



Scouts BSA Troop 48 **SCOUTS** Germantown, Tennessee
 Since 1929

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STATEMENT OF TROOP POLICY

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PURPOSE

The purpose of a young man joining Troop 48 of Scouts BSA is to prepare himself to be a leader of tomorrow and an American citizen of the highest order by learning and practicing the ideals of Scouting that are put forth by the methods of Lord Baden-Powell and as defined by: The Scout Law, The Scout Oath, The Scout Slogan, The Scout Motto, and The Outdoor Code (defined below). The Scouting Movement is a time-tested and proven program of Scout Methods that develop moral character, self-reliance, initiative, resourcefulness, the physical/outdoor life and leadership.

We want the Scouts to have fun. The outdoor program is designed for that. Not all Scouts will be motivated to advance to the rank of Eagle Scout. However, we believe that a young person will benefit from any level of participation in the Scouting Movement.

HISTORY

Troop 48 was chartered June 30, 1929, and is the fourth longest continuously operating Troop in the Chickasaw Council of Scouting America (previously known as the Boy Scouts of America). During the Troop's proud history, 89 Scouts have earned their Eagle rank while members of Troop 48 as of April 7, 2025. During this time, there have been fifteen Scoutmasters.

AIMS AND METHODS

The aims of Scouting are character development, leadership development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. The methods are designed to accomplish these aims. The Scout-led patrol method gives Scouts experiences in practicing citizenship and teaches them how to accept responsibility. It uses appealing games in the primitive outdoors to generate challenges, which a Scout learns to solve by himself or with his patrol. Scouting is designed to take place outdoors where Scouts share responsibilities and skills practiced at Troop meetings, which come alive with a purpose.

Through advancement, Scouts grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others. As Scouts plan their activity and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. Through the training and the example of the Scout leader, Scouts are taught independence, leadership, the ambition to learn by themselves, and a moral code with positive goals. Scouting encourages Scouts to learn and practice leadership skills. Scouts learn from the example set by their adult leaders. The Scout uniform is a positive youth image and wearing the uniform shows the Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting.



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IDEALS

The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath and Law, motto, and slogan. A Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. Showing Scout spirit means living up to these ideals.

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, and reverent.

The Scout Motto –

Be Prepared

The Scout Slogan –

Do a Good Turn Daily

The Outdoor Code –

As an American, I will do my best to -
Be clean in my outdoor manners.
Be careful with fire.
Be considerate in the outdoors.
Be conservation minded.

MISSION

The mission of Scouts BSA is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

VISION STATEMENT

Scouts BSA will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.



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MEETINGS

Scouts BSA Troop 48 is sponsored by Faith Presbyterian Church, which is located at 8816 Poplar Pike in Germantown, Tennessee.

The Troop meets every Tuesday night (except where noted in the calendar) from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Committee meetings are held on the 1st Monday of each month (except where noted in the calendar) from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. (except where noted in the Troop calendar)

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Troop 48 is a voluntary decision. We are a traditional Scouts BSA Troop for boys and are not engaged in any political agendas. Any inappropriate behavior, inconsistent with the time-honored values of Scouting will not be allowed. Our program operates under charter from Scouts BSA and the Chickasaw Council with Faith Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Presbyterian Church. We conduct our program in a manner consistent with the values of Scouts BSA and the chartered organization. It is important to note that while we are non-denominational, we still adhere to Scouts BSA requirement that a Scout be reverent toward God. The Scout and parents must acknowledge and agree to abide by the policies of Troop 48 which should not conflict with the chartered organization.

A youth is recognized as a Scout of Troop 48 after participating in a very meaningful Troop investiture ceremony. The Scout should be prepared for the investiture by the next investiture date scheduled on the Troop 48 Calendar-and we request that his parent(s) be present. In order to be ready, the Scout needs to know the following: (from the *Scouts BSA Handbook for Boys*.)

1. The 12 points of the Scout Law along with what each one means to the Scout
2. The Scout Oath and what it means to the Scout
3. The meaning of the parts of the Scout Badge
4. The Scout sign, salute, handshake, motto, and slogan
5. The Outdoor Code

NEW SCOUT KIT

We provide each Scout, at a minimum cost, a "New Scout Kit" which includes the following (see the assistant Scoutmaster for new Scouts for details.):



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The *Scouts BSA Handbook for Boys*
Chickasaw Council strip
Custom Troop Neckerchief
Custom Troop T-shirt
Custom Troop Cap
Unit Numerals
Patrol Emblem
Journey to Excellence Patch
Green Shoulder Loops
Subscription to *Scout Life* magazine
Accident Insurance Coverage

The annual registration fee is paid directly to Scouts BSA based on the date the Scout or Leader joined.

