

**GRAND CANYON COUNCIL**  
**GILA RIVER DISTRICT**  
**BOY SCOUT TROOP 8051**  
**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**Troop Parents Guide**

January 2019

## **Foreword:**

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America organization and specifically to the experience of membership in Troop 8051. Our Troop is chartered by Christ Lutheran Church and is a member unit of the Grand Canyon Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Troop 8051 is a special place for boys to have fun, learn leadership, and develop skills and hobbies that will last a lifetime. It is a safe haven where everyone should feel physically and emotionally secure. We do this in several ways.

- We create an environment based on fun and learning.
- We set the example for others and ourselves by always behaving as Scouts.
- We live the Scout Oath and Law each day and to the best of our abilities.
- We refuse to tolerate any putdown, name calling, or physical aggression.
- We seek the best from each member and do our best to help him achieve it.

The Boy Scouts of America ("BSA") was established in 1910. Through years of experience working with thousands of boys and adults, the BSA has developed a tried and proven organizational and operational format. Intentionally designed within the structure is a degree of flexibility to allow each unit (council, district, troop, patrol, or individual) to plan and mold its internal activities to best satisfy its particular needs.

This guide briefly outlines the overall structure of the Boy Scouts of America and identifies its goals and objectives. The main emphasis, however, is to define the specific program, methods, and procedures utilized by Troop 8051. It is intended to serve as a working document to assist Scouts and their parents in understanding and working within our program.

**Parental involvement is one of the keys to the success of any Scouting program.** When adults become involved in producing a program for their own boys, a strong Scout troop is the result.

We know our boys love the responsibility and fun that Scouting provides. We hope you, as parents, will get involved, and we hope this guide will excite your interest and answer some of your questions concerning our troop.

## **Purpose of this guide**

The purpose of this guide is to familiarize each parent with the aims and goals of the Scouting program, to outline the goals of Troop 8051, and to define how Troop 8051 works to reach these goals. This handbook is also intended to be a reference for Scouts and parents on topics that include the Scouting organization at all levels, advancement procedures, and equipment needs for the troop, the patrol and the individual Scout.

Every parent and Scout is encouraged to make suggestions that might improve this guide and to a larger extent, our troop. Information and procedures do change, and we try to keep this handbook updated with the latest available information. If a question arises, please contact any uniformed leader or Key Troop Committee Member. If conflicting information arises, please contact the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair. They are always available to answer any questions that you may have or to discuss any of your concerns regarding the troop's program and/or procedures.

## **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.

## **Boy Scouts of America 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***

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 Law***

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

### ***Scout Motto***

Be Prepared

### ***Scout Slogan***

Do a Good Turn Daily

# Aims and Methods of the Boy Scout Program

## Aims

Boy Scouting works toward three aims. One is growth in *moral strength and character*. We may define this as the what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, his outlook.

A second aim is *participating citizenship*. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society he lives, to the government that presides over that society.

A third aim of Boy Scouting is *development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness*. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and emotions (self control, courage and self-respect).

The methods are designed to accomplish these aims.

## Methods

**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. As this is often a boy's first experience in dealing with peer supervision and leadership, the adult leaders act as guides and coaches for the boy leaders. Questions, issues, and problems should be brought to the Patrol Leader's attention first, then to the Senior Patrol Leader, and then to Scoutmaster or other Adult Leader should the need arise.

**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.

## Joining the Troop

Parents and guardians of prospective scouts need to meet with either the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster or Committee Chair before they can become registered with the Troop.

Any boy who is 11 years old or who has completed the fifth grade or who has earned the Arrow of Light award may join the troop by presenting himself at a Troop meeting, expressing his desire to join, completing an application, and paying the membership fee. Each Scout must complete a Boy Scouts of America application, which is turned into the local council office. The membership fee covers: BSA National and Council fees and insurance. There are also Troop dues included in the membership fee, these dues are used to pay for awards and the registration of adult leaders.

At your option, you may subscribe to Boys Life magazine through the troop. Boys Life magazine is the official magazine of the Boy Scouts of America and contains many interesting and pertinent articles on Scouting in America. The cost of the subscription may be added on to your dues.

