

TROOP 1 KINGSTON

New Scout FAQ's

Helpful Information for all Scouts

Troop 1 Committee

9/28/2011



This guide seeks to provide answers to questions commonly asked by newer Scouts and their families. We have presented the information in a "Frequently Asked Questions" format and hope to have input to continually improve upon this document.

- **When should parents plan on attending Troop meetings to hear announcements about upcoming events and the associated logistics?**

All parents should attend Troop meetings through the opening ceremonies/announcements and also plan on attending the closing ceremonies and announcements which typically occur sometime between 8:15 and 8:30.

Parents are always encouraged to participate in the regular meetings. It is always helpful to have a parent that can assist a merit badge counselor, teach a merit badge, sit on Boards of Reviews for Scout advancement, and assist scout leaders in managing various duties and activities. Positions are always available to organize events, assist in running events, participate in different committees (Troop and Adult Recognition, Fundraising (Air Show Coordinator or Poinsettia Sale Coordinator), Organizing Pot Luck Dinners, Organizing Scouting for Food, Friends of Scouting, Advancement Committee, Merit badge Counselor). Surprisingly, it takes active parents to make the Scout's experience rewarding and fulfilling. Your enthusiasm as a volunteer will enhance your child's Scouting experience.

- **What are the uniform pieces that we should purchase and have ready for our son to attend Boy Scout meetings?**

The Class A scout uniform consists of:

- A BSA Scout shirt (required by Troop 1)
- Scout pants/shorts (optional – otherwise green or khaki pants/shorts – no sports shorts)
- Scout socks (optional)
- Troop # patch for right shoulder (required)
- Narragansett Council patch for left shoulder (required)
- American Flag patch for right shoulder (required)
- Shoulder epaulets (required)
- Merit badge sash (required, but can wait until scout earns a few merit badges)
- **Boy Scout Handbook** ← **Important** (required)

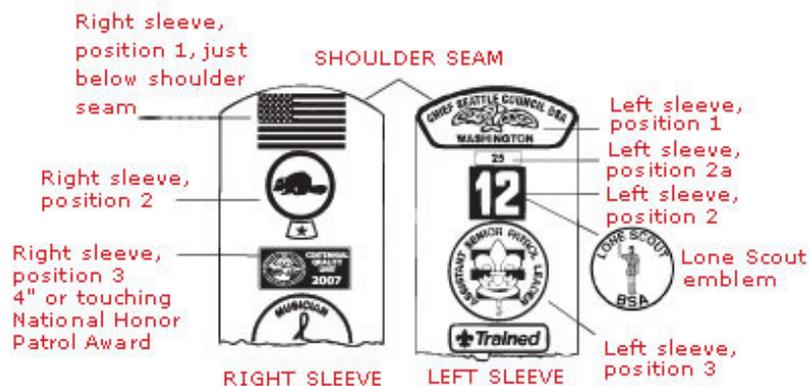
The Class B scout uniform consists of:

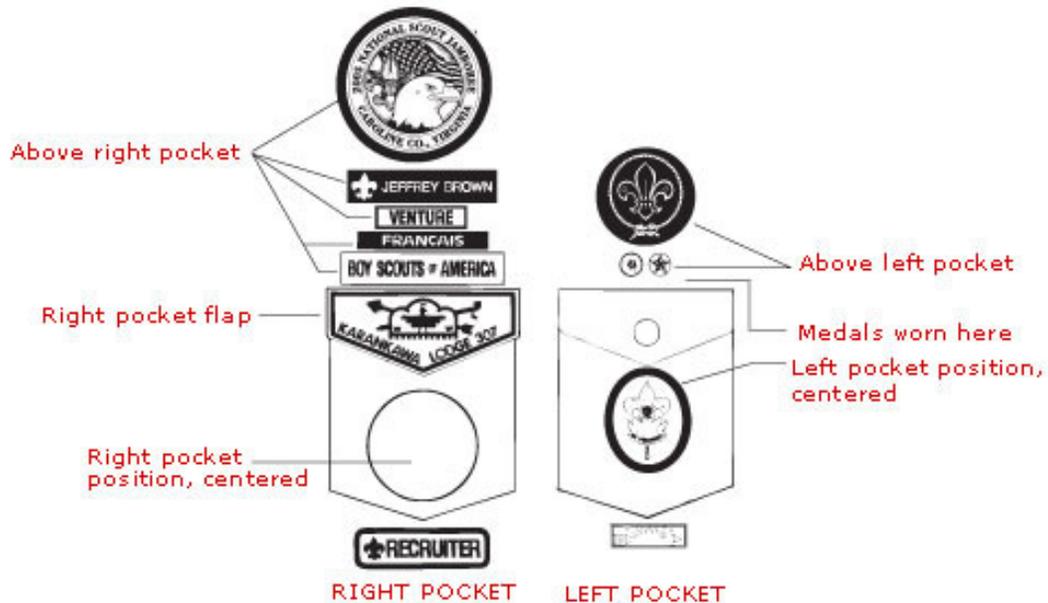
- A Troop T-shirt (purchased through the Troop) (required)

