



Troop 351



You ask, "Why Scouting?"

Scouting is about building character, fostering citizenship and developing fitness in young men. These are the corner stones of the aims of Scouting.

Character is defined in the Webster's New World Dictionary as "an essential quality," or "moral strength, self-discipline, fortitude; having a good reputation." The Boy Scouts fulfills this goal through the use of guidelines called the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. Through these "blueprints" for life, Scouting instills the kind of character needed by todays, and tomorrows, leaders.

Respect for one's country, flag, and understanding of the rights, privileges and duties that come with being a citizen is the second goal of the BSA. Citizenship is re-enforced through the use of the democratic process used within the Troop. Program ideas, competitions, activities and even menus are presented and voted on at various levels of the Troop starting at the Patrol level. Individual Scouts express their opinions within the Patrol and are represented by their patrol leader in the Patrol Leaders Council, the governing body of the Troop. Scouts don't just learn about citizenship, they live it.



Being a positive part of today's society requires fitness, not only physically to the best of one's ability, but mentally and emotionally as well. It means being prepared to take on a challenge and do it to the best that can be done. Being fit means using good judgment and a high level maturity.

Scouting Fundamentals

Scouting is a values-based program with its own code of conduct. The Scout Oath and Law help instill the values of good conduct, respect for others, and honesty. Scouts learn skills that will last a lifetime, including basic outdoor skills, first aid, citizenship skills, leadership skills and how to get along with others. For almost a century, Scouting has instilled in young men the values and knowledge that they will need to become leaders in their communities and country.

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
To obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
Mentally awake and morally straight.

Scout Law

A Scout is...

Trustworthy	Loyal
Helpful	Friendly
Courteous	Kind
Obedient	Cheerful
Thrifty	Brave
Clean	Reverent



Slogan

"Do a Good Turn Daily"

Scouting Basics

Boy Run Scout Leadership!

Troop 351 is a boy lead organization with the primary tasks of the Scoutmaster being to advise, train and support the boy leaders in the jobs to which they were elected or appointed. We provide a positive fun learning environment for the boys to acquire leadership skills. The Assistant Scoutmaster's task is to fill in for the Scoutmaster and support the Troop in the activities of advising and training.

Patrols Leaders Council (PLC)

The Patrol Leaders Council is responsible for the entire operation of the troop. The PLC plans the annual troop calendar taking activity date inputs from the chartering institution, local school district, Troop Committee, past Troop activities, District and National Boy Scout events. The PLC also plans the monthly troop meeting activities.

The PLC is made up of Troop Leadership positions and is led by the Senior Patrol Leader. The Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters normally interface with the Troop through the SPL and thus through the PLC.

The Scouts have tough jobs considering they lead the troop and its program. It takes a lot of commitment from the members of the PLC. Although the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters stand ready to help them, the most important support they can receive is that of their parents.

In the Patrol Leader's absence, the Assistant Patrol Leader should attend.

BSA Methods

The BSA teaches these goals using the standards by which a boy commits himself in Scouting.

The Patrol Method - Utilizes small groups of boys within the Troop that allows them to work as a team. The practice of leadership begins in the patrol as a "Patrol Leader" is elected. He is expected to run Patrol meetings, represent his patrol members at the Patrol Leader's Council and help his fellow Scouts advance. When a Scout has a question or issue and he is not sure who to ask - the answer is his Patrol Leader or Troop Guide.

Outdoors - "Scouting is $\frac{3}{4}$ Outing" or so the saying goes. The reason for this is that the outdoors affords the perfect place to teach young men self-confidence, teamwork, skills that help self-reliance, as well as a healthy respect for the environment.

Advancement - is used to allow Scouts to learn an obtainable set of skills and be recognized for his successful effort. This advancement ladder not only teaches the Scout to set goals but as he conquers these challenges he becomes prepared for Scouting's more rugged and exciting outdoor challenges.

Personal Growth - All of the Scouting methods help a boy grow as the result of his Scouting experience. But growth, personal growth, is itself a method - and a critical one.

The other methods "specialize" so to speak, in offering one or more particular benefits. All of them contribute, in one way or another, to a Scout's personal growth as an outcome of his experience.

