



# Scout Rank Fast Start Program for Troop 272, Nashua NH

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A hands-on learning program for new scouts

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## Troop 272 Nashua, NH – Scout Rank Fast-Start Program

**Program Objective/Goal:** This documented provides a set of **adult-reviewed teaching plans** designed to allow new first-year Scouts who join the troop to quickly develop necessary scouting skills while at the same time possibly allowing these new Scouts to complete the requirements for Scout in time for the April Court of Honor. An indirect objective is to also aid current troop leadership in developing their teaching/speaking/leadership skills.

### **Major assumptions:**

- Boys assigned to be instructors are properly motivated to participate in training the younger scouts. There are communications merit badge credits to be had by instructors.
- Boy instructors have attended a basic training (could be at troop meeting) on presentation skills or have earned public speaking merit badge.
- Instructors should sticking to the outlined session content so they cover all information in each session.

### **General Responsibilities:**

- **Troop Guide.** Serves as a mentor and guide for new scouts. Based on consistent knowledge of boy needs, helps identifies what training needs to be conducted and when it is to be conducted. Coordinates specific training activities with the Instructors. Teaches scout skills with the help of Instructors. Keeps a record of requirements completed by new scouts and makes sure that completed requirements are recorded in their Scout Handbooks.
- **Instructors.** Conduct the training requested by the Troop Guide. Recruit other scouts to assist with training. Coordinate with the Quartermaster to insure that needed training equipment is available. Direct activities at individual training stations. Putting together these training sessions is a requirement for communications merit badge. Instructors have the option of starting the MB using these courses.
- **Assistant Scoutmaster(s) for New Scouts.** Responsible for overall program execution and quality standards. Oversees meetings and training. Initials completed requirements on the charts in new Scouts' handbooks.

# Troop 272 Nashua, NH – Scout Rank Fast-Start Program

## Staffing Requirements and Session List Overview:

### **Session 1: Describe the Troop and How Boys Lead**

- Instructors:
- ASM:

### **Session 2: New Scout Patrol Basics**

- Instructors:
- ASM:

### **Session 3: Leave No Trace and the Outdoor Code**

- Instructors:
- ASM:

### **Session 4: How to earn a merit badge**

- Instructor:
- ASM: Mr. T

### **Session 5: Rope Care (coiling, whipping, fusing)**

- Instructors:
- ASM:

### **Session 6: Scout Rank Knots (Square, Taut-line, Two-half Hitches)**

- Instructors:
- ASM:

### **Session 7: Pocketknife Safety Review**

- Instructors:
- ASM:

### **Session 8: Cyber Chip Training (Adult run)**

- Instructors:
- ASM:

### **Session 9: Fire Building & Fireman Chit**

- Instructors:
- ASM:

### **Session 10: Knife, Ax, and Saw Skills & Totin Chip**

- Instructors:
- ASM:

## Troop 272 Nashua, NH – Scout Rank Fast-Start Program

### SCOUT TRAINING SESSIONS

#### Format:

- Each training session is manned by two scouts and supervised by an ASM of the First Year program. The scouts instruct. The ASM is available for sign-offs for scouts who want to demonstrate knowledge from previous sessions. Teaching sessions are located in the meeting room and outside only (not in the gym).
- Instructors should review each session with the ASM after it is delivered to discuss how things went and if the new scouts got the information they needed.

**Training Schedule.** Training sessions will take place at each troop meeting during the period between February crossover and April court of honor.

**Troop Meeting Training Format.** Training activities during weekly troop meetings will be conducted preferably outside or in a classroom using effective speaking/teaching techniques. Under direction of the instructors (and their assistants), each week there should be two concurrent training sessions dedicated to teaching individual requirements. Typically two Instructors will man each session. The Troop Guide (with the assistance of the ASM for New Scouts) coordinates the schedule with the SPL.

