

OWNER'S MANUAL

FOR A

BOY SCOUT IN TROOP 290

Dan Schliesman
Scoutmaster

May 2009

THE 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.

THE SCOUT LAW

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

The only rules in this camp are the Scout Oath and Law

Found on the Administration Building at
Tomahawk Scout Reservation

INTRODUCTION

Why an "Owner's Manual?" It is hoped that you, as a parent, and "owning" a Scout in Troop 290 will benefit from the information in this manual. Just as the owner's manual for your car provides you with information on the "care and feeding" of your new automobile, this manual will provide you help with the "care and feeding" of a Boy Scout. If you are new to Scouts, it is hoped that with this introduction to the troop, and our way of doing things, you will have a much better idea of what to expect. Hopefully, this will enable you and your son to have an enjoyable and profitable experience in the Boy Scouts.

What You Can Expect From the Troop

You can expect trained volunteer leaders who are doing their best to provide your son with experiences that, we hope, will help him grow into adulthood with strong values, and outdoor and leadership skills. The fundamental principles of troop operation are expressed in the ideals of the *Scout Oath* and the *Scout Law*.

The troop holds weekly meetings and has a special event (generally a campout) each month during the school year. In the summer the troop will spend a week at Tomahawk Scout Reservation north of Rice Lake, Wisconsin. On an irregular basis the troop has planned "high adventure" outings such as canoe trips, backpacking trips, and trips to the BSA High Adventure bases such as Sea Base in the Florida Keys and Bahamas, and Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. The regularity of "high adventure trips" depends mostly on the willingness of adults to use their vacation time to accompany the troop on these trips.

What We Expect From You

We expect you to:

- Support your son in his scouting activities
- Attend all Courts of Honor
- Help with troop activities when called upon

Purpose of the Boy Scouts of America

"Its purpose is to promote, through cooperation with other agencies, the ability of youth to do things for themselves and others, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred values. In achieving this purpose, emphasis is placed upon its educational program and the oaths, promises, and codes for character development, citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness." (Quoted from the BSA adult application form)

SCOUT OATH AND SCOUT LAW

The *Scout Oath* and *Scout Law* are the guiding principles of the Boy Scouts of America. It is through these statements, and the meaning behind them, that we hope to help guide your son into the type of mature and responsible adult that you desire him to be. Whether the scouts realize it or not, everything the troop does is guided by these principles. He may be having fun, but unknown to him, we are reinforcing the three parts of the *Oath* and the 12 points of the *Law*.

Declaration of Religious Principle

“The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God, and therefore, recognizes the religious element in the training of the member, but it is absolutely non-sectarian in its attitude toward that religious training. Its policy is that the home and the organization or group with which the member is connected shall give definite attention to religious life. Only persons willing to subscribe to this declaration of religious principle and to the Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America shall be entitled to certificates of membership.” (Quoted from the BSA adult application)

In keeping with this religious principle, the leaders of this troop, when on a campout, will attempt to make it possible to keep the twelfth point of the Scout Law by having non-denominational prayers before meals, and, when possible, short, non-denominational devotional services on Sunday morning.

TROOP ORGANIZATION

Our Chartering Partner

Our Chartering Partner (or sponsor) is Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (“the church”), 12560 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Apple Valley. Due to the size of our troop, the church has requested that all communication with the church be done through the Troop Committee Chair.

Troop Committee

The operation of a Scout Troop is too big a job for one or two people. Consequently, a committee of parents of scouts from the troop oversees the overall operation of a troop. The committee is composed of a Chairman, at least two other members (not the Scoutmaster or his assistants) and a representative of the chartering organization. The positions held by the committee members vary from troop to troop, but, in addition to the Chairman, they typically include Treasurer, Fund Raising Coordinator, Equipment Chairman, and Rank Advancement Coordinator. There is never a shortage of jobs for interested parents, so please speak up if you are interested in getting involved.

The fundamental function of the Troop Committee is to provide support to the troop in order that the troop may accomplish its goals. This comes in the form of troop fundraisers, transportation to events, and providing leaders. Our committee usually meets on a monthly schedule during the school year. Parents are always welcome to visit the committee meetings. It should be noted that the Scoutmaster attends these meetings, but is not a voting member.

