

TROOP 95 ORIENTATION FOR YOUTH

Introduction

Welcome to Troop 95. Your journey to Eagle Scout has begun.

As a new member, you are joining a group of kids who share your interests in the outdoors, adventure, and learning. As a Scout, you will get the opportunity to learn, see, and do things that other kids may not. You will get the opportunity to acquire new skills, and you will be recognized and rewarded for what you have accomplished. You will have the opportunity to learn leadership, organizational, and other skills that will help you later in life.

This handbook is intended to act as an introduction to Scouting and to give Scouts and Parents a better understanding about how the Troop works.

For more details, please see our Troop Handbook.

YOU are in control of your goals to progress to Eagle rank.

You CAN achieve your goals with perseverance and by meeting the challenges of the distractions, that may derail you on your journey. Even though this is your journey to travel, there is assistance available from the adult leaders and higher ranked scouts to help you along the way. You can ask for help any time you feel you need it.

There are some basic rules that we expect you to follow:

- The Temple that we meet in is a house of worship and we require you to treat the facility with complete respect, including, its cleanliness.
- Respect each others' culture, beliefs, and traditions. America is a land of diverse backgrounds.
- Download and use ScoutBook to track and evaluate your progress.

Now let's get started!!!

Current Leadership & Contacts

Adult Leaders

Scoutmaster: Sam Kiburz

Assistant Scoutmaster:

Committee Chair: Lisa Baird

Treasurer: Mary Stewart

Youth Leaders

Youth leadership changes every 6 months, you should know which patrol you are in and who your patrol leader is.

Youth Chain of Command

If you have a question, concern or activity request, to your patrol leader first. You will continue up the chain of command in the following order:

1. Patrol Leader
2. Senior Patrol Leader
3. Scoutmaster
4. Committee Chair

Youth-Led - You Are In Charge!!

A troop consists of patrols. A patrol has 8 members and is led by a patrol leader. Patrol Leader's may have assistants. The job of the patrol leader is to guide their troop and help their troop members advance in rank. Patrols can determine what advancements and merit badges they work towards. It is up to the Senior Patrol Leader to determine patrols, but the patrol members elect their leaders.

If you don't like your patrol or patrol members, talk to your Senior Patrol Leader.

A Senior Patrol Leader and one or more Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders coordinate the patrols.

There are many other positions of responsibility in the troop, including Historian, Librarian, Quarter Master, etc. Positions and Position responsibilities can be found in your hand book.

Adult Chain of Command

Note to Parents: If an adult has a question about an activity, including safety-related concerns, he/she should first discuss it with his/her child. Scouts BSA is a youth-led program. Each youth is expected to know the details of their activity. If the youth doesn't know, ask them to find out. If the youth is unable to find out, then the adult may discuss it with other leaders, including the Scoutmaster.

Concerns of a sensitive or severe nature

If the concern regards child abuse, and the situation is dangerous, call 911. Other issues regarding possible child abuse should be reported to the Scoutmaster and/or Committee Chair who will make sure the situation is handled in the proper manner.

The chain of command for adult matters are:

1. Scoutmaster
2. Committee Chair and the Committee
3. Chartered Organization Rep (COR)

4. Unit Commissioner
5. Scout Executive

Billing questions should be discussed with the **Treasurer**. Fundraising questions should be addressed to the fundraising chair for that fundraiser.

Things you need

The minimum you will need is the Field Uniform, often referred to as a Class A:

- Official Scout BSA short-sleeve uniform shirt
- Olive green shorts or long pants with buttons. Athletic shorts are not acceptable!
- Sneakers or hiking shoes. Closed-toed shoes are required at all outdoor activities.

The **complete** field uniform is not required and includes:

- Official Scout BSA Uniform Shirt with patches placed correctly
- Official Scout BSA long pants, shorts or switchbacks
- Official Scout BSA web belt and buckle
- Official Scout BSA crew socks
- Official Scout BSA Merit Badge Sash (30 inch)

Troop 95 will supply

- Green shoulder loops for your Uniform
- Scout BSA Troop 95 numbers
- Scout BSA Membership I.D.card (once issued by the Council Office)
- Southwest Florida Council Patch and World Crest patch, if not on your shirt already
- Merit badge pamphlets for borrowing

You will need to purchase

- A Scout BSA handbook. Digital devices are not permitted at most meetings and scouting events, please purchase a paper handbook. **PUT YOUR NAME IN YOUR BOOK!**
- An official Scout BSA uniform shirt.
- Olive green shorts and/or long pants. These do not need to be official scout attire.
- You may also want to purchase a sash for patches
- Activity t-shirt. Ask a leader for the current color, Insignia's are ironed-on
- Reusable water bottle, hat and sunglasses are required on all scout activities.
- 10 Essentials - Check your scouting handbook for the list of the 10 essentials you should bring on each trip.

