

BSA Troop 606 Handbook for Families

Revised February 2012

Introduction

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America. By joining Troop 606 you are setting out on the grand adventure of Scouting, and becoming part of a well-established troop that has served as a large and positive part of this community for over 40 years. We are generously supported and chartered by the Gateway Elks Association. We are also lucky enough to have the continued guidance and support from many 606 alumni. Since its founding, Troop 606 has graduated over 100 boys to the rank of Eagle Scout.

This guide is intended to give Scouts and their parents an understanding of what to expect from their Scouting experience, what is expected of the boys and the key role parents play in making the troop a continued success.

Please refer to our website at www.troop606.com for more information.

Scoutmaster's Minute

Thank you for considering membership in Troop 606. The decision to join a troop is a very exciting one. This handbook is a brief overview of how we operate as an organization. Please ask questions about the troop and arrange to attend a camping experience with us to see how your child fits with Troop 606. All the boys in the troop are provided opportunities to mature both physically and developmentally. We promote teamwork, leadership and character building in all that we do. It will be critical to your son's success to become personally involved in your son's scouting experience. Not all parents will be asked to be Assistant Scoutmasters, but experience has shown that parental involvement is a critical ingredient for a boy's success.

What is Boy Scouting?

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to provide an effective program designed to instill within the youth desirable qualities of character, to train them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship and to help develop their personal fitness, providing this country with citizens who:

- Are physically, mentally and emotionally fit.
- Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage and resourcefulness.
- Have personal and stable values firmly identified and followed.
- Have the desire and skill to help others.
- Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
- Have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
- Are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society.

Boy Scouts of America Mission Statement.

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and in other ways, to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law.

The 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.

The Scout Law

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

Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Scout Slogan

Do a good turn daily.

Joining Troop 606

The BSA occasionally modifies eligibility rules, but currently boys can participate in Scouting from age 11 until their 18th birthday. Currently, in order to join Boy Scouts, a boy must either be 11 or have completed the fifth grade, or have earned the Arrow of Light Award as a Cub Scout. It is not necessary for a boy to have been a Cub Scout in order to join Boy Scouts. Normally, new Scouts will "cross-over" from their Cub Pack around March or April as they are completing their 5th grade year. This is an appropriate time of year for friends or classmates who have never been in Cubs to consider joining scouting. Please feel free to invite others who may be interested to consider our troop.

We invite parents and boys to visit our troop meetings and ask questions prior to committing to join our troop. A boy may visit our troop meetings as many times as he wishes without joining. We also encourage prospective members to attend an overnight camp with the troop to see how we operate in the outdoors to further evaluate the type of fit that exists with our unit. He may participate in ONE overnight event prior to joining.

To become a member of Troop 606, you need to turn in the following items to the Scoutmaster or his representative.

1. Completed BSA membership form with parents/guardian signature (remember to fill out the health history on the back of the form)
2. \$36.00 registration fee (includes council fee, insurance, & troop neckerchief & slide)
Boy's Life magazine subscription optionally available for an additional \$12.00/yr.
3. Completed Personal Health and Medical Record with parent/guardian signature.
4. Our troop requires the help of all parents so that it may provide a quality program.

Dues and fundraisers

Dues are currently a one-time annual fee of \$25, due in January of each year. All money that goes to the troop helps to pay for rank advancement insignia, merit badges, equipment and upkeep of equipment and supplies, off-setting cost of camp, leadership training, and other costs associated with making the troop go.

There will also be fees due for individual campouts to offset the cost of food. This generally ranges from \$8 to \$10 depending on the length and nature of the campout/event. The boy/family is responsible for paying for their food; however the cost of camp facilities such as the cost of state parks, camp sites, etc are paid by the troop and those costs are not divided up and charged to the participants.

Our troop holds fundraisers throughout the year to help Scouts earn money for their scouting expenses such as dues, campouts, summer camp etc. Our fund raising committee meets periodically to evaluate what will be offered. Scouts have recently had opportunities to sell chocolate, beef-sticks, and Christmas wreaths in season. The money raised from these sales goes to the individual scout's financial account and is maintained by the troop treasurer.

