

New Scout Handbook

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“...It may not matter what kind of house I lived in,
or what my checking account was.
All that mattered was that
I was important in the life of a boy...”



Welcome to Troop 718

TO: Parents of Troop 718

Welcome! Troop 718 is a proud Troop and we are pleased to have you as part of it.

Troop 718 has a successful history of providing a well-balanced scouting program for scouts interested in developing personal character, learning scouting and leadership skills, obtaining advancement, and enjoying outdoor activities. During the past several years, the number of scouts advancing the rank of Eagle Scout has been well above the national average. There are two important ingredients directly related to the success of Troop 718. First, the interest and participation of parents and adult leaders has always been high. Second, the troop camping program has been very appealing to boys of scouting age.

The activities of Troop 718 are dependent on the support of parents. Without adults, Scouts cannot go camping. Without funds, troop equipment such as tents, cooking utensils, and canoes cannot be purchased and maintained. Without fundraising, there are no funds. Advancement is possible only through the willingness of parents to serve as merit badge counselors. The list goes on. In short, Troop 718 needs your contribution of time and appreciates any amount that a parent is able to give. Your support of the scouting program is essential to making it a successful experience for your son.

Organizationally, we have a Troop Committee that has the primary responsibility to:

1. Support the troop program developed by the Scoutmaster and the Patrol Leaders' Council.
2. Provide for the operations of the Troop through working committees.

We invite you to participate as a member of this committee or in any other way you are willing to help. Many adults camp with the Troop and parents also provide transportation for our camp-outs or help with activities at our scout meetings. Assistance from the parents has greatly contributed to the success of our Troop and the growth of our boys.

The regular scout meetings are usually held on Sundays from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Occasionally, meetings are not held due to holidays, etc. The Troop Calendar summarizes when the meetings will be held.

Again, the goal of Troop 718 is to provide an enjoyable, safe and well-balanced scouting program for your son. We look forward to working with you and your son. If you have any questions, or want more information regarding our program, please feel free to contact either of us.

Yours in Scouting,

Troop Committee Chairman

Scoutmaster

Philosophy of Boy Scouts

Boys Scouts is a boy run, adult supervised organization. Our goal is to provide an atmosphere for growth in which a Scout may develop into a young adult who is a mature, responsible citizen. The troop strives to instill a desire for excellence and presents each Scout with opportunities to:

- ☆have fun!
- ☆develop new interests and learn new skills
- ☆learn the fundamental elements of teamwork
- ☆have new experiences
- ☆take responsibility for his conduct, his appearance, and for his own achievements
- ☆be helpful and do his best
- ☆develop self-esteem
- ☆prepare for new and greater challenges
- ☆handle the responsibilities he has to God, to country, to others and himself
- ☆keep himself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

How the Boy Scout Program Works

Like Cub Scouts, a Boy Scout troop is structured with a chartering organization, a charter representative, a committee and adult leaders—in this case a Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters. The boys are divided into patrols (rather than dens) and the boys lead. The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) fills the position of the troop's boy leader. The charter organization provides a meeting place and helps the troop in any way it can. The charter representative acts as a liaison between the troop and the chartering organization.

The Senior Patrol Leader, not the Scoutmaster, conducts troop meetings. The SPL is an elected position, determined by elections held twice a year and voted on by the boys in the troop. The SPL is not picked by the Scoutmaster or the troop committee. Patrol Leaders are elected by the boys within each patrol. Patrol leaders appoint their assistants. The SPL, the ASPL, Warrant Officers, and Patrol Leaders comprise the Patrol Leadership Council (PLC). With the assistance of the Scoutmaster and the adult leaders, the PLC determines the troop's program.

The Patrol Leader and his assistant conduct their individual patrol meetings with the assistance of an Assistant Scoutmaster. The patrol leader leads his patrol in planning for camp-outs and other activities.

As members of a patrol, the boys work together as a unit and individually. As a unit, they camp, work on patrol projects and carry out troop assignments. As individuals, they work on merit badges, rank advancement and self-improvement.

Scout Participation

Boy Scouts is a participatory organization assisting young men in their development into responsible citizens and leaders. The benefits a Scout will derive from Scouting and Troop 718 will be in direct proportion to the time and effort he is willing to invest.

Troop 718 provides an active year-round Scouting program but to get the most from it, a Scout must be present and an active participant in as many Scouting activities as possible. These activities include both indoor and outdoor events, meetings, camp-outs, etc. The camping experience in Scouting sets Boy Scouts apart from other organizations. When Lord Baden Powell founded the Scouting movement in the early 1900's, he made camping its primary activity. By encouraging Scouts to master the art of living outdoors, he believed they would have the confidence to meet other challenges of life. He was right, and it is through Scouting's outdoor experiences that boys learn and grow as the program intended.

Scout Spirit (demonstrated by application of the Scout Oath and Laws in daily life and at Scouting functions) and troop participation are requirements for rank advancement. Scouts participating in cooperative and leadership roles within the troop along with our quality outdoor program will find that advancement is a natural result of their Scouting experience.

Troop Calendars

Each September, the boys are given a calendar of Troop 718 activities for the coming fall. The Spring calendar is usually finalized and distributed in December/January. These dates are rarely changed, so you can depend upon them. Occasionally, activities are added to the calendar. The boys are told at their meetings of any changes. You and your Scout are urged to keep the calendar handy and consult it for information about each month's activities.

A copy of the current Troop 718 calendar is being distributed with this handbook.

Standing Meetings

Troop Meetings

The regular Troop 718 Scout meeting is held from 3:00—4:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoons in Asbury Hall at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church. Meetings are not held every Sunday—due to holidays, conflicting schedules, etc. The calendar shows when meetings will be held. The calendar considers school holidays when determining whether meetings will be canceled.

Patrol Leaders' Council

The Patrol Leaders meet monthly at the Patrol Leaders' Council to plan and discuss upcoming troop activities. If your son is a Patrol Leader, it is important for him to attend these meetings so that he can represent his patrol in the planning process and can advise the other Scouts in his patrol of upcoming activities. Other leadership positions are expected to attend these meetings as needed (Troop Guide, Scribe, etc.)