Where to buy

The scout shop is located at council HQ:

Southwest Florida Council Scout Shop 1801 Boy Scout Drive, Fort Myers FL or order online at

<http://www.scoutstuff.org/>

You may also find used or discounted uniforms on ebay.com or Amazon.com.

Uniform Definitions, When to Wear

Field Uniform (aka, Class A)

The official scout uniform is called a Field Uniform Uniform. Your Field uniform will be worn at every troop activity, when traveling to and from, special events or activities (your patrol leader will let you know) and for council sponsored fundraisers. Field Uniforms can not be worn for troop fundraisers.

If you are unsure of what to wear, wear your activity shirt and bring your Field Uniform.

Activity Uniforms (aka, Class B)

The Activity Uniform is your patrol shirt and shorts in the appropriate color and style as determined by your Patrol Leader. You are required to bring your Activity Uniform on every camping trip. Your patrol leader will tell you when you need to wear your Activity Uniform.

Uniform Patch Placement Guide

Review your book for instructions on where to place patches. Look under "Uniform" in the index.

Fees/Dues

Yearly dues of \$27 are collected each year in August. These dues are used for patches, supplies and insurance and in addition the annual registration fee charged by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Please make every effort to ensure that these dues are paid in a timely manner.

*Webelos & Cub Scouts that join Troop 95 mid-year will need to complete a new Scout BSA Application Form to transfer or complete their registration with Troop 95. There is no fee for transferring, but dues will need to be paid on a pro-rated basis.

Payment for camp and activity fees are due prior to the event.

Troop 95 will hold fundraising events throughout each year. Scouts will have the opportunity to earn money at these events to offset camping and equipment fees.

Required Fundraisers

Our troop receives free patches and can camp for free at Camp Miles or Camp Flying Eagle if we participate in, and meet our goal for, certain fundraising activities:

1. Popcorn - Popcorn sales are around August of each year. We ask everyone to buy at least one bag, but it is suggested that you sell more.
2. Friends of Scouting (FOS) Donations - Each year,

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance may be available to a Troop 95 member that may not be able to afford necessary equipment or fees. Please contact the Committee Chair for details. All requests for assistance will remain confidential.

Rank Advancement Overview

Your Responsibilities

With your parent, you must complete the safety pamphlet at the front of the book to earn your first rank.

****Excluding the safety pamphlet, parents, guardians and close relatives cannot sign books even if they are leaders or counselors. ****

You can work on most requirements at any time for any rank, but you must advance rank in order, i.e. Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Star, Life then Eagle.

It is your responsibility to make sure you get items signed off and to make sure your logs are completed! Tasks should be submitted via the scoutbook app.

1. **Complete Tasks** - When you have completed a task in your handbook, make sure you get it signed off by your patrol leader, the instructor or an adult (not a relative) who is present.
2. **Complete Logs** - You must complete the camping, service and leadership logs in scoutbook. Your parent can help with this. There are also logs in the back of your book. If you use your book, each record must be signed by your patrol leader or an adult (who is not a relative) present for the activity.
 - a. **Camping Logs** - Campouts are required for rank advancement. Take your handbook with you and get it signed on each campout.
 - b. **Service Logs** - Volunteering is required for rank advancement. As a troop, we will provide opportunities to volunteer. If you wish to volunteer at other tasks, you must discuss it with the scoutmaster first. If approved by your scoutmaster, you may record your volunteer activity in your logs.
 - c. **Leadership & Training** - Record all troop positions held as well as training (youth protection, NYLT, Den Chief Training, etc) and leadership activities like being a Den Chief for a pack. Your book lists the leadership positions that are acceptable for advancement to the next rank. Some positions require training.
 - d. **Hiking Log** - Hikes are required for advancement, therefore it is important that you keep track of the hikes you participate in with the troop.
3. **Scoutmaster Conference** - Once all tasks have been completed for rank, ask your scoutmaster for a Scoutmaster Conference.
4. **Board of Review** - After your Scoutmaster conference, ask the committee for your board of review. You must be in your Field uniform for the board of review. You must have complete logs (per above) and completed all tasks the the rank. All rank and rank progress can be viewed in scoutbook.