**SignOffs –** The training sessions will deliver important information and knowledge. However, it will be still up the each boy to come back at a later date to ask the leaders to sit with them so that they can demonstrate that they have RETAINED the information and knowledge.

**Sign-offs should never been done for a skill at the same meeting at which it was taught.**

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## Session 1: Describe the Troop and How Boys Lead It (req. 2a)

**Location:** Classroom

**Scout Prerequisites:** None

**Staff:** 2 Instructors, 1 ASM

**Staff Prerequisites:** (to completed before presenting to new scouts)

- 1 week before the meeting - Ask Mr. T for the troop and patrol org charts and print out enough copies for scouts
- Download a copy of the new scout guide from our public web site and have a copy for each boy: <http://www.nashuaboy Scouts.org/resources/IntroToScoutingTroop272.pdf>

### Materials:

- HANDOUT – Org Charts
- HANDOUT – New Scout Guide (from Troop Web site)

### Method:

- USING TROOP ORG CHART HANDOUT:
  - Discuss the basics. Troop is around 24 boys with goal of 32. Divided into 4 groups called Patrols and they are split up by ages – 10-11 years old, 12-13 years old, 14-15 years old, 16-18 years old.
  - Each Patrol has an elected boy leader called a PL and he appoints an APL.
  - Every scout has a job in their patrol and will be counted on to do his job
  - Mr T is Scoutmaster (think of him like a team coach you have in sports)
  - Mr has helpers called Assist Scoutmasters (Mr. M, Mr. Milani) etc.
  - SPL is head boy leader and is elected every 6 months
  - SPL has helpers too. They are called ASPL's and SPL assigns them. See chart.
- USING NEW SCOUT GUIDE HANDOUT:
  - Discuss the boy scout handbook
  - Go over what they should bring to each meeting (pen, handbook, paper)
  - Go over troop uniform rules
  - Go over behavior rules (have them read the scout guide section on this)
  - Ask them to get email address
  - Talk about importance of reading email
  - Show them the troop cabinet
  - Tell them where the troop web sites are: <http://www.nashuaboy Scouts.org> and <http://nashua272.mytroop.us>
  - Describe the 4 steps to boy scout advancement and what is entailed in each (A **scout learns (like in the class)**, he is **tested** (and signed-off), and for each rank he is **reviewed** (by troop committee in a BOR) and he is **recognized** (at a COH))

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### **Session 2: Picking a patrol name, yell, & making a patrol flag (Req. 3b)**

**Location:** Classroom

**Scout Prerequisites:** None

**Staff:** 2 Instructors, 1 ASM

**Staff Prerequisites:** (to completed before presenting to new scouts)

- Read new Boy Scout Handbook (BSH) pg. 36-39
- Put together 3 handouts for scouts

#### **Materials:**

- HANDOUT - Assemble a handout with sample patrol yells
- HANDOUT - Put together a handout of various patrol patches available
- HANDOUT – Detailing possible patrol flag styles
- Plan to have sample patrol flags
- (if time allows) Box of flag making materials.

#### **Method:**

- Discuss the importance of the patrol method as a way to built teamwork and develop leadership skills. Talk about kinds of Patrols BSH – pg 37
- Guide the boys in picking a patrol name. Show them existing list of patrol patches. Ask each boy the pick 3 patrol possible patrol names and write them on paper. After all scouts have done this, announce the most common name selected.
- Guide the boys in picking and learning a patrol yell. Discuss when and where it is appropriate to use the yell.
- Elect a patrol leader
- Guide the boys in selecting a patrol flag style and encourage the new patrol leader to put a patrol meeting together to let them work on it together and assemble it.

