

# New Scout Program

The transition from Webelos to Boy Scouting is a big step in the Scouting career of a young man. While under the Scouting umbrella, Boy Scouting is vastly different than Cub Scouting and the transition can be a challenging and confusing time. This guide is intended to supplement the Boy Scout Handbook in helping ease the transition of Scouts from Webelos to Boy Scouting.

## THE PATROL METHOD

Troop 400 is comprised of several patrols. A patrol is a small group (usually 8 Scouts) who works together as a team and share the responsibility of making their patrol a success. Our patrols take pride in their identity, and strive to be the best they can be. Patrols will sometimes join with other patrols to learn skills and complete advancement requirements. At other times they will compete against those same patrols in Scout skills and athletic competitions.

Each patrol has a patrol leader who is elected by the patrol members. A primary job of the patrol leader is to serve on the patrol leader's council (PLC). The PLC is where the majority of the decisions of daily Troop operations are made. The PLC is made up of the Senior Patrol Leader, the Patrol Leaders, and those other appointed leadership positions in the Troop. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters serve as advisors to the PLC.

## NEW SCOUT PATROL

When a boy first crosses over into Troop 400 he is assigned to a new Scout patrol. This patrol is comprised of other Scouts who recently crossed over from a Cub Scout Pack. The New Scout Patrol (NSP) will be an active patrol until Summer Camp. At that time, each Scout will be assigned into the existing patrol structure in the Troop. The NSP will have a Troop Guide assigned to act as its Patrol Leader. The Troop Guide is an experienced Scout who has been chosen by the Scoutmaster to work with the new Scouts. In addition to the Troop Guide, one or more Assistant Scoutmasters (ASMs) will be assigned to the NSP to help mentor the patrol.

## ROLE OF THE TROOP GUIDE

The Troop Guide is an important component of the New Scout Patrol and should be used as the main coordination point between the New Scouts and the Troop. His duties include:

- Introduce new Scouts to Troop operations
- Guide new Scouts through early Scouting activities
- Help new Scouts assimilate into the Troop



- Teach basic Scout skills
- Serve as the Patrol Leader for the New Scout Patrol
- Assist the Assistant Scoutmaster with training
- Counsel individual Scouts on Scouting challenges

## **ROLE OF THE ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER**

An Assistant Scoutmaster(s) will be assigned to the NSP. The primary role of the ASM is to work with the Troop Guide in ensuring the new Scouts are learning the basic skills necessary for a successful integration into the Troop and to ensure a smooth transition from Webelos to Boy Scouting. In addition, the ASM will be the primary coordination and recruiting point with local Cub Scout packs that have Webelos interested in crossing over to Troop 400.

## **NEW SCOUT TIMELINE**

Each Scout who joins Troop 400 will have a unique experience, but generally will follow the timeline listed below:

January	Webelos begin researching Troops in their area and schedule Troop visits.
February	Webelos contact the Troop with an interest in joining. ASM schedules time at a Den meeting to visit with potential new Scouts and parents and answer any questions they might have about Troop 400.
March	ASM coordinates with the Senior Patrol Leader to ensure adequate representation of the Troop at the Pack's cross over ceremony
April	First Scout meeting of incoming Webelos. New Scout Patrol formed. New parent orientation to answer questions of new parents of the Troop. First campout of the NSP.
May/June	Second and third campouts as a NSP.
Late July/August	Summer Camp New Scout Patrol disbanded. New Scouts assigned to existing patrols. New Scouts are no longer considered "new".

## THINGS THEY DON'T TEACH YOU IN THE BOOK

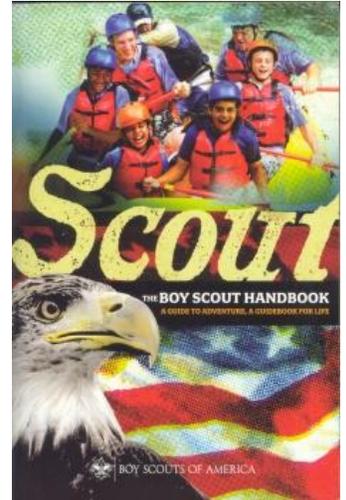
The Boy Scout Handbook has a wealth of information in it to help guide a Scout along his journey to Eagle. However, there are many things a Scout with Troop 400 needs to know that aren't in the book.

### **Camping Basics**

The outdoor program at Troop 400 is the linchpin of the Scouting experience. It is where the program comes alive. The first few campouts for a new Scout can be challenging, and here are a few things that he needs to know.

