

BOY SCOUT
TROOP 122



GUIDEBOOK

PUBLISHED BY & PROPERTY OF

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
TROOP 1 2 2

chartered to

OSCEOLA UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
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INTRODUCTION TO OUR TROOP

WELCOME!

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 122! We are always happy to have the opportunity to help a boy develop, through the beliefs of scouting, into a young man ready to take his place in a bright future.

Throughout your scouting career with our troop, this guidebook will provide useful information when you have questions. However, don't hesitate to ask a troop leader anytime you have a question. You may also let them know if you have a suggestion to improve this guidebook!

TROOP HISTORY

Troop 122 has been chartered to the Osceola United Methodist Church since 1935. That makes us over 70 years old! We had a big party on the occasion of our 60th birthday and are looking forward to celebrating 75 years in 2010!

What does 70+ years old mean to you? First, we have a solid foundation of leaders and community members that continues to grow each year. Second, you have the peace of mind of knowing that this troop is not a 'here today, gone tomorrow' operation. We're here to stay! Finally, you get to wear that cool "70 year bar" on your uniform between the flag and the '122'. Only units 70 + years old can wear them!

GOALS & BELIEFS

We have some pretty basic ideas:

- Every scout is encouraged to live by the Scout Oath and Law and to obey the Outdoor Code.
- Every scout, regardless of economic or social background, will have the opportunity to participate in all troop activities providing they meet any achievement requirements previously stated for the activity. (e.g. Rank & merit badge requirements for a High Adventure trip.)
- Every scout will achieve the rank of First Class. (All scouts will be encouraged to continue advancing until they attain the rank of Eagle Scout).
- Any parent or guardian is welcome at all meetings, outings, campouts, etc. In other words, come anytime!

- Any adult who submits an application to be a troop leader and is approved by the local and national BSA councils and by the Osceola United Methodist Church is welcome! However, they must be prepared to take an active role with the troop as required by their position.
- Have fun while learning!

GENERAL INFORMATION

WEEKLY MEETINGS

Our weekly troop meetings are held on Thursday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the large meeting hall at Osceola United Methodist Church. All scouts and leaders should attend these meetings. Here are a few things that are done at meetings!:

Rank advancement	Campout info & planning
Merit badge work	Outing info & planning
Compass & map reading	Awards & recognition
Lashing & knot tying	Patrol & Troop elections
Interpatrol activities (games)	Board of Review
Firem'n Chit & Tot'n Chip	Summer Camp prep
Patrol meetings	High Adventure prep
Learn new skills (cooking, first aid, camping, canoeing, etc.)	

Come regularly to meetings so you don't miss out on all this great stuff! If you have to miss a meeting due to a sports practice or other important activity, please let your patrol leader or an adult leader know BEFORE the meeting. This will keep everyone from waiting for you!

Parents are welcome to attend weekly meetings. Please note that the scouts will participate in the meeting independently (without you!) but there's always someone around to talk to.

Generally, there are no weekly meetings during the Christmas holidays or the summer months. Check the newsletter calendar or ask a leader if you're not sure.

Wear your Class A uniform!

UNIFORMS

There are two types of uniforms - Class A and Class B. The Class

A uniform is the official uniform of the BSA and could be called the 'dress' uniform. The Class B uniform consists of any shirt which displays a BSA picture, symbol, or phrase.

Our troop Class A uniform consists of:

- Official BSA tan uniform shirt, short or long-sleeves
- Red shoulder loops
- Left sleeve: LaSalle Council patch
70 year bar
122
Position patch (if applicable)
Trained patch (if applicable)
- Right sleeve: American flag (comes w/shirt)
Patrol patch (if applicable)
Quality Unit patch
- Troop neckerchief (see below)
- Neckerchief slide
- Scouts may wear their Arrow of Light (earned as a Webelos Cub Scout) at bottom of left chest pocket.
- Rank patch is to be worn on left chest pocket.
- Universal Scouting patch (purple) may be worn at least 2" above the left chest pocket.
- Service stars are to be worn centered 1/2" above the left chest pocket.
- Any temporary patch (summer camp, etc.) may be worn on the right chest pocket.
- Medium to dark color jeans, pants or shorts. The official scout pants or shorts may be worn but are not required. Sweat pants, anything with holes, bright colors, or pants that don't fit well should not be worn.

