

TROOP 176 GUIDE BOOK

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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this guidebook is to provide a method for equal evaluation of rank advancement and guidelines to help clarify what is expected of each Scout, Scouter (adult leader) and parent/guardian. In this way, each Scout in Troop 176 will be on equal footing and recognition will be provided in a consistent matter. This guide is intended to augment the Boy Scout Handbook as a method of clarification of what is expected to attain each rank and be an active member of this troop.

It also cites certain BSA and troop policies and procedures that have been established to ensure that our activities are conducted in the safe manner.

This guide is intended for all Scouts, their parents/guardians & all Scouters of Troop 176. It is intended for the guidebook to be a living and growing document; therefore changes will be necessary as conditions dictate. If you have any suggestions that you think will improve or clarify this book's contents, please contact the Scoutmaster. The last page of this guidebook contains a signature form that must be signed by all scouts and their parents/guardians. Your signature will confirm reading this guidebook and agreeing to its contents. The signature form can also be used to provide comments back to the troop committee chairman, and troop committee to improve and enhance the information stated in this guidebook.

2. INTRODUCTION

The goal of Troop 176 is to provide young men with the full Scouting experience program, citizenship, character building, physical and mental fitness, and as always having fun! The values we strive to instill are based upon those found in Scout Oath, Scout Law, and Outdoor Code.

2.1. Scout Oath

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

2.2. Scout Law

A Scout is:
trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly,
courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful,
thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

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2.3. 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, and
Be conservation- minded.

A detailed explanation of the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and Outdoor Code can be found in the Boy Scout Handbook.

2.4. Slogan and Motto

“Do a Good Turn Daily” and “Be Prepared” are the Scout Slogan and Scout Motto. All scouts in Troop 176 are expected to do at least one good turn daily- not just in Scouting, but everywhere. A “good turn” is an unsolicited action by the Scout when a useful service is performed for the family, a friend, a neighbor, or anyone. “Be Prepared”, the Scout motto, is encouraged in all we do- being prepared for a camping trip, preparing for a field trip, or even getting ready for a vacation- its value never ceases to be realized.

The Scout Oath, Slogan, Law, and Motto enhance and promote character, self-confidence, and self-discipline.

3. SCOUT SPIRIT

After receiving the rank of Tenderfoot, a Scout has a new requirement pertaining to each of the ranks on his trail to Eagle - “Demonstrate Scout Spirit”. This is perhaps the most important requirement a Scout must attain. It is Scout Spirit that compels a young person to step away from the crowd and stand up for what he knows is right rather than shrugging his shoulders and thinking “everyone else is doing it, so I can to...”. Scout Spirit is the temperament and attitude of a young person that defines that ability to lead and be led. It is the true measurement of a Scout.

Scout Spirit is a feeling of: pride in belonging to and carrying on the traditions of Scouting. This pride shows itself in the actions that each Scout exhibits, both as an individual and as part of a group. Scout Spirit demonstrates to others through deeds and actions that one is proud to be a Boy Scout. While no one can know how a person feels inside about Scouting, there are certain actions that can be done to show others Scout Spirit. These things include:

- Trying your best to live the Scout Oath and Law.
- Always wearing your uniform correctly to all Scouting events. The uniform should be worn properly and proudly. It should be cared for properly, as well as be neat and clean. It has many years of tradition and heritage behind it.

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- Helping when asked to participate. It is far too common to sit there and say: “I don’t know,” “I can’t do that,” “I don’t know how to do that,” or “Why do I always have to help?” But it is a Scout with dedication and spirit that will earnestly try to carry out what he says and does. That is the Scout who is not afraid to think or act on what he has learned, or the Scout who will pick up his book and learn... a Scout with a “I can-do-it” attitude.
- Attending as many Scouting functions as possible. A Scout with spirit doesn’t stay at home because the weather is bad or he doesn’t sound like it will be fun; he helps make it fun no matter what.
- Volunteering for activities, such as skits or songs. Scouting can only be fun if a Scout participates.
- Being on one’s best behavior everywhere. How a Scout acts with the troop or on his own reflects on all Scouts everywhere.
- Having a positive attitude. The way a person feels and acts rubs off on the people around him. So make the best of all situations. Others will appreciate your positive attitude and want you around them.

In order to advance, Scouts are required to show Scouting Spirit, both in their Scouting and daily lives. The Scoutmaster or his designate are the only leaders who can sign this requirement in the Scout’s Handbook. **Scout spirit is easy - all you have to do is try!**

4.0 UNIFORM

The purpose of the uniform is to identify us as Scouts, to showcase our achievements of rank, and to enhance a sense of uniformity amongst fellow Scouts. Although we are not the military, just like any other organization, our uniform shows unity and pride. Boy Scouting is an action program and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout’s commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform places the Scout in a worldwide brotherhood of youth that believes in the same ideals. Putting on the Scout uniform is a sign to the world that one has taken the Scout obligations and folks expect Scout-like acts from someone wearing the uniform.

All Scouts and Scouters are expected to wear their uniforms to all meetings, camping trips, hikes, public outings, and all official Scout functions. There are no exceptions other than those given by the Scoutmaster for different occasions. All Scouts are expected to be in full uniform within 30 days of joining this troop. When buying a uniform, some patches need to be purchased at the same time. Advancement and special recognition awards are provided by the troop when a Scout earns it. A listing of catalog stores or local retail stores in the vicinity has been attached to this guide for your convenience. The troop also accepts donated, outgrown uniforms that are kept in the troop possession. See an adult leader for more info on this experienced uniform exchange program. It is the Scouts Duty to ensure that his uniform is maintained, kept clean and neat, and all patches are in the correct location. The scout is responsible to sew on rank patches.

