

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 215 Anderson, SC

Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Anderson, SC

By-Laws & Informational Handbook

We would like to take the opportunity to welcome you to the Troop 215 Scouting family. Our Troop encourages the involvement of the Scout as well as the parents, in all activities, to enhance the Scout's experience and provide the best opportunities for his success. Parental involvement is critical to the Troop's success in achieving its purposes.

The purpose of this information is to provide you with guidelines and useful facts about our Troop. The first section of this Guide deals with the rules and regulations under which we act in order to provide a safe, satisfying Scouting experience. The second section provides answers to common questions, gives guidelines as to what is expected from the Scout, from Junior Leadership, Adult Leadership, and from parents, and outlines how the Troop operates. Please consider this a quick-start to Scouting with Troop 215.

The purpose of Troop 215 is very simple:

To advance the "aims and methods of the Scouting program" according to the Boy Scouts of America.

Our main objective is to provide a solid program where Scouts can learn, develop, and most importantly, have fun while achieving the aims and methods. The only way such a program can be achieved is through challenging the Scouts.

In addition, the Troop places emphasis on additional, important goals including personal development, leadership, self-reliance, and self-esteem. The goals are attainable through the presence of a solid Scouting program, such as the one which Troop 215 is pleased to offer.

Section I: *By-Laws*

1. Troop Name

The name of this organization is BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TROOP 215, and is referred to as Troop 215.

2. Chartered Organization

The chartered organization for Troop 215 is the First Presbyterian Church of Anderson, SC. A member of First Presbyterian Church is selected to serve as the Chartered Representative.

3. Troop Committee

All registered adults are members of the Troop Committee and have voting privileges. Any adult may apply to be considered for any open positions. The purpose of the Troop Committee is to support the activities of the Troop in areas such as policies, finances, programs and property.

4. Rules of Conduct

All Scouts are expected to live by the Scout Oath and Law. These ideals should dictate all Scouts' behavior. Any behavior that goes against the Scout Oath and Law disgraces the Scout, his parents, the adult leaders, and the Troop.

4.1. Troop Discipline Policy

Because a Scout's inappropriate behavior does not demonstrate the last requirement of living by the Scout Oath and Law, the following consequences will result:

- 1) Parental contact and pick-up from the meeting or outing;
- 2) Suspension from participation in Troop meetings or outings;
- 3) Delay in rank advancement

Behavior problems are first to be dealt with by the Patrol Leader. Unresolved issues should be reported to the Senior Patrol Leader who, if needed, will call upon the Scoutmaster *or* an Assistant Scoutmaster to help determine the appropriate discipline.

5. Advancements

The Troop's advancement policy will insure that all Scouts are knowledgeable in the given requirements needed for advancement. The process of advancement takes the Scout from Tenderfoot through Eagle and consists of skill instruction, demonstration and practice, and a testing period.

All skills that are taught to Scouts should be practiced immediately by those Scouts; however, requirements are not to be signed off immediately. At least one day must elapse between the time a Scout is taught a skill and the time he is tested and signed off for knowledge of that skill.

In order to help keep accurate advancement records, we encourage Scouts to have the skill "signed-off" within a two week period after successful demonstration. We also encourage Scouts to set a goal of having at least one skill requirement completed per week on

average. This helps the Scout plan his progress toward reaching First Class by the end of his first year in Scouting.

In Troop 215 any Scout, with the rank of First Class or higher (except any member of a New Scout Patrol) may sign off another Scout's handbook. If any questions arise regarding certain requirements, an adult should be consulted before the requirement is signed-off. The purpose of advancement is to gain knowledge -- signing off requirements that are not completed only defeats this purpose.

The Scoutmaster's Conference is an opportunity for the Scout to demonstrate the knowledge and skills required for rank advancement. Following a satisfactory Scoutmaster Conference, the Scout appears before the Board of Review for questions related to rank advancement. Successful advancement to the next rank is acknowledged at the meeting and formally at the next semi-annual Court of Honor.

6. Merit Badges

Merit Badges offer additional skill advancement that allows a Scout to specialize in a particular skill area such as camping, cooking, backpacking, orienteering, etc.

The Troop recommends that a Scout work on no more than 5 Merit Badges at any given time, allowing him to focus on completing requirements in a timely manner.

