

TROOP 152

INFORMATION MANUAL

INTRODUCTION

This manual has been developed to provide scouts and scout parents with a detailed insight into the organization, workings, and policies of Troop 152. We follow the policies and guidelines established by National Scout Headquarters, Irving Texas, and our local council, Great Trail Council, BSA, 1601 S. Main St., Akron, Ohio, as well as some specific policies for our Troop 152. This manual is intended to provide both our boys and their parents with the fullest, most meaningful, educational, and exciting scouting experience possible.

This manual is dedicated to you in the hope it will aid you in achieving a fine scouting experience as a scout and scout parent.

Revised May 2008
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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America 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.

VISION STATEMENT

The Boy Scouts of America is the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training. In the future Scouting will continue to:

- * Offer young people responsible fun and adventure;
- * Instill in young people lifetime values and develop in them ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law;
- * Train young people in citizenship, service, and leadership;
- * Serve America's communities and families with its quality, values-based program.

AIMS OR PURPOSES OF SCOUTING

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to provide for youth an effective program designed to build desirable qualities of character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop in them personal fitness, thus to help in the development of American citizens who:

- *Are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit.
- *Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness.
- *Have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts.
- *Have the desire and the skills to help others.
- *Understand the principles of the American social, economic, and governmental system.
- *Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
- *Have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
- *Are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society and in the forums of the world.
- *Are able to build quality friendships with others.

The Boy Scouts of America accomplishes this purpose by making its program available in cooperation with existing groups having compatible goals, including religious, educational, civic, fraternal, business, labor, and governmental bodies. Troop 152's leadership is committed to these aims of scouting and provides an atmosphere for its young men to grow towards them. This commitment must be shared by the scouts themselves and the scout families; otherwise the objectives become fuzzy and unclear, the goals unattainable. Membership in Troop 152 implies some commitment on the part of the young man, the family, and the troop leadership.

OUR FOUNDATION

The 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, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Pledge of Allegiance,

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

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.

and

Wilderness pledge

Through good camping and hiking practices, I pledge myself to preserve the beauty and splendor of America's wilderness, primitive and backcountry areas. I commit myself to: 1) Set a personal example in following the Outdoor Code; 2) Train those I lead in the skills and attitudes needed to protect and preserve wilderness for future generations; 3) Assure that parties of which I am a part observe the hiking and camping standards that will "leave no trace" of our passing

represents the "law" of this troop at every meeting
and function.

TROOP STRUCTURE

All Scout units are "owned and operated" by organizations such as churches, schools, service clubs, etc. Since 1915, our troop is and has been chartered to the First United Methodist Church of Cuyahoga Falls. The rechartering process occurs annually in February whereby all members of the troop (boys and leaders) are re-registered and dues are paid in full to the B.S.A.

The Chartered Organization Representative is a member of the First United Methodist Church who works closely with the troop to ensure that it's needs are met.

The Troop Committee is a group of adults, usually the parents of troop members who assist the Scoutmaster and help ensure a quality program is made available to the boys. A member of this committee volunteers to chair it and run the monthly meetings. Other volunteer positions on the Committee include a Secretary, Treasurer, Advancement Chairman, Communications/Publicity Chairman, Outdoor/Activities Coordinator, Chaplain, Training Coordinator, and Equipment Coordinator. Committee meetings are held at 7:00pm on the third Monday of each month that the troop is in operation. All parents are urged to become a Committee Member by filling out a Leader Application and paying \$10.00 annually. This entitles you to receive SCOUTING magazine six (6) times a year.