- **Where are the proper locations on the uniform for the various patches and Merit Badges?**

- The inside cover of the Boy Scout Handbook shows the location for the badges.

Insignia Guide: Boy Scout Insignia





Only five medals may be worn at a time, pinned in a single row immediately above the seam of the left pocket.

- **Is the Troop 1 calendar posted somewhere on the Troop 1 website?**

The Troop calendar is posted on the Troop 1 website and will be updated regularly as events change or are finalized.

- **What are the Boy Scout ranks?**

The requirements to achieve each rank listed below are documented in the Boy Scout Handbook and outlined below.

Scout

Scout is a joining badge, earned by completing the requirements to join Boy Scouting. The Scout badge has a brown fleur-de-lis on a tan background. The badge is awarded when the boy demonstrates a rudimentary knowledge of the Scouting ideals such as tying a square knot and knowing the Scout oath, law, and slogan.

Tenderfoot

Tenderfoot is the first rank. A Scout can work on the requirements for the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks at the same time, but each rank must be earned in sequence. The badge is awarded when the Scout completes requirements in the areas of Scoutcraft, physical fitness, citizenship, personal growth and Scout Spirit.

Second Class

Second Class is the rank above Tenderfoot and below First Class. A Scout can work on the requirements for the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks at the same time, but must be earned in sequence. The

badge is awarded when the Scout completes requirements in the areas of Scoutcraft, physical fitness, citizenship, personal growth and Scout Spirit.

First Class

First Class is the rank above Second Class and below Star Scout. A Scout can work on the requirements for the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks at the same time, but must earn them in sequence. The badge is awarded when the Scout completes requirements in the areas of Scoutcraft, physical fitness, citizenship, personal growth and Scout Spirit.

Originally, First Class was the all around Scout and the final and highest rank. Later ranks were originally recognitions of earning merit badges beyond First Class, and not properly ranks. Now these additional ranks form a second tier where Scouts can further develop leadership skills and explore potential vocations and avocations through the merit badge program.

Although Eagle is the highest rank and one all Scouts should strive for, the number of Scouts achieving First Class within one year of joining is still one of the key measures of unit effectiveness. Studies have shown that if a Scout achieves First Class within a year of joining, he typically stays in the Scout program for at least three years. Scouts who do so are more likely to retain Scout values as an adult and achieve the BSA primary mission of "producing useful citizens".

From 1972 to 1990, the First Aid merit badge was required for First Class rank. After 1990, this was replaced with a series of requirements to demonstrate awareness of advanced first aid techniques, including CPR. A sixth merit badge was added to the requirement for Star rank at that time to maintain its overall requirement of 21 merit badges, and First Aid is still one of the merit badges that is mandatory for Eagle Scout.

Star

Star is the rank above First Class and below Life Scout. Star is awarded when the Scout serves actively in the troop, team or crew in a position of responsibility for at least 4 months; performs at least six hours of community service; and earns six merit badges (four of which must be required for Eagle Scout rank).

Initially, the Life badge was awarded for five merit badges and the Star badge was awarded for ten. The order was reversed in the 1920s when it was decided that the five-pointed star of Star Scout better represented the five merit badges required for first rank above First Class. That symbolism was lost when the number of merit badges required for Star was increased to six in 1990.

