

The Scoutmaster's Packet For New Parents



BSA MISSION, METHODS AND AIMS

SCOUTMASTER'S LETTER

EXPECTATIONS OF SCOUTS, PARENTS AND TROOP

DIAGRAMS

ORGANIZATION OF THE BSA

ORGANIZATION OF TROOP 124

TROOP 124 COMMITTEE

HOW MUCH • WHERE • THE UNIFORM

WHAT ABOUT GEAR?

LINES OF COMMUNICATION

YOUTH LEADER TRAINING

LET'S GET SCOUTING!

Prepared. For Life.®

"Prepare the scout for the trail, not the trail for the scout."

*~ Ken Mattson ~
Scoutmaster, Troop 124*

THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Corporate Mission Statement:



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

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.*

LAW:

A Scout is:

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

MOTTO:

Be Prepared

SLOGAN:

Do a good turn daily.

THE METHODS OF SCOUTING:

- 1 - The Ideals
- 2 - The patrol method
- 3 - The outdoors
- 4 - Advancement
- 5 - Association with Adults
- 6 - Personal Growth
- 7 - Leadership Development
- 8 - The uniform

THE AIMS OF SCOUTING:

Every Scouting activity moves boys toward three basic aims:

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT • CITIZENSHIP TRAINING • MENTAL AND PHYSICAL FITNESS

Troop 124 • Sunset Trail District • Cascade Pacific Council, BSA
Chartered October 1974 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Beaverton, Oregon (sponsor)

EXPECTATIONS OF SCOUTS, PARENTS, AND THE TROOP

Dear Parents:

Welcome to our troop! "Patrols, Youth Leaders, Sr. Patrol Leader, Scribe, permission slips, The Pit," etc....A troop and its operations can be a bit bewildering when first viewed by new parents and their sons. This is just a guide as to what we expect of ourselves, our scouts, and our families. There are a great deal of procedures, traditions, and methods used that can be shown to you by your mentor family, boy or adult leaders. Please feel free to ask when you are not sure of something. Troop 124 has been successful over the years in part because of the involvement of the parents. We couldn't do it without you.

THE PERFECT TROOP

We aren't it. We are always in a 'state of becoming.' We are becoming the best we can be with the talents and dedication we have at any given moment. Boy Scout troops are adult guided, BOY RUN. That's the program. Anything else is counter to the philosophy and methods of the Boy Scouts of America. We strongly believe that scouts must run the patrols and the troop. To learn to lead, one must lead. Adult jobs are to supervise, train, assist, and support the program the scouts have planned. Adults are normally in the background. Scouts will make mistakes and these are allowed as learning experiences, as long as they're not physically or morally harmful. Evaluations of meetings and outings are ongoing. The boy leaders are often harsher evaluators than adults. They have high expectations of themselves and each other. However, the boy leaders are always 'becoming' what they need to be. Even the most experienced can forget details. Our Patrol Leaders, for instance, may be experienced scouts but more likely are performing the first real leadership position of their careers and are, therefore, on a fast learning curve. Please be patient. Our Troop Guides of New Scout patrols are trained. However, in either case, contact me if nothing is being accomplished. The Youth Leaders and I will work on it.

THE SCOUTS – The members of Troop 124 are expected to:

- Follow the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan – These are our rules.
- Wear the full, proper Official Uniform
- Attend weekly meetings
- Participate in monthly outings
- Attend summer camp
- Assist completing troop and Eagle Scout service projects
- Interact appropriately with other scouts and adult leaders
- Utilize the Advancement program and achieve at least First Class rank (*note: Boy Scout advancement tends to be more self-directed and moves generally slower than experience in the Cub Scout program*)
- Respect our meeting facilities. No scouts are allowed upstairs unattended.
- Bring home announcements, calendars, outing information and utilize the troop web site, www.troop124.us
- Assist in the troop's annual fundraising event

THE PARENTS – Our parents need to assist their sons by:

- Supporting the boys' program by scheduling time for the troop meetings and outings.
- Allowing time for their son's activities outside of scouting, but remembering the reasons for joining scouts in the first place. The program's benefits don't exist if a boy doesn't participate.
- Attend monthly Parent Meetings on the first Monday of each month.
- Being aware of the calendars, announcements, and outing permission links which are emailed via Google docs
- Providing transportation (information required prior to being a driver on outings) for troop or patrol outings, and always drive within all parameters of the law. Email bsatroop124beaverton@gmail.com to provide info.
- Become aware of and BECOME TRAINED in Youth Protection and provide proof of completion. It's taken on-line at www.myscouting.org (without an ID # your first time, but remember your username to link the number you are given, to it later) *This is a MUST if you are a driver on outings, attend outings, or get registered in any way.*
- Allowing their son to become more independent by doing nothing for him that he should be doing for himself. Know when to assist, when to back off. **(Don't pack his gear for him)**
- Contact the Troop Committee Chair, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster of new scouts with questions or concerns, or email bsatroop124beaverton@gmail.com any questions you have.
- Understanding that the troop is boy-led and boy-run. Not everything goes off at 100%. It is good to know, however, that a majority of activities do very well!!
- Not letting weather stop participation on outings. This is Oregon!
- Actively supporting the troop's annual fundraising event and its' service project.
- Communicate verbally to leaders, in addition to any behavioral issues listed on Medical forms--back up the medical form listing any meds and conditions, with this verbal dialog and an email prior to outings.

SOME ADDITIONAL OPTIONS:

- Attending outings
- Taking Boy Scout Leader Training and register as a Committee Member **(Youth Protection required to apply)**
- Becoming active in the Troop Committee – various positions are generally available some short term, some long term
- Serve as a Merit Badge Counselor **(Youth Protection required to apply)**
- There are more, but time will tell what interests you!

THE TROOP – The troop will provide a structured program including:

- Weekly meetings
- Year around activities with challenging, age appropriate outdoor activities
- A safe place to be involved
- Character and self confidence building experiences
- Scout skills training
- A leadership training program
- An atmosphere where young men can make mistakes or garner success and learn from both in a safe environment
- The BSA Advancement Program
- Family opportunities for participation
- Trained adult and youth leadership
- Schedules, information, and the troop web site, www.troop124.us

Is this the whole list? Not really. As you become more familiar with the troop, you'll still have questions, and suggestions. Our uniformed adult leaders are trained, and can assist you. Our Youth Leaders (Sr. Patrol Leader, his assistants and staff) are also helpful. We welcome you!

Ken Mattson
Scoutmaster

TROOP 124 • The Parent Role On Camping / Activities
From Ken Mattson – Scoutmaster

Troop 124 welcomes parents on our overnight camp outs and day activities. As you involve yourself a few guidelines will help you to have a good experience and better know what to expect.

WHAT ARE THE PARENTS' SPECIFIC DUTIES?

There aren't many. The persons who run the troop are the Sr. Patrol Leader, the Patrol Leaders, Youth Leaders, and the Scoutmaster (or Assistant Scoutmaster in charge). However, parents might:

- Assist scouts learning new skill, (if asked). Remember Youth Protection guidelines.
- Enjoy your son's activities – ***USUALLY FROM A DISTANCE***. Leave him alone. Don't interfere or hover. Let him use the camping experience to become more independent and make decisions on his own. If he pesters you, send him to the troops' youth leaders for guidance.
- Cook, eat and camp with the other adults, not with your son's patrol. The adult "patrol" is fun.
- Assist in possible Boards of Review for rank advancement if you are a registered adult.
- Read, nap, relax throughout the day. (The troop will still operate)
- Watch for safety violations. You are to stop any violent, or immediate hazardous situations involving the safety of boys. Alert me immediately. For lesser offences, talk to me and I will then work through the youth leaders or handle the matter myself.
- If you have questions or suggestions, feel free to talk to me or in my absence, the Assistant Scoutmaster in charge.