#### Grubmaster Responsibilities

As a Boy Scout, each Patrol is responsible for acquiring, preparing and cleaning up their meals on a campout. On the first campout, the Troop Guide will typically act as the grubmaster for the Patrol. After that, a volunteer from the NSP will act as the grubmaster on each subsequent campout.



Grubmaster responsibilities fall into 5 categories

1. Purchase food for the campout
  2. Bring the food for the campout
  3. Prepare a duty roster to assign kitchen duties
  4. Follow up with patrol members for cost reimbursement
  5. Clean patrol box after campout
1. Purchase and bring the food for the campout. Meal planning is an important part of the grubmaster's responsibilities. Prior to the campout, the patrol should decide on what they want to eat. Four meals should be planned for – breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday, and a light, quick breakfast on Sunday. When purchasing food, the grubmaster should ensure that he purchases enough food to feed everyone in the Patrol who has signed up to attend the campout. Total cost of food for each Scout should be in the \$8 to \$10 range.

The meals should be nutritious and filling. One of the important skills any young man should learn is cooking. We strongly discourage the use of prepackaged and prepared foods on campouts. These typically are more expensive and less nutritious than items made from scratch. Having said that, however, it is desirable in many instances to prepare ingredients (chop up vegetables, etc.) ahead of time to save time and effort on the campout.

2. Bring the food for the campout. Once the menu has been planned, the grubmaster will purchase the food and bring it on the campout. If the grubmaster, for any reason, cannot attend the campout, he needs to coordinate with others in the patrol to ensure that the food is transported to the camp site.

3. Prepare a duty roster to assign kitchen duties. The grubmaster will also assign the various tasks, such as cooking and kitchen patrol (KP), to members of the NSP ahead of time. It is important that responsibilities be shared and known ahead of time. The most difficult situations on a campout usually revolve around KP and who is going to do what. By clearly defining these responsibilities ahead of time, the grubmaster can save himself a lot of grief.
4. Follow up with patrol members for cost reimbursement. Once the food is purchased, the grubmaster should contact each patrol member who is planning on attending and let them know how much they owe him. It is his responsibility to collect all funds owed him. If he is having trouble collecting from a Scout, he should work with his Troop Guide and ASM to resolve the matter.

***Important: If a Scout indicates he is going on the campout and food is purchased with the understanding he will be attending but then backs out at the last minute, he is still responsible for reimbursing the grubmaster!!***

5. Clean patrol box after campout. Regardless of how careful a patrol is in cleaning their patrol gear during a campout, the patrol boxes will need to be taken home and cleaned to be ready for the next campout. Supplies, such as paper towels, may need to be replenished by the patrol. Dish cloths should be washed and dried. Pots and pans should be rewashed and dried to ensure good hygiene. Once the patrol box is clean, the grubmaster will present it to the Troop Quartermaster to be checked back in. The Quartermaster will go through the box and determine if it is clean enough to be checked back in. If it is not, he will return it to the grubmaster with instructions on what needs to be addressed.

A grubmaster checklist has been developed to help the grubmaster organize for the campout. It is expected that he fill this checklist out ahead of time and bring it with him on the campout. He may be required to show this to the ASM! The checklist is available for download on the Troop website at <http://www.troop400.net/useful-stuff>.

### Packing

Troop 400 camps year round in all types of weather. As a result, it is important that the Scout be prepared for any type of weather. As a new Scout, he will be learning a lot about what to bring – and what not to bring – on a campout. Until he is first class, a scout is required to have a pack check prior to departure on a campout. This pack check is conducted by an older Scout and is typically a few days before the campout. To help the Scout determine what he should bring, a packing checklist is provided in his new Scout binder. In addition, the checklist is available for download on the Troop website at <http://www.troop400.net/useful-stuff>.

The packing checklist is very detailed and not all items will be needed for all campouts (if it is a winter campout, chances are you won't need a swimsuit!)

### Equipment Needs

The camping gear that a Scout acquires during his time in Scouting can be pretty significant. A new Scout, upon seeing all of this cool gear the older Scouts own is apt to think he needs it **RIGHT NOW!** This can be a very expensive proposition for a family and one the Troop discourages. There are a few items that the Scout needs for his first campout. The rest can be acquired over time. These are:

- Good sleeping bag. Mummy bags are the best bet as they are warm and light. Mummy bags get their warmth from the hood and draw strings. When you crawl in, you should have your head under the hood, but exposed to the outside. Don't bury your head in the bag as the condensation from your breath will coat the inside of the bag and make you colder. Usually there are two drawstrings on a mummy bag – one to tighten the hood and one to tighten the opening. These drawstrings, when used properly, can greatly increase the warmth of the bag. If you don't have access to a good warm bag, 2 sleeping bags or a sleeping bag and blankets can be used in.