Throughout the course of the Scouting year, additional fees are required (to be paid by Scouts) for outings and activities. Fees for Campouts cover camp fees, meals and travel. Special outings such as canoeing, rafting and rock climbing will have higher fees to cover equipment rental or guides.

The following information is required of all Scouts and their parents/ guardians as requirements of joining the troop:

- **Transportation Form:** Any parent transporting a Scout (other than his or her own son) to any Scout activity must have adequate insurance coverage and seat belts for each passenger. The BSA requires information on each automobile and motor vehicle insurance coverage.
- **Resources Information Form:** Parents are also asked to complete a resources information form, which identifies ways in which they can assist the troop.
- **Photo Release:** Parents are asked to complete a photo release form. From time to time the troop publishes articles in local publications to both recognize scout's achievements and give publicity to the troop.

**Medical Form:** The Annual Health and Medical Record – Troop 8051 requests parents submit a Medical Form on an annual basis. For typical troop functions only, Part A & B are required. This does not have to be completed by a medical professional. For scouts participating in Summer Camp or a High Adventure program, Part C and maybe Part D will be required based on the policy of the program. The form is available online at [scouting.org](http://scouting.org).

## Troop Organization

The troop leadership comprised of

- Charter Organization
- Troop Committee
- Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters
- Patrol Leaders Council (PLC)

### Chartered Organization

The organization of any Boy Scout troop begins with a chartering organization. Troop 8051 is chartered by Christ Lutheran Church. The Church supports the Troop by providing space for storing equipment and access to its meeting room. They are represented in the troop organization by the Chartered Organization Representative (COR) who serves on the Troop Committee.

### Troop Committee

Boy Scouting is a boy-led organization. However, the quality of any unit is dependent upon the involvement of its parents. There are many opportunities for parents to help. Many require modest amounts of time and most of which are actually fun! The Troop encourages each family to have at least one parent/ guardian participate as an adult volunteer.

The Troop Committee comprises adults interested in the Scouting program who wish to contribute to the program. Troop Committee Meetings are usually the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

While the Troop Committee is formed by parents of Scouts in the troop or other adult volunteers with an active interest in Scouting. Each month, the Scoutmaster reports to the Committee reviewing the status of the troop and upcoming plans.

The Troop Committee's purpose is to administer the affairs of the troop and to assist and support the leaders in the operation of the troop. The Committee has several assigned roles that operate behind the scenes to support the troop. The committee, however, does not usually get directly involved with the actual day-to-day operation of the troop. That is the responsibility of the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters and the PLC.

### Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters

While all registered adults are encouraged to wear the official uniform at troop functions, in Troop 8051. The **Scoutmaster**, or unit leader, is the adult leader responsible for all actions, activities and programs of the troop. His job is summed up in four basic responsibilities:

- to train and guide boy leaders;
- to work with other responsible adults to give Scouting to boys;
- to help boys grow by encouraging them to learn for themselves;
- to use the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting.

In accordance with the rules and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America, "The Scoutmaster shall be at least 21 years of age and shall be chosen because of good moral character and his interest in work for boys. He (or she) need not be an expert in all of the Boy Scout activities but should be able to command the respect of boys in the management of his troop."

The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters and the Troop Committee are responsible for the general program and

