

TROOP 57
PARENT'S GUIDE
Boy Scouts of America
Gamehaven Council
Chartered by:
Plainview Lions Club
Plainview MN
"TROOP 57 PARENT'S GUIDE"
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P R E F A C E

Thank you for your interest in BSA Troop 57. We are proud to be one of the best troops in an area of many fine troops.

The purpose of this pamphlet is to advise the parents of the scouts and potential scouts of Troop 57 of the policies and practices of the troop.

Questions, suggestions and comments about this Parent's Guide should be referred to the Scoutmaster or the Troop Committee Chairman.

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

- I Troop History
- II Troop Program and Meetings
- III Registration and Dues
- IV Scout Uniform and Handbook
- V Troop Equipment Check-In/Out Procedures
- VI Transportation
- VII Advancement

VIII Fund Raisers

- IX Scoutmaster Corps and Troop Committee
- X Personal Camping Gear
- XI Miscellaneous Policies and Practices
- Glossary of Abbreviations
- Attachments:
 - New Scout Buyers Guide
 - Recommended Items for Camping

I TROOP HISTORY

Troop 57 was first chartered in 1932 as Troop 1. It has been sponsored by Immanuel Lutheran Church, St. Joachim's Church, and American Legion Post 303. The Charter has expired 3 times, the most current charter has been in place since February of 1961, and our current sponsor is the Plainview lions club. Meetings have been held in each of the sponsor's buildings and are currently held at Trinity Free Church in Plainview MN. Troop 57 is a member of the Sugar Loaf District of Gamehaven Council 299. Troop 57 of Plainview combined with the defunct Troop 65 of Elgin and Millville in October of 2006.

II TROOP PROGRAM AND MEETINGS

Regular troop meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. All scouts are expected to attend when possible. Meetings will not be held on nights when the school has been PEM closed during the day because of inclement weather. The troop will continue to meet all summer.

Troop 57 has a major outing each month with a scout related theme. We also go to summer camp, most often to the L.E. Phillips Scout Reservation, usually the last week of July or the first week of August. L.E. Phillips, near Rice Lake, Wisconsin, in the Wisconsin lakes area, is one of the Premier scout camps in the country.

The Scoutmaster's Handbook states "if it's not fun, it's not Scouting". Troop 57 scouts have fun while they are learning and building character. We emphasize the scouting basics (e.g., camping, hiking, cooking, etc.). We also emphasize a scout run program and the patrol method so scouts will learn more. New scouts are grouped together in a new scout patrol in their first year, by the end of which many will have attained First Class rank. The troop also has an association with a Venture Scout program for scouts 14 years of age or older who have attained the rank of First Class. This program emphasizes high adventure type activities more age appropriate for the older scouts. Typical activities include such things as backpacking, white water activities, caving, and rock climbing. About every other year, the older scouts attend a high-adventure, long-term activity such as trip to the Boundary Water Canoe Area, Isle Royal or Hiking trips to the Rockies.

All scouts are expected to memorize and live by "The Scout Promise", "The Scout Slogan", and "The Scout Law". All of our scouts are expected to respect others and themselves and to behave and project a good scout image at all times. SCOUTS WHO DO NOT BEHAVE WILL BE SENT HOME, regardless of where we are, including campouts and summer camp. If the parents are not already at the troop event, they will be called to pick up their scout.

Whenever possible a Scout should attend all meetings and attend them in full uniform. If a Scout cannot be present at the weekly meeting or other scouting event, the Scout should call their Patrol Leader or Assistant Patrol Leader and tell them he cannot be present. "Scout Spirit" which must be demonstrated by the Scout for rank advancement is based in large part on the Scout's attendance and participation in weekly meetings and other Troop events. This requirement is especially important for the higher ranks, including Eagle Scout.

As with everything in life, there are circumstances that are beyond the Scout's control and which necessitate his presence and require that the Scout be absent from the Troop activities. Further, though it is understood that as a Scout matures, there are other activities that will conflict with his participation in Scouting. However, the leadership of Troop 57 believes that, while we encourage each Scout to grow and reach their potential, the Scout needs to ensure that he supports the Troop's activities and program. This might require him to negotiate with leaders of other events and activities to ensure that he can participate in the Troop scouting program.

The Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meets once a month on the 1st Monday of the month from 7:30 to 9:00 PM at Trinity. The Senior Patrol Leader, the Asst, Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leaders, Asst. Patrol Leaders, Troop Guides, and Junior Asst. Scoutmasters attend this meeting to plan the upcoming troop meetings and troop activities. Other scout leadership positions, such as the Scribe, Chaplain's Aide, Librarian, etc., are welcome to attend.

Courts of Honor are formal ceremonies held to recognize the accomplishments of our scouts during the previous 3 to 6 months. Advancement in rank is acknowledged. Merit badges are presented as well as special awards (Mile Swim, 50-Miler, etc.). All parents are asked to please attend the Courts of Honor to make them the special events they were meant to be.

The Troop Committee meetings are normally held on the 3rd Monday of the month from 7:30 to 9:00 PM at Trinity. All Committee Members and the Scoutmaster Corps are encouraged to attend this meeting. If you have any issue you wish the Committee to consider, please contact the Committee Chairman or any member of the committee.

III REGISTRATION AND DUES

The Troop policy on registration fees and dues is as follows:

- 1) Scouts will pay their own registration, insurance, and other fees
- 2) Scouts dues will be paid in advance for the entire year. If a scout transfers to another troop the troop will help to make arrangements to transfer the money in the Scouts account to the new troop. If he decides to leave the troop, the money in his account will go into the troop general fund.
- 3) One parent from each family is requested to be registered on the Troop Committee or Scoutmaster Corps.

These monies are due in September of each year to coincide with the start of the school year. No scout can be registered with the troop or participate in any troop activity until all fees are paid in full. If these fees cause financial hardship on your family, please consult the Scoutmaster.

Summary of fees due in September of each year:

Scouts:

- BSA registration, insurance, Boy's Life \$17

- Troop dues \$33
- TOTAL \$50

The total fee for a second scout in a family is \$25, \$17 for BSA and \$8 for Troop dues.

When new Scouts who are already registered with BSA join the Troop, they pay \$1 to transfer their BSA registration to the Troop and a prorated portion of the Troop dues. This applies to Webelos that are bridging and Scouts that are transferring from another Troop.

Adults: fees for BSA registration, insurance, Scouting magazine are \$8. Adults do not pay Troop dues. Adults who are transferring from another BSA unit only pay \$1.

Troop dues provide a portion of the Troop budget that pays for troop equipment, advancement badges, and other expenses. Camping costs are paid by Scouts when they attend a campout.

CAMPING FEES

Camping is one of the mainstays of Troop 57. Each month, Troop 57 plans a camp out or activity. Scouting is basically an outdoor experience and this is one of the ways Troop 57 builds outdoor activities into our program. The Troop owns sufficient tents and cooking stoves, pots and utensils to support these monthly campouts. The Troop charges fees to the Scouts for each of these camp outs; these fees cover any campground fees, equipment rentals or anything else necessary for a safe and meaningful camping experience for the Scouts, and the cost of the Scout's food for the camp out. These fees are collected from the Scouts before the campout so the expenses can be paid up front. Since the money collected is often spent well before the campout, after two weeks prior to a campout there cannot be reimbursement of fees. Also, any receipts from Scouts who purchase food for their patrol must be turned in for payment within 30 days of the campout.

IV SCOUT UNIFORM AND HANDBOOK

Troop 57 is a full uniform troop. The official scout uniform is an important and key aspect of Troop 57 and its activities. The uniform is part of the thrill of being a scout. It shows you belong. It also helps build team spirit in your patrol and your troop. FACT: A fully uniformed scout behaves better.

All scouts are required to obtain a full "Class A" scout Shirt within a reasonable time after joining the troop (2-3 months). The Class A uniform is worn at all meetings and at special events, including to and from camping trips.

The troop is also working on a uniform "T" shirt, referred to as the "Class B" uniform that is worn when the Class A uniform is not required. Members of the Scoutmaster Corps will wear the uniform prescribed for the scouts.

