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## *Welcome To Scouting*

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### **Troop 183**

Boy Scout Troop 183 is chartered by Our Lady of Grace Roman Catholic Church. Our chartering organization arranges for our regular Troop meeting place and approves the adult leaders who administer the Troop's affairs. **Although we are chartered by Our Lady of Grace Church we are an ecumenical group. Boys of all faiths are welcome, and due respect is given to all religious beliefs .** Troop 183 considers community service to be an important part of the Scouting program. Consequently we participate in several service projects a year consisting of tasks like litter cleanups or food drives for the needy. In accordance with our charter from the Boy Scouts of America we make ourselves available to the parish to participate in projects benefiting the Our Lady of Grace community. The adult leaders are the Scoutmaster and his assistants and the members of the Troop Committee. All are unpaid volunteers; most are parents of boys in the Troop. In this booklet the term "Scoutmaster" refers to the Scoutmaster only and the term "Scoutmasters" refers to the Scoutmaster and any Assistant Scoutmasters. **Our Regular meeting night is Thursday from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in Fr. Patrick E. Shanahan Hall.** Troop 183 holds meetings every week except the weeks that school is closed (including summer) and occasionally when a religious holiday will close the church to activities. Even though we do not hold regular meetings during the summer we do attend summer camp for a week and we do have other occasional activities. The Troop Committee meets monthly. The date and location of the next committee meeting can be obtained from any adult leader. Every family is invited to participate in the Troop Committee, and we need and encourage parents to register as Adult Scouters. Troop meetings are planned and conducted by boy leaders under the guidance of the Scoutmasters. A typical Troop meeting includes:

- work on outdoor skills, first aid, fitness, citizenship, or some other aspect of Scouting
- a brief patrol meeting for advancement progress or planning a future patrol/troop event
- a game, competition, or other recreational activity
- ceremonies highlighting Scouting's ideals.

Every month the Troop conducts an outing or special event. It is usually an overnight camping (generally Friday night to about midday Sunday) or a visit to some location of special interest or significance.

At Troop meetings, during Troop outings, and on his own, a boy will have a chance to earn many badges and awards. His goal is advancement through the ranks of Tenderfoot, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Star, Life, and, finally to earn the most distinctive of all, The Eagle Scout Award.

Troop 183 does have attendance requirements and guidelines. These are outlined in the Troop Operations section.

**The success of any child in any organization requires a certain level of commitment by their parents and Scouting is no exception.** We are sure you want your son to get the most out of Scouting. In order for this to happen your son will need some encouragement. There will be times when the activities of the Troop may seem daunting to your son, or his desire may wane. Encouragement by you at these times is extremely important to his continued participation, and his participation is extremely important to his advancement and growth as a young man. Keep the dates of Troop activities on your calendar as a reminder, encourage him as he progresses in the advancement program, and perhaps help him master the skill of Scouting. His success in Scouting depends, in part, on the success of our Troop. **You can help keep the Troop strong with your support of talents and available time.** Opportunities to help are many. Serving on the Troop committee, providing transportation for outings, helping organize and participating in Troop camping trips, helping maintain Troop equipment are all important to the success of the Troop. Consider serving as a merit badge counselor in a hobby or career field in which you are familiar. Your participation in these activities, and your offers of help when the Troop has a need will show your son that you support him and want him to have the best experiences possible in Scouting.

**Registration Policy**[Top](#)

We are happy to accept new Scouts:

- who are eager to participate fully in the weekly and outdoor programs,

AND

- who are willing to accept responsibility and leadership roles as they gain in age, rank and experience

We encourage the parents of boys registered with Troop 183 to actively help the Troop in some of its many needed areas and to help and support their son as he progresses in the program.

To become a Boy Scout, a youth must have

- **completed the 5<sup>th</sup> grade ,**

OR

- **be 11 years old ,**

OR

- **have earned the Arrow of Light Award as a Webelos Scout .**

**A youth who has reached the age of eighteen (18) is no longer eligible to participate in Boy Scouting.** Venturing (a senior division of Boy Scouts) is available in special interest areas to youth fourteen (14) to twenty one (21).

