

Scout and Family Handbook Acknowledgement Form

I have received a copy of the Troop 146 Scout and Family Handbook, containing, in part, the policies, procedures and rules of Troop 146. I have read them and understand them or have received any clarifications. I agree to abide by these policies, procedures and rules as stated.

Name of Scout (printed): _____

Signed by Scout: _____

Date: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian (printed): _____

Signed by Parent or Guardian: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian (printed): _____

Signed by Parent or Guardian: _____

Date: _____

This form must be signed by the Scout and all parents or guardians in the home who will assist the Scout in his adventures with our unit. The form should be turned back in during the annual rechartering process or within two weeks of receiving this handbook if joining mid-year.



Boy Scouts of America
Troop 146
Toqua District
Great Smoky Mountain Council
Knoxville, TN



Scout and Family Handbook



Troop 146 is sponsored by
Middlebrook Pike United Methodist Church
7234 Middlebrook Pike
Knoxville, TN 37909

www.t146.org



This handbook is intended to give you information about our Troop and the Boy Scouts of America. This is a living document which will be updated periodically, and comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Initial Release 11-13-2017

Table of Contents

Welcome Letter	3
Mission and Vision Statements.....	5
Scouting Aims.....	6
Scouting Methods	6
Boy Scouting is Different from Cub Scouting.....	8
Questions About Advancement.....	10
Expectation of a Scout Parent.....	11
Weekly Meetings	13
The Boy Scout Organizational Structure	15
Membership and Medical Requirements	15
Participation Requirements	15
Schedule Conflicts	16
Troop Finances.....	16
Troop Organization	18
Scouts.....	18
Adults	19
Advancement	21
Scoutmaster Conference	22
Board of Review	23
Other Advancement Considerations	23
Scout Spirit	24
The Court of Honor	27
Service Policy	28
Merit Badges	30
Troop Library.....	31
Uniform Requirements	31
Troop Calendar Development Process	32
Camping	33
Fire Building	35
Knives	35
Prohibited Items	35
Equipment.....	35

Transportation	36
Order of the Arrow	36
Behavior Requirements	37
Youth Protection	38
Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy.....	38
A Note on Communications.....	39
Troop Web Sites.....	40
Closing Comments	40

APPENDIX (found in back pocket)

- Troop Organizational Chart
- Committee Organizational Chart
- Listing of Patrols and their Members
- Positions of Responsibility Descriptions
- New Scout's Buyer's Guide
- Recommended Personal Equipment
- Medication Use in Scouting
- Troop Activity List for Current Year

FORM PACKAGE (found in front pocket and turned back in)

- Contact Information Form (will be used to complete your contact info in our database)
- BSA Annual Health Form (best downloaded from www.scouting.org)
- Troop Resource Survey
- Driver's Information Form (to be completed if you intend to drive Scouts to events)
- Merit Badge Counselor Application (please consider this key role)

Welcome Letter

Dear Scouts and Parents,

Welcome to Boy Scouts and Troop 146! We are very excited to have you joining us.

Scores of boys throughout the 50-year history of Troop 146 have contributed to our reputation as a fun, hardworking, engaging and growing troop. One of the major factors contributing to our continued success is the active cooperation and participation of Scouts and parents like you.

When a boy joins the troop, his parents join the troop as well. Experience has taught us that your son's interest and accomplishments will be in direct proportion to your participation with him. You will find that time spent in Scouting is quality time between parent and son. We encourage you to become involved in the troop in a leadership or support role.

This handbook is meant to smooth you and your Scout's transition into Boy Scouting and Troop 146. The following pages will answer many questions you both may have. Please review this handbook together and save it as a reference during your Scouting career.

This is not a replacement for the official *Boy Scout Handbook*, which you may have received when you first joined our unit. All national policies are not covered here. The information in this handbook is meant to supplement the *Boy Scout Handbook* and to provide specific information on our troop. Every Scout who joins Troop 146 will be informed about this Troop Handbook and will be expected to know what it says. If you don't understand something, just ask.

Feel free to call me (865-803-2698), one of our Assistant Scoutmasters, or our Parent Coordinator any time you have questions.

Welcome to Troop 146! We are so glad to have you join our family.



Yours in Scouting,

Les Beaver, Scoutmaster

Mission and Vision Statements

National BSA Mission Statement

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America (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.

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.

Scout Law

A Scout is:
Trustworthy Obedient
Loyal Cheerful
Helpful Thrifty
Friendly Brave
Courteous Clean
Kind Reverent

National BSA Vision Statement

The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

Troop 146 Vision Statement

Troop 146 will be the best boy-led troop in the World, by being prepared and always ready. Our program will be fun and respectful while building leaders of character through advancement, high adventure, outstanding service and team work.

We are very proud of the tradition of excellence that has allowed a high percentage of our Scouts to advance to the rank of Eagle. While it is not our goal to make every Scout reach Eagle, we do feel that through the program outlined above and by instilling the values of character, citizenship and fitness, each Scout is encouraged to work hard to achieve this lofty goal.

Scouting Aims

So what is Scouting? The Boy Scouts of America, specifically, is a non-profit organization which, for over 100 years, has had a mission of preparing Scouts to make ethical and moral choices through their lives by:

- (1) Developing good character, including honesty, courage, integrity, self-reliance, self-confidence, self-discipline, and self-respect.
- (2) Instilling duty to God and country through emphasis on citizenship, including an understanding of the Scout's relationship to other in his community and nation, how his local, state and federal governments work and his obligation to keep his country strong.
- (3) Promoting physical, mental/emotional and moral fitness.

Scouting Methods

The National BSA and Troop 146 achieve their mission and vision by utilizing the following eight methods, each of which is equally important. Their order of listing in no way implies that one is more important than another.

Ideals

The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, the Scout slogan, and the Outdoor Code.

Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily

Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to:

Be Clean in my outdoor manners,

Be Careful with fire,

Be Considerate in the outdoors, and

Be Conservation minded

These ideals are the personal behavior guides and standards a boy commits to when he joins Scouting. The Scout is expected to live by the Scout Oath and Law. The motto, slogan, and Outdoor Code give the Scout additional guidelines for living. Growth in moral strength and character is one of the aims of Scouting. By developing his relationship to others, a Scout learns about his obligations to other people, to the society he lives in, and to the government that presides over that society. This accomplishes our aim of having a Scout become a participating citizen.

Each Scout must measure himself against these ideals and should continually try to improve. Where discipline issues arise, the Scout Oath and Law form the basic framework for evaluating a Scout's behavior. Parents are encouraged to remind their Scouts of the various elements of Scouting's ideals, and to praise their Scouts when they demonstrate these ideals in their daily lives whether inside or outside of Scouting.

Patrol Method

Patrols are groups of six to ten Scouts. They are the essential building blocks of a Boy Scout Troop. Patrols camp together, cook together, play together, and learn together. In patrols Scouts learn citizenship at the most basic level. They also take on responsibilities within the patrol and learn teamwork and leadership, sharing responsibility for the patrol's success. All patrol members enjoy the friendship, sense of belonging, and achievements of the patrol and of each of its members.

Outdoor Programs

Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. Outdoor programs are important because they provide Scouts with the opportunities to practice the skills and activities they learn about in Troop meetings, and to engage in the activities that are required for rank advancement and various merit badges. The outdoor programs also help our Scouts learn about ecology and practice conservation, including the principals of Leave No Trace.

Advancement

Boy Scouting has a system of ranks in which Scouts learn progressively more difficult skills and take on progressively greater responsibilities. Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

Association with Adults

Boys 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, Assistant Scoutmaster, merit badge counselor or other adult volunteer 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. Scouts also grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. The religious emblems program is a part of personal growth. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development

The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills, such as planning, organization and decision-making. Every Scout has the opportunity to lead in some way: as part of a team, as the leader of his patrol, as the Senior Patrol Leader, or as another youth leader of the Troop.

Uniform

Just like most sports teams, we expect our Scouts to wear the uniform when they are doing Scouting, and to wear it properly. It is a visible symbol of who we are and what we do. Accordingly, we expect all Scouts to behave according to the Scout Oath and Law especially whenever wearing their Scout uniforms.

Boy Scouting is Different than Cub Scouting

You may have already noticed some big changes if you bridged over from Cubs Scouts. Throughout Cub Scouts and Webelos, adult leaders planned every aspect of Pack activities and advancement. In Boy Scouts, however, the boys are responsible for almost everything, including communicating with parents. We encourage you to have your Scout ask the troop leadership, following the “chain of command” beginning with his Patrol Leader, for guidance in any questions he or you might have. This is a very important part of building self-confidence and teamwork!

Cub Scout vs. Boy Scout Comparison Overview		
	Cub Scouts	Boy Scouts
Ideals	Spelled out in the Scout Oath and Law, Motto, Slogan, and the Outdoor Code.	Spelled out in the Scout Oath and Law, Motto, Slogan, and the Outdoor Code
Structure	Boys are members of a Den with boys of their own age/rank. All the Dens together make up the Pack.	Boys are members of a Patrol usually with boys close to their own age or of the same likes. All the Patrols together make up the Troop.
Leadership	Cubmaster, Assistant Cubmasters, Den Leaders, Committee Members and Parents	Boys lead the Troop under the guidance of the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, and Committee members.
Boy Leaders	A few Cub Scout dens may have Denners.	Each Patrol is led by a Patrol Leader who is elected by his Patrol members. Within the patrol the boys can also be Assistant Patrol Leader, Scribe, Quartermaster, Cheermaster, Grubmaster, etc. The Troop is led by the Senior Patrol Leader who is elected by the Scouts in the Troop. He is assisted by other boys who are appointed to fill certain roles and the Patrol Leaders.
Association with Adults	Adults plan and lead activities. The boys look to adults to structure and direct activities.	Scouts plan and lead activities. Adults mentor, model correct behavior and encourage the Scouts. Adults may provide additional assistance based on the capabilities of the Scout in the planning of activities.
Parent Involvement	Parents are expected to continuously assist the Pack by supporting the boys and planning or helping with at least one activity or event annually. Parents may also take a leadership role in the Pack or Den.	Parents are expected to continuously assist the Troop by supporting the boys and participating in those tasks that boys cannot do. This may include: transportation, shopping for a trip, or chaperoning a trip. It also may include assisting with fund raisers and coordinating special events. It is expected that each family take an active role in the Troop. Parents may also take a leadership role in the Troop.