Life

Life is second highest rank attainable and ranks above Star Scout and below Eagle. Life is awarded when the Scout serves actively in the troop, team or crew, serves in a position of responsibility for six months, and performs six hours of community service. Another thing a scout must do in order to achieve Life is earn an additional five merit badges (three of which are required for the rank of Eagle), to make a minimum total of eleven merit badges (including the six previously required for Star). Finally, the scout must pass a scoutmaster conference, and board of review.

Life was originally lower than Star, and originally required earning five specific merit badges concerned with health and fitness (First Aid, Lifesaving, Public Health, Personal Health and Athletics). It was changed in the 1920s when it was decided that the five-pointed star better represented the five merit badges required for Star, and the two were switched. Life's heart came to symbolize achievement in health and fitness, as the first aid merit badge was required for Life and Eagle for many years.

Eagle

Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouting division. Since its introduction in 1911, the Eagle Scout rank has been earned by more than 2 million young men.

Requirements include earning a number of merit badges and demonstration of Scout Spirit, service and leadership. This includes an extensive service project that the Scout plans, organizes, leads, and manages. Eagle Scouts are presented with a medal and a badge that visibly recognizes the accomplishments of the Scout. Additional recognition can be earned through Eagle Palms, awarded for completing additional tenure, leadership and merit badge requirements.

- **How do the Scouts advance in rank?**

To advance in rank (typically through first class) scouts are encouraged to work with older scouts (typically first class and above) in the troop in order to complete requirements required to advance in rank. The older scouts will teach the skills required for each requirement and sign off on the requirement in the scout's handbook (**This is why obtaining a handbook is important!**). Once all the requirements for a particular rank have been completed, the scout needs to complete a rank advancement form (available from the troop website) and turn it in to the scoutmaster. The scoutmaster will then call a scoutmaster conference (described below) and the advancement chair will organize a board of review (described below). These events should take place within a few weeks of the scout turning in their rank advancement form. If not, then the scout should follow-up with the scoutmaster.

Advancement Process

Merit badges and rank may be earned by any registered Boy Scout or Varsity Scout until their eighteenth birthday. Venturers and Sea Scouts who earned First Class as a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout may continue to work towards Eagle Scout in their crew or ship until age eighteen. As the last requirement for each rank except the joining Scout badge, each Scout must go through the Scoutmaster's conference and then a board of review.

Scoutmaster conference

The Scoutmaster conference is a meeting between the Scoutmaster or the Coach and the Scout, and is a requirement for each rank. The Scoutmaster or Coach reviews the Scout's progress and ensures all requirements have been met. The Scout is expected to show how he has grown in his understanding of the Scouting ideals, including the Scout Oath and the Scout Law, and how he has applied those ideals. The Scoutmaster or Coach will also discuss the next steps in advancement and encourages the Scout to advance.

Board of review

The board of review is a group of three to six members of the troop or team committee and is the final approval process for Scout rank advancement. The board reviews the Scout to ensure all requirements are met and attempts to determine the Scout's attitude and his acceptance of Scouting's ideals and their application. The board also solicits the Scout's opinions on the troop or team program and on youth and adult leadership.

- **What support will the Troop provide for the Scout to advance in ranking? What are the requirements to be done individually or with the help of parents?**

As a Boy Scout, your son's progress is paced to their schedule and goals. The adults organize the activities that the boy's elected leadership patrols and committees have chosen to setup for the year. The various patrols

also organize activities to teach the basic rank skills. With all of this, the scout's pace is ultimately determined by each individual. Just because a scout participates in an activity, does not necessarily mean that a badge or rank is going to be earned. Each scout must follow through and demonstrate to the adult leaders that they have completed the requirements of a badge of the rank. When a Scout has completed the requirements for a merit badge and has demonstrated such to the counselor, the counselor will sign a blue card indicating that the requirements have been met. It is up to the Scout to obtain the blue card form the scoutmaster, fill out the information and then present it the merit badge counselor for signature. It is then up to the Scout to turn the signed blue card into the Advancement Chairperson. This is the only way that a Scout will obtain the merit badge and have it properly logged at the Narragansett Council level. The Council must have record of the achievement in order for a Scout to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout in the future.

