separate accommodations for adults and Scouts are required. When

camping, no youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than his or her own parent or guardian.

Privacy of youth is respected. Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp, intruding only to the extent that health and safety require. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations.

Inappropriate use of cameras, imaging, and digital devices is prohibited.

While most campers and leaders use cameras and other imaging devices responsibly, it has become very easy to invade the privacy of individuals. It is inappropriate to use any device capable of recording or transmitting visual images in shower houses, restrooms, or other areas where privacy is expected by participants.

No secret organizations. The Boy Scouts of America does not allow any secret organizations as part of its program. All aspects of the Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders.

No hazing. Physical hazing and initiations are prohibited and may not be included as part of any Scouting activity.

No bullying. Verbal, physical, and cyber bullying are prohibited in Scouting.

Youth leadership is monitored by adult leaders. Adult leaders must monitor and guide the leadership techniques used by youth leaders and ensure that BSA policies are followed.

Discipline must be constructive. Discipline used in Scouting should be constructive and reflect Scouting's values. Corporal punishment is never permitted.

Appropriate attire for all activities. Proper clothing for activities is required. For example, skinny-dipping or revealing bathing suits are not appropriate as part of Scouting.

Members are responsible to act according to the Scout Oath and Scout

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

Units are responsible to enforce Youth Protection policies. The head of the chartered organization or chartered organization representative and the local council must approve the registration of the unit's adult leader. Adult leaders of Scouting units are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and interceding when necessary. Parents of members who misbehave should be informed and asked for assistance. Any violations of the BSA's Youth Protection policies must immediately be reported to the Scout executive.

For more information or to complete Youth Protection Training visit:

<http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx>

TROOP STRUCTURE

Boy Scout troops are organized using the patrol method. Each patrol consists of 4 to 8 scouts with one scout elected as a **patrol leader** and one as an **assistant patrol leader**. Patrol leaders learn how to manage troop activities by working under the direction of a **senior patrol leader** and **assistant senior patrol leader**. Older experienced Scouts may serve as **troop guides**, to assist new scouts in learning scout skills.

TROOP LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)

The leader of the troop. He is responsible for the troop's overall operations. He runs the weekly meetings, patrol leader's council and all troop activities. This is an elected position, voted upon by all scouts every six months, in March and September. He appoints the other positions except patrol leaders.

Assistant Patrol Leader (ASPL)

Appointed by the senior patrol leader. Troop 370 usually has four ASPLs, each in charge of different areas depending upon how the senior patrol leader sets up his leadership team. Usually, two are in charge of patrols and two are in charge of the other leadership positions.

Patrol Leader (PL)

The leader of a patrol. Elected by the patrol every six months (March and September).

Troop Guide

Must be First Class or higher rank. Mentors a newly formed patrol of new Scouts.

Quartermaster

The troop's supply boss. Keeps tabs on the troop's equipment.

Gymmaster

Makes sure gym time is organized and equipment is put away properly after gym time.

Scribe

The troop's secretary. Keeps minutes of the patrol leaders' council meetings, keeps attendance for campouts and meetings.

Order of the Arrow (OA) Representative

Liaison between the local OA lodge and the troop.

Historian

Collects photos, news articles and such. This position is all about what the scout does with it.

Librarian

Oversees the troop library, which mostly consists of merit badge pamphlets.

Instructor

An older scout who is qualified to teach younger scouts Scouting Skills. They must prove proficiency in a particular skill with an adult to be awarded this status.

Chaplain's Aide

Coordinates the troop's religious observances and promotes the religious emblems program.

Den Chief

Works with a den of Cub Scouts

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster

Must be 16, appointed by the Scoutmaster. Supports the Scoutmaster and senior patrol leader in troop operations.

TROOP COMMITTEE

The role of the Troop Committee is to support the Scoutmaster and the troop leadership in running a successful, safe, and sound program. The committee aids the Scoutmaster in four areas, program planning, advancement, outdoor program and administration.

All parents can become a member of the committee by attending the meetings and registering as an adult member of the Boy Scouts. The intent of the committee is to spread the work of the troop around and not to burden a few adults with such an epic task. Please contact our Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman for an adult application.

Any parental concerns can be addressed at the committee meeting.

Troop Committee Meetings are scheduled on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 and are held in the St. James Activities Building.

ACTIVITIES

TROOP MEETINGS

Troop 370 meets Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:00 in the St. James UMC Activities Building on the second floor. The troop meets year round with a few exceptions for holidays.

