

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



Troop 97
Huntersville, NC.

Official Guidelines
For Scouts and Parents

Revised February 2010

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WELCOME

Welcome to Troop 97 and the Boy Scouts of America!! We are extremely happy that you have decided to join in with our Troop and hope that you will fully participate in the Scouting experience.

Scouting is a great opportunity for your son to learn leadership skills. It is our intention to provide a fun, exciting and educational program for the boys along with their parents, to look back upon with fond memories for years to come.

This guide has been developed to assist you in learning about our Troop and to give you pertinent information on how the Troop actually operates. The Boy Scout program differs from the Cub Scout program in a number of ways. As you read through the subjects in the following pages, you will become more familiar with the aspects of Scouting and how they apply at Troop 97. *******Please read thru this entire guide*******

There are particular rules and protocols that must be followed to assure uniformity within the Troop. The values we strive to impress upon our youth are based on those found in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan. Please note that **Scouting is not a baby sitting service**. Scouting is however, a youth program that aims to build character, foster citizenship and to develop physical, mental and moral fitness.

After carefully reviewing this guide please address any questions to the adult leadership of the Troop for clarification. Once again, a big welcome to you and your sons!!

Yours in Scouting,

The Troop Committee and Adult Leadership
Troop 97
St. Mark Catholic Church
Huntersville, NC.

TROOP 97 GENERAL INFORMATION

Troop 97 is chartered by St. Mark Catholic Church in Huntersville, NC. Although the majority of our Scouts are from the St. Mark Church and Saint Mark Catholic School communities, we encourage and welcome all boys to join regardless of their ethnicity, denomination, or school affiliation.

Troop 97 is part of the Hornet's Nest District and Mecklenburg County Council of the BSA.

Troop 97 has a natural feed from Cub Scout Pack 97. As the Webelos-2 Scouts complete their Cub Scout journey, the majority of the boys choose to cross over into the Troop. This feed will provide for significant growth at Troop 97. We anticipate this trend to continue well into the future.

Scouting is action oriented and fun! Unlike Cub Scouting, the Boy Scouts do just about everything for themselves with only the necessary guidance of the adult leaders. The boys learn about things of interest by actually performing the associated tasks themselves. Scouting builds a love for the great outdoors and teaches the boys to survive in less than ideal conditions. It also instills a respect for the land, water and air that all creation depends upon to live.

As your Scouts explore, develop new interests, increase their knowledge, progress in rank and leadership, one thing must be emphasized. **The boys need to set the pace of their journey through the Scouting program themselves.** It is also up to the Scout to determine how much or how little he gets out of his Scouting experience. This does not remove the obligation of the Scout's parents taking a vested interest in their son's Scouting progress. The Troop invites each adult to consider a leadership position within the Troop. It's a perfect excuse to spend quality time with your son.

Your continued encouragement is a necessary component of your son's success in Scouting, and life in general. Our goal is to see that the boys truly learn the skills associated with any rank or merit badge that they earn; skills that will stay with them for a lifetime. **Please remember that it is not a race for the boys to get a bunch of badges in a short period of time, but rather an opportunity to gain practical knowledge at an individual pace.**

What Is Boy Scouting?

Purpose of the BSA/Mission Statement

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated to provide a program for community organizations that offers effective character, citizenship, and personal fitness training for youth.

Specifically, the BSA endeavors to develop American citizens who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit; have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness; have personal values based on religious concepts; have the desire and skills to help others; understand the principles of the American social, economic, and governmental systems; are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand our nation's role in the world; have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people; and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to American society.

Boy Scout Program Membership

Boy Scouting is a year-round program for boys age 11 - 17. **Boys who are 10 years of age may join if they have received the Arrow of Light Award or have finished the fifth grade.** Boy Scouting is a program of fun outdoor activities, peer group leadership opportunities, and a personal exploration of career, hobby and special interests, all designed to achieve the BSA objectives of strengthening character, personal fitness and good citizenship.

Volunteer Leaders

Thousands of volunteer leaders, both men and women, are involved in the Boy Scouting program. They serve in a variety of jobs — everything from unit leaders to chairmen of troop committees, committee members, merit badge counselors, and chartered organization representatives.