The Patrol Leaders Council meets prior to the start of the new scouting year and monthly thereafter. The PLC plans the Scouting year and presents its plan to the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters and Troop Committee Chairman for review and approval. The PLC is made up of the following boy leaders:

<u>Elected positions:</u>	Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) Troop Scribe Troop Quartermaster Patrol Leaders
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<u>Elected or appointed positions :</u>	Chaplain Aide Librarian Historian Den Chief
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<u>Appointed by Scoutmaster and assistants:</u>	Troop Guide(s) Instructor
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The SPL is in charge of the patrols. To assist him, there is an ASPL. The ASPL is in charge of the Troop's Scribe and Quartermaster. In some cases, two ASPL's may be elected or appointed to assist the SPL

The Patrols - Our troop is comprised of a number of patrols, groups of 6-8 boys who work together as a team. Each patrol elects a Patrol Leader and an assistant patrol leader to serve as group leader for approximately 6 months.

TROOP PROGRAM

1. ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

A. INDIVIDUAL ADVANCEMENT

The ultimate goal of Scouting is to develop the character of young men. By participating in the program, a boy develops self-confidence in his abilities, cares about his community, his country, the world he lives in, and the people that he must work with. He must be willing to share the knowledge he has gained with other members of the troop.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest rank that a boy can attain. Only two of every 100 boys who join Scouting reach this rank. The trail to Eagle starts when a boy first joins the troop; he is assigned to a patrol and begins by learning basic scouting skills and principles. To advance to each rank, the Scout must complete a Scoutmaster Conference and a Board of Review (BOR) which is an official interview reviewing the scout's accomplishments. The ranks of Scouting and their respective requirements are as follows:

Scout	To become a Scout, one must meet Boy Scout joining requirements found in the Scout Handbook and participate in a Scoutmaster conference.
Tenderfoot	The requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks may be worked on simultaneously; however, these ranks must be earned in sequence. One must meet the requirements listed in the Scout Handbook the boy possesses and participate in a Scoutmaster conference and a Board of Review.
Second Class	
First Class	
Star	To become a Star Scout, one must meet the requirements in the Scout Handbook and participate in a Scoutmaster conference and Board of Review.
Life	To become a Life Scout, one must meet the requirements in the Scout Handbook and participate in a Scoutmaster conference and Board of Review.
Eagle Scout	To become an Eagle Scout, one must meet the requirements in the Scout Handbook and participate in a Scoutmaster conference and an Eagle Board of Review.
Eagle Palms	After becoming an Eagle Scout, one must meet the requirements in the Scout Handbook and participate in a Scoutmaster Conference and an Eagle Board of Review.

B. MERIT BADGES

The Merit Badge Program is one of Scouting's character developing tools. Earning merit badges gives a boy the kind of self-confidence that comes only from overcoming obstacles to achieve a goal. Through the program, a boy also develops social and physical skills, may learn a lifetime hobby, and learns how to work with adults.

The proper steps in the Merit Badge Program are as follows:

1. Pick the Merit Badge

The Scout reviews the requirements for a particular badge that may interest him. These requirements may be found in the Boy Scout Requirement Book, the individual Merit Badge book, or on the web. <http://www.meritbadge.com/mb/> Our troop has some Merit Badge books in our library. It is recommended to work with another Scout on the same merit badge to maintain a buddy system.

2. Get the Merit Badge Card

The Scout then indicates his interest in the badge to the Scoutmaster. Upon approval from the scoutmaster, the Scout will receive the blue merit badge card. The Scout signs and fills out the appropriate information on all 3 sections of the card. This tri-fold blue card must be signed by the Scoutmaster before beginning the Merit Badge.

3. Find a Merit Badge Counselor

The Advancement Chairperson can provide names and phone numbers of Council-approved merit badge counselors. The Scout contacts the Merit Badge Counselor and makes an appointment to begin the work. The Counselor interviews the boy, helps to set goals and projects, as well as future meeting dates. It is recommended to have two Scouts attend these meetings.

4. Complete the Merit Badge

Upon completion of the merit badge requirements, the counselor certifies completion by signing the tri-fold blue card where indicated. The merit badge counselor is encouraged to keep the counselor part of this blue card for a record. The Scout then returns the remaining two parts of the card to the Scoutmaster for final signature.

