
**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
TROOP 780 BY-LAWS
DUNN, NC
CAPE FEAR DISTRICT
OCCONEECHEE COUNCIL**

www.BSATroop780.org



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Introduction

Mission Statement

Our vision is to implement Scouting's mission and Values by creating a safe and administratively automated environment, to foster a core group of Scouts and Scouters of all abilities that are officially trained in the eight methods and aims of scouting. To put the necessary communication and aptitude in place to facilitate a smooth transition of these core skills between the pack and the troop, creating an environment to cultivate scouting for the future at Troop 780.

Welcome to Troop 780, Boy Scouts of America.

Every Scout needs to know what is expected of him. The success of having an adventurous and safe outdoor program rests in the ability of the Boy Scout take responsibility for his own behavior. Boy Scout accident, medical and liability insurance depend upon planned activities conducted with regard for safety and protection of property. All Scouts need to know what is "OK" and what is not. In order to guarantee acceptable conduct all adult Scouters need to know what is expected of them. The policies outlined in this document establish the procedures for running Troop 780's program.

The emphasis of Boy Scout program is to promote and encourage boy leadership. In support of this program Troop 780 adult leaders are present as advisors, insuring safety and keeping the program oriented toward scouting ideals. Troop, patrol and patrol council meetings, camping trips and day trips shall be run by boy leaders, not by the adults.

But, boys are "boys," and there may be many times when you will question, "Why are they so disorganized?" "Why are the meetings so noisy and unproductive?" and "Why don't the adults step in and do something?"

In Scouting we believe that the best way to develop leadership is to let the boys have as much freedom as possible; applying just enough adult authority to keep them safely focused on the task at hand. As long as they are sincerely trying to accomplish the duties of their positions they are learning the rudiments of leadership.

Once again, Welcome to Troop 780. Keep in mind, Scouting is a family activity and we encourage parents to be involved in their Scout's development.

Chapter 1

Parent Participation

General

The adults who provide supervision, support and time to make Troop 780 a success are volunteers. They will need your help. How you support your son's troop depends on your talent and available time. Both mothers and fathers can give a few hours to provide transportation, help maintain troop equipment, be a merit badge counselor, serve on our troop committee or serve in some other leadership positions. Whatever your volunteer role, our troop needs you to keep operating as a quality unit which makes our troop worthy of the fine Scouts it serves. Please complete the troop resource survey and return it to the Scoutmaster or troop committee chairman.

Personal growth agreement:

The Scoutmaster will discuss with your son his strengths and interests and recommend ways he can use these in his Scouting activities. It will be up to your son to decide the goals he sets for himself as a growth agreement. The Scoutmaster will encourage and counsel your son along the way. Your interest in his growth in Scouting is vital in helping him to realize his personal responsibilities.

Funding

Each Scout is asked to share the cost of camping trips. Encourage your Scout to look for jobs where he can earn his own money for the cost of activities. "A Scout is thrifty."

Chapter 2

New Scouts

General

Troop 780 is a relatively small troop with a dynamic membership. While a majority of the new members advance from the Webelos program, the troop does acquire boys transferring from other troops, districts and councils.

The Scoutmaster, senior patrol leader or representative members from Troop 780 will attend Webelos bridging ceremonies of those Dens giving advance notice of boys intending to join Troop 780. Each Webelos who has stated his intent to join Troop 780 will be presented a Scout neckerchief from the troop and will be officially welcomed to the troop.

Boys, ages 10 years and six months, advancing from Webelos will form a "new Scout" patrol. To give these new Scouts the initial attention they deserve the troop will designate an assistant Scoutmaster to work directly with them.

If the new joiner is older than 10 years 6 months or has previous Scouting experience he will be placed in a patrol with others of his age or skill level.

Information Packet

The information packet is designed to give a new Scout and his parents details about Scouting and Troop 780. The packet includes the following:

- Troop By-laws Table of Contents (see web page for full text)
- BSA Medical Release Form (Parents authorization for emergency treatment)
- Troop Resource Survey (Parents, please give some serious thought to signing up to help.)
- Troop Calendar (see web page)
- Roster of Troop Members
- BSA application (both boy and adult)
- BSA Unit Accident Insurance Information (this insurance is mandatory and is paid annually during the Troop 780's re-chartering)

Troop information/permission requirements

Prior to any Scout participating in his first Troop 780 event, the following shall be returned to the Scoutmaster or one of his assistants:

- Completed BSA application along with *prorated share of the* annual dues to pay for registration, Boys' Life subscription and insurance
- BSA Medical Release Form (Parent's authorization for emergency treatment)

Troop Uniform Policy

Wearing a uniform "shows Scout spirit." It is not the purpose of the Scout uniform to hide the differences between boys or make them feel they are all the

same. Scouts come from all racial and ethnic backgrounds. They have their own religious beliefs and family traditions. Scouting wants boys to take pride in these differences rather than to hide them or be ashamed of them. There is one way all Scouts are alike. Whenever a Scout sees another Scout in uniform he knows he is like that person because both have committed to the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. This is important in a time when there are too many things dividing people. The Scout Oath and Law bind all Scouts, the world over, in a common purpose. The Scout uniform identifies Scouts openly with someone of the same beliefs and values. By wearing the uniform Scouts are taking an open stand for their convictions.

BSA policy allows a troop several options regarding uniforms. Troop 780 has elected the following:

(1) Field Uniform

- Scout shirt (long or short sleeve)
- Scout trousers (long or short).
- Scout neckerchief, BSA neckerchief (presented to new Scouts at the bridging ceremony) or bolo w/any slide
- Scout hat
- Any closed-toe shoe or boot (as a safety precaution Troop 780 policy precludes the wearing of sandals at scouting events.)
- Scout belt
- Scout socks

Note: Order of the Arrow (OA) sashes are only worn at OA functions, not at regular troop meetings.

(2) Activity Uniform¹

- Scout T-shirt (any but preferably a Troop 780 T-shirt)
- Scout trousers (long or short).
- Scout hat is optional.
- Any closed-toe shoe or boot (as a safety precaution troop policy prohibits the wearing of sandals at scouting events.)
- Scout belt
- Scout socks

(3) Work Uniform

- Street Clothes

¹ The Activity Uniform may be prescribed for summer events/meetings or travel to/from scouting events

Scouts should wear their uniform for all Scouting activities. Encourage your Scout to comply. An entire uniform will be required for courts of honor, some district, council and out-of-council events, e.g., summer camp. A merit badge sash will be required. The merit badge sash is a required uniform item for special occasions.

New uniforms are available for sale through local Scouting Retail stores.

The troop maintains a uniform exchange box. Items that older Scouts have outgrown are placed in the box for use by new/younger Scouts. If you use the exchange service, please donate when your Scout(s) outgrows uniform items.

If for any reason a Scout is unable to afford such a uniform the troop will help arrange for one. A note, signed by the Scout's parents or guardian, stating financial circumstances shall be presented to the Scoutmaster or troop committee chairman. Personal details will remain confidential.

Uniform inspections will be conducted by the boy leaders at least once a quarter.

Dues policy

Troop dues are paid to the troop annually in February of each year. The full amount of dues for each scout to cover the entire year is \$45. These dues are used for merit badge awards, merit badge books, advancement awards, and other miscellaneous materials deemed necessary to run the troop. In addition scouts will be required to pay a annual fee of \$10 to cover the costs of national registration (new, transfer, or continuing) membership, equipment and administration fees and \$1 insurance rate to Occoneechee Council. Boy's Life magazine is an optional \$11. Scouts who are delinquent in their dues will not be permitted to participate in troop camping trips or events.

