

Family Handbook



BOY SCOUT TROOP 141
Tucson, Arizona

Tanque Verde Lutheran Church
8625 E. Tanque Verde Road
Tucson, Arizona 85749

General Information

The Scouting Program is planned and run by the boys of Troop 141 and can best be summed up in two paragraphs taken from "The Scoutmaster's Handbook," published by the BSA (Boy Scouts of America).

"The Boy Scout troop is made up of patrols, groupings of six to eight boys who work together as a team. Each patrol elects its own leader. The Patrol Leaders, with an elected Senior Patrol Leader as their head, form the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC). It is the PLC's job to plan and run the troop program.

Each Patrol Leader represents his patrol on the PLC, and interprets to his patrol the plans and decisions the PLC makes.

Patrols also have their own meetings, elect their own officers, plan and carry out their own patrol activities."

The Aims of Scouting

The Aims of the Scouting Program as laid out by BSA and the goals of the scouting program in Troop 141 are to:

- Build Character
- Foster Citizenship
- Develop Fitness

The Three Points of Scouting

When some people think of scouting, they think of hot dogs, tents, and campfires. When we think of a Scout, however, we think of someone who is honest, helpful, and kind. We want to have fun, but the essence of scouting is expressed by our motto, "Be Prepared," our slogan, "Do a Good Turn Daily," the Scout Oath, Law, and Outdoor Code.

The best definition of scouting is found in the three points of the Boy Scout Oath that are symbolized by the three fingers of the scout sign. Each point of this oath defines one of the fundamental duties of a scout.

Duty to God, Duty to Others, Duty to Myself

Since 1910, these principles have been taught in an atmosphere of recreation and fun that allows young people to develop self-confidence, leadership, and moral character. More and more men, trained as Scouts, are taking their places in today's world as responsible adult leaders. Men who earned badges as Scouts sit on the Supreme Court and in the chambers of Congress. Others hold important offices in our government, business, and industry. Many members of congress were Scouts, as well as most of the astronauts who have walked on the moon.

“The Methods of Scouting”

The Aims of Scouting are accomplished by what are called the “Eight Methods of Scouting.” These are not the purposes of Scouting but are the tools used to meet the Aims.

1. **Ideals**; the scout oath and law, motto, slogan
2. **The Patrol method**; a mini-democracy in action
3. **The Outdoor Program**; the laboratory where that Patrol must function
4. **Advancement**; skill training
5. **Personal Growth**; a scout’s collective experiences
6. **Adult Association**; positive role models
7. **Leadership Development**; A BOY-RUN PROGRAM
8. **The Uniform**; a sense of belonging and pride

Costs

Scouts

(For 2009, subject to change by the Troop committee)

REGISTRATION FEES FOR NEW SCOUTS (TRANSFER FROM WEBELOS)

Scout joins in . . .	Troop Dues	T-shirt	Transfer	Total
Jan	\$28.00	\$8.00	\$1.00	\$37.00
Feb	25.67	8.00	1.00	34.67
Mar	23.33	8.00	1.00	32.33
Apr	21.00	8.00	1.00	30.00
May	18.67	8.00	1.00	27.67
Jun	16.33	8.00	1.00	25.33
Jul	14.00	8.00	1.00	23.00
Aug	11.67	8.00	1.00	20.67
Sep	9.33	8.00	1.00	18.33
Oct	7.00	8.00	1.00	16.00
Nov	4.67	8.00	1.00	13.67
Dec*	28.00	\$8.00	\$1.00	\$37.00

REGISTRATION FEES FOR NEW SCOUTS (NOT A WEBELOS TRANSFER)

Scout joins in . . .	Troop Dues	T-shirt	BSA Regis	Boys Life	Total
Jan	\$28.00	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$ 58.00
Feb	25.67	8.00	9.35	11.00	\$ 54.02
Mar	23.33	8.00	8.50	10.00	\$ 49.83
Apr	21.00	8.00	7.65	9.00	\$ 45.65

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May	18.67	8.00	6.80	8.00	\$ 41.47
Jun	16.33	8.00	5.95	7.00	\$ 37.28
Jul	14.00	8.00	5.10	6.00	\$ 33.10
Aug	11.67	8.00	4.25	5.00	\$ 28.92
Sep	9.33	8.00	3.40	4.00	\$ 24.73
Oct	7.00	8.00	2.55	3.00	\$ 20.55
Nov	4.67	8.00	.85	2.00	\$ 15.52
Dec*	28.00	8.00	10.00	12.00	\$ 58.00

*Per the BSA Troop 141 Handbook, December scouts pay for the next year.

The approximate cost of activities is:

- Camping trips - \$15-\$20/person (for food);
- Canoe trip - \$50/person (food and canoe rental)
- Ski trip - \$140/person
- Summer camp (1 week) - \$300/person

An additional charge will be added to help offset gasoline expenses on trips exceeding 150 miles round trip. This additional amount should be offered by the Scout to his driver. (those transporting scouts other than their own, and/or Troop equipment). The amount is not intended to reimburse drivers for their expenses, but is a small token to compensate for their assistance.

