

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide



Foothills District Atlanta Area Council Boy Scouts of America

**Troop 1776 is sponsored by:
Knights of Columbus Council # 8376
Catholic Church of St. Ann
Marietta, GA 30062**

This guide is published for you and your family. It contains the policies and practices of Troop 1776. The Troop Secretary will update it, as necessary, by actions of the Scout Leadership and the Troop Committee.

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

Preface

Welcome to Troop 1776.

You are part of the Boy Scout program and it's important to note several differences from the Cub Scout Program, which will become evident upon a Cub's visit to a Troop Meeting. Boy Scout activities are planned and led by the boys themselves, with adult supervision. A Scout's leadership responsibilities are phased in slowly, but each Scout will have opportunities to assume increasingly important leadership roles in the Troop.

As he matures, a Scout receives encouragement and training toward rank advancement but each Scout's own initiative and participation are essential for rank advancement. These responsibilities build character and are a cornerstone of the Boy Scout program. While Cub Scouting is a family program of fun activities led by adults, Boy Scouting is a fun program for boys and interested parents, planned and led by the Scouts themselves.

Parental support is essential for our Scouts as well as the Troop. This support can be driving for an outdoor activity, fundraising, serving as a Troop Committee member, an Assistant Scoutmaster, a Scoutmaster, or a variety of other important roles. Most importantly, you need "to be there" to support your Scout.

We have prepared this document as a guide to your Scout's career. Please keep in mind that this is a guide and the actual decisions of the Scout leadership or Troop Committee may vary from what's listed in this document. Every attempt will be made to reconcile differences at the Troop level. In those rare cases where you or your Scout disagrees with a decision, you have the right to appeal the decision to the Foothills District or the Atlanta Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

But be assured we are here for the good of your Scout and all of the Scouts of Troop 1776. This program is for the boys and run by the boys. We are just here to assure them of growth, development and safety.

Yours in Scouting,

The Scoutmaster Staff of Troop 1776

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

Table of Contents

- 1. Membership**
 - a. Steps in Joining
 - b. Transfers
 - c. Parent Involvement
 - d. Costs
 - e. Attendance
 - f. Conduct

- 2. Troop 1776 Organization**
 - a. Sponsorship
 - b. Troop Committee
 - c. Scouter Staff
 - d. Junior Leaders
 - e. Patrols
 - f. Patrol Leaders Council
 - g. Venture Crew

- 2. Outline of Regular Activities**
 - a. Troop Meetings
 - b. Patrol Meetings
 - c. Advancement Night
 - d. Patrol Leader Council Meetings
 - e. Leaders Meetings
 - f. Annual Planning Conference
 - g. Troop Committee Meetings
 - h. Board of Review
 - i. Court of Honor (Awards Ceremony)
 - j. Troop Activities and Official Outings
 - k. Venture Outings
 - l. Troop Newsletter

- 2. Uniform and Equipment**
 - a. Personal Gear for Camping
 - b. Personal Gear for Winter Camping
 - c. Personal Gear for Summer Camp
 - d. Troop Equipment

- 2. Advancement**
 - a. Scouting Skills Instruction and Testing
 - b. Merit Badges
 - c. Service Projects
 - d. Scout Spirit
 - e. Skills Review
 - f. Leadership
 - g. Scoutmaster Conference
 - h. Board of Review
 - i. Recognition
 - j. Eagle

- 6. Troop Rules and Practices**

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

1. Membership

Troop 1776 is open to boys of all faiths, sizes, shapes and colors – and welcomes variety. It is the policy of this Troop to encourage Scouts to maintain an active interest in his religious preference.

The Troop may, from time to time, limit the admittance of new Scouts or transfers due to temporary limitations of facilities, equipment or leadership. Under such circumstances, membership priority will be given to younger brothers of current scouts, sons of active members of St. Ann Catholic Church, and friends of current Scouts of Troop 1776, in that order.

a. Steps in Joining

For recipients of Cub Scouting's Arrow of Light: The new Scout will be presented a Troop neckerchief at his final Cub Pack meeting, once the following are completed:

1. The boy has returned a completed Boy Scout Application.
2. His parents or adult guardian have returned a Troop Resource Survey.
3. They have paid the first year's dues.
4. They have notified the Scoutmaster of the date, time and location of the meeting.
5. The boy is at least ten and one-half years of age.

For other new boys: Having been a Webelos Scout is not necessary. New Scouts in this category are required to be at least eleven years of age, will be expected to complete the first 3 steps for joining outlined above, and will receive their neckerchief at the next regular Troop meeting or Court of Honor.

The neckerchief is one sign that the Scout is making the transition from Cub Scouting to Boy Scouting, but joining also involves passing the following requirements before the Scoutmaster or one of the Assistant Scoutmasters:

1. Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.
2. Demonstrate the Boy Scout salute, sign and handclasp.
3. Show how to tie a square knot (also known as the joining knot).
4. Understand and agree to live by the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Outdoor Code.
5. Describe the Boy Scout badge.
6. With parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse*.

Lastly, he will:

7. Participate in Scoutmaster conference (Board of Review is not needed for Scout)

The Scout Induction Ceremony usually will take place after the Scout has begun regular attendance at Troop meetings, normally at the next Court of Honor. Parents are expected to be present.

a. Transfers

Transfers will be accepted on the same basis as new Scouts and recognized in a simple neckerchief ceremony at the next Troop meeting following completion of the first three steps above and the Scoutmaster conference. It is particularly important that a transferring Scout request and obtain papers or other documents from his old Troop which will certify his record of advancement, merit badge work, hikes, camping, etc., so that proper credit can be given.