5. Receive the Merit Badge

Lastly, the boy is presented his Merit Badge and his blue card record at a Troop meeting and/or Court of Honor. The date of record of the Merit Badge is the date signed by the Merit Badge Counselor. The Scout is encouraged to keep this blue card as a permanent record.

Note: Any adult who wishes to be a merit badge counselor can do so by simply filling out a form provided by the BSA. You must be registered with the Council to teach a merit badge. Anyone having a question about being a merit badge counselor is encouraged to contact the Scoutmaster, Committee Chairperson, or Advancement Chairperson.

We encourage scouts not to do more than 3 merit badges with the same counselor. It is best for the scout to have a merit badge counselor other than a parent. Parents may include their scout when doing merit badges as a group for the troop.

C. SCOUT SPIRIT

Scout spirit is not only a reflection of what scouting skills you know or how many merit badges you earn. Rather it is a measurement of how you live your daily life. Your dealings with others at home, school, church, and within the troop will be a telltale sign. Scout spirit reflects upon your willingness to live the Scout Oath and Law at all times

D. ADVANCEMENT AWARDS/COURTS OF HONOR

Current awards are given at troop meetings monthly as earned. Court of Honors are held three times a year to invite family and significant others to celebrate the advancement of the scouts for the previous months.

2. CAMPING PROGRAM

A. Troop 152 maintains a year round outdoor program.

1. Troop 152 is committed to an outdoor activity every month excluding the months of August and December, including one full week of Summer Camp in July, and balancing a variety of camps in the State of Ohio as well as camps out of state. All activities are conducted using the "Patrol Method." Campouts feature competitive events in scouting skills, campfires, camp wide games, advancement, worship services, special activities and tours, and lots of fun. It is important that scouts attend both nights of the campout. The activities start very early Saturday and continue Sunday morning. In addition, scouts need "20 nights" of camping in order to complete the Camping Merit Badge, which is a required merit badge for Eagle.

2. Programs are tailored to suit the physical capabilities of the boys. High adventure trips may be made to offer our older scouts a challenging and stimulating experience. The troop fills out a Local Tour Permit to the council office when venturing out of our council area. For trips further than 500 miles from home, a National Tour Permit must be filled out, submitted and approved prior to departure.

3. In almost every case, campouts are Friday night through Sunday morning. Generally, we meet at First United Methodist Church at 6:00 PM Friday evening and return to the church around 12:00 PM Sunday. Times may vary depending on the campout. When returning from a campout, all scouts must return to First United Methodist Church to help with the stowage of troop gear. No scouts will be dismissed until all the gear is properly stowed. Only the Scoutmaster (or ASM in charge of the campout) is authorized to dismiss the scouts at his discretion

4. Part of the camping program is designed to teach young men how to deal with adversity such as bad weather. This requires participation. Campouts are held rain or shine. A scout should be prepared to protect himself adequately from the elements. He receives instructions in these methods by regularly attending scout meetings. Campouts are canceled **only** in the event of unsafe conditions. It is a goal never to change camping dates and to change camping locations only with fair warning to all scouts and parents.

5. The purpose of the monthly overnight camping experience is to promote Boy Scout activities. Non-Boy Scout participants (e.g., guests/friends, etc.) must have the prior approval of the Scoutmaster (or Assistant Scoutmaster in charge of that particular campout).

B. In order to provide for a safe, healthy, and comfortable camping experience, the following general rules have been adopted by Troop 152.

1. Medical forms - Each scout is required to have a Class one physical form filled out prior to participating in any outdoor activity. Scouts are required to have a Class two physical form filled out prior to summer camp which includes being seen by a physician. Forms will be provided or available on the troop and council website. The Class two form is good for three (3) years and simply needs to be signed by the parent each year to update the medical information section. Adults, 40 years & above, must renew their medical form annually.

Important - If your son has any physical or medical problem, please inform the Scoutmaster. Our camping activities are varied and sometimes strenuous. Lack of knowledge about a boy's problems has endangered scouts in the past. We cannot properly prepare for or handle problems that we are unaware of. Any information of this kind is always handled with discretion.

