

BOY SCOUT TROOP 272



Introduction To BSA Troop 272, Nashua NH

A new scout guide

Prepared by the leaders and boys of Troop 272
01/11/2015

Information on troop, advancement, and forms can be
Found on the troop web site: www.nashuaboy Scouts.org

Scout Name: _____

Welcome to Troop 272! In this troop you will learn many things: camping, hiking, outdoor skills, cooking techniques, first aid and much, much more. These scouting activities are "fun with a purpose" because you are having fun while you do them and you are learning important life skills at the same time.

In addition to learning the skills, you also learn how to be good leader, how to communicate better, and, in general, how to become a better and more confident person. In this packet you will find out some important key points about the Boy Scouts of America, its rules, and its requirements as they are practiced by your new troop. We all hope you will enjoy being a part of Troop 272!



The changes from cub scouts to boy scouts

Change #1: Try vs. Know

In Cub Scouts, you are rewarded when you TRY a skill. You are encouraged to try new things and as you are exposed to them, you are rewarded for simply trying them. Often times, you fulfill achievements by attending events or campouts and your den leader takes care of signing your book immediately. You can also get your parents to sign your requirements when you try new things with your family.

In boys scouts, you are rewarded when you **KNOW** a skill. To know a skill, you have to be taught it (sometimes a few times), practice it on your own, and then demonstrate at a later time that you **KNOW** the skill to your **leaders**. This last part is the most important change for new boys to understand: *you have to go to your leaders and ask for time to demonstrate your skills*. Your leaders won't come to you or pester you to learn your skill. You have to practice it on your own after a teaching session and come back at a later time to demonstrate it. In addition, your parents can no longer sign your scout book. It has to be done by a troop leader that is not your parent.



Change #2: You are in a Patrol now

Our troop is made up of patrols. Your patrol will be a group of boys (all first year scouts) that team up to get things done. You will learn together, make plans together, and turn your plans into actions. Your patrol will have 5-6 scouts in it.

Soon, you will be assigned to a patrol. In it, you will pick a patrol leader and asst. patrol leader, come up with a patrol name, and create a patrol yell that you use to show your scout spirit. You can even have your own patrol meetings separate from the troop meetings.

Change #3: The leadership of our troop:

In Cub Scouts, adults are your pack leaders and your den leaders. In Boy Scouts, boys are your troop leaders and your patrol leaders. You can think of a patrol leader as a boy version of your den leader and your senior patrol leader as the replacement for your Cubmaster.



Each Boy Scout troop also has adult leaders and a troop committee made up of parents who volunteer their time to help you.

The most visible of these adult leaders is your Scoutmaster, Mr. Trabucchi (you can call him Mr. T for short). He is your most valuable resource when it comes to getting questions answered when you are not sure what to do. To help him, Mr. T also has several Assistant Scoutmasters, whom you will meet and get to know. Mr. T may send you to talk with one of them if you need help that they can provide.

Our troop has many different jobs and leadership positions that, as you advance in rank, you will be given the opportunity to have. These are the same jobs that adults had in your Cub Scout pack and now you will have the opportunity to do them too!

Below is a list of boy leadership positions and what their responsibilities are:



Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) - The senior patrol leader runs the troop. He is in charge of all the scouts and what they do. To be a SPL you must show a great deal of responsibility and scout spirit.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)- The ASPL is also a high leadership position. The ASPL is also in charge of the scouts and carries out the SPL's rules, regulations, etc. You also must show responsibility and scout spirit to be an ASPL.

Troop Guide- A scout who is there to help out newer scouts, the ASPL(s), and SPL.

Patrol Leader- The patrol leader (PL) is responsible for a patrol. He will call/ e-mail his patrol as needed. He reports to the patrol leaders' council any info from his patrol and

brings back to his patrol info from the patrol leaders' council.

Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)- The APL has a very simple job, which is to fill in for the patrol leader if he is not present.



Other Jobs:

Scribe- Takes notes at PLC meetings and fills out meeting plan templates at PLC meetings. Email's the notes and meeting plans out after PLC meetings.

Historian- Takes pictures of troop events and campouts and makes displays, slideshows, and other exhibits to show those in the troop and those visiting the exciting activities the troop is involved in. Keeps records of Troop activities.

