

BSA Troop 890-Boys New Scout Parent Orientation First Year 2020-2021



Prepared. For Life.™

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A hot breakfast makes for a good start!

WELCOME TO TROOP 890!

Your son is standing at the doorway to one of the most exciting adventures imaginable. As he steps into the world of Scouting, he will find himself hiking along wooded trails, canoeing across misty lakes and camping under the open sky. He will experience the smell of fresh rain in the woods, cook his own meals, and experience the magic of an evening campfire. As he matures in Scouting, he will travel the backcountry without leaving a trace and live well with only what can be carried in his pockets and a pack. Scouting is an adventure he will remember the rest of his life.

Scouting is a doorway to new skills. Your son will learn how to find his way with a map and compass, how to stay warm and dry in stormy weather, and how to give proper first aid. He will observe wildlife close up and study nature all around him. There are plenty of Scout skills he can master, but he also can teach others what he has learned. Everyone helping everyone else, learning to lead and learning to work with others—that is a part of Scouting, too.

Scouting is also a doorway to friendship and fun. Boys your son knows may be joining Troop 890, but he will meet lots of other Scouts along the Trail to Eagle. Scouting is a worldwide brotherhood that is many millions strong. Almost anywhere he goes, he will find Scouts excited about the same things he is.

THE AIMS AND METHODS OF BOY SCOUTING

The Scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "Aims of Scouting." They are character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. The methods by which the aims are achieved are listed below in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each.

Ideals - The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. The Boy 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 and who he becomes.

Patrol Method - The patrol method gives Scouts an opportunity to learn how to work together as part of a small team and develop leadership skills. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys accountability. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups plan and execute troop activities through their elected representatives.

Outdoor Programs - Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and humankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Advancement - Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

Association with Adults - Scouts learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. Scout leaders can be positive role models for the members of their troops. In many cases a Scoutmaster who is willing to listen to boys, encourage them, and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives.

Personal Growth - As Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Scouts grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is so successful in

developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Boy Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development - The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to take on leadership roles. Youth training such as Oak Leaf, NYLT, and NAYLE offer excellent leadership training that will serve the young Scout well beyond his Scouting career. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Uniform - The uniform makes the Boy Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. 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 of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Scout activities and provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

HISTORY OF SCOUTING

The man who started the Scouting movement, Robert Baden-Powell, came home to England as the best-known hero of the Boer War. In 1907 he invited a group of boys to attend the world's first Boy Scout camp on the English island of Brownsea. The success of the camp led him to write a book he called "Scouting for Boys". Boys by the thousands bought it and decided to become Scouts. Scouting spread like wildfire throughout England and, before long, around the world.

One foggy day in 1909 in London, a British Boy Scout guided American businessman William Boyce to his destination and refused a tip for his Good Turn. Impressed with the boy's spirit, Boyce brought Scouting to the United States. With a group of outstanding leaders, he founded the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910.

Troop 890 was chartered in 1961 to serve boys in the expanding residential neighborhoods north of White Rock Lake. Lake Highlands United Methodist Church is our chartering organization, a relationship that is based on mutual support. More than 500 boys have completed the Trail to Eagle in Troop 890. The troop offers an unequalled diversity and depth in its Scouting program for boys ages 11 to 17. Your son is the beneficiary of this legacy.

Welcome to a tradition that has been making a positive difference since 1961.



Duty to Country is a great scouting value.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW RIGHT NOW

PAPERWORK is available from your First Year Scoutmaster or www.circle10.org, and on bsa890.org.

BSA Application: completed and signed to join Boy Scouts and Troop 890.

Medical Form Parts A and B: completed and signed by the parent or guardian in order to go on any campout. No doctor visit is required for these forms.

Medical Form Part C: completed by your doctor and turned in for your son to attend summer camp.

Please keep a copy of medical forms before you turn them in to the Troop. You may have to provide another copy for other activities. You will need to turn in new, up-to-date medical forms every year in May at the summer camp signup meeting.

Adult Personal Data Collection Form: information about parents, including auto insurance for driving Scouts to activities.

ONLINE INFORMATION

You should already be receiving emails from your First-Year Scoutmaster; once you have joined Troop 890 you will be added to the Troop email list also. The Troop website (www.bsa890.org) contains a lot of useful information and links to other Scout websites.

UNIFORM (see page 5 for more information) AND HANDBOOK

Your son will need a complete Boy Scout uniform consisting of:

- Boy Scout Handbook and protective cover
- Scout shirt (short-sleeved is the most versatile)
- Scout shorts or pants
- Scout belt
- Scout socks
- Circle Ten Council patch
- World scout crest emblem

Troop 890 will provide:

- Neckerchief
- Neckerchief slide
- 890 Unit numerals
- Shoulder loops – Boy Scout green

The full uniform is worn to troop meetings, merit badge classes, to and from campouts (and at the worship service and final assembly), the Christmas service project, Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review, and Courts of Honor.

SUMMER CAMP (see page 7 for more information)

Your son needs to attend summer camp. This is an essential part of your son's first year in Scouting. Troop 890 attends camp June 14 to 20, 2020 at Camp Constantin on Possum Kingdom Lake. Your son will get to know the other boys in the troop, get to know the adult leaders, and begin to learn how to work with other Scouts as a member of a patrol. Above all, summer camp is fun! Cost is about \$350.

FIRST-YEAR SCOUT PROGRAM (see below for more information)

Troop 890's program is geared toward helping new Scouts achieve First Class rank by the end of their first full school year in the troop. An assistant Scoutmaster will be in charge of the first-year Scout program, along with several assistants. This assistant Scoutmaster is your primary point of contact with the troop.

WILL THIS TAKE OVER MY LIFE?

Don't worry. Do all you can. Do all you enjoy. Place a high priority on Scouting. But Scouts in Junior High or High School band, choir, athletics, or other activities can come to campouts late Friday or early Saturday, for example. Your son will not be denied his Scouting experience if a football or soccer playoff falls on a campout weekend. A big test on Tuesday may require extra work on Monday night, forcing you to miss the troop meeting. That's OK. Scouting is fun! That's what Troop 890 is all about.

FIRST-YEAR SCOUT PROGRAM

The overall goals of our first-year Scout program are to ensure that your son:

- Has fun
- Participates in troop and patrol activities
- Learns teamwork and Scouting skills
- Advances in rank

Boy Scouts of America studies indicate that when a Scout earns his First Class rank within his first year in Scouting, the odds of his continuing to advance and participate in the troop increase dramatically. That is the aim of our first-year program. The assistant Scoutmaster in charge of the first-year program (aka First Year Scoutmaster) and his assistants will be working intensively with your son during his first year. After your son's first year he will continue to be your primary contact with the troop, his "First Year" Scoutmaster throughout his Scouting career at Troop 890. Please get to know him and his assistants.

Patrols - Your son will join a patrol with other first-year Scouts. During their first year they will pick their own Patrol name, design their own flag and yell, and learn to work together as a group. Weekly meetings and campout experiences are more structured for the new Scouts, giving them more time to work on rank advancement. First-year Scouts will break out for portions of troop meetings to work on skills. Some activities on campouts will be exclusively for first-year Scouts, however, first-year Scouts participate in almost all the normal Troop activities. Much of what your son will learn during his first year will come from interaction with older Scouts, especially the Troop Guides.

Troop Guide - Troop Guides are older Scouts (First Class rank or above) who will assist the first-year Scouts, teaching the skills required for the early ranks. The First Year Scoutmaster and his assistants will work closely with the Troop Guides and provide overall adult guidance to the first-year Scouts.

Patrol meetings - Patrol meetings are an integral part of your son's growth in Scouting. Patrol meetings help to form a bond between patrol members that will serve them well. Patrol meetings will occur during the normal Monday night meeting time.

First-year Scout campouts - When asked, most Scouts quickly answer that campouts are their favorite part of Scouting. Their first camping experience with the troop will be at the spring Camporee, March 6 to 8, 2020, or at summer camp. In addition to regular troop campouts, we also schedule campouts that are dedicated to the First Year Scout program, the first of which will be held in April. On this campout the boys will be taught some basic scout skills. They also will learn what occurs during a typical Troop 890 campout. This is always a fun campout, and we urge parents of new Scouts to come along with us. Another first-year Scout campout will be held in early December. This is an opportunity for your son to refine the Scout skills he has learned since joining the troop, to work on rank advancement requirements (particularly First Class rank requirements) and to just have fun with the boys that became Scouts with him. These campouts are extremely important for the experience that is gained.

UNIFORM

Wearing the Scout uniform is a mark of pride in Scouting and in Troop 890. The distinctive 890 neckerchief was designed especially for our troop, and it sets us apart at district and council scouting events. The uniform reminds each boy that he is a Scout and that others will expect him to act like one. His uniform gives him an opportunity to take pride in the way he looks and in the badges and awards he displays that testify to his achievements, skills and leadership.

What uniform do I need to buy? Your son's 890 neckerchief and slide, 890 numerals and green shoulder tabs were awarded to him when he joined the troop. Now he will need a Scout shirt (short-sleeved is the most versatile), Scout pants (most boys prefer shorts or "switchback" convertible pants), Scout socks, World Scout Crest Emblem, and the Circle Ten Council patch. He will need a Scout belt and buckle. This constitutes a "Class A" uniform, also known as the "field uniform". For Courts of Honor, he will need a merit badge sash. Sashes come in two sizes, long and longer (longer is recommended – your son will grow!). Each boy will also need at least one red Troop 890 t-shirt for activities where a "Class -B" uniform, also known as an "activity uniform", is appropriate (e.g. at breakfasts during summer camp). These shirts are available from the troop each spring prior to summer camp. A good optional piece of clothing is a pair of wool socks. They draw water away from the feet and keep them warm.