Currently our largest and only fundraiser for the troop account is our Christmas Tree Recycling Program. All profits from this go to the troop general fund for troop expenses and to help keep individual costs as low as possible. **Participation in this fundraiser is mandatory** usually requiring at least two 4 to 5 hour sessions on weekends during the month of January. The troop reserves the right to charge members who fail to participate in the fundraiser up to an additional \$50 annual fee for missing each work session to a maximum of two sessions.

The troop treasurer keeps track of each boy's individual account balance as well as troop expenses and earnings. The treasurer is available at most committee meetings to give reports, answer questions, and handle transactions on individual scout's accounts.

It should be noted that at the troop level there are no paid positions in Scouting. The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, etc are volunteers. No one is in Scouting because, "...that's what they're paid to do..." Scout volunteers contribute personally in hours, money, and effort to support the program. Please be supportive of their efforts.

F.O.S. Friends of Scouting

The Friends of Scouting is an annual campaign by the Cascade Pacific Council and the Thunderbird District seeking financial donations to support the scouting program at the council level. These funds support the maintenance of the many scout properties owned by the council and also makes up a part of their general funds budget. Troops who meet goals may be allowed to use scout properties at discounted or at no cost plus receive rank patches and merit badges for free. Annual donations to F.O.S are voluntary.

Scholarship Fund

BSA council offer an opportunity fund for scouts needing financial assistance. Troop 606 also sets aside funds to aid scouts that need financial help with any facet of being a scout. Scouts needing financial assistance should contact the Scoutmaster. All requests and disbursements are kept confidential.

Uniform Policy

When smartly worn, the uniform helps build troop spirit and a scout's pride in himself. Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive youth image in the neighborhood, thus helping to counteract the negative feelings that some adults have about youth. The uniform makes the troop visible as a force for good in the community. As scouts wear the uniform, they are declaring their intent to support the principles for which scouting stands.

Troop 606 takes great pride in being a full uniform troop. The class "A" uniform is to be worn to ALL SCOUT ACTIVITIES, including meetings, camp outs, and outings unless specified by the Scoutmaster or other adult leader in charge. When the troop is traveling to or from a Scouting function or event, we require all members to wear a "class A" uniform. Once we arrive, we normally allow scouts to change into a "class B" uniform or other shirt depending on the conditions. Troop 606 does not allow scouts to wear clothing that advertises alcoholic beverages, cigarettes or other derogatory or offensive messages.

- Class A
1. Official tan scout shirt worn tucked in (We recommend short sleeves for better year round wear) with green shoulder tabs and proper insignia.
 2. Official olive green long or short pants. No **Blue** Jeans or Camo.
 3. Official scout green web belt or BSA leather belt.
 4. Troop or Scout neckerchief
 5. Scout merit badge sash, for formal occasions such as Court of Honor.
 6. BSA hat or Troop 606 hat (optional)
- Class B
1. Troop T-shirt or other BSA T-shirt.

- Troop hats, t-shirts, and sweatshirts are available for purchase from the troop.
- The Troop maintains a "Uniform Exchange" to help defray the cost of uniforms for new scouts and growing kids. Families may look over items in this pool and use for free. We would encourage you to donate outgrown items to keep the pool intact.

Scout Handbook

All boys are required to have the Boy Scout Handbook. The handbook is a valuable guide for many aspects of scouting. Scouts should bring their handbook to **all** meetings and camping trips to record their accomplishments. It is currently troop policy that all Webelos who cross over into our unit having earned the Arrow of Light will be welcomed with the presentation of their Boy Scout Handbook.

Equipment

It takes a lot of equipment to run a troop. The troop has adult equipment managers to keep track of what we have and what is needed. The scouts have an elected youth Quartermaster to keep track of the equipment. All scouts must be responsible for the troop equipment they use and must care for this equipment properly. Any scout or group of scouts that damages any troop owned equipment is responsible for fixing or replacing that piece of equipment. Troop 606 is equipped with stoves, lanterns, dining tarps, patrol cooking gear, food and drink coolers, etc., and a trailer for hauling the gear to our activity and camping locations.

