

New Parents Guide



Troop 312
Irmo, SC

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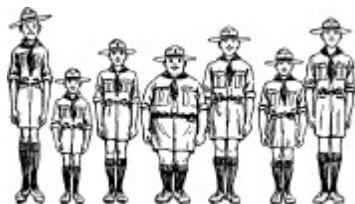
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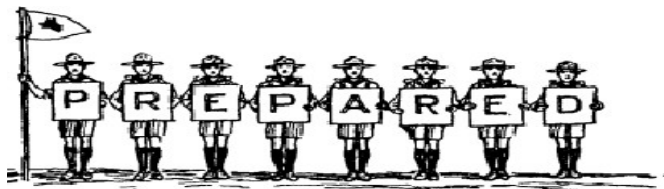
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THE AIMS AND METHODS OF SCOUTING

If you ask a Scout the purpose of Scouting, he's likely to mention things like camping, earning badges, or poking sticks in a fire. Ask a Scout leader, however, and you'll hear answers like character building, citizenship training, and fitness development.

You see, while camping and badges and other fun activities are the big part of Scouting, they're not the purpose of Scouting. Instead, they're methods we use to get boys in and keep them in long enough that we can teach them about character, citizenship, and fitness.



In fact, the mission statement of the Boy Scouts of America doesn't even mention camping. The BSA's mission is to "achieve excellence in fostering the character development, worldwide citizenship, and the moral, mental, and physical fitness of young people, and in other ways prepare them to make ethical choices by instilling the values found in the Scout Oath and Law."

The methods we use to achieve those aims are ideals, patrols, outdoors, advancement, personal growth, adult association, leadership development, and the uniform.

Below is a quick summary of each. Several methods are discussed in more detail later in this parents' guide.

Ideals: The Scout Oath and Scout Law, which boys memorize and try to live by.

Patrols: The troop is divided into small, semi-autonomous groups called patrols, which elect their own leaders.

Outdoors: The camping program that brings most boys to Scouting in the first place.

Advancement: The badges Scouts can earn as they progress in Scouting.

Personal Growth: The opportunity Scouts have to grow physically, mentally, and morally in the program.

Adult Association: The presence of adults of good character to serve as role models.

Leadership Development: The many ways boys can learn and exercise leadership in what is essentially a boy-run program.

The Uniform: A unique tool that both brings the troop together (since everyone dresses alike) and lets Scouts show off their individual accomplishments (through rank badges and other patches).



Why We Do What We Do

Why We Do What We Do

GENERAL TROOP INFORMATION

Meeting Time and Location: Troop 312 meets each Tuesday from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Fields Building at St. Simon and St. Jude Episcopal Church (1110 Kinley Rd, Irmo). Exceptions include when there is a conflict with events scheduled by the church or for special events.

Patrol Leaders Council: As a "Boy Led Troop" the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC-the troop's junior leadership group) is the key to the success of the troop. The PLC meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at St. Simon & St. Jude Episcopal Church. The PLC also holds an annual planning conference in August to plan the upcoming year's events.

Troop Committee: The Troop Committee (the "board of directors" of the troop) meets at St. Simon & St. Jude Episcopal Church on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Troop Calendar: A troop calendar is published annually (usually in August). Each calendar includes all scheduled meetings and activities for the next 12-15 months. This calendar is updated periodically if necessary.

Troop E-mail: E-mail has become the predominant method for notifications and reminders about upcoming events. Please provide e-mail addresses (parent and scout if possible) to the Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader.

Troop Phone Tree: Telephone calls are used periodically to ensure that all scouts receive correct information. The Senior Patrol Leader contacts the Patrol Leader (or assistant) who then contacts his patrol members. Then the Patrol Leader reports back to the Senior Patrol Leader with a report of who was contacted and the results of the contact. Please be sure that the Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader have the correct phone numbers.

Troop Newsletter: (Under development)

Troop Web Site: <http://www.bsatroop312.com/> Includes general information about the troop, a photo gallery, and the troop calendar.

