



Troop 1776

Guide to Scouting

Foothills District - Atlanta Area Council
Boy Scouts of America



www.Troop1776.org

Sponsored by: Knights of Columbus Council # 8376, Catholic Church of St. Ann
Marietta, GA 30062



Welcome To Troop 1776!



Thank you for joining Troop 1776.

As your participation in Troop meetings, activities and events increases, you will note the significant difference between the Boy Scout program, and the Cub Scout program you left behind. Unlike Cub Scouts, Boy Scout activities are entirely planned and led by the boys themselves. Adult supervision, for the purpose of safety and support, is always close at hand, but it is the boys themselves who are in charge of our Troop program. Scouting is all about leadership, and our Scouts are offered many opportunities to learn new skills, realize their own potential, and accept increasingly important responsibilities and leadership roles within the Troop.

Our Scouting program is a team effort, and your son will have support and encouragement from Troop leadership and his peers, however, it is the personal responsibility of every Scout to seize the initiative and actively participate in our program to achieve his rank and leadership goals.

Like Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting is a fun program for boys, but it can also be rewarding for our parents as well. Although the role of parents is quite different in Boy Scouting, Troop 1776 would not exist as a quality unit without the support and active participation of our parents in the life and operation of our Troop.

Parents who wish to partner in their son's Scouting adventure are most welcome to do so. As a method of support, our Troop has recently adopted the *ScoutParents* program developed by Boy Scouts of America. This program seeks to clarify, enhance and organize the roles our parents play in their Scouting unit. This is not intended to be an enlistment program. It is simply a way of recognizing those parents who generously donate their time, in whatever capacity, for the greater good of our Troop. Our program is a good one, but we cannot do it all without you. Volunteering to drive for an activity, assisting with fundraising, or serving the concession stand at one of our Merit Badge Workshops; these are but a few of the many ways you can help. You may decide to use your talent and expertise and become a Troop Committee member or serve as an Assistant Scoutmaster. Whatever role you choose, you'll be actively supporting our program along with your own Scout.

The Troop has prepared this document as a useful guide and supplement to your Scout's career. Please note, this document is to be used solely as a general guide. Decisions of the Scout leadership or Troop Committee may vary by circumstance. Every attempt will be made to reconcile disputes at Troop level, but in the rare event that you or your Scout disagrees with a Troop decision, you have the right to appeal any decision to the Foothills District or the Atlanta Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. But rest assured, we are here to work in the best interest of our Scouts.

Yours in Scouting,

The Troop Committee and Scoutmaster Staff of Troop 1776

www.Troop1776.org

Note: This guide is published for the use of Troop 1776 families and members as a basic outline of the policies and practices of Troop 1776. The Troop will update this guide as necessary, by action of the Scout Leadership and the Troop Committee. In its entirety, this document shall be used solely as a non-binding guide. Troop Leadership and the Troop Committee reserve the right to change or amend all guidelines at their sole discretion.

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1. Membership

Troop 1776 is open to boys of all faiths, backgrounds, nationalities and colors. This unit embraces diversity in all forms. Troop and Boy Scouts of America policy also encourages Scouts to maintain an interest and participate actively in their own religious preference.

The Troop may, at times, be forced to limit the admittance of new Scouts or transferees due to temporary limitations of facilities, equipment or leadership. Under such circumstances, membership priority will be given to younger brothers of current Scouts, sons of active members of the Catholic Church of St. Ann, and friends of current Scouts of Troop 1776, in that order.

a. Steps in Joining

For Cub Scout Arrow of Light recipients: The Troop will present a Troop neckerchief to new Scouts at the final Cub Pack meeting and Crossover, after completing the following:

1. The boy has returned to Troop 1776 a completed Boy Scout Application.
2. Parents or adult guardian have returned a Troop Resource Survey.
3. Family has paid the first year's dues as required by Boy Scouts of America.
4. Scoutmaster has been notified of the date, time and location of the Crossover.
5. The new Scout is at least ten and one-half years of age.

For other New Scouts: Experience in Cub Scouting is *not* required. New Scouts with no prior Scouting experience must be eleven years of age to join, are expected to complete the first three steps for joining as outlined above, and will receive their Troop neckerchief at our next regular Troop Meeting or Court of Honor. The neckerchief signifies the Scout has made the transition from Cub Scouting to Boy Scouting, but joining also involves passing the following requirements before the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster:

1. Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States.
2. Demonstrate the Boy Scout salute, Scout sign and handclasp.
3. Show how to tie a square knot (also known as the joining knot).
4. Agree to live by the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and the Outdoor Code.
5. Describe the significance of elements of the Boy Scout badge.
6. With parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse*.
7. Participate in a Scoutmaster conference.

The Scout Induction Ceremony may alternatively take place after the Scout has begun regular attendance at Troop meetings, but is normally held at the next scheduled Court of Honor. Parents are expected to be present for this important first step in their son's Scouting life.

b. Unit Transfers

Transferees will be accepted on the same basis as New Scouts and recognized in a simple neckerchief ceremony at the next Troop Meeting following completion of the first three steps outlined above, and a Scoutmaster conference.

NOTE: It is particularly important that a transferring Scout request and obtain papers or other documents from his former Troop which will serve to certify his record of advancement, merit badge accomplishments, hiking and camping record, etc., so that proper credit can be maintained at all times.

c. Parental Involvement

We honor the role our parents play in their son's lives, and we expect that commitment to carry over into your son's Scouting life. As our Scoutmaster often states, "Many hands make light work."

Your participation can come in many forms. Attendance in support of weekend campouts, providing needed transportation, joining us at Summer Camp, fundraising, service or even food preparation activities; the list goes on. Together, we can determine in what capacity you can best support the Troop and your Scout. We need and must require your active participation for two very important reasons:

1. Your Scout will get more out of the program if you show an active commitment.
2. The Troop cannot provide the best possible program without your participation.