Where can I buy a uniform? You can get your son's uniform at one of the Circle 10 Scout Shops (<http://www.circle10.org/scout-shops> for details), or online at www.scoutstuff.org. A Troop "uniform closet" of recycled uniforms is also available.

Troop uniform closet - The Troop maintains a uniform and equipment closet. When your scout outgrows his first Scout shirt, exchange it for a larger size in the uniform closet. As there are often smaller sizes in abundance, you may be able to get parts of his first uniform from the closet as well. When your son's first backpack is too small, bring it to the uniform closet for another Scout to use.

Wearing the uniform - A "Class A" uniform is worn at all troop meetings, to and from every campout, and at the worship service and final assembly at every campout. Full uniform also is worn to the Christmas service project and for all Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review. A merit badge sash is added for Courts of Honor. Keep the rank insignia and other patches on your son's uniform and merit badge sash up to date. He has worked hard for what he has earned. Your son's current rank must be on his uniform for a Board of Review or a Scoutmaster Conference.

Adult uniform and equipment - All adult Scouters are encouraged to register and wear a Scout uniform to troop functions. Adult Scouters do not wear the 890 neckerchief. For camping equipment, you will need a water bottle

or cup, a plate and eating utensils, raingear, a tent, some form of padding or cot, and a sleeping bag. Bring a folding lawn chair. You do not need cooking gear.

CAMPOUTS

There are six troop campouts each year, three in the fall and three in the spring. Summer camp is in June, and the first year Scouts have campouts just for them in April and December. Please complete and return the Troop 890 “Adult Personal Data Collection Form” and the BSA Medical Form parts A and B (no doctor required) before your son’s first campout. Each campout is at a different location, either a state park, Scout camp, or private land. Medical Form part C does require a doctor visit but is needed only before Summer Camp.

Your son should attend troop campouts. If he cannot attend, make sure that his patrol leader knows this by the patrol meeting before the campout. This patrol meeting is primarily for campout planning—which patrol member will buy the food, who will cook, who will cleanup, etc. Good planning requires that the patrol leader be aware of who will attend.

The troop leaves the church parking lot on Friday evening around 6:00 and returns on Sunday afternoon between 12:30 and 1:00. Bring money to eat a fast food meal Friday night. They may also need money for lunch on the way home Sunday, depending on ETA and the driver. Scouts camp as patrols, and each patrol buys its own food. The usual cost is about \$15 for Scouts and \$25 for Scouters (adults). Scouters camp as the “Dads’ Patrol,” separated slightly from the boys. Each patrol works as a unit—tenting together, cooking together, eating together and (believe it or not!) cleaning up together. Scouts sleep two or three to a tent on campouts and at summer camp.

The troop hikes into the campsite from a staging area. Most hikes are about a mile in length. Your son will need a pack to carry all his personal gear. Scouts cannot bring cots or lawn chairs on regular troop campouts. Tents, patrol boxes, patrol food and other heavy gear are taken to the campsite in troop trailers. Each campout will have a special emphasis—orienteeing, canoeing, rappelling, pioneering, etc. Your son must have earned the Canoeing merit badge, including the BSA Swimming Test, to go on a Canoeing campout. On Saturday night there is always a troop campfire with skits, songs and other silliness presented by the patrols. On Sunday morning there is a nondenominational worship service and final assembly before departure. Class A uniforms must be worn to the worship service and final assembly.

Totin’ Chip card is required to carry a pocket knife or to use a bow saw. The Fireman’s Chit is required to operate Coleman stoves.

Check with your First Year Scoutmaster for what to bring on campouts and suggestions about where to purchase these items (less expensively). A list of what to bring is available on the Troop 890 website.

Scouts are not allowed to bring the following items on any Troop 890 campout:

- Fireworks
- Firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment
- Sheath knives, axes, long-blade pocket knives
- Lighters, lighter fluid, and other flammable liquids
- Tobacco or illegal drugs
- Alcoholic beverages
- Inappropriate literature or magazines
- Cell phones, radios, MP3/CD players, TV’s, electronic games, or any other electronic equipment except flashlights and watches
- Laser pointers

- Cots and folding chairs with backs (Scouts only)
- Aerosol cans of any kind

All adults in Troop 890 must take the Boy Scouts of America Youth Protection course. This course is offered at several times throughout the year by the Circle Ten Council, and is also available on-line at www.myscouting.org.

SUMMER CAMP

Summer Scout Camp is a weeklong experience at Camp Constantin, and **is an essential part of your son's first year in Scouts**. He will get to know the other boys in the troop, get to know the adult leaders, and begin to learn how to work with the other first-year Scouts in his patrol. Above all, summer camp is fun!

First-year camper program - First year Scouts, almost without exception, experience some amount of apprehension about their first summer camp experience. (The same can be said of most first year parents!) A camping program designed for the needs of first year Scouts helps alleviate this apprehension. Effective teaching practices, adequate structure, and use of the patrol method are key elements of this program.

At summer camp, first-year Scouts work on many of the requirements for their Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks, as well as the Swimming and Canoeing merit badges. They will probably also get to cook foil pack dinners for one meal, serve on the jury of a mock trial (for Scouts earning the law merit badge), and watch a movie under the stars.

Assembly for summer camp - Summer camp spans one week beginning on a Sunday and ending the following Saturday. We assemble Sunday morning at McCree Park across Plano Road from Lake Highlands United Methodist Church. It is essential that everyone assemble at the park rather than going directly to camp. Last-minute announcements and administrative details are taken care of, and we hold a short worship service.

Transportation - Transportation to camp is the responsibility of each family. Carpooling is encouraged, but you will need to make your own arrangements. Drivers, please insure all Scouts wear their safety belts, as safety is our primary concern.

What to wear to camp. As with all campouts, Scouts must wear their Class A Scout uniform. For summer camp, your son should wear his swimming suit underneath his uniform since a swim test is one of the first things he will do when he arrives at camp.

Arriving at camp - Everyone should plan to eat a quick lunch along the way, arriving at Camp Constantin by 1:00PM, and should wait at the main camp parking lot. This would be a good time to put on sunscreen! Once everyone has arrived, heads are counted and the last-minute details of registration are finalized. Your son's camp gear will be loaded onto trucks and trailers to be taken to the troop's camp sites. No private vehicles are allowed beyond the parking lot. Scouts will leave the parking lot to go on a camp orientation tour and take their swim test, so plan to say your "good-byes" in the parking lot.

Swim Test - The first order of business for your son is his swim test. The purpose of this test is to determine each boy's swimming proficiency (see Appendix C for more information).

Phone - Outgoing calls are subject to Scoutmaster approval and are generally discouraged. It is not possible to call your son at camp. In an emergency, call your First Year Scoutmaster.

Summer Camp Mail - Most parents write letters in advance, with the day to be delivered on the envelope, and give them to the First Year Scoutmaster when we assemble at the church to leave for summer camp. If you do want to send mail directly to camp the address is: *Camp Constantin, (Scout's name), Troop 890, 3003 Park Road 36, Graford, TX 76449*. Anything mailed from Dallas after Tuesday will not reach camp before our return. **Scouts love getting mail and look forward to daily mail call.**

Overnight outing - All first year Scouts attending Camp Constantin go on a hike up nearby Johnson's Peak, where they will camp overnight. It is important that each boy have a backpack for this outing, any items they take (sleeping bag, etc.) must be on their backs. They won't be taking much, but it's too much to carry in their arms.

Family night - Families are encouraged to join the troop for Friday dinner, the camp water carnival, and the Order of the Arrow tap-out ceremony, followed by refreshments at our campsite, all of which is over about 10:30 p.m. **Bring a flashlight, water bottle(s), sun screen, and a lawn chair.** Supper is provided by Camp Constantin (for a nominal cost) at the mess hall. Alternatively, your son might really appreciate it if you showed up with a picnic dinner. **Wait for your son at the mess hall, not at the troop campsite.** He and his fellow Scouts will be busy getting the camp (and themselves) ready for your visit, and it is an 890 tradition to march to the mess hall on Friday night singing loudly and proudly. You'll know we're coming! There will be plenty of time after dinner for your son to give you a tour of the camp site.

Friday night accommodations - Family members who come for Friday activities cannot remain in camp after the visitor activities. The Assistant Scoutmaster for the first year program will provide you with a list of motels in Graham, Mineral Wells and Weatherford. There is limited lodging available in the immediate Possum Kingdom Lake area.

OA ceremony - The Order of the Arrow tap-out ceremony held Friday night is an important milestone to those Scouts who have been chosen to be a part of the OA. Several hundred Scouts form a circle (your son will be one of them), and the OA Indians travel around the circle multiple times tapping out Scouts who have been elected to this Scouting 'honor society' by their troops. Bring a lawn chair and flashlight. (First year Scouts are not yet eligible to be "tapped out.")

