

BSA Troop 279 (Boys) / Troop 7279 (Girls)
TROOP HANDBOOK



BSA Troop 279 (Boys) Troop 7279 (Girls)
Fraternal Order of Eagles, Big Walnut Aerie #3261
Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Forward

The Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church originally chartered Troop 279, a little over 45 years ago. In 2012 the Troop changed charter organizations to the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Big Walnut Aerie #3261 in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. In 2019, Troop 7279 (girls) was then added to the Charter.

We are part of the Tri-Creek District of Simon Kenton Council. Our troop has served the youth of Reynoldsburg and our surrounding communities since its beginning. We provide a quality Scouting program for boys and girls ages 11-17, following the guidelines of the Boy Scouts of America as cited in the Scouting Handbook, Scoutmaster Handbook, the Troop Committee Guidebook, and the Guide to Safe Scouting.

Since the inception of the troop, we have developed close to 100+ Eagles Scouts, approximately 67 of them under the current Scoutmaster, 25 years. They represent a very small portion of scouting. Unfortunately, only about 3.5 – 4% of all Scouts ever earn the rank of Eagle Scout. We are honored to be a part of that small group, as well as the young men and women from our troop that have earned their Eagle rank and along with other Eagle Scouts in the world.

Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle!



Introduction

Mission Statement

Our Vision is to implement Scouting's Mission and Values by creating a safe environment, to foster a core group of Scouts and Scouters of all abilities that are officially trained in the eight methods and aims of scouting. To put the necessary communication and aptitude in place to facilitate a smooth transition of these core skills between the pack and the troop, creating an environment to cultivate scouting for the future at Troop 279/7279.

Welcome to Troop 279/7279, Boy Scouts of America.

Every Scout needs to know what is expected of him or her. The success of having an adventurous and safe outdoor program rests in the ability of the Scout take responsibility for his/her own behavior. BSA accident, medical and liability insurance depend upon planned activities conducted with regard for safety and protection of property. All Scouts need to know what "OK" is and what is not. To guarantee acceptable conduct, all adult Scouters need to know what is expected of them. The policies outlined in this document establish the procedures for running Troop 279/7279's program.

The emphasis of the BSA Scout program is to promote and encourage boy leadership. In support of this program Troop 279/7279 adult leaders are present as advisors, ensuring safety and keeping the program oriented toward scouting ideals. Troop, patrol, and patrol council meetings, camping trips and day trips shall be run by scout leaders and overseen by adults.

But boys or girls are just "boys or girls," acting as such. There may be many times when you will question, "Why are they so disorganized?" "Why are the meetings so noisy and unproductive?" and "Why don't the adults' step in and do something?"

In Scouting we believe that the best way to develop leadership is to let the Scouts have as much freedom as possible; applying just enough adult authority to keep them safely focused on the task at hand. If they are sincerely trying to accomplish the duties of their positions, they are learning the rudiments of leadership.

Once again, Welcome to Troop 279/7279.

Keep in mind, Scouting is a family activity, and we expect parents to be involved in their Scout's development. This handbook in section 4.0 & 5.0 covers how you can be involved.

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1.0 Purpose of the Troop 279/7279 Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to provide Troop guidelines and general information about Troop 279/7279 including objectives, organization, responsibilities and policies and procedures. This handbook can be an introduction to Troop 279/7279 for prospective Scouts and their families as well as a reference to the Scouts and families that are already a part of Troop 279/7279. Prospective Scouts should also read Scouting Handbook as it provides a clear picture of the entire Scouting program.

Each Scout and parent are required to read the entire Troop 279/7279 Handbook, agree to abide by its policies and rules, and return the signed Affirmation and Agreement (found in the appendix) form within 30 days of being provided a copy. Also, each Scout must discuss with his parents “How to Protect Your Child from Drug Abuse: A Parent’s Guide”, located in the front section of the Scouting Handbook.

If there is a conflict between this Handbook and BSA policy, BSA policy will take Precedence.

Our Troop 279/7279 handbook is subject to modification. Therefore, any suggestions or recommendations as to the content and format are welcome. Please use the reader comments form found at the end of the handbook to make those suggestions and recommendations.

2.0 Objectives and Methods of BSA Troop 279 / Troop 7279

The objectives and methods of Troop 279/7279 parallel the objectives and methods of the Scouting program as set forth by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). As with most organizations, the BSA has a mission statement that outlines who and what they are as an organization. The BSA mission Statement is as follows:

"The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated to provide a program for community organizations that offers effective character, citizenship, and personal fitness training for youth. Specifically, the BSA endeavors to develop American citizens who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit; have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness; have personal values based on religious concepts; have the desire and skills to help others; understand the principles of the American social, economic, and governmental systems; are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand our nation's role in the world; have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people; and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to the American society."

The objectives of the Scouting program are to build character, foster citizenship, and develop fitness. These objectives are achieved through a series of Scouting methods that consist of the Ideals of Scouting, the Patrol Method, the Outdoors Program, Rank Advancement, Personal Growth, Adult Association, Leadership Development, and the Uniform.

2.1 Ideals of Scouting

The ideals of Scouting are found in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan. All Scouts are expected to live by these ideals.

Scout Oath or Promise

*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.*

Scout Law

*A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal,
Helpful, Friendly, **Courteous**, Kind,
Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave,
Clean, And Reverent*

Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily.

Scout Motto

Be Prepared.

Outdoor Code

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

2.2 The Patrol Method

The patrol method develops leadership and teamwork skills in a small group setting before it is applied on a larger Troop setting. Patrols can have their own meetings, elect their own officers, and plan and carry out their own patrol activities.

The Patrol Method offers five major benefits for the Scout:

- ✦ Promotes friendship by grouping scouts together,
- ✦ The small size allows each Scout to get involved because they are needed in helping the patrol function,
- ✦ Develops responsibility as each member of the Patrol takes on a leadership position within the patrol,
- ✦ Introduces a democratic process to decision making, and
- ✦ The Patrol Method is proven to work.

2.3 The Outdoors Program

The outdoors is the key setting where the Scouting objectives and methods are achieved. Weekend camping as well as the annual summer camp and bi-annual high adventure program help the Scouts develop self-reliance as they learn to work together and survive on their own.

2.4 Rank Advancement

Advancement creates a challenge to all Scouts by providing them with a series of goals to achieve and lessons to learn. Furthermore, rank advancement provides a rewarded sense of accomplishment for the Scout's hard work, determination, and skills improvement.

2.5 Personal Growth

A Scout's personal growth is developed through community service, rank advancement, and working as a team. All these activities provide an opportunity for the Scouts to grow as individuals and members of their community and religious organizations.

2.6 Adult Association

Adult association provides role models for the Scouts to observe and also creates a setting where adults and boys work together to achieve common goals while having fun.

2.7 Leadership Development

Leadership development takes place as each Scout assumes a Youth Leader position. Development starts with patrol positions, and fully develops as Scouts assume Troop junior leader positions that are essential to the operation of the entire Troop. Remember, your sons as leaders, run the Troop.

2.8 Uniform

The uniform gives Scouts an identity with the Troop and with the larger Boy Scouts of America organization.

3.0 Sponsorship

The Fraternal Order of Eagles (F.O.E.), Big Walnut Aerie #3261 Brice Road Reynoldsburg, OH 43068, sponsors Troop 279/7279. As the sponsoring organization, Fraternal Order of Eagles help Troop 279/7279 by screening adult leader applicants, providing a meeting place for the troop and its adult leadership and by assisting with transportation.



4.0 Parental Responsibilities

The adults who provide supervision, support and time to make Troop 279/7279 a success are volunteers. They will need your help. How you support your son's troop depends on your talent and available time. Whatever your volunteer role, our troop needs you to keep operating as a quality unit which makes our troop worthy of the fine Scouts it serves.

As we work on providing a Scouting program for your scout, there is a lot of hard work and time that goes into planning such a program.

- ♣ **Attend all Courts of Honor.** The Court of Honor is a very important event in your Scout's Scouting career as they are awarded and recognized for their hard work and determination. In addition, important information about the Troop is relayed at these special ceremonies. Please make every effort to attend; your Scout needs your support.
- ♣ **Participate in Troop fund-raisers.** Every Scout and his family benefit directly from Troop fund-raisers and therefore every Scout and his family are encouraged to participate in fund-raising efforts.
- ♣ **Meet deadlines and scheduled times.** When we set a deadline on permission, payments, or any other item it is done to allow sufficient time to plan logistics for the outing or activity. Failure to meet deadlines will therefore make the scout ineligible to participate in that outing or activity. If a financial reason arises, please see the Scoutmaster and we can work something out within the Troop. Under no circumstances should a family be priced out of Scouting.
- ♣ **Provide transportation to and from outings and activities.** We may call upon you to help provide transportation to an outing or activities so if asked and you can, please volunteer.
- ♣ **Encourage and support your son as he advances in Scouting.**

In addition to the above, we expect all parents to get involved, even if you only have a limited amount time to volunteer. Parents can serve on the Troop committee, become a merit badge counselor, or serve the Troop in some other capacity. Periodically, we announce special needs in our Troop communications or the Troop Committee meeting minutes. Upon joining Troop 279/7279, and on an annual basis around the time of the Troop Re-charter, parents are asked to complete a Troop Resources Survey so that the Troop's Adult Leadership can learn a little more about you and what resources you might be able to make available to the Troop. If you have any questions about serving the Troop in some position, please contact the Troop Committee Chairperson or the Scoutmaster.