2. Medical care - Many of the adults and most older boys have received first aid training. A troop first aid kit is taken on each camping trip. Boys are encouraged to carry personal first aid kits and have patrol first aid kits.

3. Transportation - Except when otherwise indicated, transportation is the responsibility of the troop. Each parent is expected to share in this effort. Only approved licensed drivers over twenty-one years of age are permitted to drive and will be fully responsible for the boys being transported. Driver's license checks are submitted and reviewed annually by the chartered organization.

4. Travel uniform - When departing for campouts, all scouts must be in the approved Travel Uniform. This uniform consists of:

- *Official scout shirt (khaki) with appropriate insignia (neckerchief and slide not worn)
- *Official scout pants/scout socks
- *Official scout belt
- *Boots

5. Personal camping equipment and supplies - Personal equipment needed for campouts are mentioned in the personal equipment part of this manual.

3. SERVICE PROGRAM

Listed as part of the Scout Law and mentioned as a part of the Scout Oath, a scout is helpful to others. A scout cares about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting reward or payment. By helping others in need, scouts ease the burden of those that need assistance. By helping out, you are doing your part to make this a better world.

Troop 152 offers service opportunities which all scouts need to participate regardless of rank.. All scouts need to participate as it is part of the program to teach service to others. Specifically for Star and Life ranks, a scout must perform six hours of service to others in order to advance.

Some of our service opportunities include: Taylor Library in November and May (book sale); Taylor Library in December and January (holiday display); Memorial Day parade and flag raising in May; Cuyahoga Falls Easter egg hunt in April; and Seven Ranges

Honors Program in May. Other service opportunities may develop throughout the year. We also do service for First United Methodist Church who charters us.

4. RELIGIOUS PROGRAM

“A Scout is reverent.” All scouts show this by being faithful in their duty to God. Some go further and give special service. This can qualify them for a religious emblem. Such an emblem is not a Scouting award. It is conferred on a Scout by his religious leader. Each faith has its own requirements for earning its emblem. Troop 152 encourages the religious emblem program.

5. MEETINGS

Like athletic teams at your school, being a member of a scout troop is like being on a team. Attendance at meetings and activities is expected of each scout. Troop 152 maintains an active year round program and a boy cannot gain much from scouting with a "hit or miss" or "fair weather only" attendance. Each scout is an important member of his patrol team and it suffers from his absence.

Realizing that there are many activities to occupy a boy's time and there will invariably be conflicts, the following should be taken into account:

1. Scouting activities should be given equal consideration with other activities when conflicts occur.
2. We would rather have scouts come late to meetings and outings (after other activities) or leave early than not participate at all.
3. Patrol leaders should be advised as soon as possible of an impending absence. This is a practical necessity since the patrol must plan meals, collect money, buy groceries, and set up duties and tenting arrangements before campouts.
4. Chronic absences will be interpreted as a lack of interest and may result in your name being dropped from the roster.

As you attempt to achieve the higher ranks of scouting (Star, Life, and Eagle), you will be required to be "active" in your troop to advance, as well as serve "actively" in a leadership role within the troop for a set amount of time. The Scoutmaster and his assistants will be in a position to determine a scouts' activity level when his Scoutmaster Conference for these ranks is held.

YOUTH PROTECTION

The Youth Protection policies of the Boy Scouts of America are based upon strengthening the principles of Scouting and avoiding situations that could lead to abuse. Troop 152 follows the Youth Protection policies which include two deep leadership, no one-on-one contact, respect of privacy, separate accommodations, proper preparation for activities, no secret organizations, appropriate attire, constructive discipline, and no hazing in accordance to the national guidelines. Adherence to these policies not only

strengthens the protection of our membership, but also ensures that the basic values of Scouting are preserved. Troop 152 conducts annual Youth Protective training to our scouts.

FINANCES

Dues

Membership in Troop 152 requires an annual dues payment of \$65.00 This payment is due in January at the time our unit is re-chartered to the B.S.A. Adult members pay \$10.00 per year for membership.

