

TROOP 212
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
MOUNT DIABLO SILVERADO COUNCIL
MORAGA, CALIFORNIA
www.BSA-Troop212.org

SCOUT OATH

**ON MY HONOR I WILL DO MY BEST
TO DO MY DUTY TO GOD AND MY COUNTRY
AND TO OBEY THE SCOUT LAW;
TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES;
TO KEEP MYSELF PHYSICALLY STRONG,
MENTALLY AWAKE, AND MORALLY STRAIGHT.**

SCOUT LAW

**A SCOUT IS
TRUSTWORTHY, LOYAL, HELPFUL, FRIENDLY,
COURTEOUS, KIND, OBEDIENT, CHEERFUL,
THRIFTY, BRAVE, CLEAN AND REVERENT.**

SCOUT MOTTO

BE PREPARED

SCOUT SLOGAN

DO A GOOD TURN DAILY

2010
PARENT'S GUIDE AND RESOURCE BOOK

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March 1, 2010

Dear Parents:

Welcome to Troop 212 and to Scouting!

Although greater details are set forth in this book about the Troop and its programs and how it operates, here is a brief summary of our program and our expectations:

STRONG VALUES
STRONG LEADERS
CHARACTER COUNTS

SCOUTMASTER

Rainer "Rhino" Del Valle

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Eric "Viking" Andresen

SCOUTMASTER EMERITUS

Thomas J. "Mac" McIntosh

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

Burt "Admiral B" Benson

ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTERS

Gary "Kodak" Cole
Dan Cushing
Dr. Robert "DiMar" DiMartino
Dan "DJ" Gannett
Rick "Hap" Hazard
Jerry "JJ" Johnson
Gary "Mario!" Kaprielian
Don "Hopalong" Stephens
Dr. Richard "Doctor T" Terry
Nat "Hawk" Weber
Nelson "Nellie" Wilkerson

TROOP 212 – B.S.A.

www.bsa-troop212.org

1100 Moraga Way, Suite 204
Moraga, California 94556
(925) 631-1005
(925) 631-1101 Fax
Scoutmaster@BSA-Troop212.org

- 1. ATTENDANCE** - Your son is expected to attend every Troop meeting and most outings. The Scouts take great pride in the Troop and enjoy each other and thus make every effort to maintain 100% attendance. Participation is a key element to achieving an esprit de corps.
- 2. UNIFORM** - Your son's uniform will consist of these Scout items: short sleeve shirt, shorts, socks, belt, and neckerchief; his neckerchief and the patches will be presented to him by the Troop. In the Uniform section of this booklet you will find more information about what to buy, and there is a chart that shows where to sew the patches on the shirt and the sash.
- 3. OUTINGS** - This is an "outing" Troop. Each year we average 12 to 15 activities. These include weekend campouts, high adventure activities, one week of summer camp (Wilderness Camp at Camp Timberwolf), conservation projects, community service projects, work parties at the Hut, work parties at Camp Timberwolf, and fund raising projects. (Some of these are "required" and some are optional.)
- 4. EQUIPMENT** – In addition to his uniform, your son will need equipment suitable for camping (an equipment list is included with this booklet).
- 5. PARENTAL ASSISTANCE** – Since we are a large, active Troop, it is necessary that the parents participate in some way during each scouting year. We realize that many have jobs that keep them on the go and that not all can participate at the same level. That is okay. There are many jobs to do and we know that you will find your niche and thus contribute in the way that you can.
- 6. DUES – TROOP FUNDS** - We collect annual dues for each boy in the Troop; the Troop year is from October 1 to September 30 – so annual dues are based on that time period. Annual dues are one component of the funds necessary to operate the Troop. The dues take care of registration with the BSA, insurance, Boy's Life magazine, and other expenses of the Troop. Your son will be coming into the Troop in mid-year (May), so the initial fee is one-half (1/2) the annual charge.

7. DOC DEL VALLE CAMBERSHIP FUND – Over a span of almost 35 years Rafael “Doc” Del Valle regularly served as the Troop’s Doctor, including more than a dozen weeks at summer camp. Like so many adult leaders, he became a fixture and a beloved member of the Troop. Upon his passing, several donations were made to the Troop allowing the creation of the Doc Del Valle Campership Fund.

The purpose for the Doc Del Valle Campership Fund is to ensure that all 212 scouts have the opportunity to participate in the events offered by the troop. The Fund was established in recognition that unforeseen life events and financial difficulties can occur that can make payment for Troop events a hardship. Partial or complete assistance with the costs associated with membership or a specific troop event can be arranged, confidentially, directly and only with the Troop’s Committee Chairman.

If desired, arrangements can be made for reimbursements back to the Fund. Contributions to the Fund are also encouraged and quite welcome.

When a boy joins the Troop, we want him to have the goal of earning the Eagle Scout award. If a boy works at it, this takes approximately 5 to 6 years. During this time the leaders of Troop 212 and the Troop Committee will give him a great deal of encouragement. However, this is not enough! Our program is built around:

ATTENDANCE - SPIRIT - ADVANCEMENT

If you do your part to encourage the above, you will have a lot of fun too, your son will be an all around Scout, and he will achieve his goals in Scouting.

If you have questions concerning anything about the Troop, please feel free to call me at 925-299-0693 or email me at T212Rhino@AOL.com, or call any of the other leaders at any time.

Yours in Scouting,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rainer Del Valle". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Rainer “Rhino” Del Valle,
Scoutmaster
Troop 212 Eagle Scout #91



TROOP MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Troop is that of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, which is to prepare young people to make ethical, moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.

GOALS AND PURPOSES OF THE TROOP

The goals and purposes of the Troop are to carry out its mission and the Vision of the National Council by:

- Offering the Scouts, boys ages 11 to 18, venues for responsible fun and adventure;
- Instilling in the Scouts lifetime values and developing in them ethical character;
- Developing the Scout's leadership potential through leadership training and the operation of boy-run programs;
- Training the Scouts in good citizenship and community service; and
- Developing in the Scout a clear understanding of their duty to God.

VISION STATEMENT OF THE TROOP

The Troop is a part of the Boy Scouts of America, which is the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training.

In the future, Scouting and Troop 212 will continue to:

- Offer young people responsible fun and adventure;
- Instill in young people lifetime values and develop in them ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and the Scout Law;
- Train young people in citizenship, service, duty to God, and leadership;
- Serve America's communities and families with its quality, values-based programs.



INFORMATION REGARDING TROOP 212, BSA

March 1, 2010

Troop 212 is a community troop sponsored by Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. The Troop has been chartered since 1951; it was organized in Moraga in 1961 by Tom "Pop" Clarke, Scoutmaster Emeritus. The Troop meets every Tuesday night from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the "Scout Hut" at 1279 Moraga Road, across the street from the Moraga Fire Department.

There are generally 65-75 boys, ages 11 to 18, actively participating in the Troop. The Scoutmaster is Rainer "Rhino" Del Valle, Troop 212 Eagle #91, who is assisted by ten trained and experienced Assistant Scoutmasters and a trained High Adventure Team. Helping Rhino in leading the Troop is our Committee Chairman, Eric "Viking" Andresen. Tom "Mac" McIntosh, Scoutmaster from 1974–2008 and now Scoutmaster Emeritus, is also actively involved in the Troop, continuing to provide his guidance, leadership and expertise along with Chairman Emeritus Burt "Admiral B" Benson, who served the Troop for more than 20 years.

The Troop sponsors a variety of outdoor activities, with an outing occurring every month except August and December. These activities include weekend campouts during the school year, and during the summer a one-week camp for the entire troop and a weeklong high adventure activity.

The high adventure activities include backpack treks in the High Sierras, at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, in Alaska and the Yukon Territory, and the West Coast Trail on Vancouver Island in British Columbia. We also sponsor canoe treks at Quetico Canoe Base in Northern Minnesota, on the Green River in Utah, and on the Yukon River in the Yukon Territory of Canada; and we try to make sure every scout, at some point during his tenure in Troop 212, has a chance to go to BSA's Sea Base, in Florida, to spend a week sailing a tall-masted wooden ship. For those who like to ride bicycles, we sponsor bike treks in Oregon, Canada and Europe. Trained and experienced adult trek leaders lead all of these high adventure treks.

The Boy Scouts of America is a values-based organization that has its own Code of Conduct: the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout Motto and the Scout Slogan; all found printed inside the front and back cover of this Guidebook.

The Troop's motto is "Advancement - Spirit - Attendance." The Troop operates a boy lead program in accordance with rules of conduct that are consistent with what one expects from Boy Scouts.

The purposes of the Troop's programs are to teach camping, backpacking, and related skills, and to enjoy the out-of-doors and the fellowship of scouting; the goals of the Troop's programs are to teach and develop leadership skills, to help boys grow and develop into responsible young men and good citizens, and to develop a wholesome reverence toward God.

**TROOP 212
ORGANIZATION**



ORGANIZATION OF BOY SCOUTS:

The national organization of the boy scouts is the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America ("BSA"), which is headquartered in Irving, Texas.

The National Council is subdivided into regions and local councils. Troop 212 is a part of the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council, which is a part of the Western Region.

The Mt. Diablo Silverado Council, which is headquartered in Pleasant Hill, is divided into districts; we are a part of the Aklan District, which basically is the Lamorinda area.

ORGANIZATION OF THE TROOP:

The Troop is organized on the basis of and uses the original Lord Baden-Powell model: the Patrol Method. The older scouts comprise the "Staff," which provides support to the Senior Patrol Leader. The younger scouts are assigned, on a random basis, to patrols; each of which is an age-wise cross section of the younger scouts.

