# Troop 67

New Scout Parent Orientation

### Levels of Parental Involvement

## High Level of Involvement:

The Scout Master relies heavily on Troop 67 Committee and the Assistant Scout Masters (ASMs) to coordinate events, provide support for meetings, and generally run the troop. A new parent can join either position immediately upon joining the troop, but the highest priority is to ensure there are at least two active patrol advisors in the patrol your son joins. The ASMs arrange, plan and lead the outings during the year, as well as provide training and general support during the meetings. The Committee is led by a Chairperson, and focuses on the administrative aspects of running the troop (treasurer, advancement chairperson, courts of honor, charter, check and balance on Scout Master, etc.).

### **Medium Level of Involvement:**

Each patrol needs two or (preferably) more adult patrol advisors. These adults assist with one or more of the following: Help the patrol leader keep the patrol focused on the tasks at hand; Train the scouts in various skills that they need to advance (which you can easily learn by looking at the scout handbook or discussing with other adults or scout leaders); Go on outings; Sign off in the scouts handbook that they have performed various requirements (discussed further on in this packet); Attend ASM meetings that the Scout Master holds once a month. Failure to have 2 active patrol advisors can lead to meeting ineffectiveness and scouts quitting.

### **Minimum Level of Involvement:**

The troop holds weekly meetings which cover many topics including advancement, training, preparations for outings and games. The scout should attend every meeting in order to stay up to date. Attendance by parents is optional, although new parents are encouraged to attend and get involved, so that they may get oriented with scouting and learn the things they need to know to help their son succeed in scouting. It is important that parents get their son to the meeting on time. (Meetings start promptly at 7:00 pm), and pick up their son no later than 8:45 pm. The troop goes on outings, ranging from fun gatherings at places like rock gyms, to very serious and challenging outings like winter hikes or mountain climbing. The parents job is make sure that your scout gets the support he needs to "be prepared" for these outings. He will be getting instruction in what he needs for each outing. Checklists may be provided or can be found in the Scouts Handbook.

For more serious outings, such as hikes and over-night camping, he will be asked to come to the meeting previous to the outing with his gear fully prepared for the outing. The parent's job is to help him by providing the necessary gear, food other support he needs. If your scout has never been away from home, or slept away from you, and you have a concern, please consider accompanying your son on the outing. If this is not possible, please alert the Scout Master of your concern. Scouts are not allowed to bring electronics on outings (cell phones, IPods, MP3 players, radios, etc.)

# **General Topics**

## Uniform & Handbook

A new scout needs a Boy Scout Uniform and a Boy Scout Handbook. Historically the troop supplies handbooks to Webelos crossing over to Boy Scouts. The Scout Handbook is a tremendous source of information for scout and parent. Parents are encouraged to read the Scout Handbook as their scout progresses in rank. This is where a scouts progress towards ranks is signed off on. Each scout begins his Trail to Eagle as soon as he completes his Scout rank. Parents will want to review the Scout to Eagle section of the handbook with their scout to become familiar with the different ranks.

The official Boy Scout uniform includes a scout shirt with proper insignias, a neckerchief, and a scout hat. Troop 67 does not require official BSA pants. Blue jeans or khakis are fine for meetings and indoor outings. For hiking, Klondike Derby and camping events, blue jeans are discouraged because they are cotton and cotton has terrible thermal characteristics when it's cold and/or wet. Official Boy Scout uniforms should be worn to all troop meetings (although hats are optional). The troop has custom designed troop 67 neckerchiefs which the troop provides for the new Boy Scouts as well.

The official uniform referenced above is called the "Class A" uniform. The troop also has "Class B" clothing available for purchase. T-shirts and sweatshirts with the Troop 67 logo that may be worn at other times for example service projects, summer camp, personal use, etc. These items will be available to order at specific times during the year.

## Equipment

The troop provides some equipment. Your scout does not need a tent. The troop will supply tents, stoves, lanterns, large pots, etc. The scout is responsible to obtain the rest. Items needed primarily include: mess kit, knife/fork/spoon, backpack, matches, first aid kit (developed for second class), flashlight (small & lightweight), boots, water bottles, sleeping pad and a sleeping bag.

