

# Parent-Scout Orientation Book

Welcome to Troop 225.

This for parents and our new recruits to help you learn how things work in our Troop. We welcome your questions, comments, and feedback as we pursue the continual process of improving our Troop and serving the needs of our boys.



<http://www.troop225bsa.org>



Troop 225 is part of the  
Red-Tailed Hawk District



The Red-Tailed Hawk District is part of  
the Heart of America Council



The Heart of America Council is part of  
the Boy Scouts of America



The Boy Scouts of America is part of  
the World Scouting movement

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*Updated January 2010*

*"Scouting is a game for boys under the leadership of boys under the direction of a man."  
- Lord Robert S. Baden-Powell*



## Troop Leadership

Troop 225 follows the leadership methods established by the Boy Scouts of America. Our Chartered Organization is the College Church of the Nazarene, and we have a Chartered Organization Representative (COR) from the church that represents us. The Troop Committee is made up of adults in the Troop and church, and sets the policies for operation of the Troop. Our Scoutmaster is the principal adult leader of the Troop. He is assisted by Assistant Scoutmasters, Committee members, Adult Leaders and parent volunteers. Coordinating positions such as treasurer, fundraising, communications, advancement, outings, health and safety, God and Country, merit badges, Eagle, knots, beads, and other positions are filled through the Committee.

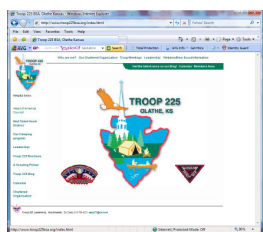


## Joining

Boy recruits need to be 11 years old or have finished the fifth grade to join Boy Scouts. We will need to fill out a form and collect a Troop registration fee of \$60.00 (prorated for late signing). New boys are provided a Troop neckerchief after becoming part of our Troop. There is usually a formal Investiture ceremony to induct new boys into our Troop and assign them formally to Patrols. The Scout will participate in an Induction Ceremony. and then receive his neckerchief, bead coups, and Troop notebook. We currently have 7 Patrols. We have a Venture patrol that boys can advance into as they reach 14 years old and meet other requirements. Adults may request to attend overnight and other events, but must meet the training requirements for the event and need to be registered. Adults are organized into the Buzzard Patrol. (Note that boys may not camp until they have earned the rank of Scout.)



## Communication



Communication is critical to the success of any organization. Look for the Weekly "Green Sheet" and use our Website to keep up with events. Besides the public Web at <http://www.troop225bsa.org> we maintain an area just for Troop 225 members. Put our events on your calendar to avoid conflicts and help your Scout make it on time to all the exciting things we do! You can also be added to the Troop 225 email list and receive weekly updates by sending your email address to Amy Hammons our Communications Coordinator at [amymhammons@gmail.com](mailto:amymhammons@gmail.com).

Troop meetings are open and parents are welcome to attend, and Mom and Dad, you are the most important people in your son's life. But it's one of those mysteries of adolescence: some Scouts may experience more growth and actually perform better when you aren't there to watch them all the time. Regardless, they will always benefit from your constructive encouragement. And, be assured that we want and need parental support in all our activities.

Also, we ask that you COME IN to the church to pick up your son at the end of each meeting. That way we get to know you, and you get the important announcements and updates.



## Expenses

Ok... let's get it out of the way now...most of the costs of Scouting are not unreasonable! The Troop has two fundraisers each year help us purchase most of the major equipment that the Troop provides. Basic personal equipment that your Scout may want to buy does not need to be fancy or expensive. (See the Camping section for details.) Additionally, popcorn sales in November, and cookie dough in early Summer benefit the Scout directly, not the Troop. A boy earns about 30% of what he sells, to be applied to outings and events, and this can greatly offset the costs involved with Scouting.

Each boy will have an account managed by our adult Troop Treasurer. Money from popcorn sales will go into that account, and boys are also asked to make monthly deposits to cover at least that month's expenses. If a boy signs up to attend an event, the fees will be deducted from his account, normally just the food costs his Patrol may incur. Banking ahead is usually a wise thing to do, as summer camp and other more complex outings are more expensive.

Adults also maintain accounts if they plan on attending events and compouts, and again, banking ahead for major events is wise.