5.0 Adult Leadership Responsibilities

Troop 279/7279's adult leaders are committed to providing a high-quality Scouting program to all members of the Troop in pursuit of two major goals:

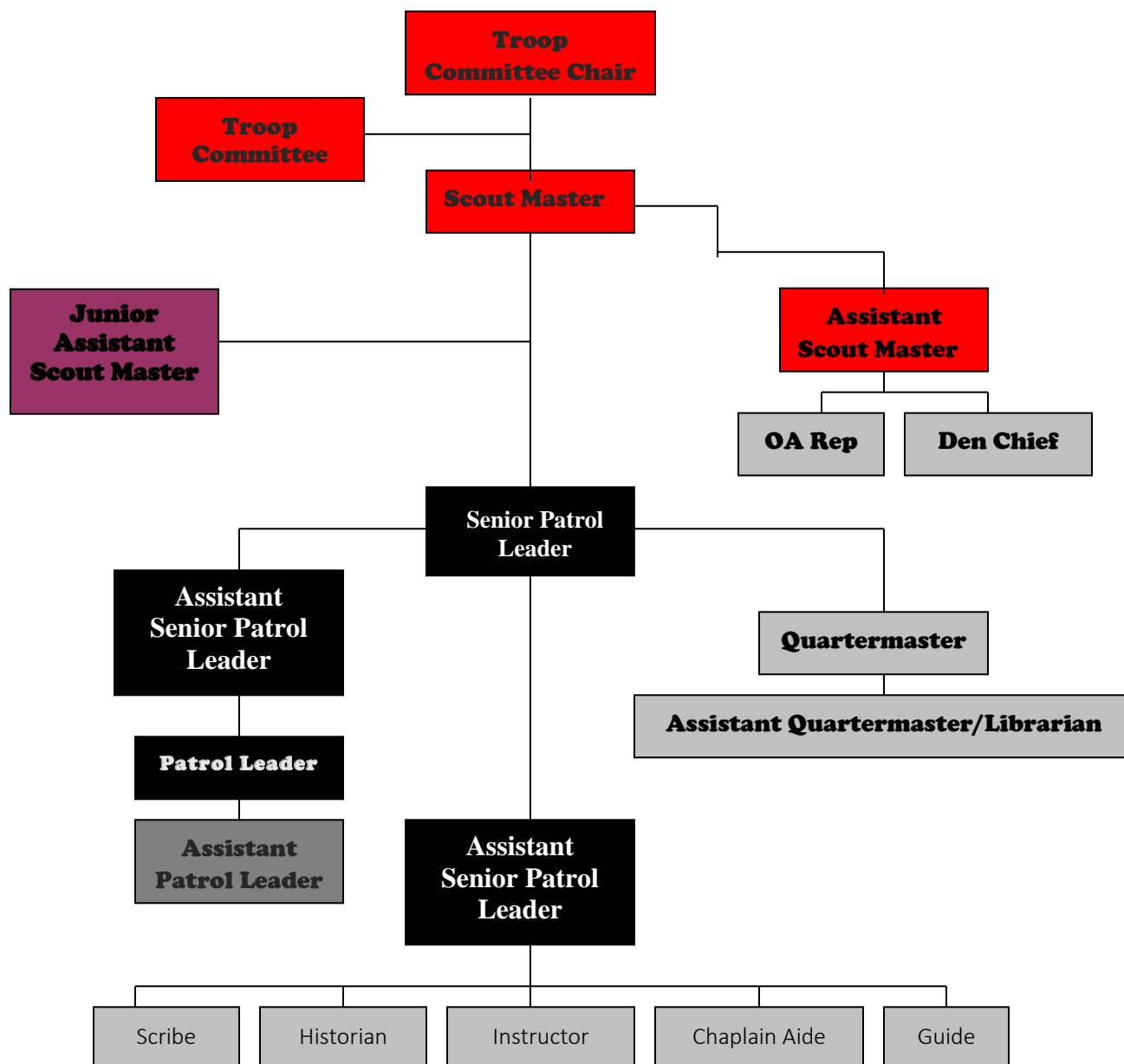
- ♣ Training and guidance of the Scouts consistent with the Objectives and Methods of the Boy Scouts of America.
- ♣ Providing a safe outdoor program to all Scouts.

By assuming these two key responsibilities, we provide the Scouts with the tools to actually deliver the Scouting program to themselves and their fellow Scouts.



6.0 Troop Organization

This section of the handbook outlines both the Adult and Scout organization associated with Troop 279 /7279. Troop 279/7279 is organized in accordance with BSA guidelines. The following descriptions highlight areas within the troop's organization.



6.1 Adult Organization

The adult organization of Troop 279/7279 consists of two distinct components: the Troop Committee and the Scoutmasters and sometimes within this handbook may be referred to as Scouters. The Troop Committee supports the Scoutmasters in their mission of delivering the Troop Program. The Scoutmasters are responsible for oversight and delivery of the Troop Program

6.1.1 Troop Committee

Currently, the Troop Committee may consist of a Committee Chairperson, Co-Committee Chair, Chartered Organization Representative, Secretary, Treasurer, Advancement Coordinator, Fund-raising Coordinator, Equipment Coordinator, Publicity Coordinator, and Social Coordinator and Webmaster. The responsibilities of each of these committee positions, as well as the individuals holding those positions, are outlined below.

The Committee Chair is elected by the Troop Committee and shall hold that office at the pleasure of the Committee, until he/she resigns, a replacement is voted into office or may be removed by the Charter Organization

Other Positions are appointed by the Committee Chair and serve at the pleasure of the Committee Chair or may be changed by a vote of the Troop Committee

Removal from the troop committee can only be done by the charter origination.

Committee Chairperson & Co-Committee Chairperson: oversees the entire Troop. The Committee Chairperson & Co-Committee Chairperson share the following duties:

- ✿ Organizes the committee to see that all functions are delegated, coordinated, and completed.
- ✿ Prepare troop committee meeting agendas.
- ✿ Call, preside over, and promote attendance at monthly troop committee meetings and any special meetings that may be called.
- ✿ Arrange for charter review and re-charter annually, including the charter presentation.

Co-Committee Chairperson will have the same duties as the Chairperson and will be the point of contact if the Chairperson is unavailable or the issue is with the Chairperson.

Chartered Organization Representative: responsible for maintaining a close working relationship between Troop 279/7279 and F.O.E. This position is appointed by the Trustees.

Secretary: responsible for assembling and emailing the minutes of every committee meeting and coordinating any Troop correspondence. The duties of the secretary include:

- ✿ Keep meeting minutes and send out committee meeting notices.
- ✿ Maintain the troop calendar of events.
- ✿ Conduct the troop resource survey annually.
- ✿ Coordinates transportation for monthly outings/activities, including summer camp.
- ✿ Files tour permits for each monthly outing/activity, including summer camp.
- ✿ Train and supervise the Troop Scribe's record keeping.

Treasurer: responsible for maintaining and reporting on the financial resources of the Troop, while ensuring that the troop's financial resources are sufficient and available to meet planned troop expenditures. Duties of the treasurer include:

- ✿ Handle all troop funds. Pay bills with the authorization of the troop committee.
- ✿ Maintain troop savings and checking accounts, reconciling balances with bank statements once a month.
- ✿ Maintain records of individual scout funds, earned through scout-incentive fund-raisers.
- ✿ Lead the preparation of the annual troop budget.
- ✿ Lead the Friends of Scouting Campaign.
- ✿ Report to the troop committee at each meeting.

Advancement Coordinator: responsible for coordinating all Boards of Review and maintaining advancement records for all Scouts. The Advancement Coordinator's duties include:

- ✿ Encourage scouts to advance in rank.
- ✿ Work with troop scribe to maintain all scout advancement records.
- ✿ Maintain the merit badge counselor list.
- ✿ Make a prompt report to the council at the completion of a Board of Review.
- ✿ Works with the troop librarian to build and maintain a troop library of merit badge pamphlets and other advancement literature.
- ✿ Report to the troop committee at each meeting.
- ✿ Maintain the troop roster.

Fund-raising Coordinator: responsible for the evaluation and oversight of all Troop fundraisers. The Fund-raising coordinator is not responsible for coordinating each individual fund-raiser, as each fund-raiser will have its own fundraising coordinator. This position will have a subcommittee and chairs that handle each individual fundraiser.

Equipment Coordinator: oversees the purchase, maintenance, and storage of Troop equipment. The Equipment Coordinator's duties include:

- ✿ Supervise and help the troop procure equipment.
- ✿ Work with the troop quartermaster on inventory and proper storage and maintenance of all troop equipment.
- ✿ Make periodic safety checks on all troop equipment and encourage troops in the safe use of all equipment.
- ✿ Report to the troop committee at each meeting.
- ✿ Maintains Troop inventory in coordination with the Troop Quartermaster.

Social Coordinator: responsible for refreshments and to assist with programs at all Courts of Honor, Family Night at summer camp and other recognition dinners. In addition, this position will assist parents in ideas / planning for Eagle Scout Ceremonies.

Publicity/Scout Transition Coordinator: responsible for advertising troop fundraisers and publicizing troop activities. As well as working with local packs to promote Troop 279/7279. Work with Scoutmaster and or Committee to arrange for Troop Visits, etc.

Webmaster: Responsible for maintaining troop website, updates of troop calendar, handbook, and directory.

6.1.2 Scoutmaster: The scoutmaster and assistants are responsible for overseeing the program for the troop. According to the Boy Scouts of America, the Scoutmaster is responsible for:

- ✿ Training and guiding youth leaders to run their troop,
- ✿ Work with and through the assistant scoutmasters to bring the scouting program to the troop,
- ✿ Help the scouts to develop by challenging them and encouraging them to learn new things,
- ✿ Guide the scouts in planning the troop program,
- ✿ Help the troop committee to recruit new assistant scoutmasters,
- ✿ Conduct scoutmaster conferences.
- ✿ Arrange and coordinate the use of campsites and other facilities by the troop for each monthly outing/activity, including summer camp.
- ✿ Promote and support the troop objective of one outing/activity per month.

The Scoutmaster can have one or more assistants to help him develop the scouting program. One key job of an Assistant Scoutmaster is that of monitoring the progress of the new Scouts. The assistants in the Troop also alternate responsibilities on the planning activities and outings, which encompasses primarily the reservations, transportation, and food shopping for the adult leaders.

6.2 Scout Organization

A Scout troop is organized into one or more patrols consisting of up to 10 scouts. As new scouts join Troop 279/7279, the Scoutmasters initiates the addition of patrols, with the objective of maintaining the patrol size of up to 10 scouts.

6.3 Patrol Leader's Council

The Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) is the youth leadership of the Troop, making the decisions concerning the direction and agenda of the troop. At a minimum the PLC consists of the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol, Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders, The Troop Scribe attends to record and publish notes of the meeting and the Troop Quartermaster attends to give an update on troop equipment and equipment needs. The PLC meets regularly, during a scheduled PLC meeting. At these PLC meetings, the PLC plans the monthly meetings and the weekend outings and activities. Planning the monthly meetings entails coming up with a pre-opening, opening ceremony, skill session, game, patrol meeting topic, inter-patrol activity, and closing session. The outing provides the Scouts with an outdoor experience in which they can have hands on practice with the skills they learned during the month. The Patrol Leaders' Council is ultimately responsible for the functioning of the entire Troop and without their hard work; there would be no meetings or outings.

7.0 Rules and Policies

7.1 Rules of Conduct

Scout Spirit All Scouts are expected to live by the Scout Oath and Law. This is how a scout fulfills their Scout Spirit requirement. Those ideals should dictate all Scouts behavior. Any behavior that goes against the Scout Oath and Law disgraces the Scout, parents, the adult leaders, and the Troop. Please, have fun, but behave appropriately.

Participation -- All Scouts of Troop 279/7279 are welcomed and encouraged to take advantage of all troop activities. For participation to count toward rank a 70% attendance rate is required.

BSA youth protection guidelines require at least two registered adult leaders or one registered leader and a parent of a participant, one of whom must be 21 years old, to be on all trips and activities. No one-on-one contact between adults and youth members is permitted (except in the case of parent-child)

7.1.1.1 Adult Code of Conduct

The rules for adults are the same if not higher than those of scouts.

