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1. The Adventure of Scouting

1.1. Scouting at Willow Creek

The church is greatly concerned about today's youth, our leaders of tomorrow. Scouting can provide our youth a solid foundation. Our Scouting units meet this need by emphasizing the purpose of Scouting from a strong Christian perspective. Our foundation is built upon The Rock, our Lord, and Jesus Christ.

All Scouts are expected to demonstrate respect for their fellow scouts and all adults. Appropriate words and actions are expected at all times. This means that we will not tolerate profanity, verbal abuse, and physical abuse under any circumstances. This includes any aggressive behavior such as pushing, shoving, fighting, and roughhousing.

1.2. Purpose of Scouting

Within the words of The Scout Oath, one can find the purpose of Scouting, i.e. to provide the youth of America an effective program designed to:

- Build desirable qualities of character
- Train them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship
- Develop in them personal fitness (physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually)

***Scouting is a Game with a Purpose.
Fun is the Game.
Values are the Purpose.
Learning is the Process.***

1.3. Guidelines

- 1.3.1. Because Scouting is a way of life, the Troop Committee recognizes the importance of helping a Scout grow into responsible manhood, learn to be of service to others, become a citizen of fine character, and to work cooperatively within the troop.
- 1.3.2. The Troop Committee also recognizes that Scouting provides fellowship and fun.
- 1.3.3. To achieve these ends, the Scout Oath or Promise, the Scout Law, the Scout Motto, and the Scout Slogan will provide the guidelines and principles of the Scouting program. It is by following these rules or guidelines that a young man becomes a true Scout. The Scout Oath and Scout Law are guides to citizenship. They point out a Scout's duties. The Scout Motto and Scout Slogan spell out a Scout's ability and willingness

to serve. These are important for a Scout to understand and as is his intent to live by these rules or guidelines.

- 1.3.4. The Troop Committee has adopted the rules and policies set forth below with the intent of providing a more positive structure for the performance of the Troop's activities. This manual is designed to give the Scouts as well as their parents an insight into the operation of Troop 787.
- 1.3.5. All Scouts of Troop 787 and their parent(s) / guardian(s) should read and acknowledge these rules and policies.

1.4. Goals

Every scouting activity of Troop 787 strives toward the three goals of Scouting:

- **To Build Character:** What the Scout is himself: his personal qualities, his values and his outlook.
- **To Foster Citizenship:** How the Scout relates to others: he learns his obligations to others, to society, and to the government that presides over that society.
- **To Develop Mental, Moral, and Physical Fitness:** Through fitness, the Scout develops the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), the "moral fiber"(as shown by courage, respect for others), and the emotions (self-control and self-respect).

1.5. Methods of Scouting

The Boy Scouts of America uses eight fundamental methods to meet boy's hope for fun and adventure, and to achieve Scouting's aims of encouraging character development, citizenship, and mental and physical fitness.

- 1.5.1. **The Ideals** - the ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Motto, and Slogan. Boy Scouts and Adult leaders incorporating these ideals into their daily lives are said to have *Scout Spirit*.
- 1.5.2. **The Patrol Method** - the patrol system is the one essential feature in which Scout training differs from that of all other organizations. It gives the opportunity for real responsibility and practice of leadership, social growth, and teamwork.
- 1.5.3. **The Outdoors** - The Boy Scout Program is designed to take place outdoors. It is the classroom of Scouting, the place to practice skills and activities.

- 1.5.4. **Advancement** - Scouting provides a series of surmountable tasks and steps to achieve through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and progress at his own pace as he masters each level of challenge.
- 1.5.5. **Association with Adults** - Scouts learn from example of their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is critical at this stage of a young man's development.
- 1.5.6. **Personal Growth** - As Scouts plan their activity and progress towards their goals they experience personal growth. Growth of moral strength and character is a natural outcome of the Scouting program.
- 1.5.7. **Leadership Development** - The Boy Scout program encourages Scouts to learn and practice leadership skills. Leadership is responsibility and action. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations.
- 1.5.8. **Uniform** - the uniform makes the Boy Scout visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Wearing the uniform helps the boys develop a sense of belonging to their Patrol and Troop.