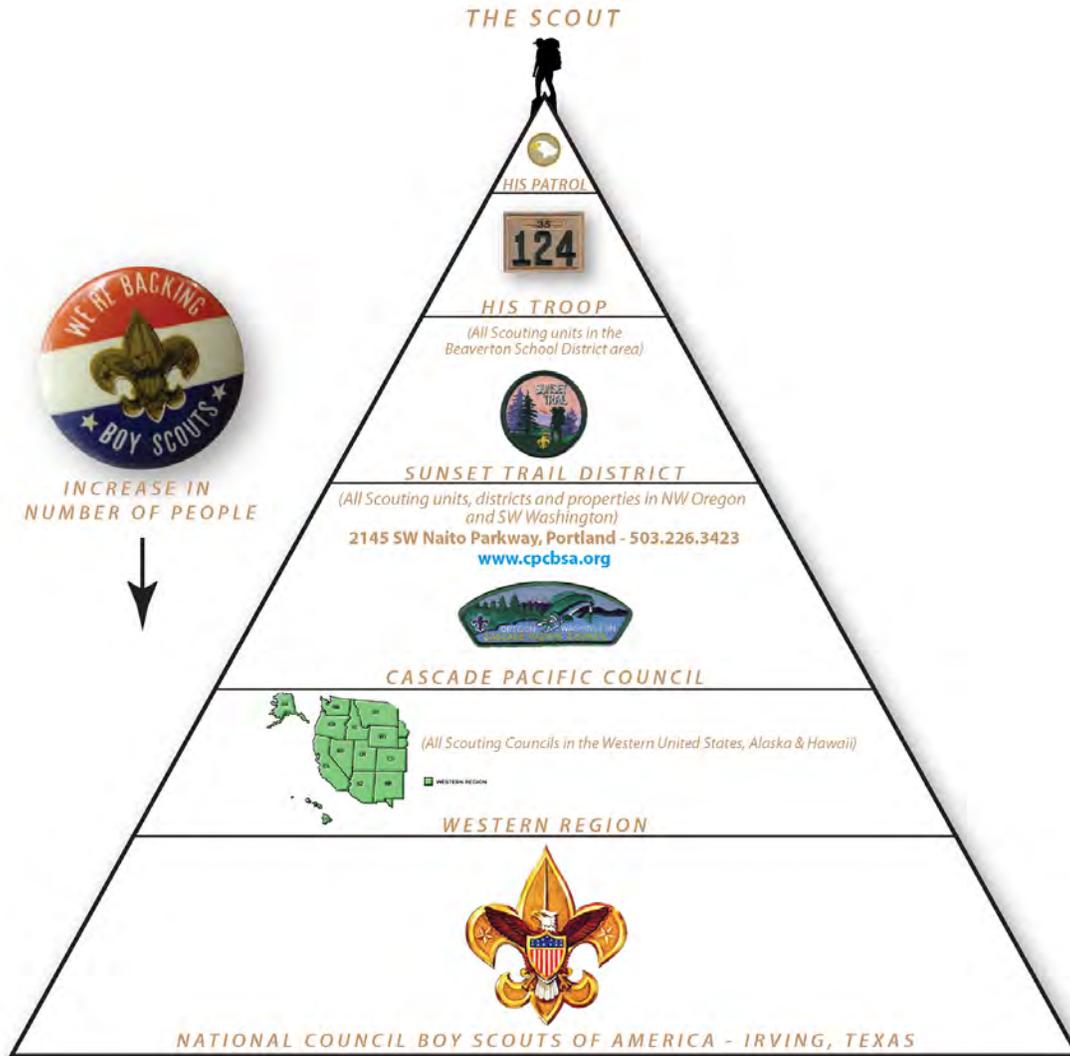
PLEASE DO NOT START GIVING ORDERS TO SCOUTS. It's a 'youth-led' program. The boys can't have several adults telling them what to do as that often causes confusion, misunderstanding, and hard feelings. Funnel observations, etc, through me. Most concerns on a weekend can be dealt with through the Sr. Patrol Leader and the Patrol Leaders' Council. Use the same procedure if you witness harassment or hazing.

- Allow the youth leaders under my guidance or myself to discipline the troop and your son. If things get beyond us, we'll partner up with your for advice and/or assistance. We'll let you know about the situation.
- Be my eyes and ears. Lot's of stuff goes on.
- Allow boys to be boys. Clean hands at meals and during cooking are important. Clean faces and clothes aren't necessarily vital.
- **AT THE END OF AN ACTIVITY OR WEEKEND, DO NOT DEPART FOR HOME UNTIL CLEARED BY THE SR. PATROL LEADER.**
- Alcohol, illegal drugs, etc, are never to be brought to a Scouting activity.
- Smoking/tobacco use is to be out of sight of all scouts. On Council property there is often a specific site for smoking/tobacco use.
- Some warnings based on personal experience and observations:
- A parent 'rescuing' a son from his own decisions on a camp out does not help him. It's a safe place to make errors as long as they're not immoral or physically injurious.
- A camp out is NOT the time to allow a boy to go off any behavior related medications. Quite the opposite.
- Troop routine does not always run like clockwork. Don't worry, deficiencies will be worked out. Let the boys lead.
- Don't feel hurt if you're counseled to "back off and let the boys handle it." Oh yes, it's happened to me.

