

Welcome to



***Troop 9168
Boy Scouts of America
Lewisville, TX***

<http://www.troop9168.com>

***Guide For New Families
2007/2008***

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

There are three aims to scouting:

- Aim I -- To build character
- Aim II -- To foster citizenship
- Aim III -- To develop fitness

These three aims are the bedrock of the American Scouting movement they represent the long term outcomes we want for every boy.

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people, and in other ways to prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime in achieving their full potential.

The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Boy Scout Oath and Law.

SCOUT LAW	SCOUT OATH
A Scout is: Trustworthy Loyal Helpful Friendly Courteous Kind Obedient Cheerful Thrifty Brave Clean Reverent	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.

Since 1910, these principles have been taught in an atmosphere of recreation and fun which allows young people to develop self confidence, leadership and moral character. More and more men, trained as Scouts, are taking their places in today's world as responsible adult leaders. Men who earned badges as Scouts, sit on the Supreme Court and in the chambers of Congress. Others hold important offices in our government, business and industry. Most of the members of congress were Scouts, as well as most of the astronauts who have walked on the moon. The long list of famous scouts includes:

President Gerald Ford	Eagle Scout	Neil A. Armstrong, First person to set foot on the Moon	Eagle Scout
J. Willard Marriott, Jr. President of Marriott Corporation	Eagle Scout	William C. Devries, M.D.; Transplanted First Artificial Heart	Eagle Scout
Sam M. Walton Chairman/CEO, Wal-Mart	Eagle Scout	Barber B. Conable, Jr. President, World Bank	Eagle Scout

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

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

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

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

ORGANIZATION

Troop 9168 is a participating member of the Tonkawa District of the Longhorn Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop's organization consists of a Chartered Organization, a Troop Committee, the Troop, and the Troop's Parents.

Chartered Organization (Sponsor)

Every Troop belongs to an organization. The Chartered Organization for Troop 9168 is Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 9168. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and insures that there is adequate, trained leadership. A Chartered Organization Representative acts a liaison between us and the VFW. The Post also sponsors a Cub Scout pack and a Venturing Crew.

Troop 9168 Committee

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

The Committee meets monthly. The meetings are open and attendance is encouraged by all parents and other interested adults.

Troop 9168 Adult Leadership

Along with the Troop Committee, an adult can choose to participate by actively in the troop program. This could be as an Assistant Scoutmaster. The troop will ask that you attend training sessions and one outdoor training (1 weekend) to become a trained leader. An adult may also participate as a Merit Badge Counselor. These are adults who have training or interest in specialized areas and work with the Scouts to earn merit badges.

Troop 9168 Scouts

Troop Meetings

Troop 9168 will hold meetings weekly. Meetings currently are held every Monday, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. On Monday nights following a campout, there is a Patrol Leader's Council meeting instead of a regular troop meeting. This is the meeting where the Troop's Scout leadership plan the next month's meetings, campouts, and activities. Changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as early as possible to allow for proper planning.

Adult Leadership

Two registered adult leaders, or one adult leader and a Scout parent, both of who must be at least 21 years of age, are required for all Troop 9168 meetings, trips or outings.

Patrols and Patrol Leaders

The Troop is a group made up of several patrols. Each Patrol usually consists of a Patrol Leader a number of Scouts. The boys in a patrol elect their patrol leader who in turn appoints the assistant patrol leader.