2. The Committee

2.1. Function

- 2.1.1. The Troop Committee is responsible for the business of the Troop. The ability of the Troop to function and work towards the goals of the Charter Organization and the Boy Scouts of America is the responsibility of the Troop Committee.
- 2.1.2. At no time is it the intent or the ability of the committee to change or make policy contrary to the guidelines of the Boy Scouts of America. The committee will however interpret and supplement the guidelines as they pertain to the Troop.

2.2. Structure

2.2.1. Charter Organization Representative

- 2.2.1.1. Chartered Organization Representative is typically a member of Willow Creek Church PCA and serves as a liaison between the Troop and the chartered organization.
- 2.2.1.2. Is responsible for approval of adult leader applications.

2.2.2. Committee Chairman

- 2.2.2.1. Committee Chairman effectively runs the troop through the troop committee and the Scoutmaster and his/ her assistants.
- 2.2.2.2. Runs the committee by scheduling and chairing the meetings.
- 2.2.2.3. Is responsible for the location and facilities for Troop and Committee meetings.
- 2.2.2.4. Recruits adult members for the committee and scoutmaster positions.
- 2.2.2.5. Is responsible for approval of adult leader applications.
- 2.2.2.6. Provides for appeals of decisions from the Scoutmaster.

2.2.3. Subcommittees

2.2.3.1. Advancement

- 2.2.3.1.1. The Advancement Committee chairperson is responsible for verification and acquisition of advancements for the Scouts. He works with the Records committee to keep the Scouts records of advancement.
- 2.2.3.1.2. Verifies minimum requirements being met for Scout advancement.

- 2.2.3.1.3. Filling of forms and paperwork for registration of Scout advancement with Council.
- 2.2.3.1.4. Acquisition of awards, rank advancement and Troop position patches.
- 2.2.3.2. Outdoor
 - 2.2.3.2.1. The Outdoor Committee Chairperson is responsible for the paperwork required for the Troop to participate in outdoor activities.
 - 2.2.3.2.2. Filling of Tour Permits.
 - 2.2.3.2.3. Preparation of Scout permission slips.
 - 2.2.3.2.4. Is responsible for the verification of adequate transportation and Scout seat assignments in vehicles.
 - 2.2.3.2.5. Aid in planning outdoor activities.
- 2.2.3.3. Quartermaster
 - 2.2.3.3.1. The Quartermaster is responsible for the acquisition, repair and maintenance of Troop equipment.
 - 2.2.3.3.2. Will make assignments of equipment to Patrols.
 - 2.2.3.3.3. Provide for the registration and maintenance of Troop trailers.
- 2.2.3.4. Fundraising
 - 2.2.3.4.1. The Fundraising committee chairperson is responsible for the development of fundraising activities and the acquisition of funds required for the operation of the Troop above and beyond the funds collected within the Troop.
 - 2.2.3.4.2. They will develop fundraising activities.
 - 2.2.3.4.3. Provide for the coordination of fundraising activities.
- 2.2.3.5. Finance
 - 2.2.3.5.1. The Finance committee chairperson is responsible for the accounting and bookkeeping of the Troop.
 - 2.2.3.5.2. Receive and deposit of funds into the Troop checking account.
 - 2.2.3.5.3. Keeping the checking account, issuing and documentation of checks and other expenses.
 - 2.2.3.5.4. Balancing of the Troop checking account.
 - 2.2.3.5.5. Reporting of Troop income and expenses to the Troop Committee.

2.2.3.6. Records

- 2.2.3.6.1. The Troop records committee chairperson is responsible for the maintenance of the various records required by the Troop.
- 2.2.3.6.2. Work with the advancement committee to keep Scout advancement records.
- 2.2.3.6.3. Maintain a roster of the Scouts and adult leaders of the Troop.
- 2.2.3.6.4. Keep track of the medical records for the Troop.
- 2.2.3.6.5. Prepare and submit the recharter of the Troop.
- 2.2.3.6.6. Maintain the policy and procedures manual of the Troop.
- 2.2.3.6.7. Provide for the registration of new Scouts.
- 2.2.3.6.8. Maintain the records of all new scout and adult applicants.

