

Scout Troop 378 Parent Handbook 2019



**Scouts BSA
Mid-America Council
Iron Horse District**

**Chartered to St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church
Omaha, Nebraska**

Revised and updated by Tom Gensichen. (Updated October 2016/2019 by Mark Ehrhart) Special thanks to Chris Knaus, ASM of Troop 236 in Danville, California for allowing us to creatively borrow their Troop Parent Handbook.

Note: The Boy Scouts of America organization name will continue to be Boy Scouts of America. It is not changing. Beginning February 2019, the Boy Scout program name will change to "Scouts BSA" and will begin serving girls, as well as boys.

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1. What I need to know on "Day One" after we join?



Joining a troop should be a wonderful experience for both parents and Scouts. In order to keep from being overwhelmed by new customs and practices, however, the following is provided to help answer some of the many questions frequently asked when first joining the Troop. Further elaboration on these points is found in the body of this document.

When does the Troop meet? Troop Meetings are held weekly on Monday evenings during the school year (from approximately September through June) at the St. Margaret Mary School cafeteria, 123 N. 61 St. A pre-meeting, gathering activity and set-up begins at 6:45 p.m. with the flag ceremony beginning at 7:00 sharp! Meetings typically last until 8:30 p.m.

What about uniforms? Uniforms are to be worn to all Troop functions. For Troop meetings occurring between August and May and at other special meetings (e.g., Boards of Review and Courts of Honor) the Troop wears a traditional, official BSA uniform (called "Class A"). Scouts should wear the tan Scout shirt, Troop 378 neckerchief and slide and either blue jeans or khakis. The official Scout olive green pants are not required. For outdoor troop activities, Scouts may wear troop or camp T-shirts with blue jeans or khaki pants or shorts or other appropriate attire (called Class B"). The official "Class A" uniform and Class "B" T-shirts are available from the Council Scout Shop (Gottschalk Scout Shop, 12401 W. Maple Road, Omaha, NE) and other stores.

How much are dues? Troop dues are \$60.00 per year for Scouts, \$30.00 per year for adult leaders. If a Scout or an adult are members of Order of the Arrow, there is an additional cost of \$15.00 each. Dues are used for the Scout neckerchief, Boys Life subscription, insurance, national registration, leadership training, site and activity reservations, equipment, awards, and many other things. *For those Webelos who bridge from a Pack and join in the February/March, a prorated payment of \$35.00 will accompany their Scout application.*

What about Equipment? To participate in the outdoor program, camping equipment is essential. However, it is not necessary to immediately purchase hundreds of dollars worth of specialty equipment. You may already have much of the equipment. Essential items include Sleeping bag, mat, water bottle, eating utensils (knife, fork, and spoon) plate or bowl and rain gear. The Troop maintains Patrol boxes with essential equipment including stoves, pots & pans and cooking utensils, as well as Scout and Leader tents.

How often does the Troop go on outings? During the school year, the Troop attempts to go on one outing each month except August and December.

When are outings announced? Generally, the outings are announced at the weekly Troop meetings and are included in the weekly Troop e-mail. Firm commitments for outing attendance, including payment for the outing, must be made by the date specified in the announcement.

What about Summer Camp? The Troop generally goes to one summer camp each year, typically a one week session in June or July at Camp Cedars outside of Fremont, Nebraska. Sign-ups and deposits are collected by early April. Please see the Scoutmaster or the Committee Chair for details.

When will my son be placed in a Patrol? The Patrol is the heart of the Scouting program. Each spring, once the majority of the Webelos bridge over from a Pack, they will be placed in a Patrol with other scouts.

How are communications handled? Generally, announcements regarding coming events are made at each Troop meeting. *It is the Scout's responsibility to pay attention to these announcements, to communicate with his parents and to plan for appropriate follow-through.* A group e-mail/text distribution list [REMIND APP](#) is also used extensively. Each week, following the Troop regular meeting, members should receive an e-mail/text with minutes from the Troop meeting. Supplemental communications come in the form of outing flyers, summer camp flyers and other special notices.

Sometimes things appear disorganized. Why is that? As much as possible, the Troop tries to adhere to the "boy run" philosophy in which the boys conduct the program meetings and related calling and communications. However, most of our boys are just now learning about leadership, how to plan, how to conduct themselves and about responsibility and follow-through. **In case you and/or your son are unsure about what is supposed to be happening, your son should call his Patrol Leader or the Senior Patrol Leader for guidance and clarification.** By no means is the adult leadership machinery perfect either! The adults who support your son's program are volunteers, are generally as busy balancing careers, life and family as the next person, but still managing to find some time to support the Scouting program. Additional adult support is always appreciated and may alleviate some of the shortfalls you might observe. Please contact the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair with suggestions as to how you might support your son's program!

Who can sign off my son's advancements? When are these done? Who keeps track of these? Unlike Webelos, parents cannot sign-off their son's advancement requirements. The boy's Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Senior Patrol Leader and Troop Instructors may sign-off requirements. Also, the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters may sign. Advancement requirements may be met at Troop meetings, on outings, at summer camp and other occasions. The Scout's advancement records are maintained primarily in his Scout book. This book should be purchased at the Scout Shop. The Troop Advancement Coordinator maintains a comprehensive Troop database detailing each scout's merit badges, training, rank, etc.

What paperwork do we need to complete and to whom should we turn it in? The following paperwork should be turned in to the Mr. Tom Gensichen:

***Required**

- Scout Application (524-406)*
<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/524-406.pdf>
- Supplemental information form*
- Initial dues (See above)*
- Adult Leader Application (524-501)
(Optional but adult help for Troop activities are needed)
<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/524-501.pdf>
- Annual Medical Form (680-001 2014 Printing)*
http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_ABC.pdf

2. Welcome & Introduction

Welcome to the world's greatest leadership program for kids! Our focus is on helping the young men in our community develop character and leadership skills. Everything we do is centered on using fun activities to give kids an opportunity to experiment, to learn, to make mistakes, and to grow.

Your job as a parent in Troop 378 is to help create and support this program. That means if the parent participation is limited to dropping the kid off on Monday night, there won't be much of a program for the guys. It is up to you to make the effort, to invest the hours, to support your son and let him know that you believe that Scouting is valuable, beneficial, and important to you!

Please find out how you can help.

The Three Points of Scouting

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", the Scout Oath, Scout 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 & Country - 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 Scoutmaster.

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 Self - 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.

Goals

Troop 378 strives to bring a quality program to the boys to help them grow into leaders and good citizens. We invite every boy to join our fellowship for friendship, fun and adventure, to develop leadership, character and citizenship, and to grow in the spirit of Scouting - preparedness, readiness to help others, honesty, and responsibility. The purpose of the troop is to enable boys to enjoy and benefit from the national Scouting program, as outlined in the Scout Handbook. The major aims of the Scouting program are: growth in moral strength and character, participating in citizenship, and development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness.