- Sleeping pad. This is essential in cold weather camping. These pads are not for comfort as much as for insulation. A closed cell foam pad is very inexpensive and can be purchased at many outdoor stores for less than \$10. More expensive self inflating pads, such as Thermo-Rest pads are not as warm and are heavier. They can also spring leaks at inconvenient times. Do not use air mattresses. While they are the most comfortable, they have no insulating properties. If you are sleeping on cold ground, that cold will come right through to you.



- Mess Kit. A bowl, eating utensils, and water bottle. Plastic mess kits are typically more desirable than metal ones - especially on cold campouts. Metal bowls will turn warm food cold quickly. A bowl as simple as an empty Cool Whip container works just as well as a bowl you can buy at an outdoor store.



Several times a year, the Troop will have a campout that requires a hike into the site. In those cases, a backpack is very desirable (if not required). The Troop has several junior sized backpacks that can be loaned out to Scouts who need them. If you need a backpack, contact your ASM and he'll arrange to bring one in for your use.

As a Scout becomes more experienced, he will begin to acquire gear to fit his camping needs. Birthdays and Christmas are great opportunities to outfit a Scout. In addition, the Troop holds multiple fundraisers each year. Two thirds of all profits a Scout earns in these fund raisers are deposited into his own account at the Troop. These funds can be used by the Scout for any Scouting related item (gear, camp fees, etc.). To access these funds, the Scout contacts the Troop Committee Chairperson and informs them that he

would like to use his Scout account funds to purchase an item. Once the committee approves the purchase, the Scout can go out and purchase the item and submit the receipt to the Committee for reimbursement.

A more complete description of gear and their pros/cons can be found on the Troop website at <http://www.troop400.net/scout-skills>.

### Field Hygiene

An important aspect of having a good time on our outdoor adventures is to make sure you keep a clean camp. This includes your personal gear as well as your patrol gear. When personal gear gets lost it is usually because the Scout has not kept his gear organized and stored properly. Backpacking tents are small and when your cloths and other gear gets strewn about it, it becomes even smaller. Many times your cherished pocket knife is going to end up outside or under something. Keep your gear organized! It is your responsibility!

KP is a chore that few Scouts enjoy. But it has to be done and done properly. Soap and hot water are important aspects of good hygiene and helps prevent a Scout from getting sick on a campout. Each patrol box has a wash basin, dish soap, and scouring pads – use them! To speed up you KP, always start heating your dish water as soon as you finish cooking - even before you start eating. By the time everyone is done eating, the water is usually hot and ready for cleaning dishes. If you are organized, KP takes no time at all. If it is a shared responsibility, it takes even less time.

Your patrol area, especially your kitchen area, needs to be clean and organized after each meal. We camp in all weather and anything left out can easily be ruined – either by the weather or by opportunistic animals looking for a free meal.

### **Rank Advancement**

The Boy Scout Handbook has all the requirements listed to achieve the various ranks. The first rank a new Scout will work on is the New Scout Rank. While this is an optional rank for Scouts who have achieved the Arrow of Light award, we feel that a discussion with your ASM to go over these joining requirements is a good introduction to the Troop and a refresher on your basic Scout knowledge. After the New Scout Rank, the Scout will begin on the following ranks:

#### Skills based ranks:

- Tenderfoot
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Class
- 1<sup>st</sup> Class

#### Leadership based ranks

- Star
- Life
- Eagle



The Boy Scout Handbook lists these out in the order they are granted (you can't earn 2<sup>nd</sup> Class before you've earned Tenderfoot). However, you can work on any requirements in the handbook at any given time (you don't have to go in order). Most of the skills you will learn to achieve Tenderfoot, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, and 1<sup>st</sup> Class will be worked on at campouts. It is very common that skills will be taught from the various ranks at the same time. ***Because many of the skills to be signed off will be taught at campouts, it is important that you bring your handbook on these campouts!***

### Scoutmaster Conference

Once a Scout has gotten signed off on all the requirements for a rank, he attends a Scoutmaster conference. This meeting is held between the Scout and the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster and is initiated by the Scout. At these conferences, the Scoutmaster will review the Scout's progress and what they have learned as well set goals for the next rank. Once the Scout has successfully completed his Scoutmaster conference he is ready for a Board of Review.