2.2.3.7. Committee Members

- 2.2.3.7.1. In addition to support of the above positions the remainder of the registered committee members are responsible for the Board of Review required for Scout advancement.
- 2.2.3.7.2. Schedule and hold a Board of Review.
- 2.2.3.7.3. Support the committee functions.
- 2.2.3.7.4. Attend committee meetings.

2.3. Procedures

- 2.3.1. Committee meeting should be held every month and are scheduled to occur at 7:00PM on the first Monday of each month.
- 2.3.2. Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change depending on holidays and other Troop activities.
- 2.3.3. Committee meetings are to be chaired by the Committee Chairman and should include updates from each subcommittee, review of old business and new business as brought forward from committee members and the Scoutmaster.
- 2.3.4. The committee can interpret Boy Scouts of America policy and procedures as they pertain to the Troop.
- 2.3.5. The committee can make rules for the Troop as long as they are not in conflict with the guidelines of the Boy Scouts of America.
- 2.3.6. Rules and interpretation of policy that is motioned and seconded by a committee member shall be voted on and carried by a simple majority of the members present at a regularly scheduled committee meeting.
- 2.3.7. The committee chairman shall have the authority to make temporary interpretation of policy pending the review and approval of the committee.
- 2.3.8. The committee shall be responsible for the ways and means of the Troop including raising funds, collection of dues, paying of expenses and authorization of expenditures.
- 2.3.9. The authority of the Committee Chairman with regards to the authorization of expenditure of Troop funds prior to committee approval shall be limited to one hundred dollars (\$100).

3. The Parents and the Family

3.1. Parent Participation

- 3.1.1. In order for a parent to participate in Troop functions they must have the permission of the Committee Chairman and the Scoutmaster.
- 3.1.2. To become an adult leader in the Troop, a Boy Scout of America application is filled with the Troop Committee. After approval of by the Charter Organization Representative and the Committee Chairman the application is filled with the Boy Scouts of America.
- 3.1.3. All adult leaders are expected to participate in training that is put on by the Central Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America.
- 3.1.4. The Committee Chairman determines the position an adult leader has within the Troop.

3.2. Siblings and Guests

- 3.2.1. Non-scout age children, siblings and guests are discouraged from participation in the Troop's outdoor activities.
- 3.2.2. The Committee Chairman and the Scoutmaster must approve exceptions.

4. The Troop

4.1. Joining

4.1.1. Requirements

- 4.1.1.1. To join Troop 787 a Scout must meet the requirements as set forth by the Boy Scouts of America.
- 4.1.1.2. The new Scout fee is due prior to the registration of the Scout by the Troop.
- 4.1.1.3. A Boy Scout application and Class 1 *Personal Health and Medical Record Form* is required.
- 4.1.1.4. The Troop currently has no limit on the number of Scouts, but the Troop reserves the right to refuse to accept Scouts or groups of Scouts that cannot be supported by the leadership of the Troop.

4.1.2. Cost

- 4.1.2.1. There is a one-time new Scout fee of forty dollars (\$40.00).
- 4.1.2.2. Each Scout is required to provide a complete uniform as defined below.
- 4.1.2.3. Each Scout is required to have a **new** Boy Scout Handbook.

4.2. Participating

4.2.1. Dues

- 4.2.1.1. Troop dues are six dollars (\$6.00) per month.
- 4.2.1.2. Dues are due prior to the end of the current month. In other words the Scout is considered delinquent if he owes last months dues.
- 4.2.1.3. Scouts collect the dues during the Patrol meetings that occur during the Troop meeting.
- 4.2.1.4. The Scouts are encouraged to make all payments to the Troop by personal check, made payable to "Troop 787".
- 4.2.1.5. Troop dues are required regardless of the participation of the Scout.
- 4.2.1.6. A Scout is required to be current on dues in order to receive awards and advancement in the Troop and in order to attend outdoor functions with the Troop.

