

**BSA
Troop 101**

Naperville, Illinois



Parent Survival Guide

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TOPIC	PAGE #
Active Participation	7
Activities.....	7
Advancement (The Trail to Eagle)	19
Alcohol, Tobacco & Substance Abuse.....	23
Boards of Review.....	20
Camp Menus	15
Communications.....	11
Costs	8
Discipline.....	8
Dues & Capital Expenses	4
Equipment.....	16
Electronics Policy.....	23
Fundraising & Scout Fund	22
Hazing & Bullying	23
High Adventure Policy.....	10
History.....	4
Insurance.....	22
Library.....	21
Outing Refund Policy	8
Outings.....	7
Parental Support	22
Patrol Method.....	6
Permission Slip.....	8
Purpose & Vision	3
Recognition & Courts of Honor	21
Scout Handbook.....	5
Scout Law	12
Scout Motto.....	14
Scout Oath	13
Scout Outdoor Code	14
Scout Slogan.....	14
Scout Spirit	19
Scout Uniform	5
Scouting Ranks	19
Sleeping Bag Temperature Rating Guideline	18
Summer Camp.....	10
Troop Forms & Lists.....	18
Troop Meetings	6
Troop Organization.....	21
Venture Scouting.....	9



Welcome to Scouts BSA Troop 101 Naperville, Illinois

1. Purpose & Vision

Purpose

This guide is intended to provide our Scouting families with a brief overview of our Troop's structure and operation. It is hoped that you and your Scout will refer to it often.

Vision

Troop 101 is a "boy-run" Troop. The goal of Troop 101 is to allow our Scouts to experience the joys of Scouting in a program that responds to the needs of the Scouts.

Specifically this means:

- a. The Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) plans and implements programs, with adult leadership and guidance.
- b. Troop outings are discussed and prioritized by the scouts at the summer planning meeting.
- c. Advancement, while continuously nurtured and encouraged by the adult leadership, must be desired by the scouts.
- d. Meetings are run by the scouts.

A "boy run" Troop does NOT mean that:

- a. Parent involvement is not necessary. While it is a Scout led Troop, the parental role is important. Parent support is expected and appreciated.
- b. Parents are an embarrassing necessity. Contrary to what your son may say, they value and model your involvement. Check in and communicate, communicate, communicate, with adult leadership.

- c. Scouts get to make final decisions on outing locations and programs. The Outdoors Chairperson and Scoutmaster work together to develop an outings program that best meets the scout's choices and priorities balanced against the Troop's available resources, the Scouts' capabilities, and BSA's Guide to Safe Scouting requirements. Due to this philosophy there may be times when things just don't seem to go right.

To allow our boys to grow and learn, we must also allow them to make mistakes and fail, and learn from those failures. There may be campouts or events that could be run better, or menus that should change. It is at this time that as adult leaders and parents, it is important **not to criticize, but to analyze**. Through this process, we can provide more meaningful input to the boys as they plan their future programs, events and campouts.

Please be assured that while we have a "boy-run" Troop, the adult leadership is always available to monitor, assist, teach, or sometimes "step-in" if health and/or safety concerns warrant it.

2. History

The Troop was chartered on September 1, 1998 with Grace Fellowship being our first Charter Organization. In 2008 the Troop outgrew the facilities and moved to a larger venue. Our current Chartering Organization is Community Christian Church. Our current roster contains members primarily from School Districts 203 and 204, as well as other school districts in the area. We express our gratitude to our chartering organization by performing "good deeds" for them whenever possible.

3. Dues & Capital Expenses

Troop dues, collected annually, cover many expenses including council fees, awards, insurance, Boy's Life, BSA registration, and other items. These are payable once a year, in September. Any boy joining after April 1st will be charged on a pro-rated basis. Checks should be made payable to BSA TROOP 101 and forwarded to the Troop Treasurer. Expenses for food and supplies for individual campouts and outings are divided among those who participate. However, in order to operate a Troop, additional funds need to be generated to support the annual activities such as Scout and adult training, purchasing patches for advancement, handbooks and neckerchiefs for new Scouts, etc. The Troop Committee supports fundraising activities to generate such funds. Each year during the budget cycle, the annual assessment is determined depending on the Troop's program of activities.

Capital Expenses to cover the cost of purchasing new equipment and/or the repairs of current equipment are generally covered by donations or fund raisers. See section 36 for more information about fund raising.

4. Scout Uniform

The Troop 101 Scout uniform consists of a Scout shirt, neckerchief, and slide. Scout pants or shorts, belt, and socks are optional, but encouraged. The choice of a long or short sleeve shirt is an individual decision.

A Merit Badge Sash is part of the formal Class A uniform, and is typically worn at Courts of Honor. Additionally, official Scout pants or the like are strongly encouraged at Courts of Honor.