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Basic Uniform Patches:

- Southeast Louisiana Council Patch
- 176 numeral patches
- World Scouting Crest (PURPLE)
- Arrow of Light (only if earned in Webelos)
- Patrol Patch (whatever patrol your son is assigned to)

NOTE: All other patches must be earned and awarded to the Scout or the troop (such as the Quality Unit Award). Attached is an Insignia Guide that shows the correct placement of all patches and pins on the Scout Uniform.

Order of the Arrow Lodge Patches:

In order to wear the OA lodge Patch, a Scout, or Scouter must be a current member in good standing with the OA lodge (dues paid)- otherwise it should be removed.

Name Tags:

Adults, on the right pocket flap, or above the “Boy Scouts of America” patch if you have an OA lodge flap, may wear nametags.

Quality Unit Award:

If the troop has earned the “Quality Unit Award” for the current year, that year’s Quality Unit patch may be worn and please note only keep the current year on the uniform not all of them.

Basic Uniform (Class “A”):

- Scout Uniform Shirt with Correct insignia
- Troop 176 neckerchiefs. The troop provides every Scout with a troop neckerchief when he joins. Additional neckerchiefs can be purchased in the Scout Shops around the areas.
- Scout long pants or short pants
- Scouting belt and buckle
- Scouting Hat (optional)
- Scout Socks (green w/ red top)

4.1. Activity Uniform

Troop 176’s Activity Uniform consists of a Scouting T-Shirt, worn with scout pants and scout socks. This activity uniform is usually referred to as the “CLASS B” uniform. The activity uniform can be worn during certain events when designated by the Scoutmaster. Any Boy Scout T-shirt or golf shirt (collar) is acceptable . Our troop has created its own green class “B” shirt both golf shirt and t-shirt. These shirts can be purchased through the Troop at registration time each Year. We encourage all Scouts of the troop to get one or more.

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4.2. Inspection

As part of each weekly meeting, following the opening ceremony, a troop inspection is conducted. This inspection goes for individual points so you can go on award trips at the end of the year, and patrol wide Honor Patrol awards. This is intended to encourage the boys to “Be Prepared”. Part of the Uniform Inspection includes the scout handbook, notebook and pen or pencil.

5. SCOUT MEETINGS

Weekly troop meetings are held at St. Jerome Catholic Church each Wednesday night from 7:30 to 9:00 P.M. Patrol Leaders, their assistants, and all junior and adult leaders are encouraged to arrive at 7:15 P.M. Parents/guardians are always welcome to attend, especially on those nights when special speakers are brought in or when we are touring a special facility. The Patrol Leaders’ Council (PLC) will meet at 7:15 P.M. on the second Wednesday of each month. A Troop committee meeting will be held on the first Wednesday troop meeting of each month. This meeting will be held concurrently with the troop meeting.

Each Scouts is expected to bring the following items to every meeting and camping trip:

- A notebook and pencil or pen
- His own Scout Handbook
- A full Scout uniform

We cannot stress enough that each Scout should have and bring his own Scout Handbook and a notebook to every meeting! While we do not want to recreate a schooling atmosphere, much of the information provided must be written down for later use. We expect Scouts to accept responsibility for obtaining and disseminating this information. In addition, the Scout Handbook is not only a valuable source of information; it is also a record of a Scout’s advancement. It must be kept in good condition. The Scouts name should be clearly visible on the outside of each Scout’s handbook.

Part of the weekly troop meetings, will be patrol meetings. Each patrol is responsible for setting their own agenda and conducting these meetings. The importance of these meetings cannot be over-emphasized, as this planning activity is crucial to the operation of the troop’s program. The Scouts should conduct the meeting to cover any patrol business, which is pertinent to current or future activities such as campouts, outings, attendance, work assignments, and food moneys.

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6. SCOUT COSTS

Running a troop and providing the Scouts with equipment, food, a full program, recognition, and awards costs money. We are a non-profit organization and try to minimize the cost to you while providing enough funds to keep us in top shape. Our troop treasurer and committee control all of our troop funds and cash flow. Scouts not in good standing—because of overdue fund-raising moneys or dues –will not be permitted to participate in any activities until all dues/fees are paid or arraignments made with the troop committee chairman.

Some typical costs associated with Scouting through the year are listed below. It should be noted that uniform costs are not included here.

6.1. Troop Re-Charter And Annual Dues

Every January, our troop renews its charter and pays a registration fee for the troop and each Scout and Scouter. A Scout cannot advance or attend any activities if he is not registered with the BSA. The Annual Dues for Troop 176 are \$ 65.00. A Troop T-shirt is included in this price. Troop dues are collected in the months of December and January. This Troop feels that money should not be a barrier to the program. If these dues present a financial burden, please contact the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman to work out other arrangements. Families with two or more boys in the troop pay \$ 65.00 for the first Scout and \$ 45.00 for each additional Scout. Again, these prices include a Troop T-shirt for each Scout. Troop dues covers the annual national registration fee, a year's subscription to Boy's Life magazine, Troop insurance and a Troop T-shirt. Dues help defray the cost of awards and patches that the Scouts earn and Troop equipment. Additionally, each Scout is expected to earn the monies for his dues. This will help instill a sense of responsibility and money management.