A certain amount of personal equipment is needed by each scout for participation in the camping and outdoor activities conducted by the troop. The BSA handbook does an excellent job reviewing equipment that each boy should have. The cost of personal equipment can be high, but if you focus on the necessities and gradually add to these, before long the scout will be well equipped. With a little persistence and patience, excellent, first quality gear, though slightly used, can regularly be purchased at the Goodwill and other discount stores for a fraction of its true worth.

Scouts will receive feedback on the necessary equipment prior to each campout so that the scout doesn't burden himself with gear he doesn't need. Scouts need to be responsible for their own equipment at all times and may need to carry their gear for long distances. Parents should help the scouts pack for a trip, but do not do it for them. They need to know what they have and what they don't, where their gear is, and how to repack it themselves when the trip is over. An adequate sleeping bag is a must-have, as many a new scout has shivered though a miserable first night of camping with the wrong bag and left scouting never to return. Experienced troop adults can provide guidance.

Prohibited items:

1. Sheath or large "Bowie" knives
2. Any weapon, including laser pointer, sling shot, guns, peashooters, brass knuckles, fireworks, etc. no cigarette lighters (matches only)
3. Radios, CD players, I-pod, electronic games.
4. Any obscene, vulgar or questionable material.

Troop Organization

It needs to be pointed out that a scout troop is a boy led organization. This is a big change for parents who are used to adults running a Cub Scout unit. New parents may sometimes feel that things could be organized better if only the adults would step in. While no doubt true, it is not for adults to run the show and you may have to fight the urge to take charge.

Each boy will be assigned to an existing patrol. Patrols will be made up of approximately 6 to 10 boys of various ages and skill levels. The patrol members elect patrol leaders and each position allows for leadership development and advancement opportunities. Elections are held twice a year. Patrols work as a unit in preparing for and attending troop events.

While new scouts may be assigned to various patrols, they will be pulled together with all of the other new scouts for regular instruction and development. One Assistant Scoutmaster has specific responsibility for the "Trail to First Class" program to get them started on a strong foundation for growth and advancement. The following is an outline of the duties of the key leaders within the troop:

Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster is the trained adult leader responsible for the image and program of the troop. He and his Assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the scouts. His general responsibilities include:

- Train and guide boy leaders to further their advancement.
- Work with the other adult leaders to bring Scouting to boys.
- Use the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting

Assistant Scoutmasters

Assistant Scoutmasters are trained scouters recruited by the Scoutmaster and approved by the troop committee to assist the Scoutmaster in the operation of the troop. They are assigned program tasks by the Scoutmaster and provide guidance to the boy leadership.

Troop Committee Chair

Chairperson of the Troop Committee is the administrative leader and chairs the efforts of the Troop Committee (Parents Committee) to support and assist the troop's various activities.

Senior Patrol Leader

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is the top boy leader in the troop. He leads the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) and in consultation with the Scoutmaster, appoints other junior leaders and assigns specific responsibilities as needed. It is the job of the Patrol Leaders' Council to plan and run the troop program. Assistant SPL(s) fills in for the SPL in his absence. He is also responsible for training and giving direction to the quartermaster, scribe, historian and other instructors.

Patrol Leaders

The Patrol Leaders are responsible for giving guidance to the members of their patrol. He is their representative on the Patrol Leaders' Council. He is also responsible for organizing individual patrol activities outside of regular troop meetings. Assistant Patrol Leaders help the PL run the patrol and fill in for him in his absence.

