

FOR PARENTS

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# Troop 62

## PARENT GUIDE BOOK

A place to find almost everything you need to know to make the most of your youth's Scouting experience.





# A Guide for Parents.

## **The Scouting Mission**

The mission of Scouting is simply; “to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.” Those values include citizenship, leadership, self reliance; mental and physical fitness - and so much more. It is the reason that the first thing a new Scout does is learn the Oath and

Law and it is the reason we repeat them at the beginning of each meeting. In the pages that follow we have laid out a guide for parents to help their Scouts achieve that mission, make connections, and, most of all, have fun while doing it. Scouting works when parents are involved and connected with the troop. We sincerely hope this guide will be a way for you to do just that.

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# The Scout Oath, Law & Outdoor Code



## 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.

## Scout Law

A Scout is:

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

## Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my  
best to –  
Be clean in my outdoor man-  
ners.  
Be careful with fire.  
Be considerate in the outdoors.  
Be conservation minded.

# Scout Motto and Slogan.

## Be Prepared.

The scouts' motto (BE PREPARED) is founded on my initials, it means, you are always in a state of readiness in mind and body to do your DUTY; Be Prepared in Mind by having disciplined yourself to be obedient to every order, and also by having thought out beforehand any accident or situation that might occur, so that you know the right thing to do at the right moment, and are willing to do it. Be Prepared in Body by making yourself strong and active and able to do the right thing at the right moment, and do it.

*-Lord Robert Baden-Powell, Founder of Scouting*

## Do a Good Turn Daily

Some Good Turns are big - saving a life, helping out after floods or other disasters, recycling community trash, working with your patrol on conservation projects. But Good Turns are often small, thoughtful acts - helping a child cross a busy street, going to the store for an elderly neighbor, cutting back brush that is blocking a sign, doing something special for a brother or sister, welcoming a new student to your school. A Good Turn is more than simple good manners. It is a special act of kindness.

*-U.S. Scouts*

# Troop Leadership



"Training boy leaders to run their troop is the Scoutmaster's most important job. Train Scouts to do a job, then let them do it. Never do anything a youth can do." -Lord Robert Baden-Powell, *Founder of Scouting*

# It is the Youth who Lead the Way

Since the formation of the Scouting Movement in 1907, Scouting has been at its heart Youth Led. This is not to say that we drop off our kids at a meeting each week and say “good luck” - but rather it is our goal to train Scouts to lead and to get out of the way when they are ready to do so. Scouts lead the way and, as parents and leaders, it is our job to help them get there. **This can sometimes lead to what we lovingly refer to as “Organized Chaos”**

**during troop meetings and outings.** Far from being a “mistake” or problem, these moments are just part of the learning process for all Scouts. Rest assured that troop leadership is watching closely and ensuring Scout safety during these times. It is our goal not to be overly rigid and strict with the youth but rather to give them the space to safely figure things out and learn from difficult moments.

## Adults Lead from Behind

“One of our most important challenges is to train youth leaders to run the troop by providing direction, coaching and support. The youth will make mistakes now and then and will rely upon the adult leaders to guide them. But only through real hands-on experience as leaders can youth learn to lead.”

*-Scoutmaster's Handbook*

### Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster works directly with the Scouts on a weekly basis. If a Scout Troop is "youth led", you might be asking yourself what exactly does a Scoutmaster do? Well, practically speaking, a little bit of everything. Showing up early to open the lodge, making sure meetings stay on track, going on camp outs, teaching scouting skills, being a mentor at times, being a coach at others and making sure, overall, that everyone is safe. It is not an easy job but it sure is a rewarding one. And speaking of it not being the easiest job, it is for that reason that we also have...

### Assistant Scoutmaster

Assistant Scoutmasters do exactly what the name implies - assist the Scoutmaster in running the troop. Sometimes Assistant Scoutmasters will have specific roles and duties within the troop and sometimes they are there simply to share in the general responsibilities. Troop 62 usually has somewhere between 3 - 5 Assistant Scoutmasters.

### Parents

Scouting provides a time-tested structure that helps bond parent/child development through group and individual activities, recognition and advancement. Your child needs your encouragement, guidance and participation along his or her Scouting path. We have seen that Scouts who have active parent involvement in the troop tend to get the most out of their Scouting experience. At Troop 62, all families are invited to troop and committee meetings. We love getting your input on as many topics as possible.



### The Troop Committee

Think of the committee as a cross between a board of directors and a parent support group. The committee's job is to set troop policies, handle administrative functions, help with long range planning and balance the budget. Some committee members do not have assigned functions but broadly these are following roles we try and keep filled on a rolling basis:

- Chairperson
- Advancement Coordinator
- Chartered Org Representative
- Equipment Coordinator
- Treasurer
- Outdoor Activities/Camping Coordinator

# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion



Images from Noah Davis's "Black Boy Scout," & Alika Cooper's "Good Intentions." - paintings which appeared as a part of the *Good Intentions* show which depicted and confronted Norman Rockwell's images of Scouting for a new generation of youth.

# Troop 62 Statement on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

At Troop 62, we feel strongly about inclusion. Here is our inclusion statement:

Educating Scouts to be more empathetic, kind, respectful, and inclusive is one of the best things we can do as parents and Scout Leaders. Environments that are safe, positive and inclusive are essential for young people's development. When youth feel safe, they are empowered to learn, connect with their peers and explore their interests. At Troop 62 Scouts of all genders, appearance, abilities, preferences, nationalities, and backgrounds can rely on a safe, consistent and welcoming environment.

**No youth will ever be turned away from scouting due to their gender, gender preference/identification, or sexual orientation - all youth have a home here.**

To achieve this, we further recognize the need to actively promote a culture and curriculum that holds at its core a commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, defined as follows:

**Diversity:** Seeing and accepting, without bias, all human characteristics, experiences and identities that make us unique as individuals and members of cultures and communities.

**Equity:** Discovering, creating and providing what is required, requested and measured by each human to feel equal.

**Inclusion:** Ensuring everyone is invited to contribute, be seen, be heard, feel valued and be counted in a way that is safe and makes sense for them.

Troop will work confidentially and on a case-by-case basis with youth who wish to join but feel they have non-binary or non-normative circumstances. For Scouts who identify as female we align with Troop 262 to provide an opportunity to fully engage and participate in the Scouting Family.