Troop 101 always travels to and from campouts and other Scout activities in a Class A Uniform. Wearing the uniform gives unity and sameness to the group. It also advertises the Scouting program anywhere we stop. Usually in camp, uniforms can be removed and suitable outdoor clothing worn, unless required for flag ceremonies, etc. Each year the Scouts will be given the opportunity to purchase a Troop t-shirt. This t-shirt is referred to as a Class B uniform and is usually worn on outings. Please refer to the Boy Scout Handbook for uniform patch and insignia placements.

In accordance with the above, the Troop Committee has set forth the following policy, which is included in the Troop Bylaws:

Scouts **MUST** wear uniforms to meetings and when traveling to and from an outing.

- a. The uniform includes a shirt with complete official insignias, neckerchief, and slide.
- b. The official BSA pants, socks, belt and shorts are encouraged, but not required.
- c. If a boy cannot afford a uniform, provisions can be made through the Troop.
- d. Boys must wear their uniform to participate at meetings.
- e. Boys will not be allowed to go on outings without wearing a uniform. No refunds will be given.

5. Scout Handbook

It is the policy of Troop 101 that all members own the Scout Handbook. The Troop purchases and awards all new incoming Scouts their first handbook. They are expected to care for it and make it last throughout their Scouting career. Replacements, if necessary, are at the Scout's expense. The Scout Book does get revised periodically and the BSA Scoutbook website should be checked for current advancement requirements.

Information contained in the Scout Handbook is very useful to both parents and Scouts. The handbook must be brought to all meetings and outings/campouts. The book is necessary for advancement work and skills that will be worked on at such campouts and outings.

The Scout Field Book is an optional purchase. As a boy continues onward, down the Scouting path, it may become a necessity.

These books can be purchased at the Council Scout Shop and also at certain retail outlets. Should you need information as to locations, please contact an adult leader.

6. Troop Meetings

Troop 101 holds its regular meetings at Community Christian Church located at the Corner of Ogden and Rickert, 1635 Emerson Lane, Naperville, IL 60540 (www.communitychristian.org). Meetings begin promptly at 7:15 pm and end at 8:30 pm on most Monday nights.

Typical weekly Scout meetings consist of the following elements:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| a. Pre-Opening Event | f. Game |
| b. Opening Ceremony | g. Scoutmaster Minute |
| c. Announcements | h. Closing Ceremony |
| d. Troop Program | i. After the meeting, a debriefing with the PLC Members only |
| e. Patrol Meetings (as necessary) | |

Troop meetings are organized and operated by the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL). Scout Uniforms are required to be worn at all meetings.

A Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meeting is held monthly per the Troop calendar. The meeting immediately follows the Troop meeting and generally runs from 8:30–9:00 pm. The PLC members are as follows: Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leaders (Assistant Patrol Leaders if Patrol Leader is absent), Troop Quartermaster, Troop Historian, Troop Librarian, Chaplain's Aid, Troop Webmaster and Troop Scribe. During this meeting the Scouts plan the upcoming Troop meetings and events. The Scoutmaster and/or Assistant Scoutmaster(s) also attend this meeting and provide guidance.

7. The Patrol Method

Troop 101 operates under the Patrol Method of Scouting as developed by Lord Robert Baden-Powell of Great Britain in the early 1900's. This has proven to be one of the best methods for developing leadership and responsibility. A patrol ideally consists of 5 to 7 members under the leadership of one of the Scouts, elected by the Patrol to be their leader. Through their Patrol Leader and the Patrol Leader's Council (PLC), chaired by the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), all Scouts have input into the Troop's Program and are able to receive the latest information on upcoming activities. The Patrol serves to ease communication within the Troop and is of key importance on Troop trips and other activities. As Scouts travel, hike, eat, perform, participate, and compete, they operate together as a group, or team.

8. Active Participation

All members of Troop 101 are expected to participate in all phases of the Troop Program. To continue the quality program that we have established, we need the active participation of all Scouts and the assistance of their parents. Regular attendance is expected at Troop meetings, outing, trips, and community service projects, fundraisers, as well as active positions of increasing responsibility. Scouts are expected to demonstrate Scout Spirit by attending at least 50% of Troop meetings and outings in order to qualify for rank advancements. Scouts in leadership positions within the Troop are expected to exceed the 50% participation minimums for both meetings and outings.

Troop 101 prides itself on carrying on no matter what obstacles are encountered: rain, snow, arctic temperatures, mechanical failures, forgotten equipment, etc. It should be the Scout's responsibility to call their Patrol Leader and let him know if he will be absent from a particular meeting or event.

9. Troop 101 Activities

Most major Troop activities are planned far in advance and the dates can be found on the Troop website. The calendar lists all major outings, Troop meetings, Courts of Honor, and any other events in which the Troop may be participating. It is recommended that Troop families keep track of these dates on your family calendar to avoid as many conflicts as possible.

The Troop depends on parental support to see that their son attends most Troop Activities. Schedule changes and additions are usually noted in the calendar updates located on our website, www.3firestroop101.org. Detailed information on up-coming campouts, hikes and outings are typically e-mailed to Scouts and parents two weeks before the event (or as soon as possible). This includes information on costs, schedules, departure times, etc. We encourage everyone to read all information.