Members of the Troop Committee are encouraged to wear the uniform also.

These items comprise a Class "A" and Class "B" uniforms:

Class "A" Uniforms

* Official BSA shirt with green epaulets, National Capital Area Council shoulder patch, troop numerals "57", and the patrol patch. Short sleeve shirts are the most popular, and can be worn all year. The long sleeve shirt is preferred by many scouts and scouters for winter wear or on campouts. (Patches are worn as shown on the inside cover of the Boy Scout Handbook.)

* Blue jeans, or Scout long pants with belt.

* Distinctive troop Beret (given to the Scout by the Troop. If lost a new one may be purchased from the Advancement Chairman).

Class "B" Uniforms

* Official BSA T-shirt (or our 57 Troop" T-shirt, a scout camp T-shirt, a generic BSA T-shirt may be worn). NO NON-SCOUTING PRINTED SHIRTS!

* Blue jeans or Scout long pants or shorts with belt.

The Scout Shop at the main Scout Office in Rochester maintains most items. They also have BSA catalogs for most items in the regional warehouses. A limited supply of uniform items can also be found from the scoutmaster if necessary.

New members of Troop 57 are encouraged to purchase the current version of the Boy Scout Handbook. The drug/alcohol abuse section in the front is must reading for both parents and scouts. This book also explains the patrol method of leadership used within Boy Scouting; explains all rank requirements; gives the Scout Law, Oath, and slogan, etc.; and provides details or at least an introduction on everything a scout will need to know. Scoutmasters are often asked questions about subjects fully explained in the Handbook.

The Merit Badge Requirements book is available in the troop library. It is generally regarded as optional at first, but your son will soon find he will want to refer to it frequently. Merit Badges not required for the first ranks (Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class), but are needed for advanced rank. They may be earned at any time at the scout's discretion (i.e., campouts, summer camp, on own time, etc.).

V TROOP EQUIPMENT CHECK-IN/OUT PROCEDURES

The Troop Quartermaster must be notified by the Patrol Leader or the Patrol Quartermaster of all tentage and troop supplies needed by the patrol at least one week prior to each campout or activity. The Troop Quartermaster will arrange to have the equipment at the departure site the day of the campout or activity.

All troop equipment must be returned to the Troop Quartermaster, in clean and proper condition, at the end of the campout or activity, or at the next troop meeting. The scout is to ensure that all parts are with the tent or item before turn-in. If not, the scout is to notify the Troop Quartermaster.

The Patrol Leader or the Patrol Quartermaster is to double check each tent prior to returning it. If there is a problem, he is to inform the Troop Quartermaster so it may be corrected.

VI TRANSPORTATION

The Troop 57 Transportation Policy falls into two categories:

Troop Meeting Transportation - Each scout's parent is responsible to provide transportation for their scout to and from weekly meetings on a timely basis. It is necessary for scouts to arrive no later than 7:20 P.M. -sharp and to be picked up no later than 9:10 P.M. We encourage parents to arrive at 8:45 P.M. and to visit our closing ceremony at which time the most important announcements are repeated.

Any scout not picked up on time necessitates an adult leader either remaining outside the Church after it is closed until the parent arrives or taking the scout to his residence from which the scout must then call his parents for pick-up. As parents would not want to have to wait unnecessarily for their sons to finish a scouting activity, so also the adult leaders expect parents to be prompt in picking up their sons.

Parents who participate in a car pool delivery pick-up and depart late cause not one, but several scouts to arrive at the meeting late or to arrive home late on school nights. Transportation to and from meetings is not the Scoutmaster's responsibility.

Scout leaders are dedicated people with their own families and responsibilities. They are voluntarily providing scouts with the best boy leadership program available today.

Campout / Activity Transportation - The Troop Committee is looking for a Transportation Coordinator who is responsible for providing transportation to all troop campouts and activities. He/she maintains a roster of parents and seeks to obtain drivers for the troop's transportation requirements. He/she attempts to divide the workload equally among the families involved. All families are expected to participate. Most trips are one and one-half hours or less in duration. It is troop policy to generally not reimburse individuals for gas, tolls, etc., unless one-way distances of more than 100 miles are involved.