Librarian- Is responsible for signing out reading material from the troop library or requests material for the library from the troop committee.

Den Chief- A scout that attends den and pack meetings of a Cub Scout den and helps out the den leaders.

Quartermaster- Maintains a list of troop supplies and equipment and tracks the condition of the equipment.

Assigns cleanup of equipment after campouts. He reports to the Troop Committee Equipment Chair any needs for supplies and equipment and any repairs that may be needed.

Bugler - uses his trumpet or bugling skills to help the SPL assemble scouts to order, as well as to enhance various troop ceremonies, such as flag raising and lowering as well as courts of honor.

Assistant Chaplain: ensures that reverence is a part of the troop's activities, as is written in the Boy Scout law. Usually the assistant chaplain arranges brief non-denominational scouting worship services for campouts and at times says an opening prayer at troop meetings.

These are most of the jobs and leadership positions in our troop. Even though most of them are usually held by scouts that have achieved the 1st class rank, you should be familiar with them now should the troop have a need that you can fill. Your focus for the next year should be on learning the basic scouting skills you'll need to have enjoyable scouting experiences.

Ranks:

Unlike in Cub Scouts, where you automatically change rank each school year (tiger, wolf, bear, Webelos), in all Boy Scout troops, each Boy Scout works at his own pace to achieve his next rank.

You can move as quickly or as slowly through the ranks as you see fit. As you get older, if you actively participate in our activities and move on through your years in Troop 272, you will advance in rank. Eagle is the highest rank and must be achieved before you are 18. Below is a list of the ranks in order from lowest to highest.

Scout



Tenderfoot



2nd Class

1st Class



Star

Life

Eagle

The first rank you will work on is "Scout". You will find the requirements for the scout rank on page 17 of your new Boy Scout Handbook. You'll notice that the requirements for scout rank are very similar to those of the arrow of light, so you should know how to do most of them already.

Advancing in Rank

To advance in rank you must complete certain requirements, have a scoutmaster conference, board of review, and demonstrate how you live out the scout oath and scout law in your daily life. Most importantly, you must demonstrate keeping that scouting spirit. Requirements for each rank are outlined in the back of your scout handbook.

Troop 272, encourages each scout to obtain First Class within 18 months. However, each boy may work at the pace that best fits his family life and involvement with other activities. However, no matter what pace a boy works at, each boy is responsible to make sure that advancements are recorded by the Advancement chair as soon as possible after getting sign-offs (Mr. Puliafico).



Getting Requirements Signed-off as completed

In boys scouts, you are rewarded when you **KNOW** a skill. To know a skill, you have to be taught it (sometimes a few times), practice it on your own, and then demonstrate at a later time that you **KNOW** the skill to your **leaders**. When you are tested by your leaders and you are judged to know the skill, that leader will sign the requirement in your scout book as completed. This

process of getting tested and getting your book signed is called a sign-off.

For the first year of the program, your personal advancement goals are primarily met by getting requirements "signed-off" in the back of your scout book. It is up to you to go to your adult leaders when you are confident that you KNOW a skill to be tested to confirm that you know the skill.

To aid you in advancement, a special boy leader called the *troop guide* will help you learn your skills and advise you. Other boys may also do group presentations that will train you on specific scouting skills. You can also use your scout handbook on your own to read about skills and practice them at home.

The best way to do this is to communicate with your adult leaders ahead of time letting them know you are ready to be tested and arrange a time to demonstrate your skill -- which can sometimes take 10-30 minutes depending on the requirement. These times can be before a troop meeting, during the troop meeting game period, or even outside the troop meeting at a campout OR at another location you arrange with your leader (as long as there are other adults present).

Scoutmaster Conference:

Before advancing in rank you must have a scoutmaster conference. A scoutmaster conference is a discussion between you and a scoutmaster. In this discussion the scoutmaster may ask you which requirements you liked, which you found challenging, and why. He may also ask you for any feedback you might have about how you are doing in boy scouts and how the troop is doing. You may ask for a scoutmaster conference at any

time not just for advancements. The scoutmaster or an assistant scoutmaster may also ask you for a conference to help you advance.

A Board of Review

Another requirement you must complete before advancing in rank is having a Board of Review. This is a small meeting with all the Troop Committee members and you. They will ask you questions such as "How do you like scouting?" or maybe "What was your favorite camping trip?" "What do you like about the troop?" "What don't you like?"

