



Troop 28

Parent Manual

Chartered Organization:

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF COLLEYVILLE

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WELCOME TO TROOP 28

It is a privilege to welcome you and your son to the Troop 28 family!

Whether you are joining us from a Cub Scout Pack, coming to us from another Boy Scout Troop, or are a “newcomer”, we want you to feel at home as you begin a new chapter in your Scouting adventure. Troop 28 offers a fun and challenging program that incorporates character development, leadership training, citizenship, and problem solving, all while enjoying the great outdoors.

There is much to learn in Scouting and thankfully, it’s not just “book learning.” Troop 28 likes to learn by doing. Camping, hiking, swimming, helping others, learning about our country and community, mastering skills in personal management, first aid, and physical fitness are a few of the activities we encourage. Planning, demonstrating, and then doing not only gives our boys the skills that will develop their physical and mental growth, but also provides them with valuable life lessons and opportunities to succeed and build their confidence.

Troop 28 is fortunate to have energetic, active, and involved Scouts and a large group of equally energetic, active, and dedicated parents. Please know that opportunities for fun, adventure, and community service are not just for Scouts. Our troop provides ample occasions for adults to participate in a variety of activities, a few of which include: teaching and mentoring Scouts, Troop administration, and planning for weekend camp outs. Because our program offers opportunities for boys to learn about a wide range of subjects beyond the outdoors, your talents, vocations, and passions are valuable to us as we add new elements to the Troop 28 program or make the existing one more effective. We hope you’ll consider taking an active role as an adult leader.

This handbook is for your use as a quick reference to the policies of Troop 28. It is a supplement to the published literature and programs of the Boy Scouts of America, emphasizing those areas which have special importance and focus within our own troop.

Again, welcome to Troop 28!

Table of Contents:

TABLE OF CONTENTS:	3
PURPOSE, AIMS AND METHODS OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA	5
PURPOSE OF SCOUTING.....	5
SCOUTING AIMS.....	5
METHODS.....	5
HOW BOY SCOUTING DIFFERS FROM CUB SCOUTING	6
WHAT PARENTS NEED TO DO.....	7
STAY INFORMED.....	7
MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION	7
MEMBERSHIP	7
REGISTRATION	7
TROOP ORGANIZATION	8
SCOUTS.....	8
TROOP LEADERSHIP	8
SCOUTMASTER.....	8
COACH COUNSELORS.....	8
MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS.....	8
TROOP COMMITTEE.....	9
CHARTERED ORGANIZATION.....	9
TROOP MEETINGS	9
TROOP MEETINGS.....	9
PLC MEETINGS	9
TROOP COMMITTEE MEETINGS	10
TROOP ACTIVITIES	10
OUTDOOR PROGRAM	10
CAMPOUTS	10
ADULT AND SCOUT ROLES WHILE CAMPING.....	11
SUMMER CAMP.....	12
SERVICE PROJECTS.....	12
TRANSPORTATION: TOUR PERMIT REQUIREMENTS	12
EQUIPMENT NEEDS	12
HANDBOOK.....	12
UNIFORM	13
INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT.....	13
TROOP EQUIPMENT.....	13
ATTENDANCE	13
RANK ADVANCEMENT	14
SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCE.....	14
BOARD OF REVIEW.....	14

COURT OF HONOR	15
MERIT BADGES	15
INSURANCE	16
BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE POLICY	16
DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE	17
ADULT LEADERSHIP	17
YOUTH PROTECTION GUIDELINES	17
ADULT TRAINING	17
ADULT ROLE	18
FUND RAISERS	18

Purpose, Aims and Methods of the Boy Scouts of America

Purpose of Scouting

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to provide boys with an effective program designed to build desirable qualities of character, to train in the responsibilities of participation citizenship, and to develop their personal fitness. In doing so, young men develop into citizens who:

1. Are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit.
2. Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced by qualities such as initiative, perseverance, and resourcefulness.
3. Have personal values firmly based on religious concepts.
4. Have a desire and the skills to help others.
5. Understand the principles of American social, economic, and governmental systems.
6. Are knowledgeable about their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
7. Have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
8. Are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in, and demonstrating leadership in, American society and in the forums of the world.