History of Troop 378

Troop 378 is a chartered troop of the Boy Scouts of America. The troop was chartered in 1996. The Troop has been very active over the years. We have had 49 boys earn their Eagle rank through September 21st, 2016.

Charter Organization

Troop 378 is proud to be sponsored (or 'chartered') by the St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church. They provide us tremendous support including a wonderful place to conduct our meetings and some activities.

3. Activities

Troop Meetings

Troop Meetings are held weekly, unless otherwise announced, on Monday evenings during the school year (from approximately September through June) at the St. Margaret Mary School cafeteria, 123 N. 61st. A pre-meeting, gathering activity and set-up begins at 6:45 p.m. with the flag ceremony beginning at 7:00 p.m. sharp! Meetings typically last until 8:30 p.m.

Regular meetings are held to provide leadership opportunities for the boys, to plan outings and other troop activities, to enjoy lively games and competition, to provide experiences toward rank advancement and merit badge attainment, to feature occasional outside speakers on a variety of topics of interest to the boys, and to reinforce the principles of Scouting. Ceremonies also play an integral part of meetings.

The specific agenda for each meeting is created by the Senior Patrol, in cooperation with the Scoutmaster, for the Troop. In general, the meetings are structured along the following lines:

- Pre-opening & gathering
- Opening Ceremony (Flags, Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath or Scout Law)
- Announcements
- Patrol Meetings
- Scout Skill Instruction
- Inter-patrol Activity - "Fun Game"
- Final Announcements
- Scoutmaster's Minute & Closing Ceremony (Flags, Scout Oath or Scout Law)

Campouts and Outings

It is important that we keep the outing in Scouting! This is where the Scouts have the experiences that they will remember for a lifetime!

The camping programs are essential elements of the advancement process. Scouting in the outdoors helps to teach self-reliance by utilizing and developing skills such as swimming, camping, hiking, cooking and backpacking. Boys learn to accommodate group needs as well as to eventually provide group leadership. The Troop is organized so that older Scouts and trained adults will provide instruction and support as new experiences are encountered. Typical outings include hiking, camping, District Camporees, summer camp, High Adventure programs, and service projects. There is a troop overnight or weekend outing about once a month, and a parent/leader planning meeting in August and January to develop the schedule for the following semester.

Other pertinent outing information:

Outing Fee - It is the intention of the Troop to break even financially for each outing. For each outing, we collect a fee that covers the cost of campsite reservation fees, permits, lodging expenses, transportation, etc. The cost of food is collected separately, at the Patrol level.

Driving - It takes many drivers and adult hikers and campers to transport and supervise our Scouts on their many outings. Parents' help is greatly needed and

appreciated as often as possible. Drivers transporting other Scouts must be 21 or older and hold automobile insurance.

Food - Each patrol plans the meals they will cook and arranges to buy their food the week before the trip. Food charges are paid to the patrol member responsible for shopping. It is the responsibility of the boys to organize this, but it is desirable to limit the cost of food to \$10 or less per outing. Occasionally, on a long drive, we stop at a fast food restaurant. You will know in advance if money is needed for such a Burger King stop. For outings that begin on a Friday evening, Scouts should bring a sack supper or eat before they leave home.

Adults - Adults are welcome and encouraged to attend outings whenever possible. This includes male and females! Adults accompanying Scouts on outings will eat and sleep as a patrol and the Troop pays for the adult food cost. One adult generally buys the food and other adults need only to bring their silverware, plate, bowl, water bottle and a drinking cup.

Departure Locations - Typically we gather for outings at the parking lot located on the west side of St. Margaret Mary Church at the appointed hour for packing cars, organizing transport and any last minute instructions. We generally return to the parking lot located on the North side of the Saint Margaret Mary School at the conclusion of the outing. Sometimes, Scouts are dropped at their homes at the conclusion of an outing. In this case, a parent must be home to receive his or her Scout.

Permission Slip and Medical Releases - We require a signed medical release granting permission to participate on the outing and authorizing medical treatment for a minor in the event of an emergency. Generally, these release forms are collected annually. In case of an accident or injury, parents will be notified immediately.

Scheduling

Events are listed on the Troop Calendar and in the minutes of the weekly Troop meeting sent out via e-mail. It is important that parents as well as Scouts read all troop communications and keep them handy for reference. Two weeks before an outing is generally the deadline for commitment or reservation for an outing, unless stated otherwise in the outing announcement. At that time, Patrol leaders will ask each Scout in their patrol for a firm commitment on whether he plans to attend the outing. Outing charges will not be reimbursed unless the outing is canceled.

ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENTS

EVERY OUTING MUST HAVE A TOUR PERMIT APPROVED AND ON FILE WITH THE COUNCIL. PART OF THE TOUR PERMIT INCLUDES A STATEMENT THAT THE TOUR LEADER HAS A COPY OF THE "[GUIDE TO SAFE SCOUTING](#)" (available on the Internet and from the Scout Shop) AND HAS READ IT. AT LEAST ONE LEADER MUST HAVE COMPLETED "WEATHER HAZARDS" TRAINING. THIS GUIDE DESCRIBES THE BSA POLICY ON "TWO DEEP LEADERSHIP" ON ALL OUTINGS. A MINIMUM OF 4 PARENTS OR TROOP LEADERS ARE NECESSARY FOR ANY OUTING.

These are no exceptions to these requirements!

High Adventure Outings

The Troop attempts to participate in a special "High Adventure" outing when feasible. For these purposes, we define "High Adventure" as a multi-day (Le. greater than four) special outing that the Scouts will aspire to. It is targeted toward older Scouts -14 years and older depending on the specifics of the outing program. Scouts and parents/Leaders may need to attend special training sessions for certain High Adventure outings.

Special Events

Neckerchief Ceremony

When a new Scout joins the Troop, he will receive his Troop 378 neckerchief and slide during a brief ceremony at a regular meeting, unless this ceremony was conducted at a Pack Blue & Gold Banquet. Parents are invited to attend this ceremony.

Courts of Honor

Courts of Honor are held several times a year; typically September, March and June. This is our key time to gather as a Scouting family. We award ranks, merit badges and other awards earned by the Scouts and recognize Scouts and parents for their special contributions. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend Courts of Honor. Periodic Courts of Honor to recognize new Eagle Scouts are occasions not to be missed!

Service Projects

Frequency, time, and place vary. We are strongly committed to the principle of cheerful service to our community, and to help whenever we are needed or called upon - not just to complete the service obligation for rank advancement. We try and help our sponsor organization (Saint Margaret Mary), as well as St. Pius X/St. Leo School, whenever called upon. In the fall, Scouts sell popcorn and in the spring we help with Scouting for Food. Scouts working on their Eagle rank also organize Eagle service projects and ask for volunteers from among the Troop's Scouts and parents.

