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PTFSM Troop 126

Guidelines and policies

FOWLER TROOP 126
TREMONTON UTAH
CHARTERED BY FOWLER INC



PTFSM Troop 126

Operations, Policies, Philosophy, and Guidelines for BSA Troop 126, Tremonton Utah

PTFSM #126

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Advancement Chair	Jim Hess

I. Introduction

The intent of this manual is to help answer questions that scouts, and their parents may have about our troop, and how it functions. Our troop is the result of two troops. The first was chartered by the Tremonton 1st ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. It will reach its 100th birthday in February of 2020. The second troop #126 was founded and chartered by Paul Fowler (PTFSM). It is a troop for the community of Tremonton Utah and the surrounding areas. It was founded so that scouting may continue in our community. The new combined troop is one of the oldest troops in northern Utah. We hope to continue promoting the excellence of the program through these policies. Our hope is that the information in this manual and our blog/newsletter will help the scouts and their families know what is expected from them, and what they may expect from the troop

Parents:

Welcome to troop #126. By joining troop 126 you have given your permission for your son to participate one of the best organizations on the planet for developing self-worth, leadership capabilities, moral strength and character. Of course, Scout, survival, outdoor, and emergency skills are all part of the program as well. The path to Eagle scout is challenging and few there be that find it. We hope that you will realize it is about the journey, and not the checklist. You son develops and learns from the experiences. The badges and awards are simply a way to track his progress and make the challenges into a game with a purpose for the boy. Scouts have changed the course of world history, many times over. No other system has turned out so many leaders and doers as have the Boy Scouts.

The troop is not a baby setting service. The troop works best when parents are generous with their motivation and time. Scouts will need encouragement from time to time. They will need help along the way. We will need to call upon you as well for assistance. We have room for those of you who would like to be more active in our organization, we have leadership roles, mentoring needs and of course room on our troop committee. Come along and join us!

New Scouts:

We are glad that you have decided to join troop #126. We are a troop on the move with places to go. We think you will find the experience to be challenging and engaging. We have exciting adventures to help you grow and to become. Scouting provides opportunities for personal growth and to strengthen character while being fun. We are confident that our program will challenge you and help you build a sense of accomplishment along the way. We hope that you will help our troop reach its goals. We wish you well on your path to becoming an Eagle Scout!

Is Scouting still relevant?

This is a question that I ask myself as a Scoutmaster and the Charter of Troop #126.

I whole heartily submit, that the outstanding training in ethics and life skills, service to the community, and life changing events, make Scouting one of the most positive associations that your son could ever be involved with. There is nothing else that will influence the trajectory of his life to succeed, then Scouting.

Did I mention the conflict resolution skills that are developed? What else promotes mental toughness like Scouting? I strongly echo, what others have said, we need Scouts now, more than ever.

I love Norman Rockwell's vision of life. He created the cover of the Scouting magazine for years, always painting the "ideal" of how life could be. Many of his images expressed the Scouting values. These values are surely needed today.

I surveyed what parents are spending for their kids to play a few months of sports. The amounts are stupendous. I found Scouting to be among the most affordable activities and perhaps the best overall value. Scouting is positive. Scouting is an antidote to the world of bullying, lack of self-worth, and other issues that our sons are dealing with.

In Scouting we have no sideline sitters. Everyone can win. The emphasis on "Being Prepared" and the outdoor activities including hiking, camping, and survival training are hard to find anywhere outside of Scouting.

Ethics? Scouting teaches youth to make moral and ethical decisions throughout their lifetimes, where else can this value be found?

I have witnessed that lives are changed, literally saved by the positive environment of Scouting. It works magic on the old and the young.

Scouting, like other organizations, has had challenges and scandals, that have proven turbulent, to say the least. The BSA in its true form as a leader, has addressed the issues with the best policies, procedures, and practices in child protection and volunteer screening. While careful vigilance is always needed in youth protection, the scouting organization has been the leader in developing strategies to ensure the safety and protection of youth throughout their organization. (*Thomas G. Plante, Ph.D.*)

If you are concerned about the leaders or coaches that your child may associate with, Scouting is the very best place to be. Scout leaders acquire more training and pass a more stringent background check than other leaders in other activities. The Scouters (leaders) in our area are from among the very best our community has to offer, the kind that you would want your son to model himself after.