We are also happy to accept new adult leaders. Adult leaders must:

- Complete the Adult Volunteer Leader application form in its entirety (including references).
- Agree to Attend "Scoutmaster Fundamentals," at their earliest opportunity (usually May of each year). This basic training course covers the requirements and techniques for running a troop. It is geared for Scoutmasters but contains information of interest to committee members. The course usually requires a time commitment of:

- 1 Full Day (a Saturday)
- One Evening (usually a Thursday)
- An overnight camping Trip (Saturday to Sunday) at a local Scout Reservation.

All adult leaders must be approved by the Troop Committee Chair and the Chartering Organization Representative.

### **Registration Procedure**[Top](#)

- The parent and prospective Scout should contact the Scoutmaster in advance of a visit (to assure that the troop will be meeting on the evening you wish to visit). You are encouraged to make more than one visit to a regular troop meeting to get a good "feel" of troop operations before Registering.
- The parent and prospective Scout should read this Troop booklet. It is full of necessary and helpful information about the Troop. It will explain many facts and answer many questions about being a Boy Scout and a parent in Troop 183. The Scoutmasters and other adult leaders are available to answer any questions you may have.
- The parent should complete and sign the Boy Scout Application form and turn it in to the Scoutmaster. **You will be required to open the last page of the application and complete the Health History (including vaccinations) on the back side of the form .**
- Pay the registration fees explained below at the time of registration. **Make any checks payable to "Boy Scout Troop 183".**
- Parent complete the "Troop Resource Survey" and turn it in to the Scoutmaster at the time of registration.
- Parent discuss with the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair his/her interest in registering as an adult member of the Troop and to complete an Adult Registration Application form (if interested).
- **Purchase the "Boy Scout Handbook" for the new Scout so he can study and learn the "Registration requirements" and have them signed off at a regular meeting as soon as possible. One of the requirements is for the boy and his parents to read the "Drug , Alcohol and Child Abuse" insert at the front of the book. Please Read this insert immediately and discuss it with your son. The leaders of Troop 183 take their role in youth protection very seriously and want the Scout and his family to understand the emphasis we will place on a Scouts safety regarding these issues. He should bring his Scout Handbook, pencil, and paper to every meeting .**
- Obtain the official Scout Field Uniform for the Scout, including patches and insignia, as soon as possible after registering. The location of Scouting retailers can be obtained from the Scoutmasters. If financial considerations make the purchase of a uniform a problem, discuss this with the Scoutmaster. There may be an "Experienced Uniform Exchange" operating locally, or some arrangement may be made (these conversations will be completely confidential). Refer to the Uniform and Equipment section of this booklet for necessary items.

Very soon after registering, a boy is assigned to a Patrol, a group of 5 to 8 boys. A boy's Patrol will be his team for games and contests, his closest buddies in camp, and his teachers as he works on advancement.

### **Costs of Scouting**[Top](#)

Listed below are costs that each Scout family should be aware of:

- **Initial Registration Costs:**
  - **Registration Fee, \$10.00 (New Scout) or \$1.00 (Transferring, including Webelos)**
  - **Insurance and Administrative Fee, \$3.00**
  - **Boy's Life Magazine, \$9.00 (this is an optional expense)**
  - **Ongoing Expenses:**
    - **Troop Dues, \$5.00/Month (each month of weekly Troop Meetings)**
    - **Trip Expenses**
      - **approximately \$3.00 to \$6.00 per overnight camping trip (depending on campsite and accommodations).**
      - **approximately \$5.00 and up for one day field trip depending on destination and transportation needs.**
      - **approximately \$7.00 to \$10.00 to cover food costs for overnight camping trips . The amount required is determined by the Scouts patrol, as they decide their own menu and do their own shopping for each trip.**

Each summer the Troop attends 1 week of summer camp. The room & board cost for 1 week at Suffolk County Council's Camp Baiting Hollow was \$235.00 in 2004. We encourage all Scouts to participate in summer camp opportunities. Summer camp is a great opportunity for Scouts to complete advancement requirements (particularly merit badges). It is a fast start for boys new to the program and a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and strengthen old friendships. Scouts can use the proceeds from the show and sell phase of the annual popcorn sale to defray the cost of summer camp.

Uniform and equipment costs vary but can be significant. Speak to one of the Scoutmasters about which equipment to obtain and where and when to obtain it. It is not necessary to own everything a Scout can possibly use immediately. Many acquisitions can be postponed until seasonal changes demand their use.