Many times, the Scoutmaster Corps and some members of the Troop Committee who wish to go camping anyway are able to provide sufficient transportation and no additional parents are required. However, there are times when it becomes difficult to get enough drivers and the troop will require assistance. Please do not ever drop your son off for the start of a camping trip and drive away without verifying sufficient transportation is available for all.

All drivers are expected to scrupulously observe speed limits and other traffic laws. While we hope that there is never a traffic accident, we must point out that Boy Scout insurance will not reimburse drivers involved in an accident if any traffic infractions are a cause or contribute to the accident. It is troop policy that any member of the Scoutmaster Corps, Troop Committee or parent that violates state or local speed limits while transporting scouts will not be allowed to drive for at least one year after notification. Reinstatement of driving privileges will be at the discretion of the Troop Committee.

VII ADVANCEMENT

Troop 57 encourages advancement in all scouts, but we are not an "Eagle mill". Our program is designed to offer the scouts a chance to excel, but all ranks, merit badges, and especially the Eagle Scout rank must be earned by each scout. We offer opportunities and a program which supports the trail to Eagle. The early ranks get some help, but we do not "spoon feed" advancement as in Cub Scouts. Several Troop 57 Scouts earn Eagle annually, which is well above the national average. Older scouts (First Class and above) test new scouts on the early requirements. It should take about one year to attain First Class (and not much faster). Scouts who go to summer camp have a decided advantage in attaining rank (and earning merit badges).

Ranks must be completed in order, but individual requirements within the ranks can be done any order. That is, First Class requirements can be met before Second Class is earned. The Scoutmaster Corps signs off "Scout Spirit" and "Scoutmaster Conference" advancement requirements prior to the advancement "Board of Review". The Troop Committee members conduct the "Board of Review". Boards review the administrative paper work and ask the scouts general questions to determine the scout completed the requirements (e.g. where did you take your hike? What did you find the most difficult/enjoyable? etc.) Boards of Review do not retest skills signed off for rank. Calm your scout if he gets nervous; "Boards" are not something to "sweat". All scouts are responsible for advising the Advancement Chairman as they earn rank requirements or merit badges.

We recognize that there are many and diverse commitments pulling at a scout's time. However, for scouts to advance, he is expected to participate in meetings, campouts, and other activities. These are part of showing "scout spirit."

There are more than 136 merit badges. A scout can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers and all are encouraged to participate in badges that represent new skills to them. The Scoutmaster must approve all Merit Badges by signing a "Blue Card", before a scout can begin work on them. The scout must then contact the Merit Badge Counselor to discuss the Merit Badge requirements before he can begin work. The emphasis on Merit Badges is the scout takes the initiative and contacts the Merit Badge Counselor. Lists of approved counselors are available from the Advancement Chairman.

With their badges of rank and merit badges, scouts will also receive official BSA cards attesting to completion of requirements. We cannot urge too strongly that the scout must keep these cards (a blue one and a red and white one for merit badges; a rank card for rank advancements) in a safe place — a folder, envelope, scrapbook, etc. He will be required to produce these cards periodically at Boards of Review as he advances through scouting.

VIII FUND RAISERS

For the past several years, Troop 57 has participated in a couple of annual fundraisers to support normal troop operations. In 2011 the Troop started a personal flag holiday fundraiser. The monies earned supplement the annual fees and dues (which basically cover registration, insurance, Boy's Life, and badges for rank and position, and some troop equipment) (see section III). Replacement of major items of troop equipment and other major expenses are met by the annual fundraiser. ALL SCOUTS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FUNDRAISER. Dues will be increased by \$35.00 per year for boys that do not participate.

SCOUT ACCOUNTS

Scout Accounts are established for boys to maintain a "savings account" within the Troop for summer camp and other long term camping.