TROOP LEADERSHIP:

The "chain of command" starts with the Scoutmaster and Committee Chairman, then the Adult Leaders, the Senior Patrol Leader, and Patrol Leaders. The "Troop Committee," which is comprised of parents, supports the programs and activities of the Troop.

The Troop is a boy-run troop. The Adult Leaders provide guidance and counseling, but the Senior Patrol Leader runs the Troop. Assisting him are the Junior Assistant Scoutmasters (JASM – pronounced "Jazz'-em") and the Staff (the senior scouts). Each patrol has a Patrol Leader and an Assistant Patrol Leader. The Patrol Leader is responsible for the care, feeding, quartering, and training of the scouts in his patrol.

The adult leadership of the Troop is:

Scoutmaster:

Rainer "Rhino" Del Valle

Committee Chairman:

Eric "Viking" Andresen

Scoutmaster Emeritus

Tom "Mac" McIntosh

Committee Chairman Emeritus:

Burt "Admiral B" Benson

Assistant Scoutmasters:

Gary "Kodak" Cole

Bob "DiMar" DiMartino

Rick "Hap" Hazard

Gary "Mario!" Kaprielian

Dick "Doctor T" Terry

Nelson "Nellie" Wilkerson

Dan Cushing

Dan "DJ" Gannett

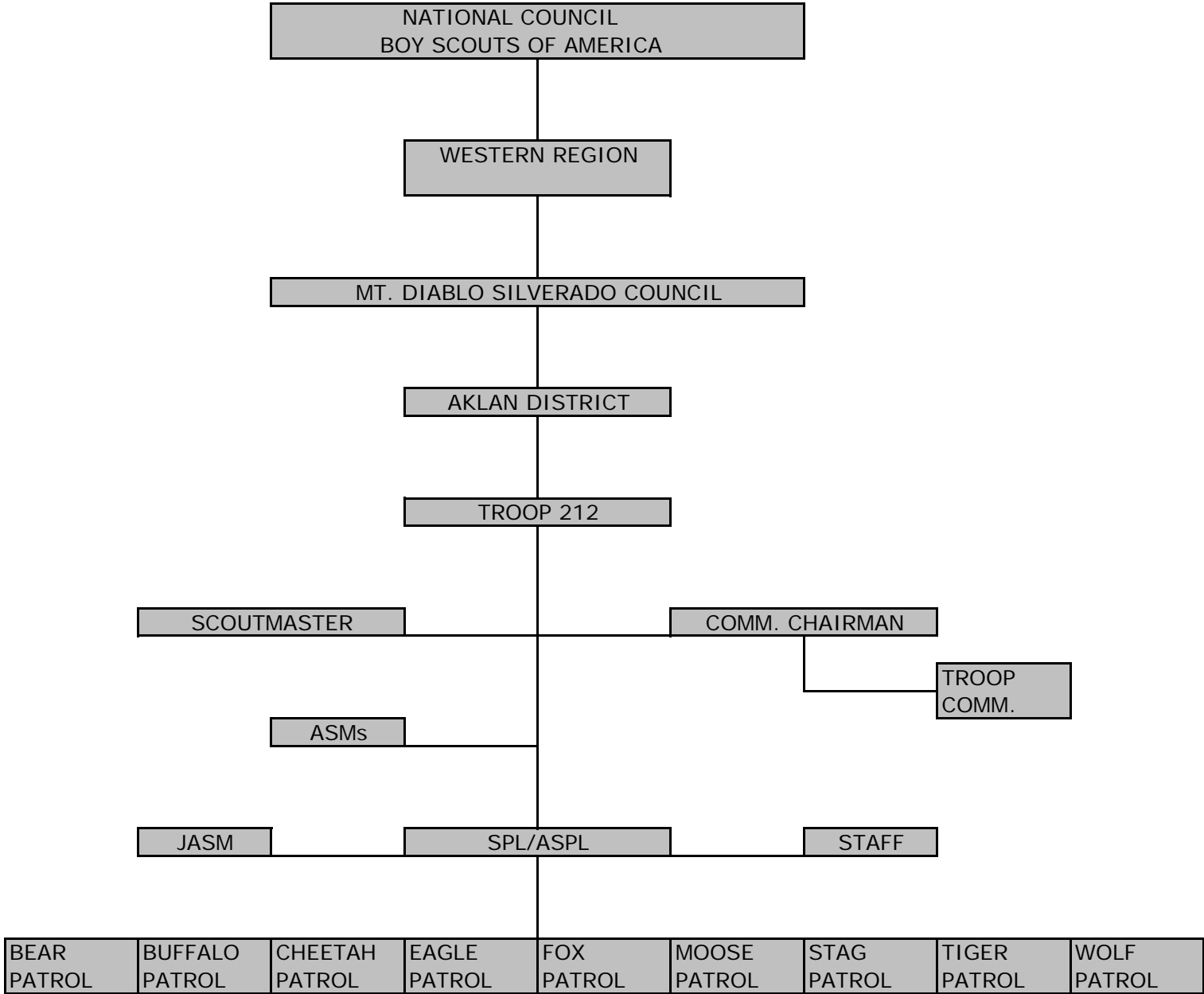
Jerry "JJ" Johnson

Don "Hopalong" Stephens

Nat "Hawk" Weber

(Every adult leader in the Troop has a "camp name," giving them an easier name for Scouts to use.)

ORGANIZATION OF BOY SCOUTS, NATIONAL COUNCIL TO PATROLS





THE TROOP COMMITTEE

The policies, programs, activities, leadership, and operation of the Troop are provided oversight by the Troop Committee. The Troop Committee is lead by the Committee Chairman, Eric "Viking" Andresen.

The National Council model is for the Troop Committee to meet monthly and to be closely involved in the running of the troop. Under the National Council model, the Troop Committee functions much like a board of directors and usually consists of the Troop Treasurer, the Transportation Chairman, the Camping Chairman, the Advancement Chairman, the Quartermaster Chairman, and such other individuals as are needed to represent the functions of the troop.

We have found that the parents in Moraga have very full schedules and that meetings are not highly desired. Therefore the Troop's policies, programs, activities, operations, and day-to-day operational guidance are provided by the adult leaders (who are trained and aware of and understand the policies and standards of the National Council), subject to the general oversight of the Committee Chairman and input and feedback from the parents. Although the adult leaders essentially function as a Troop Committee, we are sensitive to the fact that the Troop belongs to the boys and the parents.

Thus the Troop 212 Committee is organized more as a support organization than as a board of directors. For further details on the makeup of the Troop 212 committee, see the "Committee" page of the Troop's web site at www.bsa-troop212.org.



MERIT BADGES AND MERIT BADGES COUNSELORS

THE MERIT BADGE PROGRAM

A scout progresses on two “tracks” in Scouting: Rank and leadership.

Rank marks the personal progression of the scout. When a scout enters the Troop as a new scout, his rank is “Scout” (the boys refer to that as a “Rookie”). The progression is Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle.

One of the requirements of a scout in order to advance in rank, starting at advancement to Second Class, is to earn merit badges. Merit badges are studies of specific topics. For each merit badge, there is a BSA book (Merit Badge Book) that sets forth the requirements and that has an informative text on the subject.

The purposes of the merit badge program are to expose a scout to learning different skills and topics, which sometimes leads to hobbies and even careers; to teach the scout how to organize approaching a task and completing a task; to give the scout an opportunity to meet and interact with adults; and to build self esteem through successfully meeting a challenge and achieving success.

MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS

For each merit badge, one or more adults serve as a merit badge counselor. A merit badge counselor is one who, on the basis of hobby, special knowledge, or interest, volunteers to be the adult who guides scouts through the satisfactory completion of the requirements of a merit badge. (See Merit Badge Counselors Guide later in this book.)

We ask that all parents sign up to serve as a merit badge counselor for at least one merit badge, but for no more than three. For a list of Merit Badge Counselors, see the “Counselors” page on the Troop’s web site at www.bsa-troop212.org.

**TROOP 212
POLICIES**



STATEMENT OF GENERAL POLICIES

February 2, 1989

1. **PURPOSE OF STATEMENT:** Any organization, in order to be successful in achieving its purposes and to have meaning and relevance, must be important to its members, must have members and leaders who are dedicated to its objectives, and must set high goals and standards. Toward this end and to achieve clarity of understanding, this Statement of General Policies, as adopted by the Troop Leadership Council, is promulgated.
2. **CONDUCT AND DEPARTMENT:** It is expected that all members of the troop will at all times, to the best of their ability, live by and exemplify the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. Scouts are expected to obey troop rules, show respect to troop leaders, and to be courteous to leaders and each other.
3. **GENERAL POLICIES:**
 - Scouts are expected to attend all troop functions. If it is impossible to attend a troop function, the scout should notify the scoutmaster AND his patrol leader in advance.
 - Scouts may not bring to campouts or summer camp any gear not specifically authorized by the scoutmaster. Radios, tape recorders, walkman type devices, and personal stoves are specifically not authorized.
 - Profanity is not permitted.
 - Scouts are not permitted at any time to have tobacco in their possession.
 - No person, scout or adult, is permitted to bring any alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or controlled substances to any troop function or any function sponsored by the troop or any of its organizations.
 - Scouts should be punctual at all times. To this end, they should arrive at troop meetings at 7:25 p.m. in order that the meeting may start at 7:30 p.m. sharp. Meetings will end at 8:30 p.m. sharp.
 - The designated uniform should be worn at all functions.
 - Scouts should not have any medicines in their possession unless the scoutmaster, or the camp doctor if applicable, is so advised in advance and given written instructions regarding proper administration of the medicine.
 - At no time will scouts play with matches or fire nor will they have any fire or burning material in or near a tent.