- ✿ Adults need to be cordial, and work together for the common good of the Troop.
- ✿ Adults (Scoutmasters, Committee Members, etc.) not following “rules” or otherwise not showing good moral “scouting” judgment may be asked to leave.
- ✿ Inappropriate behavior and/or language directed at a youth or in the presence of youth may be grounds for removal of that adult from any position in the Troop. Repeat offenders of this policy will result in immediate removal from troop activities pending a meeting with the Troop Reinstatement Review Board.

7.2 Discipline Policy

7.2.1 General

While we anticipate no problems with inappropriate behavior, it is important for all Scouts and their parents to understand the Discipline policy. In Troop 279/7279 the doors of Scouting are always open to those who strive to follow its Law. Adherence to Troop 279/7279 policies will, primarily, be handled by the boy/girl leaders with adult intervention only to maintain safety, preclude property damage, avoid disrupting other organizations’ activities and/or restore order in extreme cases of unruliness.

While adult leaders may sometimes allow Scouts to make mistakes as a learning experience, safety is never compromised and leaders will immediately intervene for any safety related issue.

7.2.2 Obedience

Obedience in Troop 279/7279 is to the Scout Oath and Law. The Oath and Law make being a good citizen of the troop, camp, or community possible. Obedience to the Scout Law includes respect for Scout leadership and adult leadership and all members and guests of the troop. Respect for adult and Scout leadership is expected. Under no circumstances will adult or scout leaders administer punishment for any reason. Hazing, of any type, will not be tolerated. Youth Leaders or adults observing such activity will take immediate measures to stop such activity.

7.2.3 Enforcing discipline

Discipline in the patrols will be handled by the patrol leaders.

- ✿ The first time a Scout is informed of his poor behavior he will be asked to correct it at that time.
- ✿ In the event that the Patrol Leader is having a problem with a patrol member, and it cannot be resolved the Patrol leaders have the authority to ask any patrol member to leave a patrol meeting and report to the senior patrol leader.
- ✿ The second time he will be given a fifteen-minute time out away from the other Scouts to compose himself.
- ✿ When the patrol leader cannot handle the problem, they must obtain help from the senior patrol leader. The senior patrol leader has the authority to ask that Scout to leave the meeting area and report to the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM).

- ♣ When the senior patrol leader cannot handle the problem, they must obtain the help of the Scoutmaster or (ASM).

When the Scoutmaster is approached with a complaint, the complaint will be recorded on the Scout's record, Note the following actions:

Troop – “3 Strike” Rule

i. First scoutmaster notification of complaint

- ♣ Discuss problem with Scout (ASM and/or SPL has authority)

ii. Second scoutmaster notification of complaint

- ♣ Senior Patrol Leader refers the Scout to Scoutmaster.
- ♣ Conference with scoutmaster and a phone call to parents explaining the problem and stating that one more complaint may result in a suspension of this activity. Parent(s) may be requested to pick up their scout and or to attend meetings to help supervise their Scout.

iii. Third scoutmaster notification of complaint

- ♣ The scout will be immediately sent home and suspended from all future Troop activities pending a conference to be held with parents and Scout in front of the Reinstatement Review Board. The Reinstatement Review Board will determine further action

****Please note, with any serious safety infraction, this may result in an automatic 3rd strike at the discretion of the Scoutmaster or other adult leader in charge at the time****

Disciplinary actions might include a time-out area, suspension from a Troop game, Troop chores, etc. For major behavioral problems that occur, any of the following actions may be appropriate:

- ♣ Parental contact and pick-up from the meeting or outing.
- ♣ No participation in Troop meetings or outings.
- ♣ Withholding rank advancement because a Scout's inappropriate behavior does not demonstrate the last requirement of living by the Scout Oath and Law.

We hope that we will never have to use such discipline actions, however, it is important for all Scouts and parents to know what courses of action will be taken.

The above steps are not meant to discourage either the patrol leaders or senior patrol leaders from seeking advice from the Scoutmaster or any adult leader when they are having leadership challenges but are intended to state discipline options in advance. Scout leaders should remember and use their chain of command.

7.2.4 Troop Reinstatement Review Board

This board evaluates Scouts who have been suspended from the troop as a result of the third scoutmaster notification of complaint as well as the use of drugs, alcohol and/or tobacco as outlined in the troop discipline policy. After the completion of the suspension period and prior to resuming troop activities, the committee chairman will convene a reinstatement review board to meet with the Scout and his parents to assess his intentions regarding pursuit of the Scouting program. The members of the troop reinstatement review board will consist of the committee chairman, Scoutmaster and three designated representatives from the troop committee.

Note: Designated committee members will be selected based on having no conflict of interest. If the committee chair's scout is involved the Advancement chair will chair the board in his place.

Based on the conclusions of the Board, the Scout will either:

- ♣ Resume troop participation and activities, or
- ♣ Continue his suspension for a period, as recommended and approved by the board, or
- ♣ Dismissal from the troop

Continuation of the suspension / dismissal requires a meeting with parents and the committee chairman and Scoutmaster to discuss the position of the Board.

Upon reinstatement a Scout will be on probation for a minimum of two months. Additional infractions within the probation period are grounds for immediate dismissal by the troop committee.

- ✦ Failure by the parent(s) and scout to attend the review board meeting will result in an automatic dismissal from the troop.

7.2.5 Drugs, alcohol and tobacco

Any Scout guilty of using, possessing and/or distributing a controlled substance (drugs and alcohol) will be suspended from all Troop activities immediately. Parents of the guilty Scout will be advised of all actions taken. The Scout may later be allowed to return once their problem has been resolved to the satisfaction of the troop Reinstatement Review Board.

No Scout will be allowed to use a controlled substance of any type at any Scouting function. This includes those scouts who have parental permission to use tobacco (*smoking, chewing, or snuff*). The law says 18 years old, and you aren't a scout if you're 18 years old. Should a Scout be caught, they would be suspended from all Troop functions.

Parents of Scouts required to take prescription medication over the period of a troop event will discuss the requirement with the Scoutmaster. Serious medical requirements may require a parent to attend an event and administer medication.

The same rules above apply to adult leaders except for tobacco should an Adult feel as though they would need to Smoke, Chew, or use Snuff, we would ask that they would do so out of view of the Scouts. Please be aware, all council owned Scout Properties are now smoke-free.

7.2.6 Do's and don'ts

The Scoutmaster has the authority to confiscate all items deemed inappropriate or dangerous. The Scoutmaster will return these items to the parents of that scout.

- ✦ The Boy Scouts of America prohibits the securing, use and display of fireworks in conjunction with programs and activities except where the fireworks display is conducted under the auspices of a certified or licensed fireworks control expert. Scouts of Troop 279/7279 are prohibited from possessing or using fireworks on any troop activity.
- ✦ Fire arms will be permitted at troop meeting only if the troop program calls for such activities. Any such activities will have the approval of the Scoutmaster and the troop committee.
- ✦ Fixed blade knives are not permitted in Troop 279/7279. Scouts carrying pocket knives will have earned their totin' chit as prescribed by BSA training requirements.
- ✦ Each Scout is responsible for making restitution for any damage caused by his actions or negligence. A Scout is trustworthy.
- ✦ Fighting is not permitted and is grounds for immediate disciplinary action.
- ✦ Foul language, swearing, cursing, blasphemy and abusive/suggestive gestures are not in keeping with the ideals of Scouting and will not be allowed. A Scout is Reverent, Courteous and Clean.

Troop 279/7279 policy discourages Scouts from bringing personal electronics' on outings. If the Scout does bring a cell phone, the # must be shared with the Scoutmaster. The troop and its adult leaders **will not be responsible** for the loss and/or damage to such items.

7.3 Meeting, Weekend Outing, and Summer Camp Attendance and High Adventure Participation

All Scouts in Troop 279/7279 are involved in other activities or have family activities that conflict with Troop meetings, as well as weekend outings and summer camp. Attendance at all meetings, outings, and summer camp is strongly encouraged. Infrequent attendance and participation in these events **WILL** affect the rate of the Scout's advancement and opportunities for youth leadership positions.

Scouts participating in a troop outing are discouraged against leaving to attend a sports or extracurricular activity. Once a Scout is committed to a troop activity, he should remain with the troop and scoutmasters for the outing duration, unless he is unable due to illness, emergency, or behavioral problems.

7.3.1 Meeting, Weekend Outing Participation Requirement

A Committee Member is required to attend at least 50% of the Committee Meetings. The purpose of this policy is to insure that we have a majority of members at the meeting so business can be conducted. If Committee Member cannot meet this requirement they will be dropped from the charter the following year. The Committee Chair in conjunction with Vice Chair may adjust or wave this requirement if circumstances warrant it.

7.3.1.2 Scout Master or Assistant Scout Master is required to attend at least 50% of the weekly Troop meetings for the month and 50% of all campouts. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Scouts benefit from your presence at meetings and campouts. If a Scout Master or Assistant Scout Master cannot fulfill these requirements they will be dropped from the charter the following year.

The Committee Chair in conjunction with Scout Master may adjust or wave this requirement if circumstances warrant it.

7.3.1.3 Each Scout is required to attend at least 50% of the weekly Troop meetings for the month and 50% of all campouts. The purpose of this policy is to insure that each Scout is fully involved in the planning, preparation, and skills training for every weekend outing that they attend.

7.3.2 Summer Camp and High Adventure Participation Requirement

Each Scout must first meet the Weekend Outing Participation Requirement as stated. As with the Weekend Outing Participation Requirement, the purpose of this policy is to ensure that each Scout is fully involved in the planning, preparation, and skills training for summer camp.

High Adventure may require other criteria such as minimum age or rank.

7.3.3 Exceptions to the Weekend Outing and Summer Camp Participation Requirement

Exceptions may be granted to the Weekend Outing and Summer Camp Participation Requirements by the Scoutmaster and are dependent upon the individual Scout's overall knowledge, the type of weekend outing, and the circumstances of that Scout's absence from the weekly meetings. Scouts requesting an exception to this policy must do so prior to the deadline for the completion of the Summer Camp or Weekend Outing Information and Permission Slip.

7.3.4 Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) Participation Requirement

Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) meetings are held regularly, unless otherwise stated in the Troop Calendar. Place to be determined by Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader. Youth leaders should attend 80% of the PLC meetings.