Note: We recommend you use the checklists at the back of your book to keep track of your progress since digital devices are not permitted on most scout activities.

Tips & Suggestions

- Set goals for yourself. Pick a target date to complete rank requirements for your next rank. Your first goal is to attain the Scout rank right away. If you earned your Arrow of Light you should be able to perform the Scout rank requirements within 30 days and/or immediately.
- Bring your Scout BSA Handbook to every Scout activity.

Everything you need to know is in your scout handbook!

Court of Honor (Awards Ceremony)

- The Troop periodically holds a Court of Honor, with refreshments, to recognize Scouts for their rank advancements, present merit badges earned and other awards that have been earned.
- We will also discuss upcoming activities and the scouting program with parents.
- Be sure that your family comes to each Court of Honor.

Earning Merit Badges

General

- You can start earning merit badges as soon as you join Scout BSA, BUT you must get your scoutmaster's approval first.
- We will work on Merit Badges during troop activities.
- You can also earn merit badges during merit badge days, Winter Camp and Summer Camp. Merit badges can be earned on your own.
- If a merit badge counselor is not available in our troop, scoutbook can be used to find a merit badge counselor.
- You can find out about merit badge requirements and download helpful worksheets on the Internet. Some useful websites are meritbadges.org or boyscouttrail.com
- You can borrow merit badge pamphlets from the Troop Library (please sign out merit badge pamphlets with the Troop Librarian), or you can buy merit badge pamphlets at the Scout Store
- Some merit badge books are available on Kindle. If buying a digital pamphlet, make sure you have the most recent version.

Merit Badges and Blue Cards (BSA Form 34124)

As of 2019, Blue Cards are not required for merit badges; however, many leaders still use them. The troop has a supply of blue cards available for your use. If you need one, please ask the troop librarian or committee.

DON'T LOSE your "Blue Cards" - save them in the file you create.

If a blue card is not used, scouts may discuss and complete portions of the merit badge and check them off in the ScoutBook app. The counselor will approve the activities. You can view your progress toward a merit badge at any time using ScoutBook.

Camping

The troop will provide:

- Tents
- Transportation to and from the camp-out
- Cooking equipment
- Cleaning supplies
- Food and consumable cooking supplies will be purchased at the troop shopping trip before the campout.

You will need to provide

- Sleeping bag (or sheets and blanket), pillow and sleeping pad. Please put these items in a backpack or compression bag.
- Clothes: at least 1 outfit per day plus an extra and 2 pairs of socks per day, and a swimsuit
- Your Field uniform
- Your Activity uniform
- Personal Hygiene (deodorant (not aerosol) soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, towel, and floss)
- Unless otherwise directed, the 10 essentials as listed in your handbook

Health Forms and Medication

- You must complete Health forms Part A and B before you can attend a troop outing. This form must be renewed each year.All
- You must complete Part C prior to any camping trip that is more than 2 nights (like Summer Camp and Winter Camp) Part C must be signed by a doctor
- Medication during Winter Camp and Summer camp - All medication must be in original containers and must be turned in to an adult leader.
- Medication on short camp-outs - If the parent and leader feel the youth is responsible enough to manage his medication, then the youth may be permitted to keep it with him. Make sure there are clear instructions with the medication. Day/Night vitamin packs are acceptable and convenient as long as you have documented the medications and vitamins in the health forms.

You must let an adult know if you take medication, including vitamins, on a regular basis.

Footwear

Nothing can end a great outdoor experience quicker than painful blisters, pinched toes or even injuries caused by inappropriate footwear. Never wear new shoes to camp!

Socks

Having the right socks is one of the most important ways to avoid foot problems at camp or on the trail. Here are some tips:The

1. Don't wear cotton socks because they absorb water and perspiration and hold it next to your skin. If you get into a situation where you are hiking with wet feet and the temperature drops below freezing, you risk getting frostbite.