4. **PERFECT ATTENDANCE:** Perfect attendance is defined as having attended and participated in all Troop meetings and required campouts without having missed, in a consecutive twelve (12) month period, more than three (3) meetings and/or campout days. (See Troop Attendance and Participation Policies.)

5. **PATROL ASSIGNMENTS:** Generally, we do not like to move scouts from one patrol to another. However, we are aware that valid reasons may exist for a reassignment. If a scout is dissatisfied with his patrol or is having difficulty with his patrol leader or with other scouts in the patrol, the scout or his parents may feel free to discuss these matters with any leader with assurance that the discussion will be kept in strict confidence.

6. **RESPONSIBILITY FOR TROOP EQUIPMENT:** The Troop has sufficient organizational camping gear to outfit each patrol. The gear will be signed out to the patrol leader prior to a campout and turned in at the first troop meeting after a campout. The patrol will be held financially responsible for damaged or lost gear.

7. **FOOD FOR CAMPOUTS:** Most campouts require the patrol to prepare food as a group. Food purchase and cost sharing will be administered by the patrol leader at the patrol level. One patrol member should be selected to purchase the food and supplies required. The total cost should be estimated and paid in advance. Over-collection should be reimbursed.

8. **MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS:** Except in cases approved by the Scoutmaster in advance, parents may not act as merit badge counselors for their own sons.

9. **OTHER TROOP POLICIES:** For statements regarding other troop policies, see the following:

- Belief In God and Its Role In Scouting
- Troop Attendance and Participation Policies
- Troop Advancement Policy - Merit Badge and Time Sequences
- Troop Advancement Policy - Leadership Requirements
- Troop Transportation Policy - Drivers and Insurance
- Troop Transportation Policy - Parents' Responsibilities
- Policies Regarding Troop Activities - Standards of Conduct
- Merit Badge Policies and Procedures
- Merit Badge Counselor's Guide
- Troop Recruiting Policy
- Two Deep Leadership Policy
- Troop Mentoring Program and Policies



TROOP PERFECT ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICIES

- 1. PURPOSE:** The purposes of this document are to set forth Troop policies regarding attendance at Troop meetings and campouts, to integrate campout attendance into the perfect attendance award, and to set standards with regard to satisfactory participation as it relates to attendance.
- 2. EFFECTIVE DATE:** The effective date of this document is January 1, 2009. However, subject to some minor modifications, the policies set forth in this document have been in effect since June 1, 1998.
- 3. ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS:**
 - (a)** Scouts are expected to attend all Troop meetings, campouts (unless optional), and summer camp (Wilderness Camp). Optional campouts will be so indicated on the Troop Activity Schedule;
 - (b)** Except for the campouts listed in (c), ALL campouts are "required," that is to say, a missed campout counts against attendance;
 - (c)** There are two optional campouts each year. These are the Polar Bear Campout or the Snow Sports Campout in the winter, and the extra Campout we do in October that is in addition to the required Rim of the Bay activity.
- 4. SATISFACTORY PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE:** Satisfactory participation is defined in terms of campout and Troop meetings, as follows:
 - (a) Campouts:** If a scout misses more than two (2) required Campout Days in a Term, his participation for such Term will be deemed unsatisfactory. A Term is January through June and late August through December;
 - (b) Troop Meetings:** If a scout misses more than three (3) troop meetings during a Term, his participation for that Term will be unsatisfactory, unless alternative participation is arranged.
- 5. EFFECT OF UNSATISFACTORY PARTICIPATION ON ADVANCEMENT:** Participation relates to development of skills and leadership and to scouting spirit, which are part of BSA requirements to advance in rank. We do realize that there are always extreme situations that may call for exceptions, so alternative participation may be allowed in limited and/or prearranged cases at the sole discretion of the Scoutmaster. Unsatisfactory participation will have the following effect on advancement:
 - (a) Tenderfoot, Second Class:** Scouts advancing to the Tenderfoot, and Second Class level, who normally advance after one (1) Term, will not be permitted to advance if their participation is unsatisfactory at the time that they would otherwise qualify to advance;
 - (b) First Class, Star, and Life Advancement:** Scouts advancing to the First Class, Star, and Life level, who normally advance after two (2) Terms, will not be permitted to advance at the time that they would otherwise qualify to advance if their participation is unsatisfactory in both Terms;

(c) Eagle Advancement: In order to be permitted to submit an Eagle Application to the Council, an Eagle Candidate must maintain satisfactory participation during the majority of the terms, including the term since he attained the Life rank, through and including the term in which he submits his application for Eagle rank.

6. PERFECT ATTENDANCE: Perfect attendance is a higher level of participation than what is minimally required in the Troop, and scouts attaining Perfect Attendance are recognized for this accomplishment. Perfect Attendance is defined as having attended all Troop meetings and required campouts without having missed, in a consecutive 12 month period, more than three (3) "Troop Events."

7. TROOP EVENT DEFINED: A Troop Event is a Troop Meeting or a Campout Day. A "Troop Meeting" is a regularly scheduled meeting of the Troop. "Campout Day" is each day of a campout, i.e., Saturday is one (1) Campout Day; Sunday is one (1) Campout Day:

A. To earn credit for attending and participating in a Troop Meeting, a scout must attend at least most of the meeting;

B. To earn credit for attending and participating on a Saturday, a late scout must arrive at the campsite no later than 1:00 p.m. and participate the remainder of the day and spend the night with the Troop;

C. To earn credit for attending and participating on a Sunday, a scout must arrive at the campsite no later than 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and must spend the night (Saturday night) with the Troop and be present on Sunday morning until the Troop is dismissed to go home.

8. LATE-COMERS AND NON-ATTENDEES; SHOW-UP RULE: Unless impossible due to the nature of the cause for coming late to the campout or not attending the campout, late-comers and non-attendees will be expected to be in attendance at the Hut before the Troop departs for the campsite. This will aid in organization for the campout and provide vital data to the Transportation Chairman for purposes of planning take home transportation.

9. ATTENDANCE BY PATROL LEADERS, STAFF AND LEADERS: Leadership is by example. Therefore, except in special circumstances, patrol leaders, staff, and leaders are expected to attend all campouts, except the optional Snow Sports Trip/Polar Bear campout or the optional October campout. By accepting the patrol leader or staff position, the scout automatically commits to this level of commitment.

10. SPECIAL PROVISIONS RE WATER SPORTS CAMPOUT: Attendance and participation for at least a substantial portion of either day or staying overnight will constitute satisfactory attendance for perfect attendance and participation purposes. Scouts who do not attend the Water Sports Campout will be charged with only one (1) day of absence.

11. CREDIT FOR ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES: If a scout misses a Troop event because of participation in another scouting activity or a church or religious activity, for purposes of perfect attendance, he will be treated as though he were present at the Troop event.



STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

September 6, 1995

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to insure a common understanding of Troop expectations of adults and scouts who participate in Troop activities.
2. While participating in Troop activities, all persons will:
 - (a) Refrain from the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, illegal drugs or controlled substances;
 - (b) Refrain from the use of any profanities or abusive language;
 - (c) Refrain from the administration of corporal punishment - discipline of scouts should be referred to uniformed leaders;
 - (d) Respect the boy-run principles of the Troops; i.e., the "chain of command," which is: Activity Leader—to boy leader-to scouts; and
 - (e) Accept and be subject to the leadership authority of the Activity Leader.
3. Leader. Adults who participate with their son should follow the Philmont principle and recognize that they are not on an activity with their son, but, for purposes of the activity, view their son as a part of the group, all boys present as their sons, and view the Activity Leader as their leader.
4. "Troop Activity" means any activity sponsored by the Troop. "Participation" means from the time one leaves home until one returns to one's home. "Participation" also refers to driving or any other form of involvement in Troop Activities. "Activity Leader" means the adult who has been placed in charge of the Troop Activity by the Scoutmaster.



TWO-DEEP LEADERSHIP AND SCOUT PROTECTION

FEBRUARY 20, 2008

The purpose of this Memo is to re-state and reinforce the Boy Scouts of America policies regarding the interaction between scouts and adults.

- **Two-Deep Leadership.** At least two adults are required on all trips and outings, at least one of whom shall be a registered leader and, in such case, the other shall be a parent of a participant. All registered leaders shall be at least 21 years of age.
- **No one-on-one contact.** One-on-one contact between adults and youth members is not permitted. In situations that require personal conferences, such as a Scoutmaster's conference, the meeting is to be conducted in view of other adults and youths.
- **Respect of privacy.** Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp, and intrude only to the extent that health and safety require. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations.
- **Separate accommodations.** When camping, no youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than his own parent or guardian. Councils are strongly encouraged to have separate shower and latrine facilities for females. When separate facilities are not available, separate times for male and female use should be scheduled and posted for showers.

Additional information and guidance can be found in the BSA's Guide to Safe Scouting - <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>.