Scouts are required to attend each meeting in his troop t-shirt or Class A uniform.

TYPICAL AGENDA:

Opening
Announcements
Awards
Patrol Meeting
Skill Instruction
(rank advancement, merit badges, campout planning and Scoutmaster conferences)
Games in the Gym*
Closing

•Gym and Facilities Guidelines

Boys play. Damage happens. Whenever a scout damages anything from a wall to a light bulb he should report it to the Senior Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster or any Assistant Scoutmaster wearing a uniform. Early warning equals early repairs, and more importantly allows for the best possible relationship between Troop 370 and the St. James facilities manager. RESPECT THE FACILITIES.

All play in the gym must be in relation to an organized activity supervised by the Gymmaster, a boy appointed by the Gymmaster, or by the patrol that is sponsoring the activity.

Boys in the gym must be actively “spectating” or participating in the organized activity.

ANNUAL TROOP CALENDAR

In September, a calendar of events is distributed to Scouts and their families. It includes campouts, High-Adventure summer camping and summer camp dates.

ADVANCEMENT

THE BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK

Both Scouts and parents should become familiar with the contents of the Official Boy Scout Handbook, as it will provide answers to many questions. Descriptions of the requirements for each Scout rank are covered in the book. As your son advances in rank, Scout leaders will date and sign off on the completion of each requirement on the handbook. Encourage your son to take his handbook to all campouts and weekly meetings. Over time this book will become a valuable record of your sons achievements. It should be brought to every weekly meeting. Encourage your Scout to take good care of his book as they have to last a long time, and the records of achievement they contain are critical to each Scout's personal advancement through the ranks. The purchase of a protective cover is recommended and writing the last name along the pages to be read from the side is also a good idea. *(The Troop 370 Advancement Chair will record your Scout's achievements in a database after he has earned each rank.)*

BOY SCOUT RANKS



Typically, boys enter Boy Scouts after earning the Arrow of Light or being 11 years old. Experience as a Cub Scout is not required. The first three ranks (Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class) must be obtained in sequence, but may be worked on simultaneously. A detailed list of requirements is in the Official Boy Scout Handbook. Scouts work toward achieving the First Class rank by the end of their first year in Scouting. During the first year scouts will learn basic skills but also learn to work together which is often more essential than rank advancement.

Summer camp is an excellent opportunity to quickly move through the first three ranks. The Mountain Man program at Woodruff Scout Camp will get a Scout through 50-60% of the requirements for the ranks.

Inside the second closet in the Scout room at St. James is a color-coded guide to assist new Scouts. This key shows when/where requirements can be accomplished. This guide is very helpful as it can provide a new scout with a “roadmap” of how to use his time in meetings and campouts prior to summer camp to avoid duplicating effort.

Merit Badges:

No merit badges are required to reach First Class Rank, so it is not necessary to focus on merit badges during the first year of scouting, but scouts can earn any merit badge they want to earn at any time during their scouting career.

WHERE TO RECORD RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Troop 370 records all rank advancement activities in the advancement section in the back of the book.

WHO RECORDS RANK ADVANCEMENTS/REQUIREMENTS?

Instructors, the Scoutmaster, and Assistant Scoutmaster will sign each advancement activity.

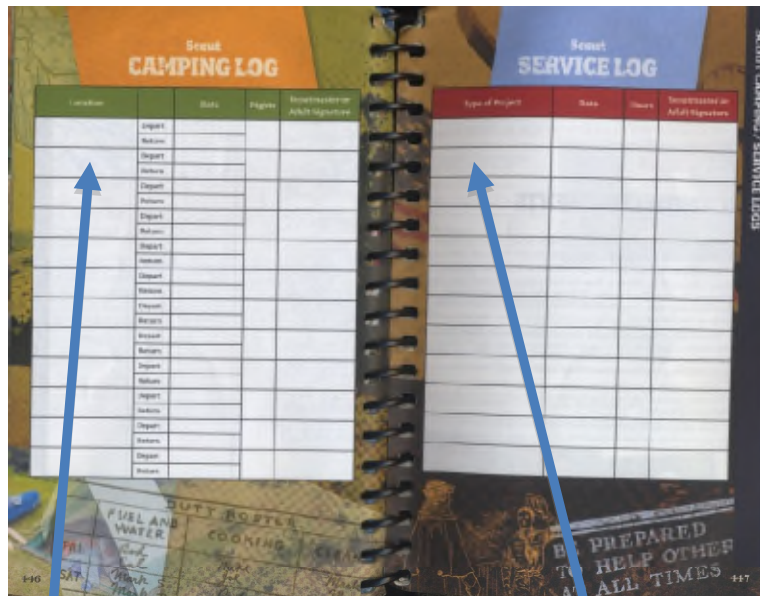
Exceptions:

- *Merit Badges—Only registered Merit Badge Counselors*

SERVICE HOURS

Beginning with the First Class Rank, service hours are a requirement for rank advancement. Activities that qualify don't have to be scouting events. Any community service activity can count including school, church or scouting service activities.