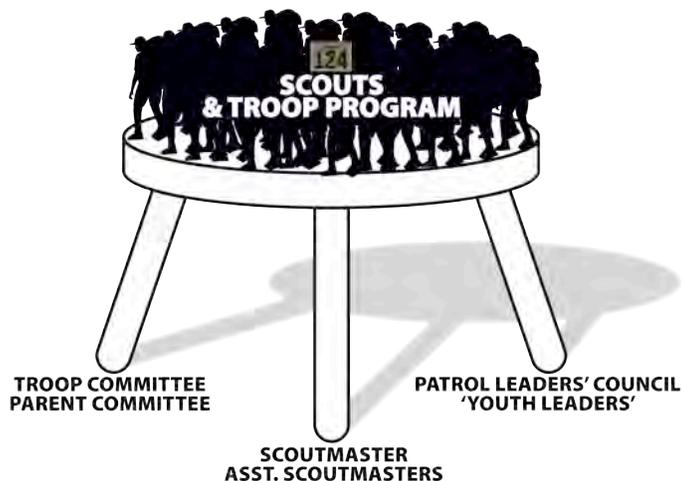
If there is something I need to know about your son on any given weekend, please communicate with me.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

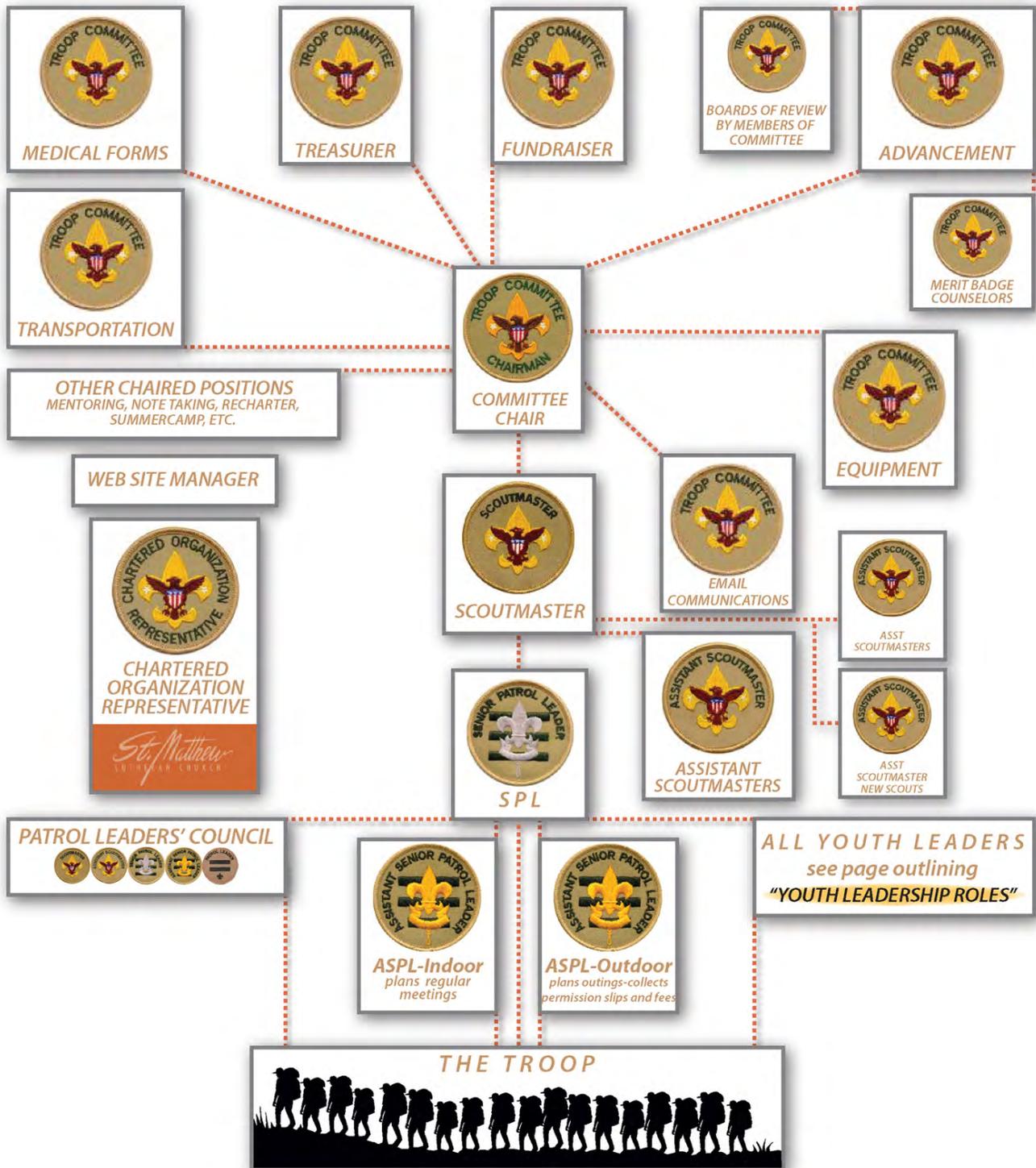
The Basic Organization of Scouting in the USA supporting each Scout