Like other phases of the program, Boy Scouting is made available to community organizations having similar interests and goals. Chartered organizations include professional organizations; governmental bodies; and religious, educational, civic, fraternal, business, labor, and citizens' groups. Each organization appoints one of its members as the chartered organization representative (COR). The organization is responsible for leadership, the meeting place, and support for troop activities.

Who Pays for It?

Several groups are responsible for supporting Boy Scouting: the boy and his parents, the troop, the chartered organization, and the community. Boys are encouraged to earn money whenever possible to pay their own expenses, and they also contribute dues to their troop treasuries to pay for budgeted items. Troops obtain additional income by working on approved money-earning projects. The community, including parents, supports Scouting through the United Way, Friends of Scouting campaigns (FOS), bequests, and special contributions to the BSA local council. This income provides leadership training, outdoor programs, council service centers and other facilities, and professional service for units.

Aims and Methods of the Scouting Program The Scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "Aims of Scouting." They are **character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness.**

The methods by which the aims are achieved are listed on the following pages in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each.

Ideals: The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. The Boy Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them, he has some control over what and who he becomes.

Patrols: The patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where members can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through elected representatives.

Outdoor Programs: Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. In the outdoors, the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with a purpose. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for the beauty of the world around us. The outdoors is the laboratory in which Boy Scouts learn ecology and practice conservation.

Advancement: Boy Scouting provides a series of moderate challenges and demonstrates the steps in which to overcome them through the advancement process. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self reliance and in the ability to help others.

Association with Adults: Boys learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. Scout leaders can be positive role models for the members of the Troop. In many cases a Scoutmaster who is willing to listen to boys, encourage them, and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives.

Personal Growth: As Boy Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is as successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn.

Religious Emblems: The religious emblems program is also a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Boy Scout to determine his growth toward the aims of Scouting.

Leadership Development: The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Uniform: The uniform makes the Boy Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Boy Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Boy Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Boy Scout activities and provides a way for Boy Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

Troop 97 recognizes that not all Scouts will have the resources to afford a complete uniform. If assistance is necessary in this regard, please contact the Troop Committee Chairman.

Outdoor Activities

Local councils operate and maintain the Belk (Clear Creek) and Camp Grimes (Mecklenburg Scout Reservation) Scout camps. The National Council operates high-adventure areas at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, the Northern Tier National High Adventure Program in Minnesota and Canada, and the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base in the Florida Keys. About 70 councils also operate high-adventure programs.

The BSA conducts a **National Scout Jamboree** every four years and participates in **World Scout Jamborees** (also held at four-year intervals). It is during these events that Scouts from all over the globe come together as one in the brotherhood of Scouting on a grand and memorable scale.

BSA HISTORY

Scouting, as known to millions of youth and adults, evolved during the early 1900s through the efforts of several men dedicated to bettering youth. These pioneers of the program conceived outdoor activities that developed skills in young boys and gave them a sense of enjoyment, fellowship, and a code of conduct for everyday living. In this country and abroad at the turn of the century, it was thought that children needed certain kinds of education that the schools couldn't or didn't provide. This led to the formation of a variety of youth groups, many with the word "Scout" in their names. For example, **Ernest Thompson Seton**, an American naturalist, artist, writer, and lecturer, originated a group called the Woodcraft Indians and in 1902 wrote a guidebook for boys in his organization called the Birch Bark Roll. Meanwhile in Britain, **Robert Baden-Powell**, after returning to his country a hero following military service in Africa, found boys reading the manual he had written for his regiment on stalking and survival in the wild. Gathering ideas from Seton, America's **Daniel Carter Beard**, and other Scout craft experts, Baden-Powell rewrote his manual as a nonmilitary skill book, which he titled *Scouting for Boys*. The book rapidly gained a wide readership in England and soon became popular in the United States. In 1907, when **Baden-Powell held the first campout for Scouts on Brownsea Island** off the coast of England, Scout Troops were spontaneously springing up in America. **William D. Boyce**, a Chicago publisher, incorporated the Boy Scouts of America in 1910 after meeting with Baden-Powell. (Boyce was inspired to meet with the British founder by an unknown Scout who led him out of a dense London fog and refused to take a tip for doing a Good Turn.) Immediately after its incorporation, the BSA was assisted by officers of the YMCA in organizing a task force to help community organizations start and maintain a high-quality Scouting program. Those efforts climaxed in the organization of the nation's first Scout camp at Lake George, New York, directed by Ernest Thompson Seton. Beard, who had established another youth group, the Sons of Daniel Boone (which he later merged with the BSA), provided assistance. Also on hand for this historic event was James E. West, a lawyer and an advocate of children's rights, who later would become the first professional Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America. Seton became the first volunteer national Chief Scout, and Beard, the first national Scout commissioner.