Scouting Aims

- **Character Building** - This can be defined as what a boy is - his personal qualities, values and outlook.
- **Citizenship Development** - Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He learns of his obligations to other people, to the society in which he lives, and to his government.
- **Mental, moral, and physical fitness development** - Fitness includes the body (health and strength) the mind (the ability to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

Methods

These methods are designed to accomplish the aims above.

1. **Ideals.** The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve.
2. **Patrols.** The patrol method allows Scouts to experience group living and places a certain amount of responsibility on them. Boys also form bonds within their Patrols, which in turn teach important lessons about delegation and personal responsibility.

3. **Outdoors.** Boy Scouts is primarily designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose.
4. **Advancement.** Scouting provides a series of surmountable skills and lessons to master which allow a boy to advance through various ranks. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence.
5. **Adult Association.** A boy learns from the example set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage of a young man's development.
6. **Personal Growth.** As Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting and is achieved through awareness and service to others.
7. **Leadership Development.** Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills and each boy has the opportunity to participate in leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership is crucial in helping a boy accept his role of guiding others.
8. **Uniform.** The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a unit and creates a positive youth image in the community. Wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting.

How Boy Scouting Differs from Cub Scouting

You may be surprised how different Boy Scouting is from Cub Scouting. Here are some key contrasts:

The Cub Scout program is family-centered. Adults plan all activities, and most activities lend themselves to full family participation. The Boy Scout program is boy-centered. The goal of our Troop is to be Boy-Led. Boys plan all activities with adult guidance and support. Remember that it takes practice to learn anything, including leadership. Your son will elect his patrol and troop officers, and later, he will hold some of these offices himself, since leadership is a requirement for advancement beyond First Class. This takes some getting used to, especially when we adults think we can run things more efficiently than the boys can. The boys need practice to learn how to lead effectively, and adults need time to learn how to support lightly: to be available when needed, without controlling.

Cub Scout advancement is conducted by adults, usually the boy's parents. Boys and adults other than a boy's parents conduct Boy Scout advancement. A Boy Scout has almost total control over his own advancement, which he will do mostly on an individual basis with senior Scouts and with a number of different adults.

Cub Scout camping is limited, even for Webelos; however camping is the very heart of the Boy Scout program with monthly opportunities to practice skills and various training opportunities. Camping is available to all registered Scouts and adults (Scouters).

What Parents Need To Do

It takes every family's participation to make our active troop successful. There is always something to do that matches a parent's talents with their available time. Your involvement is vital to your son as well as to other Scouts. Being an involved parent takes time and effort, but it's also rewarding and FUN! Studies find that boys who get the most from the Scouting program are those whose parents also become involved. Think of Scouting as an extension and enrichment of your son's education.

Stay informed

Advise your son that it is his responsibility to keep you informed. Information concerning troop activities goes directly to a Scout at troop meetings and through phone calls and emails from his troop and patrol leaders. Check to make sure your son is receiving and properly acting upon this information. Keep yourself informed through the website (www.troop28.us), Troop Committee Meetings, registering for our troop e-mails, and visiting Troop Meetings. Adults are always welcome to observe, inquire and contribute.

Membership and Registration

Membership

Scouts: Membership is limited to boys between the ages from 11 until 18 years with the exception that a boy may enter the troop if he has completed the fifth grade. Cub Scouts may bridge into Boy Scouting at the end of their second Webelos year.

Each Scout will need to fill out the BSA application and pay the registration fees and dues (see Registration). In addition, a health form is required for each boy prior to their first campout.

Adults, Troop Committee: Membership in the Committee is open to any registered adult over the age of 21 and parents of Scouts are encouraged to participate. Besides Assistant Scoutmaster and Committee positions, we need parents to get involved in driving to campouts, being Merit Badge Counselors, helping in fundraising projects, community service projects, and many other activities. For more information, contact the Committee Chairman.