## Troop 272 Nashua, NH – Scout Rank Fast-Start Program

### Session 3: Leave No Trace and the Outdoor Code (requirement 1e)

**Location:** Outside sitting in a group OR Using Classroom

**Scout Prerequisites:** None

**Staff:** 2 Instructors, 1 ASM

**Staff Prerequisites:** (to completed before presenting to new scouts)

- Read new Boy Scout Handbook (BSH) section on the outdoor code
- Read new Boy Scout Handbook section on Leave-No-Trace

#### **Materials:**

- Boy Scout Handbook for each scout

#### **Method:**

- Show them how to find the outdoor code in their handbooks
- Show them how to find leave-no-trace information in their handbooks.
- Discuss both how and why boy scout follow these codes (it is our duty to respect God's creation and use it wisely. We want to enjoy it for years to come).

#### **Notes:**

##### **Outdoor Code:**

**As an American, I will do my best to -**

**Be clean in my outdoor manners.**

**Be careful with fire.**

**Be considerate in the outdoors.**

**Be conservation minded.**

The Leave No Trace principles might seem unimportant until you consider the combined effects of millions of outdoor visitors. One poorly located campsite or campfire may have little significance, but thousands of such instances seriously degrade the outdoor experience for all. Leaving no trace is everyone's responsibility.

### **The Principles of Leave No Trace**

- 1. Plan Ahead and Prepare**
- 2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**
- 3. Dispose of Waste Properly (Pack It In, Pack It Out)**
- 4. Leave What You Find (Take only pictures and leave only footprints)**
- 5. Minimize Campfire Impacts**
- 6. Respect Wildlife**
- 7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

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## Session 4: How to earn a merit badge (requirement 2d)

**Location:** Classroom

**Scout Prerequisites:** None

**Staff:** 1 Instructor

**Staff Prerequisites:** (to completed before presenting to new scouts)

- Become believable expert in the topic area (people don't learn from folks who strike them as non-expert and who read from a book). Know the process yourself beforehand.
- Write down your speech on note cards and practice your speech ahead of time
- TIP: Alternatively, try doing the merit badge earning process as a play: make pretend phone calls to an adult counselor, pretend to go to a meeting with him, get the card signed, etc Actors will play scoutmaster, counselor, and you play the scout!

### Materials:

- Note cards to write your speech on
- Enlarged blue cards as a visual aid (use posters, powerpoint, etc)
- Sample merit badge pamphlet (visual aid) – has merit badge specific
- Sample merit badge workbook (visual aid) – download from [meritbadges.org](http://meritbadges.org)
- Merit Badge Requirements List book (visual aid)

### Method:

- **So what is a merit badge and how do you earn one?**
  - A merit badge is a patch you earn when you have completed a set of merit badge requirements. There are over 120 merit badge you can earn over the next 7 years.
  - They are designed to be a fun way that you can learn about an area of personal interest from expert teacher that is called a counselor.
  - For example, if you want to learn about science, nature, backpacking, geocaching, etc. You can do this by earning a merit badge!
  - This is MY MERIT BADGE SASH, which has some examples of merit badges on it. *Show your merit badge sash and discuss a favorite.*
- **There are over 120 merit badges that you can earn. So where you might ask do you find a list of merit badges? THERE ARE TWO WAYS:**
  1. *Hold up the merit badge list book.* There is a published book which lists all the merit badges and their requirements
  2. On the Internet - [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) in one place that you can look at
- **So let's imagine you use the list to find a merit badge you like. What are the possible ways that you can earn one?**
  1. The first way is at summer camp with troop if it is offered
  2. The second way is Summer camp by yourself (provo) if it is offered
  3. The next way is in a groups (when a class is offered)