# Patrol Method



The patrol leader is the patrol's key leader, representing the patrol at all patrol leaders' council meetings and the annual program planning conference, and keeping patrol members informed of decisions made.

# A well run patrol is the backbone of a well functioning scout troop.

If Scouting is youth led, then the Patrol Method is how we achieve it. A Scout's patrol is where they will learn skills, take on leadership and develop lasting friendships. Troop 62 will usually have between 3 - 6 active patrols. These Patrols each will have a "Patrol Leader" and "Assistant Patrol Leader". Patrol leaders carry out planning, leading, and evaluating patrol meetings and activities, and assure patrols are prepared to participate in all troop activities. They keep their patrol intact so they

can work together and share responsibilities to get things done. It is incumbent upon them to be a good example for the members of their patrol and the rest of the troop. Ideally, when on camp outs, Patrols will operate as a unit, preparing a menu, cooking together, and doing other activities including:

- Keeping patrol members informed.
- Representing the patrol at events.
- Working with other troop leaders to make the troop run well.
- Setting a good example.
- Developing patrol spirit.

**For many Scouts, a patrol will be the first time they have to rely upon themselves and other young people to get a job done.**

# Youth Leadership Positions

## Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)

With three green bars behind the Scout emblem, the senior patrol leader's shoulder patch symbolizes one of the oldest leadership positions in Scouting. The Boy Scouts of America has long recognized the senior patrol leader as the highest youth leadership position in a troop. They are the primary link between a troop's Scouts and its adult leaders. They shoulder the responsibility for leading meetings of the troop and the patrol leaders' council and provide valuable leadership in planning and carrying out the troop's program of outdoor activities, service projects, and events.

## Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)

The assistant senior patrol leader is the second highest youth leadership position in the troop, working closely with the senior patrol leader to help the troop move forward. The assistant senior patrol leader acts as the senior patrol leader in the absence of the senior patrol leader or when called upon, and provides leadership to other youth leaders in the troop. The assistant senior patrol leader is appointed by the senior patrol leader under the guidance of the Scoutmaster.

### Patrol Leader (PL)

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### Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)

The assistant patrol leader works with the patrol leader, to get things done. It is incumbent upon them to be a good example for the members of their patrol and the rest of the troop.

### Troop Guide

Troop guides serve as both a leader and a mentor to the members of the new-Scout patrol. They should be an older Scout who holds at least the First Class rank and can work well with younger Scouts. The troop guide helps the patrol leader of the new-Scout patrol lead their patrol, so they can develop into a well-functioning group, working together harmoniously and productively.

### Quartermaster

Quartermasters serve as the troop's supply boss. They keep an inventory of troop equipment and see that the gear is in good condition. They work with patrol quartermasters as they check out equipment

## **Parent Handbook**

and return it. At meetings of the patrol leaders' council they report on the status of equipment in need of replacement or repair. In carrying out their responsibilities, they may have the guidance of a mem-

### **Scribe**

The scribe is the troop's secretary. Though not a voting member, they attend meetings of the patrol leaders' council and keep a record of the discussions. They cooperate with the patrol scribes to record attendance and dues payments at troop meetings and to maintain troop advancement records. The troop scribe may be assisted by a member of the troop committee.

### **Den Chief**

Den chiefs are Scouts who assist a Cub Scout den leader or Webelos den leader. They are selected by the senior patrol leader and Scoutmaster, and approved by the cubmaster and the pack committee for recommendation to the den leader. Den chiefs help Cub Scouts advance through Cub Scout ranks and encourage Cub Scouts to join a troop upon graduation.



### Historian

The historian collects, assembles, and preserves troop photographs, news stories, trophies, flags, scrapbooks, awards, and other memorabilia, and makes materials available for Scouting activities, courts of honor, the media, and troop history projects.

### Instructor

Each instructor is an older troop member proficient in a Scouting skill who must also have the ability to teach that skill to others. An instructor typically teaches subjects that Scouts are eager to learn—especially those such as first aid, camping, and backpacking—that are required for outdoor activities and rank advancement. A troop can have more than one instructor.

### Webmaster

Troop webmasters are responsible for maintaining the troop's website. They make sure that information posted on the website is correct and up to date and that the privacy of youth and adult troop members is protected. A member of the troop committee may assist them with their work.

### Bugler

The bugler plays the bugle (or similar instrument) to mark key moments during the troop meeting, such as assembly, or on troop outings, such as reveille, mess call, and lights out. The bugler must

know the required bugle calls and ideally should have earned the Bugling merit badge or be working toward earning it.

### Order of the Arrow (OA) Representative

Order of the Arrow representatives serve as a communication link between the troop and the local Order of the Arrow lodge. By enhancing the image of the Order as a service arm to the troop, they promote the OA, encourage Scouts to take part in all sorts of camping opportunities, and helps pave the way for older Scouts to become involved in high-adventure programs

### Outdoor Ethics Guide

Outdoor ethics guides help troops plan and conduct an outdoor program that emphasizes effectively practicing the Outdoor Code, the Leave No Trace principles, and the Tread Lightly! principles. Guides work to help Scouts improve their outdoor ethics decision-making skills to help minimize impacts as they hike, camp, and participate in other outdoor activities. In particular, they should support Scouts

### Junior Assistant Scoutmaster

A Scout at least 16 years of age who has shown outstanding leadership skills may be appointed by the Scoutmaster to serve as a junior assistant Scoutmaster (JASM). The junior assistant Scoutmaster functions just like an assistant Scoutmaster (except for leadership responsibilities reserved for adults 18 years of age or older).