Adults, Scoutmaster and Assistants: The Scoutmaster is selected by the Troop Committee and approved by the Chartering Organization. The Assistant Scoutmasters are selected by the Scoutmaster and act as mentors for the program chosen by the boys.

Registration

Scouts: All Scouts are required to pay the BSA annual registration fee and insurance each December, as well as any dues (currently \$5/month) established by the Troop Committee. A subscription to Boy's Life magazine is an option that is recommended and can be paid for at the same time as registration.

The dues, but not registration fees, are prorated for boys joining during the year.

Adults: All adult members of the troop are required to pay the BSA annual registration fee each December 1st.

Troop Organization

Scouts

The troop is organized so that the Scouts are the functional leaders. The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) operates the troop in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America and within the guidelines established by the Troop Committee and the Scoutmaster. He is assisted by the Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL) and Patrol Leaders (PL) who meet monthly as a Patrol Leaders Conference (PLC) to organize the month's activities. Scouts entering the Troop are organized into New Scout Patrols, with a Patrol Leader (PL) and an Assistant Patrol Leader (APL) leading each unit. These scouts have not yet advanced to First Class rank. The outdoor program is designed to develop their outdoor skills and advancement.

Troop Leadership

The elected positions in the troop are the Senior Patrol Leader and the Patrol leaders. The Patrol Leaders should be at least First Class rank, except for new Scout Patrols where the leadership is generally assigned on a rotation basis the first year. Elections will be held every 6 months at a Scout meeting in June and December. Nominations will be made one week prior to election. Opportunity will be given for each candidate to make a campaign speech on the night of the election. All Scouts are eligible to vote. A majority is required to elect and a run-off of the top two candidates will be held if initial vote does not elect an SPL. Scouts can serve only two consecutive terms as SPL.

Other leadership positions available are: Troop Guide, Scribe, Historian, Librarian, Chaplain's Aid, Den Chief, Order of the Arrow representative, and Quartermaster. Leadership positions are required for rank advancement starting at the Star rank. Each leadership position requires at least four months of active participation (Life and Eagle are six) to fulfill the requirement. This is met by attending weekly meetings and troop activities.

Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster and his Assistant Scoutmasters supervise the operation of the Troop. This includes meetings, campouts, special events and activities, equipment, discipline, and promoting advancement. The Scoutmaster reports to the Troop Committee which has the general responsibilities of providing and supporting competent adult leadership for the Troop.

Coach Counselors

Each patrol is assigned an adult Coach Counselor, who counsels and advises the boys while monitoring their progress, advising, and encouraging them.

Merit Badge Counselors

Merit Badge Counselors can be Scoutmasters, Committee Members, parents, or interested adults at least 18 years old. They are proficient in the subject by vocation or avocation and need to be registered with the Boy Scouts of America, but need not pay any dues.

Registration provides that every adult has a background check before working with boys or other scout leaders. Training is available to those interested.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee has the general responsibilities of providing and supporting competent adult leadership for the troop, providing adequate meeting facilities, carrying out the policies of Boy Scouts of America, helping with the acquisition and maintenance of Troop equipment, supporting the advancement program, helping the Troop recruit new boys, supporting the outdoor program, and keeping the boys and their parents informed. The Committee is responsible for finances, funding activities, and disbursements in line with the approved budget plan.

Chartered Organization

The First United Methodist Church of Colleyville, as chartering organization, is the owner and operator of this official unit of the Boy Scouts of America. The chartered organization provides a meeting place, oversees the Committee and Scoutmaster, and chooses a Chartered Organization Representative. The Chartered Organization Representative serves as liaison between the troop and the church, mainly through the Committee Chairman, helps and encourages adult recruitment and training, assists with Rechartering, encourages service to the organization, and is involved with the District Committee. The Troop must operate within the policies of the Chartered Organization. The Troop leaders are subject to approval of the Chartered Organization.