The Troop obtains the money to purchase equipment from our fund raising events. Fund raising events can take the form of roller skating parties, car washes, spaghetti dinners, etc. Each Scout family's participation in these events is critical to our financial success. Your fund raising ideas are always welcome. We try to schedule fundraising events that foster family and community relationships as well as benefiting the program.

## ***Troop Operations***

*Meeting Format*

*Patrol Method, Leadership and Other Expectations*

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### **Meeting Format**[Top](#)

Our typical meeting format is:

- **Gathering activity, Service Patrol tasks - starts at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Opening Formation and Ceremony - starts promptly at 7:30 p.m.**
- **Patrol Meeting - plan patrol activities and work on advancement**
- **Troop Program - related to Scout Skills or upcoming event**

- Patrol Competition - game or recreational activity
- Closing Formation - **complete at approximately 9:00 p.m.**

*Patrol Method, Leadership and Other Expectations* [Top](#)

One of the chief founding principles of Boy Scouting is the "Patrol Method." Like all Scout troops, 183 is divided into Patrols of about 5 to 8 boys each, with a Patrol Leader elected from within each Patrol. New, younger Scouts are also assigned to a special patrol under the leadership of the Troop Guide, an older, senior Scout who will help the newer ones get a good start in the Troop. A Patrol functions as a team and does many activities together. Competitive events between patrols is a way of building Patrol spirit and keeping the troop strong.

We strive to have Troop 183 function as a boy run troop from the Senior Patrol Leader through his staff and the Patrol Leaders. The adult leaders are mainly there to guide and advise the boy leaders. One of Scouting's main purposes is to develop youth leadership. We feel strongly that this can be done best by making as many opportunities as possible for the boys to do the leading and to learn by experience.

**Active status in Troop 183 is maintained by attending a majority of the regular Troop meetings and the monthly weekend activities.** Not following this attendance requirement will slow the scout down on his advancement path and may eventually lead to his being dropped from the active roles of the Troop.

Because of the importance of receiving the most recent and accurate information, **attendance is required at the Troop meeting occurring immediately prior to any trip.** Failure to attend this meeting could render a scout ineligible for the trip.

**A complete Scout field uniform is expected for all regular Troop meetings.** A complete dress Scout Uniform (with long pants and merit badge sash) is worn for Courts of Award and Boards of Review. No Scout will be allowed to attend a Board of Review without a complete and proper uniform. **Scouts will be told explicitly of the occasions where a "Class B" uniform is acceptable attire.**

Attendance is important and is mentioned separately above. Each Scout is needed for his Patrol to function at its optimum level. The older and experienced scouts are needed for their leadership and teaching skills. If a Scout does not attend meetings regularly and if he does not go on the camping trips, he is missing opportunities to learn Scouting skills and earn merit badges. He is thereby not going to advance at the expected rate.

**A Scout must be registered through the Council Scout Office and have turned in a signed Permission slip before he can be allowed to go on a Troop outing.**

**Every Family is expected to assist with transportation for trips as needed.** We welcome the parents of Scouts to camp with us or visit our campsites when they can. A word of caution, when in the field with us allow you son to maintain his identity as a patrol/troop member. It is important to curb your impulse to parent your son and to allow the patrol method to work. Please inform the Scoutmasters of your intention to join us at least 1 week prior to the trip so we can include you in our meal plans.

Scouts will be informed about each trip in advance as to times of departure and return, cost, where we will be and activities of the trip. The spouses of the Scoutmasters will know how to reach the troop if needed (emergency situations only).

Each Scout is responsible for his share of the food purchased for the camping trips. For most trips each patrol plans their meals, buys the food required, and does their own cooking. If a Scout has to miss a trip and does not tell his Patrol Leader before the food for the trip is purchased, he still is expected to pay for his share of the cost. **A Scout will not be allowed to attend a trip until all amounts due his patrol are paid in full.**

On camping trips, especially backpacking trips, consideration must be given to food packaging and containers. At times trash must be packed out, and burnable wrappings such as paper is preferred. Glass containers are not permitted.

Only during adult supervised functions will a Scout be permitted to use a stove or lantern that requires any fuel. A Scout may bring and use a backpack camping stove only after he has been certified for its use by the Scoutmasters. To be certified, a Scout must

demonstrate that he knows how to operate his stove in a safe and mature manner, and that he knows all the precautions and hazards associated with handling this equipment. He will be given a certification card that he must have in his possession when using his stove.

