

PURPOSE OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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

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

HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The Boy Scouts of America is a national organization founded in 1910 to provide an educational program for boys and young adults. The BSA National Council develops programs, as well as sets standards in training, leadership selection, uniform requirements, registration records, literature development, and advancement requirements. They also publish Boys' Life and Scouting magazines. The National Council maintains high-adventure bases for use by Scouts (Philmont Ranch, Florida SeaBase, The Summit Bechtel Reserve and Northern Tier/Boundary Water Recreation Area).

The United States is divided into more than 300 local councils. Each council administers the Scouting program within its geographic boundaries. Their responsibilities include granting charters to community organizations, promoting the Scouting program, registration of units and council personnel, providing facilities and leadership for a year-round outdoor program (including a summer camp), and offering training in a timely manner. The Philadelphia area is called the Cradle of Liberty Council. It has two Scout Reservation Centers (Headquarters) where BSA items can be purchased. It has three Scout Reservations (Camps) that Troop 81 has access to when desired. The council's website (www.colbsa.org) is a very useful source of information. The council is led by volunteers, and administration is performed by a staff of professional Scouters. The Council President is the top volunteer; the Scout Executive is the top professional.

The council divides itself into districts, whose task is to mobilize resources to ensure the growth and success of scouting units within the district's territory. Each district has a

district committee composed of volunteers who, through subcommittees, train adult volunteers, provide district programs for troops, and assist in the formation of new troops. The Scouting professional who provides district service is the District Executive. Troop 81 is part of the Washington District.

The troop is “owned” by a chartered organization, which receives a national charter yearly to use the Scouting program as part of its youth work. The chartered organization provides a meeting place, selects a Scoutmaster, appoints a troop committee, and chooses a chartered organization representative. Troop 81’s charter is held by Lehman United Methodist Church. Troop 81 was chartered in 1949, and has a long history of service to the community through its program.

The troop, as expected, is organized much the same way as the council and district. It has a Troop Committee, which oversees the recruitment and training of adult leaders, is responsible for the financial aspects of the troop, conducts boards of review, and several other administrative tasks. It accomplishes this through a Committee Chair and committee members (parents) who offer to take responsibility for certain aspects of the committee’s duties. The head “uniformed professional” is the Troop’s Scoutmaster. Along with Assistant Scoutmasters and Junior Assistant Scoutmasters, he/she is responsible for the image and program of the troop. This includes training the scouts, establishing patrol leaders’ council and troop meetings, conducting Scoutmaster Conferences for all rank advancements, and organizing the troop youth into leadership positions from which the scouts ultimately plan and carry out the troops activities. Each scout is encouraged to achieve whatever level of participation and leadership responsibility they can muster.

YOUR SON’S ROLE IN SCOUTING

Scouting Materials

He will need a copy of the Boy Scout Handbook. He will also need a Scout uniform. The official scout uniform is the khaki shirt and green pants, with accessories as described in the handbook. If your son changed over to these as a Webelos scout, and they still fit him, then all that is needed is to remove the Cub Scout Pack insignia (except for the arrow of light award) and add the Boy Scout Troop insignia. The handbook and uniform may be purchased at any BSA Scout Shop.

The troop neckerchief and troop insignia will be on loan to your son when he is an official member of Troop 81. If your son leaves the troop, the neckerchief must be returned to the Scoutmaster. Lost neckerchiefs will be subject to a nominal replacement charge. The troop will also provide one troop t-shirt for wear at certain times of the year and on certain occasions. This will be announced in advance. It is expected that the t-shirt will not be worn for non-scout activities. Additional t-shirts may be made available at a nominal cost. Camping equipment will also be needed, but these vary widely and can be obtained from many sources. If not already equipped from previous camping

experiences, seek advice from Scoutmasters or other parents before making purchases.

It is expected that each scout will “Be Prepared” by bringing his handbook and wearing his uniform to each meeting and activity.

Troop Youth Leaders

The Troop is led by a Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and his Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s) (ASPL), and assisted by a Troop Guide(s). The troop is broken down into Patrols of generally six to eight scouts, with each Patrol having a Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader. Less experienced scouts may hold positions of Historian, Librarian, Chaplain Aide, Quartermaster, Scribe, or Den Chief. All scouts are encouraged to participate and attain leadership positions based on their growing scout skills.

