

Troop 7
Boy Scouts of America
Tuscaloosa Alabama



2005 Guidelines

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Purpose of The Boy Scouts Of America

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

1. Are physically, mentally and emotionally fit.
2. Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidence in such qualities as initiative, courage and resourcefulness.
3. Have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts.
4. Have the desire and skills to help others.
5. Understand the principles of the American social, economic, and government systems.
6. Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
7. Have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
8. Are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society and in other forums of the world.

Mission Statement

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

The Scout Oath 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 Laws:

Trustworthy	Loyal	Helpful	Friendly
Courteous	Kind	Obedient	Cheerful
Thrifty	Brave	Clean	Reverent

Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily

Declaration of Religious Principle

The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God and, therefore, recognizes the religious element in the training of the member, but is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward that religious training. The Boy Scouts of America policy is that the home and the organization or group with which the member is connected shall give definite attention to religious life.

Only persons willing to subscribe to this Declaration of Religious Principle and to the Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America shall be entitled to certificates of leadership.

Youth Protection

Program Summary

Child abuse is a major problem affecting our society. Each year more than 2 million cases of suspected child abuse are reported. This means that 1 percent of American children are experiencing physical abuse, 1 percent are experiencing sexual abuse, and 2 to 5 percent are experiencing emotional maltreatment or some form of neglect. Because of the significance of this social problem, The Boy Scouts of America has declared child abuse as one of the "unacceptable behaviors" which receives special attention by those involved in the Scouting program.

The BSA has developed a five-point plan to combat child abuse and to improve the environment in which young people live. The key elements of this strategy include the following points:

- Educating Scouting volunteers, parents and the Scouts themselves to aid in the detection, and prevention of child abuse.
- Establishing leader-selection procedures to prevent individuals with a history of child abuse from entering the BSA leadership ranks.
- Establishing policies that minimize the opportunities for child abuse to occur in the program of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Encouraging Scouts to report improper behavior in order to identify offenders quickly.
- Swiftly removing and reporting alleged offenders.

Troop 7 and the Youth Protection Program

Troop 7 is committed to following all guidelines of the Youth Protection program. Any suspected offenses of the Youth protection program must be reported to the Committee Chairman, the Scoutmaster or the Council Executive. All incidents reported to the Committee Chairman or the Scoutmaster will be reported to the Council Executive. All reports are taken seriously and appropriate action is taken to ensure the safety of the youth.

Methods used by the scouting program

Advancement- Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement process. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. More is discussed about Advancement later in this guide.

Adult Association- Boys learn from the examples set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage in a young man's development.

Personal Growth- As Scouts plan their activity, and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The good turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do good turns for others.

Ideals- The Ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan. The 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 he becomes.

Patrols- The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating in citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected leaders.

Outdoors- Boy Scouting is designed to take place in the outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here where the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive. More is discussed about the outdoor program later in this guide.

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

Uniform- The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force of 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 Scout's

commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood youth who believe in the same ideals. More is discussed about the uniform later in this guide.

Troop Organization

Troop 7 is a boy-run troop. Developing youth leadership is one of the methods of Scouting. This means that sometimes meetings and activities do not run as smoothly as adults and parents would like. Every boy will have an opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership. The meetings are planned and carried out by the patrol leaders' council (PLC). The patrol leader assigns all duties for patrol activities. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps the boy accept the leadership of others and helps him to grow into a more responsible adult. The troop organization chart on the following page outlines the complete organization of the troop. The following is an outline of the duties of the key leaders within the troop:

Scoutmaster:

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of the troop. The Scoutmaster and his or her assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. The general responsibilities of the Scoutmaster include:

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

Assistant Scoutmasters:

Assistant Scoutmasters are recruited by the Scoutmaster and approved by the troop committee to assist the Scoutmaster in the operation of the troop. Assistant Scoutmasters are assigned program tasks by the Scoutmaster and provide guidance to the boy leadership. Assistant Scoutmasters also provide the required two deep leadership (two adult leaders present at every Boy Scout activity).

