



Troop 6  
Regulations and Policies

## **You, Your Son, and Our Troop**

Troop 6 is organized and administered by a group of volunteer adults, most of them parents of boys in the troop, who are approved by the chartering organization (sponsor). Our chartering organization is Zion Episcopal Church. This institution is granted a charter annually by the Boy Scouts of America, and they agree to provide an adequate meeting place, to help in the selection of the adult leaders who serve as Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters, and to adhere to the policies and program of Scouting.

Troop meetings are planned and conducted by the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) which is made up of the elected boy leaders—Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL), Patrol Leaders, Scribe, and Quartermaster. The PLC, under the coaching and guidance of the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters, meets monthly and gives your son a chance to be part of the planning process, to make decisions, and to take part in making the troop program successful.

Troop meetings take place every Thursday evening at 7:30 pm in the scout room of the Zion Episcopal Church Gymnasium. We recognize that this is a school night, but experience has shown that, with a little help from the parents, boys can easily make the meeting without harm to their schoolwork. There is something for every boy at the meetings, so we request that you make every effort to ensure his attendance.

The PLC meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm to finalize plans for the coming month's activities and to make tentative arrangements for the following month's program. Each fall, the PLC of the Troop will meet to plan the next year's calendar, schedule events, and develop the troop objectives for the year. We attempt to have one outdoor activity every other month at a minimum and one fundraising activity on the opposite months. The patrols are encouraged to plan and carry out their own activities independent of the troop that include camping trips and hikes between troop outdoor activities.

Within the troop, your son will be assigned to a patrol—a group of 6 to 10 boys. His patrol will be his team for games and contests, his closest buddies in camp, and his teachers as he works on advancement. Each patrol will meet weekly. A typical meeting will have the patrol take part in a game, work on Scouting skills, work on advancement requirements, or plan a future event.

At troop meetings and by working on his own, your son will have a chance to earn many merit badges, activity patches, and special awards. He will get his Boy Scout Badge as soon as he has his first talk with the Scoutmaster. After that, he will work on skills for advancement through Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Rank. Our goal is to have each new Scout who joins the troop achieve the rank of First Class within one year of joining. As he advances past First Class, he will have to meet more difficult requirements for the Star and Life Scout ranks, which include earning Merit Badges. Finally, he may continue up the lofty trail and earn the Eagle Scout award.

Encourage your son to take his share of the responsibility by taking an active part in all Patrol/Troop meetings and activities. When the troop conducts an activity, it is hopefully going to not only stimulate your son's interest in the program, but also help to make him more self-reliant. Again, encourage him to participate, but let him prepare for the activities on his own as much as possible. He may make some mistakes or forget something, but let him do it; that's part of the learning experience in Scouting.

As time goes by, and your son gains experience, he may be selected to serve as a patrol or troop leader. These leadership roles recognize him for his achievements in the rank he has earned and the potential he has demonstrated to the adult leaders. We hope each boy will get the opportunity to serve in the leadership roles, as it will place him on equal par with other boys in making the troop work.

## **Your Role as a Scout Parent**

Naturally, you will want your son to get the most out of the Scouting program, so you will have to keep the dates of troop activities on your calendar as a reminder, encourage him as he progresses in the advancement program and, perhaps, help him master the skills of Scouting. But his success in Scouting depends in part on the success of our troop--if the troop has a strong and active program, your son will have a much better chance to make the most of his experience as a Scout. You can help keep the troop strong!

How you support the troop depends on your talents and available time. If you become a registered member of the BSA, you may choose to serve on the Troop Committee or as an Assistant Scoutmaster. The Troop Committee functions as a sort of board of directors for the Troop. Even if you choose not to become a Committee Member, we hope that you take the time to come to these meetings and find out what the troop is doing and what help may be needed to accomplish our program for the boys. Additionally, you will be called upon to help with transportation, assist in maintaining troop equipment or serving as a merit badge counselor in a hobby or career field with which you are familiar.

Scouting is a family organization and you will be invited to special troop activities, such as our troop banquets or to a quarterly Court of Honor at which the Scouts are recognized for their achievements and advancement. Your participation in these activities and your offers of help when the troop is in need will show your son that you support him and want him to have the best experiences possible in Scouting.