Assistant Patrol Leaders

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

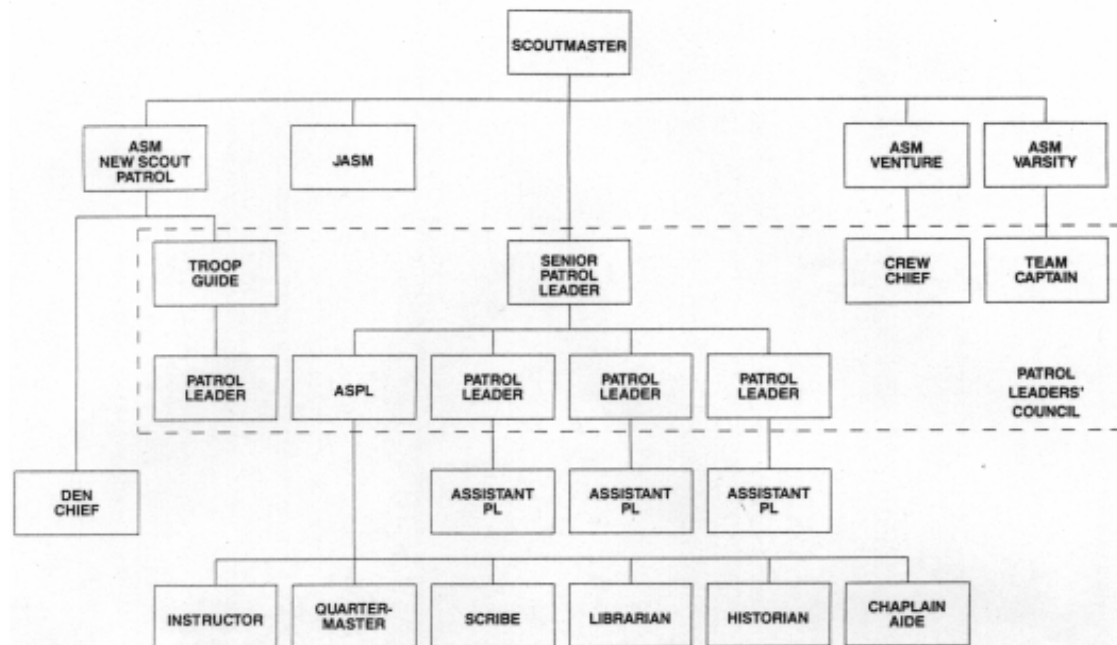
The Senior Patrol Leader

This is also an elected position. The Senior Patrol Leader selects his Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders. Elections for Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader are held in July and January of each year. Their terms begin in February and August, giving the troop a month for transitioning offices.

Patrol Leaders Council

The Patrol Leaders, with the Senior Patrol Leader as their head, form the Patrol Leaders' Council, which plans the details of all activities and runs the Troop meetings. The PLC meets once a month on the Monday after a campout.

Below is a diagram of the boy leadership organization for a typical troop:



Annual Planning Conference

Near the end of July or early in August, the entire troop meets for the annual planning conference. This is where the Scouts plan the activities for the year. The meeting will last for most of one Saturday. The Scouts themselves decide what they will do, when they will do them, and where they will occur. The conference is run by the Senior Patrol Leader with guidance from the adult leaders. This troop calendar is the result of this, and gives the PLC a document in which to plan detail for troop meetings and campouts. It also provides the Troop Committee a map for what the troop needs will be for the upcoming year.

Troop 9168 Parents

The role of parents within Troop 9168 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

1. Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting. The Boy Scout Fast Start video tape session is available on the Council web site..
2. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
3. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
4. Assist, as requested, in all Troop fund-raisers and other such activities. All such assistance lowers the cost of the program we offer to the Scouts and, therefore, lowers each family's cash outlay for their Scout(s).
5. Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar.

ADVANCEMENT

There are many definitions of advancement, but the Scouting definition might well be, simply, "the art of meeting a challenge." For that is exactly what the Boy Scout advancement program asks the boys to do. 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. Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks -- and the more rewarding.

Achievements include:

- Learning skills that qualify for Scouting's more rugged and exciting outdoor challenges.
- Developing body and mind, growing self-confidence, and helping younger Scouts climb the advancement ladder.
- Discovering how it feels to go further -- in so many ways -- than he ever thought he could.

We don't look at advancement as a goal, but as a natural outcome of a planned, quality Troop program.

There are four steps of advancement:

- The Boy Scout Learns.
- The Boy Scout is Tested.
- The Boy Scout is Reviewed.
- The Boy Scout is Recognized.

Advancement Through First Class

From the time the Scout enters the Troop through the time he earns advancement to First Class, he is learning basic scouting skills to enable him to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, and perform other tasks in the outdoors and to work as a member of a team. With those first steps the scout begins to build themselves physically, mentally, and morally. He will start to live with the Scout Oath and Law.

The goal of this Troop, is for the Scout to achieve the rank of First Class within his first year in the Troop. This is a sign that the scout has mastered the fundamentals of scouting and can begin to start the long process of learning to lead others, refining the learned skills and learning additional skills.

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

Advancement from First Class to Eagle

From the achievement of First Class through Eagle, the Scout will be demonstrating leadership, performing service projects, earning merit badges and using the skills learned while achieving the rank of First Class. The next ranks he will earn are Star and Life. These ranks are harder to obtain than the earlier ranks, but are also more interesting for the older scouts.