Advancement	A Cub Scout relies on his Den leaders and parents to plan and assist with all advancement activities. Achievements are signed by either Den leaders or parent.	A Boy Scout plans his own advancement and progresses at his own pace. With encouragement of adult leaders, he learns from his peers or seeks out the skills and knowledge needed to advance. Rank requirements are signed off by leaders only after the Scout completes them and requests they be signed.
Ranks	Based on age or grade. Even if not completed for that age, you move to the next rank as your Den moves. The levels are Lion, Bobcat, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos and Arrow of Light.	Dependent on the Scout earning the previous rank. A Scout cannot advance to the next rank until all activities are completed in the lower rank. The ranks are Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle.
Merit Badges	None	Earned by Scouts after demonstrating to an adult merit badge counselor acquisition of knowledge and/or skill in a specific subject. Some required merit badges must be earned to advance to Star, Life and Eagle.
Outdoor Programs	Generally limited to family camps and day activities, although Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts are encouraged to camp occasionally as a den. Cub Scouts may attend summer camp, which is frequently limited to 2 or 3 nights.	Monthly or bi-monthly camping trips as well as additional outdoor day activities. Much of the program involves activities that can be done only in the outdoors (nature, ecology, pioneering, orienteering, conservation, etc.) Boy Scouts may attend summer camp which typically lasts one week. The imagination of the Scouts and the Guide to Safe Scouting are the only limits for most outings.
Uniform	Cub Scout blue shirt and pants/shorts with a neckerchief reflective of the boys rank. The uniform is worn at Pack meetings, most Den meetings, and some outings. Boy Scout shirt/pants may be worn by Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts. Many Packs have a t-shirt for camping and other activities.	Boy Scout khaki shirt and pants/shorts with a Troop neckerchief. Scouts are expected to wear the official Scout belt and socks if possible. The uniform is worn at all troop meetings and events, and during travel to events. The troop also has a t-shirt for camping and other activities.
Results	Boys come in as boys and leave as boys. Readiness for Boy Scouts varies greatly by Pack and Webelos/Arrow of Light dens.	Boys come in as boys and leave as young men of solid character and values with strong leadership skills.

We incorporate new Scouts into this system right away. There is no time period where we will treat them as graduated Cubs – we will begin using the Methods of Scouting from the first day.

One of the key differences between Boy Scouting and Cub Scouting/Webelos is *leadership*. Look for the word “leader” in a job title, and you will begin to appreciate the difference. The *responsible person* for a Cub/Webelos den is the adult *Den Leader*. The *responsible person* for a Boy Scout patrol is the boy *Patrol Leader*. This isn’t token leadership (like a denner). A Patrol Leader has *real* authority and *genuine* responsibilities. Much of the success, safety, and happiness of six to ten other Scouts depends directly on him. **Boy Scouting teaches leadership.** And Scouts learn leadership by practicing it, not by watching adults lead. The best way to learn leadership is having frequent opportunities to be a leader of other boys. In Troop 146, we provide those opportunities.

Questions About Advancement

Question: How fast will my Scout advance and how involved should I be in his advancement?

Answer: Scouts are encouraged to learn skills and to achieve rank advancements at their own pace, not simply because they have been pushed to do so. A key benefit of Scouting is a boy learning that he has to take responsibility for his success. When this occurs, the Scouting movement has achieved its first aim – to build character. Some of our most skilled Eagle Scouts have taken significantly longer than four years to earn that rank, but truly learned what it means to take their destiny in their own hands and to learn something on their own. The skills and lessons learned will help them mature to be successful, good citizens.

Although many older Scouts may not rush through rank because they enjoy the Scouting experience, younger Scouts often get discouraged if not advance. We suggest that you encourage your new Scout to achieve First Class rank at approximately their first anniversary in the troop, as well as earning a few merit badges. When a Scout does this, he typically stays in Scouting! For older Scouts, be concerned about stagnation if your Scout remains at the same rank for more than a year.

Question: Am I allowed to pass off advancement requirements for my Scout?

Answer: Unlike Cub Scouts, parents are not authorized to sign off items in their Scout's handbook nor may they approve items within the online advancement tracking. Rank requirements up through First Class can be passed off to higher-ranked Scouts and signed off by a scoutmaster, while rank requirements for Star, Life, and Eagle are only passed off by scoutmasters.

Question: When will my son be recognized for his achievements?

Answer: Generally, Scouts are recognized for rank advancements and merit badges at the first meeting following their completions, and then recognized again and rewarded at Courts of Honor that are held approximately every three months. The Court of Honor is a ceremony where the advancement and accomplishments made by the Scouts can be publicly acknowledged. All members of the Troop and families are invited to attend.

Expectations of a Scout Parent

Each Scout and his family are important members of our troop. Active, involved parents and family members are vital to a Scout's advancement and level of interest.

A Scout's parents should:



Enjoy the Boy Scout experience alongside your Scout!



Provide the necessary uniform, and equipment for your Scout so he is properly clothed and equipped to participate in Troop and Patrol activities.



Encourage your Scout and help him set priorities and abide by them, which will help further his Scouting experience. The Scout's success and enjoyment increases as his participation increases. Allow time for him to review, study and practice his rank requirements.



Discuss Scouting frequently with your Scout. Ask him what took place at meetings and what his likes and dislikes are. Encourage him to think about how he can help improve his Patrol/Troop through active participation and discussion within the Patrol/Troop and with Patrol/Troop youth leadership.



Provide never-ending encouragement to your Scout in his advancement, service and commitment to the Scout Oath and Law.



Inform the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster about situations, problems, or concerns you or your Scout may have (medical conditions, learning disabilities, medications, troubles at home or at school, etc.).



Allow your Scout to "learn by doing". He will make mistakes when trying to accomplish tasks on his own, but this builds character! Mentor, but *do not do the tasks* for him. Remember, there are many older boy and adult leaders present who can ensure that Scouts and their Patrols don't do anything that jeopardizes safety or other basic requirements.



Encourage your Scout to attend monthly and summer camping events! Experience proves that Scouts are much more likely to stay in Scouting, enjoy Scouting more, and advance more quickly by attending campouts. Make sure he knows when and where the next outing or service project is being held. This will help him think about Scouting outside of Troop meetings and make sure he keeps you informed of Troop functions.



Help your Scout find the time to study his advancement requirements. If possible, test your Scout on those requirements so he is more comfortable when reviewed by the Troop leadership. In accordance with Boy Scout policy, parents are not authorized to sign off Boy Scout requirements for their Scout.



Attend and/or support Courts of Honor, campouts, fund-raisers and other Troop 146 activities as your time allows. We welcome your participation for both the Troop's and your Scout's benefit.



Participate in the Troop's activities based on your own family and work situation and demands. Troop 146 historically has had a fairly high level of adult volunteers, and we expect each family to help the Troop to the extent possible. Adult leadership opportunities include Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop management, and Troop committee.

We welcome the participation of all parents and guardians in our program in all areas, departments, training, merit badge counseling and camping. Some levels of participation require registration as an adult leader and BSA training.

The support and involvement of parents and family members in Troop 146 are what will continue to make the Troop successful throughout the coming years. Many positions honestly will require only a few hours of your time. Experience has shown that parental involvement, either in a leadership or a support role, has a direct bearing on a Scout's motivation and the accomplishments he achieves.

New Leaders Are a Must. Along with new Scouts, the Troop greatly benefits when parents volunteer and become registered adult leaders. Parent volunteers are a must to support new Scouts. Typically, at least one or two parents from each group of new Scouts will become trained Assistant Scoutmasters to assist with the increased number of Scouts (and to replace any outgoing adults). Additional adult volunteer opportunities are available on the Troop committee. Twice each year, our Council offers special training for Committee members and scoutmasters, which we expect our uniformed adult volunteers to take. Any adult is welcome and encouraged to take the training.

So, what do we adults do now that we've surrendered so much direct authority to boys? You enjoy an *indirect, advisory* role. And you **should** enjoy watching your son take progressively more mature and significant responsibilities as he zooms toward adulthood. The underlying principles are **be the example** and **never do anything for a boy that he can do himself**. We allow boys to grow by practicing leadership and by learning from their mistakes. And while Scout skills are an important part of the program, what ultimately matters when our Scouts become adults is not whether they can use a map & compass, but whether they can offer leadership to others in tough situations; and live by a code that centers on honest, honorable, and ethical behavior.

Weekly Meetings

Troop 146 meets every Monday evening during the year from 7:00 to 8:30 pm (approximate ending) at Middlebrook Pike United Methodist Church, 7234 Middlebrook Pike. We meet in the Historic Building, which is the church structure closest to the corner of Middlebrook Pike and Vanosdale. Parking is available in the front lot along Middlebrook Pike.

Meetings are planned and run by the Scouts with the guidance of the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters. The Troop calendar will indicate the basic themes for each meeting and when the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meets to plan meetings. Having the Scout leadership run the meetings is an important part of helping the Scouts grow. Our typical meeting starts with an opening, some announcements, Patrol corners/meetings, a skills-instruction period, a game or interpatrol activity, a meetings wrap-up with reminder announcements, and an after-meeting review by youth leadership.

