



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

TROOP 107

GRAFTON COMMON, GRAFTON, MA

FAMILY HANDBOOK

FEBRUARY '96
updated 3/07

I.	STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY - THE AIMS AND METHODS OF SCOUTING.....	3
II.	TROOP ORGANIZATION/TROOP COMMITTEE.....	5
III.	THE PATROL LEADERS COUNCIL/JUNIOR LEADER TRAINING	6
IV.	NEW SCOUT PATROL	7
V.	MEETINGS/PROGRAMS/SUMMER CAMP.....	8
VI.	TRANSPORTATION.....	9
VII.	DUES/FEES	10
VIII.	UNIFORM POLICY AND UNIFORM EXCHANGE.....	11
IX.	EQUIPMENT	13
X.	ADVANCEMENT - TROOP 107	14
XI.	WHAT DOES THE SCOUTMASTER DO?	16
XII.	THE PATROL AND THE PATROL METHOD	19
XIII.	COMMUNICATIONS.....	20
XIV.	DISCIPLINE.....	21
XV.	SCOUT SPIRIT.....	22
XVI.	YOUTH PROTECTION PROGRAM	23
XVII.	FUND RAISING.....	24
XVIII.	NATIONAL QUALITY UNIT AWARD	25
XIX.	THE VENTURE PROGRAM.....	26
XX.	BOYS' LIFE MAGAZINE	27
XXI.	SPECIAL TROOP EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES	28
XXII.	THE ORDER OF THE ARROW	29
XXIII.	FRIENDS OF SCOUTING (FOS)	30
XXIV.	THE TWELFTH POINT OF THE SCOUT LAW.....	31
XXV.	APPENDIX I THE UNIFORM EXCHANGE.....	33

I. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY - THE AIMS AND METHODS OF SCOUTING

Welcome to Troop 107. The purpose of this troop handbook is to familiarize scouts and their parents with what the Boy Scouts and Troop 107 are all about. We think we run a fun and exciting program. If a program is not fun, it will fail. As you will learn, however, there is much more than fun involved in scouting!

The philosophy of Troop 107 is to provide an outdoor program in which young men can have fun and adventure in a safe, clean, and wholesome environment. The outdoors is the focus of our program and the Boy Scout experience in general. Fun and adventure! There is plenty of this in the great outdoors. Our troop focuses on learning camping and outdoor skills which will last a lifetime. The outdoors is also a place where scouts can learn much about living with others. Scouts face real life challenges and learn to solve real problems. Outside a scout can get close to the natural world: the land, the wildlife, and the environment. The program of the Boy Scouts of America is unique among other young organizations in its focus on "the outdoor experience."

The principal aims of the Boy Scouts of America are to provide a program which builds character, fosters citizenship and develops fitness both in mind and body.

What is character? It is hard to define. It is a moral and ethical quality. It's honesty, courage and integrity. It includes the four "self" qualities: self-reliance, self discipline, self-confidence, and self-respect. What is citizenship? It's defined as "behavior in terms of the duties, obligations, privileges and functions of a citizen." It is the quality of an individual's response to membership in a community. Citizenship is about love of country and community, and understanding government, democracy, and our heritage and history. What is fitness? The scouting program strives to develop physical, mental, emotional and moral fitness in boys, and many aspects of the programs focus on this aim. Each scout swears to an oath and lives by a law of conduct which pertains to these aims of scouting. In this day and age, what parent could not agree that these are some of the most important principles a boy could be exposed to ?

There are several methods that the scouting program utilizes to achieve the aims of scouting. These methods are tried and true and will be discussed in this handbook. The methods include: Scouting Ideals, The Patrol Method, The Outdoor Program, Advancement, Personal Growth, Adult Association, Leadership Development, and The Uniform.

So, for any who may have thought that scouting is only good hearted adults taking a bunch of kids on a hike, welcome to the real world of scouting.

Scouting is an organized national and worldwide program that strives in many ways to help boys grow up right. It's a fun and important program to which the Troop 107 Scoutmasters and Troop Committee members are deeply dedicated. As a parent, what can you do to help? If you have any special talents or interests, share them with us. Pick up your scout's Boy Scout Handbook and look it over. You'll be amazed and very pleased with what it contains. Encourage your son to read and study his handbook. You'll be doing him a great service.

Probably the most important philosophy of our troop is the concept of "the Boy Run Troop." Our troop is organized so that the boys do the work of running the troop. Boys learn by doing. Scouting recognizes the advantages of learning by making mistakes, practicing skills, and eventually being successful. Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, said "Give a scout a job, and then let him do it!" This is great advice for parents and leaders alike. In our troop we give a scout the means, the training and the know-how, and then we let him do the job. This handbook explains how the boys run the troop.

It takes a lot of work by the leaders, the Troop Committee, and dedicated parents, however, to supervise this program.

Parents! We ask you to get as involved as you can in your son's scouting experience. Behind every successful scout is an interested and participating parent. Please do whatever you can to help your son along the way. We hope that someday you may know the pride of seeing the Eagle Scout Award pinned to your son's chest.