4.2.2. Meetings

- 4.2.2.1. Troop meetings are 7:00PM on every Tuesday night and last for one and a half hours until 8:30PM.
- 4.2.2.2. The patrol leaders council will cancel meetings when in conflict with holidays and other Troop functions.
- 4.2.2.3. A typical meeting will consist of an opening (including presentation of the colors,) Patrol meetings for the collection of dues and taking of attendance, a program, a game, advancement classes, Scout recognition, Chaplin's minute, Scoutmaster's minute and a closing (including retiring of the colors.)
- 4.2.2.4. The Troop Committee operates during but separate from the Troop meetings to allow the Scout and parents to do business with the Troop.

4.2.3. Outdoor program

- 4.2.3.1. The Troop participates in outdoor functions approximately every month.
- 4.2.3.2. The outdoor program is fundamental to the Boy Scout program and each Scout is encouraged to participate.
- 4.2.3.3. The minimum requirements for participation in the outdoor program are as follows:
 - 4.2.3.3.1. For outings less than 72 hours, a Class 1 *Personal Health and Medical Record* form must be on file with the Troop.
 - 4.2.3.3.2. For outings in excess of 72 hours, including summer camp, a Class 2 *Personal Health and Medical Record Form* must be on file with the Troop.
 - 4.2.3.3.3. For high adventure activities a Class 3 *Personal Health and Medical Record Form* must be on file with the Troop.
- 4.2.3.4. Class 1 forms must be renewed annually.
- 4.2.3.5. Class 2 forms must be renewed every 36 months.
- 4.2.3.6. Class 3 forms are only good for 12 months. Requirements for adult participants are different.
- 4.2.3.7. There is typically a fee associated with the outdoor activity. This fee is collected to offset the cost of camping fees, activity fees and transportation cost. The fee will vary and can range from a few dollars to hundreds of dollars for summer camp.
- 4.2.3.8. The Scout is required to share in the cost of food that is purchased and prepared by his Patrol. The Troop has set this expense at a maximum of ten dollars (\$10.00) for a typical weekend outing.

4.2.4. Service projects and fund raising

- 4.2.4.1. It is necessary for the Troop to raise money to cover expenses. In general the dues and fees paid by the Scout cover less than half of the cost expended on behalf of the Scout. We therefore feel it is also the Scouts responsibility to participate in Troop fundraising activities.

4.3. Adult Leadership

- 4.3.1. The adult leader must put the good of the Troop and the interest of all of the scouts ahead of personal interests and the needs of a single boy or a son.

4.3.2. Scoutmaster

- 4.3.2.1. The Scoutmaster is responsible for the safety of the Scouts.
- 4.3.2.2. The Scoutmaster will make and enforce the rules required for the safety of the Scouts.
- 4.3.2.3. The Senior Patrol staff is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Troop under the direct supervision of the Scoutmaster.
- 4.3.2.4. The Scoutmaster has the authority to ask any Scout or Adult to leave the Troop meeting or outdoor activity. His decision to ask a person to leave the Troop activity is to be acted on immediately and shall be considered a final subject to review at the next Committee meeting.
- 4.3.2.5. The Scoutmaster is responsible for assigning Scouts to Patrols.
- 4.3.2.6. The Scoutmaster has the authority to remove Scouts from Troop and Patrol positions.
- 4.3.2.7. The authority of the Scoutmaster with regards to the authorization of expenditure of Troop funds prior to committee approval shall be limited to one hundred dollars (\$100).

4.3.3. Assistant Scoutmasters

- 4.3.3.1. The Assistant Scoutmasters are responsible for the Scouts and the Scout program.
- 4.3.3.2. The Assistant Scoutmasters support the Scoutmaster in by enforcing rules and protecting the safety of the Scouts.

4.3.4. Patrol Advisors

- 4.3.4.1. Patrol Advisors are Assistant Scoutmasters that work with a particular Patrol to offer support and guidance.

- 4.3.4.2. A Patrol is not viable without Patrol Advisors. If Patrol Advisors are not forthcoming to work with the Patrol, the Patrol will not be supported by the Troop. Existing Patrols will be disbanded and the Scouts moved to another Patrol.