As a concerned and interested parent, the role you play will be vital in determining just how much effect these Scouting experiences will have on your son's development. We hope that through your interest and encouragement, your son will be one of those Scouts whose efforts lead him along the Trail of the Eagle.

## **Definition of an ‘Active’ Scout**

All Scouts should want to, and be, ACTIVE in their unit. Scouts will not, however, be denied membership based solely upon their level of activity but may or may not be considered ACTIVE.

The first requirement for advancement to the rank of Star, Life, and Eagle Scout states: “Be active in your Troop and Patrol for at least 4 months/6 months/6months as a First Class/Star/Life Scout.”

To establish guidelines for Troop 6 which define ACTIVE for the purposes of advancement in rank and participation in special events (ski trip, high adventure, etc.), the following shall apply:

- An ACTIVE Scout attends no less than 51% of the scheduled Troop meetings, consistently.
- An ACTIVE Scout attends no less than 51% of the scheduled Patrol meetings, consistently.
- An ACTIVE Scout participates in no less than 51% of the Troop’s scheduled activities.
- An ACTIVE Scout participates in no less than 51% of the Troop’s scheduled Good Turns.
- An ACTIVE Scout participates in no less than 51% of the Troop’s fundraisers.

## **Attendance Policy**

Troop 6 enjoys presenting our scouts with patches and other awards for active participation.

All activities will have an associated participation patch that will be awarded to all those who attend. These patches may be worn as temporary insignia on the right pocket or on a patch vest or may be sewn to a patch blanket for display at Troop Courts of Honor.

The BSA attendance award will be presented at the end of each scout year (typically at the June Court of Honor) to all those scouts who meet the following requirements:

- Meets the definition of ‘active’ scout for all activities, Good Turns, and fundraisers,
- Misses a maximum of three (3) troop/patrol meetings within the scout year (Sept-June).

## **Dues / Fundraisers / Fees**

Troop 6 members are required to pay meeting dues of \$1.00 per week. These funds are placed in the scout’s account for use in: re-charter fees and basic activity fees.

Additionally, Troop 6 will distribute 80% of all fundraising profits to the scout’s accounts among the scouts who participated in that fundraising activity. The troop will keep 20% for use on patches, and other program materials throughout the year.

This additional money in the scout's accounts will be used for summer camp and other activity fees.

Food costs for camping trips will be taken equally from the scout accounts of those who are participating.

Scouts who desire to participate in an activity or camping event but do not have sufficient funds in their scout account will be provided an opportunity to pay the balance in advance of the activity.

Parents may request a copy of their scout's account statement at any time. Additionally, they will be distributed during the first quarter of every year.

## **Uniform Requirements**

Our troop is a uniformed troop. It is not the purpose of the Scout uniform to hide the differences between boys or to make them feel the same. Rather, the uniform is there so that whenever a Scout sees another Scout in uniform, he knows that he is like that person because both have committed themselves to the principles of the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.

Each Scout is expected to wear his uniform to all meetings unless otherwise instructed. Our uniform consists of the Scout shirt (short sleeve is suggested), neckerchief, belt, and Scout hat. If Scout shorts are worn, then either the long or short Scout socks may be used. The neckerchief your son will wear is a special one for our troop. All new Scouts receive the neckerchief upon induction into Troop 6. If it is lost, a replacement may be purchased through the Scoutmaster.

The goal of the troop is to have 100% of our Scouts and leaders in uniform at all troop and patrol activities. Parent cooperation is once again critical to assure that a clean uniform is ready when needed. Patches and other items should be worn correctly. The Scout Handbook and a notebook are part of the uniform for all regular meetings and should, likewise, be brought unless otherwise noted.

The only exception to the 'official' uniform is that of the Official Scout pants. Troop members may substitute non-regulation pants, but they must be a dark, solid-color pair of pants.

## **Personal Equipment Requirements**

As your son gets into Scouting activities, he will have some additional equipment needs. An active troop such as ours will do at least 6 days and nights of camping each year in addition to attending Scout camp in the summer. Your son will eventually need a good backpack with a hip belt, good hiking shoes, poncho, personal cooking kit, and sleeping bag. Use your own judgment when you buy, but check first with the adult leaders. We have a good idea of what the Scouts use and what is nice to have. One thing to keep in

mind is that buying the less expensive item of equipment is not always the wisest. The boys can be very rough on gear even during normal use and you may find yourself replacing things more often.