Camping trips

Camping trips can range from approximately \$7.00 to \$20.00. (monthly) to cover the cost of food, admissions, activities and permits. Summer camp at Seven Ranges is approximately \$200 for one week in the summer. Troop 152 attends summer camp the week of July 4 every year. High Adventure trips and special weekend trips are higher in cost.

Income

1. Pancake breakfast

BSA Troop 152 earns nearly all of its operating income from a pancake breakfast fund raiser. Each year Troop 152 is honored by the First United Methodist Church, the troop's Chartering Organization, on Scout Sunday in February. On Scout Sunday, the pancake breakfast is held. This breakfast has been a great success every year. Your scout and the troop committee work together on this event to raise the necessary funds to finance troop activities and to maintain and purchase equipment and supplies. It is mandatory for your scout to participate in this fund raising event. Any parental help with the pancake breakfast is encouraged and welcomed.

The pancake breakfast starts early with dining hall setup. Starting at 7:00am, scouts will attend the 8:30 and 10:30 worship service where we will participate in the entry procession in field (Class A) uniform. The rest of the time, the scouts participate in the running of the breakfast in Wesley Hall. We normally finish with hall clean up between 12:30 and 1:00pm.

Other fund raising activities may be required depending on the troop needs and subject to approval by the committee.

2. Council popcorn fund raiser

With this fund raiser, each boy can at least partially subsidize his dues and summer camp by participating in the Council-wide Popcorn Sale. This is held every year in the fall. Each boy is encouraged to sell popcorn because he gets to keep 100% of the commissions earned from the popcorn he sells individually. A show and sell is available for additional commission for one to two weekends during the popcorn sale at First United Methodist Church in between the services.

3. Scout Accounts

The commission earned from the popcorn sale will be placed in an individual scout account. The treasurer organizes and keeps a personal account record for each scout or scout family. This account may be used by the scout when money is needed for campouts, events, or anything scout related. No money can be taken out of the account without the scout's signature.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

1. Uniforms
 - A. Field uniform (Class A) - consists of the following which can be purchased at the Scout Shop, 1601 S. Main St. Akron, Ohio, or Kamper City, 5549 Akron-Cleveland Road, Hudson, Ohio.
 - Official shirt
 - Official pants and/or shorts
 - Official belt and socks
 - Appropriate patches
 - B. The following items needed for the field uniform are supplied by the troop:
 - Neckerchief
 - Slide
 - C. Activity uniform (Class B) – consists of the following:
 - Troop specific t-shirt which is purchased from troop
 - Official pants and/or shorts (same as above)
 - Official belt and socks (same as above)
 - D. Uniform opportunities
 1. Used items of official clothing and equipment are occasionally available from boys who have outgrown them or left scouting.
 2. Some clothing are maintained by the troop.
 3. The Scout Shop in Akron also may have limited items marked irregular for a discounted price. These items are new, but have minor defects.
2. General Equipment
 - A. In the Scout Handbook, note the camping gear checklist of items that should be packed for overnight or day trips
 - B. The following is a list of items that must be procured for a positive scout camping experience.
 - Hiking boots are required.
 - Extra socks are a must and a necessity.
 - Sleeping bag - for year round use. A non-polyester fill liner will raise the bag temperature by 10 to 15 degrees for winter camping. These are inexpensive and well worth the money.
 - Back Pack
 - Ground cloth or foam pad - for under the sleeping bag or as wind or weather protection.
 - A piece of plastic for under ground cloth or foam pad
 - Mess kit with silverware
 - Canteen or water bottle
 - Small flashlight
 - Compass
 - Scout pocket knife(optional) Totin Chip is required to carry a knife.
3. General equipment provided by troop

The troop maintains an inventory of equipment sufficient to sustain the entire troop in the field for prolonged periods. Our equipment is transported to and from activities in a troop owned trailer. We supply tents, stoves, cooking kits, and dining flies.