Adult Association - Boys learn from the example set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is critical to this stage of a young man's development.

Leadership Development - Leadership opportunities can be used at both the Patrol and Troop levels - jobs that are action-oriented can provide built-in motivation for Scouts to lead successfully and move up to higher levels of responsibility.

The Uniform - reminds a boy that he is a Scout and that people will expect him to act like one. The uniform is an outward sign that he believes in certain values and is willing to stand up for them.

The uniform gives the Scout pride in the way he looks, and in the badges and awards he displays that testify to his achievements in skills and leadership.

The Scout's uniform gives him a feeling of belonging, not only to his patrol and Troop, but to the worldwide organization whose beliefs and program he shares with millions of others. The well-uniformed Troop builds a sense of Troop identity and spirit, which can attract new Scouts and leaders.

Class "A" uniform, is defined as "Full Uniform" with the BSA shirt and the proper insignias in the specified places. See the scout hand book for proper patch locations. Another term used is "OBS", for "Official Boy Scout". Uniforms are to be OBS. Especially the pants and shorts. No look-alikes. Scouts are directed to wear their class A uniform to troop meetings when we have special guests and other special activities. Scout will be given notice in advance of the meeting so they will come prepared in class "A" uniform.

	Troop Meeting	Winter Troop Meetings	Board of Review, Scoutmaster Conference, Court of Honor	Campouts and Troop Activities
Troop T-Shirt	✓	✓		✓
Class "A" BSA Shirt	✓	✓	✓	✓ Always travel in Class B uniform
BSA Shorts & Socks	✓		✓	✓ Always travel in Class B uniform
BSA Long Pants		✓	✓	✓
Troop Neckerchief			✓	
Troop Hat				✓ optional

Advancement

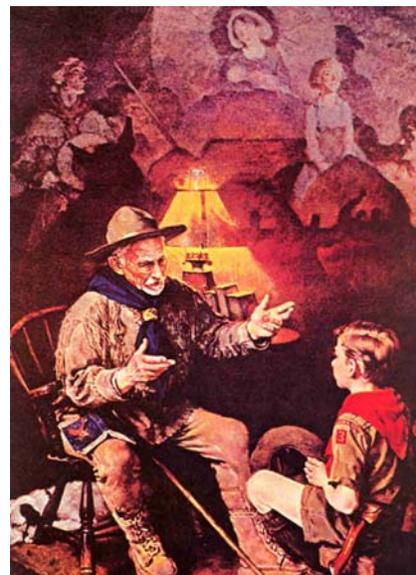
Requirements Sign-Off

- Troop Guide
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders
- Senior Patrol Leader
- Patrol Leader
- Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters when all others are not available.

- Requirements are signed off in their Scout Handbook. It is a good idea to make a copy of the partially signed-off ranks in case the book is lost.

Scoutmaster Conference

- All rank advancements require a Scoutmaster conference.
- Scoutmaster conferences are scheduled with the Scoutmaster (although it may be delegated to Assistant Scoutmasters).
- Boy Scout Handbook is required.
- A current Individual Progress Report is required which can be obtained from the Advancement Chairman.
- Full uniform is required.
- From time to time, an informal conference may also be held for various reasons (lack of progress toward advancement, discipline, attendance, behavior, etc.).



Board of Review

- The Scout must schedule a Board of Review with the Committee Chair for Tenderfoot through Life ranks.
- All rank requirements, including the Scoutmaster conference, must be complete when making the request. No exceptions.
- A panel of 3-5 members of the Troop Committee meet with the Scout to review his progress toward the next rank and advance him, if found qualified.
- Typically held the Monday of Troop meetings for Scouts who are eligible for rank advancement. On special request, a board may be held at other times.
- Time frame is dependent on how many Scouts are up for review that evening.
- Full uniform is required.
- On the night of his Board of Review, the Scout should bring his Scout Handbook and a copy of his Individual Progress Report.

Merit Badges

- Scout selects a merit badge to work on.
- Scout can begin work on the merit badge after discussing it with the Scoutmaster and receives a signed "Application for Merit Badge" (a "blue card") from him.
- Makes an announcement at a Troop Meeting to see if there are other Scouts interested in working on the merit badge.
- Scout selects an approved merit badge counselor through the Scoutmaster.