Meetings

- Regular troop meetings are held every Monday night at Menlo Park Elementary School at NE 128th and Glisan. From 7 to 8:00 pm. Enter at the rear of the building; we are using the Gym or the Cafeteria.
- Advancement Night is usually held instead of the regular Monday meeting that would follow a weekend campout. This is an informal meeting (no uniform) giving the scouts an opportunity to work on advancement or merit badges.
- Courts of Honor are held three times a year in place of the regular meeting. At these formal programs scouts are presented with their rank advancement and merit badges. The entire family and any special guests are encouraged to attend.
- Parent meetings are usually held during the regular scout meeting on the first Monday of the month. All parents are part of this committee and should make an effort to send a family representative for the exchange of current information.
- Patrol Leaders' Council meets monthly on dates specified at the Roundtable Pizza on NE 122nd to include the SPL, ASPL, PL, APL, and the Scoutmaster only.
- Scoutmaster's meeting monthly with his Assistants at times and places specified.

Communication

Good communication is essential for a well-run troop. Scouts should have good attendance at weekly meetings in order to be well informed. Announcements, schedule changes and new opportunities are generally conveyed at the beginning of each Monday night meeting immediately after the flag ceremony. Parents are encouraged to stay for the first part of the meeting to hear these. It is always a good idea to have pen and paper with you.

As stated previously, committee meetings (parent meetings) are held during the first Monday night of the month while the boys are in their regular meeting. A calendar of events, meetings and campouts can always be found on our website which is updated regularly: www.troop606.com

There is a chain of command in scout communication. If a scout has a question **he** should:

1. Call his patrol leader or assistant patrol leader.
2. If there is still a question, call the Senior Patrol Leader or his assistant.
3. If none of the boy leaders can help, **the scout** can call the Scoutmaster.

The Scoutmaster should not be inundated by all of the questions that the youth leadership should be answering. Part of the youth leader's job is to keep his patrol informed and to be available to provide information and answer questions. Parents are asked to support this system.

Parent involvement

One of the things that make Troop 606 great is the quality and quantity of our adult volunteers. Parents and family play the most important role in the success of our scouting program. If the support and encouragement are not there, the boy will not succeed or progress through the ranks. The more involved a parent is, the more successful the boy is in scouting. Even if the only involvement you can provide is to drive occasionally, this demonstrates to your son that you feel scouting is a worthwhile activity, and you are supporting his involvement.

Scouting prepares the boys for leadership and independence, but parent involvement at all levels is needed and expected to provide the opportunities for scouts to excel. There is a long list of opportunities and ways to help. **Although everyone is busy, every family in Troop 606 is expected to participate in some fashion.** Consider your skills, interests, and hobbies to help determine how you could help with merit badges as well.

*****It is troop policy for all adults attending camping activities to have Youth Protection training.*** Adults wishing to camp with the troop are encouraged to take "Leader Specific" training for Boy Scouts (classroom) and "Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills" (outdoor). Refer to www.cpcbsa.org under "for Leaders" and "training". Often, these may both be completed in one weekend training event.

All parents who are registered in the troop committee in whatever capacity must receive "Youth Protection" training every year. Due to the importance of the safety of all boys in our troop, all parents attending meetings, events and camp-outs are required to take "Youth Protection Training" every 12 months even if they are not in a registered troop position. You may take this training on line, to start go to this website: www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx

Transportation

For outings and campouts, the usual transportation policy is to meet at Menlo Park Elementary School (back parking lot) at the time indicated. Adults who have volunteered to drive will have been assigned boys to ride with them by our Transportation Coordinator. Each scout who is not riding with his own parent **must have a permission slip signed by a parent.** These slips are available on the website for printing. Following the event, most drivers find it easier to drop the boys off at their own home rather than to try to predict accurately the exact time when they will be back at a designated place. As there is always the possibility of delay, traffic jams, flat tires, or hungry scouts, **your scout should always carry \$5 on his person** when on a scout event. This gives the driver the option to stop for burger /fries if there is a delay or the boys want to stop.

Our troop keeps a list of all potential drivers' vehicle information on file for our Trip Permit application that must be current and provided every time we transport children. Please make sure the Transportation Coordinator has all of your current auto information for each vehicle you may use to carry scouts.