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

b. Parent Involvement

Parents are expected to be active in this Troop (i.e. attend weekend campouts, provide transportation for weekend campouts, and/or attend summer camp (part of the week or a full week)). You and the Troop Committee Chairperson and / or Scoutmaster will need to determine in what capacity you can support the Troop and your Scout. Your active participation is required for two reasons:

1. Your Scout will get a lot more out of the program if he sees that you are active.
2. The Troop cannot provide a good program without parent participation.

There are a variety of jobs that have to be done to keep Troop 1776 running smoothly. Some take a lot of time, others do not. Training is available for the many positions listed. We would like you to fill one or more of these jobs:

- Assistant Scoutmasters
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Advancement Chairperson
- Court of Honor Coordinator
- Outdoor Program Coordinator
- Community Service Projects Coordinator
- Scout Show Coordinator
- Merit Badge Counselors
- Fund Raising Coordinator
- Transportation Coordinator
- Equipment Coordinator
- Scouting for Food Coordinator
- Uniform Coordinator
- Friends of Scouting Coordinator
- Life to Eagle Coordinator

c. Costs

Troop Dues are set each year and are payable by the October Troop Committee meeting. The dues year runs from October 1 through September. A subscription to **Boy's Life** magazine is included in registration. It is intended that the dues will cover all or substantially all of the Troop operating expenses, including annual registration and awards, but they are **not** intended to cover any outing expenses or to acquire Troop equipment.

To help hold down the amount of dues, it is necessary to conduct some fund-raising projects each year to supply the Troop with equipment such as tents and stoves, and to help offset the Scout outing expenses. We are interested in all ideas for funding our Boy Scout-related activities and the Troop's on-going projects.

Scouting is not without cost. But, we do not want to discourage any boy from joining because he cannot afford our program. If you fall under these circumstances, or would like to recommend for membership a boy who does, please contact the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairperson so that efforts can be made to arrange a sponsor.

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

Basic Costs (*Costs are estimates. Actuals may vary.*)

Uniform (*Required*):

Long or short-sleeve khaki Scout shirt	\$25.00
Council patch, numerals 1776 *,	
Patrol patch, World Crest and red loops	\$10.00
Troop Neckerchief*	\$0.00
Neckerchief slide (can be home made)	\$2.00
Web Belt with BSA buckle	\$5.00
Pants	\$30.00
Socks	\$5.00
Troop T Shirt	\$0.00
Scout Handbook	\$10.00
Hat	\$15.00

* Available through Troop Uniform Coordinator

Camping Equipment

Required:

Compass	\$10.00
Flashlight	\$5.00
Personal First Aid Kit	\$5.00
Whistle	\$5.00
20-degree Sleeping Bag (\$25.00 - \$300.00)	\$50.00
½" Ground Pad (\$10.00 - \$50.00)	\$10.00
Poncho or Rain suits (\$10.00 - \$100.00)	\$10.00
Mess kit (plate, bowl, cup, utensils) (\$0.00 - \$20.00)	\$0.00
Canteen or plastic water bottle (\$5.00 - \$20.00)	\$5.00

Suggested:

Backpack (range \$25.00 - \$300.00)	\$75.00
Tent	\$150.00
Rope	\$10.00
Knife	\$30.00

Annual Costs:

Troop 1776 Dues (registration, program supplies, mailings):

Scouts	\$85.00
Siblings	\$65.00
Eagle Scouts	\$25.00

10 monthly weekend outings (range \$5.00 to \$50.00)	\$250.00
Summer Camp (One week all expenses, including transportation)	\$225.00

Scout uniforms can be purchased at the Scout Shop. Closest Scout Shop is in at the Atlanta Area Council Volunteer Service Center 1800 Circle 75 Parkway Atlanta 30339.

Camping equipment is available at Scout shops or various camping supply stores. Some stores give registered Scouts a 10% discount on regularly priced equipment when they present a BSA registration card. You may need to shop around to get the best price!

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

e. Attendance

All Scouts are encouraged to support their Troop and Patrol by active participation in Troop and Patrol activities. Scouts are expected to attend at least 66 percent of regular Troop meetings and Troop outings.

f. Conduct

A Scout is expected to conduct himself in a proper manner at all functions and at all times. Most discipline issues will be handled by the Junior Leadership of the Troop and will stress a positive tone. Discipline problems will usually be handled in the following order:

Verbal warning that a behavior is disrupting a Troop activity or is dangerous.

If the problem continues, the Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), and/or Scoutmaster may opt for one of the following:

Time Out or

Request that parent or guardian pick-up the Scout (including outings) or

Request that parent or guardian accompany the Scout on future outings.

On those rare occasions when formal discipline is necessary, the following actions and their definitions are among the options available to the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee:

Reprimand: The Scout will remain with the Troop. A letter of reprimand will be placed in the Scout's file.

Probation: The Scout will remain with the Troop on the condition that a further violation of Troop rules within a period of not longer than 12 months will, at the discretion of the Scoutmaster with Troop Committee approval, result in suspension.

Suspension: The Scout will not be allowed to participate in Troop activities for a period of no more than six months.

Expulsion: Sever all relationships with the Troop

2. Troop 1776 Organization

Troop 1776 is chartered in the Foothills District of Atlanta Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

a. Sponsorship

The Knights of Columbus Council # 8376 Catholic Church of St. Ann, Marietta, Georgia, is the chartering partner for Troop 1776. In return, Troop 1776 is expected to act consistently with the wishes of the chartering partner and the Church.