There are a variety of jobs that must be done to keep Troop 1776 running smoothly. Some require a bit more time, others are more occasional and less demanding in nature. If you choose to participate in a Committee or Leadership role, training or mentoring is available for most or all of the following positions:

Assistant Scoutmaster	Fund Raising Coordinator
Secretary	Transportation Coordinator
Treasurer	Equipment Coordinator
Advancement Chairperson	Scouting for Food Coordinator
Court of Honor Coordinator	Uniform Coordinator
Outdoor Program Coordinator	Friends of Scouting Coordinator
Community Service Projects Coordinator	Life to Eagle Coordinator
Scout Show Coordinator	ScoutParents Unit Coordinator
Merit Badge Counselor	

d. Costs of Participation

Troop dues are set each year and are payable by the October Troop Committee meeting. The dues year runs from October 1 through September. A subscription to **Boy's Life** magazine is included in registration. It is intended that dues will cover all or substantially all of the Troop operating expenses, including annual registration and awards, but they *are not* intended to cover any outing expenses.

To help defray the cost of dues, it is necessary to conduct fundraising projects each year to supply the Troop, and to help offset Scout outing expenses. We are open to all ideas for funding our Boy Scout related activities and the Troop's ongoing projects.

Scouting is not without cost, but we do not discourage any boy from joining because he cannot afford our program. If your present situation falls under these circumstances, or you would like to recommend for membership a boy who may need some degree of assistance, please contact the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairperson so that efforts can be made to arrange a sponsor.



Approximate Uniform and Equipment Costs and Required Expenses

Field Uniform (required item, formerly referred to as “Class A”) to include:

Scout Handbook	\$10-\$15
Long or short-sleeve khaki Scout shirt	\$25-\$50
Scout pants (convertible to shorts)	\$35-\$50
Troop Class B t-shirt*	\$0
Scout socks	\$6-\$14
Troop 1776 hat*	\$10
Troop neckerchief*	\$0
Neckerchief slide	\$4
Web belt with BSA buckle	\$11-\$13
Council patch (custom) with Troop 1776 numerals*	\$5
Patrol patch, World Crest and shoulder loops	\$10

* Available through Troop Uniform Coordinator or Committee Chairperson when dues are paid. Lost hats or neckerchiefs are available at a cost set by the Troop Committee.

Camping Equipment Required:

Compass	\$14-\$50
Flashlight or headlamp	\$5-\$20
Personal first aid kit	\$5
Whistle	\$2-\$5
Sleeping bag (20 degree)	\$25-\$300
Ground pad (1/2 inch)	\$10-\$50
Rain suit or poncho	\$10-\$100
Mess kit (plate, bowl, cup, utensils)	\$0-\$20
Water bottle or canteen	\$5-\$20

Camping Equipment Suggested:

Backpack	\$25-\$300
Tent	\$50-\$300
Rope	\$10
Knife	\$10-\$30

Annual Dues and Other Expenses:

Scouts	\$85
Siblings	\$65
Crossover Webelos	\$50
Eagle Scouts	\$25
10 monthly weekend outings	\$250
Summer Camp (One week)	\$300

Scout uniforms can be purchased at the Scout Shop, located in the Atlanta Area Council Volunteer Service Center at 1800 Circle 75 Parkway Atlanta 30339. Camping equipment is available at the Scout Shop or various camping supply stores. Some businesses may give registered Scouts a 10% discount on regularly priced equipment when they present a BSA registration card. A Scout is thrifty, so shop around to get the best price!

e. Attendance

All Scouts are encouraged to support their Troop and Patrol by active participation in Troop and Patrol activities. Scouts are expected to attend at least 66 percent of regular Troop Meetings and Troop outings.

f. Code of Conduct

A Scout is required to conduct himself in a proper manner at all functions and at all times. Most discipline issues will be handled by the Junior Leadership of the Troop and will stress a positive tone. Discipline problems will usually be handled in the following manner:

A verbal warning will be issued for behavior that disrupts a Troop activity or is dangerous.

If the problem persists, the Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and/or Scoutmaster may opt for a Time Out from the activity, request that a parent or guardian immediately pick up the Scout (outings included), or request that parent or guardian accompany the Scout on future outings until further notice.

On the rare occasion when formal discipline becomes necessary, the following actions and definitions are among the options available to the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee:

- Reprimand:** The Scout will remain with the Troop. A letter of reprimand will be placed in the Scout's file.
- Probation:** The Scout will remain with the Troop, on the condition that a further violation of Troop rules within a period of not longer than 12 months *will*, at the discretion of the Scoutmaster with Troop Committee approval, result in a formal suspension.
- Suspension:** The Scout will not be allowed to participate in Troop activities for a period of no more than six months.
- Expulsion:** All relationship with the Troop will be severed.

2. Troop 1776 Organization

Troop 1776 is a chartered Boy Scout unit in the Foothills District of the Atlanta Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.

a. Sponsorship

The Knights of Columbus Council # 8376, Catholic Church of St. Ann, Marietta, Georgia, is the chartering partner for Troop 1776. In return, all members of Troop 1776 are expected to act consistently with the wishes of the chartering partner and the Church.



b. Troop Committee

The Troop Committee is the governing authority of Troop 1776. All parents of Scouts on the active roster are encouraged to attend Committee Meetings. The Committee Chairperson is selected by the Chartering Organization. Other positions with specific responsibilities on the Troop Committee are:

Assistant Committee Chair	Transportation Coordinator
Advancement Chair	Registration Coordinator
Chartering Organization Rep	Community Service Coordinator
Court of Honor Coordinator	High Adventure Coordinator
Troop Secretary	Religious Coordinator
Outdoor Program Coordinator	Uniform Coordinator
Troop Treasurer	Life-to-Eagle Coordinator
Troop Equipment Coordinator	Friends of Scouting Coordinator
Fund Raising Coordinator	<i>ScoutParents</i> Unit Coordinator

c. Scoutmaster Staff

The Scoutmaster is selected by the Troop Committee. Assistant Scoutmasters are selected by the Scoutmaster and approved by the Troop Committee. Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters must complete Scoutmaster Fundamentals Training approved and provided by Boy Scouts of America, and all required Youth Protection Training.

d. Junior Leaders

Three Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL) will be selected at a Troop election by a majority vote of the Troop members present, using a secret ballot. The ASPL must be a Life Scout or higher rank and a member of the Troop for at least one year prior to ballot. After serving successfully for a six month term as an ASPL, Scouts will be eligible to run in a Troop wide election for the role of Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), the highest elected Scout leadership position in the Troop. The Scout receiving the highest number of votes in the ballot election will serve for a six-month term as Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). The SPL is the leader of the Troop. The SPL and ASPLs will appoint other Scouts to the following positions with the advice and counsel of the Scoutmaster. A Scout must have earned the rank of First Class to be considered for a Troop leadership position:

Troop Scribe	Troop Leave No Trace Trainer
Troop Instructor	Troop Librarian
Troop Quartermaster	Troop Order of Arrow Unit Rep
Troop Chaplain's Aide	Troop Historian
Troop Webmaster	Troop Bugler

All Patrol Leaders are accountable to their assigned Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. All Troop appointed positions are accountable to their assigned Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

Scouts holding these positions remain members of their Patrols.

Troop Guides will be appointed by the Scoutmaster and will serve at his discretion. The Scoutmaster will establish the duties and responsibilities of the Troop Guides.

A Junior Assistant Scoutmaster may be selected by the Scoutmaster and approved by the Troop Committee. A Scout should be at least 16 years old, an Eagle Scout and be active in the Troop to be appointed to this important position.

e. Patrol Organization

The Patrol is the most basic and important unit within the Boy Scout program.

Troop membership will be divided into Patrols. The Scoutmaster Staff is responsible for assignment of Scouts to Patrols, taking into consideration the individual preferences of the Scouts themselves. It is in everyone's interest to establish content and cohesive units.

Each Patrol will determine its own name, flag and yell, and will elect a Patrol Leader for a term of six months. The Patrol Leader will assign an Assistant Patrol Leader.

All New Scouts will be distributed within Patrols at the discretion of the Senior Patrol Leader. The Scoutmaster and his staff will have the final decision on Patrol assignments. Patrols can incorporate a mixed age group of Scouts as a means of facilitating the teaching of the Scout Skills Program.

Patrols are strengthened by successful relationships among our Scouts, but we understand there may be occasional squabbles among or between members. If you believe a problem has developed within the Patrol, please report your concern to the Scoutmaster in place of stepping into the situation yourself. Our Scoutmasters will work with the boys to address the problem and dispel any issues. Hazing of New Scouts is banned by the Troop, is against BSA policy, and will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Patrol members are encouraged to meet at least once every month in addition to regular Troop meetings. If you generously offer your home as a Patrol meeting place, you are entitled to and will have the full respect of your person and property, and are asked to make this clear to all Scouts in attendance.

Under no circumstances should a Patrol meet in a home without at least two adults over 21 years of age present at all times.

f. Patrol Leaders Council (PLC)

The Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) will consist of the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL), and Patrol Leaders representing each Patrol, and appointed Troop Junior Scout Leaders. Assistant Patrol Leaders, Patrol Quartermasters, Patrol Scribes and Patrol Historians are not required to attend. All Scouts are welcome to attend the PLC Meeting as observers with no voting rights, unless they are in a Troop Leadership position as defined above.

The PLC will meet monthly to develop plans for Troop activities and meetings. The PLC is chaired by the SPL. Other Scouts may be asked to participate as determined by the SPL.

The Scoutmaster will act as advisor to the PLC and will hold discretionary veto power over all PLC decisions.



g. High Adventure Crew

Our High Adventure Crew is an accomplished group of Scouts who possess the knowledge and skills to engage in High Adventure activities. Membership in the Crew benefits older Scouts who excel in outdoor and leadership abilities, allowing them to participate in challenging activities that put their well learned skills to the test. The High Adventure Crew serves the Troop. The Crew is responsible for helping younger Scouts advance in Scouting. Members give full support to all Troop fund-raising activities. High Adventure Crew Scouts remain in their Patrols, and participate in all Patrol activities. Requirements for participating in the High Adventure Crew are:

- Scout must be at least fourteen years of age, or be in the Ninth Grade.
- Scout must have achieved a minimum rank of First Class.
- Scout must be an active member in the regular Troop 1776 program.
- If Scout is a Troop Leader, he must perform his job satisfactorily.

3. Outline of Regular Activities

a. Weekly Troop Meetings

The Troop will meet weekly on Tuesday evenings, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., in LaSalette Hall, located behind the Church Office on Bishop Lake Road, across from the Catholic Church of Saint Ann. All Scouts are expected to attend in Full Field Uniform (“Class A”) unless otherwise authorized by the Scoutmaster.

b. Patrol Meetings (recommended activity)

Patrol Meetings are encouraged to be held at least once every month in the home of either the Patrol Leader or Assistant Patrol Leader, or at an alternate meeting place. The Patrol Meeting schedule should be developed to attain maximum attendance and productivity.

c. Advancement Night (normally the Tuesday following a Campout)

One meeting per month will be devoted to advancement and a concurrent Patrol Leader Council meeting. If your Scout does not hold a position in the PLC and is not pursuing advancement, he has no requirement to attend the meeting. Advancement night will not be counted as an attendance night. The third Tuesday of each month will be designated to Scouts desiring a Skills Review, Scoutmaster Conference, or Board of Review.