If for any reason a Scout misses a meeting, it is the Scout's responsibility to contact his Patrol Leader to get any information that he may have missed.

10. Outings

Outings are a very important portion of the Scouting Experience. 75% of the word "Scouting" is "Outing", and it is here where the Scouts not only build self-confidence, but also learn and practice their outdoor skills. Camping, cooking, fire building, compass work, canoeing, hiking, biking, nature study, keeping dry in wet weather, and most important of all, working within the Patrol Method. We try to schedule an outing every month.

11. Permission Slip

Each outing requires a permission slip. **No slip - No trip.** This permission slip consists of two parts. The top portion provides trip or outing specifics, including special equipment, instructions, and departure place and time. If available, emergency phone numbers are also listed here. The bottom portion gives your son permission to attend the event as well as gives permission for medical treatment should he become injured or seriously ill. Each Scout is required to have a BSA Annual Health and Medical Form on file with the Troop. Any parent driving Scouts to and from outings is required to have their Driver's License and car insurance on file with the Troop. The parent is also required to have completed the BSA Youth Protection Training.

Occasionally, visiting Scouts or friends of a Troop 101 Scout are allowed to participate in a Troop outing. The above rules also apply to all visitors who are participating in any outings.

12. Costs

There is a cost associated with all outings. The cost of outings varies with the distances, camping fees, food costs, equipment, (e.g. canoe rentals) patches, etc. We ask that costs be paid promptly so that reservations can be made and food be purchased. These fees are due two weeks prior to the event along with the permission slip.

13. Outing Refund Policy

Except as provided below, if a cancellation is reported **to the Outdoors Chairperson** before the end of the Monday meeting of the week of the scheduled outing, a full refund is usually available. However, if any troop costs are not recoverable, a pro-rata amount will be deducted from the fee. Refunds will not be made until the conclusion of the outing. Refunds will be placed into your Scout's Troop Fund account for use on subsequent outings or Scout activities. Refunds will not be paid by check. Any late cancellations or no shows will forfeit all fees.

In the event of an illness or a family emergency and the Scout is not able to attend an outing for which he has paid, refunds will be made contingent upon the conditions of the cancellation and on a case by case basis.

14. Discipline

It is easy to become a Scout, but it isn't easy to be one. Scouting has rules that must be followed in order to be a member of the team.

The rules of Scouting are found in the Scout Oath or Promise, Scout Law, Scout Motto, and Scout Slogan. Scouts in Troop 101 are expected to follow these rules to the best of their ability. The "Spirit of Scouting" dictates high expectations for the behavior of Troop members. Self-control and self-discipline are attributes expected from all Scouts in Troop 101. There are, however, times that the Scoutmaster(s) must use disciplinary action to ensure the health and welfare of all Troop members. Discipline may also be necessary for the effective operation of a coherent Scouting program.

Discipline and control must be treated as individual matters; realizing the best discipline is preventive in nature rather than regulatory and restrictive. Scouts will receive positive reinforcement (praise) when exhibiting appropriate behaviors. The Scoutmaster(s) will ultimately be responsible for the proper behavior of Troop members and will therefore be expected to enforce a fair and consistent disciplinary plan.

Troop 101 leadership shall use the following disciplinary plan:

- a. **Personal Conference:** This conference between the Scoutmaster(s) and the Scout(s) is the primary form of discipline. Discussion will include the factors indicating the behavior that was found to be unacceptable and the desired behavior that is expected to take its place.
- b. **Call or Letter to Parents:** In addition to the Personal Conference and requesting parent cooperation, an offer is made for a face to face counseling meeting with both the parents and the Scout. Notification is given to both the Scout and parents that continued improper behavior will not be tolerated.
- c. **Termination Request:** The Troop Committees approval would be sought to ask the Scout to reconsider his goals if they are found not to be consistent with the goals of Troop 101's Scouting Program. The Scout would be asked to no longer participate in Troop 101's activities.
- d. **Severity Clause:** Any behavior that directly affects the health or welfare of self or others would automatically place a Scout on step c) of this plan. These behaviors include: use of alcohol, drugs, firearms, weapons, destruction of property, and the threat of physical violence to self or others.
- e. **Trip Clause:** At any time a Scout is participating in a Troop 101 sponsored trip, High Adventure, summer camp, outing, or Troop meeting, he is automatically governed by the rules set forth in Troop 101's disciplinary policy. If, during the trip, a Scout exhibits negative behavior that, in the opinion of the senior Scoutmaster in charge, affects the ability of the event to continue in a positive manner, the Scout's parents will be contacted immediately by phone. It will be the parent's responsibility to travel to the Troop's location and pick up their son, at their expense. Such infraction will also automatically place the Scout on step c) of this disciplinary plan.

15. High Adventure Policy

Troop 101 is active in providing a more challenging and wide-ranging program of activities for its members. It is an earned privilege for a Scout to be allowed to attend one of the High Adventure Expeditions sponsored by our Troop. High Adventure activities can range from mountain backpacking trips, to canoe trips, to whitewater rafting, to name a few.

