

Troop 142 Scout Guide

You'll notice Boy Scout Troops are a lot different than your Cub Scout Pack. The boys run the meetings and make decisions on troop outings and activities. To ease the transition to Boy Scouts, you'll be placed in a new scout patrol with boys your own age. One of the older Scouts in the troop will be assigned as your patrol leader or guide. He will select an assistant patrol leader from your patrol. Besides a patrol leader, your patrol will also be assigned one of the Assistant Scoutmasters. These leaders will introduce you to the patrol method and the basic operation of a boy-led troop.

It's natural to feel a little lost at this point. But remember, every boy in this troop has been in exactly the same spot you are now. We've put together this packet of information to assist you and your parents during this get-acquainted time. This packet gives you ideas of what to bring to meetings, what to bring on a campout, and where all those new patches go on your uniform. We'll also tell you some things to not bring.

Troop Meetings

Troop meetings are generally held three times a month, on Mondays at 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Water's Edge Lutheran Church which is located at 5475 Coit Road, Frisco, Texas 75035. We go camping or have a Troop activity during a weekend of the month. That means we usually meet at least four times a month.

Attendance at troop meetings is important. We work on merit badges, scouting skills, and have patrol meetings at this time. Don't forget to bring your Boy Scout Handbook, your notebook, and a pencil. You will be receiving a three ring binder to keep stuff in – use it, and bring it to every Scout event. Please be prompt and in proper uniform.

Your Scout Handbook

By now, you've probably gotten a brand new Boy Scout Handbook. This is the most important document of your Boy Scout career. This should be your first resource for everything about scouting; where to place patches on uniforms, rank requirements, merit badges, basic scout skills, and a lot of other information. It is also the original record of how, when, and where you completed requirements for your advancement to Eagle Scout. Take good care of your Scout Handbook. Don't lose it. It's got to last you through your entire time in Boy Scouts. Make sure it has your name written in it.

Be sure to bring your Scout Handbook to meetings and outings. As you complete requirements, one of your leaders will sign and date the requirement in your book. You will have completed another step of your journey in Scouting.

Your New Uniform

Class A and Class B. If you're unsure of what uniform to wear at a specific time, ask your patrol leader. When in doubt, wear your Class A uniform. Often, boys will wear the Class B t-shirt under the Class A uniform so they can "dress down" for less formal events or work parties.

Class A Uniform

Your Class A uniform consists of a khaki Scout shirt, with the appropriate patches for the Circle 10 Council, Troop numbers (142), Patrol emblem, and badges of rank. If you completed your Arrow of Light, you may wear this emblem on your shirt, as well as any religious knots you have earned. There's a uniform inspection sheet to assist you in placing these patches on your shirt. (Included on the inside covers of your Scout Handbook.) Scout pants or shorts, accompanied by the uniform belt and matching socks complete the uniform.

Blue jeans are preferred when not wearing the official pants. Belt and Socks are still required. Troop 142 does not wear a Scout cap.

Uniform shirts, council patches, patrol patches, and the universal Scouting emblem may be purchased from the local Scout Shop.

You should wear your Class A uniform whenever you come to meetings, attend Boards of Review, travel with the troop, or participate in troop functions, unless instructed to wear Class B uniforms for some specific event.

Where do I buy my uniform?

The Scoutfitter is the store that helps supply the scouts and scouters of Circle Ten Council. There are four locations in the area:

COLLIN COUNTY SCOUT SHOP

816 W McDermott Dr

Twin Creek Village, Suite 336

Allen, TX 75013

(214) 495-0442

Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

CIRCLE-10 SCOUT SHOP

8605 Harry Hines Blvd.

Dallas, TX 75235

Phone: (214)902-6767

Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

SHERMAN SCOUT SHOP

202 Sam Rayburn Hwy.

Sherman, TX 75092

Phone: (903)893-2135

Monday - Friday: 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

NATIONAL SCOUTING MUSEUM SCOUT SHOP

1329 W. Walnut Hill lane

Irving, TX 75015

(972) 580-2484

Monday - Saturday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Class B Uniform

The Class B uniform for Troop 142 consists of the gofficial Troop T-shirt, available for purchase from the troop, and the Scout pants or shorts, belt and socks.

Class B uniforms are worn in camp, during work projects, and at the meeting following a weekend campout. We also wear them during the summer meetings.

Your First Year

The goal for your first year in Boy Scouts is a challenging one: achieving the rank of First Class. It's a tough, but realistic goal, and will require effort on your part, but your troop and patrol leaders will guide you. Not everybody achieves First Class in the first year, and that is OK. Every boy is different, and sometimes issues like family, school and church commitments will require a boy to take a slower pace. The rank of First Class is important. In achieving this rank, you will have the foundation of scouting skills that enable you to take on more responsibility in the troop, earn merit badges, and achieve higher ranks. In working towards this rank, you're going to learn camping, how to cook your own meals, fi rst aid, and many other skills. You're going to have fun!