RECRUITING POLICIES

August 26, 2009

1. **PURPOSE OF STATEMENT:** Troop 212 functions best with a consistent number of Scouts at each age and rank. The long-term viability of the Troop relies on a steady and consistent stream of new recruits from committed families to replace vacancies created from graduates and attrition. The adopted policy details the selection process for Troop 212 recruits.
2. **COMMUNICATION OF INTEREST TO JOIN TROOP 212:** All requests to join Troop 212 should be made directly from the parents of the potential recruit to the Troop's Recruiting Chair (<mailto:recruiter@bsa-troop212.org>). Families of potential recruits should communicate with the Troop's Recruiting Chair about their intent to join the Troop and should not contact the Troop leadership directly about selection status.
3. **INDUCTION OF 5TH GRADE RECRUITS:** The primary pipeline of new Scouts to the Troop is 5th Grade boys entering Boy Scouts at the age of 10 or 11.
 - **THE YEARLY TARGET:** Each year, the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair will determine the number of new 5th grade recruits that the Troop can accommodate. Their determination will be based upon overall Troop size, the number of graduating Scouts, recent attrition and the need to balance patrol sizes and composition. Typically not more than 10 to 12 new 5th grade recruits can be accommodated each year.
 - **SELECTION PRIORITY:** 5TH grade recruit placements will be filled in the following order:
 - 1) Siblings of current Troop 212 Scouts;
 - 2) Siblings of former Troop 212 Scouts;
 - 3) Legacy recruits – Sons, grandsons or other immediate family members of former Troop 212 Scouts;
 - 4) Member families of Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church (Troop 212's Sponsoring Organization) who declare their commitment to join Troop 212 by October 15th of the recruit's 5th grade year;
 - 5) All other interested candidates.,
(Candidates within each ordered grouping will be prioritized by the date and time they notify the Recruiting Chair of their desire to be considered for membership in Troop 212.)
 - **SCOUTMASTER REVIEW:** Notwithstanding the induction guidelines above, the selection process will be subject to final review and determination by the Scoutmaster and the Committee Chair.

- **DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT TO JOIN TROOP 212:** Once an interested recruit has decided that he wants to join Troop 212, his parents should directly notify the Recruiting Chair of their son's desire to be considered for membership in Troop 212. The Recruiting Chair will maintain a list of "committed recruits," recording the date and time of the commitment from the candidate's parents. The Recruiting Chair will confirm receipt to the parents. This list will be kept confidential and a candidate's position on the list will not be discussed with the candidates' family.
- **SELECTION AND ANNOUNCEMENT:** Selection of 5th grade recruits is expected to be made during December and notification is expected to be made in January or February.
- **FIRST MEETING:** 5th grade recruits begin attending meetings in April of the recruit's 5th grade year, usually on the first Tuesday evening after Spring Break. Troop tradition requires that a new scout attend at least three Troop meetings before being officially welcomed into the Troop. This official welcome usually takes place in mid- to late-May.

4. GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS: The Recruiting Chair will distribute communications about recruiting functions and events where families can get to know and learn about Troop 212. The distribution notices of these events will be sent to a broad audience well beyond the list of "committed prospects."

5. INDUCTION OF 6TH GRADE AND OLDER RECRUITS: The Scoutmaster and Committee Chair will evaluate each request for 6th grade and older prospects on a case-by-case basis. 6th grade and older recruits begin attending Troop functions immediately after acceptance into the Troop.

<http://www.bsa-troop212.org/>



TROOP MENTORING PROGRAM

MAY 4, 2007

- 1. Purpose of This Document:** The purpose of this document is to set forth a program whereby new scouts coming into the Troop are mentored by a specific scout on staff.
- 2. Concept:** The idea here is to have a particular staff member assigned to be a mentor for a particular new scout for a period of one year.
- 3. The Role of the SPL, the Patrol Leader, and the Mentors:** It is not the intent of this program to interrupt or interfere with the roll of the SPL as leader of the Troop, or of the patrol leader as the leader of his patrol. The responsibilities of the SPL and the patrol leader are unchanged – each is responsible for the welfare of the scouts under their charge. The Mentors are intended to assist the SPL and the patrol leaders in carrying out their responsibilities and to provide new scouts with a specific resource and an advocate.
- 4. The Mentors Duties:** Mentors will be staff members who volunteer to serve as Mentors. Each Mentor will have a particular new scout to whom the Mentor is to be a resource. The process and duties will be as follows:

 - A list of new scouts coming into the Troop will be made and the name of each Mentor assigned to a particular new scout will be entered after the name of the new scout;
 - The week before the new scouts start to attend, each Mentor will telephone his particular new scout and introduce himself on the phone and tell him that he is his mentor for the next year and that he looks forward to meeting the new scout at the next Troop meeting;
 - At the first Troop meeting with the new scouts, the Mentors will try to identify their respective new scouts and meet personally;
 - After the initial meeting, from time-to-time, the Mentor will make contact with the his new scout and talk to him and ask how things are going;
 - At Wilderness Camp, the Mentor should make it a point to talk with his new scout the first day to answer questions and at least two other times during the week.
- 5. Mentoring Term:** Normally, the direct mentoring responsibility will end at the new scout's first Fall Court of Honor. However, the Staff member may continue a special relationship with the new scout for so long as he feels the new scout needs help and support.



TROOP TRANSPORTATION POLICY - RESPONSIBILITIES

FEBRUARY 5, 1999

1. **Parents' Responsibility:** It is the responsibility of all parents to be available to drive scouts to and from Campouts as assigned by the Transportation Chair.
2. **Transportation Chair's Responsibilities:** It is the responsibility of the Transportation Chair to make driving assignments and to provide maps and directions to campout sites. The Transportation Chair will also adjust driving capacity to actual needs by determining which drivers will be excused if the assigned capacity exceeds the need.
3. **Some General Guides:**
 - The parent, in driving, serves the Troop, not his or her son. So a parent who is assigned to drive is expected to fulfill that assignment even if his or her son is not going.
 - If a parent cannot fulfill a driving assignment, it is his or her responsibility to find a replacement and to advise the Transportation Chair of the replacement. It is not the responsibility of the Transportation Chair to find replacements; he or she simply assigns, coordinates, and provides maps.
 - If you are assigned to drive and are going to transport latecomers or early leavers, your son and/or others, you must advise the Transportation Chair so that he or she can make capacity needs adjustments. *

* NOTE – TROOP POLICY DICTATES THAT A SCOUT, EVEN IF COMING LATE TO A CAMPOUT, MUST MUSTER, IN UNIFORM, WITH HIS PATROL AT THE FIRST CALL OF THE TROOP (IE – AT THE HUT AT 8AM ON MOST CAMPOUTS). THIS ALLOWS THE PATROL LEADER TO HAND OUT SUPPLIES TO BE TAKEN, TO REVIEW THE CAMPOUT PLANS WITH THE ENTIRE PATROL AT ONCE, AND TO GET A BETTER IDEA OF THE SCOUT'S PLANS AND TIMING.



TROOP TRANSPORTATION POLICY - DRIVERS

FEBRUARY 26, 2005

1. **Need for and Purpose of Memorandum:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to set forth Troop policies that are consistent with National Council policies on qualifications for drivers of scouts in connection with Troop activities.

2. **Minimum Requirements for Drivers:**

The driver of any vehicle transporting members of the Troop in connection with any authorized Troop activity shall:

- Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and shall hold a valid California Vehicle Operator's License; and
- Not consume any alcoholic beverage, impairing drug, or controlled substance of any kind for at least four (4) hours prior to the providing of transport. No alcoholic beverage, impairing drug or controlled substance of any kind shall be consumed during the course of transport.

3. **Scouts as Drivers:**

Except in special circumstances and with Scoutmaster prior approval, a scout may not drive a vehicle to or from a Troop function. A "Troop function" does not include transport from home to the Hut or from the Hut to home.



TROOP TRANSPORTATION POLICY - INSURANCE

FEBRUARY 26, 2005

1. **Purpose of Memorandum:**

Whenever a person undertakes to transport members of the Troop in connection with a Troop activity, that person accepts substantial risk of personal liability which may be imposed on the driver and/or the owner of the vehicle. The purposes of this memorandum are to establish Troop policies that, if followed, will minimize that risk and assure that insurance coverage at the individual level is coordinated with the umbrella coverage provided by the National Council of Boy Scouts of America.

2. **National Council Requires Insurance Coverage:**

The National Council requires that all vehicles that transport scouts be covered by a liability insurance policy.

3. **Required Minimum Amount of Insurance Coverage:**

The amount of liability insurance coverage that one is required to have is the amount of coverage that is required to meet or exceed the insurance coverage requirements of the state in which the vehicle is registered.

4. **Coordination of Insurance Coverage With BSA Umbrella Coverage:**

In order to make certain that a gap does not exist between the insurance carried by the owner of the vehicle and the umbrella coverage provided by the National Council, persons providing transport to scouts should have at least the following insurance coverage: \$50,000/\$100,000 public liability and \$50,000 property damage. (This is not a recommendation as to insurance coverage; one should consult one's own insurance agent on such matters.)



DUTY TO GOD - BELIEF IN GOD AND ITS ROLE IN SCOUTING

MARCH 30, 1995

One of the requirements for a Scout to become an Eagle is to attest to the fact that he has a genuine belief in a Supreme Being.

From the beginning of the scouting movement there has been recognition of the importance of a belief in a Supreme Being in the development of good character and an adherence to a proper moral code, such as the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. It is because of this recognition that the Oath contains a solemn promise to "... do my duty to God ...". In addition, one of the points of the Scout Law states that a Scout is "Reverent."

The adult leader's application form contains a "Declaration of Principle" which states:

"Declaration of Principle"

The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no boy can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing his obligation to God and, therefore, acknowledges the religious element in the training of the boy, but it is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward that religious training. Its policy is that the organization or institution with which the member is connected shall give definite attention to his religious life. Only persons willing to subscribe to this declaration of principle and the Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America shall be entitled to certificates of leadership."

