

TROOP 774



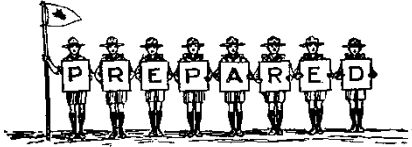
Parent's Guide

Chattahoochee District
Northeast Georgia Council BSA
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<http://www.bsatroop774.org>

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SCOUTING.....A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind are convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth.

--Aristotle

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America! By becoming a parent of a Boy Scout, you are setting your son out on the grand adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him.

What is it all about? What will you be expected to do? What does it cost? We have prepared this booklet to answer these questions.

The following pages describe the organization of a Troop and the advancement pattern that each boy will follow. Reading this will help you understand how your boy can progress through the ranks with your help. It will help you understand how you can help and what the various adult volunteers are doing to help the Troop.

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

There are three aims to scouting:

- Aim I – To build character
- Aim II – To foster citizenship
- Aim III – To develop fitness

These three aims are the bedrock of the American Scouting movement. They represent the long-term outcomes we want for every boy.

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 over their lifetime in achieving their full potential.

The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Boy Scout Oath and Law:

SCOUT LAW

A Scout is:
Trustworthy
Loyal
Helpful
Friendly
Courteous
Kind
Thrifty
Brave
Clean
Reverent

SCOUT OATH

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

Since 1910, these principles have been taught in an atmosphere of recreation and fun which 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. Most of the members of congress were Scouts, as well as most of the astronauts who have walked on the moon. The long list of famous scouts includes:

President John F. Kennedy	Boy Scout	President Gerald Ford	Eagle Scout
Neil A. Armstrong	Eagle Scout	Steven Spielberg	Eagle Scout
J. Willard Marriott, Jr. President of Marriott	Eagle Scout	Barber B. Conable, Jr. President, World Bank	Eagle Scout
William C. Devries, M.D. Transplanted first artificial heart	Eagle Scout	Sam M. Walton Founder, Wal-Mart Corporation	Eagle Scout

The Boy Scouts of America is the largest youth oriented organization in the United States. More than 4 million boys and leaders are currently registered in the Boy Scouts of America.

Unlike Cub Scouting, which many of you are familiar with, Boy Scouting is a **youth-lead** organization. The boys learn how to organize and lead the Troop. After training, and with supervision from the adult leaders, the boys run the show.

The boys in the Troop will be working towards their 1st class and then Eagle ranks. As they travel on their trail to Eagle they will not only learn how to lead a team to a goal, but they will actually lead teams of scouts in a number of situations. Many Eagle Scouts put their accomplishments on their resumes and find that they are often considered in obtaining acceptance into college or the work force because they did.

Boy Scouting also provides for growth of moral strength and character, teaches citizenship, and enhances the development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness. This is all done in the spirit of fun and adventure.

Please take a few minutes to read Chapter 1 of your son's Boy Scout Handbook.

ORGANIZATION

Troop 774 is a participating member of the Chattahoochee District of the Northeast Georgia 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 (Sponsor)

Every Troop belongs to an organization. The Chartered Organization for Troop 774 is the AA Drilling & Blasting Co. owned and operated by Mr. John L. King, Sr. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and insures that there is adequate, trained leadership. A Chartered Organization Representative acts as liaison between us and the organization.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee functions as an administration and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of the non-program issues surrounding the Troop. For example: Troop website, Troop funds, fund raising activities, membership drives and District coordination, activity permits and coordination, advancement records, procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment.

The Committee usually meets on the third Monday evening of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Scout Hut. The meetings are open to everyone in the troop and we would like to have 100% parent involvement in the Committee (even if it's only attending the one Committee meeting per month).

The Troop

Adult Leadership

Our troop currently has one Scoutmaster and six Assistant Scoutmasters who guide and mentor the boy elected to run the Troop. Two registered adult leaders, or one adult leader and a Scout parent, both of who must be at least 21 years of age, are required for all Troop 774 meetings, trips, or outings.

Patrols and Patrol Leaders

The Troop is a group made up of several patrols. Each Patrol usually consists of a Patrol Leader, an Assistant Patrol Leader and no less than four Scouts and no more than eight Scouts. The boys in a patrol elect their patrol leader who in turn appoints the assistant patrol leader.