**Sleeping Bags**: Most troop outings will occur during seasons and locations where it can get cold. Cotton, flannel and down sleeping bags are inappropriate. Sleeping bags filled with synthetic materials are the most appropriate because they continue to have insulating properties when damp or wet. Serious campers (your scout could become one) generally have two bags, a warm weather bag (rated 20°-40°F) and a cold weather bag  $(-20^{\circ} - 0^{\circ}F)$ . To start out, buy something inexpensive between o°F to 20°F. Such a bag can be "stretched" to lower temperatures by adding a wool or fleece blanket inside on cold nights. The main difference between inexpensive and expensive synthetic fill bags is weight and size. The inexpensive bag will be heavy and bulky. As scouts progress and want to challenge themselves on back-packing trips, they will covet a light-weight, tightly packed sleeping bag. These aren't cheap but make great presents.

<u>Sleeping Pad</u>: These are a must. Inexpensive ones are one-half inch thick, closed cell foam. These work great but are a bit bulky for backpacking. As your scout progresses, he may want a compact inflatable pad. These inflate to one-half or three-quarter inch thickness, are lightweight and small for packing.

**A Compass**: Orienteering type, not folding type.

<u>Pocket Knife</u>: Knives want to be folding types with 2-3" blade. Sheath knifes are "cool" but not terribly useful because they only have one large blade. Scouts don't need a big bladed knife. Scout knives can be found at the Scout Headquarters store. Swiss Army knives are great. Please note, Scouts are not allowed to carry knives to scout functions until they have earned their Totin Chip card, which shows they have learned safety rules and how to use and care for cutting tools like knives, saws and axes.

<u>Flashlights</u>: Scouts need a lightweight flashlight or headlamp (LED lights work wonders). Please do not buy your scout gas or propane lanterns.

Troop equipment, such as tents, is available from the Quartermaster.

### Food

Patrol cooking (each patrol is responsible to cook their own meals) is common, however exceptions occur frequently. It is important for the Patrol Leader and Patrol Advisors to ensure meals are planned, equitably paid for, and executed. The scout handbook emphasizes good nutrition, which parents need to help scouts abide by. However, it is traditional for scouts to bring along special treats/snacks that make them happy (candy, etc.). When planning a meal, scouts/parents need to carefully think through the cleanup. Scouts must wash their dishes, which can be a lot of trouble on a campout. So, planning less finicky meals that require very few pots/pans is highly encouraged. Scouts also need to bring sufficient water to meet their needs.

#### <u>Suggestion for Camping where no back-packing is required</u>:

<u>Foil Dinners</u>: Food cooks in aluminum foil and scout eats it in the foil. All the scout needs is a fork, a spoon and knife.

<u>Boil Bags</u>: These are special bags that seal food in airtight and the food is heated by dropping the bag in a boiling pot of water until the bag contents are hot enough to steam (bag expands). The food is eaten in the opened bag, the scout warms his hands while eating, only needs his silver-ware. Boil bags have been used to heat up soups, spaghetti & meat balls, casseroles, french toast with syrup and sausage, you name it. Caution: You cannot use regular plastic bags for this.

## Clothing

The choice of clothing is very important. Unlike waiting for the school bus underdressed on a cold day, which lasts minutes, the clothing scouts wear on a campout must be sufficient for + 14 hours of outdoor exposure. In the case of snow or rain, being waterproof and warm is critical. The troop has a rule for camping when you might get cold (either directly due to low temperature, or if there's rain)... NO COTTON. No cotton means, you should be dressed completely in polyester, polypropylene, wool, etc. Cotton gets wet and stays wet, sapping your son's heat, and threatening his health. Carharts are cotton, jeans are cotton, most underwear is cotton, etc. As important as clothing is, footwear choice is extremely important as well. In the winter, scouts should be wearing insulated, waterproof boots. Nothing fancy, just functional, as well as good non-cotton, thermal socks. Mittens are far better than gloves, and a good hat is critical as most heat is lost through the head; it protects his ears as well. In extreme situations, hand or foot warmers can also help keep the scout warm.

