

BSA Troop 44 Scout Handbook & Code of Conduct Agreement & Photo Release Permission

Mission Statement

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Vision Statement

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Scout Law

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

The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law

INTRODUCTION

This Guidebook has been prepared especially for the Parents and Scouts of Troop 44. It tells you what scouting can do for you and how we do it. It will help guide you to a fuller understanding and appreciation of Scouting, and to the realization that you will benefit fully only by giving fully. It gives an outline of requirements, outdoor programs, financial operations, uniform and equipment, troop organization, and advancement. Keep it for handy reference during your association with Troop 44.

SPONSOR AND ORGANIZATION

Troop 44 is chartered by the Mendon Firefighters Association, and was registered in August 2004. It is a part of the Knox Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop is organized along prescribed lines, i.e., Troop Committee, Scoutmaster, one or more Assistant and Junior Assistant Scoutmasters, Patrol Leaders Council, and Patrols of not more than eight Scouts each.

REQUIREMENTS FOR JOINING THE TROOP

The requirements for a boy to become a Scout are that he has completed fifth grade or met the basic knowledge and commitment requirements, and that he is at least 11 years but not more than 18 years old. His completed application form should be submitted with the following fees:

Annual dues for a scout are determined each year based on Council fees and are discounted for multiple family members. These dues are collected annually in September. A portion of each scout's fees go directly to the national Boy Scouts of America to pay for each scout's annual registration fee, insurance and a subscription to Boys Life magazine. The balance stays with the troop to help fund our annual operations.

We do not have a fee for boys that are crossing over from Cub Scouts the first year as they are already registered with BSA.

SCOUT PARTICIPATION

Each Scout of Troop 44 is encouraged to participate in at least 75% of the Troop activities until he reaches Senior Scout status (14 years old or ninth grade). Our Troop Committee has learned that only the Scout that attends regularly receives the full value of the Scouting program. The regular absence of Scouts from patrol and troop activities can be detrimental to all participating in those activities. Participation in the Troop's outdoor activities is essential to a boy's membership in the Troop.

ADULT PARTICIPATION

Troop 44 will continue to thrive only with the active interest and participation of adults, particularly the parents of individual Scouts. There is typically a noticeable correlation between a parent's participation and the Scout's achievements. Each parent is encouraged to register as a member of the Troop Committee and will be assigned to a subcommittee. All are required to share in troop activities. The Troop Committee is composed of Scout's parents. Meetings are held the first or second Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at Miscoe Hill Middle School – Media Center. The Troop Committee's function is to act as the board of directors for the Troop: and through its members the Committee is directly involved in advancement, equipment, facilities, finance and records, leadership, membership, and outdoor programs. All the above are managed by the Committee in order to allow the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters to focus on working directly with the Scouts.

Adults are also encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors for their unique areas of expertise and interest.

Each participating parent will be required to complete the BSA Youth Protection Training.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Dues and fundraising provide for: individual, patrol, and troop awards; food for some of the weekend campouts; some subsidizing of more costly campouts; insurance; equipment repair and replacement and other incidental expenses. Monthly and summer camping fees/expenses and special activities fees are assessed separately.

The Troop holds several fundraisers throughout the year including: two can & bottle drives; a Christmas tree pickup; a pancake breakfast; a yard sale and participation in the Mendon country fair (selling drinks and popcorn). These are managed by the Troop Committee. Each Scout without exception is required to participate in these projects. These funds are used to purchase new equipment; and to supplement Troop activities as required.

