

New parent / scout orientation Welcome to Troop 134

If scouting is new to you, this is the quick start with basic information. If you're coming from Cubs there are many similarities.

As Always youth protection training is required by the adults that will be in routine contact with the boys. Don't forget these points; 2 deep leadership, "guide to safe scouting" & tour plans will be required. Hazing was not allowed in Cubs, the same at this level. Talk to the boys as a group to inform them we expect "continued good behavior" and set up a discrete way for a boy to speak their piece. (Rothery disclaimer; I make these statements as a general rule, not because I think some one has or has the propensity to do such.)

It's a volunteer organization; we need adults to make it happen. We will ask you to assist in some ways, such as a troop committee member or a treasurer or phone tree. Help from Mom or dad is welcome and necessary for the troop and patrol to be successful.

Coming from cubs:

The big change is from parent scheduling and organization to "boy lead". What this means is the boys are given the opportunity to plot their course. We the parents will oversee and keep the boys on course.

- Cub master becomes Scoutmaster.
- Den leader becomes Patrol "dad"
- Den meetings become patrol meetings
- Pack meetings become troop meetings.
- Belt loops become Merit Badges.

Rank advancement is based on many of the same principles of completing a series of items that become more difficult as they progress.

Rank:

1. Tenderfoot
2. Second class
3. First class
4. Star
5. Life
6. Eagle

Many of these ranks are combinations of activities, community service, holding leadership positions, merit badges completed and accrued time.

The Boy Scout handbook has all this information just like the Cub Scout books did. Somebody needs to keep track of who has completed what? Just like cubs something you do may fulfill more than 1 requirement. Read through the book to see how many items you can check off! You may also obtain most of this information from a web site – USScouts.org (As related to merit badges, this web site has the "worksheets" you will not ever find the text of the book on the web, buy the book or go to the library. The troop's or the public library)

You do not have to “go in order” this means when your at a pool work all the pool - water related parts. Go through the book in advance, find all the items that relate and do them at the same time.

Organizing your Patrol:

You will need to have patrol meetings and positions elected or appointed. The handbook talks about this some. Your meetings can be at a home or in the school, a routine or standard place is typical, except when a new or out of the ordinary location is chosen you will need a tour plan.

Positions; they are for the year or changed as needed.

Patrol leader, this scout will be the person in charge, the tie breaker, and the appointer of tasks. The patrol leader delegates and ensures “it gets done”.

Assistant patrol leader: same as above just for those times someone is absent.

Quartermaster is the person that has the most work, they are the materials person, for a campout, they get the food, assign the chores.

Other positions can be included such as a scribe or other position that the troop has. This is the Boy Lead part, they can choose to have just the 3 positions or expand.

Patrol meeting

This is much like cubs, you work from the book to cover the achievements that lead to a rank advancement. Tenderfoot through second class is more like orientation. The patrol Dad should make rank advancement a main focus. Introduce the boys to the mechanism and get them started.

There are short obtainable goals for the first 2-3 meetings. They are quite useful at summer camp where the patrol can compete for ribbons; most important is they have fun with it at camp.

1. Patrol name
2. Patrol flag
3. Patrol yell

Don't make merit badges the focus of patrol meetings until later. It's OK to work on 1-2 as a group so they learn the method.

For the first year patrol meetings should occur frequently to get the boys their rank advancements. Similar to cubs is the ability for the boy to work in the book without the patrol to advance. Different from cubs is the boys are “tested” or “pop quiz” to enforce the actual process of opening the book and reading it.

OVERALL GOAL IS TO GET THE BOYS TO LIFE SCOUT rank in 1 years time.

Patrol Dad: his position is to help the boys organize their meeting, review the book to see what needs to be done. Secondary is the learning the process of rank advancement. All of this is covered in the book. Reference the back to see what items they need to cover to obtain the next rank. Tenderfoot rank requires a physical fitness sequence that must have a follow up 30 days later. Make this the first patrol meeting. Each entry needs a sign off by the patrol dad, assistant scout master, scoutmaster or troop guide not the parent.