### Board of Review

The Board of Review is the opportunity for the Troop Committee to visit with the Scout to see how he is doing in the program. While this can be an intimidating experience for the Scout (being quizzed by a group of adults), it is not their role to test the Scout to determine if he has earned to rank. Their role is to serve as an independent group to ensure the program is meeting the needs of the Scout and fulfilling BSA guidelines. To initiate a Board of Review, the Scout, upon completing his Scoutmaster conference, will contact the Advancement Chair of the Committee and request a Board of Review. This request needs to be made at least one week ahead of the Board of Review and is usually done either through a phone call or an e-mail (depending on the preference of the Advancement Chair). Boards of Review are held monthly, typically the first Monday of the month.

When contacting the Advancement Chair, the Scout indicates that he has completed all the requirements for a specific rank and is now ready for a Board of Review. Boards of Review will not be granted for multiple ranks (i.e. a Scout cannot combine a Board of Review for both 2<sup>nd</sup> Class and 1<sup>st</sup> Class).

The Scout will present himself to the Board in full Scout uniform (field uniform, sash, neckerchief, and pants with belt loops). Athletic shorts or pants without belt loops are not allowed during a Board of Review – these Reviews are big deals, dress appropriately! Shorts with belt loops are allowed but only if accompanied with official Scout socks. Closed toed shoes are required (i.e. no sandals for flip flops). The Scout must also present his Scout handbook.

### Merit Badges

Merit badges are a key element of the Scouting program. They expose the Scout to new interests and hobbies as well as teach them about the world around them. Merit badges are required as part of the leadership based ranks. While we encourage new Scouts to focus on learning the skills necessary to earn 1<sup>st</sup> Class, we don't discourage them from

earning Merit Badges at the same time – it’s a decision up to the Scout on what best for him.

To begin a merit badge, the Scout will contact a merit badge counselor. The Troop has many counselors available for many of different topics. However, if the Troop does not have a counselor for a merit badge the Scout is interested in, he can contact the Council office for a list of counselors. Once the counselor has accepted the Scout as a student, the Scout will approach the Scoutmaster for a blue card.

The blue card is the official record of the merit badge and contains all the necessary approvals.

The blue card comes in 3 parts:

- Applicant’s Record
- Counselor’s Record
- Council Office’s Record

<p><b>Information for Applicant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A merit badge application can be approved only by a registered merit badge counselor.</li> <li>• You must have a buddy with you (Scout buddy system) at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.</li> <li>• Turn in your approved application to your unit leader. You will be awarded the merit badge emblem and certificate at a suitable occasion.</li> </ul> <p><b>Information for Counselor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the applicant's unit leader.</li> <li>• The Scout must have his buddy (Scout buddy system) in attendance at all instructional sessions.</li> <li>• You may not change any requirement, but you may share your knowledge or experience that will make the counseling more interesting and valuable.</li> </ul> <p>SKU 34124</p>  <p>7 30176 34528 4 2010 Printing</p>	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Counselor initial</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Date of approval</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Requirement No. and letter</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Counselor initial</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Date of approval</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Requirement No. and letter</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Counselor initial		Date of approval		Requirement No. and letter		Counselor initial		Date of approval		Requirement No. and letter		<p align="center"><b>APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE</b></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>is a registered  <input type="checkbox"/> Boy Scout    <input type="checkbox"/> Varsity Scout    <input type="checkbox"/> Venturer          of _____ Troop, team, crew, ship    No. _____</p> <p>District _____</p> <p>Council _____</p> <p>and is qualified to begin working for merit badge noted on the reverse side.</p> <p>Date _____ Signature of unit leader _____</p> <p align="center"> BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®</p> <p>34124</p>
Counselor initial														
Date of approval														
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Counselor initial														
Date of approval														
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<p>The applicant has personally appeared before me and demonstrated to my satisfaction that he has met all requirements for the (please print)</p> <p>Merit badge: _____</p> <p>Name of counselor: _____</p> <p>Address of counselor: _____</p> <p>City _____ Zip code: _____</p> <p>Telephone number of counselor: _____</p> <p>Signature of counselor _____ / / Date</p> <p>Checked and recorded: _____</p> <p>Date _____ Title: _____</p> <p>Certificate and badge presented _____ Date: _____</p> <p>Applicant will turn in this portion to his unit leader for record posting.</p>	<p align="center"><b>APPLICANT'S RECORD</b></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>has given me his completed application for the _____ the badge</p> <p>Completed on _____ / _____ / _____ by _____</p> <p>Signature of counselor _____</p> <p>Signature of unit leader _____</p> <p align="center"><b>NOTE TO BOY SCOUT, VARSITY SCOUT, OR VENTURER:</b> Retain this copy for your permanent records.</p>	<p align="center"><b>COUNSELOR'S RECORD</b></p> <p>Applicant: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Troop    <input type="checkbox"/> Team    Unit number _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Crew</p> <p>Merit badge: _____</p> <p>Date completed _____ / _____ / _____</p> <p>Remarks: _____</p> <p>It is suggested that the counselor keep this record in case any question is raised later in regard to this award.</p>
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The Scoutmaster will provide a blue card to the Scout. The Scout will fill out the blue card with the required information such as the merit badge being taken, the counselor's information, etc. The Scoutmaster will then sign the blue card indicating to the counselor that the Scout has his approval to begin the merit badge. Once the Scout has satisfied all the requirements of the merit badge, the counselor will sign off on the merit badge. At that point, the counselor may or may not take the counselor's section of the blue card (at their discretion). The Scout will then present the completed blue card to the Troop Advancement Chair who will take the Council record and initiate the paperwork needed to award the merit badge. The merit badge will be awarded at a regular meeting as well as at a Court of Honor.

