

TROOP 96 GENERAL INFORMATION BOOKLET

INTRODUCTION

Boy Scout Troop 96 has been an active part of Grayslake, Illinois for many years. The current Troop was granted a charter from the Boy Scouts of America in September 1983. The chartered organization at that time was the St. Gilbert's Parish Council. The St. Gilbert Knights of Columbus became the Troop's sponsor in February 1990.

MEMBERSHIP

Troop 96 is a member of Boy Scouts of America Northeast Illinois Council's North Star District. Membership in Troop 96 is open to all boys who are 11 years old or who have completed fifth grade or who have earned the Cub Scout Arrow of Light, but are younger than 18 years old. Additionally, a boy must read and promise to observe the Scout Oath and Law. A Membership form and the annual BSA Health and Medical Record form (Parts A & B) must be completed, signed and returned to the Troop prior to any Scout's participation. This includes complete payment of the annual registration fees.

AIMS OF SCOUTING

The activities of Troop 96 are consistent with achieving the Aims of Scouting :

- * Building character
- * Fostering citizenship
- * Developing fitness: physical, mental, emotional and moral

METHODS OF SCOUTING

Troop 96 uses the Methods of Scouting to achieve Scouting's Aims :

- * Ideals
- * Patrols
- * Outdoors
- * Advancement
- * Personal Growth
- * Adult Association
- * Leadership Development
- * Uniforming

Troop 96 is committed to the Aims and Methods of Scouting. Patrols give Scouts an experience in group living and participation in citizenship. Patrols allow Scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine Troop activities through elected representatives. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. Boy Scouting is designed to take place in the outdoors. In the outdoors, Scouts learn to live with each other. Here skills and activities practiced at Troop meetings come alive with purpose.

ORGANIZATION

INTRODUCTION

Patrols are the cornerstone of Troop 96. Each patrol is a group of Scouts, ideally six to ten, working together as a team. Based on the patrol concept, the Troop is organized into New Scout Patrols and Experienced Scout Patrols. (An ad-hoc Adult Patrol forms for each of our campouts).

PATROL STRUCTURE

Within a patrol Scouts elect their own officers, conduct meetings and plan and carry out their own activities. Positions available within a patrol are :

Patrol Leader - Scouts within a patrol hold an election every six months to select a Patrol Leader. The two major duties of the Patrol Leader are to set a good example and represent the patrol at the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) and the Annual Program Planning Conference. Setting a good example means living by the Scout Oath and Law, developing patrol spirit and wearing the uniform correctly.

The Patrol Leader leads the patrol in its meetings and activities, presents patrol ideas to the PLC, keeps other members of the patrol informed on activities planned by the PLC and assigns patrol members jobs to help them succeed as a team. The Patrol Leader position is the only position in the patrol that is considered a Troop Position for rank advancement.

Assistant Patrol Leader - The Assistant Patrol Leader is the Scout ready to step in and assume the duties of the Patrol Leader when the Patrol Leader is not present. The Assistant Patrol Leader is the "right hand man" of the Patrol Leader and assists him as needed.

Patrol Scribe - The Patrol Scribe maintains attendance records. The Patrol Scribe drafts up agreed upon campout menus and duty rosters.

Patrol Quartermaster - The Patrol Quartermaster maintains the patrol's camping gear in good working order, requests Troop gear needed by the patrol for campouts and assists the Troop Quartermaster as directed.

Grubmaster - The Grubmaster purchases food and staples for campouts. This position generally rotates among patrol members each for each campout.

NEW SCOUT PATROLS

As boys enroll in Troop 96 they are placed in New Scout Patrols. An effort is made to place boys familiar with each other in the same patrol (friends, Webelos from the same Pack, boys from the same neighborhood or school). Existing friendships help new Scouts meet challenges and allow sharing of experiences.

The purpose of the New Scout Patrol is to teach the ways of Boy Scouting, camping skills and skills for rank advancement. Scouts remain in this patrol at least until the end of summer (when they should be comfortable with their skills). Scouts can then individually join an existing Experienced Scout Patrol or remain within their current Experience Scout Patrol.