Membership on the Troop Committee, and all other adult positions, is subject to the approval of the Committee Chairman and the Charter Representative (Church Pastor or his designee). This may involve background checks based upon information provided on the adult BSA registration form.

Scoutmaster and Assistants

The Scoutmaster (SM) is responsible for all activities directly involving the scouts. This includes weekly troop meetings, monthly events, campouts, service projects; everything the troop does. If this sounds like a big job, it is, but fortunately, he has a lot of help:

1. Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM). The ASM performs duties at the request of the SM. One or two ASMs are assigned primary responsibility for the new scouts.
2. Junior Assistant Scoutmaster (JASM). The JASM performs the same duties as the ASM. The only difference is that the JASM is a youth from within the troop, age 18 or older. This position is appointed by the SM and shall be reserved for those youths who in the opinion of the SM have demonstrated the maturity and leadership ability to assume the responsibility of the position.
3. Parents. You will always be welcome, and needed, to help with troop functions. Leaders on troop activities and campouts are always needed. Another important way that parents can help is to serve in the position of merit badge counselors. A healthy Troop has all Eagle required merit badges covered by a merit badge counselor in the troop.
4. The Scouts themselves. Through the hierarchy of troop leaders and patrols, a troop can accomplish a great deal with very little help from adults. The trick is to give them the chance and freedom to do it their way. The patrol method is the core of Boy Scouts.

Troop Organization and the Patrols

The boys, under the guidance of the SM and his assistants, lead the troop. For those parents with experience in Cub Scouts, this is probably one of the most significant differences between a Boy Scout troop and a Cub Scout pack. (And one of the most difficult things for a SM to do: to step back and let the boys lead their own troop.) Consequently, anyone looking in on a scout troop will probably see what he believes to be utter chaos: teenage boys are not as organized as adults may be, but given the opportunity, you may be amazed at what they can accomplish.

A troop is composed of several *patrols*. Each patrol usually consists of five to eight scouts. The scouts in a patrol may range from new scouts through experienced scouts in high school. It is

the responsibility of the experienced scouts in a patrol to share their knowledge and skills with the newer scouts. This is one of the many ways that they gain leadership experience.

Each patrol is led by a Patrol Leader (PL) and an Assistant Patrol Leader (APL). The patrols elect their own PL and APL. If possible, the PL must be a First Class scout or above; the APL need not be. The responsibilities of the PL are:

1. Act as leader for the patrol in all patrol activities.
2. Instruct younger scouts in scouting skills for their rank advancement.
3. Be cognizant of the requirements for rank advancement needed by the members of his patrol. Make the SPL and SM aware of these requirements so that outings and troop meetings can be planned to satisfy these requirements.
4. Attend the meetings of the Patrol Leader Council (PLC). If he is not able to attend a meeting he should send the APL.

Elections for PLs and APLs are held twice a year, once in June and again in January. Patrols are reorganized in the summer of each year. Each scout in the troop is given the opportunity to change patrols. Every attempt is made to keep friends together in the same patrol. We also attempt to balance out patrols so that qualified scouts will get the chance to be PLs and to achieve a balance of experienced and inexperienced scouts.

Troop Leadership Positions

Positions held by the scouts in the troop include:

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) – he is the senior boy leader of the troop. He is nominated by the PLC and elected by the troop for a one year term. He presides over the troop meetings and leads the troop on campouts, etc.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) – he is the assistant to the SPL, moving up to SPL after one year. He is also elected by the troop.

Patrol Leaders (PL) – they are the leaders of the patrols. Twice a year PLs are elected by the members of the patrols.

Assistant Patrol Leaders (APL) – as assistants to the PL, they take over his responsibilities in his absence. Members of the patrol elect them.

Scribe – he takes attendance at troop meetings and helps the SPL maintain the troop records. He is elected by the troop.

Quartermaster (QM) – he is responsible for maintaining troop equipment. At campouts, he will check out equipment (tents, etc.) to the scouts. He will work very closely with the Equipment Chairman of the Troop Committee in the maintenance of the equipment. Troop 290 has six Troop Quartermasters, elected by the troop.