Important Note: It shall be the Scout’s responsibility to notify the Advancement Chairperson one week in advance of the Advancement Night of his desired review. Full Field Uniform (“Class A”) is required at all times, no exceptions.

d. Patrol Leaders Council (PLC)

Regular monthly meetings operate concurrent with Advancement Night on the 4th meeting of every month, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. PLC Meetings are attended by the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, all Junior Leaders, Patrol Leaders (or Assistants) and the Troop Scribe. Attending Scouts are not required to be in uniform.

e. Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM) Meeting

Normally held the first Monday of the month at 8:00 p.m. in LaSalette Hall. Leaders (SM, SPL, ASM, and JASM) attend this monthly meeting to discuss Troop issues, needs and concerns, plan for upcoming calendar events, and review recent outings for the benefit of future program scheduling.

f. Annual Planning Conference

Normally held in place of a regular May Troop meeting, Scouts and parents plan activities, outings and monthly themes for the coming year (September through August). Families are asked to propose and discuss ideas for Troop activities and research facilities and costs associated with the activities being proposed. All parents are invited to attend the Annual Planning Conference and act as advisors to the Scouts.

g. Troop Committee Meetings

Troop Committee Meetings are typically held on the first Monday of every month at LaSalette Hall at the Catholic Church of Saint Ann at 7:00 PM, to review the Troop's program and to establish Troop policies. All parents and Committee Members are invited and encouraged to attend. Advance agendas will be sent out via e-mail.

h. Boards of Review

The Advancement Committee meets on the same date and time as the PLC meeting. Scouts who have completed their Skills Review and Scoutmaster Conference and are prepared to pursue advancement, must schedule a meeting with the Advancement Chairperson one week prior to the requested date for their Board of Review.

i. Courts of Honor (Awards Ceremony)

To recognize Scout advancements, merit badge accomplishments and other awards, the Troop holds Courts of Honor at least twice yearly, posting the schedule in advance on the Troop Calendar. Parents are expected to attend these important ceremonies to witness and support their son's progress in Scouting.

j. Troop Activities and Official Outings

At least one activity will be planned at the Annual Planning Conference for every month on the Troop Calendar. Full Field Uniform ("Class A") is required for all Troop outings and District activities and events, such as Spring Camporee, Summer Camp and Fall Camporall. BSA and Troop policy *requires* that all Scouts be in Full Field Uniform ("Class A") while being transported to and from all activities. Each Scout must be registered and have a current medical form on file. For other Troop outings, the Scoutmaster will set uniform requirements based on recommendations by the PLC.

Parents are expected to assist with supervision during outings. Volunteers will be identified at the Annual Planning Conference. In the event that the number of Scouts attending an activity exceeds the capacity of the vehicles of the Leadership and parents attending the outing, volunteer drivers will be asked to step forward. Transportation to and from outings is the responsibility of all parents.

All trips greater than 4 hours of driving time will require 3 drivers per 2 vehicles. This requirement is to insure our safety on the road and the availability of fresh drivers on long trips. Please be prepared to offer your fair share of the driving.

One adult, typically a member of the Scoutmaster's Staff, will be designated as primary contact for each outing. Permission forms, medical concerns, and special arrangements should be directed to this contact. Scouts will not be allowed to attend Troop outings without a signed permission form on file. In most cases, camping outings leave from LaSalette Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening.

Trips typically are scheduled to return on Sunday around Noon. A non-denominational worship service, which we refer to as our “Scout’s Own Service”, will take place Sunday morning.

Regarding safety. Our Scouts’ safety is our primary concern. In the event of an accident, the individual involved will promptly notify the Scoutmaster and Committee Chairperson. The Scoutmaster, Committee Chairperson, and any involved adult will be available to explain the occurrence as soon as it is practical.

Menus, foods, preparation, and clean up for camping trips are the responsibility of each Patrol. The Patrol will plan it’s menu using a worksheet provided by the Troop. An adult leader must approve each menu. Each Patrol will then collect money from members for food purchases.

k. High Adventure Outings

Once a Scout fulfills the High Adventure Crew requirements (Section 2g – High Adventure Crew), he may join a Crew and participate in special outings. The High Adventure Program is planned to offer challenging and adventurous outings for older Scouts. Scouts will have opportunities to earn special awards, such as the 50-Mile Hiking Award, as they complete Crew outings. Planning for Crew outings takes place outside the regular meeting schedule, and outings are in addition to activities planned at the Annual Planning Conference. A minimum of two adults is required to attend these outings with the Scouts. Emphasis is not placed on rank advancement or merit badges, but rather, on the effective use of Scouting skills, outdoor codes of conduct and other talents and abilities.

l. Troop Website

The Troop website address is www.Troop1776.org. Our Events Calendar can be found here, along with other information and links detailing upcoming events and outings. For your family’s enjoyment, you will also find photographic documentation of the many activities our Scouts have participated in. Almost any other Scouting information you will need to know, from camping lists to menus, from rank advancement to hiking trails, can conveniently be found here. Should you have any suggestions for including additional information you might feel would be helpful to the Troop, please feel free to share your ideas with us.

4. Uniform and Equipment

Boy Scout Handbook: The Scout Handbook contains vital information for all ranks, and is the Scout’s primary reference to the Scouting program. It must be carried at all Troop meetings and campouts, and is used to record the Scout’s advancement and accomplishments in Scouting.

