



Guidebook for New Scouts and Parents

Boy Scout Troop 165

Joining Troop 165

Selecting a Boy Scout troop to join is an individual decision for each family. Every troop is different in the kinds of activities they schedule and in their personalities. You should choose the troop that you feel will best meet your needs. In selecting a troop, you should consider the following factors. Are the troop activities the kind that you would enjoy? How do the Scouts interact with each other? How do the older Scouts interact with the younger Scouts? Are there older Scouts active in the troop? (This indicates if the troop's program is exciting and interesting for a variety of ages.) Is the troop "boy led" or is it led by the adults? (The best answer is the troop is "boy led".) Are you comfortable with the adult leaders in the troop? Are the adult leaders trained, do they follow BSA policy, and do they welcome input and participation by all parents? In practice, the decision of which troop to join usually comes down to two factors: convenience of the weekly troop meetings (meeting night and location) and which troop a boy's best friends are in.

A Scout does have the freedom to transfer to another troop if, for any reason, he changes his mind after joining a troop. When comparing troops it is not too important how large a troop is, or how many Eagle Scouts it has, or how many high-adventure trips they go on. The measure of a successful troop is how well it meets the three aims of Scouting: encouraging participatory citizenship, building strong moral character, and helping boys to grow physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. In other words, do boys leave the troop a better person than they were when they joined? With so many troops in the Fredericksburg area, it may seem like a huge task to choose just the right one. Fortunately, all of the troops in the area are excellent and any one of them would be a good choice.

A parent or guardian should accompany you to a troop meeting at the time you decide to join Troop 165. One of the adult leaders will visit with you and your parents to explain Troop 165's program and procedures. You should receive the following materials and forms:

- Boy Scout Application
- Personal Health and Medical Record form
- Uniform Inspection Sheet
- Troop Roster
- Troop Schedule

At the next meeting, you should return the completed Boy Scout application, Personal Health and Medical Record form, and Troop Family Information Survey along with the one time joining fee of \$20. This fee covers your registration with the Boy Scouts of America and a subscription to *Boys' Life* magazine. Please contact either the Scoutmaster or the Committee Chairman if the joining fee presents a financial burden.

If you are transferring from either Webelos or another troop, please include a copy of your existing membership card with your application. If you are a new Boy Scout, review the joining requirements found on page 4 of your *Boy Scout Handbook*. Before you return the above forms, you should complete joining requirement number 9: With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide* which is found inside the front cover of your *Boy Scout Handbook*.

Parents' Orientation

An informational meeting will be held for the parents of the new Scouts who join Troop 165. Key adult volunteers will be introduced, an overview of Boy Scouts and Troop 165 will be presented, there will be a discussion of camping equipment that your son will need, and lots of time will be given to answering questions. This meeting will help you and your son make a smooth transition into Boy Scouts. During the meeting, the troop leaders hope to answer the following questions and to address any of your concerns not listed here.

- What are the troop's expectations for Scouts and for their parents?
- What will a Webelos Scout have to do differently once he is a Boy Scout?
- What will a Scout's parents have to do differently once he is a Boy Scout?
- What is the parents' role and involvement in their son's Scouting career and his troop?
- What is the cost of Scouting and how does the troop finance it?
- What books, uniforms, camping equipment, and camping clothing are needed now and in the future?
- When and where will the troop go to summer camp? What preparations are needed for going to summer camp?

The weekly meetings are scheduled as follows:

Monday Evening

7:30 p.m.

Knights of Columbus

4724 Harrison Road

Fredericksburg, VA 22408-1839

Introduction

This guide is written primarily for the parents of new scouts. These pages explain how a typical Boy Scout troop operates with information that is specific to Troop 165 and to the National Capital Area Council. The information comes from a variety of sources including the *Boy Scout Handbook* and *Scoutmaster Handbook*. Every Scout and his parents should read this entire guide upon joining Troop 165.

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Troop Organization

Boy Scouts is a unique organization in that the Scouts are responsible for planning and running most of the activities. The adult volunteers are there to provide advice, leadership training, and administrative support. When a Scout has a question or concern about the troop, he should first go to the junior leadership rather than to the adult volunteers. In addition to the *Boy Scout Handbook*, more information on leadership and various junior leaders in a troop can be found in the *Boy Scout Junior Leader Handbook*.