Advancement

The way to learn the requirements for advancement is by actually doing them. One of the major differences you will experience moving from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts is how requirements are fulfilled. In Cub Scouts, simple awareness and basic understanding was sufficient for advancement. In Boy Scouts, the goal is not awareness, but proficiency. If the requirement is cooking on a camp-out for your next rank, you will cook a simple meal as part of your patrol duties. An older Scout will teach you the rudimentary safe planning and cooking skills. You may repeat

this experience on two or three occasions as you will for First Aid, Swimming or knot tying. The emphasis is on development, not advancement. When you are proficient, you will have completed the preparation step and will be ready to move to the qualification step. The idea of preparation is to develop your ability at the skill to qualify for the requirement. Doing the requirement one time is not evidence of competency at the skill.

Don't worry how fast you progress. You will prepare for many requirements simply by participating in the Troop indoor and outdoor programs. The Troop 142 program is designed to expose you to all skill sets sufficiently often for you to become proficient. You become really proficient by practicing the skills outside of Scout activities.

Troop 142 does not run a classroom. Wherever possible, you will learn by doing. Advancement is an individual matter, you can move as fast or slowly as your abilities and initiative dictate.

There is an element of competition. The more you learn, the more you can help your patrol when it enters contests and games involving Scout skills.

Record all of your advancement progress in your Official Boy Scout Handbook in the spaces provided to track progress. There are two places within the handbook where you must do this. For each rank, there is a check list, and pages providing opportunities to specifically document different achievements and event participation. In the back is a progress history requiring both dates and adult leader sign-off for every advancement requirement. Keep both the book up to date. After you have prepared for a requirement, an adult scout leader must sign your book to show you are qualified.

After you have demonstrated mastery of all the requirements, and the results signed off in your Handbook, you stand ready to be reviewed for the new rank.

For "Scout" rank, your Patrol Leader must recommend you to the Senior Patrol. To be eligible for Scout, all your paperwork and dues must be turned in, and your youth protection pamphlet (found in the front of your handbook) must have been reviewed with you by your parents and signed by them. Two members of the Senior Patrol will review your understanding of the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan, along with the Outdoor Code. If found ready, the Senior Patrol Leader, or his duly appointed representative, will recommend you to the Scoutmaster for the Scoutmaster Conference. The Scoutmaster makes the final determination of your readiness for advancement.

For all ranks above "Scout", you must go through a review process before attending a Board of Review.

1. First, your Patrol Leader must recommend you to the Senior Patrol for actual

testing on your ability to meet rank requirements. Two members of the Senior Patrol will review your abilities and understanding for the next rank.

2. If found ready, the Senior Patrol Leader, or his duly appointed representative, will recommend you to the Scoutmaster for the Scoutmaster Conference. The Scoutmaster makes the final determination of your readiness for advancement.

3. Finally, for the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class, Star and Life, adults from the Troop Executive Committee will interview you. District Representatives conduct the Eagle Scout Board of Review in accordance with the council advancement committee's guidelines. Additional rank awards above the Eagle rank are again awarded by the Troop Executive Committee.

The board members want to know if you are achieving a well-rounded growth in Scouting and measuring up to the spirit of the Scout Oath and Law. The review is not a re-examination of specific requirements.

This is a great opportunity to learn about meeting and speaking with adults during the interview process. Did you ever think of how few opportunities you have to speak with a group such as this? It is OK to be nervous about the review, but we all want you to succeed. This process will help you build self-confidence for other interviews with scout, church, and school leaders. Relax, and just rely on what you know. It is OK to pause to think about things before you answer, but make sure you answer. There are things it is OK to say "I don't know" about, and there are things it is not OK. If someone asks you how you like Scouting or what you enjoy most about Scouting, it is not OK to say "I don't know." If you don't know, who does? Relax and do your best to answer the questions honestly and completely.

Camping

It's been said that Scouting is three-quarters "outing," and Troop 142 is no exception. Campouts are done most months. During campouts, you will work on skills needed for rank advancement. If you're unsure of what to bring, there's a suggested list of personal equipment in this packet. The troop furnishes most of the larger items such as cooking equipment, so you have to be concerned only with your personal gear.

There are some things you should not bring on campouts. This includes firearms, fireworks, sheath knives, music players, and Gameboys. In short, the only battery-operated device you should bring is a flashlight. You should not bring a knife or matches until you have earned them. But that will happen soon. If you're unsure about an item, ask your patrol leader.