Uniform: The Troop “Full Field Uniform” (formerly referred to as “Class A”) includes a long or short sleeve Scout shirt with appropriate insignia, Troop neckwear, Scout pants (long or short), belt, Troop hat, socks and neckerchief slide. Each Scout is expected to wear his uniform shirt and neckwear to all Troop meetings, while traveling with the Troop on official outings, and as announced for special events. Troop rules mandate that the Full Field Uniform, including neckwear and merit badge sash (sash required for more than three badges) be worn at the Scoutmaster Conference, the Board of Review, and at Troop Committee presentations at Courts of Honor. The Troop 1776 neckerchief should be worn in place of any BSA neckwear at all Courts of Honor. (Note: Order of Arrow sash should be worn at OA sponsored events, special Scouting activities, including Courts of Honor, and on special occasions when members need to be identified as Arrowmen rendering special services.)

Shoes: Tennis shoes may be worn to Scout Meetings, at Summer Camp, and on warm weather campouts. Each Scout should possess a sturdy pair of outdoor shoes, which are suitable for rough use and for hiking. Shoes should be large enough to wear a thick wool sock over a thin wicking sock (polypropylene, silk, wool, etc.). Two socks serve to cushion the foot and will help reduce the possibility of blistering. Shoes should be waterproofed and weather appropriate.

a. Personal Gear for Camping (Recommended) *

Backpack: The preferred, hands free method for carrying gear. Good backpacks have many pockets for organizing, and straps for attaching a sleeping bag, pad and tent. Limited capacity will teach the Scout to prioritize his packing and minimize bulk and weight. There is a wide range of products and prices available on the market, so take time to shop for both comfort and price. If cost is prohibitive, duffel bags or similar gear are acceptable for campouts that do not include overnight hikes.

Sleeping Bag: Bags are constructed from a wide variety of materials to satisfy a variety of weather, packing, weight and price requirements. Sleeping bags which can be packed into a stuff sack are more convenient than rolled bags with ties. You should avoid cotton bags and select one made with synthetic insulated materials. Look for a full-length zipper, batting in the lining which insulates the zipper, and the amount of quilting used to prevent the insulation from bunching or sagging. A bag insulated for a comfort range down to 20 degrees is highly recommended. For winter camping, 20 degree bags may be nested into a second bag for additional comfort, avoiding the higher cost associated with bags rated for below 0 degrees. Remember, a Scout is prepared...and also thrifty!

Ground Pad: Scouts will find sleeping on the ground more comfortable and warmer when a “closed cell” pad is used under the sleeping bag. These pads are made from a heavy rubber like foam 3/8” to 1/2” thick, and approximately 24” wide by 72” long. They roll up compactly, are easily carried on the backpack, and are more comfortable, warmer and less of a nuisance than an air mattress. An alternative is a self inflating pad, which is a foam pad inside a waterproof covering. These are about 1/2” to 3/4” thick when inflated, and the same length and width as most closed cell pads.

Rain Suit/Poncho: Scouts must be fully prepared to carry on with our outdoor program, regardless of weather conditions. Good rain gear is essential for both comfort and safety.

Mess Kit: It’s not necessary to purchase a traditional mess kit. Pieces may be lost or broken, leaving the set incomplete. In substitution, Scouts may use plastic plates, bowls and mugs. These are lightweight and can be easily marked for identification. Mismatched silverware is also a useful substitute.

Plastic or aluminum water bottle or canteen: Each Scout *must* carry 1.5 to 2 quarts of water on hikes and backpacking outings. One or more water bottles that fit into a pocket of the backpack or in a hip pack are acceptable. Water is an *essential item* and *required* for all BSA and Troop activities.

Knives: Once a Scout has earned his “Totin’ Chip” card, he is allowed to carry a folding pocket knife of a size approved by BSA. Troop 1776 prohibits carrying sheath knives of any kind at all Scouting activities. The card must be carried with the knife as evidence of the Scout’s training in knife safety.

Compass: Every Scout must have a compass for practicing the orienteering skills needed to pass Second Class and First Class rank advancements. His compass should be carried to all Troop meetings and be with him on all campouts as a camping essential.

Whistle: Scouts must carry a whistle. These are used for communication only, and can save a life in the event of an emergency. This is yet another essential item, to be carried at all times.



* Please refer to the Troop website, www.Troop1776.org, for detailed lists of equipment to pack for specific seasons and a variety of outings.

5. Advancement

A Scout's advancement is the natural outcome derived from consistent participation in regular Scouting activities, campouts and other events. At Troop meetings and on outings, Scouts will have opportunities to learn and practice the skills necessary to advance, with the guidance of older and more experienced Scouts. The Advancement Chairperson is responsible for enforcement of all advancement policies.

a. Scouting Skills Instruction and Testing

The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Troop Guides, Instructors, parents and outside experts will all be called upon to provide Scouting Skills instruction. The Boy Scout Handbook is our primary resource for learning these skills. Regular meetings and outings of the Troop provide ample opportunity for demonstrations and practice.

Skills testing is a relatively informal process intended to be supportive rather than intimidating. When the Scout feels he has mastered a skill, his next step is to meet with the Scoutmaster, an Assistant Scoutmaster, or a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. The Scout will demonstrate, and the leader will observe and determine if the Scout has indeed mastered the skill and satisfied that requirement for rank advancement. The Scoutmaster or his designee will then record the achievement in the Scout's Handbook. Parents ***are not*** allowed to sign off on their ***own son's*** rank advancement, regardless of their position within the Troop. As the Scout progresses, he is expected to retain his knowledge of all skills previously learned. When the Scout is satisfied he has mastered his skills, he will submit a written request for a Skills Review before a Troop leader. Based on a successful demonstration, the leader will then approve the Skills Review Form for that rank and forward the completed form (refer to our Troop website, www.Troop1776.org, for a copy of the Skills Review form, and 5e. for more information) to the Advancement Chairperson for recording. In addition to developing important skills, this process builds confidence, and the Scout will in turn be relied upon to teach the skills he has mastered to new and less experienced Scouts. thereby fulfilling one of the goals of the Boy Led Troop.

b. Merit Badges

Following First Class, the Scouting program shifts emphasis from Scouting Skills to Leadership and Merit Badges. Merit Badges offer Scouts opportunities to learn about various areas of interest. A list of approved Merit Badge Counselors is maintained by the Troop Advancement Chairperson and the Foothills District of the Atlanta Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Council recommends some Merit Badges be earned outside of the Troop.