As with any organization activities require money. Financial problems are understood. If such situations occur, let us know so we can work out an arrangement to keep your Scout active. Please don't let \$\$\$ keep your child from scouting; please let us know of any issue and we will work something out. Payments plans, Scout Reach™ Programs from council, camperships for summer camp etc.

Annual calendar of events

Troop meetings and other events are planned by the Patrol Leaders Council and approved by the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee.

Meetings

Meetings are held weekly from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. every Monday unless otherwise denoted on the annual calendar. To insure the full 90 minutes, Troop 780 gathers at 6:45 pm.

Parents are responsible for arranging transportation for their Scout. Scouts should not arrive any earlier than 6:45 p.m. and should be picked up by 8:35 p.m. unless otherwise directed by the Scoutmaster. Parents are responsible for their own child's safety before and after Scout meetings. Do not leave your Scout at the meeting place if no adult leader is present. Loitering is not permitted. Scouts are not permitted to loiter outside during meetings. If the Scout does not report to the Scout meeting, Troop 780 is not responsible for him.

Courts of honor

Troop 780 conducts quarterly courts of honor to recognize our Scouts' hard work. Courts of honor are family affairs and parents are encouraged to attend to honor the boys for their achievements.

Eagle courts of honor are conducted separately from the regularly scheduled events for individual Scouts as needed.

Summer camp

To give Scouts the opportunity to achieve BSA goals for long-term camping and merit badge advancement, Troop 780 attends at least one week of camp at an approved BSA facility during the summer. Troop 780 has attended Camp Durant. BSA high adventure summer camps as well as the National Jamboree are also summer camp possibilities.

Short-term camping

Troop 780 conducts a camping trip or special event each month. When possible these events will take advantage of events planned by the district or council. Short term camps promote advancement opportunities, fun, fitness and comradeship.

In preparing the annual calendar the senior patrol leader will canvas the troop for desired events. The senior patrol leader will then hold a meeting of the Patrol Leaders' Council with the troop's Scout and adult leadership and prepare a proposed calendar for approval by the troop committee. The troop committee will consider the boys' desires for an annual program with respect to the ability to support the program. Once the calendar of events is approved by the troop committee and the Scoutmaster, the Scoutmaster in conjunction with the Troop Secretary will arrange for printing and distribution of the calendar.

Chapter 3

Troop Organization

General

Troop 780 is organized in accordance with BSA guidelines. The following descriptions highlight areas within the troop's organization.

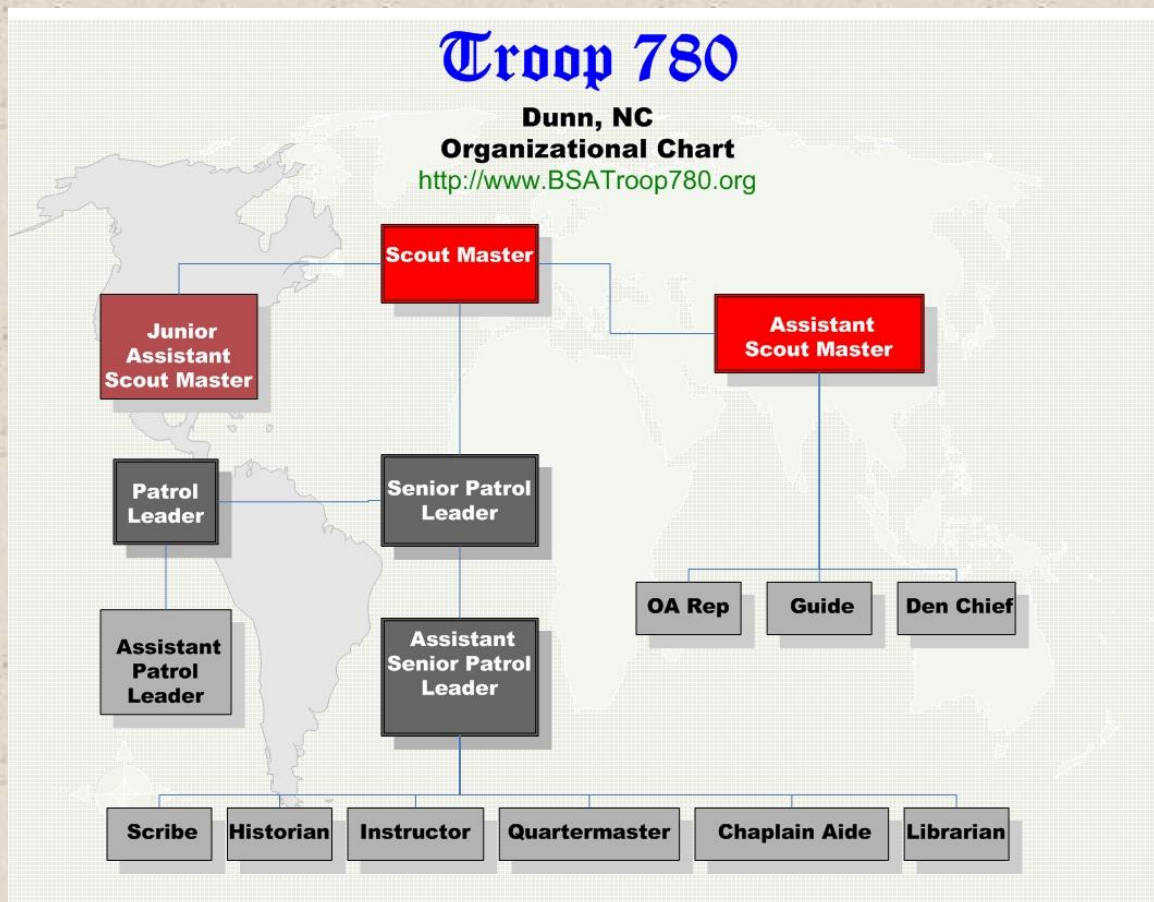


Figure 1 - Troop 780 Organizational Chart

Organization

Chartering organization

Divine Street United Methodist Church is the chartering organization (CO) for BSA Troop 780. The charter allows the Church to host a BSA troop for its

community and youth objectives. In turn the Church agrees to support the troop by providing a safe meeting place with adequate facilities.

Chartering organization representative

A member of the church who serves on the troop committee and acts as a liaison between the troop and the chartering organization.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee is a group of adults, generally parents of the Scouts, who support the troop by insuring that the troop's adult leadership is adequate, by providing various support functions, delivering quality troop program and handling troop administration and by insuring that the troop is functioning according to official policy. Committee meetings are held each month, as indicated on the annual calendar. The troop committee can consist of a chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, an outdoor activities coordinator, an advancement coordinator, and a fund-raising coordinator, a court of honor coordinator, a transportation coordinator and a quartermaster. (See BSA Troop Committee Guidebook for further information.)

Troop committee chairman

The committee chairman serves as the "chairman of the board," the board being the troop committee.

Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster is responsible for overseeing the operations of the troop. The Scoutmaster serves as the "chief executive officer." His main responsibility is the Scouts of the troop and all Assistant Scoutmaster s assigned. The Scoutmaster attends troop committee meetings and reports the status of the troop and the annual program of events.

Assistant Scoutmaster

The Assistant Scoutmaster aside from being responsible for a particular function each assistant Scoutmaster acts as an advisor to a pre assigned patrol.

The Assistant Scoutmaster (new Scout patrol): Insures that all new Scouts are properly oriented to the troop by providing the boys with necessary information, forms and counseling. Also maintains new boy tracking sheets.

Senior patrol leader

The Senior Patrol Leader is the boy leader of the troop elected by his fellow Scouts. He sets the agenda and presides at all Patrol Leaders' Council meetings, runs the weekly troop meetings and appoints other boy leaders assigning specific responsibilities as needed.