II. TROOP ORGANIZATION/TROOP COMMITTEE

Troop 107 is a fully chartered and accredited troop in the Boy Scouts of America. Our charter is granted by the Mohegan Council, BSA, and we are sponsored by the Evangelical Congregational Church of Grafton. The troop was initially chartered in 1923 and has been in continuous operation since then. The charter is reviewed and renewed annually after a troop re-application. The Mohegan Council consists of three districts of approximately fifteen troops per district. These districts are Quinsigamond, Massasoit and Hassanamisco. Our troop is part of the Hassanamisco District.

The charter is granted to the Troop Committee, whose responsibility it is to handle the troop administration and support the troop program.

The Troop Committee is a group of adults who assume the responsibility of administering the troop in accordance with national and council BSA policy. The Troop Committee is responsible for supporting the troop program and providing all that is necessary for the program to exist and run smoothly. All business is brought before and discussed by the Troop Committee. The Troop Committee chooses the Scoutmaster and supervises the scout adult leadership.

Our troop is very fortunate to have a large and active Troop Committee.

- Parents! Is there a spot on the Committee for you? Speak with the Troop Committee Chairman any time. The Committee meets once a month. Parents are always welcome at Troop Committee meetings. If you have a special agenda item to discuss, please call the Troop Committee Chairman ahead of time so he or she can be aware of your request.

III. THE PATROL LEADERS COUNCIL/JUNIOR LEADER TRAINING

The Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) is composed of scouts and is the governing body of the troop that develops and carries out the program. The PLC consists of an elected Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and Patrol Leaders. The PLC also includes the appointed positions of Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (appointed by the SPL). Also the Quartermaster, Scribe, Troop Guide, Librarian, Den Chiefs and other junior leaders appointed by the SPL are members of the PLC. The Scoutmaster(s) supervise and advise the PLC. The PLC meets in a planning session once a month and briefly meets once a week.

In a boy-run troop it is absolutely necessary that the PLC run smoothly. This can only occur if all members of the PLC (troop junior leaders) do their jobs. The scouts depend upon their elected Patrol Leaders to attend the PLC and communicate information to them. The PLC cannot be passive in a boy-run troop.

PLC elections and appointments are made every six months, ensuring change and encouraging participation by all scouts in junior leadership, something required for scout advancement beyond First Class rank. If a scout is incapable or unwilling to do his job, he will be removed from the leadership position and will not be credited with completing that leadership position for rank advancement. We urge all scouts who accept leadership positions to fulfill their obligations.

All junior leaders are given written descriptions of their responsibilities and are supported by the Scoutmaster(s). Scouts are always encouraged to seek junior leader positions and helped as much as possible whenever needed.

Once a year, formal troop junior leader training occurs, usually in March. Semi-annual training is a troop goal. Is there a parent who might be interested in being Troop Junior Leader Training Chairman out there?

Advanced Council Junior Leader Training (or Greenbar) is held once a year for five days at Treasure Valley Scout Reservation. This is a Council sponsored program which is extremely worthwhile to those scouts participating. Three qualified scouts per year are sent to Greenbar. Scouts are recommended for Greenbar training by the Scoutmaster. The cost of this training is subsidized in part by the troop. See page 9 for troop organization chart.

IV. NEW SCOUT PATROL

The highlight of the year is the induction of new scouts into our troop. Most scouts enter Boy Scouts from the Webelos Dens of Cub Scout packs in the community. Without new scouts, of course, a troop will die. The transition from Webelos to Boy Scouts is exciting but may be difficult for boys and anxiety producing for parents. The troop recognizes this and actively tries to make the transition from Cub Scout to Boy Scout as easy as possible. Our goal is to make every new member welcome and made to feel a part of the troop as soon as possible. All new scouts are placed in (a) new scout patrol(s) and stay together as a unit for the first year in Boy Scouts. An experienced Assistant Scoutmaster is assigned to the new scout patrol to closely supervise the new scouts' adjustment to the troop, teach the basics, and get the boys involved in the program. Because this is a boy-run troop, there is a specific junior leader called a "Troop Guide" who joins the new scout patrol and works with the new scout patrol Assistant Scoutmaster to help the new scouts along the way. If a new scout has a special problem or if a problem develops, parents are encouraged to talk to the New Scout Scoutmaster about it. It is very important to the adult leadership that new scouts are comfortable and successfully assimilated into the troop.

V. MEETINGS/PROGRAMS/SUMMER CAMP

Scouting is a year-round program. Our troop meets once a week for troop meetings. Meetings are held at the Congregational Church on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Parents should do their best to help with troop meeting attendance. We try to start on time and stop on time. The meetings are valuable, interesting, fun and the forum for announcements. If your son is not there he will be missing out.

Our troop prides itself on its outdoor program. We try to go camping a two night overnight trip once a month. This takes lots of planning, work and cooperation for scouts, leaders and parents. Encourage your son to participate. Written information on all trips is made available to all scouts and parents (see Appendix II - Sample Troop Trip Information Sheet).

Periodically our troop will participate in special scout functions such as day trips, special camporees or jamborees.

Our troop spends one week a year in troop residential summer camp at Treasure Valley Scout Reservation. A week at summer camp is an event that will be remembered for a lifetime!