When the Scout is ready to begin work on his Merit Badge of choice, he will request a Merit Badge Application (commonly referred to as the "Blue Card") from the Advancement Chairperson for that specific badge. The Advancement Chairperson will then assign a Counselor. It is recommended that the Scout enlist a fellow Scout to earn the badge with him, and ***required*** that he obtain the Scoutmaster's signature ***before*** he starts the Merit Badge.

For the protection of all, at no time will a Scout work one-on-one with a Counselor in a private location or in the Counselor's home. Scouts are encouraged to work on Merit Badges together for both support and encouragement. Scouts may choose to meet with their Counselor early in the process to discuss the requirements and share expectations.

Upon completion of the requirements, the Scout presents his completed work for assessment and approval. Upon approval, the Counselor validates the Blue Card and retains a copy for the Troop record. The Scout returns the remainder of the Card to the Advancement Chairperson, who obtains the Scoutmaster's signature. The Chairperson returns the "Record" portion of the Card to the Scout.

NOTE: The Scout must keep his records in a ***safe place***. His cards represent his merit badge ***proof of completion***, required for all Eagle Scout Boards of Review.

The Advancement Chairperson will process and record the records and purchase the Merit Badges, which will be awarded at the next scheduled Court of Honor. Merit Badge “blue cards” must be turned in to the Scoutmaster no later than one week prior to the Court of Honor in order to be entered on the Advancement Report and processed in a timely manner.

In addition to the above, the following is also part of the Troop 1776 Advancement Policy:

As a general guide, Scouts are given a time limit of one year to fully complete the requirements of a merit badge. Scouts who do not fully complete the merit badge’s requirements within one year will be asked to start over. The purpose of this limitation is to encourage the Scout to organize his work and complete the task within an established time frame.

Merit Badge counseling should normally be conducted outside of regular Troop meetings.

Should a Scout want to earn a merit badge for which his parent is the counselor, that is acceptable, as long as there are at least two other Scouts taking the class with him.

Non-counselor parents are not allowed to sign off on any merit badge requirements for any Scout at any time.

c. Service Projects

The concept of cheerful service to others is one of the core beliefs of the Scouting program, and it is discussed in the Tenderfoot rank requirements. Participation in a service project is also a requirement for Second Class, Star, and Life ranks. Proposed service projects must be reviewed and approved in advance by the Scoutmaster.

The Troop regularly schedules service projects on the Troop calendar to assist our Scouts in meeting rank advancement requirements. Periodically, other projects may be requested and offered to the Troop through notification by the Scoutmaster. Service projects provide an opportunity for the Scouts to give back to the community and to demonstrate their appreciation for what the community has provided to the Scout, his family, and his friends and neighbors.

For the Eagle rank, the Scout must plan, develop and give leadership to others in a service project approved by the Scoutmaster, the Troop Committee and the District Advancement Committee (details in the attached Life to Eagle Scout Guide). Service projects should be for non-profit organizations such as, religious institutions, schools or community centers.



d. Scout Spirit

Scouting is a “Game With A Purpose”. It has rules the Scout must follow as a BSA member. The rules of Scouting are found in the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto, and Scout Slogan. Learning these words, but more importantly, the meaning of these words and rules, begins as a requirement for Tenderfoot rank.

By following these rules, the Scout will not only fulfill the common rank requirement of demonstrating Scout Spirit in his Scouting life, he will come to understand the importance of living the Scout Spirit in his family life, and in his relationships with others.

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."

e. Skills Review (in preparation for the Scoutmaster Conference)

An objective of Scouting is to build life skills. As mentioned previously, to ascertain that these skills are developed and retained, our Scouts have their skills reviewed prior to the scheduled Scoutmaster Conference for rank advancement. This is a progressive and comprehensive review. As part of the review, the Scout may be asked questions from any or all of his previous rank advancements. If the Scout, in the opinion of his reviewer, is not adequately prepared, the Scoutmaster will review the areas the Scout is weak in and repeat the review at a later time. Please refer to our Troop website, www.Troop1776.org, to obtain a copy of the Troop 1776 Skills Review Form.

f. Leadership

In large part, Scouting is devoted toward developing the leadership qualities of the Scout. These leadership skills will be of benefit to the Scout throughout his life. Guidelines for Leadership requirements are contained in the handbook and the appendix. It is Troop policy that at least 67% Attendance at Troop Meetings and on Campouts be maintained in order to attain Leadership Credit for Rank Advancement. Simply stated,, a Scout cannot provide leadership to others if he is not there himself.

g. Scoutmaster Conference

All rank advancements require a Scoutmaster Conference. The purpose of the conference is to develop over a period of time an increasing level of understanding and trust between the Scoutmaster and the Scout. Each Scout must schedule and hold a conference with the Scoutmaster after completing the requirements for advancement. The Scout must present himself in Full Field Uniform (Class "A"), and bring with him his Boy Scout Handbook and completed Skills Review Form. A Skills Review is required for all rank advancements. The Scoutmaster Conference must be completed before the scheduled Board of Review. The Scoutmaster is encouraged to schedule informal conferences (in addition to those scheduled for advancement) to discuss each Scout's participation in the program at least once every six months.

h. Boards of Review

The final step for all rank advancements is the Board of Review. When a Scout has completed the rank requirements, Skills Review and Scoutmaster's Conference, he schedules a Board of Review, to be composed of members of the Troop Committee.