The uniform is the same for scouts and adults. The Class A uniform should be worn to all troop meetings. Wear your uniform to all campouts. If an outing, fundraiser or service project requires Class A it will be announced at troop meetings. If you're not sure, wear it with a t-shirt underneath and you can always take it off.

Similarly, you will be told in advance if a situation requires a Class B t-shirt which can be purchased for \$12. We also produce a t-shirt for each High Adventure trip. In addition, there are always shirts for sale at summer camp and the council trading post.

Please remember that the way you dress says a lot about you

as a person and when you're wearing your uniform, it also affects this troop and Boy Scouting in general.

NECKERCHIEFS

We have designed and produced our own troop neckerchief. It features our Indian & Eagle logo and is very distinctive! We charge \$10 for a neckerchief but here's a little incentive: we'll gladly refund the \$10 if a scout becomes an Eagle Scout while with our troop! Also, if for some reason you leave our troop, we will refund a portion of your \$10 upon return of the neckerchief, depending on its condition.

The neckerchief is an official part of the Class A uniform and should always be worn with the tan uniform shirt. Scouts and adult leaders wear the same neckerchief.

There are as many neckerchief slides as there are necks. Scouts can use their imagination, craft talent, or buy one from the trading post. We recommend using items such as string and rubber bands only as temporary slides, though! They don't last!

DUES

We charge \$1.00 per meeting for dues. This money should be earned and paid by the scout, not the parent. This is to promote responsibility and thriftiness. Scouts receive 1 point for paying their dues at a meeting. They may pay ahead no more than one week at a time. However, dues should be paid for all meetings, even if a scout does not attend, because the money is used for a specific purpose each year as outlined below.

We charged you for the first year but for each year after that, dues money is used to pay for the \$10.00 registration fee charged by the National Boys Scouts of America to be a member of this organization. This money does not benefit the troop or the local council. Dues money is also used to help purchase the merit badges, rank patches, etc. that a scout earns during the year.

SCOUT BOOK

Each scout must have the official Boy Scout Handbook. This book contains hundreds of pages of useful information as well as pages to record the progress of the scout through the ranks of Boy Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Star, Life and Eagle. It is available at the council trading post. Scouts receive 5 points for bringing this book to a meeting. Also, many times the book will be required for a campout or activity.

NEWSLETTER

Our troop produces a monthly newsletter. The newsletter contains important information about past and future activities. The calendar on the front page should be used to help plan your schedule. Campout plans, special recognitions, fundraiser deadlines and results, sponsor info, committee members and special events are all part of the newsletter.

Each scout is given a newsletter of their own at a meeting near the beginning of the month. Scouts should read the newsletter! Parents, sponsors and other adult leaders will receive their copy in the mail.

PHONE LIST

In addition to the phone list of leaders and committee members available in the newsletter, a separate phone list is available to all scouts and parents. This phone list contains the name, address, phone number, patrol and troop position of every scout and adult leader in the troop. If you do not have this list - ask! It is updated periodically through the year.

TROOP ORGANIZATION

SCOUTMASTER AND ASSISTANTS

The adult leader in charge of the general function of the troop is called the Scoutmaster. This is an adult at least 21 years old with the desire to lead both the scouts and the assistant scoutmasters. The Scoutmaster's role includes, but is not limited to:

- Work with the Senior Patrol Leader and the Patrol Leader Council (PLC) to ensure the weekly meetings are properly planned and executed.
- Work with the PLC, assistant scoutmasters and adult committee to plan the troop's outings and campouts.
- Provide leadership training to scouts voted or appointed to leadership positions in the troop.
- Ensure assistant scoutmasters are properly trained and play an active role in the troop.
- Be present at weekly troop meetings, monthly committee meetings and troop outings.

The Scoutmaster should wear the appropriate Class A or Class B uniform at all functions.

The Scoutmaster should, in both word and deed, provide a good example for the scouts. His guidance and leadership are key to the success of the troop.