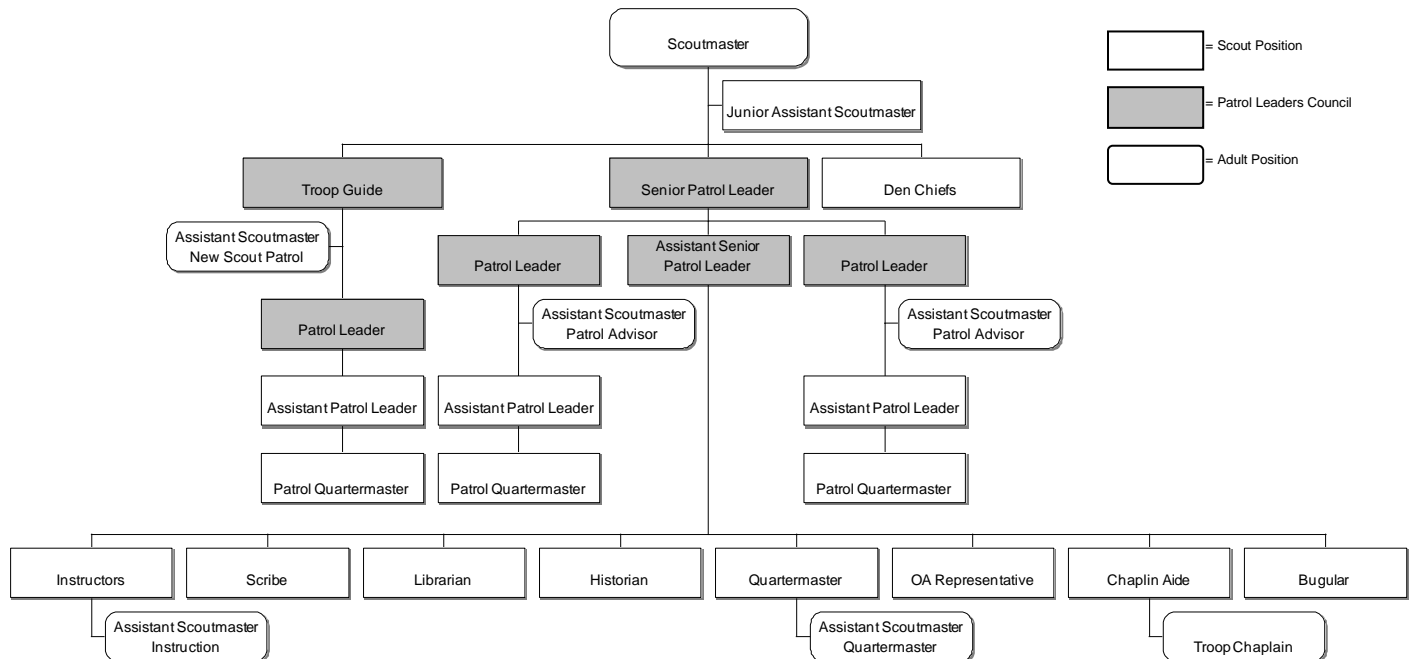
supervision of the work of the troop. The Scoutmaster may delegate as many duties as possible to his Assistant Scoutmasters and Scout leaders. He needs to be aware of the needs and characteristics of the boys in the troop and use every resource he can to provide them with a program to meet these needs.

### Patrol Leaders Council (PLC)

The PLC is a select group of older, more-qualified Scouts who, because of their proven ability, are charged with running the troop. Their job is to manage the troop under the direction of the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster. Every Scout, through his Patrol Leader, has a voice in the planning and running of the troop's activities. The PLC is composed of all Patrol Leaders and the other Scouts in leadership positions. The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) chairs the PLC. Others may be invited to sit in, but they are not voting members of the PLC. The PLC meets on the first Tuesday of each month to refine and confirm the long-term plans. Input is received constantly, and ideas generated are discussed and decided upon.

A description of the various positions of responsibility can be found in the Troop Youth Leadership Manual.

Troop 8051 strives to be a boy-run troop. Leadership is one of the methods of Scouting. 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. All duties for patrol activities are assigned by the patrol leader. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps the boy accept the leadership of others and helps him to grow into a more responsible adult. The following troop organization chart outlines the complete organization of the troop.



## Troop Operations

### Meetings

Weekly meetings are held every Tuesday from 6:30PM to 8PM. The meeting place is Christ Lutheran Church's Fellowship Hall. Meetings are held during inclement weather and will take place unless cancelled. All Scouts should come to every meeting on time, in full uniform and with their handbook. Meetings are used to teach the Scouting skills required for our outings. **All Scouts are encouraged to attend at least 75% of the troop meetings. Attendance below 50% is considered unacceptable.** Instructors include senior scouts, adult scout leaders, and community experts. New parents are invited to attend any meeting.

Throughout the year other special meetings may be scheduled, including parents' meetings. All regular and special meetings are noted on the annual troop calendar and are announced at preceding troop meetings.