4.4. Troop positions

4.4.1. Senior Patrol Leader

- 4.4.1.1. There is only one Senior Patrol Leader.
- 4.4.1.2. The Senior Patrol Leader is responsible for the control and discipline of the Scouts.
- 4.4.1.3. The Senior Patrol Leader will schedule and preside over the Patrol Leader's Council.

4.4.2. Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders

- 4.4.2.1. There are three Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders.
- 4.4.2.2. The Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders support the Senior Patrol Leader and take his place when he is not present at a Troop function.

4.4.3. Eligibility Requirements

- 4.4.3.1. To be considered for Senior Patrol Leader a Scout must be Life Rank and must have served as an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.
- 4.4.3.2. Of the three Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, two must be Life Scouts and one may be a Star Scout.
- 4.4.3.3. The Scoutmaster will review all nominations and has the authority to add candidates to or remove candidates from the ballot.

4.4.4. Participation requirements

- 4.4.4.1. The Scoutmaster will evaluate the performance of the Scouts in their Troop positions and determine if the Scout will receive credit towards rank.
- 4.4.4.2. Minimum requirements include the following:
 - 4.4.4.2.1. Full uniform at Troop meetings.
 - 4.4.4.2.2. Attendance at Patrol Leader's Councils.
 - 4.4.4.2.3. Attendance at Troop outdoor activities.
 - 4.4.4.2.4. Attendance at Troop meetings.

4.5. Election Procedures

- 4.5.1. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters provide for elections.
- 4.5.2. The elections shall be preceded by nominations at least one week in advance of the elections.
- 4.5.3. Eligible candidates shall be listed for consideration of the Troop.
- 4.5.4. Any Scout in good standing can nominate or second any eligible scout.
- 4.5.5. Each candidate must be present for nominations and election.
- 4.5.6. Candidates must be in full uniform at the time of the elections and be prepared to be in full uniform for all Troop meetings.
- 4.5.7. Elections shall be confidential.

4.6. Appointed Positions

- 4.6.1. The Senior Patrol Leader and the Scoutmaster are responsible for appointing Scouts to the remainder of the Troop positions.
- 4.6.2. The Scoutmaster has the ultimate authority with regards to the appointment of a Scout to any Troop position.
- 4.6.3. Available positions include:
 - 4.6.3.1. Troop Guides
 - 4.6.3.2. Troop Quartermasters
 - 4.6.3.3. Troop Scribes
 - 4.6.3.4. Troop Historian
 - 4.6.3.5. Troop librarian
 - 4.6.3.6. Instructor
 - 4.6.3.7. Chaplin's Aid
 - 4.6.3.8. Den Chief
 - 4.6.3.9. Junior Assistant Scoutmaster
 - 4.6.3.10. Troop OA representative

4.7. Removal From Office

- 4.7.1. The Scoutmaster has the authority to remove any Scout from a Troop position including elected positions.
- 4.7.2. Reasons for removal from office include:
 - 4.7.2.1. Failure to participate in Troop meetings or activities.
 - 4.7.2.2. Failure to perform the function of the Troop position.
 - 4.7.2.3. Discipline for inappropriate behavior.
 - 4.7.2.4. At the request of the Scout.
- 4.7.3. The decision of the Scoutmaster is considered final and an appeal to the Troop Committee will not result in a reinstatement to a Troop position but is available as a forum for dispute resolution.

4.8. Rules

4.8.1. Drug and Alcohol Abuse

- 4.8.1.1. Drug or alcohol use will not be tolerated at any Troop function by any Scout, leader, parent or visitor.

“Scouting is a game for boys under the leadership of boys under the direction of a man.”
- Robert Baden-Powell

- 4.8.1.2. Any Scout that is found in violation of the policy will be isolated from the Troop and his parents and / or the police will be called.
- 4.8.1.3. Any adult found in violation of the policy will be asked to leave.

4.8.2. Smoking

- 4.8.2.1. Scouts are not permitted to smoke at any Troop activity.
- 4.8.2.2. Smoking or chewing of tobacco products is not permitted in the presence of any Scout.