I can think of no better place for your son or daughter, to spend time, than Scouting. Now, is a great time to take advantage of this time tested and proven American Icon

I.a PARENTS

For our purpose's parents – includes, parents, step parents, grandparents, legal guardians – whoever is helping to raise a Scout.

Expectations include:

>> DO LIST <<

- That your scout attends at least 66% of troop meetings, activities and outings.
- That you understand and accept our uniform policy, that your Scout is expected to wear one.
- That you understand that his Scout Handbook is part of his uniform and needs to come with him to all troop meetings and camps.
- That you and your scout participate in our troop fund raising projects.
- That parents are expected to attend Courts of Honor, parents' meetings, volunteer to transport.
- Support your Scout in his advancement work.
- Review with your Scout the pamphlet "Protect Your Children from Abuse"
- Accept that your Scout will get dirty at times, make mistakes or forget something. This too is part of the learning and growing process.
- Your Scout must complete an Annual Health and Medical Record and submit a copy to the Scoutmaster.
- You complete a troop resource survey.
- That you communicate with the Scoutmaster all important health and behavior issues, medications, allergies, and limitations.
- That you communicate with the Scoutmaster issues that could affect participation (sports practices, financial assistance (pay for camp) etc.).
- Understand dues, and registration fees, which are currently \$40 membership and \$6 per month dues. These must be current to attend Board of Reviews, receive awards, etc.
- Accept the Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair must sign off on all advancement.
- Participate in a yearly 'swim check' and submit the results to the troop.

I.B

Please do NOT do the following:

>> NOT do LIST <<

- Sign off on your Scout's advancement, unless you're are the ASSIGNED and RESIGSTERED Merit Badge Counselor. This includes no signing off on their ranks.
- Purchase expensive camping gear without checking to see what is needed and appropriate for our activities.
- Do things for your Scout that can be done without your assistance, such as packing, carrying their own gear or setting up their tent.
- Send your Scout to summer camp with chocolate.

II. The aims of scouting:

Scouting works with three aims. The first is growth in moral strength and character. This may be defined as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, and his outlook. The second is becoming a participating citizen. Citizenship is the boy's relationship to others. He learns of his obligations to other people, to community, to government and even the world at large. The third is Physical, Mental and Emotional fitness. Fitness includes mind, body and spirit.

III. The Methods of Scouting:

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. Show Scout Spirit, a requirement for each rank advancement, means living up to these ideals.

PATROLS

The patrol method gives scouts an experience in group living and participating 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 easily can relate to each other, These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

OUTDOORS

Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Scouts gain an appreciation for God's Handiwork and mankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources. We practice and follow the [BSA Outdoor Code](#).

ADVANCEMENT

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and, by participating in the troop program, progresses as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a boy grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others.

ADULT ASSOCIATION

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

PERSONAL GROWTH

As Scouts plan their activity and progress towards 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. There probably is no device so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program is also a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Scout to determine his growth towards Scouting's aims.

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 concept of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him towards the citizenship aim of Scouting.

THE UNIFORM

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

The Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty to God and to my country, 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

A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

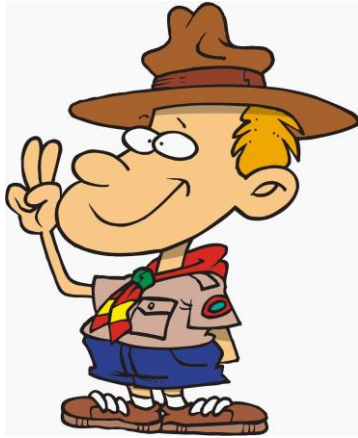
The Scout Motto

Be prepared

The Scout Slogan

Do a good turn daily

IV. Wearing the uniform



PTFSM and Troop 126 are committed to the concept of the uniform as established by the Boy Scouts of America.

Boys want to belong and wearing of the uniform helps to identify with a group. I have personally noticed that people expect a different behavior from those in uniform and that the boys themselves will act differently, while wearing the uniform.