To earn a Merit Badge, a Scout should:

- A. Select a merit badge. (Basic requirements for each Merit Badge are found in the Boy Scout Requirements Book. In addition, each Merit Badge has a pamphlet that addresses the requirements specifically for that badge – some are available in the Troop Library.)
- B. Pair with at least one other Scout when working on a Merit Badge.
- C. Approach the Scoutmaster with the Merit Badge that he wishes to complete.
- D. Consult with the Scoutmaster or counselors for the desired badge. Only work performed after obtaining approval from the Scoutmaster may be counted toward the merit badge.
- E. Contact the Merit Badge Counselor approved by the Scoutmaster and make arrangements to meet and go over the requirements
- F. Complete all requirements to the Counselor's satisfaction, using a literal interpretation of each requirement.
- G. Forward completed merit badge requirements to the Scoutmaster for review; then forward them to the Advancement Chairman or another adult leader for entry in the Scout's record. Completed merit badges will be awarded at the next Court of Honor.

7. Troop Elections - Junior Leadership

The Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leaders are elected twice yearly. The entire Troop votes in the election of the Senior Patrol Leader. Following the election, the Senior Patrol Leader appoints his staff, with the approval of the Scoutmaster, consisting of an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Scribe, Quartermaster, Historian, Librarian and

Chaplain's Aide.

The members of each Patrol vote for their own Patrol Leader. The new Patrol Leader then appoints his Staff, with Scoutmaster approval, consisting of Assistant Patrol Leader, Scribe, Quartermaster, Grubmaster, Cheermaster, and Hikemaster.

All votes in Troop elections are cast by silent ballot with the winner being the Scout with at least 51 percent of the vote. In the event of a tie, a run-off will be held during the same meeting to determine the winner. All Troop Junior Leader positions run for a six month term starting in January and July.

7.1 Junior Leader Training

The District offers an annual Junior Leader Training Session for all members of the Patrol Leaders' Council. The training session is designed to give the Troop's Junior Leaders the tools to be effective leaders.

8. Travel Policy

When traveling to and from events and outings, Scouts are to be in seat belts at all times. Scouts are instructed to leave vehicles cleaner than they found them. Any disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with the Troop Discipline Policy ([see section 4.1](#)).

The Scoutmaster or another adult leader must carry the following on every trip made by the troop:

- > A Guide to Safe Scouting
- > All Medical and Permission Forms
- > Completed & Filed Tour Permit Paperwork

9. Uniforms

The two classes of uniforms in Boy Scouting are:

Official Scout Uniform (Class A): Consists of a Scout shirt with proper insignia, a Scout belt, a Scout neckerchief and Scout hat, Scout pants or shorts, Scout socks, hiking boots or casual shoes, Scout Handbook, and a pad & pen. For meetings, Scouts may wear khaki shorts, slacks or jeans.

Activity Uniform (Class B): Consists of a Troop T-shirt or other BSA shirt, pants or shorts, sneakers, Scout Handbook, and a pad & pen.

Scouts should attend all Troop meetings in the Official Scout Uniform. Periodic uniform inspections will be held. The Official Scout Uniform is the official travel uniform, unless otherwise specified on an outing information/permission form.

10. Troop Camping Equipment

To protect the Troop's investment in its camping equipment, the policies governing its use is strictly enforced:

1. Any equipment in a Patrol Box is the responsibility of the Patrol.

2. All Patrol equipment taken home for cleaning after weekend outings must be returned by the next Troop meeting.

11. Permission Slips

Permission slips and money for all Troop activities are due back on the designated date. No exceptions will be made on permission slip deadlines unless a parent or Scout has notified the Scoutmaster in advance of the deadline.

If for any reason a Scout is unable to attend an activity after payment has been made, the Troop will refund whatever portion of the cost *has not been committed* to site fees, food, or registration fees.

Section II: *HANDBOOK*

1. Introduction

One of the primary and most important concepts to understand about Scouting is that the Troop is run by the Scouts. Activities are decided by the Patrol Leaders' Council, which is similar to the executive board of a company -- they make all the decisions. They select the topics being covered at the meetings, what campouts they want to attend each month, where they want to camp, and what skills or topics they want to cover.

