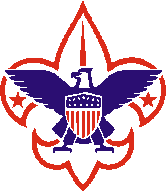
**BOY SCOUT TROOP 65**

**GUIDE BOOK**

**FOR SCOUTS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

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CHARTER ORGANIZATION:  
  
SAXAPAHAW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
  
MEETING PLACE: BEN F. BULLA SCOUT CABIN

www.troop65nc.org

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Dear Scouts, Scouters, and Parents,

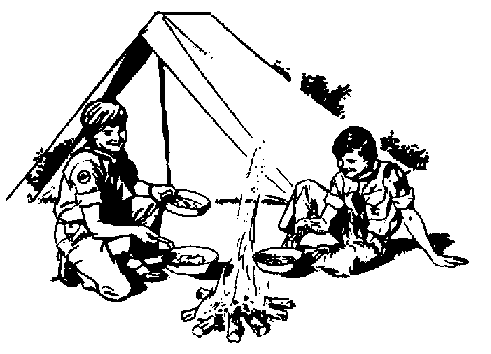
Welcome to Troop 65.  If you have been a part of our Cub Scout Pack, you have already been a part of our family for some time and have seen what Scouting has to offer.  For those that are new to Scouting, we hope your experience will be a fun and exciting one.

This Guide Book is designed with the graduating Cub Scout and the new Scout in mind.  Our Troop has and will continue to provide service to the Pack by participating, staffing, and sponsoring various events and activities.  Structurally and functionally, the Troop and Boy Scouting are different from Cub Scouts and the Pack.  This book is here to discuss those differences and help you understand how we function.  We hope the transition into the Troop will be a positive one.

As you begin your adventure with us, there are going to be questions.  Please don't hesitate to ask and get the right information.  There are also many other activities that "compete" with Scouting (i.e. sports).  There is no reason a boy can't do both, in fact we encourage it.  Don't give up one for the other, come talk to us.  We all have sons who are or have been involved in community and school activities and still managed to find a way to participate.

This book, like the Scouts is a work in progress, so please feel free to let me know if you find something that you feel needs to be added, or explained better.

It's an honor to be able to be a part of your Scout's life and hope your family finds our Scouting family a good place to be.



Yours in Scouting,

Ron King

Scoutmaster, Troop 65

**1.** **JOINING REQUIREMENTS:**

New members will not be a "Boy Scout" until he completes the joining requirements in the Scout Handbook (page 17). This is a very important step as it means that he understands the obligations of being a Scout, the Scout Oath and Law, and agrees to abide and live by them. We hold a Webelos Bridging Ceremony each year around the beginning of March to welcome our new Scouts into the Troop. Parents and family members are encouraged to attend.

**2.** **TROOP LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE:**

CHARTERED ORGANIZATION: Saxapahaw United Methodist Church 5624 Church Rd., Graham, NC 27253

The Church is issued an annual charter by the Boy Scouts of America to operate a Troop. They have agreed to furnish Troop meeting facilities, select a Scoutmaster, appoint Troop Committee of at least three adults, and to choose a Chartered Organization Representative from within its membership.

CHARTERED ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE (COR):  
This is a member of the chartered organization, and heads up the organization's "Scouting Department". This person serves as the active link between the Church and the Troop. They work with the Troop Committee and its chairman to promote Scouting and its programs within the organization. They represent the organization at council and district levels as the person authorized to vote for the organization.

TROOP COMMITTEE:  
This is our steering committee. It handles finances, approves Troop policy, forms the Board of Review, and helps in many ways through their Scouting experience.

TROOP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN *(CC):*  
Our Troop Committee Chairman is Bill McBride, former Troop 65 Scoutmaster.

SCOUTMASTER (SM):  
The SM is appointed by the Troop Committee, and like all adult leaders must be approved by the chartered organization

ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER (ASM):  
The SM appoints the ASM’s for an annual term with the approval of the Troop Committee.

**3.** **REGISTRATION FEES & TROOP DUES**:

Registration fees/Troop Dues are $50.00 per year, due November 1st. This fee includes annual registration with the BSA, a yearly subscription to Boy’s Life, BSA insurance, and a small amount for the Troop to cover advancements and expenses. Boy’s Life is recommended, but optional. If you do not wish to get Boy’s Life then you may deduct $12 from your fees due. We encourage Scouts to earn and use their own money for activities if possible. Adult leaders and Committee members will pay $16.00 per year for annual registration, and insurance.