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

b. Troop Committee

The Troop Committee is the governing authority of the Troop. All parents of Scouts on the active roster are invited to attend the Committee meetings. The Committee Chairperson is selected by the Chartering Organization.

Other positions with specific responsibilities on the Troop Committee are:

Assistant Committee Chairperson	Advancement Chairperson
Chartering Org. Representative	Court of Honor Coordinator
Secretary	Outdoor Program Coordinator
Treasurer	Troop Equipment Coordinator
Fund Raising Coordinator	Transportation Coordinator
Registration Coordinator	Community Service Coordinator
High Adventure Coordinator	Religious Coordinator
Uniform Coordinator	Life-to-Eagle Coordinator
Friends of Scouting Coordinator	

c. Scoutmaster Staff

The Troop Committee will select the Scoutmaster. The Assistant Scoutmasters will be selected by the Scoutmaster and approved by the Troop Committee. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters must complete Scoutmaster Fundamentals Training provided and approved by Boy Scouts of America.

d. Junior Leaders

Three Assistant Senior Patrol Leader's (ASPL) will be selected at a Troop election by majority vote of the Troop members present, using a secret ballot. They must be a Life Scout or higher rank and a member of the Troop for at least one year.

After serving successfully for a six-month term as an ASPL, Scouts will be eligible to run in a Troop wide election for the role of Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), the highest elected Scout leadership position in the Troop. The Scout that receives the highest number of votes in the ballot election will serve for a six-month term as SPL. The SPL is the leader of the Troop.

The SPL and ASPL's will appoint other Scouts to the following positions with the advice and counsel of the Scoutmaster. (A Scout must have earned the rank of First Class to be considered for a Troop leadership position):

Troop Scribe	Troop Instructors
Troop Quartermaster	Troop Chaplain's Aide
Troop Librarian	Troop OA Unit Representative
Troop Historian	Troop Bugler

All Patrol Leaders are accountable to their assigned Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. All Troop appointed positions are accountable to their assigned Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

Scouts holding these positions will remain members of their patrols.

Troop Guides will be appointed by the Scoutmaster and will serve at his discretion. The Scoutmaster will establish the duties and responsibilities of the Troop Guides.

A Junior Assistant Scoutmaster may be selected by the Scoutmaster and approved by the Troop Committee. A Scout should be at least 16 years old, an Eagle Scout and be active in the Troop to be appointed to this position.

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

e. Patrols

The patrol is the basic and most important unit of the Boy Scout program. The Troop membership will be divided into Patrols. The Scouter Staff is responsible for assignment of the Scouts to Patrols, taking into consideration the individual preferences of the Scouts.

Each Patrol will determine its own name, flag, yell and will elect a Patrol Leader for a term of six months. The Patrol Leader will assign an Assistant Patrol Leader.

All new Scouts and Webelos will be distributed within the existing Patrol structure. The Scoutmaster and his staff will have the final decision on Patrol Assignments. Patrols will remain mixed between ages of Scouts to facilitate the Scouts to teach Scouts skills program.

Because the patrol involves boy-to-boy relationships, there are likely to be occasional squabbles. If you think there is a chronic problem developing within the Patrol, please report your observations to the Scoutmaster rather than step into the situation yourself. We will work with the boys to analyze the problem and hopefully iron out any issues. Hazing will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

If, however, you are kind enough to offer your home as a Patrol meeting place, you are entitled to full respect of your person and property and are asked to make this clear to the Scouts. Under no circumstances should a Patrol meet in a home without two adults present.

f. Patrol Leaders Council

The Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) will consist of the SPL, ASPL, and the Patrol Leader for each Patrol and each appointed Troop Junior Scout Leader. Assistant Patrol Leaders or Patrol Quartermasters are not required to attend. All Scouts can attend the PLC Meeting, although they may not be voting members if they are not in the Troop Leadership as defined above.

The PLC will meet monthly to formulate plans for Troop activities and meetings. The PLC is chaired by the SPL. Other Scouts may be asked to participate as determined by the SPL.

The Scoutmaster will act as advisor to the PLC and will hold discretionary veto power over all decisions made by the PLC.

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

g. Venture Crew

Troop 1776 Venture Crew is an elite group of Scouts who possess the knowledge and skills to engage in high adventure activities. The Crew was created for older Scouts, who already excel in their outdoor and leadership abilities, to participate in challenging activities that put these skills to the test, while having fun at the same time. Another important aspect of the Venture Crew's activities is service to Troop 1776. The Venture Crew will take on the responsibility of helping younger Scouts to advance. The crew will also give full support to all troop fund-raising activities. Venture Crew Scouts will remain part of their patrols and participate in patrol activities.

Requirements for participating in the venture crew are:

- Scout must be at least fourteen years of age or be in the ninth grade.
- Scout must be at least First Class.
- Scout must be active in the regular Troop program.
- If the Scout is a Troop leader, he must be carrying out his job in a satisfactory manner.