Because we don't want any boy to miss an opportunity to be in Scouting because of money, we have funds to provide "camperships" for boys who need them. Contact the Scoutmaster or the Committee Chair if you or someone you know has a need. Activity costs can also be reduced by use of individual Scout Accounts (see below).

Eagle Scouts

Annual registration for Eagle Scouts is \$30 per year and includes a Troop 141 t-shirt.

Adults

Adult registration is \$18 per year, and includes a Troop 141 t-shirt.

Scout Accounts

Some of the costs of Scouting with Troop 141 can be offset by participation in Troop fundraisers. Scouts who participate in a fundraiser get a portion credited to their individual Scout account. The Troop Committee determines the percentage of a particular fundraiser that will be dedicated to Scout accounts. Money in a Scout account is available to be used only toward Troop activities, or for personal Scouting-related equipment purchases (such as backpacks, sleeping bags, uniforms etc) to support their participation in the Troop. After a boy has left the troop, any funds remaining in a Scout account revert back to the general Troop treasury. If the Scout transfers to another Boy Scout unit his Scout account funds can be transferred to the new unit upon request, subject to Troop Committee approval.

Note: Funds in a Scout account do not belong to the Scout. These funds are a financial resource available from the Troop. Through his participation in fundraisers, the Scout

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contributes to his account and, as a result, earns access to the funds.

Friends of Scouting

Each year, the Catalina Council operates its Friends of Scouting (FOS) campaign to raise money for Council operations. The Council is responsible for maintaining the Council Camps, operating Council Camporees, as well as other Council activities, Local BSA administration and local advertising. Contributions to FOS are voluntary, but the Troop has a good record of support for this activity. Over the years, FOS is becoming a critical source of BSA funding.

Troop Organization

Troop 141 is a participating member of the Spanish Trails District of the Catalina Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop's organization consists of a Chartered Organization, a Troop Committee, the Troop, and the Troop's Parents.

Chartered Organization (Troop Sponsor)

Every Troop is sponsored by a chartered organization. The Chartered Organization for Troop 141 is Tanque Verde Lutheran Church. We are considered part of the Youth Ministry of the church. Members of the Troop and their families are not required to attend this church, but the 12th Point of Scout Law is "A Scout is Reverent," and each scout is encouraged to put this into practice by being faithful to his own religious duties, whatever they may be. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and insures that there is adequate, trained leadership and meeting and storage facilities. A Chartered Organization Representative acts as a liaison between the Troop and the sponsoring organization, Tanque Verde Lutheran Church.

Scouts Become Responsible Leaders

Responsibility for the functioning of the Troop and its programs rests with the Troop committee and the Scoutmaster. The Committee provides overall supervision of the Troop program and critical support to the Scoutmaster Staff and Junior Leaders. While the Scoutmaster and his Assistants have responsibility for the program, they strive to transfer leadership and planning of program activities and Troop meetings to the Senior Patrol Leader and other junior leaders. The Senior Patrol Leader and other junior leaders, in turn, delegate leadership and planning to Patrol Leaders as appropriate or necessary. The adult leadership looks to the Scouts and their elected junior leaders to address problems of discipline and order according to BSA and Troop policy as outlined below. Adults should encourage junior leadership by referring questions and decisions to the appropriate Scouts for resolution. Scouts share responsibility for keeping order at Troop functions. Disrupting Troop or Patrol activities not only undermines Troop and Patrol unity, but it also deprives other Scouts from enjoying the program fully and runs counter to the spirit of Scouting. When conflicts or disorder occur, Scouts should seek assistance from other Scouts, junior leaders and adults to resolve them.

Adult Leadership

Adult leadership comes from the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters. Although Troop 141 is run by the boys, adult leaders provide essential guidance, training, counseling, and experience to ensure that Troop activities run smoothly and safely. Two registered adult leaders, or one adult leader and a Scout parent, both of whom must be 21 years of age, are required for all Troop 141 meetings and outings.

Contacting Troop Leaders

Because the Boys run their own Troop, Boy Scouting is quite different from any other youth organization that you may have participated in, including Cub Scouts. The difference often leads to confusion and misunderstandings about how and why things are done. Parents and Scouts are strongly encouraged to promptly bring their concerns to the Scoutmaster Staff. While the Scoutmaster and Assistants are usually busy with the Scouts during Troop meetings, if you have questions or concerns about our program, please contact any of us before or after Troop meetings. A troop organizational chart and contact roster are provided in Appendix A of this guide.

Troop Communications

Most communication from adult leaders to scouts and parents is done through e-mail. Please make sure that the Troop Committee Chairperson has all your current e-mail addresses. Troop and Patrol Leaders may communicate via e-mail or telephone.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee is composed of adult leaders, parents, and one or more representatives of the Chartered Organization. The Troop Committee functions as an administrative and support organization for the Troop and adult leaders, and sees that the rules and policies of the BSA and the Chartered Organization are followed. The Troop Committee handles non-program issues surrounding the Troop, such as newsletters, budgets, fundraising and recruiting activities, activity permits and coordination, advancement records, and procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment. The Committee meets on the last Tuesday of each month, from August through May. The meetings are open and interested adults are encouraged to attend.

Troop Meetings

Regular Meetings—Troop 141 meets Monday evenings (except holidays) in the TVLC Chapel from 7:00 – 8:30 pm, from mid-August through mid-May. Special meetings may be called at any time for planning and preparing for events.)