2. For long hikes, consider wearing two pair of socks. The first pair next to your skin should be polyester liner socks that "wick away" moisture. The second outer pair should be heavy-weave wool or synthetic rag socks for cushioning.

Shoes

Scouts usually outgrow shoes in a short time, so don't spend a lot of money on your trail shoes or boots.

1. Comfort and fit are the most important features:
 - a. When trying on boots, wear the socks you plan to wear on the trail.
 - b. Boots should feel snug but comfortable, so you can still wiggle your toes. Most hiking boots won't feel instantly as comfortable as sneakers, but they shouldn't pinch, cause hot spots, or constrict circulation. They should sit securely around your ankle and instep.
 - c. When trying on boots, try walking down an incline. Your feet should not slide forward, nor should your toenails scrape against the front of your boot. If your foot slides forward, the boot could be too wide. If the back of your heel moves around, your boots might not be laced up tight enough.
2. Boots with a lug sole for better traction are usually a good choice, especially for rugged terrain.
3. Choose boots that are designed to support the load you expect to be carrying. If you plan to go backpacking with a full load, then you will need boots with more support.
4. Remember that great hiking boots do not have to cost a great deal.
5. Today's high-tech materials have replaced the traditional metal shank and other heavy elements that provide stability in a boot. As a result, hiking boots are lighter, but still offer great support.
6. Consider the various advantages of fabric versus leather boots. Fabric /leather boots are lighter in weight and easier to break in. Many hikers today are returning to traditional leather hiking boots for added protection and durability in rigorous terrain.
7. Leather boots are supportive and water resistant, yet they still will allow your feet to breathe.
8. Consider the advantages of a waterproof boot. Today's top-quality hiking boots have a Gore-Tex® lining that lets perspiration escape while keeping water out. Gore•Tex® is more expensive, but you can walk through puddles and shallow streams and not get your feet wet.
9. Consider protecting your boots with some kind of spray-on water repellent.

IMPORTANT: Break-in your boots by wearing them for short periods well before you plan to use them.

Buying Camping Supplies

Sleeping Bag

After footwear problems, the next biggest cause of a bad camping experience is being cold at night. One of your most important purchases will be your sleeping bag. Get a good quality bag with a 30° temperature rating and you will be prepared for any outing that the Troop might undertake. Also, buy a "stuff sack" so that your sleeping bag will be easy to pack.

Mattress Pad and Tarp

You will be more comfortable sleeping on a roll-up mattress pad than on the cold ground. Be sure that your

pad has straps to keep it rolled-up. Also, get a small, inexpensive plastic tarp. It will have many uses, but primarily it will keep your sleeping gear dry if the ground is wet.

Water Bottle

Get a reusable water bottle or canteen that you can carry with you. After each camping trip, fill it, and follow the manufacturer's directions to sterilize it.. Rinse it thoroughly. Inspect it before each use for dirt and mold (black dots.)

Pocket Knife

You must have your Totin' Chip to carry your pocket knife. DO NOT buy a hunting, fixed-blade or sheathed knife. Get a small pocket knife like a Swiss Army Knife or BSA Pocket knife, the blade can be no longer than the palm of your hand. Consider getting a BSA nylon belt holder for your pocket knife. You may bring your pocket knife to any Troop campout, but you may not use your pocket knife until you have taken knife, axe and saw training and receive your Totin' Chip card.

The Totin' Chip lets you carry a pocket knife onto council property, it does not give you permission to carry a knife in public or government places including the school. Follow the rules for the places you are visiting.

Compass

Get an inexpensive, flat, rectangular, see-through map-type compass with the rotating top.

Backpack

Get a small lightweight backpack for day hikes to carry your supplies (i.e. snacks, water, etc.) Having an easy to carry pack will make life easier when you attend merit badge classes at summer camp.

TROOP 95 ORIENTATION FOR ADULTS

Introduction

VOLUNTEERING

Many Hands Make Light Work

There are many opportunities for you to participate in troop activities. We limit the number of adults at camping activities and only registered volunteers may camp with the troop. We reserve the right to ask adults to leave an activity if their behaviour interferes or is unacceptable. Alcohol, drugs and gambling is not allowed at any event. Please check with the troop for current rules regarding medical Marijuana.