The Senior Patrol Leader is an elected position. The Senior Patrol Leader selects his Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. The Patrol Leaders, with the Senior Patrol Leader as their head, form the Patrol Leader's Council, which plans the activities and runs the Troop meetings.

Elections for Patrol Leaders are held every six to twelve months on the first Monday of May and/or November.

Troop Parents

The role of parents within Troop 774 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should:

1. Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting. Parents should attend informal Boy Scout Fast Start Training offered by the Troop Committee.
2. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
3. Show support to the individual Scout, the **VOLUNTEER** Scout Leaders and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
4. Assist, as requested, in all Troop fundraisers and other such 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 annual calendar.

Troop Meetings

Troop 774 holds meetings weekly. Meetings are held every Monday from 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as early as possible to allow for proper planning.

Courts of Honor

The Troop conducts a Court of Honor in May, August, and December to recognize the accomplishments of the Scouts and the Troop. Adult recognition may also be presented at the Troop Court of Honor.

The Court of Honor is a public ceremony and is a chance for the Scouts to be publicly recognized for their achievements. Parents and all other interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

Campouts

Troop 774 usually camps 11 months of the year. The only month we do not camp is December so that our family can spend time with their families. Campouts and other troop activities are scheduled in May and November following the Patrol Leaders' Council elections/re-appointments and are listed on the Troop calendar. Every campout requires a permission slip and permission slips are due the Monday before the week of the campout and are confirmed the Monday prior to departure from the Scout Hut for the activity or event.

What to bring on a campout:

Framed backpack	Sweater/sweatshirt	Scout knife with a Totin` Chip
Metal plate, silverware, cup	Rain gear (poncho)	Watch
Water bottle/canteen/ CamelBak	Extra clothes	Pen/pencil
Chemical light (glow stick)	Towel	Boy Scout Handbook
Sleeping bag	Toothbrush/toothpaste	Notebook
Pillow (optional)	Washcloth	Sunscreen
Foam pad (optional)	Comb	First Aid kit

Please see the Scout Handbook for more detailed lists.

DO NOT BRING:

Cell phones, radios, snack food, electronic games, flashlights, aerosols, straight (sheath) knives, firearms, slingshots.

ADVANCEMENT

There are many definitions of advancement, but the Scouting definition might well be, simply, “the art of meeting a challenge.” For that is exactly what the Boy Scout advancement program asks the boys to do. The Boy Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a Scout climbs at his own pace. As he acquires these skills, he moves up through a series of ranks, for which he is awarded badges.

Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle. The higher he climbs, the more challenging his tasks – and the more rewarding.

Achievements include:

- Learning skills that qualify for Scouting’s more rugged and exciting outdoor challenges.
- Developing body and mind, growing self-confidence, and helping younger Scouts climb the advancement ladder.
- Discovering how it feels to go further – in so many ways – than he ever thought he could.

We don’t look at advancement as a goal, but as a natural outcome of a planned, quality Troop program.

There are four steps of advancement.

- The Boy Scout Learns.
- The Boy Scout is Tested.
- The Boy Scout is Reviewed.
- The Boy Scout is Recognized.

Advancement Through First Class



From the time the Scout enters the Troop through the time he earns advancement to First Class, he is learning basic scouting skills to enable him to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, and perform other tasks in the outdoors and to work as a member of a team. With those first steps, the Scout begins to build themselves physically, mentally, and morally. He will start to live with the Scout Oath and Law. Soon he will learn the symbolism inherent in the Scout badge; he will learn that there are three

points of the trefoil, which stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath: Duty to God and country, duty to other people, and duty to yourself. The goal of this Troop is for the Scout to achieve the rank of First Class within his first year in the Troop. This is a sign that the scout has mastered the fundamentals of scouting and can begin to start the long process of learning to lead other, refining the learned skills, and learning additional skills.