Camp departure - Camp is over on Saturday between 10:30 a.m and noon. Check with the Scoutmaster for his best estimate. Departure depends on how quickly the boys pack up and when the camp staff signs us out. Please wait (prepare for sun and heat) as patiently as possible in the parking lot, not in the campsite, and we will meet you there. Make sure your son has ALL his personal equipment. Every Scout must remain for Saturday cleanup, packing of the troop's equipment, and presentation of awards. If your son must leave early because of an emergency, you must let the Scoutmaster know that you are taking him from camp. See the Scoutmaster first!

Physical exam - As soon as possible, schedule a physical for your son and have his physician complete the required BSA medical form (the Assistant Scoutmaster for the first year program will tell you how to obtain one of these). No one can attend Summer Camp without a completed form.

Spending money - The average amount needed is \$25. Each Scout is responsible for his own valuables and money; however, for first year scouts, the First Year Scoutmaster will secure those funds between trips to the Trading Post.

Insurance - The camp makes every effort to be certain that all possible safety health precautions are rigidly followed in every camp activity. In the event of an accident, however, each boy is covered by camp insurance.

Label Everything - Put your son's name on **everything** from toothpaste to his footlocker. Label his water bottle, his socks, and his underwear— **everything**— if you want it back!

Uniforms - Your son will need his Boy Scout Class A uniform at summer camp for every evening meal. Two uniform shirts and at least two pairs of Scout socks are highly recommended. He will also need two Class B uniforms, red 890 T-shirt with scout pants, belt and socks.

Shoes - Shoes must be worn to the waterfront area and at all times around the camp. Most boys find a pair of canvas slip-on shoes or water shoes useful. **No open toe shoes!**

Camp registration checklist. Your completed registration forms will include these four parts:

1. Camp Permission Form
2. Code of Conduct and Statement of Understanding Form

3. Personal Health and Medical Record (completely filled out)
4. A check made out to Troop 890 for the camp registration fee

Packing - Scouts should keep their belongings in a large plastic footlocker. These can be fitted with a combination lock (**no key locks!**). Red or black Contico brand footlockers are very popular in Troop 890 and available at Academy Sports. Packing for summer camp is different than for regular campouts. A list of what to bring is available on the Troop 890 website. Also, check with your First Year Scoutmaster for tips and suggestions.

Miscellaneous - Visitors to Camp Constantin must register in the camp office before leaving the front parking lot area (except for arriving and departing at the regular times). If you must take your son home because of an emergency, the Scoutmaster **must** know that he is leaving. Otherwise, he and the camp staff will be searching for your son. Hundreds of campers will be inconvenienced. **If you must take your son home from camp before Saturday morning, the Scoutmaster must know he is leaving. The only reason your son should leave early is in the event of an emergency.**

ADVANCEMENT

The Boy Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a Scout climbs at his own pace. As he acquires these skills, he moves up through a series of ranks for which he is awarded badges: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle. The higher he climbs, the more challenging his tasks—and the more rewarding. There are many definitions of advancement, but the Scouting definition might be simply: The art of meeting a challenge. That is what the Boy Scout advancement program asks a boy to do. It invites him to master a challenging series of skills that prepare him to enjoy the outdoor action Scouting promises and prepares him for leadership in his troop and community.

The four steps of advancement:

1. **The Scout learns.** Your son learns Scouting skills by taking an active, hands-on part in troop and patrol meetings and outdoor programs. This learning is the natural outcome of his regular Scouting activities—his “on the job training.”
2. **The Scout is tested.** When your son’s adult leaders see that he has mastered a given skill and satisfied a given requirement, they tell him so, and record his achievement. After meeting the skills requirements of a rank, your son will participate in a Scoutmaster Conference. The purpose of the Scoutmaster Conference is to develop an increasing level of understanding and trust between the Scoutmaster and your son.
3. **The Scout is reviewed.** When your son completes all requirements for a rank, he appears before a Board of Review made up of members of the Troop Committee. Both your son and his adult leaders will be in full Class A uniform for a Board of Review. The purpose of a Board of Review is not to retest your son, but to make sure he has met all the requirements, to chat with him about how he is getting along with the troop and its program and, of course, to encourage him to keep advancing.
4. **The Scout is recognized.** When your son is certified by the Board of Review, he is awarded his new badge of rank at the troop’s next Court of Honor.

Merit Badges

The first four Scout ranks – Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class – do not require any merit badges for rank advancement. So, for your son’s first year we work on only a few select merit badges (see Summer Camp and CAPS). Once he has achieved First Class rank he will need to earn merit badges to advance to Star, Life, and Eagle Scout ranks.

Merit badges are awarded to Scouts for fulfilling requirements in specific fields of interest. There are more than one hundred merit badges Scouts can earn in subject areas that include careers, sports, hobbies and Scouting skills. Your son earns a merit badge by working with an adult counselor who has an interest in the subject. As an adult, please think about a merit badge subject that you are interested in and offer to teach it during a semester of Troop meetings.

Your son can earn merit badges at summer camp, by going to a district merit badge clinic or camp, during regular Troop 890 Monday meetings (once he has completed his first year), or by working directly with a merit badge counselor.

Service Projects

Service hours are required for rank advancement. Service projects must be approved in advance by the Senior Patrol Leader or Patrol Leaders Council.

Advancement Goals

Your son's advancement through the ranks of Scouting will be a major part of his Scouting experience. It should be an enjoyable learning experience. It should help him become a leader. And it should be fun! At each Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review, your son will be asked to set goals for his next rank advancement. Setting realistic goals is part of what Scouting tries to help your son learn.

DUES and FUNDRAISING

Dues - Annual dues for Scouts in Troop 890 are determined each year and are currently \$300 plus a fundraising requirement. However, due to the extra cost we know you will have for your first-year Scout, the Troop Committee has decided to reduce dues for first-year Scouts to \$0 and to defer payment of this amount to the beginning of your son's second year in the troop. However, in order to "fit out" the first years, there is a \$100 equipment fee that is used to buy their tents, cookware, etc. that will follow them all the way thru the troop. We use the Camp Card sales to earn this money and also meet a Second Class requirement at the same time!

Fertilizer/trash bag sale - The primary fundraiser for your son and the troop is the annual fertilizer/trash bag sale (December – February). It is essential that your son participate. Why? Because Boy Scouting emphasizes boy leadership. Leadership always involves responsibility, and the fertilizer/trash bag sale allows the primary financial responsibility for running the troop to rest on Scouts, not on parents. It is a valuable lesson for every boy when he learns that his own hard work makes possible something he enjoys. This does not mean that significant adult volunteer involvement is not needed. But we are here as a resource for our Scouts.

For every item your son sells during the fertilizer/trash bag fundraiser, the troop credits him a portion of the sales price, usually around \$3.50 per item sold. This credit is applied to his annual troop dues and the summer camp fee. Generally, if your son sells 100 items, or units, he will cover most of these costs and will receive additional recognition for being in the "100 Club." Sales beyond 100 units gain him additional credit in his account that can be used to cover future dues and other Scouting activities such as Philmont Scout Ranch and other High Adventure treks. This process is reviewed periodically by the Troop Committee and could be changed; Scouts are provided these rules and others each year at the start of the fertilizer/trash bag fundraiser. Participation in fertilizer/trash bag delivery day is one of the two required events for Scouts in Troop 890. The other required event is the Christmas Project.

Other fundraising opportunities – Scouts are encouraged to participate in the District fundraising activities: popcorn sales in the fall and camp card sales in the spring. Occasional optional fundraising projects are available throughout the year. For example, some years Troop 890 staffs a concession stand at the Cotton Bowl on New

Year's Day. Scouts who participate earn money for their Scouting account just like they do during the fertilizer/trash bag fundraiser.

TROOP ORGANIZATION

Patrols - Patrols are the basic building block of every Boy Scout troop. All other troop organization is devised to serve the patrols and the Scouts that are their members. Help your son be an active member of his patrol by asking him about its activities, taking him to those activities, and encouraging his patrol's success.

Patrols are groups of six to twelve boys who work together as a team. Each patrol has a Patrol Leader (PL), appointed during the First Year and elected by the patrol in later years. The patrol leaders, with an elected Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) at their head, make up the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC). The PLC plans and runs the troop's program. Patrols typically have their own meetings that are held during a regular troop meeting to plan for a campout.

Venturing - Venturing is a separate division of Scouting for boys and girls who have completed the eighth grade or are at least 14 years old and are interested in more challenging outdoor experiences. Boys can be members of both Boy Scout Troop 890 and Venture Crew 890. In addition to participating fully in troop activities, Venture Scouts go on several additional activities each year. Activities may include whitewater kayaking, rock climbing, rappelling, cross-country skiing, camping in Alaska, sailing the Caribbean, and hiking the Grand Canyon. Venturing offers activities that can maintain interest in Scouting longer.

Patrol Moms - Each patrol has a Patrol Mom. The Mothers' Club is informed of the needs of Troop 890 Scouts, and the Patrol Moms disseminate the information/needs to the mothers in the patrol. Any mother of an 890 Scout can be a Patrol Mom.

Troop meetings - Troop meetings are held every Monday from 7:00 p.m. to ~8:15 p.m., except on the Mondays following a campout. Troop meetings also are not held during the summer months or over Christmas vacation. A Troop Calendar is issued every September after the PLC's August planning meeting and is posted on the Troop's website (www.troop890.org). The calendar will indicate meeting dates and other activities for the entire year for both Scouts and adults. The troop meetings are at Lake Highlands United Methodist Church (LHUMC) unless otherwise indicated on the calendar. Attend as many as you can.