*"The more responsibility the Scoutmaster gives his patrol leaders, the more they will respond."*  
- Lord Robert S. Baden-Powell



## Uniform and Expectations

Our Troop meets every Monday night at the church (with exceptions for some major holidays) and boys need to attend every week if possible. Boys are to attend in Class A uniform except between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Class B will be worn during the summer.

You'll need to purchase a Class A Boy Scout uniform. This includes: shirt, belt, and sash, and a tie slide to go with the neckerchief. Two red or green shoulder loops are needed for the shoulder epaulets. In addition he'll need the following patches: Heart of America Council, Troop numerals 225, and World Scouting (optional). We also strongly encourage Scout pants or shorts and Scout socks for formal events. (Some District or Council events may require Scout pants or shorts.) Our bylaws say that jeans may be worn in place of Scout pants, however. It is a BSA policy that boys be in appropriate uniform at all times, which includes always traveling in Class A. See our Bylaws for uniform regulations.

We also expect a Scout to conduct himself according to the Scout Motto, Slogan, Oath, and Law, and the Outdoor Code, while in Scout events and out. Being a Scout puts a boy in a certain light and entails expectations. The term "On my honor..." says that the boy puts his honor on the line as people evaluate his behavior, dependability, and responsibility. We hope it never happens, but you will be asked to come get your son if he is unable to conduct himself as a Scout should.



*"An invaluable step in character training is to put responsibility on the individual."*  
- Lord Robert S. Baden-Powell



## Boy Leadership

Our Troop is boy-lead. This means that as much as possible boys are put into the decision-making roles of the Troop. Adult leaders function as advisors and ensure the safety and appropriateness of activities planned for the Troop. Elections are held for six-month terms. Our Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) leads the Troop with the help of the Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL). Each patrol elects a Patrol Leader (PL) and Assistant Patrol Leader (APL). Patrol Quartermasters are appointed to help with Troop equipment. Other appointed boy positions include scribe, historian, bugler, chaplain's aide, and more.

After each election, new leaders attend Junior Leader Training to sharpen skills related to leading the Troop. The SPL, ASPL's, and PL's make up the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) which meets weekly before the Troop meeting to plan our monthly themes, outings, and events.

*"Prior proper planning prevents pitifully poor performance."  
- BSA Scoutmaster's Handbook*



## Patrol Method

Boys are organized into patrols, and plan and function as such on all outings. The Patrol Leader is responsible for making sure the Patrol prepares properly for events, and is the liaison between the Patrol and the Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster. On campouts, duties are assigned and the patrol cooks, eats, and cleans together. Tents are set up in close proximity so the patrol can work as a unit.

New scouts will be in the "Badger Patrol" for a period of time and will not immediately be assigned to an existing patrol. When the Scoutmaster Team is confident that they have evaluated where each boy fits in best. The "Badger Patrol" will be re-assigned into existing patrols or a new patrol. In addition there is a Venture Patrol that boys may be eligible to join as they grow older. This Patrol will attend high adventure outings and participate in other activities that require that they be older and more advanced in skills. Boys must be fourteen years old, showing progress toward Eagle, and be approved through an interview process. Refer to the Troop Bylaws for more information.

Patrols are guided by an adult Patrol Coach in Monday meetings and on outings. Adults attending events also function as a Patrol, and plan meals and duties just as the scouts do.



## Camping

We plan a twelve-month camping schedule. Scouts are encouraged to attend as many outings as possible. Tents and all cooking equipment are provided by the Troop and we haul our equipment in a Troop trailer. Boys need certain numbers of nights of camping for advancement through the ranks so they are encouraged to start soon and camp often. There is also a twelve-month camping award they can earn. On campouts, boys are arranged 2-3 per tent with same-age patrol buddies. Boys never tent with adults, and we ask that even parents not tent with their sons; establishing independence is one of the skills that will help your son become a leader.

The boys (and adults) will plan their menu, duty roster, and advancement plan in Patrol meetings. One boy will be the "food dude" on each campout and purchase the food,

and should KEEP THE RECEIPT for reimbursement. The cost of each Patrol's food is divided among the boys attending and is deducted from their account, along with the registration fee for the campout if there is one. Boys are to try to plan their menus to a per-boy budget of \$1 for breakfast, \$2 for lunch, and \$3 for dinner. Evening snacks are normally not required. Occasionally there will be a Troop meal prepared for the Troop as a whole.