As in most groups, it falls to a small group of parents to do most of the driving to scout events. The Scoutmaster and several of the Assistant Scoutmasters are usually carrying the scouts, sometimes as much as 100 miles one-way, often at great personal expense for gas. If you rarely or never drive, **donations of gas money to whoever is driving your scout are expected and appreciated.**

Camping

Generally, Troop 606 goes on an overnight camping experience monthly. We try to provide a variety of different experiences. In most cases, your scout will camp with the other members of his patrol and we heavily suggest that scouts sleep two to a tent. Often scouts, particularly new scouts are not comfortable in the woods by themselves and sleeping two to a tent makes them more comfortable. We also suggest that new scouts do not sleep in a tent with their parent, even if the parent is on site for the event. Youth need to find their independence and confidence. Please help us to develop it. On camping trips bedtime is determined by the SPL and it is normal for scouts below first class to have a bed time 30 minutes earlier than the more advanced scouts. Eagle Scouts may choose their own bedtime. **A Sunday morning non-sectarian chapel service is always a part of a weekend over-nighter.**

Each summer, usually in August the troop holds a planning session in which all youth are invited to give their input to the annual calendar. After brainstorming many ideas the scouts vote on the camping activities they wish to schedule for the year. The adult leaders then try to plan the

calendar and camping trips to accommodate the boy's Wishes. A scout who fails to attend the annual planning session will have little or no input into the calendar of events.

BSA maintains 3 winter lodges on Mt Hood. Troop 606 usually tries to reserve one of them for a winter campout. We also have gone tent camping in the snow on cross-country skis and/or snowshoes. We hold day trips for training on the snow prior to these overnights. Due to the dangers of cotton in the damp outdoors, it is troop policy that **blue jeans are never worn on any snow outing** as a matter of wilderness safety. Wool, nylon or gore-tex pants are necessary.

Troop 606 goes to a scout camp for a week each summer as a troop. We bring our own adult leadership, so we have to plan early in the fall so everyone can plan to get time off from work. Every Scout should plan to attend summer camp. It is the most important program experience of the entire year, and it provides an incredible variety of activities as well as opportunities to work on advancement.

Fees for summer camp at most BSA camps usually run around \$200 for the week. Council requires fees to be paid in full by May. Fees are paid through the scout's troop account, and you will be informed of deadlines by the troop in advance. Summer camp is a primary reason for scouts to participate in fundraising activities year round to add to their troop account.

Food and Menu

On every camping trip the scouts seem to get hungry, go figure. This requires a regular and ongoing process of menu planning, food purchase and preparation. In most cases the scouts will eat by patrol. Each patrol will plan its own menu, make plans to purchase the food, and when in camp, cook and eat together family style (after saying grace). As a lesson in courtesy and manners, adults are always served first. The process of purchasing food requires the support of parents who are willing to take their scout and sometimes his buddy to the store and a willingness to "front" the cash to make the purchases needed. The menu prepared by the patrol should cost no more than \$2 to \$2.50 per person per meal as a general guideline. Considering that on many campouts we leave on Saturday morning, the scouts bring a sack lunch of their own and the patrol will cook a supper, a breakfast, and a light lunch for Sunday, the per person cost of the food should be no more than seven or eight dollars or so.

The usual process is for the parent of the "grubmaster" to front the cash for the purchase and divide the total by the number of boys eating to determine the amount owed by each. Always keep the receipts for record. The sooner your scout lets the boys in his patrol know the amount, the sooner they can pay you back, often on the same weekend as the event. Having your scout keep records and collect the money promptly is best for all concerned. If a scout wishes to use the balance in his scout account to pay for his food, he can either have the Treasurer journal entry the amount over into your son's account, or if you wish a check can be written to you. In recent years we have gone more to collecting the money from the patrol members directly and relying less on the bookkeeping. This seems to make for less paperwork and quicker payback. Try to be a moderating influence on the food purchase and try for bargains, but don't short change the patrol on food. We have horror stories of going to winter lodge with 26 people and pancake mix for only 24 pancakes.

