

Troop 1539

Orientation Packet



Chief Seattle Council #609
ORCA District
Boy Scouts of America

-
Boy Scout Troop 1539
VFW Post 4992
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Silverdale, WA
(360) 692-4992

www.bougan.com/troop_1539

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous,
kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

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Welcome to Troop 1539!

Our goal is to be the best troop in Chief Seattle Council. You are embarking on a real adventure. Scouting in Washington State is an experience that is full of opportunity and interesting happenings. You are limited only by your own willingness to participate and advance. This requires both the work of the Scout and the willing support of the parents.

Our troop has been in operation since 1972. The Scouting program was founded in England in 1907 by Lord Baden-Powell. William Boyce brought it to the United States in 1920 and founded the Boy Scouts of America. For more information on the history of scouting, refer to the Boy Scout Handbook.

Boy Scouting revolves around a boy-lead troop. The boys themselves take on leadership positions in order to plan troop activities, run meetings, organize adventures, and take advantage of opportunities that fit their interests and needs.

Every Scouting activity moves boys toward three basic aims: Character, Development, Citizenship Training, and Mental/Physical Fitness. These aims are accomplished through the eight methods of Scouting:

1. The Ideals (Scout Oath, Scout Law, Outdoor Code, Scout Motto, and Scout Slogan)
2. The Patrol Method
3. The Outdoors
4. Advancement
5. Association with Adults
6. Personal Growth
7. Leadership Development
8. The Uniform

The mission statement of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Troop 1539 strives for teamwork, acceptance, accountability, and a sense of belonging in all participating members, both boys and adults. These goals cannot be achieved without an understanding of the difference between the Cub Scout program and the Boy Scout program.

We welcome you to our troop. Feel free to ask us any questions you may have along your new journey in the world of Boy Scouting. It is an adventure, and we hope you enjoy the ride.

Purpose of the Boy Scouts of America

Boy Scouting is available to boys who are 11 through 17 years old, or who have earned the Arrow of Light Award, or have completed the fifth grade. Eligible boys can submit their application directly to Troop 1539 or to the Scout Shop.

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to provide an effective program designed to instill within youth desirable qualities of character, to train them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to help develop their personal fitness, providing this country with 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 a 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 in and giving leadership to American society and in other forums of the world

Troop meetings

Troop meetings are on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the VFW Hall on Central Valley Road. They are planned and run by the senior Scouts. The senior patrol leader will actually run the Troop meeting. A Patrol Leader's council or PLC is held the last Monday of every month. These are special meetings for Senior Scouts to plan the other meetings for the month. Look toward the various senior Scouts for help. Don't be bashful!

Website

Central to our troop activities is our website, www.bougan.com/troop1539. This site provides nearly all the information you need about the troop, our activities, our policies, and our people. Some of the features of the site are as follows:

- Scout Ranks – Everything you need to know about advancement
- Calendar – All troop activities are listed on the calendar. In order to attend various activities, Scouts (and adults) are required to sign up for them online.
- Patrol Listings
- Roster – Who's Who in Troop 1539
- Forms
- External Links – Including our SmugMug Gallery with a TON of pictures of our activities
- History and Traditions of our troop

- By-laws
- Committee Minutes
- Individual information about each troop member, including attendance and advancement
- Games – Healthy diversions for the mind... or something like that

Costs

Dues

All Scouts are required to pay \$5 per month for troop dues. They are due at the first meeting of each month. The troop scribe handles the collection. He in turn submits the dues to the troop committee treasurer who will deposit into the troop bank account.

- Scouts dues cannot be greater than one month behind or he will be restricted from troop or patrol outings and boards of review for advancement.
- Transfer records will be held until dues are paid up to date.
- Dues pay for recharter, insurance, equipment maintenance/replacement, and anything deemed necessary by the committee.

Equipment

As an active participant in our troop, you will find that the boys will need to begin gathering gear. While not inclusive, we recommend that boys purchase some of these items so that they may enjoy all the outdoor activities we do.

- Hiking Boots – Well fitting, defined heel, no flat bottom
- Sleeping Bag – The best choice is one that packs small and is fairly lightweight. Remember, it needs to fit in a backpack)
- Backpack – (internal/external frame) 25% bodyweight One that fits the boy –

Scout Uniform

Come dressed in your Scout uniform, the troop takes pride in the boys maintaining the Scout Dress code. This means shirt, pants, socks, belt, and beret. The troop provides you with your first Beret, and maintains a small selection of used items to help with procuring a complete uniform. In the summer, we often switch to the activity uniform (this is an official scout T-Shirt and scout pants.) Because of the expense, boys have 3 months before they are required to attend meetings in full uniform. These can be purchased at the Scout Shop.

Scout Handbook

Scouts need to bring their Scout Handbook to the meetings. (Be sure the scout's name is in the book, as they all look alike.) To get the requirements signed off, demonstrate your knowledge of the requirement to any senior Scout, Assistant Scoutmaster, or Scoutmaster.

