

TROOP 541 FACT BOOK



INFORMATION FOR SCOUT FAMILIES

April 6, 2022



“No one ever became an Eagle Scout without some help from their parents.”

These words, from the parent of one of our finest Eagle Scouts, tell the story of success in Scouting. This booklet has been prepared to help the parents of new Scouts in Troop 541 understand how the program works, and how they can help their daughter. We're glad to welcome your daughter to one of the world's greatest youth organizations. Save this booklet and use it to help us provide her with the best experience possible.

J. A. Eibner

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Scoutmaster, Troop 541

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Youth Protection & Safety	3
BSA Youth Protection	3
Parent's Guide.....	3
Training & Background Check	3
Cyber Safety	3
Health and Safety	3
General Information.....	4
The Mission of Scouting	4
Meeting Time and Place.....	4
How to Join.....	4
Troop Organization	4
Weekend Activities.....	5
Cost.....	5
Uniforms	5
Our Sponsor.....	6
How Parents Can Help.....	6
Call Us With Questions.....	6
Parent's Orientation.....	6
The Eagle.....	6
Advancement.....	7
Progress Awards	7
First Year Advancement	7
Merit Badges.....	7
Participation Requirement.....	8
Leaves of Absence	8
Progress Reviews	8
Planning an Eagle Scout Service Project.....	9
Scoutbook	9
Equipment and Packing Lists	10
Personal Camping Equipment.....	10
Get Ready for Backpacking	11
Packing List for Weekend Camping.....	11
Getting Ready for Summer Camp.....	12
Buying Food for Your Patrol	12

Youth Protection and Safety

BSA Youth Protection

The BSA is firmly committed to policies intended to minimize the risk of any form of child abuse within our programs. A few key elements of those policies are:

- **Background checks of leaders**
- **Training of adult leaders** – Scout leaders are trained to Recognize, Respond to, and Report any conduct that could be abusive or be a prelude to abuse.
- **Two deep leadership** – At least two trained and registered adults must be present at every Scouting activity.
- **No one on one contact** – Any form of one-on-one contact between an adult leader and a Scout is forbidden. This includes face-to-face, phone, text, and/or e-mail.

Information about these policies can be found on the BSA Youth Protection website:

<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>

Parent's Guide

In the front each Scout Handbook is a removable pamphlet entitled *Youth Protection: How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse*. As a requirement for a Scout's first rank, she and her parent must complete the exercises found in the pamphlet. This requirement is intended to raise both parent's and Scout's awareness of indicators of abuse so that questionable conduct can be detected and reported before an abusive situation develops. The pamphlet also will help Scouts and parents know what the BSA rules are and help us ensure they are always followed.

Training & Background Check

As noted above, adults must complete the BSA's Youth Protection Training (YPT), and undergo a background check before they can be registered as a leader or have ongoing contact with our Scouts. The YPT course is on-line, easy, and only requires about 90 minutes to complete in three modules of 30 minutes each. It's worthwhile, free, and we encourage all adults to take it whether or not they plan to register as a leader. We also expect at least one parent in each Scout family to obtain their Pennsylvania Background Check clearances. This is important because we expect parents to help out from time to time and come on some of our outings.

To take the YPT course, create a free account at: <https://my.scouting.org/> and follow

the links there. Instructions for obtaining PA clearances are on our troop's website at:

<http://troop541.com/parents.html#parentsbackground>

Cyber Safety

Today's youth are spending more time than ever using digital media for education, research, socializing, and fun. To help families and volunteers keep youth safe while online, the Boy Scouts of America has introduced the *Cyber Chip*. In developing this exciting new tool, the BSA teamed up with content expert NetSmartz®, a training resource for many law enforcement agencies.

Scouts must take Cyber Chip training as a requirement for several of their ranks including the very first one – Scout. Topics include cyberbullying, cell phone use, texting, blogging, gaming, and identity theft. More information about Cyber Chip can be found here: <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/cyber-chip/>

Troop 541 also has its own electronic device use policy which you can find here:

<http://troop541.com/documents/electron icpolicy-3.pdf>

Health and Safety

The BSA has a comprehensive set of policies regarding health and safety. Foremost is the Guide to Safe Scouting, but we also have guidelines for what activities are appropriate for what age Scout, and a health and safety newsletter. Underlying these policies is a list of principles we call the *Sweet Sixteen of Safety* which are:

1. Qualified supervision
2. Physical fitness
3. Buddy system
4. Safe area or course
5. Equipment selection and maintenance
6. Personal safety equipment
7. Safety procedures and policies
8. Skill level limits
9. Weather check
10. Planning
11. Communications
12. Plans and notices
13. First-aid resources
14. Applicable laws
15. CPR resource
16. Discipline

Details of all this and more can be found here:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/general-resources/>

General Information

Mission and Vision of Scouting

BSA 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.*

BSA Vision Statement: *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.*

So What Does That Mean?

When some people think of Scouting, they think of hot dogs, tents, and campfires. When we think of an Eagle Scout, however, we think of someone who is honest, helpful, and kind. Sure we want to have fun, but the essence of Scouting is expressed by our motto, "Be Prepared," our slogan, "Do a Good Turn Daily," our Oath, Law, and Outdoor Code.

The best definition of Scouting is found in the three points of the Scout Oath that are symbolized by the three fingers of the Scout sign. Each point of this oath defines one of the fundamental duties of a Scout.

DUTY TO GOD

Scouting is not a religious organization. Scouts are, however, encouraged to understand and live up to their own convictions, and to respect the beliefs of others. All major religious groups offer awards for Scouts. You can find out about this from your own religious leader.

DUTY TO OTHER PEOPLE

The Scout law elaborates the kinds of things we should do to fulfill our duty to others. Be trustworthy, loyal, and helpful for example. As Scouts grow and master the basic skills of Scouting, they are expected to put this knowledge back into the troop by serving as a junior leader. The higher awards also contain service project requirements.

DUTY TO MYSELF

We promise to keep ourselves in good shape physically, mentally, and morally. Many of our activities have a physical orientation. Much of the work we do to earn badges helps us to develop mentally. Some of the badges, and

a lot of other parts of our program, encourage moral development.

Meeting Time & Place

Troop 541 meets at Supplee Church in Maple Glen on Wednesdays, from 7:30 to 9:00 PM, during the months of Sept. through June.

How To Join Troop 541

Nothing could be easier than joining our troop. We'll give you an application form. Fill it out, and bring it to one of our meetings along with your registration fee. The fee is \$60 for new Scouts or \$40 for registered cub Scouts. When you register you will receive:

- * Membership in the BSA
- * A Subscription to *Boy's Life*
- * Your Scout Handbook
- * Your neckerchief & slide

Troop Organization

The Scout program depends heavily upon leadership provided by the Scouts themselves. Troops are divided into patrols with one



Scout serving as patrol leader. Patrol leaders are usually older Scouts with several years of Scouting experience, and good attendance records. On camping trips, patrols set up their site, plan their menu, buy their food and cook their meals. Older Scouts, in their own patrol, coordinate activities troop meetings.

Ten- and eleven-year-old Scouts joining the troop are placed in the Star Dragon Patrol for their first year. Two older Scouts are also assigned to the Star Dragons as "Troop Guides" to work with the new members.

At present we have only one patrol of older Scouts, the Thunderbirds. As we grow, we'll form patrols for Scouts in grades 7 to 10, and one patrol for the oldest Scouts in 11th and 12th grades. Patrol assignments can be changed to suit the desires of the Scouts.

Adult leadership comes from Scoutmaster Jay Eibner, and several assistant Scoutmasters. We also have a very large and active group of parents on the troop committee chaired by Arland Hotchkiss.

**Visit our web site to learn more:
www.troop541.com**

General Information

Weekend Activities

Troop 541 has an activity every month. Our schedule usually includes the following:



- * **Gold Rush** (A day in Jan.)
- * **Cabin Camping** (Weekends Feb. & Nov.)
- * **Trip to Place of Interest** (Weekend in Mar.)
- * **Tent Camping** (Weekends in Apr., May, & Oct.)
- * **River Trip** (Rafting or canoeing in June)
- * **High Adventure, e.g. Sea Base Or Philmont** (In July for older Scouts)
- * **Summer Camp** (A week in August)
- * **Backpacking** (A Weekend in September)
- * **First Aid Meet** (One day event in Dec.)
- * **Ecology Projects** (Highway cleanups four times a year and larger projects once a year)
- * **Family Nights To Present Awards** (Four evenings during the year)

Cost

A registration fee of \$100 for new Scouts or \$55 for Scouts transferring from cubs or another troop in the spring is charged. This covers handbook, neckerchief & slide, Scout's Life subscription, insurance, and registration. A re-registration fee of \$100 is charged in November each year. Scouts joining in the fall will pay only this fee.

Cost of activities is approximately as follows; camping trips - \$30/person (for food), river trip - \$80/person (food and canoe or raft rental), March trip - \$150, Week at summer camp - \$445. One-day activities - \$15.00 (lunch and a patch).

We don't want anyone to miss the opportunity to be in Scouting because of money. We have funds to provide "camperships" for Scouts who need them.

Uniforms

Uniforms are part of Scouting and the Scouts are required to wear them at meetings and some activities. Outgrown uniforms may be available for new Scouts. Check with one of our leaders for more information.

If we can't fit them with a used uniform, Scouts may wait a short time before investing in a uniform. The best place to buy a uniform is at the Scout Shop at Council Headquarters in Valley Forge.

Our formal, or "Class A" uniform consists of pants, shirt (with appropriate patches), belt, socks, neckerchief, and sometimes a merit badge sash. For casual occasions we wear "Class B" consisting of Scout pants, belt, socks, and troop tee.



What You Need:

Scout Shirt - Either short or long sleeves are fine. Olive epaulets are worn on the shirt.

Scout Pants - Most of us wear long Scout pants in cool weather and short pants in the summer. Zip off pants are also available.

Scout Socks - Official Scout socks are required if the Scout is wearing short pants and are desirable with long pants as well.

Scout Belt - Any Scouts BSA belt is OK.

Patches - You need a troop numeral (541), a Council patch, and a patrol patch (Find out which patrol your daughter is joining before buying this patch). Earned badges are presented by the troop at courts of honor. The Scout handbook shows where the patches should be placed.

Neckerchief - A neckerchief and slide will be presented to your daughter by the troop at the time of her joining. Do not buy them.

Merit Badge Sash - Scouts need this sash once they have six merit badges.

Troop Tee Shirt - Troop Tees are available for \$15.

General Information

Our Sponsor

Our troop is sponsored by Supplee Presbyterian Church. They



provide us with a place to meet free of charge, storage space for our gear, and use of their van and bus. They have, however, limited control over our program. We share a common set of values, but we are not a religious program of the church. The 12th Scout Law is "A Scout is Reverent." Each Scout is encouraged to put this into practice by being faithful to her own religious duties whatever they may be.

How Parents Can Help

TROOP COMMITTEE - Running the troop is a lot of work, and we have a great group of parents serving on the Troop Committee to enable our troop to function. The committee meets on the first Sunday of each month. There's always a need on the committee for more help.

ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION - A Scout only really gains the benefits of the program if she plays an active roll in her patrol. This implies regular attendance at meetings and weekend activities. Help your daughter to be active. Encourage her to keep the dates of our activities open.

HELP WITH FUND RAISING - The annual dues you pay go to the larger BSA organization, not to our troop. The money paid for activities is for the direct cost of that activity. We also need money for troop equipment, the badges we give out at parents nights, the cost of mailings, and other incidental expenses. We spend about \$4500.00 per year or, roughly, \$50 per Scout. Most of these expenses are paid for by fund-raisers, like our annual hoagie sale. Encourage your daughter to join in the fundraising.

COME ON OUTINGS - Although our June River Trip is our only outing that is billed as a "Family" trip, a parent is always welcome on camping trips and activities. On most weekend outings we can use a little extra help, and we always need as much help as we can get during our week at summer camp.

PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION - When we go camping, we need to bring the Scouts, their gear, and lots of troop equipment. Some of us have vans or trucks, but most cars can only

carry two or three Scouts. We usually need one group of drivers to take us to the campsite and another to bring us back. Every family should expect to drive one way or the other for about half the trips their daughter attends.

SERVICE PATROL - When we arrive at the church each Wednesday, the room is set up for other functions. Furnishings need to be moved for our meeting, and put back when we're done. This responsibility is divided among the patrols with a designated "service patrol" each week. This duty rotates and assignments are always published in our newsletter. Remind your daughter to come early when her patrol is on duty. Service patrol members are expected to arrive at 7:00 PM to help get ready on the week they are assigned. They should plan to stay until 9:15 PM to help put everything back.

Call Us With Questions

If you have questions about our program you can call any of the following:

Scoutmaster:

Jay Eibner

215-990-6651

Asst. Scoutmasters:

Donna Murphy

215-793-9792

Jan McLemore

215-272-3441

Arland Hotchkiss

215-542-9763

Kevin McLemore

215-272-3320

Committee Chair:

Ed Borkowski

215-801-1799



Parent's Orientation

Early each fall we conduct an orientation meeting to answer questions parents of new Scouts may have. This meeting provides an overview of the Troop 541 program helping Scouts and parents know what to expect. It is helpful in transitioning from Cub Scouts to Scouts BSA and also provides a good way to meet the leaders and other parents.

"The 541 Bugle" Newsletter

We send a newsletter to our Scouts each quarter. It contains an easy-to-read schedule of the Troop's upcoming events, facts about future trips (what to pack and wear, cost, dates, etc.), news reports written by Scouts about previous trips, helpful hints, and the Scoutmaster's message. Please take time to read The Bagle when it arrives, and use it to update your family calendar so you won't miss any important Troop 541 events.

Advancement



Progress Awards

Advancement in Scouting centers on badges called progress awards or "Ranks".

These are the familiar: Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The Eagle Award is the top progress award and the highest award Scouting has to offer. The requirements all follow the same basic pattern.

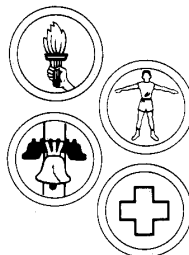
- 1. Participation** - You are required to be active in the troop and patrol. This means regular attendance at troop meetings and activities. It also means helping your patrol in patrol corners, on camping trips, and in district competitions. For lower ranks, Scouts must participate in a specific number of activities. For higher ranks, Scouts must be "active" for a specified time period. (See participation requirement on next page.)
- 2. Spirit** - You must live up to the ideals of Scouting as expressed in the Scout Oath, Law, Slogan, Motto, and the Outdoor Code.
- 3. Skills** - All progress awards require you to learn skills. For the lower ranks, the things you need to learn are spelled out in the requirements for that rank. For higher ranks you learn by earning merit badges. Don't make the mistake of thinking that simply learning these skills qualifies you for a progress award. Spirit, participation, leadership, and service are equally important.
- 4. Leadership** - For the ranks of Star and above, you are required to serve actively in a leadership position within the troop.
- 5. Service** - For Star and Life you must give a certain number of hours in service to others. For Eagle, you organize a service project.
- 6. Scoutmaster's Conference** - As one of the requirements for rank advancement, you must have a one-on-one conference with the Scoutmaster.
- 7. Progress Review** - When you think you have completed all requirements for a progress award, it's time for a progress review. (See progress review section on next page.)

First Year Advancement

Troop 541 offers an advancement program for first year Scouts. Older Scouts teach skills at our Wednesday meetings geared toward having first year Scouts earn their First Class badge by the time they finish sixth grade. During the spring when they join, they work on the Scout badge. Then in the fall they complete Tenderfoot. Second Class is earned in the winter quarter, and First Class is completed by June.

Merit Badges

Merit badges give Scouts a chance to learn about a broad range of skills. The Star, Life, and Eagle awards require the Scout to earn merit badges.



About 130 merit badges are offered. Some cover Scout skills like *Camping* and *Cooking*. Others cover skills that are oriented toward producing better citizens, like *Safety* and *Citizenship in the Community*. Some are for self-development, like *Public Speaking* or *Personal Management*, some are for fun, like *Snow Sports* or *Model Building*, and many are designed to help Scouts learn about careers, like *Dentistry*, *Electronics*, or *Journalism*.

Our troop leaders do not pass Scouts on most merit badges. Scouts must go to specific merit badge counselors (experts in the field who donate their time and live in the area) for these badges. Often, when we teach a class on a merit badge at our meetings, the counselor will come to review the Scouts on a Wednesday night. Merit badges may also be earned at summer camp, where the counselors are on the camp staff.

Although Scouts do not need merit badges until they have reached the rank of First Class, many like to get started sooner. Most Scouts can find a few that coincide with their own interests well enough that they have already done all the requirements. In this case, why not go get the badge? Mom and Dad can help with this. Requirements for merit badges are found in an inexpensive booklet titled "Scouts BSA Requirements" that is available at the Scout Shop.

Advancement

541 Participation Expectation

The ranks from Tenderfoot to Eagle, have participation requirements. In order to reach First Class, a Scout will have been required to participate in 10 activities other than meetings including 3 campouts. Our troop has minimum attendance guidelines for advancement above First Class. Scouts should attend 75% of our meetings and 50% of our activities. Eagle candidates should attend 67% of activities. When you are ready to advance and appear for a progress review, one of the things the review board checks is your attendance record. This is done to see if you have met this participation requirement.

Leaves Of Absence

Sometimes a Scout must miss activities or meetings for a period of time because of other commitments. In these cases she can take a leave of absence from Scouting, and that period of time will not be counted toward the participation requirement for her next badge.

Progress Reviews

A progress review is a meeting between a Scout and some of the troop's adult leaders to be certain that all the requirements for a progress award were met.



WHEN SHOULD I SCHEDULE IT?

When you realize that you will complete the requirements for a progress award you should schedule the review. Reviews are conducted by adults on the Troop Committee. Deadlines for scheduling reviews are published in "The Eagle." The review process for the Eagle badge is complicated and is conducted on an individual basis.

HOW SHOULD I ARRIVE?

- * On time
- * In full uniform (Merit Badge & O.A. sashes, if applicable)
- * Bring your Scout Handbook
- * Bring a form, signed by the Scoutmaster, indicating that you have had a Scoutmaster's conference.

WHAT QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED?

- * **Scout Spirit** - How well do you know and follow the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, etc?

- * **Participation** - How is your attendance at meetings and on outings?
- * **Skills** - All skill requirements must have been completed before the review. (There are specific requirements for ranks up to First Class. Skills take the form of merit badges for higher ranks.)
- * **Service Project** (Star and higher) - Bring accurate records of the hours worked.
- * **Leadership** (Star and higher) - Be prepared to explain what you do in your leadership position, and how it helps the troop.
- * **Scoutmaster's Conference** - Show the signed form to verify this requirement.

Steps To The Eagle

The Eagle Award is Scouting's highest honor. If you're a Life Scout ready to become Eagle, here are the steps you must follow:



1. Complete the requirements including your Scoutmaster's Conference.
2. Download an Eagle application or secure one from our advancement chairperson and fill it in completely.
3. Request letters of reference from a teacher, parent, neighbor, religious leader, and employer if you have one to be sent to the Troop Advancement Chairperson.
7. Attend a coaching session with a few members of our troop committee. Your application will then be sent to the district.
8. Early in the following month, the district will review your application and, if it is in order, invite you to appear at the district review board later that month. You must pass this review.
9. Your application will be sent to national headquarters. It takes several weeks for them to process it.
10. The Eagle award will then be presented at a special court of honor.

Because of these review steps, plan on at least three months from the time you submit the application until the award can be presented.

NOTE: At first, girls will be given two extra years to complete the Eagle Rank since they may not have been able to join when they were

Advancement

Eagle Scout Service Project

An Eagle Scout project requires considerable effort. The scope of what you must do goes well beyond what can be included in this pamphlet. However the basic project phases are as follows:

1. **GET A PROJECT WORKBOOK:** - Download an Eagle project workbook from our Troop's web site or obtain one from our advancement chairperson.
2. **MEET WITH THE SCOUTMASTER** - Schedule a time for you and a parent to meet with the Scoutmaster who will go over the entire process with you and your parent in detail. The meeting will take about an hour.
2. **THINK OF AN IDEA:** - Come up with an idea for your project. Discuss your idea with someone in authority from the organization that the project will benefit. Run it by the Scoutmaster to be sure that the idea satisfies the requirements.
3. **DEVELOP A PROPOSAL:** - This must be done using the workbook and in accordance with the instructions the Scoutmaster gave you when you met with him or her. Your proposal will provide a description of the project and its benefit, how you will give leadership, what materials, supplies and equipment you'll need, how it will be paid for, and how safety and logistics will be addressed.
4. **GET THE PROPOSAL APPROVED:** - The proposal must be approved by the organization, the troop, and the district..
5. **DEVELOP A DETAILED PLAN:** - This is also in the workbook. It's a good idea to review it with one of the Troop adult leaders.
6. **CARRY OUT THE PROJECT:** - Make sure what you do is consistent with what your proposal promised.
8. **FINAL REPORT:** - Use the workbook to put this together. It must be signed off by the organization and your Scoutmaster.



SCOUTBOOK

Troop 541 uses a BSA tool called Scoutbook to manage rosters, contact information, attendance, and advancement data. We also use the Scoutbook tool to generate broadcast e-mails and texts. In accordance with youth protection policies, Scoutbook is set up to automatically copy parents on messages sent to their Scout. In order for parent's and their Scout to view data and receive messages through Scoutbook, they must register in the tool. Here's a link to the tool itself:

<https://www.scoutbook.com/>

Once registered, parents and Scouts can monitor their own advancement progress, their own attendance information, and receive communications from Troop 541.

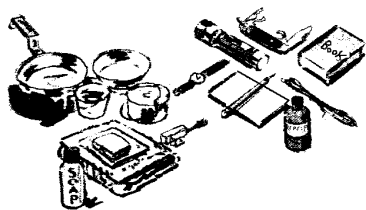
Parent's must register in Scoutbook first, and can then, at their option, invite their Scout as well. Detailed instructions for getting set up in Scoutbook are available on the "For Parents" page of our website or through this link:

<http://troop541.com/documents/Getting-Setup-in-Scoutbook-Parents.pdf>

This document will guide you through the following:

- Accept Your Invitation from Scoutbook
- Update / Confirm Your Profile
- Register Your Cellphone for Texting
- Invite Your Scout to Scoutbook

Equipment and Packing Lists



Personal Camping Equipment

A few items of personal equipment, like sleeping bags and backpacks, are needed to participate in our activities. Most of us do not use official BSA equipment. It's usually over-priced, and often isn't even what you really need. An orientation meeting is held about twice a year (spring and fall) to familiarize new Scouts and their parents with equipment needs. The following information may be useful if you need to buy equipment before we have such a meeting.

SLEEPING BAG - This is the most important piece of equipment a Scout has. It should be lightweight because we often carry our gear. It is also important for it to be warm. Features to look for are:

1. Nylon liner with Hollofil II or Quallofill filling. These are light and warm. Down filling is smaller and lighter, but not hold heat when damp and is more expensive.
2. "Mummy" style. -- These weigh less than comparable rectangular bags but consider a rectangular bag if you're a side-sleeper or you thrash a lot. If you do choose a "mummy bag", get one that widens a little at the bottom for your feet.
3. A hood that closes around your head.
4. A zipper that opens at both ends to let in air.
5. A small tube of insulation parallel to the zipper. This keeps the zipper from becoming a cold spot.
6. Filling alternately stitched to the outside and inside. This keeps the seams from becoming cold spots.

Note: Sleeping bags must never be stored compressed, since the insulation may lose its ability to 'fluff up' over time. For proper care, after a camping trip be sure to unzip your bag, shake it out, let it air out for a few days, and then store it loosely. Some Scouts store their bags using pants hangers to hang them vertically in a closet.

RAIN GEAR - Scouts should "Be Prepared" for all weather conditions. Although a lightweight poncho may suffice for some instances, we recommend a sturdy but lightweight rain jacket for more versatility.

WATER BOTTLE - A one-quart sized bottle is best (hard plastic will hold up better than soft). On most backpacking trips, you will be required to carry at least 2 quarts of water. Some Scouts choose to bring a water bladder system for day hiking. Consider wrapping some duct-tape around the bottle, since it can be very useful while camping and it's an easy place to store it.

BACKPACK - Hiking backpacks are necessary for backpacking trips (the troop has a few loaners for first time hikers), and many Scouts use them to carry their gear on all our camping trips. Younger Scouts have no need to invest in a backpack immediately. These are available in both external and internal frame packs, however most Scouts go with internal frame. Features to look for are:

- The pack must fit the Scout! Hiking long distances with all your gear on your back is not easy. If the pack doesn't fit, you will be miserable. Shopping at a reputable outfitter will allow Scouts to try on various packs with knowledgeable staff nearby.
- The pack must have a padded hip strap. This must fit the Scout! The hip strap is intended to carry the load. Shoulder straps serve only to hold the pack upright.
- The pack should have support or padding against the Scout's back, and keep any framework from rubbing painfully against her.
- The pack should be the right size - big enough to hold the required equipment, without being too big to fit the Scout (typically 4500-6000 cubic inches). It is nice to have a number of separate compartments so that gear can stay organized.
- There should be a place for a sleeping bag. On an internal frame pack, this should be inside. For an external frame, this will be on the bottom of the frame secured with straps or bungees.

PERSONAL COOKING GEAR - These items are only really used on backpacking outings, and new Scouts will not need them right away.

- Mess Kit - This is a small nested set of cookware. It should have a pot with lid and cup (at minimum; some may include a fry pan as well).
- Vittles Kit - Although a full vittles kit would include a non-disposal knife, fork and spoon, many Scouts choose to bring a plastic or metal spork instead. This is a lighter weight and sufficient option.
- Knife - All Scouts must complete a knife safety course (Tote-n-Chip) prior to carrying and using knives. A small folding pocket knife (blade of 3 inches or less), with a locking mechanism for safety, is sufficient for any task on a backpacking trip.

Equipment and Packing Lists



Get Ready For Backpacking

WHAT TO WEAR:

- Shorts, Long pants, or Zip Off pants
- Layers of clothing (sweatshirt, light jacket)
- Two pairs of socks (liner socks under hiking socks)
- Hiking Boots (sturdy shoes may be ok)

THINGS YOU MUST BRING:

- Layers of clothes (sweatshirt, light jacket)
- Extra socks
- 2 Shirts
- Sleep wear
- Mess kit
- Wet wipes
- Zip-lock bags to pack out every item of trash
- Any feminine hygiene items you might need
- Two quarts of water
- Rain gear
- Sleeping bag
- Vittles kit
- Tissues/toilet paper

THINGS YOU MAY NOT BRING:

- Sheath knives, sling shots, etc.
- Extra food (2 candy bars are allowed)
- Anything non-essential
- Scented items, like deodorant, lotions, fragrances, makeup, etc.

THINGS THAT THE TROOP PROVIDES:

- Tent
- Butane Stove
- Food

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER IF YOU CAN AFFORD TO ADD THE WEIGHT

- Knit Cap (wool or poly)
- Wire coat hanger
- Small brush
- Small flashlight or headlamp
- A few zip-lock bags
- Tissues, to be used as toilet or facial tissue

HOW TO PACK:

- Use a light-weight backpack with hip strap that fits you (see BACKPACK section above).
- Stuff the sleeping bag tightly in its stuff bag and secure it in the pack (if on the outside, use sturdy straps or bungees, not rope).
- Pack all items inside the pack. Things hanging on the sides will catch on tree branches and obstructions. Put things you need, like the water, where you can get to them easily.

- You will hike with a partner with whom you will share a two-person tent, butane stove, and food for the weekend (such as freeze-dried meals). Save room for your share, which will weigh about 5 pounds.



- Your entire pack including sleeping bag, water, and the 5 pounds of shared equipment, must not exceed 1/4 of your own weight. If you weigh 80 lb., you cannot carry more than a 20 lb. load.