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4. The last way and most important way is by yourself – doing a badge by yourself is often the only way to get badges that are interesting to you but maybe of no interest to others.
- **So let's imagine you want to work on badge yourself. What are the steps you need to follow?**
    1. Scout fills out a blue card and has the scoutmaster sign it (new scouts – we'll do that tonight for the Textile Merit Badge)
    2. Scout contacts a **registered** Merit Badge Counselor and express his desire to earn a badge. If your troop does not currently have a merit badge counselor for the particular badge, the scout has to recruit one that has subject appropriate expertise (getting the counselor to sign forms)
    3. Set up and meet the counselor along with a buddy or parent and discuss how to get the most out of the time spent working on the badge.
    4. Give him/her a Scoutmaster signed merit badge application (commonly called a blue card). Example: *hold up a blue card*
    5. Learn and do the requirements described in the subject-specific merit badge pamphlet. Example: *SHOW PAMPHLET*
    6. When ready, meet with the counselor again to go over the important parts of the subject. A good counselor will also help you go beyond the requirements and discover ways to continue learning about the subject.
    7. When the Scout has satisfactorily completed the requirements, the counselor will sign the merit badge "blue card".
    8. The Scout will give the signed "blue card" to his Scoutmaster.
    9. The badge will be presented to the Scout during a troop ceremony
  - **Exercise to fill out their first blue card:**
    - Step the boys through the process of filling out a blue card line-by-line.
    - Use the Textile merit badge (being offered sometime in April) as the basis for filling out the cards.
    - Have them get the card signed by the scoutmaster with your guidance.

### Notes:

## Troop 272 Nashua, NH – Scout Rank Fast-Start Program

### **Session #5: ROPE CARE (coiling, whipping, fusing) (requirement 4b)**

**Location:** Classroom

**Scout Prerequisites:** None

**Staff:** 2 Instructors

**Staff Prerequisites:** (to completed before presenting to new scouts)

- Gather materials (see below for list)
- Become believable expert in the topic area (rope whipping)
- Make sure you can coil a rope properly and tie the bundle for storage

#### **Materials:**

- (2) - 25-foot coils of rope
- 3 foot sections of thick rope or manila rope for cutting
- Roll of kite string, waxed dental floss, or waxed string for whipping
- Candle or lighter or matches
- Knife

#### **Method:**

Demonstrate how to coil a rope and prepare it for storage.

Demonstrate how to whip the ends of a lashing rope. BSH 380 (new handbook)

After demonstration, guide the boys to doing it themselves

Show how to using a candle flame. Have each scout cut himself a 30 inch piece and instruct him to keep it in his pocket. He will need it for lashing and other uses.

#### **Notes:**

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### **Session #6: KNOTS (square, two-half, taut-line) (requirement 4a)**

**Location:** Classroom

**Scout Prerequisites:** None

**Staff:** 2 Instructors

**Staff Prerequisites:** (to completed before presenting to new scouts)

- Gather materials (see below for list)
- Become believable expert in the topic area
- Go to scout garage for materials.

#### **Materials:**

- 10 X 12 plastic tarps (4)
- Tent stakes (20)
- 6-foot tent poles or hiking poles (8)
- 25-foot rope sections (4)

#### **Method:**

#### **Boys like hands-on learning.**

Boys like hands-on learning with a purpose. In this session, you'll teach some knots and then put the boys to work using the knots to setup a tarp – a skill every scout should have.

Teach (using EDGE method) Two Half Hitches and Tautline Hitch and how they can be used to setup a tarp – BSH 304

#### **Notes:**

## Troop 272 Nashua, NH – Scout Rank Fast-Start Program

### **Session #7: Pocketknife Safety (requirement 5)**

**Location:** Outdoors (could be on a campout...or just behind the church during a meeting)

**Staff:** 2 Instructors (more if available)

#### **Prerequisites:**

- Review this video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ks8pVWR\\_-Zg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ks8pVWR_-Zg)

#### **Materials:**

- A scout pocket knife per scout (have them bring one)
- Knife Sharpening Stone
- A 2 foot stick about 1" in diameter for each scout
- Sample tent peg you have whittled

**Method:** Boys like hands-on learning – not lectures sitting in a classroom. Try to hold the session outside in a large circle (where everyone sits) with enough distance between each person to give them an adequate safety circle.

- Ask each boy to show you how to open and close their knife. Correct any issues you see
- Go around the circle and ask each boy to name a safe pocketknife rule or two.
- Let them whittle for a bit and show them how to make a tent peg (notch near the top)
- NOTE: Be sure to notify ASM or SPL of serious safety issues and those involved.