## World Wide Scouting

**Troop 62**

is a part of

**Frontier District**

is a part of

**Greater  
Colorado Council**

is a part of

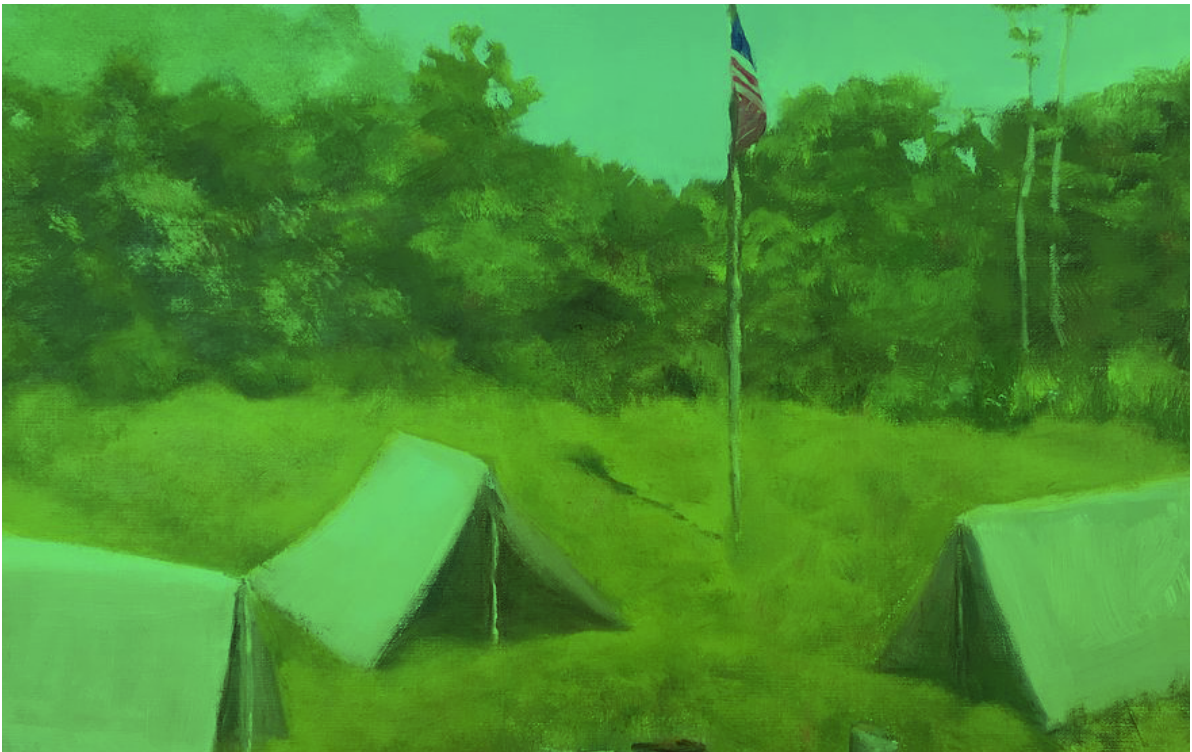
**Boy Scouts of  
America**

is a part of

**World Organization  
of the Scout  
Movement**

Troop 62 does not, thankfully, exist on an island. We are officially a member of the "Frontier District", which belongs to the "Greater Colorado Council", which itself is one of roughly 260 councils that make up the Boy Scouts of America, which is itself a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement - a confederation of more than 170 National Scout Organizations with over 50 million members worldwide. As a parent it is not critical that you be up on all the various levels of leadership in the organization but it's good to know that we are not alone in the world. When your child joins Scouting they are joining a vast international brotherhood and sisterhood that is there to support their journey.

# 4 Events and Activities



Youth experience the thrills of adventuring with the guidance of adult and scout leaders. Whether building snow caves, backpacking above the tree line or pitching a tent for the first time, we encourage scouts to grow into their best future selves through adventure and learning.

# Camp Outs

The troop goes camping once a month (usually skipping December) which means Scouts get an opportunity to camp during all four seasons. For younger Scouts it can sometimes be a bit daunting to head out into the mountains in Winter but, we have a great set of leaders and resources in place to support them in going for it. Don't forget to check the gear lists for summer and winter camping in the back of this guide if you have any questions about packing.

Camp outs are also a great opportunity to get involved with the troop as parent involvement is key to conducting a successful trip. You can sign up for a camping trip as a parent on ScoutBook or by talking with an adult leader.

# Family Camp Outs

Every year, usually in the spring, we plan a family camp out. This is

an amazing opportunity to connect with other families, get outside and have some fun together. It's also a great way for Scouts to show off the camping and outdoor skills they are learning - by pitching tents, cooking, cleaning, and making sure their parents get to relax.

# Service Projects

Throughout the year you will see opportunities for Scouts to work on service projects. Many of the projects will be in support of an older scout who is working on completing an Eagle Rank service project and other might be a general project to help better our lodge or community. Scouting is about being in service and about being engaged in the world around you. There are few more powerful experiences than showing up and working hard on behalf of someone else.

# Courts of Honor:

A court of honor is a community gathering for Troop 62's Scouts, families, and guests where Scouts are recognized for what's been accomplished and achieved. Recognition of a job well done, an advancement earned, or a merit badge completed is a crucial part of the advancement process and we welcome parents and friends to join us.

# Eagle Courts of Honor:

While a court of honor recognizes all the Advancement of Troop 62's scouts, Eagle Courts of Honor recognizes a single Scout who has earned Scout's highest achievement: Eagle Scout. Becoming an Eagle Scout is a special thing - something that only about 4% of Scouts earn - and something that

stays with you for life. Troop 62 Eagle Courts of Honor are a celebration in every sense of the word. They are also a reflection of the strength of our community and we highly encourage Scouts and Families to come and take part.

# Patrol Leader's Council (PLC)

The troop's plans for each month are reviewed and carried out by the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC).

The PLC plans the yearly troop program at the annual planning conference. It then meets monthly to fine-tune the plans for the upcoming month. The PLC is made up of the senior patrol leader, who presides over the meetings, the assistant senior patrol leader, all patrol leaders, and the troop guide. The troop scribe also attends to take notes and keep the minutes.

## Troop Meetings

It's been said that the weekly troop meeting is the glue that holds a Scout troop together. From beginning to end, there always something happening creating a focus, capturing and maintaining the Scouts' attention, and providing the grounds for rewarding experiences. This where Scouts get an opportunity to put skills into action in ways that are challenging and fun. It also where Scouts will develop friendships and connections that last a lifetime. Over and over again we have witnessed Scouts who regularly attend meetings stick with Scouting and get the most of their experience.

We cannot stress enough how important it is to regularly attend meetings if your Scout's goal is to make Eagle, advance in their scouting journey, or simply have the maximum amount of fun.

## Summer & High Adventure Camps

The Boy Scouts of America operates 420 Scout camps, 60 council high-adventure programs, and three national high-adventure bases. Each site offers opportunities for a variety of summer camp experiences for Scouts of all ages. Troop 62. Experiences range from sailing in the Florida Keys, backpacking for a week in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of New Mexico and, closer to home, going to "Peaceful Valley" to do Merit Badge camp (where Scouts earn multiple Merit Badges during a week long adventure) Troop Leadership will announce options for the upcoming summer well in advance and will also solicit parent and scout feedback on where to go.