ATTENDANCE

To carry out an effective Scouting program, attendance at Troop meetings, camping trips, and other Scouting activities is necessary. Prior to missing a meeting or activity, a Scout must call his Patrol Leader. Those in the Patrol Leaders' Council must call the Senior Patrol Leader. The SPL must call the Scoutmaster.

ADVANCEMENT

The Scouts BSA program is designed for each Scout to advance in rank at his own pace. Scouts BSA recommends that all Scouts strive to achieve the First Class Rank within the first 12 to 18 months. A dedicated Assistant Scoutmaster is assigned to a new Scout for this purpose. In this year, a Scout will learn to function as a member of his patrol and learn fundamental outdoor skills. Past experience shows that a participation rate of 80% or above is necessary to reach this goal.

Only selected First Class or above Scouts may certify a Scout on the Tenderfoot, Second and First Class requirements. Rank advancement requires that the Scout's Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, an appointed Scout or a uniformed leader sign the *Scouts BSA Handbook for Boys* denoting that the Scout has passed the requirement while engaged in a Troop 48 activity. Skills learned outside of our Troop may be demonstrated to one of these people and considered for signature.

Our Troop Advancement Chair is available to discuss the advancement needs of the Scout.



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The *Scouts BSA Handbook for Boys* contains important advancement information and checklists for knowledge and skills attained. The Handbook is required for each meeting and camping trip, unless otherwise noted.

While working on a rank (after the previous Board of Review), the Scout will schedule a Scoutmaster Conference with the Scoutmaster. All other requirements do not need to be completed prior to the Scoutmaster conference.

After completing all the rank requirements including the Scoutmaster conference for a particular rank, the Scout will ask the Advancement Chair to confirm all requirements have been entered in the Scoutbook program and request a Board of Review. (Boards of Review provide Scouts with outstanding interviewing experiences that prepare them well for college and job interviews.)

Questions about Advancement and Boards of Review can often be answered by the *Guide to Advancement* (<https://www.scouting.org/resources/guide-to-advancement>)

Scoutbook

Troop 48 uses Scoutbook (<https://scoutbook.scouting.org/>) to track the Scout's Rank Advancement, progress on Merit Badges, and Leadership Experience. We use Scoutbook Plus (<https://advancements.scouting.org/>) to handle the Troop's calendar and Scout's participation in Troop Meetings, Campouts, Hiking miles, and Service Hours. Parents are encouraged to create an account and allow their Scout to create an account. Scouts and Parents will be able to access Rank and Merit Badge Requirements and determine which have been completed.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

After a Scout earns his First Class rank, he may continue his advancement to higher ranks to further develop his leadership potential. To do so, he will need to hold a position of responsibility. In Troop 48, we believe that a Scout needs to **learn leadership to earn respect**, so we take this part of the rank advancement seriously.

Some Troop leadership positions are elected, e.g., Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader, and some are appointed. Appointed positions include, but are not limited to: Assistant Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Den Chief, Bugler, Troop Guide, Chaplain Aide, Scribe, Quartermaster and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. Depending on the position, the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and / or the Scoutmaster make the appointment.

In order to qualify for a position of responsibility, candidates are expected to have attended at least 2/3 (67%) of the meetings and campouts within the last six months. If



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there are not enough qualified candidates for open positions, the Scoutmaster, at his discretion, may waive this requirement in order to fill open positions of responsibility.

While serving in a position of responsibility, a Scout is required to attend 3/4 (75%) of all Troop Meetings, Campouts, and PLC Meeting (if applicable) in order to use the position for rank advancement to Star, Life, or Eagle. A typical position term is 6 months, but shorter terms may be joined together to meet rank requirements.

Since ranks above First Class require service in a position of responsibility, Scouts participating in other activities such as sports or band should plan carefully with the Scoutmaster to ensure enough time for opportunities to serve in positions of responsibility in order to advance.

OTHER LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Leadership opportunities abound in Scouting. The following are opportunities that will round a Scout out:

Membership in the Order of the Arrow - Elections are held annually for this honor camper and service organization.

Taking National Youth Leadership Training – This is an intense leadership training program that requires a high level of commitment from a Scout.

Being on Summer Camp staff – Another opportunity to pass along Scout skills and develop leadership skills.

Eligibility for all leadership opportunities will be based on the Scoutmaster's observations of conduct, attitude, attendance, and Scout spirit.

MERIT BADGE PROGRAM

The merit badge program allows the Scout to meet Merit Badge Counselors in a wide range of professions, vocations and trades while learning additional important life skills thus helping him to develop an interest in a particular career.