Any Scouts allowed the privilege of attending a High Adventure outing are expected to be active participants in the planning and training of such trips. They are expected to display good conduct at all times, including following the Scout Oath and Law, being an active team or patrol member, living by any special trip rules set forth by the leaders, and following directions of their patrol and adult leaders.

Any Scout on a trip who does not live up to the behavior standards required of all participants, may be sent home at their parent's expense at the earliest possible time after contact is made with their parent or guardian. Final authority for a Scout to be sent home is that of the adult leader in charge of that event. Similar actions may be required if a Scout is incapacitated due to illness or injury.

To be eligible for High Adventure outings, a Scout must be at least 13 years old and have attained the rank of First Class. It is always at the discretion of the Scoutmaster to determine the minimum age for the outing.

16. Summer Camp

Troop 101 attends a weeklong resident summer camp operated by various councils. Most recently the Troop has camped at Camp Freeman-Leslie (CFL), which is owned and operated by the Three Fires Council located in Oxford, WI.

Menus/food are planned and furnished by the camp. Scouts attending Summer Camp live and operate as patrols. They cook their food using propane stoves and wood burning "shepherd" stoves, with pots, pans and utensils provided. They use Dutch ovens to cook items like cobbler and casseroles.

Merit badge and free-time activities range from archery to swimming, boating, cooking to orienteering, and leatherwork to fishing. There are Troop and patrol competitions, quiet-time Scouting reflections, and loud, fun-filled songs and ceremonies.

All Scouts are encouraged to attend camp every year, as the merit badges earned assist in advancement requirements.

Parent drivers and chaperones are also needed every year and they can either attend for a full or partial week, sharing time with other adults.

17. Communications

In an organization as large and active as a Boy Scout Troop, communication is especially important.

- **Weekly Meetings:** Most important information is placed in the individual Scout mailboxes at the weekly Scout meeting. This is why good attendance is so important. Both the Scout and his parent(s) should read the information handed out carefully. In some situations, an e-mail, or a call from a Patrol Leader might be made to find out about participation in an up-coming event.

PARENTS: Please let us know if your Scout is not sharing information with you about his meetings. He may be missing out on current events.

- **Website:** The Troop maintains a Troop web site at www.3firestroop101.org where the latest information on upcoming outings, permission slips, and other key Troop information can be found.

Please visit the site regularly for the latest information on the Troop's activities.

- **E-mail:** Each scout family will receive an e-mail address from the troop. The address will be in the form of lastname@3firestroop101.org and will be forwarded to any requested external addresses. As an example, e-mails may be forwarded to a work address, a spouse's work address and home e-mail addresses. E-mails are forwarded to the parent's address to aid in open or private communications and to keep the parents informed about troop happenings.
- **Mailing Lists:** The troop maintains 4 permanent mailing lists that allow for the sending of e-mail to a group of people within the troop. Currently the lists are as follows:

leaders@3firestroop101.org - Sends e-mail to the Troop's scout leaders

committee@3firestroop101.org - Sends e-mail to the Troop's committee members

troop@3firestroop101.org - Sends an e-mail to all members of the troop.

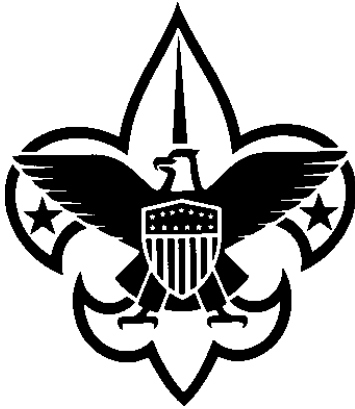
PLC@3firestroop101.org - Sends an e-mail to the Patrol Leaders Council

treasurer@3firestroop101.org - email alias for the Troop Treasurer

advancement@3firestroop101.org - email alias for the Advancement Chariperson

- **Scoutbook Website:** Each Scouts progress will now be tracked using the BSA's Scoutbook software at <https://scoutbook.scouting.org/mobile/>. This software lets us track your son's progress and record his advancement to the Boy Scouts of America at the Council level. You will maintain an account for your son regarding personal information, such as current address, phone numbers, e-mail, etc. You will have access to view your son's progress as he advances through the program, but will not have the rights to approve Rank information, Service hours, or Attendance records. We encourage you and your son to keep track of this information in the Scout Handbook on pages 457-465. Scoutmasters will enter the data into Scoutbook, but you are responsible to make sure it is correct and current!

