

***Welcome to***



***Troop 263  
Boy Scouts of America  
Lakeville, MN***

***Guide For New Families***

***2011***

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America! By becoming a parent of a Boy Scout, you are setting your son out on the grand adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him.

What is it all about? What will you be expected to do? What does it cost? We have prepared this booklet to answer these questions.

The following pages describe the organization of a Troop and the advancement pattern that each boy will follow. Reading this will help you understand how your boy can progress through the ranks with your help. It will help you understand how you can help and what the various adult volunteers are doing to help the Troop.

The Boy Scouts of America is the largest youth oriented organization in the United States. More than 4 million boys and leaders are currently registered in the Boy Scouts of America.

Unlike Cub Scouting, which many of you are familiar with, Boy Scouting is a youth-lead organization. The boys learn how to organize and lead the Troop. After training, and with supervision from the adult leaders, the boys run the show.

The boys in the Troop will be working towards their 1st class and then Eagle ranks. As they travel on their trail to Eagle they will not only learn how to lead a team to a goal, but they will actually lead teams of scouts in a number of situations. Many Eagle Scouts put their accomplishments on their résumés and find they are often considered in obtaining acceptance into college or the work force.

Boy Scouting also provides for growth of moral strength and character, teaches citizenship, and enhances the development of physical, mental and emotional fitness. This is all done in the spirit of fun and adventure.

## Purpose of The Boy Scouts Of America

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts Of America to provide an effective program designed to instill within the youth desirable qualities of character, to train them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to help develop their personal fitness, providing this country with citizens who:

1. Are physically, mentally and emotionally fit.
2. Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidence in such qualities as initiative, courage and resourcefulness.
3. Have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts.
4. Have the desire and skills to help others.
5. Understand the principles of the American social, economic, and government systems.
6. Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
7. Have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
8. Are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society and in other forums of the world.

## Boy Scouts of America Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts Of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law.

### ***The Scout Oath Or Promise***

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 is:***

Trustworthy  
Loyal  
Helpful  
Friendly  
Courteous  
Kind  
Obedient  
Cheerful  
Thrifty  
Brave  
Clean  
Reverent

### ***Scout Motto***

Be Prepared

### ***Scout Slogan***

Do a Good Turn Daily

## **Aims and Methods of the Boy Scout Program**

### ***Aims***

Boy Scouts work toward three aims. One is growth in ***moral strength and character***. We may define this as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, his outlook.

A second aim is ***participating citizenship***. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society he lives, to the government that presides over that society.

A third aim of Boy Scouting is ***development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness***. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and emotions (self control, courage and self-respect).

The methods are designed to accomplish these aims.

### ***Methods***

***Advancement***- Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement process. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. More is discussed about Advancement later in this guide.

***Adult Association***- Boys learn from the examples set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage in a young man's development.

**Personal Growth-** As Scouts plan their activity, and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The good turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do good turns for others.

**Ideals-** The Ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them, he has some control over what he becomes.

**Patrols-** The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating in citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected leaders.

**Outdoors-** Boy Scouting is designed to take place in the outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here where the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive. More is discussed about the outdoor program later in this guide.

**Leadership Development-** Boy Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

**Uniform-** The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force of good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood youth who believe in the same ideals. More is discussed about the uniform later in this guide.

## Troop Organization

Troop 263 is a participating member of the **Prairie Lakes District** of the Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop's organization consists of a Chartered Organization, a Troop Committee, the Troop, and the Troop's Parents.

### Chartered Organization (Sponsor)

Every Troop belongs to an organization. The Chartered Organization for Troop 263 is Hosanna Lutheran Church, Lakeville, MN. . The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and insures that there is adequate, trained leadership. A Chartered Organization Representative acts a liaison between the Church and us.

### Troop Committee

The Troop Committee Functions as an administration and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of the non-program issues surrounding the Troop. For example: newsletters, Troop funds, fund raising activities, membership drives and Pack coordination, activity permits and coordination, advancement records, procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment.