**4.** **MEDICAL INSURANCE:**

All Scouts and registered adults are required to carry the Troop Accident policy provided through the National BSA. It is $1 per year and is included in the yearly Troop dues. You can obtain a copy of the policy and claim form from Troop leaders or the Old North State Council office in Greensboro.

**5.** **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 and Scuba activities and generally won't be needed except by our older Scouts.

**6.** **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.

**7.** **FUNDRAISING AND SCOUT ACCOUNTS:**

Troop 65 holds two major fundraisers each year:

1. Popcorn Sales in October
2. 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. 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.

**8.** **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 closes 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. Holidays and other closings will be announced. 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.

**9.** **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

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.

**10.** **ATTENDANCE**:

Strong emphasis is placed upon attendance at meetings, as this is very important for advancement. Being absent does not just hurt the Scout, but also the activities of his Patrol and the entire Troop. Attendance records are kept for all activities and regular attendance is needed to participate in other activities.  Scouts are required for advancement to attend unit activities other than weekly meetings.

**11.** **SCOUT SPIRIT:**

Scout spirit is how a Scout demonstrates that he lives and practices the Scout Oath and Law. It is his attitude toward all Scouting activities, his Troop, his Patrol, and his Scout leaders. It is how he wears his uniform. It is his overall conduct at meetings. Good Scout spirit is needed for advancement. The Scoutmaster, all Assistant Scoutmasters, and the Patrol Leaders Council review Scouts for Scouting spirit.

**12.** **UNIFORMS:**

FIELD ACTIVITY UNIFORM: The Field Activity Uniform (often referred to as Class A) shall be worn to ALL MEETINGS UNLESS OTHERWISE DESIGNATED. The Class A uniform consists of a short or long sleeve Scout shirt, Scout shorts or long pants, Scout belt, Navy Scout neckerchief, and proper Scout socks. If a hat is desired, it must be an official BSA hat, or other BSA official cap, i.e.: Scout Reservation, OA, or Scout commemorative cap. No other hat or ball cap is acceptable.

Due to the cost of the full uniform, it is understood that some families may not be able to afford the complete set all at once. The shirt should be the first item purchased, along with the neckerchief. The neckerchief will be navy blue with the BSA logo.  Pants should otherwise be neat, clean and if possible a matching color to the official pants.  No cut off or basketball type shorts, and should otherwise be neat and clean.  Open toe shoes are never to be worn.  Shoes should be clean and neat and enclose the entire foot.

THE ACTIVITY UNIFORM: The Activity uniform (often referred to as Class B) includes the following: a Troop t-shirt, or other shirt with any kind of Scouting logo, Scout pants, Scout belt, and proper Scout socks. The Class B uniform is only worn at designated times.

The uniform builds Scout Spirit and Troop pride!! Athletes cannot play without proper equipment. Scouts cannot attend field trips without the proper uniform. The Class A uniform must be worn to Troop meetings for the Scout to receive credit for attendance and Scout Spirit advancement.

**13.** **YOUTH LEADERSHIP:**

Leadership changes every 6 months with a Troop election. Leadership positions may be added or deleted at the discretion of the SM, and will be based on unit needs and size.

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)  
He is an experienced Senior Scout that is elected by the troop. He is the Troop leader and conducts all Troop meetings. He must be at least First Class or above, have 10 nights camping, and has served as a Patrol Leader. Attendance at Summer Camp is preferred. The SM must confirm his nomination.  
  
Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)  
Appointed by the SPL with the consent of the SM. The Patrol Leaders report to the ASPL.

Troop Quarter Master (QM)  
He is elected by the Troop and approved by the SM. The QM is responsible for all troop equipment and its distribution to patrols. Equipment is inspected after each camp out.

Chaplain's Aide  
Appointed by the SM. The chaplain's aide is responsible for religious services on camp outs and other scout functions. An adult advisor will assist this position.

Troop Scribe  
He is elected by the Troop and approved by the SM. He is responsible for keeping minutes of all PLC meetings.