PUBLICATIONS

The BSA publishes the *Boy Scout Handbook* (more than 38 million copies have been printed); the *Patrol Leader Handbook*, which offers information relevant to boy leadership; the *Scoutmaster Handbook*; more than 100 **Merit Badge Pamphlets** dealing with hobbies, vocations, and advanced Scout crafts; and program features and various kinds of training, administrative, and organizational manuals for adult volunteer leaders and Boy Scouts. In addition, the BSA publishes *Boys' Life* magazine, the national magazine for all boys, and *Scouting* magazine for volunteers.

Conservation

Conservation activities (recycling, etc.) supplement the program of Boy Scout advancement, summer camp, and outdoor activities. It also teaches young people to better understand their interdependence with the environment.

OUTDOOR CODE

*As an American, I will do my best to
Be clean in my outdoor manners,
Be careful with fire,
Be considerate in the outdoors,
and be conservation-minded.*



Online Resources

BSA National Council	http://www.scouting.org/
Hornet's Nest District	http://www.hornetsnest.org/
Mecklenburg County Council	http://www.mccscouting.org/
Merit Badge Research	http://meritbadge.com/

The Scout Law

A SCOUT IS:

TRUSTWORTHY

A Scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises. Honesty is part of his code of conduct. People can depend on him.

LOYAL

A Scout is true to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school, and nation.

HELPFUL

A Scout is concerned about other people. He does things willingly for others without pay or reward.

FRIENDLY

A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He seeks to understand others. He respects those with ideas and customs other than his own.

COURTEOUS

A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows good manners make it easier for people to get along together.

KIND

A Scout understands there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. He does not hurt or kill harmless things without reason.

OBEDIENT

A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them.

CHEERFUL

A Scout looks for the bright side of things. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

THRIFTY

A Scout works to pay his way and to help others. He saves for unforeseen needs. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

BRAVE

A Scout can face danger even if he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at or threaten him.

CLEAN

A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He goes around with those who believe in living by these same ideals. He helps keep his home and community clean.

REVERENT

A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

The Scout Oath (or Promise)

On my honor I will do my best,
To do my duty to God and my country,
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.



The Scout Motto

Be Prepared.

The Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn, Daily.



RULES AND GUIDELINES

Troop Meetings are held on Tuesday nights unless otherwise noted.

All Scouts are encouraged to attend each scheduled Troop Meeting and Troop Activity. Active attendance is required to show Scout Spirit and to meet participation requirements for advancement. ***Scouts must bring their Boy Scout Handbook, a pad, a pen/pencil, to each meeting and on Troop outings for reference and note taking.***

It is understood that homework and extracurricular activities sometimes interfere with the ability of a Scout to attending every meeting. At the Scout's request, we will assist in getting him back on track to the best of our abilities.

TROOP 97 OFFICIAL DRESS CODES

Uniforms are an integral part of Scouting. It helps the boys identify with their unit and promotes a sense of belonging within the Troop and the Scouting community. **All Scouts and Leaders of Troop 97 are expected to comply with this dress code as per the guidelines of the BSA.**

1). The “**Field Uniform**” is to be worn at all Troop Meetings; while traveling to/from Scouting events, and at campouts when required.

This consists of the beige Scout shirt, shoulder loops, BSA pants/shorts (preferred) or olive green attire, BSA belt, BSA socks, and footwear that is appropriate for the activity at hand. A Boy Scout hat/cap is optional.

1a). The complete “**Field Uniform**” is to be worn at *formal events* or when called upon. Field Uniform as listed above, plus BSA neckerchief, slide, and merit badge sash.