Summer Camp

The Troop generally sends a contingent of boys to a summer camp each year in July. Typically, the Troop attends a one week, Sunday through Friday, summer camp at Camp Cedars located outside of Fremont, NE. Summer camp is a great experience for all Scouts. Younger scouts particularly enjoy the opportunities to learn Scout skills, perform advancement tasks, earn merit badges and enjoy the out-of-doors. Perhaps more important, the Scouts have an opportunity to have a great time with their friends and have experiences that will last a lifetime.

Sign-ups and deposits are accepted beginning in mid-March and into early April. Please see the Scoutmaster, Committee Chair or the Advancement Coordinator for details. A number of parents attend each year to join in the fun - and help in the organization. Again, please see the Scoutmaster or the Committee Chair for details.

Camporee

The Iron Horse District sponsors a Camporee each fall, winter and spring. At these two night events, patrols compete in Scout based activities. It is a great event - the boys look forward to this event each year and to various competitions between troops. These competitions help them bond as a Troop.

4. Organization

Patrols

The Patrol is the "heart" of all Scouting. When a boy joins the Troop, he will be assigned to a specific Patrol. He and his fellow patrol members will plan their activities and outings as a Patrol, either during troop meetings or at a separate time and place of their choice. Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader assignments are rotated, usually twice a year.

Junior Leadership

The key junior leadership offices in the Troop are noted below:

- **Junior Assistant Scoutmasters**
- **Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)**
- **Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)**
- **Patrol Leaders**
- **Troop Guide**

All rank advancement above First Class requires satisfactory leadership service. Scouting offers many opportunities to develop leadership skills; Junior Leader Training is a leadership training course that is offered by the Troop and the District Council. Dates will be announced by the Troop calendar and qualification and application should be discussed with the Scoutmaster.

Adult Leadership

The uniformed adult leadership provides on-site supervision, advice and counsel for the Scouts, back-up expertise when older Scouts need help in teaching skills, and a link with the Troop committee.

Adult Leader Training

BSA has a wide range of training for adult leadership positions. The Troop encourages this training and will pay the training fees for the adult leader (and Scout leaders).

Key Adult Leaders:

The key adult leadership offices in the Troop are noted below:

Scoutmaster: The primary purpose of the Scoutmaster is to keep the boys excited and motivated regarding Scouting. With the consent and support of the Troop Committee, the Scoutmaster is responsible for the troop's program and operations, and is responsible for training the boys comprising the Junior Leadership-Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and patrol leaders (PLs)-and for assuring the health and safety of the Troop. The Scoutmaster conducts the Scoutmaster Conferences required for rank advancement. The Scoutmaster is assisted in these responsibilities by Assistant Scoutmasters, Junior Assistant Scoutmasters and interested parents - some in uniform and some not.

Assistant Scoutmasters (ASMs) support the Scoutmaster in execution of the program. Assignments, made by the Scoutmaster, vary according to the needs of the Troop. Key ASM positions are for Program, Outings and New Scouts. ASMs help coordinate parent support for outings, help with advancement opportunities, and perform other miscellaneous responsibilities.

Troop Committee

The troop committee is accountable to the sponsoring/chartering organization and oversees the Troop program. The committee consists of parents and other interested adults. The committee provides background support for troop outings and other activities. Spreading the support work among a large number of parents prevents burdensome time requirements for anyone individual. In addition, having more parents active and aware of the troop's activities and direction guarantees a robust program to say nothing of the fact that boys generally advance further in the Scouting program when their parents are involved. Key members of the Troop Committee include the following:

Committee Chair: Responsible for organizing the Committee and providing resources to support the Scoutmaster in delivery of the Program by ensuring all Troop functions are delegated, coordinated and completed.

Chartered Organization Representative: Responsible for liaison and maintaining a positive relationship with our chartered organization. He or she is the contact point for establishing and organizing service events for the Chartered Organization.

Treasurer: Managing the Troop's cash flow and banking, collecting dues, making payments for camps and other expenses, issuing reimbursement for expenses and outings, collecting outing payments from each outing's adult organizer and reporting any financial issues to the Committee.

Advancement Chair - Responsible for coordinating the Advancement program including arranging, conducting and leading Boards of Review; reporting advancements to the Council and securing badges & certificates; and maintaining a list of and recruiting Merit Badge Counselors. The Advancement Chair provides logistical support for the Scouts completing the Eagle requirements. The Advancement Chair also oversees the maintenance of the Troop's computerized records.

Hospitality Coordinator: Responsible for organizing the hospitality for Courts of Honor and other special events.

Communications Coordinator: Responsible for publishing the weekly minutes and announcements via e-mail; confirm the calendar of events and other communication needs.

Unit Commissioner: This individual is assigned by the District and is responsible for liaison between the District and the Troop.

The titles listed here are not all inclusive. Depending on need, some position's responsibilities are delegated to multiple adults and some are combined. There are numerous opportunities for adults to assist in the Troop's operations - the key is to find a niche and fill it! **Remember, many hands make light work!**

5. Roles & Responsibilities

Behavior

The guidelines for the acceptable behavior of a Scout are contained in the Scout Oath and Law as stated in the Scout Handbook. At each Scout's initial Scoutmaster Conference, the Scouts are briefed on several "Scoutmaster's Rules of Conduct". These include:

1. A Scout will always respect other Scouts and their family members. A Scout will never say mean or cruel things about another Scout's Mom, Dad, Brothers or Sisters.
2. A Scout will always address any adult at all scout functions and activities as "Mr.", "Mrs." Or "Dr."
3. A Scout will never, never goof off or in any way be disrespectful during the Pledge of Allegiance. A scout will always treat the U.S. flag with the greatest of care and respect.
4. A Scout will always treat equipment and facilities in a responsible and careful manner.

Fighting, hitting, harassing or in any way causing harm or subjecting a Scout to harm is out of character with Scouting and is not tolerated. Each Scout in Troop 378 (and their family members) has a responsibility to protect and respect our meeting place as well as the property of the Troop and his fellow Scouts. Any damage or loss incurred will be the responsibility of those who cause it. National Scout policy prohibits alcohol and/or drug use by anyone at any Troop activity. On outings, we do not allow Scouts to smoke nor do we allow adults to smoke in the presence of Scouts.

Parents and Families

We need and expect each Scouting family do contribute to the success of this volunteer program in whatever way best utilizes their skills an interests. We routinely need and call upon parents to help organize and drive to or from outings. We welcome parents (both men and women) to accompany the Troop on outings.