For each event there will be an Outing Plan. This includes the departure and return times, equipment needed, maps to the location, emergency numbers, the Troop's program agenda for the outing, and more. It should be available at the regular Monday meeting the week before the event, and will also be posted on our Troop Web.

You can spend hundreds of dollars on supporting equipment but this isn't necessary! The Scout will need a good sleeping bag (winter weight to 0 degrees or better for winter camping), a knife, compass, small flashlight, and duffle or backpack to put personal gear in. Proper clothing is an absolute necessity, and always plan for wet weather. A quality rain poncho is a great investment. Special events such as high adventures or backpacking may require advanced equipment but we borrow from each other a lot! Refer to the Scout's Christmas List for other items that he might eventually want.

*"In Scouting a boy is encouraged to educate himself instead of being instructed."  
- Lord Robert S. Baden-Powell*



## Rank Advancement

Boys begin immediately working on advancement. Boys join as a Scout. The first rank is Tenderfoot, followed by Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. Achieving each rank entails completing various requirements which will include Scout skills, service hours, camping, merit badge completion, and others. Scouts are encouraged but not forced to advance. There will be times that the Scout's own initiative will be needed to meet the requirements for advancement.



It is the Scout's responsibility to bring his book to Scout events to get requirements signed off by the Scoutmaster. (Parents no longer sign off as they did in Cub Scouts.) When a Scout meets all the requirements for a rank, a Scoutmaster Conference is held to review his achievements. The Scout then attends a Board of Review where he is interviewed about his accomplishments, and approved or sent back for further study.

Scouts are recognized and awarded ranks and merit badges at a special Troop meeting called a "Court of Honor", held three or four times each year. Parents and other family members are highly encouraged to attend!

In addition to ranks, the Scout will need to earn his Fireman's Chit and Totin' Chip. These allow him to start fires and carry a knife. The requirements are in the Scout Handbook and normally a boy can earn both of these on the first campout. Other awards not related to advancement are also available and your son will learn more about these as he participates in our Troop.



## Merit Badges

Scouts earn many merit badges at summer camp and we attend a merit badge forum each year to help boys earn merit badges quickly. Otherwise, boys will usually pursue merit badges independently, with the exception of Summer Camp where merit badges are the

focus of the camp. Requirements are summarized in the Merit Badge Handbook, and each merit badge has its own book that may be helpful or necessary to complete the merit badge. The Troop maintains a library of merit badge books for checkout.

When the Scout is ready he should get the required merit badge card, signed, from the Scoutmaster and then make contact with a merit badge counselor to complete the requirements. A list of our District's merit badge counselors is available, and our own Troop has several merit badge counselors.

When complete, the merit badge card is to be returned to the Troop advancement chairman, or the Scoutmaster. Merit badges are awarded in Courts of Honor held about three to four times each year.

Parents are asked to encourage and support Scouts in their pursuit of merit badges (and some are even required for rank advancement). Use caution, however, that the boy is the one making the contacts, doing the research, and putting the paperwork together. More information on earning merit badges can be found on our Troop's Website.



## Special Programs

Our Scouts participate in two Troop recognition programs. Our "Beadbrain" helps distribute beads a Scout earns for participation in events. These are to be worn on the leather bead fob and are part of a Scout's Class A uniform.

We also conduct a "knotmaster" program. Boys start out with a white rope and, by demonstrating certain knots, can advance through a series of rope colors to higher levels. Boys can at times be challenged, however, and if they fail to tie the knots at or below the level they've advanced to, they revert to a lower level and work their way back up. Our "Knothead" knows the knots and helps test his fellow Scouts as they advance.



## Health and Safety

The leadership of the Troop is trained and will follow BSA guidelines for events as documented in *The Guide to Safe Scouting*. The BSA clearly defines what activities are acceptable for Boy Scouts, and what procedures must be followed for participating in these events.