The troop meeting agenda is the responsibility of the Patrol Leader who was assigned the program for that given night at the PLC. Programs (with SPL, ASPL, SM and/or ASM input) and generally follows the basic outline of an opening, attendance, troop activity, patrol activity, announcements, and a closing. In addition, games or competitions are frequently scheduled. Outside speakers are invited on an occasional basis, often to present programs related to the monthly program theme. Scouting skills presentations are included in many meetings and are typically taught by Scout Instructors or adults within the troop.

Parents who are not staying for the meeting need to ensure that there are at least one scoutmaster and an additional parent present before they leave

### Pathfinders

Troop 8051 operates a new Scout program called "Pathfinders". This program class enables new scouts to practice, test, and receive credit for the skills required to advance through Tenderfoot, Second, and First Class. Ideally, Scouts earn First Class in about 12-18 months after joining the troop. However, Scouts progress at their own pace. Parents are encouraged to regularly review the Scouts progress in his handbook and provide encouragement. **The Troop Guide will establish a schedule and carve out time in each of the regularly scheduled Troop Meetings to have these skills taught to and practiced by Target First Class scouts. A skill is learned via a 4-step process called EDGE: Explain, Demonstrate, Guide, Enable.**

As stated before, each scout will progress at his own pace. Once the skill is taught, the scout should practice what he's learned both at the meeting/outing and at home. Once he feels confident enough in his ability to perform that skill, he may review that skill by demonstrating his expertise to another scout of First Class rank or higher. Campouts are usually a good time for a Pathfinder scout to work with older scouts and obtain signoff of requirements. Unlike Cub Scouts, parents are not allowed to sign-off on any requirements in the Scout Handbook. Sign-off may only be obtained from a Troop Guide, or a Uniformed Leader.

### Safety Sessions

The BSA requires Scouts to successfully complete appropriate safety courses as a condition of earning specific privileges:

**Totin' Chip:** Scouts must complete a knife, ax, and saw safety course before being allowed to carry a pocketknife or an ax. This course is generally taught at Summer camp but can be taught during Troop Meetings as well.

**Fireman Chit:** New scouts must earn a fire safety card prior to be allowed to start fires. This card can only be



earned at campouts or during Troop meetings.

**BSA Swim Safety test:** The BSA swim test is offered at summer camp. Depending on need, swim tests can be scheduled at different times of the year. Scouts must have this certification before going on any water outing.

**Note:** New (younger) Scouts are welcome to participate in all aspects of the Troop 8051 program except for High Adventure activities. National BSA rules prevent Scouts under the age of 13 from participating in these activities because of the strenuous physical demands involved. Troop 8051 further stresses safety by requiring that scouts be of First Class rank. These guidelines may be further tightened based on the activity involved. The SM or ASM in charge of the outing has the final decision on who may participate in the activity.

## **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 "unacceptables" to receive 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 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.

### **Parents' guide**

The Boy Scouts of America has developed materials for use in the Scouting program that provide essential information to members and their families. A detachable booklet in the front of The Boy Scout Handbook, "How to Protect Your Child from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse: A Parents Guide," provides information to help families to increase self-protection skills.

### **Troop 8051 and the Youth Protection Program**

Troop 8051 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.

All registered leaders with the Boy Scouts of America must complete Youth Protection Training every two years.

## **Outings**

Exciting outings provide the environment Scouts need to develop their self-reliance and leadership skills. Camping overnight or several nights gives the boys just enough of a planning challenge to make their lives interesting. In many cases a young Scout may have never before had to depend on himself and his peers for his food, shelter and recreation. Troop 8051 has an ambitious outing program to stimulate and challenge all of our Scouts.

The troop strives at least one overnight outing every other month during the Scout year. Additionally, there is a one-week summer camp, usually during June or July. Throughout the year every effort is made to provide convenient weekend outings and yet minimize conflicts with school activities.

Cost is generally about \$20, although certain outings may have additional fees. Typically, we meet and leave from Christ Lutheran Church either on Friday evening or early on Saturday morning, and return there on Sunday morning or afternoon. Venue and locations vary, selected by the boys. Parents may attend but are encouraged to leave the leadership to the Scouts and uniformed leaders.