Troop Sponsorship: Troop 312 is chartered to St. Simon & St. Jude Episcopal Church and is considered part of the church's ministry and its outreach to the community. Church membership is neither required nor expected for participation in the troop. However, if you are interested in more information about the church and its programs, feel free to talk to one of the troop leaders. We're fortunate to have an excellent relationship with the church, and we celebrate that relationship by participating in the Scout Sunday worship service on the second Sunday in February each year. In addition to Troop 312, the church also sponsors Venture Crew 312.



What We Do
What We Do

THE OUTDOOR PROGRAM

There's an old saying that you can't take the "outing" out of "Scouting." After all, camping is why most boys join Scouting---and it's the reason that they stay involved. It's on campouts that boys learn not only Scouting skills like cooking, hiking, and orienteering, but also life skills like teamwork, self-reliance, and leadership.

In Troop 312, we maintain an active and varied outdoor program. We hold a campout or related activity every month and participate in summer camp each July. The schedule is announced every August after our Patrol Leaders Council's planning conference.

Below is an overview of our outdoor program:

Monthly Campouts

Our monthly campouts generally begin on Friday afternoons at 5:30 p.m. and end on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. The program can involve everything from backpacking and hiking to canoeing. The cost of each trip depends on the activity involved, we usually try to limit the amount of out of pocket expenses for the Scouts. It's very important that the Scouts sign up for a campout at the troop meeting one week before the trip is scheduled so that we can determine how many drivers we'll need.

On most campouts, each of the patrols camp together as a group. The patrol is responsible for developing its own menu (at least a week before the campout) and doing its own shopping. Expenses are divided between the patrol members attending the campout. (For much more information on this important subject, read "A Parent's Guide to Scout Grocery Shopping.")

Summer Camp

Each year, usually during the second or third week of July, we spend a week at a Boy Scouts of America summer camp. At summer camp, new Scouts can work on their basic ranks and Scout Skills, intermediate-level Scouts can earn merit badges (many of which are tough to get at home), and older Scouts can participate in high-adventure activities like rappelling and rock climbing, backpacking, and white water rafting.

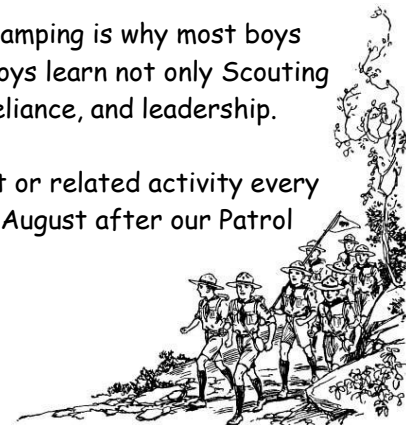
High Adventure

Periodically, in addition to attending summer camp, we plan a high-adventure trip for older Scouts, usually to one of the Boy Scouts of America's three high-adventure bases. We have had groups spend two weeks at the Florida Sea Base in the Florida Keys. There they were the crew on a clipper sail boat and had opportunities to snorkel and scuba dive. Likewise, we have had several crew go to Philmont Scout Ranch in northern New Mexico. There they did some intensive backpacking for 10 days on the trail.

Patrol Activities

On a slightly smaller scale, we strongly encourage individual patrols to plan their own outings. Given our size and the wide range of ages we serve, it's impossible to make every outing fit everyone's needs and interests. Patrols, however, can plan activities that exactly match what their members are looking for.

Just keep in mind that the same rules apply for patrol campouts as they do for all other outings, including having a minimum of two adult leaders, one of whom is registered.



What We Do

What We Do

ADVANCEMENT

In sports, progress is judged by your team's win-loss record. In school, it's grades and GPAs. In Scouting, a Scout's progress is measured through the advancement program. The badges he wears on his uniform and merit badge sash are the external signs of his internal growth and development.

The Scout advancement program includes three types of badges: ranks, merit badges, and special awards. Let's take a look at each type.

Ranks

Ranks are the heart of the advancement program. New members earn the Scout badge by completing basic joining requirements. They then work through the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle.

