

Boy Scouts of America

Troop 65

Chartered to
Saxapahaw United Methodist Church



Parent/Scout Handbook

Revised March 2018

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INTRODUCTION:

Troop 65's parent/scout handbook is designed to give parents/caregivers and Scouts an idea of expectations and how the Troop functions. Its purpose is not to repeat in detail information found in the Boy Scout Handbook. The goal of this handbook is to help ensure that each new family gets off to a great start in Troop 65.

Above all, the best way to stay informed about the workings of the Troop is for everyone to stay involved and participate!

TROOP MEETINGS:

- The Troop meets at the Ben F. Bulla Scout Cabin on Jordan Drive. Meeting time is Monday from 7:00pm to 8:30pm, all year. Our standing rule is if school is closed or after-school activities are canceled due to inclement weather, ALL Troop and Patrol activities or meetings will be postponed.
- No meeting will be held during the week the Troop is scheduled to be at summer camp.
- Special patrol assignments and a Scout's needs may make it necessary for your Scout to arrive before or stay a short while after the regular meeting. These times will be announced in advance when possible.
- **PARKING:** Our Scout Cabin is a superb place for Scouting, but has little room for parking. It is important that you do not block the circle drive! ***If you are parking, please pull to the side of the road far enough for other vehicles to get past you safely.*** Be aware of Scouts and others walking around when moving your vehicle.
- Parents/caregivers are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings. They should sit separately from the Scouts. We may ask you to help with certain activities, but otherwise we prefer that you observe quietly and do not interrupt what the Scouts are doing. This can be tough when you think they aren't being productive, but that's the way Scouting works. Scouts will learn to lead themselves when they are shown how, trusted to do it, and given the chance to do it.

UNIFORMS:

- The Official Boy Scout Class A Uniform Shirt is the expected attire at Troop Meetings, while traveling, and at all service projects and other outings. The official pants (dark green) are strongly encouraged. Shirts must be tucked in.
- Troop 65 does not wear neckerchiefs.
- Hats are optional.
- A merit badge sash may be worn with the official shirt at any time to display merit badges earned. In Troop 65, the sash is typically worn at special events such as Courts of Honor. (Never wear the OA sash and Merit Badge sash together.)
- Class B t-shirts are Troop 65 t-shirts or other t-shirts from camps or events, which may be worn for certain outdoor and other activities as appropriate. Shirts with inappropriate content will not be allowed or tolerated.

HANDBOOK:

A Scout's handbook is the road map for adventure. It lists all the requirements for each rank, provides a great deal of information about the skills learned for each requirement and has pages

for recording completion of each requirement.

- The Boy Scout Handbook should be brought to Troop meetings and outings.
- They should also bring a notebook with pen or pencil and a camera if available.
- Parents/caregivers are strongly encouraged to read at least the Introduction section of the handbook to gain an understanding of what Boy Scouting is about and how it works.

RANK ADVANCEMENT:

- Scouts advance at their own pace. Participation at meetings, outings, and summer camp is one key to steady advancement.
- Parents **can not** sign off on advancement requirements. Only the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, and other Scoutmaster-designated individuals may sign off advancement requirements.
- Scouts must ask leaders to signoff requirements in their Handbooks. Leaders will not seek out Scouts to sign off. Parents may need to assist/encourage their Scout with this.
- Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks focus on basic Scout skills.
- Star, Life, and Eagle Ranks focus on broadening horizons (merit badges), service to others, and leadership.
- Awards are presented as soon as possible after being earned, typically at the next Troop Meeting.
- Troop 65 uses a service called Troopmaster to track advancement, events, and contact information for Scouts and their families. You are able to log in and view your Scout's progress, RSVP for events, etc...
- Troopmaster login info here: <http://www.troop65nc.org/advancement.html>

MERIT BADGES:

- Only registered counselors for a particular merit badge may sign off requirements for the badge.
- The Scouts should obtain a merit badge blue card and the name of a counselor from the Scoutmaster prior to beginning work on a particular merit badge. The Scout should then periodically meet with the counselor as requirements are completed. See the Boy Scout Handbook for additional details.
- Scouts must complete all Merit Badge tasks as written.
- Troop leaders who are registered as counselors for a particular merit badge may periodically teach merit badge-related skills at troop meetings. However, these sessions will almost never cover everything required for the merit badge. Scouts will still need to devote time outside of meetings to complete a merit badge.
- Attendance at summer camp provides an opportunity to earn up to 4-6 Merit Badges over the course of the one-week period.
- Periodically Merit Badge workshops are offered at which a badge can be earned or partially earned in one day.

COURTS OF HONOR:

- A Court of Honor provides an opportunity for public recognition for boys advancing in rank and earning awards.
- Courts of Honor are typically held 3-4 times per year.
- Court of Honor usually includes a potluck supper beginning immediately after the meeting.