Patrol Leaders’ Council

The Patrol Leaders’ Council (PLC), not the adult leaders, is responsible for planning and conducting the troop’s activities. The PLC is composed of the SPL, ASPL, Patrol Leaders, and Troop Guide. At its monthly meetings, the PLC organizes and assigns activity responsibilities for the weekly troop meetings under the guidance of the Scoutmaster and his assistants. The Troop Committee interacts with the PLC through the Scoutmaster.

Patrol Meetings

Your son will be assigned to a patrol. Their meetings are generally supervised by an Assistant Scoutmaster and are devoted to working on projects and advancements. Within the larger community of the troop, the Patrol is a Scout’s family circle. They typically generate their own camping menus, compete in Patrol contests, assign jobs to be done, and share in the satisfaction of accepting and fulfilling group responsibilities.

Troop Meetings

Unless otherwise directed for special events, the troop meets every Monday evening at Lehman United Methodist Church, York Rd. and Lehman Ave., Hatboro. The meetings begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. and run until 9:00 p.m. Your son is encouraged to attend all meetings. Remember that the troop is a guest at the church which sponsors many other groups. Respect for property and other groups’ privacy is a necessity. Disruptive behavior cannot be tolerated.

Weekend Camping and Summer Camp

We maintain a monthly schedule of camping activities because we feel your son gets the greatest value from the Scouting program on these trips. Weekend trips normally run from Friday to Sunday afternoon. One week of summer camp is usually attended in

July. The cost of the week-long activity is announced early in the year. Dates for a deposit and balance payments are announced well in advance of their due dates.

Boys' Life

Boys' Life is a very helpful and enjoyable magazine available to your son that may be subscribed to on the registration form for the first year. If your son is registered in the Troop prior to the January Troop charter renewal, he will automatically receive Boys' Life paid for by his dues.

Yearly Dues

Yearly dues are \$75.00 per scout. A portion of the money covers the cost of registration, Boys' Life, insurance, which is forwarded to Council. The balance goes towards awards, patches, and helps defray the cost of program materials for the Troop. This money does not include the cost of camping trip fees or summer camp fees. Dues money will be collected in the fall of each year, or when the boy joins the troop.

Scout's Application

Fully complete the application to become a Boy Scout. Be sure to note the information requested on the back page, particularly the insurance date and any health conditions your son may have. Submit the application with the registration fee. If you are a paid-up Webelo and transferring to the troop, the fee is only \$1.00 to transfer.

Fund Raising

As stated above, the annual scout dues only cover a portion of the cost of running the troop. To supplement this, the troop holds an annual fundraiser. The Troop Committee shall determine the type of product or products to be handled for this fundraiser. The Troop Committee shall determine, prior to the start of the fundraiser, what the percentage distribution (where applicable) of the profits will be. This percentage will be determined by the need for funds. A portion of the profit goes to the troop, and a portion will go to the scout's account (discussed later).

At the time the product is disbursed, an individual record for each scout shall be maintained showing quantity, cost and date. A similar record shall be kept when the money from the sale of the product is promptly turned over to the adult in charge of the project, who will then transfer this money to the Troop Treasurer, identifying the source of the funds and the amount thereof. Transactions shall occur daily or weekly depending on the type of activity. In general, all bills shall be paid prior to the distribution of profits.

It is important that all scouts participate in the troop fundraiser. Not only to ensure that there are adequate funds to run the troop program, but also to instill in the conscious of the scout a sense of "fair share" and "earn your own way". Scouts generally have limited funds of their own, and this allows them to contribute to their cause. However, some families have strong feelings about participating in fundraising activities, or cannot spend the time to sell with their son. In these cases, prior to launching the troop

fundraiser the Troop Committee shall establish a fee approximately equal to the loss of expected monies to the troop from a scout's minimal participation. As always, special circumstances may be brought to the attention of the Scoutmaster for consideration.

Additional fundraisers may be held at various times in the year. These are held, at the request of the scouts through their PLC, to raise additional funds for expensive camping trips. All proceeds from these additional fundraisers go to the scout's account. These are not mandatory, as is the case with the troop fundraiser described above. A scout with sufficient resources can opt not to participate. Although the need and request may come from the scouts, the troop Ways and Means Committee is assigned the responsibility of overseeing the fundraising project. Fundraising projects must be conducted in accordance with BSA policies. All projects shall function under the supervision of an adult.