New Scout patrol responsibilities change frequently: every one or two months. Rotation of responsibilities provides each Scout the chance to lead and learn by doing. Guidance is provided by experienced Scouts (Troop Guides) and an Assistant Scoutmaster assigned to the New Scout Patrol. Their goals are to make the new Scouts self sufficient campers and pilot them toward the First Class rank.

EXPERIENCED SCOUT PATROLS

Experienced Scout Patrols are organized and run by the Scouts. Work continues on outdoor skills and rank advancement. The Scouts have greater freedom and broader experiences through merit badge work and high adventure activities (for example, rock climbing).

VENTURE CREW 96

The Venture Crew 96 is composed of older Scouts (older than age 14) involved in more challenging outdoor activities (high adventure activities) such as whitewater canoeing, wilderness backpacking, snow camping and cave exploration. The Venture Crew is a separately chartered unit of co-educational Scouting. Venture Crew members can continue with the regular Scout advancement program, Troop activities and Troop leadership responsibilities while involved with Venture Crew activities provided they are dual-registered..

TROOP JUNIOR LEADER POSITIONS

Junior Leaders are Scouts who lead the Troop. They build on experiences and knowledge gained while in patrol leadership positions. As Junior Leaders, their responsibilities grow, for the group they're directing is the Troop (thirty to fifty Scouts) not a patrol (six to ten Scouts). These Scouts hold the following positions :

Senior Patrol Leader - The Senior Patrol Leader is the top junior leader in the Troop. A Senior Patrol Leader is elected every six months through the voting of Scouts in the Troop. He runs all Troop meetings, events and activities. He is the chairman of the Patrol Leaders' Council and the Annual Program Planning Conference. He assigns duties and responsibilities to other junior leaders which he has appointed after consulting with the Scoutmaster. In effect he guides the Troop Junior Leaders to become successful in their endeavors.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s) - The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s) is the "right hand man" of the Senior Patrol Leader. The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s) leads parts of meetings and activities, and steps into lead the Troop in the Senior Patrol Leader's absence. His primary duties are to train and direct the efforts of the following positions:

Troop Scribe(s) - The Troop Scribe keeps records of meeting and activity attendance and obtains articles from Scouts for the Troop Gazette. He participates and takes notes during the Patrol Leaders' Council and Annual Program Planning meetings.

Troop Quartermasters - The Troop Quartermasters keep inventory of patrol and Troop equipment. They ensure Troop equipment is maintained in good working condition. They work with the patrol quartermasters for checking equipment in and out. Troop 96 supports up to four Troop Quartermaster positions at one time.

Troop Guide(s) - The Troop Guide is an experienced Scout who works with a New Scout Patrol. He helps new Scouts develop the skills for acting as a patrol, camping and rank advancement. A Troop Guide becomes a member of a New Scout Patrol but does not hold any patrol leadership positions.

Troop Librarian - The Troop Librarian maintains Merit Badge books for checkout by Scouts and Leaders. He assures the Merit Badge library remains up-to-date.

Troop Instructor(s) - The Troop Instructor teaches one or more advancement skills to Troop members.

Den Chief(s) - The Den Chief works with a Cub Scout den in a local area Pack.

Other necessary Troop Positions include: Order of the Arrow Representative, Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, Chaplain's Aide, Webmaster, Leave No Trace Trainer and Bugler.

PATROL LEADERS' COUNCIL

Patrol Leaders, with the Senior Patrol Leader as their head, form the core of the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC). Each Patrol Leader represents the members of his patrol. The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s), Troop Scribe and Scoutmaster also attend council meetings. Additional Scouts and Leaders are periodically invited to attend based on the Council's need for information (Troop Quartermaster for equipment needs, Assistant Scoutmasters, etc.).