Troop Guide  
Appointed by the PLC and approved by the SM for each new patrol. They assist the new Scouts in advancing in rank.

Historian  
He is appointed by the PLC and approved by the SM. He takes pictures and documents Troop activities.

Librarian  
Maintains the Troop Library and an accurate inventory. Maintains a log of whom and what books are checked out. Makes recommendations to meet library needs.

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster  
Senior Scout, mature enough to assist leaders with issues related to leadership and training. Typically this will be an Eagle Scout who will be aging out (18yrs old) within 18 months, and wishes to remain active with the Troop. This requires SM, ASM and Committee approval.

OA Troop Representative  
He serves as liaison between the Order of the Arrow and Troop Arrowmen. He is elected from Troop Arrowmen by the Troop. He ensures that OA events are publicized and noted on the Troop schedule. Assists other scouts in understanding of OA purposes and objectives.

Patrol Leader (PL)

* Elected by his patrol members
* Approval of SM required

Responsibilities:

* Plan and lead patrol meetings and activities.
* Keep patrol members informed.
* Assign each patrol member a specific duty.
* Represent your patrol at all patrol leaders' council meetings and the annual program planning conference.
* Prepare the patrol to participate in all troop activities.
* Work with other troop leaders to make the troop run well.
* Know the abilities of each patrol member.
* Set a good example.
* Wear the Scout uniform correctly.
* Live by the Scout Oath and Law.
* Show and develop patrol spirit.

Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)  
Appointed by the PL. Assists the PL and fills in during his absence. This position does not fulfill any leadership requirements.

Patrol Scribe  
Appointed by the PL. He maintains good records of Patrol meetings, keeps copies of duty rosters and menus.

**14.** **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 30. “WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THE PARENTS” of 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.

**15.** **PATROL LEADERS COUNCIL (PLC):**

The PLC consists of the following Scouts: Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, all Patrol Leaders, and the Troop Scribe. The Troop Guide assists the New Scout Patrol Leader in representing the new Scouts. The Scribe and Troop Guide are nonvoting members of the PLC. Asst. Patrol Leaders will stand in when the Patrol Leader is not present. The SM and an ASM will be present as advisors. Meetings are scheduled as necessary to conduct Troop business, plan activities, and meetings.

**16.** **ADVANCEMENT:**

Scouts advance through the ranks by thoroughly learning and completing the requirements in the BSA handbook. It is the Scout’s responsibility to know what requirements he needs and to present evidence of accomplishment to the SM or ASM. A Scout should make arrangements prior to or after a meeting to sign off requirements. Time is also provided on camp-outs. Parents can help their Scouts learn the requirements, but only the SM or ASM can sign off requirements. Scouts should keep their books with them at all times when at Scouting functions. It is the Scouts responsibility to get this information to the SM as it is signed off.

**17.** **SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCE:**

When all requirements for a specific rank have been met and signed-off, the Scout is to schedule a Scoutmaster conference with the SM. The Scout must be in full Field Activity Uniform and must have his Scout handbook with him for the conference. The SM will talk to each Scout about the work that he has completed and set goals for future progress. To comply with National BSA Youth Protection standards, conferences will be done in full view of other adults and youth.  A parent or guardian may be present during the conference.

**18.** **BOARD OF REVIEW:**

After the SM conference, the Scout appears before a Board of Review. The Board of Review is held by the Troop Committee.  It is composed of no less than three members and is held on a regular meeting night and scheduled through the SM and CC. The Scout must appear in full Field Activity Uniform, prepared to show that he is *worthy* of the rank for which he is being reviewed. If the Scout passes, the rank badge is presented to the Scout at the next possible Troop meeting. Formal recognition will be given at the next Court of Honor.

**19.** **COURT OF HONOR:**

Courts of Honor are held quarterly to give formal recognition to the advancement of individual Scouts. Awards presented include rank advancement, merit badges, training achievements, Troop awards, etc. Families and friends of all Scouts are encouraged to attend since all Scouts participate in the ceremony. This is not only a time to give recognition to the advancing Scouts but is also an opportunity to socialize and get to know the "Troop Family".