In order to advance, boys need to work through their book, gathering signatures along the way. Signatures need to come from a scout that is at least two ranks above his current level. For example, a Tenderfoot Scout should have a First Class Scout (or higher) sign that a requirement is complete; a First Class Scout should gather their signatures from a Life Scout, and so on. If the Scout has questions about this, they should contact their Patrol Leader for a more thorough explanation of our troop procedures. Once all the activities have been completed and

Merit Badges

Merit Badges are activities in which a Boy Scout can participate. He can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers as he earns merit badges. More than 150 merit badges can be earned. Any Boy Scout may earn any merit badge at any time. He does not need to have had rank advancement to be eligible.

Adult Role in the Troop

Here are our troop's guidelines on the indirect, advisory role you now enjoy (no kidding, you should enjoy watching your son take progressively more mature and significant responsibilities as he zooms toward adulthood). We all know how difficult it can be letting go, and allowing the boys to retain as much control as possible helps them develop leadership skills that will last them a lifetime.

- The underlying principle is never do anything for a boy that he can do himself. We allow boys to grow by practicing leadership and by learning from their mistakes. And while Scout skills are an important part of the program, what ultimately matters when our Scouts become adults is not whether they can use a map & compass, but whether they can offer leadership to others in tough situations; and can live by a code that centers on honest, honorable, and ethical behavior.
- Boys need to learn to make decisions without adult intervention (except when it's a matter of **immediate** safety). Boys are in a patrol so they can learn leadership and teamwork without adult interference.
- Being an adult advisor is a difficult role, especially when we are advising kids (even worse, our own sons). Twice each year, the Boy Scouts of America offers special training on how to do this, which we expect our uniformed adults to take. And any adult is welcome, and encouraged, to take the training (see the Scoutmaster; dates are in the annual calendar).
- Camping is the heart of Boy Scouting and is absolutely different from Cub Scouting or Webelos! While parents, sometimes whole families, accompany the Scouts, the Scouts camp with their patrol and not with their parents and family members. If a parent goes on a campout, they are an automatic member of the Adult patrol. This patrol has several purposes. Good food and camaraderie, of course, but more important is providing an example the boy patrols can follow without our telling them what to do. We teach by example. Since a patrol should camp as a group, we expect the Adults to do so also. That way, adults don't tent with boy patrols where your mere presence could disrupt the learning process.

- Quite simply, our troop policy requires adults to cook, eat, and tent separately from the Scouts. We are safely nearby, not oppressively close. Sure, go ahead and visit the patrol sites (not just your son's), ask what's going on or how things are going, but give the guys room to grow while you enjoy the view. Show a Scout how to do something, but don't do it for him. Avoid the temptation to give advice, and don't jump in just to prevent a mistake from happening (unless it's serious). We all learn best from our mistakes, and let the patrol leader lead.

Your job is tough, challenging, and ultimately rewarding, because your son will be a man the day after tomorrow.

Policy Summary for Outings and Activities

Here is a summary of our troop (and BSA) policies, followed by the reasoning for the policies. There are exceptions, but these policies are in effect on most outings. A complete copy of the troop by-laws is also included at the end of this handbook.

Scout Tenting & Meals

Scouts tent with their patrol in a patrol site separate from the other patrols. Patrols plan their own menus, and cook and eat together as a team. In general, adults do not eat or tent with a boy patrol.

Adult Tenting & Meals

Adults tent with the adult patrol in a patrol site separate from the other patrols. We plan our own menu, and cook and eat together as a team. In general, adults do not eat or tent with a boy patrol.

Adult/Boy Tenting

BSA youth protection policies forbid an adult and a boy sharing the same tent. While youth protection policies may not apply to a father and son tenting together, it is our troop's policy that boys tent with boys, and adults with adults. If a father tents with his son, it has been our experience that the boy will lose out on many opportunities to make decisions and be part of the patrol team! [Yes, you are probably the rare exception, but it wouldn't be fair to the other adults to single you out.]

Smoking/Drinking

Drivers may not smoke while Scouts are in the car. Adults may not smoke or use tobacco products, nor drink alcoholic beverages during a Scout activity. Adults who must smoke or chew must do so discretely out of sight of the Scouts.

Boy Leadership

Adults should not interfere with the functioning of boy leaders, even if they make mistakes (we all learn best from our mistakes). Step in only if it is a matter of immediate safety or if the mistake will be immediately costly. If possible, involve a uniformed adult leader first.

Boy Growth

Never do anything for a boy he can do himself. Let him make decisions without adult interference, and let him make non-costly mistakes.

Adult Training & Resources

The Boy Scouts of America provides an outstanding handbook for adults, and an excellent training course to help us understand the goals of Scouting and how to attain them. The adult manual is called the Scoutmaster Handbook, and it's worth your time to read it. The training is called Scout Leader Basic Training, and is offered in our area twice a year. It's also a good investment of your time.

Rationale

- Boy Scout camping activities center on the patrol, where boys learn teamwork, leadership, and most camping skills. It is important that adults not be in the middle of patrol activities such as site selection, tent pitching, meal preparation, and anything else where boys get to practice decision-making.
- A key difference between Boy Scouting and Cub Scouting/Webelos is leadership. Look for the word "leader" in a job title, and you will begin to appreciate the difference. The responsible person for a Cub/Webelos den is the adult Den Leader. The responsible person for a Boy Scout patrol is the boy Patrol Leader.
- This isn't token leadership (like a denner.) A Patrol Leader has real authority and genuine responsibilities. Much of the success, safety, and happiness of six to ten other boys depend directly on him.
- Boy Scouting teaches leadership. And boys learn leadership by practicing it, not by watching adults lead.