Troop Meetings

Troop Meetings

Scouts are expected to be in proper uniform at Troop Meetings five to ten minutes early so they will be ready for Flags at 7:00 p.m. sharp. The Troop Meetings will be held each Monday from 7 pm till 8:30 pm at the First United Methodist Church of Colleyville with the following exceptions:

- Summer Camp
- Spring Break
- Christmas Holidays
- GCISD school holidays

The SPL or ASPL, in the SPL's absence, will be in charge of the meeting. All events and announcements should be scheduled into the agenda through him.

The general meeting format includes time for a meeting of the entire Troop before separating into smaller groups for program work such as planning upcoming events, working on skills, games or competitions. Troop meetings always close with a Troop fellowship circle and a Scoutmaster's Minute of inspiration.

PLC Meetings

Patrol Leaders Conferences are held at 6:30 pm the third Thursday of each month at FUMC Colleyville for the purpose of planning the meeting agendas for the following month. The

SPL, or in his absence the ASPL, will chair this meeting. The Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders, and all Scouts in leadership positions are required to attend this meeting. Other interested Scouts may come and contribute their ideas.

Troop Committee Meetings

The Troop Committee Meetings will be held at 7:30 pm the third Monday of each month at FUMC Colleyville. The Troop Committee Chairman is the moderator of this meeting and is responsible for the agenda of the meeting.

Troop Activities

Outdoor Program

An active outdoor program that exposes Scouts to new, exciting opportunities is key to a successful program. The troop will schedule a campout each month with at least one week-long summer camp each year. All Scouts are encouraged to participate in these campouts.

Campouts

Campout charges generally consist of up to four components: meals, transportation, campsite fees, and equipment rentals.

1. **Meals.** For a normal two-night camp out, leaving Friday evening and returning Sunday: \$15 per person is the charge for boys; \$15 per person is the charge for adults.
2. **Transportation.** This charge is intended to help cover gas reimbursement to adults providing transportation and is based on the distance traveled.
3. **Campsite fees.** When camping in Longhorn Council camps there is no charge. We routinely leave Council to provide a more diverse camping experience
4. **Equipment charges.** When special equipment or facilities are required, even at our Council's camps, we incur charges. These can include charges for climbing/rappelling towers, mountain bikes, canoes, boats, rifle range and ammo purchase, etc.
5. **Cancellation Policy.** Cost estimates for activities are posted with the sign-up sheet for an event. If a Scout signs up to attend a campout and later changes his mind, it is his responsibility to cancel by the Wednesday before departure. He must contact his SPL, the Grubmaster for his patrol, and the Campmaster. Failure to do so makes the Scout responsible for the charges.
6. **Food Reimbursement.** Food buyers (Grubmasters) must submit receipts to the troop treasurer to be reimbursed for expenses. Reimbursement is \$15 per person. Scouts are required to stay within budget on campouts.
7. **Transportation Reimbursement.** For adults carrying Scouts, Scouters, and/or equipment, reimbursement rates are: \$.30/mile for drivers and \$.60/mile for hauling trailer. Drivers must carry at least two boys.
8. **Departure time.** Scouts and Scouters should plan on arriving at the Church at 5:30pm to begin loading for campouts. Before departure, a final roster check is taken and transportation assignments are made. Departure is at 6:00pm.

9. **Arrival home.** We schedule our camp departure time on Sunday so that we arrive back at the Church after 1:00 pm. Once back, no one is to leave until all troop equipment is cleaned and put away. Scouts will be dismissed by the SPL after a final troop assembly.

Adult and Scout Roles While Camping

Adults who accompany the Troop on camping trips do so to provide support for the programs planned by the Scouts and must be careful not to introduce elements that can detract from the planned program.