The secret to staying warm in cold weather is to wear multiple layers and to stay dry. Consider a scout who wears long underwear, warm shirt and pants, and an insulated winter coat. He has three layers, and he will get hot when exerting himself, sweat and get wet, then take off his coat and be too cold, and he has no further options but to be taken to a warming hut while his buddies are out having fun. Three layers won't cut it on a cold weather camping trip.

A better plan is to wear 4 or 5 (or more) layers:

- 1. wool or polypro long underwear with polypro socks
- 2. wool pants and socks, lightweight fleece shirt or light wool sweater
- 3. wool shirt (not flannel, flannel is cotton)
- 4. pull over or zip-on wind/nylon over-pants
- 5. Fleece Sweater
- 6. Wind-proof or water-proof shell coat or jacket with hood
- 7. Insulated mittens with wool gloves or mittens underneath
- 8. Wool or Fleece Hat

The layer system relies on the person to shed or add layers to maintain a comfort level without sweating heavily, or becoming too cold. For this reason, a winter traveler needs a pack of some kind that he can store his clothes in when not wearing them. For extremely cold conditions, the scout might add a down vest or coat to wear when at rest. Below are photos of the 2000 Klondike winners in minus 10 deg F conditions. You can still find a lot of inexpensive army surplus wool clothing at websites like Sportsman's Guide. All of the wool pants worn in the attached photos were Swiss Army surplus and cost less than \$20. Note the hats, wool pants, boots, scarves, neck gaiters, etc.





## **Troop Meetings**

Troop meetings are held on Mondays at Glendaal from 7-9 (opening ceremony 7:15, closing 8:45). Meetings will not be held when Glendaal is closed. A typical troop meeting goes as follows: Opening ceremony, announcements/awards, advancement time, troop activities (practicing skills), games, and then the closing ceremony.

It is a good idea to purchase some sort of 3 ring binder/zip up binder for the meetings. It can also house the Scout Handbook, Service & Camping Logs, and any Merit Badge paperwork/books they may be working on.

If your son says that he is bored at the meetings, please tell his patrol advisor or the Scout Master immediately. There are always plenty of resources at meetings and the problem can be fixed immediately.

#### **Important Troop Policy on Dues Collection:**

Troop 67 expects dues to be paid on time. Dues are \$3 per month during the school year. Scouts that are 6 months late will not be allowed to advance or be re-chartered until dues are made up. Warnings will be provided by the Troop Scribe during dues collection. Please direct any questions to our Committee Chairperson.

Paying dues is a way to teach your scout responsibility and how to deal with money. How the scout obtains the dues money is between him and you, perhaps he earns his dues money by doing "a good turn" around the house. The scout slogan is "do a good turn daily." Your scout should bring the dues money to the meeting. He will give it to his patrol treasurer, who will log it in and deliver it to the troop scribe, who will count the collection total and deliver it to the Committee treasurer or the Scout Master. The troop has a dues collection process that must be followed.

The troop discourages the parent from just paying the dues in one payment. The idea is to teach the entire scout chain of command how to handle and be responsible for money.

### **Court of Honor**

This is an event held twice a year during our troop meeting. It is held to honor and recognize our children's advancements.

The Court of Honor (COH) is, for Boy Scouting, a formal ceremony where scouts are recognized for earning merit badges and rank advancements. The COH is opened and closed by the Scout Master and emceed by a senior scout. The Class A uniform is worn.

Family members are encouraged to attend and bring their cameras. It is common for refreshments and treats to be provided by parents and/or the committee, when the budget allows.

### Advancements

Once your scout achieves his Scout Rank, his personal Trail to Eagle has begun. Whether he decides to work toward this goal will be determined by many factors. Many are controlled by the quality of the Troop, such as the Program, how many friends he has, and how much respect he develops for older scouts pursuing the Trail to Eagle. A large factor will be how you feel about it and how much support you give him. Looking at the roster of past Eagle Scouts, it is easy to see that most Eagle scouts are sons of parents who are active in the Troop as assistant Scout Masters, Patrol Advisors, Scout Master or committee members. Another way of saying this is the following:

If YOU are not active in the troop, your son is much less likely to become an Eagle Scout. Think about it.