Patrol camping equipment, including tents, is furnished by the troop. This equipment is the best we can buy, and we are able to do so as a result of our fund raising efforts and parent contributions. **If the equipment is misused or lost, it is the Patrol or Scout's responsibility to replace or repair the lost or damaged equipment.**

Merit badge and rank requirements must be signed by designated boy and adult leaders. To prevent embarrassment and misunderstanding, **a parent may not do this for his own son.** We encourage a Scout to also use approved counselors outside our Troop for merit badges so that he will gain experience in dealing with new people. BSA policy requires that merit badge counselors be Registered Scouters. Parents interested in teaching and/or being counselors for merit badges or any phase of Scouting skills are urged to tell the Advancement Chair as this help is always needed. We will be happy to assist parents in the registration process.

To be passed on any merit badge, a Scout must have read and understood the material in the merit badge book. The counselor or Advancement Board of Review may ask questions regarding material in these books.

Requirements for a Scout going before an Advancement Board of Review are outlined in the Advancement and Awards section.

### **Conduct Policy**[Top](#)

Sometimes we take for granted certain rules and regulations. Troop 183 has a number of active Scouts who are good solid boys, and we intend to maintain the high standards that we ascribe to under the Scout Oath and Law. Although we have very few problems and do not anticipate any, we feel that certain rules and guidelines should be written and accepted to avoid any misunderstanding.

**The following rules apply when a Scout is under our responsibility - that is any time he is with the Troop, whether at the weekly meetings, on a camping trip, or on any other troop sponsored activity.**

**All Scouts are expected to follow all safety rules to the letter.** Scouts must be properly trained in the use of woods tools and fire (cooking and campfires). No Scout may participate in these activities until he is trained and his training is certified by one of the Scoutmasters. A Scout breaking safety rules puts others at risks and he risks losing his privileges and must then earn them back. A Scout repeatedly breaking safety rules will face disciplinary action that could include suspension from outdoor activities.

**All Scouts are expected to treat the property of anyone else (scout, troop, church, camp, etc.) with the utmost respect .** Unauthorized use or misuse of any property will not be tolerated. Any property damaged by a Scout through misuse or unauthorized use must be repaired or replaced by the Scout. Refusal of the Scout to make restitution on property damaged in this way will result in disciplinary action that could include suspension from the Troop.

### **THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**

- Possession or use of any illegal drug.
- Possession or use of firearms.
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages.
- Smoking or use of any tobacco product.
- Stealing.
- Profanity.
- Any form of hazing, harassment, or malicious behavior directed toward another Scout.

Participating in the above activities will result in disciplinary action that could include suspension or expulsion from the Troop.

All adult leaders are encouraged to know the Troop Code of Conduct and to participate in its implementation in the Troop. However, only Scoutmasters will administer discipline. This policy will help assure a more evenhanded approach to discipline. In the case of serious offenses (Suspension or expulsion as well as the terms of reinstatement of a suspended Scout), a Scoutmasters panel will make the decision, with the concurrence of the Troop Committee Executive Board.

Discipline must be maintained for the adult and youth leaders to manage a group of this size. Effective discipline contributes to the safety and morale of the troop. **Discipline NEVER consists of physical contact (corporal punishment)**, but is more along the lines of physical fitness, such as push-ups, educational, such as writing themes, or service oriented, such as completing a project. The usual progression of discipline is:

- Verbal Warning to the Scout
- Discipline activity (minor offenses)
- Scoutmaster Conference with parents (major offenses)
- Discipline requiring Troop Committee Board concurrence.

If a Scout follows the Oath and Law seriously and considers these before engaging in any activity he will find himself in very little hot water. When he does eventually commit an error (as young boys will invariably do) he will find that adherence to the Oath and Law in correcting the error will help immeasurably and mitigate the circumstances of his error.

A Scout is "Trustworthy" and we expect this first point of the law and all others to be taken seriously. A Scout will become a responsible young man and later a respected adult if he lives by the Scout Oath and Law.