Upon completion of all the requirements for Star and Life the Scout will be eligible to work for Eagle. The original principals, the Scout Oath and Law now have fuller meaning for the Scout and their understanding of them is much greater. The final steps towards Eagle are filled with leadership experiences.

Merit Badges

The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a Scout's areas of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. Merit badges are earned by a Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor. The Scout is required to contact the counselor to arrange for times and places to meet with the counselor. When the Scout completes the work on the merit badge the counselor will inform the Scoutmaster that the Scout has completed the requirements for that badge. Merit Badges earned will be presented to the Scout during the Troop's quarterly Court of Honor.

All parents of Troop 9168 Scouts are encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors.

This year we have worked or will work on the following merit badges/activities in the troop program:

Merit Badges		Activities
Aquatics	Communications	Vickburg National Military Park
Climbing	Rifle Shooting	Lewisville Western Day's Parade
Cooking	Mammal Study	Veteran's Day Activities
Camping	Animal Science	Veteran's Cemetary Flags (Memorial Day)
Cycling	Citizenship in the Community	Mountain Biking
	Aviation	Crockett Campsite Adoption (Sid Richardson)
	Summer Meit Badge Classes	Tonkawa District Camporee
		Scouting for Food
		Donations for VA Hospital Veterans (Monthly)
		Ten Commandments Hike

Scoutmaster Conference

Upon completion of all requirements for a rank, The Scout will sit down with the Scoutmaster to discuss the Scout's progress. Here is where the Scoutmaster has a chance to review the Scout's Thoughts about what has occurred in his Scouting career thus far, and to discuss his plans for the future in Scouting and in life. A Scoutmaster Conference may also be held to talk about a Scout's lack of rank advancement or to discuss behavioral problems.

Boards of Review

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank and having a Scoutmater Conference, he appears before a board of review composed of members of the Troop committee. The purpose of the review is not an examination. Rather it is to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals; to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement, to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program, and to encourage him to keep working towards advancement. For rank advancement through First Class, the Board of Review will usually be held during a Troop meeting. For the rank of Star and Life, the Board of Review will be at a more formal offsite location. This is done to prepare the Scout for his Eagle Board of Review. That BOR is conducted by the District Advancement Committee, along with a few adults of the Scouts choosing that are usually Troop Committee members.

Courts of Honor

Troop 9168 will conduct a Court of Honor about three times a year. The Court of Honor recognizes all Scout appointments, elections, awards, and advancements since the last Court of Honor. Adult recognition may be presented prior to the opening of the Troop Court of Honor. It is the responsibility of the Troop's Patrol Leaders' Council to plan and conduct the Troop Courts of Honor. The Troop Committee will support the Courts of Honor as requested.

The Court of Honor is a public ceremony, and is a chance for the Scouts to be publicly recognized for their achievements. Parents and all other interested individuals are be encouraged to attend.

OUTDOOR PROGRAM

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

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

Troop 9168 and the outdoor program

Troop 9168 has a very active outdoor program and all boys (and parents) are encouraged to participate. Our program includes monthly weekend campouts, annual long term summer camp (1 week), and other outdoor activities. All parents are welcome on monthly campouts. The adults camp separately from the Scouts, and act as our own patrol complete with our own patrol duties.

What to bring on a campout:

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

Troop 9168 suggests that a new Scout begin camping using a simple plastic tub that can be bought at a store like Wal Mart. Once the Scout is comfortable camping and it seems that they will stay with the program, then the family can purchase a backpack for further camping experiences. If you already own backpacking equipment, your new Scout may start his camping experiences using a backpack. We do not allow the Scouts to use cots on monthly campouts, only for Summer Camp. This prevents wear and tear on the tent floors.

The Scouts will sleep and eat as patrols. A patrol will have duty rosters for cooking, KP, etc. Menus are planned by the patrols and one or more of the patrol members will go to purchase the food for a campout. The troop will then reimburse the parents for the allocated amount, or can be payed in advance for the number of Scouts that have paid for the campout. The food amount that is allocated for each campout is \$13.00 per Scout.