It is very important that you maintain records of all your merit badges completed. Keep your completed blue cards in a safe place. When you begin your Eagle rank paperwork, you will need to list the dates that you completed all of your Eagle required merit badges. If the council has misplaced your merit badge records, these blue cards can be used as evidence that you completed the required merit badges. Many scouts place their completed blue cards in baseball card plastic sleeve holders and put these in a special binder. Whatever method you use, make sure you keep them safe.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Class Privileges and Responsibilities

The old saying, "Rank has its privileges" holds true in Boy Scouts as well. As a new Scout, you are required to share a tent with another Scout or your parent. This helps in lightening your load (you don't have to haul in a tent for each person) and creates greater Patrol camaraderie. As you gain more experience and move up in rank, you will become more independent and self reliant in the outdoors. As a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scout, will be able to choose if you want to share a tent with someone or tent by yourself – it's your choice.

As a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scout, it will be your responsibility to help mentor the Scouts still coming up and learning. Troop 400 is a boy led troop which means that boys work with boys. How successful we are as a Troop is dependent on you!

### **Summer Camp**

Summer camp is the highlight of the Scouting year. As a new Scout, you'll have the opportunity to attend a week long summer camp with the Troop. This event is typically in late July or early August. When you join the Troop, you and your parents will be given information on where the Troop is attending camp and when it will be held. If you have any funds from your Scout account while in Cub Scouts, the Troop will work with your Pack to get those funds transferred over to your Troop account.

### **Electronics**

Cell phones, iPods, Game boys. These are all great gadgets and fun to use. They don't have a place on a campout. These items are expensive and are not designed to handle the conditions new Scouts will find themselves in. Many electronic gadgets have been broken on campouts. If you **MUST** bring your electronic gadgets, you will be required to keep them in your tent or a vehicle. Failure to do so may result in the item being

confiscated by the Scoutmaster for the duration of the campout. Don't take a chance. Leave these items at home.

## **RESOURCES**

There is a lot of stuff you have to learn in Scouts. Don't worry; you'll get there in no time. There are a lot of resources available to help you along your journey. The most important person at the start of your Scouting journey is your Troop Guide. He has been specially selected to help you learn the tools of the trade. Your Senior Patrol Leader can give you guidance, especially on those really tough issues (like KP!) The Assistant Scoutmasters are also a great resource. They'll typically ask you if you've worked with your Troop Guide first, but they are always there to help you out.

As a boy led Troop we want you to try and resolve any issues among yourselves before getting an adult involved. As a general guide, this is the order in which you should elevate issues:

1. Troop Guide/Patrol Leader
2. Senior Patrol Leader
3. Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster

Your Troop Guide should be able to handle most of the issues you will face as a new Scout. If he can't help you, or is unavailable, talk to your Senior Patrol Leader. He is in charge of the whole Troop. In most cases, he'll be able to help you out. In the rare instance where the Senior Patrol Leader needs assistance, he may bring in the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster.

The more experienced Scouts in the Troop are also a great resource. Most of the problems you face have been faced by them before. Use them!

Sometimes, you need very specific information. The Troop has many resources available to keep you organized. First and foremost is the Troop website. It has the Troop calendar on it to tell you when events are. It has all of the checklists referred to in this guide. The Troop publishes a newsletter every two months that also contains a lot of great information. The newsletter is also found on the website. The Troop also has a library that holds many merit badge booklets.

**Welcome to Troop 400! Get ready for an adventure you'll never forget!**