Scout are expected to arrive **on time, in uniform**, with their **Scout handbooks**. We are all expected to conduct ourselves as guests of the church and leave it in the same or even better condition and order as it was when we arrived.

At the meetings, Scouts will:



Gather for the opening ceremony, hear announcements of upcoming events, make plans by Patrol for upcoming activities, learn a Scout skill or discuss a Scout topic, and plan for upcoming outings. Sometimes we have a special program planned with a guest speaker or visitors.



Work on rank advancements, including merit badges, either in class or individually with older Scouts or merit badge counselors.



Participate in an opportunity for Patrols to interact with one another in a competitive or cooperative effort.



Gather for the closing ceremony.

It is our hope that meetings will be fun and productive. Some of this is depends on the boy-led nature of the meeting as well as the Scouts' level of participation and behavior during meetings.

Troop 146 has a flexible policy concerning meeting on national/school holidays, and when snow or severe weather is threatening. For holidays, consult the Troop calendar to see if a meeting is scheduled. Please do not assume Troop 146 will not meet on a school holiday. As for weather, Troop leadership will determine if meetings will take place on a case-by-case basis. If a meeting is cancelled, a Troop-wide email will go out informing all Scouts and families of the decision.

Meeting Etiquette

Several things happen during a meeting that are unique to Troop 146. Knowing how meetings run make it easier for Scouts to fit into the Troop and become more integrated with our customs.



Each year, Patrols are assigned one of the following three roles during any given month: Program Patrol, Service Patrol, and Spirit Patrol.



The Program Patrol is responsible for helping instruct other Scouts during the skills section. This Patrol opens the meeting by leading the unit in the Pledge of Allegiance, the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, and the Outdoor Code. The Program Patrol also organizes and conducts the campfire program during the monthly outing.



The Service Patrol arrives 15 minutes early to each meeting and sets up the main room for the opening session. This Patrol retrieves the American and Troop flags from their storage place and arranges them in the room. At the end of the meeting, this Patrol adheres to the 'Leave No Trace' principle by making sure the entire building is neat and clean, with lights off and chairs back in storage. During campouts, the Service Patrol prepares and tends the fire at the Saturday night program.



The Spirit Patrol has the unique task of leading and encouraging troop spirit each month. This Patrol may lead the unit in a cheer or song during meetings or campouts, or take the lead in the Interpatrol Activities during the meetings. The Patrol may also arrange for a Cracker Barrel once the unit arrives in camp on Friday nights.



During a meeting, Scouts that come forward to speak to the Troop are asked to not walk between the two flags. Instead Scouts typically move to the center AFTER first going around the outside of the American flag.



At the end of each meeting, all Scouts gather together in a large circle for final announcements. During this time, Patrols typically stand together to show Patrol Spirit. Announcements are made, and the SPL and the Scoutmaster give their "Minute" (a short message to the Troop). Immediately after that, the SPL will say, "Troop 146 . . . Be Prepared!" and the Troop responds together, loudly, "Always Ready!" We then raise our hands together above our heads, linking thumbs together, and repeat in unison, "May the Great Master of all Scouts be with us till we meet again."

The Boy Scouts Organizational Structure

Nationally, the BSA is broken down into large regions called Councils, and Councils are further divided into Districts. Districts are made up of Boy Scout units called Troops.

Boy Scout Troop 146 is part of the Great Smoky Mountain Council (GSMC) of the BSA. The GSMC is composed of 21 counties across East Tennessee (Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Cumberland, Fentress, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, McMinn, Meigs, Morgan, Monroe, Pickett, Roane, Scott, Sevier, and Union). Troop 146 is part of the Toqua District, which covers Loudon and western Knox Counties.

Our Charter Organization, Middlebrook Pike United Methodist Church, had sponsored our Troop since its founding in 1967. The Charter Organization owns our Troop and is responsible for approving leadership and providing us with a place to meet. A Troop Organizational Chart is provided in the Appendix and is available in the Troop Library.

Membership and Medical Requirements

Every Scout and adult leader meeting the requirements set by the BSA National office must fill out an official BSA application to join the Troop. In addition, each Scout and registered adult leader must have on file a current medical form. Due to the nature of activities the troop participates in, all three sections of the medical form (Parts A, B and C) need to be completed. The form can be found on our website as well the GSMC and National BSA web sites (www.scouting.org). The medical information on the form is kept in strict confidence, but it is very important. It lets the Troop leadership know about any medical situations a Scout or adult may have (asthma, allergies, medical restrictions, etc.) and, in the event of emergency, gives permission for a doctor to treat a Scout (or adult) if a parent cannot be reached. Please be truthful and thorough when completing the medical form. In addition, a copy of a current health insurance card (both front and back) must be on file with the troop.

Participation Requirements

For a Scout to advance in rank, Boy Scout policy requires him to be active in the Troop. Although specific attendance requirements are not a strict criterion for advancement, Troop 146 expects Scouts to participate in at least 50% of the Troop meetings and events such as service projects and 50% of the Troop outdoor activities to be considered active, unless other arrangements are made with the SPL and/or Scoutmaster. If a Scout is unable to participate at this level, the SPL or Scoutmaster may ask the Scout to a conference to discuss the Scout's participation and involvement in Scouting. Troop events are important to a Scout's development. Every event missed may mean a skill or lesson lost. Scouts are expected to participate in all aspects of the Troop program, including high adventure and community service.

Schedule Conflicts

From time to time, scheduling conflicts will arise. The Troop has always held schoolwork, religious education and family responsibilities as a higher priority than Scouting. Be assured that an excused absence has no penalty. **If a Scout is unable to attend a Troop meeting or other Troop function due to such a conflict, we expect the Scout to contact his Patrol Leader and let him know.** This is a responsibility of the Scout and not of his parent(s). Absences without notice will count as an unexcused absence toward attendance.

Troop Finances

One of the more potentially shocking changes between Boy Scout and Cub Scout activities involves cost. Due to the typical program created by Scouts and the level of activities they desire, families find they pay more money for dues, fees, campouts, merit badge colleges, high-adventure outings, and other events. And this may create hardships or even the inability for Scouts to fully participate to the level they wish. Troop 146 never wants money to keep a Scout from experiencing all we have to offer. In cases of financial hardship, the Troop Committee may be able to provide a scholarship to allow a Scout to attend a particular activity. Parents will need to have a conversation with the Committee Chair or the Scoutmaster; however, any requests for financial assistance or extensions on fees may only be approved by the Committee.

Dues

Dues are paid once a year, typically in late November or early December before we send in our paperwork to the Council for the following year. Scouts joining the troop mid-year will pay a pro-rated portion of the annual fees and dues subject to the Committee's discretion. Payment of dues entitles Scouts to hold Positions of Responsibility within the Troop, and attend meetings, camping functions and other Scout functions. If dues are not paid by the end of the calendar year, the Scout is considered "inactive" and his membership will be dropped from the BSA and Troop rolls. To become active again, the Scout must pay all monies due for the existing year, and possibly dues and fees for the upcoming year, depending on timing.

The money generated from dues is used for insurance, advancement material, annual re-chartering and training classes for adult leaders. A copy of our annual budget with details regarding our fees and expenses is available to all parents, and our Treasurer provides regular updates on the Troop's finances at our Committee meetings.

Camping/Troop Activity Fees

The Troop attempts to keep the cost of dues low. We collect fees for most camping events or specific activities that have additional expenses, such as food, transportation, and site reservations. Costs will vary depending on the duration of the campout or activity (2 nights versus 1 night), the distance traveled, any required camping fees or park permits, and any special equipment for the activity. Most activities will have a calendar event description on our website. Registration is an online process through our web calendar, with fees paid by the

meeting before or at the time of departure. Failure to register by the set time and/or pay on time as indicated by the calendar could result in exclusion from the event.

Fundraising

The Troop requires funds to purchase equipment, help subsidize activities, etc. The dues collected do not support the Troop for the whole year. The Troop raises funds through money-earning activities approved by the Troop Committee. There may be times the Troop will have a special fundraiser to pay for a certain event or activity, such as a high adventure trip. Even if a Scout is not going on that particular event, we encourage Scouts to participate as it helps them learn goal setting as they work to help reduce the cost of troop activities.

Fundraising activities have included popcorn, camp cards, beef jerky, garage sales, and pancake breakfasts. In addition, we are always looking for new ideas. We also receive donations from individuals and corporations. We would like to increase donations to ease the burden on the Scouts (and parents) from selling popcorn and other items.

Scout Accounts

Scouts can participate in certain fundraisers to earn money not only for the Troop but also for themselves. The money they earn can be used for camping, dues, or other scouting related items. For example, some Scouts have earned enough money to pay for summer camp. These fundraisers are determined by the Troop Committee in advance and announced to the Scouts at the beginning of the fundraiser.

A few notes about the Scout accounts:



This money is not refundable. It is transferrable if a Scout moves to a different Troop, and the Scout requests the money to be transferred to the other Troop.



If a Scout leaves Scouting, the money in his account will move into a fund account for those Scouts in financial hardship.



For a Scout to use funds in his account, he must submit a request to the Troop Treasurer.

Scholarships

Troop 146 provides scholarship assistance to Scouts in need to cover fees, campout costs, or summer camp. The Troop Committee is responsible for determining financial need. The Troop requires recipients to be active, to attend a majority of campouts, and to advance regularly. The Troop also requires recipients to earn some part of their expenses and pay regularly based on their ability.