Senior Patrol Leader:

The senior patrol leader (SPL) is the top boy leader in the troop. He leads the patrol leaders' council and, and assigns specific responsibilities as needed to patrol leaders and other boy leaders.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader:

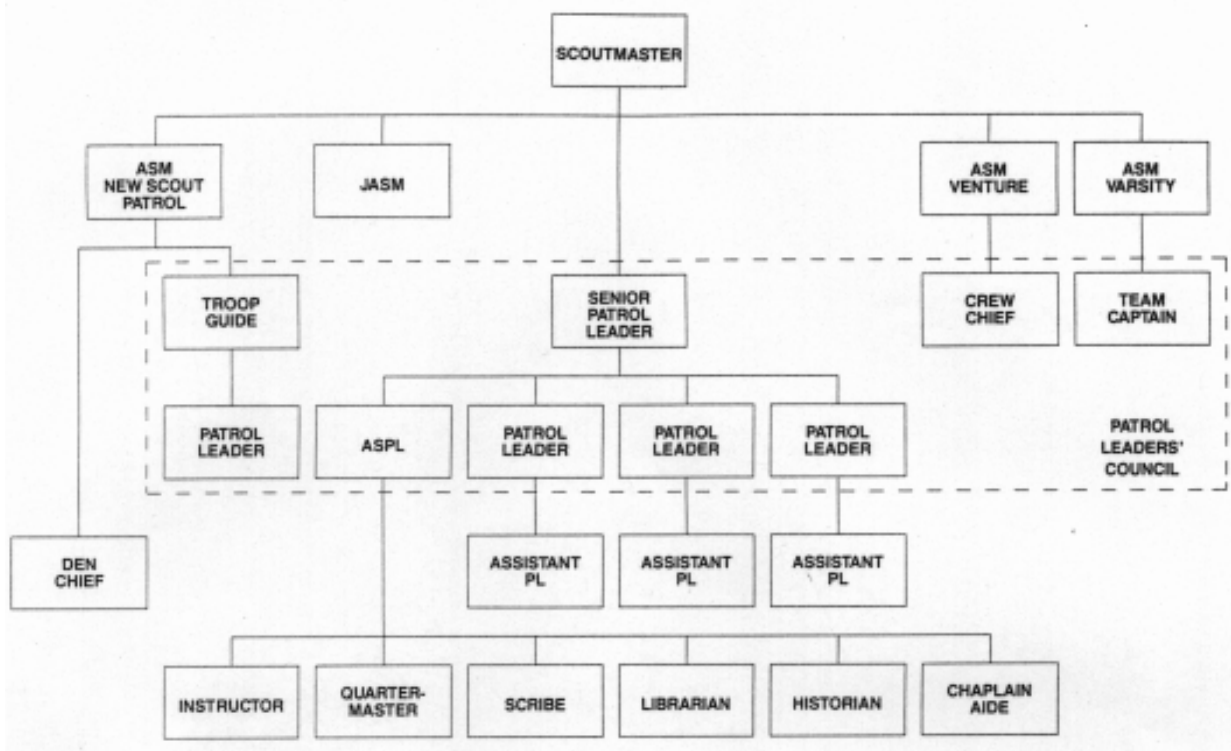
The assistant senior patrol leader (ASPL) fills in for the SPL in his absence. He is also responsible for training and giving direction to the quartermaster, scribe, historian, librarian and instructors.

Patrol Leaders:

The patrol leaders (PL) are responsible for giving leadership to the members of their patrols. They are their representation on the patrol leaders' council. The PL is also responsible for holding monthly patrol meetings outside of the regular troop meetings.

Assistant Patrol Leaders:

Assistant patrol leaders help the PL run the patrol and fill in for him in his absence.



Adult Leadership requirements

Leadership Requirements

All adult leaders must possess the moral, educational, and emotional qualities that the Boy Scouts of America deems necessary to afford positive leadership to youth. The leader must also be the correct age, be a citizen of the United States of America (or satisfy one of the approved alternatives), and subscribe to the Declaration of Religious Principles, the Scout Oath or Promise, and the Scout Law.

Approvals Required

Effective April 1, 2003 the Black Warrior Council, in accordance with National BSA policy, will require all new adults wishing to become leaders to authorize the BSA to conduct a criminal background check of themselves. The troop committee chairman and the head of the chartered organization must approve all adult leaders in Troop 7.