Early in each Scouting year, the parents meet to organize support for the program the boys have chosen. One or several parents agree to provide planning and logistic support for each outing. This once-a-year responsibility gives every family a chance to contribute in a special way to the program, even if they cannot make weekly or monthly time commitments. Here are some examples of ways parents can help with the troop.

- Become a registered leader (Assistant Scoutmaster or Scoutmaster)
- Become active in the Troop Committee
- Become a merit badge counselor in a subject in which you have interest and experience
- Assist with the planning and logistics for a campout
- Drive to and from events
- Help arrange a service project
- Participate in an outing or backpacking trip
- Assist with Skill Instruction for new Scouts

We offer a wide variety of ways adults can participate-something will match even the most intense time schedule and other commitments. It is a very small price to pay for your son's growth and involvement in Scouting, and it gives each parent an inside look at troop activities.

Please contact the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair to offer your help.

Youth Protection

The BSA Youth Protection Program policy requires that in any Scouting activity there **MUST** be at least two adults present, one of which must be a registered leader. This is known as the BSA "Two-Deep Leadership". BSA policy prohibits one-on-one situations between adults and Scouts. Boy Scouts of America has a zero tolerance policy for child abuse and any kind of victimization. Suspected abuse is to be reported promptly. All adult leaders are required to complete the Council sponsored Youth Protection training program every two years. Likewise, parents are strongly encouraged to attend and complete this training.

6. Uniforms

We are proud of our Troop and our membership in the world brotherhood of Scouting. We want to help each Scout feel a part of our Troop. It is the responsibility of each Scout to wear their uniform proudly and correctly.

Uniform Guidelines

The type of event dictates what the Scout wears. Refer to the following table.

Event Type	Uniform Requirements
Regular Meetings	"Class A" uniform shirt including neckerchief, & slide
Board of Review	"Class A" uniform shirt including neckerchief & slide
Court or Honor	"Class A" uniform shirt including neckerchief, slide, and merit badge sash
Eagle Court of Honor	"Class A" uniform shirt including neckerchief, slide and merit badge sash and O/A Sash
Public Event	"Class A" uniform shirt including neckerchief & slide
Driving to/from Outings	"Class B" Troop t-shirt or equivalent and jeans

When in doubt about what uniform is to be worn to a particular event, please consult your Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster.

"Class A" Uniform

Our "Class A" uniform includes the following:

- Official BSA khaki shirt with badges placed correctly, and green shoulder epaulets. The Troop sells a one-piece 378 numeral patch. See the Advancement Coordinator to purchase.
- Neckerchief (The dark green with red piping Troop 378 neckerchief is presented to the Scout during a brief ceremony at his first regular Troop meeting or during a Pack Blue & Gold Banquet.)
- Neckerchief Slide (This is provided along with the Troop neckerchief)
- Any belt or Official BSA belt (webbed with brass buckle)
- Olive green pants/shorts, khaki pants or denim/blue jeans
- Merit Badge Sash (This is not required initially and is usually purchased after the Scout has earned a few merit badges.) This is only worn at Court of Honors and appropriate special occasions.
- Order of the Arrow sash (Only if a member of OA). This is only worn at O/A functions.

"Class B" Uniform

The Troop has adapted the following casual or "Class B" uniform"

- Troop T-shirt with "Troop 378" silk-screened on the front or equivalent BSA/Council t-shirt
- Denim/Blue Jean, khakis or olive green long-pants or shorts
- Official BSA shorts - olive green (optional)

Where to get Uniforms?

Official BSA uniforms may be purchased at the following locations:

- Gottschalk Scout Shop - 12401 West Maple Road (preferred)
- Canfield's Sporting Goods - 8457 West Center Road
- 378 patch - See Advancement Coordinator

The "Class B" Troop 378 T-Shirt is available for purchase from the Troop. Please see the

Scoutmaster or Advancement Coordinator.