Committee Meetings

Generally, every 2nd Tuesday of each month, the Troop Committee meets to plan and discuss upcoming activities as well as take care of the administrative tasks necessary to sustain the troop. All parents are encouraged to attend these meetings and to join the committee or one of the sub-committees. The Troop Committee meets at 7:00 p.m.

Court of Honor

Approximately every three months, Troop 718 holds a Court of Honor to recognize those Scouts who have earned rank advancement, merit badges, and other honors. At each Court of Honor, both the Troop Committee Chairman and the Scoutmaster give reports to the parents regarding troop activities. The Courts of Honor are usually held on Sundays unless there is a special request for another day. This ceremony means a great deal to the Scouts who are recognized for their achievements. Your attendance, even if your Scout is not scheduled to receive recognition, encourages the boys to pursue further advancement and gives you an opportunity to learn about recent and future troop activities.

Mailings, Troop Handouts and Rosters

Periodic mailings will be sent to Scouts based on the address furnished to us. For accurate records and mailings, please make sure we have your most current address and phone number. Most mailings are sent directly to the Scout, in his name. Patrol and adult rosters will be furnished for you.

Troop Uniform

Clothes may not make the man, but a uniform and the right equipment do help make and identify a Boy Scout. Beyond a similarity of appearance, the Scout uniform distinguishes Scouts from non-Scouts, helps build good patrol and troop spirit, gives the boys a feeling of belonging, provides a place to sew on badges and patches, and lets people know at least one group is ready to help.

Here are the primary uniform items worn by members of Troop 718—Scouts and Scouters alike. Other items, such as shorts, T-shirts, ties, merit badge sashes and such may be worn optionally. The Boy Scout uniform is described in the Scout catalog which has been mailed to you from Scout Headquarters. All items may be purchased at Scoutfitters, the National Scouting Museum store, the Lewisville Scout Shop or from the catalog. Items such as progress awards, skill awards and merit badges are available only at Scout Headquarters. The troop buys them and awards them to Scouts at the Court of Honor after they are earned.

Preferred Items

Class A Uniform (Field)

Worn, as instructed by Troop leadership, to most Scouting activities, to include Troop meetings, Courts of Honor, special events, and travel to and from camp-outs and summer camp.

- ☆ Boy Scout trousers—either short or long
- ☆ Boy Scout Shirt, short-sleeve
- ☆ Boy Scout cotton socks
- ☆ Boy Scout web belt with buckle (Scout may choose to wear an official leather belt/buckle from a Scout Camp, i.e. Philmont, National Jamboree, etc.)
- ☆ Boy Scout neckerchief—presented to each new Scout by Troop 718 when he attains the Scout rank; do NOT purchase
- ☆ Neckerchief slide, official or handmade
- ☆ Troop numerals, patrol emblem, American flag, Circle 10 Council patch, World Crest patch, red shoulder loops

For more formal occasions (Courts of Honor, Webelos crossovers, Sunday worship services, and public appearances), the Scout may add his merit badge sash and religious medals.

Class B Uniform (Activity)

Worn, as instructed by Troop leadership, when activities may cause damage to the field uniform.

- ☆ Troop 718 T-shirt from any Troop 718 activity (such as Summer Camp)
- ☆ Boy Scout pants or shorts
- ☆ Tennis shoes or hiking boots. Socks are required.
- ☆ Boy Scout socks, for wearing with shorts.

Scout Shops

Circle 10 Council Scoutfitters

8605 Harry Hines Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75235

Phone: 214.902.6767

National Scouting Museum

1329 West Walnut Hill Lane
Irving, TX 75038

Phone: 800.303.3047

Lewisville Scout Shop

2305 S. Highway 121, Suite 180
Lewisville, TX 75067

Phone: 972.316.0672



Troop 718 Committee Roster

The Troop 718 Roster is updated periodically on an as needed basis and given to your scout at the regular troop meeting on a Sunday Afternoon. When you receive a new roster, have your Scout check his listing for corrections and report any errors to his Patrol Leader who will report them to the Scout Leaders. If you move or change your telephone number, please have your Scout report the new address or phone number to his Patrol Leader. This will help us keep you informed about troop activities and help you locate someone you may need.

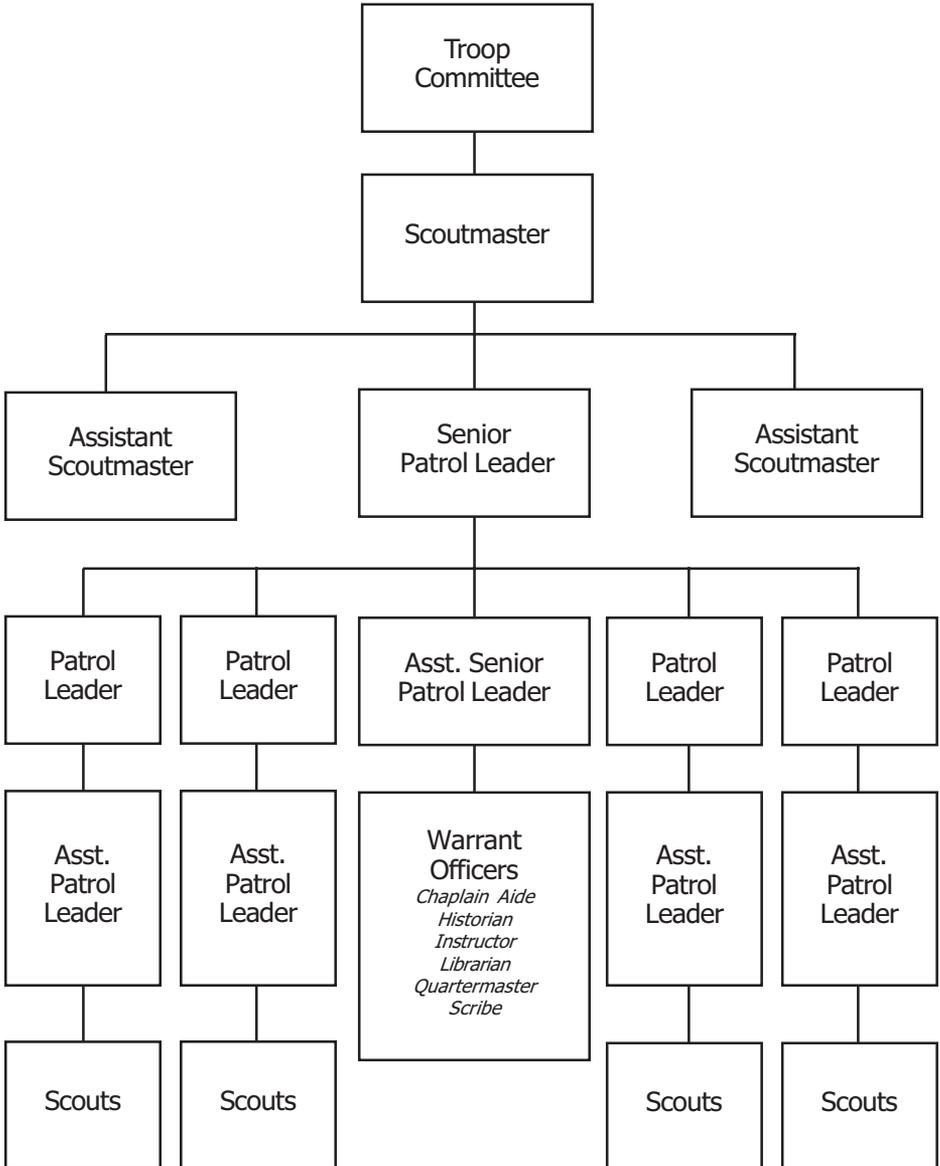
The roster lists those parents and other interested adults who are members of Troop 718 Committee. The committee is comprised of both men and women who work closely with your Scout's leaders to support the activities of the troop. These people are available to you if you need additional information or assistance.