2). The “**Activity Uniform**” consists of the Troop 97 tee shirt, BSA pants, shorts (preferred), or olive green attire, BSA belt, socks and footwear appropriate for the activity at hand. A Boy Scout hat is optional.

******Non-Scout related shirts are not authorized attire******

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Scout hats may only be worn indoors during formal ceremonies, or while performing service duties. Otherwise, hats must be removed when indoors.
2. “Field Uniform” shirts are to display all rank, patrol, and BSA insignia.
3. A Merit Badge Sash should be worn to *formal Scouting events* only.
4. The Merit Badge Sash is only to be worn over the shoulder (not the belt).

* Formal events include* Board of Review, Court of Honor, District/Council/Regional recognition dinner, awards ceremony, or specifically related occasions.

PATROL METHOD AND ASSIGNMENTS

In an effort to teach the boys the concept of teamwork the Troop is comprised of patrols. Each patrol has a **Patrol Leader** and an **Assistant Patrol Leader**. These youth leadership positions are filled using an election process where the members of the patrol actually select their leaders. It is the Patrol Leader that is charged with running the patrol through the Troop Meeting's activities, during outings and on service projects. The Assistant Patrol Leader will assist or assume responsibility of the patrol in the absence of the Patrol Leader.

There is a **Senior Patrol Leader** that is elected by all the patrols. The SPL is in charge of oversight of the patrols and directing them according to the task at hand or planned agenda. The SPL is also responsible for the Court of Honor presentation program. The **Assistant Senior Patrol Leader**, also elected by the patrols, functions in the same capacity in the absence of the Senior Patrol Leader.

Patrol assignments are made with consideration to Scouting experience and even distribution of Scouts. This is to ensure that each patrol will have a certain level of leadership to guide less experienced Scouts. Assignments are accomplished under the guidance of the Scoutmaster.

When a Scout is assigned to a patrol he will more than likely remain in the same patrol throughout his journey in the BSA. However, this is not a mandatory assignment.

Patrols each have names that are selected by the boys in their individual patrols. There is a corresponding patch that identifies the particular patrol and it is worn on the "Field Uniform" shirt. A patrol may choose to change names if it collectively desires to do so.

*****NOTE*****

Scouts new to the Troop will be assigned to a particular named patrol for orientation purposes, for a duration determined by the Adult Leadership.

BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

Scouting is supposed to be a fun time for the boys and adults alike. But we must maintain a certain amount of order during all of the Troop's activities. **The following rules must be adhered to by all members of Troop 97. A signed Behavioral Agreement form will be required of each Scout.** Any violation of these rules will subject the individual to disciplinary action.

PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR (Scouts)

Possession of and/or use of any tobacco products.

Possession of and/or use of any alcoholic beverages.

Possession of and/or use of illegal drugs of any kind.

Being repeatedly disruptive during Troop Meetings, events, or outings.

Being disrespectful to the adult leadership and/or the youth leadership.

The use of profanity, foul language or any inappropriate conversation.

Disparaging remarks of ethnic, religious, or cultural origin.

Excessive horseplay which may lead to, or cause an injury.

Verbal, physical, or cyber harassment/hazing of any kind.

Fighting, provoking conflict, or encouraging it.

Abuse of any Troop equipment and/or anyone's personal property.

Any conduct that is contrary to the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

See addendum section for a copy of the Behavioral Agreement form

PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR FOR ADULTS

Violation of any of the behavioral prohibitions as outlined for the Scouts.

The use of alcoholic beverages prior to attending or during any Scouting event or activity.

The use of any tobacco products in plain view of any youth during any Scouting activity or event.

The use of profanity, foul language or any inappropriate conversation.

Any inappropriate conduct in which Scouting and the youth are concerned.

Any violation of the Youth Protection Policies as defined by the BSA, and those of St. Mark Catholic Church.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Any violation of the Troop 97 Behavioral Policy will be dealt with on a case by case basis. The level of disciplinary action will be determined by both the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee. If the circumstances are of serious nature then immediate dismissal from the Troop may result. Any youth violation involving alcohol, drugs or tobacco products will be considered serious.

It is not our desire to enforce such measures against any one of our Scouts or participating adults. But, **this policy is in effect for all individuals of the Troop at all times.** We will make every effort to correct any behavioral issues prior to administering this policy. However, we are prepared to do so should it become necessary.

