

Notes

Welcome to



Troop 8

Chartered 1912

Boy Scouts of America
Blissfield, MI

Parent's Guide

REVISED 01-2005

SCOUTING...

A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

“The sport in Scouting is to find the good in every boy and develop it”
Lord Robert Baden Powell

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Troop 8 and the Boy Scouts of America! By becoming a parent of a Boy Scout, you are setting your son out on the great adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him.

What is it all about? What will you be expected to do? What does it cost? We have prepared this booklet to answer these questions.

The following pages describe the organization of a Troop and the advancement pattern that each boy will follow. Reading this will help you understand how your boy can progress through the ranks with your help. It will help you understand how you can help and what the various adult volunteers are doing to help the troop.

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Boy Scouts of America: Our Mission and Vision

Mission Statement

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical 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

courage the Scout leader to do so.

And Finally

You are joining a great organization that includes tens of thousands of adult leaders, interested parents and BSA professional staff. Scouting is much more than enjoying the outdoors. Troop 8 teaches leadership and community skills. Scouting also shows the boys how they can keep themselves strong and healthy and make the most of school. With hard work and dedication, your son will be able to serve as a leader in the Troop and advance in rank along the trail to Eagle.

But above all else, the boys, and us “Big Kids” are in Scouts to have fun.

Here are some BSA web-links:

<http://usscouts.org/>

<http://scoutmaster.org/>

<http://www.bsafieldbook.org>

<http://www.scouting.org/>

Please note that this guide is not meant to include all practices, policies and/or guidelines used to run the Troop.

Welcome to Troop 8

Uniforms

The Scout uniform helps to achieve the objectives of Scouting. The uniform by itself cannot make a good Scout or a good Troop, but its use has been proven to improve both the Scout and the Troop because it is a visible symbol of Scouting and unity.

Each Scout is required to have and wear, within a reasonable amount of time after joining the Troop the following uniform items:

Class A Uniform (worn to all winter meetings, special occasions and taken to Summer Camp)

Tan Scout shirt with red epaulets and the appropriate insignia and patches.

Troop 8 neckerchief, which is provided upon joining.

BSA neckerchief slide, which is provided upon joining.

Olive Scout pants or shorts, the Troop currently has a policy of reimbursing families for the cost of a scout's first pair of pants. We also operate a uniform closet where boys are welcome to the uniforms there.

Boy Scout socks (crew socks with long pant, knee socks with shorts)

Boy Scout Cap, baseball style

Scout web belt and buckle

Tennis shoes or hiking boots (socks are required)

Class B Uniform (worn at all summer meetings and taken to summer camp)

Troop 8 T-shirt or any other T-shirt displaying a scout related theme.

Tennis shoes or hiking boots (socks are required)

Scout pants or shorts

Boy Scout socks, for wearing with shorts

Uniforms and insignia are worn a certain way. The Troop leaders and staff at the Scout shops will be able to answer any questions you might have on where to put what badge. There are guides for badge placement inside the cover of the Boy Scout Handbook. Uniform parts and other needs may be purchased at the Scout Shops in Ann Arbor, 734-971-7100 or Toledo, 419-241-7293 or at Dunham's Sporting Goods in Adrian, Woodville Surplus in Toledo, 419-691-4636 or online at www.scoutstuff.org.

Prescriptions

The taking of prescription medication is the responsibility of the individual taking the medication and/or that individual's parent or guardian. A Scout leader, after obtaining all the necessary information, can agree to accept the responsibility of making sure a Scout takes the necessary medication at the appropriate time, but BSA policy does not mandate nor necessarily en-

- 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.

The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Boy Scout Oath and Law.

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
Reverent

Since 1910, these principles have been taught in an atmosphere of recreation and fun, which allows young people to develop self-confidence, leadership and moral character. More and more men, trained as Scouts, are taking their places in today's world as responsible adult leaders. Men, who earned badges as Scouts, sit on the Supreme Court and in the chambers of Congress. Others hold important offices in our government business and industry. Most of the members of congress were Scouts, as well as most of the astronauts who have walked on the moon. Here are a few examples President John F. Kennedy, President Gerald Ford, Neil A. Armstrong, and Steven Spielberg just to name a few.

The Boy Scouts of America is the largest youth oriented organization in the United States. More than 4 million boys and leaders are currently registered in the Boy Scouts of America.