Librarian – he is responsible for maintaining the troop library of merit badge booklets.

Historian – he is responsible for maintaining a record of troop events through the use of a troop scrapbook. He may act as “troop photographer”. Any costs for film purchase and processing will be reimbursed by the troop.

Troop Guide (TG) – he is responsible for “guiding” new scouts in the troop. The TG will help in skill instruction, passing requirements, etc., but mostly he needs to be a friend to the younger scouts to help them learn their way in the troop.

Bugler – he is responsible for sounding the various calls (e.g., Reveille, Taps, etc.) on the bugle. The troop has its own bugle.

Chaplain Aide – he leads the troop/patrols in “reverence toward God”, i.e., leading prayers at meals, Courts of Honor, etc.

Instructor – they are specialists in particular scouting skills and are responsible for teaching those skills to other scouts. The SM appoints Instructors.

Den Chief – works with a den from Cub Scout Pack 290. He helps with den meetings, achievements, and serves as a role model for the younger boys.

The holding of a troop leadership position is required for advancement to the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle. The requirement to hold one of these positions is that the Scout be First Class or above. Every effort will be made to see that every scout that needs to hold a leadership position for his next rank advancement is able to do so, but scouts should not expect that a leadership position will be available when they need it. They may have to wait until the next troop election. Elections are generally held in June and January.

New Scouts

Most new scouts enter the troop from a Cub Scout Pack as Webelos in the spring of the year. The new scouts are assimilated into the troop under the guidance of a few older scouts who guide them through training efforts and rank advancement activities. It also gives the new scouts an opportunity to get to know the older scouts in the troop. The individual patrols also have an Assistant Scoutmaster.

Hopefully, they will have earned the Arrow of Light award as Webelos. Since the requirements of the Webelos Physical Fitness Activity badge is nearly identical to requirement 9 of the Tenderfoot badge, those boys will be given credit for satisfying this requirement.

Patrol Leaders Council

The Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) is composed of the SPL, ASPL, PLs and other troop leaders. They are responsible for planning and executing the activities of the troop. To accomplish this, they will meet on a regular (monthly) basis. Typically, these PLC meetings are held on the last

Monday night of the month at 7:00 at Scott Highlands Middle School. There is no regular troop meeting that night.

Troop Leadership Meetings

The Troop Committee Chair holds a committee meeting of the adult leaders as the Scouts are having their meeting. This results in two benefits. It makes sure the parents stay clear of the Scout leaders as they conduct their meeting, and it allows the adult leadership to approve or review the monthly plan that was developed by the scout leadership team at the end of the meeting.

Merit Badge Counselors

MB counselors are adults who counsel scouts in working on specific merit badges. MB counselors are a very important part of the troop program. Troop 290 parents serve as counselors for several of the merit badges, but for some merit badges, a scout will need to work with an adult who is not connected to our troop. The Scoutmaster and Rank Advancement Coordinator have current lists of all merit badge counselors.

Note: National BSA policy does not allow MB counselors (or anyone else, for that matter) to meet one-on-one in private with a scout. A second adult or scout must be present. This may mean that when you take your son to meet with the counselor, take a book to read while you wait.

RANK ADVANCEMENT

Requirements

Advancing in rank requires satisfying a series of requirements listed in the current edition of the Boy Scout Handbook.

Service Hours

There are many ways to earn service hours (required for most ranks). A general rule is that those hours must serve someone or a group other than the troop. Some activities that are good ways to earn service hours are: Scouting for Food, helping with Pack 290's Cubmaster Event, Webelos woods, Toys for Tots, Eagle Projects, teaching Sunday School, and volunteering at the library. It's a good idea to get hours approved by the Scoutmaster in advance.

Scout Badge (Page 4 of the Boy Scout Handbook)

The Scout badge requires being exposed to the Boy Scout Oath, Promise, Law and Outdoor Code and committing to living by them, knowing the symbolism embodied in the Boy Scout Badge, tying a square knot and going over a drug and child abuse pamphlet with their parents. For new scouts coming in as Webelos, they have already covered most of this in their Webelos program. All the requirements can be covered with the scouts at troop meetings or campouts *except* the drug pamphlet. This must be a joint parent/son effort done at home.