Note: The Eagle rank Board of Review differs slightly in that, in addition to Troop Committee members, a Foothills District Representative is included as a member of the Board, and the review is accomplished at a District Advancement Meeting. The Eagle application must also be approved by the Atlanta Area Council and the National Council.

Parents of an advancing Scout may not participate in his Board of Review. The Scout must appear before the Board in Full Field Uniform (Class "A"), and have with him his Scout Handbook and Advancement Record from the Advancement Chairperson.

The Board of Review is not a time to retest the Scout, but to determine his attitude and acceptance of Scouting ideals. The Board talks to the Scout about his Scouting experience, his Scout Spirit, interpretation of the Scout Oath and Law, application of the Oath and Law in his daily life, and any problems or concerns that he may have. The Board will also help the Scout set goals and encourage further advancement. For higher ranks, the Scout may be asked to evaluate his leadership position, service hours, and Eagle Project preparation.

At the conclusion of the review, the Scout is asked to leave the room while the Board discusses his achievements. The decision of the Board must be unanimous. If members are satisfied the Scout is ready to advance, he is invited back into the room, congratulated for his accomplishment, and notified as to when he will receive his formal recognition.

If the Board determines the Scout has not met requirements, they will clearly explain what remains to be accomplished for completing the requirements and obtaining a successful Board of Review. Recommendations will also be followed up in writing.

The Troop will schedule Boards of Review on a regular basis so that Scouts and Leaders can plan for them well ahead of time. Boards may also be used to encourage those Scouts who are not advancing.

The Advancement Chairperson will complete the Advancement Report and furnish the Scoutmaster with the names of the Scouts who have passed their Board of Review.

i. Recognition

As part of the Opening of the next regularly scheduled Troop Meeting, the Scouts who have passed their Board of Review will be recognized and presented with the insignia of their new rank.

Normally, two Courts of Honor (our awards ceremony) are held annually, and these are scheduled at the Annual Planning Conference. Scouts who have earned rank advancements, merit badges, awards or other distinctions will be recognized formally at this time. All Scouts are strongly encouraged to attend the Court of Honor as a show of support for their fellow Scouts.

The Advancement Chairperson plans the Court of Honor ceremony, and the Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader serve as Masters of Ceremony.

All parents are asked to attend Courts of Honor as a show of support to the Troop, and especially when their son is being recognized for his personal achievement. In the case of advancement, the parents or guardian will be called forward with their son to honor him for his advancement in rank.

At each Court of Honor, the Troop Historian will be responsible for preparing a presentation which will highlight Troop activities that have taken place since the last Court of Honor. The Court of Honor Coordinator will be responsible for organizing food or refreshments.

Eagle Courts of Honor are held separately from the Troop Court of Honor, on a day selected by the Eagle Scout Candidate. The Eagle Scout Candidate and his family will plan the ceremony, with help from the Scoutmaster and/or the Advancement Chairperson. All Troop members are invited and strongly encouraged to attend all Eagle Courts of Honor, to honor their fellow Scout for his ultimate achievement, and also to take inspiration from the event itself.

j. Eagle

Currently, less than three percent of all boys who enter the Scouting program set the goal, follow through, and ultimately achieve the highest Scouting rank of Eagle. To provide guidance for the unique and challenging set of requirements, the Troop has appointed a Life to Eagle Coordinator to support our Scouts in their effort to obtain Eagle rank.

After a Scout has obtained the rank of Life Scout, it is recommended that he meet with the Life to Eagle Coordinator to map out his plan to achieve his Eagle. The Scout may also refer to the Troop website, www.Troop1776.org, for Eagle Scout Service Projects.



6. Troop Rules and Practices

Troop Policy will follow the guidelines and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America as set forth by the National Council for the Boy Scouts of America and the Foothills District of the Atlanta Area Council. Specific Troop Policy will be established or changed by majority vote of the Troop Committee. Approved policies will be posted on the Troop website and published in updates of the Troop's Guide To Scouting.

a. Campouts and Activities

All Scouts must be registered active with a current BSA Annual Health and Medical Record on file.

1. In accordance with policies of the Boy Scouts of America National Council, there must always be a minimum of two adults present at all campouts or other activities. This policy is referred to as ***Two Deep Leadership***. For weekend or extended outings and campouts, the number of adults required would increase to three, to insure that in the case of an emergency, two adults will remain at camp. Above this minimum, a ratio of one adult for every 10 Scouts is ideally recommended.

If adult supervision is not confirmed two days prior to the outing, the event will be cancelled.

At no time will an adult leader be allowed to meet privately with a single Scout other than that leader's son.

2. No conduct unbecoming a Scout will be allowed or tolerated.

3. Initiation, hazing or harassment of a Scout is not allowed and will not be tolerated. Each member of Troop 1776 is here to learn, to teach...and to have ***FUN!***

4. Scouts will not leave the immediate area of a Troop activity unless they have the permission of the adult leadership. Any hiking or activity outside the campsites must be in groups of two or more, which we refer to as the BUDDY SYSTEM.

5. The Troop will leave the area in the best of condition, and will in fact leave it *better* than we found it. We will practice "*Leave No Trace*" camping as a matter of Troop Policy.

6. Scouts must complete and return a permission form with the activity fee for each Troop campout or activity. Permission forms must be returned indicating the Scout's plan to attend. Permission forms must be received by the date indicated so that reservations can be confirmed and adequate transportation arranged well in advance.

7. Activity fees and deposits paid to the Troop are not refundable if the boy does not attend the activity. Fees collected by each Patrol to purchase food are not refundable after the food has been purchased. The Patrols are encouraged to keep unused and non-perishable food items in storage for use in future activities.