Advancement from First Class to Eagle



From the achievement of First Class through Eagle, the Scout will be demonstrating leadership, performing service projects, earning merit badges and using the skills learned while achieving the rank of First Class. The next ranks he will earn are Star and Life. These ranks are harder to obtain than the earlier ranks, but are also more interesting for the older scouts. Upon completion of all the requirements for Star and Life, the Scout will be eligible to work for Eagle. The original principals, the Scout Oath and Law now have fuller meaning for the Scout and their understanding of them is much greater. The final steps towards Eagle are filled with leadership experiences.

Details for advancement are obtained in the Boy Scout Handbook, which every Scout should obtain as soon as possible after joining the Troop. Take a look at Chapter 1. This short chapter has an advancement summary through First Class.

Merit Badges

The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a Scout's areas of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. Merit badges are earned by a Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor. The Scout is required to contact the counselor to arrange for times and places to meet with the counselor. When the Scout completes the work on the merit badge, the counselor will inform the Scoutmaster that the Scout has completed the requirements for that badge. Merit Badges earned will be presented to the Scout during the Troop's quarterly Court of Honor.

All parents of Troop 774 Scouts are strongly encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors. Please see the Scoutmaster or the Troop Committee Chairperson for a Troop Resource Survey and Merit Badge Counselor application.

Boards of Review

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he appears before a board of review composed of members of the Troop Committee. The purpose of the review is not an examination. Rather it is to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals; to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement, to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program, and to encourage him to keep working towards advancement. A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a boy about his lack of progress toward advancement, lack of "Scout Spirit, lack of respect for his Scout Leaders and other issues that are equally as important, if not more so, than rank and awards.

Costs & Fees

Re-chartering

The process of re-chartering is the annual collection of registration fees for the Scouts and Leaders. The process of re-chartering the Troop must be completed by the end of January of each calendar year. The annual fee for each Scout and adult leader is \$15.00. There is an additional \$1.50 to cover BSA's supplemental accident insurance. As of February 2010, there is also an addition \$3.00 fee each year for each Scout Family which provides internet access to the Troop's "Troopmaster" database. This database provides parents access to their son's Troop Profile including earned merit badges, partial merit badges, time in rank and other valuable information.

Troop Dues

Troop dues are \$4.00 per month, for a total of \$48.00, **which are collected at re-charter.** *If a family is unable to pay the total amount we ask that they pay \$24.00 at re-charter and the remaining \$24.00 in June. (We will no longer collect dues on a monthly basis.)* The troop dues pay for badges, awards, \$1.50 per scout for insurance, and a subscription to *Boys Life* magazine for each Scout family.

Fees for Outings/Activities

Individual activities have fees associated with them. We will have the expected cost of the activity listed at the top of the signup sheet that is posted on the Troop bulletin board. Weekend camping at a Boy Scout camp facility have no charge per se, but camp-outs held at State parks or other campgrounds will have a fee that varies from location to location.

At the regular weekly meeting on the Monday two weeks before a weekend campout, the scout should bring \$10 to give to the patrol quartermaster so that the quartermaster may purchase the food that the patrols plan for their weekend menus.

The cost for summer camp is greater than most other campouts because it is for a full week and includes all meals. Summer camp is generally planned in January so that the fee can be paid intermittently by the camp's payment deadline, which is usually around the first of May.

Friends of Scouting

Each year, the Council operates its Friends of Scouts (F.O.S.) campaign to raise money for the Council operations. The Council is responsible for maintaining the Council Camps, the Council Advance-A-Rama, the Council Camporees, as well as other Council activities, local BSA administration and local advertising. Contributions are voluntary, but the Troop has a good record of support for this activity. As years go by, F.O.S. is becoming more and more of a critical source of BSA funding.

Fundraising

The Troop plans to do three to four major fundraising projects a year. Each year in October and November the Boy Scouts of America holds a popcorn sale. Each March and April is a discount card sale. For each of these two Council fundraisers 35% of the proceeds come back to the Troop. The other major fundraiser the Troop conducts once or twice each year is a smoked pork sale. For most of the fundraisers 50% of the proceeds that the Scout sells will go into an individual account to help with the costs of activities. Occasionally we will adjust the percentage going to the individual Scout so that we can cover the operational costs of the troop, but we will let you know what the percentages will be prior to beginning each fundraiser.