18. The Scout Law



**A
SCOUT
IS:**



**TRUSTWORTHY
LOYAL
HELPFUL
FRIENDLY
COURTEOUS
KIND
OBEDIENT
CHEERFUL
THRIFTY
BRAVE
CLEAN
REVERENT**

19. The 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***



20. The Scout Motto

- BE PREPARED -

21. The Scout Slogan

– DO A GOOD TURN DAILY –

22. The Scout Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to

- **Be clean in my outdoor manners**
- **Be careful with fire**
- **Be considerate in the outdoors, and**
- **Be conservation minded.**

23. Camp Menus

We try to make sure that every Scout on an outing eats plenty of the proper foods. We always try to teach and help the boys prepare a balanced meal, however, every so often a “creative” meal slips through the cracks. Also, not all meals can be consumed as finger foods, although some Scouts have tried to go through their entire Scout career with minimal use of a fork or spoon. Scouts need some type of mess kit when attending their camp outings. This is

especially important for new Scouts. The minimum would be a non-breakable bowl or plate, and a knife, fork and spoon. The camping style mess kit commonly sold at most sporting/ outdoors stores is preferred. Cooking utensils, pots, pans, water jugs, fire buckets, etc. are all supplied by the Troop.

Patrol cooking is typically done using a propane stove or over a wood fueled campfire. The boys learn to coat the outsides of their cooking pots with a layer of liquid dish detergent (i.e. Ivory) before cooking over a campfire. This helps the campfire soot wash right off. Under certain conditions, the patrols will be allowed to use liquid fueled stoves. If this is the case, adult supervision will occur. The adult leaders and parent guests will cook either on the campfire or on liquid fueled stoves, depending on the comfort level of the adult participants. Of course, if we cook tin-foil meals right on a bed of hot coals, cleanup is minimal.

Menu preparation will occur a week or two at the meeting prior to the campout. Menus should take campsite considerations into account (i.e. if backpacking, plan lightweight non-perishable menus).

Menus should be a group effort of the patrol. Menus are reviewed and approved by the Senior Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster(s) before food is purchased. If your Scout has any special dietary needs, please notify the Scoutmaster prior to his first outing, so that such needs can be accommodated.

Please do not send any special treats for your Scout. One of the principles of Scouting is to share and treat equally, so if you wish to send a treat, there must be a sufficient amount for all Scouts attending.

Candy is always a major problem. Please discourage your Scout from taking candy with him. It is usually the subject of a dispute if not shared, ending up in an argument. Snacks should be planned as a part of the Patrol Menu, and can consist in items such as fresh fruit, trail mix, granola bars, raisins, and other healthy alternatives.

There should be **NO**, let us repeat, **NO FOOD IN THE TENTS!** There are several important reasons for this. First is the sticky mess and it attracts insects and makes your Scout's life miserable. Second, and probably more important, we camp where there might be a raccoon or coyote nearby, and where any food odor can attract wildlife (squirrels, chipmunks, etc).

Please encourage your Scout to help you cook at home. For starters, pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, browning meats, etc. are pretty basic. We encourage the Scouts to experiment with new (edible!!) foods, so please help him and share any recipes that can be prepared outdoors. Soups and stews work well.

The Patrol Leader will draft a patrol duty roster, containing duties such as grubmaster (the Scout in charge of buying the groceries for the outing, fire builder, water getter, cook, assistant cook, kitchen patrol ("KP"), etc. The duties will be equally divided up, rotating for each meal.

The Patrol Leader will also participate. Each Scout is expected to do his share of the work. A sample duty roster is available on the website.

Each patrol has a Patrol Box that contains all of the necessary patrol equipment. While the Troop has large wooden patrol boxes with wooden legs/carrying handles, their use depends

on both transportation accommodations and need. These Patrol Boxes are not taken on every campout, as their continuous use does not teach a Scout to prepare menus and cooking techniques for condensed backpacking type of travel. Many times we leave the patrol boxes at home, trying to pack-light. As an alternate, patrol gear can be divided up among the patrol members.

24. Equipment

Many hours of hard work have gone into buying, building and maintaining our Troop equipment inventory. We have a considerable sum of money invested in tents, lanterns, patrol boxes, cooking gear, dining flies, tools, Dutch ovens, and many more miscellaneous items. All Scouts are expected to treat this equipment with care and respect. There is absolutely no way that our Troop can carry on our ambitious program without the equipment that we now have in inventory. While equipment abuse has never really been an issue, please note that any intentional abuse of equipment will result in appropriate disciplinary action, with the cost of any repair or replacement paid for by the responsible Scout and/or his family.

Every Scout will need to have his own personal equipment. He may need to increase his personal equipment based on his participation in our activities. The Scout handbook will give you some ideas on what will be needed in the future. Official BSA equipment is excellent, but it is always smart to shop around for better deals. Some local shops are Wal-Mart, Target, Dick's, and REI. In addition, if you know what you are looking for, there are some good on-line stores such as Amazon, campmor.com and Scoutdirect.com (please respect their policy of confidentiality of this program to fellow Scouters so that they can continue to offer us such a great discount).

Keep in mind that much of what you buy your son, he will either outgrow or lose. This is not to say that you should buy cheap equipment, just use some judgment. Please refer to the equipment list on the website and also to the Scout handbook. Most items can be inexpensively procured. We believe in keeping it simple. Please refer to the following guidelines, along with the typical equipment lists that can be found on our website.