The Troop 718 Committee functions are explained in the section captioned Troop Committee Responsibilities. You are encouraged to join this group and help out with the "behind the scenes" work of the troop. Please call one of our committee members if you are interested.

The chart which follows shows how Troop 718 is organized. One of the purposes of Scouting is to develop leadership skills in the boys. To this end, Scouts in Troop 718 assume much responsibility for running the troop. Scout leaders are elected every six months so that each boy has an opportunity to experience a leadership position. By supporting these leaders, your boy can learn the duties and responsibilities of each position so that when he assumes a leadership role, he will be better prepared.

Troop 718 is proud of its adult leadership and parent participation. The leaders and others volunteer their time to assist with the "behind the scenes" work necessary to sustain the troop. As you can see from the list, there are several committees that welcome your assistance. Your son's experience in Scouting is largely dependent upon the quality and quantity of adult participation. We appreciate your support and encourage your help with the work of the troop. (*See section "How You Can Help."*)

Troop 718 Organization



Troop Committee Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the troop committee officers and members are:

Troop Committee Chairman

1. Invite all scout parents to participate.
2. Act as presiding officer at all troop committee meetings and conduct all matters of business.
3. Plan committee meeting agenda and see that each chairman is prepared to report; ask any questions necessary to make report complete.
4. Notify all leaders and committee members of the time and place of troop committee meetings and make the proper arrangements for same.
5. Keep informed at all times of committee and troop activities and status.

Treasurer

1. Handle all troop funds.
2. Pay bills on recommendation of Scoutmaster and authorization of troop committee.
3. Maintain sound financial records.
4. Receive troop income from troop fundraising activities, collection of dues and other moneys due the troop and deposit in bank to credit of the troop.
5. Prepare troop budget, secure its adoption by committee and call the committee's attention to any area that exceeds budget.
6. Supervise the annual re-chartering process through competition.

Advancement Chair

1. See that Scouts have the opportunity needed to advance. Work with Scoutmaster and troop committee to provide the support needed for advancement.
2. Conduct Progress Reviews on a regular monthly date set by the troop committee and secure the awards earned.
3. Coordinate Courts of Honor to recognize advancement.
4. Keep the committee informed on troop advancement and maintain advancement records. Recruit Merit Badge Counselors.

Camping Chair

1. Confer and assist Scoutmaster with troop camping programs.
2. Locate and secure permission to use campsites, make necessary registrations to use Council campsites, Complete Tour Permit when applicable.
3. Assist the Scoutmaster in securing films, speakers, instructors for troop meetings as requested.
4. Secure and provide transportation to and from all camp-outs, hikes, expeditions and summer camp.
5. Assist the Scoutmaster in troop participation in council and district good-turn projects.
6. Be sure parents are completely informed about camping and activity plans.

Committee Member

Cooperate to the best of their ability with the Scoutmaster by serving on various committees when needed.

Scout Leader Responsibilities



Senior Patrol Leader



The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is the troop's leader in every sense of the word. It is a difficult assignment requiring him to know everyone else's job. He works with Scouts and Scouters alike, relying heavily on the strong support of his Assistant SPL, to be sure the troop functions properly. His efforts, or the lack of them, can determine how well the troop does. It is his specific responsibility to:

1. Plan, develop and execute—working closely with the Scoutmaster and Patrol Leader Council (PLC)—each month's meetings, camp-outs and special events.
2. Conduct monthly PLC meetings (with the Patrol Leaders) to plan programs, making certain the opinions and desires of individual patrols and Scouts are well represented.
3. Work with the Patrol Leaders to be certain everyone knows the plan, that Patrol Leaders are carrying out their responsibilities and to be aware of any problems. Problems that the SPL cannot handle are referred to the Scoutmaster.
4. Coordinate troop telephone communications.
5. Check with Patrol Leaders before camp-outs to estimate attendance.
6. Before leaving for camp-outs, assemble troop, have Patrol Leaders account for absent Scouts, determine if patrols are properly equipped and ready to go.
7. Work with patrols to be sure they are ready to carry out their assignments at meetings and camp-outs.
8. Help maintain the troop's chain of command and build good morale and discipline.