TROOP SUPPORT - ALL IN BALANCE AND HEALTHY
no missing or broken (dysfunctional) legs on the 3 legged stool



DIAGRAMS • ORGANIZATION OF TROOP 124
The Troop 124 Committee Organization



NOTE: St. Matthew Lutheran also charters a Varsity Team with the same trained adult leaders, for any Scout age 14 – 18. This is a great resource for scouts who want to be more active learning through higher skilled activities that build confidence, great memories, and enrich the Scouting experience. Contact our Varsity Team Coach for more information and calendar. The Varsity New Parent Packet is also on the troop website to download for more information, and other information pertaining to the Team is listed toward the end of this booklet.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO JOIN?

Complete an application and provide at least parts A and B of the BSA Medical Form. If new to Scouting, the amount is pro-rated depending on the month joining. Recharter happens in the fall, and when the amount is confirmed. The amount at recharter covers annual registration, Boy's Life Magazine and Troop expenses like advancement. If the fees present a burden to the family, contact the Scoutmaster and arrangements can be made confidentially with him. NO boy should be denied Scouting due to financial difficulty.

WHERE AND WHEN DO WE MEET?

Regular troop meetings are held on Monday nights from 7pm to 8:30pm in the basement Fellowship Hall of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 10390 SW Canyon Road, Beaverton, Oregon. See the monthly calendars from the website, or handed out at the beginning of each month's parent meeting. The parent meetings take place the first Monday each month, during the regular troop meetings. Please attend these meetings for current information, outing details and announcements, other events, and give all the opportunity to get to know you better.

WHAT DOES MY SCOUT NEED?

First, an Official Scout Handbook. Read through the book, and it also will answer scouting questions you may have. The Handbook is considered part of the uniform, and comes to all Troop meetings.

Next, he will need the uniform consisting of a long or short sleeved new uniform shirt, uniform pants with belt or scout uniform scout pants that also require a separate green scout belt, and scout socks. The '124' patch is available from our Advancement Chair, and it goes under the Cascade Pacific Council patch (touching it) on the shirt's top left sleeve. The shoulder epaulets (*aka: shoulder loops*) are green.

The "World Crest Emblem", or "Brotherhood" patch, perhaps is already sewn on the shirt. If not, it is located approx. 2.5 inches above the shirt's left front pocket flap seam, centered.

The "Sunset Trail" district patch, located on the shirt's right front pocket.

The "Cascade Pacific Council" patch, may perhaps already be sewn on shirt. If not, it is located at the shirt's left arm centered and touching the shoulder seam.

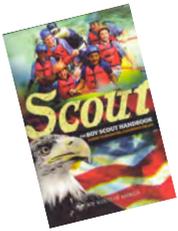
"Arrow of Light" patch, only if earned as a Cub Scout. Centered below the shirt's left front shirt pocket, touching the bottom pocket seam at the point.

Purple religious knot, if earned as a Cub Scout, or can earn later as a Boy Scout. Centered above the shirt's left front pocket above and touching the pocket flap seam.

The US Flag is already sewn or heat sealed onto the shirt.

Patrol patch, once assigned to one, is located centered below the US Flag, and available at the Scout Shop. Position patches will be supplied when your son is elected to fill a position. Rank, as per earned rank, as well. Troop 124 does not wear neckerchiefs at this time.