The adults camp separate from the Scouts as an adult patrol. Sometimes we eat with the Scouts, other times we plan our own menu and designate an adult(s) to purchase the food. The adults will also have a duty roster. This separation of camping areas is to fulfill the requirements set down in the Longhorn Council's Youth Protection policy.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Rechartering and Fees

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

Annual Registration Fees

How much does Boy Scouting cost? As little as possible, but nothing worthwhile is free. The annual fee for each Scout in Troop 9168 is \$22.05:

- \$10.00 for national BSA membership
- \$ 1.25 for Council provided insurance
- \$10.80 for Boys Life magazine (optional, but really enjoyable, and gives the Scouts ideas for activities and outings. A good buy)

Dues are \$3 per month, and are used to cover the registration costs next year. Any amounts left over will go into the Scouts personal account.

Fees for Outings / Activities

Individual activities may have fees associated with them. Most campouts will be around \$18.00. with some a little more if there is an activity with a fee charged to the troop.

Fees for Summer Camp

Summer Camp fees usually cost around \$150.00-\$190.00. This year we will attend Camp Alexander which is west of Colorado Springs, CO. We will departing on July 19 and returning July 26. The fee of \$205.00 includes all camp activities and meals. Transportation to and from the camp is to be determined and we are attempting to earn this money as a troop.

To alleviate some of the joining costs, Troop 9168 offers a payment plan of 3 payments in March, April, and May to pay for the Summer Camp fee for all new Scouts. The transportation costs are due before leaving for camp in July. Troop 9168 never wants to see Scouts skip Summer Camp due to a financial situation. If the cost for camp is a concern, the troop will make arrangements with the parents concerning the situation. We will never leave a Scout at home due to finances.

Adults are encouraged to attend Summer Camp with their Scouts, it is a great experience spending the week with your Scout, watching them learn Scouting skills, and see their patrol grow as a unit. The adult fees are \$205 for the week plus transportation costs. All adults attending must be registered with the Boy Scouts of America and must have taken Youth Protection Training (available online). Adults can earn money towards their fee through participation in fund raising events.

Even though expensive, summer camp is a perfect chance for your Scout to gain rank advancement and work towards his first merit badges.

Fundraising

Funds are raised by the boys through various fundraising activities. The Troop conducts around ten fundraising projects a year. Some will be troop car washes while others will include selling items such as popcorn, Christmas wreaths, and fertilizer. 75% of money raised from fund-raisers is allocated to the Scouts personal account, while 25% will be allocated to general troop funds for equipment replacement, etc. Details on this year's fund-raisers will be available at future Troop meetings.

UNIFORM

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

Field or "Class A" Uniform

- Tan scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches (Longhorn Council strip, red shoulder loops, and patrol emblem.)
- Troop number (obtained from Troop)
- Troop 9168 neckerchief (obtained from Troop)
- Neckerchief slide (can be purchased or made by Scout).
- Scout pants, blue jeans, or Scout appropriate pants (khaki, green or brown to match the shirt).
- Scout shorts, or Scout appropriate shorts (khaki, green, or brown to match the shirt).
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots. Socks are required.

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

- Troop 9168 T-Shirt (obtain from Troop 9168) or other Scout activity shirt.
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots. Socks are required.
- Pants or shorts as described above.

Uniforms and insignia are worn a certain way. The Troop Leaders and staff at the Scout Shops will be able to answer any questions you might have on where to put what badge. Inside the cover of the Handbook there are guides for badge placement. We highly encourage a Scout to obtain the Scout pants and Scout shorts once they reach the rank of First Class. They will need these for ceremonies and for their Board of Review for the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle. Also, as an older Scout they should set the example for the other Scouts in the troop.

BOY SCOUT JOINING REQUIREMENTS

- Complete the fifth grade, or be 11 years old, or have earned the Arrow of Light Award, but be younger than 18 years old.
- Submit a completed Application to join a Boy Scout Troop and health history signed by your parent or guardian.
- Repeat the Pledge Of Allegiance.
- Demonstrate the Scout sign, salute, and handclasp. (1)
- Demonstrate tying the square knot. (joining knot) (1)
- Understand and agree to live by the Scout Oath or Promise, Law, motto, and slogan, and the Outdoor Code. (1)
- Describe the Scout badge. (1)
- With you parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse."
- Participate in a Scoutmaster's conference.

Completion of these requirements will earn Scout the Boy Scout Badge rank. Once earned, he will begin working on Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class requirements.

(1) Learned with Arrow of Light requirements

AND FINALLY

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

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

For more information, contact:

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