2. Aims and Methods of Scouting

The objectives and aims of Troop 215 parallel the "aims and methods of the Scouting program" set forth by the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts' Mission Statement outlines who and what the BSA is as an organization:

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

Simply stated, the aims of the Scouting program are to build character, foster citizenship, and develop fitness. These aims are achieved using a series of Scouting methods based on *ideals*, the *patrol method*, the *outdoors*, *advancement*, *personal growth*, *adult association*, *leadership development*, and the *Scout uniform*.

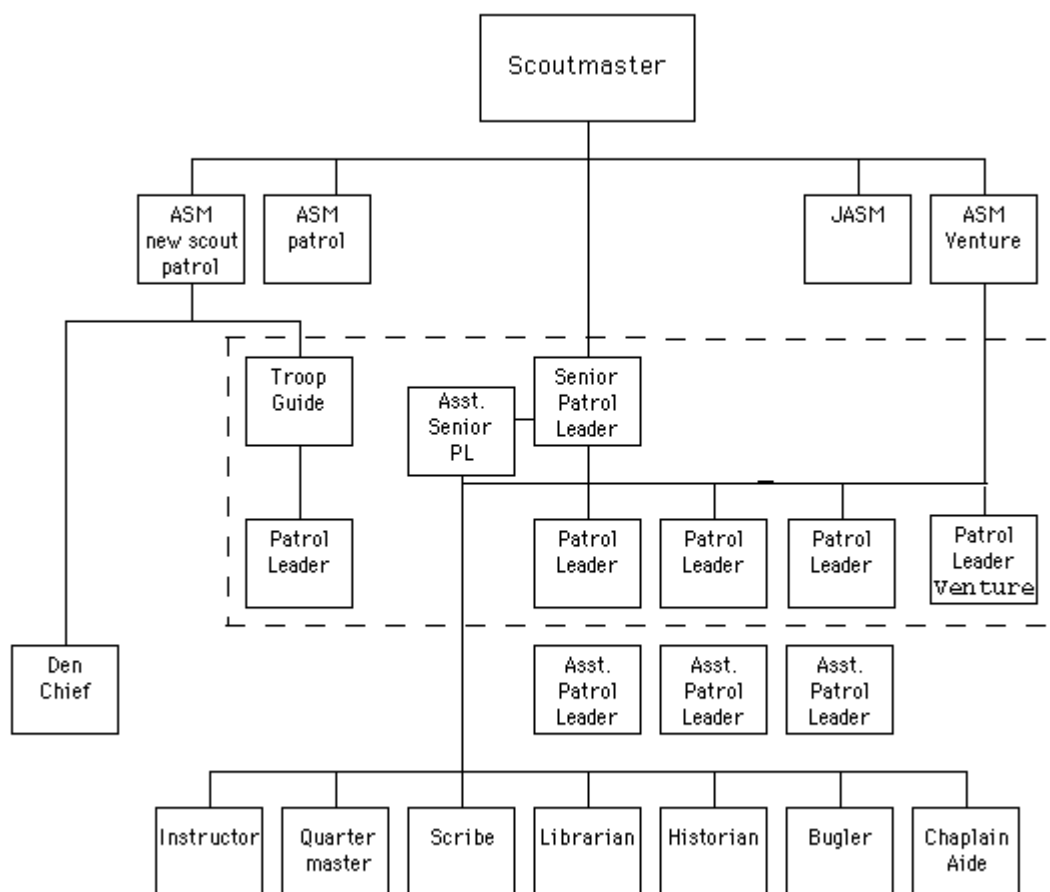
All Scouts are expected to live by the *ideals* of Scouting, which are found in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan. The *patrol method* develops leadership and teamwork abilities in a small group setting before it is applied in a larger Troop setting. The *outdoors* is the key

setting where the aims and methods are achieved. Weekend camping establishes self-reliance as Scouts learn to work together and survive on their own.

Advancement creates a challenge to all Scouts by providing them with a series of obstacles to overcome. Furthermore, it provides a rewarded sense of accomplishment for the Scout's hard work and determination. *Personal growth* is developed as Scouts provide service, as they develop a plan for their Scouting years, and as they advance in Scouting. These activities provide an opportunity for the Scouts to grow as individuals and members of their community and religious organizations.