*When you have a Board of Review or a scoutmaster conference, always be in full uniform!! (See Below) A board of review is requested by **the Scout** by contacting the Troop Advancement Chair (Mr. Puliafico - Mr. P for short)*

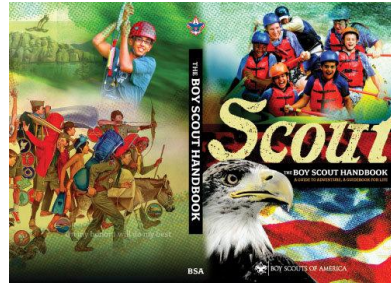
Your Uniform:

When you come to troop meetings every Thursday, you must be in uniform. If you are coming from a sport, or a different activity, you might want to bring your uniform and change in the bathroom.

Our troop uniform consists of:

- Boy Scout Shirt (clean and tucked into your pants with troop, patrol, and earned rank patches displayed)
- Troop 272 Neckerchief
- Neckerchief slide
- Boy Scout Shoulder Loops (Green) also called shoulder epaulets
- Boy Scout Handbook
- Notebook with pencil

****** If you can, try to wear green or tan colored pants. They are not required, but they'll look much better than orange gym shorts. Also, we encourage you to purchase a BSA merit badge sash and wear it to Courts of Honor.



****The Boy Scout Handbook**

You **MUST** bring your handbook to all meetings and campouts. This is where you will keep a record of what you earn and will be signed by the Scoutmaster for rank advancements. You should also have a notebook and Pen/Pencil at all Troop events.

Merit Badges:

Throughout your scouting adventure, you will earn many merit badges. Merit badges are awards that let you explore exciting new subjects and activities that are of particular interest to you. There are over 120 merit badges to choose from, so there are lots of subjects for you to pick from. A total of 21 merit badges are required for Eagle rank. Some, such as swimming and first aid, are required of all Eagle scouts. It's easy to figure out what merit badges are required for Eagle, because they all have a silver border around them. All the rest of the merit badges are optional and have a green border.

To earn a merit badge you must do the following:

- Check the list of merit badges in your Scout Handbook and choose one or more that interests you.
- Locate the merit badge books of your choice in our troop library, purchase them from the scout store or online from scoutstuff.org.
- Fill out a blue card² and get your Scoutmaster's signature on it. Ask any leader for a Blue Card.
- Choose a merit badge counselor¹ from the district or troop list and contact him/her. Depending on the badge, some counselors may want to meet with you before you start the badge, others will allow you to complete it before they meet with you. The Advancement Chair keeps a copy of the Merit Badge Counselors list and can help you find a Counselor.
- Complete all of the requirements. TIP: You might want to write out the requirements neatly or type them.
- Schedule a final appointment with the same merit badge counselor.
- Show all your work to your counselor and, if approved, the counselor will sign your blue card.
- Turn in your blue card to a Scoutmaster or the Troop Advancement Chairperson.

¹A counselor is a person registered with the council that is an expert in the field you are studying. Only registered Merit Badge counselors are authorized to sign you off on your requirements. This person is highly skilled and knows many things about his/ her merit badge beyond what is in the book.

² A blue card is used for proof that you have earned the merit badge. (see below)

Information for Applicant

- A merit badge application can be approved only by a registered merit badge counselor.
- You must have a buddy with you (Scout buddy system) at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.
- Turn in your approved application to your unit leader. You will be awarded the merit badge emblem and certificate at a suitable occasion.

Information for Counselor

- Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the applicant's unit leader.
- The Scout must have his buddy (Scout buddy system) in attendance at all instructional sessions.
- You may not change any requirement, but you may share your knowledge or experience that will make the counseling more interesting and valuable.

APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 is a registered Boy Scout Varsity Scout Explorer
 of _____ Troop, team, post, etc. No. _____
 District _____
 Council _____
 and is qualified to begin working for merit badge noted on the reverse side.
 Date _____ Signature of unit leader _____

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 No. 34124 1996 Printing

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Approved by unit leader	Date of approval	Approved by merit badge counselor	Date of approval

The applicant has personally appeared before me and demonstrated to my satisfaction that he has met all requirements for the (please print)

APPLICANT'S RECORD

Name _____
 Merit badge _____
 has given me his completed application for the _____
 Name of counselor _____
 Address of counselor _____
 City _____ ZIP code _____
 Telephone number of counselor _____ / / _____
 Signature of counselor _____ / / _____
 Checked and recorded _____
 Date _____
 Certificate and badge presented _____ / / _____

COUNSELOR'S RECORD

Applicant _____
 Troop Unit number _____
 Team Post _____
 Post _____
 Completed on _____ / / _____ by _____
 Signature of counselor _____
 Date completed _____ / / _____
 Remarks _____

NOTE TO BOY SCOUT, VARSITY SCOUT, OR EXPLORER: Retain this copy for your permanent records.
 It is suggested that the counselor keep this record for at least 1 year in case any question is raised later in regard to this award.

You will receive your merit badge at our troop's next court of honor, which is held every few months at our regular meeting. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to share your achievement!!

Examples:



Electricity



Textile



Wilderness Survival



Pets



Hiking



Cycling



SnowSports

Troop Rules

- Respect Others
- Obey the Scout Sign
- Do your best in following the Scout Oath and Law
- Class A Uniform to be worn on all scouting events except when otherwise specified
- Bring Boy Scout Handbook to all Troop Meetings for updates and advancements.
- Disruptions will not be tolerated at any time during the meeting.
- Be polite to all present (verbally and otherwise).
- Cursing and name-calling will not be tolerated at any time.
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself at all times. Headlocks, stealing hats, intentionally stomping on other people's feet or hands, kicking, pushing people around, etc will not be tolerated.
- Fighting will not be tolerated for any reason.

Conduct and Discipline Policy

Scouts should strive to uphold principles in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. It is realized that scouting is a learning experience. Mistakes will be made and unacceptable behavior will manifest itself from time to time. Scouts should, as much as possible, be given the opportunity to learn from their errors.

Troop policy is not to insist on a rigid code of conduct, but to ensure a measure of orderliness and control that is necessary for: safety to troop members and others; assuring troop meeting goals are achieved; and creating a fun and learning experience for all participants. One-to-one activities between youth members and adults are not permitted; personal conferences must be conducted in plain view of others.

Scouts are expected to be responsive to directions given by patrol leaders and the senior patrol leader, backed up by the Scoutmaster or troop leader.

Failure to join in planned activities and/or obstructive behavior will be addressed by the following successive measures:

1. A warning (sometimes issued as a "strike") by the Patrol Leader or youth leader to the scout for the first infraction.
2. A second warning issued by the Patrol Leader or youth leader for the second infraction. Issuance of a second warning will require the Scout have a conversation with the scoutmaster and/or a time out period away from the troop.
3. A third warning will result in the scout reviewing his actions with the Scoutmaster. Parents may be expected to meet with the Scoutmaster to discuss the situation. The Scoutmaster after consultation will decide an appropriate course of action that may include; temporary isolation from the rest of the troop, missing the game if the behavior is occurring at a troop meeting, or removal from the troop meeting by asking the boy's parents to take him home.

Dangerous activity will not be tolerated, and will be stopped by the Scoutmaster or troop leader by any means necessary. It is the responsibility of the Scoutmaster to inform the boy and his parents of unacceptable behavior; discipline is the parents' responsibility. Parents and the leaders must work together to solve discipline problems. Certain actions will be cause for a boy's immediate removal from a troop activity: willful law violation; actions immediately harmful to himself or others; threats to cause substantial damage to the environment. Parents will be notified, and may be asked to take the boy home. This will apply to outings as well as troop meetings. A Scout may be suspended or removed from the troop only with the Scoutmaster's recommendation and concurrence by the Troop Committee.

Contact Information for new scouts to know:

New Scout Asst. Senior Patrol Leader (Brendan F.) - bflah98@me.com

Advancement Chair: (Mr. Puliafico) - jdp0406@comcast.net

Asst. Scoutmaster for new scouts - (need adult volunteer)

Scoutmaster (Mr. Trabucchi a.k.a. Mr T) - BobTrabucchi@gmail.com

Senior Patrol Leader (Chris Guarino) - guarinochristopher0@gmail.com

We wish you luck in all of your fun-filled Boy Scout adventures!
We hope you enjoy being a part of our troop!

The Scouts in Troop 272