6.2. Camping Trips

Typical fees, at this time, for most outings are \$18.00. Each trip's cost can vary based on location, duration and facility fees.

6.3. Summer Camp and High Adventure Programs

Summer Camp and High adventure program costs will be announced several months in advance. We encourage each Scout to earn these fees. (These cost can be significantly offset by the "Scout Account" as described below.)

6.4. Friends of Scouting

Friends of Scouting, (FOS), is a BSA fund raising program by the Southeast Louisiana Council to help support all Scouting Activities within our council.

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6.5. Fund Raisers

In order to raise needed troop funds, various fundraisers are conducted during the year. Each Scout and his parents/guardians are expected to participate and help where needed. We annually, in conjunction with our Council, hold two fundraisers. Each fall we sell Pop Corn, and each spring we sell Scout Show Coupons/Tickets. Fund raising ideas are to be presented to the troop committee for approval and after approval you can then arrange and run the project. Assistance will be provided as necessary.

6.6. Scout Accounts

During each Fund Raising Activity, after a minimum sales goal is met, one half (1/2) of the proceeds raised by each Scout is credited to his account. The scoutmaster sets the minimum Sales goal for each Activity. These accounts may only be used to offset scouting cost. Additionally, these funds may be used for uniform and equipment purchases (such as backpacks, boots, sleeping bags, etc.). Prior approval by the Scout Master is required. Once approval for purchase of uniform or equipment is obtained, the troop will reimburse the Scout upon presentation of a receipt for the item(s). Checks will not be drawn ahead of time except when special arrangements have been made. Troop activities qualify for use of these monies.

At the end of every Scouting year (January), these accounts will be evaluated for renewal. If a Scout is and has been active for the entire Scout year, all funds in his account will be carried over to the next Scouting year. If however, a Scout has not been active, his account will be closed and all remaining funds will be added to the troop's account. In order to be considered active, a Scout must attend 75% of the meetings and trips. Missing a meeting the night before a school test is always excused. For all other excused absences, the Scout must submit his reasons to the Scoutmaster for review within two weeks of absence. This policy for evaluating a Scout's active status will be strictly upheld. This will be prorated for Scouts who join mid-year. (See Attendance, section 10)

6.7. Damaged Troop Equipment

If troop or patrol equipment is damaged in a way that is deemed above and beyond "normal wear and tear", the troop committee will hold the involved individual Scout and/or Scouter accountable to replace the damaged equipment. (See Troop Equipment, section 13)

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7. BEHAVIOR and DISCIPLINE

It is not the responsibility of the Troop adult leadership to deal with continual disciplinary problems or abnormal behavior problems. We expect each Scout to live by the Scout Oath and Scout Law at all times. Behavioral or disciplinary problems, which are not consistent with these values and BSA Regulations, can and will, if the situation is serious enough, result in the removal of the Scout from any activity - regardless of its location.

The following actions will result in a Scoutmaster Conference between the Scoutmaster and the Scout with punishment to be determined by Scoutmaster:

- Fighting (physical contact) - punishment will also include the forfeiture of any accumulated time for the next rank.
- Insubordination to Youth or Adult Leaders.
- Breaking of Troop Rules established by Leadership Core.

Scouts are required to use respect at all times in dealings with other Scouts and Leaders. The use of "Yes Sir", "No Sir", "Yes Ma'am", "No Ma'am", "Please" and "Thank You" is expected. All Adults are to be addressed with Mr. or Mrs., (Ms.) and name of adult's choice. Nicknames are only allowed with approval of Scoutmaster and the person who will have the nickname.

The Scoutmaster will place on probation any Troop 176 Scout who receives two Scoutmaster conferences for behavior within a 90-day period. When a Scout is placed on probation, a Scoutmaster Conference is required before the Scout can participate in future Troop/Scouting functions or activities. In addition to the Scoutmaster Conference, the Scout must bring a parent or guardian, to monitor him for the next 90 days at all Troop meetings and Troop outings that he attends. The Scoutmaster will handle reoccurring disciplinary problems with input from the Chartering Organization Representative and/or Committee Chairman. Discipline action at that point might include additional probation, suspension, or expulsion of the Scout from Troop 176. Expulsion will require consultation and approval of the Charter Organization Representative and in some cases the SELA Council, BSA. Council will be promptly notified should a Scout's behavior require expulsion from the Troop.

The following behavior (misconduct) in transit to and from and at a Troop/Scouting function or activity will not be tolerated and will result in the immediate removal of the Scout from the function or activity:

- Smoking, in any form, or the use of any tobacco product by any youth.
- Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages of any kind.
- Possession or use of any illegal drugs.
- Harassing a fellow Scout or use of hazing (abusive and/or humiliating tricks).
- Possession of a weapon of any kind (e.g. firearm, fixed blade weapon, etc.).
- Any form of sexual misconduct.

Any Scout removed from a Troop/Scouting function or activity for a behavior or discipline problem, will be required to call his parents/guardians and ask them to come

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get him or make arrangements for him to get home, regardless of where we are (distance or location) or what we are doing (time or event). Therefore, Parents/Guardians (or a designee) should be aware that they must be able to be contacted throughout the duration of any Troop activity that their son attends. It is the parents', or guardian's, or designee's responsibility to make arrangements to get the Scout home. If necessary the Charter Organization Representative or Committee Chairman can make arrangements to have two Troop Leaders pick up the Scout and bring him home. Parental Consent of this remedy is automatically provided for in reading and signing of these rules. However, reimbursement for expenses (i.e. gasoline) will be required.