To work on a merit badge, the Scout must do the following:

1. The Scout develops an interest in a merit badge and may begin working on the requirements.
2. The Scout discusses his interest in the merit badge with the Scoutmaster.
3. The Scout secures a merit badge application (aka 'blue card') from the file cabinet and completes the following information wherever it is asked for:
 - a. His name, Troop #, and name of merit badge.



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4. The Scoutmaster signs the blue card and provides the Scout with at least one Counselor contact.
5. The Scout contacts the Counselor.
 - a. The Counselor considers any work toward requirements completed by the Scout prior to his initial discussion with the Scoutmaster.
 - b. Once the Counselor has agreed to work with him, the Scout places the Counselor's name on the blue card.
6. The Scout, his buddy (or second adult) and the Counselor meet (often several times).
 - a. The Scout retains the blue card and presents it at each session. The Scout can present his blue card to the Advancement Chair to record the requirements as "Complete" in Scoutbook.
7. The Scout finishes the requirements.
8. The Counselor approves completion and keeps the 'Counselor's Record'.
9. The Scout returns the signed blue card to the Scoutmaster, who signs the applicant record section of it and returns it to the Scout (after asking, "Tell me one thing you learned by taking this merit badge").
10. The Scout gives the "Application for Merit Badge" section to the Advancement Chair.
11. The Advancement Chair records the Merit Badge as "Leader Approved" in Scoutbook.
12. The Scout receives his merit badge at a Court of Honor.

To work on a merit badge using Scoutbook, the Scout must do the following:

1. The Scout develops an interest in a merit badge and may begin working on the requirements.
2. The Scout discusses his interest in the merit badge with the Scoutmaster.
3. The Scoutmaster provides the Scout with at least one Counselor contact.
4. The Scoutmaster starts the Merit Badge under the Scout's Advancement in Scoutbook.
5. The Scout contacts the Counselor.
 - a. The Counselor considers any work toward requirements completed by the Scout prior to his initial discussion with the Scoutmaster.
 - b. Once the Counselor has agreed to work with him, the Scoutmaster invites the Counselor to connect to the Scout or the Scout provides the Counselor his Membership ID # to establish a connection.
6. The Scout, his buddy (or second adult) and the Counselor meet (often several times).
 - a. The Counselor records completion of requirements in Scoutbook.
7. The Scout finishes the requirements.
8. The Counselor approves completion.



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9. The Scout notifies the Scoutmaster, who marks the Merit Badge as “Leader Approved” in Scoutbook (after asking, “Tell me one thing you learned by taking this merit badge”).
10. The Scout receives his merit badge at a Court of Honor.

We ask that parents become Merit Badge Counselors for subjects that are their hobbies, trades, or professions. There are over 130 merit badge offerings. All Counselors must be approved by Scouts BSA.

Scouts are recognized for their advancement at the quarterly Courts of Honor, which parents are requested to attend.

EAGLE SCOUT

Worthy of special note is the importance of the Eagle Scout rank. A top-rated business magazine has stated that the finest single recommendation for any new job applicant is the Eagle badge. It even held more esteem than a Phi Beta Kappa key. In addition, the U.S. Military Academies prefer Eagle Scouts. Three of the ten questions on their entrance applications are related to Scouting.

Troop 48 has a long history of producing Eagle Scouts. However, it is our philosophy that the most important aspect of the Trail to Eagle is the journey, not the destination. The Eagle Scout award is a symbol of an individual’s character, perseverance and demonstrated commitment to the ideals of Scouting and service-oriented leadership. Since the founding of Troop 48 in 1929, the Eagle Scouts were awarded their rank in recognition of what they had earned and become in body, mind and spirit. In Troop 48, Eagle Scout rank is not a rite of passage. It must be earned. Let us keep working with the Scouts to keep them climbing until they reach this goal.

MONTHLY OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Our Troop youth leaders hold a planning weekend each fall to plan activities for the coming year, including monthly campouts. The Troop calendar lists the dates of the activities planned by the Scouts.

All trips begin and end at the church’s Ralph Moak garage unless otherwise noted. Times are confirmed the Tuesday before the activity. If we will be returning +/- 15 minutes from the stated return time, a text message will go out a few hours prior.

A fee to cover food and transportation is due two Troop meetings before the trip. Anyone who misses this deadline is still encouraged to attend but must follow the late sign-up procedure described herein and contact the appropriate persons to determine ability to attend.



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Refunds, after the trip fee is paid, will be made if money has not been expended for food and camping fees.

Each Scout takes a turn in buying the food based on the menu that the patrol plans. This method allows the Scouts to plan their menus and to work together as a unit within the larger Troop.

A camping trip equipment list is provided on the Troop website. This can be used in conjunction with the one in the *Scouts BSA Handbook for Boys*.