Also, note that we suggest that you do the grocery shopping for a weekend event no earlier than Thursday prior. Scouts who say at the Monday night meeting that they are going camping have until Wednesday night to cancel. (maybe they came down with a cold) so that the menu can be adjusted. **Any scout who does not give notice by the Wednesday night deadline will pay for his share of the groceries even if he does not attend.** The "grubmaster" will not be held financially responsible if someone fails to show up.

Service

Service to others is at the heart of Boy Scouting. Teaching the boys how to actively make the world a better place is an important life skill. Troop 606 participates in many service projects throughout the year. Collecting canned goods for the "Scouting for Food" program, Flag Day for the Elks and Flag Plant at Willamette National Cemetery are a few of the annual events in which the troop participates. Some of these high profile projects may be designated as "mandatory" on occasion. This means that a scout must have a very good and substantial reason to miss the event.

Rank and Advancement

Advancement is the process by which scouts progress through the ranks in the scouting program by the gradual mastery of scouting skills.

Ranks:

1. Scout
2. Tenderfoot
3. Second Class
4. First Class
5. Star
6. Life
7. Eagle

Requirements for advancement are outlined in the Scout Handbook. The requirements are designed progressively and require scout skills, outdoors skills, service to others, merit badges, and taking on leadership positions in the troop. *(A requirement/or new boys joining the troop and earning their "Scout" rank is, with parent/guardian, the completion of the exercises in the pamphlet "How-to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide" located inside the front cover of your Scout Handbook)*

Upon joining the troop, **new scouts will receive a green neckerchief**. Once they have earned the rank of Scout, they will turn in the green and receive the standard troop blue neckerchief.

Advancement is the responsibility of the scout and it is self-paced. Troop 606 provides all the opportunities for an active scout to advance from Scout to First Class rank within the first year, but there are no deadlines. Troop 606 has proudly sent over 100 Eagle Scouts out into the world.

The Process:

1. *The Scout learns* -A Scout learns by doing. As he learns, he grows in ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and the troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others. In this way, he begins to develop leadership.
2. *The Scout is tested* -his SPL, Instructor, Scoutmaster, or Assistant Scoutmaster may test a scout on requirements. The Scoutmaster may determine who is qualified to test and pass candidates.
3. *The Scout is reviewed* - After a scout has completed all requirements for rank, he has a **Scoutmaster's Conference**. Upon the Scoutmaster's approval the scout is scheduled for a **Board of Review** which is done by members of the troop committee.
4. *The Scout is recognized* - Boys are recognized for their achievement in rank and merit badges at the **Court of Honor**, currently held three times a year.

Merit Badges

Merit badges are awarded to scouts for fulfilling requirements in specific areas of interest. There are more than a hundred merit badges in subject areas including careers, sports, hobbies, and Scouting skills. A minimum of 21 merit badges are needed for Eagle, of which 12 are specifically required for that rank.

Merit badge counselors have expertise in their chosen subject and have registered with the council. Scouts work with a counselor who guides the scout and verifies that the work has been completed. Due to youth protection issues, a scout never works with an adult counselor in a one-on-one environment. In most cases merit badge counselors will be found among the registered adults in our own troop and on staff at the weeklong summer camp.

To work on a merit badge, a scout must first obtain a "Blue Card" from the Scoutmaster or Advancement Chairperson, contact the qualified counselor, complete the requirements and return the completed and signed "Blue Card" to the Advancement Chairperson. The scout must express his interest in pursuing the merit badge and **must contact the counselor himself**. A scout who is too shy or undecided to make such contacts is not yet mature enough to pursue merit badge work. Parents should never involve themselves in contacting the counselor or pushing a scout into working on any merit badge. All merit badge work is to be done **on his own initiative**.