More Useful Information & Forms

Official Placement of Insignia



Conduct uniform inspection with common sense; the basic rule is neatness.

Merit Badge Sash. If worn, merit badges are attached to front (and back, if needed) of sash. Venture/Varsity letter is attached at bottom front corner. Temporary insignia may be worn on back.

Shoulder Epaulets. Red shoulder loops identify Boy Scouting (all members of a troop). Blaze (orange) loops identify Varsity Scouting.

Left Sleeve. Council patches, unit numeral, and badge of office are worn as shown snug up, and touching each other. Badge of office is centered below and touches unit numeral. The veteran unit bar (25, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, or 80 years) is positioned above and touching troop numeral and in turn touching council patch. Den chief cord is worn over the left shoulder and under epaulet.

Left Pocket. Service stars above the pocket. If a medal or embroidered knot for youth members is worn, service stars are raised. Embroidered square knots are worn centered above the pocket in rows of three. Not more than five medals may be worn, pinned centered immediately above the pocket (extending over knots if both are worn). The wearing sequence for knots or medals is at the wearer's discretion and lead color is to the wearer's right. Badges of rank are worn centered on the pocket above the Arrow of Light Award. Flap buttoned. The World Crest is worn centered horizontally over the left pocket and vertically between the left shoulder seam and the top of the pocket.

Right Sleeve. U.S. flag. Only the most recently earned Quality Unit Award may be worn below patrol emblem or below National Honor Patrol star. Musician badge, if in band or drum corps, is worn 1/2 inch below patrol emblem.

Right Pocket. Jamboree insignia (only one) worn above BSA or interpreter strip. Order of the Arrow lodge insignia worn on pocket flap. Temporary insignia worn centered on the pocket. Flap buttoned. The Varsity or Venture strip is worn above the BSA strip or above the interpreter strip. Nameplate, if worn, is centered above the BSA strip, interpreter strip, and Venture or Varsity strip.

SHOULDER SEAM

GULF COAST

TEXAS

1

ASSISTANT SENIOR

Position above diagram on left sleeve to guide you on proper placement of insignia.

The Scouting Seal is Your Guarantee of Quality, Excellence, and Performance.

OVER

Recommended Camping/Backpacking Equipment

10 Essentials (plus our recommended items)

1. Map
2. Compass
3. Water and Water Purification Tablets
4. Extra Clothes (minimum cap, long underwear, wool socks, rain protection)
5. Extra Food (Non-cooking i.e. trail mix, protein bars, dried fruit, candy bars)
6. Flashlight/Headlamp with extra batteries and bulb
7. Sunscreen
8. First-Aid Kit
 - a. Four quarters for emergency calls
 - b. 2 X 2 Bandage Dressing
 - c. Ace Bandage
 - d. Band-Aids
 - e. Antiseptic
 - f. Moleskin
 - g. Pepto-Bismol tablets
 - h. Immodium (anti-diarrheal) tablets
 - i. Aspirin or Tylenol
 - j. Snakebite kit
 - k. Tweezers
 - l. Small Scissors
 - m. Safety Pins
 - n. Chapstick
9. Pocket Knife (no fixed blade)
10. Waterproof Matches and Firestarter
11. Whistle
12. Insect Repellent (cream is best)
13. Space Blanket

These items should be packed separately in a fanny-pack or other easily accessible pouch.

Clothing for Campouts

- Class A Uniform- We nearly ALWAYS travel in this.
- Complete change of clothes based on weather conditions
 - Pants and/or Shorts
 - Long-sleeved shirt
 - Flannel Shirt (fall/winter)
 - Sweater/Sweatshirt (wool or poly-fleece)
 - Jacket/Windbreaker
 - Socks (1 pair/day)
 - Sock Liners (winter)
 - Underwear
 - T-shirt

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- Hiking Boots
- Camp Shoes
- Hat or Cap
- Stocking Cap or Balaclava (winter)
- Mittens/Gloves (winter)

Our troop typically wears a Class B uniform during campouts. The boys can wear the troop t-shirt over their clothing to meet this requirement, weather permitting.

Eating

- Mess Kit or Unbreakable Plate and Bowl
- Cup
- Spoon, Fork, & Knife
- Canteen/Water Container

Sleeping

- Tent (We have troop tents to fill this requirement)
- Ground cloth (again, this is typically troop provided)
- Sleeping Bag and Stuff Sack
- Sleeping Pad
- Pillow – Many of the boys use their stuff sacks and fill them with clothing rather than waste precious backpack space

Wash Kit

- Soap in Container – Ziplocs work GREAT
- Shampoo (biodegradable preferred)
- Washcloth
- Towel
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste (travel sized recommended)
- Comb/Brush
- Toilet Paper (again, small amounts are preferred)
- Mirror

Also Recommended

Scout Handbook (in a Ziploc bag)

Notepad and Pencil

Raincoat or Poncho (this is the Pacific Northwest after all)

Backpack

Backpack Cover (Contractor Sized Garbage sack will do)