Patrols

As a member of Troop 165, a scout will be a member of a **patrol** (p. 16 - 23, *Boy Scout Handbook*). New scouts are members of one or more new scout patrols. These patrols are guided by senior scouts who are Troop Guides, and each patrol has an adult mentor whose job is to supervise the patrol while allowing the scouts to run it. An assistant scoutmaster is in overall charge of the new patrols and his job is to make sure each scout has the opportunity to learn basic scouting skills and to advance in rank. The new scout patrols will not have permanent leaders, but will take turns acting in patrol leadership jobs such as Patrol Leader.

Within the permanent patrols, the Senior Patrol Leader selects a Patrol Leader. Other jobs within the patrol include assistant patrol leader, patrol quartermaster, and instructor. Each patrol (St. John's, St. Luke's, and St. Mark's) has its own flag.

Senior Patrol Leader

The person in charge of the troop is the **Senior Patrol Leader** or **SPL** (p. 26, *Boy Scout Handbook*). He is elected to this office by secret ballot of all of the Scouts in the troop. Elections are held in early March and again in early September. Nominations are accepted during the troop meeting preceding the election. After consulting with the Scoutmaster, the Senior Patrol Leader appoints an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) and other leaders. While in office, the Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader transfer from their regular patrols to the patrol of the Junior Assistant Scoutmasters. Other troop leadership positions (p. 172, *Boy Scout Handbook*) appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader include Quartermaster, Scribe, Troop Historian, Librarian, Chaplain Aide, and Order of the Arrow Troop Representative. A Scout must be active in the Troop and be at least a Life Scout in rank in order to be nominated for Senior Patrol Leader.

Patrol Leaders' Council

All of the Patrol Leaders make up the governing body of the troop called the **Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC)** (p. 24, *Boy Scout Handbook*) which is headed by the Senior Patrol Leader. The PLC consists of the SPL, the ASPL, and the patrol leaders. The PLC conducts a troop program planning conference in August to outline the troop activities for the coming year. The PLC meets each month to take this outline and plan the details of troop meetings and outings for the coming month. The monthly PLC meetings are usually scheduled from 6:30 to 7:30 on the first Wednesday of the month. Other scout leaders may be asked to attend PLC meetings in a non-voting status.

Adult Volunteers

Adult volunteers fill one of two roles. They may serve as uniformed leaders who work with the Scouts on a regular basis during weekly meetings and monthly outings, or they may provide support for the troop through the troop committee.

The adults who work directly with the Scouts are the Scoutmaster and the assistant Scoutmasters. One of the most important jobs of the Scoutmaster corps is to train and guide the junior leaders in running THEIR troop. As a scout assumes the various leadership positions within Troop 165, he can expect both formal leadership training and informal coaching from your Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmasters, the troop committee, and your fellow junior leaders.

The troop committee provides the support that makes the program planned by the Patrol Leaders' Council a reality. The Committee Chairman organizes and delegates the tasks within the committee.

The degree to which a parent participates in the troop is an individual decision based on each parent's available time and inclinations, and adults who have an desire and interest can become involved on an informal basis or if they don't wish a more formal commitment. However, with few exceptions, *boys who stay active in scouting and ultimately succeed have parents who are also active.*

Regular Troop Meetings

Troop meetings: Monday evenings, 7:30 to 9:00

Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) meetings: First Monday of the month, 6:30-7:30

Most meetings are held at Knights of Columbus, 4724 Harrison Road Fredericksburg, VA 22408-1839.

Weekly troop meetings are held year round except during summer camp, and during the Christmas season. Scouts in Troop 165 come from several different schools so it is not practical to cancel meetings during each spring break or other school vacations. Committee meetings and PLC meetings may be held on different days depending on the schedule of activities for a particular month. Please check the monthly calendar for all meetings.

Whenever severe weather forces school to close for the day, Scout meetings may also canceled.

As a member of Troop 165, regular meeting attendance is expected. We encourage Scouts to be active in church, school, and extra curricular activities. Some Scouts in the troop "take a break" from Scouting during one sport season or another and then return when the season is over. We do not penalize Scouts who miss meetings or outings due to sports or other extra curricular activities. However, if you miss a lot of meetings and troop activities, it will be difficult to maintain steady advancement progress. Obligations to your family, church, and school should have priority over Scouts.