- **There is a link for Merit Badge registration on the Troop web page. When should a Scout register and should he inform somebody that he has registered?**

Yes, a scout should register. Not all counselors check, but don't leave anything to chance.

- **Are there any necessary permission slips that need to be filled out for special activities and how do we obtain them?**

Permission slips are required for all field trips and campouts that your Scout will be participating in. Announcements about events requiring permission slips are made either before or after (or both!) each Troop meeting. The permission slips for each activity will be on the Troop 1 website. Make sure that the slip is printed, filled out and signed and returned to the Scoutmaster as soon as possible prior to any activity.

- **Weekend campouts often start on Friday evening and run through Sunday morning. What meals are provided for the Scouts?**

As each event may be different, the scout needs to read the permission slip which will have the requirements for food, gear, money, etc listed on it. Permission slips (available from the web site as soon as possible after a trip is planned) need to be completed and turned in to the Scoutmaster as soon as possible

There is no meal provided for Friday's dinner, the Scout should arrive at the meeting location with a brown bag meal. Meals are provided by the various patrols. Each patrol elects a grubmaster to provide the food for the various campouts. Scouts are REQUIRED to pay their patrol grubmaster for the food. Each meal is voted on and agreed to by the patrol prior to the event. The Scouts in the patrol will prepare breakfast, lunch and dinner meals for as agreed to by the Patrol. Contrary to popular belief, food is not provided by the troop, rather by each Scout patrol.

- **For parents going camping, what meals are provided?**

The camping adults are part of the Adult patrol and therefore the parent assigned the chore of grubmaster for the Adult patrol must collect the money from the adults and purchase agreed upon meals for the adults. There usually is a note on the Scout permission slip indicating who the adults should communicate meal planning with.

- **Are there any special accommodations for individuals with special dietary needs?**

Special dietary needs by a Scout or adult, need to be brought to the attention of the Scoutmaster and the Scout's patrol leader as well as the patrol grubmaster, to ensure that the planned meals fit within the Scout's dietary needs.

- **What are the sleeping accommodations for Scouts and parents?**

On campouts, Scouts and adults should have their own tent and sleeping bag. Adults are not allowed to sleep with scouts. Scouts may share a tent with another scout. Adults also may share a tent with another adult. These are determined by prior agreement with a potential tent-mate. BE PREPARED. Plan on owning a tent and a sleeping bag.

- **Our Scout doesn't have a tent. Will he be able to sleep in another tent? Will he be made to feel welcome even if he doesn't know the other Scouts well?**

Scouts may share a tent with another scout. Adults also may share a tent with another adult. These are determined by prior agreement with a potential tent-mate. BE PREPARED. Plan on investing in a tent and a sleeping bag.

- **What is the summer camp, Camp Yawgoog all about?**

Summer camp at Camp Yawgoog is a weeklong residential camp for our Scouts. The Scouts will spend a week in August camping in shelters along the side of a lake. They will have the opportunity to receive instruction on several Merit Badges and have time to work on the skills to earn the badges during their stay. The Scouts will also have plenty of activities to build camaraderie with fellow Troop 1 members and develop memories that they will forever cherish.

The camp area established for Troop 1 always has at least 2 adult leaders present every day. Additionally, many parents opt to visit in the evening to see their Scouts and to participate in Board Reviews. Camp Yawgoog is a very safe environment for the Scouts and provides excellent supervision of all Scout activities.