Advancement Meetings—Troop 141 holds merit badge and rank advancement meetings on some Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. Senior scouts are available to work with younger scouts on rank advancement. We strongly encourage scouts to schedule Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review for Tuesday evenings.

Patrol Leaders' Council—Around the last Tuesday evening of each month, the Senior Patrol Leader meets from 7:00 – 8:30 pm with the Patrol Leaders and other scouts in leadership positions (or interested in entering a leadership position) to plan the next month's meetings and activities.

Changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as early as possible to allow for proper planning and are posted on our [troop website](http://www.ScoutTroop141.org).

Patrols and Patrol Leaders

The basic functional unit of the Troop is the Patrol. Each Patrol usually consists of a Patrol Leader and at least five Scouts. The boys in a patrol elect their patrol leader who, in turn, appoints the assistant patrol leader. Patrol Leaders in Troop 141 usually have two or more years of scouting experience and good attendance records. On camping trips, each patrol sets up its own site, plans its menu and duty roster, buys its food, cooks its meals, and participates in campfire and other activities. Older scouts in our leadership core coordinate activities and run the troop meetings.

Whenever possible, new scouts are placed in the patrol of their choice when they join the troop. Normally, we assign siblings to different patrols. These assignments may be changed as needed to maintain adequate numbers and leadership in each patrol. Older scouts are assigned as "Troop Guides" to work with the new members and advise the Patrol Leaders. At any given time, we may have one or more Junior Assistant Scoutmasters (16 and 17-year-old boys) who serve as coaches to the patrols and work in coordination with the Assistant Scoutmasters.

The Senior Patrol Leader is an elected position. The Senior Patrol Leader selects his Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders. The Patrol Leaders, with the Senior Patrol Leader as their head, form the Patrol Leaders' Council, which plans the activities and the Troop meetings. Elections for Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leaders are held each January or February and August.

Troop Leadership Training / Troop Organization Workshop (TLT/TOW)

To properly perform the duties of a leadership position within the Troop properly, different levels of training are required. Scouts who plan on serving as Patrol Leader, Venture Crew Chief, Guide, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, or Senior Patrol Leader must attend TLT once to be eligible for election or appointment to those positions. In addition, Scouts seeking these positions must attend the next TLT after each Troop Election in order to receive credit for holding these positions. Other Troop positions such as Scribe, Quartermaster, Chaplain's Aid, Instructor, Librarian, and Historian must have attended TLT. Scouts serving as Den Chiefs should attend Den Chief Training. Other Training opportunities include District TLT, Council TLT, and National YLT. These optional training experiences are available to Scouts who are seeking to widen their Leadership experiences. All training expenses are covered by the Troop's general training funds.

The Troop Organizational Workshop (TOW) is held annually in August or September. At this workshop, the scouts determine the outings they want to schedule for the coming year. The Troop Committee then schedules these events based on input from the TOW.

Uniforms

Uniforms are part of Scouting and boys and adult leaders are required to wear them at troop meetings, at summer camp, and during most activities. Uniforms may be purchased at the [Catalina Council Scout Shop](#), located at 5049 E. Broadway Blvd.

“Class A” Scout Uniform

- **Scout Shirt** - Short or long sleeves are fine—most scouts wear short-sleeved shirts. A pair of olive green epaulets is worn on the shirt.
- **Scout Pants** – Long or short pants are acceptable. Green scout socks should be worn, but are not required if long uniform pants are worn.
- **Scout Belt** – Cut and sized to fit “brass-on-brass.”
- **Neckerchief and slide** - A neckerchief will be presented to your son by the troop at the time of his investiture (bridging) ceremony. Additional neckerchiefs are available for \$5.00.
- **Patches** - You need a troop numeral (141 – We have special patches with all three numerals on one patch that are easier to sew on shirts), a Council patch, and a patrol patch. Earned badges are presented at Troop meetings and may be sewn on as soon as they are awarded. Appendix D shows where patches should be sewn, or see the inside covers of the Scout Handbook.
- **Merit Badge Sash** - Scouts need this sash once they have earned six or more merit badges.

“Class B” Scout Uniform

- Red Troop 141 T-shirt
- Scout pants or shorts
- Scout socks

BSA Scout Shop

The official BSA Scout shop in Tucson, where you can purchase scout uniforms and supplies, is located at:

Catalina Council Scout Shop

5049 E. Broadway #200

Tucson, AZ 85711

(From the intersection of Broadway and Rosemont, drive 1 block north and turn left just before the America Online building. Look for the large BSA emblem on the side of the building. The Scout Shop and Council office are both upstairs.)

Advancement

Advancement is not our primary goal or a requirement, but is a natural outcome of a planned, quality Troop program. The four steps of advancement are:

- The Boy Scout learns.
- The Boy Scout is tested.
- The Boy Scout is reviewed.
- The Boy Scout is recognized.