Tenderfoot (Pages 31-61 of the Boy Scout Handbook)

The requirements for Tenderfoot require memorizing "word perfect" the Scout Oath and Law, and knowing what they mean. In addition, he must attend a campout, learn some knots, improve himself physically, and learn a bit about First Aid. With the Tenderfoot, the scout begins to learn what Boy Scouting is all about.

Second Class (Pages 63-109 of Boy Scout Handbook)

The requirements for Second Class center around fundamental skills in keeping one safe in the outdoors: hiking, map and compass, axe/knife/saw safety, animal identification, swimming, more first aid and participate in a school drug education program (we accept the 5th grade DARE program taught in ISD 196 schools). To achieve Second Class he must participate in a total of five monthly activities in addition to the weekly troop meetings. Due to its length, summer camp is counted as three activities.

First Class (Pages 111-165 of the Boy Scout Handbook)

To achieve First Class, a scout must become proficient in living in the outdoors: camping, cooking, fire building, additional first aid and CPR, plant identification, swimming, lashing, etc. He must attend an additional five (for a total of 10) monthly events. Troop activities are planned so that with regular attendance at troop meetings and monthly campouts, a new scout joining the troop in the spring will have the opportunities necessary to attain the First Class rank in 12-15 months, generally by his second time at Tomahawk.

Star (Pages 167-177 of the Boy Scout Handbook)

To achieve Star a scout must earn six merit badges including four from a required list, serve in one of the troop leadership positions (for a period of four months), and give six hours of service time.

Life (Pages 167-178 in the Boy Scout Handbook)

To achieve Life a scout must earn five more merit badges including three from a required list, serve in one of the troop leadership positions, and give six hours of service time.

Eagle (Pages 167-183 in the Boy Scout Handbook)

The rank of Eagle is achieved by only about 2% of all scouts. It is widely recognized by the military, industry, and academia as one of the highest honors that a young man can achieve. To advance to the rank of Eagle, a scout must earn a total of 21 merit badges, 12 of them from a required list, serve in a troop leadership position, and plan and supervise a service project, usually involving 75-150 man hours. In order for a scout to earn the rank of Eagle, he must have developed considerable leadership skills and demonstrated the maturity expected of the rank. The requirements for the rank, and the Scoutmaster conference, must be completed by the scout's 18th birthday.

Scoutmaster's Conference

The SM Conference is a time for the SM and a scout to get to know each other.

The first thing the SM usually asks the scout is, "What, in your own words, do we mean when we say 'Scout Spirit'?" There obviously is no right or wrong answer to this question, but it gives us an opportunity to talk about the Scout Oath and Law, and how it applies to our daily life. It is at this time that the SM signs off the "Scout Spirit" requirement.

The discussion, typically, then turns to the scout's likes and dislikes, about school, sports and other interests. The SM wants suggestions for improving the troop and ideas for future activities. They will talk about the requirements he has completed, and about his next rank advancement, ensuring that he clearly understands what he must accomplish in order to achieve his next rank advancement. The scout can ask the SM any questions he may have about Scouting.

Board of Review

The purpose of the Board of Review is to make sure that the work has been learned and completed, to find out what kind of experience he is having in his patrol and the troop, and to encourage him to progress further. This is not a time to test the scout, but to talk about what he has learned. There is no Board of Review for Scout, but advancement to all other ranks requires that the scout appear before a Board of Review. The Board is usually composed of adults from the troop committee, and may include other scouts that are above the rank being reviewed. The SM cannot be on the Board, nor can the scout's parent. For an Eagle candidate, the scout must appear before a district level Board of Review composed of adults outside the troop.

The Board has the right to examine the scout on any of the requirements for his rank advancement, and if in their opinion do not feel that he is ready to advance, may ask him to come back at a later date. In reality, this rarely happens. In all cases, one of the most important topics asked of the scout is his scout spirit and how he exhibits it.

The time that a scout achieves a rank advancement is the time that he passes his Board of Review. The award is then presented to the scout at a Court of Honor.