Charter Organization

Troop 165 is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and is open to all eligible boys regardless of race, religion, national origin, or where they attend school. The Knights of Columbus provide us with a place to store the troop trailer and gives us a place to hold meetings and store our troop equipment shed. In return, each Scout is expected to assist in planned service projects that benefit the community as a whole and our sponsor in particular.

Information Distribution

Important announcements are made during Troop meetings and/or given to the scouts themselves. Since Troop 165 is a youth run organization, information is not routinely passed to the parents. It is the scouts' responsibility to pass on and act on information announced at the troop meetings.

There is also a Troop Web Site where information can be obtained. The address is www.t165.com

An annual calendar is produced after the annual program planning conference in August. Copies of this calendar are given to all scouts and posted on the troop web site.

Dues, Fundraising, and the Cost of Scouting

9th point of the Scout Law: *A Scout is Thrifty*

The Troop Committee recognizes that Scouting has become expensive and can be a strain on a household budget. No Scout should be prevented from participating for financial reasons. Financial assistance is available for any Scout who is unable to be fully involved in Scouts due to financial difficulty. Please contact either the Committee Chairman or the Scoutmaster.

The annual membership renewal and the cost of maintaining troop equipment can be funded entirely by [fund-raising projects](#). As a member of Troop 165, you are expected to participate in fund raising projects to earn your annual membership renewal. This is keeping with the philosophy that a Scout is thrifty and should earn his own way in all Scouting activities. The successful fundraiser undertaken for the National Scout Jamboree in 2001 raised sufficient funds to purchase items such as a Troop Trailer, canopies for each patrol and other needed items.

Currently monies raised through fundraising pay for annual recharter costs, Boys Life, patches and badges, and a few activities such as the Mother's Day Dinner. Fundraising efforts are a means for individual scouts to earn money to defray costs of summer camp and other activities. Total cost for each Scout is \$100 per year. A "Scout Account" is created for each Scout when they participate in fund raising activities. The funds the Scout raises through these fund raising projects can be used to pay for his monthly dues, any scouting activities, and the additional \$40 annual troop fee listed below.

At a minimum each Scout is responsible for the following:

- \$60 annual dues (broken down to \$5.00 per month) plus,
- \$40 toward troop expenses.

Many Troop activities involve expenses for meals, fees charged for activities, and sometimes registration or camping fees. The troop collects an activity fee from each participating Scout and Scouter. Activity fees pay a portion of the total cost of the event with the remainder covered by the troop treasury. The adult planning the activity determines the activity fee for each event. In addition to the activity fee, each patrol establishes its own budget for food and the patrol is responsible for collecting the money and purchasing its own food. The costs of summer camp and high adventure trips are paid in full by the Scout. As a Scout, you are expected to earn and save for your Scouting expenses yourself and not simply ask your parents to pay for it.

Uniforms

Your Class A Scout uniform (p. 12 - 13, *Boy Scout Handbook*) consists of the scout shirt with badges, scout neckerchief or bolo, scout belt, scout pants, and scout socks. The Class A uniform is to be worn while traveling to, traveling from, and during all Troop functions and Scout sponsored activities, unless the Class B uniform is specifically authorized. The Class B uniform consists of a scout related T-shirt or sweatshirt in place of the scout shirt and neckerchief.

The scout is, therefore, expected to own a uniform and to wear it. Scouts should help to pay for their own uniform. Uniforms can be purchased at the Boy Scout Service Centers in Richmond and Bethesda. Experienced uniforms can sometimes be obtained through a uniform exchange within the troop. The Troop Quartermaster will supervise the supply of experienced uniforms. You may contact the Quartermaster at any time to obtain a uniform from the exchange or to donate a uniform.

As part of your field uniform described in your *Boy Scout Handbook*, the Troop 165 neckerchief is the standard plain red neckerchief with a white BSA emblem (no border). The bolo is a local design and can be obtained from the Committee Chairman. A merit badge sash is worn only on formal occasions such as Courts of Honor. The short sleeved shirt is more flexible. Long sleeve turtlenecks and T-shirts may be worn under the Scout shirt for added warmth. During the summer, the Class B uniform will be worn to all events and meetings instead of the Class A. A well-prepared Scout should also have his *Boy Scout Handbook* and a notebook and pen or pencil at all functions. These items should be considered as part of the uniform for all 2nd Class and below.