- Invest in rain gear and an adequate sleeping bag. His camping experiences are always more pleasurable if he stays dry and gets a good warm rest. When buying a sleeping bag, keep in mind the growth factor.
- Resist buying your son that pocketknife with 101 gadgets on it. These are mostly expensive gimmicks and are of little use. Choose a more modest version with fewer options. **REGARDING KNIVES.** - Folding, we repeat, folding knives of a modest size are the only type allowed by the BSA. **Sheath knives, popular with hunters are not allowed.** They are considered dangerous and should be left at home.

BSA Troop 101

Please refer to the following equipment information:

Rain Gear	This is the only thing that will keep him dry when it rains. Rain gear also provides good wind protection. Rain suits provide better protection since they are fitted. PUT HIS NAME and TROOP 101 ON IT.
Sleeping	A good sleeping bag will make the difference between a cold poor night's sleep and a

Bag	good warm one. You can extend the range of a thin sleeping bag with extra blankets or by using two bags, one inside another. Man-made fillers are better because they retain their insulating qualities when wet. Goose down (very expensive), while warm when dry, is useless when it gets wet. Buy an adult size and let him grow into it. Refer to the chart included in this guide to determine rating of bags. PUT HIS NAME ON IT.
Sleeping Pad	We suggest a closed cell, non-absorbent, foam pad. They have great thermal properties, will not absorb water, and are pretty inexpensive (\$10 to \$15). Air mattresses are o.k. in warmer weather (if they don't leak) but are not good in cold weather, as air below you gets cold, making you feel cold. A good full-length 'Therm-a-Rest' type is good year round and a great choice. PUT HIS NAME ON IT.
Flashlight/ Headlamp	A small type with two penlight (AA) batteries is fine. Bring extra batteries and spare bulb. Headlamps with LED bulbs also work well and are much more functional, durable, and longer lasting. PUT HIS NAME AND TROOP 101 ON IT. (So it can be returned if found outside the campsite)
Knife	A simple one or two-blade folding knife is fine. Folding lock-back types are safer, preventing the knife from accidentally closing on the hand. (He must earn his 'tot' n chip' card before carrying or using a pocket knife). PUT HIS NAME ON IT.
Eating Equipment	Boy Scout Cook Kits are sufficient, however; some items tend to get lost. Scratch their name into each piece. (Sharpie Marker will come off when washing). A plastic plate or bowl also will work fine, but they may melt! He will also need silverware and a cup. PUT HIS NAME ON ALL OF IT.
Water Bottle	Drinking water is very important. Boy Scout or other canteens are o.k. but a one-quart NALGENE type water bottle is preferred. Fill with "good" water before leaving home. Make sure its watertight and doesn't leak. PUT HIS NAME AND TROOP 101 ON IT.
Shoes	ALWAYS, we repeat: ALWAYS, bring two pair. One pair usually gets wet somehow. On a hiking outing, well broken-in boots are the best, but not mandatory, except when backpacking. Good-fitting gym shoes also work pretty well. Socks should not have any holes in them, because they can cause blisters. PUT HIS NAME ON IT.
Socks	As with the shoes, bring an extra pair or two. These seem to get wet as often as the shoes. Wool or synthetic will keep the feet drier and more comfortable than cotton. PUT HIS NAME ON IT.
Clothing	Clothing should be in good condition, suitable for the weather conditions expected. Extras should be brought. PUT HIS NAME ON IT.
Tents	The Troop currently has sufficient tents for all Scouts. Personal tents may be brought at your own risk with permission of the Scoutmaster. PUT HIS NAME ON IT.

26. Troop Forms & Lists

The Troop utilizes several different forms and lists to help in its operations. Examples of these forms and lists can be found on the Troop's website, www.3firestroop101.org. While there is a set of generic outing personal checklists on the website, Scouts are encouraged to personalize these for their own needs as they gain camping experience.

27. Scout Spirit

Having and showing “Scout Spirit” is included as an important element at each level of Scouting advancement. Appropriate attendance and behavior at Troop meetings and outings is one measurement of Scout Spirit.

Scout Spirit is discussed with advancement candidates at each Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review. Scouts usually mention obeying the Scout Oath and Law, helping the members of their patrol and Troop, and working hard at Scouting Skills, when they are asked about Scout Spirit.

Our Troop’s Committee has concluded that participation in Troop activities and programs is an important manifestation of Scout Spirit. To this extent, participation will be a contributing factor of advancement throughout the Scouting ranks of Troop 101, and a Scout may be considered ineligible for advancement of rank until sufficient Scout spirit and participation is demonstrated.

28. Scouting Ranks

As a boy joins the Troop and becomes proficient at Scouting skills, he advances in rank. Rank is a personal commitment to Scouting made by each individual boy. It is not to be viewed as a competition between Scouts, but as a personal challenge. The Scouting ranks are:

Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Star, Life, Eagle and Palms

Please refer to the Scout Handbook for the specific requirements of each rank. The trail from joining the Troop to the rank of First Class teaches and builds basic Scouting skills, while the ranks of Star through Eagle require a demonstration of ability in both required and optional merit badge areas, as well as leadership and personal commitment.