- Before meeting with the counselor, the Scout fills in all three parts of the blue card.
- Scout makes an appointment and meets with the merit badge counselor he selected. They discuss the requirements and set a timetable for accomplishing them.
- The counselor dates and initials the merit badge "blue card" as the requirements are completed.
- When all requirements are completed, the counselor signs the "blue card" indicating that the requirements have been met. The counselor keeps his/her section (the "Counselor's Record"). The Scout receives the other two sections and obtains the Scoutmaster's signature. He should keep his section (marked "Applicant's Copy") for his permanent records. The remaining section is turned in to the Advancement Chairman ("Application for Merit Badge").
- The Scout receives his merit badge and the merit badge card at the next troop meeting and received acknowledgement at the Court of Honor. This card should also be retained for his permanent records.
- The Scout should sew his merit badge on his sash.



Courts of Honor

Two times a year the Troop holds a Court of Honor to recognize the achievements of the Boys. Parents and family are encouraged to attend and photos are taken.

Troop Communication

Our troop uses various methods of communication:

- Web site: www.troop351merrick.org
- Facebook: Under Construction
- Email distribution lists

Boy Scout Handbook

The Boy Scout Handbook is the "bible" of Scouting. It is the first piece of "equipment" a Scout should purchase. It tells him, and his parents, "everything he always wanted to know" about the Boy Scout program, the Boy Scout movement and contains advancement requirements and acts as his personal advancement record.

Charter Organization

St. John's Lutheran Church charters Troop 351 and is located on 1 Van Roo Avenue, Merrick, New York 11566. The Troop renews its affiliation with the Charter Organization and with the Boy Scouts of America each January. This process is known as "re-chartering."

Troop Meetings

Troop meetings are held on Monday nights from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. Bring the issued blue bag containing the Boy Scout Handbook, pen and paper. Troop 351 meets at the Old Mill Road Gym. When the Gym is not available, we will be at St. John's Lutheran Church. Advance notification of the change will be provided. Scouts may not leave the meeting area without adult permission.

Patrol Meetings

Each patrol generally meets once monthly. These are typically held at the patrol leader's home.

Committee Meetings

The Troop Committee meets for the purpose of reviewing all activities of the Troop for the current month and planning for any support needed by the Troop for the execution of those plans. The Troop Committee also discusses and plans for large future events that require advanced preparations and support. Specifically, the Committee helps with Troop advancement, finances, outdoor program planning and work with parents. These duties include record keeping, fund-raising, recruitment of other adult leaders, running Troop boards of review, assist in Courts of Honor and oversee Troop communications.

All Troop committee members are expected to attend this meeting. Although not a member of the Committee, the Scoutmaster attends these meetings and works closely with the Committee.

Troop 351's Committee meeting is held monthly from 7:30pm until 8:45pm. If a holiday or school break falls on the first Monday, the Committee meeting will occur at the next Monday. This meeting time often changes and members are notified in advance.

Troop Registration

Adult Leader Registration

The Boy Scouts of America require adult leader registration for all of the following situations:

- Troop Committee Members
- Scoutmaster
- Assistant Scoutmasters
- Scouting Coordinators
- Merit Badge Counselors
- Adults who accompany Scouts on campouts

BSA Criminal Background Check

BSA requires all adult leaders for Troop 351 annually fill out a Criminal Background form prior to their start of service with the Troop. **The BSA pays this fee.**

Donations Made to the Troop

Donations can be made on behalf of parents to Troop 351. The Troop does not receive any money from the Pequott District, Theodore Roosevelt Council or from the National Boy Scout organization.

Troop Finance

Troop 351 is primarily supported through the efforts of fund raising activities and Scout fees. The chartering organization provides a safe place to meet.

These funds are used to maintain Troop equipment, support special Troop activities, day-to-day Troop operations and re-charter requirements. Troop 351 maintains a checking account to manage Troop funds.