Troop Organization

Scouts

Troop Youth Leadership

The top boy position in the troop is the Senior Patrol Leader or SPL. Next is the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s) or ASPL. Senior Scouts also serve as Troop Guides, mentoring new Scout patrols and their Patrol Leaders. Then come Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders, and other Troop leadership positions like Scribe, Quartermaster, Chaplain Aide, Historian, and any other position stated in this handbook (and on our website). The SPL and Patrol Leaders are elected positions. The Patrol Leaders appoint Assistant Patrol Leaders. The SPL and Scoutmaster appoint all other Troop leadership positions.

It is very important to remember the real leadership in a Scout Troop comes from the Scouts themselves. Adults are involved to maintain safety, provide guidance when necessary, and make sure the aims of Scouting are being met. The Scouts should run the Troop. Allowing the Scouts to run their Troop provides opportunity for personal growth and chances to learn leadership skills.

Leadership is important for the Scouts to advance in rank, to have a good program, and to develop as young men. Even if the Scout does not currently hold a leadership position in the Troop, he should make sure he understands the responsibilities of those that do. Those being led should take responsibility to follow their leaders considerately and to make sure the leaders they choose do their job.

Since job descriptions may change from time to time, full descriptions of each possible Position of Responsibility are listed on our Troop website and are provided as a courtesy in the Appendix along with troop organizational charts and other documents.

Patrols

The Troop is organized into groups called Patrols. Patrols work together to develop pride in their group, learn new skills, go on outings, play games, and compete in inter-Patrol contests. Patrols may be of the same general age or may be mixed so older Scouts can guide and instruct younger Scouts. Each patrol selects a Patrol name and Patrol yell, and creates a Patrol flag – all in the creation of true Patrol Spirit. Each patrol will also be assigned a Patrol Advisor, who is an Assistant Scoutmaster. This troop structure helps to ease the transition and give the new Scout encouragement and guidance as he learns about Boy Scouts.

Scouts who are newly bridged from Webelos or are at the initial joining age for Boy Scouts will be assigned to the Green Banana Patrol. This Patrol will be led by an experienced Assistant Scoutmaster and a Troop Guide, an older Scout who will help the Green Banana Patrol get oriented and begin to learn basic Scouting skills. Members of the Green Banana Patrol will be encouraged to participate in the *Journey to First Class Program*. Later in the year, members of the Green Banana Patrol will decide for themselves if they wish to stay together as their own Patrol with a new name, or if they wish to join other existing patrols.

Journey to First Class Program

New Scouts sometimes find it difficult to get started with advancement, or they struggle to fit into the troop and establish friendships. To encourage new Scouts to start along the path of advancement and to begin learning critical Scouting skills, Troop 146 has created the *Journey to First Class Program* for all new Scouts. Its goal is to provide every opportunity for each Scout to achieve the rank of First Class within a year of joining the troop. This is an optional program, available every week that we have regular troop meetings. At each meeting they may choose to attend the *Journey to First Class Program* or they may join with older Scouts for the regular meeting. Their choice has no penalty. The best choice is the one that fits that Scout's personal goals for Scouting whether having fun following the older Scout program, earning early rank, or both.

The Patrol Leaders Council

The SPL, ASPL(s), Patrol Leaders and Troop Guides make up the Patrol Leaders Council, or PLC. The PLC has short organizational meetings before and after each regular Troop meeting and a more comprehensive planning meeting once a month, or as directed by the SPL. Its purpose is to plan monthly meetings, trips, outings, and discuss issues that may be arising in the Troop. The PLC is the real leadership organization within the Troop and is where the real decisions that guide the Troop come from. A member of the PLC must make at least two of three meetings on a rolling basis or risk losing his leadership position.

While the PLC is a closed meeting, certain adults attend to provide appropriate support. The Scoutmaster attends PLC meetings, while Assistant Scoutmasters may attend, and Troop Committee members rarely attend. Adults that attend should bear in mind these meetings are run by Scouts primarily for planning purposes and their interaction should be extremely limited.

Troop Elections

The SPL and Patrol Leaders are elected positions within the Troop. These are very important leadership positions that are vital to making the Troop function well. The SPL is elected by the entire troop. Patrol Leaders are elected by their patrol, with Assistant Patrol Leaders appointed by the Patrol Leader. Elections are held twice a year, usually the second week of May and the second week of November, with a typical term for any Position of Responsibility lasting six months, starting on January 1 and July 1. Between the election and the start of their term, the newly elected SPL and Patrol Leaders should select their other staff members. The Scoutmaster has the right to remove any leader at his/her discretion.

Adults

Adult Troop Leadership

Parents are encouraged to show support for their Scout as an adult leader within the Troop. Many hands make light work; and the more adult involvement with the Troop, the better program we can provide for our Scouts.

Our Troop policy is that only registered Troop leaders or adults who have taken Youth Protection Training may accompany the Troop on outings. To become a registered adult leader, an adult must complete and submit a BSA Adult Application that must be approved by the

Troop Committee Chair and the Chartered Organization Representative. They must also complete Youth Protection Training (YPT). They can take a live class or go online to <https://my.scouting.org/> to complete YPT. The application and YPT certificate are then submitted to the GSMC for final approval. All adults who wish to camp with the Troop must complete YPT and submit a completed BSA medical form.

All adult leaders serving an active role with the Troop must make arrangements for the BSA training class appropriate for their position. This training is offered several times a year and helps to ensure that everyone involved in the Troop's leadership understands the goals of Scouting. In addition, trained leaders are one of the requirements for the Troop to earn the Journey to Excellence Award each year. Many of the required training courses are available online.

The Adult Troop Leadership consists of two main groups: the Troop Committee and the Scoutmaster Corps consisting of the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters.

The Troop Committee

The first group, the Troop Committee, is made up of involved adults who meet on a regular basis and function as the Board of Directors for the Troop, recruiting qualified adult leaders. The Committee also acts as an administration and support organization for the Troop – securing meeting facilities, ensuring adequate Troop equipment, and maintaining advancement records. The Committee makes policy decisions and constantly monitors program quality.

The Committee is led by the Committee Chair and should have a Treasurer, Secretary, Advancement Coordinator, and Outdoor Activities Coordinator. Other positions can also be created for the good of the Troop. All parents are allowed to attend the meetings; however, voting on Troop matters is restricted to members of the Committee itself. The various positions and their descriptions can be found on the Committee Organizational Chart provided in the Appendix and on the troop website.

The Scoutmaster Corps

The second group of adult leaders is the Scoutmaster Corps. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters are responsible for assisting the Scouts in planning and running the overall program. They work directly with the Scouts and help them advance, learn new skills, and live by the Scout Oath and Law.

The Scoutmaster is the key adult leader in the Troop and is ultimately responsible for a quality program that provides opportunities for advancement, leadership experience, and an exciting outdoor program. The Scoutmaster also maintains the safety of the Scouts. He/she does not usually provide direct leadership to all Scouts but rather serves as a mentor to the SPL and the PLC, and ensures the patrol method is functioning. The Scoutmaster provides guidance, training, coaching and support, rather than “taking charge.” He/she is assisted by multiple Assistant Scoutmasters (ASMs). These leaders serve in various areas in programming, technology, service, recruitment, and as Patrol Advisors and Life-to-Eagle advisors. Troop 146 has developed a Guidebook for ASMs for their multiple roles within the Troop that is available in the Troop Library. To assist the Committee in their responsibilities, the Scoutmaster attends Committee meetings and relates their discussions to the Scoutmaster Corps and the PLC members.

Advancement

Through participation at Troop meetings, outdoor activities, and working on his own, the Scout will have an opportunity to work on badges and skills that will help him advance through the Scouting ranks. The first of these ranks is the Scout badge, which is more than just a joining requirement, and can be earned after reciting the ideals of Scouting, describing how the troop functions, explaining the Patrol method, demonstrating some basic knots and participating in a Scoutmaster conference. After the Scout badge, the Scout will continue through Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life. Finally, he may be able to earn the highest honor in Boy Scouting, the Eagle rank.

The Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class ranks require work mainly on the basic outdoor and first aid skills every Scout needs to know. The Star and Life ranks require work on merit badges, leadership, and service to the community. The Eagle rank continues to work on merit badges, leadership, and service to the community. The leadership requirement can be fulfilled by actively and satisfactorily fulfilling a Position of Responsibility. The requirement may also be fulfilled by demonstrating leadership on special projects as agreed to with the Scoutmaster. An approved Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project that provides a lasting improvement for the community must also be completed. The Scout must complete all Eagle requirements before his eighteenth birthday.

All ranks also have a requirement that specifies a Scout must show Scout Spirit in his daily life. Since this is such an important but indefinite concept, we have a separate section in this handbook and on our website where we address how a Scout shows Scout Spirit.

As the requirements for rank are completed, the Scout must present himself with his *Boy Scout Handbook* to a scoutmaster (SM or ASM). The scoutmaster will make sure each requirement has been met, will test the Scout, and will initial and date the item in the Scout's *Boy Scout Handbook*. The Scout should be ready to prove he really has completed the requirement before he asks someone to sign his book. Requirements can be approved only in the *Boy Scout Handbook*, even if an online based system such as *Scoutbook* is used. So, the Scout should make sure he has the book with him at all times.

When the requirements for a rank are close to or fully completed, the Scout may schedule a Scoutmaster Conference. Once all requirements, including the Conference are complete, the Scoutmaster will notify the Advancement Coordinator to schedule a Board of Review. At its conclusion, the Scout earns his rank.

Scoutmaster Conference

The Scoutmaster Conference is a time for the Scout and Scoutmaster to sit down and talk about how the Scout is progressing towards his next rank. The Scoutmaster will ask questions regarding how well the Scout has learned the items required for the rank he is completing. The Scout should come to the Conference with his *Boy Scout Handbook*, wearing his full Class A uniform or, if appropriate, his activity uniform, and be ready to talk openly and honestly about his Scouting experiences. The Scoutmaster will be assessing the individual needs of the Scout, helping him to set goals for his next rank, and trying to gauge the success of the Troop program.



