

# ***Boy Scout Troop 70 Handbook***

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## **Welcome to Troop 70**

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 70. We hope you and your family enjoy being with us. We are a scout-run troop, chartered by the Boy Scouts of America. We are sponsored by American Legion Post 10 in Boulder, Colorado. This handbook is intended to give you information about our troop, and the Boy Scouts of America. Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

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## **What are the Boy Scouts?**

The Boy Scouts is a youth program founded in Great Britain by Lord Robert Baden-Powell. Baden-Powell was a military officer who gained fame in the Boer Wars of the early 1900s. He was appalled by the senseless waste of life caused by the soldiers lack of survival skills, and decided to prevent similar tragedies in the future. He also was looking for a way to make boys into better men.

In 1907, Baden-Powell invited a group of boys to the first Boy Scout camp on Brownsea Island. He soon wrote *Scouting for Boys*, a book intended to pass on his ideas. It became an instant bestseller, and boys joined by the thousands.

In 1909, William Boyce, an American visitor, was lost in the London fog. A young boy helped him to find his destination. When Boyce offered the boy a tip, the boy said, "No thank you, sir. I am a scout. I won't take anything for helping."

Intrigued, Boyce asked the boy what a scout was. The boy told him about himself and his brother scouts, and took Boyce to the British scouting office. There, Boyce met Baden-Powell, and decided to bring scouting to the United States.

On February 8, 1910, Boyce and others founded the Boy Scouts of America. Since then, millions of boys have enjoyed and benefited from scouting.

Despite its founding by a military officer, Boy scouts is not a military organization. It is a youth program with the objectives of developing character, citizenship and fitness.

If you were in Cub Scouting, you will notice a major difference between that and Boy Scouting. In Cub Scouts, adults planned and ran the program. In Boy Scouts, the scouts themselves plan and organize the troop. The role of the adult leaders is to assist them in doing so.

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## **Troop Organization**

The Boy Scouts of America does not operate units directly. Instead, it grants charters to organizations authorizing them to organize scout troops as part of their youth service program.

Our chartered organization is American Legion Post 10. The Post Commander is the Institution Head, responsible for the troop. He appoints a Chartered Organization Representative (COR) to act as a liaison between the troop and the Legion. The troop committee acts for the institution head in making policies and providing support for the troop.

Major positions on the committee are the Committee Chair (CC), the Advancement Chair, the Secretary/Treasurer, and the Program Chair. These people are responsible for major areas of the troop operation.

The Committee selects a Scoutmaster (SM) and one or more Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM) to oversee the Troop and to advise the Troop leaders.

The troop is run by the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), who is elected by the entire troop membership. He appoints a staff to help him in his job, consisting of an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL), a

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Scribe (SCR), a Quartermaster (QM) and a Librarian (LIB). Other positions are appointed as needed.

The scouts are divided into patrols of 6-10 members. Each patrol elects a Patrol Leader (PL) to run the patrol. He appoints an Assistant Patrol Leader (APL), and other positions as he sees fit.

The Patrol Leaders' Council consists of the Senior Patrol Leader, the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, the Scribe and the Patrol Leaders. They meet annually to plan the yearly calendar, and monthly to make detailed plans for the following month's meetings.

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### **Troop Meetings**

Troop meetings are held from 7:00-8:30 p.m. each Monday night at American Legion Post 10, 4760 28th Street, Boulder, CO. The scouts should enter through the door at the left (north) end of the building. Scouts are encouraged to attend all meetings, and to arrive before the starting time. Each scout should bring his Boy Scout Handbook, a notebook and pen/pencil to every meeting.

Adults are welcome to attend any meeting or activity they wish. There are no closed or secret meetings.

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### **Uniform**

The minimum acceptable uniform for meetings is the troop neckerchief, with an official scout shirt, which must be clean, buttoned and tucked in. The shirt must have the following patches, in the locations specified in the Boy Scout Handbook:

- ◆ Left Sleeve - Longs Peak Council Strip, the number 70, current position patch (if applicable)
- ◆ Right Sleeve - American flag, patrol emblem, one Quality Unit emblem (if applicable)
- ◆ Left Pocket - Rank badge
- ◆ Above left pocket - World Scouting Emblem

Additional patches may be worn on the uniform if the scout has earned them: Arrow of Light, Recruiter strip, Interpreter strip, Trained strip, Religious Award knot with devices, Order of the Arrow Lodge flap, and temporary patch. If worn, these must be in the correct location.

Additional uniform items are encouraged, and are appropriate for any meeting: pants, belt, socks, hat. If a hat is worn with the uniform, it must be an official scout hat.

Full-dress items are encouraged at Courts of Honor and other ceremonial occasions: Merit Badge sash, medals. Uniform for activities will be specified for each activity. Travel to and from activities will always be in uniform, either the scout shirt, or troop t-shirt. During activities, other shirts are acceptable. Any designs or slogans on the shirts must be in good taste. Drug- and alcohol-related messages are inappropriate.

Additional uniform items (pants, belt, socks) are discouraged for activities. These are expensive and easily lost or damaged.

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### **Troop Rules**

Our troop operates by the Scout Oath and Law. The scout must at all times be Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent.

Specific rules adopted by the troop are:

- ◆ There will be no profanity at any troop meetings or activities.
- ◆ We do not throw things at one another: rocks, pine cones, snowballs, water, anything.

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- ◆ Decisions in the troop and patrol are made by majority vote.
- ◆ We discourage roughhousing between scouts. Roughhousing between a large scout and a small one, or more than one against one is not allowed.
- ◆ There will be no hazing or initiations of new scouts.
- ◆ There will be no use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs on any scout activity. Adults who smoke must do so in designated areas, and not in the presence of scouts.