Assistant senior patrol leader

The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, appointed by the SPL, assists the senior patrol leader in conducting meetings and acts as the senior patrol leader in the senior patrol leader's absence. He is responsible for training and giving direction to the quartermaster, scribe, troop historian, librarian and instructors.

Patrol leaders

Patrol Leaders are responsible for their individual patrols at all times. They preside at patrol meetings, as well as control their patrol during troop functions. They represent their patrol at Patrol Leaders Council meetings and report to the senior patrol leader for all matters concerning their patrol.

Instructors

An older Scout(s) assigned as an Instructor who has advanced in rank and training provide a corps of skills and knowledge on which the senior patrol leader can develop training programs in support of the troop's annual training objective.

Troop guide

An older, experienced Scout appointed by the Scoutmaster and the assistant Scoutmaster as the Troop Guide. He will help younger Scouts progress through the ranks of Scouting as assigned by assistant Scoutmaster (New Scouts). Usually two are assigned to each patrol to help the patrol function.

Other Positions

For additional job description see the Junior Leader Handbook or look at our troop's website.

Forming New Patrols

The "patrol method" gives Scouts an experience in group living and citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method builds patrols into strong active units. This is best accomplished through long-term association with shared, common

experiences from camping or special events. Troop 780's goal is to maintain a patrol's integrity through as much of a Scout's career as possible. Given the dynamics of the people of our community that is not always possible. If it becomes necessary to reorganize patrols as a result of attrition then the Scoutmaster and adult leadership will determine new patrol organization.

Troop 780's goal is to maintain patrols of approximately six Scouts each. There will be no more than 8 Scouts per patrol. When one of the patrols reaches more than 8 members and the others have six or more members, a new patrol will be formed as follows:

- An interim patrol leader is elected by members of the Patrol Leaders' Council to temporarily lead the new patrol.
- Each of the existing patrol leader choose three members who cannot be drafted by the interim patrol leader for the new patrol.
- The interim patrol leader chooses the same number of members from each existing patrol to bring the total in the new patrol to seven.
- Patrol elections in the new patrol will be held at the next scheduled Patrol Leaders Election. .

Intra troop transfers

After troop elections a Scout may request to change patrols. The decision will be made by the senior patrol leader and the Scoutmaster.

Chapter 4

Adult Leader Policy

General

The adult leadership of Troop 780 has three major goals:

- 1) Provide an environment to achieve The [Aims of Scouting](#)
 - a. Character Development
 - b. Citizenship Training
 - c. Mental and Physical Fitness
- 2) Provide an environment for the boys to live the ideals of Scouting, including a chance to develop and demonstrate leadership abilities.
- 3) Provide an adult organization structure that can adapt to changes in its staffing requirements.

In keeping with these goals the adult leaders will act primarily as advisors giving maximum opportunity for the Scouts to show responsibility.

Adult leader positions

The following positions reside at the committee level:

- Committee Chairman
- Secretary
- Charter Organization Representative
- Treasurer
- Advancement Chairman
- Fund Raising Chairman
- Friends of Scouting (FOS) Chairman
- Outings Chairman
- Membership Chairman
- Public Relations Chairman

The following positions reside at the troop level:

- Scoutmaster
- Assistant Scoutmaster (New Scouts)
- Assistant Scoutmaster's (assigned to individual Patrols)

Positions will be filled as supported by the number of adult volunteers. If the number of adult volunteers isn't sufficient to fill all requirements the committee chairman and/or the Scoutmaster may combine committee or troop positions after gaining approval of the committee.

Adult leader training

Any adult who becomes involved with the ***Troop*** is required to take advantage of Adult Leadership Training² courses and complete the following training within one (1) year of registration and keep them active.

- Youth Protection
- New Leader Essentials
- Scoutmaster Specific Training (Applies to Assistant Scoutmasters as well)
- Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS)
- Safety Afloat
- Safe Swim Defense

² The 21st Century Wood Badge Course is highly recommended

Any adult who becomes involved with the **Troop Committee** is required to take advantage of Adult Leadership Training courses and complete the following training within one (1) year of registration.

- Youth Protection
- New Leader Essentials
- Troop Committee Challenge

This training insures the troop's adult leaders remain on target with the aims of Scouting. Until leadership training can be arranged so that adult leaders will be familiar with the Youth Protection Program guidelines for Boy Scout leaders.

Adult leaders' meetings

Adult leaders are encouraged to become involved with all aspects of the Scouting program. The following is a list of some of the suggested meetings that adult leaders may attend:

- Troop committee meetings
- Adult district roundtables
- Special "called" troop committee meetings
- Weekly troop meetings
- Training sessions

Adult leader conduct

Adult leaders shall exhibit the ideals of Scouting when working with boys. They will strive to set the example in their handling of the boys. Standards of conduct in personal habits, language, hygiene and interaction with Scouts will be in accordance with the Scout Oath and Law. The Scoutmaster is responsible for the conduct of adult leaders.

Chapter 5

Boy Leader Policy

General

Like any other activity, a leadership role within Scouting requires an extraordinary commitment. A leadership role with Troop 780 demands time and sacrifice of the Scout. Although Scouting is open to any boy at least 10 years and

six months of age, Troop 780 leadership positions should only be considered by those boys who:

- Demonstrate the proper example
- Are willing to give to the troop more than they receive
- Are willing to put troop activities on a higher priority than other comparable activities.

Boy Leader positions

Elected positions:

- Senior patrol leader (SPL) – Currently appointed by Scoutmaster
- Patrol leader (PL) -- Elected by individual patrols

Appointed positions

- Assistant senior patrol leader -- Appointed by the SPL, approved by Scoutmaster
- Junior assistant Scoutmaster -- Appointed by the Scoutmaster
- Scribe -- Appointed by the ASPL and approved by SPL and SM
- Chaplain's aide -- Appointed by the ASPL and approved by SPL and SM
- Quartermaster -- Appointed by the ASPL and approved by SPL and SM
- Librarian -- Appointed by the ASPL and approved by SPL and SM
- Historian -- Appointed by the ASPL and approved by SPL and SM
- Assistant patrol leader -- Appointed by the PL
- Patrol scribe -- Appointed by the PL
- Patrol quartermaster -- Appointed by the PL

Troop elections

Troop elections are held semi-annually in March and August at the regular meeting just prior to the quarterly court of honor. Newly elected leaders will be announced and retiring leaders will be recognized for their work at the next scheduled court of honor.

A general election of the entire troop will be conducted for senior patrol leader. The outgoing senior patrol leader will preside over the election, accepting nominations and supervising the collection of ballots. Voting will be conducted by secret ballot. Election for senior patrol leader will be conducted first to allow candidates not elected to run for assistant senior patrol leader and/or patrol leader. The Scoutmaster or an assistant Scoutmaster and the outgoing senior patrol leader or a junior assistant Scoutmaster will count and verify the vote. The candidate receiving a simple majority of the members present will be declared winner. If

more than two boys are running for a position and no one receives 50 percent of the votes a re-vote will be taken between the two candidates getting the most votes until one candidate receives a majority of the votes.

Individual Patrols will elect their Patrol Leader. A patrol leader election will be held immediately following the election of the senior patrol leader and assistant senior patrol leader. Only patrol members will vote for their respective patrol leader. Votes will be by secret ballots. Ballots will be counted and verified by the outgoing patrol leader and a troop guide or assistant Scoutmaster.

All other leadership positions will be recommended by the ASPL and SPL and approved by the Scoutmaster. All leadership positions will be rotated every six months to give each member of the troop maximum opportunity to serve.