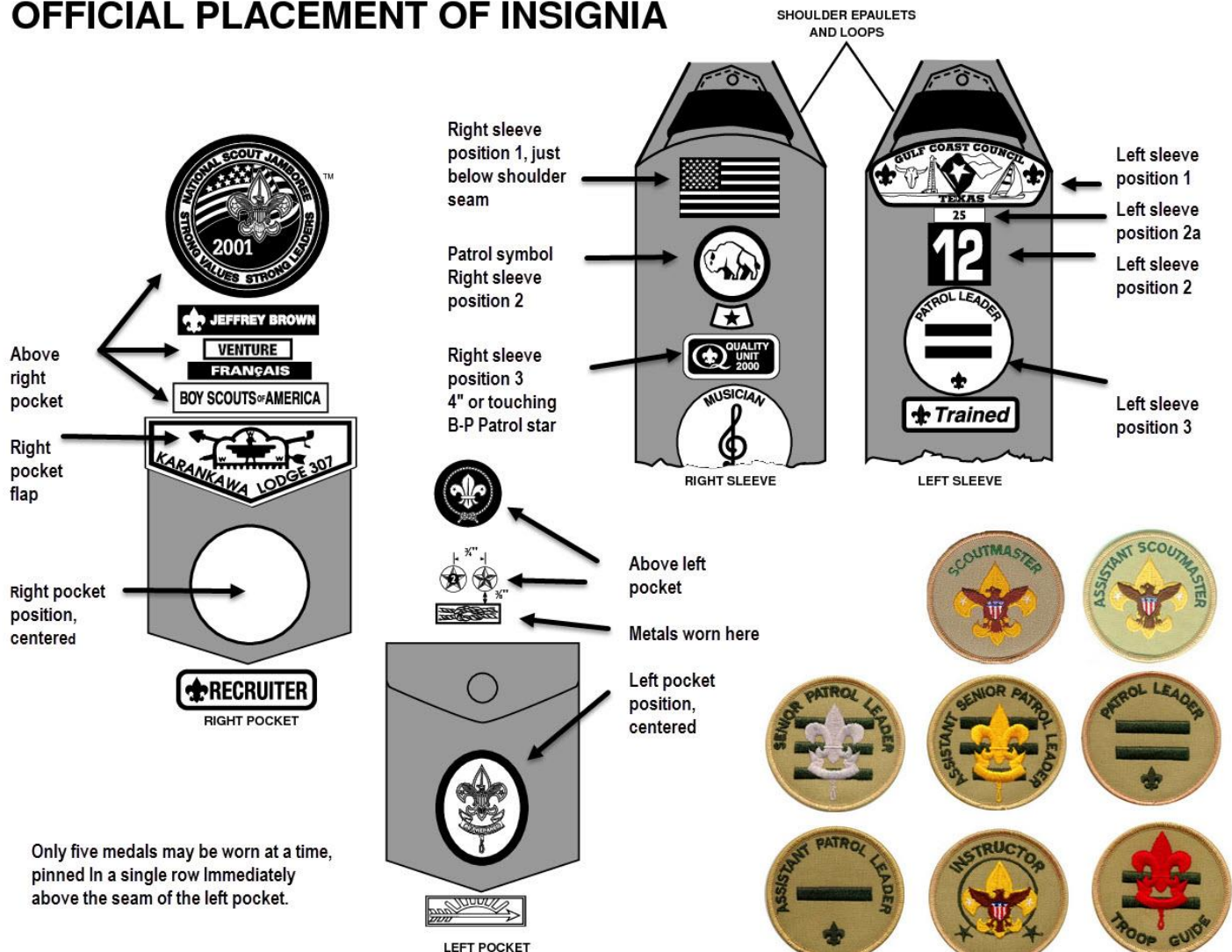
Badges-Where to Sew Them

The correct placement of patches and insignia is essential for a complete and proper uniform. Please check and double-check before sewing. If they are put on incorrectly, we ask you to re sew them. The inside covers of the Scout Handbook show exact location for all Scout patches, as does the Insignia Guide for placement of badges and patches. This Insignia Guide is used for uniform inspections, is available at the Council office and is reproduced on the next pages.

The following offers general guidance as to where patches should be placed:

Location	Placement
Left Sleeve	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid-America Council patch - touching the shoulder seam.• Troop 378 green numerals - centered and slightly below Council patch• Leadership position patch is slightly below Troop numerals
Right Sleeve	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• American flag - comes pre-sewn on the shirt• Patrol patch is slightly below the American flag• Quality Unit patch (optional) Provided by the Troop
Left Front Pocket	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrow of Light (if earned in Cub Scouts) - below bottom of pocket• Rank (Scout, Tenderfoot, etc.) - centered on pocket or use plastic holder (available at Scout Shop)• The purple World Scouting Crest is worn above the left pocket
Right Front Pocket	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Temporary patch (Camporee, Popcorn Sales, etc.) centered on pocket or use a plastic holder (available at Scout Shop)• Order of the Arrow patch (Members of the Order of the Arrow). Right pocket flap
Merit Badge Sash	Worn over the right shoulder, the merit badge should be on the front in lines of three or four across - horizontal to the shoulder fold starting about 1 ½" down.

OFFICIAL PLACEMENT OF INSIGNIA



BADGES OF OFFICE

These badges are worn with the top centered and touching the troop numeral, with the exception of the den chief's cord, which is worn on the left shoulder. They are worn only by those currently holding the positions represented by the badge.

Den chief shoulder cord.



7. Equipment

Proper equipment helps ensure a successful outing. However, it is possible to "over-buy" equipment. THERE IS NO NEED TO PURCHASE ALL OF THIS EQUIPMENT ON DAY ONE! Before purchasing equipment, consider factors such as:

- the immediate need,
- the number of times it will be used,
- the rate at which your son is growing,
- whether your son could share with another Scout or
- whether a low cost alternative will meet the immediate need.

Consult the Scout Handbook for personal equipment information. At the end of this section is a recommended personal equipment list. Make copies of this list and use it as a checklist before every campout.

Guidance

Footwear - Shoes or boots should be appropriate for the outing. For the most part, any shoe and/or boot that is comfortable for playing outdoor and for hiking. If the outing is during the winter months, warm, waterproof boots are a must. An extra pair of shoes/boots are always a good idea no matter what the weather. With fast growing feet and the expense of boots, it is may be possible to put off buying expensive boots until a Scout is older or truly needs boots for a more challenging outing.

Raingear and/or Poncho - Every Scout should bring raingear on every trip. This could be an inexpensive, lightweight poncho or a raincoat. Lightweight and relatively inexpensive nylon raincoats and pants are readily available and offer a good middle ground. Gore-Tex rainwear is great, but expensive and may be overkill for most of our outings

Clothing - It is essential to dress for the range of expected weather. Layering works particularly well. There is no need to buy expensive, high-tech clothing. Always bring a coat (appropriate for the weather), gloves, hooded sweatshirt, t-shirt and shorts to sleep in, 2 or 3 extra pairs of socks, and an extra pair of pants. Pants with "zip-off" legs work great. CAMOUFLAGE CLOTHING OF ANY SORT IS STRONGLY DISCOURAGED AT TROOP FUNCTIONS.

Packs - A backpack or duffle bag to carry personal gear. A sturdy backpack, either with an external or internal frame, is an important piece of equipment, but will probably not be needed right away. The pack must fit the Scout; if the pack doesn't fit, he will be miserable. New Scouts (especially those who are about to start their growth spurt) should wait a bit before buying a pack and frame. The pack must have a hip strap that adjusts to your size.

Sleeping Bag - A sleeping bag should be lightweight, and also warm. A bag with a nylon liner and [PolarGuard Delta](#) stuffing is recommended. Mummy style bags with a hood that closes around your head are great. If purchasing a new bag, choose one with the lowest temperature rating, i.e., 0 degrees, 10 degrees, etc., your budget will allow (Coleman North Rim Extreme Weather Sleeping Bag at Amazon/Walmart - \$39).



Personal Eating Equipment - A water bottle, sturdy plastic cup, plate, bowl, knife, spoon and fork. Camping stores sell good heavy-weight plastic eating ware. Each Patrol has Troop issued cooking equipment in its "Patrol Box" - no need to buy pots & pans.

BE SURE TO MARK ALL OF YOUR EQUIPMENT WITH YOUR NAME AND TROOP 378.

Personal Equipment Checklist

There are many lists available from places such as sporting goods stores, books, magazines and the Scout Handbook. This list is a compilation of many. It is list is designed for back packing trips, but includes the items needed on most other campouts. Adjust this list to fit your Scout's specific type of outing. Well in advance of the trip, the Scout should layout the items so that the list may be compared with what is going into the bag. Then the Scout may pack everything. Parents should not pack for the Scout - it is important that the Scout know his gear

Equipment

- Duffle bag or back pack, (internal or external frame) with waist band. If backpacking, be sure all straps, zippers and buckles are operable. Properly adjust it before departure.
- Warm sleeping bag
- Air mattress or foam sleeping pad, lightweight
- Mess kit (always cup, spoon, fork, plate and bowl) plastic is preferred
- Water bottles with carrying strap, plastic, total capacity 1 quart
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Personal Equipment
 - Toiletries: toothbrush/paste, small soap, deodorant, etc., keep it simple!
 - Toilet paper - in plastic Ziploc bag
 - Towel, small and light
 - If you wear glasses, a glasses case to safely store them while sleeping
 - Prescription medications (Adult leaders must be notified of and dispense any prescriptions to be taken on outings.)
 - Small First Aid Kit (home made in a Ziploc bag) including Band-Aids and other First Aid items listed in the Scout Handbook
 - Insect repellent with DEET, especially during Spring and Summer outings
 - Sunscreen and chap stick
 - Compass, if you have one