After the Troop has returned home, the Scoutmaster will make a phone call to the parents/guardians of the Scout removed from the function or activity to explain the situation and set up a conference at the soonest date possible. If a Scout is removed from a Troop activity, all fees or funds paid will be forfeited.

If a Scout has to be removed from a Troop activity, he will not be allowed to attend any future Troop functions or activities, including Troop meetings, until a conference has been held between the Scout, his parents/guardians, the Scoutmaster, the Chartering Organization Representative and, if necessary, any other Troop Leaders and adults involved. Should any of the required Troop Leaders or adults not be available for an urgent conference, the Chartering Organization Representative will decide to either proceed with or postpone the conference. However, it is mandatory that those Troop Leaders and, if necessary, any adults who observed the misconduct be present at the conference.

The objective of this conference is to identify a clear understanding of the problem, by both the Scout and his parents/guardians, as well as develop a cooperative solution to the issue. Note there may be situations where the Scout's parents/guardians will be requested to attend a conference without the Scout present. If the behavior or disciplinary problem is serious enough as determined by the Scoutmaster, Chartering Organization Representative or Troop Committee Chairman, to be an overall detriment to the troop the Scout can be removed from the Troop and transfer papers will be given to his parents. The Council Executive (or as a minimum the District Executive) will be notified of the troops actions.

In the event that sexual activity is involved (either between an adult and a youth, between youths, or between adults) the Charter Organization Representative and the Scout Executive will be notified immediately.

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7.1. Adult Behavior

All adult Scouters and parents/guardians attending Troop functions/activities have the additional requirement to be good examples to the youth of the Troop. We expect the adults to use common sense and composure when dealing with the Scouts as well as to live by the Scout Oath and Law.

All adults are expected to be familiar with and abide by this document (Troop 176 Guide Book) and the "Guide to Safe Scouting" for unit leaders published by BSA National. The Troop 176 Guide Book is available electronically from the Troop's website (www.lascouts.net/troop176). A copy of the "Guide to Safe Scouting" can be purchased at the Council Scout Shop or obtained via the internet at the Council website (www.bsa-selacouncil.org) or at the BSA National website (www.bsa.scouting.org - in the adult volunteers area under publications).

Adults will refrain from using profanity toward or around Scouts.

Any and all Tobacco use must be out of view of all Scouts.

Absolutely no alcoholic beverages, no illegal drugs and no firearms are allowed in transit to and from or at any Troop/Scouting function/activity.

Adults will address Scouts by their Name, or Scout, or Gentleman.

Unless there is an imminently dangerous situation, NO adult is allowed to yell or verbally dress down a Scout.

The Scoutmaster and the Senior Assistant Scoutmaster are the direct leaders of the Scouts and will handle all discipline of Scouts.

Any issues or problems an adult may have with the actions of a Scout should immediately be brought to the attention of the Scoutmaster or Senior Assistant Scoutmaster.

Absolutely NO physical violence toward Scouts or other Scouters/adults will be tolerated

8. TROOP STRUCTURE

It has always been the design of scouting that the Scouts lead themselves with a Junior Leadership Core. These Scouts are responsible to run the Troop, set the rules, and provide leadership. The Adult responsible for the Scouts is the Scoutmaster. In conjunction with the Junior Leadership Core, His is the Final Say concerning Scouts. It is imperative for all Scouts to understand that they must follow the lead of the Junior Leaders.

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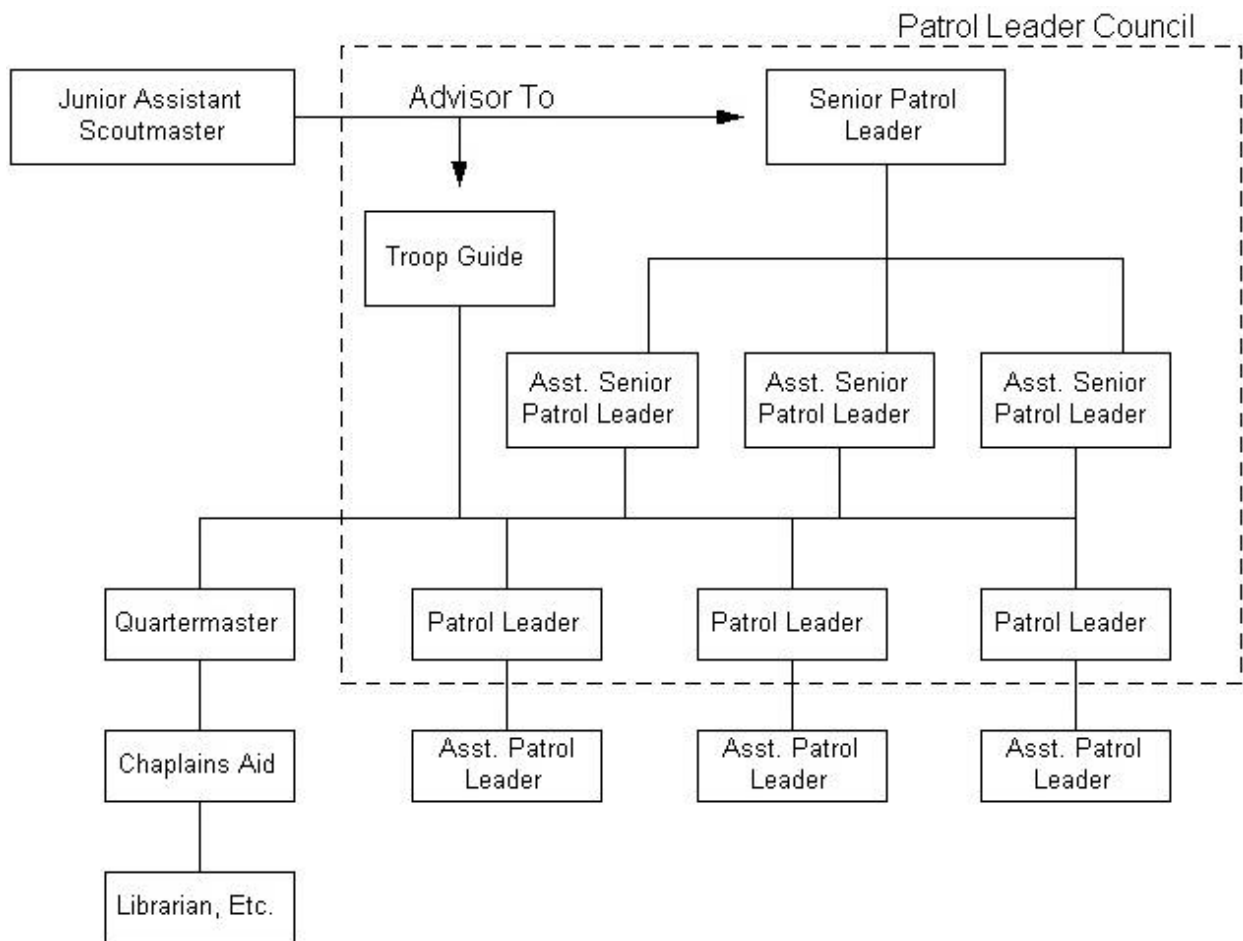
The Troop Committee Chairman and Troop Committee are responsible for the adults of the Unit. This includes both registered and non-registered adults. The troop committee will make all decisions concerning adults, including the approval of all leadership positions. Any decision by the Troop Committee is final, and the only avenue of appeal is to the Charter Organization Representative whose decision is final.