#### **Safe Haven**[Top](#)

The leaders of Troop 183 have a strong commitment to BSA policy and guidelines regarding "Safe Haven". Their goal is to create and maintain, at all Troop functions, a **place where everyone feels physically and emotionally secure**. There are several ways to do this:

- Set the example by always behaving as a Scout should. Live the Scout Oath and Law at all times to the best of your ability.
- Refuse to tolerate any kind of inappropriate put-downs, name-calling, physical aggression, or hazing.
- Communicate acceptance of each member of the Troop through the expression of concern for them and by showing appreciation whenever possible.
- Create an environment based on learning and fun. Seek the best from all members of the Troop and strive to help them achieve it.

#### **Troop Responsibilities**[Top](#)

##### **Senior Patrol Leader**

- Preside at all Troop functions
- Chair the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) and plan the Troop program and activities
- Serve as the leader of the Troop Leadership Corps.
- Appoint Scout leaders, with the advice and consent of the Scoutmaster.
- Assign/delegate duties and responsibilities to other leaders.
- Be responsible for Troop discipline, with the advice and consent of the Scoutmaster.
- Set the example.

##### **Patrol Leader**

- Plan and lead Patrol Meetings and activities

- Represent the Patrol at the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC).
- Appoint an Assistant Patrol Leader with the advice and consent of the Scoutmaster.
- Keep patrol members informed.
- Instruct Patrol members in Scouting skills.
- Develop Patrol Spirit.
- Prepare the patrol for Troop activities.
- Participate in Junior Leadership Training.
- Set the Example.

#### Scoutmaster

- Be responsible for the program and actions of the Troop.
- Act as an advisor to the Patrol Leaders Council.
- Develop junior leaders.
- Appoint Assistant Scoutmasters with the advice and consent of the Troop Committee.
- Represent the Troop at council or district planning functions.
- Keep the Troop Committee informed and obtain assistance and support for the Troop from the Committee.
- Attend Boy Scout Leader Training.

## *Advancement and Awards*

*Advancement Guidelines  
Advancement Requirements and Responsibilities  
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### *Advancement Guidelines* [Top](#)

Advancement is an integral part of the Scouting program that provides recognition for individual effort and accomplishment, as well as a measure of acquired proficiency in basic skills. Advancement is a three-part obligation of:

- **The Scout** to take the initiative and to work.
- **The Parents** to encourage excellence.
- **The Leaders** of the Troop to provide guidance and opportunity .

Requirements for advancement are described in the Boy Scout Handbook and other Scout literature. Both Scout and parent should be thoroughly familiar with the requirements. The Scoutmaster, Advancement Chair, and other adult leaders as well as the Scout leadership can answer questions about getting started on the "Eagle Trail". A Scout coming before an Advancement Board of Review should be thoroughly familiar with what was done for the rank applied for, and he must be in proper and complete dress Scout Field Uniform. Scouts Wanting a Board of Review should do the following:

- Ensure that all requirements have been completed.
- Ask the Scoutmaster for a "Scoutmaster Conference". It is advisable to give him at least a week's notice.
- Ask the Senior Patrol Leader to schedule a board of Review for you. He will also need at least a week's notice.

Requirements for a Scout coming before a Board of Review are as follows:

- Be in proper and complete dress Scout Field Uniform (with long pants and merit badge sash).
- Bring your Boy Scout Handbook.

- **Bring your merit badge "Blue Cards" for merit badges earned and required for the rank for which you are applying.**
- **Bring rope and poles suitable for tying the required knots and lashings.**
- **Bring your compass and a topographical map.**
- **Bring any merit badge books and/or written work or project documentation that is applicable.**

Rank advancements, merit badges, and most other awards will be presented as soon as possible after being earned, approved, certified and registered (usually the next Troop meeting). They will also be recognized at the next Court of Award.

### ***Advancement Requirements and Responsibilities*** [Top](#)

This is a listing of the allowable signers for rank requirements:

- **First Class and Below**
  - **Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Senior Patrol Leader , Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (If they are a higher rank), Any Scoutmaster.**
- **Star and Life**
  - **Scout of a rank high than rank requirement, Scoutmaster**

A Scout who is not steadily advancing through First Class rank is missing a vital part of the program. Advancement beyond First Class is attainable through the opportunities that the Troop provides, but it also requires determination and initiative on the part of the Scout. Guidelines indicating the maximum amounts of time that should elapse from registering to the attainment of each rank up through First Class are listed below. If these are not being met, the Scout and/or parents should contact the Advancement Chair:

- **Tenderfoot - 3 months**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Class - 9 months**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Class - 18 months**

These are maximums; an active, well-motivated Scout can achieve 1<sup>st</sup> Class within 12 months. Refer to the Boy Scout Handbook for more details.