Please bring enough food for your family and to share.

- Scouts and their families may invite anyone they wish.

CAMPOUTS AND OTHER OUTINGS:

- The annual calendar typically includes a weekend campout each month, and one week of summer camp in June.
- We try to keep the monthly campouts to \$50 or less, and summer camp is around \$325. To keep the monthly trip costs down we may subsidize some events with money from fundraising/donations.
- Campership funding is available for part of the summer camp fee through an application with the Old North State Council.
- Parents/caregivers may be allowed to attend the weekend campouts, subject to the following:
 - a) Parent/caregivers should mostly observe, but may intercede with a Scout when necessary for a safety issue.
 - b) Do not interfere with Leader/Scout "chain of command".
 - c) Parents/caregivers sleep in their own tents, apart from their Scout. (unless prior approval)
 - d) Must complete the BSA Youth Protection training online and provide the certificate.
- Siblings are not invited, but Scouts may bring a non-Scout friend in a "recruitment" capacity (not on a recurring basis), with permission from the Scoutmaster.
- Scouts and adults plan menus one to two weeks in advance of the campout. The Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster may buy the food and bring it to the campout, however, a Scout may be asked to do this to advance in rank. Scouts prepare their own food with appropriate guidance/safety assurances from leaders.
- Scouts should bring their money by the deadlines posted and give it to the Troop Treasurer.
- All unit persons will help with campsite closure.
- Items from the trailer will be cleaned and returned to their proper designated area before leaving the campsite.

CAMPING EQUIPMENT:

- Tents are available to borrow from the Troop, or a Scout can bring their own.
- Refer to Boy Scout Handbook for detailed information.
- Bring appropriate clothing and shoes/boots for forecasted weather.
- Bring appropriate bedding for forecasted temperatures.
- Bring mess kit and water bottle.
- ALWAYS bring rain gear.
- ALWAYS bring rain gear (Yes, it is listed twice, it is that important)!
- Bring personal effects such as toothpaste/brush, deodorant, etc.
- Cell phones are allowed, but may be taken away if used inappropriately or when they shouldn't be. Leaders will have cell phones to contact parents if necessary.

SERVICE PROJECTS:

A Scout is Helpful. From time to time the Troop participates in service projects and good-turns for others. All Scouts are expected to participate. Scouts need these service-hours to complete advancement requirements. They can set up their own projects by contacting various local

agencies, or their church. Service hours are not credited for work in which the Scout is paid. Service hours may be given for assisting another Scout on an Eagle project or for special troop/council/camp projects. Review of the project before and after completion by the SM or ASM is necessary.

FUND RAISING AND SCOUT ACCOUNTS:

Troop 65 holds two major fundraisers each year:

- Popcorn Sales in October
- Christmas Tree/Wreath pre-sales immediately following the Popcorn Sale

EVERY Scout is expected to participate. We all benefit from the proceeds that go to our Troop account, which pays for our electricity, building maintenance, and awards. Your Scout's participation helps the Troop and also helps him learn to earn his own way through Scouting.

To encourage participation and to help offset your costs for uniforms and camp fees, a percentage of proceeds earned by your Scout's sales will be placed in a "Scout Account". This percentage will be determined by the committee prior to each fundraiser (currently 50% of profits). These accounts are discretionary for the Scouts to use for Scouting related expenses only. These funds belong to the Troop and are not transferable or refundable.

BOY SCOUTING VS. CUB SCOUTING:

Boy Scouting is very different from Cub Scouting. The boys control their own destiny regarding planning of outings, campouts, and most other activities. Parents should allow the Scouts to make their own decisions, subject to safety and other guidelines. Parents should not interfere with the Scout "chain of command", as defined by the BSA, except where safety is involved. Some of their decisions will not be good ones. This is how they learn responsibility, teamwork, and leadership. Parents are encouraged to advise, consult, encourage, enable, poke, prod, and otherwise motivate the boys, but should not make their decisions for them nor do their work for them.

TROOP DUES:

Annual dues of \$50.00 are due in January. Almost all of this goes to the BSA, not Troop 65.

COMMUNICATION:

- Our primary method of communication is via email and our website (www.troop65nc.org).
- It is important to read the emails thoroughly, then ask if you can't find an answer you need.
- Troopmaster login info here: <http://www.troop65nc.org/advancement.html>

MEDICAL FORMS:

The Troop is to have on file, a copy of the Scout's medical history. Each parent is responsible to make sure that this information is as complete as possible. Part A and B of the medical form should be updated with new information each year. Part C requires an annual doctor's physical in order for the Scout to attend the Council sponsored week-long summer camp. It is good for one year and each parent should keep a copy for reuse. The physical form can be obtained from the Troop or Council

website. The original is kept in the unit record book, and is taken to all unit activities. Some events may require a health history form, and will be provided at the time of the event. Part D of the form is a for High Adventure activities and generally won't be needed except by our older Scouts.