NOTE: *The troop supplies the 1st Boy Scout Handbook, green epaulets and troop unit number patch. Parents will need to pay for any replacement of these items due to them getting lost, or troop patch 'upgrades'. The Troop may also have some of the other patches, and if so, the troop will sell them to you at cost if it is difficult for you to get to the Nor'west Scout Shop downtown. The Nor'west Scout Shop is located in the Council Service Center at 2145 SW Naito Parkway, Portland. The number is 503.226.3423.*



WHAT ABOUT GEAR?

For starters, first please download 'Weekend Backpack Equipment List' from the Troop website at www.troop124.us. You will also see other downloads available; a PDF for Snow Camping gear, and what's called the "Take A Walk Kit". As far as back packs to carry whatever gear the outing dictates according to the previous equipment lists above, here are some store suggestions. Please ask a scoutmaster prior to equipment purchases for their recommendations.

- **Goodwill Stores.** Coats, WOOL for incredible bargains, and inexpensive rain gear. A wise choice for growing boys.
- **REI.** The place to go for the best quality and selection. Can be professionally fitted into gear like packs, etc. Also offers skilled advice and descriptions of more technical gear.
- **Next Adventure.** Scout discounts and gear clinics 7pm on Thursdays. Will 'fit' the pack on your son, sleeping bag, and other gear. Will also take trade-ins of some gear, for a discount on new items.
- **Andy and Bax.** Good for savings on gortex, wool clothing and smaller gear items, like mess kits.
- **Dick's**
- **Nor'west Scout Shop.** Smaller variety, but good.
- **Sports Authority**
- **Our Troop's internal Gear Bank.** Check with us! We have a gear exchange, in January every year. Lots of free gear.

GENERAL GEAR GUIDELINES *(also reference the Scout Handbook):*

Do not buy gear for your son to 'grow into'.

Sleeping bags will not keep your son warm no matter what the rating if they are purchased to grow into. Their body heat is what "works the space" in the bag relative to the loft, so if too big, their body heat won't warm all the space. Cynch it or tie it off at the bottom to fit and untie as they grow if you prefer to purchase it this way. Note however the weight to be light, 3-4 lbs., and temperature range to be between 5-20°. Insulation should only be Polarguard, Hollofill, or Down. (No cotton, anything) There should be no gaps in the loft fill (*dry out promptly after an outing and store loosely bagged in a breathable bag, or hung, between outings to prevent this*).

The tent should be a two man, if you buy one. It may not be necessary to have one right away for the outings because scouts are buddied up. When you do purchase one, it needs to be lightweight, 5-7 lbs. is recommended.

Raingear, a hooded parka and pants. We live in Oregon, it's a must.

Cooking and eating gear. A plastic cup or metal 'Sierra' cup, a plastic bowl, a spoon and a #10 tin can, along with a light fry pan with a folding handle and a spatula is all that is needed. Attach a wire handle to the #10 can so it may be lifted easily and safely while full.

Knife. The "Official Boy Scout" one, "Swiss Army", or "Leatherman" style folding blades are best. NO blade may be over 3" in length, and SHEATH KNIVES ARE FORBIDDEN. Hatchets are not necessary, nor allowed.

Boots. "Vibram" type lug soles work best. Don't scrimp on the boots. They should fit properly with one pair of heavy wool socks (no cotton), and polypropylene or polypropylene/wool combo liners underneath. Waterproof the boots, and seam seal the seams and welts. Wear them around prior to outings, to break them in. Lightweight nylon-upper trail boots are acceptable, but will not hold out water. Regular tennis shoes do not work. They are only to be considered "in camp shoes" after a day's hike.

Waterbottle.

The troop has an overnight outing or event once a month. Permission slip are an emailed link and you fill out within the email, then hit 'SUBMIT' at the bottom. Please be aware of the due dates listed! Please contact the transportation chair if there's an issue. Scouts give fees to the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader of Outdoor. If driving on the outing after providing driver information, if fuel is ever an financial burden please see the Scoutmaster or our Troop Treasurer.