A Scout can request a Scoutmaster Conference at any time by notifying the Scoutmaster in advance. The Scout should not ask for a Conference for advancement on the same day he wishes it to occur.



Before a Scout can have a Scoutmaster Conference for purpose of advancement, all the requirements must be signed and dated in his *Boy Scout Handbook*. The handbook should also document (event and date) activities in fulfillment of community service hours. If the requirements for advancement were completed at scout camp, the Scout is responsible to have the requirements transcribed from any documents given at camp into the *Boy Scout Handbook*.



The Scoutmaster and Scout will agree on a time and place to meet. It can be done at a troop meeting, during outdoor activities, or at the Scout's home provided a parent is present. Many times, a campsite is a good setting.



Each Conference should be a private discussion between the Scoutmaster and a Scout, but must be held in full view of other people in accordance with BSA policies.



The Conference can last 10 to 15 minutes for Scout through First Class ranks, but should and will take longer for more advanced ranks. A Conference for Eagle rank will take at least an hour. It is important to note a Scoutmaster Conference is not completed on a Pass/Fail result. It is simply held with the Scout.



A Scoutmaster Conference does not have to be held just for rank. A Scout can request a Conference for any reason that he wishes to talk privately with the Scoutmaster on any topic that he wants to discuss. Privacy will be held unless the SM and the Scout believes parents or other adults should be made aware of the discussion.

Board of Review

After completion of all requirements for a rank, including the Scoutmaster Conference, the Scoutmaster notifies the Advancement Coordinator to schedule a time for the Scout to appear before a Board of Review. A Board of Review is composed of three to six adult leaders/parents from the Committee that are not related to the Scout. These members will be selected to serve by the Advancement Coordinator and approved by the Troop Committee. Members of the Scoutmaster Corps are not allowed to be in attendance.

During the Board of Review, the Scout presents himself to the members, preferably in full Class A uniform. His appearance should be neat, his attitude good, and his manner respectful. He may be asked to repeat the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Outdoor Code, the Scout Motto, or the Scout Slogan. He will then be invited to sit down, and the Board will ask him questions about his Scouting life. The questions can range very widely, so the Scout should be ready to communicate openly and honestly. The object of the Board of Review is to ensure that documentation is present verifying that all requirements for advancement have been met; to examine the attitude of the Scout; to ensure the Scout has had an appropriate quality level of experience while working on the rank; and to determine that he is ready to advance further in Scouting. The Board wants to ensure the Scoutmaster Corps are providing the quality program expected by the Scouts.

The Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review can be stressful, particularly for younger Scouts. However, this experience is an important part of the Scout's development as a young man and helps him to learn to communicate and handle different situations.

A Scout being considered for Eagle rank, in addition to the Troop-level Scoutmaster Conference, will undergo a special District-level Board of Review, consisting of officials and parents from other troops within the District. The Scoutmaster and Life-to-Eagle Advisor will work with the Eagle candidate to prepare him for the District Board of Review.

Other Advancement Considerations

Advancement is the responsibility of the Scout! Parents are encouraged to help, but the ultimate responsibility must lie with the Scout. A parent who takes on those responsibilities robs the Scout of his opportunity to share in the Scouting experience and to participate in his own personal growth.

Scouts who do not advance over a long period of time may be asked to participate in a Scoutmaster Conference and/or Board of Review to see what can be done to help the Scout continue to advance.

The Scouts will be asked to interact and communicate with adults they may not know very well throughout their Scouting experience, but particularly when working on merit badges and when

participating in a Board of Review. Learning to do this is an important part of the Scout experience.

Scout Spirit is a vital part of advancement and is expected to increase at each rank level. The Scoutmaster Corps looks for Scout Spirit in all aspects of the program, so it is important to understand the role it plays in the complete Scouting experience.

Scout Spirit

National BSA says "The ideals of the Boy Scouts of America are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan. Members incorporating these ideals into their daily lives at home, at school, in their religious life, and in their neighborhoods, for example, are said to have **Scout Spirit**." Thus, the outcome of **Scout Spirit** is to help bring out the best in others as a reflection of a Scout's own character and attitude in his daily life. **Scout Spirit** is the essence of scouting. Earning rank advancements and merit badges are important, but Scout spirit goes way beyond that. It embodies the essence of what a true Scout is made of.

If you look at the rank requirements in the Boy Scout Handbook, most of them are pretty straightforward - demonstrate first aid for serious burns, tie a bowline, earn six merit badges, etc. However, beginning with the first rank there is an added, more indefinite requirement: Demonstrate **Scout Spirit**.

The first thing you need to understand is that even though the requirement looks the same for each rank, it's really different - **Scout Spirit** for Life Scout is much different (and much harder) than **Scout Spirit** for Second Class. You'll discover the Scoutmaster will sign you off for only one **Scout Spirit** requirement at a time because each one is harder than the next.

The other thing you will notice is that unlike almost all the other requirements, you can never convince a Scoutmaster to sign off the Scout Spirit on the spot. Tie a bowline, and he'll sign that off; show him your merit badge card and he'll sign off that requirement for Star; but he'll never just up and sign off that pesky **Scout Spirit** one. That's because you must demonstrate **Scout Spirit** in your everyday life, not just in the ten minutes you're talking to the Scoutmaster. What happens is that at meetings and especially on campouts, the scoutmasters are like Santa Claus - they have many eyes watching you, to see when you are naughty or nice! **Scout Spirit** should be shown at all times, and generally this requirement is one of the last ones to be signed off for any rank. Scoutmasters will want to see appropriate **Scout Spirit** for some period of time before they sign off the requirement. For Second Class that may only be for a campout and the last few meetings, but for Eagle it will be for several months.

What are they looking for? Here are just a few of the things we look for at Troop 146: By the way, our troop expects Scouts to not only follow the items listed for that rank, but also all the items for the previous ranks. We also appreciate Scouts wanting to document and set goals for themselves.

Tenderfoot Scout



Do you wear your uniform? The scout uniform stands for the values outlined in the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. When we wear our uniform, we are reminded of what it stands for. Wearing the uniform shows **Scout Spirit**. If we are ashamed or embarrassed to wear it, we are ashamed or embarrassed of what it represents. May your uniform inspire you to live with honor the values of the Scout Oath and Law.



Do you help people?



Do you set fitness goals to be *physically strong*?



Do you read your *Boy Scout Handbook* and study scouting skills to be *mentally awake*?



Are you faithful in your religious duties and respect the beliefs of others to be *morally straight*?

Second Class Scout



Do you try not to complain or put other people down, even when you feel bad or you have to do a task like cleanup?



Are you willing to try new things, and keep trying even when you don't succeed at first?



Do you pay attention when we need you to, and know when to stop what you're doing to help out?



Do you come prepared for campouts? Do you keep track of your stuff, or lose it a lot?



Do you never bully, harass, or joke around with other Scouts unless they are willing and happy participants?



Do you meet the requirements for Tenderfoot?



How have you improved your **Scout Spirit**?

First Class Scout



A scout at this rank must never complain about weather, or work, or cleanup, and must never complain when a leader makes a decision they do not like.



A Scout must never criticize others harshly, or make fun of other Scouts whose skills aren't as good.



Do you handle normal personal tasks and Patrol tasks (cooking, camp setup and tear down, getting water, etc.) without being asked?



Do you keep an eye on others in the Troop and help them out - like pickup their garbage, or quietly returning stuff they forgot or left out, so the scoutmasters or SPL doesn't have to return it to the Scout?



Do you sometimes lend a hand teaching new Scouts some of the basics (and you can do it without yelling)?



Are you starting to help out your Patrol Leader & Troop by offering ideas for events, and helping to organize and contact people when needed?



Do you listen & learn well when a scoutmaster or more advanced Scout tries to teach you something, or do you play 'know-it-all'?



Do you show this **Scout Spirit** at home and at school?



Do you meet the requirements for Tenderfoot and Second Class?



How have you improved your **Scout Spirit**?

Star Scout



For Star Class rank, you have to serve in a troop leadership position. Did you serve well and help out the troop or did you miss meetings, show up unprepared, not get things done, etc.?



Are you starting to show the kind of leadership a First Class Scout should know?



Do you help organize other Scouts to get things done at campouts (like put up dining flies, set up campfires, organize patrol cooking set-ups, etc.)?



Do you watch out for other Scouts and make sure they're doing Ok - on the trail, in camp, etc.?



Can you be relied on to finish what you start?



Are you always ready to assist and be helpful when you see something that needs doing, or do you just 'hang out' with your buddies?



Do you show respect for other troop leaders as you would like them to respect you when you're leading?



Do you meet the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class?



How have you improved your **Scout Spirit**?

Life Scout



As a troop leader (or even if you don't hold an office), do you actively take up leadership when you see something that needs doing?



Can you organize and coordinate other Scouts of all ages (without yelling)?



Are you a major player in the 'behind-the scenes' work that makes Troop 146 run - organizing equipment, making camping arrangements, setting up activities for the PLC?



Are you a good, patient teacher and example to younger Scouts?



Are you involved in your school or in the community as a volunteer?



Do you meet the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class and Star?



How have you improved your **Scout Spirit**?

Eagle Scout



Do you participate actively in all troop activities?



Do all the adults and Scouts treat you almost as if you were another Assistant Scoutmaster?



How well are you involved in your school and community as a leader?



Have you enabled others to develop their Scout Spirit by your personal example?



Do you meet the requirements of Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life?



How have you improved your **Scout Spirit**?

Using this list to ARGUE with the Scoutmaster over whether you have **Scout Spirit** is a sure way NOT to get it. To show **Scout Spirit** means to live up to your word and be Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent at all times, in all places! So, keep working on that **Scout Spirit** at every meeting, event, and campout.