Variety is the key to outings. We do our best to ensure that the troop has a broad exposure to different outdoor situations. Each year we attempt to visit different locales in the area. Some outings are skills-oriented. Others are planned just to have a good time. Equipment needs vary from lightweight equipment for backpacking trips to coolers, Dutch ovens, and patrol boxes for camping at sites accessible by automobile. A troop trailer is available for hauling all gear.

### **Signing up for Outings**

The troop asks Scouts to confirm participation a week before an outing. This is done to help in the planning and purchasing of the food and the transportation. If for some reason a Scout is unable to attend the outing, and he has already committed, he will still owe the troop any activity or camp fees paid on his behalf. Depending on the timing of the cancellation, however, it may not be possible to make a full refund since other scouts may have already purchased food.

### **Menu Planning and Cooking**

Each patrol is responsible for planning its menu, purchasing its food, and cooking its meals. For each outing, one Scout is assigned as the patrol's grub master, responsible for procuring the food. The patrol grub master decides on the menu with the patrol. This occurs a minimum of one week prior to the campout. Once a well-balanced menu has been written and approved, the patrol sets a budget for their food and other supplies. Scouts with special needs due to allergies, religion, etc. are asked to be active in the menu planning so that their needs are accommodated. Scouts are to arrive at the Christ Lutheran Church after having eaten a good meal prior to our departure. Eating in cars is extremely discouraged! All other meals are planned for, purchased and prepared by the Scouts as a patrol.

### **Transportation**

Scouting teaches the boys to work in a team, and the Scouts do most of the planning. However, the adult leadership makes the travel arrangements. If you do volunteer to drive, we ask that you arrive at the meeting place gassed and ready to go. Each driver may be asked to carry troop and personal gear as well as scouts, if there is insufficient room in the troop trailer. The troop will depart from and return to Christ Lutheran Church as a group. We will follow the same route to and from the outing and, whenever possible, will travel together, although we will not "convoy", in compliance with national Boy Scout policy. After the outing all Scouts will be returned to Christ Lutheran Church and will stay there until all troop equipment is unloaded and gear properly cleaned, claimed or stored. Parents who find it necessary to deviate from the approved route of travel

or the departure/return schedule are responsible for obtaining advance permission from the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster.

### **Parents on Outings**

When on an outing, parents are part of the "Parents Patrol", including other adults and Uniformed Leaders, and will camp and eat with this group, not with the Scout patrols. **Parents should not assist their son or their son's patrol in cooking meals or setting up camping equipment at any time.** This is the responsibility of the Patrol Leaders and PLC and will take away from their son's patrol experience. Parents who attend monthly camp-outs as a member of the Parents Patrol may be assigned patrol duties, including cooking and cleanup. Any adult attending an outing may need to bring personal eating utensils, sleeping bag, tent and clothes appropriate for the occasion.

Parents will not be allowed to come late to the outing or leave early with or without their son without scheduling through and obtaining the express advance permission of the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster. Please understand that on any particular outing, we have a program to follow. Adults who come late or leave early adversely affect the program. **Parents who commit to attending the outing should plan to be there for the entire outing.**

All parents who attend an overnight camp need to be a registered adult with the BSA, have been background check and have completed Youth Protection Training.

### **Summer Camp**

Summer camp is a wonderful opportunity for Scouts to get away from it all and spend a fun-filled week at camp. Typically, the troop goes during June or July. We have traditionally attended different camps each year, generally ranging anywhere from 1-6 hours away.

Summer camp is the climax of the Scouting year for the troop. It is a major element of our program and offers each boy the chance to develop skills and enjoy a full week of camping under the direction of the patrol leaders, the Troop Staff and the adult leadership of our troop. Summer camp is an excellent setting for rank advancement and completion of merit badges. It also offers a chance for a boy to set goals and accomplish them. And, finally, it provides an abundance of Scout-related recreation.

Several advancement opportunities are available at camp. Merit badge classes are held daily by the camp staff, and, over the course of the week, Scouts may learn the necessary skills, fulfill the requirements and earn three or four merit badges. Aside from camp-offered merit badge programs, individual counseling and skills instruction are offered by troop adults during the week to meet a Scout's specific needs. It is a fun-filled, active and productive week. Some of the most vivid memories a boy retains of his youth are the experiences of Boy Scout summer camp.