The foregoing applies also to Scouts in general and, specifically, to candidates for Eagle Scout.

It is National Council policy that Scouts do their Duty to God by taking part in a Troop non-sectarian worship service on Sundays. Troop 212 complies with that policy by conducting a Duty to God service whenever it is on an activity on Sunday.

If any parent, Scout or Scouter feels that the foregoing may present difficulty, either now or in the future, the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman should be contacted immediately.

**TROOP 212
ADVANCEMENT**



TROOP ADVANCEMENT POLICY - MERIT BADGES AND TIME SEQUENCES

MARCH 28, 2000

1. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide a guide to parents and scouts on the advancement process from Scout to Eagle in accordance with the National Council's requirements, as modified by the Troop. This document restates and modifies the Troop Advancement Policy dated January 4, 2000 and gives effect to National Council Eagle requirements which went into effect on April 1, 1999.

2. **ADVANCEMENT:** To give each scout guidance and cadence and to provide sufficient time for a scout to mature and develop proficiency in scouting skills and leadership, we feel that at least five (5) years from Troop entry to Eagle is required. To coordinate advancement with Troop activities and Wilderness Camp advancement programs, the normal rate of progression is as follows:

Rank Progression	Period	Time Span (# of Mnths)	Approx Age at Completion	Merit Badges	Cumulative Merit Badges
Rookie to TF	May to Nov	6	11-6	-0-	-0-
TF to 2 nd Class	Nov to June	6	12-0	1	1
2 nd to 1 st Class	June to Nov	6	12-6	2	3
1 st Class to Star	Nov to Nov	12	13-6	5	8
Star to Life	Nov to Nov	12	14-6	6	14
Life to Completion of Merit Badge	Nov to June	18	16-0	7	21
Work on Eagle Project	June – Dec	6	16-6		
Complete Binder & Apply for Eagle	Dec – Apr	4	16-10		

3. **BOARD OF REVIEW:** One of the steps to advancement in each rank is the Board of Review. We do this once a year, usually in February and March, to fulfill the BSA Board of Review requirement and to gain feed-back about the program and a scout's goals.

4. **SUBJECTIVE REQUIREMENTS:** One of the requirements for advancement in all ranks is that the scout demonstrate Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Law in everyday life.

5. MERIT BADGE REQUIREMENTS: To become an Eagle, a scout must advance through the ranks and earn at least 21 merit badges. To guide the scout in accomplishing the merit badge requirements, Troop policy is as follows:

ADVANCEMENT

To Tenderfoot

To 2nd Class

To 1st Class

To Star*

To Life*

To Eagle**

MERIT BADGES REQUIRED TO BE EARNED AT EACH

0 - None (a scout may not work on a merit badge at this level)

1 – Scout’s choice (may not be a required badge)

2 - 1 Scout's choice (may not be a required badge) and First Aid

5 - 1 Scout's choice, Cooking, Camping, and any 2 others from the required list

6 - 2 Scout's choice, Pioneering, Citizenship/Community and 2 others from the required list

7 - 3 Scout's choice and 4 from the required list
21

6. REQUIRED MERIT BADGE LIST:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Camping | 8. Environmental Science |
| 2. Citizenship in the Community | 9. Family Life |
| 3. Citizenship in the Nation | 10. First Aid |
| 4. Citizenship in the World | 11. Personal Fitness |
| 5. Communications | 12. Personal Management |
| 6. Cooking *** | 13. Pioneering*** |
| 7. Emergency Preparedness <u>or</u> Lifesaving | 14. Swimming <u>or</u> Cycling <u>or</u> Hiking |

7. MERIT BADGES OFFERED AT SUMMER CAMP: The following merit badge instruction is provided at summer camp and scouts are expected to participate in this group advancement process: First Aid – 2nd Year of Camp; Swimming and Lifesaving – 3rd Year of Camp; Pioneering – 4th Year of Camp; Environmental Sciences – 5th Year of Camp. If a scout misses a year at camp, or is unable to fulfill the requirements while at camp, he will need to complete the work at home.

Several other merit badges are also offered at camp such as Canoeing, Wilderness Survival, Rifle Shooting and Sailing. They may not be offered every year, however, and a scout needs to confirm which instruction is available each year and then work to fit it into his camp schedule.

8. EAGLE SERVICE PROJECT: Normally, a scout will work on his Eagle Service Project during the period of March to November of the year before his Eagle Court of Honor. It is highly recommended that he complete his merit badge requirements no later than the June Court that occurs during that period. Before a scout will be permitted to work on an Eagle Service Project, he will be expected to meet these requirements:

- Be a Life Scout;
- Be a Patrol Leader or a member of Staff;
- Be at least 15 years old; and
- Receive the Scoutmaster's approval to proceed.

Notes:

- * Six hours of community service is required.
- ** Eagle Service Project required.
- *** Required by the Troop – these “come out of” the elective category.

Under Troop policy, First Aid, Cooking, Camping, and Pioneering may not be done out of sequence.



TROOP ADVANCEMENT POLICY - LEADERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

JANUARY 5, 1999

1. **Purpose of Policy:** The Troop Advancement Policy dated March 28, 2000, sets forth the Troop's policy for advancement with respect to merit badges. The purpose of this memorandum is to set forth the Troop's policy for meeting the leadership requirements for advancement in rank from First Class to Star, from Star to Life, and from Life to Eagle.

2. **Leadership Requirements:** Under BSA requirements, in order to advance to Star, Life, and Eagle, a Scout is required to have held a leadership position. These are: Den Chief, Patrol Leader, SPL, ASPL, JASM, Staff, and Instructor. The leadership requirements may also be satisfied by carrying out a Scoutmaster assigned leadership project to help the Troop.

In Troop 212, it is most difficult for a Scout going for Star or Life to qualify in the PL, ASPL, SPL, JASM and Staff positions. Thus, Den Chief, Instructor, and Scoutmaster assigned projects may be used. To this end, First Class Scouts are encouraged to obtain Den Chief positions in Cub Scout Packs. Further, six (6) months after a Scout attains First Class, he will automatically be assigned the position of Instructor, which he will hold until he is a PL.

3. **Advancement to Star:** In order to advance to Star, a Scout will be required to meet these requirements:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Merit Badges: | Have earned at least 8 Merit Badges (see Troop Advancement Policy - Merit Badges and Time Sequences for specifics). |
| Leadership: | While a First Class Scout: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Give at least 2 skill instructions; or➤ Serve as a Patrol Leader on a campout; or➤ Serve as a Den Chief for at least 3 months. |
| Scout Spirit: | Have demonstrated good scout spirit. |
| Board of Review: | Pass the Board of Review |

4. **Advancement to Life:** In order to advance to Life, a Scout will be required to meet these requirements:

Merit Badges: Have earned at least 14 Merit Badges (see Troop Advancement Policy - Merit Badge and Time Sequences for specifics).

Leadership: While a Star Scout:

- Give at least 2 skill instructions; or
- Give at least 1 skill instruction and serve as a Patrol Leader on a campout; or
- Serve as a Den Chief for at least 6 months.

Scout Spirit: Have demonstrated good scout spirit.

Board of Review: Pass the Board of Review

5. **Advancement to Eagle:** In order to advance to Eagle, a Scout will be required to meet these requirements:

Merit Badges: Have earned at least 21 Merit Badges (see Troop Advancement Policy - Merit Badge and Time Sequences for specifics).

Leadership: Have served as a Patrol Leader or a member of Staff for at least 6 months before the application is submitted.

Scout Spirit: Have demonstrated good scout spirit.

Eagle Service Project: Have completed an Eagle Service Project (see Paragraph 6 of the Troop Advancement Policy - Merit Badge and Time Sequences for requirements to start).

Eagle Board of Review: Pass the Council Eagle Board of Review.



MERIT BADGE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

JANUARY 4, 2000

POLICY: Scouts working for Second Class and above are required to earn merit badges. See Troop Advancement Policy – Merit Badges and Time Sequences, dated March 28, 2000, for merit badge requirements for each rank.

PROCEDURE: The procedure for earning a merit badge is as follows:

1. Obtain a "blue" merit badge card from any leader.
2. Obtain a current merit badge pamphlet for your selected merit badge. For most merit badges, the pamphlet can be obtained from the Troop Librarian.
3. After becoming familiar with the merit badge pamphlet, you should contact an approved merit badge counselor and make an appointment to discuss the merit badge with him or her. Usually, only a person on the Troop 212 merit badge counselor list may sign off the completion of merit badge requirements. The Troop list is posted on the Troop's web site.
4. You may not use one of your parents as a merit badge counselor except with prior consent of the Scoutmaster.
5. At the first meeting with the merit badge counselor, he or she will find out what you already know and assist you in developing a program for learning the remaining items or provide guidance in completing projects. Additional meetings may be scheduled, as you and your counselor feel appropriate.
6. When you feel prepared to prove your ability, set up an appointment with your counselor at which he or she will judge your competence and either sign your "blue card" or arrange additional experience for you. Please note that at least two (2) meetings may be required to obtain a merit badge.
7. When your blue card is signed off, turn in your merit badge pamphlet to the librarian (if you checked one out).
8. Take the "blue card" to the Scoutmaster. He will keep the "Application" portion of the card, sign and date the "Applicant's Record" portion and return that portion to you as a receipt.
9. The Scout will be awarded the merit badge at the next Court of Awards.



MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS' GUIDE

MARCH 1, 1998

1. **Purpose of Memo:** The purpose of this memo is to provide you with guidance on the purposes of the Merit Badge Program, how you can best implement them, and to establish uniform standards of achievement for the Scouts.