4.8.3. Shoes

- 4.8.3.1. Closed toe shoes are required to be worn at all times. If the Scout is standing, walking or swimming, appropriate foot ware must be worn.
- 4.8.3.2. Sandals are not allowed for hiking or other program activities. This means that sandals should be limited to use in campsites when resting after the program is over. Sandals are appropriate for some water activities.

4.8.4. Fire Safety

- 4.8.4.1. No fire, stove or lantern shall be used by a Scout or Scouts without the knowledge and supervision of an adult leader.
- 4.8.4.2. Misuse or abuse of fire is subject to disciplinary action as defined by the Scoutmaster up to and including removal from the Troop.

4.8.5. Knives

- 4.8.5.1. The Troop has set a limit on the size of blade a Scout can carry at three inches.

4.8.6. Scouts Driving to Outdoors Activities

- 4.8.6.1. The Troop does not allow any Scout to drive to an overnight outdoor activity.

- 4.8.6.2. At no time shall any Scout ride in a car with another Scout driving without the express written permission of the parent of the rider.
- 4.8.7. Water safety
 - 4.8.7.1. BSA policy for water safety is to be enforced at all times.
 - 4.8.7.2. Shoes are recommended at all times while swimming, boating, canoeing, wading and fishing.
 - 4.8.7.3. When working or playing near the water, including fishing or wading, water safety rules shall be in effect including the supervision of a trained adult.
- 4.8.8. Privacy
 - 4.8.8.1. A scout will be afforded as much privacy as possible within the limits of the Troop setting.
 - 4.8.8.2. The BSA policy for two-deep leadership will be exercised at all times.
 - 4.8.8.3. Exceptions will occur including the gang showers at summer camp and as required for the safety and protection of the Scout.
- 4.8.9. Leaving Scout functions
 - 4.8.9.1. At every Troop function there will be a designated adult that is in charge of the attendance record and roster of Scouts and adults present at the function.
 - 4.8.9.2. It is the Scouts and the adult's responsibility to make sure they check out with the designated adult. Failure to check out can result in a disruption of the Troop program while a search is made to locate the missing individual.
 - 4.8.9.3. During Troop functions, when a group of individuals leaves the campsite, they must sign out with the designated adult.
- 4.8.10. Medication and Medical Information
 - 4.8.10.1. Any chronic medical condition including but not limited to heart disease, bed-wetting, night terrors, phobias, or asthma needs to be listed on the Personal Health and Medical Record form for the individual.
 - 4.8.10.2. A designated adult will collect medication for distribution to the Scout at the outdoor activity. All medical information is considered confidential.
 - 4.8.10.3. The medication must be in its original container with the name of the medication, the prescribing physician, the prescribed dosage and the dates clear on the label.

- 4.8.10.4. Exceptions to the collection of medications include any inhaler, anaphylactic or other fast acting medication that the Scout would normally keep with him in his normal everyday activities.

- 4.8.11. Dietary Restrictions
 - 4.8.11.1. The Scout and the Scout's parents are responsible for any dietary restrictions including but not limited to food allergies and religious or personal preferences.
 - 4.8.11.2. While the Troop will attempt to accommodate the special needs of any Scout it cannot and will not place restrictions on a group of Scouts to accommodate the special needs of an individual.

- 4.8.12. Personal Electronics
 - 4.8.12.1. The use of personal electronics including but not limited to radios, CD players, Games and video equipment is not permitted at an outdoor activity.
 - 4.8.12.2. Personal electronics are allowed in vehicles while traveling to and from the outdoor activity.

- 4.8.13. Two-way Radios
 - 4.8.13.1. The Troop and the adult leaders use two-way radios for communication at outdoor activities.
 - 4.8.13.2. The Troop designates a channel for adult communication that is restricted and should not be used by Scouts except for emergencies.

- 4.8.14. Hands-off Policy
 - 4.8.14.1. Inappropriate touching including but not limited to fighting, pushing, holding, touching with a stick and so on, is not permitted.

- 4.8.15. Helmets
 - 4.8.15.1. The Troop requires the use of helmets intended for the specific function to be worn when bicycling and rock climbing.