Ranks are divided into two groups. The first three ranks (Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class) focus on basic Scouting skills, and every Scout must complete the same requirements. New Scouts---especially those who join as part of a graduating Webelos den---are placed in a special "new-Scout" patrol and work on many of the requirements as a group. The first-year camper program at summer camp also covers many of these basic requirements. (This program at summer camp gives these Scouts a big boost toward completing their First Class within their first year in Scouting.)



The higher ranks---Star, Life and Eagle---look completely different. Each requires the Scout to be active in the troop and patrol for a certain period of time, earn a specified number of merit badges, complete a service project, and serve as a patrol or troop leader. Within each of these requirements, though, the Scout gets to make many choices---which merit badges to earn, which troop job to hold---so each Scout's path to Eagle will be different.

Earning a rank is a three-step process. First, an adult leader must sign off on each requirement. (Unlike in Cub Scouting, parents are asked not to sign off advancement.) Second, the Scout meets with the Scoutmaster for a Scoutmaster conference, where they discuss his progress, future plans, and other topics. Finally, the Scout goes before a board of review, which judges whether he is ready for the new rank. Boards of review for all ranks except Eagle involve adults from the troop. Eagle Boards of Review are handled at the District level and involve prominent citizens from the community.

Merit Badges

Merit badges are awards that Scouts can earn for learning about a specific subject---a Scouting skills like camping or swimming, a hobby like stamp collecting or music, or a career field like engineering or entrepreneurship. Merit badges let Scouts "get credit" for some things they already do and let them explore things they've never tried before. Countless Americans---including Stephen Spielberg---have discovered careers or lifelong hobbies as a result of the merit badge program.

A minimum of 21 merit badges are required for Eagle, some of which are required and some of which are electives. Those required for Eagle have a silver border; the others have a green border. You can find a complete list of the merit badges in the *Boy Scout Handbook*. For merit badge requirements, see *Boy Scout Requirements*.



What We Do

What We Do

Advancement, continued

To earn a merit badge, a Scout works with a merit badge counselor, who is an individual with special knowledge of the subject. The Troop maintains a list of active counselors, and we can usually find additional counselors as needed. (This is a great role for parents to play in the troop.) Before meeting with the counselor, the Scout must get a signed merit-badge application from the Scoutmaster.

Special Awards

There are also a whole host of other awards Scouts can earn. These awards are unrelated to the rank program, but are still important. Here are some highlights:

- Virtually every religion and Christian denomination has a series of religious awards for Scouts; they're often referred to as God and Country awards, although that term really just applies to the Protestant awards. To many people, the religious awards are as significant as the Eagle Scout award.
- Scouts who bring a friend into Scouting receive a Recruiter patch.
- Aquatics awards include BSA Lifeguard, Mile Swim BSA, and Snorkeling BSA. These are usually earned at summer camp.
- The World Conservation Award recognizes Scouts who've earned certain conservation merit badges.
- The 50 Miler Award can be earned by Scouts who complete a backpacking or canoe trek of at least 50 miles in length and 5 days in duration.
- Lifesaving and meritorious awards honor Scouts for outstanding and unusual acts of heroism, skill, or bravery.

Procedures for earning special awards vary considerably. For more information, see *Boy Scout Requirements*.

Courts of Honor

Advancements are presented as soon as they're earned. Once a quarter in lieu of a regular meeting, we hold a ceremony called a Court of Honor to formally recognize Scouts who have advanced. (Eagle Scouts are recognized at a special Eagle Court of Honor.) Parents and other family members are strongly encouraged to attend all courts of honor. For rank advancement, parents are asked to come forward for the recognition and mothers receive a pin to wear proudly. A troop/family covered dish dinner is held at 6:00 pm in conjunction with the Court of Honor.



What We Do

What We Do

SERVICE PROJECTS

The Boy Scout slogan is "Do a Good Turn Daily." And while doing those Good Turns is an individual responsibility, Troop 312 also gives members several opportunities to work on service projects.



Each February, we participate in the Scouting for Food drive to collect canned goods for local area food banks. Other service projects also come up from time to time.

Doing service projects of one to six hours duration is required for the Second Class, Star, and Life ranks. These projects should be approved before starting. Any troop leader can give your son ideas for projects.