GET IT LOGGED AND SIGNED by an Instructor, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or other registered adult leader.



Troop Events entered here. If not an overnight campout put "0" for night of camping. The Scout has adult leader present sign.

Service Hours entered here. The Scout has the adult leader or older Scout (Eagle Project) present sign.

TROOP EVENTS

Troop events are a requirement for Second Class and First Class rank advancement. Activities that are considered any official troop or patrol activities including campouts, courts of honor, Eagle service projects or any other special scouting events.

GET IT LOGGED AND SIGNED by an Instructor, Scoutmaster or Assistant scoutmaster.

WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU LOSE YOUR SCOUT HANDBOOK?

All rank advancement must be recorded in your Scout handbook, so don't wait too long to get a new one; however, don't panic over lost work. All work done toward ranks for which boys have already had a scoutmaster conference and Board of Review will have been saved on the troop database. The merit badge a scout has earned is recorded in the troop database as well.

SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCE AND BOARD OF REVIEW

At the completion of each rank from Tenderfoot to Eagle, the Scout is required to participate in a conference with the Scoutmaster. This is to ensure that all requirements have been satisfactorily completed. When a scout has completed his requirements it is **his** responsibility to request a Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review. The Board of Review is conducted by adult scouters and is required for all ranks. The Board of Review in the lower ranks may include general questions related to the skills he has learned, but will not be a re-test of those skills. As the Scout advances in rank these questions will be more centered on leadership, citizenship and character.

The Scout must present himself to the Board in the complete Class A uniform. This includes shirt, pants, and socks.

MERIT BADGES

There are over 130 Merit Badges (MB) available in Scouting today with more being added each year. To obtain the highest Scouting rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn a minimum of 21 MBs. Of the 21 MBs, 12 are required. This means that the Scout must earn these specific MBs, the remaining 9 MBs can be any MBs the Scout wants to earn. To advance from First Class to Star, Scouts are required to start earning MBs. The same is true from Star to Life and Life to Eagle. That said, a Scout could start earning MBs as soon as they become a registered Boy Scout. Some, but not all, badge work may require prior approval of the MB Counselor.

Blue Cards are the record of Merit Badge progress and are turned in to receive the MB after all the requirements have been met and the counselor has signed off on the card. **Prior to meeting with MB Counselor, the Scoutmaster must sign the blue card.** Blue Cards are not always required. They are mostly utilized when a Scout wants to start a Merit Badge outside of a formal class setting. First step when using a Blue card is to find an approved MB Counselor. Talk to your counselor and ask if he prefers a Blue card. If so, have the Scout fill out the Counselor's information, have Scout Master sign card and start working on your MB. Once you start a card there is no time limit in completing except a Scout's age.

There are many different ways Scouts can earn MBs; these different methods are listed below.

TROOP MEETINGS

Scouts attend a leadership retreat in August where they choose MBs they would like to have offered during troop meetings for the upcoming year. The boy simply needs to attend the meetings and do any outside requirements that cannot be done in a meeting setting. The MB counselor will turn in advancement records to the advancement chairman. In most cases a blue card is not required to be started for these MBs.

SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp is where a Scout will earn most of the MBs they will receive. Troop 370 requires that MBs be scheduled in all morning sessions. Afternoon sessions can also be scheduled. Just remember summer camp is for fun, not just earning merit badges. The scouts will want to schedule some free time too.

DISTRICT CLINICS AT TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

These merit badges are offered by the North Atlanta District and are open to any Scout. The clinics are held the first and third Thursdays of the month at 7:00pm at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Usually a different merit badge is offered each month. The schedule can be found at www.northatlantabsa.org/id16.html. The boy will need to take a **BLUE**

CARD* with him for the merit badge counselor to sign. He needs to turn the blue card into the advancement chairman to get credit for his work, whether it is partial or full.