Advancement is one of the eight methods of Scouting and centers on badges, which are called progress awards or “Badges of Rank.” These progress awards include Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The Eagle Award is the top progress award and the highest award scouting has to offer, however the journey to Eagle using the eight Methods and the three Aims of Scouting is the real goal. The requirements for all progress awards follow the same basic pattern:

1. **Participation** - You are required to be active in the Troop and your Patrol. This means regularly attending Troop meetings and activities. It also means helping your Patrol in patrol meetings, on campouts, and in service projects.
For lower ranks, younger scouts must participate in a specific number of activities. For higher ranks, the older boys must be active for a specified time period. Scouts in Leadership positions must attend Troop Leadership Training (TLT) and Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) meetings as well as regular Troop meetings and outings to fulfill their leadership requirements.
2. **Spirit** - You must live up to the ideals of scouting as expressed in the Scout Oath, Law, Slogan, Motto, and the Outdoor Code. This is a key part of the Scoutmaster conference and expectations increase with rank.
3. **Skills** - All progress awards require you to learn skills. For the lower ranks, the things you need to learn are spelled out in the requirements for that rank. For the higher ranks, you learn by earning merit badges. Remember that merely learning these skills does not qualify you for a progress award. Spirit, participation, leadership, and service are equally important.
4. **Leadership** - For the ranks of Star and above, you are required to attend Troop Leadership Training (TLT) and serve *actively* in a leadership position within the Troop. At this stage in a Scout's career responsibility, commitment, leadership, and making tough choices are important factors.
5. **Service** - For Star and Life you must invest a certain number of hours in service to others. For Eagle, you organize and lead a service project.
6. **Scoutmaster Conference** - As one of the requirements for rank advancement, you must have a one-on-one conference with the Scoutmaster. The Scout Oath and Law are key topics of discussion. For higher ranks, leadership is also discussed.
7. **Board of Review** - With the exception of the Scout rank, after the Scoutmaster conference, the final step in advancement is to meet with several members of the Troop committee for a progress review.

Service

The Boy Scout Slogan is “Do a Good Turn Daily.” The Scout Oath says “On my Honor, I will do my best ... to help other people...” The Scout Law says that a Scout is “Helpful.” Service builds character and provides an opportunity to give back to those who support our organization and to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Small service projects make excellent Patrol outings. A specific amount of service is also required for rank advancement. Troop 141 provides service to our District, our Council, the community, and our Charter Organization.

For service to count toward rank advancement, it must be pre-approved by the Scoutmaster, and benefit a church, school, or community organization. Scouts working toward their Eagle rank are required to plan and lead a service project. These projects offer good opportunities for lower-ranking scouts to provide service.

Although service hours count toward rank advancement, that is by no means the only reason to perform service. The Scout motto, oath, and law do not say that a scout should do service only until enough time has accrued for the next rank. Service is an integral part of the scouting experience.

Participation in Troop activities

Each Boy Scout rank, from Second Class to Eagle, has a participation requirement. For Second Class, you must participate in five activities other than meetings. For First Class, you need an additional five activities. Our Troop takes a “Do Your Best” approach to attendance and participation in outings. We recognize that the boys may have many other activities that conflict with the Troop schedule. However, to obtain credit for a leadership position (Star-Eagle ranks) a stronger commitment is required and expected. When you are ready to advance and appear for a Board of Review, one of the things the Review Board may ask you about is your attendance at Troop meetings and outings.

Who signs off requirements

The best way to learn and retain a skill is to teach it to another. For Scout through First Class ranks, any Scout of Star rank or higher may sign off “Skill” requirements once he has been certified as proficient for that particular skill. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters may also sign off requirements if a Scout of rank is not available. Unlike the Cub Scouts, parents cannot sign off requirements. For Star through Eagle ranks, only the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters may sign off those requirements.

Only registered Merit Badge Counselors that are specifically approved for a particular merit badge can sign off requirements for that merit badge, though counselors may accept notes from parents or other adults as proof of completion of selected requirements. If a scout changes counselors, he should notify the Scoutmaster before meeting with the new counselor.

Merit Badges

Merit badges give scouts a chance to learn about a very broad range of skills. The Star, Life, and Eagle ranks require the Scout to earn merit badges. To earn the Eagle rank, a scout must earn a minimum of 12 required and 9 elective badges, for a total of 21 badges. Around 130 merit badges are offered, though qualified counselors for all of them may not be available locally.

Merit badges fall into several broad categories:

- **Scout skills**, like Camping and Cooking.
- **Building good citizens**, like Safety and Citizenship in the Community.
- **Personal development**, like Communication or Personal Management.
- **Sports, and hobbies**, like Snow Sports or Model Building.
- **Career exploration**, like Veterinary Medicine, Electronics, or Journalism.

Our Troop offers classes for most of the “Eagle required” merit badges in a two-year cycle (about one every month or two). Scouts are strongly encouraged to sign up for these classes when they are available.

For most other merit badges, the Scout should start by discussing his interest with the Scoutmaster, obtain a signed merit badge application (aka “Blue Card”), and, if necessary, get the names and phone numbers of the approved counselors for the badge. Counselors are experts in their respective fields who donate their time and live in the area. A counselor may be willing to teach a merit badge class at Tanque Verde Lutheran Church, or you may arrange to meet at the counselor’s home or place of work. You must *always* be with a buddy—either another scout, family member, or responsible adult—when meeting with merit badge counselors. Merit badges may also be earned at summer camp, where many counselors are on the camp staff.