Paying their own way

There is a level of satisfaction that comes with known that you have earned a trip to camp by working to cover the costs. To teach fiscal responsibility and to aid the Scout in learning to be "Thrifty" we ask that each boy earn at least 50% of the cost of their activities themselves. This can be done through fundraisers, allowances, mowing lawns, part-time jobs, or chores. More important than *how* they earn the money is the fact that they did their best to help "Pay Their Own Way".

UNIFORM

The Scout uniform helps to achieve the objectives of Scouting. The uniform by itself cannot make a good Scout or a good Troop, but its use has been proven to improve both the Scout and the Troop because it is a visible symbol of Scouting and unity. Uniforms are expected to be clean, neatly pressed proudly worn to meetings and other Scout related activities. Each Scout is required to have and properly wear the uniform upon joining the Troop, the following uniform items:

Field or “Class A” uniform

The Field or “Class A” uniform should be worn by the Scout to all Troop meetings, Court of Honor, campouts, and activities. The “Class A” uniform consists of the following components:

- Tan scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches (Northeast GA Council strip) and olive green shoulder loops (obtained from Troop)
- Troop number (obtained from Troop)
- Red neckerchief (obtained from Troop)
- Neckerchief slide (obtained from Troop)
- Olive Scout pants or shorts
- Boy Scout socks
- Troop hat (obtained from Troop)
- Scout web belt and buckle
- Dark colored tennis shoes or hiking boots. Scout socks are required.

For all Troop meetings and campouts the items listed above plus a writing instrument, their notebooks, and Scout Handbook are part of the required uniform.

For all of the Courts of Honor and other special occasions, such as Scout Sunday in February, the items listed above plus their merit badge sash, God and Country Program Ribbons (medallions) and for Eagle Scouts, the Eagle Ribbon is part of the required uniform. However, the merit badge sash should only be worn once the Scout has earned six or more merit badges.

Patch application

At Troop 774 we expect all patches to be neatly sewn onto the uniform in the correct position. Staples, tape, glue, and loose stitching are not acceptable. We prefer that the Scout learn to sew his patches on himself because sewing is an important skill necessary to “Be Prepared”.

There are patch placement guides on the front and back covers of the Scout Handbook as well as at the Scout shops.

Activity or “Class B” uniform

The Activity or “Class B” uniform is to be worn, as instructed by Troop leadership, when activities may cause damage to the field uniform. The “Class B” uniform consists of the following components:

- Troop 774 t-shirt (obtained from Troop) (Color green or red and short or long sleeves will be specified prior to the event.)
- Scout pants or shorts
- Boy Scout socks
- Appropriate footwear for the activity

Uniform Closet

The Troop maintains a collection of gently used uniform shirts, pants, and hats that are available at a reduced cost. Please consider donating any uniform items that your son has outgrown to help restock our closet. When requesting clothing without an exchange a fee of \$5.00 is requested to off-set the cost of this program.

Footwear

Happy feet make a happy camper so choosing the appropriate footwear is important.

- Open toed shoes **ARE NOT** allowed at meetings or when walking around camp.
 - Flip flops are encouraged for use when showering at camp, but should not be worn other than to and from the shower.
- Closed toed sandals or “Crocs” are appropriate to wear for aquatic activities, but are not appropriate for meetings or to walk around camp.
- A good pair of properly fitting hiking boots are essential for hikes and backpacking

Scout Shops

There are two Scout shops in our area where you can purchase scout uniforms and supplies:

Northeast GA Council, BSA
203 Swanson Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30043
(770) 962-2105

Northeast GA Council, BSA
148 Boy Scout Trail
Pendergrass, GA 30567
(706) 693-2446

AND FINALLY

You are joining a great organization that includes tens of thousands of adult leaders, interested parents, and the BSA professional staff. Scouting is much more than enjoying the outdoors. The Troop teaches leadership skills and community skills. Scouting also shows the boys how they can keep themselves strong and healthy and make the most of school. With hard work and dedication, your son will be able to serve as a leader in the Troop and advance in rank along the trail to Eagle.

Above and beyond anything else said in this package, the boys and us “big kids” are in Scouts to have fun!

For more information, contact:

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