Court of Honor

A Court of Honor is a formal and public recognition of the achievements of the scouts of the troop. Troop 290 holds three Courts of Honor each year. The largest with the most awards is held at Camp Tomahawk on Friday evening after a full week at camp. The other two are in November and in June at the end of the scout year. The merit badges, badges of rank, and any other awards or special recognition earned by a scout are given to him at this time. A formal ceremony is planned and presided over by a Master of Ceremonies. This may be the SPL or other scout (probably working on the Communications MB). In addition to the presentation of awards, a program of interest to both parents and scouts may be presented. Parents are expected, and strongly encouraged, to attend.

Merit Badges

To earn a merit badge (MB), a scout first comes to the SM and obtains a merit badge application card (the yellow or blue card). He then looks in a published list of MB counselors and chooses one to contact – the SM and Rank Advancement Coordinator have these lists. He writes the name, address and phone number of the MB counselor on the yellow or blue card. The scout then arranges to meet with the counselor. When the scout has completed the MB requirements to the counselor's satisfaction (this usually requires more than one meeting and additional activity), the counselor will sign off on the card. The scout then gives the card to the Rank Advancement Coordinator. His MB will then be presented at the next Court of Honor.

Make sure that you keep your portion of the MB card in a safe place– it is the official record of achievement. A small box the size of a watch box for all scout awards is an ideal place to keep all of your sons awards in one place

Note: National BSA policy does not allow MB counselors (or anyone else, for that matter) to meet one-on-one in private with a scout. A third person must be present. Obviously, it is most efficient for the counselor (and fun for the scout) if that third person is another scout working on the merit badge.

Troop Library

The troop will supply to MB counselors (from this troop) the appropriate MB requirements book for any MB for which they counsel. The troop maintains a library of BSA publications. Scouts and leaders may check out books from the library by contacting the troop librarian. The library will contain MB books for the required MBs and for MBs that can be earned at Tomahawk; other MB books are the responsibility of the scout. If you have purchased a MB book, please consider donating it to the troop library when you are done with it. Although the library mostly contains MB books, it also has other BSA publications. If you are looking for a book, contact the troop librarian to see if he has it.

TROOP MEETINGS and EVENTS

Troop Meetings

Troop meetings are held September through May, every Monday (except when there is a PLC or school holiday) at 7:00 p.m. at Scott Highlands Middle School. Regular troop meetings will end at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Patrol Leader Council Meetings

The PLC is made up of the SPL, ASPL, and PLs, the Scribe, and Troop Guide. Other boys holding positions of leadership are encouraged to attend. PLC meetings are held September through May, the last Monday of each month, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at SHMS (Pilot Knob and 142nd). (Please check the calendar for those few times they meet at the church.) These meetings provide an opportunity for the scouts responsible for upcoming meetings to meet with their advisors in planning the troop meetings for the next few weeks.

The PLC also meets once in August at a special time determined each year to plan an overview of the upcoming year. This is the time the scouts discuss what types of activities, campouts, and trips they want, as well as the kinds of things they would like to do at their regular meetings.

Monthly Events and Campouts

Every attempt is made to hold one “major” troop activity every month. Typically, this activity is a campout, but instead may be a tour, swim, hike, etc.

Generally, the cost of a weekend campout will be \$15- \$25 plus transportation costs. Occasionally additional is added for an activity or camp patch, or to help cover “special opportunity” costs. Costs for adults who participate (drive, help supervise, etc.) are usually covered by the troop.

\$9 - 12 of the weekend campout fee goes to purchase groceries that the boys will use for their meals. They will plan the menu, purchase the food, and cook the meals. Grocery receipts should be turned in to the Activities Coordinator for reimbursement. Parents become active with scouts as the scouts volunteer to shop for and store food for a camp.

To attend an event, a scout must turn in his fees and a permission form signed by his parent or guardian by the announced deadline. Permission forms are e-mailed to each scout along with their newsletter and as required. Be sure to include appropriate telephone numbers in the event you must be reached, and information about any medications or activity restrictions for your son.

Standard Time and Place for Departures

Most campouts depart from the parking lot at Scott Highlands Middle School at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening. Exceptions to this standard time and place will be noted in the newsletter. To avoid parents waiting in the parking lot for the troop to return, scouts will be returned directly to their homes. On a campout we try to leave camp by 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning. We generally arrive back in Apple Valley between 11:00 and 12:00 Sunday morning.