Swimming suit

Beach Towel

Optional

- Multi-tool
- Nylon Rope (25 feet)
- Sit Pad
- Watch
- Sewing Kit
- Trash bags
- Spare glasses
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Alarm clock
- Camp Chair/Stool

NOT ALLOWED

- Radios
- Electronic games, MP3 players, cell phones (unless permitted by Scoutmaster)
- Knives without a locking blade – Knife blades must be shorter than 3'. Only scouts who have earned their "Totin' Chip" are permitted to ring a knife.
- Aerosol sprays
- Valuable or sentimental items – These things have a way of being misplaced or broken on campouts

Physicals – (From Guide to Safe Scouting)

It is recommended that all members of the Boy Scouts of America have periodic medical evaluations by a licensed health-care practitioner. *In recent years, in an effort to provide better care to those who may become ill or injured and to provide youth members and adult leaders a better understanding of their physical capabilities, the Boy Scouts of America established minimum standards for providing medical information prior to participating in various activities. They are classified as follows:

Class 1:

Includes any event that does not exceed 72 consecutive hours, where the level of activity is similar to that normally expended at home or at school, and where medical care is readily available. Examples: day camp, day hike, swimming party, or an overnight camp. Medical information required is a current health history signed by parents or guardian. The health history form currently found on the back of the BSA individual applications or the Class I Personal Health and Medical History found on form No. 34414A (Personal Health and Medical Record) meets this requirement. Den leaders, Scoutmasters, team coaches, and crew Advisors should review these and become knowledgeable about the medical needs of the youth members in their unit. Forms must be updated annually. They are filled out by participants and kept on file for easy reference.

Class 2:

Includes any event that exceeds 72 consecutive hours, where the level of activity is similar to that normally expended at home or at school, and where medical care is readily available. Examples: resident camping, tour camping, and hiking in relatively populated areas. Medical data required is an annual health history signed by parents or guardian supported by a medical evaluation completed within the past 36 months by a licensed health-care practitioner. The Personal Health and Medical Record--Class 2, on No. 34414A, is designed primarily for resident Cub Scout and Boy Scout summer camp but could be used for any Class 2 activity. Youth members and adult participants under 40 years of age use this form. (See Camp Health and Safety for additional information on Class 2 application.)

Class 3:

Includes any event involving strenuous activity such as backpacking, high altitude, extreme weather conditions, cold water, exposure, fatigue, athletic competition, adventure challenge, or remote conditions where readily available medical care cannot be assured. Examples: high-adventure activities, jamborees, Wood Badge, and extended backpacking trips in remote areas. Medical information required includes current health history supported by a medical evaluation within the past 12 months performed by a licensed health-care practitioner. Form 34412A is to be used by youth for Class 3 activities. Adults age 40 or older will use this form for Class 2 and Class 3 activities. See form No. 34414A, Personal Health and Medical Record, for more information.

* Examinations conducted by licensed health-care practitioners, other than physicians, will be recognized for BSA purposes in those states where such practitioners may perform physical examinations within their legally prescribed scope of practice.

By-Laws (Please note website for most current information)

Every Scouting activity moves boys toward three basic aims: character development, citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness. The aims are accomplished through the eight methods of Scouting. These are:

1. The Ideals (Scout oath, Scout Law, Outdoor Code, Scout Motto, and Scout Slogan)
2. The Patrol Method
3. The Outdoors
4. Advancement
5. Association with adults
6. Personal Growth
7. Leadership Development
8. The uniform

The mission statement of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Troop 1539 strives for teamwork, acceptance, accountability and a sense of belonging in all participating members, both boys and adults. These goals cannot be achieved without an understanding of the difference between Cub Scout program and Boy Scout program.

Aims

Boy Scouting works toward three aims. One is growth in *moral strength and character*. We may define this as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, his outlook.

A second aim is *participating citizenship*. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society he lives in, to the government that presides over that society.

A third aim of Boy Scouting is *development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness*. Fitness includes the body (well tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self- control, courage and self respect).

Methods

Ideals

The ideals of scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The

goals are his and as he reaches for them he has some control over what he becomes. "Show Scout Spirit", a requirement for each rank advancement means living to these ideals.

Patrols

The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to act in small groups where they easily can relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

Outdoors

Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at the troop meetings come alive with purpose.

Being close to nature helps Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and mankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Advancement

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and, by participating in the troop program, progresses as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each advancement, which helps him gain self-confidence.

The steps in the advancement system help a boy grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others.

Adult Association

Boys learn from example set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage of a young man's development.

Personal Growth

As Scouts plan their activity and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. There probably is no device so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn.

The religious emblems program is also a large part of personal growth method. Frequent conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development

Boy Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim in Scouting.

Uniform

The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals.

The uniform is practical attire for Scout activities, and provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

Troop Policy and Information

Purpose:

This information is provided in the interest of better communications between troop 1539 scouts, troop committee members, adult troop leadership, and parents of participating Scouts. It contains policy and other information about the Troop 1539 Scouting program. Please feel free to call upon your troop committee if you have any questions.