5. The Patrol

5.1. The patrol method

- 5.1.1. The goal for Patrol size is eight active members. The Scoutmaster will review patrols with less than five active members.
- 5.1.2. The Patrol is expected to have a name with associated shoulder patch, a flag and a yell.
- 5.1.3. First year patrols will have an older Scout assigned to them as a Troop Guide. The Troop Guide is a member of the Patrol and offers guidance in the Patrol method and helps train the Scouts.
- 5.1.4. Regular Patrols are usually non-first year Patrols with Scouts that have achieved most of the requirements for First Class Scout.
- 5.1.5. Venture Patrols are formed with Scouts 13 years and older. Venture Patrols at Troop 787 are formed with Scouts that are already members of other Patrols in essence providing for these Scouts to be members of two Patrols.
- 5.1.5.1. The age requirement for participation in a venture Patrol is that the Scout must be thirteen years old by January 1st of the year that he is participating in venture activities.
- 5.1.5.2. Participation in venture activities is secondary to the participation in Troop activities and the Scoutmaster may restrict the Scouts participation in venture activities if he is not participating in Troop activities.
- 5.1.6. Patrols will need to meet outside of Troop meeting in order to plan for outdoor activities and program.

“The Patrol Method is not a way to operate a Boy Scout troop, it is the *only* way. Unless the Patrol Method is in operation you don’t really have a Boy Scout troop.”

-Robert Baden-Powell

5.2. Patrol positions

- 5.2.1. Patrol leader
- 5.2.2. Assistant patrol leader
- 5.2.3. Patrol quartermaster

5.2.4. Patrol scribe

5.2.5. Patrol cheer master

5.3. Participation

5.3.1. Patrol meetings

5.3.1.1. It is anticipated that a Patrol will meet at least once a month outside of the Troop meeting.

5.3.1.2. These Patrol meetings are required in order for the Scouts to plan for outdoor activities and for their responsibilities of the Troop program.

5.3.2. Patrol leader's council

5.3.2.1. A designated representative of the Patrol, usually the Patrol Leader, must attend the Patrol Leaders Council.

5.3.2.2. The Patrol is expected to report on any up-coming program responsibilities of the Patrol and to receive and disseminate any information provided at the PLC.

5.3.3. Patrol equipment

5.3.3.1. The Troop may provide some equipment for use by the Patrol. It is the Patrol's responsibility to care for and maintain the equipment and to replace it should it become lost or rendered unsuitable for use.

5.3.3.2. In general, equipment purchased by the Patrol, using funds raised by the Patrol, becomes the property of the Troop.

5.3.4. Patrol activities

5.3.4.1. Patrols are encouraged to engage in activities outside of the Troop.

5.3.4.2. Patrol activities need to be supported by proper adult supervision and should be designed as to not interfere with scheduled Troop activities.

6. The Scout

6.1. Uniform

- 6.1.1. The Scout is required to be in full uniform at all Troop meetings and when presenting himself to the Scoutmaster for a conference and the Committee for a Board of Review.
- 6.1.2. The Scout hat is the only portion of the above uniform items that may be considered optional.
- 6.1.3. There are other Troop functions that require the uniform including but not limited to summer camp, fund raising, and Troop visits or field trips.
- 6.1.4. The Troop provides a Red Troop neckerchief, a Troop hat and a Troop tee shirt at no cost to a Scout that has paid the new Scout fee.
- 6.1.5. Replacement neckerchiefs, hats or tee shirts can be purchased from the Troop at a cost of nine dollars (\$9.00 each).
- 6.1.6. The Scout is required to have the following additional uniform items:
 - 6.1.6.1. Scout shirt with council patch, Troop number and patrol emblem.
 - 6.1.6.2. Scout shorts or long pants.
 - 6.1.6.3. Scout socks.
 - 6.1.6.4. Scout Belt.