Scout Uniform

Scouts in uniform are conscious of their rank and make a greater effort to advance. Only the uniform provides a place for display of badges - important symbols of achievement. Scouts have more fun, stay longer, and feel greater pride in advancement. It is not the purpose of the Scout uniform to hide the differences between the boys or make them feel that they are all the same.

But there is one way in which all Scouts are alike. Whenever a Scout sees another person in a Scout uniform he knows he is like that person because both have committed themselves principles of the Scout Oath and Law. The Scout Oath and Law bind all Scouts of the world together in a common purpose. By wearing the uniform, Scouts give each other strength and support. Beyond accenting the common bond between Scouts, by wearing the uniform Scouts are declaring their faith and commitment to some important beliefs that bind them to all people. It is a way of making visible their belief in God, their loyalty to our country and their commitment to helping other people who need them.

The official Troop 7 uniform:

“Class A”

Troop 7 Hat
Shirt (official tan w/red shoulder tabs)
Belt (official khaki web belt)
Pants/Shorts (official khaki)
Socks (official khaki)

“Class B”

Troop 7 Hat
Scout related T- Shirt (example Camp Horne T- shirt)
Scout Belt
Scout Shorts
Scout socks

Blue jeans, and non-scout hats, are not allowed.

The Scoutmaster will determine which uniform (A or B) is appropriate for various activities.

Scouts should wear the uniform on the following occasions:

Weekly Scout meetings. (If your Scout is coming directly from school or sports practice, he can bring his uniform with him and change prior to the meeting.)

Travel to weekend camping trips. They can change out of the uniform after arrival at our destination if appropriate.

Car parking activities at University of Alabama football games.

For all Courts of Honor.

For other activities as directed by the Scoutmaster.

Official placement of insignia may be found on the inside front and back cover of the Scout Handbook.

Advancement

The troop committee has established the following Advancement Policy.

Board of Review

An Advancement Committee will be formed utilizing several troop committee members and several parents chosen by the troop committee and approved by the Scoutmaster. This committee will be responsible for reviewing each scout's progress on a quarterly basis, or more often if needed. Board of Review dates will be established for the entire year and published on the troop activity calendar. Scouts should attend all Boards of Review even if they are not ready to advance.

The purpose of the Boards of Review is as follows:

A. Intermediate Reviews - The scout does not have all requirements for the rank completed.

1. To monitor a scout's progress towards his goal.

2. To review a Scout's knowledge of requirements that have been signed off, to assure that when he comes before a "Final Board of Review", he is qualified for that particular rank.
3. To identify any problems or obstacles.
4. To ensure the Troop advancement process is working.

B. Final Reviews - The scout has all requirements for the rank completed.

1. To approve his completion of the rank.
2. To set goals for completing the next rank.
3. Talk about the scout's experiences with the troop.

A qualified individual approved in advance by the Scoutmaster will sign off advancement requirements in a scout's book. The signing off of advancement requirements by a scout's parent is not allowed. It is the responsibility of each individual scout to bring his Scout Handbook to **every meeting** and on **every camping trip**. Scout leaders are not be responsible for remembering who passed what requirement on the last camping trip. The troop maintains records of rank advancements, but does not track individual requirements signed off for each rank. A lost book can mean starting over from the last board-approved rank.

Merit Badges

All Merit Badge Counselors must be registered with and approved by the Advancement Committee. All counselors must possess a working knowledge of the skills needed to successfully teach the merit badge. Each scout must secure a "Blue Card" from the Scoutmaster and present it to his merit badge counselor to track his progress. To receive credit for the merit badge, the scout must present the "Blue Card", signed by the counselor, to the Scoutmaster.

National statistics indicate that only about 2% of all Scouts attain the rank of Eagle. Troop 7 can, and probably does, run above this average. However, this troop does not give away any advancement. It must be earned! The leadership of the troop provides opportunities for advancement, but the Scout is expected to show self-motivation in attaining rank advancement. Encouragement of leaders and parents is great, but we cannot push them all the way.

Court of Honor

The main purposes of the court of honor are to formally recognize the achievement of scouts and to provide incentive for other Scouts to advance. Troop 7 has formal courts of honor 2 times a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. All families are asked to attend and guests are certainly welcome. Every boy who advances deserves to be recognized in front of his family. The court of honor is the boy's special day.