Common acronyms used:

- ASM – assistant scout master
- ASPL – assistant senior patrol leader
- BSA – Boy Scouts of America
- BSH – Boy Scout handbook
- CC –committee chairperson
- CM – committee member
- CMH - committee member handbook
- CR – chartered organization representative
- PL – patrol leader
- PLC – patrol leaders council
- SM – Scoutmaster
- SMH – Scoutmaster handbook
- SPL –senior patrol leader

1. Introduction:

These pages set forth the policies and program of Troop 1539. They provide information on how this troop operates within the guidelines of the Boy Scout of America. Please read them carefully and retain for future reference.

The mission statement of BSA is: “to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.”

2. Membership:

To be a member of this troop a boy must:

- A. Meet the BSA’s requirements for joining, pay his registration fee, and have parental support.
- B. Maintain good attendance, keep his dues up to date and wear the uniform properly.
- C. Strive for a positive attitude in all phases of the scouting program, and do his best to provide quality leadership.

Upon failure of any of the above requirements, the troop committee will suspend his membership in this troop. The troop committee will take any extenuating circumstances into consideration.

3. Registration:

BSA registration forms for boys and adults are available from your Scoutmaster, CC, Scout office, and at troop meetings. All persons interested in joining troop 1539 will need to fill out an application, whether you are coming from a pack, transferring from another troop, or are new to scouting. The prospective Scout and parent(s) should visit at least one troop meeting prior to deciding to join. No outings are allowed until registration is turned in to the Scout office. This is for insurance purposes. Webelos can attend an outing as long as their parent or guardian also attends.

It is required that each boy has at least one adult representative take a job or responsibility in the troop. This spreads out the work and makes it easier on all the adults involved. Everyone must do his or her fair share. If the committee finds that participation by at least one adult for a boy is not happening or if an adult agrees to take a job or position and then does not fulfill that agreement, then their scouts’ participation in the troop will be suspended after 60 days. The committee will decide any special considerations. Each new adult must go through the Fast Start training within two months of their boy joining the troop. This training is available online.

The registration process is as follows:

- A) The prospective Scout and parent(s) will be given an orientation by an adult leader and will be furnished an application for both parent and son. If both parents wish to be active then each will need to turn in an application.
- B) Parent(s) and son visit a troop meeting and if they decide to join:
 - a. The boy fulfills the "joining requirements"
 - b. the application and fees (check made out to Troop1539) are turned into Scoutmaster or CC.
- C) The application will be turned in at the Scout office in a timely fashion. The Scout will receive any troop/ patrol recognition required and will receive in the mail "Boys Life" if ordered.
- D) The Troop will receive a receipt for fees paid to be given to treasurer.
- E) Those coming from another scouting program will turn their prior Scout records over to the Scoutmaster or Advancement chairperson.

4. Fees:

- A) Upon entering the troop the Scout will pay registration fees.
- B) All Outing costs for food and transportation will be collected no less than 2 weeks after the event (costs will vary by event).
- C) Patrol outings/events will be handled by the patrol (SPL and SM approval necessary for all outings).
- D) Annual event fees such as Summer Camp will be collected in installments as set by the committee.

5. Finances:

Dues:

All Scouts are required to pay \$5 per month for troop dues. They are due at the first meeting of each month. The troop scribe handles the collection. He in turn submits the dues to the troop committee treasurer who will deposit into the troop bank account.

Scouts dues cannot be greater than one month behind or he will be restricted from troop or patrol outings and boards of review for advancement.

Transfer records will be held until dues are paid up to date.

Dues pay for recharter, insurance, equipment maintenance and replacement, and anything deemed necessary by the committee.

Fundraising:

The troop will hold fundraising activities as needed and approved by the troop committee. Troop committee will approve any division of funds between treasury and scouts. Any Scout portion will be credited to his scout account.

Scout Accounts:

Each Scout shall have an account in the troop treasury, where his portion of fundraising proceeds is credited. A Scout may use the money in his account to purchase Scout uniform/ uniform items, camping equipment, hiking boots, camp fees, any other scouting related expense must be approved by committee. The Scout account shall not be used for paying of monthly dues. Receipts shall be turned in to the treasurer for reimbursement. No Scout shall be allowed a negative balance in his account. If a Scout transfers to another troop the application for the remaining funds must be made within 60 days to the troop treasurer and then the transferring funds will be sent to the new troops treasurer. Any boy who leaves scouting the monies left in the scout account will revert to the troop account.

6. Attendance:

- A) The troop will schedule approximately 80 activities per year for attendance of the complete troop. Scouts are expected to participate in a majority of scheduled troop activities. These activities will include:
 - 1. Weekly troop meetings
 - 2. Monthly campouts (except months with long term camp)
 - 3. Long-term campouts (during summer)
 - 4. Scout shows and district campers
 - 5. Fundraising activities
 - 6. Quarterly courts of honor (March, June, September, and December)
 - 7. Special Eagle courts as necessary
 - 8. Service projects and Eagle projects
- B) The Scout uniform will be worn to all scheduled activities, unless an exception is announced. See #10 for the definition of the scout uniform.
- C) A Scout must attend 50% of the troop meetings each month to attend the monthly camp out or special activity (unless permission is granted by PLC).
- D) Participation in a majority of the scheduled activities will be the required attendance for advancement, unless excused in advance.
- E) Year pins will be presented at the first court of honor after the anniversary of a successful year in the troop.
- F) There is no set policy for cancellation of events due to inclement weather- in general, we follow the guidance of Orca District, which says "If the school district where the event is physically located cancels school, then the event should be cancelled" - however, as most of our events are later in the day, and the school makes the call at 5AM, we will publish the go/no-go decision by 3PM. In all cases, if you determine that your conditions make it more prudent to skip the event, then do so- remember SAFETY FIRST!