To recognize exemplary Scouting spirit, leadership, and demonstration of Scouting skills that go above and beyond the expected, Troop 146 has established a Scout of the Year Award, called the Silver Moccasin Award. Throughout the calendar year, Scouts are monitored by the Scoutmaster Corps in the areas of citizenship, community, character, leadership, Scouting skills, **Scout Spirit**, attitude, behavior, and attendance. In November, the Scoutmaster Corps selects one Scout to be recognized as the Scout of the Year at the annual Christmas party.

The Court of Honor

Courts of Honor are special Troop meetings held during the year where awards, badges, and other recognitions are presented. Parents, siblings, and other family members are encouraged to join the Scout at the Court of Honor to participate and help celebrate each young man's achievements. It is very important that all Scouts, even those not receiving any award or advancement, attend to support their fellow Scouts. All Courts of Honor are planned well in advance and are on the Troop calendar.

Traditionally, Troop 146 holds four Courts of Honor per year – in February, May, August, and November. All Scouts and their family members are asked to attend even if that Scout is not being recognized. After the Court of Honor, we typically have a small reception and time of fellowship after the program. Our Troop families are asked to bring food for all to share.

Service Policy

A fundamental principle of Scouting is service to others. Troop 146 encourages Scouts to participate in community service projects as well as Eagle Scout Leadership Service Projects. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance about service projects for rank advancement within Second Class, Star, and Life ranks. Our Service Policy is built around the premise that our Scouts will serve as Ambassadors of our Troop, the program, and the BSA. This policy does not cover the requirements of the Eagle Scout Service Project, but does address how Scouts are credited for hours worked on those projects. Additionally, a Scout is encouraged and expected to do their Duty to God by serving in their places of worship, **but this will not count as service hours for Troop leadership and advancement.**

Basic Policy Statement

In order for a Scout to receive credit in Scouting for participating in a service project, the service project should be with a tax-exempt, nonprofit, civic, religious, or charitable organization, or a governmental body or agency thereof. Further, the service project must be approved by the Scoutmaster prior to the Scout performing the service. A Scout can also receive service credit for assisting an Eagle Scout candidate with his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. Activities in which a Scout is participating as a member of a non-BSA organization, club, etc., are not eligible for BSA service hours. Examples include but not limited to, church youth group mission trips, Vacation Bible School programs, school club volunteer activities, etc. Scouting service projects are those where the Scout is participating as a representative of the Troop, wearing the Scout uniform, and performing the service, individually or with other Scouts in furtherance of the Scouting ideal of service to others.

In all instances in which a Scout is participating in a service project to receive credit in Scouting, the official BSA uniform, Class A shall be worn. Depending on the work associated with the service project, Class B uniform may be worn.



The Scout cannot directly benefit (monetarily or otherwise) from the outcome of his labors, as an individual. For example, hours are not earned staffing Camp Buck Toms summer camp and getting paid.



Hours cannot be applied to any other service requirements the Scout must meet for other organizations such as school or other social groups (no double counting of service hours). For example, hours cannot be used for both NHS, NJHS, or other honor societies, and turned in to the Troop as well.



The Scout cannot count hours if performing the activity is part of his troop's Position of Responsibility. For example, hours are not earned for performing Den Chief, or OA Troop Representative responsibilities.



A maximum of 20 hours can be earned per service project. For example, an Eagle project or staffing NYLT would be limited to 20 hours.

Troop-wide Projects

Each year, our Scouts, in conjunction with the Scoutmaster and the ASM of Service, select approximately one service project a month to place on the troop calendar. Attending these service projects is a very important part of being active in our Troop. The Scouts of Troop 146 have elected that all Scouts must be part of at least four service projects during any given year. At certain ranks, service hours are also required to advance. For those requirements to be signed off, those service hours performed as a Scout must appear in the Scout's records both within his Scout Handbook and in the *Scoutbook* database online.

Individual or Non-Troop-wide Projects

Any Scout or group of Scouts that desires to participate in a service project to receive credit in scouting in which the project is not pre-approved as a Troop-wide project must obtain prior approval to participate from the Scoutmaster.

The Scout participating in an approved service project should seek to obtain from the subject organization written confirmation of the hours the Scout participated in the project and a general description of the tasks performed by the Scout on the project. The Scout must deliver such written report to the Scoutmaster or the ASM of Service promptly after participating in the service project. If such a report is not available from the subject organization, the Scout must prepare and provide his own written report to the Scoutmaster or the ASM of Service promptly after participating in the service project. Upon receipt of a report, the Scoutmaster or ASM of Service shall review the report, and if deemed acceptable, shall promptly enter the activity to the Scout's record in *Scoutbook* (online). The Scout should also record his service in his Scout Handbook and obtain an approval signature.

Scouts Participating in an Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project

Eagle Scout candidates leading their own Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project are expected to register and maintain records of time of service for all Scouts participating in that Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. Further, Eagle Scout candidates are expected to provide that information to the Scoutmaster or the ASM of Service promptly upon completion of the service provided by those Scouts participating in the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. It should also be the responsibility of the Scout participating in an Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project to ensure he is registered with the Eagle Scout candidate leading the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project and that his participating time of service is accurate.

If a Scout is participating in an Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project of an Eagle Scout candidate in a troop other than Troop 146, the participating Scout is responsible for causing

such Eagle Scout candidate to provide information of the participating Scout's involvement to the Scoutmaster or the ASM of Service promptly upon completion of the service provided by that Scout.

Merit Badges

Scouts can learn about sports, science, crafts, trades, business, and future careers as they earn merit badges. There are more than 135 merit badges, and Scouts can earn any of these at any time. Specific requirements for merit badges can be found online on *Scoutbook* or by purchasing the merit badge pamphlet at the Scout Shop. The troop has a limited number of books available in our library, but many of them are not up-to-date.

Scouts are expected to meet the requirements as they are stated - no more and no less. They must do exactly what is stated in the requirements. If it says "show or demonstrate," that is what the Scout must do. Just telling about it or being told about it isn't enough. The same thing holds true for such words as "make," "list," "in the field," "collect," "identify," and "label."

If a Scout has already started working on a merit badge when new requirements are introduced, he may continue to use the same pamphlet and fulfill the requirements therein to earn the badge. He does not need to start over again with the new pamphlet and revised requirements. There is no time limit for starting and completing a merit badge, but all work must be completed by the Scout's 18th birthday.

The basic steps are:

- (1) Pick a Subject. A Scout talks to the Scoutmaster about his interests. He reads the requirements of the merit badges he thinks might interest him, and picks one to earn. The Scoutmaster will provide the Scout names of merit badge counselors to work with him on the selected badge, one of which the Scout selects. Once he selects a counselor, the Scoutmaster will give him a signed merit badge card or Blue Card.
- (2) Contact the Merit Badge Counselor. The Scout takes the signed Blue Card, gets in touch with the merit badge counselor and explains that he wishes to earn the badge using the counselor as his mentor. The Counselor may ask to meet the Scout in person to explain what is expected and to start helping the Scout meet the requirements. The Scout should discuss work he has already started or possibly completed. He gives the Blue Card to his Counselor when he first meets with him/her. Unless otherwise specified, work on a requirement can be started at any time. The Scout should ask the counselor to help him learn the things he needs to know or do. The merit badge pamphlet on the subject is the best source of information.
The Scout must have another person with him at each meeting with the merit badge counselor. This person can be another Scout, a parent or guardian, a brother or sister, a relative or a friend.
- (3) Show Your Stuff. When the Scout is ready, he should contact the Counselor to make an appointment. When he goes, the Scout should take along the things he has made or completed to meet the requirements. If they are too big to move, the Scout can take pictures to show the Counselor what he has done. *Scoutbook* has the ability to post things the Scout has written or pictures so the Counselor can more easily see the

accomplishments made. The Counselor will then test the Scout on each requirement to make sure he knows his stuff and has done or can do the things required.

- (4) Get the Badge. When the Counselor is satisfied the Scout has met each requirement, he/she will sign the Blue Card and return it to the Scout. The Scout gives the Card to the Scoutmaster so the merit badge can be recorded and awarded to the Scout at the next Court of Honor. The Scout should keep the middle portion of the Card for his records.

Troop Library

The Troop has a library that contains many Merit Badge pamphlets and other important Scouting resources, such as information on cold weather camping, Patrol forms, and program meeting plans. All such resources can be signed out by Scouts through the Troop Librarian. Many of our merit badge pamphlets are older, so Scouts may be better served to purchase the latest pamphlet for use in completing their badge. Upon completing their badge, Scouts are encouraged to donate their pamphlet to the Troop Library.

Uniform Requirements

The BSA is a uniformed organization. Our policy is that volunteers and Troop members are expected to be in as complete a uniform as financially possible during Troop meetings and activities. The Scout uniform is the **ONLY PLACE** where official insignia that you or your Scout has received, earned or are entitled to wear is to be displayed. The uniform instills a sense of pride and ownership in the program and the members of our Troop. During Scouting activities, it is easy to recognize who is in our Troop or other troops or even Scouting members at a distance – this also keeps those who desire to do harm to children to stay at a distance if not away period. Finally, the wearing of the uniform reminds Scouts and Scouters of their obligations to uphold the Scouting ideals and that of service.

We side with the BSA in areas of identification, sense of pride and health and safety in asking that you agree with this policy, and we will work with you to ensure that your Scout or you are in as complete a uniform as possible. If you have concerns about our uniform policy, we encourage you to talk with us. We are proud of who we are and proud of our Troop's heritage and identity in the community. The Scout uniform is an outward sign of identification with the scouting program and should be worn with pride. The uniform makes our troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in our community. It gives the Scout an opportunity to practice being neat, take pride in his appearance, display his awards and badges, and feel a part of a group.