The Charter Organization Representative approves all adult Leadership. Also the Charter Organization Representative makes sure that all of the Troops actions and activities are in keeping with the Charter Organizations policies and Boy Scouts of America's Rules and regulations.

The Charter Organization requires adult Leaders in Troop 176:

- To be trained for the position they hold by BSA.
- Read and sign the Archdiocesan policy on Child Protection.
- To be Additionally Trained in BSA Youth Protection Training.

8.1. Junior Leader Structure



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9. MEDICAL and PERMISSION FORMS

Troop 176 has an Annual Permission & Health Form. This Form is completed each Year in January. Additionally BSA policy provides that many events require a Class II Medical Form. These Forms are signed by a medical Doctor and are valid from 1 to 3 years depending on the event.

These forms will be taken by the troop on all outings and activities. If you need a new form, please contact an adult leader as soon as possible.

9.1. Prescription Medications

As policy, Scouts are not allowed to store any medications in their personal gear. All prescription medications must be given to the Scoutmaster or his designee with written instructions as to their dosage and use. Parents/guardians must provide the Scoutmaster with medication or information for those Scouts who are taking behavioral medications when the Troop is on an outing. The Scout is responsible for remembering to take his medications, and to go see the Adult and obtain the medicines.

9.2. Over-The-Counter Medications

As with prescription medications, over-the counter medications such as Aspirin or Tylenol cannot be kept with the Scout. The Troop maintains an inventory of these medications and they may be dispensed to the Scouts with the approval of Adult in Charge of First Aid For the event.

10. ATTENDANCE

Boy Scouts is a participatory organization. Scouts are expected to attend and participate in as many Scouting activities as possible. This includes both indoor and outdoor events, meetings, campouts, hikes, etc. The camping experience is one of the things that sets Boy Scouts apart from other organizations.

It is through the outdoor experiences that the Scouts learn and grow as the program was intended. Without regular participation, the Scout is not gaining from the program. It would be unfair to the Scouts and the Scouting program to allow Scouts to advance to Eagle without developing the skills expected of this time-honored rank.

After the rank of First Class, participation becomes a requirement for advancement in Star, Life, and Eagle Scout. Up to the rank of First Class, participation reflects on Scout Spirit and still impacts a Scout's advancement. With this in mind, Troop 176, along with many other troops, requires participation in at least 75% attendance of Scouting Events and Meetings to remain active and to advance through these ranks. If a scout is involved in a fight, this time begins all over.

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10.1. School Responsibilities

We expect the Scout to have good grades and excel in School. For this reason, meetings on the school night before a test or exam are considered excused absences. If a Scout's grade average drops below the "C" level he is expected to forfeit the game time at the Troop Meeting and go home at 8:30 from the meeting and study. Furthermore, a Scout is expected to start and attempt to complete his homework prior to meeting time. Additionally, the Scoutmaster may approve other excused absences.

10.2. Camping / Activity Attendance

Attendance on weekend camping trips and other activities will be tracked. Attendance on all camping trips is part of the 75% requirement—however, camping and service time is required for advancement. Please note that in order for a Scout to be recorded for full attendance on a weekend, he must be present on the last day during the teardown at camp.

11. ADVANCEMENT

The leaders of Troop 176 realize the importance of advancement through the ranks of Scouting, yet we do not plan our program around the desire to propel Scouts from one rank to the next. We believe Star, Life and Eagle Scout are a cultivation of maturity and self-discipline. This desired nature cannot be injected into a boy with tests or skill requirements, but rather is a continuous growth process in his Scout Spirit from the first day he becomes a Scout. Troop 176 Scouts are encouraged to advance naturally by participating in troop and patrol activities. They are encouraged to develop self-discipline and an individual plan of advancement for completing requirements and earning the various BSA merit badges.