Our troop usually is at camp the first week in August or last week in July. Scouts should have a record of good attendance, display efforts towards advancement and must comply with National and Council requirements (be registered and have appropriate health examination) to attend camp at Treasure Valley. Our troop has a long history of excellent times at summer camp. All first year scouts should plan to attend. Summer camp focuses on swimming, advancement, cooperation and having a great time!

In the spring, information and communications about camp will be available to parents and scouts. Treasure Valley is a fully accredited and highly rated summer residence camp. It is operated by the Mohegan Council, BSA.

VI. TRANSPORTATION

Most of the troop's outings and trips require motor vehicle transportation. The parents need to provide the great majority of this transportation. Parents need to be willing to do their part to help out with scouts or gear transportation.

The best way to be sure there is always room in a car for your scout is to be sure that your car is helping!

VII. DUES/FEES

Running the scouting program costs money. Scouts are required to pay one dollar per week in dues. Dues are charged weekly whether or not a scout is in attendance, and whether or not there is a troop meeting. The dues support the cost of annual scout registration, subscription to Boys' Life Magazine and the cost of uniform patches, awards, etc. We request that scouts keep their dues payments current. Scouts may pay their dues ahead in a lump sum, but it is encouraged that Scouts pay one dollar a week, and that this money be earned by helping out at home. A scout's dues must be paid up completely before he may participate in a troop function such as a camping trip. A scout's dues must be paid up the Tuesday meeting before a scheduled camping trip. The Dues Master does not always have the time to collect dues on a Friday night prior to troop departure for a trip. Dues collection is also not the Scoutmaster(s)' job. The responsibility to have dues paid up the Tuesday meeting before a troop trip belongs to the scout. If a scout is not allowed on a camping trip or a troop event because of dues non-payment, parents must understand that this is troop policy and should support it.

The costs of camping trips are determined by the cost of food, transportation, fees, etc. Trip fees are usually very reasonable and money left over is refunded. Scouts and parents should be sure that fees are paid on time. Deadlines for trip payments are always well publicized.

Parents should provide cash or a check made out to "cash" for all troop trip fees. Checks made out to "Boy Scouts" or "Troop 107" will be returned. Be assured that accurate financial records are kept on all trip fees.

VIII. UNIFORM POLICY AND UNIFORM EXCHANGE

All scouts will adhere to the troop uniform policy. The wearing of the scout uniform is a very important part of scouting. Wearing the uniform identifies a scout as a scout, and is a tried and true method in scouting. Parents should encourage their scout to wear his uniform with pride. It's a symbol of one of the finest organizations in the world.

A scout should keep his uniform clean and up to date with insignia, rank and patrol designations. He should treat his uniform with respect and look sharp!

There are four categories of uniforms. At special events and troop trips the uniform of the day will be announced.

UNIFORM DEFINITIONS:

Class A:

1. Official scout short or long sleeve shirt
2. Official scout pants (long pants in winter, shorts in summer)
3. Scout belt
4. Scout socks
5. Shoes or boots (flashy sneakers discouraged)
6. Troop neckerchief and slide
7. BSA cap

Class B:

1. Troop T shirt
2. Official shorts/pants
3. Official belt
4. Official socks
5. Official cap

Class C:

1. Troop T shirt
2. Jeans or other appropriate pants
3. Any appropriate footwear

Class D:

1. Class C uniforms plus troop hooded sweatshirt

UNIFORM USES

Class A:

Required at troop meetings, fund raisers, parades, jamborees, camporees, summer camp, and certain special events or service projects.

Class B:

Informal uniform for organized district or council events (camporees, jamborees, etc.).

Class C:

Informal troop uniform for camping trips, etc., where one might get dirty.

Class D:

Cooler weather.

Uniform parts are expensive. Fortunately we have a very effective uniform exchange program that can help to defray the cost of uniform parts. (See Appendix i for details on

the uniform exchange). Parents and scouts should be sure that all uniform parts are labeled with the scout's name or personal totem. A personal totem is a scout's pictorial signature, much like a Native American's totem or the cowboy's brand.

Scouts should take care of their uniform and uniform parts. The lost and found is filled with uniform parts lost by careless scouts. New uniform parts may be purchased in any authorized scout shop or may be ordered directly through the BSA catalog. Names and addresses of local authorized scout uniform distributors can be found through the BSA Supply Division's web site: www.scoutstuff.org. A scout should always check with the uniform exchange first before purchasing new uniform parts if he wants to participate in the troop uniform exchange.

The PLC has determined that if a scout is out of uniform two weeks in a row, he will be warned and one of the Scoutmasters will discuss the issue with him.

If the same scout is out of uniform three weeks in succession, the scout will be asked to leave the meeting and will be permitted to return when he can be in uniform.

IX. EQUIPMENT

It takes a lot of equipment to run a Boy Scout Troop. Troop equipment is the responsibility of the Troop Committee who assigns a member to this job. The scouts have an appointed quartermaster to keep track of troop equipment. All scouts must be responsible for the troop equipment they use, and care for the equipment properly. All precautions are taken for the safe use of all cutting tools. No new scout may use a cutting tool of any kind until he has received Tote 'n Chip Training and can demonstrate safe use of cutting tools. Axes are never used in Troop 107. Carrying matches or cigarette lighters is not allowed. Matches are supplied and supervised by the Scoutmaster(s). Each scout will need personal equipment.