Per Scouts BSA policy, only Registered and background checked adults current on their Youth Protection Training may camp overnight with the Troop. These positions are Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Chartered Organization Representative, Committee Chair, Committee Member, Scouter Reserve, or College Scouter Reserve. Parents interested in joining us on trips but not interested in a Leadership position are encouraged to register as Committee Members or Scouter Reserve.

Remember the adage: THREE-FOURTHS OF SCOUTING IS OUTING.

PROCEDURE FOR SIGNING UP FOR CAMPOUTS

Scouts are encouraged to attend all campouts. Please know that it takes a significant amount of planning and effort to arrange for food and transportation for a Troop our size.

The outdoor/activities coordinator will finalize transportation preparations for campouts one week prior. Therefore, it is imperative that all Scouts and Leaders attending a campout sign up and pay the camping fee by the 2nd Tuesday prior to any campout (unless otherwise directed.)

Procedure for a Scout Who Adds After Missing the Deadline

If a Scout misses the deadline and wants to attend the campout, the Scout (not the parent) needs to complete all of the steps listed below. If this procedure is not followed, the Scout will not be permitted to attend the campout.

- 1) Call his Patrol Leader to see who is purchasing the food.
- 2) Call the Scout who is buying the food to see if the food has been purchased. If not,
- 3) Call the Outdoor/Activities Coordinator to see if there is room in a vehicle to get where we are going. If yes,
- 4) Call the Treasurer to tell him how he will be paying.
- 5) Call the Scout who is buying the food to say that he has been given permission to attend and needs food purchased for him.
- 6) Call his Patrol Leader to say that he has been given permission to attend.



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Contact information is available on the Troop Roster.

Procedure for a Scout Who Withdraws After Having Paid to Attend a Trip

- 1) Call his patrol leader to say that he cannot attend and to ask if the food has been purchased.
- 2) Call the Outdoor Activities Chair to say he will not be attending.
- 3) Call the Treasurer to say that he will not be attending and to ask for a credit to his account or a refund. NOTE: if the food has not been purchased and no other money has been extended by the Troop, on the Scout's behalf, then a full refund will be made.

PARENTAL PARTICIPATION

A Scout Troop cannot function without the active participation of the parents. Although the Troop is Scout-led, a considerable amount of parental involvement is needed to support activities and provide guidance. We therefore encourage all Scout parents to attend the monthly Committee meetings and the Awards Court of Honor and participate in Troop leadership positions. Family members are also expected to drive on trips. The success of our Troop is directly proportional to the support given by the parents. Being a member of the Troop Committee gives you a voice in the running of the Troop. It will also keep you informed about our programs, operation and your Scout's progress. There is a direct correlation between parental involvement in the Troop and a Scout's success in the program.

Some positions/activities requiring support are:

- Merit Badge Counselor
- Trip planning and coordination
- Drivers for trips
- Court of Honor Refreshments Coordinator
- Spaghetti Supper Chair
- Popcorn Sales Chair
- Christmas Greenery Sales Chair
- Committee positions
- Life-to-Eagle Mentor
- Higher Adventurers Group Advisor
- Mentor Family for New Scouts

Please see the Committee Chair to volunteer. For an adult to be registered with the Troop, one must submit an adult application, pay the registration fee, pass a criminal background check, complete online Youth Protection Training, and interview with the Chartered Organization Representative. Faith Presbyterian Church requires adult leaders of



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Troop 48 acknowledges faith in Jesus Christ and supports the church's views of traditional marriage by signing the church's policy. All adult leaders must be approved by the Committee Chair and the Chartered Organization Representative.

UNIFORMS

The uniform in Scouting is much like that in sports. It defines the activity, tells others who is present, encourages camaraderie, and instills discipline. It's also one of the eight methods of Scouting. Just as a high school baseball team takes the field in full uniform, so too does our Troop in all of its activities.

Scouts are to wear the complete Field Uniform (Class A) at all Scouting activities. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, Scouts will wear the Activity Uniform (Class B) to Troop meetings, which consists of the Troop 48 T-shirt in place of the Scout shirt and neckerchief.

Additionally, the Troop has a unique custom cap that is part of the field and activity uniforms. Scouts are required to wear their field uniform while traveling to and from any event related to Scouting, unless directed otherwise. Scouts must wear their uniforms in a manner that will reflect credit upon themselves, the Troop, the charter organization, and Scouts BSA. This means: clean, neat, tucked-in, buttoned, and with appropriate insignia.

Parents are asked to recycle uniform parts by bringing outgrown ones to the Troop meeting. They may be exchanged for other "experienced" items.

Field Uniform (Class A)

The field uniform is the official Scouts BSA uniform. In our Troop, our full uniform consists of tan uniform shirt with appropriate patches, Troop 48 neckerchief (or appropriate earned neckerchief), olive pants or shorts, Troop 48 cap, belt, olive socks (especially when wearing shorts), and appropriate footwear. We wear our field uniform at most Troop meetings, Courts of Honor and when we travel to and from Campouts.