# Parent Involvement, Dues & Youth Protection



Scouting provides a time-tested structure that helps bond parent/child development through group and individual activities, recognition and advancement.



## Parent Involvement in Camp Outs

Most of the troop's outings and trips require motor vehicle transportation. Parents need to provide the great majority of this transportation.

All leaders (and parents who volunteer) are required to take the BSA child safety course called "Youth Protection," and specific training for their role in Scouting is available either online or in a classroom setting. To help the organization maintain a quality program, there is a person assigned to be a liaison between the unit and the chartered organization.

In the Spring, we plan a family camp out. This is an amazing opportunity to connect with other families, get outside and have some fun together. It's also a great way for scouts to show off the camping and outdoor skills they are learning - by pitching tents, cooking, cleaning and making sure their parents get to relax.

## Become a Merit Badge Counselor

Merit badge counselors are volunteers who help scouts earn Merit Badges. What are Merit Badges you ask? Well, the Scouts offers over 135 merit badges in a variety of subject areas on things as wide ranging as Cycling, Camping, Bird Study, Game Design. To make all this happen, each troop does their best to recruit parents and community members to become certified "Merit Badge Counselors" who can assist scouts in earning a merit badge in a field they happen to have expertise and/or a deep interest in. Over the years Scouting has seen the enthusiasm a Merit Badge Counselor has for a subject passed along to a Scout - often opening up a hobby or even a career. Speak with a troop committee member if you would like to volunteer to become a counselor (many parents will end up finding 3-4 merit badges they can competently teach.

# Dues

As in most other active organizations, it takes money to be able to run and to maintain a quality troop program. Scouting is not free and each scout is expected to pay for his fair share when it comes to registration, paying dues, and sharing camping expenses.

Registration fees collected each year are a major income source for the Boy Scouts of America national organization. Troop 62 re-charters and pays registration fees to the national organization in December of each year. When a scout joins the troop, they initially pay the registration fee, the optional Boy's Life subscription cost and a Troop 62 fee. The total fee depends on the specific costs mentioned above. Currently, Troop 62 does not collect any meeting, camping, or monthly dues.

**If a scout is not able to participate in summer camps, High Adventure programs or camp outs due to financial difficulty then assistance is available.**

Please ask the committee chair or scoutmaster to find out more about the troops financial aid program .As in most other active organizations, it takes money to be able to run and to maintain a quality troop program.

# Youth Protection Program

The Boy Scouts of America has the largest organized youth protection program of any youth or young adult program in the world. Troop 62, as a fully accredited troop, has implemented all the youth protection guidelines developed by the BSA. The program is 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:

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

All leaders in our troop have received Council-run or online training in Youth Protection. We have a Youth Protection Coordinator as part of our Troop Committee whose job it is to administer the Troop Youth Protection Program. All leaders and scouts 18 years old and older must renew their YPT every two years.

# Uniforms



“The Boy Scouts of America stands for a set of principles. These principles have a lot of staying power. The values you learn as a Scout are like a compass. They can help you find your way through difficult and sometimes uncharted terrain. The principles of Scouting give you a sense of what’s important. I feel I owe the Boy Scouts a great deal, both personally and professionally.”

– Bill Bradley

# Why Uniforms?

Troop 62 is committed to the wearing of the uniform as established by the Boy Scouts of America. The wearing of the uniform helps the troop in several ways:

**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. The uniform makes the troop visible as a force for good in the community. As scouts wear the uniform. They are standing for their principles, in the open where everyone can see. Scouts in uniform are standing with each other, not alone, declaring their intent to support the principles for which scouting stands.**

The uniform is to be worn to ALL SCOUT ACTIVITIES, including meetings, camp outs, and outings unless specified by the Scoutmaster or other adult leadership in charge. When the troop is going to or coming from a Scouting function or event, we request all members to wear a "class A" uniform. Once we arrive, we normally allow scouts to change into a "class B" uniform or other shirt depending on the conditions. We also recognize that for some scouts who may be coming directly from another activity it may not always be possible to do this. Troop 62 does not allow any scouts to wear clothing that advertises alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, or tobacco products or any other derogatory or offensive messages. Troop 62 adheres to the normally required uniform parts that are listed in the Boy Scout Handbook.

# The Uniform

**Belt:** Official Scouts BSA belt, web or leather, will do.

**Neckerchief:** New scouts will receive their Troop 62 Neckerchief after completing their first overnight camp out.

**Merit Badge Sash:** A sash for placing earned merit badges worn either around the right shoulder or hanging from the belt.

## **Shirt:**

**Right Pocket Flap:** Order of the Arrow lodge insignia (if the Scout is apart of the OA)

**The American Flag Patch:** centered directly below shoulder seam.

**Patrol Patches:** Worn directly below the flag patch

**Quality Unit Patch:** If earned goes below patrol patch.

**Right Pocket:** This is where a scout can wear a “temporary insignia” such as a summer camp patch.

**Beneath the Right Pocket:** Recruiter Patch if earned.

**Above the Left Pocket:** World Crest emblem and Messengers of Peace ring are worn centered horizontally over the left pocket.

**Shoulder Loop:** the Forest green loops tell the world you are in a scout troop.

**Council Patch/Unit Numeral Patch:** Council shoulder emblem, unit numeral, and veteran unit bar are worn as shown snug up, and touching each other.