The Committee meets monthly. The meetings are open and attendance is encouraged by all parents and other interested adults. Meeting minutes are posted on the troop website to allow parents to keep up to date on troop decisions.

### The Troop

Troop 263 is a boy-run troop. Leadership is one of the methods of Scouting. Every boy will have an opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership. The meetings are planned and carried out by the patrol leaders' council. All duties for patrol activities are assigned by the patrol leader. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps the boy accept the leadership of others and helps him to grow into a more responsible adult. The troop organization chart on the following page outlines the operational organization of the troop. The following is an outline of the duties of the key leaders within the troop:

## ***Scoutmaster:***

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of the troop. The Scoutmaster and his or her assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. The general responsibilities of the Scoutmaster include:

- Train and guide boy leaders.
- Work with other adult leaders to bring Scouting to boys.
- Use the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting.

## ***Assistant Scoutmasters:***

Assistant Scoutmasters are recruited by the Scoutmaster and approved by the troop committee to assist the Scoutmaster in the operation of the troop. Assistant Scoutmasters are assigned program tasks by the Scoutmaster and provide guidance to the boy leadership. He or she also provides the required two deep leadership (two adult leaders present at every Boy Scout activity).

## ***Senior Patrol Leader:***

The senior patrol leader (SPL) is the top boy leader in the troop. He leads the patrol leaders' council and, in consultation with the Scoutmaster, appoints other junior leaders and assigns specific responsibilities as needed.

## ***Assistant Senior Patrol Leader:***

The assistant senior patrol leader (ASPL) fills in for the SPL in his absence. He is also responsible for training and giving direction to the quartermaster, scribe, historian, librarian and instructors.

## ***Patrol Leaders:***

The patrol leaders (PL) are responsible for giving leadership to the members of their patrols. They are their representation on the patrol leaders' council. The PL is also responsible for holding monthly patrol meetings outside of the regular troop meetings.

## ***Assistant Patrol Leaders:***

Assistant patrol leaders help the PL run the patrol and fill in for him in his absence.



## **Troop Meetings**

Regular troop meetings are held on the Monday nights that school is in session; check the Troop for the exact dates. Our meeting place is the Hosanna Lutheran Church. The meetings begin promptly at 6:30 PM and conclude at 7:45 - 8:00 PM. The doors will be open at 6:15 PM to allow for setup and for any scout who would like to discuss achievements or any other matter. Any change to the normal schedule will be communicated through the Troop announcements (usually email), calendar handouts, and on the Internet.

Attendance at regular troop meetings is very important. It is during the troop meetings that most of the planning for campouts, achievement work, and patrol business is accomplished. Each scout should come dressed in uniform as described in a later section, and should have with him his Scout Handbook, pen/pencil, and a notebook. Junior leaders should also come prepared with materials they will need to conduct their portions of the meetings. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend any of the troop meetings. If, for any reason the scout will be unable to attend troop meetings for an extended period of time (sports, etc), the scout should inform the Scoutmaster of the situation.

## **Adult Leadership**

A minimum of two registered adult leaders, or one adult leader and a Scout parent, both of who must be at least 21 years of age, are required for all Troop 263 meetings, trips or outings.

## **Patrols and Patrol Leaders**

The Troop is a group made up of several patrols. Each Patrol usually consists of a Patrol Leader and no less than four Scouts and preferably not more than twelve Scouts. The boys in a patrol elect their patrol leader who in turn appoints the assistant patrol leader.

The Senior Patrol Leader is an elected position. The Senior Patrol Leader selects his Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. The Patrol Leaders, with the Senior Patrol Leader as their head, form the Patrol Leaders' Council, which plans the activities and runs the Troop meetings.

Elections for Patrol Leader are held in April and October of each year. Elections for Senior Patrol Leader will be held in September and March of each year.

## **New Scout Patrols**

Webelos Scouts graduating into the Troop will be placed into "New Scout Patrols". These patrols will be organized as shown in Figure I with their own Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders, but will also have a Troop Guide who is an older Scout that will assist them in learning the ways of Boy Scouting. There will also be an adult leader who will help the Troop Guide and Patrol Leader where needed. The New Scout Patrols will function as Patrols through the first several months of the boys' membership in the Troop. After summer camp the boys will be placed into an existing patrol, according to their choice, under the leadership of an experienced Scout.