7.3.5 Committee Meeting Participation Requirement

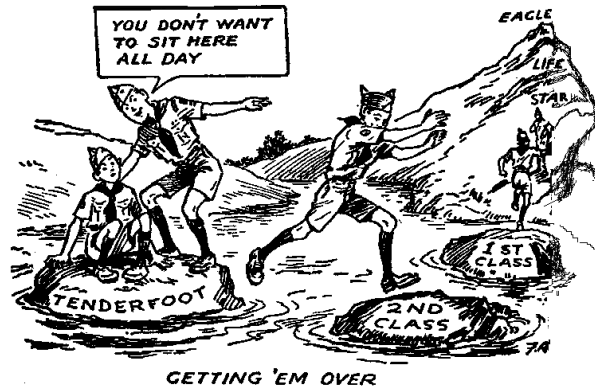
Committee Meetings are held regularly as posted in the meeting schedule put out at the beginning of the troop year at F.O.E. Reynoldsburg unless otherwise stated or posted on the Troop Calendar. All committee members should try to attend the meeting. A majority of committee members must attend the regular meeting for business to be conducted. Any Parents are strongly encouraged to attend as well as Committee Member's. Committee meetings should not last longer than 90 minutes.

7.4 Carrying a knife or fire building Policy

To carry a knife or start a fire Scouts must:

- ♣ Have in their possession at every camp out or meeting:
 - ❖ Totin' Chit for knives as prescribed by BSA training requirements
 - ❖ Firemen' Chit to build or tend a fire as prescribed by BSA training requirements.
- ♣ Fixed blade knives are **not permitted** in Troop 279/7279.

- ♣ Knives with a blade longer the 4 inches are not permitted in Troop 279/7279



7.4 Rank Advancement Policy

Rank advancement is an important part of every boy's Scouting career. Unlike the Cub Scout program in which the den advances together based on age, Boy Scout advancement relies on personal self-motivation. The requirements for each rank; Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle; are listed in [The Scouting Handbook](#). Note, the Scouting Handbook contains the Advancement Record for each rank. The Scout is responsible for bringing his handbook to all Troop meetings and outings. If a Scout loses his Scouting Handbook, the troop Advancement Chair will determine his advancement status. This may mean that some requirements, not yet recorded on the Advancement Chart, will have to be redone. The Troop has adopted an advancement policy that will insure that all Scouts are knowledgeable in the given requirements needed for advancement. The policy consists of skill instruction, demonstration and practice, and a testing period. All skills that are taught to Scouts should be practiced immediately by those Scouts; however, requirements are not to be signed off immediately. At least one day must elapse between when a Scout is taught a skill and when they are tested and signed off for knowledge of that skill. In Troop 279/7279, any Scout First Class or above can sign off five requirements per rank in another Scouts handbook. If any questions arise regarding certain requirements, the scoutmaster should be seen before the requirement is signed-off (parents do not sign off requirements). The purpose of advancement is knowledge. Signing off requirements that are not completed not only cheats the Scout who is getting the requirement signed off but undermines the ideals of Scouting. If any Scout signs off a requirement that a Scout does not have knowledge about, the Scout signing off the requirement will have his signing privileges revoked.

7.5.1 Advancements

All Scout Skills, Service Time, and Positions of Responsibility must be earned after the last rank advancement and before the Scoutmaster's Conference.

1. From Scout to First Class, skills are taught and signed off by older Scouts that have attained the rank of First Class or above and/or by the Scoutmaster.
 - ✿ About once a year every Scout is expected to show proficiency in the basic Scout Skills.
 - ✿ Parents are encouraged to help their Scouts practice the skills for advancement at home, however Parents may not sign off their Scout's book for skills performed at home, like the Cub Scout and Webelos programs allowed.
 - ✿ Star through Eagle Scout ranks requires the Scout to earn Merit Badges either independently from a Merit Badge Counselor, through Troop Merit Badges Classes or at summer camp.
2. Additionally, Scouts must do "service time" or "service projects". The Scoutmaster must approve all service time or projects in **advance**.
 - ✿ No outside service time or project will be approved when Troop Service projects or Eagle Scout projects are available.
 - ✿ Service time may not be "stockpiled" for more than one rank.

Scouts must show leadership in a Position of Responsibility, after the last rank advancement and before the Scoutmaster's Conference. A leadership position is the most important Scout function in the Troop. These Scouts run the day-to-day operations of the Troop.

- ✦ Although Scouts are not asked to choose between Scouting and other activities to belong to the Troop, they **MUST** choose between a leadership position and other activities.
 - ✦ To be eligible for a Position of Responsibility a Scout must meet the uniform, dues, and attendance guidelines before he begins his position.
 - ✦ Leadership positions may not be "stockpiled" for more than one rank at a time.
 - ✦ Den Chief positions may only be used once, with the permission of the Scoutmaster.
 - ✦ Sometimes there may be more Scouts advancing than are leadership positions available, therefore Scouts must be at their "best" to be chosen by the Senior Patrol Leader, the Scoutmaster, or elected by the Troop.
 - ✦ To receive credit towards advancement for the position held these conditions must be met:
 - ✦ Must be a good role model by following all of the uniform, dues, and attendance guidelines.
 - ✦ Be responsible for the conduct of his patrol.
 - ✦ Make sure all dues are paid, and dues and attendance are properly recorded at each meeting.
 - ✦ Contact Scouts that are not regularly attending meetings and report the reasons to the PLC.
 - ✦ Advance in rank regularly, not to exceed 1 year between advancements without good cause.
 - ✦ Show good Scout Spirit by making suggestions for better activities and by being enthusiastic about Scouting Themes, instead of griping or complaining.
 - ✦ See that proper meals are planned for campouts. Have a Duty Roster for all campouts.
 - ✦ Personally supervises all activities of his patrol.
 - ✦ Provide reports of Scouts needing skills training and what training is needed.
 - ✦ Be proficient in all the skills required for the rank he holds and be prepared to teach those skills.
 - ✦ Volunteer for work details and be the last to eat, setting an example for other Scouts.
 - ✦ Perform all the duties associated with the leadership position.
3. A scout transferring in from another unit is responsible for obtaining and presenting all necessary records from prior unit to the Troop advancement coordinator. These records should include all prior service, advancements, and positions.
 4. Scouts must maintain their own records and scout book. Records should include "blue merit badge cards", advancement or merit badge certificates, and all signatures and dates in scout book.

7.5.2 Scoutmaster Conferences

Scoutmaster Conferences are designed to review a Scouts progress towards Rank advancement, determine if skills are being taught properly, learn the likes and dislikes about Troop activities, to give suggestions for areas to improve, and set goals for the next Rank.

- ✦ Scoutmasters Conferences are held at the discretion of the Scoutmaster. Scouts have the responsibility to inform the Scoutmaster of his need for the Conference.
- ✦ All requirements of the rank that the Scout wishes to advance must be completed before the conference.
- ✦ To be signed off for Scout Spirit, a Scout must meet all of the uniform and attendance guidelines. Scouts must follow the reasonable instructions of their elected or appointed Scout Leaders (Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, etc.).
- ✦ To be signed off for Position of Responsibility a Leader must meet all of 7.5.1 Part 2, Positions of responsibility

7.5.3 Board of Review

The final requirement for each rank is a Board of Review (BOR). A Troop 279/7279 Board of Review consists of members of the BOR committee, not including the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster or a parent of the Scout, that convene to interview the Scout. An Eagle Scout Board of Review will be conducted by the **Tri-creek District Eagle board or the troop if necessary**. The purpose of the Board of Review is not to retest the Scout, but to insure that all other rank requirements have been met and to evaluate Troop 279/7279's Scouting methods.

A Board of Review can be requested and scheduled at any time during the year. However, in order for a Scout to be recognized for rank advancement at a Court of Honor, that Scout must request the Board of Review at least **four weeks** prior to that Court of Honor. The four-week lead-time is required to provide sufficient time to coordinate the Board of Review and to insure that awards are available for the Court of Honor. The process to request and obtain a Board of Review is provided below.

- a) After the Scout completes all other requirements of a rank and has passed Scoutmaster Conference, the Scout requests a Board of Review with the advancement coordinator. Boards of Review are held at the discretion of the Advancement coordinator. A request should be made by the Scout directly with the advancement coordinator, in person or calendar. Please note: a maximum of 2 Boards of Reviews will be scheduled on any given night, so please plan accordingly.
- b) Advancement coordinator schedules three Adult Committee Members for the Board of Review.
- c) The advancement coordinator notifies the scout of the date for the Board of Review.
- d) The Board of Review is completed.
- e) Advancement coordinator notifies the scoutmaster that the scout has completed the Board of Review.
- f) At the end of the regular meeting at which the BOR was conducted the scout will be recognized for completing his BOR.
- g) The advancement coordinator completes the paperwork and sends it to the Council.

7.5.4 Court of Honor

A Court of Honor is a formal ceremony to recognize the achievements of the Scouts, including rank advancement. All Scouts, Scout families, and Troop Committee members are invited to attend. Courts of Honor will be held at least twice a year. All scouts and Scouters will be notified of the date and it will be on the Troop 279/7279 Calendar.

7.6 Troop Youth Leadership Positions

Troop 279/7279 operates in one of two ways. Sometimes positions are elected and at other times they are appointed by the Scoutmaster. If electing, all votes in Troop elections are cast by silent ballot with the winner being that individual with the majority of votes. In the event of a tie, a run-off will be held that same evening to determine the winner.

If electing, the entire Troop votes in this election of the Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. The Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster then appoints a Staff, consisting of a Troop Guide, Scribe, Quartermaster, Historian, and Librarian.

All Troop Youth Leader positions, both those that are elected and those that are appointed will serve a term as determined by the Scoutmaster

7.7 Travel Policy

When traveling to and from campsites, all Scouts are to be in uniform as specified by the Scout Master.

Vehicles conduct; seat belts on always **it is the law**, be **courteous** to your driver. All vehicles are always to be

left cleaner than you found it. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. If any Scout behaves in such a way that is disruptive to the driver, **they may be asked to be picked up by a parent when we arrive at the campsite.**

7.8 Uniforms

The Scout uniform is important because it identifies the scout as a member of Troop 279/7279 and should be worn with pride by all Scouts at all Scouting functions. Uniforms are important to the image of scouting, therefore, they will be *clean* and in good condition. However our troop has taken the stance that there is not a need for a “complete” uniform to make us better Scouts. While we would encourage full uniforms, it is not necessary for your son’s involvement in our troop. We would ask that they would adhere to the following guidelines, so that we do keep somewhat of a uniformed troop. Be it Full Class A or Class A shirt and pants as specified below, as long as we look like a group.

The exception to our standard would be National Scouting Events or Camps where a full Class **A** would be required.

The Troop 279/7279 **Class A Uniform** consist of a Scout shirt with proper insignia, Scout pants or shorts, or Khaki or Blue jean pants or shorts in *clean* and good condition.

The Troop 279/7279 **Class B Uniform** is considered more of an activity uniform and consists of a Troop 279/7279 T-shirt or other scouting related shirt, Scout pants or shorts, or Khaki or Blue jean pants or shorts in *clean* and good condition.