3. Outline of Regular Activities

a. Troop Meetings (Weekly)

The Troop will meet weekly, normally Tuesday evenings, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at LaSalette Hall. All Scouts should be in Class A uniform, unless otherwise authorized by the Scoutmaster.

b. Patrol Meetings (As needed)

Normally held at least once per month in the home of either the Patrol Leader or the Assistant Patrol Leader, or a designated Troop meeting. For home meetings, the schedule is developed by each Patrol to attain maximum attendance.

c. Advancement Night (The Tuesday after a Campout)

One meeting per month will be devoted to advancement and a concurrent Patrol Leader Council meeting. If your Scout is not a part of the Council and doesn't need advancement there is no need to attend the meeting. Advancement night will not be counted as an attendance night. The third Tuesday of each month will be designated to Scouts desiring Skills Reviews, Scoutmaster Conferences, or Boards of Review. ***A Scout is responsible for notifying the advancement Chairperson one-week in advance of the advancement night of his desired review. (Full Class A uniforms are required)***

d. Patrol Leader Council (PLC) Meetings (The Tuesday after a Campout)

Regular meetings are held once a month and will operate concurrent with Advancement Night on the 4th meeting of every month, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at St. Ann's Classrooms. PLC meetings are attended by the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters (interested or responsible for upcoming Camping Trips), all Junior Leaders, Patrol Leaders (or Assistants) and the Troop Scribe. Scouts do not need to be in uniform.

e. ASM Meeting (!st Monday)

Leaders (SM, SPL, ASM, and JASM) are asked to attend monthly leaders meetings to address the need and to oversee activities of the Troop per annual schedule. Interested Committee

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

Members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

f. Annual Planning Conference

Held at a Troop meeting in May of each year. Scouts and parents plan the activities (e.g. outings and monthly themes) for the coming year (September through August). Before the meeting, families should begin to discuss ideas for Troop activities and are encouraged to do some research about the facilities and costs associated with the proposed activities. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Planning Conference and act as advisors to their Scouts.

g. Troop Committee Meetings

Troop Committee Meetings are normally held on the first Monday of every month at St. Ann's, at 7:00 PM to review the Troop's program and to establish Troop policies. All parents and Committee members are invited and encouraged to attend. Advance agenda's will be sent out via Email.

h. Board of Review

The Advancement Committee meets at the same time and on the same date as the PLC meeting above. Each Scout ready for advancement and who has completed his Skills Review and Scoutmaster Conference should make an appointment with the Advancement Chairperson one week before the meeting for their Board of Review.

i. Court of Honor (Awards Ceremony)

To recognize advancement and to present awards to the Scouts, Courts of Honor are held two times a year, as scheduled on the troop calendar. **All parents are expected to attend these ceremonies to witness their son's progress in scouting.**

j. Troop Activities and Official Outings

At the Annual Planning Conference, the Troop will plan at least one activity for each month. At some outings, such as the Spring Camporee or Summer Camp, the District will require the Scout to wear his uniform to be admitted. **Transportation to and from all outings requires Scouts to be in full Class A uniforms.** In addition, each Scout must be registered and have a current medical form on file. For other Troop outings, the Scoutmaster will set uniform requirements based on recommendations by the PLC.

Parents are expected to assist with supervision during outings. Volunteers will be identified at the Annual Planning Conference. In the event that the number of Scouts attending an activity exceeds the capacity of the vehicles of the Leadership/parents planning to attend the outing, volunteer drivers will be requested. Transportation to and from outings is the responsibility of all parents.

All trips greater than 4 hours in driving time will require 3 drivers per 2 vehicles. This is a Troop requirement to assure safety on the road and the availability of fresh drivers on long trips. Please be prepared to offer your fair share of driving.

One adult, typically a member of the Scoutmaster's Staff, will be designated as primary contact for each outing. Permission forms, medical concerns, and special arrangements should be directed to this contact. Scouts will not be allowed to attend Troop outings without a signed permission form. Normally, camping outings will leave from LaSalette Hall at 6:00 p.m. on

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

Friday evening and return Sunday around noon. A non-denominational worship service will be planned for Sunday morning.

Our Scouts' safety is of primary importance. In the rare case of an unforeseen accident, the individual involved will immediately contact the Scoutmaster and Committee Chairperson. The Scoutmaster, Committee Chairperson, and the adult involved with the event will explain the situation to the Scouts' parents as soon as it is practical.

Menus, foods, preparation, and clean up for camping trips are the responsibility of each Patrol. Your patrol will plan its menu using a worksheet provided by the Troop and an adult leader must approve each menu. Each Patrol will collect money for food purchases from its members.

k. Venture Outings

Once a Scout fulfills the outline Venture requirements (found in Section 2g – Venture Crew), he may join a Venture Crew for special outings during the year. The Venture program is planned to offer a higher level of adventure for outings for older Scouts and require special planning. The Scouts may earn awards for completing the Venture requirements (e.g. 50-Mile Hiking Award). Planning for Venture outings takes place outside the regular meeting schedule and the outings are in addition to the activities planned at the Annual Planning Conference. A minimum of two adults is required to attend these outings with the Scouts. Emphasis will not be placed on rank advancement or merit badges. However, learned Scouting skills will be important and frequently employed.

4. Uniform and Equipment

Official Boy Scout Handbook: The Scout handbook contains the requirements for all ranks in the Scouting program as well as information about scouting skills. It is required for all meetings and campouts and will be used as a permanent record of the Scouts' accomplishments and advancement in Scouting.

Uniform: The Troop 1776 uniform consists of the long or short Scout shirt with appropriate insignia, BSA neckwear, Scout pants (shorts), belt, hats and socks, and slide (BSA or custom made). Each Scout is expected to wear his uniform shirt and neckwear to all Troop meetings, and when traveling with the Troop on official outings, and as announced for special events. It is mandatory that he wear the uniform including BSA neckwear and merit badge sash (sash is required for more than three badges) at the Scoutmaster conference, the Board of Review for rank advancement, and at Troop Committee presentations at Courts of Honor. In addition to the Scout uniform, the Official Troop 1776 neckerchief should be worn instead of the BSA neckwear at all Courts of Honor. (Note: Order of Arrow sash should be worn at OA sponsored events, special scouting activities, including Courts of Honor, and on special occasions when members need to be identified as Arrowmen rendering special services.)