Patrol Leaders' Council meetings - PLC meetings are on the Monday night after a campout. The PLC reviews the execution of campout planning, refines planning for next month's troop activities, and provides a forum to discuss the Scouts' ideas for improving their troop. The meeting is chaired by the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and includes every Scout in a troop leadership position. The Scoutmaster is present as a guide.

Troop Committee meetings - The Troop Committee meets during the troop meeting on the Monday night two weeks before each month's campout. Every parent of an 890 Scout is invited to attend. Every registered Scouter is a voting member of the troop committee and should plan to attend regularly. At Troop Committee meetings, the business of the troop is conducted, reports are heard from subcommittee chairs, and Eagle Scout candidates make their Eagle Scout project presentations for Committee approval. Adult planning for campouts is conducted the Monday night immediately before each month's campout and is separate from the monthly Troop Committee meeting.

Troop elections - Elections for the boy leadership positions of the troop are held twice a year—at summer camp for the summer/fall term and in early December for the winter/spring term.

Courts of Honor - Courts of Honor are held three times a year. At a Court of Honor, your son will be recognized for any rank advancement he has earned since the previous Court of Honor. He will be awarded merit badge patches. There may be other special awards. Plan on attending every Court of Honor with your son to support

and encourage him in Scouting. Parents stand behind their son on the stage when he is awarded a rank advancement. Mothers will get a miniature mother's pin, signifying their son's rank to put on her pin ribbon. It is a special time for your son. He wants you to be a part of it, so please plan to be there with him. Make sure your son attends even if he isn't receiving an award or advancement. Remember, he needs to support his friends if he expects them to support him.

Eagle Scout Courts of Honor - Courts of Honor are held for each Eagle Scout candidate when he has completed his "Trail to Eagle." These Courts of Honor are sometimes part of the regular troop Courts of Honor, but are usually held separately. Eagle Scout Courts of Honor involve an impressive ceremony that emphasizes the lessons learned on the Trail to Eagle. Support the Scouts of Troop 890 when they have achieved Scouting's highest rank by attending their Courts of Honor.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Electronics Age has greatly improved Troop 890's means of communicating news to the Scouts, adult Scouters, and parents. With a troop as large as ours, rapid dissemination of information is challenging. Therefore, we have a variety of media for doing so.

E-mail. A primary means of getting timely information out to the troop is via e-mail. When your son joins the troop, be sure to provide your address so that you'll start to receive news right away. The assistant Scoutmaster for the first-year program relies heavily on e-mail to communicate upcoming activities to the troop's new families – check often!

Website. When you need to know something right away, use our website at www.troop890.org. It is a valuable source of current and archived information. You can access news, the troop roster and calendar, maps to troop outings, photos of recent activities, the campout equipment list, Dutch oven recipes, and links to other Scouting sites.

Troop Committee Meetings. While electronic and print communications go a long way, nothing beats hearing the news first hand. Attend each Troop Committee meeting and hear what's going on, and chip in your two cents' worth to let us know what you think.

LEADERS

Senior Patrol Leader - The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is the top boy leader in the troop. He also has the most challenging job in the troop. He has this job because his fellow Scouts elected him. That means they felt he was the best-qualified Scout to run the troop — and that's exactly what he does. Whenever the troop comes together for a meeting or an activity, the SPL is in charge. He also leads the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) and, in consultation with the Scoutmaster, appoints other boy leaders.

Patrol Leaders - Patrol Leaders (PL) are the foundation of troop leadership. Each patrol elects its own leader twice a year. While your son is in the first-year program, Patrol Leaders will be appointed by the assistant Scoutmaster for the first-year program.

A Patrol Leader appoints each member of his patrol to a job so all can share in patrol leadership. He plans and steers patrol meetings and activities. He helps patrol members advance and assists in teaching Scouting skills. He encourages patrol members to recruit new boys for Scouting. He represents his patrol at the Patrol Leaders' Council and reports to the patrol the decisions of the PLC. He sets an example by working on his own advancement and by living up to the Scout Oath and Law.

Troop Guides - Troop Guides are older Scouts who are appointed by the Scoutmaster as both a leader and “big brother” to each patrol of first-year Scouts. They assist your son’s Patrol Leader in teaching patrol duties and leadership skills. The Troop Guide assigned to your son’s patrol will be present at campouts to help with setting up the patrol campsite, to help with cooking, and to teach other Scout skills.

Other Scout positions of responsibility - Other leadership positions include den chief, quartermaster, troop scribe, troop historian, troop librarian, troop bugler, lakeshore cleanup, and chaplain aide. All of these positions are appointed by the Scoutmaster every six months.

Scoutmaster - The Scoutmaster (SM) has been described as “the person who quietly but effectively pulls it all together to get the result he’s after: helping boys grow into good men.” He works by training his boy leaders to run the troop, and by managing, training, and supporting the assistant Scoutmasters in their roles. He also is responsible for working with and through responsible adults to bring Scouting to boys, to help boys grow by encouraging them to learn for themselves, to guide boys in planning the troop program, to help the Troop Committee recruit and appoint assistant Scoutmasters, and to conduct Scoutmaster Conferences.

Assistant Scoutmasters - Assistant Scoutmasters (ASMs) are the chief aides to the Scoutmaster, and are responsible for different areas of the troop program. All assistant Scoutmasters must have completed the New Leadership Training series. ASMs are also expected to take Wood Badge training.

First Year Scoutmaster - This assistant Scoutmaster, along with his assistants, is responsible for overseeing your son’s progress in his first year of Scouting (see “First Year Scout Program” on page 4). He will remain your son’s primary adult contact throughout his Scouting career.

Troop Committee Chair - The Troop Committee Chairman manages a group of adults whose main job is to support the Scoutmaster and help him run a good troop. This is the Troop Committee. The members help with advancement and the outdoor program, handle troop finances, work with parents, raise funds, keep records, recruit other adult leaders, run Boards of Review and Courts of Honor, and oversee troop communications. In short, the Troop Committee and its chairman have two primary responsibilities — supporting troop program and handling troop administration.

Advancement Chair - The Advancement Chairman oversees a committee of adults whose job is to ensure that Scouts are advancing and that proper advancement records are kept.

Mothers’ Club President - The Mothers’ Club President oversees the Mothers’ Club, a group that assists with Courts of Honor, recruits Patrol Moms for each Scout patrol, provides support for fundraising, helps with the troop Christmas Service Project, organizes the Summer Camp Kick-off Banquet, and serves as a source of merit badge counselors. The only requirements for membership are an interest in Scouting and a commitment to work.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

These activities are tailored for all ages to provide continuity and fun for your son’s Scouting experience. Urge him to participate.

CAPS - This is a Troop 890 program intended primarily for first year Scouts that begins immediately after summer camp. It is a program in which your son works simultaneously on four merit badges: Cycling, Athletics, Personal Fitness, and Sports. The acronym CAPS is formed from the first letters of these badges. The purposes of the program, beyond earning four merit badges, is to help the first year Scouts bond while undertaking a common challenge and to give them confidence in their ability to achieve something difficult. By the end of the program, these boys have indeed accomplished something to be proud of. Beginning on the first Saturday after summer camp, the CAPS program participants have a weekly bike ride around White Rock Lake. The rides begin early in the morning at Moss Park (southeast corner of Royal and Greenville) and last about 3 hours, depending on the

distance ridden. Other CAPS activities, such as bike safety instruction, running, and swimming may also be scheduled and some written homework is also required. The CAPS boys participate in the Troop 890 Labor Day "Iron Eagle Triathlon" (see below) and complete the program in late September by taking part in a 50 mile organized.

Labor Day Iron Eagle Triathlon - Troop 890 holds its annual Iron Eagle Triathlon each Labor Day. Open to any Scout in the troop, the event combines swimming, running, and cycling into a single competition. We wrap up with a celebration at the finish line on the east side of White Rock Lake. By the time of the triathlon, the CAPS boys (see above) are in great shape and are a big part of the event.

Christmas service project - This is a required annual activity for all Troop 890 Scouts that is usually held on the second Saturday in December. This project is the troop's "thank you" to Lake Highlands United Methodist Church for its support as our chartering organization.

End-of-year recognition program - Troop 890 celebrates the end of the school year and the beginning of summer Scouting programs with a special program at LHUMC on the Friday before we leave for summer camp. In recent years, this program has been combined with the Court of Honor. Good food, good fellowship, Scouting awards, and an entertaining slide show fill the evening. Plan on being there.

Merit badge clinics and camps - During the year there are several North Trail District merit badge clinics and merit badge camps in the summer. Look at the Troop Calendar for dates.

Scout Sunday - On national Scout Sunday in February of each year, 890 Scouts participate in a Sunday worship service at Lake Highlands United Methodist Church. Every Scout is encouraged to attend in Class A uniform.

Scouting for Food - Scouting for Food is a Circle Ten Council event that collects canned goods for North Texas food banks. Troop 890 Scouts canvass the neighborhoods surrounding Lake Highlands United Methodist Church and usually man one of the collection centers.

FOR OLDER SCOUTS

Some of the adventures listed below have not been done in recent years. Some have been replaced with other high adventure treks such as Florida Sea Base, Northern Tier, and Jamboree. Some just need an adult leader and Scout interest. You will learn more about these opportunities as you become involved in Troop 890.

Spring break 50-miler - Each year during spring break, 890 Scouts go on a six-day, 50-mile backpacking hike along the trails of the Ouachita Mountains in Oklahoma. Your son must be working on the Hiking merit badge to go on the 50-miler and usually participates the spring break that is two years from when he joins.