Patrol Leader



It is the responsibility of the Patrol Leader to:

1. Represents his patrol at PLC meetings.
2. Be able to account for the attendance of each patrol member at all troop functions.
3. Set the example by wearing the complete uniform and seeing that each member of the patrol does as well.
4. Preside at all patrol meetings.
5. Lead patrol during patrol competition at meetings and camp-outs. *Be sure members are prepared.*
6. Take care of patrol flag. Also responsible for being sure patrol has yell and song.
7. Be certain that all patrol members have handbook, pen or pencil, and notebook at all functions.
8. Plan and carry out monthly (minimum) patrol meetings (outside troop meetings).
9. Call all patrol members to relay information as requested by SPL or Scoutmaster.
10. Make sure all troop equipment assigned to your patrol is properly used and cared for. Be sure equipment is checked in and out with the quartermaster.

Additional responsibilities of the Patrol Leader on a camp-out are:

1. Plan proper menu and make certain that whoever brought food is

- paid back for it.
2. Plan patrol participation at camp-out and have all basic equipment and any special equipment needed for the camp-out.
 3. Campsite management—locations of tents, patrol fire, clean area, etc.
 4. Special assignments—be sure patrol is prepared to carry out any special assignments made by the SPL or the Scoutmaster (Campfire program, skills competition, etc.)
 5. **Enforcement of Troop Regulations**—First, set the example yourself, then expect patrol members to do the same.



Quartermaster

The Quartermaster is responsible for storing, issuing, and maintaining the troop's equipment and supplies and should:

1. Check all equipment in and out before they are taken down and folded at a camp-out.
2. Inspect zippers, lines, floor and fly; count stakes and ropes. Make sure the tents are folded with stakes and poles in the center and that each tent sack holds a tent, rain fly, stake bag and poles.
3. Any flies used should be inspected for wear and points of strain, and all knots should be untied before they pass inspection.
4. Be certain all gear is clean and in good working order before it is stowed away.
5. Advise the Scoutmaster and committee equipment chairman of any faulty equipment.



Scribe

1. Keep attendance records for troop functions.
2. Assist Quartermaster during inspections.
3. Assist Assistant Scoutmaster with Advancement records.



Historian

1. Collects and maintains troop activity records.
2. Takes pictures of troop activities.
3. Organizes scrapbook of troop events.



Instructor

Conducts Scoutmaster approved scouting skills training.



Den Chief

1. Assists den leader of assigned Cub Scouts den with planning and conducting of den meetings.
2. Works to promote scouting ideals by serving as an example to younger boys.



Troop Guide

1. Older scout assists with training of younger scouts.
2. Assists Assistant Scoutmaster with new scout patrols.



Junior Assistant Scoutmaster

Must be 16 years old, appointed by Scoutmaster.



Chaplain's Aide

Helps troop planning to consider religious observance at troop activities.



Librarian

1. Keeps record on literature owned by troop.
2. Keeps system to check literature in and out.
3. Keeps Merit Badge Counselor list.



Bugler

Sounds necessary calls at troop activities.

More detail on Troop Leadership positions can be found in [The Boy Scout Handbook](#), [The Senior Patrol Leader Handbook](#) and [The Patrol Leader Handbook](#).

Boy Leadership Training Opportunities



Den Chief Training

North District conducts this annual training program for First Class Scouts and above interested in serving in the leadership position of Den Chief.

Den Chiefs are a special kind of junior leader who are active members of their patrol and troop as well as their assigned Cub Scout Pack and Den. A Den Chief is a leader who is a guide, instructor, activities assistant, and recruiter. Completion of this training is required prior to placement as a den chief.

Participants in this junior leader training course learn effective teaching methods, leadership skills and fun activities to aid them in working with Cub Scouts and their Den leaders.

Oak Leaf Skills Junior Leader Training Course

This training course sponsored by the North District Training Committee is designed to give Scouts knowledge and understanding of the patrol method and the leadership skills useful in fulfilling their patrol responsibilities.

Participants must be First Class or above and have shown leadership potential. It is recommended that participants be at least 12 years of age. The course involves an indoor session and an outdoor session. The participants should have a good background in overnight camping.

This training is required for Scouts wanting to attend Circle Ten Council Golden Acorn Training.

Golden Acorn Junior Leader Training Conference

Golden Acorn is a seven-day outdoor experience for troop youth leaders. It is conducted by Circle Ten Council based on an outline approved by the National Council, Boy Scouts of America.

The conference is designed to give each participant confidence and working knowledge of the eleven leadership skills as they relate to the Scout's troop responsibilities. Golden Acorn provides opportunities to share ideas and experiences in a fun environment where Scouts experience Scouting at its best.

To be eligible to attend Golden Acorn, a Scout must be at least 13 years of age and a First Class Scout by the first day of the session he attends. Conference participants should be either Senior Patrol Leaders, Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, members of the Patrol Leaders Council or a Scout likely to soon assume one of these positions. The participant must have attended the Oak Leaf Skills Junior Leader Training. Attendance is limited to six Scouts per week from the same home troop, with sessions generally held several times during the summer at Camp Meisenbach on the Clements Scout Ranch.

Adult Leadership Training Opportunities

Boy Scout Adult Leader Training or Scoutmaster Fundamentals

This training is a course that provides details on operating an effective troop. There are two parts to this training: New Leader Training and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills. New Leader Training is a one-day session that gives a good, basic overview of running a Boy Scout troop. Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills includes an outdoor experience to teach Scouting skills. Courses are generally offered twice a year.

Youth Protection Training

This course trains Scout volunteer leaders to detect and prevent child abuse. Completion of this training is mandatory of all Troop 718 leaders and must be renewed every three years. Youth Protection Training is generally offered at the same time as New Leader Skills or at monthly roundtables and can be renewed using an on-line course.

Boy Scout Roundtable

North District conducts a monthly roundtable meeting for troop leaders which gives individuals a chance to share program ideas and gain valuable training. Roundtables are designed to support all levels of troop leadership.

North District Roundtables are held at Covenant Presbyterian Church at 1700 S. Josey Lane in Carrollton.

Wood Badge

This course is the advanced adult training program of Boy Scouting. It is designed especially for Scoutmasters and other leaders directly related to the program of a Boy Scout troop. Wood Badge training has two parts. The first part consists of an outdoor experience and practical training. The second part of Wood Badge is the application of what has been learned. This course is usually offered several times a year and can be done at either the local council level or at Philmont.