Shoes: Tennis shoes may be worn to scout meetings, at Summer Camp, and on warm weather campouts. Each Scout should have a sturdy pair of shoes, which are suitable for roughing-it and for hiking. They should be large enough to wear a thick sock over a thin wicking sock (polypropylene, silk, wool, etc.). The two socks cushion and reduce blistering. Shoes can be waterproofed with many commercial products.

- a. Personal Gear for Camping (Note: These are merely recommendations on equipment. For more specific information please contact one of the Troop's Assistant Scoutmasters.)

Backpack: A backpack serves two purposes:

First, it is a convenient container for a Scout's personal gear (it can be carried without using

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

his hands, has lots of pockets for organizing his gear, has straps for attaching a sleeping bag and pad). Second, it limits the amount of gear which can be brought along (either by weight or size, there is only so much the Scout can bring in a pack. He will learn to prioritize his gear, bringing only essential items, he will attempt to minimize bulk and weight). There is a wide range of product/prices on the market, so allow enough time to shop for comfort and price. If the cost of a backpack is prohibitive, it is recommended that a Scout use a duffel bag to transport his gear.

Sleeping Bag: Bags are constructed with a wide variety of materials to satisfy a variety of weather, packing, weight and price requirements. Sleeping bags, which can be stuffed into a stuff sack, are more convenient than rolled bags with ties. We suggest you avoid all cotton bags and select one made of synthetic insulated materials. Look for a full-length zipper, a batting in the lining which insulates the zipper, and the amount of quilting used to prevent the insulation from bunching or sagging. A bag insulated for a comfort range to 20 degrees is suggested. For winter camping, the 20 degree bag may be nested into a second bag for added comfort without paying the high prices associated with bags rated for below 0 degree camping.

Ground Pad: The Scouts will find sleeping on the ground more comfortable and warmer when a 'closed' cell pad is used under his sleeping bag. The pad is made out of heavy rubber-like foam about 3/8" - 1/2" thick and approximately 24" wide by 48" - 60" long. It can be rolled up into a small roll and attached to the backpack. It is more comfortable, warmer and less of a nuisance than an air mattress. A more expensive alternative is a self-inflating pad: a foam pad inside a waterproof covering. It's about 1/2"- 3/4" thick when inflated and the same width and length of the closed cell pads.

Rain Suit/Poncho: The Scouts should all be prepared to carry on with our outdoor program, even in the rain.

Mess Kit: It is not necessary or desirable to purchase a traditional mess kit. Some piece will eventually be lost or broken and the set no longer works as designed. Rather, used plastic plates bowls and mugs are lightweight and easily marked for identification. Mismatched silverware is also fine for camp eating utensils.

Canteen or plaster water bottle: Each Scout should plan to carry 1.5 - 2 quarts of water on hikes and backpacking outings. One or more water bottles that fit into a pocket of the backpack or in a hip pack are acceptable.

Knives: Every Scout loves the idea of carrying a knife. Although the Scout catalog carries sheath knives, Troop 1776 prohibits carrying sheath knives at any Scouting activity. Your Scout should have a folding pocketknife. This knife may be carried on Scout activities only after he has successfully earned his Tote N' Chip card. The card should be carried whenever the Scout is carrying the knife as evidence of his understanding of knife safety.

Compass: Each Scout should have a compass for practicing the orienteering skills needed to pass Second class and First Class. His compass should be carried to all Troop meetings and on all campouts.

Whistle: Each Scout should carry a whistle. It's the cheapest man-made communication device and can be used to save a life.

The list of personal equipment that is needed for a campout will vary depending on the activity and season of the year. However, all equipment should be geared towards

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

backpacking.

BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK

Small flashlight and extra batteries

Insect repellent (no aerosol containers)

Notebook and pencil/pen

Second pair shoes or boots

Personal first aid kit (Band-Aids/ointment)

Jacket and cap/hat

Extra socks (1-day minimum)

Extra jeans, and underwear

Matches in waterproof container

Sweatsuit / thermal top and bottoms for sleeping

Sweatshirt/flannel shirt/thermal top for extra layer

Repair kit (safety pins/needle and thread)

Towel and washcloth

Toiletries (soap in box, toothbrush/paste, comb, sunscreen, and small roll toilet paper in plastic bag)

OPTIONAL:

Bible, camera and film, sunglasses, chapstick, prescription medication, watch, 20 feet of rope.

NOTES:

Marking: Please be sure that all of the Scout's equipment and clothing are clearly marked with his name and his Troop number (1776).

Prohibited Items: Cigarette lighters, aerosol cans, and personal electronic devices (games, radios, etc.) are not Scout equipment and are not permitted at Troop meetings or activities.

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

- b. Personal Gear for Winter Camping
The Scouts will receive training and guidance in properly preparing for winter camping.

Snowboots with felt liners (2 sizes bigger)
Extra liners
Six (6) pair wool socks
Mittens or gloves (3 pairs)
3 pair underwear
3 pair long underwear
3 pair pants (wool is the best)
3 T-shirts
3 long underwear tops/or turtlenecks
Shirt; flannel, chamois, wool (loose, dress in layers)
Hooded jacket/sweatshirt
Scarf
2 stocking hats

Sleeping bag (minimum 20 degrees)
Extra blankets or summer sleeping bag
Sleeping pad
Sweatsuit for sleeping bag

Winter coat

- c. Personal Gear for Summer Camp:
(See appendix for Personal Gear for Camping.)