TROOP PROGRAM

Troop 44 carries on an active year-round program. In addition to weekly troop meetings the Troop also participates in monthly camping trips and periodic Council events. The annual calendar of activities is prepared and distributed each September and updated throughout the year, and lists dates and places for most scheduled events. Event plans are updated each month and communicated to the Troop. Each family has ample opportunity to consider this schedule in its own planning. Regular email updates are sent to every Scout and parent by the Secretary as an additional reminder of Troop Activities. The Troop meets at Mendon's Miscoe Hill School in the lower cafeteria on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Scouts should arrive a few minutes prior to 7:00 PM to ensure for a prompt start to troop meetings. Courts of Honor are held in December and June to recognize Scout advancement and present awards that have been earned. The Courts of Honor are arranged and run by the Senior Scouts, with assistance from the Patrols and Troop Committee. These are important events, and parents are expected to attend.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The Troop spends one week each summer at a Boy Scout Camp where they have the ability to learn new skills; work on merit badges; and HAVE FUN. Typically, this is late July or early August depending on camp availability and schedules of the Scoutmaster and other participating adult leaders.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

A weekend activity is scheduled each month during the school year. These activities can include campouts and camporees. It is here that outdoor scouting skills are learned, developed, and demonstrated. Opportunities for conservation and community service projects are also available. Scouts will gain an appreciation of our natural resources. It is essential that a Scout attend as many of these activities as possible. This is where the boys will learn many of the skills needed for advancement.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is essential for the camping program and is arranged for by the Outings Chair and Scoutmaster. Parents are occasionally asked for help with transportation to events when needed.

KEY ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Boy Scouts is a boy-led, boy-run organization. Troop 44 believes strongly in this and runs the troop accordingly.

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)

The senior patrol leader is the top leader of the troop. He is responsible for the troop's overall operation. With guidance from the Scoutmaster, the senior patrol leader takes charge of troop meetings, of the patrol leaders' council, and of all troop activities, and he does everything he can to help each patrol be successful. He is responsible for annual program planning conferences and assists the Scoutmaster in conducting troop leadership training. The senior patrol leader presides over the patrol leaders' council and works closely with each patrol leader to plan troop meetings and make arrangements for troop activities. All members of a troop vote by secret ballot to choose their senior patrol leader. Troop 44 requires that a senior patrol leader hold the

rank of First Class or higher. The position election is held in December each year. During a Scout's time as senior patrol leader, he is not a member of any patrol.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)

The assistant senior patrol leader works closely with the senior patrol leader to help the troop move forward and serves as acting senior patrol leader when the senior patrol leader is absent. Among his specific duties, the assistant senior patrol leader trains and provides direction to the troop quartermaster, scribe, historian, librarian, instructors, and Order of the Arrow representative. During his tenure as assistant senior patrol leader he is not a member of a patrol. The assistant senior patrol leader is appointed by the senior patrol leader in December after each election.

Patrol Leader

The patrol leader is the top leader of a patrol. He represents the patrol at all patrol leaders' council meetings and the annual program planning conference and keeps patrol members informed of decisions made. He plays a key role in planning, leading, and evaluating patrol meetings and activities and prepares the patrol to participate in all troop activities. The patrol leader learns about the abilities of other patrol members and fully involves them in patrol and troop activities by assigning them specific tasks and responsibilities. He encourages patrol members to complete advancement requirements and sets a good example by continuing to pursue his own advancement.

Scoutmaster

Boys must be trained to be leaders. One of the Scoutmaster's most important responsibilities is to provide the direction, coaching, and training that empowers each boy with the skills he will need to lead his troop.

More detailed duties include: conduct an annual troop program planning conference to assist youth leaders in planning the troop program; conduct a monthly patrol leaders' council meeting to plan weekly troop meetings and conduct troop business; conduct, through the patrol leaders' council, weekly troop meetings; provide a minimum of once a month camping or outing activity, including participation in a local council resident camp; assist in selecting and recruiting assistant Scoutmasters to work with the new-Scout patrol; work with the troop committee chair in developing a monthly meeting agenda that will address the needs of the troop; training and guiding youth leaders in the operation of the troop, and for managing, training, and supporting his or her assistant Scoutmasters in their role and conduct Scoutmaster conferences for all ranks.

Committee Chair

The Troop Committee Chair is appointed by the chartered organization and registered as an adult leader of the BSA. The troop Committee Chair appoints and supervises the unit committee and unit leaders.