When you have completed the requirements for a merit badge, give your signed Blue Card to the [Advancement Chairperson](#) or [Committee Chairperson](#) and keep your copy for your records. The actual badge will usually be awarded at the first regular meeting of the following month, and you will be recognized at the next Court of Honor.

Although merit badges are not required for advancement until Scouts have reached the rank of First Class, many boys like to start sooner. Merit badge requirements are published in an inexpensive book titled *Boy Scout Requirements*, available in the Troop library or at the Scout Shop. They may also be found online at:

<http://www.meritbadge.com>

Scoutmaster Conference

When you have completed all of the skill and service requirements for the next rank, contact the Advancement Chairperson to schedule a Scoutmaster Conference. The Scoutmaster will review your progress with you, sign off the Scout Spirit and Leadership requirements if you have met them, and help you prepare for your Board of Review. The Scoutmaster may also request a conference with you at any time during the year to discuss your experiences and progress in Scouting.

Boards of Review

After the Scoutmaster Conference, it is the Scout's responsibility to schedule his Board of review with the Advancement Chairperson.

A Board of Review is a meeting between a Scout and some of the Troop's committee members to check that all the requirements for rank advancement have been met, to discuss the Scout's goals, and to assess the Troop's program from the boy's perspective.

How Should I Arrive for the Board of Review?

- On time.
- In full Class "A" uniform (merit badge sash, if applicable)
- With your scout handbook (make sure everything is filled out correctly!)

What kinds of questions will be asked?

Your Board of Review will not re-test you on the skills you learned in passing your requirements for advancement. The questions you will be asked to respond to don't have right or wrong answers, so you don't need to be nervous. Just answer them thoughtfully and honestly. Questions may involve some or all of the following topics:

- **REQUIREMENTS** – Did you complete all of the requirements? When, where, and with whom did you learn the scouting skills required for the next rank, and how might you apply those skills in the future? Why do you think they are important?
- **SCOUT SPIRIT** – What are your thoughts on the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan, and how do they affect your everyday life?
- **PARTICIPATION** - How is your attendance at meetings and on outings? Which activities have you enjoyed the most?
- **SERVICE PROJECT** (Star and higher) – Why is service to others an important part of Scouting? What did you do for your service project hours, and what did you learn from the experience? (Have accurate records of hours worked.)
- **LEADERSHIP** – How have your Patrol Leader and the others in your Patrol helped you? What would you do to improve the Troop and/or your Patrol? (Star and higher) - Be prepared to explain what you do in your leadership position, and how it helps the troop.

Courts of Honor

Troop 141 conducts Troop Courts of Honor in September, December, and May to recognize Scout and Adult achievements since the last Court of Honor. The Patrol Leaders' Council is responsible for planning and conducting Courts of Honor, with support from the Troop Committee when requested. A Troop 141 tradition is for families to bring baked goods to share following the ceremony.

When a Scout achieves the rank of Eagle Scout, a special Eagle Court of Honor is convened at a time and place chosen by the Scout's family. Eagle ceremonies may be held for individual Scouts or for groups of Scouts who earned their rank at about the same time, at the discretion of the families. The family or families involved plan the Eagle Court of Honor with assistance from the Troop Committee and PLC.

Courts of Honor are public ceremonies, and offer a chance for Scouts to be publicly recognized for their achievements. Parents and all other interested individuals are encouraged to attend, and scouts are expected to wear their full Class A uniform.

Troop Activities

Troop 141 normally has at least one activity each month, which may include any of the following:

- Tent camping
- Skiing and snow sports
- Canoeing and rafting
- Hiking and backpacking
- Community service projects
- Long-term camping, such as Camp Geronimo
- High Adventure treks such as Scout Sea Base and Philmont Scout Ranch
- District/Council Events, such as Camporee and Youth Expo
- Courts of Honor

Medical Forms

Each Fall, all Scouts must submit a current, updated [BSA medical form](#), parts A and C. In addition, all Scouts participating in activities lasting longer than 72 consecutive hours must have a current (within the past thirty-six months) Part B medical form on file. All adults over age 40 requiring physicals and scouts participating in certain high adventure activities are required to have a current (within the past twelve months) medical form on file. The Troop leaders will make every effort to inform Scouts and their parents if current physicals are expiring. We recommend that when a physical is being performed for some other reason, such as for school sports, you have your Physician fill out a new BSA medical form at the same time. Medical forms are available from the Committee Chairperson or from our [website](#).

Outing Preparations and Equipment

Troop and Patrol camping equipment

Troop 141 provides tents, cooking stoves, lanterns, cooking gear, and other general equipment to each Patrol. It is each Patrol's responsibility to care for and maintain their assigned equipment.

Personal equipment

A few items of personal equipment, like sleeping bags and backpacks, are needed to participate in Troop activities. See Appendix C for more information.

Buying Food For Your Patrol

Meals on camping trips are prepared by patrol. A week or two prior to each outing, the patrols plan their menus and duty rosters. Each patrol should create a detailed shopping list and appoint a Grubmaster to purchase the food. If you are selected as Grubmaster, you should have the list that your patrol prepared and the food money that was collected by your Patrol Leader.