Here is a summary of our Troop (and BSA) policies:

1. **Scout tenting and meals.** Scouts tent with their patrol in a patrol site separate from the other patrols. Patrols plan their own menus and cook and eat together as a team. Adults do not eat or tent with a boy patrol.
2. **Adult tenting and meals.** Adults tent with the adult patrol in a patrol site separate from the other Scout patrols. Adults plan their own menus and cook and eat together as a team. In general, boys do not eat with the adult patrol except for the Troop Junior Leadership team and special guests invited by the Scoutmaster.
3. **Adult/boy tenting.** BSA youth protection policies forbid an adult and a boy from sharing the same tent unless they are a son and his parent/guardian. It is troop policy that boys tent with boys and adults tent with adults. If a parent tents with his son, the boy will lose the opportunity to be part of his Patrol team.
4. **Smoking/drinking.** Drivers may not smoke while transporting Scouts. Adults may not smoke or use tobacco products, or drink alcoholic beverages during a Scout activity. Adults who must smoke or chew must do so discretely out of sight of the Scouts.
5. **Boy Leadership.** 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 imminent danger or if the mistake will be costly. Whenever possible, involve a junior leader or a senior Scout first.
6. **Scout Behavior.** Step in immediately to halt activities where a Scout may be injured. Rock throwing is not a part of the Scouting program at any time or any place. Intervene if you observe dangerous misuse of wood tools, ropes or fires. If possible, defer counseling of Scouts involved in misbehaviors to the SPL or his assistants. In the event of serious misbehavior, the Scoutmaster will determine if disciplinary steps are to be initiated against a Scout
7. **Boy Growth. 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.

Adult Patrols are comprised of uniformed adult leaders who go on troop camping trips. They are organized for two reasons:

1. To set examples in behavior, camping and cooking that the Scout patrols could see and follow (we can tell them a thousand times, but seeing an example and deciding to follow it themselves works better).
2. To give inexperienced parents a place to eat and camp, and to give them a place to be near their sons without “meddling” in the boy leadership operation or their son’s patrol.

Summer Camp

Summer camp is the singular activity which sets Scouting apart from most other youth programs and is the culmination of a Scout’s participation in Troop meetings and weekend campouts. While at a week-long Summer Camp, Scouts have opportunities to improve their Scout skills, earn advancement, meet new friends and enjoy good wholesome fun. Only at Camp can they hike through the woods, learning to handle a canoe, swim, and share with other Scouts the inspiration of an evening campfire program.

Our Troop plans for and attends at least one Summer Camp each year. Each fall, the PLC selects the Summer Camp and the Troop Committee approves the selection for the coming year based on data gathered concerning camp programs, locations, costs, reputations, and other factors. The dates of Summer Camp are also determined by the Troop schedule and campsite availability

While the cost of Summer Camp is relatively inexpensive compared with other week-long activities, it is considered one of our outings that require greater financial commitment. Our fund-raising projects offer the best way for a Scout to earn part or all of his Camp fees. Other options are available to a Scout who cannot afford to attend camp.

Service Projects

Troop 28 has service projects throughout the year. Projects often include conservation work and trail maintenance, park cleanup, food drives, assisting the church with outdoor projects, or maintenance and construction for local charity organizations. Service project hours are needed by Scouts to accomplish their rank requirements.

Transportation: Tour Permit Requirements

The Troop depends on parents for transportation to and from the campsites. All drivers for any troop event must be licensed drivers over the age of 21 and must carry the minimum liability insurance coverage required for the state of Texas. Each passenger is required to use a seatbelt at all times. Reimbursement for gasoline is funded by the fees paid by each Scout for the campout.

Equipment Needs

Handbook

The official *Boy Scout Handbook* contains all of the outdoor knowledge and skill requirements that every Scout will need to know for rank advancement. Handbooks should be brought to all Troop meetings and outings and can be purchased at the Scout Shop.

Uniform

The “Class A” Scout uniform, worn September through May, consists of the BSA khaki short-sleeved shirt, neckerchief (red “Troop 28” worn under the collar), slide, olive Scout pants/shorts, and a belt. No open-toed shoes at any time. This uniform is worn at all formal events such as Boards of Review, Courts of Honor, Council or District events, when traveling to and from camp, and to church on Scout Sunday in February.

A “Class B” uniform, worn from June through August, consists of any BSA t-shirt, Scout shorts, and belt. No neckerchief or slide is necessary.

Troop 28 t-shirts for the class B uniform may be purchased and are recommended as they are inexpensive and help the boys blend as a troop.