What is the Council's function? First, a special PLC meeting is held each year. This is called the Annual Program Planning Conference. The major events and activities for the coming year are outlined during the Conference. This is the time for Scouts to present activity ideas. Activity decisions are made, such as attending North Star District or Northeast Illinois Council activities (camporees, Webelos Woods, parades, merit badge workshops, Scout shows, etc.), participating in community events to provide Scout assistance (blood drive, St. Gilbert's Church picnic, Almond Road clean-up days, etc.), outdoor activities (weekend campouts, summer camp, ski outings, canoe trips, etc.) and Troop functions (Courts of Honor, Webelos visits, etc.).

The monthly Patrol Leaders' Council meetings add the detail to the program developed during the Annual Program Planning Conference such as skills, games, ceremonies, service projects and of course other changes.

How are decisions made? Three rules. One, the Senior Patrol Leader presides. Two, each proposal is voted on. Three, the majority rules. The Scoutmaster does not vote but has the right to veto decisions contrary to the best interests of the Troop or aims and philosophy of Scouting. If this action is taken, an explanation is provided to the Council.

ADULT PATROL

Adults attending weekend campouts act as a Patrol - in fact, we expect the adults to serve as the ultimate example of the patrol method. Scouts learn by example and there is no better way for a Scout to learn than to see it in action. The primary purpose of the adult patrol is to ensure the safety of the Scouts and **not** to run the activities.

TROOP ADULT LEADERSHIP

The Troop Adult Leadership is composed of two branches, Program Staff and Troop Committee. The Program Staff are the Scoutmaster and his assistants. They have the primary interaction with the Scouts. The Troop Committee is comprised of adults and parents interested in the activities of Troop 96 and Scouting. The Troop Committee supports the Troop program by handling tasks that help the organization run smoothly. Issues related to the Scouts and identified by committee members or parents should be brought to the attention of the Scoutmaster for resolution.

Unless an immediate safety risk is identified that requires urgent communication to the Scouts, it is expected that all direction and guidance for the Scouts be provided by the Scoutmaster and his assistants.

TROOP LEADER

Scoutmaster - The Scoutmaster is the person who quietly but effectively pulls it all together to get the results he's after: helping boys grow into young men. He accomplishes this by training and guiding the junior leaders to run the Troop, and by managing and supporting his Assistant Scoutmasters in their assigned roles.

The Scoutmaster is the one - and only - Troop leader who relates closely to each of the other links in the chain of Troop operations : Scouts, Youth Leaders, Patrol Leaders' Council, Program Staff and Troop Committee. In the absence of the Scoutmaster, an Assistant Scoutmaster is assigned to fulfill his duties.

Assistant Scoutmasters - Assistant Scoutmasters support the Scoutmaster and are assigned specific program responsibilities. Troop 96 has Assistant Scoutmasters responsible for various aspects of the program, including assisting the Troop Guides who guide the New Scout Patrols, guiding the Troop Quartermasters, guiding Life Scouts toward Eagle, publishing the monthly edition of the Troop *Gazette* and teaching particular Scouting skills.

Junior Assistant Scoutmasters - Junior Assistant Scoutmasters (JASMs) are senior Scouts in the troop. Typically, JASMs have held most troop positions, are at least 16 years old, and have reached at least Life rank. The JASMs report to the Scoutmaster and may have specific duties as directed by the Scoutmaster. For example, a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster with previous experience as a Troop Guide may be directed to work closely with the current Troop Guides as their instructor, mentor and may occasionally substitute for a Guide who cannot participate on a weekend campout.

TROOP COMMITTEE

Parents are encouraged to join and/or attend committee meetings. The Troop Committee has many positions available some of which are :

Committee Chairman - The Committee Chairman runs the regularly scheduled committee meetings and works with the Scoutmaster in preparing an agenda. The Chairman helps to ensure Troop representation at monthly district roundtables, that the annual rechartering takes place and committee tasks are completed.

Chartered Organization Representative - The Chartered Organization Representative is the liaison to the Troop's sponsor. He assists the Chartered Organization in the selection of a Scoutmaster. He assists with the Troop's rechartering. He knows the most effective way to get the Chartered Organization's assistance and maintain a mutually satisfactory working relationship with the Chartered Organization.

Secretary - Records the minutes of the monthly committee meeting and prepares copies for all committee members.