The Scoutmaster can have as many Assistant Scoutmasters as wish to volunteer! However, each Assistant Scoutmaster must be prepared to take an active role in the troop. Assistant Scoutmasters can have many responsibilities and may also be committee members with specific committee positions. The Assistant Scoutmaster's role includes, but is not limited to:

- Work with the Scoutmaster to ensure the weekly meetings, outings and campouts are executed as determined by the Scoutmaster and the PLC.
- Be present at weekly troop meetings, monthly committee meetings and troop outings.
- Provide leadership and instruction during weekly troop meetings and troop outings.
- Be responsible for planning their share of troop outings and activities.
- Be available!

An Assistant Scoutmaster should wear the appropriate Class A or Class B uniform at all functions.

All Assistant Scoutmasters support the Scoutmaster and the troop. In most cases, they provide the same guidance and leadership as the Scoutmaster and, as responsible adults, should also set a good example for the scouts to follow.

SENIOR PATROL LEADER AND ASSISTANTS

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is the most important position in the troop. This position is held for a period of one year by a scout who is elected by all of the other scouts in the troop. Adults do not vote! A scout must be Star Rank in order to be eligible for this position.

The Senior Patrol Leader has many responsibilities and must be prepared to be a bridge between the scouts and the adult leadership. He is the only scout with the authority to tell the adults what to do! The Senior Patrol Leader's role includes, but is not limited to:

- Work with the Scoutmaster and PLC to ensure the weekly meetings are properly planned and executed.
- Work with the Scoutmaster and PLC to plan and execute the troop's outings and campouts.
- Provide youth leadership in situations that are within his ability and responsibility. This includes dealing with behavior and discipline as well as giving direction and guidance.
- Represent the troop as the leader in charge at Council and other group functions.

The Senior Patrol Leader should wear the appropriate Class A or Class B uniform at all functions.

The Senior Patrol Leader must be prepared to sometimes be "unpopular" when performing their duties. They must lead by example in order to be given the respect of their peers. The Senior Patrol Leader is given training and guidance by both the Scoutmaster and his assistants. There is also training provided by the local Council to help him in this position.

The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) is appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader. This is appropriate since they will work closely together for the duration of their term. In our troop, there is usually more than one ASPL. An ASPL will act as the SPL in his absence.

The main function of the ASPL is to assist the SPL whenever possible. He is also responsible for assigning other troop positions such as the Librarian, Quartermaster, etc.

Since the SPL and ASPL positions are held by youth, they are just learning both the problems and rewards of being in a leadership role. For this reason, they know they can always count on whatever support they require from the adult leadership.

COMMITTEE

Both the adult and youth leadership rely on the adult committee to provide planning and decision-making throughout the scout year. The Committee consists of any and all adults who are interested in taking an active part in Scouting with this particular troop.

The Scoutmaster and his Assistants are automatically part of the Committee. The rest of the membership, at any given time, will be a combination of parents and relatives as well as adults with no children in scouting. Sometimes even adults with no children! All Committee members are officially registered with the Boy Scouts

of American and must be approved by our chartered organization, Osceola United Methodist Church.

The Committee meets on the last Tuesday of each month at the church at 7:00PM. Their goal for each meeting is to discuss completed activities and those in progress, make future plans, approve spending and fundraising, identify problem areas and solution, etc.

Committee members do not always have specific jobs. The more adults involved in the troop, the more diverse the activities will be so all adults are encouraged to become members of the Committee members including, but not limited to:

- Committee Chairman
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Fundraising Coordinator
- High Adventure Coordinator
- Chartered Organization Representative

The Committee Chairman is another important adult leadership position. They are the adult in charge of the adults! (Thank goodness someone is keeping order!) The Committee Chairman's role includes, but is not limited to:

- Have the Committee meet regularly.
- Have an agenda for each meeting so the Committee conducts the business required to keep the troop running smoothly.
- Ensure that each Committee member does the job for which they have volunteered.
- Maintain communication with the Scoutmaster, know how the plans made by the PLC effect those of the Committee and vice versa.

CHURCH

The Osceola United Methodist Church is our Chartered Organization. As such, they:

- Provide a meeting place.
- Provide a representative on the Committee.
- Have final approval of adult leadership.
- Provide financial and physical (facility, equipment, etc.)

assistance. This they are under no obligation to do but they believe that our goals and theirs go hand in hand and so they support us as much as possible.