Once the Troop arrives at a destination, scouts may find it more practical to change out of their uniforms and into clothing more suitable for outdoor activities. Scouts should use their own judgment about what clothing is appropriate for the weather and conditions.

Converting the Webelos Uniform to a Boy Scout Uniform

The Boy Scout uniform consists of the tan shirt, green pants, green socks, and green belt. Some Webelos Scouts may already be wearing this uniform. With just a few changes, scouts may continue to wear the tan shirt from Webelos as long as it still fits. If a scout is still wearing the blue Cub Scout uniform, he will need to replace it with a Boy Scout uniform.

To convert the tan shirt from Webelos to Boy Scouts, be sure to remove the den number and Webelos patrol patch. Remove the Webelos colors with the Webelos activity pins and all of the Cub Scout ranks (Bobcat through Webelos, including arrow points). The Arrow of Light patch is the only Cub Scout rank that transfers to the Boy Scout uniform. However, its position moves to the bottom edge of the left shirt pocket (see the Uniform Inspection Sheet). Any Quality Unit patches should be removed until new ones are issued by the troop.

Replace the blue shoulder loops with red ones. Remove the Council shoulder patch and replace it with the "Fredericksburg VA" and "165" patches on the left sleeve. The troop number should touch the council shoulder patch. These patches may be obtained from the Committee Chairman for \$5. Scouts may continue to wear service stars, but only one per program. If a scout was in Tiger Cubs he may wear a "1-year" star with an orange background and he may wear a single star with a yellow background showing the number of years he was in Cub Scouts. Other pins such as Summertime Pack awards, sports pins, Webelos activity pins, popcorn, and Scouting for Food pins should be removed. Take off all temporary patches.

If you have any questions about the uniform or patch placement, refer to the inside of the *Boy Scout Handbook* and the uniform inspection form you receive upon joining the troop.

Books and Needed Materials

The first book that you will want to obtain is the current edition of the *Boy Scout Handbook*. It contains most of the information a scout will need to advance in rank along with important information about how a Boy Scout troop functions, what he will need to be prepared to go camping and hiking. Scouts should bring the *Handbook* with them to every troop meeting and on every campout. Parents should encourage the scouts to start reading the *Handbook* right away. Scouts should become familiar with its contents and should stay aware of what they need to do next to advance in rank.

From time to time scouts will also need to purchase merit badge pamphlets. Each of the 100 plus merit badges has its own pamphlet that contains not only the requirements for the badge, but also the information scouts will need to complete the requirements. Any time a scout is working on a merit badge, he should have the current merit badge pamphlet. These books are updated often, so check the back cover of the current *Boy Scout Requirements Book* for a list of the latest revision dates for each of the merit badge pamphlets.

The troop library has a limited number of merit badge pamphlets available for loan. See the Troop Librarian to borrow something from the library. If you purchase your own copy of a merit badge pamphlet, please consider donating it to the troop library when you are finished with it.

Activities

The activities are a major part of Scouting. Camping, hiking, canoeing, and all kinds of outdoor activities is an important method for achieving the three aims of Scouting. Outdoor activities are the central part of the fun of Scouting and are a major source of advancement opportunities. Troop 165 schedules some type of outing every month of the year – sometimes two or three. We have fun outdoors regardless of what the weather conditions may be. We certainly learn more and gain greater confidence when we are camping during "adverse" weather.

Scouts will advance faster and become more proficient in their Scout skills if they participate regularly in troop outings. They will also enjoy Scouting the more outings they attend. A preliminary schedule of activities is published in the troop's annual calendar. Adjustments are made to some of the details, locations, and dates as the year progresses. Final details and permission slips are handed out at troop meetings as the events draw nearer. The permission slip will detail the schedule, the activity fee, special clothing and equipment requirements, and emergency contact information. The permission slip will also specify a due date for returning the form and all fees.

The activity fee covers transportation, lodging, admissions, special equipment, and participation costs. The activity fee may be paid in cash, but a check is preferred. Scouts are expected to travel to and from outings in their full activity uniform and to remain in uniform whenever we are in public. The Senior Patrol Leader will inform the Scouts when there is an exception to this guideline.