Troop 7's outdoor program

Troop 7 has a very active outdoor program and all boys are encouraged to participate. Our program includes monthly weekend campouts, annual long-term summer camp (1 week), day hikes and other outdoor activities. Families are welcome on monthly campouts, if space allows. However, the troop will still function as a unit.

Scouting is effective whenever we take advantage of its truth: The place where Scouting works best is also the place that boys want the most. The outdoors. There are a number of good reasons why the outdoor program is so special; here are the four that are especially good:

1. The outdoors is the best place for learning outdoor skills. How could it be otherwise? A Scout who tried to boil a potato on the gymnasium floor would be in hot water for sure - not to mention the boy who tried learning to swim by reading a book.
2. The outdoors is a great place for learning something about living with others. When Scouts walk on the same trail, cook and eat together, and share triumphs and troubles together, they are going to find out some important things about, say, patience, respect for other points of view, doing their full share, making a friend more easily, and saying no without losing one. Skills like these are among the "personal growth" skills we want from every Scout. The outdoors is where they grow up best.

3. On the trail or in camp, the boy's leadership will be challenged, getting their patrols fed and sheltered, keeping them warm and safe, solving the problems they can solve, and knowing how to get help for those they can't. It's a time when leadership skills can deepen, patrols grow closer, and the troop grows stronger.
4. The outdoors is also a place where a Scout can get closer to the natural world around him - the land, the forests and their wildlife, the lakes and rivers, the mountains and the seas. Here, in the outdoors, he will learn of the "land ethic" - the understanding and respect for the environment we all share, and he will develop an active concern for it's health and a willingness to work to keep it healthy.

Scout Tenting & Meals

Scouts tent with their patrol in a patrol site separate from the other patrols. Patrols plan their own menus, and cook and eat together as a team. In general, adults do not eat or tent with a boy patrol.

Adult Tenting & Meals

Adults tent with the adult patrol in a patrol site separate from the other patrols. We plan our own menu, and cook and eat together as a team. In general, adults do not eat or tent with a boy patrol.

Adult/Boy Tenting

BSA youth protection policies forbid an adult and a boy sharing the same tent. While youth protection policies may not apply to a father and son tenting together, it is troop policy that boys tent with boys and adults with adults. If a father tents with his son, it has been our experience that the boy will lose out on many opportunities to make decisions and be part of the patrol team! [Yes, you are probably the rare exception, but it wouldn't be fair to the other adults to single you out.]

What to bring on a campout:

Clothing - Dress and pack appropriately for the season

- Change of socks and underwear for each day
- Long pants (scout uniform pants will do)
- Short pants depending on season (scout shorts will do)
- Jacket or coat
- Troop 7 cap
- Rain gear (poncho or light weight rain suit)
- Sturdy shoes or boots

Eating gear

- Knife, fork, spoon
- Plastic cup
- Plate (a Frisbee works well for a plate and bowl)

Toilet Kit

- Soap
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Comb
- Deodorant
- Hand towel

Camping Equipment

- Sleeping bag in stuff sack (appropriate weight for the season)
- Foam pad
- Flashlight & extra batteries
- Pocket knife (No sheath knives)
- Canteen or water bottle
- 50 feet of 1/8" nylon cord
- Matches in waterproof container
- Scout Handbook

Extras

- Camera & film
- Note pad & pen
- Insect repellent (cream or pump type - no aerosol)

Do Not Bring

- ❖ Radios
- ❖ Electronic Games
- ❖ Firearms
- ❖ Sling Shots

For regular camping trips all personal gear except the sleeping bag and foam pad should be packed together in a small to medium gym bag. The sleeping bag should be packed in a water repellent stuff sack (available at the Scout Service Center) and the foam pad should be rolled and secured with straps. Please do not bring a backpack on regular camping trips. A separate equipment list will be supplied to those Scouts participating in backpacking trips

Troop 7 Policies

Troop 7 Adult Leader / Parent Guidelines- summarized from the Guide to Safe Scouting

Two-deep leadership.

Two registered adult leaders or one registered leader and a parent of a participant, are required on all trips and outings. Typically, Troop 7 requires 4 adults.