Scout Accounts

As mentioned earlier, the troop's Treasurer maintains records of scout sub-accounts. Money enters this account through fundraising as described above, or through direct donations. The Treasurer can provide the scout or parent with an up to date status of the scout's account. When a specific project stipulates that a designated amount of the profits earned by an individual scout shall be placed into his escrow account, these funds shall only be used for scouting purposes such as camping fees, scouting uniforms, scout or camping equipment, dues, scout training, etc.

These earned funds shall be available to the parent or guardian of the scout upon:

- a) written request to the Treasurer specifying the use of the funds, or
- b) submission of a receipt for items purchased within the above guidelines.

The Troop Treasurer will either transfer the funds on the troop books, or issue a check to the parent or guardian, as appropriate. In order to avoid multiple small withdrawals, it is suggested that a typical minimum amount be \$10.00 provided the escrow account has sufficient balance. A scout may share or combine his earnings and account with a sibling in the troop. If the scout transfers to another troop, he may request that the monies in his account be disbursed to that troop's scout account. This must be done in writing from the parent or guardian within six months of the scout leaving Troop 81.

George F. Heckler Memorial Scouting Fund

George F. Heckler was a member of Lehman Church, and a longtime supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. After his death, monies were donated to the troop in his name, and in February 2006 the Troop Committee established the George F. Heckler Memorial Scouting Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to enable all scouts of Troop 81 to participate in Troop 81 scouting activities regardless of their financial situations. There are several mechanisms that will be used to contribute to the fund:

- Gifts in honor of Mr. Heckler.

- Money remaining in individual scout accounts upon the attainment of age 18.
- Money remaining in individual scout accounts for scouts leaving the troop and not transferred to another troop within six months.
- Money remaining in individual scout accounts for scouts who do not re-register will be transferred on July 1 of the following year.
- Other methods which may be voted upon by the Troop Committee.

The Scoutmaster and members of the Troop Committee are authorized to suggest those scouts who need financial support to allow the scout to participate in scheduled scouting activities. Only scouts who participate in Troop fundraising activities and are active in other troop activities may receive grants or loans from the Fund. The Troop Committee shall review all requests and approve based on availability of funds and the need of the Scout and his family. The Troop Committee may either make an outright grant of funds with no requirement to repay, or they may make a loan to the Scout to be repaid at a future date for those scouts with a short-term need.

The funds may be used to pay for camping fees or for necessary uniform items. All loans and grants made from the Fund to Scouts are to be considered as private and are not to be disclosed to any other scout or adult. The Troop Treasurer shall keep full and accurate records of all receipts to and distributions from the Fund. Those records are to be considered private and are not to be disclosed to anyone other than the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee.

YOUR OBLIGATION TO YOUR SON AND THE TROOP

Encouraging your son

It is difficult for us to keep your son's interest at peak level once he leaves the Scout meeting. It is here that we need the most help and would like your support by taking an active interest in your son's position in Scouting. An occasional inquiry about his progress will serve as a reminder that you are concerned.

Uniforms and Materials

We ask you to encourage your son to wear his uniform with pride and assist him in proper placement of his badges and insignia. Information concerning the uniform may be found in the Scout Handbook. There is a Scout Shop at each of the two Scout Reservation Centers listed on the previous map. In addition, there may be Scout Shops more convenient to you (Bucks County Council Center is in Doylestown) as well as independent uniform supply shops. Uniforms are not inexpensive and a scout can grow out of them quickly. Scout families are encouraged to donate their used uniforms to younger scouts in a uniform exchange. Other sources may be thrift shops or on-line pre-owned selling shops.

Troop Committee Function

It is the function of the Troop Committee to assist with fund raising, transportation, and a number of other services necessary for a well-balanced program. We ask that you consider joining the committee and giving us your support.

Your role in the Troop Committee

You should plan to attend meetings of this organization to become aware of the work that goes into supporting the troop your son is a part of. There are many sub-committees from which you may select what appeals to your particular interests. Although you may not want to formally register with the troop, your assistance may be needed in certain areas and you may be asked to volunteer your time. To help us know your strengths and limitations, attached to this packet is a Troop Resource Survey. The committee requests that the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the scout complete this survey when he applies for registration.

Merit Badge Counselor

If you have specific skills in a certain area, not necessarily in the outdoorsman ship subjects, you may be able to support the troop by becoming a Merit Badge Counselor. Either www.scouting.org or www.meritbadge.org provides a complete list of merit badges that both men and women can teach. The Scoutmaster can assist you in materials and registration in subject areas that interest you.