In addition, Eagle Scout candidates must complete a major community service project. They must plan, carry out, and show leadership in a project to benefit a school, a religious institution, or the community at large. (The project can't benefit Scouting, however.) Other Scouts are asked to participate in Eagle projects and get service hours for doing so.

THE PATROL METHOD

Like all troops, Troop 312 is subdivided into smaller groups called patrols. A patrol is a group of 6-10 boys who work together at meetings, camp and cook together on outings, and compete together in games and contests.

Brand-new Scouts join a special new Scout patrol, where adult leaders help them get up to speed on basic Scouting skills and advancement requirements. Our goal is to help each new scout earn the rank of Tenderfoot before they attend summer camp. They will remain the new Scout patrol until August when they will join another patrol. The New Scout Coordinator will continue to assist them with their advancements during their first year in the troop.

Patrols elect their own leaders and choose their own patrol name. They will design and make their own patrol flag and develop a patrol yell or cheer.



While most of our activities are conducted at the troop level, we encourage patrols to plan their own activities as well. They could work on a merit badge together, for example, or go on a campout that the rest of the troop isn't interested in.



What We Do

What We Do

ALL ABOUT MONEY

Like everything else in life, Scouting costs money. Here are some of the costs you can expect to pay.

Registration Fees, Dues, Etc.: Troop 312 has dues of \$10.00 per month (\$120/Year). Scouts transferring into the troop pay a \$1 fee. New Scouts pay a registration fee of **\$75** (which includes chartering with the district).

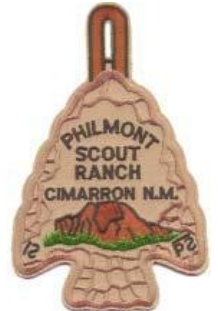
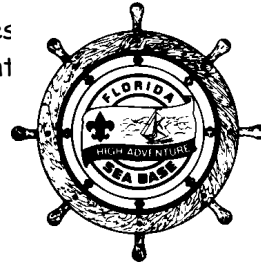
Campouts: Troop 312 does not usually charge for going on the campouts, it will depend on the activities selected by the Scouts. The food for the campouts is split up among the members of their patrols. Adults are done likewise.

Summer Camp: Next year the cost of attending Summer Camp at Camp Rainy Mountain will be approximately **\$360**. We will be going to camp the week of **July 9 - 16, 2022**. We have the following deposit schedule to make it easier for the parents:

January	\$120.00
March	\$120.00
May	\$120.00

At Camp Rainy Mountain, there are two High Adventure programs that the older Scouts can participate in. There is an **additional \$30-\$40** fee. The High Adventure program fee will be due by May 18th.

High Adventure: Periodically, the older Scouts have the opportunities to participate in some High Adventure Activities. Our troop has sent groups to "Sea Base" located in the Florida Keys. There they crew a sail boat and snorkel and scuba dive. We usually have crews go to "Philmont Boy Scout Ranch" in Cimarron, NM for an intensive backpacking trip. The costs of these types of experiences can range from \$800 to \$1,200 per Scout.



Uniforms, Books, and Equipment: See "Stuff Your Scout Needs" on page 10.

Where does all this money come from? Ideally, a Scout should pay his own way in Scouting. Paying his own way teaches him self-reliance, thrift ("A Scout is thrifty"), and respect for his possessions. After all, a Scout who bought his sleeping bag with his own money will take much better care of it than one who didn't.



How We Do What We Do

How We Do What We Do

Of course, most of our Scouts don't have jobs or bank accounts, so paying for Scouting often falls back on the parents. But there are still ways that boys can pay for their Scouting experience. All it takes is a little creative thinking. Here are a few ideas:

- Sell BSA Popcorn and BSA Spring-to-Camp Tickets each year (See "Fundraising" below)
- Set aside some allowance money or cash gifts from birthdays or Christmas.
- Do extra chores for money.
- Mow and/or clean yards in the neighborhood.
- Ask for Scout equipment at Christmas and birthdays.
- Baby sit for siblings or neighbors.
- Fund Raisers



Can a 13-year-old really raise significant money? Yes! Every time we take a high-adventure trip (each of which costs \$800 or more per person), we have several Scouts who pay their own way---and are much richer for the experience. Patrols or high-adventure groups may do car washes, garage sales, or other events to raise money.