Most of the Scout uniform items can be purchased from the Council Scout Store. However, troop specific items like the t-shirt can only be purchased through the Troop. All of these Troop uniform items are sold at cost, no profit is made by the Troop or anyone associated with the Troop.

Uniform inspections will be held periodically and will reflect the standing of the entire Patrol.

7.8.1 Uniform requirements

Class A uniform may be required to be worn to all:

- ✿ Troop meetings from September through May
- ✿ Courts of Honor
- ✿ Camporees, Summer Camps
- ✿ While traveling to and from campouts
- ✿ Scoutmasters Conferences and Board of Reviews
- ✿ Other events designated by the Scoutmaster

Class "B" uniforms may be worn during any Troop function designated by the Scoutmaster and Troop meetings in the months of June and July and August.

New Scouts should start wearing the uniform within 30 days of joining the Troop.

7.9 Equipment Replacement Policy

Troop 279/7279 owns a substantial amount of camping equipment that was purchased with Troop funds. As a result, we have a strict policy regarding the use and care of all camping equipment. Any equipment in a Patrol Box is the responsibility of the Patrol. Periodically, throughout the year, an inspection and inventory of the Patrol Box will be taken. Any equipment that is lost on weekend outings may become the responsibility of the entire Patrol to replace. If equipment is damaged, through no fault of any Patrol member, the Troop will replace the equipment. However, if any equipment is damaged through fooling around or direct abuse, it becomes the Patrol's responsibility to replace. Periodically, Patrol members will take equipment home after weekend outings in order to clean the equipment. All Patrol equipment taken home must be checked out by the Quartermaster and returned the following Wednesday. Completion of the item replacement form should be completed and turned into the Quartermaster.

8.0 Troop Meetings

Our Troop meets Monday night, our weekly meeting is determined at the troop planning meeting. Meetings are held at the F.O.E, Reynoldsburg Brice Road unless otherwise noted on the Troop Calendar, 7:00pm till 8:30pm. If a location changes, every effort will be made by the Patrol Leader and Patrol Scribe to communicate meeting locations and times, but ultimately it is the responsibility of each Scout to know when and where the Troop will meet.

9.0 Outings and Activities

The BSA program is designed for fun in the outdoors. The troop committee in support of the Scoutmaster will make every attempt to have at least one outdoor activity per month. These activities will most often be camping trips, but on occasion might be day events. The activities planned for these events will reinforce the skills and ideals of Scouting.

Troop 279/7279 is active in the outdoors. The Troop plans about 10-12 weekend outings (Camping) or activities per year as well as one weeklong summer camp. In addition, we have other activities throughout the year. Occasionally, the troop participates in competition Camporees. Camporees provide the opportunity for Troops from around the District and Council to get together and demonstrate their proficiency in learned Scouting skills. Departure and pickup times and locations will be noted on the Weekend Outing Information Sheet and Permission Slip. Located on SignUpGenius!



9.1 **Planning for camping**

Camping trips and activities shall be planned for as part of the process of planning the troop's annual calendar of events. Camping trip themes/activities shall be related to the troop meeting themes and are the responsibility of the PLC.

Support for camping

BSA Requirement: Two registered adult leaders or one adult leader and a parent of a participating Scout (at least one leader must be 21 years of age) are required for all trips or events.

Troop 279/7279 Requirement: Two registered adult leaders at least 21 years of age are required for all trips or events. Each adult **MUST** have completed training in Youth Protection. Go to:
<https://scoutnet.scouting.org/elearning/>

After completing the course be sure to send a copy to: Justin Sayre

The Scoutmaster, an assistant Scoutmaster or Troop Secretary will be assigned responsibility for each camping trip or event.

Responsibilities include:

- ✿ Notifying Scouts and families is communicated two weeks in advance of camping trip details to include approximate cost.
- ✿ Filing camp/facilities request forms.
- ✿ Arranging transportation
- ✿ Accounting for necessary fees (camp fees and food costs)
- ✿ Assuring adequate leadership is available.

9.1.2 **Guidelines for arranging transportation**

Automobiles

1. **Seat belts are required for all occupants.**
2. **All drivers must** have a valid driver's license that has not been suspended or revoked for any reason. If the vehicle to be used is designed to carry more than 15 persons, including the driver (more than 10 persons, including the driver,), the driver must have a commercial driver's license (CDL).
3. An adult leader (at least 21 years of age) must be in charge and accompany the group.

4. The driver must be currently licensed and at least 18 years of age. While we discourage youth under the age of 18 in driving during troop activities, if it is a must for the youth, this Youth member exception must be in force: When traveling to and from an area, regional, or national Boy Scout activity or any Venturing event under the leadership of an adult (at least 21 years of age) tour leader, a youth member at least 16 years of age may be a driver, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. six months' driving experience as a licensed driver (time on a learner's permit or equivalent is not to be counted)
 - b. No record of accidents or moving violations
 - c. Parental permission granted to the leader and driver. At no time will any youth under the age of 18 ride with another youth under the age of 18.
5. Passenger cars or station wagons may be used for transporting passengers, but passengers should not ride on the rear deck of station wagons.
6. Trucks may not be used for transporting passengers except in the cab.
7. All driving, except short trips, should be done in daylight.
8. All vehicles must be covered by automobile liability insurance with limits that meet or exceed requirements of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. It is recommended that coverage limits are at least \$50,000/\$100,000/\$50,000. Any vehicle designed to carry 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of \$100,000/\$500,000/\$100,000.
9. **Do not exceed the speed limit.**
10. Do not travel in convoy (see "Leadership Requirements for Trips and Outings," No. 2).
 - a. During transportation to and from planned Scout outings,
 - b. Meet for departure at a designated area.
 - c. Prearrange a schedule for periodic checkpoint stops as a group.
 - d. Plan a daily destination point.
 - e. A common departure site and a daily destination point are a must. If you cannot provide two adults for each vehicle, the minimum required is one adult and two or more youth members—*never one on one.*
11. Driving time is limited to a maximum of 10 hours and must be interrupted by frequent rest, food, and recreation stops. If there is only one driver, the driving time should be reduced and stops should be made more frequently.
12. Don't drive drowsy. Stop for rest and stretch breaks as needed. Fatigue is a major cause of highway accident fatalities.

Campers, Trailers, and Trucks

Trucks are designed and constructed to transport materials and equipment, not people. ***Under no circumstances are youth to be carried in the bed of or towed behind a pickup truck. The beds of trucks or trailers must never be used for carrying youth.*** Tour permits will not be issued for any trip that involves carrying youth in a truck except in the cab. This includes vehicles converted for that use unless they are licensed as buses and meet all requirements for buses. Use caution in towing trailers or campers, as a vehicle's performance, steering, and braking abilities will be altered. Consider these safety tips:

1. Get the correct trailer for the car and the correct hitch for the trailer. Distribute and anchor the load.
2. Allow extra time to brake. Changing lanes while braking can jackknife the trailer.
3. Add safety equipment as dictated by common sense and state laws (mirrors, lights, safety chains, brakes for heavy trailers, etc.).
4. Park in designated areas.

All other transportation Refer to the Guide to Safe Scouting. (Buses, Trains, Boats, and Aircraft)

9.2 Information Sheet and Permission Slip

The Troop will provide a “Weekend Outing Information Sheet” on *SignUpGenius* to each scout about two weeks before the scheduled outing or activity. The scout is responsible for providing this to his parents and meeting any due dates associated with that weekend outing.

You will need to use *SignUpGenius* to sign up for each event/campout, etc. If for any reason you are unable to attend a camping trip after payment is made, the Troop will refund whatever portion of the cost that has not been committed to site fees, food, or registration fees, under Scoutmaster discrepancy

A Medical Information Form that provides personal medical history information (i.e. allergies, health issues, family doctor information, and other pertinent medical information) is required to be on file with the Troop before any Scout can attend outings. In accordance with the BSA guidelines, all scouts should have a complete medical examination every year.

No Scout is permitted to carry medication during Troop outings. Medical Authorization Forms and dosage schedules must be turned in to the Scoutmasters two weeks prior to the outing. **ALL** medications and any changes or additions to the medical information must be turned in to the Scoutmasters on the day of departure. The Troop stocks Advil, Tylenol, and Pepto Bismol in the first aid kit. If you would like to your child to have access to these medications on an as-needed basis, please include this information on your Medical Authorization Form. Note: If there are medications that a Scout must carry (i.e. inhalers, allergy medications, etc) please indicate this on the Medical Authorization Form. The form Medical Authorization Forms are available from the Scoutmasters.

9.3 Weekend Outing's

Preparations for all campouts begin two weeks in advance when SignUpGenius and payments are due. Around the same time, Patrols will plan their Patrol Menu and Grocery List during a Troop or Patrol meeting.

Only those items listed on the Menu are allowed on the campout no addition food or snacks are allowed. The menu should include all the nutritional requirements for the campout that is planned.

9.3.1 Funding for Outings

Scouts participating in camping trips will be responsible for the cost of the event. The troop dues do not provide sufficient funds to sponsor troop camping trips and events. The adult leader responsible for a particular camping trip will advise Scouts, with a flyer/note two weeks in advance, of any camp fees required.

Scouts participating in the event will make payments, by the due date prior to the departure for the camping trip. The adult who pulls the troop trailer will be given a gasoline stipend.

Note: If scout bucks are used for outings see section 11.4 for policy.

On occasion the troop will practice troop dining rather than the normal patrol method. In these cases the same procedure described in paragraph above will be used to plan and purchase food.

- ♣ Patrol leaders will prepare a duty roster for each camping trip and post it at the patrol campsite. The Patrol Leader shall maintain a patrol record on menu planning and food purchasing duties to ensure all members share in the responsibility.
- ♣ While we realize the dynamics of family schedules, parents must understand camping with large groups of Scouts requires detailed planning to ensure enough food, water, transportation, tents, funds and adult supervision. Unannounced participants create hardships on the entire troop, who have planned the smallest details and creates disharmony. Simply put, the troop shall have a firm commitment for camping trip participation, with supporting funds, not later than the due date before departure on an event.

9.3.2 The troop on outings

Camping: Whenever possible patrols shall camp as individual units and practice the patrol method. The intent is that each patrol will have:

- ✿ A separate campsite (tent group)
- ✿ Its own cook stove
- ✿ Its own cookware
- ✿ Its own patrol flag

Scouts will not leave a campsite without the permission of the Scoutmaster. The buddy system will be used on all camping trips; a buddy will accompany any Scout leaving the campsite.

All Scouts will share in the work and duties of their individual campsites. Patrol Leaders or equivalents will establish rotating schedules to assure that work such as cooking, cleaning, filling water jugs and gathering wood is done by all in a fair manner.

All members of Troop 279/7279 will observe the outdoor code. This includes leaving the campsite better than found.

Cooking: Various forms of cooking will be experienced, including individual, patrol and troop. Camping trip format will be determined by the Scoutmaster and will depend on the other activities scheduled.

