

**Boy Scouts of America
Troop 51
Parent Handbook**

APRIL 2007

Boy Scouts of America Troop 51

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Description

Troop 51 was established in 1939 to bring Scouting to the Waterford area. We have now been serving this community with a quality Scouting Program for over 60 years.

Meeting Time and Location

The Troop meets on Mondays, 7:30pm to 9:00pm at Central United Methodist Church in Waterford located on M-59, between Cass Lake Rd. and Pontiac Lake. Rd.

The Scouts do not meet on the Monday after a camp out weekend. The Troop Committee (adults) meets at this time.

Camping

Campouts are held once a month beginning Friday evening and returning on Sunday. Most are within a few hours of Waterford, but some special campouts are farther away. Spring break usually brings about a longer timeframe for the campout a farther distance.

The boys will leave as a group and return as a group unless special mitigating factors arise and the scoutmaster approves a deviation.

Family Camping

We have had occasions where families have wanted to go on a campout with the troop. This doesn't happen often, but when it does, a certain set of guidelines will be followed. The families will travel with the troop, follow the troop agenda, and be considered part of the adult patrol for the duration of the campout. The parents will not be counted as leaders regardless of their position and will not have authority on that campout. The boy(s) will be part of his (their) normal patrol(s) not part of the family. The family will adhere to the national rules on alcohol and tobacco while on the campout. These rules are for the safety and fun of all of the scouts in the troop.

Financial Obligations

Each scout incurs financial obligations to the troop. They include, yearly dues, the annual re-charter, monthly camping fees and summer camp fee. It is the parent's responsibility to assist their scout in staying current with these obligations. There are fundraising opportunities as described in the chapter dealing with this topic.

Yearly Dues

Each scout is obligated to pay yearly dues in January. Dues are currently \$55.00 and cover the annual re-charter fees, awards throughout the year, and a subscription to Boys Life Magazine. For scouts joining mid-year, dues are prorated.

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Annual Re-charter

Each scout is obligated to join BSA each year. This is called Re-chartering.

Summer Camp

Each summer, our troop goes to summer camp. Each scout is required to pay a camp fee, plus any cost for merit badge classes the scout will take. He will also need a certain amount of spending money for snack items that can be purchased at the camp trading post. The exact cost will be determined just prior to summer camp.

Monthly Camping Fees

When we go camping, each scout must pay his portion of the park camping fee and food expenses. We charge a flat fee of \$25.00 per campout to cover these fees. Although some campouts are more and others may be less, the fixed rate averages over the course of the year and allows for equal participation of all scouts. We sometimes participate in extra activities on a campout, such as horseback riding, which requires an additional fee for that campout.

Cancellations of Camp outs and Refunds

The fees for a campout may be refunded with the scoutmaster's approval, if the boy cancels at least 4 days before the campout. Consideration for refund will determine what pre-payment the troop has made for the trip. Any pre-paid camp costs are not refundable. Non-refundable costs are defined as expenses incurred by the troop and include, but are not limited to groceries, deposits required up front, and any guaranteed payments due the camp upon arrival.

Fundraising

Troop 51 does limited fundraising. There are 2 major fundraising events that occur throughout the year. In the fall, the troop sells Christmas wreaths and Boy Scout Popcorn to replenish individual accounts.

In the spring, additional fund-raisers are sometimes held to provide the troop with funds necessary to purchase new equipment as needed. Any funds raised beyond the troops needs goes into the individual's account.

Individual Accounts

An account is set up for each scout and is maintained by the committee treasurer. When the scout participates in one of the fundraising events, the profits that he earns are placed in the account. This account is then used for summer camp or other camping events if necessary. If there are not enough funds in his account to pay for summer camp, then the balance is due from the scout. Parents can deposit money into the account throughout the year to help alleviate the cost of summer camp when it becomes due. If after participating in fundraisers, you still find yourself in a financial burden; please see the

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troop treasurer, committee chair, or one of the scoutmasters for potential financial assistance.

Leadership

Adult Leaders

The troop has one (1) Scoutmaster and several Assistant Scoutmasters. The Scoutmaster is responsible for the entire troop. The Assistant Scoutmasters are assigned to work with a specific patrol. Additional adult leadership opportunities can be found under Troop Committee.

Scoutmaster:

Rick Newill 248-672-4864

Assistant Scoutmasters:

Karen Allcorn 248-683-5492

John Deszell 248-681-1588

Boy Leaders

The boy leadership is very important to the troop. The boys are highly encouraged to run their own troop with input and guidance from the adult leadership. The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is the leader of the troop. He has an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) who helps him and can lead the troop in his absence.