A. Scouts who participate in Troop projects that include earning individual funds will have credited to their individual Scout Account the amount equal to the time worked. For example, if a project is being carried out to earn funds for individual accounts and ten Scouts work a total of 50 hours and earn a total of \$500.00, each Scout will be credited \$10.00 for each hour worked. Remember though, if a project is to earn funds for the Troop (like mulch delivery), Scouts are not earning funds for their individual accounts, rather they are working to earn funds for the Troop.

B. The funds in the Scout Account are for the Scouts long-term camping costs, including transportation. The funds in the Scout account may also be used to pay for other scouting expenses, for example weekend camping trips or for day trips.

C. If the Scout leaves the Troop, a letter to his new Scoutmaster explaining the Scout Account policy will be given to the Scout upon departure. If the Scout joins another Boy Scout Troop, the Scoutmaster of Scout's new troop may write to Troop 57 and request that the funds be sent to the Scoutmaster for the Scout's use.

- D. Only Troop Committee approved projects can be used for earning funds for Scout Accounts. However, Scouts may place other funds into their Scout Accounts if they wish. These funds will be under the same restrictions as other funds in the account and will not be returned to the Scout except as noted above.
- E. The time spent on Scout Account projects does not count as service hours.
- F. The Scout Accounts will be held as part of the Troop 57 checking account.
- G. It is the responsibility of the Scout to ensure he signs in and signs out at fund raising events, and that his participation records are updated.
- H. It is the responsibility of the Scoutmaster Corps to ensure the hours worked are passed to the Troop Treasurer.
- I. It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to calculate the amount to be accounted to each Scout participating in a project and to maintain the records of the Scout Account.

IX SCOUTMASTER CORPS AND TROOP COMMITTEE

Scouting at the troop level is truly "a family affair". BSA provides support for a scouting program (e.g., training, summer camps, program guides, books, and administrative support). But at the troop level, they do not provide a single warm body. The Scoutmaster Corps and Troop Committee is made up of parents of the scouts (or former scouts) in the troop. Troop 57 asks one parent (mother or father) from each scout family to be registered in the Scoutmaster Corps or on Troop Committee. Every family is expected to contribute to the success of your troop. "Many hands make light work." We strongly encourage each family to have a parent join at least one monthly outing and one weekly meeting during the scouting year.

For over a century, the Boy Scouts of America has worked to develop the character, citizenship, and personal fitness of America's youth. We realize the future of our society is vested in each successive generation and the values they inherit. Today, as we have entered the 21st century, society is challenged by those who would prey upon America's youth - either by altering their minds with illegal substances or through physically or sexually assaulting their bodies. These scourges - drug abuse and child abuse - must be eliminated.

One of the points of the BSA's five-point strategy to prevent child abuse is the education of scouting volunteers, parents, and scouts themselves to aid in the detection and prevention of child abuse. BSA asks all leaders and volunteers take BSA youth protection training.

The needs and opportunities within the troop are many and varied. Experience has shown the greatest need within the troop is in "Support", those positions require several hours per month or less. Here is a listing and a description of some of the adult positions in the troop.

SCOUTMASTER CORPS

We are fortunate to have a good Scoutmaster Corps, but we always welcome more. No background? No problem! Training and books abound. All members of the Troop 57 Scoutmaster Corps are required to attend Boy Scout Basic Leader Training" (BSBLT). This is also sometimes called Scoutmaster Fundamentals (SMF). The troop will pay the BSBLT registration fees. If a Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster decides to go on to "Woodbadge" training, the troop will also help pay the Woodbadge registration. Some of our best leaders had no background in scouting at all before this troop.

Our Scoutmaster Corps attends weekly meetings and monthly outings. They work directly with the Scouts. It's FUN being on the Scoutmaster Corps, with many internal rewards. Many leaders in the area continue long after their scouts have gone (we have several in Troop 57). To new members of the Scoutmaster Corps, scouting is new and exciting and the Scouts notice!

TROOP COMMITTEE

There are many varied tasks on the committee. Some duties involve few man-hours each month but are year-round, while other duties involve a more focused action over a one or two month span. Additionally, Troop Committee members are needed to serve on the monthly Boards of Review. Members of the Scoutmaster Corps are automatically members of the Troop Committee with full voting powers. A simple majority of the committee members present is required for a motion to be passed.