Troop 606 has a troop library containing merit badge pamphlets on many of the offered subjects. In some cases, we have several copies. One of the boys acts as the troop librarian to check these books in and out. You are invited to check the library before buying any merit badge pamphlet from the scout shop. An excellent resource for merit badge requirements is www.meritbadge.com

Record Keeping

The Advancement Chairperson maintains a computerized database of all of the rank advancements; service hours, total number of nights camping, etc. However, scouts should be diligent in keeping their own records of their participation in troop activities and personal achievements as a backup. The Scout Handbook is organized to record rank advancement achievements. It is probably the most convenient place to record participation in troop activities as well. Keeping an accurate participation history will ensure that complete records can be provided to the Scoutmaster for advancement, thereby making sure scouts are recognized in a timely manner, and that no historical records are lost.

Discipline

The scouting program is not designed to solve youth discipline problems. It is designed to build into boys the necessary character and responsibility to prevent discipline problems. We believe it is the PARENTS who should have the direct responsibility to instill and reinforce good manners, socially acceptable behavior and respect for authority in their boys. The troop has a written, formal disciplinary policy in place that needs to be reviewed by boys and parents and agreed to. It may be found on page 12 of this handbook. The policy is designed to support scouts to do their best and to live by the Scout Oath and Law. Disciplinary consequences are progressive in nature and can be minimized for time spans of appropriate behavior. Happily, the use of this policy has rarely been necessary.

Troop 606 Rules

In all cases, scouts **are expected to live by the Scout Oath and Law**; however here is a little expansion on the subject so that scouts might understand expectations.

1. Kind -Fighting name-calling, loud arguing, or physical or verbal abuse is not allowed.
2. Courteous – Scouts will show proper respect to all adults and other scouts. Scouts will be attentive and quiet when others are speaking.
3. No one shall cut, carve, burn or destroy any building, property, shrub, or tree.
4. Obedient – Scouts will follow rules without argument; they will stay with their assignments until the task is completed. Opportunity will be given for Scouts to discuss disagreement.
5. Clean -No swearing or inappropriate language will be tolerated. Keep a clean meeting area and campsite.
6. Trustworthy -No one shall use or take anyone's gear or property without specific approval of the owner, adult, or leader. Stay out of others' tents and gear.
7. No one shall leave camp or program areas without permission of a leader at any time for any reason.
8. No one shall enter water or boats without permission of leadership.
9. No one shall start a fire without permission of leadership, or play with matches, fire or burning sticks at any time.
10. No one shall throw any object without permission of leadership.
11. All troop equipment shall be used appropriately and returned to its proper place promptly after use; no unauthorized, non-scout equipment will be brought to Troop activities.
12. No pets may be brought to any scout event.
13. Where rules do not apply, you will be expected to use common sense.

Discipline Policy of Troop 606

- 1st Offense - Explain error. Sit with adults until completion of present activity. Incident will be noted on SM's behavior roster with date and # of rule violated.
- 2nd Offense - Explain error. Sit with adults for rest of meeting. Parent notified. Incident will be noted on SM's behavior roster with date and # of rule violated.
- 3rd Offense - Explain error. Sit with adults. Parent notified again, will miss next Troop activity and have parent attend with son for next activity after that. Incident will be noted on SM's behavior roster with date and # of rule violated.
- 4th Offense - Explain error. Sit with adults, parent notified. Will miss next two meetings and parent will attend the next two subsequent meetings. Mentor will be selected to stay with the Scout until he no longer is at level 4. Incident noted in SM's roster.
- 5th Offense - Scout and his parent(s) will be invited to the next Committee Meeting where a vote will be taken regarding removal from the Troop.

A behavior roster will be maintained by the Scoutmaster (when necessary) and should be present at all Troop activities. All registered Scouters are encouraged to assist each other in this process. In conjunction with the discipline policy, there may be rewards (verbal and/or prizes) for patrols whose members demonstrate exceptionally positive behavior.

The timeline for accumulation of incident "check marks" in the roster is tied to a "rolling" six-month time frame. The checks are accumulated over this six-month "window"; if a scout is given a number of checks in one month, he will be free of "check marks" if he is able to complete five or more months without getting into trouble.

A mentor can be defined as an adult selected jointly by the scout and the Scoutmaster whose role would be to help the scout stay in a positive frame and avoid getting into trouble.