An attempt will be made to get 100 percent of the troop's membership in attendance during the night of the election. No election will be conducted if less than two thirds the general membership is present.

Qualifications

Senior patrol leader: Each Scout running for the office of senior patrol leader must be a First Class Scout, must have served as a patrol leader, must be 13 years of age and must have attended (or agree to attend) junior leader training.

Assistant Senior patrol leader: Each Scout running for the office of assistant senior patrol leader must be a First Class Scout, must have served as a patrol leader, must be 13 years of age and must have attended (or agree to attend) junior leader training.

Patrol leader: Each Scout running for the office of patrol leader must be at least Second Class Scout except in the New Scout Patrol.

Troop Leadership Training: Within two weeks of an election a Troop Leadership Training (TLT) course will be conducted by the outgoing leadership and adult leaders. For a Scout to be eligible to hold a troop leadership position he must attend the TLT training courses.

Impeachment

The seriousness of impeachment must be understood before proceedings are begun. Impeachment will be initiated only when the situation cannot be reversed with direct leadership and the added supervision by the adult leadership. Given the above; impeachment proceedings against a patrol leader, assistant patrol leader and/or senior patrol leader can be initiated at any time during his tenure in

office. To initiate an impeachment a written petition must be presented to the Scoutmaster, including:

- Specifically why it is thought the boy leader in question is not fit for office
- Background circumstances regarding the problem
- Signature of two thirds of the membership of either the patrol, in case of a patrol leader impeachment or patrol leaders, in the case of the assistant senior patrol leader/senior patrol leader. Final judgment will be determined by the Scoutmaster and his assistants. The troop committee and parents of the boy will be advised of all actions and circumstances behind the action.

Patrol Leaders' Council

The Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) is responsible for planning and conducting the troop's activities. The troop committee interacts with the Patrol Leaders' Council through the Scoutmaster. The Patrol Leaders' Council comprises the following voting members:

- Senior patrol leader -- Leads the Patrol Leaders' Council
- Assistant senior patrol leader
- Patrol leaders -- One for each patrol
- Troop guide for new Scout patrol
- Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmaster s
- Other Scouts in leadership positions (i.e. scribe, quartermaster, historian, etc.) that may be required by the senior patrol leader as approved by the Scoutmaster.

The Patrol Leaders' Council meets as needed to:

- Plan the annual calendar of events
- Plan monthly events
- Approve plans for outings
- Plans and organizes weekly meetings and assigns responsibility for planned events in accordance with the monthly activity
- Completion of the weekly meeting plan for each weekly meeting.
- Discuss problems
- Make recommendations on improving troop operations

Chapter 6

Advancement

Definition

Advancement is the process by which youth members progress from rank to rank, a means to an end, not an end in itself. It is designed to help the boy have an exciting and meaningful experience.

- a. Education is the chief function of the Scouting movement and the basis of the advancement program. A fundamental principle of advancement is that the boy's progress is a natural outcome of his activities in his patrol and troop. The rank requirements shall furnish the basis of the activities of the unit. Recognition is gained through leadership in the troop, attending and participating in its activities, living the ideals of Scouting and proficiency in activities related to outdoor life, useful skills and career exploration.
- b. All advancement procedures shall be administered under conditions that harmonize with the aims and purpose of the BSA; to strengthen character, body, mind and the concept of being a participating citizen.
- c. The Boy Scout requirements for rank advancement shall be the basis for the Scouts' advancement. There are four steps in the procedure: learning, testing, reviewing and recognition.
- d. Ranks are Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle. Eagle Palms may be awarded for additional merit badges until the Scout's 18th birthday.
- e. The responsibility of the troop committee is to ensure the troop's program is conducted in such a way that the Scouts have an opportunity to advance on the basis of learning, testing, reviewing and recognition.
- f. The responsibility for merit badge qualifications shall rest with the counselor. Merit badge counselors shall be registered adult members of BSA. The merit badge counselor shall prepare and qualify youth members. There is no board of review procedure for merit badges, but public recognition may be given at a court of honor.

Advancement policy

1. Advancement in BSA, is totally dependent upon the boy. Each boy is expected to pursue the various advancement requirements, awards, badges and ranks at his own pace. We encourage him to involve his family, other Scouts, the Scoutmaster and any other sources to help him.
2. The troop's routine program will emphasize Scouting skills and leadership training; both at weekly meetings and at camping trips. As a matter of routine, merit badges will not be taught as part of Troop 780's regularly scheduled meetings. Some meetings may focus on a particular merit badge as a means of introducing Scouts to the subject, but completion of the badge is an individual effort by the Scout. The troop will provide guidance and assistance in completing merit badges outside the weekly meetings, i.e., classes prior to meetings or on camping trips. (On occasion, a merit badge may be taught in the regular meeting if for a unique reason.) The

extra effort and experience gained by pursuing merit badges through approved counselors is important in maintaining the quality and maturity of the upper ranks of Star, Life and Eagle.

3. Advancement requirements for the first three ranks are listed in the Chapter 1 of "The Boy Scout Handbook." Advancement to Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class concentrate on Scouting skill rather than merit badges. Skills shall be taught by other Scouts and adult leaders. The Scoutmaster shall hold Scoutmaster Conferences as needed. A board of review shall be conducted quarterly, as organized by the troop committee's advancement chairman with the assistance of other committee members.
4. Advancement requirements for Star, Life and Eagle ranks are covered in Chapter 27 of "The Boy Scout Handbook." These higher ranks emphasize merit badge work only after a boy has a solid foundation of basic Scouting skills.
5. **Eagle advancement:** An advancement packet discussing Eagle requirements can be obtained from the Scoutmaster upon completion of the Life Scout award. The packet contains the following items:
 - a. National BSA application
 - b. Letters of recommendation (four required)
 - c. Eagle service project work book

Merit badges

Earning merit badges give Scouts self-confidence by teaching them to overcome obstacles to achieve a goal. The Scout also learns career skills, develops socially and may develop physical skills and hobbies that give a lifetime of healthful recreation. To earn merit badges the following sequential procedures shall be followed:³

- Obtain merit badge application ("blue card") from the Scoutmaster or assistant Scoutmaster. The card must be signed by the Scoutmaster or assistant Scoutmaster showing his approval
- Contact the merit badge counselor and arrange meetings
- Complete the merit badge requirements under the guidance of the counselor
- Ensure the counselor signs the card verifying completion of all requirements
- Return the card to the Scoutmaster or assistant Scoutmaster and obtain his signature to indicate completion of the merit badge requirements
- Present the completed card to the advancement chairman for forwarding to the council for registration and procurement of the badge.

Youth Protection Program

³ See the website for current detailed [Merit Badge information](#) and [Merit Badge procedures](#)

The BSA Youth Protection Program policy requires that a Scout must have at least one other person with him at each meeting with the merit badge counselor. BSA policy prohibits one-on-one situations between adults and Scouts. The buddy can be a parent or guardian, brother, sister, relative, friend or another Scout.

Group instructions

While merit badges may be earned in group instruction this method is discouraged for most merit badges as it bypasses one of the key purposes of the merit badge plan; working closely with a qualified adult. Group instruction is most practical when special facilities, expert personnel and/or limited counselors make individual instruction inappropriate. When the group method is used as much individual attention as possible should be afforded each candidate's project and his ability to fulfill all requirements.