8. The Chaplain's Aide and Troop leadership will be responsible for conducting a non-denominational worship service for Scouts at the campsites of all outings. We refer to this as our "Scout's Own Service".

9. Consumption of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and non-medically prescribed drugs is prohibited on all Troop 1776 campouts and activities.

10. Under no circumstances will flames of any kind be carried into or used in tents, including, but not limited to: matches, lighters, candles, or fueled lanterns.

11. Fireworks and firearms are strictly prohibited on all Troop 1776 outings.
12. Some parks prohibit the gathering of firewood. In these cases, campfires for cooking and pleasure will be limited to purchased firewood or wood brought from the Scouts' homes. Fires will be built in only designated containers or with the permission of adult leadership. No holes will be dug as fire pits, and rocks gathered to contain a fire must be returned to the edges of the campsite.
13. Trash will be disposed of using containers provided at the campsite or brought back home. The Troop does not bury any refuse.
14. Only water drawn from spigots marked as potable will be consumed or used for cooking. Techniques for purifying water will be demonstrated and practiced, but should only be used at special backpacking outings or in survival situations.
15. In general, Troop activities will go on as planned, regardless of weather, unless dangerous conditions exist. The Scoutmaster or the Assistant Scoutmaster in charge of the event will be responsible for making the decision to modify or cancel an event due to weather.
16. Because of the need for adequate supervision, parents play an important role in the outdoor program. When participating in Troop activities, it is recommended that you report situations requiring adult attention to the Scoutmaster Staff for appropriate action, except in the case of activities which threaten the health and safety of individuals or the group. In these situations, parents are empowered to stop dangerous activity immediately.
17. The parents will handle transportation to and from all Troop activities equally. If a family is unable to equally share responsibility, they may be asked to contribute to the cost of transportation.
18. Drivers of motor vehicles carrying Scouts to, from and during activities sponsored by the Troop must be at least 21 years of age and have a valid driver's license. Drivers assume liability for authorized passengers. BSA policy requires drivers carrying Scout passengers to have minimum insurance liability coverage required by law and seat belts for every passenger in the vehicle.
19. Sheath knives, aerosol cans, cigarette lighters and personal electronic equipment are prohibited at Troop 1776 outings and campouts.
20. Tour permits are required to be filed with the Atlanta Area Council for all outings.

b. Finance

1. The Scoutmaster staff, Treasurer and PLC will develop an annual operating budget by September 1st and submit it to Troop Committee for approval.
2. The Troop will pay the annual registration fees for all *trained* Troop adult leaders and registered and *trained* Troop Committee members. Non-trained parents are considered non-registered members of the Troop Committee. They are welcome to attend meetings, but have no voting privileges.
3. Camp or activity fees will be set to cover the estimated cost of each event. Surpluses or shortages will be added or subtracted from the Troop account.

4. The Troop will provide accident insurance through the Atlanta Area Council for all Scouts, registered adult leaders, and registered Committee members.

5. The Treasurer for Troop funds will maintain checking and savings accounts. It is expected that the Treasurer report on the financial activities of the Troop on a monthly basis. The Troop Treasurer and Troop Committee Chair will each be authorized to sign checks on Troop accounts.

6. The Troop savings account will be managed as a group of separate accounts; one for the Troop at large and separate accounts for each Scout. Money earned by individual Scouts from Troop fund-raising projects will be maintained in separate "Scout Accounts" and reported by the Treasurer.

Scout accounts are to be used to purchase Scouting related equipment or to defray Troop or High Adventure Crew activity fees and associated expenses. The Treasurer will provide forms for this purpose (receipts for equipment will be required). Should a Scout transfer to another Troop, withdraw or be expelled from Troop 1776, the balance in his account will be transferred to a related family member within the Troop. If he has no related family member within the Troop, the remaining balance will be transferred into the Troop's general fund.

The Treasurer shall publish the balances of the Scout Accounts a minimum of 3 times a year. Once issued, they will be posted on the Troop Bulletin Board in LaSalette Hall.

7. Troop equipment and materials checked out by a Scout or Patrol, but not returned, will be billed to the Scout, or in the case of a group, will be divided equally among the group of Scouts, and will be based on the cost of replacement. In the event equipment is damaged, a report will be prepared by the PLC determining responsibility, with a recommendation for either repair or replacement by the Scout or Troop.



7. The Language of Scouting

APL - Assistant Patrol Leader

ASM - Assistant Scoutmaster

ASPL - Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

B-P - Baden-Powell (Scouting's Founder)

BSA - Boy Scouts of America

COPE - Project COPE (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience)

COR - Chartered Organization Representative

CSE - Chief Scout Executive

DE - District Executive

DiD - District Director

EDGE - Training method (Explain, Demonstrate, Guide, Enable)

FOS - Friends of Scouting

JASM - Junior Assistant Scoutmaster

LNT - Leave No Trace

NCCS - National Catholic Committee on Scouting

NESA - National Eagle Scout Association

NYLT - National Youth Leadership Training (a/k/a "Green Bar")

OA - Order of the Arrow

PRAY - Programs of Religious Activities With Youth

PL - Patrol Leader

PLC - Patrol Leaders Council

PTC - Philmont Training Center

SE - Scout Executive

SM - Scoutmaster

SPL - Senior Patrol Leader



www.Troop1776.org

Note: This guide is published for the use of Troop 1776 families and members as a basic outline of the policies and practices of Troop 1776. The Troop will update this guide as necessary, by action of the Scout Leadership and the Troop Committee. In its entirety, this document shall be used solely as a non-binding guide. Troop Leadership and the Troop Committee reserve the right to change or amend all guidelines at their sole discretion.

Troop 1776 Guide To Scouting - 05/22/11