For more on Camp Yawgoog, follow the link: <http://www.yawgoog.org/scouting/leaders/link5.html>

- **There is a generic list of what a Scout should bring to Camp Yawgoog, but we hear that there are other things that might be useful. Is there a list of essentials that Camp Yawgoog veterans have put together?**

- Clothes line for hanging uniforms and drying clothes
- Footlocker
- Class A uniform
- Class B T-shirt (2 is preferable)
- A decent pair of walking shoes or sneakers
- Crocs, flip flops, or sandals
- A few changes of underwear, socks, shorts and t-shirts (don't waste the space on too much of this stuff)
- Scout handbook
- Bathing suit
- Rain coat or poncho
- A fleece pullover or sweatshirt
- Sleeping bag (30 or 40 degree rating is perfect)
- Pillow
- Folding chair for more comfort
- Battery operated lantern to hang in your tent
- Toothbrush and paste
- Soap and shampoo (I hear the scout showers at Medicine Bow are best)

- Towel
 - Flashlight or headlamp (preferable)
 - Spare batteries (also available at the camp store aka “the 407”)
 - Rope or parachute cord (for learning and practicing knot tying skills)
 - Pen, pencils and paper for merit badge homework
 - Hanger for Class A
 - Bug spray
 - Money
 - Pocket knife (if Scout has earned totin chip)
 - watch
- **How can our Scout contact his Patrol Leader if he has a question about an upcoming activity? Do the PL’s contact the members of the patrol to alert them of changes to activities?**

Each scout should have the phone number of their Patrol Leader as well as their Email. Each scout must make sure that he informs his Patrol Leader of his various phone numbers and Email. PLs should contact members of their patrol to alert them of changes to activities. Scouts should also monitor the Troop website.

- **Our younger Scout does not have a Facebook page or an email account. Is there any other way that he can “be in the loop” on current information disseminated to the Troop?**

The Scout should rely on his parent’s email address if he does not yet have his own. If the family does not have email, then they should notify the Scoutmaster so special arrangements can be made to keep the family informed.

- **Who are the adult leaders and what is the best way to contact them quickly if we need to?**

The Scoutmaster is William Boardman and the Troop Committee Chairperson is Jonathan Beck. The Troop SPL is Josh Gardner.

- **What are the roles of the adult leaders?**

Scoutmaster - The Scoutmaster can be male or female but must be at least 21 Years old. The Scoutmaster is appointed by the head of the chartered organization. The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of the troop. The Scoutmaster and his assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. The importance of the Scoutmaster's job is reflected in the fact that the quality of his guidance will affect every youth and adult involved in the troop. **The Scoutmaster's duties include:**

General

- Train and guide boy leaders
- Work with other responsible adults to bring Scouting to boys
- Use the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting meetings
- Meet regularly with the patrol leaders' council for training and coordination in planning

Troop Committee meetings

- Attend troop committee meetings

Guidance

- Conduct Scoutmaster conferences for all rank advancements
- Provide a systematic recruiting plan for new members and see that they are promptly registered
- Delegate responsibility to other adults and groups (assistant, Troop Committee) so that they have real part in

Troop operations

- Supervise troop elections for the Order of the Arrow

Activities

- Make it possible for each Scout to experience at least 10 days and nights Of camping
- Build a strong program by using proven methods presented in Scouting literature
- Participate in Council and District events
- Conduct all activities under qualified leadership, safe conditions and the policies of the chartered organization and the Boy Scouts of America

As you see, the Scoutmaster has many responsibilities.

Assistant Scoutmaster. Assistant Scoutmaster may be 18 years old, but at least one in each troop should be 21 or older so he or she can serve in the Scoutmaster's absence. To fulfill his obligation to the troop, the Scoutmaster, with the assistance of the troop committee recruits assistant Scoutmasters to help operate the troop. Each assistant Scoutmaster is assigned specific program duties and reports to the Scoutmaster. They also provide the required two-deep leadership standards set by the Boy Scouts of America (there must be at least two adults present at any Boy Scout activity). A troop should recruit as many assistant Scoutmasters as possible.

Troop Committee - these responsibilities must be performed:

- Make recommendations to the chartered organization for final approval of troop leadership.
- Recruit the Scoutmaster and one or more assistant Scoutmaster, with the chartered organization's approval.
- Provide adequate and safe facilities for troop meetings.
- Coordinate the troop's program and the chartered organization's program through the chartered organization representative.
- Help with troop charter renewal.
- Help stimulate the interest of adult family members through proper programming.
- Supervise finances and equipment.
- Work closely with the Scoutmaster.
- Ensure that all Scouts receive a year-round, quality program.
- Complete troop committee Fast Start Training and Basic Leader Training for the position.
- Conduct, with the help of the Scoutmaster, periodic training for parents and guardians.
- Cooperate with other Scouting units.