Food Planning and Purchasing Guidelines

1. On a typical weekend campout, you will plan for four meals—three meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday (Some trips may require Sunday lunch).
2. All meals should be cooked (cooking lunch is optional).
3. Be aware of special dietary needs of scouts (food allergies, diabetes, etc.)
4. Plan a well-balanced menu. Menus should include the four food groups:
 - a. Group 1: Meat, Poultry, Fish Eggs - at least 2 servings
 - b. Group 2: Milk and milk products - one serving at each meal
 - c. Group 3: Vegetables and fruits - at least 4 servings
 - d. Group 4: Bread and grain products - 4 servings
5. "A Scout Is Thrifty." Watch your budget. Get food for the meals first, *then* buy snacks if you have money left over. Buy only as much as you need, and use things up if you can. For example, one box of Bisquick can make pancakes at breakfast and biscuits at dinner. Leftover potatoes from dinner can be hash browns in the morning.
6. Consider preparing some foods at home in advance, such as boiling potatoes, cutting up fruit and vegetables, pre-cooking bacon, etc. These save both preparation and cleanup time.
7. Check your patrol box and grub box for staples like scrubbing pads, dish soap, disinfectant, and paper products. Do not buy these, but obtain them from the Troop Quartermaster.
8. If possible, avoid highly greasy food, excessive sweets, and sodas. These foods are messy and have questionable nutritional value.

After an Outing

On returning from an outing, you may be assigned Troop or Patrol equipment to bring home for cleanup. Tents should be opened up right away and either set up or hung on a line to dry completely before being rolled up and returned to the next Troop meeting for inspection by the Troop quartermaster. If necessary, tents should be swept out and mud or dirt should be removed with a wet sponge. Check for damaged fabric, zippers, and missing or damaged poles and report these to the Troop quartermaster when the tent is returned. PLEASE do not use soap, detergents or cleaners, as these can damage the waterproofing, and do not put tents in the washer or dryer, as this will damage the fabric.

Patrol Boxes and cookware should be cleaned and inspected at the end of each campout. Under extreme circumstances, and only with the permission of the Troop quartermaster, scouts may take cookware home for additional cleaning. All Troop and Patrol equipment should be returned by the next Troop meeting following an outing for inspection and storage, so it is ready for the next outing.

Non-perishable, sealed staples and condiments may be kept in the plastic grub boxes, but there should be no perishable food stored in the Troop shed. Temperatures in the Troop shed can reach 120°F or higher during the summer, so cooking oil, diet soda, and other heat-sensitive foods should be stored at home out of the heat. In the interest of safety, any foods found stored in the Troop shed will be discarded by the quartermaster.

Troop Parents

The role of parents within Troop 141 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

1. Read the Scout Handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting. Parents should request an informal orientation meeting with an active adult leader.
2. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement when needed.
3. Support both their Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
4. Assist in Troop fundraisers and other activities. All such assistance lowers the cost of the program we offer to the Scouts and, therefore, lowers each family's cash outlay for their Scout(s).
5. Be aware of the Troop program and [calendar](#), and transport their Scout to meetings and activities as needed.
6. Attend monthly meetings of the Troop Committee and provide assistance, as they are able.

How Parents Can Help

Parents can help Troop 141 in many ways:

Help the Troop Committee

Providing support for a boy-run Troop is a lot of work, and while we have a great group of parents serving on the Troop Committee to help the boys to carry out their planned program, there's always a need for more help on the Committee. That is why all parents are invited to be members of the Troop Committee and are encouraged to attend meetings. Schedules and agendas are available at Troop meetings. Registered Adult Members are also needed to serve on Boards of Review (the final step in rank advancement for a Scout).

Be a Merit Badge Counselor

BSA offers about 130 merit badges. Each merit badge covers a specialized area of interest. Adults with an expertise or interest in covered merit badge areas are needed to guide interested boys through those requirements. See the Troop Merit Badge coordinator to sign up.

Encourage participation

An important aspect of Scouting is to get the boys within each Patrol to work together to accomplish objectives. Before each campout, the Patrols plan meals, duty rosters, and activities such as campfire skits. On the trips, the Patrols carry out those plans. A boy can benefit from the program only if he plays an active role in his Patrol. An active role implies regular attendance at meetings and outings. Help your son to be active. Encourage him to keep dates open for Troop activities. A Scout that is in a Leadership position must make an even greater commitment to Troop activities.

Help with fund raising

The Troop portion of the annual recharter fee is not sufficient to cover the entire cost of running the Troop. Money paid for each activity goes toward the direct cost of the activity. The Troop also needs money for equipment, supplies, and other expenses. Each year, the troop will conduct one or more fundraising events that will require the participation of the boys and their families. Some fundraising events will include opportunities for Scouts to earn money for a personal savings account within the Troop treasury for outings and summer camp.

Come on outings

Parents are welcome on camping trips and activities—we can always use a little extra help. If you want to bring younger siblings, please check with the tour leader in advance to be sure it is appropriate.

Provide transportation

When we go camping, we need to bring the boys, their gear, and lots of troop equipment. We hope that every family will offer to drive at least one way for two or three trips per year. On longer trips, such as to summer camp, the Troop will collect gas money from the Scouts to help defray your expenses.

Troop 141 Code of Conduct

“A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient...”