Merit badge counselor

A counselor working with a Scout acquaints the boy with an adult knowledgeable in one or more fields, an experience invaluable to a Scout. The counselor introduces subjects that may lead to a career choice or to a lifetime pursuit. The troop advancement chairman and the Scoutmaster will maintain a list of approved merit badge counselors. The troop has approved merit badge counselors other than those on the council's approved list. Merit badge counselors, even those parents only serving one unit (Troop 780) must be approved by the council and district advancement committee. Counselors must register as Scouters. In all cases the advancement chairman must have a completed Merit Badge Counselor Application on record for each applicable person.

Merit badges will not be offered as part of the regular troop annual calendar as a matter of routine; however, to spark an interest in a subject area the troop may use merit badge counselors to make presentations covering the highlights of a merit badge. Scouts are then given an opportunity to try a skill related to the badge. Also, work on some merit badges may be arranged at some camping trips.

No Scout, parent, assistant Scoutmaster or committee member will arrange for a merit badge class to run concurrent with the regularly scheduled troop meeting unless specifically approved by the Patrol Leaders' Council. Troop meetings are reserved for conducting skill and leadership training and general troop business. With the approval of both the Scoutmaster and advancement chairman, merit badge classes may be scheduled prior to the regular meeting. Scoutmaster approval will insure reservation of a meeting place. Approval of the advancement chairman will ensure approved counselors, "blue cards," merit badge books and other administrative requirements.

NOTE: No adult leader will be allowed to be a Merit Badge Councilor for his son unless the Merit Badge is being conducted in a group setting. Even in this case, the Merit Badge worksheet and information MUST be reviewed and signed off by someone other than the scouts parent, guardian or relative. There will be no conflict of interest or favoritism tolerated in Troop 780.

Service Projects

Star and Life

Work on service projects for credit toward advancement to Star and Life ranks shall be approved by the Scoutmaster in advance of starting the project. Only adult leaders are authorized to sign-off service project requirements. If there is any doubt as to the validity of the project the matter will be referred to the troop committee for resolution.

Eagle

Eagle service projects shall be of lasting value to the community rather than completion of routine upkeep and preventive maintenance. Occoneechee Council suggests the project be a minimum of 100 man-hours of labor and planning. The project shall be approved by the Scoutmaster, The Benefactor, Troop Committee Chairman or Troop Advancement Chairman and the District Committee Advancement Chairman in advance of beginning any work. The Troop 780 Committee requires that the Eagle candidate brief the troop committee on his project at a regularly scheduled committee meeting. The Eagle candidate must take into consideration the lead time required for troop and district committee approval in planning work schedules. The brief shall outline the scope, scale and requirements of the proposed project. The committee will review the candidate's plan for completeness in planning and ability of the troop to support the project to completion. The schedule of work should be examined in detail to ensure there are no major conflicts with other planned troop activities. Upon completion of the service project, The Eagle candidate shall provide the advancement chairman with a written description of the project and, where appropriate, a schedule of participants and hours worked.

Other

Scouts of any rank can arrange for service projects that benefit the community as long as it's approved by the Scoutmaster. However, if the project will require

Troop 780 resources then the project should be presented to the Patrol Leaders' Council for discussion, scheduling and Scoutmaster Approval.

Requirements for Star, Life and Eagle Rank

One or a combination of the following positions will be accepted as fulfilling the leadership requirements for the above ranks:

Star and Life ranks -- one or more positions with six months in office

- Den chief
- Troop chaplain
- Troop scribe
- Troop quartermaster
- Troop librarian
- Troop historian
- Troop guide
- Patrol leader

Eagle rank -- one or more positions with six months in office

- Assistant senior patrol leader
- Senior patrol leader
- Junior assistant Scoutmaster
- Den chief
- Troop chaplain
- Troop scribe
- Troop quartermaster
- Troop librarian
- Troop historian
- Troop guide
- Patrol leader

In addition to simply holding a position, the officers holding scribe, quartermaster, librarian and historian will be required to perform one major project to improve his respective area. This project must be approved by the Scoutmaster or assistant Scoutmaster. These projects will be separate and distinct from the "service projects" required for above ranks. For example a new historian may construct his own record of the troop during his tenure.

Requirements for Scout Spirit and Participation

Scout Spirit -- In order to fulfill the requirements for Scout spirit, the Scout must demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath and the Law in his everyday life.

Participation -- All Scouts of Troop 780 are welcomed and encouraged to take advantage of all troop activities. For participation to count toward rank a 75% attendance rate is required.

Chapter 7

Discipline

General

Discipline policy in Scouting is simple, the doors of Scouting are always open to those who strive to follow its law. Adherence to Troop 780 policies will, primarily, be handled by the boy leaders with adult intervention only to maintain safety, preclude property damage, avoid disrupting other organizations' activities and/or restore order in extreme cases of unruliness.

Obedience

Obedience in Troop 780 is to the Scout Oath and Law. The Oath and Law make being a good citizen of the troop, camp or community possible. Obedience to the Scout Law includes respect for Scout leadership and adult leadership and all members and guest of the troop. Respect for adult and Scout leadership is expected. Under no circumstances will adult or boy leaders administer punishment for any reason. Hazing, of any type, will not be tolerated. Boys or adults observing such activity will take immediate measures to stop such activity.

Enforcing discipline

Discipline in the patrols will be handled by the patrol leaders. Patrol leaders have the authority to ask any patrol member to leave a patrol meeting and report to the senior patrol leader.

When the patrol leader cannot handle the problem, he must obtain help from the senior patrol leader. The only person the senior patrol leader will accept a

complaint from is the patrol leader. The senior patrol leader has the authority to ask that Scout to leave the meeting area and report to the Scoutmaster.

When the senior patrol leader cannot handle the problem, he must obtain the help of the Scoutmaster. The only person the Scoutmaster will accept a complaint from is the senior patrol leader.

When the Scoutmaster is approached with a complaint, the complaint will be recorded on the Scout's record. Note the following actions:

- i. **First senior patrol leader complaint** -- Conference with the Scoutmaster
- ii. **Second senior patrol leader complaint** -- Conference with Scoutmaster and a phone call to parents explaining the problem and stating that one more complaint may result in a suspension for one month. Parent(s) may be requested to attend meetings to help supervise their Scout. The Scout may be assigned to appear before a board of review as a lesser disciplinary action prior to suspension from troop activities.
- iii. **Third senior patrol leader complaint** -- Conference with Scoutmaster and parents. Based on the Scoutmaster's recommendation, the Scout may be suspended from all troop activities for a period of time as recommended by the Scoutmaster.

The above steps are not meant to discourage either the patrol leaders or senior patrol leaders from seeking advice from the Scoutmaster or any adult leader when they are having leadership challenges but are intended to state discipline options in advance. Scout leaders should remember and use their chain of command.

Troop Reinstatement Review Board

This board evaluates Scouts who have been suspended from the troop as a result of the third senior patrol leader complaint as well as the use of drugs, alcohol and/or tobacco as outlined in the troop discipline policy. After the completion of the defined suspension period and prior to resuming troop activities, the committee chairman will convene a reinstatement review board to meet with the Scout and his parents to assess his intentions regarding pursuit of the Scouting program. The members of the troop reinstatement review board will consist of the committee chairman, Scoutmaster and senior patrol leader and as deemed necessary, respective designated representatives from the committee.

Based on the conclusions of the Board, the Scout will either:

- Resume troop participation and activities
- Or continue his suspension for a period as recommended by the Scoutmaster and approved by the board

Continuation of the suspension requires a meeting with parents and the committee chairman and Scoutmaster to discuss the position of the board.

Upon reinstatement a Scout will be on probation for a minimum of two months. Additional infractions within the probation period are grounds for immediate dismissal by the troop committee.

Failure by the parent(s) or scout to attend the review board meeting will result in an automatic dismissal from the troop.