7. Meetings:

- A) Troop meetings begin at 7:00pm on Mondays in the Scout hall. Scouts are expected to be prompt. The pre-opening begins at 6:45.

- B) A yearly planning calendar will be available to each family.
- C) Patrol corners are normally held during the troop meeting. The Patrol Leader calls patrol meetings as he deems necessary.
- D) The PLC is composed of the SPL, ASPL, PL's, troop guide, venture patrol leader, and troop scribe. The PLC will meet monthly to plan the next month's meetings. Also in attendance will be the SM and ASM's for each patrol.
- E) Troop committee meetings begin at 7:00pm on the first Monday of the month in the scout hall. The meeting will be held monthly at the CC's discretion. The district roundtable is on the second Thursday of the month and all parents and committee members are welcome to attend.

8. Campouts:

- A) There will be one troop campout or activity each month. Once planned the campout will be carried out unless the safety of the troop is at stake.
- B) Outing costs for food and transportation will be collected no less than 2 weeks after the event. The cost will vary with the event.
- C) Any vehicle providing transportation is required to have all scouts buckled in seat belts.
- D) A brief Sunday morning non denominational service may be provided each campout.
- E) Individual patrol hikes and campout plans must be approved in advanced by the SPL and SM. Parental consent is part of the plan. Patrol activities must not conflict with troop activities.
- F) The use of liquid fuels requires adult supervision.
- G) The outdoor code is our Troops code on campouts and hikes. Refer to the Boy Scout handbook.
- H) The SPL (with SM's concurrence) may revoke any member of the troop from any troop activity for unsatisfactory conduct. Refer to section 15.
- I) Departures and return times for each outdoor event will be announced in advance at troop meetings. Parents furnishing transportation to and from campsites should arrive at the pick up point 30 minutes prior to the scheduled departure time to facilitate loading of equipment. Departure times will be established at the meeting prior to the outing and confirmed at the pack check.
- J) Swimming will be permitted during campouts under adult supervision only. The 8 point BSA "safe swim defense" will be followed at all times. Swim shoes will be worn except at approved swimming beaches.
- K) Boating laws and BSA "safety afloat" program will be strictly enforced at all activities with boats, canoes, kayaks, etc.
- L) Woods tools (knives, axes, and saws) will be used in accordance with the Scout handbook and only those who have earned the "totin chip" award (refer to BSH page 85). Training is given before the card is issued. The "totin chip" segment will be worn by the scout while using any woods tools. Any minor misuse of knife, axe, or saw will result in loss of a corner of the card and requires retraining. Loss of three corners, or a major misuse, or a gross misconduct results in the loss of the card and requires retraining. The Scoutmaster or ASM will collect

misused tools for safekeeping and to prevent injury. Scouts using a dull knife will be asked to replace it in their pocket or pack until it can be sharpened. All sheath (non-folding blade) knives, butterfly knives, and large folding knives (over 4 inches) are not permitted.

- M) A listing of outdoor personal gear may be found in the BSH. Mandatory items from this list for all outings will include the ten “scout outdoor essentials”, ankle boots, and a change of footwear.

9. Advancement:

- A) Boards of review for advancement will be scheduled in the annual calendar. The committee Advancement chairperson is in charge and 2 additional committee members will also be present.
- B) The ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle require active troop leadership. This requires an active leadership role and attendance at activities and meetings in support of the troop program.
- C) Regular advancement conferences will be held throughout the year with the SM or other troop leader.

10. Uniform:

- A) All troop members (SM, ASM, and Scouts) will properly wear the standard BSA uniform. The uniform parts consist of:

Shirt	Short or long sleeved. With all appropriate numbers, insignia, patches, and Medals.
Pants	Long pants, zip off Scout Pants or Scout shorts worn with appropriate scout socks.
Belt	If you are wearing a belt it must be the official scout web belt.
Shoes	Serviceable and clean.
Socks	Wear the appropriate Scout socks that go with the length of pants.
Neckerchief	Troop neckerchief will be worn at all troop activities. (Black)
Merit Badge Sash	Required at formal occasions if the Scout has more than 6 merit badges.
Hat	The black beret (as voted on by the troop) will be used on all formal occasions with the above uniform. The SM, SPL, ASM's may wear the “smokey the bear” hat. The expedition hat may be worn on outings only.
Activity Uniform	Troop t-shirt or camp shirt with scout pants, belt, hat (as per SPL).

- B) The activity uniform may be designated as the troop uniform on occasion.

- C) If adult Scouter's wear the uniform described in 10-a, they will wear the neckerchief or bolo tie. Adult Scouter's may wear the activity uniform.
- D) New members of the troop will be given one month to obtain proper uniform. Uniforms will be worn at all activities. The scout handbook had further guidance for wearing the uniform. If anyone is unable to afford a complete uniform they should notify the troop treasurer who will work with the family to obtain a uniform.
- E) The uniform bank may offer "experienced uniforms" to be utilized by the troop members. The uniform bank is stocked by scouts who donate their outgrown clothing to the troop.
- F) Troop members will wear a complete formal dress uniform to board of review.
- G) Uniforms are worn on all outings unless otherwise noted by the SPL with the approval of the SM. Prior to each outing the specific uniform will be announced for that event.
- H) Regular uniform inspections will be held during the year with a two week notice of inspection.