For Weekend Camping Trip



CLOTHING:

- 2 Pr jeans
- 2 Shirts
- 4 Pr socks
- Sweat shirt
- Jacket
- Extra shoes
- Poncho
- Thermal underwear
- 2 Changes undergarments
- Gloves (winter)
- Hat (winter)
- Sun glasses (optional)
- Swim suit(summer)
- Sleep wear

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT:

- Sleeping bag
- Small pillow
- Flashlight/headlamp
- Bug spray (optional, no aerosols)
- Pocket knife (optional, blade must be less than 6", no sheath knives)
- Unbreakable Mug
- Canteen (optional)
- Camera (optional)
- Scout handbook

TOILET ITEMS:

- Soap
- Towel
- Toothbrush
- Tissues/toilet paper
- Wet wipes
- Hair brush/comb
- Plastic laundry bag
- Toothpaste
- Feminine hygiene items

RECREATIONAL SUGGESTIONS:

- Board game
- Fishing rod
- Ball & glove
- Musical instrument
- Sports equipment
- Craft project
- Book
- Cards

Equipment and Packing Lists

Getting Ready For Summer Camp

ARRIVE: At the church at the designated time on the Sunday we are leaving;

WEAR: Complete Scout uniform including; shirt, pants (either long or short with knee socks), neckerchief & slide, belt. Wear your merit badge sash if you have one.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE HAVE:

- Medical permission form signed by both your parent and your doctor.
- Sleeping bag
- Spare key to footlocker or written copy of combination (for Scoutmaster)
- A footlocker packed with gear

PACK YOUR FOOTLOCKER WITH:

CLOTHES:

- Jeans
- Shirts
- Socks
- Sweat shirt
- Old sneakers
- Extra uniform parts
- Shorts
- Poncho
- Undergarments
- Swim suit
- O.A. sash (for members)

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT:

- Flashlight
- Small pillow
- Spending money
- Insect repellent (no aerosols)
- Pocket knife (optional)
- Anything required for merit badges
- Handbook
- Camera (optional)
- Compass (optional)

TOILET ITEMS:

- Soap
- Comb/brush
- Wet wipes
- 2 Towels
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Tissues/toilet paper
- Medication (bring a note)
- Feminine hygiene items

RECREATIONAL SUGGESTIONS:

- Board game
- Fishing rod
- Ball & glove
- Book
- Cards
- Sports equipment
- Musical instrument

YOUR PATROL SHOULD HAVE:

Enough of the following equipment for its members to go to Little Falls. New Scouts should not buy any of these items at this time.

- Canteens
- Backpacks
- Mess kits
- Vittles kits

Buying Food For Your Patrol



Meals on camping trips are prepared by each patrol. A few weeks before every camping trip, menu planning packets are distributed to each patrol. The patrol assigns a member as "Grubmaster" for the trip, and the patrol members discuss what they want to eat. The Grubmaster takes the planning packet home, plans a detailed menu that meets nutrition

requirements and checks the patrol's "food box" to see what supplies they already have.

When the final count of people for the trip is established, the Grubmaster prepares a detailed shopping list and brings the completed packet to the last meeting before the trip for review by the whole patrol.

The Grubmaster is given a check, takes the packet home, buys the food, and brings it on the trip. The Grubmaster, and anyone helping them, should be aware of the following rules:

1. Plan for four meals, three Saturday, one Sunday.
2. All meals should be cooked.
3. Two meals must be cooked over an open fire or on charcoal.
4. The menu should be well balanced. Saturday's menu should include the four food groups:
 - Group 1: Meat, Poultry, Fish Eggs
-- at least 2 servings
 - Group 2: Milk and milk products
-- one serving at each meal
 - Group 3: Vegetables and fruits
-- at least 4 servings
 - Group 4: Bread and grain products
-- 4 servings
5. Sunday's breakfast should be hearty **COLD CEREAL IS NOT OK**. Since we won't eat lunch in camp, the Scouts may have a long gap between meals.
6. "A Scout Is Thrifty." Watch your budget. Get food for the meals first. Buy snacks only if you have money left over. Use things up. For example, one box of Bisquick can make pancakes at breakfast and biscuits at dinner. Left over potatoes from dinner can be hashed browns in the morning.
7. Check your patrol's food box for staples like SOS pads, dish soap, and paper products. Buy these only if needed.