MERIT BADGE UNIVERSITY

This website (www.meritbadgeuniversity.info) lists merit badge offerings from all over the Southeast. You can go online anytime and check out opportunities for all kinds of MBs. Again, the boy will need a blue card in most cases. This is the site where troop 370 lists offerings for its Merit Badge Clinic in fall and spring.

DISTRICT AND COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

These announcements go out to the leaders every now and then. They are forwarded to the troop via Constant Contact emails.

Many destinations around town offer merit badges for groups: the Georgia Aquarium, the Space Center in Huntsville, Alabama, the Tellus Museum for Geology, Lockheed, and CNN. If your son would like to do one of these, chances are other boys in the troop would too.

INDIVIDUALLY

If your son knows a person who is interested in helping him earn a particular merit badge, he can ask that person to talk to the merit badge coordinator for information on how to become a counselor. After that person officially becomes a counselor, he can help the individual boy earn that MB. The counselor would need to communicate the boy's accomplishments to advancement chair with a blue card.

Scouts can pick up blank blue cards at any Scout meeting. Blue cards are located in the Troop library in the upper room in the Activities building.

Once a MB is started, a Scout can take as long as he wants to finish it. As each requirement is finished, he needs to let the Advancement Chair (Trigger Williams) or the Merit Badge Coordinator (Bill Walsh) know so it can be logged in the official Troop record. It is the Scouts responsibility to keep his blue card. If lost before it is recorded it will have to be redone.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents signing off on requirements for their Scout, either for rank advancement or merit badges is strongly discouraged within Troop 370. There are plenty of adult leaders that can sign off on requirements at any Wednesday meeting. The exception for this is the teaching of a Merit Badge class. If a parent becomes an approved MB counselor and holds a class open to other Scouts, Counselor can sign off on his son if he is in class.

MERIT BADGES (as of 2014)

American Business	Farm Mechanics	Plumbing
American Cultures	Fingerprinting	Pottery
American Heritage	Fire Safety	Programming
American Labor	First Aid	Public Health
Animal Science	Fish & Wildlife Management	Public Speaking
Archaeology	Fishing	Pulp and Paper
Archery	Fly Fishing	Radio
Architecture	Forestry	Railroading
Art	Game Design	Reading
Astronomy	Gardening	Reptile & Amphibian Study
Athletics	Genealogy	Rifle Shooting
Automotive Maintenance	Geocaching	Robotics
Aviation	Geology	Rowing
Backpacking	Golf	Safety
Basketry	Graphic Arts	Salesmanship
Bird Study	Hiking	Scouting Heritage
Bugling	Home Repairs	Scholarship
Camping	Horsemanship	Scuba Diving
Canoeing	Indian Lore	Sculpture
Chemistry	Insect Study	Search & Rescue
Chess	Inventing	Shotgun Shooting
Citizenship in the Community	Journalism	Skating
Citizenship in the Nation	Kayaking	Small-Boat Sailing
Citizenship in the World	Landscape Architecture	Snow Sports
Climbing	Law	Soil & Water Conservation
Coin Collecting	Leatherwork	Space Exploration
Collections	Lifesaving	Sports
Communications	Mammal Study	Stamp Collecting
Composite Materials	Medicine	Surveying
Computers	Metalwork	Sustainability
Cooking	Model Design and Building	Swimming
Crime Prevention	Motorboating	Textile
Cycling	Moviemaking	Theater
Dentistry	Music	Traffic Safety
Disabilities Awareness	Nature	Truck Transportation
Dog Care	Nuclear Science	Veterinary Medicine
Drafting	Oceanography	Water Sports
Electricity	Orienteering	Weather
Electronics	Painting	Welding
Emergency Preparedness	Personal Fitness	Whitewater
Energy	Personal Management	Wilderness Survival
Engineering	Pets	Wood Carving
Entrepreneurship	Photography	Woodwork
Environmental Science	Pioneering	
Family Life	Plant Science	

EAGLE REQUIRED MERIT BADGES

- 1 Camping
- 2 Cycling *or* Hiking *or* Swimming
- 3 Citizenship in the Community
- 4 Citizenship in the Nation
- 5 Citizenship in the World
- 6 Communications
- 7 Cooking
- 8 Emergency Preparedness *or* Lifesaving
- 9 Environmental Science *or* Sustainability
- 10 Family Life
- 11 First Aid
- 12 Personal Fitness
- 13 Personal Management

EAGLE COURT OF HONOR

An Eagle Court of Honor is the ceremony during which a Scout receives his Eagle Badge and scarf and other regalia. Bring your young scout to as many of these as you can. This is a formal event in the sanctuary of St. James UMC. It requires Class A uniforms for scouts attending and counts as a Troop Event to be logged in The Scout Handbook.