Winter trek - Yearly, there is a winter trek for older Scouts during the Christmas break. These treks usually involve survival training and skiing in the mountains of the West.

Summer high adventure treks – Troop 890 schedules one high adventure trek each summer. We rotate between the four national high adventure bases: Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM; Northern Tier Canoe Base in the boundary waters of Montana; Florida National Sea Base in the Florida Keys; and the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia, home of the National Scout Jamboree. Because these treks are physically and mentally challenging, your scout must have completed the 50-miler and be at least 14 years old in order to go. He also must have earned the Hiking merit badge for Philmont, and the canoeing merit badge for Northern Tier.

SCOUT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Troop 890 is proud of the comprehensive, across-the-board involvement of our Scouts in BSA leadership training programs. Boy leadership is the basis of Scouting. BSA Junior Leadership Training programs are an important,

indeed an integral, part of boy leadership for your son. When he reaches First Class rank, encourage him to attend Oak Leaf training. Check the Troop 890 calendar for dates of training courses.

Oak Leaf Leadership Training - Oak Leaf is the first level of junior leadership training offered by the Northern Trail District (a division within Circle Ten Council of which Troop 890 is a part) for your son. It is a weekend seminar held at one of the Circle Ten Scout Camps. The course introduces the basics of leadership in the troop and patrol. Your son must be at least a First Class Scout to attend.

National Youth Leadership Training - National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) is a week-long summer (or winter or spring break) camping experience that builds upon the lessons learned in Oak Leaf Leadership Training. Since it is a full week long, leadership skills can be taught at a much greater depth than in Oak Leaf. It is a worthwhile experience for every Scout. NYLT training is expected in order to be elected Senior Patrol Leader in Troop 890.

Den chief training - Twice each year the Northern Trail District offers a one-day training session for den chiefs. Den chiefs work with Cub Scout or Webelos Scout dens. Being a den chief is a great way to meet the leadership requirement for rank advancement and to get to know Webelos Scouts who may be joining Troop 890. First Class Scouts are encouraged to be den chiefs. Alternate training is also offered directly by Troop 890.

National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) - A special leadership opportunity is offered at Philmont Scout Ranch each summer. Your son may be nominated by the troop to attend one of six one-week sessions. The council selects the finalists to attend this nation-wide training event.

ADULT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Troop 890 has a strong tradition of BSA-trained adult leaders. As a parent of an 890 Scout, you can become a part of that tradition by attending adult leader training and bringing learned skills back to the troop. You should attend the BSA Youth Protection training when it is offered during your son's first year in Scouting. And, of course, Wood Badge training will make a positive difference for you and your son. Few troops in the country have as high a level of BSA-trained adult leaders as Troop 890 does. Be proud of it! Be part of it!

BSA Youth Protection Seminar - The BSA Youth Protection Seminar is a one-hour video seminar led by a member of the Circle Ten Council staff or a council officer. **Every adult working with scouts must take this training!** There is usually a seminar held at Lake Highlands United Methodist Church each year, so it is easy and convenient to attend. Do not bring your children to this seminar, as some of the situations depicted in the video are disturbing, and discussion will be quite frank. This training is also available online at www.myscouting.org.

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) - Working as patrols, this hands-on course provides adult leaders the practical outdoor skills they need to lead Scouts in the out-of-doors. Upon completion, leaders should feel comfortable teaching Scouts the basic skills required to obtain the First Class rank. Along with Scoutmaster Specifics this course is required of all direct contact leaders registered in Boy Scout Troops in order to be considered "trained," a requirement to be an assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 890.

Wood Badge - Wood Badge training is an advanced adult leadership experience that builds upon what you have learned in New Leader Essentials, Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training, Outdoor Leader Training, and your other Scouting experiences. Wood Badge training courses are offered four times a year, three of which are completed in two three-day weekends at a Circle Ten Council Camp and the summer course is completed in one week at Philmont Scout Ranch. Troop 890 has a proud tradition of Wood Badge involvement. More than 200 Troop 890 Scouters have completed Wood Badge training.

Wood Badge training is expected to be an assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 890 and is required to be a Scoutmaster of Troop 890. The Troop may be able to assist financially with registration fees. Please check with the Troop Committee Chairman.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Always feel free to ask questions. If you feel as if you have grabbed hold of a speeding train, ask one of the conductors to explain what is going on. The Scoutmaster, Troop Committee Chairman, Advancement Chairman, or any assistant Scoutmaster will be happy to help you. **Plan to attend Troop Committee meetings and troop campouts when you can.**

Can I go camping with the troop? Yes! Please plan to camp regularly. Wear your uniform. The Scouts will need you to sit in on their Boards of Review and help with campout activities. And besides, camping with Troop 890 is fun!

Do I need a Scout uniform? All adults are encouraged to have a uniform; you do not need to be a Scoutmaster to have one. The adult uniform is identical to your son's, except adults do not wear the Troop 890 neckerchief. Troop 890 prefers that adults wear a uniform to set an example for the Scouts. Troop Committee members in full uniform are needed for Boards of Review.

Can I come to Troop Committee meetings? Yes. Please attend as often as possible. Troop Committee meetings are held periodically and will be announced by the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair. Campout planning is covered at a separate meeting held during troop meetings the Monday immediately before the campout. Every registered Scouter is a voting member of the Troop Committee.

Can I come to troop meetings? Yes. Wear your uniform. The troop often needs your help to sit on Boards of Review.

Can I help with merit badges? Yes, if you are a registered Scouter. You also must register as a merit badge counselor. The information on the Family Resource Survey will be used to learn which merit badges you would enjoy counseling. You cannot serve as a merit badge counselor for your son on a one-on-one basis.

What kinds of merit badges are available? More than 100 merit badges are available, ranging from Architecture to Coin Collecting to Woodwork. A good resource is the booklet Boy Scout Requirements, which includes all merit badge requirements, rank requirements and special awards, such as the Hornaday Award. Another resource is the website www.meritbadge.com.

What troop positions can I hold? If you are a registered Scouter, you are automatically a voting member of the Troop Committee. You may be asked to serve as a Patrol Dad or a Patrol Mom. You can be a merit badge counselor. The Troop Committee Chairman may ask you to serve on any of the subcommittees of the Troop Committee. After you have completed New Leader Training, the Scoutmaster may ask you to serve as an assistant Scoutmaster. You won't be without a job for long.

What is the "Totin' Chip" and the "Fireman's Chit"? Your son must earn the Totin' Chip before he can carry a pocketknife or use a bow saw at any Boy Scout activity. To earn the Totin' Chip, he must demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of knife safety. The Fireman's Chit must be earned to use a Coleman stove or start/supervise a campfire.

What is the Order of the Arrow? The Order of the Arrow, or OA, is an honorary camping society within the Boy Scouts of America. Members of the OA are elected by their fellow Scouts after they have achieved First Class rank, shown exceptional Scout spirit, and completed a minimum number of nights camping. Elections are held once a year in the spring. The OA induction is held on Friday night at summer camp. OA Scouts are responsible for planning and staffing the district Camporee each year, as well as participating in service projects and camping activities outside their home troop.

Should my son go to district merit badge clinics and camps? Absolutely. They are a fun way to meet Scouts from other troops and earn merit badges. These are recommended after the Scout's first year with the troop is complete.

How does my son get a merit badge counselor? Talk with the Advancement Chairman.

What is a Scoutmaster Conference? A Scoutmaster Conference is a meeting between your son and the Scoutmaster or one of the assistant Scoutmasters to discuss his progress in Scouting and to set goals for his next rank. A Scoutmaster Conference is required for every rank advancement. For ranks up to First Class, a Scoutmaster Conference usually takes about 15 minutes. Scoutmaster Conferences are available every Monday following a troop campout, during campouts, and at other times by special arrangement with the Scoutmaster. Your son must ask for a Scoutmaster Conference; it will not be scheduled for him. Part of the boy's leadership training integral to Scouting is learning to take responsibility for his own advancement. First-year Scouts should ask the assistant Scoutmaster for the first year program to help arrange a time.

What is a Board of Review? A Board of Review is required for every rank advancement except for the very first rank of Scout. Your son must ask the Advancement Chairman for a Board of Review. The assistant Scoutmaster for the first year program can help arrange a time with the Advancement Chairman. Your son must have completed his Scoutmaster Conference for that rank before he can have a Board of Review. Boards are made up of three adult Scouters who, ideally, are not assistant Scoutmasters. They talk with your son about his Scouting experience (likes and dislikes), his goals for the next rank, and what the Scout Oath and Law mean to him. For ranks up to First Class, Boards of Review take about 20 minutes. Boards of Review can be scheduled every Monday evening following a troop campout, during campouts, and at other times arranged with the Advancement Chairman.

What is a Scouting account? Every Troop 890 Scout has opportunities to earn credits for an individual account that he can use to defray the cost of Scouting activities.

What are those beads hanging from everyone's belts? The Scoutmaster gives totem beads to Scouts and Scouters for participation in troop activities. On your son's (and your) first campout in Class A uniform, he will receive his totem and first bead (as will you). The first campout bead is red. Beads are awarded for being on a campout when it rains or freezes. There is a canoeing campout bead. There is a snow bead. There are beads for selling fertilizer and beads for delivery day participation. There are beads for attending the Camporee. There are special beads created at the Scoutmaster's discretion. Several years ago an "ant bead" was awarded. You guess why!