A final point about money is critical here: Money should *never* be a barrier to participation in Scouting. If you need help paying for a Scout activity, just speak privately with the Scoutmaster or Patrol Advisor. We'll confidentially make arrangements to let your son participate.

FUNDRAISING

In Troop 312, we're fortunate because we don't have to spend a lot of time raising money. Instead, we rely primarily on several lucrative fundraisers that take care of most of our annual needs.

Popcorn Sales

Every fall (October) we have our largest and most important fundraiser selling popcorn. The Scouts can operate a "show-n-sell" booth in front of a store, but most take orders up through the end of October, then we deliver the orders in December. This gives the Scouts opportunities to experience some business skills—selling, taking orders, and delivery of the product. This is also an opportunity for the Scout to earn funds for his Scout Account to help offset the cost of his Scouting experiences. So please encourage your Scout to do his best.

Spring-to-Camp Ticket Sales

Every spring (March) we have our second fundraiser with the selling of Spring-to-Camp tickets. These are coupon ticket from local businesses that sell for \$1 each. This is spring fundraiser for the council. Like the popcorn sales we split the profit with the Scout based upon the number of tickets sold.

Scout Accounts

Each Scout is responsible for their account maintained by the troop Treasurer. They pay their dues to the Treasurer, as well as any deposits for upcoming events (Summer Camp, High Adventure, Ski Trips). The Scout's share of the profit from the fundraisers can be applied to his own account to help offset the expenses of his Scouting experiences. Scouts must insure that the Treasurer applies credit to the proper account.



How We Do What We Do

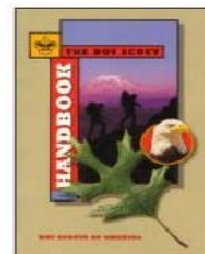
How We Do What We Do

STUFF YOUR SCOUT NEEDS

Scouting can be an expensive proposition, but it doesn't have to be. Many of the things a Scout needs can be picked up over time---and Scout equipment is great for Christmas and birthday gifts. Here's a rundown of the stuff your Scout will eventually need:

Boy Scout Handbook

The *Boy Scout Handbook* (provided by the troop) is the one essential tool of Scouting and will be presented to each new-Scout at the crossover ceremony. It covers all the skills a Scout needs to know (camping, knot-tying, first aid, etc.) and also includes some great advice about life in general. The 12th edition, which appeared in the fall of 1998, includes advice on appropriate use of television and the Internet, sexual responsibility, reading, making friends, and child abuse prevention. Scout's advancement is recorded in their handbooks, and they should bring their handbooks to every troop meeting.



Uniform

The Scout uniform (\$60+) is the wardrobe of Scouting. It marks a boy as a Scout and serves as a wearable scrapbook of his achievements. We strongly encourage every Scout to have a full uniform, as listed here:

Uniform Parts

- Scout Shirt (with red/olive shoulder loops)
- Scout trousers and/or shorts
- Scout belt
- Scout socks (worn with shorts also)
- Troop T-shirt (purchased from the troop, \$10)

Patches

- Indian Waters Council strip
- 312 numerals
- World Crest (purple patch)
- Patrol emblem (troop furnished)
- Quality Unit (troop furnished)



Note that you can choose between shorts and trousers and between short-sleeve and long-sleeve shirts. Most people start off with a short-sleeve shirt and trousers and/or shorts later on. Long-sleeve shirts are relatively uncommon in our climate.

Eventually, your Scout will need a merit badge sash as well, but not until he starts earning merit badges, probably at his first summer camp. Merit badge sashes come in two sizes (regular and long), so be sure to get one that fits.

Scouts should wear their uniforms to all troop meetings and courts of honor and to summer camp and on designated campouts. During the summer, we often go to "Class B" uniforms, substituting a Scout T-shirt for the uniform shirt. (Don't worry; your son will quickly amass a closet full of Scout T-shirts.)