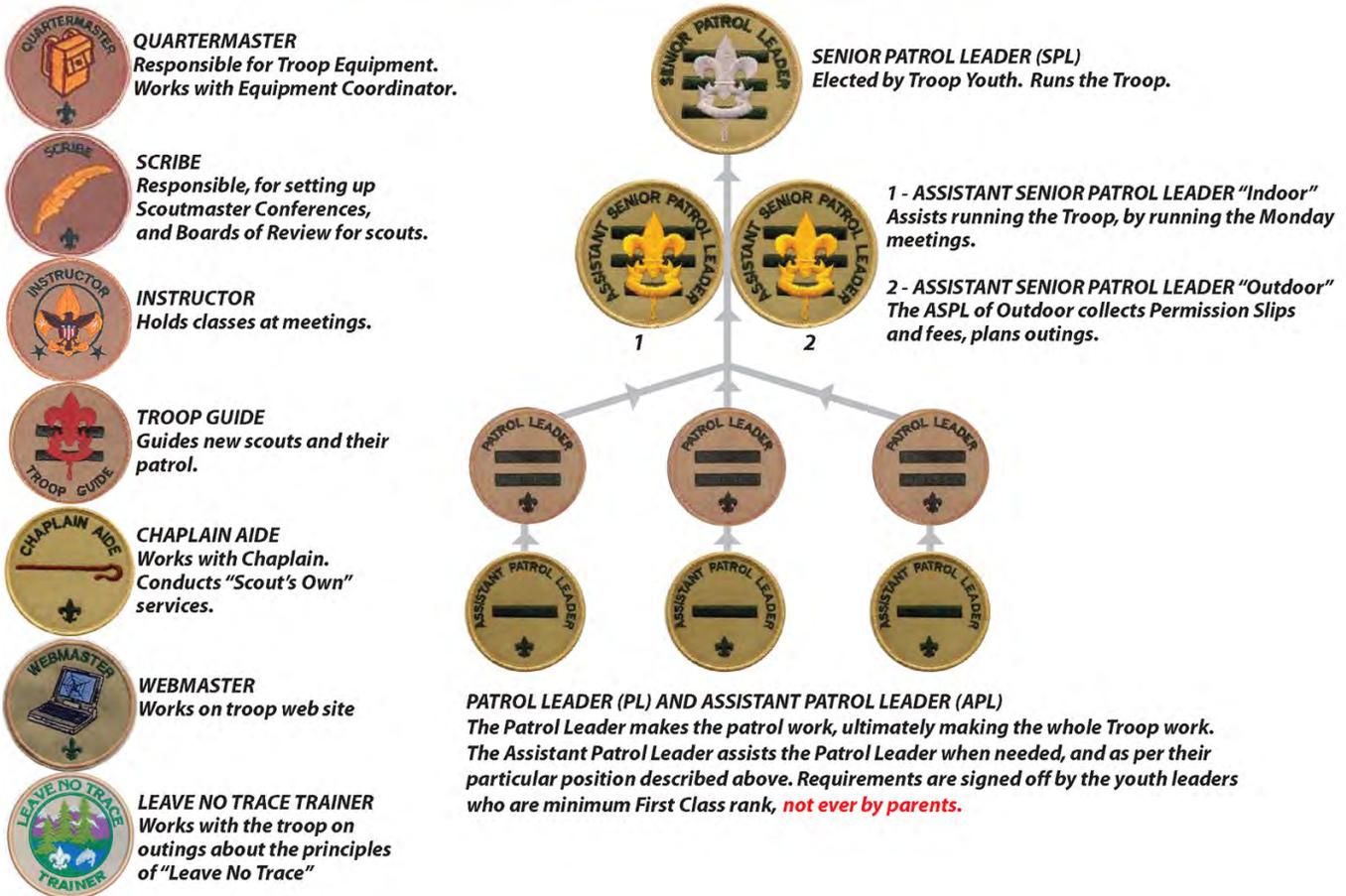
LINES OF COMMUNICATION

FOR SCOUTS: If problems arise during a troop meeting or on an outing, (*and they will*) we want your son to learn to contact the boy leadership first. If you are approached by your son, your role is to only go as far as to remind your son of the proper line of communication, as you are now part of the **'adult' patrol only**. (*Again, see "Parent Role Camping/Activities" page*). If there is a problem, first **'he'** should contact his Patrol Leader (not you). If unresolved then **'he'** works up the chain of command as per below to solve the problem. Unsafe situations, however, warrant intercession by an adult. As a parent, if you have any concerns or questions, please contact one of the adult leaders directly. "Boy-Led", means the boys **'lead'** at the meetings, outings, planning and some record keeping. This is the way a boy-led unit is designed to be. The boys are continually challenged to extend their leadership and organizational skills, problem solving, and improve their levels of responsibility, empowering them to make good decisions. Training is provided for all Youth leaders in formal training sessions at troop and council levels to learn these skills.