**20.** **TROOP RECORDS:**

The Scout turns his book over to the SM or ASM who updates the Scout's advancement in the official Troop Records. The best time to have an advancement updated is immediately after having it signed off as completed. These records will be added to the "Troopmaster" database that we use to track our Troop records. The more often the Troop records are updated, the better that planning for advancement can be done by the PLC and Scout leaders.

**21.** **MERIT BADGE ADVANCEMENT:**

Scouts wanting to work on a merit badge must obtain advance approval from the SM. With approval to work on the merit badge, the Scout will be given a list of approved counselors that are registered with the Council and/or Troop. The Scout gets an application for the merit badge (blue card) from the SM. Next, the Scout (not the parent) sets up an appointment with the counselor before work is started on the merit badge. Scouts are not allowed to visit merit badge counselors alone. Another Scout or parent must accompany the Scout (buddy system). The Scout follows the counselor's instructions to complete the requirements. Upon completion of the requirements, the counselor signs the application, (the blue card), which the Scout brings to the SM or ASM who records the badge. The merit badge is presented at the next possible Troop meeting. Several merit badges may be worked on at a time, but approval must always be obtained prior to starting the work. There is no time limit to complete a Merit Badge once it is started other than the Scout's 18th birthday. It is to the Scout’s benefit to finish them before requirements change and while information is "fresh" on a subject.  
  
Merit badges may also be earned at Scout Summer Camps. If merit badges are not completed at camp, the Scout may earn partial credit, which will be noted on proper forms and recorded by the SM or ASM. Completion of partial badges is the responsibility of the Scout, just as for any other merit badge. The Scout is to consult with the SM to decide how partials should be completed.

**22.** **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.

**23.** **OUTINGS AND ACTIVITIES:**

The Troop has an outing or activity once a month. Scouts pay for their own food expenses and personal expenses, if any. For most trips, the Troop leaves on Friday at 6:00PM and returns on Sunday morning depending on destination and type of trip. Specific schedules will be posted as plans are finalized by the PLC. **If a Scout signs up to go camping, he must pay his monies due by the Troop meeting prior to the camping trip.** The Troop and Patrol need a week to plan transportation, buy food, and confirm activities. **If a Scout changes his mind and does not make the trip, he still must pay for his share of the food if it has already been purchased.**  
Meals are usually 3 Saturday meals, and Sunday breakfast. Each patrol is responsible for their menu planning and shopping. The Scouts doing the shopping are responsible for following the menu and staying within the budget (avg $10-15 per Scout). Any overrun will be the responsibility of the shoppers. If there is a surplus of money, it will be placed in petty cash and used to offset the Patrol’s cost on the next trip. Scouts should have a well-planned menu to use in preparing their meals. It must be turned in to the SM or ASM for approval. No junk food is allowed. Many trips will have a required cooking “style” or type, and will require true preparation time. It is rare that “prefab” foods will be allowed. Also keep in mind the Cooking merit badge will be Eagle required soon.  
  
Planning the meals, purchasing the food, cooking the meals, and directing helpers in meal preparation are all part of the advancement process for Scouts. If a Scout continuously misses camping trips, he will miss important opportunities for advancement in many areas. This can cause the rate of advancement to be considerably slower than the Scout would hope for, as he must wait for the same opportunities to come around again. With the assistance of parents, the Troop strives to "keep the outing in Scouting".

**24.** **CAMPING TRIPS, OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, AND SPECIAL EVENTS - RESPONSIBILITIES AND POLICIES:**

The following policies have been established to assure that all outings are safe and enjoyable:

1. Scouts under age 18 may not drive. Adults under age 21 may not drive.
2. Driver etiquette suggests the following guidelines:
   1. Be on time for planned meet-for-departure and return-for-pickup times.
   2. Have gas tank topped off before departure.
   3. Keep reroute stops brief and to a minimum.
   4. Maintain safe speeds.
   5. Use all seatbelts. Riding in the back of pickup trucks, campers, etc. is prohibited.
   6. Provide numbers and use cell phones during travel and large events.
   7. Traveling in convoy is against BSA regulations, but trip drivers should travel together on the same schedule and stay in touch by cell phone.
   8. Don’t allow riders to switch cars during the trip without positive in-person communication and formal hand-off between both drivers concerned.
   9. Stick together with the group. Avoid leaving early, which can cause issues for remaining Scouts and leaders and can be regarded as poor teamwork.
3. The Troop typically travels together and tries to return 15 minutes prior to the announced pick-up schedule at the announced location. This will allow time to unload, hang wet tents and put away gear. Scouts are expected to help with these jobs and not leave without checking out with the Trip Leader. It is not fair to the others for a Scout to be allowed to leave before all post-trip jobs are completed. Parents will be called if the return time varies significantly and should not expect a phone call if on schedule.
4. Parents should be prompt picking up their returning sons. If parents cannot pick up their sons, alternate pickup arrangements should be made known to the Trip Leader.
5. If a Scout or adult has signed up for a trip and needs to drop out, he must tell the Trip Leader immediately as it can have an impact on transportation and many other trip plans, and he must tell his Patrol Leader, as appropriate. He may be responsible for funds committed in his behalf for trip activities and for his share of patrol food already purchased.
6. Alcohol and Tobacco use is inappropriate on BSA outings, or anywhere on the property of our Scout Cabin. Parents and Adult leaders should support the attitude that they, as well as youths, are better off without tobacco in any form and may not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth participants.
7. All Scouting functions, meetings, and activities should be conducted on a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas located away from all participants.
8. Firearms, fireworks, and similar items are strictly forbidden.
9. Any knife with a fixed blade, such as a sheath knife, and any knife with a blade longer than 3” is forbidden. Use of a knife by a Scout requires Totin’ Chip certification.
10. It is inappropriate to bring a radio, TV, or any personal electronic communications and entertainment device such as a music player or game.
11. Cell phone use on trips is restricted to official communications and safety use only.
12. Pets are not welcome. They can cause distractions to the planned program.
13. Guests, particularly non-registered adults who are not parents of a Scout, should not be invited to participate in Troop trips, unless by special exception and approved by the SM. Similarly, siblings of Troop Scout members, friends and other youth, especially if not registered Scouts, should also not be invited. Trips that are open to family participation will be noted as such.
14. When hiking, for safety reasons and unless specified as convenient to separate, the group should stay together with a designated “point” in front and “sweep” in the rear. All hikers will stop at trail or road intersections until everyone agrees on the route.
15. Two-deep leadership is a BSA regulation. Two adults, one at least 21 or over, is a minimum requirement for all trips and events. Further, an adult should never be alone with a non-related youth outside regular camping and meeting areas. Conferences, hikes, and instruction should always take place in plain view or with another adult or youth.
16. Adults on outings with their son should consider themselves responsible for the whole Troop, not just their son. They should avoid interfering with the Scout leadership and avoid intervening to help their son with Scout skills, campsite and tent setup, cooking, etc. Also, adults do not tent with their son so their son will better integrate with his patrol and improve his self-reliance skills. *Please see section 30. “WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THE PARENTS” for more on this topic.*
17. Scouts and adults usually cook and tent separately, in separate areas. Scouts cook and tent by patrol. Youth should avoid hanging out in the adult camping and eating area.
18. Running, playing ball, and horseplay should be avoided in the tent and cooking areas.
19. Between taps and reveille times, quite time should be observed. Whispers only.

**25.** **SUMMER CAMP:**

This is a week-long camp at Cherokee Scout Reservation. Troop leadership and Scouts all camp on a reserved site so the Scouts may attend a scheduled program of activities presented by the camp staff. It is a week of fun, excitement, and great scouting experiences. It allows a Scout to fulfill many advancement requirements and/or earn merit badges. The cost is around $250 per Scout, which includes meals, tentage, and most of the program fees. Cost should not be a factor in whether a Scout may attend camp. If assistance is needed, parents should talk with the Scoutmaster, as scholarship monies are available. Scout accounts may be used for this.  
  
**26.** **TROOP AND PERSONAL EQUIPMENT:**

Sharing a tent with a buddy is expected on outings. If a Scout purchases a tent, it should be a 2 man type that he can share with another Scout. It is also recommended that it be a tent that can be backpacked. Backpacks are used on most outings by the Troop and it is expected that each Scout will eventually obtain his own. The Troop does own a few backpacks, so see us if your Scout needs to borrow one. All other items, including sleeping bag, sleeping pad, personal mess kit, toiletries kit, etc. are considered the responsibility of the individual Scout. The Troop has limited access to some equipment that may be borrowed for trips until a Scout can purchase their own.  
  