2. **Purposes of the Merit Badge Program:**
 - To serve as a vehicle for Scouts to explore potential vocations and avocations;
 - To allow the Scouts an opportunity to work closely with adults who can serve as good role models;
 - To provide an opportunity for Scouts to learn how to plan and carry out projects;

3. **Your Job:** Your job is to satisfy yourself that each Scout who comes to you meets all the requirements of the merit badge. In this sense, you are an examiner. But, a larger opportunity lies in coaching – helping the Scout over the different hurdles of the requirements.

4. **The Procedure to be Followed:**
 - At the initial meeting with the Scout, the Scout should bring a filled out merit badge application card (blue card); please review it for completeness. At least three people should be present at all meetings - either the counselor and one or more adults and the Scout, or the counselor and two or more Scouts (see the Two Deep Leadership Policy). The Scout may hold onto the blue card until completion, or you may keep it for him.
 - At this initial meeting, discuss with the Scout the process he will use to complete the requirements. Help him set a schedule and deadline, and offer to be available for advice through the process. It is important that the Scout set his own schedule and that it be one that he can stick with.
 - Be available to advise the Scout as he completes the requirements. While it is very important that the Scout complete the project on his own, he may need information or guidance. It is important that this be a learning process and that it not become confusing or frustrating.

➤ When the Scout completes the requirements, he needs to make an appointment to meet with you (remember the Two Deep Policy!) and show that he has competently completed the tasks and understands the subject. The Scout should bring any projects required for completion or be prepared to show you that he knows how to complete or perform any tasks that may be required. If written material is required, it should be neat and orderly, and the Scout must be prepared to review and/or describe such materials in detail. If the things he has done cannot be transported, he should present you with satisfactory evidence, such as a photograph of the project or adult certification of completion. Question the Scout and, if you have any doubts, contact the adult who signed the Certification. Your job, in addition to coaching, is to satisfy yourself that the requirements have been met. If you are not satisfied, be sure to relate this in detail and explain to the Scout what you believe still needs to be done.

➤ When you are satisfied that the Scout has met the requirements, sign his merit badge application (blue card), give it to the Scout, and congratulate him on his achievements.

5. Standards of Performance:

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

➤ If you have asked a Scout to present certain requirements in written form, you should insist that it be neat, complete and well written. If it is not, tell him what is wrong and have him do it over again. Neatness shows self respect and respect for you.

6. **Group Work:** You can coach more than one at a time, but only one Scout at a time can satisfy you that he has met the requirements.

7. **General Comments - Admonishments to Counselors:** By acting as a Merit Badge Counselor you are assuming a serious responsibility to the Troop and the Scouts. As you are examining a Scout on his merit badge work, you in turn will be critically examined by him to see if you measure up to Troop 212's high standards and are true to yourself and the conscientious effort that the Scout has come to expect from a Troop 212 Merit Badge Counselor.

Thanks for supporting the Troop with your time and skills!

**TROOP 212
EQUIPMENT**



STANDARD INDIVIDUAL ITEMS FOR CAMPOUTS

GEAR:

BACKPACK	EATING UTENSILS
SLEEPING BAG	METAL PLATE
GROUND CLOTH	SIERRA CUP
SLEEPING PAD	FLASHLIGHT
PONCHO	HAT (WOOL; FOR SLEEPING)
2 LARGE PLASTIC TRASH BAGS (large enough to cover the backpack)	

PERSONAL ITEMS:

TOOTHBRUSH & PASTE	SOAP (IN CONTAINER)
COMB	HAND TOWEL
WASHCLOTH	MIRROR

OTHER ITEMS:

JACKET	HANDBOOK
SWEATSHIRT	COMPASS
EXTRA SOCKS	NOTEBOOK & PENCIL

WEAR:

SCOUT SHIRT, NECKERCHIEF, JEANS, BOOTS, & SOCKS (HAT OPTIONAL)

BRING:

SACK LUNCH	WATER BOTTLE
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INFORMATION SHEET –SLEEPING BAGS

Based on experience and on information
obtained from REI at www.rei.com

The purpose of this information sheet is to provide the scout and his parents with information that will aid them in the initial purchase of a sleeping bag and the care and use of the sleeping bag.

PURCHASE RECOMMENDATIONS

When buying a sleeping bag for your son, we recommend that you follow these guides:

- Type bag: Mummy;
- Fill: Synthetic;
- Construction: Seams are covered with insulation;
- Temperature Rating: Rating of +20 F or lower (i.e., warmer);
- Weight: No more than 3 to 4 pounds;
- Attachment to backpack: Use straps (no bungee cord);
- Where to buy: REI, L.L. Bean, Cabela's, Sports Basement or any outdoors supply store

DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION

A SPECIAL NOTE FOR FIRST TIME SCOUTS:

During the first couple of years, or so, young scouts will likely not be participating in high country hikes nor sleeping in areas that get so cold as to require an expensive, low temperature rating bag (if they participate in the Polar Bear Campout, for example, you can purchase individual liners for additional warmth). In addition, young scouts will probably not remember how to properly store or care for their bag. Therefore, we highly recommend not spending too much money on their first bag.

WARMTH:

Generally speaking, a temperature rating of +20° F is adequate for a new scout. A warmer bag (or a bag within a bag) will be required further down the road for the Polar Bear Campouts or for the High Sierra Treks.

WEIGHT:

The lower the "temperature rating," the heavier the bag. Generally the bag should not be heavier than 3 to 4 pounds for backpacking.

SHAPE:

The shape of the bag is important to warmth. Rectangular or barrel shaped bags are roomy and are adequate for moderate temperatures. But for colder weather a mummy shaped bag provides more warmth with less weight and bulk.

TYPE OF FILL:

There are two (2) basic types of sleeping bag fills: Down and Synthetic. The advantages of Down are that it is a more efficient insulation per pound and will stuff smaller and be more compact. The advantages of the synthetics are that they are much less expensive and will not absorb moisture. The disadvantage of Synthetics is that they are more bulky than Down when stuffed. The disadvantages of Down are that it soaks up water quickly and in large quantities, thus losing its loft and insulating abilities, and is more expensive

CONSTRUCTION:

There are many different types of construction, each of which has its own advantages. The main concern when choosing a bag is that the seams are covered with insulation so no cold spots develop. Exposed seams will allow cold air to penetrate into the bag. Do not buy sewn through construction. A two (2)-way zipper is desirable since this allows ventilation in the foot area without opening entire bag. The zipper should be full length and should have a baffle to prevent cold air from entering along the zipper area.

WASHING:

Sleeping bags, both down and Synthetic, can be washed at home if done properly, but dry cleaning is recommended. We recommend that this gets done at least once a year.

HOW TO STORE:

Bags should never be stored in the stuff bag. Store them loosely folded on a shelf, or hung in a closet, or in a fluff storage bag. Allow some air to circulate around the bag in storage.

SLEEPING PAD:

For added warmth and comfort, one should have an insulation pad or small backpacking air mattress. Insulation pads are light, easy to roll, will withstand abuse and can be used for a splint in case of injury. The "Thermarest" pad is excellent. The "two-thirds" length is sufficient and is lighter.

STUFF BAG:

The sleeping bag will come with a stuff bag. The caps on some stuff bags are too small, so it may be useful to enlarge them to prevent the sleeping bag from working its way out of the stuff bag.

BUNGEE CORD:

Bungee cords are not recommended for attaching the sleeping bag to the backpack frame, as it does not hold. Use self-locking straps to secure the bag to the backpack frame.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

There are dozens of online websites that can provide excellent information and guidance as to what to buy, sizing, type and style. Links to some of these sites can be found on the Troops website: www.bsa-troop212.org. In addition, sporting goods and backcountry supply stores such as Sports Basement, REI and Any Mountain have qualified staff who can answer many questions and direct you to the proper equipment.



INFORMATION SHEET – HIKING BOOTS

Based on experience and on information
obtained from REI at www.rei.com

The purpose of this information sheet is to provide the scout and his parents with information that will aid them in the initial purchase of hiking boots.

PURCHASE RECOMMENDATIONS

When buying an initial pair of hiking boots for your son, we recommend that you bear in mind the fact that your son will outgrow whatever you purchase and that for the first three years his backpack hiking will be short trips. With that in mind, we recommend that you follow these guides:

- Type Boot: Lightweight hiking boots;
- Material: Nylon split-grain;
- Price Range: \$35.00 to \$75.00
- Where to buy: REI, L.L. Bean, Cabela's, Sports Basement or any outdoors supply store (Big 5 Sporting Goods has very reasonably priced starter hiking boots).

DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION

A SPECIAL NOTE FOR FIRST TIME SCOUTS:

During the first couple of years, or so, young scouts will likely not be participating in high country hikes nor hiking for more than a couple of miles at a time. A young scout's feet grow dramatically during this time, as well. Therefore, we strongly discourage purchasing any expensive hiking boots during the first couple of years in the Troop. Decent, inexpensive boots can be purchased at stores such as Big 5, and boots such as this will be perfectly sufficient. It is also important that you not try to "oversize" a boot so that the scout can "grow into it." This will cause problems for the scout with blistering and foot pain. The boot must fit, even though it does not need to be expensive.

TYPES OF HIKING BOOTS:

Hiking boots can be divided into 3 basic categories:

- Lightweight hiking - These boots (and trail shoes) are designed for day hiking and very short overnight trips only. They stress comfort, cushioning and breathability. As a result, they are less supportive and durable than the options below.
- Midweight hiking/backpacking - These boots are designed for on- and off-trail hiking with light to moderate backpacking loads. They are more durable and supportive than lightweight hiking boots, but they are still intended primarily for short to moderate trips over easy to moderate terrain.