PERMISSION FORMS:

To conserve paper, we use a yearly consent form. A completed consent form with parent signatures is required from all Scouts. This covers all outings and activities that we may do during the year, rather than an individual form for each event.

TROOP CONDUCT POLICY:

Troop 65 is a collection of active Scouts who are good young men, and we intend to maintain the high standards that we ascribe to under the Scout Oath and Law in our everyday lives, not just when we are at Scouting activities.

The following actions **will not be tolerated**:

- Possession or use of any illegal drug
- Possession or use of firearms or fireworks
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages
- Possession or use of any tobacco product
- Stealing
- Profanity
- Any form of hazing, harassment, or malicious behavior directed toward another Scout
- Open and obvious disrespect of adult leaders, Senior Patrol leadership, or Patrol leadership
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Participating in the above activities will result in disciplinary action that can include suspension or expulsion from the Troop. Behavior is a major consideration when evaluating Scout Spirit for rank advancement.

PATROL METHOD:

We will utilize the Patrol Method. This is the Scouts' Troop, it is their organization. Scouts learn by doing things for themselves with the assistance of other Scouts. An experienced Scout learns by teaching younger scouts. The Scouts run the Troop, not the adult leaders. The Patrol Method enables this to happen. As Baden Powell, the founder of Scouting proclaimed; "The Patrol Method is not one way to run a troop, it is the only way."

At times, this method may seem like disorganized chaos and you will want to step in and help them out. Please see the section "WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THE PARENTS" in this guide for how we handle those situations.

A patrol is generally composed of 4 to 10 Scouts acting through a democratic process to conduct Scouting activities. They will select a Patrol name, create a Patrol Flag, and a Patrol Yell to promote Scout Spirit.

New Scouts will be assigned to a patrol that is composed of first year scouts. A Troop Guide (an experienced Scout) may be assigned with an ASM to work with the new patrol to teach correct Scouting methods.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THE PARENTS:

Boy Scouting is absolutely different from Cub Scouting or Webelos, so please take a few minutes to read this section! In a Cub Scout Pack, while parents (and sometimes whole families) often accompany the Scouts on campouts, the Boy Scouts camp with their Scout patrols and Registered Adult Troop Leaders. Parents are welcome to attend a troop campout but more in the role of an observer to the camp out.

Here is the summary of our Troop (and BSA) policies, followed by the reasoning for the policies. There are always exceptions, but these policies are in effect on most outings.

Scout Leadership/Adult Leadership

Parents should not interfere with the function of youth leadership. Using the Patrol Method, Scouting operates with the premise that the Scouts, not the adults, are responsible to provide the leadership and discipline at all times. The registered adult leadership is available to help the scouts in these roles. As a parent on a campout, we realize there may be a temptation to step in and take control of a situation; however we will only expect a parent to step in if there is a matter of immediate safety or if the mistake will be immediately costly. If you feel there is a scout, including your own son, that needs to be spoken to about his behavior or actions and there is no immediate safety danger then we ask that you bring your concerns to the Troop's Registered Leadership. The Troop's Leadership has been trained by the BSA to take the appropriate action according to the official BSA guidelines.

Scout Growth

Many parents will want to do things for their Scout or make sure that their scout doesn't make mistakes. We ask again, that parents be more of an observer if you are present at a Scouting function. Try not to do anything for a scout that he can do himself. We understand it can be hard as a parent to NOT do for your son, even if you know they are making a mistake, but your scout needs that freedom without the parent safety net in place to gain confidence in their decision making skills and to foster their team building skills.

Scout Tenting and Meals

Scouts tent with their Troop in a Patrol site. Patrols plan their own menus, and cook and eat together as a team without adult intervention. In general, adults do not eat or tent with a scout patrol. Scouts shall share a tent with other scouts so there are 2 – 3 scouts per tent. The Sleeping arrangements are decided within the troop prior to the campout.

Adult Tenting and Meals

Parents attending a camp out will tent and eat with the Adult Leader Patrol. They will be expected to help with the duties within that adult patrol. Adult tents are disbursed throughout the Troop camping area for the safety and supervision of the Scouts. **BSA Youth Protection forbids any adult and a scout from sharing the same tent with the exception of a scout and a parent.** With that said, we much prefer that scouts tent with scouts and adults with adults. It has been the experience of the Troop that the scout will lose out on many opportunities and experiences to make decisions and be part of the Patrol team if the scout is sharing sleeping arrangements with Parents. Yes, you and your scout are probably the rare exception, but it wouldn't be fair to the other adults to single you or your scout out.