Many of the troop's outings are in a wilderness setting. *Unless specifically authorized, scouts may not bring electronic devices (radios, cell phones, portable video games, CD players, etc.) on Troop 165 activities.*

Equipment

Proper equipment and clothing are essential for safe and enjoyable outdoor activities. Some equipment is owned and maintained by the troop. This includes equipment such as dining shelters and cooking equipment. Troop equipment is assigned to individual patrols. The patrols are responsible for the care of the equipment and bringing the appropriate equipment for each outing. The patrols work with the troop quartermaster when troop equipment needs servicing or replacing. Each individual Scout is expected to provide his own personal equipment and clothing. The list of suggested equipment and clothing is found on pages 224 and 225 of your *Boy Scout Handbook*. It is not necessary to purchase the best or most expensive camping equipment and clothing. However, the cheapest equipment may last for only one outing and will not be a bargain

Backpacks (p. 228 - 231, *Boy Scout Handbook*) It is not necessary for a new Scout in Troop 165 to own his own backpack. On most monthly campouts, a simple duffel bag or gym bag will suffice. When the time comes for a Scout to go on his first backpacking trip, he should borrow a backpack and see how he likes backpacking. A backpack is an expense that a new Scout can put off until later.

A Scout's first backpack should be an external frame that is adjustable to accommodate the growth in the early years. Many manufactures offer adjustable "youth" models. Do not buy a large backpack to "grow into". An ill-fitting backpack can cause a lot of discomfort and result in a miserable hiking experience. A rear loading pack such as the Jansport 'Scout' is easier to pack than a top loading pack. A capacity of 2000 to 3000 cubic inches is sufficient for a beginning pack.

Tents (pp. 238-239, *Boy Scout Handbook*) Troop 165 does not provide tents for troop camping. If a scout does not own a tent, he will be paired with someone who does for each campout or activity. If a scout wishes to buy a tent, there are a number of inexpensive dome-type tents with a 2- or 3-person capacity. These can be found on-line at a number of places or locally at Wal-Mart, Sports Authority, or Dick's.

Sleeping system (p. 240 - 241, *Boy Scout Handbook*) In Virginia, any type of sleeping bag will suffice for most weather from March through November. If it becomes very cold during that time, a sleeping bag can be supplemented by folding a blanket in thirds and inserting it into the sleeping bag. A stocking hat may also be needed for very cold weather. There will be information later on selecting the right sleeping bag for winter camping. If you already have a sleeping bag, use it. You should not need to replace it. If you are going to purchase a sleeping bag then go with a stuffable mummy or semi-mummy bag with a drawstring hood, synthetic insulation, and nylon outer covering. Get a stuff sack when purchasing the bag. A compression sack is an unnecessary expense.

A ground pad is an important part of a sleeping system. The pad is important for more than just comfort. The pad provides vital insulation between the sleeper and the ground. A half-inch thick closed cell foam pad is the least expensive and most durable choice. Self-inflating insulating foam sleeping pads are more comfortable and much more expensive. Avoid foam rubber or other open cell foam pads because they soak up water and do not insulate well. Avoid a simple inflatable vinyl air mattress like you would use in a swimming pool because it has little insulating value.

Rain Gear (p. 206, *Boy Scout Handbook*) Staying dry is important to staying warm. A Scout does not need an expensive, high-tech rainsuit. A durable poncho can be adequate. Avoid buying a cheap plastic poncho because it will not last even a single campout.

Foot Gear (p. 200 - 201, *Boy Scout Handbook*) Most boys wear athletic shoes everywhere: school, church, and during play. In good weather scouts may get by wearing them on a campout. However, a waterproof hiking boot will stand up better to the rain, mud, and other conditions encountered on a campout and will protect the feet better than an ordinary athletic shoe. Under some weather conditions, an ordinary athletic shoe may be a serious health risk.

Cotton socks are the least satisfactory socks for any type of hiking or backpacking. Use polypropylene under a heavy wool sock whenever you are hiking or wearing boots. SmartWool socks are a more expensive alternative that combine the best of polypropylene and wool into a single sock.