The calendar of their planning runs September to September. The Youth Leaders meet at the end of August to create this calendar of outings for the coming year. Each month, the Youth Leaders meet to plan the Monday meetings for the following month. After each meeting, they meet and evaluate how it went, and review their plans for the next Monday meeting.

ADULTS: We communicate as a committee via the 'parent meeting', the first Monday of every month. The Communications Chair emails an agenda which encompasses adult involvement roles and youth outing information. All emails with unit-wide information goes through the troop email address, bsatrop124beaverton@gmail.com. Please make sure to provide email address(es) that you check most frequently.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP ROLES



YOUTH LEADER TRAINING

It is written, that the most important position in the troop for the youth is the Patrol Leader. Indeed--the youth holding this position for each patrol, makes the troop run. The trickle down from each Patrol Leader, can create those successful patrols, therefore, the entire troop. Elections take place every 6 months, then there is a Youth Leader Training held the first weekend in October, and the first weekend in March for the new leadership. *It is mandatory for the youth leaders to attend.* They learn valueable leadership skills that are also an asset to all aspects of their lives—in school, etc. The Varsity Team 124 youth leaders also are required to attend, as they lead youth in both units, and both units benefit symbionically from their active participation. In the Varsity Team 124's New Parent Packet, it too, has the graphic below to illustrate this very relationship. The younger scouts look up to their older peers – the older peers are obligated to mentor as older Scouts. All of this is supported and encouraged by the shared committee of parents and registered leaders. ***Please take heed of these trainings in March and October.*** Parents can at some point, come help prepare meals and witness the training, and it's intent so they can better understand what they are supporting for their son—all other outings, the patrols cook their own planned meals! Additionally, the troop scholarships any youth interested in attending National Youth Leadership Training, or NYLT, which is a week long more intense leadership skills training, which is typically for ages 13-16. They then bring those skills back to 124 where they can utilize EDGE skills, hands on. It's that important.



LET'S GET SCOUTING!

If you want to play an active adult role (that's very appreciated!), a good place to start is taking 'Youth Protection Training' which is required to attend outings, and 'Hazardous Weather Training'. Without adults, the 3 legged stool collapses—we rely on our parents for that supporting role! This training is convenient—it's on-line at www.myscouting.org. Upon completing each training, ***please print your completed proof of training and give to the Committee Chair, or email your proof to the troop email address, bsatrop124beaverton@gmail.com*** once complete. Youth Protection proof is also required with any Adult Leader Application. When starting out initially, sign in as a new username without an ID#, then we will assist you in how to link your training to your ID# once you are registered. If you came from a Cub Scout Pack as a registered adult, you already have a number, just call the scout office for your number and take the training on line with it linked to your ID# (It stays the same from Cubs, unless registration has lapsed over 1 year). For some roles, Troop 124 encourages parents to get through one year, to see how the troop functions prior to registering for those roles. And for the exhausted Den Leader, you need that break! Attend outings, take it in, and get to know the other parents!

We also hold a specific, new parent meeting every spring and the date is announced ahead. This ensures education on the 'two-deep leadership' requirements, advancement questions, how the troop works, and much more. Additionally, on an ongoing basis at any stage in your involvement in the troop, if you have questions you are encouraged the night of the monthly parent meeting to arrive 15-20 minutes early, where you can ask questions, address concerns, or get more information on training and how to be involved. There are many opportunities year around for adults and it is very much appreciated—from task oriented roles, to simply cooking at the Troop Leader Trainings, which is a WONDERFUL experience to see what scouts learn about Servant Leadership.

If you would like to attend any level of *additional* training or register as a adult leader (*Merit Badge Counselor, Member of Committee for Boards of Review, etc*) and learn more about the goals of Scouting and how it all works, please let the Troop Committee Chair know. Thank you for joining and continuing the century-long history of Scouting founded by British Lord Robert Baden Powell, and believing in the patrol method, and character-building tools we parents all appreciate. We are confident you will see the growth in your son, in a 'boy led' unit. If you have any questions, or concerns about the program, don't hesitate to ask any registered adult leader.



THANK YOU & WELCOME TO TROOP 124!



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