## **Patrol Leader's Council**

The membership of the Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) consists of the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Scribe, Patrol Leaders, and Troop Guides. The PLC is really the heart of the troop, for it is with this group that most of the decisions for troop activities is determined based on input from the patrol members. It meets once a month usually on the same night as the Troop Committee. The meeting is led by the Senior Patrol Leader as the members plan the following month's activities.

## **Troop Parents**

The role of parents within Troop 263 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

1. Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting. Parents should attend an informal parents meeting to learn more about what they can do.

2. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement and a push when needed. It is proven that scouts that have parents active in the troop will be more likely to advance and continue in scouting. Scouting is one of the best opportunities to spend quality time with your son.
3. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
4. Assist, as requested, in all Troop fund-raisers and other such activities. All such assistance lowers the cost of the program we offer to the Scouts and, therefore, lowers each family's cash outlay for their Scout(s).
5. Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar.

# Scout Uniform

Scouts in uniform are conscious of their rank and make a greater effort to advance. Only the uniform provides a place for display of badges - important symbols of achievement. Scouts have more fun, stay longer, and feel greater pride in advancement.

The Scout uniform helps to achieve the objectives of Scouting. The uniform by itself can not make a good Scout or a good Troop, but its use has been proven to improve both the Scout and the Troop because it is a visible symbol of Scouting and unity. Each scout is required to have and wear, within a reasonable amount of time after joining the Troop, the following uniform items:

The following is the official uniform of Troop 263 is:

## Field or "Class A" Uniform

- Tan scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches (Northern Star Council strip, fatigue green shoulder loops, and patrol emblem.)
- Troop number
- Neckerchief or bolo
- Neckerchief slide (can be purchased or made by Scout).
- Olive Scout pants or shorts (Optional).
- Boy Scout Socks (Optional), for wearing with shorts.
- Boy Scout Hat (Optional).
- Scout web belt and buckle.
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots. Socks are required.

On certain occasions, it is necessary to wear a formal "Class A" uniform.

- Black belt
- Black slacks
- Black shoes

Activity or "Class B" Uniform (worn, as instructed by Troop leadership, when activities may cause damage to the field uniform).

- Troop 263 T-Shirt (obtain from Troop 263).
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots. Socks are required.
- Scout pants or shorts.
- Boy Scout Socks, for wearing with shorts.

Uniforms and insignia are worn a certain way. The Troop Leaders and staff at the Scout Shops will be able to answer any questions you might have on where to put what badge. Inside the cover of the Handbook there are guides for badge placement.

## **SCOUT SHOPS**

There are Scout Shops in Burnsville, St. Paul, Roseville and Golden Valley where you can purchase scout uniforms and supplies.

Official placement of insignia may be found on the inside front and back cover of the Scout Handbook.

# Advancement

Advancement is the process by which youth members progress through the ranks in the Scouting program by the gradual mastery of Scouting skills. Ranks are simply a means to an end, not an end in themselves. Everything boys do to advance and earn these ranks, from the day they join until the day they leave the program, should be designed to help boys have an exciting and meaningful experience.

## ***Boy Scout advancement, a four step process:***

### **1. The Boy Scout learns.**

A Scout learns by doing. As he learns, he grows in ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and the troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others. In this way, he begins to develop leadership.

### **2. The Boy Scout is tested.**

His patrol leader, Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, a troop committee member or a member of his troop, may test a Scout on requirements. The Scoutmaster maintains a list of those qualified to test and pass candidates.

### **3. The Boy Scout is reviewed.**

After a Scout has completed all requirements for a rank, he has a board of review. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Palms, members of the troop committee conduct the review. Members of the district advancement committee conduct the Eagle board of review.