Troop Fundraising

Our troop maintains its financial independence from its Charter Organization through a combination of funding instruments, including dues, fundraisers and donations. All Scouts and their families are expected to participate in EACH activity to ensure their success. Troop funds pay for the needs of the Troop, including, but not limited to the purchase and maintenance of camping materials, such as tents, lanterns, cooking gear, etc., all awards and rank badges, youth and adult leadership training and miscellaneous Troop supplies which are necessary to keep our program vibrant and current. Additionally funds occasionally contribute towards food for special weekend outings.

Scout Training

Troop 351

- Full day training session
- Should be 1st Class rank or be a Patrol Leader.

- Generally held at the training center at the North Merrick Fire Department HQ.

National Youth Leadership Training

- Scout must be 13 years old and at least 1st Class in rank.
- Consists of a week of camping and leadership training. NYLT is a prerequisite for holding the position of Senior Patrol Leader.
- Typically held at Schiff Scout Reservation in late summer.

Adult Training

Fast Start training is the first step for all new leaders and should be taken immediately after they register and before they meet with any youth members. All Fast Start courses are available on DVD, or they can be completed through the Online Learning Center. If you are new to Scouting, you will be asked to create an account.

Youth Protection Training

Youth Protection training is required for all leaders who have direct contact with youth. At all times, youth safety is the number one priority. At the same time, adults need to know the rules for keeping themselves safe, too. Comprehensive Youth Protection training teaches all the do's and don'ts of working with youth. The training is offered through the Online Learning Center, or it may be taken as part of a district or council training course.

This is Scouting.

"This is Scouting" is a new online training session. It picks up when Fast Start leaves off with six modules of training: The Mission of Scouting, Programs for All ages, Scouting Is Fun, Scouting in the Community, Keeping Our Youth Safe and Scouting's Legacy. The training takes about an hour to complete and can be found on Online Learning Center.

Position Specific Training

Leader position specific training is based on the leader's position. These courses are taught by informed trainers who know how to engage groups and make learning fun. These courses are offered by the district or council as group training, or may be done as small groups or by personal coaching.

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training is for all Scoutmasters and their assistants. Boy Scout leaders also must complete Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills training to be considered fully trained.

Troop Committee training is for Troop Committee members and is designed to assist new committee members to better understand their role and responsibility in the support of the troop. It helps to develop a sense of teamwork in order to improve the Scouting experience for both adults and youth in the program.

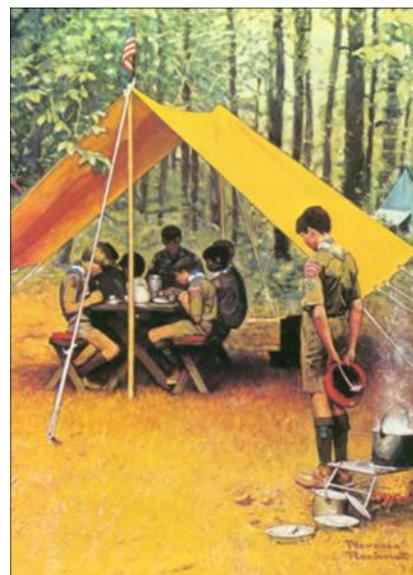
Camping

- Usually once a month and operates under the patrol method.
- Patrol determines the menu. Any dietary issues should be discussed with the Patrol as they plan their menu. Any allergy or religious food issues should also be discussed with the Scoutmaster.
- Scouts are responsible for purchasing their patrol's food.
- Scouts are responsible for the cooking and cleaning up after all their meals. Younger Scouts have guidance and supervision of a Troop Guide.
- Cost of food is a per person fee that is calculated by the Patrol Leader.
- There is a camping fee of \$20.00 per outing paid by check only payable to; "Troop 351"
- If your son has committed to a campout and is unable to attend; he is still financially responsible for the cost of food and camp fee.
- Food and camp fees should be turned in on "Money Monday" (One week prior to the campout).
- The parents that drive and takes other youths in their vehicles and transport them **to and from the** outing, may submit an expense of \$10.00 per youth for gas to the committee. This "Option" is available to all parents that drive.
- For all campouts we meet at OMR Friday evening and return Sunday mid-day. (there is the occasional exception). The return location is at OMR as well. The boys phone home on the trip back to Merrick with 30-60 minutes notice. Please arrive on time to pick up your son as 2 adults must remain until the last scout is picked up. Also - upon arrival there is a brief assembly and muster count of the boys. Please do not take your son home before they are dismissed; otherwise they will be flagged as missing and with the boy's safety being a high priority we start calling parents and leaders to find the boy.