Some of the committee positions are listed below.

Committee Chairman - Runs the Troop Committee. (This is a "people position". Must have good organizational skills and be good with people.)

Activities Chairman/Member - Provides advance planning and support for monthly campouts and activities. (This committee makes lots of phone calls and does the "leg work" required for a successful activity.)

Assistant Committee Chairman - Assists the Committee Chairman as required. Serves at the pleasure of the Committee Chairman.

Friends of Scouting (FOS) Chairman (District Fund Raiser) - This requires attending the kick-off meeting and seeing each family receives IIC materials. He/she is the focal point for FOS contributors.

Fund Raising Chairman - This requires coordinating the annual telephone book delivery and to assist in any additional fund raisers that may be instituted.

Members at Large - Members attend committee meetings, sit on Boards of Review, provide ideas and oversight.

Outdoor Chairman/Member - The Chairman secures permits for campsites and files local tour permits. Members backup the Outdoor Chairman and also provide manpower support to the Scoutmaster Corps. (Attend campouts, day activities, summer camp, high adventure camp, etc., when needed.)

Publicity Chairman - This requires preparing and handling news releases for major troop events (Eagle Court of Honor, etc.). This position is not used very often.

Refreshment Chairman - Calls parents to solicit refreshments for Courts of Honor, etc.

Registration/Advancement Chairman - Maintains all troop advancement rewards. Arranges for monthly Boards of Review and Courts of Honor. (This is a big job. Much time is required.) The person in this position should attend at least the first part of each meeting to handle on-going activities.

Secretary - Attends the monthly committee meeting and takes minutes in bullet form (very easy).

Transportation Chairman - This requires soliciting parents as drivers for campouts and other outdoor activities (many of the outdoor activities do not require additional drivers).

This requires attendance at the troop meetings preceding an activity and some phone calls.

Treasurer - Maintains the troop bank account and coordinates troop registration fees with Council.

We have planned a varied and exciting program for the scouts of Troop 57. To make any program successful, however, we need parental support and involvement. Included in this packet is a Troop Resource Survey that indicates all the different areas in which families can assist our scouting program. Please read this form carefully and select those areas where you would like to help. This form may be turned in to the Scoutmaster. The success of our program depends upon your support.

ADULT PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

Since Troop 57 is a Scout led troop, all troop activities are run by the scouts. Guidance and supervision are given by the Scoutmasters to the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and the Patrol Leaders (PLs), and the direction to the scouts is by the SPL and the PLs.

The few rules of parent conduct during troop activities including campouts are structured to support the scout-led concept:

First: Observe the "Rule of Two":

No adult is to be alone at any time with a scout and the Rule of Two is to be observed at all times. Basically, this rule requires that a minimum of two adults be present when any single scout is in a car, in the camp ground, or in any scout activity. When engaged in one-on-one counseling of scouts or when conducting a Scoutmaster Conference and it is not appropriate for another adult to be present, members of the Scoutmaster Corps should ensure that they are under the continuous observation of another adult from the other end of a room, down the hall, etc. Sometimes, the Rule of Two requires that two scouts are permitted with one adult rather than two adults with one scout.

Typically, this occurs when an adult is driving to or from a scout activity, or when an adult is engaged in merit badge counseling.

Second: Parents should not instruct or discipline their sons at scout activities:

It is troop policy that "there are no moms or dads present" during scout activities. Parents, including members of the Scoutmaster Corps, should not work with or discipline their own sons. To do so breaks down the scout run concept and denies the boy an opportunity to either find out for himself or to work with other boys. When your son becomes a PL, he will not want his structure and discipline within the patrol interfered with by a parent, however well meaning. If a scout approaches a parent with a "What do we do?" or "When do we eat?" question, the only correct response is "Please check with your patrol leader." No parent should ever direct, discipline, scold, grab, or touch any scout except for the most flagrant health and safety issues.

Third: On camping trips, tent pitching and eating is organized by patrol:

The adults function as the "Dinosaur Patrol" and pitch their tents near each other and eat together. Scouts are not allowed in the Leadership area, and no parent is allowed in the scout area unless agreed to by the scoutmaster.