#### Can you sign a Scout's handbook?

ASMs and Patrol Advisors as well as select senior scouts (troop guides, SPL, ASPL) are authorized to sign scout handbooks if the scout meets the requirements. You can not sign your son's handbook, but you can help get someone else to check him out if he's ready for a signature. In many cases, the following method is used: 1) Train the scout at a meeting till they know the requirement very well. Do not sign off though. 2) Test the scout at the next meeting to ensure they've mastered and can remember the skill. Advancement is an important goal of Troop 67, but it must be done right. The Scout Master will test the troop in various common skills periodically (first aid, knots, lashing, etc.).

### **Scoutmaster Conferences**

When a scout has all of his rank requirements signed off, he should schedule a Scout Master Conference. It is the scout's responsibility to telephone the Scout Master to schedule his conference. No one else may do this for him.

#### <u>Summary of Requirements for Scout Master Conferences</u>:

#### All Ranks:

- Have Scout Handbook signed off for the rank
- Spot check specific requirements if desired, or if they seem questionable
- Wear uniform
- Bring Service Log
- Bring Camping Log
- Know Scout Law and Oath
- Know basics of Outdoor Code
- Participation—Scouts must be attending meetings, going on outings (temporary exceptions for sports, etc. are commonly made, but this could delay a specific advancement)

The Scout Master, at his discretion, will test the scout on any of the rank requirements. Failure to pass these tests will result in failure to advance until the deficiency is corrected.

### Board of Review (BoE)

A periodic review of the progress of a Scout is vital in the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Scouting program in the unit. This typically occurs once a month and is held during a Troop Meeting The unit committee can judge how well the Scout being reviewed is benefiting from the program. The unit leader can also measure the effectiveness of his or her leadership. The Scout can sense that he is, or is not, advancing properly and can be encouraged to make the most of his Scouting experience.

Not only is it important to review those Scouts who have learned and been tested for a rank, but also to review those Scouts who have shown no progress in their advancement over the past few months.

Participants in a Board of Review must keep these objectives in mind:

- Ensure the Scout has completed requirements for the rank.
- Evaluate the experience the Scout is having in the unit.
- Encourage the Scout to progress further.

The Board also provides an opportunity for the Scout to develop and practice skills needed in an interview situation, and it is an opportunity for the Scout to review his accomplishments.

The Board of Review is not a retesting of requirements - the Scout has already been tested on the skills and activities required for the rank. However, the chairman of the Board of Review should ensure that all the requirements have been signed off in the Scout's handbook. Additionally, the chairman should ensure that leadership and merit badge records are consistent with the requirements for the rank.

The Board of Review is a time to determine the Scout's attitudes, accomplishments, and acceptance of Scouting Ideals. Scout Spirit is defined as living the Scout Oath and Scout Law in a Scout's everyday life. The board should make sure that good standards have been met in all phases of the Scout's life. A discussion of the Scout Oath and Scout Law is in keeping with the purpose of the review, to make sure that the candidate recognizes and understands the value of Scouting in his home, unit, school, and community.

### Troop 67 has a WEBSITE:

www.troop67glenville.org – We attempt to keep this website as up to date as possible, but also pay close attention to the announcements at the beginning of each meeting as important dates/events are discussed.

# **Key Annual Events**

### Key Event #1 – Summer Camp

<u>Summer</u> Camp: This is a must for Troop 67 Scouts. We usually attend in late July (week of 25th, typically). The cost is determined each year by Council, but typically > \$250. If this is a hardship, support can be applied for from Council (called a Campership), which is highly encouraged. The Scout Master expects the whole troop to attend summer camp if at all possible. Troop 67 summer camp is at Camp Wakpominee, an excellent facility with excellent programs. A physical exam must be documented for each scout and attending parent on a Class 3 medical form (attached). This must be filled out completely and signed by the doctor. Please note that vaccinations must be filled in accurately.