Uniforms can become quite expensive, especially for fast-growing boys, so we maintain a closet of "experienced uniforms" that are yours for \$5 per piece. (In return, we ask that you donate your son's outgrown uniforms.) Other good sources for uniforms include thrift stores and consignment shops.

A word on patches: The inside front and back covers of the *Boy Scout Handbook* includes placement guides for the most common patches and pins. If you have questions, feel free to ask. Patches must be placed properly before seeking a Board of Review.



How We Do What We Do

How We Do What We Do

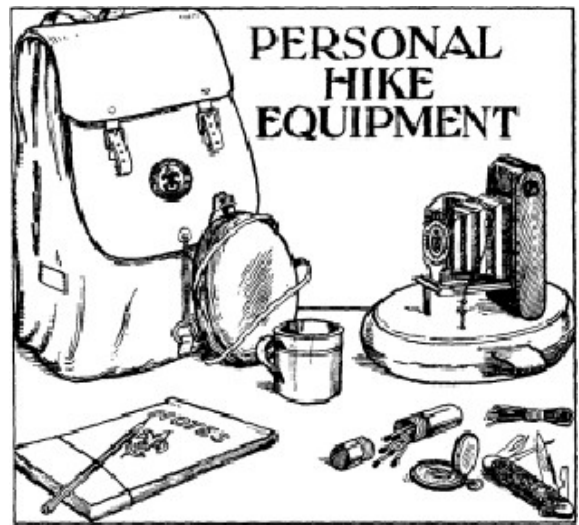
STUFF YOUR SCOUT NEEDS, continued

Camping Equipment

Your son will need some basic camping equipment, including a flashlight, pocketknife (after earning his Totin' chip), eating gear, toiletry articles, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, backpack (do not purchase one to start out with, the troop has plenty of packs available for the new Scouts to use), etc. If he has a tent, that's great, but he can also share with a buddy or use a troop tent. The *Boy Scout Handbook* includes checklist of things he might need.

Before you buy any equipment, however, we recommend that your son talk with one of the troop leaders. We can give him advice on what he needs and what qualities to look for in the gear he buys.

Finally, make sure to mark EVERYTHING with your son's name and troop number. It's amazing how similar handbooks, uniform shirts, cooking gear, and etc. can look.



Other Stuff

The Scout Shop and the Scout catalog are full of other things you can buy. Another useful tool to consider is this web site www.meritbadge.com. This web site lists the current requirements for every rank, every merit badge, and most special awards. You can also buy pamphlets that cover each merit badge subject (\$2.90), but the troop library already has many of these available.

Once you've registered, you'll start receiving the Scout catalog in the mail, and you can order supplies by calling 800-323-0732 or visit their web site at www.scoutstuff.org. Locally, the best place to shop is at the Scout Shop, which is located at 715 Betsy Dr. off the frontage road near Embassy Suites Hotel. Call 750-9868 for hours and other information or log on to their web site at www.iwc-bsa.com.



How We Do What We Do

How We Do What We Do

ADULT LEADERSHIP

Troop 312 functions because of the hard work of many people, most of whom have boys in the troop but others of whom just have a love for Scouting.

The most visible leaders are the Scoutmaster and his assistant Scoutmasters. These individuals work with the troop on a weekly basis and participate in weekend outings. Specific responsibilities include coaching junior leaders, assisting with advancement, coordinating activities, maintaining troop equipment, and handling other aspects of troop operations.



The other group that runs the troop is the Troop Committee. This "board of directors" meets monthly to set and review troop policies, to make judgments on policy issues, and to advise the Scoutmaster. They include a committee chairperson, advancement chair, secretary, treasurer, outdoor/activities chair, fundraising chair, quartermaster/equipment coordinator, chaplain, and training chair. *For an Organizational Chart depicting the BSA/Adult Troop Organization refer to Addendum.*

Three points are essential relative to adult leadership: 1) there's no such thing as "enough" volunteers; 2) there's a job for everyone in Scouting; 3) most jobs in Scouting don't require extensive, on-going commitments. While we'd certainly welcome people to sign up as assistant Scoutmasters, we also need people to join the troop committee, to haul boys to campouts, to make phone calls, to assist with covered dish dinners, or help with a service project. Oh yes, there's a fourth essential point: All leadership positions are open to both males and females alike. Merit badge counselors are needed if you have special knowledge or training in specific areas.