Personal Clothing (p. 202 - 205, *Boy Scout Handbook*) For most boys, blue jeans or shorts are the all-purpose uniform for playing outdoors. However, because cotton loses its insulating value when wet, jeans and sweat pants and sweatshirts are generally unsuitable as camping clothes in inclement weather. Cotton is fine for wearing in a sleeping bag and when weather is good. In colder weather, select clothes made of wool or synthetic fabrics such as polypropylene, polar fleece, and other modern materials that can insulate even when wet. To ensure warmth and comfort, scouts should dress in layers of loose clothing. Even underwear should be made of synthetic material such as polypropylene or duofold rather than cotton.

Advancement

Advancement is an important part of Scouting. It is a measure of your growth and progress. Each Scout keeps his own personal advancement record in his *Boy Scout Handbook* (p. 438 - 449). He should also record his service hours, campouts, troop activities, and leadership positions in his *Handbook*. The troop also keeps advancement records on each Scout. The *Boy Scout Handbook* identifies rank advancement requirements. Information on merit badge requirements is found in the appropriate merit badge pamphlets, available in the troop library. If a scout is crossing over to Boy Scouts from Cub Scouts, he should note a significant difference in the standards for rank advancement. In Cub Scouts the standard was to "Do Your Best". Boy Scouts are expected to complete the stated requirements and satisfy the standards of each rank and merit badge. Sometimes scouts may find that they must work hard and grow beyond their current capabilities to obtain their goals.

Scouts should work on advancement with parents, with fellow Scouts and Scout leaders. They should work on advancement on their own, in patrol meetings, during Troop meetings, and during other Troop functions such as campouts. Scout skills cannot be mastered by performing them just once. Scouts should expect to practice them repeatedly, even after a skill has been "signed-off".

After a scout masters a skill on his own, with his parents, in school, or in Troop activities, he must ask the assistant Scoutmaster supervising the new scout patrols to sign off on that requirement.

During a scout's first 6 months in Troop 165, he may be assigned to a new scout patrol. These patrols, with the help of senior scouts called Troop Guides, are under the supervision of an assistant Scoutmaster whose responsibility it is to make sure all new scouts learn the basic scouting skills and have the opportunity to advance in rank. If a scout regularly attends meetings and activities and goes to summer camp, he should be able to advance to 1st Class rank in his first year.

There is a greater variety of experiences available to Scouts that are First Class in rank or higher. While scouts may work on any merit badge (p. 184 - 193, *Boy Scout Handbook*) at any time, they should concentrate on achieving the rank of First Class before devoting a lot of time working on merit badges.

The Advancement Process

Each Scout should meet at least quarterly with the Scoutmaster for a **Scoutmaster Conference** (p. 60, 109, 165, 175, *Boy Scout Handbook*). This conference is used to discuss the scout's goals and accomplishments and is required for advancement to each rank. Scouts do not have to wait until they have completed the requirements for another rank before asking for a conference with the Scoutmaster. A scout may talk with the Scoutmaster at any time.

In Troop 165, the formal process of advancement takes several weeks and occurs four times per year. The first step is a uniform inspection carried out by senior scouts during which any uniform discrepancies are noted and explained to the scout. In the weeks following the uniform inspection, two boards of review are held. A **Board of Review** (p. 61, 175 - 176, *Boy Scout Handbook*) is a requirement for each rank advancement. The first Board consists of senior scouts and has the purpose of preparing the scout for the adult Board of Review. The adult Board consists of three to six registered members of the Troop Committee and assistant Scoutmasters. Scouts need to have their *Boy Scout Handbook* and be in complete and correct uniform to appear before a Board of Review. At the beginning of the review, the president of the Board will bring the scout into the room and introduce him to the Board. He may be asked to stand before the Board and recite either the Scout Oath or Scout Law or other items that all Scouts are expected to know. During the review the board will discuss his development along the trail to Eagle, quiz him on skills that were required for his particular rank, and evaluate him in terms of troop activities and worthiness for the next rank. It is also a time for him to give feedback to the Troop Committee on activities and the Scouting experience in Troop 165. At the end of the review, he will be asked to leave the room while the board discusses his qualifications. The board will then call him back into the room and inform him either that he qualifies for the next rank or what additional actions he must take to qualify. A scout should not expect to pass every Board of Review the first time. Troop 165 wants scouts to realize that they must truly earn their ranks before they are awarded. Boards of Review are held each quarter. Each Scout should be reviewed every year whether a scout is ready to advance in rank or not. This helps the adult leaders monitor Scouts that are advancing and those that are not and to offer appropriate encouragement and guidance.