X PERSONAL CAMPING GEAR

Shortly after a scout joins a troop he will need to get some camping gear. This will consist of a sleeping bag, foam sleep pad/ self-inflating sleep pad, canteen/water bottle, and personal "mess" kit (plate, bowl, cup, knife, fork and spoon). A backpack and other items can be added later (don't forget Christmas, birthdays, etc.). Please ask members of the Scoutmaster Corps if there are any questions about what to buy, before you buy it.

Attached is a list of recommended items each scout should have in his bag or pack for overnight stays or campouts. Robert Klein, Scoutmaster of Troop 111, has compiled a list of local outfitters and has added his opinions and comments about each. We thank him for sharing his "New Scout Buyer's Guide" with us. This is attached at the end of this document.

XI MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES AND PRACTICES

GENERAL

This section deals with troop policies and consists mostly of items forbidden in our troop. (You know we had to have this list somewhere.)

- No Smoking - Smoking is not permitted on any troop activity to include camping trips.
- Knives - No sheath knives, switch blades, or knives with blades over 4 inches in length are permitted on any troop activity by any scout, scoutmaster or guest (Parent).
- No Firearms - No firearms are permitted on any troop activity by any scout or Guest. If any firearms are required on any troop activity, they will be under the strict control of the Scoutmaster Corps.
- No Booze - No alcohol will be permitted by any scout, scouter or guest at any troop activity where youth scouts are involved.
- No Hazing - Hazing is a tradition in some scout troops. NOT IN TROOP 57. We never have, and never will tolerate any hazing.
- No Profanity - This applies to both youth and adults.
- No Radios - Scouts are not to bring any radios, portable video games, or other electronic equipment, etc. on any troop activity. Cell Phone may be brought to contact parents at the beginning and end of an activity, but will not be used during the activity.
- Scouts should have pencil and paper at all troop activities.
- No saws or axes are to be used outside an ax yard.
- Axes are to be used with the "Contact Method" only.
- Scouts cannot build any fires until they earn "Fire 'n Chit".
- Scouts will not be permitted to use any knife, ax or saw until they earn "Tote 'n Chip". One corner of a scout's "Tote 'n Chip" will be removed for each safety infraction involving a knife, saw or ax. If he loses all corners, he will lose his "Tote 'n Chip" and will no longer be able to use any knife, saw or ax until his "Tote 'n Chip" is re-earned.
- Scouts will not be allowed to swim at any troop activity unless there are at least two persons assigned as lifeguards.
- All swimmers will use the "buddy system".
- Lifeguards will call for a "buddy check" every 15 minutes.
- No scout less than the rank of Star will be permitted to tent alone.
- Parents (especially the Scoutmaster Corps) should not work with or discipline their own scout during troop activities. It is troop policy that "there are no dads or moms present" during camping trips. Let's give our scouts a break during troop activities.
- Speed limits and all other traffic regulations are to be scrupulously upheld by parents driving scouts.
- Scouts are not permitted to ride in the rear of pickup trucks.

VENTURE ACTIVITIES

This section deals with policies and procedures for the Venture Scout activities in the troop.

The troop will try to schedule a high adventure camping experience every other summer. This activity will be in addition to any summer camp the Troop attends. The troop will make use of the Boy Scouts of America High Adventure Camps, such as Philmont or Florida Sea Base, or will design adventure camp experiences, such as canoeing in the Adirondacks in New York.

The following general requirements apply to those scouts wishing to experience high adventure camping:

- The Troop has the duty and responsibility to ensure the prospective high adventure camp participant, as well as the entire crew, is prepared for a safe camping experience or trip. The Troop may cancel the high adventure activity or deny an individual scout or adult permission to attend.
- Age limits will follow those set by the specific camp. Usually, this means the boy must be 13 years of age by 1 January of the year he wishes to attend camp. In some cases, the age limit will be 14 years.
- Scout rank requirements established by the specific camp will be adhered to. Generally, the scout must be at least a First Class Scout. There may also be requirements that the scout must have earned specific merit badges, like the canoeing merit badge before a canoe trip.
- The scout must have attended at least one-half of the troop meetings during the previous scouting year.