Disciplinary actions that will be considered are:

Verbal warning.

Conference with the Scout or adult.

Conference with the parents of the Scout.

Removal of the Scout or adult from a Troop Meeting or event.

Suspension from participating in Troop Meetings or events.

Dismissal from the Troop.

FUNDRAISING

As Troop 97 grows in membership size the demand for financial resources also grows. One of the primary ways the Troop can raise money for sustained operations is through the fundraising process. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways. It is the task of the Troop Committee to ensure the Troop has adequate finances to conduct a quality Scouting program. However, if we are to be successful in this regard then we must have the complete support and participation of all members of this organization. Unfortunately that is not always the situation for one reason or another. **Therefore, should the Troop fail to generate adequate funding as a direct result of a lack of membership participation in any fundraising activity, it may become necessary to seek additional funds from individuals within the unit. This would be in addition to the annual dues monies collected at the beginning of the Scouting year.**

The Troop Committee welcomes any and all ideas pertaining to fundraising. Any fundraising idea presented to the Troop Committee will be reviewed for feasibility and profit potential. A vote will determine whether we will pursue the opportunity or not.

ANNUAL DUES

Membership dues will be collected in August of each year. The dollar amount of the dues will be determined by the Troop Committee. This decision will be based upon the immediate and projected needs of Troop 97 for the Scouting year.

Any new Scout joining Troop 97 after September 1st of each year will pay dues for the remainder of the Scouting year on a prorated basis.

******Troop 97 recognizes that not all Scouts will have the resources to afford the full amount of the annual dues. If assistance is necessary in this regard, please contact the Troop Committee Chairman******

VOLUNTEER SCOUTERS

A successful Troop relies on the participation of adult volunteers. Whether it's in a support capacity or in a more involved role, **Troop 97 cannot function in a satisfactory manner without adult volunteers!** As the Troop grows, so does the need for volunteers. **We need you!!** The Troop has dedicated leadership at the adult and youth levels. But there is always a need for adult help in a variety of areas. The Troop must have registered adults in order to legally transport our Scouts to and from places and events. Adults are also needed to maintain the proper adult/youth ratio on campouts and outings per BSA Policy. A volunteer can do something as easy as purchasing snacks for special events, for which they will be reimbursed.

Any adult that will be in direct contact with our Scouts or that will participate in any Troop activities must meet these requirements:

- 1) Complete an Adult Application with the BSA Council in accordance with BSA policy. This also requires the approval of the Troop 97 Chartered Organization Representative (COR).**
- 2) Complete the appropriate BSA Medical Forms based upon the activity or particular event at hand.**
- 3) Complete BSA “Youth Protection” Training.**
- 4) Complete “Protecting God’s Children” Training (Diocese of Charlotte).**

Direct contact means camping with, traveling with, or interacting with, any of our Scouts. If you apply for an actual leadership position within the Troop, the BSA will conduct a background check to help ensure the safety of our youth. Please consider how you could help out and do become a volunteer at Troop 97. It's a great investment of your time and talents. Most of all it is for the benefit of our youth. Simply contact the Scoutmaster or the Troop Committee Chair and we will gladly discuss the Troop's needs with you.

LEADERSHIP

The Troop has both Youth Leadership and Adult Leadership positions. The Youth Leaders conduct the actual Troop Meetings and provide leadership at the patrol level. The Adult Leaders provide guidance to the Youth Leaders and oversee the Troop functions as outlined by the Troop Committee.

ADULT LEADERSHIP

SCOUTMASTER

ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER(s)

JUNIOR ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

SENIOR PATROL LEADER

ASSISTANT SENIOR PATROL LEADER

PATROL LEADER

ASSISTANT PATROL LEADER

QUARTERMASTER

GRUBMASTER

CHAPLAIN'S AIDE

TROOP SCRIBE

TROOP LIBRARIAN

TROOP HISTORIAN

TROOP GUIDE

OTHER TROOP LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

CHARTERED ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE

TROOP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TROOP COMMITTEE MEMBER(s)

TREASURER

SECRETARY

ADVANCEMENT CHAIRMAN

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR

FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR

MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS

ADVANCEMENT AND PROCEDURES

In order for a Scout to advance in rank, certain criteria must be met. If a Scout has a poor attendance record for Troop Meetings, seldom brings his handbook with him and has not made an honest effort to complete the particular requirements for any rank, he should **not** expect to advance at that time. Prior to advancing in any rank, a Scout should be able to demonstrate the knowledge and abilities required by that rank. There are two steps in the advancement process that the Scout must participate in to earn his next rank.