Our goal is to have every parent involved in some aspect of the troop. If you need help finding your niche, give the Scoutmaster a call!

Some parents---especially those who are also active in sports, PTA, Sunday school, etc. ---express concerns that their sons don't want them around at Scout activities because they're "always" around. Others worry that their sons will hang on them and not develop self-reliance in Scouting. These are both valid concerns, and there's no doubt that a boy's Scouting experience will be different if his parent is involved---not necessarily better or worse, just different. However, given the wide range of jobs available, we can easily find you something to do that won't involve too much direct contact with your son.

Moreover, Troop 312 has an informal rule that adults who happen to be parents don't discipline kids who happen to be their sons; they leave that to another leader. This policy keeps family issues at home and helps ensure that all Scouts get equal treatment.

Adult leaders working directly with kids must agree to be BSA Trained (there are NO one-on-one meetings unless it involves an injury where only a single adult can be spared or emergency situation...to protect the boy and the adult). Sometimes meetings/conferences are held, but the door is always open.



Who Does What We Do

Who Does What We Do

WHY AM I A LEADER?

(Author Unknown)

I'm not a Scout Leader for the easy hours, high pay, parents' gratitude, power or prestige.

I'm a Leader because I want the world for your son or daughter or mine.

A world they can share and help shape: a world of love and laughter where they can show compassion.

I want to help them learn to finish anything they start and do it well and to guide them to know their self-worth with a deeper understanding of themselves.

I want to help shape men and women who have strength of character and are sensitive to the needs of others.

I want them to be the best they can be - whether as career people or tradesmen, young adults who are the hearts of the family.

In giving my time and myself I reap rewards far beyond what I give. I receive a better world for my children and future generations.

I'm a Scout Leader because I care.



Why We Do What We Do

Why We Do What We Do

YOUR JOB AS A PARENT

As a Scout parent, you have an important role to play in Scouting---even if you never sign up as a leader. By supporting your son, by encouraging him to participate in troop activities and advance in rank, and by attending courts of honor and other special events, you show him that his involvement in Scouting is important to you. And what's important to you will probably be important to him---at least till the teenage years!

By parents, incidentally, we mean not just biological parents but also stepparents, adoptive parents, legal guardians, grandparents, etc. As the *Boy Scout Handbook* says (p.371), a family is made up of people who "care for each other and want to share their lives with you."

Here are some general responsibilities you should take on:

- Provide transportation to troop meetings and activities.
- Provide a uniform and basic Scout equipment.
- Participate in fundraisers to help your son raise money for his Scout activities.
- Attend courts of honor, parent nights, and other family activities.
- Encourage your son to advance in Scouting and help him prepare for badge sessions and boards of review.
- Share with the adult leaders any important information about your son that could affect his participation (medical problems, school problems, etc.).
- Work through the exercises in "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse" in the front of the *Boy Scout Handbook*---this should happen soon after joining.
- Remind him to clean, dry out his camping gear before properly storing his equipment for the next campout.
- Encourage him to honor his commitments to the activities of troop and his patrol.



merit

Here are some things you really shouldn't do:

- Sign off on advancement requirements (although you will sometimes be asked to send documentation about things your son has done).
- Pay for everything he does in Scouting. Troop 312 offers several fundraising opportunities that let Scouts pay their own way, which is a valuable life lesson.
- Pack his gear for him, waterproof his boots for him, hang his tent out to dry after a campout, etc.

A word about freedom of choice might be appropriate here. Oftentimes, parents say they'll let their son "do" Scouting (or Sunday/Sabbath school or confirmation class or some other noble activity) IF HE WANTS TO, but that they won't force him to participate. When a boy is 11, 12, or 13, however, he still needs his parents to guide his decisions, not to abdicate their responsibility. While we'd never want a parent to force a boy to participate in Scouting, we'd also never want a parent to leave the choice completely up to him.



Who Does What We Do

Who Does What We Do

JUNIOR LEADERS

Despite the involvement of many adults, the leadership of Troop 312, like all troops, rest with the Scouts themselves. Ideally, adults are in the background, coaching and training the junior leaders and helping them develop leadership skills.