Unlike Cub Scouting, which many of you are familiar with, Boy Scouts is a youth-lead organization. The boys learn how to organize and lead the troop. After training, and with supervision from the adult leaders, the boys run the show.

The boys in the Troop will be working towards their 1st class rank and then the Eagle rank. As they travel on their trail to Eagle they will not only learn how to lead a team to a goal, but also they will actually lead teams of Scouts in a number of situations. Many Scouts put their accomplishments on their resumes and find they are often considered in obtaining acceptance into college or the work force.

Boy Scouting also provides for growth of moral strength and character, teaches citizenship, and enhances the development of physical, mental and emotional fitness. This is all done in the spirit of fun and adventure.

Please take a few minutes to read Chapter 1 of your son's Boy Scout Handbook.

ORGANIZATION

Troop 8 is a participating member of the Lenape District of the Great Sauk Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop's organization consists of a Chartered Organization, a Troop Committee, the Troop, and the Troop's Parents.

Chartered Organization (sponsor)

Every Troop has a sponsoring organization. The Chartered Organization for Troop 8 is the Blissfield Rotary Club. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and insures that there is adequate and trained leadership. A Chartered Organization Representative acts as a liaison between the Troop and the Rotary Club.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee functions as an administration and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of the non-program issues surrounding the Troop such as newsletters, Troop funds, fund raising activities, membership drives, pack coordination, activity permits and coordination, advancement records, procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment. When your son joins the troop you will be

Court of Honor

Troop 8 will conduct a Court of Honor two to four times annually as needed. The Court of Honor recognizes all Scout appointments, elections, awards, and advancements since the last Court of Honor. Adult recognition may be presented prior to the opening of the Troop Court of Honor. It is the responsibility of the Troop's patrol leaders to plan and conduct the Troop Court of Honor. The Troop committee will support the Court of Honor as requested.

The Court of Honor is a public ceremony and is a chance for the Scouts to be publicly recognized for their achievements. Parents and all other interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

Administrative

Rechartering and fees

The process of rechartering is the annual collection of registration fees for the Scouts. The process of rechartering the Troop must be completed by the end of December of each calendar year. The registration fee per Scout is \$30. This fee pays for annual dues to Boy Scouts of America, subscription to Boy's Life Magazine and for miscellaneous costs associated with the various awards the boy will earn in the year.

Webelos crossing over from a cub pack incur no initial registration fee, however at the Crossover ceremony webelos are given a Troop 8 neckerchief, a neckerchief slide, red shoulder loops and a boy scout handbook for which a \$10.00 charge is made.

Camping trips and other Troop activities usually have fees associated with them. The boys will be made aware of those fees, which may be paid by he or his parents or deducted from his Camping Fund, once he builds a positive balance. The Camping Fund is explained below.

Funds are raised by the boys through various fundraising activities. The Troop fundraisers are; paper drive, which is held on the first Saturday of the month, we meet at 8:45 am at the Scout Cabin, bottle and can recycling, Trails End popcorn sales and River Raisin Festival cleanup. Our fundraisers are designed so that funds raised will be put into the Scout's Camping Fund and can be used to defray Scouting costs such Summer Camp, uniform needs and camping equipment.

Soon he will learn the symbolism inherent in the Scout badge; he will learn that there are 3 points of the trefoil which stand for the 3 parts of the Scout oath: Duty to God and country, Duty to other people, and Duty to yourself. The goal of this Troop is for the Scout to achieve the rank of First Class within his first year in the Troop. This is a sign that the Scout has mastered the fundamentals of Scouting and can begin to start the long process of learning to lead others, refining the learned skills and learning additional skills.

Advancement from First Class to Eagle

From the achievement of First Class through Eagle, the Scout will be demonstrating leadership, performing service projects, earning merit badges and using the skills learned while achieving the rank of First Class. The next ranks he will earn are Star and Life. These ranks are harder to obtain than the earlier ranks, but are also more interesting for the older Scouts. Upon completion of all the requirements for Star and Life the Scout will be eligible to work for Eagle. The original principles, the Scout oath and law now have fuller meaning for the Scout and their understanding of them is much greater. The final steps towards Eagle are filled with leadership experiences.