## **Troop Equipment**

Troop 6 has purchased and/or had donated several pieces of equipment for the troop, including enough tents, patrol cooking gear, and lanterns to outfit several patrols. The money used to purchase these items comes from our annual popcorn and other fundraisers that the troop sponsors. We have other fund-raising events throughout the year where your assistance would be very welcome.

## **Troop Activities**

Any time the troop or patrol goes on any activity, a permission slip will come home with each Scout 1-2 weeks before the event. Please remember that your son cannot go on the activity unless he has a permission slip signed by you. This is a policy of the Boy Scouts of America and there will be no exceptions.

We require Scouts to make prior commitments for participation in any activity. In case there is a need to cancel, a Scout may cancel by simply informing his Patrol Leader, the Scoutmaster, or the Senior Patrol Leader. However, some activities require that fees be paid or food be bought in advance. If a Scout cancels too late for recovery of the fees, he will forfeit the fees.

There must always be two-deep adult leadership at all Scouting activities. Again, this is a BSA policy.

## **Merit Badges**

There are more than 120 subjects as varied as First Aid, Stamp Collecting, Leather Crafts, Swimming, Emergency Preparedness, Canoeing, Lifesaving, Environmental Science, and Personal Fitness in the merit badge field. Your son will work on merit badges as he progresses in rank under the guidance of a Merit Badge counselor. Our adult leaders will guide your son in the selection of subjects and how to make appointments with counselors. The rest is up to your son. You can help him by looking over the requirements, asking questions, and encouraging him to work. Remind him to have the Scoutmaster sign a blue Merit Badge card before he begins to work on a badge. There are a total of 121 merit badges.

A Scout is required to earn 21 merit badges in order to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. The total of 21 must include the following 12 “Eagle Required” merit badges:

Camping  
Citizenship in the Community  
Citizenship in the Nation  
Citizenship in the World  
Communications  
Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving\*  
Environmental Science  
Family Life  
First Aid  
Personal Management  
Personal Fitness  
Swimming or Cycling or Hiking\*

\*A Scout must choose only one of these MB. If he has earned more than one of the badges listed, only one counts as “Eagle Required” and the other is applied towards the total of 21

See your son’s Scout Handbook for details of the merit badges and rank requirements. An excellent source of information may be found on our website at [www.sac-troop6.org](http://www.sac-troop6.org) Please review the attached Troop Survey to let us know what your interests are and for what merit badges you can serve as a counselor. We are always in need of merit badge counselors.

## **Religious Emblems**

Our troop is sponsored by a religious organization. We expect each boy to do his duty to God as stated in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Furthermore, we respect his right to worship God in the manner of his choice.

As a Scout, your son can work for the particular religious award of your faith. More information is available in the Scout Handbook or from the Troop Chairman or Scoutmaster.

## **Long-Term Camping**

Part of the total Scouting experience is for the boys to have an opportunity to attend summer camp. This experience is the highlight of the year and gives each Scout and his patrol a chance to come together to meet the challenge of the camp and to put into practice those Scouting skills they have learned during the year. Each year, Troop 6 attends one of several different Scout camps, either in our own council or outside of council. Our goal is to always visit different camps each year. For your son to have a real opportunity to be part of Scouting, summer camp is a must!

## **Cross-Over Requirements**

Crossing over from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts is very exciting for your son. To make this transition complete, we present the new Scout with the basic items he needs to get started on the right foot. We ask that each parent provide the troop with a check for \$35.00 to cover the costs of the following items:

- Scout Hat
- Neckerchief and slide
- Shoulder Loops
- Troop Number Patch
- Scout Handbook

These items will be presented to your son when he crosses over during the bridging ceremony at his last Pack meeting. Your checks will be needed three weeks before the crossing ceremony to give us enough time to purchase everything needed.

## **For Further Information**

Troop 6 is the newest troop in the Charles Town area. We work hard to produce the best possible program available so that your sons can enjoy the scouting experience. Our troop and its members invite you to become one of us and join the best Scout troop in the Council!!!