Before purchasing any of the above items the Scout should seek the advice of the Troop in making his selection. This can keep the Scout from making a costly mistake. Any leader or experienced Scout will be more than happy to relate experiences with different types of equipment, where to get it, and maybe how to get a discount on price. There are a few retailers that rent equipment. It may be a good idea to try different types and styles before making any financial commitments. It is further recommended that Scout's and their parents not purchase "top of the line" equipment unless they are sure of the necessity and the care the Scout will be capable and willing to give the more expensive items.  
  
Normal wear is anticipated, but damage resulting from abuse or improper care of any equipment (Troop, personal, Patrol, etc) will be the financial responsibility of the Patrol/Scout that last used it. The SM or ASM will decide on the need and cost of repair or replacement of damaged equipment.

**27.** **TRAVEL EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST:**

The lists on the following pages have been adapted from the Boy Scout Handbook and Scout Field Guide. Make copies as it may be used for planning & packing for each trip. Class A uniforms will not be required for most Troop planned camps, but are required for District/Council events and summer camp.  The first list is a general equipment list for many of our Troop trips.  The second backpacking list is more specific and geared toward reduction of weight being carried. Parents should refrain from packing for their Scouts, as this is part of the advancement process and teaches self-reliance.

**28. PERSONAL EQUIPMENT LIST:**

**Scout Outdoor Essentials:**

* Pocketknife (if "Tot'n Chip" has been earned)
* Flashlight
* First aid kit
* Matches
* Raincoat or poncho
* Compass
* Canteen or water bottle
* Sun Block
* Fire starter (non-liquid)
* Scout book (fits nicely in oversize "zip lock" bag)
* pad and pencil
* Clothing for the season: (Do Not Over pack, especially backpacking trips)
* Class A uniform: Scout shirt, pants, belt, and knee socks.
* Class B uniform: T-shirt with scout logo on it, Scout shorts, Scout belt, and socks.
* Hiking stick
* Sweater or warm jacket
* Underwear
* Socks, including extras
* Hiking boots or sturdy shoes
* Running shoes for around camp
* Cap with brim for shade
* Swimsuit (seasonal)
* PLAN AND DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

**Personal overnight camping gear:**

* Pack (include cover or big garbage bag for cover)
* Sleeping bag or blankets
* Sleeping pad and Ground cloth (plastic sheeting for under tent)
* Mess kit (non-disposable spoon, fork, bowl, cup, plate)
* Toiletries kit (soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, comb, washcloth, and towel)

**Optional:**

* Camera
* Boy Scout Field Book
* Camping pillow
* Insect repellant
* Magnifying glass
* Sunglasses
* Binoculars
* Bird/Plant identity books
* Prayer book or Bible

**29. BACKPACKING EQUIPMENT LIST**

The following is a list of suggested equipment for most backpacking trips the Troop will take. Scouts and parents should carefully evaluate the necessity of each item and if there are other possible uses. The less weight a Scout carries, the less likely he will become fatigued and decrease the possibility of injury. Troop leadership will inspect all equipment prior to leaving for the trip to assure the appropriate equipment is carried. If you plan to purchase equipment, please do not buy the most expensive items available. Each entry below will offer suggestions to reduce cost and weight (even a few ounces can make a big difference when you add them up). Each Scout will be responsible for their food. We will create menus and post them as we get closer to each trip. www.campmor.com is a good on-line source for equipment. Shop around for equipment, and look for items that may have multiple uses. Keep it simple and use your imagination. We recommend each Scout read and review Chapters 8 & 9 in the Boy Scout handbook.  
  