Monthly Campouts

Monthly programs, as defined by the (PLC) during the biannual planning meetings, determine the theme of each campout. Monthly programs are delivered through presentations given throughout the month by Scouts and outside resources during the normal Troop meetings. The camp out agenda revolves around the program and gives the Scouts a chance to apply what they've learned over the month in practical setting. Since the program depends so heavily on the camp out experience, Troop 351 goes camping every month.

The weather always has a bearing on a camp out and it is discretion of the Scoutmaster whether a camp out will be cancelled due to bad weather. Troop 351 camps in all types of weather, however, unnecessary risks are never taken. Safety



of the Scouts is the foremost consideration during all Troop 351 outings.

Medical Forms

Each year a BSA medical form must be filled out and signed by the Scout's doctor. This is a requirement for all outdoor activities.

Medication

The Scoutmaster must be notified of any medications that a Scout must take while on a troop activity. A Scout should continue his regular medication, as prescribed, while attending Troop activities. This is especially important for Scouts to have a successful outing. Any medication sent with a Scout must be in the original prescription bottle and handed over to the Scoutmaster or assigned Assistant Scoutmaster for administration. Additionally, written instructions must be sent with the medication.

- Name of Scout
- Name of medication
- Reason for medication
- Dosage and frequency
- Any other pertinent information

Winter Camping

Winter camping is always considered to be our outings where the BSA motto "Be Prepared" is most important. Our December and January trips are "Cabin" trips. Scouts need to adhere to the normal BSA winter camping guidelines, however the sleeping portion of the trip is not as crucial as they are in a heated cabin with electricity. Our February trip is "Tent" camping and is limited to scouts that are a minimum of 13 years old and have attended a special winter training course. For the scouts not attending this tent trip and all other members, we would create another event for the month that is indoors such as the Cradle of Aviation.

Summer Camp

Troop 351 will be attending Summer Camp at Onteora Scout Reservation in Livingston Manor NY. Just between Liberty and Roscoe. Our week of camping starts on the last Sunday of July and ends that Saturday. Registered Scouters (adults) are encouraged to attend to help with activities and transportation. For 2015, Camp Fee will be \$375 per scout if \$100 per scout paid to "Troop 351" by March 9, 2015, remaining balance due by May 11th, 2015 of \$275 per scout for a TOTAL of \$375. Fee's paid after May 11th, 2015 \$415 per scout.

First year Scouts work on rank advancement, up to 1st class, and a couple of merit badges. Older Scouts can earn merit badges or participate on advanced programs, including BSA Lifeguard certification.

Merit badge books are recommended for each badge. They should be read in advance. If handicraft merit badges are taken, an additional cost will be required to pay for the craft kits after arrival at the camp. Registration for most merit badges is done before camp. BSA medicals are required for camp where parts A, B and C are all required for "Long Term" camping. The summer camp committee chair will be communicating this information well in advance of camp.

High Adventure

Troop 351 has a goal of attending a National High Adventure Base.

Attendance to these BSA high Adventure camps is done through our council.

- Northern Tier High Adventure Base on the US/Canada boundary waters
- Philmont Scout Reservation in Cimarron, NM.
- Florida Sea Base
- Summit Bechtel Reserve

National High Adventure facilities are open to Scouts 14 years or older.

Clothing

Clothing is the most important piece of equipment.

Pants/Shirts - Cotton, while comfortable, is not a good choice for camping. Once it gets wet, it does not dry quickly and will not keep you warm. Polyester or something that wicks moisture away is a better choice.

Shoes - Sturdy shoes (or sneakers) should be worn. BSA policy requires closed toed shoes. (Crocs are not considered closed toed). Hiking boots or walking shoes are best.

Weekend campouts are the time Scouts should be wearing their best, most sturdy clothing and footwear. It is not the time to wear the beat-up sneakers because you don't want to get the new sneakers dirty.

Raingear - Each Scout should have a raincoat and rain pants with them at all times in their Daypack.