- We are very fortunate to have them as our Chartered Organization. We look forward to many more years of the partnership.

BSA

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is the organization to which our troop belongs. They support and guide us on two levels.

First, we are part of the Algonquian District of the La Salle Council. The Algonquian District covers all of St. Joseph County and more. The La Salle Council includes our district and 3 others from La Porte, Marshall, and Elkhart counties in Indiana and Berrien County in Michigan. The Council supports us with permanent staff, adult and junior leader training, scout supplies and uniforms and other trading post items. They also maintain scout and adult records and sponsor many district and council wide activities each year.

Second, the National Council of the BSA provides the stability of over 85 years in operation and is the largest membership organization for boys in America today. They set the policies and provide the materials which make Scouting possible and ensure we all have a common purpose throughout the country.

CAMPING

WHEN?

Generally, this troop goes camping for one weekend each month with three exceptions:

- In June we will spend six days at summer camp at Wood Lake Scout Reservation. There will usually not be a weekend campout in that same month.
- In a High Adventure year (even #) there will not usually be a campout in July.
- The Christmas party in December is usually an overnight spent indoors with a few more "niceties" than on most campouts.

Campout plans are made at least 2 months in advance.

Some campouts are scheduled for us by the Council - Summer Camp for example. Others are scheduled to coincide with an event like the Osceola Bluegrass Festival in August or Walk On The Wild Side in October.

Campouts will not be cancelled due to inclement weather unless it is dangerous. Tornadoes and severe cold (especially wind chill) will keep even this troop from the outdoors. However, whenever possible an alternate plan will be prepared for the original weekend or the campout will be rescheduled for another time.

WHERE?

Anywhere! We have visited a wide range of places in our area within a five-hour driving radius. We will continue to search for new places to visit each year for the campouts that are up to the troop.

HOW?

Campouts, as with any other scout activity, require at least 2 adults to be in attendance. There are usually many more than 2 since the campouts are great fun. We travel in our personal vehicles. One vehicle will usually tow our troop trailer which carries all of our camping gear. Occasionally we will ask for parent assistance in driving to and/or from a campout and there are some local campouts to which you will bring your scout directly and pick them up when we're through.

WHY?

Because we like it! Camping is a great way to learn many things about life and have fun at the same time. Cooperation and teamwork, perseverance, self-esteem, problem solving, goal setting and achievement, physical endurance - these are just a few of the things our scouts experience during a weekend campout. Scouts who regularly participate in our campouts will soon learn that they can achieve anything they put their mind to and have fun doing it!

COST

Most of our campouts cost \$20 per scout. This money is used to cover just a part of the cost of the food, camping fees and transportation costs for each scout. Can you feed your teenage son 4 meals plus snacks for two days for \$20?! Add in the cost of

camping at most locations and it's a bargain. Since they are volunteering their time, vehicles and patience, adult leaders do not usually pay a fee for a weekend campout. Occasionally, a campout will have an additional fee. Skiing, caving, Klumb Kalamazoo – these are all outings that will cost more than \$20. Individual fundraising money can always be used to cover any additional fee associated with a campout or outing.

RULES

- NO tennis shoes except during the summer months.
- ALWAYS have an extra pair of boots
- ALWAYS wear a hat. It must cover your ears in the winter. A visor or headband is NOT a hat.
- You MAY NOT bring food or drinks, except water.
- NO electronic equipment unless specifically stated for long car trips. These must stay in the vehicle at all times.
- WEAR your Class A uniform.

SUMMER CAMPING GEAR & INFO

Standard camping gear for a summer campout:

- Clothing is mostly personal choice and scouts will be told in advance if there are particular clothing requirements for a campout. Pack clothes for the weather and the possible weather! Your clothes will usually get dirty!
- Extra socks are always a good idea.
- Rain gear
- Extra shoes/boots
- Hat
- Jacket or sweatshirt
- Sleeping bag (pillow OK on most campouts)
- Mess kit w/cup and eating utensils (doesn't have to be a "kit")
- Flashlight and extra batteries and bulb
- Toiletries
- Personal first aid kit
- Scout book
- Folding pocket knife with Tot'n Chip
- Matches or lighter with Firem'n Chit
- Bug repellent
- Sunscreen

Some additional items you may wish to bring along:

- Sunglasses, compass, book, playing cards, bandana, camera, camp chair, walking stick

WINTER CAMPING GEAR & INFO

Winter camping is a challenging but rewarding experience. We guarantee that if you learn how to winter camp with us, you'll have a great time! The key to camping in the winter is staying warm and we'll show you how to do it.