The committee is the troop's "Board of Directors" and the Committee Chair oversees all committee operations necessary to support the Scoutmaster in administration of the Troop's program. The chair organizes the committee to see that all functions are delegated, coordinated and completed, and presides over the monthly troop committee meetings. The chair is responsible for ensuring that quality adult leadership is recruited and trained; advises the Scoutmaster on policies relating to Boy Scouting and the chartered organization; supports leaders in carrying out the program; is responsible for finances; obtains, maintains and properly cares for troop property; ensures the troop has an outdoor program; supports the Scoutmaster in working with problems that may affect the overall program; and provides for the special needs and assistance some boys may require. The Chair "hosts" the Troop's Court of Honor and Eagle ceremonies.

ORGANIZATION

Troop 44 is organized with a Scoutmaster, Assistant and Junior-Assistant Scoutmasters, a Senior and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Patrols of not more than eight Scouts each. The Patrol Leaders Council composed of the Senior and Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, Patrol Leaders, invited Senior Scouts, and the Scoutmaster, hold monthly "Green Bars" to develop the detailed plans for future activities.

Key to scouting is the patrol method. Patrols are the building blocks of a Boy Scout troop. A patrol is a small group of boys who are similar in age, development, and interests. Working together as a team, patrol members share the responsibility for the patrol's success. They gain confidence by serving in positions of patrol leadership. All patrol members enjoy the friendship, sense of belonging, and achievements of the patrol and of each of its members.

CONDUCT

Troop 44 enjoys its reputation as a skillful, self disciplined, well conducted Troop and expects each Scout to help maintain this reputation. All Scouts and Parents are required to read and agree to the Troop 44 Code of Conduct. Scouts and Parents must sign and turn in to the Troop Committee Chair the Troop 44 Code of Conduct Agreement.

GOOD TURNS AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS

The Troop engages in Good Turn and Conservation Projects as an integral part of its program. These are planned and carried out by the Scouts, with the assistance of the Troop Committee.

ADVANCEMENT

Troop activities are planned to support regular advancement in scouting ranks by all scouts. The learning necessary to complete the advancement requirements give a Scout the chance to develop himself - "Strong in character, healthy in body, skillful with his hands, and keen of mind, ready to be of help to other people"*. To this end, frequent Boards of Review are conducted by the troop committee to determine a Scout's progress (or lack of it). The Scout Handbook discusses in detail all requirements for advancement, and should be referred to regularly by Scouts and parents.

UNIFORM, CLOTHING AND INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT

Please refer to the Scout Handbook for detailed information on the proper uniform and when to wear it. UNIFORMS ARE REQUIRED AT TROOP MEETINGS. Uniforms will also be required at council and district events, flag ceremonies and at summer camp.

The following is a typical check list for a one or two night campout:

- Outdoor shoes, boots-overshoes in winter Poncho or rain suit
- Change of underwear
- Outer wear according to season
- Extra socks, several wool pair in winter
- Soap, towel, toothbrush, comb, canteen
- Individual mess kit (deep bowl, fork, spoon and cup) Flashlight, sleeping bag**

Scout knife
Scout Handbook
Pack**
Special equipment for passing tests

Additional information on equipment needs and special weather needs can be found within Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Troop's website: www.troop44mendon.org

**Please do not purchase packs or sleeping bags without first consulting with Scout Leaders.

TROOP AND PATROL EQUIPMENT

Tents are provided by the Troop. Patrols are supplied with cooking kits and ample equipment, (Dutch oven, frying pan, etc.) for patrol cooking. These items of equipment are the property of the Troop and have been paid for by the efforts of the Scouts. Any equipment issued to a Scout is to be returned to the troop Quartermaster. Damaged or lost items must be repaired or replaced by the responsible Scout.

TROOP LIBRARY

In the Troop Library, there is a selection of Merit Badge pamphlets. These may be checked out on the same basis as a Public Library. Scouts can also refer to meritbadge.org for a complete listing of merit badge requirements and worksheets.