9.3.3 Visitors on outings

Adult family members are encouraged to participate in troop camping trips. Guests will pay the same camp and food fees as other members of the troop. Guests will be expected to provide their own camping equipment, i.e., tents, bedding. The troop may be able to provide some equipment but requirements shall be identified in advance and the troop's ability to respond will depend on the number of members participating in the event.

Prospective Boy Scouts may be invited to attend camping trips/events in accordance with BSA regulations. A Scout intending to invite a guest for a camping trip will notify the Scoutmaster to insure the guest is factored in the planning for logistic support. A permission slip from the parent authorizing the guest to attend the event and a medical release form authorizing emergency treatment.

Non-adult female guest under 18 will be permitted on overnight camping trips if they have parental permission and on-site supervision by parents of at least one of the parties. Under no circumstance will unmarried male and female campers share tents. If there are female guests, one adult leader must be a woman 21 years of age or older.

10.0 Equipment and Resources

10.1 General

Troop 279/7279 operates under the old adage "*Take care of your gear and your gear will take care of you.*" Accordingly each Scout is responsible for providing his own personal camping equipment. The troop committee's responsibility is to secure adequate communal outdoor gear. The Committee Equipment Coordinator shall work closely with the troop quartermaster to maintain the troop's equipment with adequate repair and storage.

10.2 Categories of equipment

10.2.1 Personal equipment

Includes items such as pack, sleeping bag, canteen, flashlight, foul weather gear, etc. (See 10.4 for list) Scouts not in possession of personal equipment suitable for the conditions of an event, shall not be allowed to participate, i.e., rain or cold weather clothing, sleeping bag suitable for the climatic conditions, etc.

10.2.2 Troop equipment

Generally limited to those items necessary to provide for group activities, special events and to support adult participation at camping trips; tents, dining fly, tarpaulins, ropes, saws, camp shovels, troop trailer, etc.

10.2.3 Patrol Equipment Box

The troop will provide each Patrol the major portion of available equipment to include small group items such as chef kit, large cooking pots and pans, lantern, stove, propane bottle with hose and tree, patrol box, dish pans, etc.

10.3 Control of Equipment

10.3.1 Personal equipment

Each Scout is responsible for the purchase and use of his own equipment. It is strongly recommended that individual equipment be labeled or etched with the Scout's name, initials and/or identifying mark to avoid disputes over ownership of similar items.

10.3.2 Troop equipment

The troop Quartermaster is responsible for storage and control of troop equipment. The troop equipment is issued to the patrol leader, assistant patrol leader or acting patrol leader and is returned to the troop Quartermaster in clean usable condition.

10.3.3 Patrol equipment

For use by members of the patrol. Patrol specific items are color coded for each patrol box and Griddle Burner.

Each patrol in Troop 279/7279 will be responsible for the maintenance and care of the equipment needed for weekend camping trips and summer camp. All Troop equipment is purchased with funds generated during fund-raisers. Each patrol's equipment costs in excess of \$1,000, which is one reason why the Troop is extremely strict with their equipment use and abuse policy. All Scouts are expected to treat troop equipment as if it were their own personal equipment.

Each Patrol will be equipped with the necessary equipment.

10.4 Personal Equipment

Scouts are responsible for purchasing and maintaining some personal equipment. In order to help those that are just purchasing equipment, the Troop has the following recommendations on specific equipment. While we do not recommend going out and purchasing all the equipment at one time, the list is intended to provide parents with specific types of equipment that has been found to be usable or appropriate for Troop camping trips. All personal equipment should be marked with the Scout's name.

1. All Scouts are strongly encouraged to have a duffle bag or backpack. Backpacks can range in price from \$75 to \$125 but offer a great way to consolidate and store all personal gear.
2. Sleeping Bags with stuff sacks are necessary for all camping trips. The Troop recommends a three-season sleeping bag rated for -20 to 0-degree weather. Sleeping bags can get a little expensive. The warmer the rating on the bag, the more expensive. If you have an adequate sleeping bag currently, do not purchase a new one; consider purchasing a better quality at a later date, if your son really enjoys Scouting.
3. Hiking boots are essential on all Scouting outings. Inexpensive hiking boots are sufficient for the average growing Scout. As your son stops growing, you may wish to purchase better quality, more expensive boots.
4. Weather Gear is a must on all camping trips. One thing we have learned is that \$.99 rain ponchos are worth exactly what you pay for them. Consider purchasing a Backpacking Poncho.
5. Pocketknives are used by all Scouts when they earn their Totin' Chip card, which shows they have been trained in the use of knives, axes, and other axe yard equipment. **Fixed blade knives are not permitted.**
6. All Scouts should carry flashlights. The best buy on flashlights is the 2cell "AA" mini-Maglite. It comes with a carrying case and attaches to a belt. The cost is about \$15.00, is lightweight, and gives off a lot of light. There is no need for a larger flashlight on camping trips.

7. Foam Pads / Self-Inflating mattress are extremely important for a good night’s sleep. Water bottles are necessary on all backpacking trips and most camping trips where water is limited. A Scout is clean. All Scouts should have a small **toiletry kit** containing travel size toothpaste, deodorant, soap, toothbrush, and towel. All toiletries can be kept in a small zip-lock bag.

The above list represents specific, suggested equipment for camping trips. While every Scout should eventually have the equipment, please do not go out and purchase all the equipment at one time. Due to the cost of equipment the purchase should be restricted to essential items until you confirm the level of your Scouts interest in outdoor camping. Ask around, you’ll be surprised at how many people have some of the equipment you could borrow.

The following list is a personal equipment checklist of all items that should be brought on a camping trip. In addition, the Scout Handbook also has clothing and equipment checklists that should be reviewed for all camping trips.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Backpack ♣ Sleeping Bag ♣ Foam Sleeping Pad ♣ Scout Handbook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Scout Outdoor Essentials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Pocketknife</i> ▪ <i>First Aid Kit</i> ▪ <i>Change of Clothes for each day</i> ▪ <i>Rain Gear</i> ▪ <i>Water Bottle</i> ▪ <i>Flashlight</i> ▪ <i>Sun Protection</i> ▪ <i>Compass</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Boots ♣ Toiletry Kit ♣ Warm-Weather Clothing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Short-sleeve shirt</i> ▪ <i>T-shirts</i> ▪ <i>Hiking shorts</i> ▪ <i>Long pants</i> ▪ <i>Sweater or warm jacket</i> ▪ <i>Socks and underwear</i> ▪ <i>Hiking Boots</i> ▪ <i>Cap or Hat</i> ▪ <i>Bandannas</i>
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10.5 Sleeping policy

It is Troop 279/7279 policy that the boy/girls will sleep in tents in patrols in close proximity of other patrol members. Boys with Boys and Girls with Girls Only. This fills safety requirements and promotes working together as a patrol. Patrol leaders shall make tent assignments. The patrol leader will adhere to the desires of his/her patrol for tenting arrangements as much as possible. Scouts will be allowed to sleep alone at the discretion of the Scoutmaster only.

Adult Leader’s will sleep in separate tents from the Scouts, and female leaders will sleep separate from male leaders in accordance with BSA policies.

Adults desiring to accompany the troop on a camping trip must provide their own tent and sleeping gear, or make prior arrangements with the Scoutmaster.

10.6 Troop Library and Resources

The Troop maintains a library that consists of Merit Badge books and other important Scouting resources. All books are signed out, by Scouts, through the Troop Librarian.

11.0 Finance and Fund-raisers

Troop 279/7279 is a completely self-sufficient Troop that supports itself through fund-raisers and dues. The Troop uses the yearly dues to pay for registration, insurance, and all awards and advancements earned by the Scouts. The budget sets provisions for Youth Leader Training Awards and Advancement, equipment purchases, awards and recognition dinners, adult training, etc. The Troops Budget process is set-up in such a way that any excess funds can be used for trip subsidization. On more expensive Scouting trips the Troop tries to subsidize the cost of such trips in order to lessen the impact on the parent's budgets. The Troop Budget is based upon expected dues for the following year and expected income from the Troop's main fund-raisers.

Troop 279/7279 has its own bank account managed by our treasurer. Expenditures are made with the approval of the troop committee. The troop has three main sources of income – fund raisers, dues and fees assessed for specific events (such as campouts).

11.1 The Troop Budget

Each year the troop committee creates a budget of anticipated expenditures for the year ahead. What is troop money spent on? The troop buys new equipment from time to time (such as tents, Dutch ovens, stoves, and other camping gear). We also reimburse expenses that individuals incur in supporting the troop. All the gifts for new troop members are paid for by the troop. Adult registrations are paid for by the troop and registered leaders receive a copy of *Scouting* magazine, the BSA's leader publication. The troop treasury also fronts registration fees and deposits for activities which are generally required well before individual Scouts register for the trips. From time to time the costs of trips exceed the individual Scouts' payments and the troop will assume the difference to keep fees reasonable for the Scouts. The troop, like any organization, also has administrative fees (stamps, letters, etc.) that are paid from troop funds. The troop treasurer keeps a detailed budget that is presented at each committee meeting. *The troop fiscal year is August 1 through July 31.*

11.2 Fundraisers

The troop committee approves fundraising activities for the troop. Scouts and Scout families are encouraged to participate in these fundraisers. They rely heavily on everyone's participation to make them a success and they generate Scout Bucks for you. Each of these projects also involves a considerable amount of planning, and we're always looking for volunteers to assist with those parts of a fundraiser as well. Fundraisers are split 90/10 (unless specified). That is 90% Scout Bucks and 10% Troop Funds.

11.3 What is a Scout expected to pay for?

- ♣ Annual Fee is due in September each year. For new scouts transitioning into the troop, the fee will be prorated through August 31st.
- ♣ Scouts that attends an activity is expected to pay the fee for that activity. This covers registration and food.
- ♣ Summer camp and High adventure camps typically involve considerably higher fees as the cost of maintaining these camps is higher and the transportation costs involved.
- ♣ Camping gear – Scouts generally purchase some of their own camping gear, but most essential equipment is available for checkout from the troop. Please refer to 10.4 of this guide for suggestions relating to camping gear.
- ♣ Uniforms – Troop 279/7279 Scouts will have their own uniforms. See 7.8 for more information.
- ♣ Important note – A Scouts Scouting experience should never be limited for financial reasons. A number of programs are available should a family need help to underwrite the costs of Scouting. Also, the troop's "Scout Buck" program offers scouts a means to raise money for Scouting related expenses. Contact the Scoutmaster for more information.
- ♣ A note on deadlines – Most payments have an associated deadline. This allows the troop to better plan participation – and is particularly important when the troop is committing funds for a particular event. Please ensure you make payments on time.
- ♣ Leadership/NYLT Training- if your scout is selected by the Committee to attend one of the Leadership trainings. If you accept the opportunity to attend, the cost paid will be \$100 Troop/balance to Scout. If the scout should not complete the program, the scout will be responsible to pay the \$100 cost to troop for non-completion of program.