Parent help is ALWAYS needed on campouts. We need leaders in camp, and drivers to transport scouts to and from camp. Policy of National BSA and of this troop requires that we have a minimum of two adult leaders on any troop outing. If we do not have this “two-deep”

leadership, the event will be cancelled. If you can attend an event as a leader, please indicate this on your son's permission slip. If you can drive, please indicate this. If sufficient parents do not volunteer to drive, then you may be requested to help transport scouts.

Transportation Costs

The troop will reimburse some of the cost of gas for the parents who drive the boys to the campouts. (See the chart below.)

Additionally, the troop committee will pay a "stipend" to the parent who pulls the troop trailer in recognition of increased gas costs and the extra time and work involved.

Most adult leaders driving to camps do not accept the gas payment. It is easier to drive all year to camps and use the mileage as a donation to reduce income tax.

<u>Roundtrip</u>	<u>Gas Surcharge</u> (to be paid by scout)	<u>Trailer Stipend</u> (to be paid by troop)
0 – 100 miles	\$4.00/campout	\$10.00 each way
100 – 200 miles	\$5.00	\$15.00 each way
200 – 300 miles	\$6.00	\$20.00 each way
300 – 400 miles	\$7.00	\$25.00 each way

DISCIPLINE

The conduct of all scouts within the troop is guided by the principles of the *Scout Oath* and the *Scout Law*. They are expected to abide by these principles.

Hazing or harassment of any sort, of another scout is not tolerated. Drugs, alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, or other tobacco products are not allowed.

In the event that the SM decides to send a scout home for disciplinary reasons, the parents are expected to come to get him immediately, at their cost.

In reality, discipline has not been a problem in this troop. All boys make mistakes. It is the job of the adult leaders to address the behavior issue with the scout and ensure that he understands the expectations and the principles of the *Oath* and *Law*.

POLICY FOR HOMESICK SCOUTS

We all want the scouts to learn the necessary skills to successfully participate in a weekend campout without their parents. Parents have the responsibility to let the SM know of any particular challenges their son might have in doing that. If there are problems, the SM has a responsibility to let the parents know about them. If the SM feels that there is an issue that the volunteer adult leaders are not equipped to handle appropriately, the SM, parents and/or a committee member will meet to discuss the best way to deal with the situation.

In general:

- Parent or “guardian” must accompany a scout on overnights for a period of time if requested by the SM, and
- When the SM, parents and scout all agree he is ready to try it “alone,” parents must be available (reachable) to immediately come and pick up their son if there is a problem.

UNIFORMS

Description

The uniform of this troop includes the Scout shirt with all proper insignia. A merit badge sash is used to display the merit badges earned by the scout and should be worn at all formal occasions (i.e., Court of Honor).

Scouts may wear jeans with their Scout shirt, as long as they are in good condition and are respectful of the uniform. Shirts should be tucked in. We do not require Scout pants.

The troop has not adopted a neckerchief. However, Eagle scouts are encouraged to wear their Eagle neckerchief.

Insignia Placement

The insignia required on a scout's uniform includes the US flag, council strip, troop numerals, world crest, patrol medallion, and a badge of rank. The US flag usually comes attached to the shirt. Obtaining the council strip and troop numerals are the responsibility of the scout and his parents. The patrol medallion and badge of rank are supplied by the troop. If the scout holds an office of leadership within the troop, it will be provided by the troop. Diagrams of the placement of the insignia may be found on the inside covers of the Boy Scout Handbook. Note that the right pocket is for any "temporary" patches. Commonly, a Tomahawk patch or Baden-Powell award patch is put there. The area above the right pocket is ONLY for a National Jamboree or Order of the Arrow patch.

Merit badges are worn on a green merit badge sash, three merit badges to a row. Be sure that when merit badges are sewn on, you remember that the sash is worn over the right shoulder down to the left hip (with the pointed end at the hip).