### **4. The Boy Scout is recognized.**

When the board of review has certified a boy's advancement, he deserves to receive recognition as soon as possible. This should be done at a ceremony at the next troop meeting. The certificate for his next rank will be presented to him at the next troop court of honor.

## **Advancement Through First Class**



**Figure 1 First Class Rank Badge**

From the time the Scout enters the Troop through the time he earns advancement to First Class, he is learning basic scouting skills to enable him to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, and perform other tasks in the outdoors and to work as a member of a team. With those first steps the scout begins to build himself physically, mentally, and morally. He will start to live with the Scout Oath and Law. Soon he will learn the symbolism inherent in the Scout badge; he will learn that there are three points of the trefoil that stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath: Duty to God and country, duty to other people, and duty to yourself. The goal of this Troop is for the Scout to achieve the rank of First Class within his first year in the Troop. This is a sign that the scout has mastered the fundamentals of scouting and can begin to start the long process of learning to lead others, refining the learned skills and learning additional skills.

## **Advancement from First Class to Eagle**

From the achievement of First Class through Eagle, the Scout will be demonstrating leadership, performing service projects, earning merit badges and using the skills learned while achieving the rank of First Class. The next ranks he will earn are Star and Life. These ranks are harder to obtain than the earlier ranks, but are also more interesting for the older scouts. Upon completion of all the requirements for Star and Life the Scout will be eligible to work for Eagle. The original principals, the Scout Oath and Law now have fuller meaning for the Scout and their understanding of them is much greater. The final steps towards Eagle are filled with leadership experiences.

Details for advancement are contained in the Boy Scout Handbook, which every Scout should obtain as soon as possible after joining the Troop. Take a look at Chapter 1. This short chapter has an advancement summary through First Class.



**Figure 2 Eagle Rank**

## **Merit Badges**

The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a Scout's areas of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. A Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor earns merit badges. The Scout is required to first, contact the scoutmaster to discuss which merit badge the scout would like to do, who are the troop counselor—if any and obtain a signed blue merit badge card, secondly, the scout should contact the counselor to arrange for times and places to meet with the counselor. When the Scout completes the work on the merit badge the counselor will inform the Scoutmaster that the Scout has completed the requirements for that badge. Finally, the scout should show the completed card to the Adult Advancement Coordinator to be recorded in the Troop record. The scout then keeps his part of the blue card as his proof of completion. Merit Badges earned will be presented to the Scout during the Troop's quarterly Court of Honor.

All parents of Troop 263 Scouts are encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors. Please fill in the attached Troop Resource Survey and return to a Troop Leader.

## **Boards of review**

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he appears before a board of review composed of members of the Troop committee. The purpose of the review is not an examination. Rather it is to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals; to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement, to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program, and to encourage him to keep working towards advancement. A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a boy about his lack of progress toward advancement.

## **Courts of Honor**

As stated above, when a Scout advances a rank, he should be recognized as soon as possible - preferably at the next unit meeting. He is recognized a second time at a public ceremony called a court of honor.

The main purposes of the court of honor are to finish formal recognition for achievement and to provide incentive for other Scouts to advance.

Troop 263 has formal courts of honor three times a year, the end of September/beginning of October, beginning of February, and beginning of June. All families are asked to attend and guests are certainly welcome. Every boy who advances in a quarter deserves to be recognized in front of his family. The court of honor is the boy's special night.

# Outdoors Program

Scouting is effective whenever we take advantage of its truth: The place where Scouting works best is also the place that boys want the most. The outdoors. There are a number of good reasons why the outdoor program is so special; here are the four that are especially good:

1. The outdoors is the best place for learning outdoor skills. How could it be otherwise? A Scout who tried to boil a potato on the gymnasium floor would be in hot water for sure - not to mention the boy who tried learning to swim by reading a book.
2. The outdoors is a great place for learning something about living with others. When Scouts walk on the same trail, cook and eat together, and share triumphs and troubles together, they are going to find out some important things about, say, patience, respect for other points of view, doing their full share, making a friend more easily, and saying no without losing one. Skills like these are among the "personal growth" skills we want from every Scout. The outdoors is where they grow up best.
3. On the trail or in camp, the boy's leaders will be challenged by the real thing - getting their patrols fed and sheltered, keeping them warm and safe, solving the problems they can solve, and knowing how to get help for those they can't. It's a time when leadership skills can deepen, patrols grow closer, and the troop grows stronger.
4. The outdoors is also a place where a Scout can get closer to the natural world around him - the land, the forests and their wildlife, the lakes and rivers, the mountains and the seas. Here, in the outdoors, he will learn of the "land ethic" - the understanding and respect for the environment we all share, and he will develop an active concern for its health and a willingness to work to keep it healthy.

## ***Troop 263 and the outdoor program:***

Troop 263 has a very active outdoor program and all boys are encouraged to participate. Our program includes monthly weekend campouts, annual long-term summer camp (1 week), day hikes, high adventure camps and other outdoor activities.

We plan to have a campout every month with the possible exceptions of December and July. The location of the campout depends on the theme of the campout and site selected by the Patrol Leaders Council.

The program focus for each campout will be different, however the procedures will be basically the same for all of them as follows:

At least a month prior to a campout, a signup sheet is reviewed at the Patrol Meeting during the Troop meeting. This sheet will detail the necessary information regarding departure time, arrival time, campout location and cost. It will also include any signup/permission form that must be filled out and returned to the troop leadership by the date stated for that particular campout. An indication must be made on the form as to whether the cost will be paid from the scout's camp fund, by cash, or by check. The fee for the campout must be paid at any time prior to leaving for the campout. Checks may be made payable to 'Troop 263'.

If a scout signs up and has paid for a campout and is then unable to attend, a portion of the fee may be retained by the Troop based upon the commitments the Troop has made on behalf of the scout. These commitments may be in the form of advance payment of camping fees or the purchase of food. If sufficient notice is given, the Troop will endeavor to return as much of the cost as possible to the scout or his camping account.

The fee for a typical weekend campout will be in the \$15.00 to \$20.00 range, which will include the camping fee, and transportation costs. Food costs are distributed between the patrol members and it is the responsibility of the patrol grubmaster to plan menus, buy food and collect monies from patrol members for the food for the campout.

A typical weekend campout will usually begin on a Friday evening at 5:45 and last until early Sunday at Noon. Departure and Arrival for the campouts will be at the Crystal Lake Elementary parking lot. Each scout should arrange to be picked up promptly at the arrival time noted. Certain campouts may require a change in departure or arrival depending on the location or duration of the campout. Departure and arrival times will be noted at Troop meetings prior to the campouts.

Parents are encouraged and welcome to join us on any of our campouts. From time to time, parents may be asked to provide transportation to and/or from a campout.

For most weekend campouts each patrol will be responsible for preparing their own meals. The high level of activity at most campouts requires well-balanced menus that have been planned and approved prior to purchasing the food. Most times the food will be purchased as a group by two representatives (or the patrol Grubmaster) from each patrol usually on the Wednesday evening before a campout. The typical food budget will be based on \$8.00-\$12.00 for each person attending the campout.

### **SUMMER CAMP**

Troop 263 is dedicated to providing a long-term camping adventure for all scouts at least once a year. The troop reserves a week at one of one many official Boy Scout camps in the United States. The camp is typically scheduled for the 1st week of August, but this may vary depending on the availability of the specific camp being attended. We plan a rotation schedule as far as location of Summer Camp – 1<sup>st</sup> year at a local scout camp (Tomahawk or Many Point), 2<sup>nd</sup> year at a camp within 4-6 hour drive and 3<sup>rd</sup> year at a camp within 10-12 hour drive. This exposes the boys to new adventures and sights as well as meeting Scouts from different areas of the country.

Summer camp provides an ideal opportunity for a scout to work on rank or merit badges in a concentrated period of time. The first year scout will have a chance to make significant progress on the first three scouting ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class through the Brownsea program. The second or third year scout can choose from nearly thirty merit badges to apply towards his Star, Life or Eagle rank. The best opportunity to earn some of the merit badges required for Eagle is at summer camp. Typical week camp fee is between \$200 - \$250.