Treasurer - Manages and keeps the Troop's financial records.

Advancement Chairman - Records and tracks all awards and ranks of the Scouts. Sets up and runs the Board of Review. Submits advancement reports to the Scoutmaster and the Northeast Illinois Council office.

Transportation Coordinator - Prepares and collects permission forms and schedules drivers. Maintains a record of camping participation.

Service Coordinator - Suggests community service projects for the Troop and individual Scouts.

Committee Members at Large - Attend and participate in the decisions made at the committee meeting. These Committee Members also attend campouts, assist in special projects and help with the annual fund raisers. Only Committee Members registered as adult leaders are allowed to vote on Committee matters.

MEETINGS

TROOP MEETINGS

Troop meetings are held throughout the year at St. Gilbert's Chapel Hall in Grayslake from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Monday evenings. The Chapel Hall is located on Illinois Route 120 between Lake Street and Illinois Route 83.

PATROL MEETINGS

A short patrol meeting (patrol corners) is held at each Troop meeting to deal with current business (menu planning, skill session, equipment planning). However, a patrol should meet outside regular Troop meetings to work on advancement or complete camp preparation when necessary. The Troop suggests that these additional patrol meetings take place once a month.

PATROL LEADERS' COUNCIL

The Patrol Leaders' Council meets once a month. Typically, the PLC meets during the last week of the month. Changes in the date, location and time are announced at the Troop meeting, web site and in the newsletter.

TROOP COMMITTEE

The Troop Committee generally meets monthly on the second Thursday evening of the month from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at the Grayslake Library. The actual timing and location of the meeting is announced each month.

CAMPING PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Camping is a major element of the Troop 96 program. In addition to two weeks at summer camp, a weekend campout is held each month except July and December. Also, there are high adventure activities which provide older Scouts a more rugged outdoor experience. Troop 96 has sent Scouts to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and to the BSA's National Jamborees.

Participation in an activity requires a completed permission form, food money, activity money and equipment. These items are the responsibility of each Scout and his patrol.

WEEKEND CAMPING

One weekend each month the Troop stays overnight at a campground within several hours of Grayslake. Scouts take part in activities and skill work planned by the Patrol Leaders' Council. Each patrol plans a menu, prepares its meals and takes care of clean-up. Menus are approved by an adult leader and the Senior Patrol Leader prior to the campout. The Troop supplies tents and cook gear to each patrol. Personal gear is the responsibility of the individual Scout. (When a personal tent is brought on a campout, the following conditions must apply: The Scout must have reached First Class, the personal tent must accommodate two Scouts (and not more than three) and permission must be sought from the Scoutmaster prior to each event.) Scouts travel to and from weekend camping sites in uniform.

Weekend camping costs are paid by participating Scouts. Each Scout typically pays fifteen (\$15) dollars, in cash, to the patrol for food. The money is due with the permission form on the Monday before the campout to allow time for a member of the patrol to make the food purchases. If the full amount is not spent, then excess money is used to restock the patrol kitchen with seasonings, soap, paper towels, scrub pads, etc. or returned to the Scouts. On occasion an activity requires additional money (summer camp fees, trail fees, council/district campouts, canoe trips, etc.). Scouts are informed of any additional costs at Troop meetings, the website and through the Troop Gazette.

For most campouts, Scouts leave from the east parking lot of St. Gilbert's Church Friday evening and return to the same location on Sunday. (A non-denominational service is provided in camp before returning home.) Times of departure and an estimated time of return are provided on the permission form. If a Scout finds he cannot attend the camping trip after signing up and paying the necessary fees, every effort will be made to refund any money. However, if food has been purchased or fees paid, no refund can be made for that expense. Scouts (and parents) are discouraged from coming and going during a campout. If there are sports or other conflicts, please pick one or the other to minimize potential logistical problems.

SUMMER CAMP

Troop 96 attends a long term camp every summer. Two weeks, typically in the middle of July, are spent at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation which is located near Pearson, Wisconsin (approximately 250 miles north of Grayslake). Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan is owned and operated by the Northeast Illinois Council. Troop 96's long term camping at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation is targeted for new Scouts and Scouts working on merit badges for rank advancement. A Scout can go for either one or two weeks. Scouts attending one week are limited to selecting the first week of the two week session. The cost is approximately \$260 per week (but varies each year).