The boys vote for the SPL who selects the ASPL. Each patrol has a patrol leader. All positions are held for 6 months, with the exception of the quartermaster, who holds the position for a full year. Elections are held at summer camp (August) and again in February. Quartermaster is determined at summer camp.

There are other leadership positions within the troop, such as Troop Guide and Historian. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters appoint these positions.

Patrol Structure

The scouts are broken up into groups called patrols. Each patrol stays together as a group when camping and usually when attending classes. They cook and clean for themselves on campouts. Depending on the participation at campouts, temporary patrol reassignment will be made for the purposes of food purchase, cooking, etc. We have arranged our patrols by age and rank such that the members of each patrol are working on similar activities for advancement.

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Venture Patrol

Any interested scout at least 14 years old, holding the rank of 1st. Class, can join this group. The Venture Patrol offers additional opportunities for older boys in scouting. The Venture patrol operates as a separate unit and holds their own, age appropriate, campouts.

If interested, the scout should speak to the scoutmaster or one of his assistants.

Description of Rank and Advancement

Rank

Ranks are the tool used to recognize how much a scout has learned and demonstrated. Each rank has requirements that must be fulfilled before he can advance to the next rank. The requirements for each rank are listed in the Boy Scout manual. Each time a requirement has been completed, the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster should annotate his book. The scout will need his book when attending the board of review. The ranks are listed below in order.

- © Tenderfoot
- © 2nd Class
- © 1st Class
- © Star
- © Life
- © Eagle

Board of Review

A Board of Review is a review held to determine if a Boy Scout has satisfactorily completed rank requirements, to see how good an experience the Scout is having in the unit, and to encourage the scout to progress further. The review is held after his scoutmaster has approved the scout's rank completion. He then makes a request to have a board of review by members of the troop committee. The review will be held as soon as possible. They are held in private. Only the scout and the troop committee members are present.

A scout should dress in proper Field uniform when attending a board of review. He can expect to answer questions concerning his over-all knowledge and opinions of scouting appropriate to his rank. The questions for the lower ranks are simpler and generally deal with factual information about the Scout's participation in his unit, and his approach to applying the skills he has learned toward earning the next rank. The questions for the higher ranks are less factual, and generally seek to aid understanding of how Scouting is becoming an integral part of the Scout's life. The scout may be asked to recite the Scout Law, Scout Oath, Scout Motto or the Scout Slogan.

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It is not designed to be a frightening experience, but a learning experience to answer questions thoughtfully and respectfully before a group. Good manners, a clear speaking voice and complete sentences are beneficial.

Court of Honor

A Court of Honor is a ceremony that honors those scouts who have earned merit badges and or rank advancements. They receive the new rank insignia to be placed on their uniforms and merit badges that should be placed on their sashes.

Refreshments are served after the ceremony in celebration. Guests are invited to attend and include family members and friends. Your boys work hard to earn these rewards and it is fun to see these scouts receive them. As a parent, we love to see you in attendance to support your scout.

We hold Court of Honor 3 times a year. The exact dates will be on the monthly calendars. Look for them in the fall, winter and spring. Patrols take turns hosting the ceremony, supplying refreshments, setting up and cleaning up. Parent support of these activities helps the event run smoothly and the boys learn responsibility for the event.

Uniform Requirements

Troop 51 requires the boys be in uniform, including the proper scout pants and accessories as defined in the Boy Scout Handbook. This helps to establish pride in scouting and themselves. Uniforms should be worn to all troop meetings, unless otherwise directed. They are also worn at the beginning of a camp out, at summer camp, at all scouting events, and while traveling. Periodic, incentive-based uniform inspections will be held to encourage proper attire.

A description of the patches and locations for those patches can be found in the front of the scout handbook.

The troop has its own neckerchief. The scouts receive theirs when they achieve the rank of tenderfoot. If lost, they can be replaced for a fee. Additionally, the troop has its own T-shirt design, which can be purchased and used for a Activity uniform.

Field Uniform Requirements

The Field Uniform is the more formal uniform and consists of scout shirt, shorts or pants, troop neckerchief, Boy Scout hat, belt and socks. This is the uniform normally worn to scout meetings.

Activity Uniform Requirements

The Activity Uniform consists of the BSA or Troop T-shirt, scout pants and belt.