6.2. Camping Equipment

- 6.2.1. In order to participate in the outdoor program the Scout will need to provide some equipment.
- 6.2.2. A sleeping bag does not have to be of a high quality or low temperature rating for most of the camping the Troop does in Florida.
- 6.2.3. The Scout is responsible for working out sleeping arrangements within the Patrol. The majority of the Scouts have their own tents.
- 6.2.4. At no time is an adult allowed to sleep in the same tent as a Scout. If a parent is participating in the outdoor activity they are expected to provide their own tent separate from the tent in which the Scout is sleeping.
- 6.2.5. A good rule to follow when considering camping equipment is for the Scout to not bring anything to a campout that he is not willing to lose.

6.3. Advancing

6.3.1. Rank advancements

6.3.1.1. First Year Emphasis

6.3.1.1.1. During the first year of a Scout's career in Scouting, they are encouraged to advance through the basic ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class. To accomplish this goal the Scout participates in a First Year Emphasis (FYE) program regardless of the age of the Scout.

6.3.1.1.2. During this first year a special team of instructors and guides help the Scout to master the basic requirements of the Boy Scout program.

6.3.1.1.3. There are designated individuals that have the authority to sign the Scouts Handbook indicating the completion of a requirement. The Troop has adopted a policy that parents, even a registered adult leader, should not sign for requirements of their son.

6.3.1.1.4. When a new Scout attends summer camp for the first time, they are strongly encouraged to participate in the first year program offered by the camp.

6.3.1.2. The Scout should have a plan for advancement to Eagle Scout. The plan should include specific goals and should allow for problems completing the goals. The Troop recommends the Scout's plan try to include achieving the rank of Eagle Scout when he is sixteen years old. This allows for the Scout to mature to a level required but allows for the possibility of slipping into his seventeenth year.

6.3.1.3. The Scout should keep his own records of the following:

6.3.1.3.1. Rank advancements. The white card handed out at the Court of Honor is the official record of the rank. The patch can be purchased by anyone and provides no evidence of the rank being achieved.

6.3.1.3.2. Merit badges. Once again the white card is the official record. More than one example of a problem with record keeping on the part of the Troop or Council has been resolved as a result of the white card being produced by the Scout.

6.3.1.3.3. Service Hours. The Scout needs service hours for rank advancement. It is important to not the date, the activity and the hours served.

6.3.1.3.4. Troop positions. The Scout needs to hold Troop positions for rank advancement. When the Scout is elected to a Troop position he should keep track of the dates served and the position.

6.3.1.3.5. Nights camped and miles hiked. This information is important for some rank advancement and other accomplishments in the Scouts career.

6.3.2. Merit badges

6.3.2.1. The Scout is responsible for starting and finishing the requirements for merit badges.

6.3.2.2. The Troop will offer a merit badge as part of the program each month. The Troop and the merit badge councilor will not follow up, it is up to the Scout to seek out the councilor and finish the requirements of the badge.

6.3.3. The Scoutmaster's conference

6.3.3.1. There are two specific parts of a Scout's rank advancement that the Troop has reserved for the Scoutmaster. The Scout Spirit requirement and the Scoutmaster's conference can only be signed off by the Scoutmaster

6.3.3.2. For the Scout rank, and at the discretion of the Scoutmaster, an Assistant Scoutmaster may be assigned this responsibility.

6.3.4. The Board of review

6.3.4.1. There are two types of Board of Reviews: At the completion of rank requirements, and for non-advancement of the Scout.

6.3.4.2. The Scout must present himself in full uniform and will be asked questions about his relationship with the Troop. The Board of review is intended as an opportunity for the Scout to share his scouting experience and to offer suggestions and concerns to improve the Troop.

6.3.4.3. It is possible for the Scout to need to sit for a Board of Review more than once in order to obtain his rank advancement. In

general the board must see a maturity level and sincerity equal to the rank.

6.4. Financial Account

- 6.4.1. The Troop allocates funds for disposition at the discretion of the Scout based on the Scout's participation in designated fund raising activities.
- 6.4.2. The funds belong to the Troop. The funds are intended to cover the cost of outdoor program fees such as summer camp and are not intended to cover the cost of dues or personal expenses.
- 6.4.3. If the Scout transfers to another Troop that has a similar program in place, the Troop Committee will consider transferring funds allocated to the Scout directly into the account set up at the new Troop.