The Scout camps also offer a number of "high adventure" opportunities for the older scout who has attended summer camp for several years and wishes to test his abilities in new and challenging areas. These opportunities include extended canoe trips, whitewater rafting, rock climbing and more. **All scouts are strongly encouraged to attend summer camp.**

Additional information about summer camp is distributed in late April or early May each year.

### ***What to bring on a campout:***

◇ Sleeping bag	◇ Mess Kit	◇ Sewing Kit	<b><u>Do Not Bring</u></b>
◇ Sleeping Pad	◇ Cup	◇ Flashlight	• Radios
◇ Sweater	◇ Soap	◇ Scout Knife	• Snack Food
◇ Rain gear	◇ Toothbrush	◇ Watch	• Electronic Games
◇ Clothes	◇ Toothpaste	◇ Personal ID	• Firearms
◇ Canteen	◇ Comb	◇ Notebook	• Sling Shots
◇ Silverware	◇ Washcloth	◇ Pen / Pencil	
	◇ Towel	◇ Boy Scout Handbook	

A couple of notes on camping equipment. See page 224 of The Boy Scout Handbook for a checklist of camping and hiking gear needed on Scout outings. Scouts should not feel that they have to purchase the best of everything when they first join the Scouting program. Some purchasing tips:

- Backpacks - Scouts may be able to use a large duffel bag for the first few campouts, although they will eventually need to purchase a backpack. Packs should be adjustable so that they fit the Scout as he grows. Also, most of the hiking done the first couple of years is moderate, so a less expensive external frame pack is more than sufficient.
- Sleeping Bags - purchase a bag that is rated for 20°. This should be adequate for all of the campouts except November and January. For those two campouts, nest a second 20° bag inside of the first, creating a sub-zero bag without having to pay the price.
- Ground Pads - a closed cell pad (½" to 1" thick) made out of a rubber-like foam is the easiest and cheapest option. A better option is either a self-inflating pad or an inflating pad. They come in various thicknesses.
- Poncho/Rain Suit - this is essential for all Minnesota outings.
- Mess Kit - contains a plate, bowl, cup, and utensils. This does not need to be a traditional kit. Mismatched silverware, plastic bowls and cups, etc. are all fine. Many Scouts prefer to use a "Sierra Cup" which doubles as a cup and a bowl.
- Nalgene Water Bottle - should be carried on all outings. One or more bottles that hold 1 to 2 quarts of water in a backpack or hip-pack are fine.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

### **Rechartering and Fees**

The process of rechartering is the annual collection of registration fees for the Scouts and Leaders. The Troop also makes a formal visit to the chartering organization to renew their commitment for the coming year. The process of rechartering the Troop must be completed by the end of January of each calendar year.

### **Annual Registration Fees**

How much does Boy Scouting cost? As little as possible, but nothing worthwhile is free. The annual fees for each Scout in Troop 263 is as follows :

- \$10.00 for National BSA membership
- \$36.00 for Troop membership dues which pays for other expenses incurred by the Troop as a whole.
- \$10.80 for *Boys Life* magazine (optional, but really enjoyable, and gives the Scouts ideas for activities and outings. A good buy)

### **Fees for Outings / Activities**

Individual activities may have fees associated with them. If so, the parents will be notified.

### **Fundraising**

One of the aims of the Boy Scouts is to create leadership opportunities for boys and one of the vehicles used is camping. To support this goal, the troop will create opportunities for the scouts to earn money for scout-related camping, hiking, or backpacking activities (including high-adventure outings such as Sea Base or Philmont). Because quite often it is necessary for the scout to provide their own equipment to pursue these activities, the scout can also use the money to purchase individual camping or hiking equipment.

If the scout/parent intends to use camp funds to purchase camping/hiking/backpacking equipment, it is necessary for the troop committee to approve the purchase. This way, the troop insures that the purchase is inline with the troop guidelines and to prevent the scout parent from inadvertently making a purchase that is not covered in the troop guidelines. After approval, the scout/parent will be required to make the purchase and provide a copy of the receipt to the troop treasurer for reimbursement.