Drugs, alcohol and tobacco

Any Scout guilty of using, possessing and/or distributing a controlled substance (drugs and alcohol) will be dropped from the troop roster immediately. Parents of the guilty Scout will be advised of all actions taken. The Scout may later be allowed to return once his problem has been resolved to the satisfaction of the troop Reinstatement Review Board.

No Scout will be allowed to use a controlled substance of any type at any Scouting function. This includes those boys who have parental permission to use tobacco. The law says 18 years old and you aren't a scout if your 18 years old.

Parents of Scouts required to take prescription medication over the period of a troop event will discuss the requirement with the Scoutmaster. Serious medical requirements may require a parent to attend an event and administer medication.

Do's and don'ts

The Scoutmaster has the authority to confiscate and destroy all items deemed inappropriate or dangerous.

The Boy Scouts of America prohibits the securing, use and display of fireworks in conjunction with programs and activities except where the fireworks display is conducted under the auspices of a certified or licensed fireworks control expert. Scouts of Troop 780 are prohibited from possessing or using fireworks on any troop activity.

Fire arms will be permitted at troop meeting only if the troop program calls for such activities. Any such activities will have the approval of the Scoutmaster and the troop committee.

Fixed blade knives are not permitted in Troop 780. The guide to Safe Scouting discourages their use but, in Troop 780 they are prohibited. Scouts carrying pocket knives will have earned their totin' chit as prescribed by BSA training requirements.

Each Scout is responsible for making restitution for any damage caused by his actions or negligence. A Scout is trustworthy.

Scout drivers under 18 shall meet the Youth Member Exception clause in local and national tour permits before they act as drivers on any Scout event; including weekly meetings. **Youth member exception: When traveling to and from an area, regional, or national Boy Scout activity or any Venturing event under the leadership of an adult (at least 21 years of age) tour leader, a youth member at least 16 years of age may be a driver, subject to the following conditions:**

1. Six months' driving experience as a licensed driver (time on a learner's permit or equivalent is not to be counted)
2. No record of accidents or moving violations
3. Parental permission granted to the leader, driver, and riders

Scout passengers in vehicles to and from events will remember they are a guest of the driver/owner of the vehicle. Scouts will follow the rules set by the driver/owner, e.g., eating, drinking, seating arrangements and noise levels. Insurance regulations require that seat belts shall be worn at all times.

Fighting is not permitted and is grounds for immediate disciplinary action.

Foul language, swearing, cursing, blasphemy and abusive/suggestive gestures are not in keeping with the ideals of Scouting and will not be allowed. A Scout is Reverent, Courteous and Clean.

Troop 780 policy prohibits Scouts from bringing personal radios, televisions, compact disc or cassette players and/or electronic video games on weekend camping trips. For long trips over one hour, arrangements can be made for the use of the above equipment during travel to and from the campsite.

Chapter 8

Outdoor Activities

General

The BSA program is designed for fun in the outdoors. The troop committee in support of the Scoutmaster will make every attempt to have at least one outdoor activity per month. These activities will most often be camping trips, but on occasion might be day events. The activities planned for these events will reinforce the skills and ideals of Scouting.

Planning for camping

Camping trips and activities shall be planned for as part of the process of planning the troop's annual calendar of events. Camping trip themes/activities shall be related to the troop meeting themes and are the responsibility of the PLC.

Support for camping

BSA Requirement: Two registered adult leaders or one adult leader and a parent of a participating Scout (at least one leader must be 21 years of age) are required for all trips or events.

Troop 780 Requirement: Two registered adult leaders at least 21 years of age are required for all trips or events. Each adult **MUST** have completed training in Youth Protection.

The Scoutmaster, an assistant Scoutmaster or a Troop Committee Outings Chairman will be assigned responsibility for each camping trip and event.

Responsibilities include:

- Notifying Scouts and families, via flyer two weeks in advance of camping trip details to include approximate cost
- Filing camp/facilities request forms
- Arranging transportation
- Accounting for necessary fees (camp fees and food costs)
- Assuring adequate leadership is available
- Obtaining Permission slips

Guidelines for arranging transportation:

Automobiles

1. Seat belts are required for all occupants.
2. All drivers must have a valid driver's license that has not been suspended or revoked for any reason. If the vehicle to be used is designed to carry more than 15 persons, including the driver (more than 10 persons, including the driver, in California), the driver must have a commercial driver's license (CDL).
3. An adult leader (at least 21 years of age) must be in charge and accompany the group.
4. The driver must be currently licensed and at least 18 years of age. Youth member exception: When traveling to and from an area, regional, or national Boy Scout activity or any Venturing event under the leadership of

an adult (at least 21 years of age) tour leader, a youth member at least 16 years of age may be a driver, subject to the following conditions:

- a. Six months' driving experience as a licensed driver (time on a learner's permit or equivalent is not to be counted)
 - b. No record of accidents or moving violations
 - c. Parental permission granted to the leader, driver, and riders
5. Passenger cars or station wagons may be used for transporting passengers, but passengers should not ride on the rear deck of station wagons.
 6. Trucks may not be used for transporting passengers except in the cab.
 7. All driving, except short trips, should be done in daylight.
 8. All vehicles must be covered by automobile liability insurance with limits that meet or exceed requirements of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. It is recommended that coverage limits are at least \$50,000/\$100,000/\$50,000. Any vehicle designed to carry 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of \$100,000/\$500,000/\$100,000.
 9. Do not exceed the speed limit.
 10. Do not travel in convoy (see "Leadership Requirements for Trips and Outings," No. 2).
 - a. During transportation to and from planned Scout outings,
 - b. Meet for departure at a designated area.
 - c. Prearrange a schedule for periodic checkpoint stops as a group.
 - d. Plan a daily destination point.
 - e. A common departure site and a daily destination point are a must. If you cannot provide two adults for each vehicle, the minimum required is one adult and two or more youth members—*never one on one*.
 11. Driving time is limited to a maximum of 10 hours and must be interrupted by frequent rest, food, and recreation stops. If there is only one driver, the driving time should be reduced and stops should be made more frequently.
 12. Don't drive drowsy. Stop for rest and stretch breaks as needed. Fatigue is a major cause of highway accident fatalities.

Campers, Trailers, and Trucks

Trucks are designed and constructed to transport materials and equipment, not people. ***Under no circumstances are youth to be carried in the bed of or towed behind a pickup truck. The beds of trucks or trailers must never be used for carrying youth.*** Tour permits will not be issued for any trip that involves carrying youth in a truck except in the cab. This includes vehicles converted for that use unless they are licensed as buses and meet all requirements for buses.

Use caution in towing trailers or campers, as a vehicle's performance, steering, and braking abilities will be altered. Consider these safety tips:

1. Get the correct trailer for the car and the correct hitch for the trailer. Distribute and anchor the load.
2. Allow extra time to brake. Changing lanes while braking can jackknife the trailer.
3. Add safety equipment as dictated by common sense and state laws (mirrors, lights, safety chains, brakes for heavy trailers, etc.).
4. Park in designated areas.

Buses

A driver of a bus or any vehicle designed to carry more than 15 persons (including driver) is required to have a commercial driver's license.

Possession of a license, however, does not mean that a person is capable of driving a bus safely. It is essential that unit leaders and volunteers be thoroughly familiar with the bus they will be driving, including knowing the location of emergency exits and fire extinguishers and how to operate them. A driver must be prepared to handle and brake a full bus, which weighs significantly more than an empty bus. Other safety tips are:

1. Regular and thorough maintenance program
2. No more passengers than there are seating locations
3. Luggage and equipment fastened securely to prevent being thrown around in case of sudden stop
4. Emergency exits clear of people or things
5. Pre-trip inspection of critical systems (signals, fuel, tires, windshield wipers, horn, etc.)