Camping

There is an open invitation to all parents/guardians to attend our camping activities providing there are no limitations that would exclude any of the boys.

Fund Raising

You are expected to participate along with your son in any capacity available to ensure the success of our fund raising campaigns.

Troop Activities

Please feel free to drop in any time to see our weekly meetings and get an idea of the content of our program. Occasionally we will send you a formal invitation to attend a ceremony or other Troop special event.

Adult Leadership Application

Complete the application for adult registration and submit it with the annual registration fee of \$20 to the Scoutmaster. The entire fee goes to the Council for insurance, materials, etc. The Troop Committee Chair and the Chartered Organization Representative have to approve the adult's registration. References may be checked, and certain positions require a criminal background check.

Adult leaders will have the opportunity to experience whatever training they desire, and will be trained to the extent required for their particular position in the Troop.

Youth Protection

For the protection of the youth in the program from potential child abuse, and the adult leaders from child abuse accusations, BSA has specific requirements concerning the interaction of the adult leaders with the youth. All registered leaders are required to be trained in youth protection. Parents participating on camping trips are requested to also undergo the training, which is available on line. All reporting of child abuse must be taken seriously and referred to the appropriate BSA or government agencies. There is a pullout section in the Handbook that describes this in more detail. You are encouraged to read this and review pertinent portions with your Scout as soon as it is practical. If you have questions, please feel free to ask any leader for clarification.

Hatboro Troop #81 Troop Resource Survey

Boy Scouts is for adults as well as boys. We invite you to offer your skills and interests so that the best possible program can be developed for the Boy Scouts in this troop. In making this survey, the committee wishes to find ways you can enjoy using your talents to help our Scouts. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated! Welcome to the Scouting family of Troop #81 in the Cradle of Liberty Council.

Please return this survey to the current Committee Chairperson.

Name: _____ Your Son's Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

1. What is your favorite hobby?
2. In which sports/activities do you take an active part?
3. Would you be willing to assist the troop leaders and committee members occasionally?
4. Please circle any Scout skills you would be willing to teach.

Rope Work	Conservation	Outdoor Cooking	Family Life
Hiking	First Aid	Knife/Axe	Star Study
Citizenship	Map/Compass	Camping	Environment

TROOP 81 DISCIPLINARY POLICY GUIDELINES

Your scout will learn and recite the Scout Oath and Scout Law at every meeting. He is expected to live by that Oath and Law. Keep in mind that the BSA is a volunteer organization, and all the leaders in Troop 81 freely volunteer their time to work with the scouts.

In order to maintain safe control of the scouts involved in a variety of settings, discipline must be maintained. All adult leaders, as well as youth leaders, are required to bring to the attention of the Scoutmaster (or ranking adult leader when the Scoutmaster is not present) any occurrence that violates BSA policy. The Discipline Guidelines must be acknowledged by the Scout and a parent so they understand the process for when the scout has swayed from his Oath or acted in an unsafe manner.

1. First Step: The SPL (or ASPL) will convene, under the supervision of the Scoutmaster, a Disciplinary PLC to determine the consequence to the Scout for his actions. The Scoutmaster will verbally inform the parent or guardian.
2. Second Step: A written notice to the parent or guardian by the Scoutmaster.
3. Third Step: The Scout shall be suspended from one camping trip and there will be a meeting of the parent or guardian with the Scoutmaster, regarding his suspension.
4. Fourth Step: The Scout shall be suspended from all activities of the Troop, for a period of one to three months, with the actual time to be determined by the Troop Committee.
5. Fifth Step: The parent or guardian will attend a conference with the Troop Committee, to establish goals to be met in a three-month reinstatement probation period.
6. Final Step: If these goals are not met, the Scout shall be dismissed from the Troop by vote of the Troop Committee.

In addition, automatic dismissal of the Scout, with immediate parent or guardian pickup from any activity, including camping trips, shall occur:

- In those incidents when a Scout's action(s) did or could have resulted in physical harm or endangerment to himself or other Scout(s).
- Drug or Alcohol use by the Scout.

I (we) have read the above guidelines and understand our responsibilities:

Scout Name: _____ Date ___/___/___

Parent/guardian: _____ Date ___/___/___