In all of our scouting activities, as well as in everyday life, adults and youth should strive to live by the basic principles of scouting, including the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. Scouting should offer a friendly, safe, and affirming environment where Scouts have fun and can grow as persons.

The following behaviors are inappropriate for adults and youth in Troop 141:

1. Failure to follow reasonable directives of an adult or junior leader.
2. Unnecessary or inappropriate physical roughness, even in play.
3. Threatening or intimidating another person by word or action.
4. Language that offends or degrades common decency, as well as negative and derogatory talk.
5. Actions or language offensive or discriminatory with respect to race, religion, ethnicity, or gender.
6. Behavior that shows disrespect for other persons, personal property, or the environment.
7. Use of any tobacco products.
8. Inappropriate use of fire or flammables, including the possession or use of fireworks.
9. Unauthorized use or possession of firearms or other weapons.
10. Use or possession of sheath knives or any knife with a blade longer than 3” (the standard Scout knife blade), axes or hatchets without permission of the Scoutmaster or other responsible adult leader.
11. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances (except medication(s) of which the adult leadership is aware).
12. Youth and adult leaders should never use physical force to implement decisions, enforce rules of conduct, or punish unacceptable behavior. Force, applied only as a last resort and in the least harmful way possible to avoid injury, may only be used to restrain a Scout from hurting himself or others.

Appendix A

Troop Organizational Structure and who to call.

Scoutmaster:	David Shinkel	760-1776
Committee Chair:	David Brown	760-3801
Advancements:	Rick Lochner	749-5284
Treasurer:	Dave Winston	760-8983
Charter Org. Rep:	Chris Volkman	749-0853
Recharter/Dues:	Jim Long	721-4560
Webmaster:	Brad Brock	296-0371

Many other adult leaders contribute their time and energy to the troop. Any Scout or Scout parent can obtain a complete roster for all Scouts and adults via our web site at this link:

<http://www.scouttroop141.org/roster/roster.html>

Appendix B – Troop Glossary

PLC – Patrol Leaders' Council

TOW – Troop Organizational Workshop

Annual meeting, held in late Fall, where scouts plan and schedule events for the coming year.

TVLC – Tanque Verde Lutheran Church

Troop 141's chartering organization.

Appendix C - Packing list for weekend camping trip

Your goal on campouts and other outings is to “Be Prepared.” This doesn’t mean taking everything but the kitchen sink—remember that you will have to carry your own gear from the vehicles to the campsite, which could be quite a distance. The following is a list of suggested items.

Clothing

- Troop 141 t-shirt
- 2 pairs jeans and/or shorts
- 2 changes underwear
- 2 shirts
- 4 pairs socks
- sweat shirt or jacket (as required)
- sunglasses & hat (all seasons!)
- swim suit (as required)
- poncho or raincoat (even if weather looks clear!)
- hiking boots
- extra shoes (no sandals please!)

Personal Equipment

- sleeping bag
- pillow (small)
- water bottle (REQUIRED—bring *extra* water if hikes are planned!)
- flashlight with extra batteries
- scout handbook
- personal first aid kit (REQUIRED)
- sunscreen lotion
- 10 feet of 1/4” rope
- whistle
- pocket knife (optional—blade must be less than 3”, no sheath knives!)
- insect lotion (optional—no aerosols, please!)
- unbreakable plate and cup or mug
- unbreakable knife, fork, and spoon

Note: Matches and cooking fuel are provided as part of the Patrol equipment, and are not appropriate items for individual Scouts. The obvious exception would be when using small portable stoves on backpacking trips. These are provided by the Troop along with the fuel bottles. As a matter of policy, it is the adult leadership’s responsibility to maintain control of all liquid fuels. Always check with the Scoutmaster or trip leader before you bring a personal stove and fuel.

Toilet Items

- soap
- towel (hand towel for short outings or bath towel for longer outings or outings that include swimming)
- toothpaste and toothbrush
- toilet paper (half roll in waterproof bag)
- comb
- laundry bag

Recreational Suggestions

- playing cards
- sports equipment
- fishing rod
- book
- craft project
- ball & glove, Frisbee
- musical instrument (no pianos or electronic devices)

Note: Please leave radios, CD players, iPods, personal game systems, and other electronic entertainment devices at home. On longer trips, scouts may bring these items, but they must remain in the vehicle at all times. In all cases, the scout assumes full responsibility for their personal property, not the drivers or adult or junior leaders.

Equipment selection and purchasing suggestions

Sleeping Bag

A sleeping bag is the most important piece of equipment a scout has. It should be lightweight because we often carry our gear. It is also important for it to be warm.

Features to look for are:

1. Nylon liner with Hollofil II or Quallofill filling. These are light and warm, and don't lose their insulating power if they get wet.
2. "Mummy" style bags weigh less than comparable rectangular bags.
3. A hood that closes around your head.
4. A design that widens a little at the bottom for your feet.
5. A zipper that can open at both ends to let in a little air.
6. A small tube of insulation called a *baffle* that runs parallel to the zipper. This keeps the zipper from becoming a cold spot.
7. Filling alternately stitched to the outside and inside of the bag. This keeps the

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seams from becoming cold spots.