## Key Event #2 – Klondike Derby

The Klondike Derby: Although Troop 67 doesn't often go on Council-sponsored camporees, it does participate in the annual Klondike Derby (and in past years, dominated it). This event is a competitive test of scout winter skills, which are fundamentally important if you live in the north as we do. The troop focuses on this event to help hone key winter survival skills. Scouts are expected to participate in this event if possible, but they need to be prepared for a difficult winter experience. It is suggested that scouts just attend and observe the competition their first year.

## Key Event #3 – SPUDS

**Spuds**: Troop 67 has a unique method of raising its annual funding. It sells potatoes... lots of them. Last year, we sold ~ 800 bushels. This raised about \$4000 for the troop, which has been sufficient when added to dues to keep the troop solvent and then some. All scouts, siblings and parents, especially siblings and parents that can lift 50 pound potato bags, are urged to participate. This includes going to the field to pick and bag them, and then distributing them – selling bags of potatoes (20 minimum this year). For every missing scout or adult, the rest of us have to work that much harder. It takes 1 day to complete, and can be quite a bit of fun, but you will feel it the day after. Having the entire troop participate is very, very important.

## Youth Protection Training

Recently, the Boy Scouts of America announced important changes to its Youth Protection policies. The purpose of these changes is to increase awareness of this societal problem and to create even greater barriers to abuse than already exist today in Scouting.

#### **Effective June 1, 2010**:

- Youth Protection training is required for all BSA registered volunteers, regardless of their position.
- New leaders are required to take Youth Protection training before submitting an application for registration. The certificate of completion for this training must be submitted at the time the application is made and before volunteer service with youth begins.
- 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.

To find out more about the Youth Protection policies of the Boy Scouts of America and how to help Scouting keep your family safe, see the Parent's Guide in any of the Cub Scouting or Boy Scouting handbooks, or go to: http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx.

Once the application is approved, the new leader will receive his or her membership card with their member ID. It is important that new members log back in to myscouting.org and update their profile with this member ID to receive credit for completing this and any other training.

If a person is not a registered leader, how can he or she log in and take the Youth Protection training? A person does not have to be a registered volunteer to take Youth Protection training. To take the training, go to: www.myscouting.org and click on create an account. After you have confirmed your new myscouting account user name and password, log in to myscouting.org and click on e-training to begin the Youth Protection training. Upon completion, print a certificate to submit with a completed adult leader application to the unit leader or your local council representative for processing. Remember to keep a copy for your records.

If you have more questions please go to: www.scouting.org/youthprotection.

## Scout Master & Troop Expectations and Goals:

- Attend every meeting possible and wear your scout uniform, including neckerchief.
- Attend every outing possible.
- Stay current on your dues.
- All scouts should be working toward achieving First Class within 1-2 years of joining.
- Scouts need to be working on merit badges through the year. A good goal for older scouts is 3 Eagle badges plus 2 non-Eagle badges (in addition to summer camp) each year. Younger Scouts should focus on obtaining First Class.
- Patrol Advisors and Patrol Leaders should try to have one patrol outing every other month.

- Always remember Two-Deep Leadership which means that there will always be at least two adults with any scout or group of scouts at any point in time. This is for the protection of the scouts and for the adults.
- Troop 67 should continue to be "Boy Led." This means that scouts need to work with one another! The older scouts help out the younger scouts whenever possible. Open lines of communication stay in place throughout each patrol, and throughout Troop 67 as a whole. If your scout encounters any difficulty, please discuss this as soon as possible with the Scout Master.
- All scouts should be working toward achieving First Class by June 30.
- Summer Camp attendance should increase.

### WHAT IS THE BOTTOM LINE?

The troop and your son will benefit strongly if you are active. The Troop needs your help as a Council member or ASM to keep Troop 67 successful. Scouts need your direct support to make it to Eagle. There will be times when they want to quit, which is when they need you most:

Perseverance + effort + support = An Eagle Scout