We believe that young people participating in cooperative and leadership roles along with a quality outdoor program of hiking and camping will find advancement a natural byproduct of the Scouting program.

11.1. Testing Procedures

The BSA Advancement Guide states that a Scout Learns by Doing, Testing and Teaching. We will utilize all three methods in advancing our Scouts. Scouts should not be tested at the time they learn or participate in an activity. Allow at least a week to lapse between the testing and the activity. This will facilitate the learning process by not merely having the Scouts regurgitate information. The use of handbooks by the Scouts during the testing is not allowed. They must know the material on which they are being tested. If there is any doubt as to their knowledge of the subject, have them reread the information and test them the following week. Testing of Scouts should be conducted without the presence of other untested Scouts, as this would give unfair advantage to Scouts who may be helping or watching. Use Scouts of higher rank or Scouters if help is required.

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11.2. Requirement Sign-off

Advancement requirements for First Class and less should be signed by leadership core.

Advancement requirements ranks above First Class or may only be signed by:

- The BSA trained Scoutmaster.
- A BSA trained assistant Scoutmaster.
- The Scoutmaster's designee for that requirement.

Unlike Cub Scouts, parents/guardians of Scouts may not sign off their son's requirements unless a special arrangement has been made with the Scoutmaster for that particular requirement, and only that one requirement.

Note: Merit Badges require an approved counselor!

11.3. The Review Process

A board of review is required for each rank. If a board determines that a Scout has not satisfactorily completed all of the requirements for a given rank, they may ask him to review or rework a requirement and return at a later date, as they deem necessary. A Scout cannot proceed in rank until the board affirms that he has completed all the requirements.

Boards of review are conducted on the third Wednesday of each month, or as appointed by the Advancement Committee. Each Scout is responsible for signing up for a board no later than a week before the board night. Board Members are parents/guardians and committee members—all parents/guardians are encouraged to participate on the boards. If there are a lot of boys getting reviewed, the board of review coordinator may attempt to recruit some people to sit in on these boards. Any help that you can give him/her would be greatly appreciated.

The Advancement Committee is made up of one committee member, (appointed by the Troop Committee) and one assistant scoutmaster (appointed by the Scoutmaster).

Any questions dealing with advancement should be directed to:

The advancement committee.

The Scoutmaster.

The troop committee chairman.

It is extremely important that all leaders' initials be legible with the date in mm/dd/yy format for all sign offs in the Boy Scout Handbooks. If you sign off a Scout's book it is also important that you fill in the master advancement book.

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11.4. BSA Joining Requirements

- Be a boy who has completed 5th grade; or be 10 ½ years old and earned the Arrow of Light Award; or
- Be 11 years of age but not yet 18
- Submit a completed Boy Scout application and health/permission form signed by your parent or guardian along with the Troop Dues

At this point you are registered as a “New Scout” with the BSA. (You are not yet a “Boy Scout”.)

11.5. Requirements to Become a Scout

The Troop Guide will work with and test the new scouts on the following requirements to obtain the rank of Scout.

- Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance without assistance or use of a book.
- Demonstrate the Scout salute, sign, and handclasp without assistance or use of a book.
- Demonstrate how to tie a square knot without using any reference or example.
- Describe the Scout Badge without assistance or use of a book.
- With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet how to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse and Drug abuse, found in the front of your Scout Handbook.
- Discuss with the Scoutmaster that you understand and agree to live by the Scout Oath, Law, motto, slogan, and Outdoor Code.
- Participate in a Scoutmaster conference with the troop Scoutmaster.
- After recognition of the rank, the Scout is allowed to wear the Scout badge on his uniform.

11.6. Rank Advancement

Scouts, you are ready to embark upon one of the most time-honored traditions available to any boy. Honor and respect the traditions of Scouting and you will grow personally as you learn and enjoy all that Scouting has to offer. The fun, adventure, and outdoor knowledge you will gain cannot be duplicated anywhere else in the world. Use your resources (handbook, leaders, and other Scouts) to set goals and achieve your rank advancement. If you make it fun and plan ahead, you can and will achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

Remember.... It's a game with a purpose.

12. “TOTIN’ CHIP” AND “FIREM’N CHIT”

Since new Scouts are anxious to use their knives and build campfires, the “Totin’ Chip” and “Firem’n Chit” cards should be earned soon after joining. They will also help with future requirements. Only a trained, qualified assistant Scoutmaster can work with the Scouts on earning these.

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Knives and matches are not to be used by any Scout prior to earning these qualifications. Their use will result in immediate confiscation. Unsafe use of knives, saws, axes, or fire will result in loss of privileges for a period of three months and require re-testing.

Minor infractions will result in the removal of a corner of the scout's card. Loss of all four corners will result in the scout's usage being deemed unsafe.

For safety reasons, Troop 176 will adhere to the following standards for ax and knife use:

- Sheath knives of any kind are not allowed.
- Any folding knives with blades larger than the palm of your hands are not allowed at any time.
- Lock back type knives are recommended.
- Unless otherwise specified, all ax use refers to hand axes, not $\frac{3}{4}$ or full size axes.
- Proper safety and handling procedures are to be followed at all times.