1) SCOUTMASTER'S CONFERENCE

The individual Scout must request a conference with the Scoutmaster as a first step in the advancement process. Here the Scoutmaster will review the Scout's records in his handbook and verify that the Scout has completed all the requirements for that rank. If the Scoutmaster is satisfied with the Scout's progress he will recommend him for the next step of the advancement process which is the Board of Review.

2) BOARD OF REVIEW

The Board of Review process, also requested by the Scout, is scheduled on a monthly basis by the Troop's Advancement Chairman. It consists of a panel of at least three adults that will interview the Scout that is up for rank advancement. The Scout will sit before this panel and will be asked a series of questions directly related to the requirements of the pending rank. It is not a test but rather a review of things he has learned or experienced. During this review the Scout may discuss any Merit Badges he has earned since the last Board of Review. This process takes approximately twenty minutes to complete. Upon satisfactory completion the board will approve the rank advancement.

*****PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING*****

A SCOUT MUST BE IN HIS FULL "FIELD UNIFORM" FOR THE BOARD OF REVIEW PROCESS. IF HE IS NOT PROPERLY ATTIRED, THE SCHEDULED BOARD OF REVIEW WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL THE NEXT SCHEDULED TROOP MEETING.

COURT OF HONOR

The Court of Honor (scheduled quarterly) is a celebratory event where the Scouts are recognized for their achievements before the entire Troop and their family members. It is during this gathering that the boys will receive recognition for their achievements. The Court of Honor is hosted by the Senior Patrol Leader and his designees. Adults are also recognized for their efforts and contributions to the Troop. It is not uncommon for humor-based awards to be given out here as well. At the conclusion of this formal event, refreshments and fellowship are shared by everyone.

MERIT BADGES

This program allows the Scouts to select from and explore a wide variety of subjects that might attract their interest. A “**Merit Badge**” is a recognition that a Scout will receive once he completes the requirements in any particular **Merit Badge book**. These requirements are spelled out in detail and vary from subject to subject. Troop 97 has a limited merit badge book library that Scouts may borrow books from. Merit Badge books may also be purchased by the Scout from the Council’s Scout Shop.

A Scout is expected to meet the requirements as stated, no more and no less. If you are asked to “Show or Demonstrate” that is what you must do. Simply “telling about it” is not satisfactory.

A Scout may begin working on a merit badge as soon as he becomes a registered member of Troop 97. He must first inform the Scoutmaster prior to starting on any Merit Badge. The Scout will be given a Merit Badge Application (blue card) which will be the Scout’s progress record. The Scout will then be directed to the Merit Badge Counselor qualified in the particular area of the Scout’s interest. This counselor will guide and assist the Scout through the Merit Badge program as necessary. ***It is the responsibility of the Scout*** to contact the Merit Badge Counselor for assistance from that point forward.

PLEASE NOTE: *If a Scout chooses to meet with a Merit Badge Counselor outside of a Troop meeting or function, the Scout must use the “Buddy System” and have another Scout accompany him to such a meeting with his counselor. If this is not possible then “Two-deep Adult Leadership” rules must be followed.*

CAMPING AND OUTINGS

TROOP CAMPING

Troop 97 normally plans to go camping or hiking, during ten months out of the year. Unforeseen circumstances occasionally arise that require us to adjust the Troop's previously scheduled plan as necessary. We will make every effort to reschedule any outings that are affected in this manner.

The Scouts plan for their own trips under the guidance of the Troop's Adult Leadership. This includes meal planning within a budget, shopping for the necessary food items, preparing a duty roster and planning an agenda when necessary. *Scout's food cost will be \$10.00 maximum for the trip and will be collected prior to the day of the trip.* Additionally, a modest charge for fuel expenses will be assessed and collected.