CAMPING

HARRY'S (TROOP 370) PACKING LIST

Items in italics are essential (except for cold weather items when summer camping).

Carry in Pocket

Signed permission slip

Wallet w/money for lunch on Sunday

Basic Camping Equipment

Pack or Duffel Bag

Waterproof pack cover (or large garbage bag)

Sleeping bag in waterproof stuff sack or plastic bag

*Tent, with ground cloth***

Plastic zip bags for gear (to hold small items)

Foam sleeping pad

Kitchen

Water bottle(s) (1-2 liters)

Eating bowl

Drinking cup

Spoon & fork

Trail snacks (dried fruit, granola bar, etc.)

Clothing

Rain jacket or poncho

Rain pants

Extra shoes

Wool sweater or fleece

Hat or cap

Socks

Shirt

Clothes for sleeping

Long pants

Shorts

Swimsuit

Underwear

Shirt

Sunglasses

****Either bring your own tent, arrange to sleep in another scout's tent, or arrange with your patrol leader to use a troop tent.**

***Depends on weather.**

Toilet Articles

Soap

Small towel

Washcloth
Toothbrush & toothpaste
Comb
Toilet paper (in plastic bag)
Metal mirror
Chapstick
Personal prescription medicines
Personal first aid kit
Insect repellent
Sunscreen

Garage

Official Boy Scout Handbook in a plastic Ziploc® with a ball point pen
Nylon cord (25' of 1/8" to 3/16")
Pocketknife
Compass
Matches in waterproof case or bag
Whistle
Small rope or twine
Boy Scout Handbook (in ziploc bag)
Camera and film
Fishing gear
Small Notepad and Pen
Small amount of duct tape
Small sewing repair kit
Small change (for emergency calls)
Flashlight (with extra batteries and bulb)
Watch

B A C K P A C K C A M P I N G

Basic Camping Equipment

*Backpack - Approximately 3000 to 3800 cubic inches in volume (60–75 liters);
Internal or external frame
Waterproof pack cover (or large garbage bag to cover pack)
Sleeping bag in waterproof stuff sack or plastic bag - 20-25 degree rated
Tent, with ground cloth**
Plastic zip bags for gear (to hold small items)
Foam sleeping pad*

Plastic Ground Sheet (5' x 7' - to go under tent)
Head Lamp (LED type)

Bandana
Sturdy pair of shoes with a deep treads

OPTIONAL

Two-person Backpacking tent
Tarp for shelter tent (10' x 12')
Backpacking stove (butane/propane or liquid fuel)

SUPPLY CLOSET

Troop 370 has a large closet of camping supplies. Do not feel the need to buy everything your scout will need for camping.

List of Available Items

Backpacks
Sleeping bags
Tents
Cooking stoves and single burner (for backpacking)
Pots, pans, and cooking utensils
Water filtration

During the meeting prior to a campout your scout needs to seek the Quartermaster (another scout) or an Assistant Scoutmaster to help him with the necessary supplies. Simply return to the supply closet the following week. The scout needs to sign out and sign in items in clean, dry condition.

UNIFORM

CLASS A UNIFORM



The Class A uniform is worn to all Scout meetings, whenever we travel, on Scout Sunday, for flag ceremonies, and for Courts of Honor. The Class A Uniform consists of a scout shirt, scout shorts or scout pants, scout belt, scout socks and closed toed shoes. A neckerchief, slide and sash should be worn to all Courts of Honor and on Scout Sunday. Insignia placement can be found online at:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutssource/Media/InsigniaGuide/06.aspx>

CLASS B UNIFORM

The Class B Uniform is worn to summer scout meetings, at summer camp (except to dinner), while on campouts and during sporting activities. The Class B Uniform is a scout t-shirt, scout shorts, socks, and athletic shoes. Scout t-shirts can be the standard grey troop t-shirt, any summer camp t-shirt, or any of the t-shirts specially made for our high adventure treks.

Troop 370 provides a new scout with a troop-specific neckerchief and a grey Class B t-shirt.

WE also have a uniform exchange where scouts may be able to find uniforms their size, or you may purchase a uniform at the Scout Shop. The exchange is in one of the closets upstairs in the room where we have our meetings.