Health forms are required of all participants on any outing. This includes both scouts and adults. Outings that are day events as well as overnight events, whether camping outdoors or indoors. Health form Part A & C is required of all scouts and adults for short term camping. Part B is required for scouts and adults during any long term camping such as summer camp at Bartle. Be aware that Part B of the health form require a physical exam and the signature of a physician. Please take care of this well in advance of an event. Our Health and Safety Coordinator maintains these forms and carries them on outings.



High adventure outings require Part A, B & C to be completed for scouts as well as adults. They may also require a specific health form from the event sponsor.

An additional Emergency Contact Form will be used by the Troop to aid in contacting you and taking action in emergency circumstances. This will include a photo of the Scout. You will be asked to update this form annually.

Finally, for the health and safety of our Scouts, adults attending outings will be required to have completed certain levels of training. Some of those requirements are discussed in the next section.



## Adult Training

The Scoutmaster Team of the Troop has attended training to learn the goals and methods of the Scouting program. It is expected that other adults in the Troop will attend various levels of training, in order to support the efforts of the Scoutmaster Team and Committee.

Training includes Youth Protection, Troop 225 Fast Start for Boy Scout Leaders, New Leader Essentials, and Leader Specific Training. We also need adults who are First Aid and CPR certified, and for certain events, lifeguards. Additional training includes Health and Safety, Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat, Cave Exploring, Climb On Safely, and Bike Safety, and it is required that at least one leader be trained in the area specific to the outing. In some circumstances, all the adults supervising will have to attend training for the event.

**The Troop's Bylaws currently state that any adult staying on an overnight outing must have competed at least Troop 225's Fast Start Training and show satisfactory evidence of completion of the BSA Youth Protection Training & had a background check required by our chartered organization.**

It is further expected that parents in our Troop will step forward and assist with campouts and other outings, and that they will attend the necessary trainings to ensure that safety guidelines and other procedures are followed on those events. The Red-Tailed Hawk District Website includes a training page of information as well as a calendar that lists dates that training is available. Additionally, the BSA is now offering some training online and those who cannot attend standard training sessions may complete some levels of training in this manner. There is a page that thoroughly outlines training, located on our Troop Website, which includes links for some types of training online.

Finally, we encourage adults to attend the monthly Roundtable. In addition to training opportunities, leaders can network with other leaders and Troops and make contact with District-level leadership. Roundtables are open to anyone but generally the only boys to attend are those that hold boy leadership positions in their Troops.



## Mom and Dad

Our Troop functions under a well-defined Troop structure. Our Committee develops policy for the Troop and oversees the program, and our Scoutmaster Team helps our boy leadership plan the program and with the help of the Patrol Coaches, helps insure the safety and effectiveness of its implementation. But the success of the Troop does not hinge solely on these two groups. There are many roles that must be filled by parent volunteers such as fundraising, outing arrangements and transportation, food, and lots more. Please be willing to get involved and make the Scouting program a family program. You and your Scout will benefit from an enhanced experience and you'll help reduce the likelihood of leader burnout.

Especially important is your attendance at all Courts of Honor. This will allow us to get to know you and establish good communication, as well as provides you the opportunity to show your encouragement and support for the boys in our Troop.

That said, we also ask that you “give your boy some room to grow.” We’ve found that to encourage independence and responsibility, Scouts must be given leadership challenges, opportunities to learn from mistakes and grow from them, and time to develop a sense of team with his peers in the Troop, away from constant parental supervision. Generally your boy will not experience his maximum potential for personal growth if you are there constantly supervising his every move!

There is a Parent Resource Survey we’d like you to fill out. You will find it on the web site. This will help us get to know you and help us find what skills you have that will benefit our Troop so we can get you involved in the most beneficial way! We need your input, support, and participation. Remember all of us are volunteers. While you may not be a Scoutmaster or have another official position, there will be many opportunities to help out.

Training opportunities do exist for you as discussed earlier. BSA is a recognized leader in Youth Protection Training. We encourage all our adults (even if you don’t plan to work directly with the Scouts) to take this free training that is offered every month at Roundtable or online to help you understand the importance of “two-deep” leadership at all times. Additional training will make you a qualified supervisor on outings and will help distribute the responsibility and enhance the safety and welfare of our Scouts.

We look forward to working with you and your son as he pursues the Trail to Eagle, and pledge our support and leadership.

## Welcome to your Troop!