Standard camping gear for a winter campout:

- Long underwear for each day (synthetic fabric is best)
- One full change of clothes for each day
- Extra shirt & pants for layering
- Many pairs of extra socks
- Snow boots and another pair of boots - NO TENNIS SHOES!
- 2 knit/stocking hats
- 2 pairs of gloves
- Winter coat
- Snow pants
- Blanket to use with sleeping bag
- Sweats or long underwear for sleeping
- Take everything else you would for the summer except the bug repellent and sunscreen - you won't need those!

Some Additional items you may wish to bring along:

- Hand lotion, chemical warmers, scarf or face covering, glove liners, sock liners, more batteries (it's more dark!)

MONEY MATTERS

POINT SYSTEM

In order to encourage participation and equitably distribute the money we raise, we use a reward point system. Every time a scout and/or family member participates in an activity, they are earning points.

The following are worth 5 points: Regular meeting (1 point each for attendance, book, uniform shirt, neckerchief, dues, scouts only); each night of a campout, Court of Honor. The following are worth 25 points: merit badge and rank

advancement (scouts only). The following are worth 50 points: fund-raiser, service project. In all cases except those noted, parents and other family members will earn the same points as the scout for participating!

Points earned will be converted to cash for Summer Camp or the bi-annual High Adventure trip. Adult/family points can be used by the scout or by the person actually earning the points if they're going on the High Adventure trip. Our goal will always be that each point is worth 20 cents. That's \$1.00 for every 5 points. If a scout is going on the High Adventure trip, with good participation he will not have to pay any more than half of the trip cost - the rest will come from point money.

We will make point money available for Summer Camp every year and for the trip every 2 years on June 1. Points accumulate from early June of the last High Adventure year through early June of the next High Adventure year. Points not used or needed for Summer Camp and/or High Adventure are discarded.

We encourage all scouts to attend Summer Camp, if possible. It is time well spent. Also, the High Adventure trip is designed to give scouts opportunities to test their abilities and expand their life experiences. These trips are once in a lifetime for some!

INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISING

We try to provide several opportunities each year for fundraising that benefits both the troop and the individual scout. These fundraisers will have a specific amount of money given as the troop's portion of the overall profit. Because we encourage attendance at Summer Camp and have great (but expensive) High Adventure trips, we pass on most of the troop profit to the scout actually selling the product.

For example, the national BSA popcorn sale takes place in October and November each year. The total profit for the troop is 30% of gross sales. We keep 5% so your portion of the profit is 25% of your gross sales. Each scout will earn, for example, \$2.50 from a \$10.00 tin of popcorn sold.

We will also have other individual fundraising opportunities throughout the year. All individually earned money can be used for Summer Camp, High Adventure, and any campout amount over \$20.

INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS

We also encourage scouts to make weekly or monthly

payments toward the High Adventure trip. There are usually periodic lump payments due for each trip and paying weekly is sometimes easier than all at once. Scouts and adults will receive monthly statements showing the receipt of their money and their progress toward paying for the trip.

WHERE DO MY DUES GO?

Dues money is used to pay for the \$10.00 per year registration fee charged by the National Boys Scouts of America to be a member of this organization. This money does not benefit the troop or the local council. Dues money is also used to help purchase the merit badges, rank patches, etc. that scouts earn during the year.

FUNDRAISING

We have many opportunities to earn money throughout the year. These fundraisers provide money for the basic operation of the troop and will provide most of the point money each June. Examples:

- Walk On The Wild Side
- Peanut brittle
- The Jail & pancake breakfasts at the Osceola Bluegrass Festival
- Trail's End Popcorn
- Port-A-Pit sales
- Hacienda

SPONSORS

We provide advertising space on our trailer for businesses and individuals at a cost of \$100 per year. This money is used primarily for the High Adventure trip or for large equipment purchases.