They will usually be asked to demonstrate or answer some questions about what they did. They need to actually do the task and remember it for the scoutmaster conference or adult sign off.

Troop meeting: Currently this is first and third Thursday of the month. Check the web site to confirm, www.t134.org meeting dates and times.

The meeting format is simple 1- 1.5 hr meeting in the school cafeteria. General information is reviewed and upcoming events are discussed / pitched and a signup sheet goes around. **Parents ask your son if they signed up for something that you know about helps him get there on the right day or time.**

They will change from a group meeting to patrol level meeting where each patrol gets 10 min to work on something related to their choosing or assigned task for the troop.

Scoutmaster conference: this is a session with the scout and the Scoutmaster. The scout must make an appointment with the scoutmaster.

Board of review: this is a 3 to 6 person review, consisting of committee members that are unrelated to the scout. The purpose of the meeting is to ask the scout some simple questions and give the scout an opportunity to voice his thoughts. This is a confidential meeting, so that they can speak freely. The leader of the review will review the back of the book to verify all items are checked off before the scout can get their rank advancement.

Rank Advancement: each scout is responsible for making a call to have a scoutmaster conference and a board of review. Once these are completed the rank award is given to the scout at either the next meeting or at a quarterly “court of honor” . This is a good photo opportunity and usually the scout is accompanied by their mom/dad/ guardian.

Parent participation in the actual troop meeting:

Parents are not as necessary in the meetings as they were in cub scouts. Generally speaking they are not part of the meeting unless they are the “patrol dad” for that patrol that has not yet reached life scout. OR they are assisting the scoutmaster with a predetermined task. This is the center of BOY RUN, when parents do more speaking than they do, the boys don’t get their opportunity to develop. YES we can say it faster or clearer.

Parents should be seen, but not heard. We have been working a peaceful coexistence format, but parents tend to be louder than the scouts. **This makes it hard for the scouts to hear their patrol leader.** Many of which are very soft spoken in this format (not the same person as found at home).

Troop Bylaws:

The troop has a formal set of bylaws that are in electronic form, hard copies are available for those without computers at home. This is both an environmental choice and cost choice.

All scout parents/guardians should be given a copy to read and “live by”. These bylaws can be negotiated in advance- to some degree. Example: full uniform and hardship, talk to the scout master to discuss your case.

Merit badges: this is a learning task for the boys to obtain new skills and knowledge. They are classified as eagle required or not. Each merit badge has a book that has all the information in it. The book states the requirements and has a section in the end that covers the careers based on these skills.

The books are available from the troop library, the public library and they can be purchased from the scout shop. They are \$5 each. Their content CAN'T be found on the internet. HOWEVER there are lots of places that the requirements have been made into a work sheet they fill out as record of their doing the work.

Merit badges counselors are approved by the council, their background is verified and are given information as to how to review the scouts work. A scout must find a counselor and call in advance of the work start point and obtain a blue card. The blue card needs to signed by the scout master.

A meeting with the MB Counselor (MBC) has the same youth protection requirements of 2 deep. This means the scout needs a buddy or you the parent needs to stay "near by".

Counselor is usually a parent that has the skills required for the task. Example; an engineer usually is the engineer MBC, the scout master is usually a camping MBC. They will fill out a form and submit it to the council for approval. Their name goes on a list for scout masters to provide names of adults that can be called upon to oversee the work the scout does.

Some scouts enter into the task w/o any ability and are guided, taught by the counselor to complete the task to meet the requirements. They can provide more knowledge but can't hold the scout to a higher standard than the book. this will vary from MBC to MBC.

Troop

Copied from USScouting web site:

The Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of the troop. The Scoutmaster and his assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. The importance of the Scoutmaster's job is reflected in the fact that the quality of his guidance will affect every youth and adult involved in the troop.

The Scoutmaster can be male or female, but must be at least 21 years old. The Scoutmaster is appointed by the head of the chartered organization.

The Scoutmaster's duties include:

General

- Train and guide boy leaders.
- Work with other responsible adults to bring Scouting to boys.
- Use the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting.