Scouts will be taught what they need and don't need. The Boy Scout Handbook does an excellent job reviewing equipment that each scout should have. The scout should use the handbook as a resource. The cost of personal equipment can be high, but if scouts and parents focus on the necessities and gradually add to these, before long each scout will be well equipped. Spag's is an excellent store to purchase high quality camping equipment at a good price. New scouts will be well informed about what they will need to get started.

Scouts need to be responsible for their own equipment and many times will need to carry their gear for fair distances. Scouts are encouraged to bring along equipment they will need and not burden themselves with gear they won't need. Parents should help the scouts pack for a trip, but not do it for them! Scouts need to know what they have and what they don't, where their gear is and how to repack it when the trip is over and it's time to go home. The Scoutmasters can't do it for them. Scouts need to learn to be responsible for their own belongings and how to take care of their gear!

NOTE: 1. No fixed blade knives are allowed at a scouting activity. Folding pocket knives only are allowed!

2. Radios, walkmans, CD players, tape players, boom boxes or portable TV's do not belong on camping trips. Leave them home.

X. ADVANCEMENT - TROOP 107

Having become a Boy Scout, your son will be expected to advance at his own pace. This does not mean he will or should be left entirely on his own. The leaders of the troop will always be there to guide and assist as well as to prod your son.

In the early ranks (Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class) your son will be getting quite a bit of group training. As part as the First Year Patrol, he will have a Scoutmaster and a Troop Guide to guide him. He will be a part of the New Scout Patrol for his first year in Scouting and should attain the rank of First Class in that time.

As a parent you should show an interest in your son's advancement. Have your son show you where he is signed off for achieving the requirements for the first three ranks. Then make sure he is doing something for advancement. If it seems that he will not get to First Class in one year then please talk to a Scoutmaster about your son's advancement.

After a scout becomes first Class he is expected to take an even greater responsibility in his own advancement. The ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle require earning Merit Badges, performing service for the community, and having positions of responsibility.

The Scoutmasters are always there to guide but the scout himself has to decide which Merit Badges interest him, what service he wants to perform, and what positions of leadership he wants to hold. As a parent, you should try to motivate him to always be working on his advancement. A scout should always be working on a Merit Badge, especially those required for Eagle.

Advancement instills pride and self confidence in a scout. Acknowledgment of any and all advancement is given at least twice. First, as soon as possible after the scout's achievement, usually at the end of the meeting. Then on the fifth Tuesday of the month, we have a "Court of Honor." The Scout will be recognized for his achievements and we would like to have all parents attend these Courts of Honor.

Finally when a scout attains the rank of Eagle, we have a special ceremony called the "Eagle Court of Honor." We ask all scouts and their parents to attend these. It is such a big achievement, the Eagle Scout deserves as much recognition as we can give him.

Your son as started the trail to Eagle. Seldom does a scout get there by himself. We have made the commitment to help him; please make your commitment to help your son become an Eagle.

New scouts should get started right away on the Tenderfoot physical fitness requirement. New scouts will need parents help and encouragement with this. New scouts should always have their Scout Handbook with them as opportunities to learn skills and get them signed off are frequent. Scouts should be careful with their handbooks and not lose them! Scouts should put their name on the handbook in several places, not just the cover. Scouts may want to cover their handbook for protection and identification. Troop advancement record keeping is a big job and one that needs to be done right. Fortunately we have a committee member and Assistant

Scoutmaster assigned to the task who can keep all the records on troop computer. All rank advancement and earned merit badges are recorded by the Advancement Chairman. Scouts should be cautioned to keep all proof of rank advancement and blue cards documenting completed merit badges in a safe place. Someday they may be needed to document advancement.

XI. WHAT DOES THE SCOUTMASTER DO?

Listed below is a list of all the duties assigned to the Scoutmaster:

1. From Scout Literature:
 - A. Troop Committee Guidebook, Page 34
 - i. High moral standards
 - ii. Commitment to the ideals of Scouting
 - iii. Ability to relate to boys
 - iv. Ability to keep a "cool head" under pressure
 - v. Organizing ability
 - vi. Ability to relate to and interact with adults
 - vii. Flexibility and the ability to compromise
 - viii. Planning ability.
 - ix. High energy level
 - x. Attention to detail
 - B. Scoutmaster's Handbook, page 22-23
 - i. Train & guide junior leaders to run the troop (done by assistants or committees)
 - ii. Work with and through Assistant Scoutmasters
 - iii. Encourage boys to learn for themselves
 - iv. Guide boys in planning troop programs(done by assistants or committees).
 - v. Help recruit Assistant Scoutmasters
 - vi. Scoutmaster conferences (done by assistants or committees)
 - vii. Understand and support the Aims of Scouting
 - a. Build Character
 - b. Foster Citizenship
 - c. Develop Fitness
 - viii. Understand and support the Methods of Scouting
 - a. Ideals
 - b. Patrols
 - c. Outdoors
 - d. Advancement
 - e. Personal growth
 - f. Adult association
 - g. Leadership development
 - h. Uniform
 - 1) Set good example
 - 2) Promote use of the uniform pool
 - 3) Inspections
 - 4) Know when/when not to wear the uniform
 - ix. Recognize characteristics of boys
 - x. Administration "...managed by the troop committee. (The Scoutmaster will be involved in these matters through troop committee meetings. This frees (him) to devote most of (his) effort to the program and to the Scouts."
 - a. Prepares rough budget for finalization by PLC (done by assistants or committees)