13. TROOP EQUIPMENT

The troop owns and will supply Scouts and patrols with necessary camping equipment, such as tents, tarps, cook kits, stoves, saws, etc. Each patrol leader, or his patrol quartermaster, will request from the troop quartermaster (QM) the equipment that they need for a campout. It is the responsibility of the patrol to check the condition of the equipment prior to signing it out. Upon return, the QM will inspect all returned equipment to ensure that it is returned in the same, or better condition as it was checked out. Patrol members will be responsible for any equipment found damaged or missing upon check-in. The QM should report the damaged or missing items to Scoutmaster as soon as it is noticed for discussion on what action should be taken. Scouts and their parents/guardians will be held responsible to replace or repair items that are damaged or lost.

13.1. Tent Care

Tents collect moisture from the dew and your breathing. We seldom breakdown camp before the tents get a chance to dry. It is also important to make sure that they are clean before they are packed. If they are folded and stored for a long time with water on them, mildew and other stuff will start to grow on them. This ruins the tents! This is why it is very important that tents are only taken down, after approval is obtained from the Scoutmaster or his designate. The troop purchases these tents so that all of our Scouts can participate in outdoor weekends. Please take care of them so that they can last for many years to come. Damages to the tents are the responsibility of the Scouts using them at the time. Treat them like your own, because they are.

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The following rules always apply to tent usage:

- No Food or Drink is allowed in the tents.
- No flames are allowed in a tent at any time.
- Do not spray Insect repellent or other aerosols in tents. (These products deteriorate the waterproofing of the tent.)
- Cots are not allowed until the Scout reaches the rank of Eagle
- No rough housing in the tents
- Tents are to be kept neat and clean at all times on trips

14. TRANSPORTATION

The troop travels to most activities by cars and vans of parents/guardians. Parents/guardians are asked to help transport the troop whenever possible. There are lots of places to explore, but we can't get there without the help of our parents/guardians. The troop departs from and returns to Saint Jerome Catholic Church, unless otherwise instructed. The troop departs promptly at the times indicated, so plan to arrive at least 10 minutes early. Drivers of cars that transport Scouts must be 21 years of age. All automobiles are required to have insurance.

All occupants must wear seat belts, and no one may ride in the rear deck of station wagons or in the bed of pickup trucks.

The troop will return approximately at the time indicated. Parents/guardians will be notified by phone of arrival times.

In accordance with BSA policy, Scouts under 18 can drive to BSA activities, (but cannot transport other scouts) only under the following conditions:

Six months driving experience as a licensed driver (time on a learner's permit excluded)

No record of any accidents or moving violations.

15. POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP

All Scouts are expected to fill a position of responsibility within the troop at some time during their Scouting experience. This position may vary in its duties and responsibilities but will help the Scout grow and understand the meaning of leadership and being responsible, thereby making a contribution to the troop as a whole. All positions of leadership are a privilege and should be respected and done to the best of the Scout's ability. At any time, the Scoutmaster or a two-thirds vote of the patrol leaders' council (PLC) can remove any Scout from his leadership position if the position is not being carried out properly.

Below are Troop 176's qualifications for junior leader positions. Additional positions of leadership may be assigned and approved by the Scoutmaster and the troop committee.

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15.1 Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)

Must be life rank or above
Must have previously held a position of leadership within a troop
Must have the Scoutmaster's consent
Must have consent of parents/guardians
Is recommended by the (PLC) and appointed by the Scoutmaster
SPL may not hold any other positions in the troop during his time in office
SPL may be removed from office at any time by two-thirds vote of the patrol leaders' council (PLC) or by the Scoutmaster

15.2) Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) (As many as are needed)

Star Scout Rank or Above
Is recommended by the PLC and appointed by the Scoutmaster
An ASPL may be removed from office at any time by two-thirds vote of the patrol leaders' council (PLC) or by the Scoutmaster.

15.3) Troop Guide

Is recommended by the PLC and appointed by the Scoutmaster.
A candidate must have the same qualifications as those required for SPL.
A Troop Guide may be removed from office at any time by two-thirds vote of the patrol leaders' council (PLC) or by the Scoutmaster.

15.4. Patrol Leader (PL)

Elected by the patrol.
Must have been APL or Den Chief Prior to Election.
Must be a Scout in good Standing and have approval of the Scoutmaster
All candidates must be active members in their patrol
All candidates must win by a majority (50%) of the members present in their patrol; if no majority is reached, the two top candidates will compete in a second election with the runner-up becoming an assistant patrol leader

15.5. Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)

Must be a Scout in good Standing and have approval of the Scoutmaster.
All candidates must be active members of their patrol.
The Patrol Leader with approval of the PLC appoints the APL.

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15.6) Troop Junior Leadership

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster (JASM) – An Advisor for the Senior Patrol Leader – works with the Troop Guide with The New Scouts.

Troop Scribe

Troop Librarian

Troop Historian

Troop Quartermaster (QM)

Chaplain Aide

Troop Bugler

The Scoutmaster and PLC appoint these positions and are not part of the PLC.

16. MEMBER OF THE PATROL LEADER'S COUNCIL (PLC)

The Patrol Leaders council is made up of the Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, and Patrol Leaders.

17. ADULT LEADERSHIP

All parents/guardians are members of the Troop Committee. Currently, Troop 176 is fortunate to have many parents/guardians helping as registered adult leaders. These Scouters serve the troop and Boy Scouts in many ways. Some of these adult leaders accept special assignments that help sustain the routine functioning of the troop. A number of adults serve our Scouts as merit badge counselors. Others lend their support by providing transportation and an adult presence for our campaign trips. We encourage all adults to become part of the registered uniformed leadership team. Scouting provided many wonderful shared experiences for parents/guardians and their sons who join scouting together. Let us know if you want to be more involved in Scouting as a uniformed leader.