Meetings

- Meet regularly with the patrol leaders' council for training and coordination in planning troop activities.
- Attend all troop meetings or, when necessary, arrange for a qualified adult substitute.
- Attend troop committee meetings.
- Conduct periodic parents' sessions to share the program and encourage parent participation and cooperation.
- Take part in annual membership inventory and uniform inspection, charter review meeting, and charter presentation.

Guidance

- Conduct Scoutmaster Conferences for all rank advancements.
- Provide a systematic recruiting plan for new members and see that they are promptly registered.
- Delegate responsibility to other adults and groups (assistants, troop committee) so that they have a real part in troop operations.
- Supervise troop elections for the Order of the Arrow.

Activities

- Make it possible for each Scout to experience at least 10 days and nights of camping each year.
- Participate in council and district events.
- Build a strong program by using proven methods presented in Scouting literature.

- Conduct all activities under qualified leadership, safe conditions, and the policies of the chartered organization and the Boy Scouts of America.

As you see, the Scoutmaster has many responsibilities.

Assistant Scoutmasters

To fulfill his obligation to the troop, the Scoutmaster, with the assistance of the troop committee, recruits assistant Scoutmasters to help operate the troop. Each assistant Scoutmaster is assigned specific program duties and reports to the Scoutmaster. They also provide the required two-deep leadership standards set by the Boy Scouts of America (there must be at least two adults present at any Boy Scout activity). An assistant Scoutmaster may be 18 years old, but at least one in each troop should be 21 or older, so he or she can serve in the Scoutmaster's absence.

Types of assistant Scoutmasters include:

- Assistant Scoutmaster - New Scouts
- Assistant Scoutmaster - Venture
- Assistant Scoutmaster - Varsity

A troop should recruit as many assistant Scoutmasters as possible. It has been found that many successful troops have three or more.

Patrols

The Scout troop is made up of patrols. A patrol is a grouping of six to eight boys who work together. Each patrol elects its own boy leader, called a patrol leader.

The **new Scout patrol** is composed of new members who have not entered the seventh grade.

The **experienced Scout patrol** is for those boys who are age 12 and older.

Venture crews are made up of boys who are age 14 and older who want more challenging high-adventure experiences.

Varsity teams are made up of boys who are age 14 and older who want team sport activities.

Both Varsity and Venture Scouting activities may include the participation of girls, but the young women may not register as crew or team members. When girls participate in Venture and Varsity activities, a woman 21 years of age or older must be present along with the adult male leader.

The Troop's Youth Leaders

The troop is actually run by its boy leaders. With the guidance of the Scoutmaster and his assistants, they plan the program, conduct troop meetings, and provide leadership among their peers.

Junior Leader Positions

- **Senior patrol leader** - top junior leader in the troop. He leads the patrol leaders' council and, in consultation with the Scoutmaster, appoints other junior leaders and assigns specific responsibilities as needed.
- **Assistant senior patrol leader** - fills in for senior patrol leader in his absence. He is also responsible for training and giving direction to the quartermaster, scribe, troop historian, librarian, and instructors.
- **Troop Historian** - collects and maintains troop memorabilia and information on former troop members.
- **Librarian** - keeps troop books, pamphlets, magazines, audiovisuals, and merit badge counselor list available for use by troop members.
- **Instructor** - teaches one or more advancement skills to troop members.
- **Chaplain Aide** - assists in troop religious services and promotes religious emblems program.
- **Junior assistant Scoutmaster** - a Scout 16 or older who supervises and supports other boy leaders as assigned.
- **Patrol leader** - gives leadership to members of his patrol and represents them on the patrol leaders' council.
- **Assistant patrol leader** - fills in for the patrol leader in his absence.
- **Venture crew chief** - leader of a troop's Venture crew.
- **Varsity team captain** - leader of a troop's Varsity team.
- **Troop guide** - advisor and guide to the new Scout patrol.
- **Den chief** - works with a Cub Scout den as a guide.
- **Quartermaster** - responsible for troop supplies and equipment.
- **Scribe** - the troop secretary.