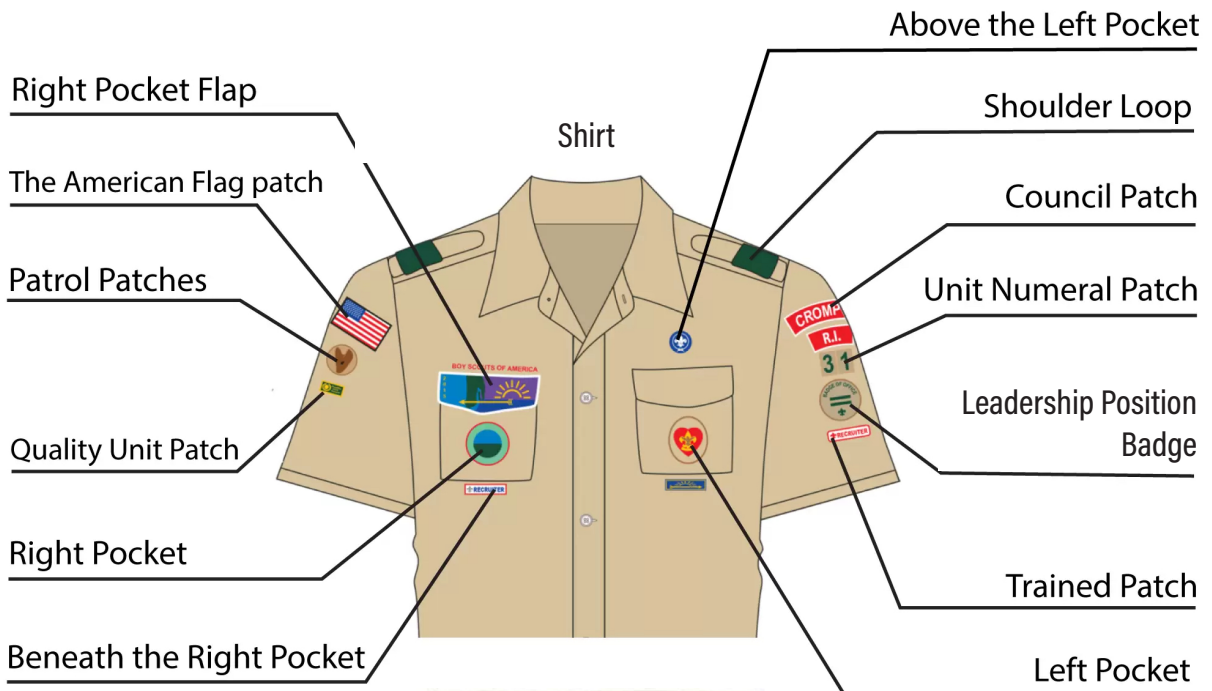
**Leadership Position Badge:** Centered and touching the unit numeral, or centered 4 inches below the shoulder seam.

**Trained Patch:** worn immediately below and in contact with the leadership position badge.

**Left Pocket:** Badges of rank are worn centered on the pocket above the Arrow of Light Award

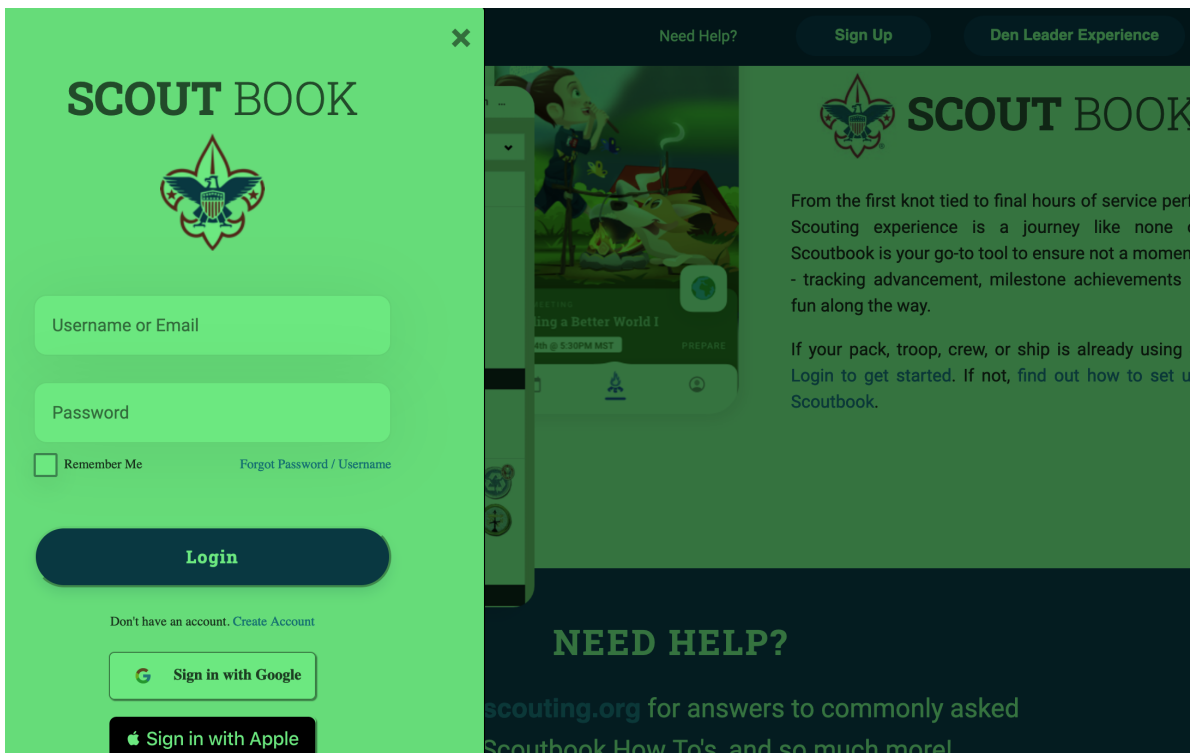
**Scout Pants:** Designed to stay polished looking and comfortable for every adventure! Some come with convertible to shorts with zip-off legs.

# Parent Handbook





# Scoutbook (scoutbook.scouting.org/)



Scoutbook is an advancement tracking tool. It also has messaging, forums, service, hiking, camping tracking and calendaring features.



## What is Scoutbook?

Scoutbook features data to track your child's merit badge and advancement requirements. Other capabilities include: Leadership & activity tracking (including an option for event permission slips), unit rosters, calendar - supports ical (.ics format), email and texting tool, payment log, able to send/receive messages, photos to leaders and merit badge counselors for advancement correspondence and a unit forum feature. Basically, if there is something happening in the troop (meetings/camp outs/events etc...) you should be able to find information on Scoutbook about it.

## How do I get into Scoutbook?

Parents need to be connected to their Scouts and invited to participate in Scoutbook by the Troop 62's Scoutbook administrator. This may have happened automatically by the system if you are on your child's application as a parent or have either entered an application online or logged into my.scouting.org. If you have done either of those, go to <http://scoutbook.scouting.org> and login using your my.scouting.org credentials. You should see your Scout on your dashboard.