The three basic types of uniform are:



Class A, Dress – required in ceremonies and to participate in Courts of Honor. It includes a Scout shirt (button down), all insignia, merit badge sash (OA sash if applicable), T146 neckerchief, slide, Scout pants or shorts. If shorts are worn, Scout socks must also be worn.



Class A (also known as a Field Uniform) – required for Troop meetings, flag ceremonies, and when we travel. This is the Scout shirt (button up), all insignia, neckerchief and slide. Sashes should not be worn to regular troop activities. Note that extra points are awarded toward Patrol Spirit when the full uniform is worn to meetings.



Class B (also known as an Activity Uniform) – required for campout activities, projects, and other outings. This is an approved Scouting related t-shirt. Any Scout related t-shirt is okay; however, Troop 146 generally orders and sells new Troop t-shirts each year.

When Scouts are in Class A uniforms, they may not wear any hats except Scouting hats. **A Scout is expected to wear his uniform with his shirt buttoned and tucked in. A Scout may not be credited with participation at Troop activities if he is not appropriately dressed.** The wearing of military clothing or camouflage along with pieces of the official Scout uniform, and the imitation of United States Military Uniforms at any Scouting activity is a violation of National BSA policy (BSA Rules and Regulations, Article 10, Section 4, Clause 4b) and will not be permitted. We also ask our Scouts not to wear any item of clothing or accessory that does not fit with the Scouting program, such as t-shirts or headwear that have inappropriate sayings, graphics, or logos; clothing that has spikes, chains, or other inappropriate or dangerous adornments; and, inappropriate jewelry and body piercing items.

Troop 146 travels to campouts and other major Troop activities in Class A attire. This may be converted into Class B or other casual clothes once we arrive at camp, but all Scouts and Scouters travel in Class A to and from Troop and Patrol events.

Troop 146 wears Class A Dress for Courts of Honor and special events, Class A for all regular meetings, and Class B during the summer months when school is not in session.

Troop Calendar Development Process

Sometime in late summer the Troop will schedule and execute a planning conference. At the Annual Planning Conference, the Troop calendar for the upcoming year is created by the PLC with the guidance of the scoutmasters. The plan for the calendar year will be comprehensive and consider events to the level of detail as the theme for weekly meetings and possible guest speakers.

Prior to the Conference, Patrol Leaders will get input from their Patrols about activities or outings they are interested in conducting. The Patrol Leaders will then bring those ideas to the

planning conference for consideration, and the PLC will determine the Troop's schedule for the coming year. After the PLC has determined the year's calendar, it is presented to the Troop Committee for comments and acceptance. The purpose of the Committee review is to ensure the calendar provides a quality program that meets the goals of the Troop and supports the Boy Scout ideals, not to question individual events. Care must be taken to make sure the plans made by the Scouts during the Planning Conference are not superseded. After the calendar is accepted, it is distributed to all Scouts and posted to the online calendar.

The calendar is periodically reviewed by the PLC to make any needed updates or modifications.

The Scouts should remember the Annual Planning Conference is their chance to decide what their program is going to be like. During the Conference, the Scouts decide what will be done for the coming year. The Scouts have the responsibility to come up with ideas for activities and themes and then plan to make them a success. The Scouts take responsibility for their program and make sure they are doing exciting, memorable events. This is the best and greatest chance for the Scouts to take control of their program and make it what they want it to be.

Camping

Camping is the backbone of the troop program. It is an exciting time for the Scout and a time of great responsibility. The Troop will have nine or ten campouts throughout the school year and one week-long summer camp experience. The Scouts perform the main planning for each event. On campouts, Scouts will operate by the Patrol Method and will be expected to perform tasks such as, but not limited to, selecting their Patrol camping area, pitching the tent they will be sleeping in, cooking their Patrol meals, cleaning their personal and Patrol mess gear, and building their own fires. Boy leaders and/or adult leaders will demonstrate how to perform these tasks, but Scouts will be expected to learn to do it themselves. Some of the many camping events that may occur are canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing, caving, biking, shooting sports, hiking, fishing, and backpacking.

Scouts are expected to wear their Class A uniform to and from campouts, but may wear Class B uniforms or Scout related t-shirts upon arrival and during the campout.

With all trips, day or overnight, prior to the trip the Scout will need a signed permission form confirming he is going on the trip and has his parents' consent. The form must be filled out and submitted with the payment for the trip before departure. These forms and appropriate medical forms are vital in cases of emergency where medical treatment may be required. All trips have a signup deadline. If you do not sign up by the deadline, you cannot attend the outing. To be fair to the other members of the Troop there will be no exceptions to this policy. Adults participating in trips will need to have proper medical forms on file and should indicate if they can help transport Scouts to and from the event at the time they signup.

Scouts tent with their Patrol in a patrol site/area separated from the other Patrols. Patrols plan their own menus, and cook and eat together as a team. In general, adults do not eat or tent with a boy patrol. And, BSA Youth Protection policies forbid an unrelated adult and Scout sharing the same tent. While youth protection policies may not apply to a parent and son

tenting together, it is Troop policy that Scouts tent with Scouts and adults with adults. If parents tent with their son, our experience shows the boy will lose out on many opportunities to make decisions and be part of the Patrol team.

During campouts, we ask all Scouts to respect other campers and their gear. Unless otherwise stated by Troop leadership, campers will be in their tents, quiet, with lights out by 11:00 PM. Scouts should be aware that loud sounds can be heard outside their tents and may be disrespectful and disturbing to others. No visitors are allowed in other tents from 11:00 PM to 7:00 AM. To ensure the safety of campers, no fires of any kind are allowed inside tents or other enclosed shelters. This includes candles, lit matches, stoves, heaters, and lanterns. Only battery-operated lanterns or flashlights are permitted.

If a parent goes on a campout, you are an automatic member of our Silver Moccasin (adult) Patrol. This Patrol has several purposes – good food and camaraderie (of course), but more important is providing an example the boy patrols can follow without our telling them what to do (teaching by example). Since a Patrol should camp as a group, we expect the Silver Moccasins to do so also; that way, adults don't tent in or right next to a boy patrol where our mere presence could disrupt the learning process.

Adults should not interfere with the functioning of boy leaders, even if they make mistakes (we all learn best from our mistakes). Step in ONLY if it is a matter of immediate safety or if the mistake will be immediately costly. If possible, involve a uniformed adult leader first. Never do anything for a boy he can do for himself. Let him make decisions without adult interference, and let him make non-costly mistakes.

Quite simply, our troop policy requires adults to cook, eat, and tent separately from the Scouts (even parents and sons). We are safely nearby, but not smotheringly close. Feel free to visit patrol sites (not just your son's), talk to your Scout and the other Scouts, ask what's going on or how things are going. But give the Scout room to grow while you enjoy the view. Show a Scout how to do something, but don't do it for him. Avoid the temptation to give advice, and don't jump in just to prevent a mistake from happening (unless it's serious). We all learn best from our mistakes. And let the Patrol Leader lead.

It is important for parents to remember this is a Scout-run program, not an adult-led program. **The Scout-run Troop is one of the most basic and important principles of the Scouting program.** If a parent participates in an activity, it is very important that s/he do their best to be adult Scout leaders, not parents. For the Scout program to succeed, the Scouts have to be free to make decisions, succeed, fail, and learn by running their own Troop. Failure is sometimes the best teacher, and success is a reward both for the Scouts and the adults who guide them. Parents should not be offended if the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster asks them not to make suggestions or to help in certain situations, and should not worry when the adult leader appears to be letting the Scouts make a bad decision. Adult leaders are there to guide and maintain safety, and we will never allow a Scout to make a mistake that would seriously compromise their safety. Being a Scout leader is not easy in any capacity, and becomes even harder when your own child is involved. Rest assured the Troop adult leaders want parents to participate in all aspects of the Troop, and they will do anything they can to make the experience fun and rewarding.

Fire Building

Scouts must pass specific requirements before they are given the responsibility of working with fire. To work with fires, the Scout must earn his Firem'n Chit by demonstrating knowledge of fire safety. Then and only then is he allowed to safely start a fire, work with propane or other flammable substances.

Knives

Scouts must pass specific requirements before they are given the responsibility for working with knives, axes and saws. To use woodworking tools, including his personal pocketknife, he must earn the Totin' Chip (different from the Cub Scout Whittling Chip) by demonstrating knowledge of the safety precautions that are important when using wood tools. Sheath knives are not prohibited but are not encouraged to be carried by Scouts. Small pocketknives, multi-bladed tools, or single-blade knives that lock open and fold into the handle are acceptable and encouraged. When in doubt, consult a scoutmaster before purchasing a new knife.

Prohibited Items

No phones, radios, electronic games, DVD players, Game Boys or other electronic devices as well as toy guns, bows and arrows, homemade or otherwise, fireworks or aerosol cans (pump sprays are allowed) will be allowed at any scout event such as camping trips, Troop meetings, Courts of Honor, hikes, service projects, summer camp, etc. These devices do not support an appreciation and enjoyment of the outdoors. If a Scout is found with any of the above items during a trip, the device may be confiscated by a registered leader and returned to the Scout's parents after the event. Repeated incidents may result in disciplinary action.

The Troop discourages but does not ban the consumption of caffeine-containing beverages (coffee, tea, caffeinated sodas) by Scouts. If necessary, the Scoutmaster Corps may limit consumption by Scouts who drink excessive amounts.