Camping Gear

You do not need to purchase a backpack at first! A medium-sized duffle bag is sufficient for the first couple of outings.

The Boy Scout Handbook is a fantastic source of information when it comes to providing a list of personal camping gear. See pages 264 and 292.

Troop supplies the tents, cooking gear and propane stoves and lanterns.

Speak with our experienced campers before buying camping gear. They can probably save you some money and make suggestions that will keep you from making the same mistakes they made when they started.

Daypack - the boys carry a daypack with them everywhere they go on a weekend campout. In it, should be their raingear, water bottle, first aid kit (built as part of their Tenderfoot rank requirement), Scout Handbook, pen and headlamp.

Troop Policies and Guidelines for Outdoor Adventures

Below are Troop 351 policies and guidelines for outdoor adventures.

- Scouts under age 18 may not drive and adults under age 21 may not transport Scouts under the age of 18 per Troop policy. Troop preference is that all drivers be 25 or older whenever possible.
- When an adult signs up for a trip he is expected to help with the transportation.
- Driver etiquette suggests the following guidelines
 - a. Be on time for planned meet-for-departure and return-for-pickup times. Arriving for departure and returning for pickup a few minutes early is preferred.
 - b. Have gas tank topped off before departure.
 - c. Keep in route stops brief and to a minimum.
 - d. Maintain safe speeds.
 - e. Use all seatbelts.
 - f. Provide numbers and use cell phones during travel and large events.
 - g. Traveling in convoy is against BSA regulations, but trip drivers should travel together on the same schedule and stay in touch by cell phone or radio if necessary.
 - h. Don't allow riders to switch cars during the trip.
 - i. Stick together with the group. Avoid leaving early which can cause issues for remaining Scouts and leaders and can be regarded as poor teamwork.
- The Troop typically leaves and arrives at about the same time. There is an anticipated return time - but we often arrive earlier or later. Parents will be called if the return time varies significantly and should not expect a phone call if on schedule. Please make sure you

are available by phone on the morning we return. Parents should be prompt picking up their returning sons. If parents cannot pick up their sons, alternate pickup arrangements should be made known by the parents to the Scoutmaster ahead of time.

- Scouts may have other activities during the same time as our outings. Scouts may arrive to an outing no later than 12 noon on Saturday and may not leave early on Sunday and must depart with the rest of the troop. Scouts departing with the rest of the troop may leave early on Sunday with permission from the scoutmaster.
- If a Scout or adult has signed up for a trip and needs to drop out, he must tell the Scoutmaster immediately as it can have an impact on transportation and other trip plans, and he must tell his Patrol Leader, as appropriate. He may be responsible for funds committed in his behalf for trip activities and for his share of patrol food already purchased.
- It is inappropriate to bring or use alcohol or tobacco on BSA outings.
- Firearms, fireworks and similar items are strictly forbidden.
- Any knife with a fixed blade, such as a sheath knife, and any knife with a blade longer than 3" is forbidden. Use of a knife by a Scout requires Totin' Chip certification.
- It is inappropriate to bring a radio, TV, or any personal electronic communications and entertainment device such as a music player or game on an outdoor adventure. However, these devices can be used during transportation to/from the outdoor adventure, but must remain in the vehicle at all other times.
- Cell phone use on trips by all participants is restricted to official communications and safety use only. While driving, cell phone hands free usage should be kept to a minimum.
- Pets are not welcome. They can cause distractions to the planned program and create many other issues.
- Guests, particularly non-registered adults who are not parents, should not be invited to participate in Troop trips, unless by special exception such as a planned family outing. Similarly, siblings of Troop Scout members, friends and other youth, especially if not registered Scouts, should not be invited. Such guests can cause distractions to the planned program and create liability concerns.
- When hiking, for safety reasons and unless specified as convenient to separate, the group should stay together with a designated "point" in front and "sweep" in the rear. All hikers will stop at trail or road intersections until everyone agrees on the route.
- Two-deep leadership is a BSA regulation. Two adults, one at least 21 or over, is a minimum requirement for all trips and events. Further, an adult should never be alone with a non-related youth outside regular camping and meeting areas. Conferences, hikes and instruction should always take place in plain view or together with another adult or youth.
- Adults on camping trips with their son should consider themselves responsible to the whole Troop, not just their son, and should exemplify role-model behavior. Adults with a son on a trip should avoid interfering with the Scout leadership and avoid intervening to help their son with Scout skills, campsite and tent setup, cooking, etc.