11.4 The Scout Buck Program

- ♣ *What is a Scout Buck?* - To help individual Scouts or Scouters underwrite the cost of the Scouting experience, Troop 279 developed the “Scout Buck” program to that end. The program sets aside a portion of the funds that Scouts or Scouters earn for the troop during a fundraising event and places it in a “Scout Buck” account for the individual Scout or Scouter, based on his participation in the fundraising event.
- ♣ *Where do Scout Bucks come from?* - The troop committee decides prior to a fundraising event how the profit will be split, or if it will be split, between Scout Bucks and the troop general fund.
- ♣ *Who can earn Scout Bucks?* - Any registered Scout or Scouters. Additionally scouting families or friends, if they participate in a Troop 279/7279 fundraiser, can earn Scout Bucks for a specific Scout.
- ♣ *What is the purpose of the Scout Buck program?* - The goal is to help a Scout that participates in a fundraiser with funding for scouting.
- ♣ *What can Scout Bucks be used for?* - Scout Bucks can be used for: 1) any type of Scouting fee (camping, camporees, dues); 2) Camping/hiking equipment not provided by the troop that will be used for Scouting; 3) Scout uniforms; 4) or any other item that the Scoutmaster approves some examples (books, manuals etc.).
- ♣ *Who can redeem Scout Bucks?* - Any Scout or Scouter in good standing and who is active in the troop.
- ♣ *How are Scout Bucks redeemed?* – Scout/Scouter can use Scout Bucks for a troop activity, for other fees, dues or approved purchases. Original Receipts must be provided within 90 days after the purchase to be reimbursed. The check will be issued in the amount of the receipt but not to exceed the account balance. Contact Troop Treasurer for balances on Scout Buck accounts.
 - Scout Bucks cannot be redeemed for any other purpose other than scouting due to tax implications.

Scout Bucks For Outings

Scout Bucks accounts must have a positive or zero balance as of the campout / event scheduled for any month throughout the scout year, or the scout will not be allowed to participate in that event or any subsequent events and/or meetings. If an account runs into the negative for more than 30 days following a campout / event, the scout will be suspended from all troop activities.

- If a Scout and parents wish to use Scout Bucks for Scout uniforms, bring the original receipt to the troop treasurer for reimbursement.
- If a Scout and parents wish to use Scout Bucks for hiking/camping equipment not provided by the troop they must get scoutmaster approval (this also enables the Scoutmaster to assist the Scout in purchasing the correct equipment). Bring the original receipt to the troop treasurer for reimbursement.
- ♣ *What happens when a Scout leaves the troop?* - If a scout transfers to a new troop or crew the Scout bucks can be transferred to that troop or crew for that scout if that troop or crew is a 501 (c) 3 organization. Otherwise when a Scout leaves Troop 279/7279 any unused balance of Scout Bucks reverts to the general fund after 30 days of departure.
- ♣ *What happens when a Scout turns 18?* - A Scout has 30 days before his 18th birthday to transfer his Scout Bucks’ If he does not, his Scout Bucks revert to the general fund. He has two options for transferring his scout bucks. He joins a crew and it could be transferred to that crew if the crew is a 501 (c) 3 organization. Or a Scout may register with Troop 279/7279 with intent of becoming an active adult leader with Troop 279/7279; in this case his Scout Buck account would remain intact.
- ♣ *What happens when a Scouter leaves the troop?* - If a Scouter is under the age of 21 and if he is in a crew he can transfers his balance or if he joins a Crew in either case provided it is a 501 (c) 3 organization, the balance of the Scout Bucks can be transferred to that Crew if requested in writing within 30 days prior to departure. Otherwise when a Scouter leaves Troop 279/7279. Any unused balance of Scout Bucks reverts to the general fund after 30 days of departure.

11.5 Helpful Scout Account (Benevolence)

This fund is set aside to assist any Scout that cannot afford to pay for an activity as listed.

- ✦ Funds to be used for youth only.
- ✦ Funds to be used for campouts, summer camp or camping equipment only.
- ✦ **High adventure** Trips are excluded from the fund due to the cost of these types of trips. Every opportunity will be made for a scout or parent to do fundraisers for these types of trips.

The amount of funds available:

- ✦ Account to have no more than \$600 at any time.
- ✦ Funds will come from the first 5% of all troop organized major fundraisers.

Who can receive the funds:

- ✦ Funds are available to any active scout in the troop.
- ✦ The maximum fund to any one scout is \$200.00 in any fiscal scout year.
- ✦ Scouts should have participated in one of the troop fundraisers.
- ✦ Request must be made to one of the following: Committee Chair, Troop Treasurer, or the Scoutmaster.
- ✦ Once a request has been made the Committee Chair, Troop Treasurer and Scoutmaster will discuss the request and approve it or deny it based on the scout's activity in the troop and whether or not the scout has participated in a fundraiser in the past or a planned future fundraiser.
- ✦ Requests should be made no less than 2 weeks prior to any event's payment due date except for summer camp, when the request must be made no less than 2 months prior to the payment due date.
- ✦ Funds are available on a first come, first served need basis.

11.6 Requisition and Reimbursement of Funds

- ✦ The Scoutmaster and some Committee Members based on their position have a set-spending limit by the committee and they are issued Debit Cards for the troop account.
- ✦ All Debit Card holders must use the "Requisition and Reimbursement of funds request form and attach receipt for all purchase up to their spending limit without prior committee approval to account for the purchase. The Committee sets the spending limits at the annual planning meeting for each year.
- ✦ When troop funds are needed or to be used, over the set spending limit for Debit cardholders or by others person they must request the funds to be allocated based on need.
- ✦ The funds must be requested using the "funds request form" (Can be found in the appendix). This form should be completed and turned into the treasurer.
- ✦ All requests should be turned in at least one month prior to the need, so that the treasurer will have time do any research necessary prior to presenting the request before the committee.
- ✦ The Treasurer presents request to the committee. Committee discusses the item and will be voted upon.
- ✦ The treasurer will record the decision of the committee on the "funds request form" and will either issue the amount or decline the request.
- ✦ Emergency Purchases will also be recorded on this form
- ✦ The treasurer will assign the proper account and record it accordingly. All receipts will be stapled to the form and filed.
- ✦ If reimbursement is to be put in your scout bucks keep in mind that it will then be treated as scout buck and the scout bucks guideline apply.

12.0 Service to Others

"One more item is needed to complete success, and that is the rendering of service to others in the community."

-- Lord Robert Baden-Powell

One of the fundamental underpinnings of the Scouting program has always been service to others. While some Scout ranks require service hours for advancement, in Troop 279/7279 we emphasize the importance of ongoing service – that service to others is not to be thought of as simply a requirement to be checked off. Scouts should report all of their service hours, not just those involving Scout activities. Citizenship and service are not something practiced once a week at Scout meetings, but represent traits that the Scouting program promotes at all times. The goal is to build solid citizens and service is an important part of that goal.

12.1 What are Service Hours?

Service to others is simply that – when the service is given without remuneration or direct benefit to the Scout. Shoveling the snow from your neighbor’s walkway is not service if you get paid for it. Performing the work as a favor, without pay, constitutes service time. Here are a few examples of community service:

- ✿ Alter server in church
- ✿ Clean up or repair work at a church or community center
- ✿ Volunteer work in a food bank, community center, retirement home, or charity such as Habitat for Humanity, etc
- ✿ Reading to shut-ins
- ✿ Working on a conservation project
- ✿ Picking up trash along a highway
- ✿ Serving a volunteer tutor for students

While it’s important to know what can be used as service hours, it’s also important to know what is NOT considered community service. Activities for which you’re paid is clearly not community service. Also, Scout fundraising events where the beneficiary is the troop or Scouting would NOT be community service. A fundraising event where all of the proceeds are turned over to a charity, however, would be community service. In Troop 279/7279, working on our main fundraisers are not community service, but time spent working on Eagle projects certainly is. Please ask one of the Scoutmaster if there are any questions in this area.

12.2 Recording Service Hours

Recording service hours is simple. We have a form on the website to record those hours (copy in the appendix). Please note that the project should be approved in advance by one of the adult leaders. If we’re working on a troop project (such as Scouting for Food or an Eagle project), the adult leaders will keep track of a Scout’s participation and record the hours, so a special form need not be submitted.

13.0 Other Miscellaneous Topics

13.1 The Troop Calendar and Annual Planning Meeting

Every year, in August, the troop meets to set its schedule for the following fiscal year. Inputs are solicited from the committee, parents, and Scouts and the group puts together its activity schedule. All parents and Scouts are strongly encouraged to attend. Our general guidelines include:

- ✿ A monthly campout
- ✿ Minimizing conflict with school holidays
- ✿ Attendance at both the fall and spring District camporees
- ✿ Winter cabin camping during selected months

13.2 Order of the Arrow

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is Scouting’s camping honor society. Its four stated purposes are:

- ✿ To recognize those Scout campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives,
- ✿ To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit,
- ✿ To promote Scout camping, and
- ✿ To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

To become eligible for membership a Scout must meet the minimum criteria (a certain number of days camping, First Class rank, etc.) and be elected by the members of the troop. Elections are held at one of the troop meetings in the Jan – March time frame. Scouts that are elected are “called out” at the district’s spring camporee and are offered the opportunity to accept the challenge of the “ordeal” to become a member. To add to the mystery of the experience, the ordeal and ceremonies associated with the OA are generally not discussed outside of OA membership. This has sometimes led to the OA being erroneously called a “secret society”, but all ceremonies, scripts, events, etc., are open to interested adults. There are no “secret societies” or ceremonies within Boy Scouting. As with the rest of the Scouting program, no hazing or demeaning activity is permitted. Adult leaders are also eligible for OA membership and are nominated by troop, district, or council leadership. Only about 12% of the Scouts and Scouters are OA members.

13.3 Special Awards

Boy Scouts can earn special awards from a wide variety of sources. Social groups, veteran's organizations, community groups, and many other organizations offer awards and prizes to Scouts. The award can range from a simple patch or certificate to cash prizes. Rules are often highlighted in Scouting magazines such as *Boys' Life* or flyers received by the troop. As these come up they're announced at troop meetings.

The Boy Scouts also have a number of awards to reflect Scout's achievements. A partial listing of these can be found in chapter seventeen of the *Boy Scout Handbook*.

Many summer camps offer awards for fulfillment of certain criteria while at the camp. Scouts, troops, or patrols can earn recognition for completion of an established set of requirements.

Each major religion sponsors a religious emblem that Scouts can earn. These are administered by the religious organizations themselves and the requirements are laid out by the religious organization's central leadership.