The Troop strongly recommends that the first-year Scouts attend only the first week of summer camp. New Scout parents are asked to use their best judgment and contact the Scoutmaster to reach this decision. A completed BSA Health and Medical form (Part C) signed by a Doctor is required to attend summer camp or an activity longer than 72 hours in duration. More information regarding Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan is provided each spring and well in advance of departure.

HIGH ADVENTURE

In addition to Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan, Scouts meeting rank and age requirements (set by the Boy Scouts of America) are eligible to participate in the Troop's High Adventure Program. This program includes activities such as Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, Sea Base in Florida or week-long canoe trips such as on the St. Croix River in Wisconsin or the Wind River in Wyoming.

PERMISSION FORMS

Campout and high adventure activities require the completion of a permission form. The permission form provides the ability to arrange sufficient adult leadership, arrange sufficient transportation, allow patrols to plan food and equipment needs, allow the purchase of food in a timely manner (not last minute - your Scout may be selected to do the buying), make adjustments in the campout program based on the make-up of Scouts (age, rank and number) and complete a tour permit to file with our BSA local council for insurance. Most importantly, though, the permission form allows for emergency medical care. A completed permission form allows an adult leader to grant permission, on your behalf, of emergency medical care if needed. Space on the form also allows parents to inform the Troop of any normal or short-term medical needs such as medication, activity limitations or recent illnesses. Permission forms can be obtained through the Troop's monthly newsletter or from the Troop's web site.

Completed permission forms are returned prior to the activity (or as directed on the Form itself).

Generally, the Permission form is distributed on the first Monday of a month within the Gazette and usually earlier on the troop's website. The second Monday of the month patrols finalize campout preparations. Typically, we target to go camping on the third weekend of a month. The Monday prior to the campout is when the permission form is due. These time frames change depending on the activity, but provide the general intent of the Troop to coordinate an activity. The Troop understands that Scouts may not be able to attend every meeting and so, the permission form can be returned by other means such as a parent, relative or other Scout. Nevertheless, the Troop does not allow a Scout to participate in an activity if a permission form is not returned by the deadline.

If you have a change in plans, let the Troop know - it happens to everyone. A parent is expected to notify the Troop if a Scout cannot participate or there is a change in his medical status.

BASIC CAMPING GEAR

The following personal items are generally needed on a campout:

Clothing for the season	Knapsack or carry bag
Small personal first aid kit	Spoon, fork and knife
Rain gear	Plate and Cup
Flashlight	Scout uniform
Water bottle (1 or 2)	Scout handbook
Appropriate Footwear	Toothbrush & toothpaste
Sleeping bag	Washcloth
Pocketknife & Totin' Chip	Towel, soap, comb
Hat	Insect repellent (no aerosols)

Optional Gear:

Watch	Sleeping pad or mattress
Sunglasses	Bird/plant identification book

Items not permitted:

Electronic games	Cell Phones	Matches +Lighters
Radios	Games	Fireworks
Personal food, esp candy cookies pop)	Sheath	Flammable Liquids
	Knives	

SAFETY

Troop 96 is committed to meeting the guidelines specified in the BSA's current edition of the *Guidelines for Safe Scouting*.

Safety for all is ensured by following the BSA's Guide to Safe Scouting. Not following proper (safety) procedures will result in disciplinary measures.