The Three "A's" Equal Recognition

The Boy Scouts of America really is not a club a boy can join and forget. It can give much, but it asks something in return. To enjoy and maintain his membership—to have fun in Scouting, a boy must achieve certain goals, advance in rank regularly, and attend troop events. If he dislikes or is otherwise bored in achieving, advancing or attending, there probably won't be much reason for him to stay in Scouting very long, and he certainly won't be having very much fun.

In a very strict sense, each Scout is totally responsible for how well he does with the Three A's. Patrol Leaders, Senior Patrol Leaders and other Scouts and adult leaders can encourage him, urge him, work with him, goad him, show him, browbeat him—but they cannot MAKE him achieve, advance or attend. You can HELP him, but you cannot do it for him. He must WANT TO DO IT HIMSELF.

Achievement

Achievement in Scouting is the first "A." It begins by accomplishing what is set forth in the Scout Handbook. Before a boy can earn his first rank—Scout, he must:

- ☆ Know, understand and intend to live by the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan.
- ☆ Know the Scout salute, sign, and handclasp, and when to use them.
- ☆ Know about the Scout badge, and
- ☆ Know and agree to follow the Outdoor Code.

When he has achieved that knowledge, he can officially become a Boy Scout and join the troop. In Troop 718, a boy can demonstrate that he has learned the requirements for Scout to either an adult leader or, preferably, to an older Scout in his patrol. When he is "passed off" (shown that he has satisfied the requirements), the person conducting the review will initial and date his progress record in the back of his Scout Handbook. It is important that he take good care of the record, keep it current and have it with him at all troop functions. It will help him keep track of where he is and where he is going in Scouting. And it will be his primary personal record of his Scouting years.

Once a boy becomes a Scout, there are two types of achievements that will help him advance to higher ranks and rewards: Rank Requirements and Merit Badges.

Rank Requirements



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

Soon he will learn the symbolism inherent in the Scout badge; he will learn that there are three points of the trefoil which stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath: Duty to God and country, duty to other people and duty to self. The goal of this Troop is for the Scout to achieve the rank of First Class within his first year in the Troop. This is a sign that the Scout has mastered the fundamentals of Scouting

and can begin to start the long process of learning to lead others, refining the learned skills and learning additional skills.



Merit Badges

Merit badges are described in the Scout Handbook. The specific requirements for the Eagle required merit badges are also in the Handbook. For other merit badges, there is a pamphlet for each badge that gives much information that is useful in studying the subject. They are available from Scoutfitters, the local library (some of these are not the most current pamphlet) and the Troop library. Those in the troop library can be checked out for short periods from the Troop Librarian. There are presently about 118 different merit badges listed and others are being developed regularly by national headquarters.

Merit badges are among the most important achievements for a Scout because they must be earned to advance beyond the rank of First Class. Merit badges also serve to remind the Scout just how close he is to the next rank. Merit badges teach the boys new skills in life as well as Scouting.

Merit badges are earned by working with adult merit badge counselors. A list of Troop 718's counselors is kept as current as possible and is available along with instructions on how to contact and work with the counselors. A Scout must obtain the Scoutmaster's approval before starting a Merit Badge. The counselor must be selected for approval and must be a Scouter registered with the Boy Scouts of America. When a badge has been earned, the Scoutmaster should be notified by giving him a filled in and signed "Application for Merit Badge." The Scout will get his badge at the next regular troop meeting and will be honored for his achievement at the next Court of Honor with the presentation of a Merit Badge Card.

Merit badge opportunities are also offered on the district and council levels. Some examples of these are North District Advancement Day (Brookhaven College in November), Summer Camp (at various council camps), Merit Badge College (a week-long course held during the summer, usually June) and periodic stand-alone merit badge classes (usually at Circle Ten headquarters). Announcement of these opportunities will be given at troop meetings or by troop mailings.

Please notify the Advancement Chairman if your Scout has a learning, physical, or emotional disability. Some Eagle required Merit Badges have alternatives available.

Advancement



The second "A" is based on acquired Scouting skills, leadership, service and merit badges. It only comes to boys who keep working on their achievements and it is signified by earning a Progress Award, otherwise know as a "rank."

To earn each successive rank—Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and so on—a Scout must also be active in the troop, have Scout Spirit, and have a conference with his Scoutmaster. After meeting those goals, his final step up to the next rank is a Board of Review, which is given by a panel of adult troop committee members.

Although the Scoutmaster and other troop leaders do their best to maintain good records and keep the boys moving, it is up to each boy to make certain that he gets the attention he needs and is reviewed on time. Each Scout is ultimately responsible for what he does. This responsibility teaches the Scout self-reliance, initiative, self-discipline, follow-through, and gives him an understandable sense of accomplishment in himself. Your troop's leadership will always do its best to provide opportunities for achievement and advancement—but the individual Scout must do it for himself.

When a Scout is ready for a Board of Review, he contacts the Scoutmaster or the Advancement Chairman. It is strongly recommended that a Scout schedule one week prior to a Board of Review.

Summary of Advancement Process

1. The Scout follows the guidelines and passes each rank requirement as defined in the Scout Handbook.
2. He arranges a Scoutmaster conference with the Scoutmaster.
3. He schedules a Board of Review.
4. He receives his award at the next scheduled meeting and is honored at the next Court of Honor.

Attendance



The last of the Three "A's," attendance is very important. Good attendance is needed because achievement and advancement are much easier when there are done WITH other Scouts. Scouts help each other. Scouts reinforce each other. A boy who is not attending probably is not working on Scouting, and if he is not working on Scouting but doing it by himself, he really isn't taking full advantage of the program and the opportunities it presents.

Scouts should attend as many troop functions as possible. "Just not feeling like it!" doesn't count! Many parents have worked out car pools with other Scouts in the neighborhood to cut down on the amount of parental driving necessary.

Attendance by the Scout parents at the Courts of Honor is also important even if your Scout is not receiving an award. There are reports by the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee Chairman informing you of past and upcoming events. The Court of Honor is an excellent time for you to meet other Scout parents and the leaders to whom you have entrusted your boy.

Each Scout is required to attend at least one meeting since the last camp-out to be allowed to participate in the next camp-out. This requirement can be waived by the Scoutmaster if he feels it is justified due to the Scout's schedule.