- b. Promote Boys' Life
- c. Registration
- d. Pay bills (done by assistants or committees)
- e. Fund raiser (done by assistants or committees)
- f. Re-Charter
- g. Record keeping
 - 1) Statistical records (Peewee, see below) (done by assistants or committees)
 - 2) Log book, photo album, scrap book
 - 3) Advancement Chart (done by assistants or committees)
- h. Recruiting
 - 1) Open house (usually in September)
 - 2) Webelos coordination of program (done by assistants or committees)
 - 3) Webelos Cross Over program (done by assistants or committees)
- i. Forms
- xi. Understand and use Resources
 - a. Attend monthly Roundtables - Council/District
 - b. Commissioner
 - c. Professional Scouter (District Executive)
 - d. Training courses
 - e. Intertroop activities
 - f. Council activities
 - g. National activities
 - h. Order of the Arrow
 - i. National Eagle Scout Association
 - j. Religious Emblems Program
 - k. Alpha Phi Omega
- xii. Understand and use the Troop Meeting Structure
 - a. Pre-opening
 - b. Interpatrol activities
 - c. Ceremonies
 - d. Scoutmasters minute
- C. Junior Leader Handbook - p 10
 - i. Maintain a working relationship with Junior Leaders
 - ii. Have through "knowledge of Scouting and the troop"
 - iii. Share experience
 - iv. Back up the Junior Leaders
 - v. Be a proactive resource for Junior Leaders without making "unalterable suggestions."
- 2. From Personal experience
 - A. Committee Chair
 - i. Prepare agenda from annual plan, council calendar, PLC, Troop Committee minutes
 - ii. Chair Troop Committee meetings.
 - iii. Be familiar with the Troop Committee Guidelines.
 - B. Dues
 - i. Meticulous accounting of dues payments
 - ii. Coach Scribe regarding collections
 - iii. Maintain weekly balance for each scout

- iv. Provide Scribe with envelopes
- v. Forward money to Treasurer monthly
- vi. Status report to Committee and BOR
- C. Advancement
 - i. Maintain supply of Advancement Forms
 - ii. Submit to Council Office as advancements occur
 - iii. Keep file of copies of Advancement Forms in perpetuity
 - iv. Maintain computer files including advancement, participation, name and address updates
 - v. Provide reports to Troop Committee, BOR, Telephone Committee, Scoutmasters, PLC as needed.
- D. Meetings
 - i. Open church at 6:30
 - ii. Supervise PLC
 - iii. Supervise pre-opening and vestry setup
 - iv. Scoutmaster's Minute
 - v. Announcements
 - vi. Scoutmaster conferences
 - vii. Coach Junior Leaders
- E. Courts of Honor
 - i. Prepare an "Awards Earned Since" report
 - ii. Procure awards and cards
 - iii. Prepare and set up awards/fill out cards for signature
- F. Program
 - i. Touch base with SPL constantly
 - ii. Coach SPL to keep program on schedule
- G. Miscellaneous
 - i. Be present at camping trips, fund raisers and events
 - ii. Takes whatever training is available
 - iii. Trains Junior Leaders
 - iv. Encourages Assistant Scoutmasters to attend training

Obviously the demands on the Scoutmaster are great. Fortunately in our troop we have ample volunteers both as Assistant Scoutmasters and Troop Committee Members to split up the work. It's too much for one person!

Baden-Powell said, " The Scoutmaster's job is to help boys grow into good men." That's what it is all about! That's why Scoutmasters do what they do. He works by training his boy leaders to run the troop, and by managing, training and supporting his Assistant Scoutmasters in their roles, the Scoutmaster has to try to pull it all together. The Scoutmaster is the one and only troop leader who relates closely to each of the other links in the chain of troop operations: The scouts, the Junior Leaders, the Patrol Leader's Council, the Assistant Scoutmasters, the Troop Committee and the chartered organization. The Scoutmaster should be a positive influence on every boy in the troop.

The Assistant Scoutmasters play a very strategic role in the function of the troop. Assistant Scoutmasters support the Scoutmaster and share his challenge. Assistant Scoutmasters are assigned specific tasks and functions within the troop supervision.

XII. THE PATROL AND THE PATROL METHOD

The main unit of the troop is the patrol. Every Boy Scout troop is made up of patrols, which are groups of approximately eight scouts who work together as a team.

Each patrol elects its own leader. The patrol leaders, with an elected Senior Patrol Leader as their head, form the crux of the Patrol Leader's Council. It is the job of the PLC to plan and run the troop program. Each Patrol Leader represents his patrol on the PLC and interprets and brings back to his patrol the plans and decisions the Council makes. Patrols may also have their own meetings, elect their own patrol officers, and plan and carry out their own patrol activities.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS

What can be more important than proper communications for the smooth running of a troop? Scouts should have good attendance at weekly meetings because many announcements are made and lots of information is shared at troop meetings. Scouts need to pay attention when the sign is up and when someone is talking. Lots of information is missed because scouts many times don't listen carefully. It's a good idea for a scout to carry a small pad of paper and a pencil or a pen in case he would like to take notes on important dates, times and places. All efforts are made by the Scoutmasters to send home written information regarding trips, events, etc. Lots of information is not written, however.