- Extended backpacking/mountaineering - These boots are designed for on- and off-trail hiking with moderate to heavy backpacking loads. They are designed with multi-day trips in mind. Durable and supportive, they provide a high degree of ankle and foot protection. Some of these models are designed specifically for rough terrain with heavy backpacking loads. They offer the very best in durability, support and protection.

TYPES OF MATERIALS:

The materials used in a given boot will affect its weight, breathability, durability and water-resistance. Since boots made of different fabrics can be very similar in performance, however, personal preference is often the key when choosing between them. Hiking boots are made of a few basic types of material:

- Nylon mesh and split grain leather - Nylon and split-grain leather boots are lightweight and breathable, which makes them perfect for warm-to moderate-weather use and short to moderate backpacking trips. They tend to be softer on your feet, they take less time to break in, and they are almost always lighter than full-grain leather boots. They also cost less. Unfortunately, nylon/split grain boots tend to be less water-resistant than full-grain leather boots (although styles that feature waterproof liners can be just as water-tight, if not more so).
- Full-grain leather - Full-grain leather is extremely water-resistant, durable and supportive (more so than split-grain leather or nylon). It's used primarily in backpacking boots designed for extended trips, heavy loads and hard terrain. Not as lightweight or breathable as nylon/split grain combinations, but it typically lasts far longer. Full-grain leather usually requires a break-in period.
- Waterproof barriers - Lightweight, waterproof barriers (like Gore-Tex®) are built into many hiking boots to enhance their water resistance. These barriers are available in a variety of boot styles, from lightweight hikers to extended hiking/backpacking models. Waterproof performance depends upon the type of barrier used, the materials protecting it and how well the boots/shoes are taken care of. If cared for correctly, these waterproof barriers often last longer than the boots themselves.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

There are dozens of online websites that can provide excellent information and guidance as to what to buy, sizing, type and style. Links to some of these sites can be found on the Troops website: www.bsa-troop212.org. In addition, sporting goods and backcountry supply stores such as Sports Basement, REI and Any Mountain have qualified staff who can answer many questions and direct you to the proper equipment.



INFORMATION SHEET – BACKPACK

Based on experience and on information obtained from REI at www.rei.com

The purpose of this information sheet is to provide the scout and his parents with information that will aid them in the initial purchase of a backpack.

PURCHASE RECOMMENDATIONS

When buying an initial backpack for your son, we recommend that you bear in mind the fact that your son will outgrow whatever you purchase and that for the first three years his backpack hiking will be short trips. With that in mind, we recommend that you follow these guides:

- Type Backpack: External frame
- Price Range: \$75.00 to \$175.00
- Where to buy: REI, L.L. Bean, Cabela's, Sports Basement or any outdoors supply store

DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION

There are two types of backpacks, internal-frame packs and external-frame packs.

Advantage of Internal Frame Packs:

- Flexibility - The pack needs to move in harmony with body movements, a big plus for climbers and skiers.
- Balance – Internal frames hug the body. This holds the equipment closer to the hiker's natural center of gravity and helps one to keep one's balance
- Stability - Compression straps are everywhere on an internal. One can use them to cinch down the load and keep individual items bunched together.
- Adjustability - Internals use suspension systems (involving the shoulder harness and hip belt) that can be adjusted more precisely to a person's body than an external-frame.

The disadvantages of Internal Frame Packs:

- The black hole - Most internals have a cavernous main storage compartment, plus a separate section for a sleeping bag. Other than a lid pocket, nearly everything gets stuffed into that single, deep compartment.
- Hot stuff – One will sweat more wearing an internal because it rides so close to the back. The design offers little room for ventilation.
- Cost - Internal frame packs typically cost more than external frame packs of a similar size.

Which people are better suited for Internal Frame Packs?

- Experienced/Advanced hikers; and
- Hikers hauling lighter loads over rough, rocky terrain.

The advantages of External Frame Packs:

- Cooler to carry - An external's load does not sit flat against the back, thus allowing air to circulate.
- Easier to pack - External frames feature at least two main compartments plus several side pockets. One can organize one's gear into "zones" and locate it more easily.
- Heavy loads won't sag - They might in an internal frame pack, depending how it is packed. Plus, since the center of gravity sits higher in an external frame pack, it's easier to walk upright.
- Cost - You'll pay less for an external.

The Disadvantages of External Frame Packs:

- Minimal agility - They tend to make one walk more stiffly, making external frames cumbersome when one tries to walk off-trail. Attempting to scramble up rocks or hop across a boulder field while wearing one is difficult, even unpleasant.

Which people are better suited for External Frame Packs?

- Beginning hikers; and
- Hikers hauling heavy loads over easy to moderate trails and terrain.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

There are dozens of online websites that can provide excellent information and guidance as to what to buy, sizing, type and style. Links to some of these sites can be found on the Troops website: www.bsa-troop212.org. In addition, sporting goods and backcountry supply stores such as Sports Basement, REI and Any Mountain have qualified staff who can answer many questions and direct you to the proper equipment.



INFORMATION SHEET – HIKING SOCKS

Based on experience and on information
obtained from REI at www.rei.com

The purpose of this information sheet is to provide the scout and his parents with information that will aid them in the initial purchase of hiking socks.

PURCHASE RECOMMENDATIONS

When buying an initial pair of hiking socks for your son, we recommend that you bear in mind the fact that his backpack hiking will be short trips. With that in mind, we recommend that you follow these guides:

- Type Socks: Sock liner and mid-weight hiking/backpacking sock
- Material: Wool or synthetic insulating material
- Where to Buy: REI, L.L. Bean, Cabela's, Sports Basement or any
 outdoors supply store

Special Note: BSA's new centennial uniform, available starting in 2009, offers some decent hiking socks as part of the uniform. The socks that Troop 212 has selected for our uniform are quite good, too, and have padding and wicking capabilities that are quite adequate for our standard hikes, but likely not appropriate for the more difficult High Sierra treks that the advanced scouts participate in.

DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION

Backpacking socks are designed to provide warmth, cushioning and abrasion resistance in a variety of conditions. The right sock depends on the kinds of trips and the weather conditions. Here are the basic categories one has to choose from:

- Liners - Sock liners are thin, lightweight wicking socks designed to be worn right next to the skin.
- Lightweight hiking/backpacking socks – These socks are designed for warm conditions and easy trails. Lightweight backpacking socks stress wicking performance and comfort over warmth. These socks are thicker, warmer and more durable than liners alone. They also provide more cushioning.
- Mid-weight hiking/backpacking socks - These socks are designed to provide reliable cushioning and insulation in moderate to cold conditions. They tend to be thicker and warmer than lightweight hiking socks. Many models have extra padding built into high-impact areas like the heel and the ball of the foot for maximum comfort. These socks should be worn with liners.
- Mountaineering socks - Mountaineering socks are the thickest, warmest and most cushioned socks available. They are designed for long trips, tough terrain and cold temperatures. Usually, mountaineering socks are too thick and warm for basic backpacking journeys in warm conditions.

There are five material options. These are:

- Wool - Wool is an extremely popular natural sock material. It is warm, cushioning, and retains heat when wet. Unfortunately, wool can take a long time to dry. It can also wear out quickly if not reinforced with other materials. Wool blends (combinations of wool and synthetic materials) are extremely popular because they address many of these problems.
- Synthetic insulating materials – There are a number of man-made materials designed to insulate like wool and wick moisture, without the negatives mentioned above. These materials (Hollofil[®], Thermax[®], Thermastat[®]) trap warmth like wool, but they are softer on the skin. They also dry more quickly and are more abrasion resistant. These materials are available in a variety of sock styles and thicknesses.
- Silk - Silk is a natural insulator. It's comfortable and lightweight, but not as durable as other options. It's occasionally used in sock liners for reliable wicking.
- Synthetic wicking materials - The synthetic wicking materials (like polypropylene and Coolmax[®]) used in wicking sock liners are often woven into thicker backpacking socks as well, to enhance wicking performance.
- Cotton - 100% cotton is not recommended as a sock material for backpacking. Cotton absorbs sweat, dries slowly, provides no insulation when wet and it can lead to discomfort and blisters out on the trail. However, cotton is extremely comfortable. And when combined with wool or other wicking and insulating fibers, cotton can be a great choice for light hiking in summer.

Buy more than one pair. It is always a good idea to carry a spare pair of socks. There is nothing worse than having your foot slip into a stream and to have to hike with wet socks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

There are dozens of online websites that can provide excellent information and guidance as to what to buy, sizing, type and style. Links to some of these sites can be found on the Troops website: www.bsa-troop212.org. In addition, sporting goods and backcountry supply stores such as Sports Basement, REI and Any Mountain have qualified staff who can answer many questions and direct you to the proper equipment.

TROOP 212
UNIFORM GUIDE



WEARING THE SCOUT UNIFORM, WHAT TO WEAR AND WHEN

FEBRUARY 1, 2009

We have five classifications of uniforms. The purpose of this Memo is to provide guidance and clarity as to what those uniforms are and what uniform a scout is expected to wear and when he is to wear it. Listed below are the various classifications and elements of the uniform, and when and where each uniform is to be worn.