Merit badges are important for the Scout to learn new skills, to work outside the normal Troop meeting with and adult counselor, and to present what he has done. Merit badges are also necessary for advancement past 1<sup>st</sup> Class. Scouts should be encouraged to pursue merit badges at his earliest opportunity. **The Scoutmasters and the Advancement Chair have merit badge cards and a list of approved merit badge counselors.**

## ***Uniform and Equipment***

***Official Scout Uniform***

***Class 'B' Uniform***

***Camping Equipment and Checklist***

### ***Official Scout Uniform*** [Top](#)

- **Boy Scout ballcap**
- **Scout Field Uniform Shirt with**
- **Red Shoulder loops**
- **World Crest Emblem**
- **Left Pocket Patches**

**Rank/Arrow of Light (if earned)**

**Religious Emblem knot (if earned), with program device (if not Boy Scouts)**

- **Left Pocket Pins**

Service Stars (Boy Scout, Cub Scout (if service), Tiger Scout (if service))

- Left Sleeve patches

Suffolk County Council Strip

Troop 183 Numbers

Leadership Position (if applicable)

Trained Emblem (if earned and currently serving in trained leadership position).

- Right Sleeve patches

American Flag

Patrol Patch

Quality Unit (if earned by Troop)

- Troop Neckerchief (Red w/Navy Blue piping, embroidered)
- Merit Badge Sash (for dress Uniform - Courts of Honor & boards of Review)
- Scout Web or leather belt with Scout Buckle
- Long Scout Field Uniform Pants (for dress uniform and cool weather)
- Short Scout Field Uniform Pants (for warm weather, optional, but these are the only short pants acceptable)
- Scout Field Uniform Socks green w/red top (for wear with short pants)
- Shoes, sneakers or hiking boots

*Class 'B' Uniform (to be worn only when specifically authorized) [Top](#)*

- Boy Scout ballcap
- Scout red knit pullover collared shirt with embroidered scout emblem on left breast or red Troop 183 T shirt.
- Scout Web or leather belt with Scout Buckle
- Long Scout Field Uniform Pants (for dress uniform and cool weather)
- Short Scout Field Uniform Pants (for warm weather, optional, but these are the only short pants acceptable)
- Scout Field Uniform Socks green w/red top (for wear with short pants)
- Shoes, sneakers or hiking boots

The official Scout uniform can be purchased at the Scout Shop in Massapequa. Directions can be obtained from the Scoutmasters.

In addition to wearing a proper uniform, **the Scout must bring his Scout handbook, note pad, and a pencil/pen to each meeting .**

**Camping Equipment and Checklist [Top](#)**

You will find a whole new interest in camping and outdoor equipment. To most families, this is a welcome relief at Christmas and birthdays in having something to get that will be useful and lasting. Good equipment will be used for a lifetime.

Please feel free to ask any of the adult leaders for advice on the equipment, type, cost, size, best places to buy, etc. **The list of equipment can be quite daunting, but fear not. Not**

**all of the equipment is necessary immediately and some of the more expensive items can be postponed for months .**

**It is not necessary to purchase some troop-supplied items.** Troop 183 is very fortunate to be able to provide excellent camping equipment for Scouts' use including two-man tents, patrol cook gear, saws and axes. The troop will lend tents to adult leaders in need if there are any unused by Scouts. Since this is not guaranteed, adults planning on camping with the Troop should make provisions for their own tents.