17.1. Adults Who Want To Be A Merit Badge Counselor

If you would like to work with Scouts on a merit badge in a subject with which you have knowledge, you will need to do the following:

- Fill out an adult Scouting application. (The Scoutmaster or advancement committee can help you with this.)
- Decide whether you will offer the merit badge “council-wide” (to all scouts in the SELA Council) or only to the Scouts in Troop 176. (Let your conscience and availability dictate this decision.)
- Fill out a merit badge counselor’s form. (Do not sign up for more than six merit badges.)
- Have the form approved by the troop committee.
- Wait for approval from the council before proceeding.

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- Do not offer a merit badge if you have not been approved by council for that merit badge.
- Once you have made it known that you are available for a merit badge, let the Scouts contact you. They are supposed to be doing the work, not you—don't chase after them to do the merit badge.
- Always have two-deep leadership at any time you are working with Scouts on a merit badge. No exceptions.

18. MERIT BADGES

Merit badges are an important part of the Scouting experience. They help teach new skills, or increase knowledge and awareness in a subject area. The subjects are intended to challenge while being fun. There are currently over 100 merit badges available to Scouts, some of which are required for Eagle Scout. The combination of merit badges required for Eagle Scout is explained in the Scout Handbook.

18.1. How to Choose a Merit Badge

Any of the 120 merit badges may be taken at any time while you are a registered Scout, but you should always check the requirements in the front of the merit badge pamphlets before jumping into choosing a merit badge. Some will be harder than others may require that you learn additional skills before attempting that merit badge. Some merit badges have prior requirements before applying (such as camping). If in doubt, check with an adult leader.

- Find a merit badge that you would like to do from the list in your Scout Handbook or from the Merit Badge Requirements book. If you have any questions about a merit badge, contact one of the adult leaders in the troop.
- After selecting a merit badge that interests you, find a Scouting friend to do the badge with you. (Always take merit badges with one or more fellow scouts.)
- Check the troop's merit badge counselors handbook for a counselor who offers the merit badge. These counselors may be council-wide (which means he or she will work with any Scouts within the SELA Council) or the counselor may be within troop 176. If you are having a problem finding a counselor for a merit badge, check with one of the adult leaders for assistance.
- Acquire and read the merit badge pamphlet thoroughly to familiarize yourself with the subject. (The Troop has a library of merit badge pamphlets you may borrow. Ask the Troop Librarian.)
- Obtain a signed merit badge card (a "blue card") from the Scoutmaster or advancement coordinator.
- Contact the merit badge counselor for an appointment to meet and discuss the requirements and/or instructions for that merit badge. (Scouts should learn to contact other adults outside of the troop as part of the maturing process.)
- Meet with the merit badge counselor and start working on your badge.

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- When you have satisfactorily completed the merit badge, return the signed merit badge card (“blue card”) to the troop advancement coordinator for council and troop recognition.

19. SCOUTING STORES

Note: Purchase of most of the Order of the Arrow and Eagle Scout items often requires proof of award.

19.1. Southeast Louisiana Council Scout Shop

4200 South I 10 Service Road West
Metairie, LA 70001
(504) 887-3000

19.2. Perret’s Army Out Door Stores

2532 Williams Boulevard
Kenner, LA 70062
(504) 443-3814

20. SCOUTING LITERATURE & INFORMATION

Many questions Scouts and their parents/guardians have regarding skills or general information can be found in scouting publications from the BSA. Listed below are those books that will provide the answers to most of your questions.

20.1. The Boy Scout Handbook

This book is required for all Scouts and provides general information that all Scouts should know and an individual’s advancement record. It also includes a 24 page parents/guardians’ guide on child abuse and drug abuse.

20.2. Field book – Boy Scouts of America

Based on the experiences of millions of Scouts and leaders, this book holds essential information for every outdoor enthusiast. It is a supplement to the Scout Handbook.

20.3. Junior Leader Handbook

Provides a reference for all junior leaders to help them understand the importance of each of their jobs in the successful operation of their troop. (Highly recommended for all junior leaders.)

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20.4. Boy Scout Requirements

Includes updated requirements for all merit badges, rank advancements, and special opportunity awards. (Watch for yearly revisions.)

20.5. Insignia Guide

An illustrated guide to the correct placement and usage of official insignia and other badges for all programs of the BSA.

20.6. Troop Home Internet Page

Troop information and Calendars are available on the Troops Home Page.

www.lascouts.net/troop176

Some of the books listed above are available in the Troop 176 library—check with the troop librarian. All of the books listed above are available through scouting distributors if you wish to purchase any of them.

21. SIGNATURE and COMMENT FORM

We, the Troop Committee, hope that this guidebook proves to be a valuable resource and has laid out the guidelines essential for Troop 176 as we continue to grow and provide an excellent Scouting program. And, as our troop grows, we expect that this guidebook may grow and change as well. Please watch for possible corrections or additions, which may be supplied in the future.

In order to ensure that we are all working together and following the same aims and goals, we ask that you please sign and complete the “Signature and Comment Form” and return it to the Scoutmaster or the Troop Committee Chairman. This will ensure that all Scouts and their families know what is expected of them. If you have any questions or comments that you would like presented to the committee, please be sure and attach them.

Thank You,
Troop 176 Committee