TROOP EQUIPMENT

All equipment, except for items purchased by a Patrol for the Patrol pantries, is Troop equipment. Use of Troop equipment is requested by a Patrol for each outing/activity. A Patrol submits a written request to the Troop Quartermaster prior to the event. The request indicates stove, lantern, dining fly, cooking utensils, fire building tools (axe, shovel, rope, grate) and type and number of tents needed. This avoids last minute rushes and allows the preparation of utility boxes in advance. Utility boxes will be loaded in the Troop trailer during the meeting just prior to the outing/activity. Allocation of tents to Scouts will be based on tent type and Scout rank. Condition of equipment is noted at the time of check out and initialed by the patrol's representative. When Troop equipment is returned, it is inspected by the Troop Quartermaster with the condition noted. Any damage found will be discussed with the Scouts who used the equipment and the leaders at the outing in order to determine responsibility. Normal wear and tear, bad weather and circumstances beyond the control of the Scouts will be taken into consideration when determining responsibility. Equipment found dirty or wet, but undamaged, can be retained by the Scouts for cleaning and returned at the next Troop meeting. If damage is found to be due to negligence or abuse by the Scouts, repairs or replacement costs will be the responsibility of the Scouts involved.

Scouts may be barred from attending subsequent outings until all payments are made and/or equipment returned.

ADVANCEMENT

INTRODUCTION

While advancement is considered an important part of our program, it is not over-emphasized. If a Scout attends meetings, weekend campouts and summer camp on a regular basis, the program's balance will help him advance. When a Scout is advancing, he is learning important skills and experiencing leadership.

SCOUT RANK REQUIREMENTS

A Scout's advancement is the natural outcome of his regular Scouting activities. When it is recognized that a Scout has mastered a given skill and satisfies a given requirement, the Scout's handbook is "signed-off" - an acknowledgment of the Scout's achievement. The Scout's Handbook becomes his written record of achievement during his Scouting career and will be essential to verify his credentials for the Eagle Scout rank.

The requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class concentrate on the areas of outdoorsman, fitness, citizenship, Scout spirit and first aid. With a scoutmaster's approval, requirements in the areas of fitness, citizenship and first aid can be worked on with community leaders such as a physical education teacher, town mayor, fire department paramedic or school nurse.

A Scout need not wait until he has completed all requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class or First Class before he begins work on the requirements of a higher

class. In other words, a Scout can work on all three ranks at the same time. However, these three ranks must be completed in sequence. A greater challenge awaits the Scout in achieving the ranks of Star, Life and Eagle. A considerable amount of independent work is performed by the Scout in the form of Merit Badges. A Scout is also required to show greater responsibility in the areas of leadership and citizenship.

The purpose of advancement, of course, is for a Scout to learn, to achieve, to mature and - most importantly - to have fun.

SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCE

When a Scout completes the requirements for a rank, a Scoutmaster Conference is held. The purpose of the conference is to develop a level of understanding and trust between the Scoutmaster and a Scout. Once this relationship is established and grows, a Scoutmaster can become more effective in helping a boy get the most from Scouting. This is an opportunity for the Scoutmaster to guide a Scout to solve his own problems and help him set his own goals.

BOARD OF REVIEW

The final step in the advancement process is a Board of Review. This review is conducted by at least three Troop Committee members but no more than six. Their purpose is not to retest the Scout, but to make sure he has met all advancement requirements, to talk with the Scout about the Troop and its program, and of course, to encourage him to keep advancing. A Board of Review may check the Scout's understanding of his First Aid knowledge. If necessary, the Board will discuss the lack of advancement progress regarding a particular the Scout with the Scoutmaster and try to help him get back "on track."

COURT OF HONOR

The activities, merit badges, ranks and special awards earned by the Scouts are recognized in ceremonies at a Court of Honor. There are usually three Courts of Honor each year: typically in January, May-June and September. These are important family events and all family members are encouraged to attend. Not only does the Scout get full recognition for all of his work, but Courts of Honor are planned as a social event for the entire family.

After the formal ceremonies are completed, refreshments (provided by the patrols) are served to their guests and fellow Scouts.

TROOP FINANCES**INTRODUCTION**

Operating expenses of Troop 96 are paid through initial registration fees, rechartering fees and fund raisers. These monies pay for Scout registration, *Boy's Life* magazine subscription, insurance, awards, camping fees, equipment maintenance, new equipment and other Troop expenses.

INITIAL REGISTRATION

An initial registration fee is paid by a Scout when joining Troop 96. This fee is allocated in the same manner as the recharter fee.