#### **Notes: Some sample safety rules to review with them**

- A knife is a tool, not a toy.
- Keep your blade sharp - A sharp knife is safer because it is less likely to slip and cut you.
- Keep the blade clean and dry
- Never carry an open pocketknife.
- When you are not using your knife, close it and put it away.
- When you are using the cutting blade, do not try to make big shavings or chips.
- Make a safety circle: Before you pick up your knife to use it, stretch your arm out and turn in a circle. If you can't touch anyone else, it is safe to use your knife.
- Do NOT carve your initials into anything that does not belong to you
- Never bring your knife to school

#### **Sharpening Technique to Teach Them:**

- Place the whet stone on a level surface.
- Moisten the whet stone with a little water or oil.
- Place the blade of the knife flat on the stone, then raise the back edge about the width of the blade itself, keeping the cutting edge on the stone.
- Push the blade along the stone as though you were slicing a layer off the top. Sharpen the other side of the blade in the same manner. This is always better than moving it in a circular fashion.

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### Session #9: FIRE BUILDING (Firem'n Chit)

**Location:** Outdoors (could be on a campout...or just behind the church)

**Staff:** 2 Instructors (more if available)

**Prerequisites:** None

**Materials:**

- A few buckets for water
- Ax, saws, shovels
- Various Tinder materials
- Kindling materials
- Fuel wood
- Fire rings or wheel barrow bodies in which to build the fires
- Read and understand fire use and safety rules from the *Boy Scout Handbook*.
- Prepare a handout that details the [Outdoor Code and Leave-No-Trace principles](#)
- Prepare a handout that details to fire use and safety rules from the *Boy Scout Handbook*

**Method:**

1. Pass out the fire use and safety rules handout and go over it. Ask scouts to read parts of it to keep them interested.
2. Show them how you are following those rules by having a water bucket, shovel, cleared fire pit, etc and you are following the Outdoor Code.
3. Talk about the 3 kinds of fire building materials you need for a fire (tinder, kindling, and fuel wood). Demonstrate how to make kindling from fuel wood using an Ax.
4. Demonstrate how to build a fire and explain your technique.
5. Discuss the importance of dry materials vs wet. Give them tips on how to find dry firewood in wet conditions.
6. If time allows, send them out to find samples of tinder, kindling, and fuel wood. Discuss why some choices might not be appropriate.
7. Divide the group up into teams and have them build and light a small fire.
8. Briefly discuss the difference between a warming fire and a cooking fire.
9. Hand out the firem'n chit cards and tell them when they are ready to be tested on their firebuilding skills, to see an ASM or ASPL of First Year Scouts to get them signed. This could be right away.

If extra instructors are available, more than one buddy pair at a time may be taught.

**Notes:**

## Troop 272 Nashua, NH – Scout Rank Fast-Start Program

### **Session #10: Knife, Ax, Saw Skills (Totin Chip)**

**Location:** Outdoors (could be on a campout...or just behind the church)

**Staff:** 2 Instructors (more if available)

#### **Prerequisites:**

- Expert Knowledge of Requirements and Materials
- Download the Totin Chip Teaching Syllabus and Test from the Web site

#### **Materials:**

- Ground cloth to layout tools on
- Large chopping block to split wood on (ex. Log about 12 inches in diameter)
- A buckets containing a scout Ax, saws, shovels
- A few pairs of safety glasses
- A few pairs of work gloves
- A scout pocket knife
- Knife Sharpening Stone
- Metal File for sharpening an Ax
- Tape or rope to setup the perimeter of the ax yard
- 4 Tent Stakes to hold Ax OR device to hold Ax
- A few logs about 6 feet long and 3-6 inches in diameter

#### **Method:**

1. Deliver all the material on the syllabus related to Ax, Saw, and Knife care.
2. Deliver the test to ensure that scouts know the materials

#### **Notes:**