Trains

Observe these safety guidelines for train travel:

1. Don't lean out of windows or doors.
2. When changing trains, don't cross railroad tracks without permission.
3. Stay out of vestibules. Keep the railroad car door closed.
4. In case of illness or accident, see a train official who can arrange for medical help.
5. On overnight trips, one leader should be on watch duty at all times.

Boats

In national parks and some other areas of the country, special boat and canoe regulations are in force, and special boat permits are required for cruising or recreation. Follow these safety precautions:

1. All tour leaders must have current training in the BSA Safety Afloat program (see Chapter II, "Aquatics Safety").

2. U.S. Coast Guard recommends and BSA regulations require that an approved USCG personal flotation device (PFD) be worn by each participant using watercraft in an aquatics activity. Types II and III are recommended for Scout activity afloat.
3. A capsized boat is never anticipated, so always be prepared. Be sure each individual wears a PFD.
4. Rowboats or canoes carrying passengers should not be towed behind motorboats or sailboats.
5. Use of canoes should be restricted to swimmers who have satisfactorily demonstrated their ability in launching, landing, and paddling a canoe and in handling a swamped canoe. Canoeists should be taught the proper procedure for staying afloat if the canoe capsizes or is swamped.
6. Small boats, whether under sail or power, used for pleasure or ferry purposes, must have a minimum capacity of 10 cubic feet per person. Boats propelled by hand power—such as rowboats—and used for pleasure purposes only must provide a minimum of 7 cubic feet per person. (Lifeboats on passenger-carrying vessels propelled by power must comply with the 10-cubic-foot law.)
7. Provision also should be made by all boats under sail or power for a sufficient quantity or supply of oars and rowlocks or paddles to be used in case of emergency. Fire-fighting equipment and lights must also be carried aboard.
8. Bilges of gasoline-powered boats should be kept free from gasoline and oil at all times. Thorough ventilation, either natural or by blower, is necessary to dispel gasoline vapor.
9. Motorized personal watercraft, such as Jet-Skis(R), are not authorized for use in Scouting activities, and their use should not be permitted in or near BSA program areas.
10. To prevent ignition by static electricity during refueling, establish complete metallic contact between the nozzle of the filling hose and the tank opening or filling pipe, and maintain contact until gasoline has ceased to flow. If a funnel is used, establish contact with the funnel and the opening in the tank. All passengers should be ashore during refueling.
11. For regulations that govern cruises by private powerboat or sailboat, refer to Motorboat Regulations, published by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Aircraft

Air travel is subject to the following rules:

1. On any flight scheduled by a commercial airline.
2. The BSA Flying Permit, (see sample in appendix), is required for all BSA flying activities except for commercial flights. The local council reviews and approves the flight permit just as it would a tour permit. The Parent/Guardian Consent Form is also required. Units should attach the signed consent forms to the BSA Flying Permit Application and keep a copy of the signed consent forms in their files.

3. Flying in hang gliders, ultralights, experimental class aircraft, and hot-air balloons (whether or not they are tethered); parachuting, and flying in aircraft as part of a search and rescue mission are unauthorized activities.
4. Airplane travelers are cautioned about what they pack in their luggage. In flight, variations in temperature and air pressure can cause some hazardous materials to leak or ignite. Included in the category of hazardous materials that should not be packed in luggage are matches or lighters; flammable liquids and gases; signal flares and other explosives; bleaches, aerosols, mercury, and solvents containing dangerous chemicals that can cause toxic fumes and corrosion.

4. Funding for outings

- a.** Scouts participating in camping trips will be responsible for the cost of the event. The troop dues do not provide sufficient funds to sponsor troop camping trips and events. The adult leader responsible for a particular camping trip will advise Scouts, with a flyer/note two weeks in advance, of any camp fees required.
- b.** Food will normally be the responsibility of the patrol. As part of the camping trip planning process each patrol will determine a camping trip menu then derive a shopping list approximately two weeks prior to the camping trip. From the shopping list the patrol will assign a member(s) to purchase food. The typical cost for a weekend camping trip is \$10.00 per scout. Scouts participating in the event will bring all moneys by the Thursday meeting just prior to the Friday/Saturday departure for the camping trip. Meals for adults who chaperone a troop event planned separately. Fees for chaperones of non troop events will be handled on a case by case basis. Adult chaperones attending summer camp will be required to pay for their own participation. The adult who pulls the troop trailer will be given a gasoline stipend.

Scouts intending to participate in a camping trip/event shall be present on the Thursday meeting prior to the camping trip with funds or they will not be allowed to participate unless he makes prior arrangements with the Scoutmaster, patrol leader and the committee member arranging transportation.

- c.** On occasion the troop will practice troop dining rather than the normal patrol method. In these cases the same procedure described in paragraph 4.b. above will be used to plan and purchase food.
- d.** Patrol leaders will prepare a duty roster for each camping trip and post it at the patrol campsite. The Patrol Leader shall maintain a patrol record on menu planning and food purchasing duties to ensure all members share in the responsibility.

e. While we realize the dynamics of family schedules, parents must understand camping with large groups of Scouts requires detailed planning to ensure enough food, water, transportation, tents, funds and adult supervision. Unannounced participants create hardships on the entire troop, who have planned the smallest details and creates disharmony. Simply put, the troop shall have a firm commitment for camping trip participation, with supporting funds, not later than the last Thursday meeting before departure on an event.

5. The troop on outings

a. Camping: Whenever possible patrols shall camp as individual units and practice the patrol method. The intent is that each patrol will have:

- A separate campsite (tent group)
- Its own cook stove
- Its own cookware
- Its own patrol flag

b. Scouts will not leave a camp site with out the permission of the Scoutmaster. The buddy system will be used on all camping trips; any Scout leaving the camp site will be accompanied by a buddy.

c. All Scouts will share in the work and duties of their individual campsites. Patrol Leaders or equivalentents will establish rotating schedules to assure that work such as cooking, cleaning, filling water jugs and gathering wood is done by all in a fair manner.

d. All members of Troop 780 will observe the outdoor code. This will include leaving the campsite better than found.

e. Cooking: Various forms of cooking will be experienced, including individual, patrol and troop. Camping trip format will be determined by the Scoutmaster and will depend on the other activities scheduled.

6. Visitors on outings

a. Adult family members are encouraged to participate in troop camping trips. Guests will pay the same camp and food fees as other members of the troop. Guests will be expected to provide their own camping equipment, i.e., tents, bedding. The troop may be able to provide some equipment but requirements shall be identified in advance and the troop's ability to respond will depend on the number of members participating in the event.

b. Prospective Boy Scouts may be invited to attend camping trips/events in accordance with BSA regulations. A Scout intending to invite a guest for a camping trip will notify the patrol leader, senior patrol leader and Scoutmaster to

insure the guest is factored in the planning for logistic support. A permission slip from the parent authorizing the guest to attend the event and a medical release form authorizing emergency treatment.

c. Non adult female guest under 18 will be permitted on overnight camping trips if they have parental permission and on-site supervision by parents of at least one of the parties. Under no circumstance will unmarried male and female campers share tents. If there are female guests, one adult leader must be a women 21 years of age or older.

Chapter 9

Equipment

General

Troop 780 operates under the old adage "Take care of your gear and your gear will take care of you." Accordingly each Scout is responsible for providing his own personal camping equipment. The troop committee's responsibility is to secure adequate communal outdoor gear. The outdoor/activities chairman shall work closely with the troop quartermaster to maintain the troop's equipment with adequate repair and storage.