When smartly worn, the uniform helps build troop spirit, and a Scout's pride in himself. By wearing the uniform, the Scouts give each other support, and when properly worn on the correct occasions, it can attract new members. Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive youth image in the neighborhood, thus helping to counteract the negative feelings some adults have about youth, and the uniform makes the troop visible as a force

for good in the community. By investing in a uniform, a Scout and his parents are really making a commitment to take Scouting seriously. By wearing the uniform Scouts declare their faith and commitment and important beliefs that bind them to ALL people. And finally, as Scouts wear the uniform, they are standing for some principles, in the open, where everyone can see. Scouts are standing with each other, not alone, declaring their intent to support the principles which Scouting stands for.

The uniform is to be worn to ALL SCOUTING ACTIVITIES, including meetings, camp outs, and outings, unless specified by the Scoutmaster. During the summertime we allow the class "B" shirt at outings, but when the troop is going to or from a Scouting function or event, we require all members to wear their scout uniform. Scouts are not to wear any clothing that advertises alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, or has any derogatory or offensive messages.

Troop 126 adheres to the normally required uniform parts that are listed in the BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK. Some parts are optional or provide more than one choice. We do maintain a rotating supply of some 'experienced shirts.

REQUIRED UNIFORM PARTS

1. Shirt – Standard short or long sleeve class "A" tan shirt. We recommend the short sleeve, because it is better for year around wear.
2. Pants – Standard long pants for winter wear; standard shorts for summer wear Red-Top green socks are worn any time the shorts are worn. To reduce the cost, the troop will accept cargo pants of a similar color.
3. Belt – Standard Scout green web belt with B.S.A. buckle.
4. Hat – B.S.A. troop hat for summer, warm hat or stocking cap for winter.
5. Shoes – Choice is the option of the scout with long pants.
6. B.S.A. / Troop neckerchief and slide – Of the scout's choice. The troop provides the scout with a troop neckerchief when the scout acquires a class "A" shirt.
7. Class "B" shirt – From time to time the troop has class "B" t-shirts. They may be purchased from the troop when available and are used to supplement the uniform when more than one shirt is required, or to reduce wear on the class "A" shirt.

Note: Any Old-style uniform parts are appropriate for wear.

UNIFORM INSIGNIA

Troop 126 emphasizes correct insignia on the uniform. Certain insignia are provided by the scout, while others are provided by the troop. Your BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK tells you where to correctly sew your uniform insignia.

THE FOLLOWING INSIGNIA ARE TO BE PROVIDED BY THE SCOUT FOR HIS UNIFORM:

1. Trapper Trails council - For the left shoulder.
2. Troop 126 numerals - On the left shoulder below the Veteran Unit Bar.
3. American Flag - On the right shoulder. (Normally included with the uniform.)
4. Green Loops - For shirt Epaulets.
5. World CREST - Above left pocket. (optional)
7. Order of the Arrow pocket flap - (If O.A. member) for right pocket.

THE FOLLOWING INSIGNIA ARE PROVIDED BY THE TROOP FOR THE UNIFORM:

1. 100 Year Unit Bar - On left shoulder between council strip and unit numerals.
2. Current Badge of Rank - For left shirt pocket.
3. Badge of Office - (If any) for left shoulder.
4. Trained Strip - for right sleeve (If trained youth leader)
5. The Current Quality Unit Award - For the right sleeve. A maximum of two may be worn.
- 6 Service Star - Awarded for the number of years with the troop. To be worn 3/8" above and centered over the left pocket.

The Troop will provide the above insignia for one uniform shirt for each of the youth member. the scout is responsible for all insignia for additional uniforms he may own.

V. Registration and paying for scouting

To participate with our troop, you will need to:

- Fill out a scout application, sign it and turn it in.
 - . The application can be downloaded from our website at www.bsatroop126.org/files and click to download.
- Pay the require fees or membership (currently \$65). This is collected with your application and covers your membership with the BSA and your boy's life magazine.
- Pay monthly dues of \$6.
- Earn money to cover your expenses for attending outings and campouts.
- Participate in troop fundraisers. (credit towards expenses)

We use your yearly fee to pay for the chartering expenses of the troop. These fees are forwarded to the BSA. You will be registered as a member of the Boy Scouts of America. We are a 100% Boys Life Troop. Each of you will receive a copy of this magazine.