Scoutmaster Conference

Each of the six ranks in Scouting contain the requirement "Participate in a Scoutmaster Conference." The purpose of the conference is to develop trust and understanding over time.

This conference helps the Scoutmaster get to know each Scout better by giving him a clearer idea of what individual Scouts can contribute to their patrol and to the troop. The conference assists the Scoutmaster in discovering what the troop can do to bring a quality program to the Scouts.

Each Scoutmaster's Conference is an opportunity for Scouts to learn more about the Scoutmaster and his expectations, bring up any concerns and discuss anything not understood about the Scouting program. The Scoutmaster and the Scout will also talk about goal setting and achievement. The conference is informal.

Boards of Review

Once a Scout has completed the requirements for a new rank, he is eligible for a Board of Review. A Board of Review has four purposes:

- ☆ To assess the Scout's knowledge of the subject matter required for that particular rank and all previous ranks.
- ☆ To find out what kind of experience the Scout is having in his patrol and in the troop
- ☆ To encourage the Scout to progress further
- ☆ To determine the Scout's attitude and his acceptance of Scouting ideas.

The Board of review consists of three members of the Troop Committee. At no time may a relative or guardian serve as members of a Scout's Board of Review.

During a Board of Review, a Scout will be asked questions by the panel. At the end of the review, the Scout will be asked to leave the room while the Board discusses his qualifications and reaches a unanimous decision. The Scout will be called back and will be told that he has qualified or what additional action he must take to qualify. Once a Scout has qualified, he will be awarded his new badge of rank as soon as possible. If the Board determines that the review process needs to be continued, the Scout will be told which requirements need to be reviewed and a date and time will be scheduled for that re-review.

Service Projects

The troop works on many community and council service projects, including Scouting for Food. The troop also participates in, and provides staffing for, district and council events such as Webelos Two-Day, Scout Show, and Oak Leaf Skills Training. Eagle projects benefit schools, religious institutions, and communities throughout the Metroplex.

To help foster a sense of personal responsibility and citizenship, Scouts are required to participate in a service project approved by their Scoutmaster for several ranks. The time of service must be a minimum of one hour for Second Class and six hours

each for Star and Life Ranks. Assisting on Eagle service projects earns service hours for those who participate.

For an Eagle service project, an Eagle Scout candidate must plan, develop and give leadership to others outside the sphere of Scouting. The project must be executed while the Scout is a Life Scout. The Eagle Scout project provides the opportunity for the Eagle Scout candidate to demonstrate the leadership skills he has learned in Scouting. Before any Eagle Scout service project is begun, it must be approved by the district or council advancement committee.

Courts of Honor

A Court of Honor is a formal ceremony recognizing advancement in the troop. Scouts who have advanced in rank and/or earned merit badges since the last Court of Honor are recognized before an audience of family, friends, chartered organization representatives, BSA officials and troop leaders. Special awards may also be presented.

Troop 718 holds at least three Courts of Honor—one in the fall after all summer activities, one in the winter and one in the spring. Please check the Troop Calendar for specific dates and mark your calendar now to avoid scheduling conflicts. It is very important that all parents attend the Courts of Honor to encourage and show support for the Scouts in the troop and to recognize the boys' accomplishments.

Camping

Camping activities are a major part of the Scouting program and Troop 718 plans a camp-out or troop activity each month during the school year. This allows the boys many opportunities to work on related advancement requirements.

The troop has a troop trailer that is used to move patrol boxes and other equipment to camp. Most camp-outs are patrol style camp-outs, which means each patrol plans its menus, purchases its own food, cooks, works and camps as a patrol. Please make sure your son's patrol leader and the Scoutmaster know if your son has food allergies or dietary restrictions.

Cancellation

Troop 718 will camp in all types of weather; however, unnecessary risks are never taken. Safety is the foremost consideration during all outings. Cancellation of any troop function is at the discretion of the Scoutmaster.

Camping and Food Fees

Each troop camping event stands on its own financially—fees collected meet expenses for that event. Scout and leader camping fees will vary depending on the length of the camp-out, the distance traveled and whether or not registration or park fees are required. Food fees for camping must be paid by the time of departure. Food fees are nonrefundable. Please make sure your son's patrol leader and the Scoutmaster know if your son has food allergies or dietary restrictions.

Adult Camping

Adult leaders and Scout parents camp together in their own area and function as a patrol with their own duty roster and camp responsibilities. Volunteers are always needed to help shop for and prepare food in the adult area. Parents do not tent with their Scouts nor are they permitted to tent in the Scout patrol areas.

Camping Equipment

Troop 718 supplies its Scouts with patrol boxes, cooking equipment and other patrol style equipment. It is the responsibility of each Scout to take care of equipment used. Troop equipment assigned to a patrol **MUST BE** returned cleaned and in good condition. Equipment will be inventoried and inspected at the end of each camp-out.

Required Personal Camping Supplies and Equipment

Equipment, including a pack, sleeping bag, tent, rain gear, boots and socks, sleeping pad, eating gear, etc. is the responsibility of the individual Scout. New Scouts and their parents should review the list of recommended equipment, which can be found in the Boy Scout Handbook. Scouts should mark all equipment/clothing with a permanent marker with his initials and the "T718" designation. Each Scout is responsible for his own equipment.

Prior to the first troop camp-out, Scouts will also need these additional items:

- ☆ For sleeping - plastic sheet for a ground cloth (6'x9'), small flash light and batteries.
- ☆ For eating and drinking - plastic water bottle (2 liter soft drink bottle is

fine), large unbreakable cup, unbreakable plate and bowl, unbreakable knife, fork and spoon.