These earnings will be maintained in separate, individual accounts for each scout by the Troop Committee Treasurer. At no time is this money to be considered the property of the individual scout or his family.

If a scout transfers to another Troop with a similar camp fund, a check will be issued - payable to the new Troop - in the amount the scout has on balance minus any unpaid dues or other expenses.

If a scout transfers to a unit that does not have an individual camp fund program or the scout leaves the Scouting Program, this money will be transferred to the general fund of the troop.

Once a scout has reached the age of 21 and therefore cannot participate in either scouting or venturing activities as a scout, this money will be transferred to the general fund of the troop.

The reason for the last line is the scout can participate after age 18 as a scout leader and therefore the troop would pick up the cost of the leader chaperoning the outing. That way the money is available to the scout if they switch to a venturing crew after age 18 but can be used by the troop once the scout can no longer participate in either scouting or venturing activities.

## **Friends of Scouting**

Each year, the Council operates its Friends of Scouting (F.O.S.) campaign to raise money for the Council operations. The Council is responsible for maintaining the Council Camps<sup>i</sup>, the Council Camporees, as well as other Council activities, Local BSA administration and local advertising. Contributions are voluntary, but the Troop has a good record of support for this activity. As years go by, F.O.S. is becoming a critical source of BSA funding. By obtaining our annual fundraising goals and participation goals, we receive "free" insurance from the Council and free advancement awards. These two items typically cost between \$1800 and \$2200 a year.

## **Youth Protection**

### ***Program Summary***

Child abuse is a major problem affecting our society. Each year more than 2 million cases of suspected child abuse are reported. This means that 1 percent of American children are experiencing physical abuse, 1 percent are experiencing sexual abuse, and 2 to 5 percent are experiencing emotional maltreatment or some form of neglect. Because of the significance of this social problem, The Boy Scouts of America has declared child abuse as one of the "unacceptables" to receive special attention by those involved in the Scouting program.

The BSA has developed a five-point plan to combat child abuse and to improve the environment in which young people live. The key elements of this strategy include the following points:

- Educating Scouting volunteers, parents and Scouts themselves to aid in the detection and prevention of child abuse.
- Establishing leader-selection procedures to prevent individuals with a history of child abuse from entering the BSA leadership ranks.
- Establishing policies that minimize the opportunities for child abuse to occur in the program of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Encouraging Scouts to report improper behavior in order to identify offenders quickly.
- Swiftly removing and reporting alleged offenders.

### ***Parents guide***

The Boy Scouts of America has developed materials for use in the Scouting program that provide essential information to members and their families. A detachable booklet in the front of The Boy Scout Handbook, "How to Protect Your Child from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse: A Parents Guide," provides information to help families to increase self-protection skills.

### ***Troop 263 and the Youth Protection Program***

Troop 263 is committed to following all guidelines of the Youth Protection program. Any suspected offenses of the Youth protection program must be reported to the Committee Chairman, the Scoutmaster or the Council Executive. All incidents reported to the Committee Chairman or the Scoutmaster will be reported to the Council Executive. All reports are taken seriously and appropriate action is taken to ensure the safety of the youth.

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<sup>i</sup> Phillipso Scout Reservation, Tomahawk Scout Reservation, Kiwanis Scout Camp, Fred C. Anderson Scout Camp

## **AND FINALLY**

You are joining a great organization that includes tens of thousands of adult leaders, interested parents, and the BSA professional staff. Scouting is much more than enjoying the outdoors. The Troop teaches leadership skills and community skills. Scouting also shows the boys how they can keep themselves strong and healthy and make the most of school. With hard work and dedication, your son will be able to serve as a leader in the Troop and advance in rank along the trail to Eagle.

Above and beyond anything else, the boys and us "big kids" are in Scouts to have fun!

**For more information, contact: Mark Andres, Scoutmaster @ (952) 898-9721 or Perry Hoekstra, Committee Chair @ (952) 432-3981.**