Help and advice in preparation for the advancement process and boards of review in particular is available from the Troop Guide and a scout's Patrol Leader.

Following a successful Board of Review, formal recognition of advancements and merit badges are made in front of family and friends during a ceremony at a **Court of Honor** (p. 176, *Boy Scout Handbook*). Troop 165 schedules four Courts of Honor each year. Parents and family should attend all Courts of Honor, as this is a family event. Friends are also welcome. Scouts should keep track of any documentation (Merit Badge and Rank cards) issued, as they may be necessary to advance to the next rank.

After attaining the rank of Life Scout, scouts will meet with one of the adult leaders in the troop and receive your *Life to Eagle Pamphlet*. This meeting is to discuss ideas and suggestions for your **Eagle Service Project** (p. 173, *Boy Scout Handbook*). Special guidelines have been outlined by the Boy Scouts of America for this project and Eagle Service Projects must conform to these guidelines.

Merit Badges

The Boy Scout merit badge program is an excellent way for Scouts to learn important Scout skills in more depth and to explore many different careers and hobbies. It is not uncommon for a Scout to select a career or life long hobby from his experience with the merit badge program. The program also gives the Scout the opportunity to learn an important life skill: to make an appointment to work with someone they do not know.

Scouts may work on merit badges at any time. Merit badges are not required to advance through the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. Therefore, until a Scout has completed First Class, his time is better spent focusing on the requirements of the first three ranks rather than earning lots of merit badges. A certain number of merit badges must be earned for the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle. A portion of those merit badges must come from the list of "required" merit badges. Required merit badges have a silver border and the others have a green border. In Troop 165, many opportunities exist to earn merit badges year round, either through troop Merit Badge Counselors or at summer camp.

Many merit badges are earned at summer camp. In April, all of the Scouts going to summer camp will consult with the Scoutmaster and select which merit badges they wish to work on during camp. First year Scouts should select no more than two or three merit badges and are strongly encouraged to include Swimming, First Aid, and Environmental Science in their selections. There will be a list of prerequisites for each merit badge. It is the Scout's responsibility to obtain the merit badge pamphlet, **read it**, and complete the prerequisites prior to camp.

If a Scout does not complete a merit badge with the counselor that he starts with (such as completing only part of the requirements during summer camp), the Scout has until his 18th birthday to complete the merit badge with another counselor. The Scout must still ask the Scoutmaster for the name of another counselor. In all cases, the final counselor who signs the completed merit badge application has the obligation to ensure that the Scout has properly completed the merit badge. It is up to the counselor how much work with a prior counselor will be accepted.

All parents in the troop probably have hobbies, professions, or interests that correspond to one or more of the merit badges. Parents are encouraged to share their expertise and enthusiasm for a subject by being a merit badge counselor. A merit badge counselor coaches and helps Scouts with the requirements of a specific merit badge and helps the Scouts become aware of the deeper aspects of the subject. Only registered merit badge counselors may sign the merit badge application card. To become a merit badge counselor, contact the Merit Badge Coordinator for the appropriate registration forms. The Merit Badge Coordinator will schedule a training session for all new merit badge counselors.

Summer Camp

Summer camp is the highlight of the year for most Scouts. Every Scout should plan to attend summer camp. Troop 165 attends summer camp at Camp Bonner, on the Pamlico Sound in Eastern North Carolina, during the week following Father's Day in mid-June.

The importance of attending summer camp for new scouts cannot be overemphasized. Summer camp provides the new scout with the opportunity to complete many of the requirements for advancement to 2nd and 1st class, to earn merit badges, to experience the joy of camping out for a week, and to get to know his fellow scouts better and quicker than he could at troop meetings and weekend activities. Scouts come back from summer camp more confident in themselves and full of enthusiasm about scouting.

Medical Forms

Everyone who goes camping with Troop 165 must have a Personal Health and Medical Record on file so that proper treatment can be made in the case of accident or injury.