**Scout Shop, 1800 Circle 75 Pkwy SE, Atlanta, GA 30339
(770) 988-9912**

Store Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 9AM to 6PM

Tuesday and Thursday - 9 AM to 8 PM

Saturday - 10AM to 4PM

Sunday – Closed

PAPERWORK

REGISTRATION AND FEES

Registration:

Each new scout must fill out a new registration form, even if he was a Cub Scout in Pack 370. We also recommend that at least one parent register, particularly if you intend to drive to outings or go camping.

Annual Registration Fees:	\$75	Per Boy Scout (\$50 if transferring as a registered Pack 370 Member)
	\$25	Per Parent

Fees for Outings/Activities:

Individual activities may have additional fees associated with the event. Typical overnight campouts are \$30 per person. Longer campouts like the MLK weekend cost around \$125. High adventure trips range from \$1500-\$1700. Fees include the cost of food, transportation, and any special program charges for equipment and instructors. On most weekend campouts, the fee is waived for adults driving and transporting Scouts. Merit Badges taught within the troop usually do not have a charge, but some merit badge clinics may have a fee to cover supplies.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Troop 370 is a boy led troop, a troop environment where the boys provide the leadership and adults play pure advisor, safety net and logistics roles in the background. Parents are an integral part of supporting the boys and can help in many ways.

ACTIVITY VOLUNTEER

Requests for help for specific activities such as preparations for Courts of Honor and fundraisers are sent via email as needed and include details and contact information.

ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER

Any adult male or female who is willing to wear a scout uniform and offer general assistance to individual scouts or with troop activities may carry the title of ASM. These volunteers are often seen hanging out at scout meetings waiting for boys to ask them for help with particular requirements. They take forms, help keep order when an adult voice is needed and jump in when the situation needs another hand.

MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR

The troop needs your talents to help out boys advance toward Eagle. There are currently 125 merit badges the boy can earn. Decide which you would like to offer to counsel either as a class or individually, and contact Bill Walsh, our merit badge coordinator. A complete list of merit badges and their requirements can be found at www.meritbadge.com.

TRIP CAPTAIN

We rely extensively on parents to help coordinate our monthly campouts. The troop has been planning campouts for years and the coordinator can provide you with all the information necessary to help you succeed in this role.

CAMPOUT ATTENDANCE/DRIVERS

Adults are needed for every campout! Parents of younger scouts sometimes worry if they will be a nuisance or distract from the trip for their boy. Honestly, the boys tend to do their thing, and the adults do theirs. As long as you respect the “boys lead troop” ideal, you’ll be fine. Parents are always welcome, but younger non-scout siblings and pets may not attend.

ASSISTING THE PATROL SHOPPER

For most weekend campouts, the boys will form cooking patrols of 4-8 Scouts, and they will plan a menu and create a grocery list with estimated costs. If your son is designated to be the Patrol Shopper for the campout, please take him to the grocery store and help him complete his shopping duties. Remind him to be respectful of the patrols’ food choices and be considerate of the budget for the campout. Before arriving at the Church for the campout, the Scout should place the refrigerated items in a cooler and pack the other food items in sturdy box or other container. The Troop collects camping fees from each participant and then reimburses the Patrol Shopper for the cost of the patrol food. Your Scout will have information regarding the reimbursement process. The budget is an important part of the planning process, but do not be concerned if you run a few dollars over; the Troop will reimburse the reasonable costs of the groceries, and the boys will discuss what might have been done to stay within the budget.

TROOP COMMITTEE

The Troop Committee functions as an administration and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of newsletter, troop funds, fundraising, membership, advancement records and procurement and maintenance of troop equipment. Troop Committee meetings are open and attendance by all parents is encouraged. The Troop Committee meets monthly, usually the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30pm in the St. James Activities Building.

WHAT CAN I DO?

More detailed information about serving as an adult volunteer can be found in the current “What Can I Do?” publication posted on the Troop website.

TRAINING

For many reasons, including training, it is best to register yourself as a member of the troop when you register your boy. Many training courses are available online, such as Youth Protection, Safety Afloat, Safe Swim Defense, and This is Scouting. Anyone can log on and take these courses at any time at www.myscouting.org. You do have to create an account, which will ask for your BSA number. If you don't have your number yet (these are assigned by the council with your adult registration), just proceed without one, and you can link your record with your training later when you get your number.

FACEBOOK

Did you know that Troop 370 has its own Facebook page? Permission slips, documents, photos and calendars information are posted frequently.

Look for "Boy Scout Troop 370, Atlanta, GA"

or type this into your browser's URL bar:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/126169727423188/?fref=ts>