Electronics are prohibited at camp, calling home is limited to extreme situations.

We are passionately dedicated to ensuring the safety of our youth. The following steps are taken to ensure the scouting environment is safe.

- Required Youth Protection Training:
 - All adult volunteers must complete Youth Protection Training before registering as a volunteer. All leaders are required to pass a background check. Youth Protection Training and background checks must be re-done every 2 years.
 - Any adult participating in a scout activity must complete "Youth Protection" training
 - Anyone participating in 72 or more hours of activities over the course of a year are required to register with the BSA. These hours do not need to be contiguous.
 - Training is available at my.scouting.org or ScoutBook.com. Upon completion of this training, your certificate will be emailed to you. **You must e-mail the committee chair a copy of the certificate.**
 - You will not be able to participate as a leader or chaperone until we receive a copy of your certificate.
- Adult Leader Training: Volunteers must take the online training for their position or attend Position training at USA at camp Mile's in April (all day Saturday.)
- Campout Chaperones must take IOLS training. Check the council's website - swflcouncilbsa.org - for upcoming dates. Other suggested training can be taken at my.scouting.org and includes Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat, Hazardous Weather Training, Climb On Safely
- No one-on-one contact. Adults can not be alone with a child. If a child needs to be talked with, it will be done within site of the troop. All digital communication between a youth and adult must include at least one other adult.
 - In many cases, we will include the parent in digital communication.
 - If you have concerns about the content of the communication, please discuss it with the scoutmaster or committee chair privately, in a separate message.
 - If you wish to delegate another adult to receive these messages, please notify the committee and scoutmaster.

- Transporting Scouts & Gear: Anyone wishing to transport scouts and/or gear must provide a copy of their driver's license and auto insurance, complete the Drive Safely course at my.scouting.org and within the Troop Driver Pledge. It is suggested you have adequate insurance minimums to cover your vehicle, injuries to youth, and equipment damages. These limits will be higher if you are towing the scout trailer.

Drivers must:

- Take Drive Safely Training at My.Scouting.org
- Complete the Drivers safety checklist
- Sign the Driver's Pledge
- Provide a copy of their Driver's license and insurance.
- Review the Guide to Safe Scouting section on transportation

The use of Electronics is strictly prohibited while driving. Delegate a youth or adult to handle troop communication while you are driving and make sure everyone has their phone number.

Merit Badge Counselors: a separate application is required to be a merit badge counselor and the training course must be completed. Merit Badge counselors are volunteers with th council.

TROOP POLICIES

Dress Code

- Shirts - All shirts must have sleeves that cover the shoulder and the upper half of the upper arm or be covered by a shirt with sleeves. Shirts must be of sufficient length to be tucked into the wearers bottoms by at least 1 inch.
- Bottoms - All bottom-wear must be of a length not shorter than the fingertips of the wearer, when standing straight. Shorts or long pants are required on all outdoor activities.
- Sleeping Arrangements - All youth must share a tent with a youth of the same biological gender and sexual orientation and they can not be more than 2 years apart in age.All
- Closed-toed shoes are required on all outings, unless otherwise noted. Crocs may be worn for evening wear around the campfire or trips to the bathroom but are not suitable for all-day wear. Sneakers or boots should be worn for day-time activities.
- Swimsuits must consist of a swim shirt and swim shorts so that the main body is covered and protected from the Sun. Females are required to wear a one-piece swimsuit or a cover-up.

Dues & Fees

- As of 2020, Scout BSA Registration Fee is \$60 per year for youth, \$36 for adults
- Dues are \$26.00 per year. Dues cover expenses such as merit badges and merit badge supplies.
- Funds raised in fundraisers can be used to pay for camping fees, buying uniforms and buying camping equipment. Please discuss any purchases with the treasurer ahead of time. Reimbursement for purchases is at the sole discretion of the Committee.
- A scout earns his way. Discuss with your family how much camping you will do and the expected costs.

Camping is the most expensive part of the scout program. Most camping trips cost \$25-\$40. Winter Camp is about \$150 and Summer Camp \$300.

- Scholarships may be available. If you need assistance to pay for camping fees, discuss this with the Scoutmaster.
- Committee Members can earn bonus funds to pay for camping trips and scouting activities. Discuss opportunities with the Committee Chair.