DISTRICT SPONSORED CAMPING

The Hornet's Nest District usually hosts a few camping events during the course of the year. Troop 97 generally plans to participate in these events. These events usually follow the same weekend schedule as with Troop camping. **NOTE: Additional registration costs will be incurred.**

SUMMER CAMP

Troop 97 may choose to attend summer camp within our council or decide to attend an out of council camp. This camp is a week long event which commonly runs Sunday through Saturday. Scouts discuss and elect the activities they wish to participate in during camp with their Scoutmaster. These activities count towards earning the associated merit badges. Summer camp is a great opportunity for the boys to experience and learn new things while they have fun together as a Troop. Attendance is encouraged.

PLEASE NOTE: All Scouts must have previously attended at least one Troop 97 campout in order to qualify for attending Summer Camp.

COLD WEATHER CAMPING

The Troop will attend at least one cold weather camping event during the year. This will be conducted only under the close supervision of BSA Cold Weather Trained Leadership. This is a memorable experience for all parties that choose to participate!

CAMP ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Scouts should be present (or have an excused absence) at the last Troop meeting before the campout. Inform the Scoutmaster if you cannot attend.
- 2) Permission slips and all fees must be received by the due date on the permission slip form. ***No permission slip & fees means you cannot attend!!***
- 3) A current BSA medical form must be on file with the Troop or provided prior to departure. ***No medical form means that you can not attend!!***

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE PROHIBITED ON CAMPOUTS

Any banned or controlled substances.

Weapons of any kind (such as bb-pistols or sling shots).

Sheath Knives.

Fireworks/Pyrotechnics.

Anything that requires batteries to operate with the following exceptions:

Flashlights, lanterns, personal fans, and GPS devices.

BASIC EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

(Refer to the Boy Scout Handbook, Chapter 9, pages 217-245)

Sleeping bag and closed cell foam mat

Mess kit with utensils and drink cup

Hygiene/toiletries kit

First aid kit/sun protection

Water bottle/canteen

Compass and signal mirror

Emergency whistle

Boy Scout Handbook, notepad and pen/pencil.

Pocket knife (***must have earned the Boy Scout Totin' Chip***)

Matches or Flint & Steel (***must have earned the Boy Scout Firem'n Chit***)

Proper clothing (with rain gear-poncho or suit)

Back pack/Day pack

Personal Tent (optional)

*****NOTE*****

Troop 97 can provide a limited number of tents for our Scouts. A Scout may choose to bring his own tent or share one with a buddy. Consult with the Scoutmaster if you wish to bring your own tent along on an outing.

MEDICAL FORMS/REQUIREMENTS

BSA Policy dictates the requirements for all medical forms necessary for camping trips and outings in general. There are no exceptions to these rules!!
This means that you either have a current medical form on file with the Troop or you cannot participate in the particular event.

The following medical forms that are required are:

MEDICAL FORM (Parts A and C)

These forms are **required “annually” by all participants** for Day Camp, overnight camp, hikes or other programs not exceeding 72 hours, with a level of activity similar to that of home or school.

MEDICAL FORM (Parts A, B, and C)

These forms are **required “annually” by all participants**, for Resident Camp or any other activity such as backpacking, tour camping, or recreational sports, involving events lasting longer than 72 consecutive hours, with a more strenuous and demanding level of activity.

*****NOTE*****

Please refer to the actual medical forms for a complete description of the forms and their intent. You may also be required to comply with the medical requirements as set forth by any particular district event or program.

If a known “medical or behavioral” condition currently exists with any of the participants of Troop 97, we kindly request that the Adult Leadership be properly advised in writing, of any such condition in advance. Your compliance is necessary to ensure the safety of your son as well as all the youth of Troop 97.

TROOP 97 MEDICATION POLICY

- 1) If any Scout requires medication of any sort, for any reason while attending a Troop Outing or camping event, the Adult Leader in charge must be presented with a completed *Troop 97 Medication Policy form*, along with any other pertinent instructions, prior to the trip.
- 2) Written documentation shall be maintained in the Troop's medical note book for reference purposes.
- 3) **Medications must be in the original labeled container.**
- 4) **A Scout is prohibited from personally possessing and administering either prescription drugs or over the counter type meds unless a prior agreement between the youth's parents and adult leadership has been made. Final determination will be made by the adult leadership.**

This policy has been enacted specifically in the interest of safety for our Scouts. A *Medication Policy Form* will be provided to you by the Troop for reporting any medications. All information will be held in the strictest confidence possible. We do expect your compliance and appreciate your cooperation in keeping our Scouts safe where medications are concerned.