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Experienced Uniform Box

The troop also operates a "lending box." Current and former scouts can turn in unused or too small uniform items. Other scouts can search the box to see if there are items they need. All that we ask when you use the box is that you turn in items that you cannot wear any more for others to use. If interested in using or donating items, please see Lynn Humphrey.

Troop Committee

Definition

The troop committee is comprised of adults interested in supporting the troop, but is not a scoutmaster or assistant scoutmaster. They can be parents or just people interested in scouting. There is an annual fee to be on the troop committee.

Responsibilities

Support the troop through maintaining the troop account books, providing funds to maintain equipment, managing scout advancement books and holding scout boards of review as necessary. The committee helps to determine how money is spent by the troop.

Other than the officers listed below, there is plenty of opportunity for parent contribution. Regular job functions include popcorn chairperson, other fundraising coordination, community service coordinator, and outdoor activities chairperson. Committee members also round out the adult leadership on campouts throughout the year, at summer camp, and service projects.

Officers

© Chairman:	Jennifer Sanker	248-625-1663
© Treasurer:	Paul Bellemare	248-366-0427
© Advancement:	Julie Bowman	248-674-3215

Meeting Time

The troop committee is scheduled to meet on the Monday of each month following the camp out weekend, although changes may occur from time to time to accommodate holidays. The committee meets in the same room as the troop meetings at the church, or maybe down stairs from 7:30-9:00pm. All parents are welcome.

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Parent Requirements

Transportation

Troop 51 normally camps each month. We attempt to go to different parks in the area as each month is dedicated to a theme, such as fishing or backpacking. The troop does not own a bus, so it is necessary to have parents help in driving the boys to and from the camping location. It is preferred that the drivers also attend the campout.

It is a requirement of BSA to have each boy that is transported in his own seat with seat belt. We ask that you drive to or from these camp outs when you are requested. We will be able to determine how many parents are needed when the boys have indicated their desire to go on each trip. A more firm number is usually determined when the boys turn in the money required to pay for their food. Requests for transportation are made the week of the trip.

If each parent can drive 4 times a year, this does not become a burden on any one parent. Drivers must be 21 years of age or older. A leader ages 18 to 20 can drive if approved by the committee and the Scoutmaster in advance of the trip. Parents will be notified if anyone under 21 will be driving.

Grub Master Duties

A grub master is the scout responsible for purchasing the food before a campout. The patrol plans their meals for the weekend, and gives the grub master money to purchase the food. The grub master's parents must take him, his money, and the meal plan to the store to purchase the food. It is the scout's responsibility to choose the food and to shop wisely so that he has enough money to purchase the items. It will also help your son learn how to shop if you assist in his decision-making.

If he does not have enough money to purchase the food, you can have him exchange something for a cheaper item or you can provide the extra money.

The grub master will clean out the containers used to hold the food for the weekend and return them to the next troop meeting. Grub master duty is rotated throughout the patrol so that every scout gets this opportunity and no one family is unduly burdened with this job.

Committee Meetings

Attendance at the monthly committee meetings is expected. It is not required that you be a member of the committee, but your input is extremely valuable. Attendance at these meetings is the best way to stay informed about the needs and activities of the troop. Your sons are always informed about these items, but as we all know, this information does not always make it home.

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Training

Any parent participating in camp outs on a regular basis, or involved as a committee member, is highly encouraged to complete the Boy Scout Fundamentals Training Course. This course is offered through our council once each fall and spring. Becoming trained not only helps you understand the Boy Scout way of camping, but also provides the troop with additional trained resources on the camp outs.

The scoutmaster and all assistant scoutmasters are required to be trained to ensure a consistent scouting program.

Resources

Troop Web Site

www.troop51-bsa.com

On-line Merit Badge Information

Merit badge information is kept current on a yearly basis on-line. Although this does not replace the reading material in the books, it provides a worksheet for each merit badge to help the boys complete the requirements. Since it contains all merit badges, it helps the boys to determine which ones they may be interested in pursuing.

www.meritbadge.com

Clinton Valley Council Web Site

Keep up with the latest scouting information from our Council at:

www.cvc-bsa.org

Scout Shop Location

Scouting supplies, including uniforms, books and many other miscellaneous items can be purchased at an authorized scout shop. Our Council Shop is located at:

Clinton Valley Boy Scout Council – Civic Center Dr.

Phone: 248-253-9596

School Year Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am – 6:00pm

Saturday 10:00am – 2:00pm

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 51!