Equipment

Good equipment is very important. Sometimes our camping trips will include several miles of hiking with backpacks, and will almost always involve staying safely outdoors overnight. Scouts should refer to the personal equipment checklist in the *Boy Scout Handbook* when packing for a campout. These checklists are very important. Small items forgotten can make for an uncomfortable trip. If you need help finding equipment to purchase or borrow, please let a scoutmaster know. Refer to the Resource List provided in the Appendix for resources for appropriate apparel and gear. **All personal equipment must have the Scout's name on it.**

The Troop Quartermaster oversees assigning Troop owned equipment to Patrols during an outing. Patrol Leaders or their Patrol Quartermasters are expected to supervise the use of the troop equipment and make sure all equipment is returned in good condition. All equipment should be returned and checked in by the Quartermaster by the next Troop meeting. Returned equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and dried. The Quartermaster may refuse to accept equipment that has not been adequately cleaned and may refer repeated problems to the Scoutmaster. The Quartermaster will report any damaged equipment to the Scoutmaster and/or the Equipment Coordinator. Any equipment that is not returned over a certain time will be considered lost. The person responsible for that piece of equipment will be responsible for the replacement at the replacement cost.

Patrol Quartermasters and Patrol Leaders are advised to refer to the *Troop Quartermaster Handbook* for additional information about troop and patrol equipment.

Transportation

In most cases, the Troop will need adults to help provide transportation to and from outings. We ask all adults, if they sign up to attend an event, to let us know if you intend to be a driver or not and how many people you can transport. Drivers are expected to obtain driver's insurance that meets at least the minimum as defined by Tennessee state law. If you ever intend to assist as a driver, you will need to be listed on the Troop's driver list. Specific information on limits can be found on the Driver Information Form, which is available on our troop web site. This form must be completed each year and submitted to the Committee prior to the first time a driver attends an event. Vehicles not meeting the minimum insurance requirements CANNOT be used to transport Scouts to troop or patrol activities.

Drivers may not smoke while Scouts are in the car.

When traveling to and from outings and activities, all Scouts are to wear seat belts at all times. All vehicles are to be left cleaner than how you found them. Any disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. If any Scout behaves in a such a way that is disruptive to the driver, and the Scout does not modify his actions upon request, he will be asked to be picked up by a parent when we arrive at the destination.

Order of the Arrow

The Order of the Arrow is a National BSA honor society and service organization. It recognizes outstanding Scouts who have met prescribed requirements. To be a candidate a Scout must be at least First Class in rank, participate regularly in Troop activities, have at least 20 days and nights camping that may include only one long-term camp (six consecutive days) with the balance in short-term camping within a two-year period, and be recommended by the Scoutmaster. Order of the Arrow members are elected by the Troop members. Speak to the OA Troop Representative for more information.

Behavior Requirements

Scouts are expected to live their lives in accordance with the Scout Oath and Law. This should be enough. However, we have found that in some cases more specifics are needed to outline expectations.

A Scout is clean in thought, word, and deed. Vulgarity or profanity is not acceptable Boy Scout behavior and will not be tolerated. Troop 146 has a zero tolerance for bullying, threatening or intimidating another person. Actions along these lines run contrary to the Scout Oath and Law, and may bring about immediate suspension from Troop 146.

Each Scout will respect youth and adult leadership at all times. Any Scout that refuses to cooperate with either boy or adult leaders at any Troop function may be sent home (parents will be called to pick the Scout up).

The buddy system will be used at all times.

Troop 146 leadership will strive to recognize, acknowledge, and when appropriate, reward good behavior. We expect that two individuals will first attempt to resolve an issue between themselves before anyone else (youth or adult) needs to become involved. Beyond that, behavior in defiance of the Scout Oath and Law will be addressed by the following leadership:

- Level 1: Patrol Leader/Assistant Patrol Leader
- Level 2: Senior Patrol Leaders/Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders
- Level 3: Assistant Scoutmaster or Junior Assistant Scoutmaster
- Level 4: Scoutmaster and subsequent meeting with Parents

The above levels are the standard order. If a behavior issue or problem is not resolved at a lower level, it will then be taken to the next level. Addressing the problem may automatically go to a higher level based on the severity or level of Scout(s) involved.

The process may include but is not limited to:

- Verbal warning;
- Leader addressing inappropriate behavior and identifying acceptable resolution(s);
- Meeting with the party or parties involved, the appropriate youth leadership, and two registered adults, to discuss the issue and planned resolution(s);
- Meeting of youth leadership, Scoutmaster, and at least one other registered adult, to determine resolution(s);
- Meeting of Scoutmaster and other adult leadership to determine resolution(s);
- Meeting of the party or parties involved, their parents, and the Scoutmaster to determine resolution(s).

Some of the possible resolutions include:

- Verbal apology or apologies offered by the parties involved;
- Letter of apology prepared by the Scout to be read to participants affected by the behavior;

Suspension for future troop activities until proper behavior at Patrol and Troop meetings is demonstrated;
Ineligibility of rank advancements until proper behavior at Patrol and Troop meetings is demonstrated;
Revocation of Scout membership to Troop 146.

If at any time, any Scout (or his parents) does not feel safe on any Troop activity, they should immediately bring the matter to the attention of the adult leader(s) in charge.

Youth Protection

All activities that include adult leadership will strictly follow the Youth Protection and Safe Scouting guidelines set forth by the BSA in *The Guide to Safe Scouting*. Adult leadership is **always** two deep, which means two leaders should be on all Scouting outings, with some exceptions for certain Patrol activities. If two adults cannot accompany Scouts on an overnight trip, the trip will be cancelled.

No Scout should ever be in the company of a single unrelated adult without being in sight of others, or without having another adult or Scout in attendance. Adults may transport an unrelated Scout from one location to another without another adult in the vehicle as long as at least two Scouts are in the vehicle. Other policies as spelled out in the Youth Protection and *Guide to Safe Scouting* guidelines may apply.

BSA policy requires adult volunteers to take Youth Protection Training before they can become a registered leader and to retake this training every two years, and review these policies before assisting in a Troop event. Youth Protection guidelines are for the protection of both the Scout and the adult leader and should be strictly adhered to at all times.

Youth Protection, and other online training, can be found at <http://my.scouting.org> and creating an account tied to your name and BSA ID# if you have one.

Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy

The following policy on smoking and alcohol was approved by the National Executive Board of the BSA.

It is the policy of the Boy Scouts of America that the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances is not permitted at encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the Boy Scouts of America, or at any activity involving participation of youth members.

Tobacco

Adult leaders should support the attitude that they, as well as youth, are better off without tobacco in any form and may not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving

youth participants. This includes the use of electronic cigarettes, personal vaporizers, or electronic nicotine delivery systems that simulate tobacco smoking.

All Scouting functions, meetings, and activities should be conducted on a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas located away from viewing of all participants.

Drugs

The misuse of drugs happens in all levels of society. We may be confronted with the problem at any time; therefore, we need to understand the misuse of drugs and what can be done about the situation.

A Troop 146 Scout may not use or possess any alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or illegal drugs. If found or detected, the Scout's parents (and/or police, if necessary) will be notified immediately, and use or possession may be grounds for immediate suspension from Troop 146.

A Note on Communications

The hardest part of keeping the Troop running with all the activities in which we are involved is getting the information out to everyone. We have several methods for doing this, with much of our communication taking place via email. Depending on the nature of the message, the email may be followed up by a phone call from Troop leadership. It is worth taking a moment to remember that email is not a replacement for a direct conversation either in person or by phone. However, in order to effectively reach all of our Scouts and their parents, emails become essential in delivering critical information about troop events.

To help Scouts receive emails, Troop 146 provides an email account to all participants to help this interaction occur. At times, deadlines for signups will be asked through emails and it is hoped and expected Scouts and parents will respond. Even if an email is missed, Scouts and parents are expected to monitor the troop calendar for events and their possible deadlines. A Scout's direct line of communication will be with his Patrol Leader. If the Patrol Leader does not have the information needed, the Scout will then go through the chain of command and contact an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and then if necessary the Senior Patrol Leader.

There may be times when Scouts and registered adults need to communicate either through email, text or phone calls. When this happens, we do not allow one-on-one contact. This means any emails or texts between adults and Scouts must include at least one other adult or Scout in the conversation. For phone calls, we ask that another adult be in the room with the Scout or another person is present to hear the conversation on speaker phone.

Troop Web Sites

The Troop maintains a website at <https://www.t146.org>

This handbook, as well as the troop calendar, listing of events, forms, and virtually all other information about the Troop and Scouting in general can be found by visiting our site.

The Troop has a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/troop146/>

Scouts and their parents can post, track, and review individual advancement through *Scoutbook* – an online program owned by BSA to keep advancement records for Cub and Boy Scouts. Access is provided through invitation only to the parent, and the parent then invites the Scout to join so they can access their own account.

Scoutbook is found at <http://www.scoutbook.com>

Closing Comments

Welcome to the Scouting adventure. Get ready for hard work, exciting times, and most of all – FUN!

To the Scouts, remember, this is **your** Troop. How well it functions, what adventures you experience, where you go, and what you do are **your** choices. Get involved with the Troop leadership. Take pride in your Patrol and in yourself. Get to be good friends with the other Scouts in the Troop. Help out when needed, and when you have a job assigned, do it well. Work hard to become an Eagle Scout. You can talk to a lot of adults who once had the opportunity become an Eagle Scout and did not. None of those adults are glad that they did not achieve the rank of Eagle, and almost all will say that if they knew then what they know now, they would have spent the time and made the commitment to finish. No matter what your rank, remember the Scout Oath and Law are ideals you can use to guide your actions throughout your lives.

To the parents, remember that your Scout is embarking on a new adventure. He will need your support, but you must walk a fine line between encouraging him to do well and actually doing for him. Sometimes a thing not given teaches more than a thing easily gotten. Encourage your Scout to work hard and commit to working on his ranks and merit badges. Join us as a leader if you have the time and interest. Help whenever you can to make this a better Troop. And thank you for allowing your Scout to join us on this great adventure!