The monthly dues are used by the troop to defray cost of items such as patches, courts of honor and supplies.

Our troop is privately funded by our chartering organization.

VI. Troop Program

Weekly troop meetings are on Monday nights. We currently meet from 6:30 pm unto 8:30pm. Mondays have been elected by the Scouts so that no one has to choose between Scouts and their religious youth services. It is during these meetings that training is provided, activities are planned, and food is consumed (fun). We also conduct our scoutmaster reviews during this time.

Scouts must attend at least 66% of all activities, this includes meetings to advance. Perfect attendance brings its own rewards. To be excused from a meeting, the scout must notify the leader prior to the meeting. The troop meetings are conducted by the patrol method and lead by the Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster.

Dues are still payable, even if meetings are missed.

Monthly outings Our goal is have 12 camps or activities each year. This usually equates to 9 campouts.

Outdoor activity is part of the program and most evenings our troop meetings will have at least some outdoor activity. Please, dress accordingly.

In addition to the regular overnights, our troop participates several High Adventure trips as well. To participate in these camps, Scouts must be at least 14 years old and at least a First-Class Rank.

Parents, transportation is critical in order to meet the challenge of getting to camps and projects. We encourage you to help us out by driving and transporting scouts to our activities.

Qualifications to attend outings A scout must attend at least 66% of all troop meetings to be eligible to go on the troop outings. (camps, hikes, etc.)

Transportation to outings

The adult leadership will transport troop equipment and when possible personal gear and scouts. We do not have enough room to transport all scouts and their gear. Parents, with out your help our camps will be limited in numbers and range. We would appreciate those of you who can drive on a rotating schedule so that no one is overburdened. We are asking for carpooling. The alternative would be to require each parent to be responsible for delivering their scout to each camp or outing.

Please, note that long distance camps will require that some parents drive to and remain with us at the camp. (Think Summer Camp or high adventure).

VII. Patrols

What is a patrol?

The patrol method isn't *one* way to run a troop. It's the *only* way.

But what is a patrol? Vol. 1 of the [*Troop Leader Guidebook*](#) defines a patrol as a subgroup of the troop consisting of approximately eight Scouts.

"It is the place where boys learn skills, take on leadership responsibility for the first time and develop friendships that will often last a lifetime," the *Guidebook* notes.

What is the mixed-age approach?

This is from the *Guidebook*:

Historically, patrols were made up of Scouts of all ages and ranks. This approach offers several advantages:

- *Each patrol always has members who need to learn Scouting skills and members who are able to teach those skills.*
- *Each patrol always has experienced leaders and members who need leadership experience.*
- *Patrols thus are fairly evenly matched for games and skill competitions.*
- *All members don't "age out" at the same time.*

The downside of the mixed-age approach is that Scouts who are 11 years old and Scouts who are 17 years old often have little in common. Moreover, Scouts making the transition from a Webelos Scout den may benefit from a more gradual change.

What is the three-type approach?

The *Guidebook* makes a strong case for having three types of patrols: new-Scout patrols, regular patrols and older-Scout patrols.

New-Scout patrols

As the name implies, a new-Scout patrol serves Scouts who have just joined the troop. The patrol elects its own leader, just like other patrols, but for one month instead of six months. An older Scout called a troop guide works with the Scouts to help them get acclimated to Boy Scouting and to reach the rank of First Class. Backing up the troop guide is an assistant Scoutmaster whose main responsibility is to work with new Scouts.

Scouts typically remain in a new-Scout patrol for their first year in the troop or until they reach First Class rank (whichever comes first). At that point, members can either choose which regular patrol they want to join or opt to stay together as a regular patrol.

Regular patrols

Members of a regular or traditional patrol have similar interests and abilities. They enjoy spending time together and may well be friends outside of Scouting. Ideally, they have chosen to be in the same patrol.

The only time a Scout should be assigned to a patrol is when he first joins the troop.