Clothing and Hiking Apparel

- Shoes/Boots - Comfortable hiking shoes or boots, well broken-in, with sound laces. Beware: new boots can cause painful blisters until broken-in or if the fit is bad! Good tennis shoes are fine for all but rugged hiking. Sandals are never appropriate. Waterproof boots are recommended. Always bring an extra pair of shoes or boots.
- Socks, light inner, 2 pair (no holes) Socks, wool outer, 2 pair (no holes)
- Long pants with belt, 2 pair (preferably not cotton) Zip-offs work great.
- Shorts or swim trunks, 1 pair
- Shirts, 1 light long sleeved, 1 or 2 T-shirts
- Underwear, especially thermal for cold weather
- Sweater, fleece jacket, hooded sweatshirt, warm shirt and/or sweatshirt (try 2 light instead of 1 heavy)
- Bucket hat or cap with wide brim
- Warm stocking cap
- Coat or jacket, lightweight, or wind breaker (appropriate for weather conditions)
- Lightweight raingear



Optional Items

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| ○ Extra shoes | ○ Sun glasses | ○ Notebook & pencil |
| ○ Long underwear | ○ Disposable camera | ○ Lightweight nylon day pack |
| ○ Small pillow | ○ Watch | |

Leave at Home - All Electronics, Sheath knife, Ax or hatchet, Firearms, All Water Guns/Balloons and Fireworks Etc.

Cold Weather Camping

REMEMBER LAYER, LAYER, LAYER! Layering your clothing traps air and helps keep the cold out!

Daytime:

- Starting from the inside and going to the outside, one set of polypropylene or Thermax type long underwear. These fibers are much better than cotton for warmth and the fact is that polypropylene and Thermax wick the moisture away from the skin. Moisture and dampness next to the skin cause you to get cold and stay cold.
- Polypropylene, silk or nylon liner socks next to the skin. Then you need a polypropylene and wool blend sock to go over the liner sock to insulate and to wick sweat away from the skin.
- Turtleneck shirt. Nylon is preferable to cotton.
- Wool shirt, sweater and/or hooded sweatshirt and a weather proof parka shell on top.
- Jeans covered by nylon warm-up pants to keep the wind and moisture out. You could also use sweat pants covered by a nylon waterproof shell. Ski bibs or the like are great also.
- Mittens are much warmer than gloves because the fingers will warm each other collectively. The rule here again is to layer with some form of liner gloves/mittens or gloves/mittens with a waterproof or snow proof shell.
- For the head, a stocking cap with the hood from your coat over it is very good. Face shields (polypropylene) are a great thing to keep the skin of the face protected from losing heat to wind and cold.
- Boots!!!! You need to keep the heat in and the moisture out. There are two choices here. Either insulated waterproof snow boots or leather boots (waterproofed) covered by rubber snow boots.

Nighttime:

- Another separate set of long underwear and socks of the same type as above to sleep in. Moisture accumulated from moving around during the day and before retiring will make you colder. Always put on a new dry set of the above. You will need a stocking cap or hooded sweatshirt to keep your head and neck warm while you sleep. A face shield is a good thing also because the air in the tent is cold. Another set of liner gloves that have not been worn during the day will help keep your hands warm. There are packs that you can activate the warmth by crushing that can be put into your sleeping bag for added warmth. Cots are not recommended at all in cold weather because the cold air will circulate underneath.

REMEMBER!!!! THE EXTREMITIES GET COLD FIRST! Keep Covered!

- To increase the warmth of your sleeping bag, you can put a wool or polar fleece blanket inside. Another trick is put your sleeping inside of another sleeping bag. You can put the foot of your sleeping bag inside of a plastic garbage bag to keep the cold out. It is a good idea to put your boots inside of a garbage bag inside your tent to keep the moisture from freezing during the night. The list above is required if you are going on a cold weather campout. Frostbite can happen quickly as temperatures decline and winds increase. Failure to be prepared is a reason to have your parents come out and pick you up at the campsite! Cold weather camping is a learning experience in being prepared and being wise. You know that you need to bring and what to do to keep warm. There are no shortcuts or excuses.

8. Advancement

Advancement through ranks and recognition for achievement are two key parts of the Troop 378 program. Our goal is to provide each Scout the opportunity to learn the skills needed to advance. Each Scout must then take responsibility for applying those skills, having their requirements signed off and recorded, and taking the initiative to pursue their course of advancement. The ranks and requirements to advance are described in detail in the Scout Handbook.

The "Scouting Skills" Ranks

Scout-Tenderfoot-Second Class-First Class

These four ranks form the foundation of a Scout's success in the program. They offer the Scout a chance to learn and develop confidence in hiking, camping, first aid, nature, citizenship, knots, and personal fitness.

The Scout earns a rank by completing a specific set of requirements. We recommend that each Scout progress through these first four ranks during their first 12-18 months in Scouting. The goal of Troop 378 is to have all new Scouts at Second Class by the time of their first summer camp. Research shows that Scouts who meet this goal are much more likely to continue in Scouting. We have also found that mastering the skills in these ranks makes the camp-outs and other outings more enjoyable. Our advancement program is designed to give new Scouts the opportunity to advance through these ranks in their first year. Remember that the troop provides the opportunities-the Scout must take the initiative and make use of these opportunities.

Fulfilling the Requirements

The Scout uses his Scout Handbook to keep track of his progress through ranks. One section of the book lists requirements for each rank. Other sections contain discussions of the skills and knowledge needed to pass the requirement.

The Scout fulfills a requirement by:

- Learning the skill-this might occur at a troop meeting, a patrol meeting, a campout, or by studying at home.
- Practicing the skill-this insures proficiency. He can do this at home, with his patrol, at troop meetings, or camp-outs.
- Demonstrating his proficiency to a Scout leader. We prefer that he do this with his patrol "leader. Other junior leaders and adult leaders can sign off requirements as well. Unlike the Cub Scout program, parents do not sign off requirements.

Scouts may work on requirements for any of these four ranks at any time. For example, if a Tenderfoot Scout completes the compass course requirement for First Class he can have that requirement signed off right away. Younger Scouts can also work on merit badges (part of the requirements for Star, Life, and Eagle) and earn them at any time. They will count toward the higher ranks once the Scout reaches that point. A scout must be Star Rank or higher to be eligible to sign off on advancements.

Participation

You are required to be active in the troop and patrol. This means regular attendance at troop meetings and troop activities. It also means helping your patrol in patrol activities, on camp outs, and in district competitions. For the lower ranks, younger Scouts must participate in at least 50% of all Troop activities. For higher ranks, especially those boys who are working on their Eagle rank, a level of at least 75% participation in all Troop activities is required as well as at least 6 months of a senior level leadership position.