During each troop meeting there is time set aside for patrol meetings. This is the time for the Patrol Leader to give information he may have from the PLC or the Scoutmaster. The patrol meeting is a time for planning and exchanging information. It is the job of the Patrol Leader to make sure that important information is passed on to his patrol members, even those not at a particular meeting. The Senior Patrol Leaders needs to be able to effectively communicate to the Patrol Leaders and other scouts. From the Chairman of the Troop Committee to the newest scout, good communication is vital.

Scouts should practice their communication skills by taking notes and double checking information with a phone call or e-mail if needed. If you do have access to e-mail please share your address with us as many "updates" are sent electronically.

Our troop is very fortunate to have a monthly newsletter published by a dedicated Troop Committee member. The "Troop Scoop" is emailed automatically to each scout family. Paper copies sent via US Mail are available upon request. If a scout and parents read the "Troop Scoop" every month, all will be very well informed. Parents and scouts should save the "Troop Scoop" and post it on the home bulletin board or tape it to the refrigerator door as a resource throughout the month.

Each week at the troop meeting, one of the patrols will present a demonstration or "demo" concerning a topic pertaining to the scouting theme for the month. Through the "demo" scouts are exposed to speaking before a group and experiencing first hand teaching and leading group discussions. This type of experience is very valuable to the boys and teaches a great deal about communication skills.

If a parent or friend of scouting has a particular interest or skill he would like to share with the troop, he or she should let the Scoutmaster know - we would love to invite you to a meeting to "communicate" with us.

There is a chain of command in scout communications. If a scout has a question, he should call his Patrol Leaders or Troop Guide. If there is still a question the Senior Patrol Leader should be asked. Finally, if there is still a question, one of the Scoutmasters should be asked. Why not call the Scoutmaster directly? The Scoutmaster can't be inundated with all the questions that Junior Leaders could answer. Part of the Junior Leader's job is to be available to provide information and answer questions. Parents are asked to help with this. If a scout has a question he should call his Patrol Leader or appropriate Junior Leader first.

XIV. DISCIPLINE

In any organization like the Boy Scouts, a code of discipline is needed. The PLC, and the Scoutmasters and the Troop Committee determine the discipline policy. Scouts are expected to conduct themselves according to the Scout Law and Oath. Disruptive behavior, foul or vulgar language, or any form of physical or mental abuse towards another scout is not tolerated. Tobacco, drug or alcohol use is not permitted or tolerated. The Scoutmaster is responsible for maintaining order and protecting the scouts. Violations of laws and civil ordinances will result in contact with the responsible authorities and the parents immediately.

There are "housekeeping" and safety rules necessary in any group. Supervising general scout behavior is the domain of the Scoutmaster and his assistants. The Scoutmaster's word must be the law for the safety and comfort of the entire troop. Minor disciplinary actions are handled in the troop. Major disciplinary actions are based on fair and thoughtful discussions between the Scoutmasters, parents, and Troop Committee. If warranted, parents may be called to pick up a boy from a meeting or an event if a boy's behavior or actions warrant this. Again, this decision has to rest with the Scoutmaster.

If any scout is witnessed by a Scoutmaster striking another scout or otherwise intentionally planning to hurt or physically or mentally abuse another scout, he will immediately be sent home after the scout himself notifies his parents. This policy has dramatically reduced this unfortunate type of behavior. Scouts with major or repetitive discipline problems may be placed on probation by the Troop Committee, or in an extreme case be asked to leave Troop 107.

No one likes to deal with discipline problems. It's unpleasant for everyone. Parents should help the Scoutmasters in supporting the discipline policy and any decisions the Scoutmaster(s) or Troop Committee has to make in this regard.

XV. SCOUT SPIRIT

Anyone who has spent any time with Troop 107 knows how important scout spirit is to the troop. Scout spirit means living by the Scout Oath and Law. A scout with good scout spirit thinks about what the Scout Oath and Law means and tries to incorporate this into his everyday life. A scout with true scout spirits shines in the troop. He's happy, helpful and ready to volunteer. He's thoughtful, active in the program, and assumes leadership and responsibility. Scout spirit is necessary for advancement; in fact, showing scout spirit is a requirement for advancing beyond the First Class rank.

The Scoutmaster(s) of Troop 107 believe scout spirit to be the most important part of what it means to be a scout. There is an Annual Troop Scout Spirit Award presented once a year at Treasure Valley to the scout in Troop 107 who best exemplifies scout spirit. Parents should encourage scout spirit in their son. A scout can recite the Scout Law and Oath; he must keep the oath and live the law.