Adult association provides role models for Scouts and promotes settings where adults and boys work together to achieve common goals and have fun together. *Leadership* skills are developed as each Scout assumes the various leadership roles in the Troop. The Scouts begin with patrol positions, progressing on to greater responsibilities in Troop Junior Leader positions, which are essential to the operation of the entire Troop. These leaders, your sons, run their Troop. Finally, the *uniform* gives Scouts an identity, readily recognizable as that of a highly regarded and historic organization.

3. Troop Organization



3.1. Scout Organization

The Troop is organized according to the preceding chart, headed by adult leaders in the Troop Committee, the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters, as will be described below in section 3.2.

The Scouts hold all other leadership positions, known as Junior Leader Positions, planning programs and conducting meetings. Elections are held and appointments made in January and July of each year.

- *Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)*: Runs all Troop meetings, events, activities, semi-annual program planning conferences and Patrol Leaders' Council meetings. He also appoints Troop Junior Leaders and assists in their training and assignment of duties. Elected by all troop members for a six month term.
- *Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)*: Helps the Senior Patrol Leader run all Troop activities. In the absence of the SPL, the Assistant takes over. He helps train and supervise the Troop Scribe, Quartermaster, Historian, Librarian and Chaplain's Aide. Appointed by the SPL.
- *TROOP STAFF (Appointed by SPL)*
 - > *Troop Guide*: Trains, guides, and monitors new Scouts progress through their first Scouting year. He supervises and assists the Scout Patrol Leader in making Patrol decisions. Helps new Scouts earn First Class in their first year. Appointed by the APL.
 - > *Scribe*: Attends and keeps logs on the Patrol Leader's Council meetings, records attendance and advancement records, and collects permission slips.
 - > *Quartermaster*: Maintains records on Troop and Patrol equipment. Oversees the maintenance of the Troop equipment trailer and storage unit. Issues all equipment needed for weekend outings
 - > *Historian*: Gathers pictures and facts about past Troop activities and keeps them in a historical scrapbook.
 - > *Librarian*: Sets up and maintains the Troop Library. Oversees the circulation of Troop literature and makes suggestions on material to be purchased.
 - > *Chaplain's Aide*: Plans and leads non-denominational services at Troop outings. Encourages all Scouts to take part in the religious emblems program.

A Patrol consists of six to eight boys who work together. Considered a Scout's "family circle," the Patrol is usually made up of Scouts of a similar age and experience level and aims to foster a sense of pride and identity. Leadership at the Patrol level is regarded as a first step toward a Junior Leadership position.

- *Patrol Leader:* Guides the Patrol on all Patrol activities and represents the Patrol on the Patrol Leaders' Council. Knows the advancement needs and outing interests of all Scouts in his Patrol and works to satisfy those needs and interests. Elected by Patrol members.
- *Assistant Patrol Leader:* Fills in for the Patrol Leader in his absence. Appointed by the Patrol Leader
- *PATROL STAFF (Appointed by Patrol Leader):* May include *patrol scribe*, *quartermaster*, *grubmaster*, *cheermaster* and/or *hikemaster* to help the Patrol operate as a unit.

3.1.1. The Patrol Leaders' Council

The Troop Staff is responsible for carrying out the Troop program plan. But Troop activities are planned by the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC). **The PLC makes the decisions!** The PLC consists of the positions enclosed in the grey box on the chart at the beginning of this section.

At these meetings the PLC plans the monthly meetings and the activities on the Scout weekend. Planning the monthly meetings entails coming up with an opening ceremony, skill session, game, patrol meeting topic, inter-patrol activity, and closing session. The PLC will usually plan the meetings for the month based on a monthly program feature that was decided upon at planning conferences in July and December.

In addition, the PLC plans the monthly outing which reflects the skills that were taught during the meetings. The outing provides the Scouts with an outdoor experience in which they can have hands on practice with the skills they learned during the month. The PLC is ultimately responsible for the functioning of the entire Troop. Without their hard work, there would be no meetings or outings.

Developing Scouts for leadership at the PLC level begins with the patrol method. This method is best described in the Scoutmaster Handbook:

Every Boy Scout Troop . . . is made up of patrols, groupings of six or eight boys who together form a team. Each patrol elects its own leader. The patrol leaders, with an elected senior patrol leader as their head, form the patrol leaders' council. It is the council's job to plan and run the Troop program. Each Patrol Leader represents his Patrol on the council, and interprets to his patrol the plans and decisions the council makes. Patrols also have their own meetings, elect their own officers and plan and carry out their patrol activities.