Adult Smoking, Drinking, Inappropriate Behavior

Any Adult that transports scouts may not smoke or drink Alcoholic beverages while Scouts are in their vehicle. Adults may not smoke or use tobacco products, nor drink alcoholic beverages during scout activities or in the presence of any youth. Adults that feel they must smoke or chew must do so

discretely out of sight of the scouts. All evidence of smoking must be disposed of so the Scouts do not know anyone has been smoking. Drinking alcoholic beverages and the use of illegal drugs is never permitted at any scout event or campout. If any adult's behavior or choices are not in keeping with the BSA youth protection and safety policies, that adult will be asked to leave the event or campout. If you should be asked to leave an event or campout, we ask that you respect the Adult Leadership and do so immediately and without incident.

Adult Training and Resources

The Boy Scouts of America provides an outstanding handbook for Adults and an excellent training course to help adults understand their Adult role in scouting and the goals of Scouting. The adult manual is called the Scoutmasters Handbook. The training is called Scout Leader -Outdoor Leadership Skills and is offered in our area at different times during the year. If you are a parent that is planning on attending campouts on a regular basis we would request that you consider taking this training. You don't have to be a registered leader to take the training. The Outdoor Leader Training will help you better understand the BSA way of doing things during troop outings.

Rationale

Boy Scout camping activities center on the Scout Led Patrol, where scouts learn teamwork, leadership and camping skills. It is important that Parents not be in the middle of patrol activities such as site selection, tent pitching, meal preparation, and anything else where scouts get to practice decision-making. If you are a Parent on a campout, most likely your son will be there too and it is important that you separate yourself from your parenting role and see your scout as just one of the other scouts. This can be very difficult for a parent to do.

A key difference between Boy Scouting and Cub Scouting/Webelos is leadership. Look for the word "Leader" in the job title, and you will begin to appreciate the difference. The responsible person for a Cub/Webelos Den is the Adult Den Leader. The responsible person for a Boy Scout Patrol is the Scout serving as the Patrol Leader.

This isn't token leadership like a Denner in Cub Scouting. A Patrol Leader has real authority and genuine responsibilities. Much of the success, safety, and happiness of the Patrol will depend directly on him.

Boy Scouting teaches leadership. Scouts learn leadership by taking Junior Leader Training (JLT) and practicing those skills (mistakes and all), not by watching adults lead.

So what do the adults do now that we have surrendered so much direct authority to the scouts? Adults serve in an indirect advisory role, only stepping in if a Scout's safety is in danger. No kidding, you should enjoy watching your scout take progressively more mature and significant responsibilities as he zooms towards adulthood.

The underlying principle is "never doing anything for a scout that he can do himself". We allow scouts to grow by practicing leadership and by learning from mistakes they make. While Scout skills are an important part of the BSA program, what ultimately matters when our Scouts become adults is not whether they can use a map & compass, but whether they can offer leadership to others in tough situations; and can live by a code that centers on honest, honorable, and ethical behavior.

Scouts need to learn to make decisions and to handle conflict between each other without adult intervention. Again, unless there is a matter of immediate safety, adults won't interfere with any scout's decision-making process. Scouts are in a patrol so they can learn from their mistakes, the skills of leadership and teamwork without adult interference.

Being an adult leader or parent at a Troop event or campout is a difficult role, especially when we are advising kids (even worse our own sons). If a parent goes on a campout, you are an automatic member of our Adult Patrol "The Old Goat Patrol". This patrol has several purposes – good food and camaraderie of course, but more important is providing an example that the Scout patrols can follow without our telling them what to do – we teach by example.

Quite simply, our Troop policy requires adults to cook, eat, and tent separately from the Scouts (even parents and sons). We are safely nearby, but not smothering close. Your tent should be located away from your son's tent so he can feel free to associate with the rest of the Troop and not feel like a parent is watching all the time. Sure, go ahead and visit the patrol sites (not just your son's), talk to your son and the other scouts, ask what's going on or how things are going. Give your scout room to grow while you enjoy the view. Show a scout how to do something, but don't do it for him. Avoid the temptation to give unsolicited advice, and don't jump in just to prevent a mistake from happening (unless it's serious). We all learn best from our mistakes. Allow your scout to solve his own issues with other scouts. If you feel there is a problem that needs to be addressed, your best bet is to seek out the Senior Patrol Leader or a Registered Troop Leader.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Troop 65 Website – www.troop65nc.org
Health Forms - <http://www.troop65nc.org/resources.html>

Troop 65 Scoutmaster:
Ron King – ronkingdrums@gmail.com - 336-263-9307

Troop 65 Committee Chair:
Sam Berryhill – bassbone@triad.rr.com – 336-266-5744

Troop 65 Advancement Coordinator:
Travis Crabtree – tcrabtree@townofchapelhill.org - 919-625-0628

Troop 65 Treasurer:
Amie Stewart - karlamie1996@gmail.com – 336-456-8086