CLASSIFICATIONS AND ELEMENTS OF UNIFORMS

- **Class A Uniform:** This is the “dress” uniform and it includes scout shorts, scout belt, scout shirt, neckerchief, slide, scout socks, dress shoes or clean topsiders, and sash;
- **Class B Uniform – Summer:** Scout shorts, scout belt, scout shirt, neckerchief, slide, scout socks, clean topsiders or clean hiking boots;
- **Class B Uniform – Winter:** Jeans, scout belt, scout shirt, neckerchief, slide, scout socks, clean topsiders or clean hiking boots;
- **Class C Uniform - Campouts:** Jeans, scout belt, scout shirt, neckerchief, slide, scout socks and hiking boots;
- **Class C uniform – Summer Camp:** Scout shorts, scout belt, scout shirt, neckerchief, slide, scout socks, and hiking boots.

WHEN AND WHERE TO WEAR THE DESIGNATED UNIFORM

- To be worn to the Eagle Court of Honor, the June Court of Awards, the Fall Court of Honor and on other formal occasions;
- To be worn to troop meetings during the months of September through November, and April through June;
- To be worn to troop meetings during the months of January through March;
- To be worn to and on campouts;
- To be worn to and at summer camp.

Centennial Uniform note: In 2009 the Boy Scouts of America announced a complete change of the uniform to what they call the Centennial Boy Scout Uniform. Troop 212 has adopted several pieces of the new uniform, but in the interest of allowing for a transition, has elected to wait until January 2011 before requiring all scouts to be in the new uniform. The following page describes the Troop 212 Centennial uniform. You will note that shorts are no longer available, however convertible pants are. Therefore, convertible pants must be purchased but only the shorts portion of the pants is part of the Troop 212 uniform.

TROOP 212 CENTENNIAL UNIFORM

What Scout Must Provide:

Shirt – Men's/Youth Short-sleeve Cotton Poplin Shirt
Pants – Boy Scout Canvas Convertible Pants
Belt – Centennial Boy Scout Web Belt
Socks – Centennial Boy Scout Uniform Sensura Crew Sock
Hat – Centennial Boy Scout Uniform Cap (optional)
Slide for Neckerchief

Patches:

Shoulder Loops – green
Patrol Patch (after Patrol assignment)



Men's/Youth Short-sleeve Cotton Rich Poplin Shirt



Scout Canvas Convertible Pants - Classic

What the Troop Provides

Neckerchief
2 1 2 Numerals – green w/tan background
World Scout Crest Emblem
Council Patch
Rank Patch



[See uniform information pages of the Parent Guide Book for more information and patch/insignia locations, and the BSA uniform inspection sheet.]

The Boy Scouts of America will be celebrating its Centennial in 2010. In honor of that, the uniform is being updated with different styles of shirts, pants, socks and belts. Some of the colors are changing, too.

The Staff and Scouts in Troop 212 have deliberated over how and when to make the change and they have settled on the above-listed uniform pieces. Troop 212 tradition calls for wearing shorts, not long pants, so while we will have to purchase the new convertible pants (shorts, specifically, will no longer be available) we will not have occasion to wear them as long pants. The good news is that no one will have to hem the pants unless you want to!

Any change requires some time for transition, and we have considered that, as well. Our goal is to have all Troop 212 scouts and leaders in new uniforms by January 2011 – almost two full years from now. So, do not feel as if you have to rush out and replace your existing uniform, but rather wear the old one out, first, and then purchase the new pieces between now and 2011. We will have a supply of new numerals for when you need them, and will have extras of the World Crest Emblem, Rank Patches and the Council Patch for you if you cannot transfer them from your existing uniform. Just let us know what you need.

Uniform Classifications:

We have four uniform classifications:

- **Class A Uniform** - Scout shorts, scout belt, scout shirt, neckerchief, slide, sash, scout socks and dress shoes. To be worn to the Eagle Court of Honor, the Fall Court of Honor, the June court of Honor, and on other formal occasions or as directed.
- **Troop Meeting Uniform, Class B** - Same as Class A, but no sash: Scout shorts, scout belt, scout shirt, neckerchief, slide, scout socks, and clean hiking boots or dress shoes. To be worn to troop meetings during the months of September through November and April through June.
- **Troop Meeting Uniform, Class C** - Same as Class B, but jeans in place of Scout shorts: Jeans, scout belt, scout shirt, neckerchief, slide, scouts socks, and clean hiking boots or dress shoes. To be worn to troop meetings during the months of January through March
- **Campout Uniform** - Same as Class B, but jeans in place of Scout shorts and hiking boots instead of dress shoes: Jeans, scout belt, scout shirt, neckerchief, slide, scout socks and hiking boots. To be worn to campouts, unless otherwise designated (such as the Water Sports Campout, the Winter Sports Campout and the Polar Bear Campout).

**WEARING OF PATCHES BY SCOUTS
ON THE FRONT OF THE SHIRT
LOOKING AT THE FRONT OF THE SHIRT**

LOOKING AT THE SHIRT	LOOKING AT THE SHIRT
Viewed below is the Right pocket	Viewed below is the Left pocket
1/2 way between shoulder seem and top of pocket	International Scouting Patch
Patch you prefer: Polar Bear or National Jamboree Patch or Sierra Backpacker Patch or Most Meaningful Patch	Knot patches - 3 across each row
BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA	Totn' Chip
Order of the Arrow Patch	Firem'n Chit
Wilderness Camp Patch (Centered - Last one rec'd)	Yr PIN
Below Pocket>>>>	Perf. Attend. Pin
	Rank Patch (Scout, TF, Second Class, Etc.) (Centered)
	Arrow of Light (if earned in Cub Scouts)

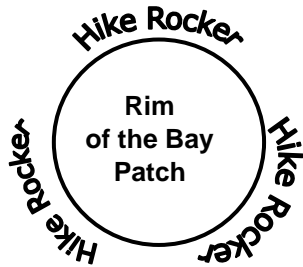
DEPICTED BELOW ARE THE SLEEVES	
Viewed below is the Right sleeve	Viewed below is the Left sleeve
U.S. Flag	Council Patch
When in a Patrol: >Patrol Patch	212 (Troop number with imbedded 50th anniversary)
When an APL: >Patrol Patch	Leaders - Trained (If qualified) Scouts - NYLT Patch (If qualified)
When a PL: >Patrol Patch & Leadership Council Patch	Patch of Current Office i.e., Den Chief, APL, PL, QM, ASPL, SPL, Etc.
When on Staff: >Last Patrol, Ldrshp Council & Staff	
Honor Patrol (Only one)	

TROOP 212
WEARING OF PATCHES BY SCOUTS
ON THE BACK
OF THE SHIRT

LOOKING AT THE BACK OF THE SHIRT

Left shoulder

Right shoulder



Belt

THE HIKE ROCKERS GO AROUND THE RIM OF THE BAY PATCH

NO OTHER PATCHES ARE WORN ON THE BACK OF THE SHIRT

TROOP 212
WEARING OF PATCHES BY SCOUTS

ON THE SASH


FRONT OF SASH

BACK OF SASH

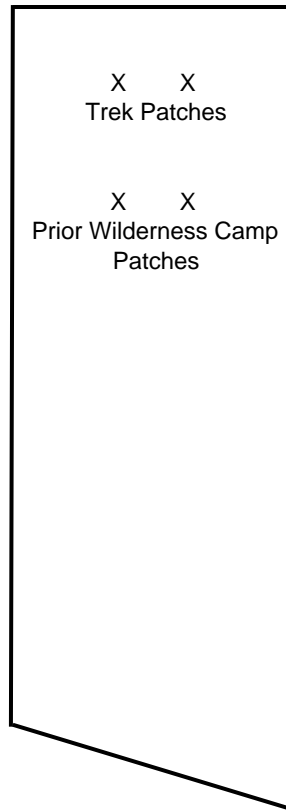
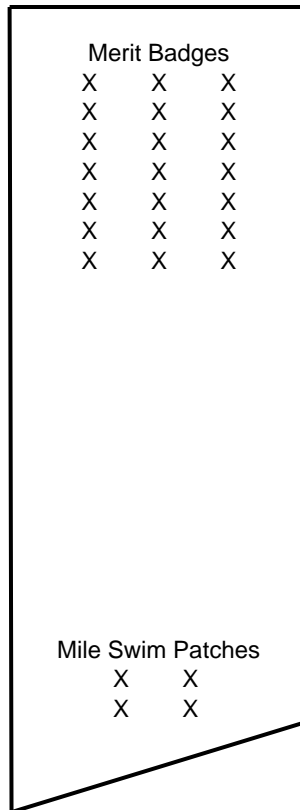
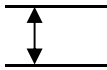
(Right Shoulder)

(Left Shoulder)

7 Inches



7 Inches



(Left Hip)

(Right Hip)

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.

Scout Law

A Scout is

Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly,
Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty,
Brave, Clean and Reverent.

TRUSTWORTHY - A Scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises. Honesty is part of his code of conduct. People can depend on him.

LOYAL - A Scout is true to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school, and nation.

HELPFUL - A Scout is concerned about other people. He does things willingly for others without pay or reward.

FRIENDLY - A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He seeks to understand others. He respects those with ideas and customs other than his own.

COURTEOUS - A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows good manners make it easier for people to get along together.

KIND - A Scout understands there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. He does not hurt or kill harmless things without reason.

OBEDIENT - A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them.

CHEERFUL - A Scout looks for the bright side of things. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

THRIFTY - A Scout works to pay his way and to help others. He saves for unforeseen needs. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

BRAVE - A Scout can face danger even if he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at or threaten him.

CLEAN - A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He goes around with those who believe in living by these same ideals. He helps keep his home and community clean.

REVERENT - A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