Individual Equipment

For a boy to participate in our active outdoor program, he will need some basic equipment. There is no need to immediately fully equip your son. Rather, do it gradually and get advice from more experienced people before making major purchases. Equipment can often be borrowed, rented, or improvised, so you can acquire make comparisons before making expenditures. The best advice to parents is DON’T BUY JUNK. Starting with a minimum of gear allows a boy time to determine the extent of his commitment to Scouting and to learn for himself and from his patrol what equipment is most suitable for lightweight, low-impact camping. Please seek the advice of the Scoutmaster, other Troop adults, or experienced Scouts before making major purchases.

There are sections in the Scout Handbook that contain guidance on clothing and equipment for a weekend campout. Please have your son refer to those prior to any outing. Troop 28 does not allow non-folding (sheath) knives, butane lighters, or electronics of any kind. We follow the standard BSA policy that no flames (from candle, stove, matches, lighters, and heaters) are allowed in tents.

It is highly recommended that all personal equipment be marked with the owner’s name and troop number. This facilitates return in case it’s forgotten.

Troop Equipment

The troop owns tents and ample equipment for use on troop outings. The Troop Quartermaster is responsible for its maintenance and inventory. After outings, the Scouts are responsible for returning the equipment clean, organized, and ready for the next outing. It is imperative for health and safety purposes that all issued equipment be properly cared for. This may require extra time upon arrival at the church after a campout to accomplish. The Quartermasters will determine if the equipment is acceptable for storage. Sometimes Scouts will be asked to take items home for further cleaning or drying out (tents) and should be returned at the next troop meeting.

Attendance

While we understand that boys have many demands on their time, attendance at most activities will maximize the benefit of Scouting. As described in Troop Organization,

fulfillment of a leadership position is required for rank advancement so it is highly encouraged that each Scout participates in as many activities as possible.

Rank Advancement

Troop 28 pursues an active program designed not only for enjoyment, but also to encourage and facilitate advancement along both individual and group paths. Each Scout is strongly encouraged to work towards and earn Scouting's highest honor, the rank of Eagle Scout. The Troop will closely monitor each Scout's progress along the advancement trail to keep interest high and to maintain a level of quality in the advancement program. Scouts and parents are reminded that Scouting stresses both individual initiative and participation in group activities.

A Scout advances from one rank to the next by fulfilling certain requirements of tenure, adherence to the high standards of the Scout Promise and Law, participating in Troop activities, learning and demonstrating various Scout skills, and by earning various Merit Badges. Rank advancement and Merit Badges are earned by participating in the Troop's program under the direction and guidance of the Scoutmaster, his assistants, and members of the Troop Committee, and by individual efforts under the direction of specific counselors approved by the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee.

Unlike Cub Scouting, rank requirements and badges are signed off only by the adult Coach Counselors and Scoutmasters and not by parents. It should be a goal of each Scout to achieve the rank of First Class within one year of joining Scouts. The attainment of this rank signifies that a Scout has learned the skills required to enjoy the outdoors safely. Without these skills a Scout cannot participate in the advanced activities. Every Scout is encouraged, and numerous opportunities are presented, to learn the skills required for First Class. Each Scout's advancement beyond First Class is dependent upon his own ambition and initiative. Our Troop's goal is to build safe and competent campers.

The key thing to remember about Advancements: the Scouts own their advancements. By them owning, managing, tracking, and following up on their advancements, they learn personal responsibility, organization, goal setting, and engage in adult interaction.

Scoutmaster Conference

After completing all of the requirements for a rank, each Scout must schedule a conference with the Scoutmaster. The purpose of this conference is to review the Scout's qualifications for advancement and prepare him for the Board of Review. It is also an opportunity for the Scout and Scoutmaster to get to know one another and set goals for further advancement.

Board of Review

A Scout who has completed all the requirements for a rank, including his Scoutmaster Conference, requests a Board of Review with the Advancement Chair. A Scout must appear before the board in full Class A uniform and have his Boy Scout Handbook. The board usually consists of the Advancement Chair and several Committee members; Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters may not participate in the board. This meeting gives the Committee an opportunity to get to know the Scout better, ensure that all the rank

requirements have been met, learn about his personal experiences, and encourage him to progress further. It is not a retest of requirements which have already been fulfilled.