If you have never logged into my.scouting before go to <http://my.scouting.org> and create an account. Then use the credentials (userID and password) you create there to login to <http://scoutbook.scouting.org>

If you are not sure, please talk to the New Member Coordinator, who can work with you to figure out.

# Advancement



Scouts are recognized and rewarded for each achievement, which helps them gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

## Why Focus on Advancement?

Scouting skills, and advancement, are important, but not as important as the personal growth of a scout. We want well-rounded development, maturation and for scouts to have a sense of ownership and accomplishment as they go through the program. Age-appropriate surmountable hurdles are placed before members, and as they face these challenges they learn about themselves and gain confidence.

Learning Scout skills and concepts through active participation is a vehicle for personal growth. Scouts may learn how to tie a knot, plan a menu, swim, or administer first aid, but they are also learning self reliance, how to work as a team, and leadership. The personal growth comes as Scouts learn skills and are tested on them. They develop confidence, they come to realize they can overcome obstacles and push their limits.

Advancement is designed to be age-appropriate and ranks form the foundation for the experiences. The advancement program is administered by a combination of adult and youth leaders, with young taking more responsibility as they progress. The role of parents also differs with member age and ability, but parents are encouraged to be engaged at all levels.

### From the BSA Advancement Guide

*"We know we are on the right track when we see youth accepting responsibility, demonstrating self-reliance, and caring for themselves and others; when they learn to weave Scouting ideals into their lives; and when we can see they will be positive contributors to our American society."*

# The Seven Ranks

There are seven ranks in Scouting: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, & Life.

Your child will be expected to advance at his own pace. This does not mean that he will or should be left entirely on his own. The leaders of the troop will always be there to guide and assist as well as to prod your scout.

## Scout to First Class

In the early ranks, (Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class) your child will be getting quite a bit of group training. As part of the first-year Patrol, they will have an Assistant Scoutmaster and a Troop Guide to help them. Attending summer camp is very helpful in achieving the rank of First Class and the scout should attend their first year if possible.

As a parent, you should show an interest in your child's advancement. Have them show you where they are signed off for achieving the requirements for the first three ranks. Then make sure that they are doing something for advancement. Please feel free to talk to the Assistant Scoutmaster or Scoutmaster about your son's advancement anytime.

## Star to Life

After a scout becomes First Class, he is expected to take even greater responsibility in his own advancement. The ranks of Star & Life, require earning Merit Badges and having positions of responsibility. The scout is also required to perform his own service project supporting the local community. Half of the service project for Life must be specifically a conservation project. The Scoutmasters are always there to guide but the scout himself must decide which Merit Badges interest him, what service he wants

to perform and what positions of leadership he wants to hold. As a parent, you should try to motivate him to always be working on his advancement.

# Eagle

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest and most prestigious achievement a Scout can achieve. Highly respected, the title of Eagle Scout carries with it special significance not only in Scouting but also in school, business and the community. To attain the Eagle rank, a Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges, fulfill leadership roles and display outdoor skills, demonstrate by example the Scout Oath and Law, and complete a comprehensive service project in the community.

# Scoutmaster Conference

When all other requirements for a rank are completed and signed off in the Scout's handbook, the Scout must meet with the Scoutmaster or an ASM for a Scoutmaster's conference. During the Scoutmaster's Conference, the Scoutmaster will verify that all requirements for Rank have been completed, discuss their Troop and Patrol participation, how Scouting influences their life, and how they are doing in general.

# Boards of Review

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for his next rank (other than Eagle Scout), they appear before a Board of Review composed of members of the Troop committee. The purpose of the review is not an examination. Instead, the Board seeks to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals; to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement, to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program, and to encourage them to keep working towards advancement.

# Merit Badges

Merit badges give scouts the opportunity to investigate around 130 different areas of knowledge and skills. The merit badge program plays a major role in the scouting advancement program and participation can begin as soon as a scout registers with a troop. Each scout can explore topics from American Business to Woodworking as they have interest. The only limitations are their ambition and availability of adult merit badge counselors to offer instruction.

When a scout decides they would like to earn a specific merit badge the steps are as follows:

1. Obtain approval to begin from the Scoutmaster.
2. Get a blue card from the troop advancement coordinator and identify possible merit badge counselors. The scoutmaster and advancement coordinator will help them identify counselors in the troop and district.
3. The scout then contacts the counselor to begin badge work. The counselor reviews the requirements with the scouts and they decide on projects to complete and a completion schedule. The counselor provides expertise, advice, guidance as needed until the scouts have completed the requirements.
4. The merit badge counselor certifies completion of requirements and the merit badge patch is presented at a court of honor or troop meeting. Always make sure Scoutbook is updated as the Scout completes requirements.

# Special Needs

## (Individual Scout Advancement Plans)

The BSA has a planning form for families and leaders to use to jointly map out the future for a Scout with a disability. It is called the Individual Scout Advancement Plan (ISAP), and you can find it by searching for BSA Form 512-936. It is modeled on the individual education programs (IEPs) and 504 plans used in public schools for students with special needs. Unlike an IEP or 504 plan, the ISAP does not create legal rights or legal status. The ISAP can be updated as a Scout matures and moves through the Scouting program.

Troop 62 is committed to supporting scouts of all abilities and can help new parents navigate ISAP plans. Please reach out to a scoutmaster or a committee member for support if your scout might require one.

## Scout Awards

The top scouting accomplishment for youth in the BSA is the Eagle Scout Rank and takes a tremendous effort over many years to reach but it's not the only one. Scouts can earn recognition for performing special services or completing projects. Some awards, such as the world conservation award, can be earned at different levels of scouting requiring different effort based on the scout's level. The scout religious award is significant and often overlooked. For a list of awards you can talk to the Advancement Coordinator or check out a listing here:

**<https://www.boyscouttrail.com/boy-scouts/boy-scout-awards.asp>**

# 10 Essentials **Packing List.**

- A pocketknife or multi tool** Useful for tasks as large as building an emergency shelter or lighting a campfire with poor fuel, or as small as repairing a damaged backpack. Keep you knife sharp and clean, and don't forget to first earn your Whittling Chip (for older Cub Scouts) or Totin' Chip (for Boy Scouts).
- A first aid kit** Can be a lifesaver. Literally. A few items will allow you to treat scratches, blisters and other minor injuries. They should also allow you to provide initial care while waiting for help for more serious injuries.
- Extra clothing** To match the weather. Multiple layers are better than a single massive jacket, because layered clothing is adaptable to a wide range of temperatures.
- Rain gear** Rain can come in a hurry, and getting your clothes drenched is more than just uncomfortable, it can lead to hypothermia, a potentially fatal condition.
- Flashlight** Headlamp or a rugged penlight is important for finding your way in the dark. Bring extra batteries, too.
- Trail food** Good for maintaining your energy. Bring more than you think you'll need in case you get stuck (or lost) in the woods.