- ☆ For keeping clean - bar soap and container, toothbrush and toothpaste, wash cloth and towel, toilet paper (stored in a zip-lock bag), comb and deodorant.
 - ☆ For staying comfortable - an extra pair of shoes and extra clothing as needed to include underwear.
 - ☆ For cold weather* - hooded sweatshirt, stocking cap, gloves, insulated long underwear, jacket and/or coat.
 - ☆ For warm weather* - shorts, swimming suit.
 - ☆ So you'll be prepared - travel sewing kit, 3 large heavy-duty garbage bags, pocket knife with blade under 4 inches (must have earned **Tot'n Chip**), sunscreen, personal first aid kit, compass, 10 feet of nylon cord (1/8" or 3/16" dia.) insect repellent (**no aerosol**).
- * - These items may not be needed immediately depending on the season you join the troop.*

Supplemental Equipment Lists

Scouts will be furnished with specialized equipment lists for summer camp and for other camping opportunities such as Philmont, Northern Tier, etc.

Summer Camp

Every summer, the troop attends a week-long summer camp. Summer camp offers each Scout advancement opportunities and outdoor challenges that he will remember for a lifetime. The summer camp program is geared for Scouts of all ages and ranks. The First Year Camper program is specifically designed for new Scouts and has them working on many requirements needed for ranks through First Class. There are merit badge sessions for Scouts who need merit badges to attain their rank, and there are challenging programs for older Scouts: Mountain Man, Scout Life Guard, COPE and others.

Scouts also have many opportunities to swim, fish, canoe, hike, shoot arrows and rifles, make new friends and have fun! Attending summer camp is one of the most important highlights of the Scouting year.

High Adventure Camp

The troop also takes part in a high adventure activity each summer. In 2001, a crew went canoeing down the Buffalo River in Arkansas. In 2002, a crew went to Sea Base in Florida during Spring Break and enjoyed sailing in the Florida Keys. Also in 2002, a crew went hiking and rafting at Camp Packard in Colorado. In 2003, a crew went hiking at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. In 2004, a crew went to Canoe Base, Northern Tier in Minnesota.

In addition, Troop 718 Scouts have attended the 2001 National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia with pre-jamboree fun in New York City and Washington D.C. and plans are in the works to attend the 2005 National Jamboree.

Age requirements for high adventure activities vary. National Jamboree requires age 12 and above. Most others require First Class Rank and 14 years of age.

How You Can Help

The activities of Troop 718 are dependent on the support of parents. Without adults, Scouts cannot go camping. Without funds, troop equipment such as tents, cooking utensils, and canoes cannot be purchased and maintained. Without fundraising, there are no funds. Advancement is possible only through the willingness of parents to serve as merit badge counselors. The list goes on. In short, Troop 718 needs your contribution of time and appreciates any amount that a parent is able to give.

Listed below are some of the areas that present continuing needs for assistance from parents.

Merit Badge Counselors

A present and urgent need is for Merit Badge Counselors. If you have expertise in some field or a hobby, please share it with the Scouts. There are over 100 merit badges ranging from archery to woodworking. If you don't have expertise or a hobby, but maybe you did well in a course in the subject or simply would like to learn more about the topic, that may qualify you; please check with one of the Scoutmasters. Please take a moment to review the list of merit badges in the Scout Handbook and contact the Advancement Chairman or the Scoutmaster if you can assist. Counselors are required to be registered Scouters, but this should not stand in anyone's way. All of the information you will need is contained in each merit badge booklet.

Troop Committee

All parents—dads and moms!—are welcome to join the Troop Committee. This is a good way to meet the adults who work with your boy and to keep yourself informed about happenings in Troop 718.

Camping

Parents are needed and welcomed to participate in the camping activities of Troop 718. Camping with the boys is not the only way you can help. Other needs include transportation to and from camp and pre-camp planning.

Troop Finances

Scout troops, as with most other groups, cannot live on dedication and hard work alone. Money is an important part of it, and more than a little is needed to keep Troop 718 running. Some of it comes from dues. The remainder comes from special fundraising activities and donations.

Troop 718, as part of the Scouting movement, is supported in great part by the hard work of the Scouting professionals who staff Circle Ten Council and our own North District. They provide the leadership, programs and materials to keep Scouting going—and they are supported to a significant degree by United Way and similar civic organizations.

All Troop 718 operating funds are provided by Scouts and Scouters who belong to the troop. The troop has been self-supporting throughout its history. Annual dues (which include registration fees) provide the financing required to conduct the regular programs. Fundraising events provide the money needed to purchase camping gear, awards, and other operating expenses.

Annual Troop 718 dues are \$60.00 and are paid in September. Scouts are encouraged to pay dues on an annual basis but may pay \$15.00 per quarter if desired. For new Scouts who join during the year, dues are not prorated. The Scout is expected to keep up with his dues.

Fundraising

To pay for major items of equipment, purchase the numerous merit badges and rank advancements that Troop 718 Scouts earn, and to have the wherewithal to cover the dozens of other expenses that come up regularly, Troop 718 has fundraising events every year.

Donations

Direct cash donations to Troop 718 are not permitted, and therefore do not play a large part in financing or equipping Troop 718. If you are looking for a worthwhile donation this year, and ALL funds and goods donated to the Boy Scouts of America are worthwhile and deductible, please discuss it with the Troop Committee Chairman and the Treasurer. They would be happy to suggest areas in which donations would be very helpful.

There is one time, however, that donations are solicited and appreciated. This is in the spring, when Circle Ten Council mounts its annual Sustaining Membership Enrollment (SME) program for Friends of Scouting. SME donations go directly to the council's treasury to help support a Scouting program that covers some 14,000 units in 11 counties in this part of Texas and Oklahoma. A lot of money is needed—mainly because many of those Boy Scout Troops, Cub Scout Packs, and Explorer Posts simply don't have the financial capacity this troop enjoys. You'll be hearing more about SME each spring. Please keep it in mind when you are deciding how to distribute your charitable contributions.

If You Have Questions or Need Help

This booklet will not answer all of your questions. Troop 718 has a wealth of information available if you know where to look. That's what this section is all about—to identify sources for you to tap to get help.

The first place to look is often the most overlooked—YOUR SCOUT! Troop 718 strongly believes in developing a sense of responsibility in the boys. To this end, information and announcements about upcoming activities are given at each meeting. It is a good idea for each Scout to carry a small notepad and pencil to the meetings so he can take notes. If your boy misses a meeting or announcement, he should call his Patrol Leader to find out what he missed.