ACCOUNT STATEMENTS

Periodically, an account statement will be produced for you that shows each scout's attendance, rank advancement, merit badges earned, and financial information. Individual fundraising money earned and used, point money earned and used, and payments you have made toward Summer Camp or High Adventure will all be displayed.

SUMMER CAMP

WHERE, WHEN & FOR HOW LONG?

Summer Camp is at Wood Lake Scout Reservation, Camp Tamarack, just south of Jones, MI off of M-40. Our troop usually goes to camp near the middle or end of June. Camp starts on a Sunday afternoon and ends on Friday night. All meals are included and are eaten in the dining hall. Scouts sleep in tents during camp. This is a great experience for all and most scouts go to camp every year. Parents are encouraged to attend the closing campfire program on Friday evening.

MERIT BADGES & RANK ADVANCEMENT

Much of the focus at camp is on earning merit badges and rank advancement. Scouts can earn many merit badges that would otherwise take much longer outside of camp. Rank advancement is also faster at camp.

FUN ACTIVITIES!

Wood Lake is full of exciting opportunities - the waterfront, hiking trails, archery and rifle ranges, scoutcraft, handicraft, and ecology areas are second to none. There's definitely something for everyone here!

HIGH ADVENTURE

THE BEST!

We have been taking an 8 or 9 day High Adventure trip every other year since 1994. That first trip was to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota for 6 days of backcountry canoeing. In '96 we spent 6 days in Colorado whitewater rafting, mountain climbing and horseback camping. In '98, 6 days in Wisconsin horseback camping. In '00, 1 day at the U.S. Naval Academy and 5 days sailing 37' yachts on Chesapeake Bay, Maryland! In '02 we ventured to West Virginia rafting the New River, horseback riding, mountain biking and repelling in the 1000' gorge. In '04 we went back to the Chesapeake for sailing again – it was a very popular trip! In '06 we headed west to Colorado

again for rafting, horseback camping and hiking in the Rockies. In '08, by popular demand, we will be sailing the Chesapeake again! All of these trips are spectacular!

Our main goals for each trip are to:

- Provide a quality, safe, and challenging experience
- Conduct the proper preparation for each participant
- Build self-esteem through accomplishment
- Broaden horizons
- Take lots of pictures!

REQUIREMENTS

All scouts must be at least First Class by the time of the trip. There are also merit badges identified as having a bearing on a scout's ability to fully participate that must be earned. Adult participants must essentially earn the merit badges, too, even though they don't actually get the patch. Finally, there are activities planned specifically as preparation for the trip which must be attended by all.

We will work throughout the year to ensure that any scout who wishes to go on the trip will meet all of the necessary requirements. However, this will not be accomplished without regular meeting attendance. Adults must attend when indicated so they will be as prepared as the scouts.

FUNDING

Trip funding comes from three sources. First, fundraising money in excess of that required to operate the troop is used for point money. Second, popcorn sales and other individual fundraising can pay a large amount of the trip cost. Finally, the scout or adult pays the remainder of the expense out of their own pocket. For all scouts, the amount they must pay on their own should be less than half of the total trip cost. Adults do not earn as many points and, therefore, will usually pay more than most scouts from their own pocket. Each trip costs about \$500.

X-TREME X-PEDITION

FOR THE VERY BEST

Beginning with a 6-day backpacking trip to Glacier National Park in 2001 our newest program is called the X-treme X-pedition. The '03 XX was a challenging week of whitewater canoeing in Ontario, Canada. In '05 our XX scouts were sailing a 72' schooner off the Florida Keys. For '07 we'll be backpacking in the Bob Marshall Wilderness in the Montana Rockies. This program is designed to reward older scouts who exhibit the essential qualities of a good scout: leadership, commitment, and a love of the outdoors.

REQUIREMENTS

As specified by the scouts themselves:

- 15 years old at the time of the trip
- 3 years with the troop
- Star rank
- Attendance record is used to limit the # of participants.
- Participants earn all of the money to pay for the trip through fundraisers that are separate from those of the troop.

RANK ADVANCEMENT

WHAT ARE RANKS?