During your campouts in Cub Scouts, you shared a tent with your parents, and they did all the cooking. Now you will share a tent with one or more of your patrol members. Your patrol will select their menu, do their own shopping, and cook their own meals. Yes, that also includes cleaning their own dishes, too.

The scheduling of campouts is done by the Patrol Leaders Council. Campouts and outings are generally planned two months in advance. They also decide where we will go on these outings. Generally, we will meet at the church, load our gear into the trailer, divide up into cars, and leave. Please be prompt and arrive by the designated time. Upon return, you will be picked up at the church.

Medicals

The troop must obtain annually a Permission Form & Surgical Waiver and a Health & Medical Statement from you, signed by your parents, in accordance with BSA guidelines. We will keep these on file, and provide copies when required by an activity. The troop must also obtain a permission slip for you on each outing.

Note: If you have any medication that you must take during an outing, it must be given to an adult leader in the prescription container, with instructions for times and doses.

Travel

In traveling to and from campsites and other troop activities, there are a couple of rules you need to follow. First, you should wear your Class A uniform. Once we arrive at camp, you can change into your Class B. In fact, many boys will wear their Class B T-shirt under their Class A to facilitate this process.

Program Organization

Our Scouting program is designed to serve the needs and desires of boys from 11 to 18.

First-Year Scouts

In your first year of Boy Scouts, you will be placed in a patrol of new scouts like yourself, and assigned a Patrol Leader or Troop Guide from the Senior Patrol. He will guide you for a few months until troop elections come around, and then you will elect your own patrol officers. The focus of this first year is to learn the Scout skills and work toward your First Class rank. It is also highly recommended that you attend summer camp. During your first year at Summer Camp, it is recommended that you earn the Swimming merit badge and satisfy a number of rank requirements.

Second- and Third-Year Scouts

After achieving your First Class rank, the focus shifts to earning merit badges, assuming more responsibility within the troop, and service both inside and outside the troop. Campouts may be slanted towards Council or District events, or teaching skills to younger scouts. Scouts in this age group generally are First Class, Star, and Life rank.

Older Scouts

After completing the rank of Life, the scout focuses on the path to Eagle and Eagle bronze, silver, and gold Palms. Additional merit badges are earned, responsibilities within the troop can increase, and the Eagle project must be completed.

Additionally, the scout has the opportunity for age restricted (usually 14 and above) high adventure activities such as climbing or whitewater kayaking within a Venture Patrol. There are also major scouting events like Jamboree, Philmont, Sea Basin, and others where your scouting adventure exposes you to scouts outside your troop. You enter the global scouting adventure. During this time, the scout is expected to “give back” to Scouting, which has been “giving” to him.

Troop Organization

Patrols

The Scouts in the troop are divided up into patrols, generally consisting of six to ten scouts. A patrol will have a patrol leader who is elected by the patrol and serves for a year. The patrol leader will select an assistant patrol leader who assists him and leads the patrol in the patrol leader’s absence. There are other patrol positions available, such as scribe, quartermaster, and grubmaster. Patrol members work and plan together. The Patrol Leader guides the patrol. Patrol leaders are responsible for communicating troop plans from the Patrol Leaders’ Council, and helping the patrol members enjoy scouting events.

Troop Leadership

The troop is led by the senior patrol leader (SPL) and assistant senior patrol leader (ASPL), who are elected by the troop members. Together, the SPL and ASPL select the remainder of the troop leadership positions, including the troop scribe, troop historian, librarian, troop quartermaster, and chaplain aide. Patrol leaders report to the senior patrol leader who, in turn, reports to the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters.

Patrol Leaders’ Council

The patrol leaders’ council, or PLC, is a monthly meeting of the patrol leaders and troop leaders. They plan the troop’s activities such as campouts and service projects.

Adult Leaders

The adult leaders you will see most of the time are the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters. They accompany the troop on outings, teach skills, and provide supervision. There’s also a troop committee that does important work behind the scenes. The troop committee performs your board of review whenever you are eligible for rank advancements.

Conduct During Troop Activities

All of your actions should be governed by the Scout Oath and Law. If an action cannot be justified under these two creeds, you probably shouldn't be doing it. The Troop Patrol Leader's Council is responsible for the development and maintenance of the Troop 142 Code of Conduct, which is nothing more than an explanation of the Scout Oath and Law with specific examples. This document helps to ensure that all Scouts conduct themselves in a manner that is safe and respectful of Church and Troop property and other Scouts. Each member of Troop 142 is expected to honor this Code. Violations shall be reviewed by the Patrol Leader's Council.

What's Next

You've taken the first step. Your leaders will show you where to go next. Follow them, pay close attention, and have fun. Some of the friendships you make in scouting will last a lifetime. The values and skills you learn will form an important foundation for the rest of your life. Your leaders want to see you succeed, and we're sure you will.