What is a Class A uniform? A complete Scout uniform for either boys or adults. (See "What You Need to Know Right Now" for a description.) This is more formally known as the Field Uniform.

What is a Class B uniform? A Troop 890 red t-shirt, Scout uniform shorts or long pants, Scout Belt, and Scout socks. This is generally worn to breakfast each morning while at Summer Camp by both the boys and adults and for various other events during the year at the Scoutmaster's discretion. You may also hear this referred to as the Activity Uniform.

When will my son achieve his Eagle rank? Every Scout advances at his own pace. The goal of the first year Scout program is to have every Scout earn the First Class rank within his first year of joining the troop. After that the road to Eagle is rigorous, and the quick answer is, "When he motivates himself to earn it." Scouts must mature to take responsibility for their own actions. Do not push your son; he has until his 18th birthday to get there. Troop 890 provides all the program and resources your son needs to become an Eagle Scout.

Who was Jim Dill? Jim Dill was a Scouter who was every Scout's "grandfather" and every Scouter's "dad." For many years he was the adult Quartermaster for the troop. He always had time to answer any Scout's question and to lend a helping hand. He was an avid fisherman. When Jim passed away, the troop dedicated the annual fishing campout to his memory and established the Jim Dill Award for a Scouter who has given unselfishly to help boys in Boy Scouting.

Who was Grant Milner? Grant Milner was a Troop 890 Eagle Scout who continued his involvement with Troop 890 through college and early adulthood. His tragic death in a plane crash led to the establishment of the Grant Milner Memorial Scholarship. Each year at the End-of-Year Recognition Banquet, up to three graduating seniors

from Troop 890 who have exhibited exceptional leadership qualities, academic achievement, and continuing involvement in Scouting receive a Grant Milner Scholarship to assist with their higher education. In Grant's memory, every Troop 890 Eagle Scout is given a silver dollar minted in the year he achieved his Eagle Award.

When will the Troop Roster and Troop Calendar be revised? Every September, a troop calendar (September through August) is published on the troop website and, thereafter, maintained as necessary. The troop roster is also available on the website and is also updated as necessary. The roster is password-protected – ask any Scouter what it is.

PREREQUISITES

Certain activities require that qualifications be met before a Scout may participate. These are not arbitrary rules meant to restrict the Scouting experience. They have been developed through years of experience to enhance your son's Scouting experience by providing able leadership and by matching his maturity with the demands of the activity. Feel free to discuss these prerequisites with the Scoutmaster.

| | |
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| Oak Leaf | First Class rank, completed sixth grade |
| NYLT | First Class rank, age 13 |
| Personal Management Merit Badge | Fifteen years old or completed all other Eagle-required merit badges |
| Canoe trip | Canoeing merit badge |
| 50-miler | Hiking merit badge (co-requisite), completed sixth grade |
| Philmont trek | Hiking merit badge, completed a 50-miler, age 14 or completed eighth grade |
| Northern Tier Canoe Base | Canoeing merit badge, completed a 50-miler, completed a Philmont trek, 14 or completed eighth grade, senior advisor approval |
| Sea Base High Adventure | Hiking merit badge, completed a 50-miler, age 14 or completed eighth grade |
| Other special events | Senior advisor approval |
| Venturing | Fourteen years old, or completed eighth grade and 13 years old |



Duty to God in practice on a Sunday morning Troop 890 "Scout's Own Service" ...no matter the weather!

APPENDIX A

The Trail to First Class

Please Note: There are Alternate Requirements available for Scouts with physical or mental disabilities. The requirements for such Scouts will be developed with Circle Ten Council.

SCOUT Rank (Boy Scout Joining Requirements)

1.
 - a. Repeat from memory the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan. In your own words, explain their meaning.
 - b. Explain what Scout spirit is. Describe some ways you have shown Scout spirit by practicing the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan.
 - c. Demonstrate the Boy Scout sign, salute, and handshake. Explain when they should be used.
 - d. Describe the First Class Scout badge and tell what each part stands for. Explain the significance of the First Class Scout badge.

- e. Repeat from memory the Outdoor Code. In your own words, explain what the Outdoor Code means to you.
 - f. Repeat from memory the Pledge of Allegiance. In your own words, explain its meaning.
2. After attending at least one Boy Scout troop meeting, do the following:
 - a. Describe how the Scouts in the troop provide its leadership.
 - b. Describe the four steps of Boy Scout advancement.
 - c. Describe what the Boy Scout ranks are and how they are earned.
 - d. Describe what merit badges are and how they are earned.
 3.
 - a. Explain the patrol method. Describe the types of patrols that are used in your troop.
 - b. Become familiar with your patrol name, emblem, flag, and yell. Explain how these items create patrol spirit.
 4.
 - a. Show how to tie a square knot, two half-hitches, and a taut-line hitch. Explain how each knot is used.
 - b. Show the proper care of a rope by learning how to whip and fuse the ends of different kinds of rope.
 5. Demonstrate your knowledge of pocketknife safety.
 6. With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet "***How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parents Guide***" and earn the Cyber Chip Award for your grade. ¹

Since joining the troop and while working on the Scout rank, participate in a Scoutmaster conference.

TENDERFOOT Rank Requirements

- 1a. Present yourself to your leader, prepared for an overnight camping trip. Show the personal and camping gear you will use. Show the right way to pack and carry it.
- 1b. Spend at least one night on a patrol or troop campout. Sleep in a tent you have helped pitch.
- 1c. Tell how you practiced the Outdoor Code on a campout or outing.

- 2a. On the campout, assist in preparing one of the meals. Tell why it is important for each patrol member to share in meal preparation and cleanup.
- 2b. While on a campout, demonstrate the appropriate method of safely cleaning items used to prepare, serve, and eat a meal.
- 2c. Explain the importance of eating together as a patrol.

- 3a. Demonstrate a practical use of the square knot.
- 3b. Demonstrate a practical use of two half-hitches.
- 3c. Demonstrate a practical use of the taut-line hitch.
- 3d. Demonstrate proper care, sharpening, and use of the knife, saw, and ax. Describe when each should be used.

- 4a. Show first aid for the following:

- Simple cuts and scrapes
- Blisters on the hand and foot
- Minor (thermal/heat) burns or scalds (superficial, or first-degree)
- Bites or stings of insects and ticks
- Venomous snakebite
- Nosebleed
- Frostbite and sunburn
- Choking

4b. Describe common poisonous or hazardous plants; identify any that grow in your local area or campsite location. Tell how to treat for exposure to them.

4c. Tell what you can do while on a campout or other outdoor activity to prevent or reduce the occurrence of injuries or exposure listed in Tenderfoot requirements 4a and 4b.

4d. Assemble a personal first-aid kit to carry with you on future campouts and hikes. Tell how each item in the kit would be used.

5a. Explain the importance of the buddy system as it relates to your personal safety on outings and in your neighborhood. Use the buddy system while on a troop or patrol outing.

5b. Describe what to do if you become lost on a hike or campout.

5c. Explain the rules of safe hiking, both on the highway and cross-country, during the day and at night.

6a. Record your best in the following tests:

- Pushups (Record the number done correctly in 60 seconds.)
- Situps or curl-ups (Record the number done correctly in 60 seconds.)
- Back-saver sit-and-reach (Record the distance stretched.)
- 1-mile walk/run (Record the time.)

6b. Develop and describe a plan for improvement in each of the activities listed in Tenderfoot requirement 6a. Keep track of your activity for at least 30 days.

6c. Show improvement (of any degree) in each activity listed in Tenderfoot requirement 6a after practicing for 30 days.

- Pushups (Record the number done correctly in 60 seconds.)
- Situps or curl-ups (Record the number done correctly in 60 seconds.)
- Back-saver sit-and-reach (Record the distance stretched.)
- 1-mile walk/run (Record the time.)

7a. Demonstrate how to display, raise, lower, and fold the U.S. flag.

7b. Participate in a total of one hour of service in one or more service projects approved by your Scoutmaster. Explain how your service to others relates to the Scout slogan and Scout motto.

8. Describe the steps in Scouting's Teaching EDGE method. Use the Teaching EDGE method to teach another person how to tie the square knot.

9. Demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Tell how you have done your duty to God and how you have lived four different points of the Scout Law in your everyday life.

10. While working toward the Tenderfoot rank, and after completing Scout rank requirement 7, participate in a Scoutmaster conference.

11. Successfully complete your board of review for the Tenderfoot rank.

Note: The requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks may be worked on simultaneously; however, these ranks must be earned in sequence.

Online Resources: A series of videos that demonstrate how to meet all of the requirements for the Tenderfoot rank is available on the BSA Web site [here](#).



SECOND CLASS Rank Requirements

1a. Since joining Scouts BSA, participate in five separate troop/patrol activities, at least three of which must be held outdoors. Of the outdoor activities, at least two must include overnight camping. These activities do not include troop or patrol meetings. On campouts, spend the night in a tent that you pitch or other structure that you help erect, such as a lean-to, snow cave, or tepee.

1b. Explain the principles of Leave No Trace and tell how you practiced them on a campout or outing. This outing must be different from the one used for Tenderfoot requirement 1c.

1c. On one of these campouts, select a location for your patrol site and recommend it to your patrol leader, senior patrol leader, or troop guide. Explain what factors you should consider when choosing a patrol site and where to pitch a tent.