Categories of equipment

Personal equipment

Includes items such as pack, sleeping bag, individual cooking and eating utensils, canteen, flashlight, foul weather gear, etc. Scouts not in possession of personal equipment, safe for the conditions of an event, shall not be allowed to participate, i.e., rain or cold weather clothing, sleeping bag suitable for the climatic conditions, etc.

Troop equipment

Generally limited to those items necessary to provide for group activities, special events and to support adult participation at camping trips; dining fly, tarpaulins, ropes, saws, camp shovels, troop trailer, etc.

Patrol equipment

The troop will provide each Patrol the major portion of available equipment to include small group items such as chef kit, large cooking pots and pans, lantern, stove, propane bottle with hose and tree, patrol box, dish pans, etc.

Control of Equipment

Personal equipment

Each Scout is responsible for the purchase and use of his own equipment. It is strongly recommended that individual equipment be labeled or etched with the Scout's name, initials and/or identifying mark to avoid disputes over ownership of similar items.

Troop equipment

The troop Quartermaster is responsible for storage and control of troop equipment. The troop equipment is issued to the patrol leader, assistant patrol leader or acting patrol leader and is returned to the troop Quartermaster in clean usable condition.

Patrol equipment

For use by members of the patrol. Each item shall be marked with the Patrol number and stored in the Patrol box or locker.

Duties and responsibilities

Committee quartermaster:

Is responsible for:

- Supervising the troop Quartermaster in the responsibilities of his duties
- Providing recommendations to the troop committee on equipment purchases
- Overseeing one major project which the troop Quartermaster must perform during his tenure
- Instructing the troop in safe use of all troop equipment and fire extinguishers.

Troop quartermaster

Is responsible for:

- Troop equipment, under the guidance of the committee quartermaster

- Ensuring that an accurate inventory of troop equipment is maintained and that equipment is stored in a clean, neat and orderly manner
- Issuing equipment for use by individuals or patrols
- Ensuring that equipment is returned in a clean and serviceable condition
- Making recommendations concerning equipment and its use to committee quartermaster

The patrol leader or assistant patrol leader will check out and return troop equipment used by the patrol and will assure that it is returned in a clean and useable condition.

Safety considerations with equipment

Chemical stoves and lanterns:

The troop will furnish compressed gas (propane) stoves and lanterns for all camping trips. These items will be operated under the supervision of knowledgeable adults and in accordance with the Guide to Safe Scouting and the regulations of the camping trip facilities. A troop fire extinguisher shall be maintained in the immediate area of all propane equipment.

Liquid or propane fueled heaters are prohibited at troop camping functions.

Lanterns and/or stoves shall not be operated inside tents under any circumstances.

Patrol leaders, under the supervision of their assistant Scoutmaster, will hold patrol inspections for all Scouts of their patrol, attending an event, prior to departing the meeting place. Concerns with serviceability of a Scout's personal gear will be brought to the attention of the Scoutmaster. Scouts not in possession of personal equipment suitable for the conditions of the event will not be allowed to participate, i.e., rain or cold weather clothing, sleeping bag suitable for weather conditions.

All axes, saws and hatchets shall be kept in an approved sheath when not in use. The troop quartermaster will ensure that only equipment which has the required safety sheath is issued.

Personal sheath knives are not authorized at any troop activity.

Damage to equipment

Willful damage to property is a violation of the Scout Law. "A Scout is trustworthy." Any Scout willfully damaging troop, patrol or personal equipment

will be subject to committee disciplinary action and afforded the opportunity to replace damaged equipment.

Accidental damage to equipment will be investigated by the troop Quartermaster under the supervision of the Adult Quartermaster. If determined the accident was a result of negligence the negligent party shall be afforded an opportunity to replace the damaged equipment.

Gear damaged or worn through normal wear and tear will be replaced by the troop as recommended by the Adult Quartermaster.

Gear needs for new Scouts

A new Scout shall have a Boy Scout Handbook by his second meeting. The Scout should bring the handbook to all Scouting functions unless told otherwise by the Scoutmaster.

Uniform requirements as covered under Chapter 1. Due to the high cost of uniform items the purchase of uniforms may be spread out over several weeks. The shirt with the proper identification symbols should be the first priority.

Due to the cost of equipment the purchase should be restricted to essential items until you confirm the level of your Scouts interest in outdoor camping. The following personal equipment items will be required at some time during a Scout's career. Discuss equipment purchases with the Scoutmaster and Scout before you make expensive purchases.

- Sleeping bag rated to 20 degrees Fahrenheit or lower
- Mess kit to include plate, cup, spoon, fork and knife
- Canteen
- Backpack, frame type is suggested
- Flashlight with fresh batteries
- Toilet kit with personal hygiene items to include toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, soap, bath towel, wash cloth, deodorant, etc.
- Emergency toilet paper
- Sweater/jacket/sweatshirt in fall, winter and spring
- Poncho or rain coat
- Change of socks, underwear and outer wear
- Personal first aid kit as described in the Scout Handbook

It is Troop 780 policy that at each boy will sleep in their own tent in patrols in close proximity of other patrol members. This fills safety requirements and promotes working together as a patrol. Patrol leaders shall make tent assignments. The patrol leader will adhere to the desires of his patrol for tenting

arrangements as much as possible. Scouts will NOT be allowed to sleep alone on the first two campouts they attend or more at the discretion of the Scoutmaster.

Adults desiring to accompany the troop on a camping trip must provide their own tent and sleeping gear, or make prior arrangements with the Scoutmaster.

Later gear needs: As your Scout gets into scouting activities he will have some additional equipment needs. An active troop will do at least 10 days and nights of camping each year we in troop 780 do 30 nights a year minimum. Eventually he could use hiking boots, pocketknife, rain/foul weather clothing, etc., Use your own good judgment. Only you know what you can afford. If you are planning to purchase camping equipment check with our leaders first. They have a good idea of the best type of equipment our troop uses.

Chapter 10

Fundraising

General

Fundraising activities are made available to the scouts to earn funds to finance their scouting events. Unless otherwise specified, profits are divided in this manner: 75 percent goes to the participating scout's revolving account and 25 percent goes towards the troop account. A scout may continue to add to his revolving account for as long as he continues to be an active, registered scout, in Troop 780. When he is no longer deemed an active, registered scout, and with prior communication of termination, the remaining funds in his revolving account will be transferred to the troop account.

Pro-Rated Fundraising:

At any time a fundraiser is undertaken by the troop and calls for volunteer time from the scouts, the troop profits will be pro-rated based on time put in by the scouts. It is the scout's responsibility to sign up to volunteer and to sign-in/sign-out during the fund raising event. A parent's time in this event does not count towards the scout's account.

Spirit and Participation:

In the spirit of scouting, a scout and his family are encouraged to participate in these service projects as much as possible. It shows community involvement and brings pride in the troop and the Boy Scouts of America program.

Troop 780 By-Law Consent Form

Parents,

A lot of time and effort has gone into establishing Troop 780 into the strong foundation it is today. In 2004, we were sitting with 1 Boy Scout and 5 Webelos in the troop and pack. In 2007 we have 24 active Boy Scouts and close to 50 Cubs in the pack.

In order to set our path on the right course, we have written this set of By-Laws into place. This is intended to cover all aspects of our troop and how we function. We are now to the size where we need to adopt procedures so that we all know what is expected and when.

This is a lengthy document, but you need to sit down with your scout and go over what is in it. Some may or may not be relevant to him. After you have gone over this with him, please sign below as indicated and return to me. This will be kept in his file.

Thank you,

YIB/YIS
John W. McNamara
Scoutmaster , Troop 780

Parent's Signature

Date

Scout's Signature

Date