A strong troop committee will have individual members assigned to such areas as record keeping and correspondence, finances, advancement, training, public relations, and membership and re-registration. The troop committee chair decides how the responsibilities should be divided and gives committee members assignments.

- **How is a BSA Troop organized and run?**

Patrols

The Scout Troop is made up of patrols. A patrol is a grouping of any number of boys who work together. Each Patrol elects its own boy Leader called a Patrol Leader. The new Scout Patrol is composed of new members who have not entered the seventh grade. The experienced Scout Patrol is for those boys who are age 12 and older.

The Troop's Youth Leaders

The troop is actually run by its boy leaders. With the guidance of the Scoutmaster and his assistants, they plan the program, conduct troop meetings, and provide leadership among their peers.

Junior Leader Positions

Senior Patrol Leader(SPL) - top junior leader in the troop. He leads the patrol leaders' council and, in consultation with the Scoutmaster, appoints other junior leaders and assigns specific responsibilities as needed.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader - fills in for Senior Patrol Leader in his absence. He is also responsible for training and giving direction to the Quartermaster, Scribe, Troop Historian, Librarian, Instructor

Troop members

Instructor - teaches one or more advancement skills to Troop members.

Chaplain Aide - assists in Troop Religious services and promotes Religious Emblems program.

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster - a Scout 16 or older who supervises and supports other boy Leaders as assigned.

Patrol Leader - gives leadership to members of his patrol and represents them on the Patrol Leader's Council.

Assistant Patrol Leader - fills in for the Patrol Leader in his absence.

Troop Guide - Advisor and Guide to the new Scout Patrol.

Den Chief - works with a Cub Scout Den as a Guide

Quartermaster - responsible for Troop supplies and equipment.

Scribe - the Troop Secretary.

Troop Historian - collects and maintains troop memorabilia and information on former troop members.

Librarian - keeps troop books pamphlets, magazines, audio visuals, and Merit Badge Counselor list available for use by.

The Patrol Leader's Council

The Patrol Leader's Council, not the Adult Leaders, is responsible for planning and conducting the Troop's activities. The Patrol Leader's Council is composed of the following voting members Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader's Troop Guide, Venture Crew Chief, Varsity Team Captain.

The Troop's activities are selected and planned at the annual program planning conference. The Troop's yearly plan is then submitted to the Troop Committee for approval. The Troop Committee either approves the plan or makes alternative suggestions for the Patrol Leaders' Council to consider. At its monthly meetings, the Patrol Leader's Council organizes and assigns activity responsibilities for the weekly Troop meetings. The Troop Committee interacts with the Patrol Leader's Council through the Scoutmaster.

- **We have been told that former committee Chairman Jay Masse put together a Troop Policy document. Can we access this document?**

The Troop Policy document will be posted to the Troop Website.

- **There is a trip scheduled for the spring school vacation week. How are these trips organized and supervised? Are these trips open to all Scouts?**

Scouting trips are setup for the benefit of the Troop. However, some trips require that a scout reach a certain age or rank, as certain aspects of the trip will require certain skills that older scouts should possess. Some trips have inherent risks if a scout is not prepared for it. Most trips are open to all scouts of the Troop.

- **What are the High Adventure programs and who are they open to?**

<http://www.scouting.org/Parent/AdventureOfScouting/TypesOfOutdoorActivities.aspx>

- **What is the Order of the Arrow that we have heard about?**

The **Order of the Arrow (OA)** is the national honor society of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). It uses American Indian-styled traditions and ceremonies to bestow recognition on scouts selected by their peers as best exemplifying the ideals of Scouting. The society was created by E. Urner Goodman, with the assistance of Carroll A. Edson, in 1915 as a means of reinforcing the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. The goal was to establish these as lifelong guidelines, and to encourage continued participation in Scouting and camping. Influenced in part by camp traditions, and Indian folklore, the OA uses "safeguarded" symbols, handshakes, and ceremonies to impart a sense of community.

Scouts are elected to Order of the Arrow by their fellow scouts. We are connected to the Abnaki Lodge.