No one-on-one contact.

One-on-one contact between adults and youths is not permitted. In situations that require personal conferences, such as a Scoutmaster's conference, the meeting is to be conducted in view of other adults and youths.

Respect of privacy.

Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp, and intrude only to the extent that health and safety require. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations. When camping, no youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than his own parent or guardian.

Hazing / Bullying.

Behavior in the Troop 7 should reflect Scouting's values. Corporal punishment is never permitted. Physical hazing and initiations are prohibited and may not be included as part of any Scouting activity. *Bullying behavior will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action.*

Swimming

Swimming is allowed only with proper supervision and use of the complete Safe Swim Defense.

Youth Behavior

Adult leaders of scouting units are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and interceding when necessary. Troop 7 uses a "three strikes" Policy. The first serious incident of misbehavior results in a consultation with the parents of the child to determine a course of corrective action. The second serious incident of misbehavior results in a consultation with the parents and Scout, normally followed by a 30-day suspension. Upon the 3rd serious incident the committee will be advised and the youth's membership in Troop 7 will be revoked.

Tobacco Products

Adult leaders should support the attitude that young adults are better off without tobacco and may not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth participants.

Firearms

Except for law enforcement officers required to carry firearms within their jurisdiction, firearms shall not be brought on camping, hiking, backpacking, or other Scouting activities except those specifically planned for target shooting under the supervision of a certified BSA or National Rifle Association firearms instructor. BSA policy does not permit the use of handguns in the Boy Scouting program.

General Safety Reminders

- 1 Only pocketknives approved by the scoutmaster may be carried. And then only by scouts who hold a valid Totin Chip Card. Sheath knives are not permitted
- 2 No flames are allowed in tents.
- 3 Never use liquid-fuel stoves, heaters, lanterns, lighted candles, matches, and other flame sources in or near tents.

Vehicles

Seat belts are required for all occupants.

Trucks may not be used for transporting passengers except in the cab. All drivers must have a valid driver's license that has not been suspended or revoked for any reason. All vehicles must be covered by automobile liability insurance with limits that meet or exceed requirements of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. It is recommended that coverage limits are at least \$50,000/\$100,000/\$50,000. Any vehicle designed to carry 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of \$100,000/\$500,000/\$100,000

Behavior

All members of the Boy Scouts of America are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Law. Physical violence, hazing, bullying, theft, verbal insults, and drugs and alcohol have no place in the Scouting program and may result in the revocation of a Scout's membership in the unit.

Scouts and adults will treat all other Scouts and adults with respect. If behavioral problems arise, the Scoutmaster will bring this to the parent's attention. If the problems are not resolved, at the Scoutmasters' discretion, the Scout will not be allowed to participate. Adult leaders of scouting units are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and interceding when necessary.

Troop 7 uses a "three strikes" Policy. The first serious incident of misbehavior results in a consultation with the parents of the child to determine a course of corrective action. The second serious incident of misbehavior results in a consultation with the parents and Scout, normally followed by a 30-day suspension. Upon the 3rd serious incident the committee will be advised and the youth's membership in Troop 7 will be revoked. When a Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster requires a consultation with a Scout and his parents regarding misbehavior, the Scoutmaster will notify the parents by telephone or e-mail regarding the misbehavior and request a meeting.

If a child is a DISCIPLINARY problem with the troop then they will be asked to leave the function from which they are a problem. If a boy is sent home, they will be suspended from troop functions. They will not be eligible for the following camp-out. To return to the troop they will be ACCOMPANIED by a parent/guardian and will make an apology to the troop. Disciplinary problems are, but not limited to the following:

- ❖ Willfully striking or assaulting a scout or any member of the Troop staff.- Immediate dismissal
- ❖ Theft
- ❖ The use of obscene or profane language or gestures.
- ❖ Deliberate refusal to obey a member of the Troop staff.
- ❖ Possessing at Troop functions any kind of weapon, such as pistol, blackjack, etc.
- ❖ Possessing drugs, narcotics or alcoholic beverages.
- ❖ The willful destruction of property.
- ❖ Violation of any other school rules (suspension, expulsion) or State laws.