The cost of summer camp is paid by parents through the troop during the spring. We also strive to have several fundraisers a year with a portion of the funds being allocated to individual scout accounts. Which can be used to help pay for the cost of summer camp. More information on individual scout accounts can be found in the Troop Bylaws.

## Scout Uniform and Equipment

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. Wearing the Scout uniform is a major part of being a Boy Scout. It signifies that a boy is a member of one of the largest and most worthwhile youth movements in the world.

### How the uniform can help a boy:

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.

### How the uniform can help the troop:

1. When smartly worn, the uniform can help build good troop spirit.
2. By investing in a uniform, a Scout and his parents are really making a kind of a commitment to take Scouting seriously.
3. The uniform makes the troop visible as a force for good in the community.
4. When properly worn on the correct occasions, it can attract new members.
5. Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive, youth image in the neighborhood, thus helping to counteract the negative feeling some adults have about youth.

At certain Scouting events, the full "Class A" (dress) uniform is required and at other times the troop wears only the "Class B" (troop t-shirt) uniform. Troop 8051's uniform policy is consistent with national BSA policy. All Scouts are required to have a complete field uniform when participating in ALL Troop related activities. The "Class A" uniform consists of:

- Uniform Shirt (Short or long sleeve)
- Scout shorts or trousers
- Scout socks
- Belt (green Scout web belt or leather scout camp belt)
- Insignia (USA Flag, Grand Canyon Council Patch, 8051 Unit Numbers, World Scout Crest Emblem, Patrol Patch, Leadership position patch, and rank patch)
- Green Shoulder Loops
- Troop Neckerchief and Neckerchief Slide. Troop Neckerchief is available for purchase through the Troop Committee.
- Troop or BSA Hat
- Merit Badge or Order of the Arrow Sash (for Courts of Honor and other special occasions)

Examples of events that require full Class A uniforms are: (1) troop meetings, (2) Courts of Honor, (3) Boards of Review, (4) some camp activities, e.g., camporees or evening programs at summer camp. A troop T-shirt is available through the Troop Committee and is used primarily for camping and other activities for which the official field uniform is not appropriate. The troop T-shirt, or a Scouting Camp T-shirt, may be worn with Scout Shorts and Scout Socks in the Summer and constitutes our Class B uniform.

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

## **Troop Equipment**

The troop maintains an inventory of equipment of a general issue nature, e.g., tents, chuck boxes, stoves, ice chest, dry good storage box, lanterns, axes, shovels and water buckets. The Quartermaster is responsible for issuing this equipment to Patrol Leaders who in turn may assign the gear to individual Scouts in their patrols. The Patrol Leader is responsible for ensuring that this equipment is properly used and maintained. All equipment issued shall be returned to the Quartermaster after an outing, cleaned and ready for storage. Sometimes, tents will be wet and Dutch Ovens will need to be taken home to be cleaned. If this happens, they will be assigned to an individual scout to be taken home. The scout needs to bring back the item to the next Troop Meeting and be given to the Quartermaster. If any troop item is missing pieces or is damaged due to neglect or misuse the scouts who checked out the equipment will be charged on their Scout Accounts for replacement parts or a new item.

## **Personal Gear**

The Scout supplies all his own personal gear. In the guide section of the Troop handbook there is an equipment list. This list gives a checklist for items that the scout is responsible to bring. These lists may be modified for an outing depending on the nature of the outing and weather.

## Advancement

Advancement is the process by which youth members progress through the ranks in the Scouting program by the gradual mastery of Scouting skills. Ranks are simply a means to an end, not an end in themselves. Everything boys do to advance and earn these ranks, from the day they join until the day they leave the program, should be designed to help boys have an exciting and meaningful experience.

### **Boy Scout advancement, a four-step process:**

#### **1. The Boy Scout learns.**

A Scout learns by doing. As he learns, he grows in ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and the troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others. In this way, he begins to develop leadership.

#### **2. The Boy Scout is tested.**

A Scout may be tested on requirements by his patrol leader, Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, a troop committee member or a member of his troop. The Scoutmaster maintains a list of those qualified to test and pass candidates.