Details for advancement are contained in the Boy Scout handbook, which every Scout should obtain as soon as possible after joining the Troop. Take a look at chapter one; this short chapter has an advancement summary through First Class.

Merit Badges

The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a Scout's area of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. A Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor earns merit badges. The Scout is required to contact the counselor to arrange for times and places to meet with the counselor. Often, Merit Badges are offered as a part of the regular weekly meeting program. When the Scout completes the work on the merit badge the counselor will inform the Scoutmaster that the Scout has completed the requirements for that badge. Merit badges earned will be presented to the Scout during the Troops court of honor. All parents of Troop 8 Scouts are encouraged to become merit badge counselors. Please speak to the Scoutmaster for further details. Merit Badge requirements can be found online at www.meritbadge.com.

given an application for adult leadership and asked to serve on the Troop Committee.

The Committee meets the second Monday of the month at 7 pm. The meetings are open and attendance is encouraged by all parents and other interested adults. A monthly Calendar of Events is produced at the committee meetings and passed out to the Scout at a subsequent Troop meeting, it's also available by email if you have internet access, just email kenlake@michag.com to get your name on the list. A copy is usually sent by regular mail as well.

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 general responsibilities of the Scoutmaster include, train and guide boy leaders, work with other adult leaders to bring Scouting to boys, and use the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting.

Assistant Scoutmasters

Assistant Scoutmasters are recruited by the Scoutmaster and approved by the Troop committee to assist the Scoutmaster in the operation of the Troop. Assistant Scoutmasters are assigned programming tasks by the Scoutmaster and provide guidance to the boy leadership. They also provide the required two-deep leadership (two adult leaders present at every Boy Scout activity).

The boy's leadership positions include Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader. Other titles also include: Troop Guide, Quartermaster, Scribe, Librarian, Bugler and Historian.

Troop Parents

The roll of parents with Troop 8 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

1. Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and

- methods of Scouting.
- 2. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack there of) and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
- 3. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by joining the Troop Committee and become involved in Troop activities.
- 4. Assist, as requested, in all Troop fundraisers and other such activities. All such assistance lowers the cost of the program we offer to the Scouts and, therefore, lower each family's cash outlay for their Scout.
- 5. Be aware of the Troop program and monthly calendar.

Adult Leader Training

Because every boy deserves trained leaders!

The Troop subscribes to the basic tenet that every Scout deserves trained leaders and truly believes that having trained leaders is the core to the success of the program. The National Training Committee states it thus:

- 1. The leadership training philosophy of the Boy Scouts of America is to provide adult leaders with fundamental information about the aims and purposes of the movement, as well as about their particular roles in Scouting.
- 2. A trained leader is knowledgeable and confident in the role being performed. The knowledge and confidence of trained leaders are quickly sensed by the boys they serve and are a positive influence on their lives.
- 3. To this end, our Training Committee has as its purpose, making available certain training opportunities, seeing to it that high standards are set and complied with and assuring that instructors faithfully adhere to these high standards.

Below are Adult leader training opportunities available, click on the link to see a description of the course or go to:

http://www.bsa-greatsautrail.org/lenape/training_roadmap.htm

Fast Start

New Leader Essentials

Boy Scout Specific Training

Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation

Roundtable

PowWow

21st Century Wood Badge

Once adults leaders have completed Fast Start, New Leader Essentials, Outdoor Leader Skills and Youth Protection training they are considered trained and qualify to take the 21st Century **WOODBADGE** course and wear the patch below on their uniform.

Advancement

There are many definitions of advancement, but the Scouting definition might well be "The art of meeting a challenge." For that is exactly what the Boy Scout advancement program asks the boys to do. The Boy Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a Scout climbs at his own pace. As he acquires these skills he moves up through a series of ranks for which he is awarded badges: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks and the more rewarding. We don't look at advancement as a goal, but as a natural outcome of a planned, quality Troop program.

There are four steps of advancement:

- The Boy Scout learns.
- The Boy Scout is tested.
- The Boy Scout is reviewed
- The Boy Scout is recognized

Advancement Through First Class

From the time the Scout enters the Troop through the time he earns advancement to First Class, he is learning basic Scouting skills to enable him to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, and perform other tasks in the outdoors and to work as a member of the team. With those first steps the Scout begins to build himself physically, mentally, and morally. He will start to live with the Scout oath and laws.