These "99 Words" from the Scout Handbook are considered a summary of the Scouting movement. The Patrol method has been proven to be very successful in fostering four important points amongst the members of the patrols:

- Promoting friendship by grouping members together
- Fostering involvement, as each Scout is needed in helping the Patrol function
- Developing responsibility as each member of the Patrol takes on a leadership position

- within the patrol
- Introducing a democratic process to decision making

3.2. Adult Organization

Adult involvement with Troop 215 consists of three key segments: the Adult Leaders, the Troop Committee and all Scouts' parents.

3.2.1. Adult Leadership Responsibilities

Troop 215 is fortunate to have a solid group of Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters working to provide the Scouting program to all members of the Troop. These leaders oversee the operations of the Troop. They are primarily responsible for achieving two major goals:

- 1) Training and guidance of the Scouts consistent with the Aims and Objectives of the BSA; and
- 2) Providing a safe outdoor program for all Scouts.

Having satisfied these two key responsibilities, adult leaders then provide the Scouts with the tools to deliver the Scouting program to themselves and their fellow Scouts.

The BSA Scoutmaster is responsible for:

- Training & Guiding Scout Junior Leaders to run the Troop
- Working with and through the Asst. Scoutmasters to bring the Scouting program to the Troop
- Aiding the development of the Scouts by challenging them and encouraging them to learn new things
- Guiding Scouts in planning the Troop program
- Helping the Troop Committee recruit new Assistant Scoutmasters, and
- Conducting Scoutmaster Conferences.

The Troop is always seeking new adult leaders. Any parents interested in getting involved as adult leaders should speak with the Scoutmaster or the Troop Committee Chairperson for an application.

3.2.2 Troop Committee

The Troop Committee meets monthly and supports the work of the Scoutmaster in delivering the Troop program. The Committee is also responsible for selecting and approving the Scoutmasters for the Troop.

The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are elected by the Committee at the November meeting for the term of one year. Other positions are appointed. The Troop Committee consists of:

Committee Chairperson - oversees the entire Troop Committee and manages the agenda for the meetings

Chartered Organization Representative - liaison between the Troop and the chartering organization, or sponsor, of the Troop

Secretary - responsible for the minutes of every Committee meeting and any correspondence, letters of donations, etc. that are issued

Treasurer - oversees the financial details of the Troop and for keeping records and tabs on the Troop budget

Advancement Chairperson - responsible for keeping track of the Scouts' advancement records

Fundraising Chairperson - responsible for coordinating the fundraisers held by the Troop throughout the year. May also take on responsibilities of Popcorn Kernel.

Activities Chairperson - coordinates all Troop activities and oversees the maintenance of Troop equipment

Troop Social Chairperson provides refreshments at all Courts of Honor and advises parents in the planning of Eagle Courts of Honor

3.2.3. Parental Responsibilities

A lot of hard work and time goes into providing a successful Scouting program for your son. As a result, there are certain responsibilities we expect our Scouts' parents to undertake.

The first responsibility of all parents *is attendance at all Courts of Honor*. The Court of Honor is a high point in a Scout's career -- he is receiving rank advancements merit badges and other awards, and is being recognized for much hard work and determination. The Troop also takes this opportunity to relay important information about the Troop at these special ceremonies. Please make every effort to attend -- your son and his fellow Scouts need your support.

Second, we encourage everyone *to meet deadlines and scheduled times*. The deadlines on permission slips, money, or any other item allow accurate and adequate planning for the logistics of trips or activities. Please do your best to encourage your son to meet these deadlines.

Third, we ask that all *parents participate in Troop fund-raisers*. Whether we are selling to our friends and family or holding a special fundraising event, such as our yard sale, everyone's participation is needed.

Fourth, we often need assistance *in providing transportation to and from camping trips and other events*. Adult leaders do not get reimbursed for gas, mileage, or wear and tear, therefore it becomes everyone's responsibility to share this task.

Finally, your primary responsibility is to *support your son as he advances in Scouting*. It is vital that you let him know you are interested in his Scouting career and support his involvement in Scouting.