#### **3. The Boy Scout is reviewed.**

After a Scout has completed all requirements for a rank, he has a board of review. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Palms, the review is conducted by members of the troop committee. The Eagle board of review is conducted by members of the district advancement committee.

#### **4. The Boy Scout is recognized.**

When the board of review has certified a boy's advancement, he deserves to receive recognition as soon as possible. This should be done at a ceremony at the next troop meeting. The certificate for his next rank will be presented to him at the next troop court of honor.

**Attain a specified skill level.** Each Scout should learn specific skills, then, have them signed off by an authorized Scout (First Class Rank and/or earn merit badges. The ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class are designed to recognize a Scout's knowledge and mastery of basic Scouting skills, community awareness and citizenship, first aid and safety, woods tools use and how the Scouting organization works. Individual skills are grouped by subject and are increasingly difficult for each rank. Scouts may work on any of the requirements in any order and are encouraged to take advantage of every meeting and outing to do so. However, the ranks must be earned in order.

### **Positions of Responsibilities**

All Scouts who hold office are expected to carry out their duties to the best of their ability. Merely wearing the leader patch does not mean Scouts will be signed off for rank advancement. Those Scouts who do not participate or perform their job in a satisfactory, responsible manner may in fact be removed from office to allow another Scout the opportunity to fill his leadership requirements.

Scouts will hold their office for as long as the needs of the troop dictate. A Scout who serves as Patrol Leader will typically serve for six months up to one year, although, e.g., he will meet the time requirement for advancement to Star after four months. Maturity, job performance, participation, character, Scout spirit, demonstrated abilities and openings all affect leadership position changes.

Scouts who complete the position of responsibility for one rank advancement are not guaranteed an immediate position for their next rank. Sometimes there are many Scouts competing for relatively few positions. We will try to meet every Scout's advancement needs without showing favoritism, but there may be a wait for an office.

**Actively participate in the troop.** To receive credit for a leadership position for advancement purposes, in addition to fulfilling the duties of their positions a scout must attend 75% of the troop meetings and half of the monthly outings.

All positions of responsibilities are outlined in the Troop Youth Leadership Manual.

### **Merit badges**

Recognize mastery in many varied subjects and skills. Merit badges may be earned by Scouts of any rank but are required only for the higher ranks, i.e., Star, Life and Eagle. Younger Scouts should work on no more than two merit badges at a time; older Scouts no more than five at one time. Merit badges have more difficult requirements, and a Scout can earn a merit badge only by demonstrating his mastery of the merit badge requirements to an approved adult counselor. Counselors are adults in the community who:

- have expertise in a given merit badge subject;
- have volunteered to spend time working with Scouts on that subject.

To earn a merit badge, a Scout must first obtain a merit badge card signed by the Scoutmaster and then obtain the name of an approved counselor from the list available from the troop librarian or posted on the Troop Internet site. Ordinarily, the Scout must also find another Scout to do the Merit Badge with (Counselors may not meet alone with a Scout) or else make arrangements with a parent to meet with his Counselor. It is the Scout's responsibility to contact the counselor and establish with the counselor's guidance a program for meeting the requirements of the merit badge. This procedure is designed to (1) test a Scout's self-motivation, (2) to improve his interpersonal skills with adults, some of whom he may not know, and (3) broaden his knowledge and skills in merit badge subjects.

**Note to Parents:** Troop parents are encouraged to participate in the Scouting program by becoming Merit Badge Counselors for badges in which they have expertise. There is an optional training course available for counselors. Interested parents should contact the Scoutmaster. Merit Badge Counselors are required to complete Youth Protection Training.

### **Scoutmaster Conference**

Arrange for and participate in a Scoutmaster Conference with the Scoutmaster or (if delegated by the Scoutmaster) an Assistant Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster conference is the opportunity for the Scout and Scoutmaster to review accomplishments, set goals, and deal with concerns and problems that the Scout may have. The Scoutmaster conference must be completed at least one week prior to a Board of Review. It is the Scout's responsibility to contact the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster to arrange a conference. Typically, conferences are held the third Tuesday of the month, but alternate arrangements can be made if a Court of Honor is approaching.