Rule violations will be handled by the PLC. In extreme cases, or when the PLC is not able to resolve the issue, adult leaders will become involved.

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### **Activities**

Our troop schedules a number of activities each year, including hikes, camp outs, ski trips...whatever the scouts plan. Times, meeting places and uniforms will be announced in advance of each activity.

Costs of the activity will be announced before the activity, and it is the scout's responsibility to pay them. Costs charged per individual will be charged to the scout. Troop charges will be split among all scouts. When we cook by patrols, food costs will be split among patrol members. Scouts who commit to attending an activity, but do not attend, will be responsible for their share of the prorated cost.

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### **Troop Calendar**

The troop calendar is published each September, for the following October-September. It will list all planned activities and meetings.

Regular activities are a Court of Honor on the last Monday of each quarter, a Board of Review at the last meeting of each month, and a PLC meeting the next-to-last Wednesday of each month. Exceptions may be dictated by holidays and other conflicts. These will be noted on the troop calendar.

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### **Troop Finances**

The scouts are responsible for financing the troop. Troop dues are \$4.00 per month, or \$48.00 per year. These are payable by the end of each March, when the troop recharter. Scouts who join in midyear pay a prorated amount at the time they join.

The major troop fundraiser is the Boy Scout Popcorn Sale in the fall. Scouts are encouraged to sell as much popcorn as they are able. 50% of the profits go to the troop. The other 50% goes to the scout selling the popcorn.

These go into an individual scout account that can be used for paying scout-related expenses: uniform costs, equipment, activity fees or dues.

The troop may have other fundraisers during the year, as approved by the troop committee. Scouts are encouraged to participate.

"I can't afford it" is not a reason to avoid scouting. If you have problems with costs of the program, talk to the Scoutmaster or a troop committee member.

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### **Troop Equipment**

The troop owns some equipment: tents, first-aid kit, cook kits, stoves, axes, etc. Each scout should have his own personal equipment. A good starting list is in the Boy Scout Handbook.

**For every outdoor activity:**

The scout needs the outdoor essentials. These are:

- ◆ Water bottle or canteen
- ◆ Pocketknife
- ◆ Personal first aid kit containing
  - Band-Aids
  - moleskin
  - adhesive tape
  - gauze pads
  - Tylenol
  - change for phone
- ◆ Extra clothing
- ◆ Rain Gear
- ◆ Flashlight
- ◆ Trail Food
- ◆ Matches and Fire Starters
- ◆ Sunscreen
- ◆ Compass and map
- ◆ Whistle
- ◆ Emergency blanket

We recommend a day pack or fanny pack to carry these items.

**Camping**

For camp outs, the scout needs:

- ◆ Sleeping bag or blankets (around +20-30 degrees)
- ◆ Air mattress or sleeping pad
- ◆ Ground cloth
- ◆ Extra clothes
- ◆ Mess kit
- ◆ Eating Utensils
- ◆ Toilet kit

These need to be carried in a pack or bag. Much of our camping is car-camping, where a good backpack is not essential.

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The scout does not need his own tent, as long as troop tents are available. A scout who does have a tent may use it if he wishes.

### **Backpacking**

On a backpacking trip, a good, well-fitting backpack is essential. The scout should be able to carry his personal gear, as well as his share of the patrol equipment. A good sleeping bag is important, too, as blankets are too bulky.

### **Cold-weather Camping**

The troop camps year-round. For cold-weather camping, additional equipment is necessary. The list here is the best for the job, but cheaper substitutes are available. See the Scoutmaster for more information.

With proper equipment, cold-weather camping does not mean being cold. The sleeping bag should be rated for about -20 degrees. A liner or cover for the regular bag can work.

Warm footgear is essential. Tennis shoes with snow boots do not work. Good insulated boots (Sorels or equivalent) are best. Socks should have no cotton content. Wool or synthetic pile are the socks of choice. Polypropylene or silk sock liners help a lot. Bring plenty of extra socks.

Clothing should consist of three layers. None of the layers should be cotton if possible. The inner layer should wick moisture away from the skin (polypropylene underwear works well). The second layer should trap an air layer (pile and fleece work well). The outer layer should stop the wind (Nylon is good).

A good hat and gloves finish the outfit. Wind-resistance is a good feature. Bring extra hats and gloves, since with scouts, these tend to get wet and/or lost.

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## **Advancement**

### **First Class and Below**

Scouts advance by satisfying all requirements for a rank or badge, no more and no less. Requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class may be signed off by the SPL, ASPL or PL, as long as the person signing is at least First Class. These may also be signed off by any adult leader, including the scout's parent.

### **Star and above**

All requirements for Star and above must be signed off by an adult leader.

### **Scoutmaster Conference**

When a scout feels he has satisfied all requirements for a rank, he must schedule a Scoutmaster Conference with the scoutmaster. If at all possible, this should be done before Board of Review night.

### **Board of Review**

When the scoutmaster is satisfied the scout has passed all requirements for a rank, he will schedule the scout to appear before a Board of Review (BOR). This is a review board consisting of 3-5 members of the troop committee. They will interview the scout to ensure he has passed all requirements.

This is not a retest on requirements. It is a discussion of what the scout has learned, how he feels about the troop, and what the troop can do better.

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### **Merit Badges**

When a scout feels he is ready to work on a merit badge, he will ask the scoutmaster for a blue card. This authorizes the scout to work on the requirements with a merit badge counselor approved by the scoutmaster and the troop advancement chair. The scout is responsible for scheduling sessions with the merit badge counselor, and returning the completed blue card to the scoutmaster when work is completed.

### **Presentation of badges**

Badges will be presented to the scout at the first meeting following completion of the badge. Formal recognition will be presented at the next Court of Honor (COH).