11. Qualifications for Leadership Positions:

All of the boys will attend Troop Junior Leader Training within a month after assuming a new position in the troop.

- A) Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)
 - 1. Star scout or above in rank.
 - 2. Has or will attend council leadership training.
 - 3. Been active in the troop for at least one year.
 - 4. Be willing to accomplish the role.
 - 5. Will advance from ASPL to this position.
 - 6. Be approved by the PLC and SM.
- B) Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)
 - 1. First class scout or above in rank.
 - 2. Has or will attend council leadership training.
 - 3. Been active in the troop for at least one year.
 - 4. Be willing to accomplish the role.
 - 5. Be elected by the troop.
 - 6. Be approved by the PLC and SM.
- C) Patrol Leader
 - 1. First class scout or above in rank.
 - 2. Be willing to accomplish the role.
 - 3. Be elected by his patrol.
 - 4. Approved by the PLC and SM.
- D) Assistant Patrol Leader
 - 1. Be Second class scout (or within a few requirements).
 - 2. Be willing to accomplish the role.
 - 3. Be appointed by his patrol leader.
 - 4. Approved by the PLC and SM.
 - 5. Scout may not hold this position for more than two turns consecutively.

- E) Quartermaster
 1. First class scout or above in rank.
 2. Be willing to accomplish the role.
 3. Selected by the SPL with the SM's concurrence.
 4. Work with adult leaders to ensure that equipment is in good repair and ready to issue.
- F) Scribe
 1. First class scout or above in rank.
 2. Be willing to accomplish the role.
 3. Selected by the SPL with the SM's concurrence.
 4. Must keep good records.
 5. Work with adult leaders to accomplish the task.
- G) Junior Assistant Scoutmaster
 1. A Eagle scout
 2. 16 years of age.
 3. Be willing to accomplish the role.
 4. Work with adult leadership.
- H) Adjutant
 1. First class scout or above in rank.
 2. Be willing to accomplish the role
 3. Selected by the SPL with the SM's concurrence.
 4. Ensure protocol at all formations; lead the troop in parades and ceremonies.
- I) Other Positions
 1. As listed in the junior leader handbook.

All required ranks for various leadership positions may be waived by the SM with committee permission.

12. Duties of Troop Leaders:

- A) The duties for each of the boy's positions is spelled out in the Junior Leadership Handbook. Additional duties may be added by the SPL or SM.
- B) The duties for each of the registered adult positions are spelled out in the Committee Guidebook.
- C) More information on the duties of the SM and ASM's is contained in the Scoutmasters Handbook.

13. Elections:

Those candidates interested in a leadership position will submit their name and desired position to the PLC. The PLC will meet and approve them (or not) for that election. They should consider the following questions.

1. Has the candidate shown that he would do the job as required?
2. Has he participated in the past enough to ensure the role is in good hands?

3. Has he good communication skills to keep his group informed and going?
4. Has he taken the training or is willing to take the training required for that position?

Note: The PLC may also recommend removal from office through a similar examination.

1. The terms of office shall be:
 - A) SPL and ASPL 12 months (they succeed themselves after 6 months- ASPL becomes SPL)
 - B) All other positions will be a 6 month term.
2. The election will be by secret ballot with the majority of the group he will be representing voting for him.

14. Scout Conduct:

- A) Scouts or adults at any troop or patrol function will not allow use of profane language or inappropriate humor.
- B) There will be no initiation ceremonies involving physical hazing, or other demeaning actions at any troop or patrol function.
- C) The SPL is in charge of all Scout activities and is directly responsible to the Scoutmaster. He will discuss any unacceptable behavior with the Scoutmaster.
- D) The Scout sign signifies that quiet is required. There will be no talking after it is raised.
- E) Scouts and Scouter's are expected to follow the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and Outdoor Code at all times.
- F) There will be no alcohol or drugs at any troop or patrol function.
- G) Tobacco use of any kind is only allowed for adults and is not permitted in front of the boys at any time.

15. Discipline:

- A) Discipline will be administered by the SPL, PL's and by the Scoutmaster (or ASM). This will never consist of physical punishment or mental/emotional intimidation but can include extra assigned duties and tasks. More information is contained on the troop guidelines sheet at the front of the annual program packet.
- B) Additional infractions may result in a request to appear before the PLC and/ or committee.

16. Parental Support:

It is required that each boy has at least one adult representative take a job or responsibility in the troop. This spreads out the work and makes it easier on all the adults involved. Everyone must do his or her fair share. If the committee finds that participation by at least one adult for a boy is not happening or if an adult agrees to take a job or position and then does not fulfill that agreement, then their scouts' participation

in the troop will be suspended after 60 days. The committee will decide any special considerations.

Fast Start training will be given to all new parent(s) within two months of their boy joining the troop.