- d. Troop Equipment

Stoves
Patrol boxes (with cooking equipment)
Lanterns
Rain tarps
Flags
Trailer
Water jugs
Rope
Medical box
Ax
Shovel

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

5. Advancement

A Scout's advancement is a natural outcome of his regular Scouting activities. At Troop meetings and on outings, the Scout will have the opportunities to learn and practice the skills necessary to advance with the guidance of older Scouts in the Troop. The Advancement Chairperson is responsible for enforcement of advancement policies.

a. Scouting Skills Instruction and Testing

The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Troop Guides and Instructors, as well as parents and outside experts will be called upon to provide Scouting Skill instruction. The Boy Scout Handbook is a resource for learning about these skills. The regular meetings and outings of the Troop provide the opportunity for demonstrations and practice.

Testing in Scouting is not a formal period set aside at which Scouts line up and take their turn at building a fire, for instance. When the scout has mastered an individual skill, he should meet with a Scoutmaster (Assistant Scoutmaster or Junior Assistant Scoutmaster). It is a Scoutmaster's responsibility to observe that a Scout has mastered a given skill and satisfied an advancement requirement. When this occurs, the Scoutmaster records the achievement in the Scout's Handbook. Parents are not allowed to sign off on their own son's rank advancements, even if the parent is a Scoutmaster. When a Scout is ready to advance in rank he is expected to have a working knowledge of all the previous skills he has mastered. At that time the scout will be asked to demonstrate those abilities. The Scout should seek a skills review with an assigned Scoutmaster. Upon demonstration of the skills, the Scoutmaster will sign a skills review form and forward the completed form (see appendix for TROOP 1776 SKILLS REVIEW form and 5 e. for more information) to the Advancement Chairperson for recording.

b. Merit Badges

After the rank of First Class, the Scouting program shifts its emphasis from Scouting Skills to leadership and Merit Badges. Merit Badges offer Scouts an opportunity to investigate and learn about specialized areas of interest. A list of approved adult Merit Badge Counselors will be maintained by the Troop Advancement Chairperson and the Foothills District of the Atlanta Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The Council recommends that some Merit Badges be earned using Counselors from other Troops.

When a Scout is ready to begin work on Merit Badge, he requests a Merit Badge Application 'Blue' Card from the Advancement Chairperson. The Scout specifies which Merit Badge he wants to pursue. The Advancement Chairperson will choose a qualified Counselor. The Scout should identify a buddy for the Merit Badge work and obtain the Scoutmaster's signature prior to beginning the Merit Badge.

For the protection of both the Counselor and Scout, at no time should a Scout work one-on-one with a Merit Badge Counselor in a private location or in the Counselor's home. It is strongly encouraged that Scouts use the buddy system to work on Merit Badges together. Before beginning work on the Merit Badge, they should contact the Counselor and arrange a meeting to discuss the requirements and the Counselor's expectations.

When the Scouts have completed the requirements, they meet with the Counselor to present their work. Upon successfully completing the Merit Badge requirements, the Counselor signs the Merit Badge Application Card with his/her approval. The Counselor will tear off his/her portion of the Card and retain it for his/her records.

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

The Scout returns the remainder of the Card to the Advancement Chairperson, who obtains the Scoutmaster's signature. The Chairperson will tear off the applicant's Record portion of the Card and return it to the Scout. This part of the Merit Badge Card should be kept in a safe place since it will serve as proof of completion of Merit Badges for the rank of Eagle.

The Advancement Chairperson will process and purchase the Merit Badges. Merit Badge Cards should be turned into the Scoutmaster no later than one week before the Court of Honor so that they can be entered on the Advancement Report and processed in a timely manner. In addition to the above, the following is also part of the Troop's Advancement Policy:

As a general guide, a time limit of one year will be allowed to complete a badge. Scouts who do not complete a badge within one year will be asked to start over. This is done to encourage the completion of the task on a timely basis.

Merit Badge counseling should be conducted outside regular Troop meetings.

If a Scout wants to do a merit badge for which his parent is the counselor, that is fine as long as there are at least two other Scouts taking the class with him.

Non-counselor parents are not allowed to sign off on any merit badge requirements.

c. Service Projects

The concept of service to others is discussed in the requirements for Tenderfoot rank. Participation in a service project is required for Second Class, Star, and Life ranks and must be approved in advance by the Scoutmaster. The Troop schedules service projects on the calendar to assist Scouts in meeting their rank advancement and to encourage Scouts to give back to the community what the community has given to the Scout.

For Eagle the Scout must plan, develop and give leadership to others in a service project approved by the Scoutmaster, the Troop Committee and the District Advancement Committee (See attached for Life to Eagle Scout Guide). Service projects should be for non-profit organizations such as, religious institutions, schools or the community.

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

d. Scout Spirit

Scouting is a Game with a Purpose. It has rules you must follow to be a member of the team. The rules of Scouting are found in the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto, and Scout Slogan. Learning the words and meaning of these 'rules' is a requirement for Tenderfoot rank. It is by following these rules in your everyday life, that you demonstrate Scout Spirit for all other ranks.

The Scout Oath: On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
And to obey the Scout Law.
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.

The Scout Law: A Scout is:
Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly
Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful
Thrifty, Brave, Clean, Reverent.