We encourage all parents to be involved in some way with our Troop. Remember, Scouting is a family-oriented organization. You may chose to serve on the Troop Committee, to

attend camping trips, to become a merit badge counselor, or to serve the Troop in some other capacity. Whatever you can do will be appreciated by the Scouts and the other adult leaders. Also, we periodically announce special needs; if you are available and able, please contact us.

4. Troop Meetings

Our Troop meets every Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Scout Hut at First Presbyterian Church. The meetings run year round -- the only exceptions are major holidays, religious days and days where school has been closed due to inclement weather.

Troop meetings follow a monthly theme that is chosen during the semi-annual planning conferences. Plans for the meetings and outings are established during the Patrol Leaders' Council meetings.

5. Troop Outings & Activities

Preparations for all campouts begin two weeks in advance. At that time, Patrols will plan their Patrol menu and grocery list during the Troop or Patrol meeting. After the menu is planned and approved, the Patrol may go shopping. Most patrols usually go the week before the camping trip. Patrols know to plan a menu based on \$10 per Scout.

In addition to meetings and weekend outings the Troop performs a variety of service projects. These range from Scouting for Food, to work on projects of the Troop's Eagle Scout candidates.

Upon returning to the Scout Hut from any event, all Scouts are expected to remain until all equipment is properly stored, unless previous arrangements have been made with an adult leader. The Quartermaster is in charge of seeing that all Patrol and Troop equipment is signed back in and properly stored. Any equipment that is dirty may be taken home by a patrol member provided that it is marked down on the Equipment Checkout sheet.

All outings and activities require a permission slip to be signed by a parent or legal guardian. Permission slips and money are due prior to the camping trip. If for any reason you are unable to attend a camping trip after payment is made, the Troop will refund whatever portion of the cost has not been committed to site fees, food, or registration fees.

6. Equipment Information

6.1. Troop Assets

Troop 215 is currently fully equipped for several operational patrols. Each patrol is outfitted with the necessary equipment for a weekend camping trip. All Troop equipment is purchased with funds generated during fund-raisers and is stored in the Troop trailer.

Troop equipment includes:

- Propane canisters
- Rope in 15 ft, 20 ft, and 25 ft lengths (not to be cut)

- Ax yard equipment:

▪ Bow saws	▪ Sharpening tools
▪ Hatchets	▪ Gloves
▪ 3/4 Ax	▪ Goggles

- Troop first aid kit

The Troop's Library consists of merit badge books and other important Scouting resources. All books may be signed out by Scouts through the Troop Librarian. Fees will be issued on books that are not returned.

The Troop has a buy back policy where it will buy back select merit badge books for \$1.00 after the Scout has earned the badge, thus reducing costs to parents, while regularly updating the Troop Library with newer versions of pamphlets.

6.2. *Personal Equipment*

Scouts are responsible for their own personal equipment for all meetings and events. For the new Scout, the Troop makes the following recommendations on specific equipment. This list is intended to provide parents with an idea of specific types of equipment that we have found to be more usable or appropriate for camping trips. It is not necessary to purchase all the equipment at one time.

- All Scouts are strongly encouraged to have a junior size **external frame backpack**. Scouts will use backpacks for most camping events.
- Sleeping bags** are necessary for all camping trips. Your Scout's bag should be rated to at least 30° The more moderately priced bags will be sufficient for camping done by the Troop.
- Hiking boots** are recommended for all outdoor Scouting activities. Inexpensive hiking boots are more than sufficient for the average growing Scout.
- Weather gear is a must on all camping trips. Consider purchasing a **Backpacking Poncho**.
- Pocketknives** are used by all Scouts once they have earned their Totin'Chip, showing they have been trained in the use of knives and other ax yard equipment.
- Flashlights should be carried by all Scouts. **Mini-maglites** are recommended as they are lightweight and come with a carrying holster. They cost \$10 or less, are lightweight, and give off a lot of light. There is no need for a 6 cell, 4ft flashlight on camping trips.
- Compasses** are important on all camping trips and something every Scout should eventually have. As with the pocketknives, there is no need for elaborate compasses.
- Foam pads** are extremely important for a good night's sleep. Closed cell pads are inexpensive and more than adequate.