2a. Explain when it is appropriate to use a fire for cooking or other purposes and when it would not be appropriate to do so.

2b. Use the tools listed in Tenderfoot requirement 3d to prepare tinder, kindling, and fuel wood for a cooking fire.

2c. At an approved outdoor location and time, use the tinder, kindling, and fuel wood from Second Class requirement 2b to demonstrate how to build a fire. Unless prohibited by local fire restrictions, light the

fire. After allowing the flames to burn safely for at least two minutes, safely extinguish the flames with minimal impact to the fire site.

2d. Explain when it is appropriate to use a lightweight stove and when it is appropriate to use a propane stove. Set up a lightweight stove or propane stove. Light the stove, unless prohibited by local fire restrictions. Describe the safety procedures for using these types of stoves.

2e. On one campout, plan and cook one hot breakfast or lunch, selecting foods from MyPlate or the current USDA nutritional model. Explain the importance of good nutrition. Demonstrate how to transport, store, and prepare the foods you selected.

2f. Demonstrate tying the sheet bend knot. Describe a situation in which you would use this knot.

2g. Demonstrate tying the bowline knot. Describe a situation in which you would use this knot.

3a. Demonstrate how a compass works and how to orient a map. Use a map to point out and tell the meaning of five map symbols.

3b. Using a compass and map together, take a 5-mile hike (or 10 miles by bike) approved by your adult leader and your parent or guardian.

3c. Describe some hazards or injuries that you might encounter on your hike and what you can do to help prevent them.

3d. Demonstrate how to find directions during the day and at night without using a compass or an electronic device.

4. Identify or show evidence of at least 10 kinds of wild animals (such as birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, or mollusks) found in your local area or camping location. You may show evidence by tracks, signs, or photographs you have taken.

5a. Tell what precautions must be taken for a safe swim.

5b. Demonstrate your ability to pass the BSA beginner test: Jump feetfirst into water over your head in depth, level off and swim 25 feet on the surface, stop, turn sharply, resume swimming, then return to your starting place.

5c. Demonstrate water rescue methods by reaching with your arm or leg, by reaching with a suitable object, and by throwing lines and objects.35d. Explain why swimming rescues should not be attempted when a

reaching or throwing rescue is possible. Explain why and how a rescue swimmer should avoid contact with the victim.

6a. Demonstrate first aid for the following:

- Object in the eye
- Bite of a warm-blooded animal
- Puncture wounds from a splinter, nail, and fishhook
- Serious burns (partial thickness, or second-degree)
- Heat exhaustion
- Shock
- Heatstroke, dehydration, hypothermia, and hyperventilation

6b. Show what to do for “hurry” cases of stopped breathing, stroke, severe bleeding, and ingested poisoning.

6c. Tell what you can do while on a campout or hike to prevent or reduce the occurrence of the injuries listed in Second Class requirements 6a and 6b.

6d. Explain what to do in case of accidents that require emergency response in the home and backcountry. Explain what constitutes an emergency and what information you will need to provide to a responder.

6e. Tell how you should respond if you come upon the scene of a vehicular accident.

7a. After completing Tenderfoot requirement 6c, be physically active at least 30 minutes each day for five days a week for four weeks. Keep track of your activities.

7b. Share your challenges and successes in completing Second Class requirement 7a. Set a goal for continuing to include physical activity as part of your daily life and develop a plan for doing so.

7c. Participate in a school, community, or troop program on the dangers of using drugs, alcohol, and tobacco and other practices that could be harmful to your health. Discuss your participation in the program with your family, and explain the dangers of substance addictions. Report to your Scoutmaster or other adult leader in your troop about which parts of the Scout Oath and Scout Law relate to what you learned.

8a. Participate in a flag ceremony for your school, religious institution, chartered organization, community, or Scouting activity.

8b. Explain what respect is due the flag of the United States.

8c. With your parents or guardian, decide on an amount of money that you would like to earn, based on the cost of a specific item you would like to purchase. Develop a written plan to earn the amount agreed upon and

follow that plan; it is acceptable to make changes to your plan along the way. Discuss any changes made to your original plan and whether you met your goal.

8d. At a minimum of three locations, compare the cost of the item for which you are saving to determine the best place to purchase it. After completing Second Class requirement 8c, decide if you will use the amount that you earned as originally intended, save all or part of it, or use it for another purpose.

8e. Participate in two hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your Scoutmaster. Tell how your service to others relates to the Scout Oath.

9a. Explain the three R's of personal safety and protection.

9b. Describe bullying; tell what the appropriate response is to someone who is bullying you or another person.

10. Demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Tell how you have done your duty to God and how you have lived four different points of the Scout Law (not to include those used for Tenderfoot requirement 9) in your everyday life.

11. While working toward the Second Class rank, and after completing Tenderfoot requirement 10, participate in a Scoutmaster conference.

12. Successfully complete your board of review for the Second Class rank.

Online Resources: A series of videos that demonstrate how to meet all of the requirements for the Second Class rank is available on the BSA Web site [here](#).



FIRST CLASS Rank Requirements

1a. Since joining Scouts BSA, participate in 10 separate troop/patrol activities, at least six of which must be held outdoors. Of the outdoor activities, at least three must include overnight camping. These activities do not include

troop or patrol meetings. On campouts, spend the night in a tent that you pitch or other structure that you help erect, such as a lean-to, snow cave, or tepee.

1b. Explain each of the principles of Tread Lightly! and tell how you practiced them on a campout or outing. This outing must be different from the ones used for Tenderfoot requirement 1c and Second Class requirement 1b.

2a. Help plan a menu for one of the above campouts that includes at least one breakfast, one lunch, and one dinner, and that requires cooking at least two of the meals. Tell how the menu includes the foods from MyPlate or the current USDA nutritional model and how it meets nutritional needs for the planned activity or campout.

2b. Using the menu planned in First Class requirement 2a, make a list showing a budget and the food amounts needed to feed three or more youth. Secure the ingredients.

2c. Show which pans, utensils, and other gear will be needed to cook and serve these meals.

2d. Demonstrate the procedures to follow in the safe handling and storage of fresh meats, dairy products, eggs, vegetables, and other perishable food products. Show how to properly dispose of camp garbage, cans, plastic containers, and other rubbish.

2e. On one campout, serve as cook. Supervise your assistant(s) in using a stove or building a cooking fire. Prepare the breakfast, lunch, and dinner planned in First Class requirement 2a. Supervise the cleanup.

3a. Discuss when you should and should not use lashings.

3b. Demonstrate tying the timber hitch and clove hitch.

3c. Demonstrate tying the square, shear, and diagonal lashings by joining two or more poles or staves together. 3d. Use lashings to make a useful camp gadget or structure.

4a. Using a map and compass, complete an orienteering course that covers at least one mile and requires measuring the height and/or width of designated items (tree, tower, canyon, ditch, etc.).

4b. Demonstrate how to use a handheld GPS unit, GPS app on a smartphone, or other electronic navigation system. Use GPS to find your current location, a destination of your choice, and the route you will take to get there. Follow that route to arrive at your destination.

5a. Identify or show evidence of at least 10 kinds of native plants found in your local area or campsite location. You may show evidence by identifying fallen leaves or fallen fruit that you find in the field, or as part of a collection you have made, or by photographs you have taken.

5b. Identify two ways to obtain a weather forecast for an upcoming activity. Explain why weather forecasts are important when planning for an event.

5c. Describe at least three natural indicators of impending hazardous weather, the potential dangerous events that might result from such weather conditions, and the appropriate actions to take.

5d. Describe extreme weather conditions you might encounter in the outdoors in your local geographic area. Discuss how you would determine ahead of time the potential risk of these types of weather dangers, alternative

planning considerations to avoid such risks, and how you would prepare for and respond to those weather conditions.

6a. Successfully complete the BSA swimmer test.^{4,5}

6b. Tell what precautions must be taken for a safe trip afloat.

6c. Identify the basic parts of a canoe, kayak, or other boat. Identify the parts of a paddle or an oar.

6d. Describe proper body positioning in a watercraft, depending on the type and size of the vessel. Explain the importance of proper body position in the boat.

6e. With a helper and a practice victim, show a line rescue both as tender and as rescuer. (The practice victim should be approximately 30 feet from shore in deep water.)⁵

7a. Demonstrate bandages for a sprained ankle and for injuries on the head, the upper arm, and the collarbone.

7b. By yourself and with a partner, show how to:

- Transport a person from a smoke-filled room.
- Transport for at least 25 yards a person with a sprained ankle.

7c. Tell the five most common signals of a heart attack. Explain the steps (procedures) in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

7d. Tell what utility services exist in your home or meeting place. Describe potential hazards associated with these utilities and tell how to respond in emergency situations.

7e. Develop an emergency action plan for your home that includes what to do in case of fire, storm, power outage, and water outage.

7f. Explain how to obtain potable water in an emergency.

8a. After completing Second Class requirement 7a, be physically active at least 30 minutes each day for five days a week for four weeks. Keep track of your activities.

8b. Share your challenges and successes in completing First Class requirement 8a. Set a goal for continuing to include physical activity as part of your daily life.

9a. Visit and discuss with a selected individual approved by your leader (for example, an elected official, judge, attorney, civil servant, principal, or teacher) the constitutional rights and obligations of a U.S. citizen.

9b. Investigate an environmental issue affecting your community. Share what you learned about that issue with your patrol or troop. Tell what, if anything, could be done by you or your community to address the concern.