What to do with all the other patches? Most scouts probably just throw them in a drawer or shoebox. Or... you can keep them in photo album pages in a three-ring notebook, or some of them (typically activity patches; those that are "temporary" or right pocket patches) can be sewn on the back side of the merit badge sash (that is, the sash that shows as you look at the back of the boy).

When to Wear

Class "A" Uniforms

Class "A" uniforms are required at all troop meetings and Courts of Honor. The uniform should be worn at all times when representing the Boy Scouts of America and Troop 290. It is to be brought on campouts, particularly to Tomahawk in the summer, where it is worn at morning and evening meals and church services.

Troop "T" Shirts

Troop 290 has a Class "B" uniform, too – troop T-shirts! These can be worn during troop activities (campouts, some service projects, travel, etc.) Contact the Troop Committee Chair for more information on cost and availability. Most scouts and adult leaders purchase a Tomahawk shirt every year. By the time they are older scouts they have a clean shirt for every day in camp!

OA Sashes

Members of the Order of the Arrow are to wear their sashes to all Order of the Arrow functions, including the call out ceremony at summer camp, Fall Conclave, Winter Banquet, etc. The OA sash should be worn only at OA functions. The merit badge sash and OA sash are not worn together. To demonstrate pride in OA membership when wearing the Class A uniform and merit badge sash, it is appropriate to wear the OA pin or hang tag.

ORDER OF THE ARROW

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is a national brotherhood of Scout honor campers that originated in 1915 to strengthen troops and encourage outdoor experiences. It is based on brotherhood and cheerful service to fellowmen. Troop members are nominated by the SM and elected to membership by fellow scouts in the troop. They must be First Class or above and have a total of 15 days and nights of camping "under the stars" or in a tent. A troop may hold only one election per year under the direct supervision of the council's lodge. RULES: (Can you name any other organization that elects its members by the non-members of the organization?) One adult at a time may be nominated by the troop committee to act as advisors to the youth members of OA. Inspirational ceremonies are based on Native American legend and lore that strengthen understanding of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

The OA program in a council is conducted through a lodge under the authority of the Scout Executive. Lodges conduct youth led meetings, plan and carry out activities, organize council service projects for Arrowmen, and develop summer camp promotions to help Scouts and Cubs prepare and attend the council camps. The OA provides broad-based leadership opportunities that strengthen personal development for individual scouts and maintain interest in the Scouting program.

Members in the OA are at one of three honor levels: Ordeal, Brotherhood, and Vigil. When a scout is elected to the OA, he does his "ordeal" by spending an evening alone in the woods, a day of "arduous labor" without talking (gives him time to reflect on the meaning of the Oath and Law), and with "scant food." His ordeal ends with an impressive ceremony and a huge banquet. The scout learning the fundamentals of the OA achieves the Brotherhood honor level. The Vigil honor level is achieved by very few. It is generally awarded for giving substantial service to the local OA lodge and BSA Council.

The OA lodge patch on their right shirt pocket flap and the OA sash distinguish members of the OA at formal occasions and OA activities. The sash is white with a red arrow, and like the MB sash, it also is worn over the right shoulder. The red arrow on the sash designates the honor level. A simple arrow indicates that the scout is an Ordeal member. An arrow with two bars designates the Brotherhood honor level, and an arrow with bars AND a triangle in the center of the arrow designates a Vigil honor level.

Since not all scouts in the troop are eligible to participate in OA activities, the troop does not participate in OA activities as a group. On the other hand, participation in OA activities will be encouraged for those scouts that are members, and scheduling of troop activities will attempt to avoid conflicts with OA activities. The OA offers an excellent opportunity to maintain the interest and participation of older scouts in scouting activities.

EQUIPMENT

Troop Equipment

The troop has an inventory of tents and tarps, dining flies, stoves, cooking equipment, water jugs, etc. for use on our campouts. One important use of the funds in the troop treasury is for the purchase and maintenance of this equipment. Most of the equipment is stored and transported in a trailer owned by the troop.

Care of Tents

The troop has a very large investment in tents. These must be maintained and taken care of to protect that investment. Treated with care, they will last for many years. It is expected that scouts will take care of tents on campouts. If a tent is maliciously damaged, the scout will be asked to have the tent repaired or replaced at his cost.