Eagle Boards of Review are different in that they are conducted at the district level with members from the Troop Committee as well as from the District. These are scheduled at mutual convenience.

Court of Honor

After successful completion of the Board of Review, the boy will be recognized as soon as possible, usually at the close of the meeting. All Scouts who have advanced in rank are recognized at a Troop Court of Honor. These Courts of Honor are held five times a year. Merit Badges, Special Awards, and Rank pins and cards (and cloth badges, if not already presented at a regular meeting) are presented at this public ceremony. Parents and guests are not only invited, but are encouraged to attend and participate in congratulating the boys for all their hard work. Our CoH's conclude with refreshments afterward and periodically, parents will be contacted by the Special Events Chairman to assist with refreshments. We appreciate everyone's willingness to help with this.

Eagle Courts of Honor are typically completely separate from Troop CoH's and are planned by the parents of the Eagle Scout.

Merit Badges

Merit Badges, required for all ranks above First Class, involve specialized study in a wide variety of topics including crafts, hobbies, sports, trades, and life skills. Generally, once a Scout reaches Second Class, he may begin working on Merit Badges. This is due to the importance of a boy focusing on acquiring basic Scout skills for advancement to First Class.

After selecting a Merit Badge of interest, the steps a Scout takes to earn it are as follows:

1. Get a signed Merit Badge Card (sometimes called a "blue card") from the Scoutmaster. In the case of troop sponsored merit badge programs such as summer camp, merit badge colleges, aquatics campout, or similar events, the blue cards may be handled by the coordinator of the event with the Scoutmaster.
2. Contact the Merit Badge counselor to learn what is expected and print a copy of the worksheet requirements (available at www.meritbadge.org or www.scouting.org).
3. Get the Merit Badge book on the subject. (some books are available in the Troop library; see your Troop Librarian about borrowing one if you prefer not to purchase your own).
4. Learn and do the things that the Merit Badge book describes as required for the badge.
5. When ready, call the counselor for an appointment. Bring the things completed to meet the requirements. The counselor will spend time with the Scout to confirm that he has met the requirements. When he or she is satisfied, the counselor will sign the Merit Badge card.

6. Present the card to the Advancement Chairman, who will obtain the badge for presentation at the next Court of Honor. Until the Merit Badge is returned to the Advancement Chairman, the requirements have not been completed and no credit can be given for the work completed.

Special opportunities arise to earn Merit Badges and will be communicated to the Troop by the Scoutmaster or Merit Badge Counselors. We are very grateful for the large number of parents in the Troop who act as Merit Badge counselors for one or more Merit Badges. Parents may serve as Merit Badge counselors and need to simply fill out an application. Contact the Merit Badge Counselor Chair for further information.

Important reminder: Keep all open and already earned Merit Badge cards in a safe place! If lost or unrecorded by the Advancement Chair, the work has to be redone.

Insurance

Medical and liability insurance is provided by the Council to all registered Scouts and adult leaders. Any questions concerning their coverage should be directed to the Troop Committee Chairman or to the Council office in Hurst, Texas at 817-231-8500.

Behavior and Discipline Policy

We recognize that for our boys to grow into responsible men, they need to be held accountable for their actions. Some examples of actions which necessitate correction are as follows:

1. Intentional participation in an activity that has the potential to cause harm to himself or to other Troop members
2. Behavior that reflects negatively upon Troop 28 or the Boys Scouts of America
3. Intentional participation in any activity that may cause damage to public or private property
4. Not following Scoutmaster's or leader's instructions
5. Significantly unsafe actions (Examples may include improper use of knives, stoves, utensils, matches, etc.)
6. Physical or verbal hazing or harassment of another person
7. Leaving designated areas without permission
8. Use of cursing or foul language
9. Excessively rowdy, unruly, loud, disrespectful, disobedient, or disruptive behavior
10. Exploring physical hazards without permission and supervision (lakes, creeks, cliffs, etc.)
11. Smoking.