9c. On a Scouting or family outing, take note of the trash and garbage you produce. Before your next similar outing, decide how you can reduce, recycle, or repurpose what you take on that outing, and then put those plans into action. Compare your results.

9d. Participate in three hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your Scoutmaster. The project(s) must not be the same service project(s) used for Tenderfoot requirement 7b and Second Class requirement 8e. Explain how your service to others relates to the Scout Law.

10. Tell someone who is eligible to join Scouts BSA, or an inactive Scout, about your Scouting activities. Invite this person to an outing, activity, service project, or meeting. Provide information on how to join, or encourage the inactive Scout to become active. Share your efforts with your Scoutmaster or other adult leader.

11. Demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Tell how you have done your duty to God and how you have lived four different points of the Scout Law (different from those points used for previous ranks) in your everyday life.

12. While working toward the First Class rank, and after completing Second Class requirement 11, participate in a Scoutmaster conference.

13. Successfully complete your board of review for the First Class rank.

Online Resources: A series of videos that demonstrate how to meet all of the requirements for the First Class rank is available on the BSA Web site [here](#).



APPENDIX B

The Scout Oath, the Scout Law,
the Scout Motto, the Scout Slogan,
and the Outdoor Code

THE OATH AND ITS MEANING:

“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.”

Before a Scout makes or pledges himself to any oath or promise, he must know what it means. The paragraphs that follow will help him understand the meaning of the Scout Oath.

| | |
|--|--|
| On my honor . . . | By giving your word, you are promising to be guided by the ideals of the Scout Oath. |
| I will do my best . . . | Try hard to live up to the points of the Scout Oath. Measure your achievements against your own high standards and don't be influenced by peer pressure or what other people do. |
| To do my duty to God . . . | Your family and religious leaders teach you about God and the ways you can serve. You do your duty to God by following the wisdom of those teachings every day and by respecting and defending the rights of others to practice their own beliefs. |
| and my country . . . | Help keep the United States a strong and fair nation by learning about our system of government and your responsibilities as a citizen and future voter. America is made up of countless families and communities. When you work to improve your community and your home, you are serving your country. Natural resources are another important part of America's heritage worthy of your efforts to understand, protect, and use wisely. What you do can make a real difference. |
| and to obey the Scout Law; . . . | The twelve points of the Scout Law are guidelines that can lead you toward wise choices. When you obey the Scout Law, other people will respect you for the way you live, and you will respect yourself. |
| to help other people at all times; . . . | There are many people who need you. Your cheerful smile and helping hand will ease the burden of many who need assistance. By helping out whenever possible, you are doing your part to make this a better world. |
| to keep myself physically strong, . . . | Take care of your body so that it will serve you well for an entire lifetime. That means eating nutritious foods, getting enough sleep, and exercising regularly to build strength and endurance. It also means avoiding harmful drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and anything else that can harm your health. |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| mentally awake, . . . | Develop your mind both in the classroom and outside of school. Be curious about everything around you, and work hard to make the most of your abilities. With an inquiring attitude and the willingness to ask questions, you can learn much about the exciting world around you and your role in it. |
| and morally straight. | To be a person of strong character, your relationships with others should be honest and open. You should respect and defend the rights of all people. Be clean in your speech and actions, and remain faithful in your religious beliefs. The values you practice as a Scout will help you shape a life of virtue and self-reliance. |

Note that the Boy Scout Oath has three promises:

Duty to God and Country: Your family and religious leaders teach you to know and serve God. By following these teachings, you do your duty to God.

Men and women of the past worked to make America great, and many gave their lives for their country. By being a good family member and a good citizen, by working for your country's good and obeying its laws, you do your duty to your country. Obeying the Scout Law means living by its 12 points.

Duty to Other People: Many people need help. A cheery smile and a helping hand make life easier for others. By doing a Good Turn daily and helping when you're needed, you prove yourself a Scout and do your part to make this a better world.

Duty to Self: Keeping yourself physically strong is taking care of your body. Eat the right foods and build your strength. Staying mentally awake means learning all you can, being curious, and asking questions. Being morally straight is to live your life with honesty, to be clean in your speech and actions, and to be a person of strong character.

THE SCOUT LAW AND ITS MEANING:

A Scout is **Trustworthy**. A Scout tells the truth. He is honest, and he keeps his promises. People can depend on him.

A Scout is **Loyal**. A Scout is true to his family, friends, Scout leaders, school, and nation.

A Scout is **Helpful**. A Scout cares about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting payment or reward.

A Scout is **Friendly**. A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He offers his friendship to people of all races and nations, and respects them even if their beliefs and customs are different from his own.

A Scout is **Courteous**. A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows that using good manners makes it easier for people to get along.

A Scout is **Kind**. A Scout knows there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. Without good reason, he does not harm or kill any living thing.

A Scout is **Obedient**. A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobeying them.

A Scout is **Cheerful**. A Scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

A Scout is **Thrifty**. A Scout works to pay his own way and to help others. He saves for the future. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

A Scout is **Brave**. A Scout can face danger although he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at him or threaten him.

A Scout is **Clean**. A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He chooses the company of those who live by high standards. He helps keep his home and community clean.

A Scout is **Reverent**. A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

THE SCOUT MOTTO: Be Prepared

What does this mean? In simple terms, all Scouts should prepare themselves to become productive citizens and to give happiness to other people. Each Scout should be ready in mind and body for any struggles, and to meet with a strong heart whatever challenges might lie ahead.

Be prepared for life -- to live happily and without regret, knowing that you have done your best. That's what the Scout motto means.

THE SCOUT SLOGAN: Do A Good Turn Daily

Some Good Turns are big -- saving a life, helping out after floods or other disasters, recycling community trash, working with your patrol on conservation projects.

But Good Turns are often small, thoughtful acts -- helping a child cross a busy street, going to the store for an elderly neighbor, cutting back brush that is blocking a sign, doing something special for a brother or sister, welcoming a new student to your school.

A Good Turn is more than simple good manners. It is a special act of kindness.

THE OUTDOOR CODE:

As an American, I will do my best to –

- Be clean in my outdoor manners,
- Be careful with fire,
- Be considerate in the outdoors, and
- Be conservation minded

Please note that Troop 890 is committed to practicing the principles of the BSA National Leave No Trace initiative while hiking, camping, or on any visit to outdoor areas. What the Code means is:

As an American, I will do my best to -

- Be clean in my outdoor manners.

I will treat the outdoors as a heritage.

I will take care of it for myself and others

I will keep my trash and garbage out of lakes, streams, fields, woods, and roadways.

- Be careful with fire.

I will prevent wildfire.

I will build my fires only where they are appropriate.

When I have finished using a fire, I will make sure it is cold out.

I will leave a clean fire ring, or remove all evidence of my fire.

- Be considerate in the outdoors.

I will treat public and private property with respect.

I will use low-impact methods of hiking and camping.

- Be conservation minded

I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, wildlife, and energy.

I will urge others to do the same.

APPENDIX C

Swimmer Test

The swimmer test demonstrates the minimum level of swimming ability required for safe deep-water swimming. The various components of the test evaluate the several skills essential to this minimum level of swimming ability:

Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off, and begin swimming. Swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy, resting backstroke. The 100 yards must be completed in one swim without stops and include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

The test administrator must objectively evaluate the individual performance of the test, and in so doing should keep in mind the purpose of each test element.

1. "Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off, and begin swimming..."

The swimmer must be able to make an abrupt entry into deep water and begin swimming without any aids. Walking in from shallow water, easing in from the edge or down a ladder, pushing off from side or bottom, or gaining forward momentum by diving do not satisfy this requirement.

2. "...Swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl;..."

The swimmer must be able to cover distance with a strong, confident stroke. The 75 yards must not be the outer limit of the swimmer's ability; completion of the distance should give evidence of sufficient stamina to avoid undue risks. Dog-paddling and strokes repeatedly interrupted and restarted are not sufficient; underwater swimming is not permitted. The itemized strokes are inclusive. Any strong side or breaststroke or any strong over arm stroke (including the back crawl) is acceptable.

3. "...swim 25 yards using; an easy, resting backstroke..."

The swimmer must indicate the ability to execute a restful, free-breathing backstroke that can be used to avoid exhaustion during swimming activity. This element of the test necessarily follows the more strenuous swimming activity to show that the swimmer is, in fact, able to use the backstroke as a relief from exertion. The change of stroke must be accomplished in deep water without any push-off or other aid. Any variation of the elementary may suffice if it clearly provides opportunity for the swimmer to rest and regain wind.

4. "...The 100 yards must be completed in one swim without stops and include at least one sharp turn..."

The total distance is to be covered without rest stops. The sharp turn simply demonstrates the swimmer's ability to reverse direction in deep water without assistance or push-off from side or bottom.

5. "...After completing the swim, rest by floating."

This critically important component of the test evaluates the swimmer's ability to maintain in the water indefinitely even though exhausted or otherwise unable to continue swimming. Treading water or swimming in place will further tire the swimmer and are therefore unacceptable. The duration of the float test is not significant, except that it must be long enough for the test administrator to determine that the swimmer is, in fact, resting and could likely continue to do so for a prolonged time. The drown-proofing technique may be sufficient if clearly restful, but it is not preferred. If the test is completed except for the float requirement, the swimmer may be retested on the floating only (after instruction) provided that the test administrator is confident that the swimmer can initiate the float when exhausted.

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