REMEMBER - SCOUTING IS FUN

The Scouts in Troop 44 will participate in many worthwhile activities. It has been the history of the Troop to maintain a good active camping program summer and winter. A Scout will learn to take care of himself in the outdoors, while he enjoys the activities in the Troop. A big key to having a successful Troop is consistent parental participation in Troop activities. We encourage parents to attend any or all campouts.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 44 CODE OF CONDUCT

Participation in the BSA program is a privilege and all members are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Law.

All Scouts, Adult Leaders and Parent Participants are representatives of their community, family, Troop 44 and the Mayflower Council. Therefore, all Scouts and their parents are required to sign this Code of Conduct as a condition for membership in Troop 44, with the further understanding that serious misconduct may result in immediate expulsion from any activity, meeting or if the situation merits, expulsion from Troop 44.

Troop 44 Code of Conduct applies to the Boy Scouts, Adult Scouts and all Parent Participants as well as other family participants.

Each scout shall show respect to Adult Leaders/Parent participants, as well as his fellow scouts as all times.

Bullying, threatening or intimidating another person through actions or words will not be tolerated at any time.

Using language that can offend or degrade another person, including derogatory, foul or profane language will not be tolerated at any time. Actions or language that is discriminatory or offensive with respect to race, gender, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation will not be tolerated at any time.

Each scout will demonstrate respect for Troop equipment, public property, and the property of other scouts, and will be personally responsible for cleanliness and any loss, breakage, or vandalism of property. The Boy Scouts of America prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at any activity involving participation of youth members. Prescription drugs must be checked in according to BSA policy.

No guns or other weapons can be brought to any scouting event except for tools described in the Totin' Chip booklet. All weapons will be immediately confiscated if the Scout has not yet earned his Totin' Chip card. A clean and neat Boy Scout uniform will be worn to all meetings and events.

During meetings/activities Scouts will be confined to the meeting/activity area. Permission to leave the area must be obtained from an Adult Leader or Parent participant, noting the specific need to leave the area, and must follow the buddy system. The meeting/activity area must be kept neat and left clean, including the bathroom area.

No electronic devices for Scouts, with the exception of flashlights or medically required devices shall be taken on Boy Scout outings or to any meetings. There is no exception to this unless special permission is granted by the Scoutmaster.

Boy Scout Troop 44 Code of Conduct Agreement

Troop 44 has a zero tolerance policy for bullying, threatening or intimidating another person. This behavior along with possession of illegal drugs, alcohol and unauthorized weapons will be grounds for immediate suspension from Troop 44.

In addition, the Scout agrees to listen to, and follow the directives of the Senior Patrol leader, Assistant Senior Patrol leader and all adult leaders within Troop 44.

At the discretion of the Scoutmaster, a Scout may be told to leave an event. A parent of the Scout is responsible to pick up the scout from the meeting/activity. No reimbursement of fees, or any other cost incurred by picking up the Scout will be provided.

When instances of misconduct occur, a personal meeting between the Scout, parent, Scoutmaster and Troop Committee Chair will take place. One or more of the following actions will result.

- First Offense: Verbal warning and probationary membership in the Troop 44 for a period of one month.
- Second Offense: Suspension from all Troop 44 activities for a period of one month.
- Third Offense: Dismissal from Troop 44.

I promise on my honor as a Boy Scout that I will do my best to live up to the Scout Oath and Law and agree to follow this Code of Conduct set forth by Troop 44.

	Scout	Parent or Guardian
Print Name		
Signature		
Date		

Photo Release Permission

BSA Troop 44 would like permission to take and use photographs and/or digital images of your scout for use in news releases and/or educational materials as follows: printed publications or materials, electronic publications and Web or social media sites. The scout's name may be revealed in descriptive text or commentary in connection with the image(s). You will receive no monetary compensation for the use of these images.

- I, as parent or guardian, hereby grant photo release permission
- I, as parent or guardian, DO NOT grant photo release permission

Signature of Parent or Guardian_____

Date_____