The Scout motto: Be Prepared

The Scout Slogan: Do a good turn daily

e. Skills Review

An objective of the Troop is to build life skills. To ascertain that these skills are developed a Scout will need to have his skills reviewed prior to his Scoutmaster Conference, for his next rank advancement. This is a progressive comprehensive review. During his review a Scout may be asked questions from any one of his previous ranks. If the Scout, in the opinion of his reviewer, is not prepared the Scoutmaster will review the areas the Scout is weak in and ask, at a later time, to satisfy the reviewer, prior to the Scout's Scoutmaster Conference. (See attached Troop 1776 Skills Review Form)

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

f. Leadership

A large portion of Scouting is geared toward developing the leadership quality of the Scout. These leadership skills will be of benefit to the Scout throughout his life. Guidelines for Leadership requirements are contained in the handbook and the appendix. It is Troop policy that at least 67% Attendance at Troop Meetings and on Campouts be maintained in order to attain Leadership Credit for Rank Advancement. Pure and simple, you can not provide Leadership if you are not there.

g. Scoutmaster Conference

Each rank advancement requires a Scoutmaster conference. The purpose of the conference is to develop over a period of time an increasing level of understanding and trust between the Scoutmaster and the Scout. Each Scout must schedule and hold a conference with the Scoutmaster after he has completed the requirements for advancement. The Scout should be in uniform and bring his Boy Scout Handbook and completed Skills Review Form to the conference. The Scoutmaster conference must be completed before the Board of Review.

The Scoutmaster is encouraged to schedule conferences (in addition to those scheduled for advancement) to discuss each Scout's participation in the program at least once every six months.

h. Board of Review

The last step in each rank advancement is the Board of Review. When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank (including a Skills Review) and after participating in a Scoutmaster's Conference, he appears before a Board of Review composed of members of the Troop Committee. The Eagle rank Board of Review is slightly different in that in addition to Troop Committee members a Foothills District representative is a member of the board, and the review is accomplished at a District advancement meeting. The Eagle application must also be approved by the Atlanta Area Council and the National Council. Parents of an advancing Scout may not participate in his Board of Review.

The Scout must appear before the board in complete uniform and have with him his Scout Handbook and advancement record from the Advancement Chairperson.

The Board of Review is not a time to retest the Scout, but to determine the Scout's attitude and his acceptance of Scouting ideals. The board will talk to the Scout about his Scouting experience, his Scout spirit, his interpretation of the Scout Oath and Law, his application of the Oath and Law to his daily life, and any problems or concerns that the Scout may have. The board will also help the Scout set goals and encourage further advancement. For higher ranks, the Scout may be asked to evaluate his leadership position, service hours, and Eagle project preparation.

At the conclusion of the review, the Scout is asked to leave the room while the board discusses his achievements. The decision of the board must be unanimous. If members are satisfied that the Scout is ready to advance, he is called in, congratulated, notified as to when he will receive his recognition, and encouraged to continue his advancement. If the board feels the Scout has not met the requirements, they must explain what remains to be accomplished for completing the requirements and final review. This is to be followed up in writing.

The Troop will schedule Boards of Review on a regular basis so that Scouts and leaders

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

can plan for them well ahead of time. Boards may also be used to encourage those Scouts not advancing.

The Advancement Chairperson will complete the Advancement report and furnish the Scoutmaster with the names of the Scouts who have passed the Board of Review.

i. Recognition

As part of the opening ceremony of the next regularly scheduled Troop Meeting, the Scouts who have passed the Board of Review will be recognized and presented with the insignia of their new rank.

Normally, two Courts of Honor (Awards Ceremony) will be held each year as scheduled at the Annual Planning Conference to present awards earned. All Scouts who have earned awards, merit badges, and/or rank will be honored. The Advancement Chairperson will plan the Court of Honor ceremony. The Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader will serve as Masters of Ceremony. All parents are encouraged to attend Courts of Honor, especially when their son is advancing, since they will be called forward with their son for advancement in rank.

At each Court of Honor, the Troop Historian will be responsible for preparing a presentation about Troop activities during the quarter and the Court of Honor Coordinator will be responsible for organizing food or refreshments.

An Eagle Court of Honor will be held separately on the day selected by the Eagle Scout candidate. The Eagle Scout candidate and his family will plan the ceremony with the help from the Scoutmaster and or the Advancement Chairperson. All Troop members should be invited and are encouraged to attend Eagle Courts of Honor.

j. Eagle

Less than three percent of all boys who enter the Scouting program make it to the rank of Eagle. Due to its unique set of requirements the troop has designated a specific Life to Eagle Coordinator to support the Scouts in their quest to obtain the rank of Eagle. After a Scout has obtained the rank of Life he should meet with the Troop's Life to Eagle Coordinator to map out his plans to obtain the rank of Eagle. (See attached Guidelines for Eagle Scouts Service Project).

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

6. Troop Rules and Practices

The Troop policy will follow the guidelines and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America as set forth by the National Council for the Boy Scouts of America and the Foothills District of the Atlanta Area Council.

Specific Troop policy will be established or changed by majority vote of the Troop Committee. Approved policies will be published in this Troop 1776 Scouting Guide.