If your boy and his Patrol Leader cannot answer the questions, then check with other parents you know and trade information. Troop 718 parents are eager to share their experiences and knowledge with you. Of course, the adult leaders are also willing to help you with a particular problem or question.

You will have been given a troop roster. Don't be shy. Give someone a call and find out what you need! If that person can't help you, chances are that you can be referred to someone who can. If you don't ask, no one will know you want additional information.

Another overlooked source of information is the Scout Handbook. The Handbook tells you where to sew patches, advancement requirements, general information about Scouting, principles and philosophy of Scouting, camping techniques, and other information that will be useful.

The Boy Scout Requirements book is a source for merit badge information. It's a handy list of all current merit badges and their requirements (in addition to also listing all rank requirements) and a good resource for determining which merit badges to potentially work on.

Some useful websites:

www.circle10.org - Home site for the Circle 10 Council and a good source of information about upcoming Circle 10 activities such as the Scout Show and summer camps.

www.northdistrict.org - Home site for the North District of Circle 10 (our district) and a source of information about district sponsored activities such as Advancement Day, Merit Badge College, training opportunities, etc.

www.troop718.org - Home site for Troop 718.

Troop 718 Rules and Regulations

1. Regular troop meetings are held at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church as scheduled on most Sunday afternoons from 3:00—4:30 p.m.
2. The official Boy Scout uniform will be worn to all troop activities, including meetings, camp-outs, hikes, merit badge classes, etc. (This applies to Scouts being reviewed and to Scouts who are conducting the Boards of Review).
3. Each Scout must maintain a 2/3 attendance record at troop functions to be eligible for election or appointment to troop office and to be able to attend special events such as weekend camp-outs, summer camps and district and council activities. Late arrival is not considered an absence. Scouts who have an attendance record below 2/3 must provide the Senior Patrol Leader a written excuse for their continuing non-attendance before they will be allowed to participate in troop activities. 2/3 is considered minimum participation for progress award advancement in Troop 718. *A Scout may obtain an excused absence or a leave of absence from the Scoutmaster. Excused absences will not be considered unless the Scoutmaster is contacted prior to the absence.*
4. Scouts whose dues or other fees are more than 60 days late in being paid will lose all privileges in the troop until they are paid in full.
5. Scouts or applicants who feel they are unable to pay the dues are encouraged to discuss the situation with the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster may, with the approval of the Troop Committee, offer a scholarship to the Scout. Dues should not be an impediment to joining the troop.
6. Each Scout, until he earns the rank of Life, must advance at least one rank per year to be eligible for election or appointment to a troop office and to be eligible to attend troop activities other than the weekly meetings. Earning the rank of Scout does not satisfy this requirement. There is no time limit, however, to advancing from Life to Eagle or Eagle Palms, except that they must be earned before a Scout's 18th birthday. Exceptions must be approved by the Scoutmaster.
7. The Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) will hold at least one meeting per month to discuss the next month's program and to conduct other troop business as required.
8. Elections will be conducted by secret ballot to elect Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. The Scout must be in attendance at election time to be elected.
9. To be eligible for nomination and election as Senior Patrol Leader, a Scout must meet the following requirements.
 - a. Be at least a Life Scout.
 - b. Be at least 13 years old.
 - c. Have previously served as a Patrol Leader or Troop officer.
 - d. Have attended at least 2/3 of all troop functions during the last six months.
 - e. Have the approval of the Scoutmaster.
10. The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader must meet the same requirements as the Senior Patrol Leader. The ASPL will be elected as the Scout receiving the second greatest number of votes.
11. To be eligible for nomination and election as Patrol Leader, a Scout must meet the following requirements.
 - a. Be at least a First Class Scout.
 - b. Be at least 13 years old or have previously completed Oak Leaf Training.
 - c. Have advanced at least one rank in the previous 12 months.

- d. Have attended at least 2/3 of all troop functions during the last six months.
 - e. Have attended at least one Summer Camp and six weekend camp-outs.
 - f. Have the approval of the Senior Patrol Leader and the Scoutmaster.
12. No Scout may be Senior Patrol Leader more than twice or Patrol Leader more than three times.
 13. Assistant Patrol Leaders are appointed by Patrol Leaders. Warrant officers such as Scribe, Quartermaster, Librarian, Instructor, Troop Guide, Historian, Chaplain's Aide and Bugler shall be appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader with the approval of the Scoutmaster.
 14. No Scout may bring the following personal items to troop meetings, to camp-outs or to other events. Scouts are not permitted to use or operate the following devices without prior consent of the Scoutmaster if they are brought to troop events by other individuals:
 - a. Liquid or gaseous fuels.
 - b. Any device that uses liquid or gaseous fuels, including stoves, lanterns, heaters and warmers.
 - c. Any product packaged in an aerosol can.
 - d. Tobacco or alcoholic products.
 - e. Electronic games, music, or devices of any type.
 - f. Any firearm or fireworks.
 - g. Cell phones.
 15. Scouts who cannot attend troop meetings because they play on a school athletic team, are members of a school band, or because religious classes are held at the same time as regular troop meetings may go on "inactive" status. The Scout should contact the Scoutmaster to advise him of the situation.
 16. Each Scout is expected to respect the equipment and property of others and to make every effort to maintain and care for equipment belonging to Troop 718. Anyone damaging troop equipment will be expected to replace or repair the item.
 17. No rock throwing is allowed at any time or under any circumstances.
 18. Discipline problems will be handled within the troop. If a Scout's actions are continually distracting to the operation of the troop, or are beyond the control of the Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, or Scoutmaster, the offending Scout may be asked to leave the Scout function. Parents will be requested to come and get him. The Scout may be allowed return only after consultation with the parents by the Scoutmaster. This policy extends to all troop meetings and functions. If a serious infraction occurs, the parent will be asked to immediately pick up his or her son at a camp-out or summer camp.
 19. The Patrol Leader is responsible for turning in an attendance roster to the Scoutmaster or other designated adult one week prior to a camp-out.
 20. Scouts shall not wear inappropriate clothing to camp-outs or other Scouting events. Inappropriate clothing includes camouflage/army fatigues and inappropriate/suggestive t-shirts. We encourage Scouts to wear Class B t-shirts during camp-outs or other activities that do not require a Class A uniform.