XVI. YOUTH PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Boy Scouts of America has the largest organized youth protection program of any youth or young adult program in the world. Troop 107, as a fully accredited troop, has implemented all the youth protection guidelines developed by the BSA. The program is a five point plan to combat child abuse and to improve the environment in which your young people live. The key elements of this strategy include the following points:

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

Many leaders in our troop have received Council-run training in youth protection. We have a Youth Protection Coordinator as part of our Troop Committee whose job it is to administer the Troop Youth Protection Program of our troop. All leaders are encouraged to participate in the Council sponsored Youth Protection Training Course.

Once per year our scouts and their parents are invited to view "A Time to Tell," a video produced by the BSA, which addresses the problem of sexual abuse. Our coordinator at that time leads a discussion and question and answer session about this subject. Boys' Life Magazine and Scouting Magazine (national scouting publications for scout leaders) have regular features providing up-to-date information concerning the Youth Protection Program of the BSA. Every boy to advance to the rank of Scout (or the first rank in scouting) must document that he has reviewed the detachable booklet in the front of the Boy Scout Handbook, "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse: A Parent's Guide" with his parents. If a parent has any questions about the Youth Protection Program, please call the Youth Protection Coordinator or speak to the Scoutmaster.

XVII. FUND RAISING

The troop depends on regular troop fund raising projects to earn the money the troop needs to run its program. The mainstay of our troop's fund raising effort is the quarterly bottle drives. About four times a year the troop runs a bottle drive. All scouts are requested to participate in the bottle drive which usually runs from 9 AM to 1 PM. Parents from each scout family is also encouraged to set aside that day to help with driving, sorting bottles, helping with lunch, and supervising pick up along the collection routes. This is a troop function that should not be left to the Scoutmasters. If every one pitches in, it's easy work. If few participate, then more work has to be done by those participating, and nonparticipating scouts get a "free ride." A portion of the money is contributed to a local charity. Another portion is allocated to the accounts of those scouts that participate in the bottle drive, according to the amount of time worked by them and their family. The remainder of the money supports the troop program. The money is used for troop equipment, awards, badges, and training for scouts, leaders and Troop Committee members. Scouts must do their part to help out! Parents must be willing to volunteer and do their part to help with the fund raising efforts.

Occasionally there will be additional separate special fund raising efforts to provide scouts with opportunities to earn money to help defray some of the larger costs associated with expensive special scout events, such as trips to Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico or to a National Jamboree. There's always lots of notification and information about fund raising efforts, so parents should keep their eyes on "The Troop Scoop."

XVIII. NATIONAL QUALITY UNIT AWARD

Each year the National Quality Unit Award is presented to each troop which satisfies a set of predetermined criteria for quality in a Boy Scout Troop. Each member of the troop receives an official uniform patch to signify that his unit has earned this award. Troop 107 has never failed to win this award.

XIX. THE VENTURE PROGRAM

The Venture Program is a separate program within the troop that consists of a "special crew" of older scouts (13 or older) who have achieved First Class Rank and who conduct special high adventure trips. The Venture Program is very exciting and provides the crew members with exposure to a wide range of more difficult high adventure activities such as mountain hiking and treks, rock climbing, spelunking, canoeing and white water rafting.

An Assistant Scoutmaster with extensive experience in these high adventure activities is specifically assigned to this crew. The Venture Program is terrific. It allows older scouts to use their skills in challenging situations. The Venture Program has been very successful in keeping older scouts in scouting and provides incentive to less experienced scouts to make First Class. A crew member continues with his regular scouting advancement program, troop activities and troop leadership responsibilities, and is encouraged to do so.

XX. BOYS' LIFE MAGAZINE

Boys' Life Magazine is a national scouting publication designed and published for scouts. Boys' Life is a vital program tool for the troop. One of the fees covered at registration covers the subscription to Boys' Life. Incorporating Boys' Life into the scout's life encourages reading and thought, improves skills development, facilitates advancement and is just plain good sense. Parents should encourage their son to read his issue. Scouts should read Boys' Life from cover to cover every month!

XXI. SPECIAL TROOP EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

On a regular basis your son will have the opportunity to participate in special troop events which may just be for fun, for a change of pace, or to perform a service of some sort. Many times these activities will benefit the community, as in the "Scouting for Food" program; the chartering organization. as in fall leaf raking for the church; or another scout as in helping with an Eagle Scout service project.

We participate in many district scouting events. Whatever the event, parents should encourage their son to participate.

XXII. THE ORDER OF THE ARROW

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is a national brotherhood of scout honor campers. It is based on brotherhood and cheerful service to fellow men. Troop members are nominated and elected to membership by fellow scouts in their troops. They must meet certain entry requirements and qualifications that are established by the National OA. Each troop may hold an annual election supervised by the Council's OA lodge. Scouts are not admitted to OA ceremonies unless they are members. Election to the Order of the Arrow is a distinct honor, and the OA is a very important part of the scouting experience.

XXIII. FRIENDS OF SCOUTING (FOS)

Friends of Scouting (FOS) is an annual fund raising effort conducted by Mohegan Council to secure funds for the operation of the Council. The Boy Scouts of America believes each adult, family or parent should determine for themselves the amount of their enrollment. An enrollment serves to demonstrate to the community at large the enthusiasm and desire parents and leaders have for a strong, active scouting program in their community. The Mohegan Council will spend approximately one-hundred dollars per registered scout in the Council. Parents, leaders and friends of scouting must do their part to keep our Council financially strong so that the high quality support and the programs that the Council supplies can continue to keep our scouting program strong, for the benefit of our scouts, our sons. Parents are urged to donate generously to annual FOS when they are asked.

