



Troop 96 Guidelines

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. The mission of Boy Scout Troop 96 is to deliver the promise of adventure, learning, challenge, and responsibility.

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	Obedient
Loyal	Cheerful
Helpful	Thrifty
Friendly	Brave
Courteous	Clean
Kind	Reverent

Troop 96 is dedicated to the Scouting program's three main goals:

To Build Character
To Foster Citizenship
To Develop Fitness

Boy Scout Troop 96 is chartered by the *Church of Our Saviour* and has a strong commitment to provide service whenever needed to that organization in appreciation of its commitment to sponsoring the Troop.

The following guidelines have been established to help the Troop more effectively meet these aims.

Troop Meetings - Troop meetings are held weekly during the school year on Wednesday night, with the exception of school holidays, vacations, or school closures due to the weather. Troop meetings start promptly at 7:00 PM and end at 8:30 PM and are held at the Church of Our Saviour Parish Hall. At each Scout meeting, unless told otherwise, every Scout is expected to bring a notebook or paper, a pen or pencil, and his Boy Scout Handbook.

Committee Meetings – Committee Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, unless a holiday or other conflict makes it necessary to reschedule. They are also held at the Church of Our Saviour Parish Hall from 7:00 PM to no later than 8:30 PM. The Committee consists of a number of named positions of adults to support the Troop. *All parents are encouraged and always welcome to attend Committee Meetings! We also encourage parents to become registered leaders or Committee members. Troop parents are not to be invisible or unknown. We need to meet you. You need to know your son's leaders.*

Leadership - The following key leadership positions in Troop 96 have either specific qualifications or term limits associated with them. This is to ensure quality leadership, deter ownership of a position, prevent burn out, and encourage new people to lead.

Scoutmaster – 4 years is the maximum term.

Committee Chair – 2 years for the initial term, then 4 years for each subsequent term. In this way, new terms for the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair will be staggered.

Secretary – 3 year maximum term.

Advancements Coordinator – There is no term limit on this position, however, it should be held by an individual who does not have a child currently in the program, thereby allaying the possibility of a conflict of interest.

Treasurer – This position has no term limit, but should be held by an individual with a money management background. The treasurer should submit monthly, written reports to the Committee, and should keep the Troop's financial information on computer, using Quick Books or similar accounting software. There will be two signers on the Troop 96 bank account – the Treasurer and the Scoutmaster.

Parish Hall Use Code of Conduct – Scouts may only leave the meeting room to use the bathroom. They are not to wander around the Parish Hall, run around the grounds or the parking lot, sit on the tables, or go on the stage unless invited to do so. Scouts are

to refrain from disturbing items in the meeting room that are not relative to scouting. Tables and chairs are to be returned to their original state when they leave. Each week one patrol will be assigned to sweep the floor, check the bathrooms and ensure everything is in order.

Uniform - Each Scout is expected to wear his proper Scout Uniform (shirt and neckerchief) to all Boy Scout functions. This includes, but is not limited to, Troop meetings, Council events, boards of review and Scoutmaster conferences. “We are proud to be Scouts, so we should be proud to wear our uniform.”

Scout Hand Book – Each Scout *must* have and keep a Scout Hand Book. The Scout Hand Book is an essential part of a Scout’s entire Boy Scout experience and should be preserved and protected. The Scout Hand Book should accompany the Scout to all meetings and on all campouts (protected in a zip lock bag). Please do not misplace it... much time and effort will be spent duplicating the information in it.

Advancement - The Scouting definition of advancement is “the art of meeting a challenge.” The advancement program is one in which a Scout’s progress is a natural outcome of his regular Scouting activities. Each Scout will advance at his own pace. The leaders will encourage, not demand, advancement. There are no established time schedules for rank advancement. A Scout’s advancement is to be recorded in his Scout Handbook. After demonstrating his ability at a given skill, the following people may sign the advancement record for a Scout:

Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class:
Scoutmaster
Assistant Scoutmaster
Jr. Assistant Scoutmaster*
Senior Patrol Leader*
(*Provided they are at least Star)

Star, Life, Eagle:
Scoutmaster
Assistant Scoutmaster

Parents are not allowed to sign off for their own son regardless of his/her position.

Boards of Review will be conducted by Committee Members only, of at least two in number.

Scout Spirit is a prerequisite for all rank advancement, and is defined as follows:

- demonstrating appropriate behavior
- attend at least 75% of all Troop meetings
- participate in at least 50% of all other Troop activities

Finances - A Scout Troop, like a business, runs on money. To meet the financial responsibilities of the troop, the Troop Committee will operate a series of fundraisers during the year. Money earned will be used to purchase and maintain troop equipment, defray program costs, advancement costs and other purposes as approved by the Troop Committee.

Yearly Fees are to be paid by check, cash, or money order made out to Troop 96.

Troop Dues	\$37.00
BSA Registration	\$10.00
Boy's Life	\$12.00
Insurance	\$1.00
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Total	\$60.00

A mandatory deposit of \$20 per event* will be collected from each Scout before his name will be added to the roster for that activity. There may be times when the fee is higher, due to the high cost of the event, and there may be times when the fee is refunded, but only during the event. A Scout who signs up for an event, but fails to show, forfeits his deposit for that event.

**If there is a hardship meeting any of the financial obligations of Troop membership, please see the Scoutmaster or a Committee Member.*

Each Scout will have an opportunity to defray the cost of summer camp or other Troop activities through a Troop-sponsored fundraiser. Every Scout is expected to participate in all fundraising efforts of the Troop.

Troop Organization - The Troop is organized into patrols. Each patrol is comprised of six to eight boys. Boys are assigned to patrols at the discretion of the Scoutmaster, whose goal is to achieve a range and balance of Scout age, rank and experience in each patrol. As new Scouts enter the Troop, they will be assigned to one of the Troop's existing patrols. The patrol will help the new Scout learn the basic Scout skills needed to advance in rank from Tenderfoot to First Class Scout.

Paperwork - For the mutual protection of the Scout and the Troop, written documentation may be needed as follows:

Permission Slips: These may be needed for the Scout to participate in a Scouting event. Please complete and return them promptly when asked.

Medical Forms: All Scouts must have a physician's medical form on file with the Troop. Also, a notarized statement from a parent, allowing the Troop to seek necessary medical treatment must be on file. This will "travel" with the Troop in case an emergency arises while away from home.

Medications: All medications (including over-the-counter) taken at a Scout event require written consent of a parent and must be dispensed by one of the Troop's adult leaders. Please make the Scoutmaster aware of all the specifics, so there will be no surprises.

Camp Outs - Parents/Guardians are responsible for checking and ensuring that Scouts are properly packed for a camp out and not bringing any inappropriate items, such as large knives, firearms, etc. The Troop leadership reserves the right to inspect a Scout's gear if there is serious concern for the safety and well being of the Scout and other members of the Troop.

There will be a minimum of four leaders or parents present for all Troop functions, and the Buddy System will be in effect for all Troop activities and camp outs.

Parents/Guardians are also responsible for the drop-off and pick-up of Scouts at the place and time designated for each camp out. A parent or other responsible adult *must* be available by telephone (cell or home) during the entire duration of an event. Camping is the heart of Troop 96's Scouting Program and the Troop usually has one per month, *RAIN, SNOW, or SHINE*.

Troop Website - The Troop maintains an Internet website (www.Troop96M.org) for the posting of information concerning the Troop (contacts, calendar, etc.) and its activities. Pictures of Troop activities will be periodically posted to the website. Unless informed otherwise, in writing, the Troop will assume it has permission to post pictures that may contain images of Scouts participating in these Troop activities.

Behavior and Discipline – Simply stated, all Scouts are to act in accordance with the Scout Oath and Law. While the Scouting experience should be fun for all Scouts; proper behavior is necessary for the unit to function effectively. Rude or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated at any function of the troop. Discipline is something we hope is never needed. However, our policy is to have the action we impose fit the situation we are trying to control. Corrective measures may consist of one or more of the following:

Time out: A Scout is removed from a situation for a short time period. If a Scout is given more than two time outs at a given event, he may be sent home for the remainder of that event. (Being overly disruptive at a Troop meeting, for example)

Loss of Privilege: Taking away participation in an entire activity during an event, or not allowed to participate at all in an event. (Not allowed to play a game during a Troop meeting.)

Scoutmaster Conference: Continued misbehavior may require a conference with the Scoutmaster to determine a reason or cause and any appropriate action.

Parent Involvement: If a Scout continues to misbehave or acts in a reckless or dangerous manner, parents will be informed and may be required to accompany their child at meetings and scouting events for a minimum of four weeks.

IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL - SMOKING, USE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, INTIMIDATION, EXCESSIVE FIGHTING OR SWEARING, OR HAVING PORNOGRAPHY IN ONE'S POSSESSION, MAY RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM TROOP 96.

Any parent with a question concerning disciplinary treatment or any other situation should discuss it with the Scoutmaster or the Troop Committee Chairman:

Rolf Terrio, Scoutmaster, 508-946-3362

Bob Ellis, Committee Chair, 508-946-0283

Scout and Parent Acknowledgment

I have read and I understand the Guidelines for Boy Scout Troop 96. As a member of Troop 96, I acknowledge that I am expected to conduct myself in accordance with those Guidelines.

Scout

Date

I have read and I understand the Guidelines for Boy Scout Troop 96. I agree to support my son while he is a member of Troop 96 in accordance with these Guidelines. Furthermore, as an adult either active or inactive in Troop 96, I will support the Scoutmaster in his enforcement of these Guidelines.

Parent

Date

I have received a signed acknowledgement of this document.

Scoutmaster

Date

Please sign both copies of this form and return one to the Scoutmaster so it may be retained by the Troop for its records.

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