Activity Uniform (Class B)

The activity uniform represents Scouting and keeps everyone feeling like part of the group, even when we're not in field uniform. Our activity uniform is the red Troop 48 shirt, olive pants or shorts, Troop 48 cap, belt, olive socks, and appropriate footwear. We wear our activity uniform at Troop meetings between Memorial Day and Labor Day, on Campouts and at Summer Camp.

We understand uniforms are an important part of Scouting. We also understand that uniforms are not mandatory, and a Scout cannot be prevented from participation or



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advancement due to lack of uniform. When we choose clothes for any Scouting activity, we follow these rules:

- **Safety First:** We choose clothing and footwear that's safe for the activity. We wear clothes that will protect us from the weather, won't get in the way of any equipment, and we follow all Scouting America safety guidelines
- **Respectful Choices:** We avoid clothing with words, images, or symbols that could be seen as offensive, including anything political, violent, sexual, or promoting disrespect toward any group.
- **Religious, Cultural, and Medical Needs:** We may wear alternative headgear or clothing for religious, cultural, or medical reasons if it's safe for the activity and doesn't block our vision.
- **Aquatics Activities:** Our swimwear must be designed for swimming, not pose a risk of suffocation or drowning, and be secure enough to not fall off or shift during activity. For extra sun protection, we may wear a rash guard or T-shirt.

We understand every Troop sets their own policy. We also understand some camps or events may have extra safety clothing guidelines. They'll make sure to communicate these extra safety guidelines ahead of time and we will follow them.

If there's ever a question about a member of our Troop's clothing, we understand we should ask our own Scoutmaster for help interpreting our Troop's policy. Only if there's a serious safety concern (like the risk of injury) should an adult from outside of our Troop question a Scout from our Troop about their clothing.

Finally, we will recognize that every Troop is different, and we will remember to be friendly, courteous, and kind to others at all times.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

To help facilitate the return of found items, all clothing and personal gear is to be marked with the owner's name.

TRANSPORTATION

The outdoor activities chair oversees the arranging of drivers that are needed for the activities. Vehicle insurance, that meets the requirements of the state the vehicle is registered in, is required.



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USE OF ELECTRONICS

Use of Electronics During Trips:

Personal electronic items (e.g., cell phones, MP3 players, video games, headphones, etc.) are permitted for all Scouts *while traveling to and from* Scouting activities and only while in the vehicle.

Drivers may use their discretion to ban the use of these devices in their vehicles.

Upon arrival at our destination, all devices will be collected and placed in a locked box and secured. They will be disbursed again in one of these ways:

For phones:

- For those who have the rank of First Class or above, this will take place at a designated 30-minute period which the PLC will determine for that trip.
 - Scouts who partake will be required to use their phones within the campsite and out in the open.
- Upon entering the vehicles for our return home.
- For Scouting purposes on a case-by-case basis. Examples include for use as a camera, calendar, alarm clock, GPS or other non-communication tool or application. No phone calls, texting, social networking, communicating via electronics or ‘going online’ is permitted during this period of time. The Scout leader in charge will make this call.

For other devices:

- Upon entering the vehicles for our return home.

If a Scout is found to be using a personal electronic device outside of the above rules:

- The device will be taken away, locked up and then returned to his parent upon arrival at our final destination.
- The Scout will be banned from possessing and using a similar electronic device for the next two months.
 - If this occurrence is repeated, a meeting may be scheduled with the Scout and a parent.

Exceptions to the above may take place based on the type of activity we are engaged in e.g., summer camp, canoeing, etc.

Scout leaders, both youth and adult, may take away electronics at any time if they are deemed a distraction.



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Use of Electronics During All Other Activities:

- Upon arriving at Faith Presbyterian Church, phones and earbuds should be put away before entering the building or beginning participation in an activity outside.
- Exceptions may be made for Scouting purposes on a case-by-case basis. Examples include for use as a camera, calendar, alarm clock or other non-communication tool or application. No phone calls, texting, social networking, communicating via electronics or ‘going online’ is permitted during this period of time. The Scout leader in charge will make this call.

Use by Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Committee Members and Junior Assistant Scoutmasters:

Adult Leaders and Junior Assistant Scoutmasters will be permitted to keep and use cell phones for emergency communication. Non-emergency phone use should be limited and done out of the view of Scouts.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

In accordance with the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act, no user under the age of 13 may post to any Troop 48 social media.

All Scout and adult leaders should abide by the Scout Oath and Law when using social media. Any inappropriate posts will be removed by the site administrator.

If a Scout under age 13 has photos they would like to submit or if anyone has multiple photos in excess of a single shot to post, the photographs should be submitted to an Assistant Scoutmaster for posting.

Two-deep leadership as it applies to social media means there should be no private messages or one-on-one direct contact through email, Facebook messages, Twitter messenger communications, texts, chats, or instant messages between an adult and a Scout. An additional adult should be copied on all direct messages.

CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

Guide to Safe Scouting:

Troop 48 follows Scouts BSA rules and policies in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, available online. This Conduct and Discipline *section* is designed to further clarify conduct and discipline at the Troop level.



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Scout Conduct:

Good behavior is essential to any program and will be strongly supported by Troop 48's youth leaders (Scouts) and adult leaders (Scouters). Good behavior is a primary element of showing Scout spirit, and is a requirement for advancement. The Troop's level of authority is as follows:

Troop Committee

Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Junior Assistant Scoutmasters

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)

Patrol Leader (PL) / Troop Guide

Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)

In each instance, the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or any adult will have the final authority. The purpose of the authority structure is not to remove influence from the Scouts, but to augment and uphold their responsibility. It is not to be construed as bossing other Scouts around or making some Scouts do more than their fair share. However, fellow Scouts must recognize this structure and be willing to participate and assist others as requested.

Scouts will not participate in any activity that could be considered dangerous to their fellow Scout. These include but are not limited to hazing, harassing, abuse of fire or flammable materials, or abuse of sharp instruments.

Scouts will conduct themselves properly during all Troop 48 activities. If the behavior isn't allowed at school or church, it's not acceptable behavior. During all meetings and activities, when the Scout sign is held up, all Scouts and adults shall immediately cease talking and movement, and display the same sign.

During the patrol activity session of the Troop meetings, Scouts will be with their assigned patrol unless given permission by their Patrol Leader to meet with the Scoutmaster, go to the restroom, etc. It is necessary for the Patrol Leader to know the whereabouts of his Scouts.

No Scout will leave a campsite without a buddy and the permission of the Patrol Leader or other Scout leader.

Disciplinary problems on campouts and activities will not be tolerated. Scouts who cannot behave themselves may be sent home.



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Buddy System:

Scouts will follow Scouts BSA's Buddy System whenever appropriate. Examples include water activities, whenever a Scout is to go beyond visual range of a campsite, instances where Scouts are interacting with large groups of people not known by the Troop, and whenever the Scoutmaster declares the Buddy System is in effect.

Discipline:

General: The approach to discipline in Scouting is simple and the doors of Scouting are always open to those who strive to follow the ideals of Scouting. Adherence to the *Statement of Troop Policy* is required to maintain safety, preclude property damage, and avoid disrupting other organizations' activities.

Obedience: Obedience in Troop 48 means to follow the *Scout Oath* and the *Scout Law*. The *Oath* and *Law* make being a good citizen of the Troop, camp, or community possible. Obedience to the Scout Law includes respect for Scout (youth) leaders and adult leaders and all members and guests of the Troop.

Respect for adult and Scout leadership is expected. Under NO circumstances will adult or Scout Leaders administer physical punishment for any reason.

Enforcing Discipline:

1. Scout leaders and the PLC are responsible for maintaining Troop discipline.
2. Discipline in patrols will be handled by the Patrol Leaders. Patrol Leaders have the authority to ask any patrol member to shape up and/or leave a patrol activity and report to the SPL (senior patrol leader). An adult leader must be notified of actions taken.
3. When the Patrol Leader cannot handle the problem, he must obtain help from the Senior Patrol Leader. The Senior Patrol Leader has the authority to ask a Scout to leave the activity and report to the Scoutmaster.
4. The SPL may convene a meeting of the PLC to discuss how to address the situation. One or more adult Scout leaders will be part of this meeting.
5. If the SPL and / or the PLC cannot handle the situation, the Scoutmaster takes over. If the Scoutmaster determines that a Scout requires discipline, the following actions are taken:
 - a. First Instance – Conference with the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster. All such conferences should be attended by an appropriate Scout Leader and by another adult leader. Parents may be notified.
 - b. Second Instance – Conference with the Scoutmaster and a phone call to parents explaining the problem and stating that one more complaint may result in suspension for a period of time established by the severity of the offense. A written explanation of the offense will also be prepared to back-up the phone call.



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- One copy will be given to the parents, another to the Troop Committee Chair (in case further action is necessary). Parents may be requested to attend meetings to help supervise their Scout. The Scout may be assigned to appear before a board of Committee Members or the PLC as a lesser disciplinary action prior to suspension from Troop activities.
- c. Third Instance – Conference with the Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, and parents. Based on the Scoutmaster’s recommendation, the Scout may be suspended from all Troop activities for a period of time as established by the Scoutmaster.
 - d. Fourth Instance – The issue is referred to the full Troop Committee by the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair with a recommendation of action and the circumstances for the referral. The Troop Committee may proceed immediately with any level of discipline without conducting previous lower levels of discipline, if the Committee deems the severity of the circumstances warrant such action.
6. The above steps are not meant to discourage either the Patrol Leader or Senior Patrol Leader from seeking advice from the Scoutmaster or any adult leader when they are having leadership challenges, but are intended to state discipline options in advance.
 7. In extreme cases, a Scout may be recommended for dismissal from the Troop. This action means that only by agreement from the Troop Committee will the Scout be permitted to return to the Troop. Dismissal will only be carried out by the Troop Committee. In the case of a dismissal, a letter to the Scout’s parents will be sent outlining the reasons for the dismissal and the alternatives for returning to the Troop.
 8. If a Scout is disruptive during any event (meeting, camping trip, day trip, etc.) and it is determined by the adult leader of the event that the Scout’s continued presence will continue to be disruptive, the parents of the Scout will be called (anytime; day or night) to come and get the Scout.
 9. If a Scout feels he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by another Scout, he may seek help from the Senior Patrol Leader. A Scout who feels that he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by the Senior Patrol Leader may seek help from the Scoutmaster, and a Scout who feels that he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by the Scoutmaster may seek help from the Troop Committee Chair.

Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco:

No Scout shall use, possess, and/or distribute tobacco or any controlled substance (drugs and alcohol). A Scout found to have used, possessed, or distributed a controlled substance at a Scouting function will be subject to immediate disciplinary action.

Taking prescription medication is the responsibility of the Scout taking the medication and/or that Scout’s parents. A leader, after obtaining all the necessary information, can agree to accept the responsibility to remind a Scout to take necessary medication at the appropriate time. Parents of Scouts required to take prescription medication over the period of a Troop event are required to provide the following information prior to the



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event to the Troop's Health and Safety Coordinator for any medications not already reported on the Scout's BSA Annual Health and Medical Record: medication type, dose, frequency and emergency contact information. Serious medical requirements may require a parent to attend an event and administer medication.

Language and Respect:

Foul language, swearing, cursing and abusive/suggestive/offensive gestures are not in keeping with the ideals of Scouting and will not be allowed. A Scout is *reverent, courteous, and clean*. Disrespectful language to any Scout or to any adult is not allowed.

Adult Leader and Parent Conduct:

Adult leaders shall exhibit the ideals of Scouting when working with the Scouts. They will strive to set a good example in their handling of all situations. Standards of conduct in personal habits, language, hygiene, and interaction with Scouts will be in accordance with the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. The Committee Chair is responsible for the conduct of adult leaders. Conduct befitting a Scout is expected of adult participants as well, especially in regards to the Dos and Don'ts.

Parents or visitors should be mindful not to interfere with the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters before or during the Troop meeting on matters pertaining to their son. Prior arrangements to discuss issues are encouraged and should always be made in advance so the leader(s) can devote full attention to the matter.

Dos and Don'ts - Selected Examples:

Scouts BSA prohibits the securing, use, and display of fireworks in conjunction with programs and activities, except where the fireworks display is conducted under the auspices of a certified or licensed fireworks control expert. Scouts of Troop 48 are prohibited from possessing or using fireworks on any Troop 48 activity.

Scouts are not permitted to possess firearms. Firearms will be permitted at Troop meetings only if the Troop program calls for such activities. Any such activity must have prior approval of the Scoutmaster

Scouts carrying pocketknives must have their *Totin' Chip* card in their possession as prescribed by Scouts BSA training requirements. If the *Totin' Chip* card is not on the Scout's person, the knife may be confiscated and returned upon presentation of the card or at the end of the activity.

Sexually explicit materials in ANY media format shall not be brought to Scout activities. If found, such materials will be confiscated and returned to the parents of any Scout involved.



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The Scoutmaster or adult leader has the authority to confiscate all items deemed inappropriate or dangerous. Personal items confiscated may be returned to the Scout's parents.

Both parents/guardians (unless the Scout is living with a single, separated, or widowed parent/guardian) and the Scout must sign as indicated with this packet signifying, they agree to uphold the Conduct and Discipline policy outlined above.

SAFE SCOUTING

Troop 48 follows Scouts BSA *Guide to Safe Scouting* (<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS/toc.aspx>) where age and rank appropriate activity guidelines have been developed based on the mental, physical, emotional and social maturity of Scouts BSA youth members. The entire guide is available online.

For safety and liability reasons, all activities of the Troop are reserved for registered members of "Scouts BSA". Participation by others, e.g., Webelos Scouts or 11-year-old or older boys, who are being actively recruited for membership in the Troop, must be approved by the Scoutmaster. In certain circumstances, guests may be permitted to attend campouts or trips, subject to the approval of the Scoutmaster. Guests will be charged the full cost of the campout or trip, without subsidy from the Troop that is provided for Scouts, parents and Scout leaders.

Scouts with age differences of over two years will not tent together, except in cases of brothers, emergency or health or safety risk as determined by the Scout leaders.

Upon joining, and each year after, an Annual Health and Medical Record (Parts A and B) needs to be submitted for each Scout and Scout leader attending campouts. Parents and siblings attending campouts should also complete an Annual Health and Medical Record (Parts A and B). For any participants (Scouts, leaders, parents, siblings) attending an event longer than 72 hours, Part C must also be submitted. Part C is required to be signed by a physician, or other appropriate health care provider. All adults attending an event longer than 72 hours must be Scouts BSA registered adults. All Scouts BSA participants are encouraged to have an annual physical performed by a medical professional.

TROOP FUNDRAISING

In keeping with Scouting's emphasis on initiative, self-reliance, and resourcefulness, Troop 48 strives to self-fund camping equipment and many activities. Since 1953, we have hosted an annual Spaghetti Supper fundraiser. We also rely on popcorn, barbecue roasted pork, Pancake Breakfast/Supper, and Christmas greenery sales to raise money for



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the Troop. Our Scouts develop presentation skills through fundraiser sales, and learn teamwork as they collaborate on fundraising events.

SCOUT BUCKS PROGRAM

The Troop 48 Scout Bucks program is intended to encourage participation in fundraising activities and reward Scouts and Scouters for their individual efforts. The Troop Committee designates appropriate fundraising events to award Scout Bucks that Scouts and Scouters can use to pay camping or other fees. Scout Bucks are Troop funds, held in the general account, which may be used by active Scouts or Scouters for specific types of reimbursements.

Families may choose to receive reimbursements for Troop expenses or refunds of campout fees as Scout Bucks, however use of these funds are limited. Scout Bucks may be used to pay for costs that are collected by the Troop (such as activity fees, campout fees, registration fees, uniform parts or insignia).

The Committee Chair and Treasurer must approve any reimbursements other than those normally collected by the Troop. Claims must be for Scouting-related expenses incurred while the Scout or Scouter is a current member of Troop 48. Reimbursements must be supported by a proper/legitimate receipt. If a Scout or Scouter leaves Troop 48 for any reason, any remaining Scout Bucks balance will return to the Troop's general fund.

TROOP FUNDS

All checks written by the Troop Treasurer or other authorized signer on the Troop's bank account should be approved and initialed by an authorized approver. Authorized approvers will include authorized signers and others approved by the Troop Committee.

Any donations not designated for a specific purpose will be deposited into the Campership Fund, unless designated for another use by the Troop Committee. The Campership Fund is for Summer Camp fees for those who cannot afford it, or may be used to partially offset the cost of Summer Camp for all Scouts. The donations in a calendar year will accumulate and those will be used for the following year's Summer Camp. The Troop Committee also deposits an amount annually to the Campership Fund from general Troop funds.

Registered Adults attending campouts have one free campout per year.

Troop 48 Scouters may be reimbursed at 100% of the cost of any of the following training classes, upon completion, subject to a maximum of \$200 per person per year.

- IOLS
- Scoutmaster Position-Specific Training



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- Wood Badge
- First Aid
- CPR
- Aquatic Supervision
- Wilderness First Aid

Any Scout who attends National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) will be reimbursed up to \$100 of the cost in his Scout Bucks account after attending.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A limited number of Troop Camperships are available to provide financial assistance for summer camp upon a demonstrated family financial need. Scouts are encouraged to earn a portion of their fees in following the Scout Law tenet of, "A Scout is thrifty". Scouts should apply with the Scoutmaster, Treasurer, or Committee Chair by early January. This program is kept confidential.



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TROOP 48 SCOUTMASTER'S MISSION STATEMENT

The Spirit of Scouting lies in what we do for each other (service) and in what we give back (contribution) to the Troop in the form of sacrifice and appreciation. We will do a fine thing if we go through the proper ways and means to preserve our Scout Troop, but we will do a finer thing by far if - through our efforts - each boy maintains his proper place in the world that he values. Scouting can have no higher purpose than to raise a boy's capacities for feeling and giving, learning and doing, enjoying and sharing. Troop 48 is dedicated to achieving these objectives.

AGREEMENT

I have read these pages of the Troop 48 policy and agree to abide by them.

Signed:

Scout

Parent

Parent

Date: _____

RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM TO THE ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER FOR NEW SCOUTS AT THE NEXT TROOP MEETING.