## Parent Handbook

- Water** Water can prevent dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat-stroke. Use a lightweight, unbreakable container with a secure lid.
- Matches and/or a fire starter** May be used to light fires for heat, or for signaling for help. Store matches or lighters in releasible plastic bags.
- Sun protection** Might include sunblock, sunglasses, lip balm and a wide-brimmed hat.
- Map and Compass** Probably the most important tools you can carry in case you get lost and the best way to ensure you don't.

# Camping Packing List.

<b>10 Essentials</b>	See page 39
<b>Tent</b>	You can bring your own tent or use a troop tent but always double-check to be sure all the parts are there.
<b>Sleeping Bag</b>	Scoutshop has an excellent guide to buying sleeping bags: <a href="https://www.scoutshop.org/blog/the-scouts-guide-to-sleeping-bags.html">https://www.scoutshop.org/blog/the-scouts-guide-to-sleeping-bags.html</a>
<b>Sleeping Pad</b>	When the insulation in a sleeping bag is compressed between your body and the ground it loses its ability to insulate, making a sleeping pad an absolute necessity. Smaller, lighter Scouts will do very well with an inexpensive closed-cell foam pad. Bigger, heavier Scouts may want to consider a self-inflating pad if the budget allows.
<b>Scout Book</b>	Every camp is an opportunity for you to get even more requirements signed off! Keep it in a waterproof bag.
<b>Mess kit</b>	A dependable mess kit will make your camp eating 100x better but you don't need to go overboard. A basic mug, fork/spoon, and bowl is all a scout should need.
<b>Sunscreen</b>	At least SPF 15
<b>Bug repellent</b>	What ever a scout and family is comfortable using.
<b>Quick Dry Towel</b>	Towels can be used for everything! When you need to dry off after a shower, sit down in some grass, or create a a pillow, a towel can do it.
<b>Camp Pillow</b>	If you're short on backpack space, don't worry. You can create a makeshift pillow by bunching some clean clothes.

## Parent Handbook

### Clothing

As a general rule of thumb this list works well however, if there is one rule of camping (especially in Colorado) its that the weather can change quickly. Always be ready for cold weather, even in the summer and always plan to dress in layers.

#### **Daily Clothing:**

- Your full Class-A Scout Uniform
- 1 pair of pants for every 2 days
- 1 shirt per day (Troop shirt, if you have one)
- 1 pair of underwear per day
- 1-2 pairs of socks more than the number of days you'll be camping
- Sun Hat
- Sunglasses

#### **Sleep/Spare Clothes:**

- 1 pair of loose sleep pants
- 1 quick-drying long sleeve shirt

#### **Weather Protection:**

- 1 light waterproof rain jacket or poncho
- 1 Warm and fast-drying jacket (Fleece blend, nylon, or polyester)
- Warm wool cap
- Light gloves
- Thermal layers

## Parent Handbook

- Trash Bags** Trash bags are great for quickly waterproofing your belongings or storing dirty clothes. They also take up very little space and also weigh almost nothing.
- Nylon Paracord** Extra rope is always useful during a camp out. You can use it to secure your tent, create a clothesline, or complete your advancement requirements.
- An 8'x10' Tarp** Tarps are inexpensive, lightweight and prepare you for the worst of situations.
- Extra Socks** Running out of clean or dry socks is one of the worst things that can happen when camping. Socks don't take up much space and can even be double-layered at night if the weather becomes too cold. Pack extra socks. Please!
- A Small Folding Stool** An optional item, a small stool means you'll always have a place to sit, whether you're cooking, eating, or relaxing.
- Notebook & pencils** Always good to have around for advancement or journaling.
- Hiking Boots** Scouts are much more likely to outgrow a pair of boots before they have a chance to wear them out. You won't get much return on investing in top-of-the-line hiking boots once they are outgrown. Having said that, it is essential they are water proof, sturdy, and above all, comfortable for the scout. Nothing ruins a camping trip faster than blisters and cold/wet feet.
- Camp Pillow** If you're short on backpack space, don't worry. You can create a makeshift pillow by bunching some clean clothes.

## Parent Handbook

### Toiletries

Since camp toiletry kits can get pretty gross quickly, use a quart-sized plastic bag or toiletry kit to pack your toiletries. You'll need:

#### **Dental Care:**

- A Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Floss or Floss-picks
- Mouthwash (optional)

#### **Hygiene:**

- Deodorant
- Body Wash
- Shampoo (optional)
- Nail Clippers (optional but surprisingly useful)

#### **Additional:**

- A Washcloth
- Hand Sanitizer
- Feminine Products (if applicable)

### Medications

Check with your scoutmaster to see if your scout needs to check in their medication.

# Winter Camping Packing List.

## 10 Essentials

See page 39

### Tent

You can bring your own tent or use a troop tent but always double-check to be sure all the parts are there.

### Cold Weather Sleeping Bag

Scoutshop has an excellent guide to buying sleeping bags:  
<https://www.scoutshop.org/blog/the-scouts-guide-to-sleeping-bags.html>

### Sleeping Pad

When the insulation in a sleeping bag is compressed between your body and the ground it loses its ability to insulate, making a sleeping pad an absolute necessity. Smaller, lighter Scouts will do very well with an inexpensive closed-cell foam pad. Bigger, heavier Scouts may want to consider a self-inflating pad if the budget allows.

### Scout Book

Every camp is an opportunity for you to get even more requirements signed off! Keep it in a waterproof bag.

### Mess kit

A dependable mess kit will make your camp eating 100x better but you don't need to go overboard. A basic mug, fork/spoon, and bowl is all a scout should need.

### Sunscreen

At least SPF 30

### Quick Dry Towel

Towels can be used for everything! When you need to dry off after a shower, sit down in some grass, or create a pillow, a towel can do it.

### Camp Pillow

If you're short on backpack space, don't worry. You can create a makeshift pillow by bunching some clean clothes.