- Scouts and adults cook and tent separately, in separate areas. Scouts typically cook and tent by patrol. Youth should avoid "hanging out" in the adult camping and eating area.
- Running, playing ball and horseplay should be avoided in the tent and cooking areas.
- Between the established taps and reveille times, quiet time should be observed. Whispers only.

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the Troop's image and program. The Scoutmaster and his Assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. It is their duty to:

- Train and guide boy leaders.
- Work with the committee to bring Scouting to boys.
- Use the methods of Scouting to achieve its aims.
- Meet regularly with the Patrol Leaders Council for training and coordination in planning Troop activities.
- Attend Troop meetings.
- Provide reports on Troop to Troop Committee activity as needed.
- Conduct periodic parents' meetings to discuss the program and encourage parent participation.
- Conduct Scoutmaster Conferences for all rank advancement.
- Supervise Troop elections.
- Facilitate the program using the proven methods of Scouting.
- Consider participation in Council and District events as determined by the PLC.
- Conduct all activities under qualified leadership, safe conditions and the policies of the chartered organization and Boy Scouts of America.
- Assist in developing the annual budget.
- Encourage principles of a "Boy Led Troop" where activity planning and primary discipline are responsibilities of elected Junior Troop Leadership.

Patrol Advisor

The Scoutmaster assigns a qualified ASM to assist each Scout Patrol. The extent of the duties varies with the experience level of the patrol, as well as, the participation and level of experience of the older Scouts, especially the Patrol Leader. The primary purpose of having adults advisors assigned to each patrol is to fill in when sufficient experienced Scouts are not available within the patrol or available elsewhere in the Troop. Another purpose is to carry out tasks similar to the Scoutmaster tasks (see the Scoutmaster handbook) at the patrol level. Other areas of concern are safety (a responsibility of all) and making sure that the goals of BSA and Troop 351 met.

The New Scout Patrol Advisor will assist the new Scout Patrol with programs to help new Scouts adjust to the Troop and Scouting. A major part of this is the trail to First Class.

Assistant Patrol Advisors may be assigned for a number of reasons. One is to help the Patrol Advisor as needed with larger and more active patrols. Also this is an excellent way for a new ASM to learn about the Troop by working with an experienced Patrol Advisor. The Scoutmaster makes the assignments with concurrence of the assigned individuals based on Troop needs and individual strengths.

Specific Duties

- Advise the Patrol, through the Patrol Leader, on all matters related to Scouting to include:
 - a. Patrol organization and the function of the various members/positions.
 - b. Planning and execution of patrol and Troop events. This includes campout menu and preparation, meeting and event planning. All menus must be checked by the Patrol Advisor.
 - c. Assist the Monthly Program Patrol Advisor the patrol is the Program Patrol. Make the patrol aware of planning resources such as the Troop calendar, Troop Program Features, PLC, Troop Instructors, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters and Troop Committee members.
- Advancement counseling. Periodically review the Scout's BSA Handbook and the Advancement Chairman's records to determine:
 - a. The accuracy of the records (the book and Troop records should match).
 - b. Each Scout's progress.

Assist the Patrol Leader in carrying out these duties (see the Patrol Leader Handbook). Remember, advancement is primarily a means to gaining experience and knowledge and is not something that should be forced. Assist each Scout in preparing a plan for his advancement and make sure he is aware of the resources available (Merit Badge counselors, summer camp, ASM support, etc). A "Patrol Advisor Conference" should be held with each Scout once a term.

- Teach Scout skills when older Scouts are not available. This includes refreshers on basic camping skills and advancement requirements. It also includes inspecting campsites for safety, hygiene and Quartermaster issues.
- Teach the duties of the Patrol positions as the need arises. In most cases this will need reinforcement and checking to see that the patrol position holders are doing the job right (i.e., the Patrol Advisor should be checking the attendance records)
- Aid with any disciplinary or control problems the Patrol Leader may have.
- Advise the Scoutmaster of matters concerning the patrol.

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