- ix. **Water bottles** are necessary on all backpacking trips and most camping trips where water is limited. The Troop recommends that each Scout bring two 1-quart water bottles. Please avoid water bottles that are oddly-shaped or have straps, which present a safety hazard.
- x. "A Scout is clean." All Scouts should have a **small toiletry kit** containing travel size toothpaste, deodorant, soap, toothbrush, and towel. All toiletries can be kept in a small zip-lock bag. Extra toilet paper is also recommended.
- xi. Every Scout should carry a small first aid kit with them. One Second Class requirement is that all Scouts make a personal **first aid kit**. A zip-lock bag or old Band-Aid container is sufficient for storing supplies. The Scout Handbook includes a list of suggested items that should be placed in the kit.
- xii. In order to reduce our impact on the environment, the Troop asks that all Scouts bring their own personal **mess kit** consisting of cup, plate, fork, knife, and spoon and cooking pot.

The above list represents specific, suggested equipment for camping trips. While every Scout should eventually have the equipment, it is not necessary to purchase all the equipment at one time.

Remember to check for equipment that may be loaned or purchased second hand. Later you may want to consider purchasing much of this equipment for your son's future Scouting years. Many of the items will last a lifetime and are a good investment if your son enjoys camping and the outdoors.

See the end of this guide for a personal equipment checklist of items that should be brought on a camping trip. In addition, the Scout Handbook also has clothing and equipment checklists that should be reviewed for all camping trips.

7. *Finances and Fund-Raisers*

Troop 215 is a supports its activities through fund-raisers, annual registration fee and Troop dues.

In November, the annual BSA registration fee covering Council registration fees, subscriptions to Boy's Life, and insurance is collected, along with annual Troop dues.

When writing checks for dues, expenses or other purposes, please make checks payable to **"BSA Troop 215."** Separate checks are requested if funds for several "events" are being paid at the same time, to help keep our records accurate. Fees associated with returned checks due to insufficient funds will be charged to the individual for reimbursement.

If any financial hardship arises, please see one of the adults and we will work something out within the Troop. Under no circumstances should a family be priced out of Scouting.

Annually, the Troop Committee will meet to set a budget as needed for the upcoming scouting year. The budget sets provisions for awards and advancement, equipment purchases, awards and recognition, adult training, newsletters photography, etc. The Troop's Budget process is set-up in such a way that any excess funds can be used for trip subsidization. The Troop Budget is based upon expected dues for the following year and expected income from the Troop's main fund-raisers. Special activities will likely require a separate budget and fundraising activities.

8. Closing

We hope that the information in this guide will prove useful as you and your Scout advance in his Scouting career. If you have any questions, comments or recommendations about the contents of this guide, please do not hesitate to contact any Troop Committee member, Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster. We welcome your suggestions and observations.

We also encourage you to attend our Troop Committee meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 PM at the Anderson County Library. Your involvement can only improve all of our Scouts' experience in Troop 215.

We thank you in advance for all your help and support.

Scout Sleeping Essentials:

- ☐ Backpack
- ☐ Sleeping Bag or 2-3 blankets
- ☐ Foam Sleeping Pad (or)
- ☐ Air Mattress

Scout Outdoor Essentials

- ☐ Scout Handbook
- ☐ Pocketknife (Totin'Chip Req'd)
- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ Rain Gear
- ☐ Water Bottle
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Trail Food (Granola bars, trail mix)
- ☐ Notebook and Pencil
- ☐ Matches and Fire Starters in
 - ☐ Zip Bags (sawdust, lint, candles)
- ☐ Compass
- ☐ Mess Kit
- ☐ Toiletry Kit

Extras:

- ☐ Watch
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Insect Repellent
- ☐ Sun Protection
- ☐ Sunglasses

Warm-Weather Clothing:

- ☐ Short-Sleeve Shirt
- ☐ T-shirts
- ☐ Hiking Shorts
- ☐ Long Pants
- ☐ Sweater or Warm Jacket
- ☐ Cap or Hat
- ☐ Bandannas
- ☐ Swimsuit

Cold-Weather Clothing:

- ☐ Long-Sleeve Shirt
- ☐ Wool Shirt
- ☐ Long Pants
- ☐ Wool Sweater
- ☐ Polypropylene Long Underwear
- ☐ Wool Socks & Sock Liners
- ☐ Insulated Coat
- ☐ Wool Cap

General:

- ☐ Socks and Underwear
- ☐ Hiking Boots

Other:

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____