Skills

All advancement in rank awards requires you to learn skills. For the lower ranks, the things you need to learn are spelled out in the requirements for that rank. For the higher ranks you learn by earning merit badges. Don't make the mistake of thinking that simply learning these skills qualifies you for an advancement award. Spirit, participation, leadership, and service are equally important.

Service Projects

For Star and Life levels you must give at least 4-6 hours in service to others. For Eagle rank you must organize a service project.

Scout Spirit Requirement

All ranks except Tenderfoot include a requirement for "Scout Spirit" that the Scout fulfills by living according to the Scout Oath and Law. This requirement is completed (signed off) at the Scoutmaster conference. Scout spirit is a very important part of advancement. First and foremost, it requires each Scout to do his best to live by the Scout Oath and Law. Secondly, it requires participation in troop and patrol activities. This does not mean that we require perfect attendance. We know that middle school and high school boys have full schedules and conflicting responsibilities. We do ask that Scouts who want to advance attend most of the events and meetings. Finally, it requires older Scouts to set the example for the others in terms of attitude, uniform, and participation. Scouts are expected to attend all Courts of Honor and Scout Sunday. The final part of Scout spirit involves the enthusiastic, supportive participation in activities.

Scoutmaster Conference

When the Scout has completed all of the requirements for a new rank and has had his Scout Handbook "signed off" by his Patrol Leader, he must talk to the Advancement Coordinator to schedule a Scoutmaster Conference. The Scout must be in full Class A uniform and must bring his Scout Handbook to the conference. Together, the Jr. Assistant Scoutmaster and Scout look ahead to working on the next rank in the coming months, and also discuss the goals, which have been achieved.

Board of Review

The last step in earning a rank is attending the Board of Review. This is a meeting between the Scout and two adults, parents or adult leaders, from the Troop. The adults sit down with the Scout to talk about the Scout's experience in working on the rank. This friendly discussion gives the adults a good idea of whether or not the Scout has mastered the requirements for the rank. At the

Board of Review, he will be asked to talk about what he learned, what was hard or easy about them, etc. If the Scout has completed all the requirements for the rank, has had a Scoutmaster Conference and a successful Board of Review; he will be informed that he has achieved the rank he is seeking. If not, they will tell him what he needs to do to achieve the advancement.

Each Scout attending a Board of Review must be in full, "Class A" uniform. The Scout must bring his Scout Handbook to the meeting.

Sometimes, a boy leader from the Troop may be requested to sit on a Board of Review and join in talking with the Scout about his development.

A Scout may also be requested to attend a Board of Review when no advancement has taken place for an extended period of time. The purpose is to inquire about problems the Scout may be having and to give encouragement.

Court of Honor

The Scout officially advances in rank at the completion of the Board of Review. He actually receives his badge and his certificate at a Court of Honor. The Court of Honor ceremony formally recognizes the achievement of all the members of the Troop who have advanced in rank, completed merit badges, won awards, or otherwise distinguished themselves. Courts of Honor are usually held three times a year during the regular meeting time. Scouts must wear Class "A" uniform plus their Merit Badge sash. Refreshments are served after the ceremony. Occasionally there will be a guest speaker or other Troop business, such as summer camp or Friends of Scouting.

The "Leadership" Ranks


Star Life-Eagle

Once the Scout completes the "Scouting skill" ranks, he turns to the ranks that focus on leadership and merit badges. Twelve specific merit badges are required for Eagle. Each of the two lower ranks, Star and Life, require some portion of these 12 to be completed. For instance, Star requires 4 Eagle-required merit badges and 2 "other" badges of the Scout's choosing. Full information is listed in the Scout Handbook.

Earning Merit Badges

A Scout may have a current hobby or interest, and earning the merit badge for that hobby is an obvious way to increase his knowledge and skill in an area of interest to him. Merit badges are also a tremendous opportunity for a Scout to broaden his horizons and learn new skills and ideas. The Star, Life, and Eagle rank advancement awards require the Scout to earn merit badges. About 130 merit badges are available covering a variety of subjects. If a Scout wants to work on a merit badge, he must do the following: 1. Get a blue merit badge card from the Advancement Coordinator. The Scoutmaster signs the card to let the merit badge counselor know that the Scout is eligible to work on the badge.

2. Ask the Scoutmaster or the Advancement Coordinator for the name of one or more merit badge counselors for the particular badge. These merit badge counselors may be parents from the troop or other interested adults in the community. The merit badge counselor helps guide the Scout through the requirements. A Scout can also work on a merit badge on his own and then call the counselor when he is ready for verification.

Information for Applicant		Information for Counselor	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A merit badge application can be approved only by a registered merit badge counselor. You must have a buddy with you (Scout buddy system) at each meeting with the merit badge counselor. Turn in your approved application to your unit leader. You will be awarded the merit badge emblem and certificate at a suitable occasion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the applicant's unit leader. The Scout must have his buddy (Scout buddy system) in attendance at all instructional sessions. You may not change any requirement, but you may share your knowledge or experience that will make the counseling more interesting and valuable. 		
#34124A			
 30176 34124 8			

APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE

Name Scout Name

Address Scout Address

City Omaha, Nebraska

is a registered ☒ Boy Scout ☐ Varsity Scout ☐ Venturer


of Troop Troop, team, crew, ship No. 378

District Iron Horse

Council Mid-America

and is qualified to begin working for merit badge noted on the reverse side.

2/20/2019 _____
Date Signature of unit leader


BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

34124A
2003 Boy Scouts of America

Front of Blue Merit Badge Card

3. Get a copy of the merit badge pamphlet from the Scout Shop or Canfields Sporting Goods. They can also be borrowed from the troop's collection by contacting the Troop Librarian. Study the pamphlet to introduce himself to the subject and understand the requirements.

4. Talk with the merit badge counselor and ask about working on the merit badge. Some counselors want an introductory meeting before work begins. Others want the Scout to make some progress on the badge before meeting with them.

The merit badge counselor keeps track of the Scout's progress on the blue merit badge card. Once the badge requirements are complete and the merit badge counselor has signed off, the Scout takes the blue card back to the Advancement Coordinator who enters the information into the records, and will arrange for the presentation of the badge at the next Court of Honor.