-Generally, the prospective crew is expected to prepare basic plans for the camping trip during the fall and early winter seasons. These plans will include a schedule of meetings, mandatory shakedown hikes or trips, and overnights needed to prepare for the trip. The plans will be reviewed and approved by the Venture Crew Advisor and the Scoutmaster. After approval by the Scoutmaster, the Scoutmaster will advise the Troop Committee of planning status, generally at the February committee meeting.

-Full participation in venture activities that are undertaken during the scouting year specifically to prepare the prospective high adventure participant is expected by the scout and adult leaders who wish to accompany the boys. The Troop Committee will be advised by the Scoutmaster at regular intervals during the spring and early summer of progress in implementing the plan and individual participation by scouts and adults.

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

APL Assistant Patrol Leader

ASM Assistant Scoutmaster

ASPL Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

BSBLT Boy Scout Basic Leader Training

FOS Friends of Scouting

JASM Junior Assistant Scoutmaster

JLT Junior Leader Training

NCAC National Capital Area Council

OA Order of the Arrow

PL Patrol Leader

PLC Patrol Leaders Council

SM Scoutmaster

SMC Scoutmaster Corps

SMF Scoutmaster Fundamentals training

SPL Senior Patrol Leader

TLC Troop Leadership Committee (the Troop Committee)

NEW SCOUT BUYER'S GUIDE

Note: This Handout is for Informational Purposes only; the statements made herein are my opinion, and do not represent endorsement of any outlet or product.

Recommended Items for Camping

This list summarizes the minimum equipment necessary for a typical weekend "car-camping" campout from mid-April to mid-October [Specialty Campouts - Winter Camps, Backpacking, etc., are addressed by other specific handouts]. Packing should be in a medium size duffel bag with clothing separated in small stuff-sacks (or larger clear Ziploc bags, but never a black trash bag). Your Scout should check off each item as he packs it.

Sleeping Gear:

_____ A sleeping bag, less than 3 lbs or rated to about 25 degrees.

_____ A foam pad/or self-inflating sleep pad i.e. "Thermarest"

_____ A small pillow.

Do not bring large or heavyweight sleeping bags or pillows; if your son's sleeping bag is too light, add an additional light blanket for warmth.

Eating Gear:

_____ A medium sized bowl, preferably plastic, with name plainly marked.

_____ A knife, fork and spoon kit (trashy kitchen-ware will do).

_____ A medium sized plastic cup, with name marked plainly.

Do not bring cheap plastic or breakable glass/porcelain items, expensive silverware or anything overly heavy. Don't send "everyday" Tableware you cannot afford to lose.

Clothing and Equipment:

_____ Class A uniform (worn at departure and on return)

_____ 2 pair underwear

_____ 3 pair socks

_____ 1 pair gym shorts

_____ 2 T-Shirt

_____ 1 pair long pants

_____ 1 sweatshirt or light jacket

- _____ A hat (Baseball Cap OK)
- _____ An extra pair of sneakers or boots
- _____ A small towel
- _____ A "dirty clothes" bag, preferably cloth
- _____ A poncho or rainproof rain-coat,
- _____ A pack-cover
- _____ A small/medium sized flashlight (2 C-cell or smaller) with fresh batteries.
- _____ A one quart canteen / waterbottle
- _____ A toothbrush

Don't bother packing cleaning gear other than a toothbrush - it won't get used.

Note: Most parents of new Scouts outfit their sons with enough clothing to last a week, instead of two nights. Do not pack more than the above, which is already more than he'll need; remember, he may have to carry it some distance to the campsite. If the expected weather appears to be unusually warmer or colder than normal (keeping in mind that the local camping areas are typically about 5 - 10 degrees cooler than in town), make appropriate deletions and substitutions; call the Scoutmaster if you have any questions.

Make sure everything has his name and "Troop 57" clearly marked on it. Pack nothing you cannot afford to lose.