## Parent Handbook

### Clothing

Winter is no joke in Colorado. Always pack quick dry (no cotton) clothes, wear ample layers and carry extras.

#### **Daily Clothing:**

- Your full Class-A Scout Uniform
- 1 pair of pants for every day
- 1 shirt per day (Troop shirt, if you have one)
- 1 pair of thermal underwear (tops and bottom) per day
- 2-3 pairs of wool socks more than the number of days you'll be camping
- Thermal socks(to wear under heavier wool socks)
- Sun Hat
- Sunglasses or goggles (ideally sunglasses should wrap around and block out as much light as possible especially when camping in snowy environments at altitude)
- Waterproof snow pants
- waterproof snow jacket
- waterproof snow gloves
- light thermal layer gloves
- Warm winter hat.

#### **Sleep/Spare Clothes:**

- 1 pair of loose sleep pants
- 1 quick-drying long sleeve shirt

#### **Weather Protection:**

- 1 light waterproof rain jacket or poncho
- 1 Warm and fast-drying jacket (Fleece blend, nylon, or polyester)

## Parent Handbook

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- Nylon Paracord** Extra rope is always useful during a camp out. You can use it to secure your tent, create a clothesline, or complete your advancement requirements.
- An 8'x10' Tarp** Tarps are inexpensive, lightweight and prepare you for the worst of situations.
- Extra Socks** Running out of clean or dry socks is one of the worst things that can happen when camping. Socks don't take up much space and can even be double-layered at night if the weather becomes too cold. Pack extra socks. Please!
- A Small Folding Stool** An optional item, a small stool means you'll always have a place to sit, whether you're cooking, eating, or relaxing.
- Notebook & pencils** Always good to have around for advancement or journaling.
- Winter Boots or Hiking Boots w/ Gators** **Winter boots must be water proof, sturdy, and above all, comfortable for the scout. Nothing ruins a camping trip faster than blisters and cold/wet feet. If using hiking boots make sure to get a good pair of gators to keep the snow out and the feet warm.**
- Camp Pillow** If you're short on backpack space, don't worry. You can create a makeshift pillow by bunching some clean clothes.



## Parent Handbook

### Toiletries

Since camp toiletry kits can get pretty gross quickly, use a quart-sized plastic bag or toiletry kit to pack your toiletries. You'll need:

#### **Dental Care:**

- A Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Floss or Floss-picks
- Mouthwash (optional)

#### **Hygiene:**

- Deodorant
- Body Wash
- Shampoo (optional)
- Nail Clippers (optional but surprisingly useful)

#### **Additional:**

- A Washcloth
- Hand Sanitizer
- Feminine Products (if applicable)

### Medications

Check with your scoutmaster to see if your scout needs to check in their medication.

# Quick Check

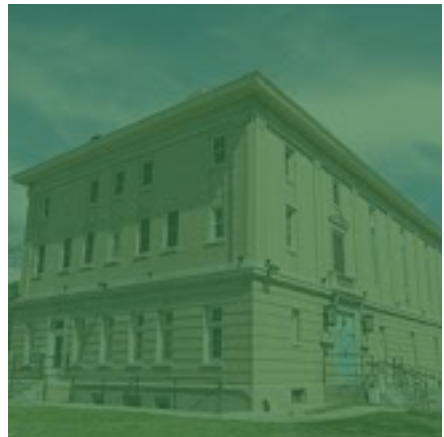
## Resources

### Scout Meetings

Tuesday's 7pm - 8:15pm

Park Hill Masonic Lodge

4819 Montview Blvd, Denver, CO 80207



### Camp Outs

Happen Every Month

Costs are covered by dues

Sign up on Scoutbook

Never be afraid to ask...

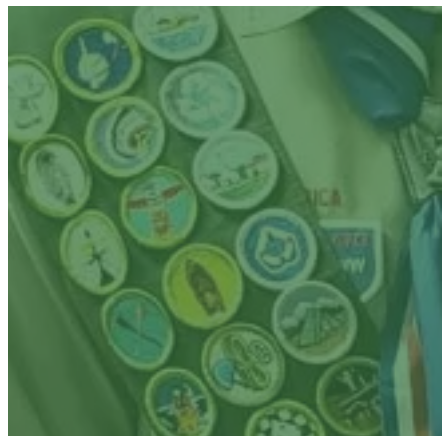


### Uniforms

You can pick up Uniforms and anything else Scout Related at the Scout Shop:

10455 W 6th Ave #125

Denver, CO 80215



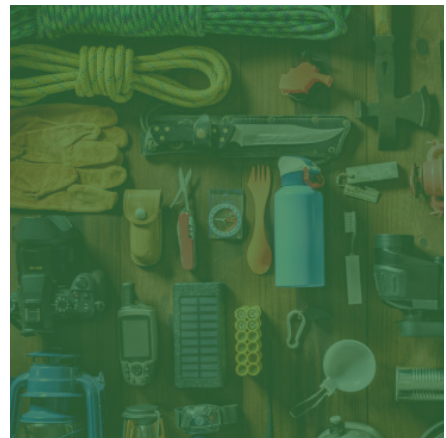
### Sumer Camp

Troop 62 will do a merit badge camp every summer. Dates will be listed on Scoutbook and emails will go out well in advance with info.



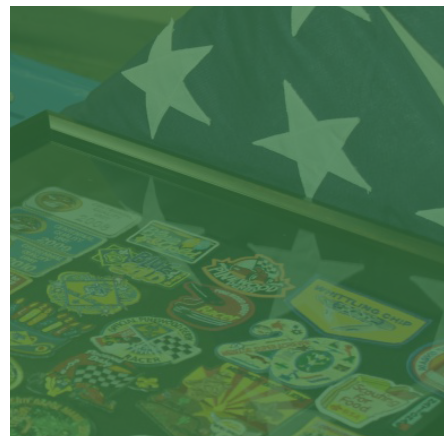
### Buying Gear on a budget

There are a number of great resources that won't put you in the poor house. Check with a Scoutmaster if you would like some advice!



### Courts of Honor

The troop holds a Court of Honor to recognize Scout advancement twice a year. Having parental involvement (ie. showing up) is big for everyone.



### YPT

You can log onto [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org) to do your Youth Protection Training within about 90 minutes - you need it if you want to volunteer or go on camp outs.



# Parent Handbook