XXIV. THE TWELFTH POINT OF THE SCOUT LAW

The Twelfth Point of the Scout Law is "A Scout is Reverent." We don't seem to talk about this point very often. The Boy Scout takes an oath to do his duty to God. Our troop encourages each scout to do his duty to God and to be reverent.

Part of the First Class Scout advancement requirement is to lead your patrol in grace before meals prepared on a camping trip. At summer camp we begin each day with a lesson and a prayer and we end each day with evening vespers. Ecumenical services are held at all formal scout events, such as camporees. We participate in Scout Sunday Services each year. It's not important how a scout performs his duty to God; it's just important that he does. A scout is very fortunate to be able to experience so much of the great outdoors and be so close to God's work. Scouts should take this duty to heart. They should discuss their beliefs with their parents, clergy or Scoutmasters. Scouts should thinking about earning one of scouting's many religious awards. Parents should do their part to make duty to God and reverence to God a part of each scout's home life, whatever their religious beliefs may be.

This handbook has been put together to help new scouts and their families become familiar with the philosophy of our troop, the Boy Scouts of America, and how Troop 107 operates. A handbook like this can never be complete because there is too much to include. Many resources such as the Boy Scout Handbook are available to supplement this handbook. Policies and procedures of the troop are constantly changing. I hope this handbook is helpful as a guide and I encourage scouts and families to use it. Suggestions for future editions are always welcome.

XXV. APPENDIX I THE UNIFORM EXCHANGE

How to Use the Uniform Exchange

For the benefit of incoming scouts and for any of you who may need a review, here are the rules for obtaining a uniform through the Uniform Exchange:

1. If a scout needs a shirt, pants, shorts, scarf, and/or Troop t-shirt, call the Uniform Coordinator (contact the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair if you don't know how to get in touch with the Uniform Coordinator). This is all you really need to remember, but if you want to know more, read on ...
2. The Troop maintains a collection of used uniform parts (shirts -long & short sleeve, pants and shorts) that are rented for \$5.00 each.
3. If the Exchange does not have the item your scout needs, the Coordinator will give you permission to buy it, with the understanding that the troop will provide a rebate of 1/2 the purchase price. Please do not buy a uniform without first contacting the coordinator. After you have made the purchase, contact the coordinator to receive the rebate.
4. When uniforms obtained by rental or rebate are outgrown or no longer used, they must be returned to the Uniform Exchange.
5. If a scout loses a uniform that was rented from the Exchange or purchased with a rebate, the troop expects it to be replaced with a comparable item.

In stock items (prices subject to change due to availability):

Troop 107 red T-shirts:	1st shirt -	\$4.00
Sizes youth 12/14 - adult XXL	Replacements -	\$8.00
Uniform Pants:	Cost for rental -	\$5.00
Various sizes-call for availability		
Uniform Shirts:	Cost for rental -	\$5.00
Youth sizes 10 - Adult XL call for availability		
Uniform Shorts:	Cost for rental -	\$5.00
Various sizes-call for availability		
Troop Neckerchiefs:	1st given to Scout/Leader gratis	
	Replacements -\$5.00(NEW)	
Miscellaneous items:	\$1.00 - \$5.00 purchased	
If in stock via donation - socks, hats, belts, epaulets, etc.		
Used T-shirts:	\$1.00 - \$3.00 purchased	
Various sizes available, best for painting and heavy duty work projects, as an extra T-shirt, etc.		

Per order basis:

Troop Sweatshirts:

Order placed 3 - 4 times per year as needed. These are sold at the Troop's cost, and thus the prices are subject to change. Below are approximate prices based on past orders.

Hooded Pullover w/Kangaroo pocket w/ troop logo on left chest
(Scout Name on sleeve is optional)**8 oz. 50/50 Jerzee**

Small, Med., Large, XLarge	\$19.00 + \$3.00 with name
XXLarge	\$21.00 + \$3.00 with name
XXXLarge	\$22.25 + \$3.00 with name

9.3 oz.50/50 Jerzee

Small, Med., Large, XLarge	\$20.00 + \$3.00 with name
XXLarge	\$22.00 + \$3.00 with name
XXXLarge	\$23.25 + \$3.00 with name

Zippered with two pockets w/ troop logo on left chest
(Scout Name on sleeve is optional)**8 oz. 50/50 Jerzee**

Small, Med., Large, XLarge	\$23.00 + \$3.00 with name
XXLarge, XXXLarge	\$25.25 + \$3.00 with name

XXVI. APPENDIX II TRIP INFO SHEET

TROOP 107 TRIP REPORT

Name of trip: _____

Dates: _____

Number of scouts: _____

Number of leaders: _____

Number of guests: _____

Amount collected: \$ _____

Expenses:	food	\$	
	travel	\$	
	lodging	\$	
	entry fees	\$	
	other	\$	_____
	other	\$	_____
	other	\$	_____
	TOTAL	\$	_____

Excess returned to participants: \$ _____

Excess returned to troop: \$ _____

NOTES: