



The aims of the troop are the same as established by Boy Scouts of America.

- * Build character and moral strength, practice his religious beliefs.**
- * Foster citizenship, develop love of family and country, and be of service to others.**
- * Develop physical, mental and emotional fitness.**

Boy Scouts of America
Adventure West Council
Bighorn District
Troop 81

Charter by YMCA
860 E 29th Street
Loveland, Colorado 80538



revised 04/08/2024

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Welcome to Troop 81 | 3 |
| Getting Started with the Troop | 4 |
| Required Equipment | 5 |
| Uniforms | 5 |
| Boy Scout Journal | 6 |
| Communications | 7 |
| Leadership Team | 8 |
| Section 1: Meetings | 9 |
| Section 2: Patrols | 11 |
| Section 3: Financial | 12 |
| Section 4: Safety | 14 |
| Section 5: Parent Participation | 15 |
| Guide for Drivers | 16 |
| Section 6: Camping | 17 |
| Camping Lists- New Scout buyers guide | 20 |
| General Camping Equipment List for Troop 81 Scouts | 24 |
| Winter Camping Information | 25 |
| Winter Camping Packing List Ideas | 30 |
| Backpack Gear List Suggestions | 31 |
| Section 7: Advancement and Merit Badges | 32 |
| Boy Scouts of America Ranks | 32 |
| Advancement Process | 32 |
| Service Projects | 33 |
| The Scout Master Conference | 33 |
| Board of Review | 33 |
| Merit Badge Program | 33 |
| Section 8: Responsibilities/Discipline | 34 |
| Section 9: Organization and By-Laws | 35 |



revised 04/08/2024

Welcome to Troop 81

Dear Scouting Parent/Guardian:

The members of Troop 81 want to extend to you and your boy a hearty welcome! Because of our great leaders and active parent support, Troop 81 is one of the best Boy Scout Troops in the Longs Peak Council. We hope that every family will take an active role in the troop program and make it more fun.

As of April 2022, Troop 81 had 40 registered scouts, and 21 registered adults. Our goal is not to be the largest Boy Scout troop in the Rocky Mountain District, but rather to focus on the individual scout in order to help develop character and leadership qualities through application of the aims and methods of scouting formulated by BSA founder, Robert Baden-Powell, over a century ago. Troop 81 was chartered in 1989.

We are a boy-run troop. If you're expecting all troop meetings and events to run like a well-oiled machine under the management of a group of adult leaders, then Troop 81 is probably not for you. But if, like us, your expectation is that Scouting will give your son the rare and precious opportunity to actively lead other youth, then Troop 81 may be the right troop for you.

Much of the success of our troop has been the result of very active adults whose efforts are channeled appropriately to avoid interfering with youth leadership opportunities. As a new scout parent, possibly coming from a well-organized Cub Pack, it may well appear to you that some of Troop 81's meetings, outings and other activities are a bit disorganized. They are! What else could you expect from a group of boys learning how to lead others?

We have prepared this information to tell you about our troop and help answer some of the many questions most new Scout families have when they join Troop 81. Other sources of information are listed within this packet.

We thank you for giving Troop 81 the opportunity to be part of your boy's and your family's lives. Please feel free to ask any and all questions. We would also appreciate your input as parents. We are not professionals; just caring parents like yourselves, but if your boy has any special needs, please let the Scoutmaster and Committee know right away and we will do our best to help.

Welcome to Scouting and welcome to Troop 81!



revised 04/08/2024

Getting Started with the Troop

Joining the Troop - Registration Forms

A child may register as a new member of Troop 81 at anytime during the year, as long as he meets the requirements as established by BSA. The process for registration is as follows:

The child and at least one parent/guardian attend one of the troop meetings held Monday nights at 7:00p.m. at the YMCA of the Rockies in Loveland..

A BSA Youth Application form and a Personal Health History form must be completed. (Forms will be provided to you by the Troop.)

The Troop Registration Fee must be paid. (This fee will be prorated if it is not a complete year.)

Boys will have the option to order Scouts' Life magazine for an additional fee.

A form with your vehicle information will need to be filled out if you would like to go on the campouts.

If a scout is transferring into Troop 81 from another Boy Scout troop, advancement records should be provided by the scout or parent to the advancement chairperson. Cost of registration for transfers from another troop and new scouts coming from a Webelos Den is \$0.

Each new scout must have a BSA Youth Application completed and submitted through the Troop or online to the Boy Scouts of America. Each year the scout will re-charter and continue his membership.

Personal Health and Medical Record

Each new scout will also need a medical information form on file with the Troop. There are different medical forms required for different Scouting Activities. Medical forms will be provided to you via email or you can access them at:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/>



revised 04/08/2024

Required Equipment for Boy Scouts

HANDBOOK, UNIFORMS, PERSONAL CAMPING GEAR, AND JOURNAL



Boy Scout Handbook

Each Scout is required to purchase a BSA Handbook. The handbook is required to track your scout's advancement, and is the primary source of information and guidance for the boy. The scout will bring this to all troop meetings and campouts. All rank advancement sign-offs will be recorded in the handbook, and it provides information for every step along the way as scouts advance. New scouts will need to purchase the handbook on-line or at the Loveland Scout Shop, 5604 McWhinney Blvd. Special attention should be directed toward the rank requirements section in the back of the book. **There is an area provided where the scout should record merit badges earned, leadership and training, camping, and service hours.** This will become an important part of his advancement. Scouts should be in the habit of adding to these lists upon the completion of each campout or service hours.

Uniforms There are two types of uniforms for Troop 81: Class A and Class B. Uniforms and accessories can be ordered on-line, or purchased at the Loveland Scout Shop. The hours of the Scout Shop are: Monday – Friday, 10:00a.m.-6:00p.m. (open until 7:00p.m. on Thursday), and Saturday, 10:00a.m.-5:00p.m. Closed on Sunday and holidays. Their phone number is 970-203-9530.

The **Class A Uniform**, officially referred to as a **field uniform**, consists of the official Boy Scout shirt and blue jeans, olive green, tan, or gray pants or shorts, and green (with Troop 81 logo) neckerchief. Official Scout pants, hat or ball cap and belt are optional. Tie slide has been given upon joining, but additional slides can be purchased at the Scout Shop. The neckerchief was also given at crossover, but additional neckerchiefs can be purchased through our troop.



revised 04/08/2024

The Class A uniform is required to be worn:

- To all troop meetings
- To and from all camping trips
- To all boards of review and Scoutmaster Conferences
- To all district, council, and national scouting events

The **Class B Uniform**, officially called the **activity uniform**, substitutes the BSA T-shirt or other scout T-shirt for the official Boy Scout shirt. Troop Class B Uniforms can be purchased from the Treasurer.

The Class B uniform is required to be worn:

- During all campouts when the Class A uniform is not required
- Other events specified by the Scoutmaster

At the Scoutmaster's discretion, neither the Class A or B may be required during events of longer duration such as summer camp, treks, High Adventure. **Clothing items that promote alcoholic or tobacco products, drugs, or contain inappropriate language or any other un-scout like design or wording are never permitted at any scouting event or activity.**

All insignia will be worn in accordance with the BSA uniform insignia guide.

Personal Camping Gear

Each Scout is required to maintain his own personal camping equipment. The troop does provide tents for scouts and cooking equipment. A list of gear can be found in the BSA handbook, under the camping section of the manual and separate handouts for the scout's journal. All adults must provide their own tents and equipment.

Scout Journal

Each Scout is expected to keep and maintain a Scout Binder and should contain separate sections for:

- Calendar
- Merit badge workbooks
- Baseball card holders. These can be used for your patches and merit badge cards.
- Troop required equipment lists (camping and backpacking), and information you obtain on first aid and other skills
- Other information the scout wants to keep handy

Keep it simple. Help your scout get organized and keep organized. A few minutes of your time can make a big difference. Scouts should bring their journals to the scout meetings. You may have your scout ask others to view their journal. Scouts are pretty proud of them and would love to show them.

Optional items for your binder:

Page protectors
Lined writing paper
Dividers

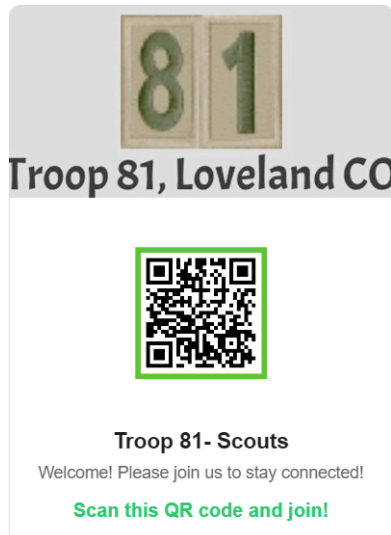


revised 04/08/2024

Communication

The Troop communicates through the Band App. You may access this on your phone or online at <https://band.us/n/a0a10c79pcPcA>. This is also your resource to see Troop 81 photos, connect with others and find some documents.

1. Come to meetings and listen to the announcements. Your scout will probably not remember them all.
2. Check our information table at the meetings. Upcoming activities have sign-up sheets and information on the tables.
3. Troop Calendar - the Band App is your primary resource and is updated in real-time when changes are made. Copies are available via our Troop website. Visit: <http://www.LovelandTroop81.org/>.
4. Have your Scout get his Patrol Leader's and Assistant Patrol Leader's phone numbers. If your boy misses a meeting, he can call to get the news.
5. Leaders will have tan uniform shirts - ask them and they can guide you to the correct resource. These adults can answer your questions and help you through Scout BSA process. Please contact them with your questions:



revised 04/08/2024

Troop 81 Leadership Team

| Leadership Team | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Name | Title | Email | Phone |
| Pat Murray | Charter Organization Representative | pat.murray@ymcanoco.org | 720.797.2020 x 7300 |
| Walter Veigel | Scoutmaster | scouting.walter.vegeil@gmail.com | 970.231.5522 |
| Greg Guest | Committee Chair | scouting.greg.guest@gmail.com | 970.213.0288 |
| Debbie Kelly | Eagle Advisor | ka0uze@frii.com | 970.663.5779 |
| Sally Leidig | Advancement Chair | sjleidig3@gmail.com | 970.290.4402 |
| Karmen Temple | Treasurer | llbkbnelson@hotmail.com | 970.689.9473 |
| Pete Temple | Outdoor Activity Chair | ptemple@eimedical.com | 1.866.365.6596 x110 |
| Kaye Petsas | Quartermaster | kayepetsas@gmail.com | 303.915.5267 |
| Adventure West Council | Local Information | https://adventurewestscouts.org/ | |
| Loveland Scout Shop | Merchandise | http://www.scoutstuff.org/ | 970.203.9530 |
| Boy Scouts of America | National Info | http://www.scouting.org/ | |

Section 1 – Meetings

Troop Meetings

Troop meetings are held almost every Monday night at the Knights of Columbus Hall at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church from 7:00p.m to 8:15p.m. Scouts should wear their Class A Uniform to all troop meetings. Because the meetings are boy-led, the organization will fluctuate but generally, here are some of the components of each meeting.

- Opening flag ceremony organized by patrol
- Reciting of Scout Oath, Scout Law, Outdoor Code, and 10 Essentials, etc...



revised 04/08/2024

- Announcements by leaders and scouts
- Time with patrols
- Troop activity, game, etc...
- Information tables for camping or other sign-ups
- The treasurer is available for scouts and parents
- Adult leaders are available to assist scouts with advancement, merit badges, and reviews
- Closing circle, message from the Scoutmaster

Patrol Meetings

The Patrol Leaders and their assistants are responsible for holding regular patrol meetings. The patrols should meet once or twice a month. The patrols meet at a place designated by the patrol leader. The purpose of the meetings is to work on rank advancement, patrol projects, practice skills, and prepare for upcoming troop events. Camping assignments and many troop activities will be organized by patrols. It is helpful to get the names and numbers of other boys in your patrol so that you can make arrangements for events and scouting activities.

Patrol Leader's Council (PLC)

The PLC meets on the last Monday of each month before the Troop Meeting at 6:15p.m., at the Knights of Columbus Hall, in Loveland. The meetings are held to review the recent activities and plan upcoming events, as well as to discuss other topics of interest to the troop.

The PLC, not the adult leaders, is responsible for planning and conducting the troop activities.

The PLC is composed of the following voting members: Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL), Patrol Leaders (PL), Troop Guide, and Venture Patrol Leader. The scribe will attend to record minutes. The PLC organizes and assigns activity responsibilities for the troop meetings.

All scouts holding other positions as well as scouts who are in the Leadership Corp are encouraged to attend.

Committee Meetings:

The Troop Committee meets on one Tuesday of each month at 7:00p.m. via Google Meets. Other Committee meetings may be called by the Committee Chair as necessary. The meetings are open to all registered adults and parents. Only registered committee members are eligible to vote on matters affecting the troop, unless invited to do so by the Committee Chair. All matters brought before the committee, except disciplinary matters, will be decided by a majority vote of registered committee members. Committee Chair will only vote in case of a tie vote.

Courts of Honor:

The Court of Honor is the troop's opportunity to recognize its members for their achievements. This is an important event and all family members and their friends are encouraged to attend. Courts of Honor are held four times a year to honor rank advancements and distribute merit badges earned. Scouts are to wear Class A uniforms and merit badge or Order of the Arrow sashes to all Courts of Honor.

Annual Planning Meeting:

An annual planning meeting will be held each fall with the PLC, Scoutmasters and Committee members to prepare the annual calendar.



revised 04/08/2024

Following approval by the Troop Committee, the calendar will be distributed to all boys and their parents as an aid in planning family time.



revised 04/08/2024

Section 2 – Patrols

Troop 81 follows the Patrol Method of Scouting. Each patrol has a name such as Sharks, Flaming Arrows, and Scorpions. The scouts are assigned to a patrol by the Scoutmaster.

Leadership within the Patrol

Each patrol will have a Patrol Leader and an assistant patrol leader. For new patrols, the scoutmaster will assign a Troop Guide as Patrol Leader to help the new scouts get started. The Troop Guide is usually a Star or higher ranked older scout in the Troop. In existing patrols, the boys will vote to establish their patrol leader. Leaders help coordinate information, planning and activities for the patrol.

Patrol Method

The patrol is a group of Scouts who belong to a troop and who are probably similar in age and development. The patrol method allows scouts to interact in a small group outside the larger troop context, working together as a team and sharing the responsibility of making their patrol a success. Patrols will sometimes join with other patrols to learn skills and complete advancement requirements. At other times they will compete against those same patrols in scout skills and athletic competitions.

Requirements of New Patrol

Each new patrol must:

- Choose a patrol name
- Create a patrol flag
- Create a patrol cheer

The Scoutmaster will have the new patrols present these at a Troop Campout or meeting.

Patrols and Camping

Most of the camping activity for the Troop is divided by patrol. The members of the patrol that are attending a camping trip will get together the week before the camping trip to plan their menu, assignments, and shopping list. Menus need to be approved by the Senior Patrol Leader or someone appointed by him before the campout to make sure that the menu will provide the proper nutrition. Special patrols maybe assigned for camping trips when numbers dictate a change from regular patrols. Scouts need to make sure they have met their financial obligations for food purchases.

Section 3 – Financial

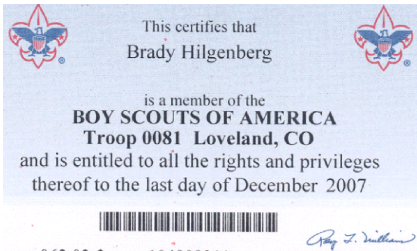
I. Joining the Troop

There is a minimal registration fee when boys join the troop. Cost of registration for transfers from another troop and new scouts coming from a Webelos Den is \$0.00.



revised 04/08/2024

II. Dues



Dues for all registered Boy Scouts of Troop 81 are \$50.00 per year. It is requested that scouts pay \$25.00 upfront at the beginning of the year, and then the remaining amount can be paid weekly, monthly, or annually. If a boy joins or transfers from another troop or pack later in the year, the dues will be prorated. Dues cover the cost of equipment, repair, and replacement of supplies. Dues must be paid up to date for a scout to participate in a Troop activity (such as campouts, High Adventure, etc.) or for a scout to have a Board of Review.

III. Recharter

Each fall, Troop 81, through its chartering organization, must renew its charter with BSA. The cost of recharter is \$72/youth and \$45/adult and an additional \$12 (optional) for Scouts' Life magazine. Council Fees are \$60/youth and \$30/adult. Total annual is \$132/youth and \$75/adult. Recharter registration is effective on the 31st of December. Once your scout is rechartered, they will receive their official Boy Scout card.

IV. Fund Raisers/Scout and Parent Accounts

Troop 81 has various fund-raisers organized by the troop committee each year. See the Troop Calendar for dates of fund-raisers. Each scout and parent has an account with the troop. When the scout or parent participates in a fund-raiser, a percentage of the proceeds will be placed into the scout's/parent's accounts. The remainder goes into the troop account. Scouts/parents can use their accounts to pay dues, camping fees, annual Friends of Scouting campaign, offset summer camp expenses, or purchase personal camping gear. Parents can donate their account to their own scout or any other scout. Money left in a scout's/parent's account when the scout leaves the troop either by transfer, dropping from BSA, or reaching his 18th birthday will be placed in the Troop 81 general fund.

Fund raisers include working at the Sculpture in the Park in August, camp cards, Knights of Columbus bingo snack bar, and other opportunities.

V. Other Fees

Camping fees are a minimum of \$20 per camp out. Please see page 8 of the Boy Scout Troop 81 Organization Guidelines.



revised 04/08/2024

Section 4 – Safety

Safety of our scouts and adults is one of the highest priorities of the troop. BSA has adopted a number of policies for the safety, welfare, and protection of the scouts, all of which are located in the current edition of "Guide to Safe Scouting" following are excerpts:

- **TWO DEEP LEADERSHIP:** Two registered adult leaders or one registered leader and a parent of a participant, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required on all trips and outings.
- **NO ONE-ON-ONE CONTACT:** For situations that require personal conferences, the meeting is to be conducted in view of other adults and youths.
- **RESPECT THE PRIVACY OF OTHERS AT ALL TIME**
- **SEPARATE ACCOMMODATIONS:** No youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of another adult; scout tents are grouped and located away from adult tents. Scouts must be within two years of age to tent together.
- **PROPER PREPARATION FOR HIGH-ADVENTURE**
- **NO SECRET ORGANIZATIONS:** All aspects of Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders.
- **NO HAZING:** Physical hazing and initiations are prohibited.
- **APPROPRIATE ATTIRE ONLY**

Every adult associated with the troop, including merit badge counselors, must be trained in Youth Protection every two years.

[Youth Protection Training:](#) This required training for all adults who will participate with scouts is offered on-line and also offered through the Troop and Longs Peak Council throughout the year.

Each youth and adult that attends summer camp or that will go on any aquatic event must be classified as swimmer, beginning swimmer, or non-swimmer. Swim classification will be conducted each year in April or May.

As part of the Scout Handbook, there is an insert on Youth Protection. Each scout and parents are required to read and sign this material.

Researches for Training:

Boy Scouts of America - <http://www.longspkbsa.org/>

First Aid- American Red Cross, 120 Saturn Drive, Fort Collins, CO, 970-226-5728

CPR - American Heart Association, 303-369-5433

CPR - McKee Medical Center, 970-669-4640



revised 04/08/2024

Section 5 – Parent Participation

Parent Participation

Come to our troop meetings and the Courts of Honor. Show the Scouts we're proud of their accomplishments.

Sign-up to be a driver. We can't go anywhere without drivers.

Encourage your scout to work on his advancement and let him know you are interested in his accomplishments. It is through advancement that the Scout benefits most from the program because the advancement opens him to new experiences and adventures.

Encourage your scout to attend Summer Camp and Merit Badge University (MBU). Troop 81 offers a variety of options for Summer Camp.

Attend the Eagle Courts of Honor. These are very special events as only 5% of all scouts become Eagle Scouts. We have a remarkable number of Eagle Scouts in Troop 81!

Sign up as a registered Adult Leader. We need to have you sign up to be sure we are covered by the council's insurance program. Forms are available from the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair.

Take some extra training. We need adults who have First Aid and CPR. All adults who wish to camp overnight with the troop must take Youth Protection Training which is available in a class through the troop or at MBU and also on-line. The Rocky Mountain District also offers other adult classes training periodically. Check out <http://www.Longspeakbsa.org/> for more information. Trainings are available at my.scouting.org.

Attend Troop Committee meetings held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00p.m. We value your input and this is a great way to stay informed.

Become a Merit Badge Counselor in a topic for which you are proficient. A sign up form is available.

Come on campouts. We always need extra eyes, hands, and drivers!

Help with fund raisers.



revised 04/08/2024

Troop 81 Guide for Drivers

1. If you are transporting any scouts who are not your children and for whom you are not a guardian, you must be registered on the Tour Permit for BSA travel. This is a BSA requirement, not only the troop. It enables BSA insurance. Information required for the tour permits are; for each adult driving: driver's license number, number of seat belts, vehicle make and model, insurance (must meet or exceed requirements for Colorado, it is recommended that coverage limits are at least \$50,000/\$100,000/\$50,000.) (found in the Forms Section of this manual)
2. Safety Rules:
 - a. **Drive with your headlights on (day/night) for safety.**
 - b. Seat belts are required for all occupants and must be worn during travel.
 - c. Passenger cars and station wagons may be used, but passengers should not ride on the rear deck of station wagons.
 - d. Trucks may not be used for transporting scouts except in the cab; the beds of trucks or trailers must never be used for carrying passengers.
 - e. All driving, except for short trips, should be done in daylight.
 - f. Do not drive drowsy.
 - g. Do not exceed the speed limit and adjust appropriately to road, traffic, and weather conditions.
3. Travel with the rest of the troop. We don't convoy bumper to bumper, but stay within about a 1/4 mile of the troop vehicle ahead of you so that in case of difficulty other vehicles can lend assistance. The Scoutmaster normally leads the troop. Please don't zoom off, and leave the troop. (This is known as the Scoutmaster Rule.) During long trips we will prearrange a schedule for periodic checkpoint stops as a group.
4. Unless there are two adults in the vehicle, the minimum required is one adult and two or more youth members - Never one on one.
5. On national tour additional BSA rules may apply.

Thank you for offering to drive. We appreciate your time to support the Boy Scout on their outings.

For long trips, the driver pulling the trailer may be reimbursed for gas expenses.



revised 04/08/2024

Section 6 – Camping

CAMPING WITH TROOP 81

PRE-TRIP

1. Sign-up. Pay fees, if any.
2. Food planning
 - a. Done by Patrols with adult approval of menus.
 - b. Consider special dietary needs when planning.
 - c. All scouts going on the campout share the cost of their patrol's food.
 - d. Adults plan menus and share costs with the other adults going.
3. Transportation
 - a. Drivers must be registered with Troop 81.
 - b. All drivers and passengers must wear seatbelts.
4. Packing
 - a. Layers - base, insulation, shell
 - b. Fabrics - wool, silk, polypropylene, etc. NO COTTON!
 - c. Extra protection - head, neck, hands, feet
 - d. Sleeping - insulate from the bottom up. Closed cell pad, synthetic bag with lots of loft. NO COTTON!
 - e. Containers
 - i. Plastic tote box/backpack/duffle bag
 - ii. Fanny pack/Camel back pack/Day Pack
 - f. Tents - the troop provides tents for the scouts. Adult provide their own tents.
 - g. Cooking gear - Patrol Boxes - The troop provides gear for the scouts. Adults bring their cooking gear as a group.
 - h. What NOT to bring – Electric/electronic games, Game boys, iPods, large sheathed knives, guns, trading cards, etc. If in doubt ask before a campout.
5. Permission Slips
 - a. Every Scout will be required to have a signed permission slip for the outing. The permission slip will be distributed ahead of time with relevant information regarding departure and return times, location, etc. A scout will not be allowed to go on the camping trip without a signed permission slip.

DEPARTURE

1. Meet at the scout shed (SW corner of St. John's Church parking lot) at 5:00 p.m. unless other wise noted. BE ON TIME! We wait for no one.
2. Loading - ALL SCOUTS help load the troop gear into trailer.
3. Driving
 - a. Drivers must be registered.
 - b. Drive with headlights on day/night.
 - c. Everyone must wear seatbelts.
 - d. All drivers should have directions.



revised 04/08/2024

CAMPOUT

1. Patrol Method is followed for camping and cooking.
2. Adults form their own patrol and camp “next door” but not in the same area as the scouts.
3. Adult participation - be interested, take pictures, assist, observe.
4. Having problems with a scout? Go to the Scoutmaster or the SPL (Senior Patrol Leader). They are in charge, not you.
5. **KEEPING WARM**
 - a. Heat Loss - radiation, convection, conduction, evaporation, and respiration.
 - b. Maintaining body temperature
 - C - keep yourself and your clothes CLEAN
 - O - avoid OVERHEATING
 - L - use LAYERS
 - D - keep DRY

RETURN

1. Unload - EVERYONE helps unload troop gear and put it in the shed.
2. Clean and return troop equipment i.e. coolers, dry out tents. EVERYONE helps with this so that we have troop gear to use next time.

SCHEDULE CONFLICTS

We avoid scheduling our events on major and religious holidays, but we cannot accommodate all possible conflicts. We set a schedule of approximately one campout or troop activity per month. Those scouts who can attend do. Troop 81 does not require scouts to attend, but we encourage them to as much as possible. If there is a conflict with another activity, the scout must decide his priorities.



revised 04/08/2024

IMPORTANCE OF CAMPOUTS

Usually no one campout is that important, but most of the fun and growth occurs in camps. Meetings are usually short and can only teach limited skills. We try to cover some skills in meetings, but many skills can only be taught at a campout. Boy Scouts is “Fun with a Purpose.” For most scouts, camping is both the biggest attraction and the most educational and rewarding event of scouting. Also much of rank advancement requires campouts and hikes. (The Camping Merit Badge requires 20 nights of camping).

SUMMER CAMP & HIGH ADVENTURES

Most of our scouts say that summer camp is the most fun of all, and the adult leaders note that scouts who have never attended summer camp have a much higher drop out rate.

Summer camp is for all ages. The High Adventure camps require the scout to be 14 years of age and up.

Additional camping information and equipment lists are attached for your reference. After a few camping trips, each scout will get a better sense of what they need and use and will develop their own camping equipment list.



revised 04/08/2024

Camping Lists:

We recommend you make up your camping list, so that you have the right items for yourself. You will learn quickly after a couple of trips, what items you need and how to organize your gear. Attached are several camping list that will give you a great place to start with preparing your gear.

Scout 10 Essentials:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Extra Food | 6. First Aid Kit |
| 2. Extra Water | 7. Map and Compass |
| 3. Extra Clothing | 8. Pocket Knife |
| 4. Fire Starter | 9. Sun Protection |
| 5. Flashlight | 10. Rain Jacket |

AND.... Whistle (added as the 11th essential by Troop 81)

Your scout's 10 Essentials should be stored in a day pack or similar pack, and he is required to have it on campouts. His 10 Essentials should not be packed in his gear, and travels with him in the car he is riding in.

New scout buyer's guide - What to get?

One of the first (and most important) questions every parent of a new scout asks is: "What do I need to buy for my son?" This topic is handled in general terms in your son's Scout Handbook. Every Scoutmaster has seen his share of beginner scouts poorly outfitted despite the expenditure of hundreds of dollars by well-meaning parents. It is not enough to know that your son needs a sleeping bag or a flashlight. You also need to know what not to buy. Here is a summary of our troop leader's thoughts on how best to proceed in outfitting your scout.

Lesson #1: Your boy is going to lose things! Most items that are small, dark colored or (sadly, but true) extremely desirable to scouts in other troops tend to have unusually high mobility. Therefore, it is in your best interest to:

1. Customize all gear with name tags or specific markings (yellow paint, etc.).
2. Buy brightly-colored, lower quality substitutes for younger scouts (ages 11-13)
3. Avoid camouflage or other dark gear that blends into the scenery.
4. Be patient.

Lesson #2: "Buy to Size." Although you'll be tempted to buy oversized equipment ("He'll grow into it") or surplus military gear (generally too heavy), don't do it. Overweight and oversize gear will run your boy right into the ground, and a few months later, you'll be yard selling everything off at 5 cents on the dollar because: "I really don't like scouting very much"

Troop versus Personal Gear

What the troop provides: All group-oriented gear is bought, maintained, and replaced by the Troop. This includes tents, dining flies, patrol cooking gear, wood cutting (don't buy your son his own double bit axe) equipment, area lighting (Coleman lanterns), rope, and full-size First Aid boxes.



revised 04/08/2024

What the scout provides: All personal gear as outlined in our Troop “Basic camping equipment list/Troop Backpacking equipment list.” The general recommendation is to purchase the highest quality equipment that you can afford to lose, whose use is not dependent on the size of the scout.

Now let’s get specific

Start by reviewing our Basic Equipment lists and the Boy Scout Handbook. Keep in mind that the lists are the basic minimum and that the boy will soon start to ask for extras (especially after seeing what the older scouts have and use).

Footwear:

Your scout will spend half his time on a campout in his hiking boots. During winter, Pac boots are the best, but whatever you buy, at least the lower half should be rubber/waterproof. On some outings good quality sneakers will do, but it is better to have quality hiking boots. **Make sure they are broken in and not too small or too big** (blisters) Have him fit them with the sock(s) he will wear. Footwear must include quality **wool socks or wool blend**. **NO COTTON!**

The Sleeping Bag:

Your scout will spend the other half of his time on a campout in his sleeping bag. It should be a three season bag (rated to at least 20°F), 0°F is better. A 20°F rating can be lowered 10°F by the addition of a fleece liner. The troop has camped in temperatures as cold as -15°F. The fill of sleeping bag is most important. Down is the best and therefore the most expensive (by far). Synthetic fill is the best all around (such as Hollofil). Under no circumstances use sleepover bags, in very cold weather they are dangerous. The quickest way for a boy to give up scouting/camping is for him to spend a miserable night in an inadequate sleeping bag.

Sleeping Pad:

Avoid a cheap air mattress! They weigh far too much and are not good in cold weather. Closed foam cell pads at least a half-inch thick are good and light, and good ones can be purchased for as little as \$6. It is tempting to buy a Therm-a-rest air mattress, but they are very expensive and easy to puncture.

The Backpack:

You can generally hold off on this until your son actually wants to participate in backpacking events. Eventually he will probably want to participate in a High Adventure backpacking trip. Before buying make sure of the fit while still in the store with some weight added to the bag. You may also rent various packs from some outdoor stores (such as Jax). Try different styles. Each High Adventure has different challenges. Equipment will be discussed during the prep and planning stages of the trip.

A canteen:

Get a translucent plastic 1-quart canteen (Nalgene bottles). Avoid metal Army-type canteens (too heavy). Increasing in popularity is the “Camelback” type of bladder/pack carried on your back.

Eating gear:

Don’t bother with the old army/Boy Scout mess kit- no one uses them anymore. Everyone can get by with a medium size plate, bowl and cup-all in durable plastic (lightweight, inexpensive, and much easier to clean). In the winter cups should be the insulated type (to keep liquids warm and your lips from freezing to the rim). Likewise, avoid the classic metal “knife, fork and spoon” kit, instead, get the heavy duty Lexan polycarbonate utensils (fork and spoon only). They are lightweight, very inexpensive, and virtually indestructible; they are, however, not loss-proof so...all of these should be marked with permanent pens.



revised 04/08/2024

Flashlights:

Get a 2 “C” cell flashlight in a bright color. These are available everywhere and are inexpensive. Avoid the very popular “Mag-lites” - they are expensive and mobile (and sometimes find their way into a pit toilet). Warning! As soon as your boy sees the older scouts using the popular head light type he will doubtless want one. These are very handy and range in price from \$12 to \$70. Make sure his name is on it.

Rain Gear:

The standard issue poncho is still about as reasonable as you can get. Buy one in yellow or orange. Full rain suits are not needed, especially here in Colorado - they retain perspiration, and you are as wet inside as out. Gore-Tex is breathable but it:

1. Costs an unbelievable fortune
2. Doesn't hold up well under pack straps and heavy brush

Knife:

For younger scouts, buy a reasonable quality folding lock-blade knife with about a 3” blade. The lock blade prevents closing on fingers (probably the most common cause of cuts on new scouts).

A Compass:

A standard “Silva” type map compass is all that is needed with a plastic see-through base and a bezel that rotates. Don't buy one for more than say \$10. Although some requirements include using a GPS, he doesn't need a GPS unit yet either. The troop will provide access to these.

Personal First Aid Kit:

A scout is required to have a personal first aid kit to satisfy second class requirements. Refer to the scout handbook. There are many prepackaged kits available but you can make up your own from household items or purchase ingredients separately for much less than you would pay for one of the prepackaged kits (very few of which contain all the required articles). Just use a Ziploc® bag for the container.

Clothing:

Most beginning Scouts carry:

1. far too much, or
2. the wrong type of clothing.

Synthetics and wool clothing are much better than 100% cotton fabrics (cotton is fine for deep summer days or tropical wear but is dangerous in cold, wet weather).

Hot weather clothing should be light colored to reflect sunlight (and to spot ticks). Cold weather should be dark (orange or red will help spot someone against a white background). Clothing should be able to be layered on and off (see our guide to cold weather camping). Blue jeans are poorly suited for cold/wet conditions (they freeze and feel like iron). Most stores have fairly inexpensive fleece vests/jackets for use under a coat. Don't buy the fleece that is sold in stores such as REI or EMS - it is very expensive. Remember the scout will outgrow it, lose it, or tear it. Save the expensive items for yourself.

Personal Cleanliness:

Realistically, all the scout will probably use on a weekend campout is the toothbrush. Generally hand-washing is done with dish soap from the chuck box. Anything else will probably just get lost.

Packing:

Many of the older Scouts who have done a lot of backpacking use their 4500 cubic inch pack. However for new scouts there are two recommended containers. He can use a medium size duffel bag with a couple of zippered pockets to hold small items or he can use a



revised 04/08/2024

plastic “Rubbermaid” type tote. A disadvantage of the totes is that with 40 Scouts going camping they take up a lot of room. A tote will keep things dry if left outside and is generally crush proof (the lid is not fly-off proof however). Take an adequate amount of extra clothing (to replace wet/damaged/lost items), but don’t take everything you own. Don’t take valuables, money, any aerosol sprays, or anything in glass.

Upon his return home, unpack immediately; don’t let those wet clothes, candy wrappers, and who knows what else ferment for a week or two! Empty and wash the water bottle and rewash all eating equipment. Remember **label everything.**

One more tip: Sportsman Warehouse gives 5% discount (need to show current registration card).



revised 04/08/2024

Camping Equipment List for Troop 81 Scouts

The troop supplies a number of camp materials for scouts on campout. Scouts must supply certain personal camp equipment. The troop supplies tents (adult leaders must supply their own tent) and a chuck box for each patrol. The chuck box contains a propane stove, pots and pans, and cooking utensils (spoon, spatula etc).

Each patrol will decide the patrol menu and who brings what food item. Patrols cook their own food. The troop usually supplies hot cocoa mix, Tang or dry lemonade mix, and sometimes other treats (like fruit cobbler after dinner). Scouts are responsible for most other personal equipment, including the following typical list. Summer camp is longer and may require more.

Anything you agreed to bring for your patrol (food, flags, ropes, etc....)

| Scout 10 Essentials: | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Extra Food | 6. First Aid Kit* |
| 2. Extra Water | 7. Map and Compass |
| 3. Extra Clothing | 8. Pocket Knife |
| 4. Fire Starter | 9. Sun Protection |
| 5. Flashlight | 10. Rain Jacket AND.... Whistle (added as the 11 th essential by Troop 81) |

Learn the Scout 10 Essentials and bring them plus:

Scout shirt: We wear our Class A uniform shirts to and from all campouts and Class B Uniform at other times.

Hiking boots or sturdy sneakers. (In addition, bring snow boots if you think it may snow).

Heavy coat: In the summer the mountains can get cold at night.

Knit hat to sleep in; over 50% of body heat is lost through the head.

Extra clothing: Bring seasonal clothing. Learn the layering concept. In winter do not wear cotton, either shirts or jeans.

Extra socks: Should be wool or wool blend.

Gloves/mittens.

Sleepwear: Sweatpants, sweatshirt, etc. (You sleep warmer if you change into clean clothes.)

Sleeping bag: Suitable for the expected weather. We camp in all seasons. If you don't have a 0°F bag, then bring a blanket to put inside.

Sleeping pad: Foam waffle pads, closed-cell foam pad or inflatable pad

Pillow, or stuff your extra clothes into a stuff sack

Water container to carry during the day. A MUST in summer or winter.

Eating equipment: Plate, bowl, cup, fork and spoon {Lexan Is best}. Stay away from metal cups.

Scout Handbook!! Also paper and pen/pencil.

Personal/ hygiene: Toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, etc...

Waterproof gym bag/backpack/tote box for all this equipment. Scouts will need to haul their own gear.

* See the description for the first aid kit in the previous section. This is in addition to the troop first aid kit, which is more complete.

Everyone brings a sack lunch for the first night. On campouts we meet at the scout shed at 5:00p.m. and leave at 5:30p.m. We strictly enforce the buddy rule. NO FOOD OR FIRES IN TENTS.

Troop 81 Winter Camping Information

BSA defines cold-weather camping as any camping that takes place when the high temperature of the day is 50°F or below and is or



revised 04/08/2024

could be involved with cold, wet, or windy conditions.

No camping is quite as challenging or exhilarating as that done in cold weather. It may involve hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing, or skiing; regardless, cold-weather camping is fun.

The single most important point about cold-weather camping is that the cold is not as bad as it seems. Your attitude about the cold has a greater effect on your enjoyment of camping than does the weather. Thus, cold weather is no excuse for not camping. In fact, succeeding at cold weather camping can be a source of great personal satisfaction. Cold can be unpleasant and may provide a good excuse for quitting, but a major hurdle is overcome once you learn to handle the cold and decide that it need not interfere with the fun of camping.

A positive mental attitude is the most important ingredient in the success of cold weather trips!!!

Danger of injury from the cold is minimal if campers follow the rules, use the skills outlined here, and use common sense. It is important for all campers to prepare before the trip, stick to assigned tasks, help others, and not let weather conditions interfere with the fun of camping.

Using BSA's definition of cold-weather camping, the majority of Troop 81's camping is done in cold weather conditions. We have prepared this handout to help our scouts and their families prepare for the camping conditions we expect from October through April. Included is a news release from USA "Be Prepared" for Winter Safety.

FOOD AND DRINK

You may have heard of the term KISMIF for "Keep It Simple; Make It Fun." In winter camping, it stands for "Keep it Simple; Make it Filling." Your food should require little or no preparation and be filling and high energy.

Breakfast: Should not be a complicated meal but should be a complete one since it supplies the foundation for a full day's work (or play). Time is also a factor since you probably want to start the day's activities. Just standing around in camp on a cold day leads to cold feet and bodies. Since the easiest thing is to boil water, it is best to go for items which can be made as individuals: instant oatmeal with hot milk and butter, hot Tang, granola, hot Jello, or chocolate.

Lunch: Two approaches...one is to make a traditional lunch (hot meal) and take a long break. This means stopping activity which can lead to people getting cold. Additional layers would need to be put on and taken off. Another is to have a personal lunch which can be eaten during the day: prepared meats, cheese, crackers, dried fruit, nuts, granola bars, etc.

Dinner: It is often good to start the evening meal with a hot instant soup or a hot drink that can be made in each person's cup. The main dish should be some form of one-pot glop/stew. Include a soup or gravy base, a starch (rice, noodles), and protein (lunch meat, cheese, canned chicken, or tuna). Use spices. Make it interesting. At the end of the day you will be more tired than hungry, and having an interesting meal makes it easier to get everyone to eat. What you eat and the amount you eat in the evening is what will keep you warm at night.

Sugars are quick energy sources. However, high-sugar foods such as candy are not a good idea for really cold camping. Sugar gives a quick shot of energy but later the body goes through a blood sugar low which can increase the chance of hypothermia. Fats and complex carbohydrates (starches) such as potatoes, rice, and pasta are better long term energy sources. Fats are the highest energy food, providing about 9 calories per gram. Fats burn slowly which will provide fuel throughout the night.



revised 04/08/2024

You **must** drink **at least** 2 quarts of water per day. Our thirst mechanism is not a dependable indicator of body water needs. **Force yourself to drink.**

Use plastic bowls, utensils, and insulated cups. Think how you would look with a metal cup froze to your lips.

CLOTHING AND BEDDING – The Key to Comfort

Winter camping calls for clothing that protects you from the cold and wind and holds in body heat but that can also be ventilated. The prime consideration is function, not appearance.

LAYERING: The most efficient way to stay warm is to use three basic layers from head to toes: At least two pairs of your

Base layer: (2 pairs) It's worn next to your skin. Polypropylene or polyester long underwear and socks work best. **Do not wear cotton.** - it absorbs moisture and makes you shiver.

Insulating layer: (2 pairs) this goes over the base layer. Depending on the weather, this can be just a wool shirt, vest or jacket of synthetic material such as polyester fleece, or a shirt and a poly jacket. The insulating sock should be wool or wool blend - never cotton. (Merino wool is soft and doesn't itch.)

BRING AT LEAST 5 PAIRS OF WOOL OR POLAR FLEECE SOCKS!!! THEY WILL GET WET AND YOU MUST CHANGE INTO A CLEAN DRY PAIR ASAP!!! You can use as many insulating layers as necessary. You layer on and off the amount of clothing that will keep you warm (not hot - you never want to sweat in the cold).

Shell Layer: Weatherproof jacket and pants should go over everything you wear. You can use expensive breathable materials like Gore-Tex, however a nylon waterproof windbreaker with a hood and waterproof nylon wind pants will work just as well. This layer should be large enough to fit over as many insulating layers you may want to wear without being restrictive.

BRING AT LEAST 2-3 PAIRS OF HAND PROTECTION..Mittens are warmer than gloves! Gloves are more useful when you have work to do (such as pitching tents), so bring both. Don't forget extras, your mittens/gloves can and will get wet.

ONE- Neck protection.. Bring a neck gaiter or scarf to protect your throat and neck area.

TWO-Headgear Caps, ear warmers, hats, etc. are important to minimize the heat loss from your head. Balaclavas are very good as they can be pulled down over the face and neck. A scarf can be used to protect your face as well. Bring an extra knit hat to sleep in.

AT LEAST 2 Footwear.. This is a very important piece of your gear. Strongly consider Pak boots. They have waterproof bottoms, leather uppers that breathe, and a removable felt liner. Purchase boots that fit comfortably, never tight (fit them with the socks you will wear). Allow for good circulation.

REMEMBER THE WORD COLD!!!

C ...keep yourself and your clothes **clean**

O ...avoid **overheating**

L...use **layers**

D...keep **dry**



revised 04/08/2024

SLEEPING

Sleeping comfortably will make or break your experience in the snow. Start from the bottom up.

Insulation: The insulation under you is almost more important than what is on top of you. Adequate protection under a sleeping bag requires a minimum of 3/8" to 1" thickness of a good, firm insulation (closed cell). A 1" open-cell foam pad is not adequate, however it can be used on top of a closed-cell pad to provide more comfort.

Sleeping Bag: Make sure that your bag is rated for the type of weather you will be using it in, if possible a 0°F bag should be used. If you don't have one, then use two bags together. Composition of the bag is very important. **Do not use cotton sleepover bags** - no Garfield or Barney bags. The warmest insulation pound-for-pound is down. However down is expensive and if it gets wet it is worthless. A good synthetic fill is a good choice. Loft (the amount of dead air space provided) over you is what will keep you warm. Remember, the sleeping bag doesn't heat you, you heat it. So "**Thickness is Warmth.**"

- Don't sleep in the bottom of the bag. Do not breathe into your sleeping bag - your breath will condense in the bag and freeze.
- Wear a hat to keep your head warm. Put on clean, dry socks.
- Never sleep in damp or wet clothes. Change into clean, dry ones.
- Eat a candy bar. (Snickers is good. Bring some to share.)
- Exercise lightly to get your blood moving.
- Put tomorrow's clothes under your bag (but not under the insulating pad).
- Place extra clothing in the bottom of the bag to help keep feet warm.
- Put a shirt, sweater, or scarf around your shoulders to help keep warm air in bag.
- Fluff your bag early in the evening.
- Put your boots in a plastic bag, and place under your bag at the knees. Don't leave them outside of your tent to freeze and get filled with snow.
- Go to the bathroom before bed (save yourself a midnight trip). However, if you have to get up at night to use the little house on the prairie, take your whistle and flashlight.

USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM!!!! Buddies help each other, look after one another, and watch each other for signs of hypothermia, frostbite, and exhaustion.

Something a lot of campers forget about or don't do: **Keep track of all your gear, all the time, especially at night in a tent with 2 or 3 other boys.** Mittens covered by six inches of snow won't keep your hands warm.



revised 04/08/2024

DANGERS AND FIRST AID:

DEHYDRATION: Most winter outdoor emergencies begin and end with this one problem – dehydration is the extensive loss of body water. Exposure to cold has a diuretic effect that results in an increased output of urine. Because of our altitude and the dryness of winter air, a lot of body water is lost by our breathing.

Prevention: Drink at least 2 quarts of water per day. Avoid dehydrating foods and fluids such as coffee and drinks that contain caffeine (sodas).

Symptoms: Nausea, loss of appetite, fatigue, sleepiness, irritability, thirst, headache, and/or dizziness.

Treatment: In mild cases, drink liquids, keep warm, and get plenty of rest. Severe cases will require medical care.

HYPOTHERMIA: Hypothermia is the lowering of the temperature of the inner core of the body that can and usually does happen even when the outside temperature is above freezing. The victim may not recognize the symptoms and may not be able to think clearly enough to react to his/her own condition. Predisposing conditions include poor physical condition, thin build, and exhaustion.

Prevention : Get plenty of rest, eat well, drink lots of liquids; use wool or synthetic and weatherproof clothing. Stay dry and sheltered.

Symptoms: Slowing of pace, drowsiness, fatigue, stumbling, thickness of speech, irrationality, poor judgment, dilation of pupils, and/or decreased heart and respiration rate. Self Test: touch your little finger and thumb together. If you cannot, then stop and warm up!

Treatment: Shelter the victim from wind and weather, insulate from the ground, change wet clothing, put on clean warm clothing, and put victim in a pre-warmed sleeping bag or blankets. Give warm drinks followed by high sugar content foods. Apply heat with warm canteens. Huddle for body heat from others. Use caution! Warming too rapidly may bring on shock.

FROSTBITE: Tissue injury involving the actual freezing of skin and underlying tissue. Frostbite occurs when the body needs heat elsewhere and redirects blood flow from the extremities to protect internal organs. Ice crystals form in skin cells. The skin can't get enough oxygen or nutrients it needs.

Prevention: Proper insulation – keep exposed skin covered. Guard against wind-chill and moisture. Eat well; drink plenty of liquids. Don't wear restrictive clothing; dress in layers. Use the buddy system to check exposed areas (nose, cheeks, ears, etc.).

Symptoms: Redness of skin, pain, burning (at first) - stinging or prickly sensation. The skin may turn milky color, white, gray, or waxy looking. The area is firm to the touch, but resilient underneath.

Treatment: DO NOT RUB OR PUT SNOW ON THE AFFECTED AREA!! Warm by placing area next to body (under armpits or crotch), place foot against chest or back. Place in warm (not hot) water. Place warm dry clothing on area. DO NOT attempt to thaw in the field. It is less harmful for the victim to walk out on a frostbitten limb. Make certain thawed part does not refreeze. Once in camp take victim to hospital or physician immediately.



revised 04/08/2024

WINTER CAMPING PACKING LIST IDEAS:

BASE LAYER:

1-3 light weight polypro/silk long john bottoms & tops

INSULATING LAYERS

1 long sleeved button-up shirt (no cotton)

1-3 wool sweaters or wool shirts (light, medium, and heavy weight)

wool vest, down vest or fleece jacket

1-2 nylon/polyester zip-off pants and/or 1 wool pants

OUTER SHELL

waterproof/windproof breathable pants and jacket

SLEEPING GEAR

Closed-cell pad (additional comfort padding, if desired)

high loft – 0°F fiber-fill sleeping bag

or lighter degree bag with liner

fleece socks

medium/heavy weight long johns (no cotton)

heat packs

HEAD and NECK WEAR

visor cap and ear muffs

fleece/wool stocking cap

fleece/wool Balaclava

neck gaiter

HAND WEAR

glove liners

insulating gloves

mittens

waterproof whell

FEET

2-3 liner socks

2-3 wool socks

boots

tennies

OTHER ITEMS

mess kit

compass

pocket knife

First Aid kit

flashlight (extra batteries)

rain gear

water bottle

sun screen/sun glasses/lip balm

snacks

Boy Scout Book/Journal

toiletries

camera/binoculars



revised 04/08/2024

Troop 81 – Backpack Gear List Suggestions

Ten Essentials Plus...

Sleeping bag: should be in a stuff sack and secured to a frame pack (internal or external).

Ground cloth: A small sheet of heavy plastic will do, about 5' x 7'.

Sleeping pad: A 3/8" to 1/2" ensolite pad is good, needs to be only 4' long.

Water: Minimum of one quart should be in a container that can be carried on a day hike.

Pen/pencil and a small note pad. DO NOT bring your Scout book. It is too heavy.

Extra clothing: A medium weight shirt/sweater (wool or fleece), socks (these along with the ones you wear should be wool or a wool/acrylic blend.), extra T-shirt to change in to sleep. (The secret of sleeping warm is to wear dean/dry clothes in your sleeping bag.)

Bandanna: Use as a towel or hot pad.

Hat or ball cap

Knit hat: To wear when sleeping.

Hiking boots: are good but a good pair of sturdy tennis shoes will do fine.

Cup, bowl, and spoon: plastic, a light disposable type of picnic bowl works good, or an empty butter tub.

Trash bag (large size): used as a pack cover at night or during rain.

Toilet paper (in a plastic bag): read pages 242 & 243 of your scout book again. Dish soap for washing.

Rope: size of your index finger, about 10'-12' long.

Food.: Each scout is responsible for his own meals; also trail food to graze on during the day.

Here is a sample menu:

Breakfast: 2-3 envelopes of instant oatmeal

Lunch: a sack lunch made at home (pb&j)

Supper: Freeze dried meal (Mountain House brand) chicken stew

Extra: (just in case) a cup of Raman noodles

Examples of Trail Food: Summer sausage and cheese (cut into slices before we leave), bagels, and large pretzels, granola bars, and fruit bars, fig/peach/apple Newtons, nuts, banana chips, trail mix, Pop Tarts, hot cocoa envelopes (to drink with meals)

- Pack the heavy equipment as high and as far forward in your pack as possible.
- We share our backpacking stoves to boil water. We will also use a water filter for purification of our drinking water.
- Remember: We will carry whatever we need on our backs so weight and bulk are our enemies.
- Take enough food (PLAN) plus some extra. Avoid cans. WE WILL PACK OUT WHATEVER WE PACK IN.
- Review the chapters on hiking and camping in your Scout Book. Especially pages 203, 207, 224-225, and 253.
- It is advisable to hike in long pants but if you do wear shorts you will have to pack long pants or wind pants. This is tick season - check often on your clothes and after you get home.



revised 04/08/2024

Section 7 – Advancement & Merit Badges

Boy Scout of America Ranks:

Scout

Tenderfoot

Second Class

First Class

Star

Life

Eagle

Advancement is the process by which youth members progress through ranks in the scouting program. Everything scouts do to advance and earn these ranks, from the day they join until they leave the program, should be designed to help them have an exciting and meaningful experience. Education and fun are functions of scouting, and they are the basis of the advancement program. No council, district, troop, or individual has the authority to add or subtract from any advancement requirement.

Scout advancement lets the scout move ahead in his way and at his own pace. Rather than competing against others, he challenges himself to go as far as his ambition will carry him. His rate of advancement depends upon his interest, effort, and ability.

Advancement is a four step process:

1. **The Scout learns.** A scout learns by doing. As he learns, he grows in his ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and troop and will be asked to teach others.
2. **The Scout is tested.** A scout will be tested on requirements by the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, or the Senior Patrol Leaders. The Scoutmaster determines who may sign off requirements. The Scoutmaster alone is the only leader who may sign off requirements 1 and 5 for Star and Life, and 1 and 4 for Eagle.
3. **The Scout is reviewed.** After a scout has completed all requirements for a rank, he has a Scoutmaster Conference and a Board of Review. For Tenderfoot through Life the Board of Review is conducted by members of the Troop Committee. The eagle board of review is conducted in accordance with Longs Peak Council procedures.
4. **The Scout is recognized.** The scout will receive recognition as soon as possible. He will be presented with his cloth patch at the next troop meeting and receive formal recognition at the next Court of Honor. Merit badges are awarded at Courts of Honor.



revised 04/08/2024

Service Projects

To help foster a sense of personal responsibility and citizenship, scouts are required to participate in service projects for every rank except the first rank, scout. The requirements are listed in the Scout Handbook. **Service projects must be approved in advance by the Scoutmaster.**

The Scoutmaster Conference

Participation in a Scoutmaster Conference is a requirement for every rank. The purpose of the conference is to ensure that the scout is ready for his Board of Review. The conference is also an opportunity for the Scoutmaster to review the scout's personal growth and set goals for further advancement. As the board of review is not used for testing skills, the Scoutmaster may direct a scout to have a pre-Scoutmaster Conference with one of the Assistant Scoutmasters to ensure that the scout has learned the skills necessary for the rank to which he is advancing.

Boards of Review

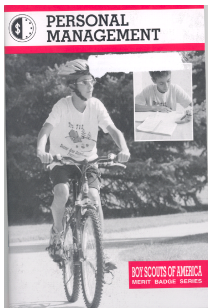
When a scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he appears before a Board of Review composed of at least three and not more than six Committee Members.

The review has three purposes:

1. to make sure that the work has been learned and completed,
2. to find out what kind of experience the scout is having in his patrol and troop, and
3. to encourage the scout to progress further.

The Board of Review is not a time to retest the scout, but to determine the scout's attitude and his acceptance of scouting ideals. It is also important to review those scouts who are not advancing. The guidance and care shown could motivate these scouts to further achievement. A Board of Review may also be used in disciplinary matters.

Merit Badge Program



The ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle require that a scout earn a certain number of merit badges. Merit badges are awarded to scouts for fulfilling requirements in a specific field of interest. There are more than a hundred merit badges. The requirements for each merit badge are contained in individual merit badge books and the "Boy Scout Requirements" book published each year. The procedures for working on merit badges are contained in the Boy Scout handbook, and also on a separate document given to each scout. The Boy Scouts of America does not permit a youth member to work alone with an adult; each scout must have a "buddy" to accompany him. Any registered Boy Scout may earn merit badges, badges of rank, and Eagle palms until his 18th birthday.

Scouts with physical or mental disabilities may advance by meeting advancement guidelines or approved alternatives. A council advancement committee may allow a scout to complete alternative requirements tailored to his ability.



revised 04/08/2024

Introduction to Merit Badges

Scouts can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers as they earn merit badges. There are more than 100 merit badges. Any Boy Scout may earn any merit badge at any time. You don't need to have had rank advancement to be eligible.

APPLICANT'S RECORD

Name Brady Hilgenberg

has given me his completed application for the
Photography
Merit badge

Completed on 21 8 107 by
Date

Signature of Scoutmaster
Signature of Scout

FEB 28 07

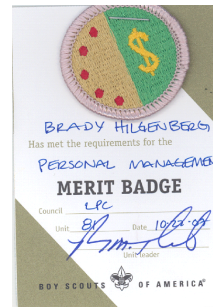
NOTE TO BOY SCOUT, VARSITY SCOUT, OR VENTURER: Retain this copy for your permanent records.

- **Pick a Subject.** Talk to your Scoutmaster about your interests. Read the requirements of the merit badges you think might interest you. Pick one to earn. Get a blue card from the Advancement Chair. Fill out the card for the Merit Badge you would like to work on. Have the Scoutmaster sign the front of the card, giving you permission to begin the merit badge. The Scoutmaster will give you the name of a person from a list of counselors. These counselors have special knowledge in their merit badge subjects and are interested in helping you.

- **Scout Buddy System.** *You must have another person with you at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.* This person can be another scout, your parents or guardian, a brother or sister, a relative, or a friend.

- **Call the Counselor.** Get a merit badge application (blue card) from your Advancement Chair, who will also assign a counselor. Get the front card signed by your Scoutmaster. This is your permission to start the merit badge. Get in touch with the merit badge counselor and tell him or her that you want to earn the merit badge. The counselor may ask to meet you to explain what is expected of you and to start helping you meet the requirements. When you know what is expected, start to learn and do the things required. Ask your counselor to help you learn the things you need to know or do. You should read the merit badge pamphlet on the subject. Many troops and school or public libraries have them.

- **Show Your Stuff.** When you are ready, call the counselor again to make requirements. When you go take along the things you have made to they are too big to move, take pictures or have an adult tell in writing counselor will ask you to do each requirement to make sure that you done or can do the things required.
- **Get the Badge.** When the counselor is satisfied that you have met each sign your application (blue card). Give the signed application to your merit badge emblem can be secured for you. Merit badges are Court of Honor ceremonies. It is advised that completed merit badge case the original card is lost.



an appointment to meet the meet the requirements. If what you have done. The know your stuff and have

requirement, he or she will Scoutmaster so that your distributed to scouts at troop blue cards are copied in

Requirements. You are expected to meet the requirements as they are stated—no more and no less. You are expected to do exactly what is stated in the requirements. If it says "show or demonstrate," that is what you must do. Just telling about it isn't enough. The same thing holds true for such words as "make," "list," "in the field," and "collect," "identify," and "label."

The requirements below might not match those in the merit badge pamphlets because the pamphlets may not have been recently revised.

For a full list of merit badges, go to <http://www.scouting.org/meritbadges.aspx>.

Also, http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Merit_Badge_Worksheets provides worksheets that can be EXTREMELY helpful when working on a merit badge.



revised 04/08/2024

Section 8 – Responsibilities/Discipline

All members of the Boy Scouts of America are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Law. Physical violence, hazing, bullying, theft, verbal insults, and drugs, and alcohol have no place in the scouting program and may result in revocation of a scout's membership in Troop 81.

From a safe scouting perspective, all troop leaders are trained in Safe Scouting and follow BSA guidelines for managing the scouts. In fact, every adult who plans to participate with troop events, must be trained in Safe Scouting and Youth Protection. This class will be offered by the troop or on-line throughout the year.

We expect all scouts to abide by their Scout Oath and the Scout Law. This is the standard to which all scouts will be held on all scout activities. Scouts should study, understand, and reflect on the 12 points of the Scout Law. It is a good idea for parents to go through these with their scouts and discuss what they mean.

If a scout's behavior violates any of these 12 points, the adult leaders will verbally remind the scout of their significance. If a violation is serious or repeated, the scout will receive one formal warning that he is in danger of being sent home. A second offense will result in the scout being separated from the troop activity, and the scout's parents called to take the scout home immediately. If a scout commits a violation which is grave (in the judgment of the adult leaders) or represents a hazard to the safety or health of any scout or leader, that scout will immediately be sent home (warning does not apply). [Note: This means "sent home" from a scout meeting, a scout campout, a district camp or summer camp, regardless of how far from home.]

Parents should understand that they are "on call" when their scouts are at any scouting event. If their scout misbehaves, they are expected to come pick him up, wherever he may be. We cannot allow the whole troop to be disrupted by one ill-behaved scout. We want all scouts to learn and grow through the fun of Boy Scouting. The safe, fun learning environment cannot be maintained when scouts are unsafe or harass other scouts.

BSA prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at encampments or activities on the property owned and/or operated by BSA, or at any activity involving participation of youth members. Adult leaders should support the attitude that young adults are better off without tobacco, and may not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth. All scouting functions, meetings, and activities should be conducted on a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas located well away from all participants.

Section 9 – Organization & By Laws

Boy Scout Troop 81 Organization Guidelines are provided in a separate booklet.



revised 04/08/2024