Basic Scout Adult Leader Training (BSE) is required for all adult leaders. This training must be completed within one year of an adult registering with this troop. New adult leaders who do not attend this training will not be rechartered and their activities with the boys or on the committee will be suspended. The district puts on this training in the spring and fall of each year. Every adult leader must repeat training every three years to serve as a refresher and to keep the leaders up to date with current scouting policy. Experienced adult leaders who have not been to this training within the last three years will not be rechartered and all adult leader activities for this person will be suspended until this training is completed. "Adult Leaders" are the SM, ASM's and committee members.

All registered committee members must attend 75% of troop committee meetings or their registration will be suspended. Anyone wishing to be reinstated must present his or her circumstances to the committee. Only committee members get to vote on troop issues. Only registered committee members in good standing are voting members of the committee. Adult leaders (SM & ASM) are not eligible to vote.

All adults will abide by the charter, the Troop information and policy (Bylaws), and the rules and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America.

17. Awards:

- A) The Boy Scout program requires and stimulates individual Scout initiative. That individual initiative can generate progress through the various requirements for the Scout ranks. Recognition of all achievements will be presented twice: the badge to be given as instant recognition and the cards will be given out at the Court of Honor which is held every 3 months. This creates an opportunity for the Scout to be in front of the whole troop and parents, and for the parents to assess the effectiveness of the program and how their son is doing within the program.
- B) Records of all advancements will be kept by the Scout and by the committee's Advancement Chairperson. The Scout will keep his records in his Boy Scout Handbook. The Advancement Chairperson will keep records in several ways: computer database, wall charts, and troop record books.
- C) The Scoutmaster has the option to present three special awards for these categories:
 - 1. Outstanding citizenship
 - 2. Outstanding leadership
 - 3. Outstanding Scout spirit

They will be presented at the annual Court of Honor in December.

18. Award Procedures:

A) Rank Progression

1. Each patrol leader is responsible for instructing and motivating “his patrol” through the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. He should have assistance from his ASM, troop instructors, and Junior ASM. The ASM may sign each boy’s book as he completes each requirement. The patrol leader will pass the records to the committee’s advancement chairperson.
2. When the requirements have been met, the PLC reviews the progress of the Scout and if everything is satisfactory will recommend him for a SM conference, to which he brings his Scout handbook, and if everything is in order will notify the committee for a board of review.
3. the Advancement Chairperson is responsible for holding boards of review and assures that standards are kept. After a satisfactory board of review, the rank patch will be presented at the next meeting. Rank cards will be presented at the next Court of Honor. Both presented with appropriate ceremony.
4. the Scoutmaster approves Star and Life rank service projects. The Life project will show leadership. The SM, troop committee, and District Advancement Chairperson must approve each Eagle project prior to any work being done.

B) Merit Badges

1. Application to participate in earning a merit badge must be made by the Scout to the SM. Once the application is filled out, the Scout and SM will concur on which councilor the Scout will work with.
2. the Scout must make contact with the councilor. All appointments, meetings, and other required attendance must be carried out on the Scouts own initiative.
3. once the merit badge councilor has signed the card certifying the Scout has met the requirements, the councilor gets his part of the card. The remaining 2 portions are presented to the SM. After a few questions satisfactorily answered, the SM gives the Scout his part of the card to keep for his records. The SM will give the last portion to the advancement chairperson.
4. the merit badge earned should be presented at the next troop meeting, and the card at the next Court of Honor.

19. Scout Materials needed:

A) The Scout

The Boy Scout handbook is the primary reference tool for the boys. It contains information on all of the gear required by each boy for troop meetings and outings. The Junior Leader handbook is required for all boys holding a position in the troop. Other materials are available at the Scout Shop for the boys use.

Note: be advised that the gear sold by the Scout Shop is not all BSA approved for troop outings. For example, the hatchet is not approved for the Scouts to use on troop outings.

B) The Adults

All members of the committee should be familiar with the troop committee guidebook. The Committee Chairperson is required to own a copy. The SM must own a copy of the SM handbook and the Boy Scout handbook. All ASM should be familiar with the SM handbook and own a copy of the Boy Scout handbook.

C) The Troop

The Troop Master program and updates will be provided to the Advancement Chairperson. The troop will maintain a library of all of the literature needed to properly conduct Boy scouting. These materials will include: Troop program features(3 volumes), Troop program resources, national BSA advancement policies and procedures, Boy Scout handbook, Boy Scout requirements, Boy Scout uniform inspection sheet, camp health and safety, conservation handbook, fast start videos, field book, first class first year tracking sheet, guide to safe scouting, insignia guide, junior leader handbook, local tour permit application, personal health and medical records (class 3 and class 1&2), recommending merit badge counselors, rules and regulations of the BSA, SM handbook, SM junior leader training kit, selecting quality leaders, selecting quality leaders video, troop committee guidebook, troop meeting plan, troop program resources, troop resources survey, troop/team record book, unit budget plan, unit money earning application, and any other material that the committee deems necessary.

D) Internet support

The web page for BSA national office is <http://www.bsa.scouting.org>, for the troop it is <http://www.bougan.com/troop1539>

20. Chartered Organization Statement:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4992, chartered organization representative has approved this statement.

22. Troop Policy Statement:

The Committee Chairperson, the SM, and the SPL have approved this statement. They shall review these by-laws annually for possible updates.