Traditional patrols typically serve Scouts who have reached First Class rank or completed the seventh grade. However, a new Scout should join a traditional patrol if there are not enough newcomers to form a new-Scout patrol or if he was invited to join the troop by an older buddy.

Many troops assign an assistant Scoutmaster to each patrol. The patrol advisor advises and supports the patrol leader but does not take over his responsibilities in any way.

Older-Scout patrols

Not to be confused with Venturing crews, older-Scout patrols serve older Scouts who want to pursue more challenging high-adventure outings and sports activities while remaining in the troop. These Scouts often have a been-there-done-that attitude, so their patrol activities offer them new challenges while keeping them involved in troop leadership. You might think of the older-Scout patrol as a safety valve; it lets older Scouts blow off steam and then willingly re-engage with the troop.

An assistant Scoutmaster is assigned to the older-Scout patrol to help the members turn their outing ideas into action. He or she works to ensure that patrol activities complement, rather than conflict with, troop activities and may also guide the members along the trail to Eagle Scout rank.

VIII. MORAL CONDUCT:

While we recognize that we are not a religious organization, we accept that Scouting itself is religion in that it teaches that there is a God and that one must devote their life to serving God and others. We further assert that in doing such one must follow a moral code. For simplicity, we have adopted the booklet “For the Strength of Youth” as published by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints as criteria and basis of our Code of Conduct in Moral issues. We will encourage Scouts to seek out their respective religious leaders regarding matters of religious doctrine.

A downloadable version is available at www.bsatroop126.org/forms/SOYpdf

IX. Troop Discipline Policy:

We have few problems with inappropriate behavior, however it is necessary to spell out the policy for discipline.

1. Behavior problems will first be dealt with by the Patrol Leader. In the event that the PL cannot resolve the issue, it will be reported to the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL).
2. If the situation cannot be handled or become un controllable, the Scoutmaster of Assistant will intervene and work with the SPL to determine the best course of action.
3. Actions to be taken may include, suspension from a troop activity or game, additional troop chores, interview and review by the Scoutmaster.
4. If the situation is major, or the above actions do not correct the behavior, the following may occur: Contact the parent to collect the Scout from the meeting or activity, suspension from troop meetings or outings, delay in advancement because the Scout’s behavior is a violation of the Scout Oath and or Law. Suspensions may be from 1 week to 1 month.
5. Should the Scout fail to correct his behavior, the situation can be escalated to the troop committee who may, suspend or terminate the Scout’s membership in the troop and the Scout will no longer be permitted to participate in any Troop activities or meetings.

X. PROHIBITED ITEMS

- SLING SHOTS, PELLET GUNS, BB GUNS, PEA-SHOOTERS, BLACK JACKS, BRASS KNUCKLES (ANY WEAPON)
- Radios, TV’s, tape players, electronic games
- Obscene, vulgar or questionable material

XI YOUTH LEADERSHIP:

SCOUTS MUST HOLD THE FOLLOWING RANKS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR BOTH ELECTED AND APPOINTED POSITIONS.

- **SPL. MUST BE AT LEAST LIFE RANK AND HAVE SERVED AS ASPL, HAVE APPROVAL OF THE SCOUTMASTER AND BE ELECTED.**
- **ASPL. BE AT LEAST STAR RANK, SERVED AS PL, HAVE APPROVAL OF THE SCOUTMASTER AND APPOINTED BY SPL**
- **TROOP GUIDE**
- **PATROL LEADER**
- **ASSISTANT PATROL LEADER**
- **OTHER POSITIONS**

A SCOUT MAY BE REMOVED FROM A LEADERSHIP POSITION BY THE SCOUTMASTER AND THE TROOP LEADERSHIP IF HE IS NOT FULFILLING THE DUTIES OF THE POSITION, LACKS IN ATTENDANCE, OR IS OTHERWISE HAVING A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE OPERATION OF THE TROOP.

Policies sign off

The undersigned accept these policies as listed and agree to abide by them.

_____ Print First and Last Name	_____ Parent /Guardian	_____ Signature	_____ Date.
_____ Print First and Last Name	_____ Parent/ Guardian	_____ Signature	_____ Date.
_____ Print First and Last Name	_____ Scout	_____ Signature	_____ Date.