There are three classes of medical records. Class 1 and Class 2 are printed on the same form (Form 34414). Class 1 is a Personal Health and Medical History. This section must be updated annually by a parent or guardian. The Class 1 section covers the bottom front and top half of the back of Form 34414. Class 2 is a Medical Evaluation and requires a physical examination within the past 36 months and a doctor's signature. Form 34414 is only to be used by individuals under the age of 40. Class 3 is Personal Health and Medical Record (Form 33412) and requires a physical examination and a doctor's signature. This form must be updated annually for individuals over 40 and is used by all individuals on high adventure trips, regardless of age.

Community Service

Boy Scout Slogan:
Do A Good Turn Daily

Boy Scout Oath:
. . . To help other people at all times; . . .

Every Scout is expected to perform acts of charity and kindness and to develop a life long habit of community service and helpfulness towards his neighbor. Many Scouting awards and most of the ranks in Boy Scouts have a requirement to perform a certain number of service hours. An hour of service may be giving your time to our charter organization, your community, or for a neighbor. For the purpose of rank advancement, Scouts may count service hours performed to meet requirements from their school and church. However, work that directly benefits the Scout himself, his troop, or the Boy Scouts of America, does not usually count towards rank advancement.

Scouts should seek out opportunities for performing community service and they should participate in the community service projects that are scheduled by the troop.

Other Scouting Activities

Religious Emblems (p. 413 - 416, *Boy Scout Handbook*):

"A Scout is reverent." All Scouts show this by being faithful in their duty to God. A scout may go further and give a special service. This may qualify him for a religious emblem. Each faith has its own requirements for earning its emblem. Scouts should contact their religious leaders for further information if they are interested in earning your religious award.

Order of the Arrow (p. 426 - 427, *Boy Scout Handbook*):

The Order of the Arrow is a national brotherhood of Scout campers. The honor of becoming a member of the Order of the Arrow is one that a scout cannot set out to earn on your own. The members of his troop

bestow this honor on him. This is done when he has proven himself worthy of receiving it through active participation in troop activities. To be eligible for election into the Order of the Arrow, a scout must be an outstanding and unselfish camper, be at least First Class in rank, and have 15 days and nights of camping within the past two years including one week at summer camp.

Others (p. 408 - 412, 418 - 427, *Boy Scout Handbook*):

The *Boy Scout Handbook* outlines many other special awards that might be of interest. We encourage scouts to look them over.

Hazing and Initiations

All Scouts, Scouters, and parents should know that hazing is forbidden by the Boy Scouts of America and will not be tolerated in Troop 165.

The BSA policy on hazing can be found in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, Chapter XIV - Youth Protection and Child Abuse:

All forms of hazing, initiations, ridicule, or inappropriate teasing are prohibited and should not be allowed.

Parents and guardians are welcome to observe all Scouting activities and ceremonies and to visit camp. Scouts and parents should know that secret organizations are not permitted in Scouting. There are some ceremonies that are not revealed to a Scout in advance to keep it special. However, parents, guardians, and ministers are welcome to observe the ceremonies in advance.

Scouts will participate in induction or investiture ceremonies. This is different from an initiation, which is not permitted. In an induction ceremony, the person should feel honored and welcomed.

Initiations are characterized by belittling and embarrassing someone and having fun at someone else's expense. These kinds of activities are **not** part of Scouting's character building mission and have no place in Troop 165.

Behavior, Conduct, Troop Rules

All members of Troop 165, both youth and adults, are expected to live their daily lives in accordance with the Scout oath and the Scout Law. The Oath and Law embodies the expectations of everyone's behavior and conduct.

When a Scout misbehaves, the Scoutmaster or an assistant Scoutmaster will evaluate the situation, consider the circumstances, and then use his or her best judgment to make a decision that is fair and just. The response to misbehavior may come from the junior leaders in the troop or it may come from the adults. Disciplinary actions and responses to misbehavior will never involve corporal punishment, denial of food, or belittling of a Scout.

One of the aims of the Boy Scouts of America is help young men develop strong moral character. Being a good father, a good husband, and an effective leader requires critical thinking and the ability to make sound judgments and ethical decisions. In an effort to serve as effective role models, the adults in Troop 165 will try to exercise these characteristics and not hide behind a long list of inflexible rules.

Comprehensive by-laws, codes of conduct, and behavior consequence plans tend to preclude the application of common sense, fairness, and justice.