- a. Campouts and Activities (All scouts need to be registered as an active scout with a current medical record on file):
 1. In accordance with the policies of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America there will always be a minimum of two adults present at all campouts or other activities (Note: this policy is referred to as ***Two Deep Leadership***). For weekend or extended outings/campouts, the number of adults required would increase to three to insure that in the case of an emergency, two adults can remain at the camp. Above this minimum it is recommended that, there should be at least one adult for each 10 Scouts. If adult supervision is not confirmed two days before the outing, the event will be cancelled. In any event, no adult leader is allowed to be with a single Scout other than that leader's son.
 2. No conduct unbecoming a Scout will be allowed.
 3. Initiation, hazing or harassment of a Scout is not allowed and will not be tolerated. Each member of Troop 1776 is here to learn and to teach.
 4. Scouts will not leave the immediate area of a Troop activity unless they have the permission of the adult leadership. Any hiking or activity outside the campsites must be in groups of two or more (referred to as the BUDDY SYSTEM).
 5. The Troop will leave each area in the best of conditions, and will try to leave it better than the way it was found. We will practice "Leave No Trace" camping as a matter of Troop Policy.
 6. Scouts must complete and return a permission form with the activity fee for each Troop campout or activity. Permission forms must be returned indicating whether the Scout will or will not attend. Permission forms must be received by the date indicated so that reservations can be confirmed and transportation arranged.
 7. Activity fees and deposits paid to the Troop are not refundable if the boy does not attend the activity. Fees collected by Patrol to purchase food are not refundable after the food has been purchased. The Patrols are encouraged to keep non-perishable food items in storage for future activities.
 8. The Chaplain's Aide and the Troop leadership will be responsible for conducting a non-denominational worship service for Scouts at the campsites of all outings.
 9. Consumption of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and non-medically prescribed drugs is prohibited on Troop 1776 campouts and activities.
 10. Under no circumstances will flames of any kind be carried into or used in tents including, but not limited to: matches, lighters, candles, or fueled lanterns.

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

11. Fireworks and firearms are prohibited on Troop 1776 outings.
 12. Some parks prohibit the gathering of firewood. In these cases, campfires for cooking and pleasure will be limited to purchased firewood or wood brought from the Scouts' homes. Fires will be built in only designated containers or with the permission of adult leadership. No holes will be dug as fire pits, and rocks gathered to contain a fire must be returned to the edges of the campsite.
 13. Trash will be disposed using containers provided by campsite or brought back home. Do not bury any refuse.
 14. Only water drawn from spigots marked as potable will be consumed or used for cooking. Techniques for purifying water will be demonstrated and practiced, but should only be used at special backpacking outings or in survival situations.
 15. In general, Troop activities will go on as planned regardless of weather, unless dangerous conditions exist. The Scoutmaster or the Assistant Scoutmaster in charge of the event will be responsible for making the decision to modify or cancel an event due to weather.
 16. Because of the need for adequate supervision, parents play an important role in the outdoor program. When participating in Troop activities, it is recommended that you report situations requiring adult attention to the Scouter Staff for appropriate action, except in the case of activities, which threaten the health and safety of individuals or the group. In these situations, the parents should feel empowered to stop the dangerous activity immediately.
 17. The parents will handle transportation to and from all Troop activities equally. If a family is unable to equally share responsibility, they may be asked to contribute to the cost of transportation. For camping trips of 4 hours or more, the cost of the fuel will be factored into the cost of the trip.
 18. Drivers of motor vehicles carrying Scouts to, from and during activities sponsored by the Troop must be at least 21 years of age and have a valid driver's license. Drivers assume liability for authorized passengers. BSA policy requires drivers carrying Scout passengers to have minimum insurance liability coverage required by law and seat belts for each passenger in the vehicle.
 19. Sheath knives, aerosol cans, cigarette lighters and personal electronic equipment are prohibited on Troop 1776 outings.
 20. Tour permits are required to be filed with the Atlanta Area Council for all outings.
- b. Finance
1. The Scoutmaster staff, Treasurer and PLC will develop an annual operating budget by September 1st and submit it to Troop Committee for approval.
 2. The Troop will pay the annual registration fees of all Troop **trained** adult leaders and the registered-**trained** Troop Committee members. Non-trained Parents are considered non-registered members of the Troop Committee. They are welcome to attend meetings but have no voting privileges.
 3. Camp or activity fees will be set to cover the estimated cost of each event. Surpluses or shortages will be added or subtracted from the Troop account. The Troop Committee will oversee the Troop Account on this.

Troop 1776 Scouting Guide

4. The Troop will provide accident insurance through the Atlanta Area Council for all Scouts, registered adult leaders, and registered Committee members.
5. The Treasurer for Troop funds will maintain checking and savings accounts. It is expected that the Treasurer report on the financial activities of the troop on a monthly basis. The Troop Treasurer and Troop Committee Chair will each be authorized to sign checks on the Troop accounts.
6. The Troop savings account will be managed as a group of separate accounts: one for the Troop at large and a separate account for each Scout. Money earned by each Scout during Troop fund-raising projects will be maintained and reported by the Treasurer.

The Scouts' accounts are to be used to purchase Scouting-related equipment or to defray regular Troop, Venture Crew, and High Adventure activity fees. The Treasurer will provide forms for these purposes (receipts for equipment will be required). Should a Scout transfer to another troop, withdraw or be expelled from the Troop, the balance in his account will be transferred to his brother. If there is no brother, the balance will be transferred to the Troop's general fund.

The Treasurer shall cause to have published the balances of the Scout Accounts at least 3 times a year. Once issued they will be posted on the Troop Bulletin Board in LaSalette Hall as well as being part of a monthly Troop Newsletter.

7. Troop equipment and materials that are checked out by a Scout or Patrol, but not returned, will be billed to the Scout(s), based on the cost of replacement. When equipment is damaged, a report will be prepared by the PLC with a recommendation whether the repair or replacement is the responsibility of the Scout(s) involved or should be paid for by the Troop.