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

The Adult Leadership of Troop 97 reserves the right to require a parent or guardian to accompany their child on any particular troop outing or campout, as deemed necessary. This will be dependent on the severity of the medical circumstances and/or the special needs of the youth.

It is also kindly requested that any youth taking a prescription medication regarding any behavioral matters, continues to receive that medication while attending any Troop overnight activity or outing.

See addendum section for a copy of the Medication Policy form

OTHER SCOUTING OPPORTUNITIES

DEN CHIEF

Scouts who wish to apply the leadership skills that they learned in the BSA Den Chief Training Course may choose to become a Den Chief.

A Den Chief is a youth leadership position within the Cub Scout Pack where he assists in preparing the Webelos Scouts for the Boy Scout Troop. The Den Chief may also serve in other capacities for the Pack where additional assistance is needed.

ORDER OF THE ARROW

CATAWBA LODGE - OA Lodge 459 - Mecklenburg County Council was formed in 1951. The lodge totem is the Hornet's Nest in honor of Charlotte's nickname which originated during the American Revolutionary War. Lord Cornwallis of England called Charlotte and Mecklenburg County a "Hornet's Nest" when he and his men were fighting the patriots of the area.

The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society.

The four goals of the OA are:

- >To recognize those youth and adult campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives.
- >To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit.
- >To promote Scout camping.
- >To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Membership requirements are on the following page.

OA Membership requirements:

“Ordeal Member”

- >Be a registered Boy Scout of First Class rank or higher.
- >Have 15 days and nights of Scout camping over a two year period including a 6 day, 5 night camping experience at an accredited BSA facility.

“Brotherhood Member”

- >Have 10 months active service to the Order of the Arrow.
- >Meet the OA requirements for Brotherhood.

“Vigil Honor”

- >Have 2 years active and outstanding service to Scouting, the OA Lodge and the community.
- >Meet the OA requirements for Vigil Honor.

*****NOTE*****

Troop 97 currently belongs to the Sehwtu Chapter of the OA. For more information on the “OA” please visit the Catawba Lodge website at:

<http://www.catawbalodge.org/459home.shtml>

ADDENDUMS

Behavioral Agreement Form

Medication Policy Form

Boy Scout Badges of Rank

TROOP 97 BEHAVIORAL AGREEMENT

I _____ (Scout), have read and discussed the *Behavior and Discipline Policy* with my parents as spelled out in the Troop 97 *Official Guidelines* for Scouts and Parents. I understand this policy and I promise that as a Boy Scout of Troop 97, I will do my best to abide by these rules. I also understand that any violation of these rules will result in disciplinary action as defined by the policy.

To this I agree, on my honor.

Scout Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date of Agreement _____

TROOP 97 MEDICATION FORM

Participant's Name _____ Age _____

Special Needs:

Please list any special needs or requirements such as diet, allergies, etc. Attach additional info to this form as necessary.

Medication Information:

This information is mandatory for any prescription or non-prescription medications to be taken during any activity concerning Troop 97.

1) Medication Name/Strength _____

Dosage _____

Reason for taking _____

Side Effects _____

Storage Requirements _____

Safety Concerns/Warnings _____

2) Medication Name/Strength _____

Dosage _____

Reason for taking _____

Side Effects _____

Storage Requirements _____

Safety Concerns/Warnings _____

3) Medication Name/Strength _____

Dosage _____

Reason for taking _____

Side Effects _____

Storage Requirements _____

Safety Concerns/Warnings _____

Parent or Adult Participant's Signature _____ Date _____

BOY SCOUT BADGES OF RANK

1. BOY SCOUT



2. TENDERFOOT



3. SECOND CLASS



4. FIRST CLASS



5. STAR SCOUT



6. LIFE SCOUT



7. EAGLE SCOUT