### **Boards of Review**

Pass a Board of Review. Boards of Review are normally scheduled during troop meetings as necessary. Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Boards are conducted by a minimum of three committee members. The Board of Review normally lasts 15-20 minutes. A BOR is not a test of rank requirements but a review of the Scout's experience in the troop, a discussion of his concerns and a check that the rank requirements have been approved and signed in the Scout's Handbook. It is important that a Scout's Handbook be brought to all Troop Meetings and that requirements be initialed in the book when passed. It is the Scout's responsibility to

have his book in order for the Board of Review.

Star and Life Boards of Review are conducted by at least three adults and have the same format as the other Boards but are somewhat more formal and last longer, usually about 15-30 minutes. (These reviews should begin to give the Scout some idea of what the Eagle Board of Review will be like.)

The Eagle Board is a separate event hosted by the Gila River District and is generally convened at a location convenient to the scout and advisor. It requires four to five qualified adults and a representative from the district or council. The Eagle candidate schedules this Board well in advance with the assistance of the Eagle Advisor and Board of Review Chairman. It is critical that all Eagle paperwork, including a typed Eagle project report and application, be completed, approved, and checked by the Eagle Advisor and Scoutmaster before the Board. Letters of reference must also be requested to be sent to the Scoutmaster, who will ensure the unopened letters are provided to the Board. A copy of the Eagle application and Eagle project report will be given to each member of a scout's Board of Review is scheduled.

Questions regarding advancement should be addressed to the Scoutmaster.

*Note:* One aspect of advancement that is different in Boy Scouting versus Cub Scouting is that much more emphasis is placed on the Scout assuming responsibility for his own progress. Parents cannot sign-off on requirements or merit badges for their own son. Parents who are merit badge counselors may work with their sons only in class formats. While structured merit badge classes are offered, for example, for most badges and/or rank requirements, the Scout must use his initiative to seek out an adult merit badge counselor or Uniformed Leader to help him or sign him off. Although we do monitor a Scout's progress, it is his responsibility to complete Advancement requirements in a timely manner.

### **Courts of Honor**

The main purposes of the Court of Honor are to formally recognize a Scout for his achievements and to provide incentive for other Scouts in the Troop to advance.

Troop 8051 has formal courts of honor four times a year, usually at the last Tuesday of the month. All families are asked to attend, and guests are certainly welcome. Every boy who advances in a quarter deserves to be recognized in front of his family. The Court of Honor is the boy's special night.

### **Record Keeping**

As scouts work toward their ranks, the progress is tracked in the boy scout handbook. This record is required for each rank advancement and is reviewed during an Eagle Board of Review. In addition, as each rank or merit badge is earned, the scout will receive a card for his accomplishment. It is the scout's responsibility to keep these cards so that they can be presented at a Board of Review. There are baseball card sleeves for the scout to keep these records in located in the back of the troop handbook.



## Dues/Fundraising

The troop relies upon three sources of revenue to fund its programs.

The first source is annual dues, a portion of which goes to the national organization to fund insurance and provide support for the national organization. Dues also cover the costs of rank advancement and merit badge patches and other awards.

The second source is fees charged for outings. These fees typically just cover any fees for camping or other activities and food.

The third source is fundraising activities. We strive to have several fundraisers throughout the year. All scouts are encouraged to participate. Most fundraisers will have a portion of the profits be designated into individual scout accounts for the boys who participated. Troop 8051's fundraising effort enables the boys to help fund their own troop; it also enables interested Scouts to work on the Salesmanship merit badge at the same time. More information on scout accounts can be found in the Troop Bylaws.

Scouts who can demonstrate financial need should see the committee chair to find out if they qualify for assistance.

### Current Annual Fees/Dues

Registration (Goes to National Council)	\$33
Insurance (Goes to Grand Canyon Council)	\$6
Program Fee (Goes to Grand Canyon Council)	\$63
Boys Life Magazine (Optional)	\$12
Troop Dues (Helps pay Troop Expenses)	\$48
(Troop Dues are waived for Eagle Scouts)	

#### Totals

Boy Scout – No Boys Life	\$150
Boy Scout – With Boys Life	\$162
Eagle Scout – No Boys Life	\$102
Eagle Scout – With Boys Life	\$114