RECHARTER FEE

An annual recharter fee is paid by a Scout each December. A estimated breakdown of this money is as follows :

National Registration	~25%
<i>Boys Life</i> Magazine	~10% (each family no exceptions)
Insurance	~5%
Troop Expenses	~60%
Total	

CAMPING

Weekend campouts are self-funded from the standpoint of food and activity fees. Other expenses are funded by the Troop (for example, camping reservation fees). Payment of high adventure activity and summer camp fees is the responsibility of each participating Scout.

FUNDRAISERS

In recent years, the Troop has held fundraisers in which the Scouts sold popcorn and holiday wreaths. Items were sold primarily through door to door orders. Since 1996, Troop 96 has sponsored an annual Spaghetti Dinner. This fundraiser provides the major source of money for operating the Troop. Profits earned from fundraisers are shared between the Troop and Scouts. Each Scout is responsible for financially supporting the Troop. If a Scout does not participate in a fundraiser, a cash donation will be expected.

SCOUT ACCOUNTS Money in a Scout's Troop account can be used by the Scout to pay for summer camp, high adventure activities, Scoutmaster pre-approved camping gear purchases, weekend camping food costs or special activity fees. Additionally, with pre-approval, the account can be used for sporting goods and books. If a Scout leaves the Troop, money remaining in the Scout's Troop account becomes Troop money if the Scout has not made arrangements for the money to be transferred to his new troop.

TRAINING

INTRODUCTION

The Scoutmaster's most important job is to train and guide junior leaders to run THEIR Troop. Knowing how to train and what to train the junior leaders is the key to a successful Troop. Having everyone involved with the Troop understanding the same game plan adds to that success. Troop 96 encourages Scouts, Leaders and Committee Members to participate in training courses provided by the Boy Scouts of America. Following is a brief description of the major training programs offered by the Boy Scouts of America. Additionally, the Boy Scouts of America offer many brief training programs on advancement, Troop committee, counseling, effective teaching and youth protection.

JUNIOR LEADER

This training introduces Scouts to basic leadership skills and helps begin building a team that effectively runs the Troop. The training is presented in a workshop format and covers leadership styles, cooperation in the patrol, dealing with problems and building Troop spirit. This training is performed at least once each year, with the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster and junior leaders of the Troop participating.

YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING

Youth protection training is required for all registered members of the troop (as well as parents who attend summer camp). Scouts receive annual instruction based on published materials from the BSA. These materials are age-appropriate and help the youth to be better prepared to handle various situations (including substance abuse and molestation. Training for adult members of the troop is provided to assure a "safe haven" for our youth members and to advise adult members on the practices that they must accept to work with the Scouts. It is expected that all adults participating in Troop activities will have a basic understanding of the BSA policies on Youth Protection and will abide by them.

BOY SCOUT LEADER BASIC

This adult leader training program spans a four day period. Information from the Fast Start videos is presented in greater depth. Part one of the training provides a "Troop" and "Patrol" experience for the participants while explaining the aims and methods of Scouting. This is a full Saturday of training. Part two presents information on the adult roles and organization supporting a Troop. The Chartered Organization, Troop Committee, District Council and National Organization are described. This portion of the training takes place during a weekday evening. Finally participants join in an overnight campout for Part three of the training. The elements of a campout are demonstrated, outdoor skills are tried and an evening camp fire is shared by all. Boy Scout Leader Basic training provides many insights and ideas.

WOOD BADGE

This is the highest level of adult training offered by the Boy Scouts of America. The training involves learning leadership skills over three full weekends or one full

week, plus additional classroom style meetings. This training is designed especially for Scoutmasters and adult leaders directly involved with the Scouts.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Throughout the year, every family is expected to be involved with the Troop. There are ample opportunities - from committee positions to assisting with annual fundraisers to participation in campouts to providing transportation to teaching a skill. Please stay involved with your son's Scouting program. Without active adults, there is no program! Lastly, it is our experience that the Scouts with involved parents are also the most successful.