12. Use of controlled or illegal substances.

We expect that with the policy clearly stated, Scouts will know where they stand and be comfortable with an atmosphere of respect toward other's rights that helps build a secure feeling of trust and brotherhood in Scouting.

Discipline Procedure

The leader in charge will discuss the infraction with the Scout at the time of violation, reminding him of the Behavior and Discipline policy. Three warnings during a single activity, meeting, or campout will result in a conference with an adult leader. The Scout will not be permitted to attend the next meeting or campout. The Troop Committee Chairman and parents will be notified.

A Scout who is involved in serious misbehavior on a campout or a Troop meeting will be subject to having his parents called to come get him from the activity. The Scoutmaster in charge, at his discretion, may suspend the Scout from attending any troop activities until a Board of Review has met with the parents. In such a case, the Scoutmaster will notify the Troop Committee immediately.

As a result of a serious infraction, a Scout will be required to stand before a Troop 28 Disciplinary Board with his parents to explain his behavior and to be assigned appropriate consequences. (Possible actions: temporary suspension from future activities, requiring the Scout's parent to attend the next activity, or expulsion from the troop.) *The Troop Committee can terminate or refuse membership for disciplinary reasons by an affirmative vote of over 75% of the members.*

Adult Leadership

Youth Protection Guidelines

Boy Scouts of America requires "two-deep" leadership, where at least two adults (one over 21 years of age) are present at every Boy Scout activity, and one of whom has been trained by the Boy Scouts of America in Youth Protection Training. All adults attending campouts must be Youth Protection Trained. Separate accommodations for Scouts and adults (unless with own parent or guardian), proper supervision of activities, and reference checks on all adult leaders and counselors are major components required for protection of boys involved in Boy Scouts.

Adult Training

The Troop Committee encourages all registered adults to be involved and recommends that you consider adult leader training opportunities. There are many courses available online (www.myscouting.org) and most take less than an hour to complete. One of the principal reasons our Troop 28 program remains active and strong is that we have many Scouters committed to training. Numerous opportunities exist for adults to participate in advanced training that is offered by the Council and District as well. Details can be found on either the Council website, www.longhorncouncil.org, or the District website, www.lakeviewdistrict.org. For additional information, contact the Training Chair.

Adult Role

Troop 28 is a boy-led troop, that is, the Scouts decide what the troop does relative to the Scouting program and activities. The adult leader's role is to provide advice, encouragement, instruction, and counsel to patrol and individual Scouts when it is asked for. Adults are also needed for supervisory roles to ensure that safe-Scouting guidelines are adhered to. With that being said, all adults should act as role models for Scouts and encourage them to make the program fun and challenging for everyone.

Encourage your son to advance in rank, attend Courts of Honor to celebrate his accomplishments, ask what achievements he plans to focus on next, volunteer for Boards of Review and Merit Badge counseling to become more familiar with the Scouting program.

Fund Raisers

The Troop will conduct periodic fund raisers during the course of the year. Fund raisers provide the Scouts with an opportunity to earn money to offset some of the expenses of the program. The Troop's current policy indicates that 100% of the net proceeds a Scout earns is credited to his account, unless the Troop Committee designates otherwise before the fund raising activity begins.

In Addition:

- Scout account funds acquired through Troop 28 or BSA fundraising activities are established solely to fund Scouting activities and may not be "cashed out" unless approved by the Troop Committee. Scouts resigning from Boy Scouting forfeit any existing funds, and those funds will be redirected to the Troop general budget account. However, Scout account balances may be transferred to another Troop if the Scout relocates.
- Scout account funds may be reallocated to family Scout/Scouter accounts.
- In general, adults do not acquire funds from and do not participate in Troop fundraising activities except in a supervisory role. Any exceptions are to be approved by the Troop committee.
- Should a Scout enter a delinquent state with regards to his account balance (dues, other fees, Summer Camp fees) the money owed can be automatically deducted from his allocation of the Troop fund raiser account.