**BACKPACKS**

* Internal Frame – Very popular and versatile, these packs may be referred to as “Technical packs”. They hold the weight close to the body and can carry more weight. They tend to hold heat during summer treks as the pack is against the body. Metal stays can be removed and bent to conform to the shape of the body. May have lots of extra features. Look for one with load adjusting straps. Tents and sleeping gear may fit inside the pack.
* External Frame – Metal frame outside of pack. Due to construction, distribute weight better but need to be loaded well. Cooler in summer as frame holds equipment away from the body. More expensive ones will have load adjusting straps and adjust for torso length. Tents and sleeping gear are typically strapped or tied to the frame outside of the pack.
* One is not better than the other. It is personal choice for comfort, cost, and features.
* Size should be based on torso length (distance between top of shoulders to center of back at the top of pelvic wings). Some packs are adjustable (suggested). REI in Greensboro offers a free fitting service to help select a proper fitting pack.
* Pack size may also be given as cubic inches or volume. The larger the capacity, the more expensive they will be. Volumes of about 3000 to 4000 cubic inches are appropriate for our purposes.
* The total weight carried should be no more than 30% of the Scouts body weight.

**TENTS**

* We will be looking to pair up Scouts when possible. By sharing a tent, the weight of the tent can be shared.
* When purchasing a tent look at the floor space and the weight.
* Size should be such that the scout can stretch out
* Weight should be under 5 lbs for a two man, 4 lbs for a 1 man tent
* Prices vary – can be expensive so shop around.
  + A ground cloth is needed to decrease moisture from the ground and may help protect tent floor from damage.
  + A small plastic tarp adds weight - $$$
  + Tyvec house wrap is light and strong. May be able to find scraps at a construction site. Ask before taking!
  + Can double as temporary shelter or pack cover
  + Large Construction grade trash bag is also an option
  + Shower curtain liner ($1 at Dollar Tree)

**COOKING STOVES**

Most trail cooking will be done with a backpacking camp stove. There is no need for each Scout to have their own. We will try to make sure each Patrol has at least one to share.

**COOKING/EATING**

* Single ½ qt cooking pot
* “Grease pot” from Walmart is good size
* Pot from mess kit may be a little small but don’t buy something else if you have one
* Doubles as bowl/plate
* Plastic/Lexan Utensils
* A set of 4 “Sporks” is @ $1 (only need 1)
* Metal sets or “multi-tools” add weight
* Plastic Cup
* Need to be able to hold hot liquids

**WATER BOTTLES**

* Scout’s will need to carry 2-1 Liter bottles of water
* We will teach water purification.
* That said, it is not necessary to purchase purification systems for now (expensive).

**FLASH LIGHTS**

* Headlamps allow hands to be free to cook, set up tent, etc.
* Small flashlight or battery mini lantern are ok but will be heavier than a headlamp and tie up a hand

**PACK COVER**

* Commercial made ($10-15)
* Large Construction weight trash bag
* Can be used for ground cloth
* Doubles as Rain poncho

**SLEEPING GEAR**

* Sleeping bags
* Note weight and temperature rating
* Selection based on ambient temperature of trip
* Decent multi-season bags (range of 20° - 70°) can be found at Wal-Mart for under $40.
* Sleeping pads
* Foam or self-inflatable foam center best insulating
* Air mattress or inflatable pads may increase heat loss

**CLOTHING**

* Dress in layers based on the weather
* Significant heat is lost when wet, plan for weather
* Heat is lost easily through the top of your head – knit cap suggested
* Heavy hiking socks
* Multiple sets of clothing only add weight. For most short trips, a change of outer clothing is not needed.
* Gallon sized zip-lock bags can be used to keep extra clothing clean and dry until needed

**FOOTWEAR**

* Work boots may not provide enough insulation
* Should be tall enough to help support ankles
* Sneakers are not a good choice
* Sneakers can be carried for camp site shoes (add weight)
* Extra pair of socks, t-shirt, underwear

**OTHER**

* Pocket Knife (3” blade or less-no sheath knives) (if Totin’ Chip earned)
* First Aid Kit
* Whistle
* Matches and fire starter (if Firem’n Chit earned)
* Fishing hook with length of monofilament line
* Toilet paper (may double as fire starter)
* Walking stick or Trekking poles
* Trail finder Compass
* 10 – 20’ cord/rope
* Travel size hand sanitizer or waterless soap.
* Travel tooth brush and tooth paste
* Food (Mountain House or other freeze dried foods)

**Be Prepared... But be prepared to carry it!**

**30. 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 Geezers and Spring Chickens”. 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.