MISCELLANEOUS

SCOUT SPIRIT

Scout spirit means that a Scout does his best to live by the Scout Oath and Law. Scouts are expected to be active in the Troop and Patrol meetings, events and outings. The success of Troop 96 depends on Scout spirit!

UNIFORMING

The uniform blends many facets of Scouting. The uniform is an outward sign that a Scout believes in certain values and creates a positive youth image in the community. When it is properly worn the uniform builds Troop spirit. All Scouts are expected to wear a uniform to all Troop meetings, activities and campouts. The Troop realizes that a complete uniform is expensive, so the official shirt with proper insignia is considered a full uniform until a Scout reaches the rank of First Class. After obtaining the First Class rank, the Troop encourages the additional purchase of official Scout pants or shorts, official socks and belt. Scouts travel to and from weekend camping sites and MaKaJaWan in uniform.

TROOP COMMUNICATIONS (Website, Monthly Newsletter *GAZETTE* and Twitter)

The Troop's website (www.boyscouttroop96.com) is regularly updated to provide information about upcoming events, news about recent outings and fun things about Scouting and Troop 96. The Troop *Gazette* is published the first week of each month and is distributed electronically to the email address(es) you have provided. It is very important that both the Scout and his parents check the website and read the *Gazette*. Troop announcements are also made via Twitter (www.twitter.com/GLtroop96)

TROOP CALENDAR

The Scouts and Leaders work together to plan each year's program. The program includes monthly campouts, summer camp, high adventure activities, Troop activities and Troop meetings. The meeting and activity calendar is available after annual planning conference is held each year and is printed in the *Gazette* as well as a separate section on the website..

HEALTH FORMS

In order to provide better care for its members and to assist them in better understanding their own physical capabilities, the Boy Scouts of America recommends that everyone who participates in a Scouting event have an annual medical evaluation by a certified and licensed health-care provider—a physician (MD or DO), nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. Providing your medical information on this four-part form will help ensure you meet the minimum standards for participation in various activities. Note that unit leaders must always protect the privacy of unit participants by protecting their medical information.

Parts A and B are to be completed at annually by participants in all Scouting events. This health history, parental/guardian informed consent and hold harmless/release agreement, and talent release statement is to be completed by the participant and parents/guardians.

Part C is the physical exam that is required for participants in any event that exceeds 72 consecutive hours, for all high-adventure base participants, or when the nature of the activity is strenuous and demanding. Service projects or work weekends may fit this description. Part C is to be completed and signed by a certified and licensed health-care provider—physician (MD or DO), nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. It is important to note that the height/weight limits must be strictly adhered to when the event will take the unit more than 30 minutes away from an emergency vehicle, accessible roadway, or when the program requires it, such as backpacking trips, high-adventure activities, and conservation projects in remote areas.

The current year's form is available from the BSA's official website at www.scouting.org.

TELEPHONE COURTESY

Scouts and parents are requested to refrain from calling Troop members past 9:00 PM on weeknights and before 9:00 AM on weekends.

HARASSMENT

While we don't like to bring it up, we think it needs to be said. Scouting is an experience of a lifetime for each and everyone involved with Troop 96. Hopefully these experiences will be wonderful memories which will be fondly looked back upon. With this in mind, Troop 96 does not tolerate any harassment or hazing of Scouts by any member of the Troop. Any Scout found participating in this type of behavior will be warned for the first occurrence. A second occurrence will require a Scout and his parents to meet with the Scoutmaster in order for the Scout to continue to be a member of the Troop. Every Scout in the Troop is responsible to make sure that the Scouting experience is the best it can be for all other Scouts!

THE BOYS SCOUTS OF AMERICA PREDICT...

For every 100 boys who join a Boy Scout Troop :

- * Eighteen will develop hobbies that will last through their adult life,
- * Seventeen will become Scouting volunteers,
- * Twelve will have their first contact with a church or synagogue,
- * Eight will enter a career that was learned through a merit badge,
- * Five will earn their religious emblem,
- * One will enter the clergy,
- * One will use his Boy Scout skills to save a life,
- * One will use his Boy Scout skills to save his own life,
- * Two will become Eagle Scouts.