Merit badges are not required to be earned for ranks up to and including First Class, however, all Scouts are encouraged to earn merit badges early, so they can be applied to the advanced ranks of Star, Life and Eagle in their later Scouting years. It is very typical that a new Scout attending summer camp for the first time will come home having earned three or four merit badges!!!!

29. Advancement (The Trail to Eagle)

Advancement from Scout to Eagle Scout is an important part of the Scouting Program. Each level has its requirements, which in general, increase in difficulty as the rank increases. These requirements consist of Scout Craft Skills, service hours, and, in higher ranks, merit badges.

Scout Craft Skills are fulfilled at the Troop level, using adults and senior Scouts as instructors. When a Scout completes a requirement for advancement, it is initialed in the appropriate place in his Scout Handbook. This instruction can be given at Scout meetings or outings. Therefore, Scouts are encouraged to bring their handbooks, paper and a pen or pencil with them at all times. Unlike Cub Scouting, parents are discouraged from initialing these requirements.

Merit Badges are generally worked on outside of Troop Meetings, unless there is a need to have a group of Scouts acquire a badge for a specific outing or High Adventure activity. Merit Badges are used to create additional skills in something a Scout likes to do. They also can create an interest in new things, sometimes leading to later career decisions. There are Eagle Scout required and non-required merit badges. The higher rank levels have a requirement of a certain number and type of merit badges. The Scoutmaster and Advancement chairperson has a list of merit badge counselors. It is Scouting procedure that all meetings with merit badge counselors should use the buddy system and/or two adult deep presence. Merit badges do go into far more detail than the Cub Scout rank requirements and some can often take weeks to complete.

Service Hours are equally important. In fact, if you refer to your Boy Scout Handbook, under Eagle Scout, you will find that the service project is the culmination of being a Scout. In Troop 101, we strongly encourage Scouts to not only complete their minimum hours of service for each rank, but to also become involved in an agency, organization, or cause which interests them, by being committed and consistently involved. This can be an opportunity for the boys to learn something about themselves, in regards to a career, or at a minimum, in regards to what they decide to do for an Eagle Scout Service Project. This also allows the Scout to accumulate service hours without concern about having done enough for the rank because they will be making this a part of their Scout life, and hopefully their whole adult life. This means that although Troop 101 will have several service project opportunities throughout the year, which the whole Troop will be asked to participate in, your Scout should not rely on these to be their only method of obtaining advancement.

As noted previously, please refer to the Boy Scout Handbook for specific rank requirements. Should you wish to discuss this further, please feel free to contact the Scoutmaster or a member of the Committee.

30. Boards of Review

When a Scout completes his requirements for a rank, he has a Scoutmaster Conference. Afterward, he is instructed by the Scoutmaster to make an appointment with the Troop's Advancement Chairperson for a Board of Review (BoR). The board consists of three or four Committee members and/or interested parents (not including the Scout's own parents). The review has three purposes:

- a. To verify that the work is learned and completed.
- b. To learn what type of Scouting experience the boy is having.
- c. To encourage the Scout to progress further.

At the conclusion of the Board of Review, the Scout is informed whether or not he has passed. If he did not pass, he is informed of his area of weakness and is asked to show competence in this area at the earliest opportunity. While the Scout is required to be in uniform at the Board of Review and must be familiar with the requirements of the rank, the board is informal, with all members encouraging the Scout towards excellence and further advancement.

A Special Board-of-Review procedure is followed for Eagle Candidates.

31. Recognition & Courts of Honor

When a Scout fulfills a requirement for a Merit Badge, Advancement in Rank or other Honor, he will be recognized as soon as possible. This should occur at the next Troop Meeting. He is then formally recognized at the next Court of Honor.

Courts of Honor (CoH) are held three times a year, October, February and June during the regularly scheduled first meeting of the month. We strongly recommend all parents attend, and also invite other family members and friends to attend.

A separate Court of Honor is held for Eagle Scout presentations.

32. Troop 101 Library

The Troop has a small library of merit badge books. The Troop Librarian maintains the library. If a Scout desires to work on a particular merit badge, he may borrow the book from the library. Also, unwanted merit badge books are a welcome addition to the Library. It is important to verify all requirements at www.meritbadge.com, as the requirements are updated frequently.

33. Troop Organization

The Troop is organized as follows:

- **Troop Committee** - Scout parents and adults who set policy for the Troop.
- **Scoutmasters** - The adult leadership of the Troop.
- **Senior Scout Leadership** - Experienced Scouts elected by their peers who hold the positions of Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL). These Scouts assist the Troop leadership.
- **Patrol Leadership** - Scouts elected by members of their Patrol as Patrol Leader (PL) and Assistant Patrol Leader (APL).
- **The Patrol Leader's Council (PLC)** - The Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and the Patrol Leaders of the Troop. These Scouts plan and organize Troop activities and events.
- **The Patrols** - The heart of the Troop.