In addition to Rank Advancements and Merit Badges, Boy Scouts may earn a number of other Badges and Award

- ✿ **Hiking Awards**

- ✿ **50 Miler Award**

- ✿ **Historic Trails Award**

Service, Conservation, and Scoutcraft Emblems

- ✿ **Den Chief Service Award**

- ✿ **Fireman Chit card**

- ✿ **Totin' Chip card**

- ✿ **Paul Bunyan Woodsman patch**

- ✿ **Leave No Trace Awareness Award (Also available to Adults)**

- ✿ **William T. Hornaday Awards (Gold Badge and Gold Medal are available to Adults)**

- ✿ **World Conservation Award**

Aquatics Emblems

- ✿ **Boardsailing, BSA**

- ✿ **BSA Lifeguard (Also available to Adults)**

- ✿ **Mile Swim, BSA**

- ✿ **Snorkeling, BSA**

- ✿ **Kayaking, BSA**

- ✿ **Scuba, BSA**

Other Awards and Emblems

- ✿ **Crime Prevention Award (Verify locally to be sure it is still available in your Council)**

- ✿ **Guidelines**

- ✿ **Requirements**

- ✿ **Donor Awareness (Verify locally to be sure it is still available in your Council)**

- ✿ **International Activity Badge**

- ✿ **International Youth Exchange Emblem (also available to Adults)**

- ✿ **Interpreter Strips (Also available to Adults)**

- ✿ **National Court of Honor Lifesaving and Merit Awards (Also available to Adults)**

- ✿ **Honor Medal with Crossed Palms**

- ✿ **Honor Medal**

- ✿ **Heroism Award**

- ✿ **Medal of Merit**

- ✿ **National Certificate of Merit**

- ✿ **Local Certificate of Merit**

- ✿ **Recruiter Strip**

- ✿ **Religious Emblems**

13.4 Troop 279 Awards

Additionally, Troop 279 has established several awards that can be earned by its Scouts and adult leaders.

- ✿ **Patrol of the Month** – awarded monthly to the patrol that has the highest score in a competition that includes participation, advancement, and community service

- ✿ The Century Camping Award – Awarded to a Scout or Scouter for completing 100 nights of Boy Scout camping
- ✿ The Century Hiking Award – Awarded to a Scout or Scouter for completing 100 miles of hiking.
- ✿ The One Match Fire Award – Given to a Scout or Scouter that has built a fire started with only one match using only natural materials.
- ✿ The No Match Fire Award – Given to a Scout or Scouter that has built a fire started via a “primitive” means (e.g. flint and steel or bow drill)
- ✿ Polar Bear Camping – Given to a Scout or Scouter that has spent a night of tent camping in temperatures below freezing (32° F).

14.0 Expectations of Scouts and Parents

*"The spirit is there in every boy; it has to be discovered and brought to light."
- Lord Robert Baden-Powell*

14.1 Scouts

- ✿ Live by the Scout Oath and Law
- ✿ Support the Scouting program in word and deed
- ✿ Obey and respect Scout and adult leaders
- ✿ Arrive for activities on time and prepared for the activity
- ✿ Encourage other boys to join Scouting
- ✿ Treat fellow Scouts and adult leaders with respect
- ✿ Continue to advance
- ✿ Be an active participant in the troop
- ✿ Fulfill the requirements of any leadership position you accept
- ✿ Respect the uniform and wear it properly

14.2 Parents

- ✿ Support your son's Scouting activities
 - ❖ Help him to meet the expectations of a Scout, as listed above
 - ❖ Monitor his advancement in the program and provide encouragement and guidance
 - ❖ Ensure he is prepared for activities and arrives on time
 - ❖ Allow him to grow – do not do his work for him
 - ❖ Ensure he follows through on his commitments
 - ❖ Be aware of the obligations of leadership and ensure he follows through on those obligations
 - ❖ Try to de-conflict family obligations with Scouting activities
 - ❖ Attend Court of Hours to support your sons as he is recognized for his advancement within the program.
 - ❖ Ensure payments are made on time and that all required paperwork (e.g. permission slips, medical forms) are completed and turned in by established deadlines

- ✿ Support the troop
 - ❖ Become involved in the troop at some level
 - ❖ Complete Scouting's basic adult training
 - ❖ Actively participate in fundraising activities

Scoutmaster's Closing Comments

In my role of Scoutmaster, I've been asked "what constitutes a successful Scout?" The question really has no answer. Scouting is a personal experience and appeals to different scouts in different ways. As adults, we also define success in many ways – some seek high position, some measure success in terms of income, others may be motivated by a sense of discovery – "success" can be an elusive term to measure. If I were to offer one definition of success as a Scout, it would simply be that a man or woman look back on their Scouting experience with a smile and know that they are better man or women for having been a Scout.

To Scouts, set your goals and stick to them. You'll feel better about yourself as you make your way through the program. Start with achieving the First Class rank – that marks you as a "complete Scout" – you've learned the basic skills of Scouting that will serve you well for the rest of your life. Try to participate in as many Scouting activities as you can. It's through activities – particularly outdoor activities – that you grow. But, above all, have fun. Life is an adventure. Enjoy the ride.

For parents, in Scouting you have a unique opportunity. Actuarial tables tell us that the life expectancy in the US these days is about 77.6 years. Your scouts time in Scouting will only represent about 9% of that total. You have a short sliver of time to share Scouting experiences together – to enjoy life's ride side by side. What could be better than doing so away from the distractions of modern life where you can share in the most simple and basic ways. Scouting isn't just for the scouts – it's for us all.

Scouting is a wonderful program and offers scouts a tremendous opportunity to grow as individuals, learn leadership by being leaders, learn skills that they'll use throughout their lives, and develop as solid citizens. As with anything else in life, however, results are directly proportional to commitment. The most successful Scouts are motivated and nearly always have the strong backing of a committed family. In Troop 279/7279 we have dedicated leaders who will work hard with our Scouts to help them achieve their potential, but getting the most out of the program takes an active partnership among parents, Scouts, and Scouting leaders. Working together we can maximize the benefit of the program for our troop and our Scouts.

Happy Scouting!



Justin G. Sayre, Scoutmaster

Appendix

Sample Forms – referenced in the Guide.

Actual forms are available on the troop website.

Troop Camping Checklist

This is the basic checklist that boys should use when packing for camping when we can park close to the campsite.

Service Project Report

Use this form to record service hours – when filled out turn in to the Scoutmaster.

Requisition and Reimbursement of Funds

Use this form to **requisites and/or be reimbursement for Funds for Troop related purchases**

Affirmation and Agreement

Use to acknowledge a scout and parents fully understand the Troop Guidelines and intend to practice those Guidelines at all times while with the Troop

Reader Comments

Used to provide any recommendations or suggestions on how we might improve the Troop.

suggestions - delete items if not needed (e.g., you're not likely to need swim trunks on a winter camping trip)

[roop 279 Campout Suggested Equipment List](#)

Bedding

- Sleeping Pad (Therm-a-Rest)
- Sleeping bag in a Stuff Sack
- Pillow

Clothing

- Class A uniform shirt
- Class B t-shirt(s)
- Underwear and socks for a weekend (plus an extra or 2)
- Shorts or Pants (Check the weather forecast)
- T-shirts or Sweatshirts
- PJs or equivalent
- Tennis shoes/hiking boots
- Poncho or other raingear (Always pack it)
- Jacket, Gloves, Hat (Depending on weather)

Hygiene

- Toothbrush, toothpaste
- Insect repellent
- Deodorant

Personal

- Flashlight
- Playing cards, games.
- Camera if you choose.
- Prescription medication (Give to Justin or adult in charge)

Daytime needs

- Scout handbook
- Notebook (spiral or steno)
- Pencils/Pens
- Water bottle
- Sunglasses (Depending on weather)
- Hat

Service Project Report
BSA Troop 279/7279

Please use this form to report service hours.

Scout Name: _____

Description of Service Project: _____

Signature of SM or ASM:

_____ Date: _____

Signature of Adult Sponsor of Service Project:

_____ Date: _____

Number of hours completed on project	Date

Total number of service hours: _____

Requisition and Reimbursement of Funds

REQUESTED BY: _____ DATE SUBMITTED: _____
 REASON FOR REQUEST: _____

	ITEMS TO BE REIMBURSED ALL ITEMS SEPERATELY	PRE-APPROVED OR EMERGENCY PURCHASE	BUDGETED AMOUNT	ACTUAL ITEM COST	REIMBURSEMENT METHOD	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

COMMITTEE APPROVAL & DATE: _____ REIMBURSEMENT GIVEN & DATE: _____
 COMMITTEE DECLINED & DATE: _____ TREASURER: _____ COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: _____
 COMMITTEE REASON FOR DECLINING: _____

Affirmation and Agreement

Parents,

A lot of time and effort has gone into establishing Troop 279/7279 with the strong foundation it is today. In 1998, we were sitting with 8 registered and 5 active Boy Scouts. Our Scoutmaster has been acting Scoutmaster since 1998 but was officially registered Feb 6, 2001, he had to wait until he turned 21. He is an Eagle Scout from this Troop, in 2008 was awarded Scoutmaster of the Year for the Tri-Creek District, and in 2011 was awarded The Silver Beaver Award (*Scouting's highest adult honor at the local council level*) in the Simon Kenton Council

To set our path on the right course, we have written this Handbook. This is intended to cover all aspects of our troop and how we function. We needed to adopt procedures so that we all know what is expected and when. This is a lengthy document, but you need to sit down with your scout and go over what is in it. Some may or may not be relevant to him. After you have gone over this with your Scout, use SignUpGenius to submit to Committee you have reviewed/talk over with your Scout. This will be kept on file.

Thank you,

Brenda Kucker, Committee Chairman Troop 279/7279

Justin Sayre, Scoutmaster Troop 279/7279

Hold Harmless Agreement

I understand that participation in Scouting activities involves a certain degree of risk and can be physically, mentally, and emotionally demanding. I have carefully considered the risk involved and have given consent for myself or my child to participate in this activity. I also understand that participation in this activity is entirely voluntary and requires participants to abide by applicable rules and standards of conduct. I release the Boy Scouts of America, the local council, the activity coordinators, and all employees, volunteers, related parties, or other organizations associated with the activity from any and all claims or liability arising out of this participation. In case of emergency involving my child, I understand every effort will be made to contact me. In the event I cannot be reached, I hereby give my permission to the medical provider selected by the adult leader in charge to secure proper treatment, including hospitalization, anesthesia, surgery, or injections of medication for my child. Medical providers are authorized to disclose to the adult in charge examination findings, test results, and treatment provided for purposes of medical evaluation of the participant, follow-up and communication with the participant's parents or guardian, and/or determination of the participant's ability to continue in the program activities.

READER COMMENTS

Please provide any recommendations or suggestions on how we might improve the **Troop 279/7279 Handbook**. Send to Scoutmaster or Committee Chair