The ranks of Boy Scouting are:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Boy Scout | - Basic knowledge of the Scout Oath & Law, Outdoor Code and anti-drug scout-parent exercise. |
| Tenderfoot | - Detailed knowledge of Scout Oath & Law, some outdoor knowledge, troop participation, basic first aid, etc. |
| Second Class | - More outdoor knowledge and troop participation, service hours, more first aid. |
| First Class | - Still more outdoor knowledge and troop participation, service hours, critical first aid. |
| Star | - Based on earning merit badges, performing community service, and serving in a troop junior |

- leadership position for 4 months.
- Life - Based on earning merit badges, performing community service, and serving in a troop junior leadership position for 6 months.
- Eagle - Scouts must earn a total of 22 merit badges and complete a large community service project. This is the ultimate goal of all scouts. All requirements must be met before a scout's 18th birthday.

HOW DO I GET THERE?

From Boy Scout to First Class, time is allocated in most troop meetings for work on those ranks. Scouts who have already achieved a rank help those who have not to meet the requirements. For Star, Life, and Eagle the troop provides support by ensuring scouts fill leadership roles and merit badge information is available. Also the troop provides workers for the Eagle Scout project.

Our goal is to have each scout reach the rank of First Class. After that, since merit badge work is often up to each scout, we provide support as needed.

BOARD OF REVIEW

A Board of Review consists of at least 3 adults who are not the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters or a parent of the scout being reviewed. Usually, the Board of Review is convened by the Advancement Chairperson when requested by a scout. Their purpose is to review the rank requirements with a scout who appears to have completed a rank. They are not trying to discredit the scout but to make sure he understands what he has completed and is ready for the next rank. A Board of Review may recommend a scout not be advanced until some additional requirements work is completed but this is a very rare occurrence.

MERIT BADGES

DEFINITION

Merit badges are patches earned after completing a course of study in a specific, pre-defined area. There are over 100 merit badges available to scouts and they may chose to earn any or all

of them in their scouting career. Each merit badge has a book, published by the BSA, describing the activities which must be completed in order to officially earn the badge. Also, merit badges are not earned as independent study. A merit badge counselor must approve all merit badges.

Sometimes we will work on a merit badge as a troop. This is true especially for High Adventure requirements. However, most merit badges are earned individually by a scout working with a counselor. The troop will provide support whenever possible but it is the responsibility of the scout to contact the counselor and complete the work.

COUNSELORS

Merit badge counselors are volunteer adults who have knowledge or expertise in an area covered by a merit badge. Pilots can be counselors for the Aviation merit badge, health professionals for First Aid, etc. Many adult leaders are also merit badge counselors in areas which they have better than average knowledge. A list of counselors is maintained by the Council. We also display a list on our bulletin board where we meet of adults within the troop who are counselors. A counselor must be contacted when a scout begins working on a merit badge in order to be sure to meet the requirements. The scout should contact the counselor himself.

EAGLE MERIT BADGE REQUIREMENTS

There are 12 merit badges which must be earned to become an Eagle Scout. These are listed in the Scout Book and are important to promoting good citizenship and leadership into adulthood. In addition, a potential Eagle Scout must have earned at least 10 other merit badges for a total of 22.

ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

HOW CAN I HELP?

Throughout this guidebook there have been many references to adult leaders and volunteers. These adults are not special in any way except for their willingness to give of their time. Scouting at the troop level is an entirely volunteer organization. Any adult is

encouraged to join our troop in whatever capacity they wish as long as they are willing to take an active role in that capacity.

Possible adult positions:

- SOUTMASTER/ASSISTANT
- CAMPOUTS/OUTINGS
- COMMITTEE MEMBER
- SUMMER CAMP
- MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR
- HIGH ADVENTURE
- BOARD OF REVIEW
- GUEST SPEAKER

Don't ever hesitate to ask or offer. We can always use help!

IMPORTANT INFO

OSCEOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

431 N. Beech Rd.
Osceola, IN 46531

LA SALLE COUNCIL OFFICE & TRADING POST

1340 South Bend Avenue (SR 23)
South Bend, IN 46617
Phone - (574) 289-0337
(800) 822-3867
Fax - (574) 289-0336
E-mail - info@lasallecouncilbsa.org
Web site - www.lasallecouncilbsa.org

WOOD LAKE SCOUT RESERVATION

(269) 435-7533

NOTES