Frequently we have to strike camp with wet tents. These tents are easily damaged by mildew, so they must be dried. When we have wet tents, scouts will take tents home (the QM will keep a list of who has which tent) to be dried. This is done by erecting the tent in the yard if possible, or spreading it out on the garage or basement floor. Hanging them from hooks in the garage ceiling is also effective. The tents are then to be returned to the QM or Equipment Chairman as soon as possible.

Use of Troop Equipment

The troop equipment will be used on troop events by participating scouts. Troop 290 scouts attending other scouting events, such as Order of the Arrow conclave may borrow the equipment. The troop equipment may also be borrowed by Cub Scout Pack 290 on Webelos campouts when they are unable to furnish their own equipment and it does not conflict with usage by the troop.

Troop equipment is not available for use for non-scouting events.

Personal Equipment

Scouts are expected to supply the following for their own personal use (for a full list, see the Boy Scout Handbook):

Boy Scout Handbook	Sleeping bag and sleeping pad
Rain gear	Extra clothes
Eating utensils: cup, plate, bowl, knife, fork, and spoon	
Jacket, swim trunks, etc. as required by weather and activities	
Hygiene items: soap, washcloth, towel, deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste	
Pocket knife, matches, etc.	Pillow
Flashlight & extra batteries	Medications

His equipment should be well marked with his name in a manner that is permanent and cannot be removed.

A small, discrete quantity of snacks may be brought on campouts. A "shoebox" size plastic container is appropriate for Tomahawk.

The leaders or troop cannot be held liable for the loss or other "disappearance" of personal items. If this were a perfect world, a personal item left unattended would still be there when its owner returned for it; but, this is not a perfect world, nor do we always have perfect scouts. It is hoped that "mysterious" disappearances would be less of a problem at Scouting events, and the leaders will take precautions to ensure that it is, but it still can, and does, happen. If an item does not return home with your scout, please call the Scoutmaster. There is a very good chance that he found it left behind and has it.

Do Not Bring

The following items are not to be brought to camp:

1. The troop has "zero-tolerance" for drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products. Not only will any of these items be confiscated immediately from the scout; the scout will be sent home.
2. Electronics, including iPods, mp3 players, Game Boys, laptops, radios, boomboxes, and headphones.
3. Sheath knife, switchblades, butterfly knife, etc. Scouts may bring to camp only folding knives such as a pocketknife, jack knife, or a folding Buck knife after he has earned his "Totin' Chip" (demonstrated proper handling, care, and use of a knife, ax, and saw).
4. Butane lighters.

Any of these items will be confiscated from the scout, and items 2, 3, and 4 will be returned to him at the end of camp.

FINANCING IT ALL

Troop Fund Raisers

The troop has three or four fundraisers every year:

Fund Raiser:

Holiday greenery

Popcorn

Pancake Breakfast

Timing:

Fall

Early Spring

Late Spring

Proceeds:

Primarily camp funds

Camp funds/Troop Fund

Troop general fund

The troop committee is always open to new ideas for fund raising. If you have an idea, or a contact that might be helpful, please talk with one of the adult leaders.

Camp Fund

The troop maintains a savings account, or "camp fund," for each scout in the troop. Money is deposited in the camp fund when your son sells wreaths or cheesecakes. This fund can be used for any expenses related to scouting. Most scouts use it to help pay for summer camp, but it can also be used for High Adventure trips (including Philmont, Jamborees, etc.), equipment and uniform purchases, weekend campouts, and annual registration dues. The troop treasurer maintains the balance in each scout's fund. If any question arises about the camp fund, please contact the treasurer. You can be reimbursed for any purchases related to scouting or camping by presenting a receipt to the treasurer.

If a scout transfers to another troop, his camp fund can be transferred to that troop.

The camp fund is NOT a general-purpose savings account. The account can be closed out when a scout leaves the troop (transfers to another troop, turns 18 years old, or quits) by requesting a check for the balance in the account. Funds left behind (after six months) will be transferred to the general operating fund of the troop.

Camperships

The Indianhead Council BSA has a limited number of "scholarships" available for needy scouts to attend summer camp at the Tomahawk Scout Reservation. For further information, contact the Scoutmaster.