It must be clearly understood that a boy and his family MAY be dropped from the active rolls of Troop 7 by action of the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster and Committee for any one (1) of the following reasons:

- ❖ If the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster deems it necessary to maintain discipline in the Troop.
- ❖ If lack of parent cooperation causes the Troop serious disruptions.
- ❖ If four (4) consecutive Troop Meetings are not attended without a reasonable excuse being submitted to the Scoutmaster.

Finances

The troop treasurer maintains an account for each Scout. Costs associated with Troop activities, as outlined below, are charged against the participating Scout's account. Scouts are asked to keep their troop account as current as possible. Fees should be sent directly to the troop treasurer. A statement will be sent monthly, please keep your account current. An account 2 months overdue will result in the scout being asked not to attend camping trips until the account is current. All questions about your account should be directed to the troop treasurer. Please do not ask the adult leaders. They do not have the information to answer your questions.

Fixed Costs

Dues	\$45.00 per year (\$5.00 per month September to May)
Camping Transportation cost	\$5.00 per Trip

Prorated costs

Camping fees

Campground admission costs	Based on actual cost, usually paid in advance
Food	Divided equally among the patrol members attending*

*If a Scout commits to going on a camping trip and then does not go, he is still liable for paying for his share of the food unless:

- He notifies his patrol leader prior to the food being purchased so that quantities may be adjusted.
- He does not attend due to illness or other emergency
- Any pre-paid admission fees may not be refundable

Reimbursements

Any expenses incurred at the request of or on behalf of the Troop are eligible for reimbursement. These include food purchases for patrols and gasoline expenses for adults driving vehicles for the Troop on camping trips. Receipts must be submitted to the troop treasurer for reimbursement. A credit in the amount of the reimbursement will be applied to the scout's account, unless a reimbursement check is requested.

Car Parking

We are fortunate to have a good fundraising effort that does not require a lot of time. The money raised helps the troop keep good camping equipment, pays adult leaders camping costs, maintains the "Cheese Wagon" (our Scout bus), and the Scouts who participate are eligible to earn points that can be applied towards their next summer camp. The money earned benefits all Scouts and therefore all Scouts and parents are expected to participate.

Car Parking for each of the University of Alabama home football games is our main fundraiser. We park cars at the Credit Union just below DCH on Bryant Ave., and at St. Francis Catholic Church on the University campus. Dates for the home games will be published in our first newsletter each August. Our car parking coordinator will call each Scout and set up a list of Scouts and parents who can work each game. Please plan to participate as much as possible. It only takes about 4 hours of your time and should not interfere with going to the game.

Rules to Consider:

1. Parking credit is based on points. Each game parked counts as 1 point.
2. The points are not transferable to other expenses or siblings.
3. The points are used to defray the cost of summer camp or a high adventure activity if one is planned.
4. The points are forfeited if the scout leaves the troop.
5. Scouts also accrue an additional point if a parent parks with them.
6. Registered Adults parking cars can earn credit to cover the cost of a high adventure camp for themselves.
7. The troop committee meets each year in January to determine the number of points required to fully cover the cost of camp. The determination is based on the funds generated, the number of participants and the cost of the camp.

High Adventure Activities

Based on the agreement of the Scoutmaster and his assistants an activity may be classified as "High Adventure". This designation indicates that the youth participants must hold a minimum rank of 1st class. Some High Adventure activities may also have a minimum age requirement combined with the rank requirement. Typical Examples are: Philmont, Seabase, and Rock Climbing.

Who's Who

Troop 7 Committee Members

Keith Woodbury	Committee Chairman	556-8326
Edward Mansfield		339-9678
Herman Weber		
Nancy Woodbury		
Gary Moynihan		
Phillis Belcher		
Carlos "Gene" Berry		

Troop 7 Leadership

Bruce Lanier	Scoutmaster	750-8263
Pat O'Neil	Assistant Scoutmaster	553-4147
Brad Roane	Assistant Scoutmaster	553-0658
Bob Meintzer	Assistant Scoutmaster	462-0895
Mike Rafferty	Assistant Scoutmaster	
Jim Hamilton	Assistant Scoutmaster	

Board of Review Members

Gary Moynihan		
Keith Woodbury		556-8326
Steve Noble		
Harry Labhart		

Troop 7 Permission Slip