Leadership development is one of the methods of Boy Scouting, and it's one of the features that really separates Scouting from other programs. No other youth program places as much responsibility on members to lead themselves.

Training is available for junior leaders, ranging from a quick orientation when they first take office to a weekend-long training program at a junior leader campout. Often, however, the best training is on-the-job training, which usually means letting junior leaders make mistakes and learn from their mistakes. For that reason, the troop will never run as smoothly as it (theoretically) would if adults were in charge. The good news is that the junior leaders will learn infinitely more by doing than they ever would by watching.

The following leadership positions are determined in semi-annual elections (January and July):

- **Senior Patrol Leader:** The top junior leader, the SPL runs meetings and campouts and chairs the monthly Patrol Leaders Council meetings. He's an older Scout, usually Star rank or above.
- **Patrol Leader:** Each patrol elects its own leader, usually a First Class Scout or better. The patrol leader is responsible for keeping his Scouts informed of troop events, coordinating patrol participation in meetings and campouts, and ensuring that all members are active and advancing.
- **Assistant Patrol Leader:** The APL supports and assists the patrol leader.
(Note: The new-Scout patrol has more frequent elections, often once a month.)

In addition, the Senior Patrol Leader appoints junior leaders to certain positions, also for six-month terms:

- **Assistant Senior Patrol Leader:** We have two or more, and they fill in for the SPL when he's absent as well as handling specifically assigned duties.
- **Quartermaster:** Responsible for the troop equipment.
- **Scribe:** Responsible for record-keeping.
- **Historian:** Responsible for maintaining troop history.
- **Librarian:** Responsible for the troop's library of merit-badge pamphlets and other books.
- **Instructor:** Responsible for teaching basic Scouting skills.
- **Troop Guide:** Responsible for working with the new-Scout patrol.
- **Chaplain's Aide:** Responsible for planning worship services on campouts.
- **Den Chief:** Responsible for working with a Cub Scout or Webelos Scout den affiliated with the troop.
- **Bugler:** Responsible for playing bugle calls on campouts.



Who Does What We Do

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A PARENT'S GUIDE TO SCOUT GROCERY SHOPPING

So you've drawn the short straw and will be taking your son to buy groceries for his patrol's next campout. Keep these simple guidelines in mind as you walk aisles at your local grocery store.

1. Let your Scout do the shopping. While it's okay to give him a ride to the store (and a little free advice), he needs to choose the food and make the decisions.
2. Follow the patrol's plan. At least eight days before the campout, the patrol is supposed to develop a menu and shopping list for your son to use. The "Troop 312 Menu Planner," is available in the Scout office at the church, can help facilitate the planning process.
3. Make sure you know how many people to shop for. Again, eight days before the campout, the patrol should have a firm head count.
4. Shop early. Part of the logic behind the eight-days-out policy is that it gives you a weekend and several weeknights on which to shop. You shouldn't have to shop the day of the campout.
5. Plan to spend between \$8 and \$12 per Scout for a weekend campout. That includes a Friday cracker barrel, three meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. For longer or shorter trips, adjust accordingly.
6. Don't overbuy items like milk, fruit, and vegetables. While we want our Scouts to eat right---and we strongly encourage them to plan balanced menus---the fact is that we end up throwing away a lot of healthy stuff on Sunday.
7. Don't buy things we already have. Your son should check supplies with his patrol before going shopping; we usually have items left over from previous campouts that can be reused.
8. Control Costs. You can do this by purchasing store brands, avoiding individually-packaged items, and picking raw ingredients over prepared foods.
9. If your son is responsible for purchasing the food for a campout and cannot attend for whatever reason. He is still responsible for the purchase of the food and delivery of the food for the campout.
10. Your son will need to bring the receipts when he brings the food for the campout, so he can calculate the cost per Scout (rounded up to the nearest dollar) for reimbursement.
11. Don't worry. Since the Boy Scouts of America was founded in 1910, there have been *absolutely no* recorded cases of Scouts starving to death on a weekend campout.



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