**Below is a complete checklist of camping equipment that every Scout needs:**

- Eating Gear - Items, except for canteen, packed in ditty bags
- Canteen - 1 quart
- Plastic bowl or Scout cook kit
- Plastic cup (not metal, metal can stick to lips in cold weather)
- Knife, fork, and spoon set
- Paper towel (12 sheets)
- Waterproof matches (Strike anywhere matches prohibited)
- Biodegradable liquid soap
- SOS pad (in small zip lock bag)
- Can opener (often built into pocket knife)
- Water purification tablets
- Emergency food: 2 pkgs. each of instant soup, cereal, hot chocolate packed in zip-lock bags
  
- Personal Items - packed in ditty bags
  - Soap
  - Face towel
  - Toilet paper
  - Tooth Brush & paste plus personal toiletries
  - Insect repellent (non-aerosol)
  - Personal first aid kit with Band-Aids and moleskin
  - Flashlight with spare batteries and bulb
  - Large safety pins (4)
  - Telephone money (\$1.00 in quarters)
  - Whistle (for use in emergency only, blown for any other reason gets it confiscated)
  - Chapstick & sunscreen
  - Extra Boot Laces
  
- Sleeping Gear
  - Sleeping Bag (Zero degree for winter camping)
  - Waterproof stuff sack for sleeping bag
  - Foam pad to put under sleeping bag (closed cell type)
  - Ground cloth (5' x 7', 4mil plastic)
  
- Clothing - adjust weight as needed for season and specific trip
  - Hiking Boots (waterproofed)
  - 2 pair wool socks
  - 2 pair of pants or shorts
  - 2 shirts
  - Swim trunks

- Extra Items for winter (cotton makes poor winter wear, it retains water (perspiration) causing the wearer to become cold)
  - Wool Sweater
  - Wool Mittens or Lined Gloves
  - Wool stocking cap
  - Insulated Long Johns
  - Heavy jacket
  
- Miscellaneous Equipment
  - Poncho or rain jacket (easily accessible)
  - Compass
  - Stuff bags & zip lock bags
  - Plastic Trash bags (2)
  - 50 feet 3/8" nylon clothesline
  - 2 to 4 straps (for fastening items to pack frame)
  - Pocket Knife (less than 3" blade) NO SHEATH KNIVES
  - Back Pack
  - Day Pack
  - Pack cover (large plastic garbage bag will do)
  - Boy Scout handbook
  - Bible

#### BACK PACK

The pack must have a padded, snug fitting, full hip belt and padded shoulder straps. The pack should fit the Scout; **do not buy one he will grow into**. Prices range from \$50.00 to over \$100.00. The scout will be expected to pack all of his personal gear plus either a share of the patrol food or a tent on his pack.

#### HIKING BOOTS

Boots are strongly recommended on all camping trips. Sturdy, waterproof hiking boots that are 6 to 8 inches high are recommended. Sneakers (which do not have sturdy soles nor adequate ankle support nor are waterproof) are not appropriate. All boots must be treated for wet weather and broken in prior to wearing in the outdoors.

#### RAIN GEAR

Plastic (cheap) or nylon (expensive) poncho, or rain jacket/suit is necessary. Also, a rainproof pack cover is needed. A large plastic garbage bag is usually okay as a pack cover. Experience has taught us that the \$1.00 emergency ponchos are not strong enough for prolonged exposure (1 full day). Plan on spending at least **\$5.00 to \$7.00** for a rain poncho.

#### GROUND CLOTH

A ground cloth is necessary under the tent to keep out ground moisture. Each Scout should have his own. A 5' x 7' piece of polyethylene of 4 - 6 mil thickness is quite adequate and inexpensive (a large leaf bag that has been cut open works just fine).

#### MESS KIT

Bowl or Scout cook kit and a plastic cup. **Plastic cup preferred for extreme cold weather, as metal can stick/freeze to your skin and lips**. A 1-quart minimum canteen and a Knife, fork, and spoon set are required.

#### SLEEPING BAG

A bag good to 0 degrees is sufficient for the harshest weather we are likely to camp in. **Must have a waterproof stuff sack** (Compression sacks cost slightly more but allow the size of the bag to be reduced making it easier to pack and carry the sleeping bag). Should not be bulky or heavy. **Steer clear of Down** because of cost, bulk, loss of warmth when wet. **Must have a pad to put under the sleeping bag** (closed cell type is best).

#### **FIRST AID KIT**

A small personal first aid kit should be included in the Scouts gear. It can be homemade, which fulfills a requirement for 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. **Check the Boy Scout Handbook for a list of items to include in a personal kit.**

#### **STUFF BAGS**

Small stuff bags and zip-lock freezer bags, gallon and various smaller sizes are useful for a number of needs. Clothes and other items should be backed in them to be kept organized and waterproof. Several spares are handy.