Poncho

Every scout should bring some form of rain gear on every trip. A rainsuit with pants is even better than a poncho.

Duffle Bags / Backpack

Younger scouts have no need to invest in a backpack immediately and should use a duffel bag for their gear. Backpacks are necessary for backpacking trips, and many scouts use them to carry their gear on all our camping trips. Backpacks come in both internal and external frame models. Before investing in a backpack, make sure this is an activity your son will want to continue. The Troop sometimes has loaner packs to cover "first time" backpacking.

Appendix D – Uniform Guidelines

BOY SCOUT/VARSITY SCOUT UNIFORM INSPECTION SHEET
OFFICIAL PLACEMENT OF INSIGNIA



Conduct uniform inspection with common sense; the basic rule is neatness.

Merit Badge Sash. If worn, merit badges are attached to front (and back, if needed) of sash. Venture/Varsity letter is attached at bottom front corner. Temporary insignia may be worn on back.

Shoulder Epaulets. Red shoulder loops identify Boy Scouting (all members of a troop). Blaze (orange) loops identify Varsity Scouting.

Left Sleeve. Council patches, unit numeral, and badge of office are worn as shown snug up, and touching each other. Badge of office is centered below and touches unit numeral. The veteran unit bar (25, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, or 80 years) is positioned above and touching troop numeral and in turn touching council patch. Den chief cord is worn over the left shoulder and under epaulet.

Left Pocket. Service stars above the pocket. If a medal or embroidered knot for youth members is worn, service stars are raised. Embroidered square knots are worn centered above the pocket in rows of three. Not more than five medals may be worn, pinned centered immediately above the pocket (extending over knots if both are worn). The wearing sequence for knots or medals is at the wearer's discretion and lead color is to the wearer's right. Badges of rank are worn centered on the pocket above the Arrow of Light Award. Flap buttoned. The World Crest is worn centered horizontally over the left pocket and vertically between the left shoulder seam and the top of the pocket.

Right Sleeve. U.S. flag. Only the most recently earned Quality Unit Award may be worn below patrol emblem or below National Honor Patrol star. Musician badge, if in band or drum corps, is worn 1/2 inch below patrol emblem. Up to six merit badges may be worn on the long-sleeve shirt in two columns of three starting 3 inches above the bottom edge of the cuff.

Right Pocket. Jamboree insignia (only one) worn above BSA or interpreter strip. Order of the Arrow lodge insignia worn on pocket flap. Temporary insignia worn centered on the pocket. Flap buttoned. The Varsity or Venture strip is worn above the BSA strip or above the interpreter strip. Nameplate, if worn, is centered above the BSA strip, interpreter strip, and Venture or Varsity strip.

SHOULDER SEAM

GULF COAST TEXAS

ASSISTANT SENIOR

The Scouting Seal is Your Guarantee of Quality, Excellence, and Performance.

OVER

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BOY SCOUT/VARSITY SCOUT
UNIFORM INSPECTION SHEET

- General Appearance.** Allow 4 points for each: (1) good posture, (2) clean face and hands, (3) hair combed, (4) neatly dressed, (5) clean fingernails.
20 pts.
- Headgear.** Two styles: (1) visored cap; or (2) campaign hat. All troop members must wear one of the headgear chosen by vote of the troop/team. Varsity Scouts wear only the blaze and brown visored cap.
5 pts.
- Neckerchief and Slide.** Insignia at back should be right side up and centered. Fold long edge over several flat folds to about 6 inches from tip of neckerchief. A tight fold prevents gathering around the neck and is more efficient than rolling or twirling. Draw neckerchief slide over ends and adjust to fit snugly. By vote of troop, ends may be left hanging loose or tied in a slip-knot. The neckerchief is optional to the troop.
5 pts.
- Shirt.** Official long- or short-sleeve tan shirt with red or blaze orange shoulder loops on epaulets. The troop/team may vote to wear a neckerchief, bolo tie, or no neckwear. In any case, the collar should be unbuttoned. The troop/team has the choice of wearing the neckerchief over the turned-under collar or under the open collar.
15 pts.
- Belt.** Olive web with BSA insignia on brass buckle; or official leather with international-style buckle or buckle of your choice, worn only if voted by the troop/team. Members wear one of the belts chosen by vote of the troop/team.
5 pts.
- Pants/Shorts.** Official, olive, pressed; no cuffs.
15 pts.
- Socks.** Official olive-colored mid-calf-length socks with red tops worn with official shorts or trousers. (Long socks are optional with shorts.)
5 pts.
- Shoes.** Leather or canvas, neat and clean.
5 pts.
- Registration.** Current membership card or temporary certificate on person.
5 pts.
- Insignia.** Correct placement left pocket, 5 points; right pocket, 5 points; left sleeve, 5 points; right sleeve, 5 points.
20 pts.

UNIFORM POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/>
INSIGNIA POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL POINTS	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>PERFECT SCORE 100 POINTS</i>	



For more information about insignia, see Insignia Guide, No. 33066B.

UNIFORM INSPECTION SCORE

Name _____ Troop/Team No. _____

#34283

Patrol/Squad _____



34283
2000 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

OUR UNIT INSPECTION
WILL BE HELD ON

BRING THIS FORM
WITH YOU

OVER