34. Parental Support

A key element in maintaining and improving the quality of the Troop 101 program is active parental support. To be successful, Scouting must become, to a certain extent, a family program and activity. Ideally, parental support does not just consist of driving your son to and from a Troop Meeting. Good parental support consists of all of the following:

- a. Make sure your Scout attends all activities and is prepared for them.
- b. Encourage your son in his Scout Advancement.
- c. Take an active interest in all of his Scouting activities.
- d. Attend all parent meetings and Courts of Honors.
- e. Become active in the Troop Committee.
- f. Become a merit badge counselor
- g. Support Troop fund-raising activities.
- h. Become actively involved with Troop 101. There's a lot to do!!!!!!

In order to maintain the quality level of programs to our youth, all parents are encouraged to become involved in the Troop. This involvement ranges from attending Troop meetings, campouts, outdoor events, Committee meetings, etc. to coordinating Advancements and Courts of Honor. All parents will be contacted by a member of the Committee to discuss their area of participation.

35. Insurance

Troop 101 carries the standard BSA medical insurance policy, designed to supplement each family's coverage. It covers minimal expenses for minor injuries (cuts, burns, etc.) sustained during official Scout activities. This policy is intended to supplement, not replace, the Scout's family's policy.

36. Fundraising & Scout Fund

As mentioned in section 3, additional funds may be needed to operate a Troop. Annual activities such as Scout and adult training, purchasing patches for advancement, handbooks and neckerchiefs for new Scouts, etc are among the additional costs incurred every year. The Troop committee supports fundraising activities to generate funds to cover such costs

Troop 101 typically conducts two major fundraising events per year. In May, we have the Spring Flower sale and in the fall, the Trail's End Popcorn sale. The profits are split between the Troop and the Scouts. 50% of the net proceeds earned by the Scout are credited to his individual Scout account, being placed in their name in the Troop's Scout Fund. The other 50% is placed into the General Troop Treasury. Scouts are allowed to utilize their Scout Fund earnings to pay for Summer Camp, Scout/Camp equipment, dues, and similar Scouting related items. All Scout Fund distributions outside of typical outing, camp, and dues payments require the advance approval of the Scoutmaster. Should a Scout move or transfer to another Troop, his Scout Account balance may be transferred directly to the new Troop within one year. Any Scout who leaves the Troop without transferring will automatically forfeit all funds in their Scout Account to the general Troop treasury.

ALL Scouts are strongly encouraged to participate in all Troop fund-raisers, as all of the proceeds are returned to the Scouts in one way or another; like purchasing new equipment, buying advancement and merit badge patches, etc. Without their participation, the Troop Program will suffer. To the extent possible, we also ask the parents to assist in encouraging their sales and helping them with needed deliveries. Remember, there is a Salesmanship merit badge that the Scouts can work towards through their fundraising efforts. For those Scouts

eligible for High Adventure, the Troop asks the Scout to fund 25% of the cost of the outing through fundraising with the Troop.

37. Alcohol, Tobacco & Substance Abuse

In accordance with National BSA and Troop 101 policy, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and controlled substances are not permitted at any encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the Boy Scouts of America, or at any activity involving the participation of youth members. This includes Scouts, Scout Leadership and adult parent volunteers. It is important that all adults realize that we teach by example.

38. Hazing & Bullying

Hazing or any form of bullying have no place in Scouting and are prohibited with offenders subject to disciplinary action including withholding of rank advancement.

39. Electronics Policy

Troop 101 is currently reviewing the portable electronics policy. We recognize that young adults need to learn how and when to use these devices responsibly. We also recognize that these devices do have value for communications, photography, gathering information, and navigation. However, playing games or music, or used as a distraction or to isolate ones self will not be permitted.

It is the policy of Troop 101 that **NO PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE ALLOWED TO BE BROUGHT TO ANY TROOP 101 EVENT.** For outings, this applies from departure until return. This includes but is not limited to I-Pods, Mp3 players, Walkmans, Game boys, Cell phones, and any hand held radio. Exceptions are the use of cell phones and/or hand held radios by the scoutmasters for emergency communications purposes. Digital cameras and GPS are also exceptions but parents are reminded that the Troop is not responsible for loss or damage to these items.

Portable electronic devices are contrary to the scouting philosophy of learning to live with and in the outdoors. A scout that is using an electronic device instead of doing scouting related tasks or interacting with his fellow scouts loses out on the scouting experience. Scouts being called, calling people, texting, or using electronic devices during drives, classes, activities, and meetings, cause the scoutmasters to stop dealing with the troop as a whole and expend time to deal with a scout that is busy using something that is unnecessary on an outing and diminishing the experience for others. These distractions to the scoutmasters can also result in a hazardous lack of attention to the surroundings, resulting in injury to a scout.

Infractions to this policy will result in immediate confiscation of the device that will only be returned to scout's parents at the soonest opportunity they have to retrieve it.

Any exceptions to this policy will be noted on the outing permission slip or in meeting announcements.