<p>The applicant has personally appeared before me and demonstrated to my satisfaction that he has met all requirements for the (please print)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Communications</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Merit badge</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Name of counselor</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Address of counselor</p> <hr/> <p>City _____ Zip code _____</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Telephone number of counselor</p> <hr/> <p>Signature of counselor _____ / _____ Date _____</p> <hr/> <p>Checked and recorded:</p> <p>Date _____ Initials _____</p> <p>Certificate and badge presented _____ Date _____</p> <hr/> <p>Applicant will turn in this portion to his unit leader for record posting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">APPLICANT'S RECORD</p> <p>Name <u>Scout Name</u></p> <p>has given me his completed application for the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Communications</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Merit badge</p> <hr/> <p>Completed on _____ / _____ / _____ by _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Date</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Signature of counselor</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Signature of unit leader</p> <hr/> <p>NOTE TO BOY SCOUT, VARSITY SCOUT, OR VENTURER: Retain this copy for your permanent records.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">COUNSELOR'S RECORD</p> <p>Applicant <u>Scout Name</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Troop Unit number <u>378</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Crew</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Communications</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Merit badge</p> <hr/> <p>Date completed _____ / _____ / _____</p> <p>Remarks: _____</p> <hr/> <p>It is suggested that the counselor keep this record for at least 1 year in case any question is raised later in regard to this award.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COUNSELOR'S RECORD</p> <p>Applicant <u>Scout Name</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Troop Unit number <u>378</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Crew</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Communications</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Merit badge</p> <hr/> <p>Date completed _____ / _____ / _____</p> <p>Remarks: _____</p> <hr/> <p>It is suggested that the counselor keep this record for at least 1 year in case any question is raised later in regard to this award.</p>

Back of Blue Merit Badge Card

Note: A parent cannot pass his/her son on any merit badge requirement unless permitted by the Scoutmaster.

Leadership Requirement

Now that the Scout has mastered his basic Scouting skills by earning First Class rank, the troop and the young Scouts will look to him for help and leadership. The leadership requirement is the same for Star, Life, and Eagle except for the length of time the Scout must hold the leadership position. The eligible leadership positions are:

Senior patrol leader	Patrol Leader
Assistant senior patrol leader	Quartermaster
Chaplain's aide	Scribe
Den chief	Troop guide
Instructor	Venture crew chief
Junior Assistant Scoutmaster	Varsity team captain
Librarian	

Position of Responsibility Requirements for Star, Life and Eagle

a. One or a combination of the following positions will be accepted as fulfilling the leadership requirements of the above ranks:

1) Star and Life Ranks - one or more positions with six months active service in office

Den chief	Troop Librarian
Troop Chaplain	Troop Historian
Troop Scribe	Troop Guide
Troop Quartermaster	Patrol Leader

2) Eagle Rank - one or more positions with six months active service in office

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)	Troop Scribe
Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)	Troop Quartermaster
Junior Assistant Scoutmaster	Troop Librarian
Den Chief	Troop Guide
Troop Chaplain	Patrol Leader

Leadership is a very important part of the trail to Eagle, and these positions require responsibility and initiative on the Scout's part. If he holds these positions in name only, he will not meet this requirement. He must work closely with the SPL and the Scoutmaster to be sure that his service as a leader goes smoothly and matches his skills and abilities.

Often times a Scout will finish his First Class rank just before or during 6th grade. At this point it is too soon to be expected to be a patrol leader or to hold some other troop leadership position. It is an ideal time, however, to serve as a Den Chief (assists the Den Leader in running a Cub Scout den) or a Troop Guide.

Participation Requirement

This requirement specifies that the Scout be "active" for the entire time he is a First Class, Star, or Life Scout. We take this requirement seriously and want to see the Scout attending 50% of troop meetings, and 50% of campouts, service projects, and other troop and patrol activities. His experience and leadership at this stage in his Scouting career is very important to the troop and younger Scouts.

We know those high school academics, sports, and other activities place a big demand on a Scout's time. Nonetheless, his decision to be a candidate for these higher ranks is a serious one with important commitments. We expect the Scout to remain active throughout his

scouting career. He should not expect to be able to come back for an intense six months just before his 18th birthday and earn the Eagle rank. Therefore, Eagle Scout candidates should attend 70% of all Troop activities. He should plan his journey on the trail to Eagle and participate fully all along the way.

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

Scout Spirit

The discussion under "Scouting skills" ranks regarding Scout spirit applies equally to these "leadership" ranks. We do, however, have an even higher standard for Scouts on the trail toward the Eagle rank. We expect that they not only show Scout spirit, but also be exemplary in their behavior so that other Scouts may look to them as role models. At the Boards of Review for the leadership ranks, the Scout will be asked to describe in his own words what the Scout Oath and Law means to him. As he works towards Eagle and sits for Boards of Review, he will need to translate the Oath and the Law into meaningful terms that apply to him today and will grow with him into his future. During periodic meetings with the Scoutmaster, he will be asked to talk about these terms and to reflect on his actions and his plans with them in mind.

Star and Life Service Project

Work on service projects for credit toward advancement to Star and Life ranks shall be approved by the Scoutmaster, Committee Chair or Advancement Coordinator in advance of starting the project.

Eagle Service Project

Life Scouts working on their Eagle rank must fulfill a special requirement meant to test both their commitment to their community and their ability to plan and lead a significant project. Eagle project guidelines are included in the Eagle packet given to new Life Scouts. The project must be submitted in written form to the Scoutmaster. Once he has approved the project proposal, the Scout must contact the Iron Horse District Eagle Project Coordinator to make an appointment for a formal project review. The Scout must arrive for the Eagle project interview in full Class A uniform and be ready to discuss the proposed project in full detail. Only after receiving District approval can the Scout proceed with final preparations for the project.

Eagle Board of Review

A Scout must earn the rank of Eagle before his 18th birthday. After that important birthday, he will not be eligible again in his lifetime. Eagle Scout candidates (those having reached Life) have a special Board of Review. The troop, the Iron Horse District and the Mid-America Council take the Eagle rank seriously, and will not approve a Scout who is not ready or who has not met the requirements. The basic process is as follows: First, the Eagle candidate meets with the Troop Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster examines the Scout's record carefully to verify that all of the requirements have been met in full. The Scoutmaster writes a confidential appraisal, and the Scout solicits five confidential reference letters from important adults (teachers, Parish Priest, employers) in his life. The Eagle candidate sits for a Board of Review organized by the Iron Horse District. The Board of Review members review all materials (Eagle application, Eagle project materials, and reference letters) and interviews the Scout.

They will ask him about the Scout Oath and Law, and what they mean to him. They will be looking for signs of commitment, maturity, and understanding that mark that very special kind of Scout who is an Eagle. Occasionally the Eagle Board of Review turns down a Scout who has completed all of the objective requirements for Eagle. They will tell the Scout what he needs to do to successfully complete his Eagle rank. This is not a final rejection, but because of the age restriction, Scouts should plan enough time before age 18 to repeat the Board of Review process if necessary.

Eagle Court of Honor

Earning the rank of Eagle Scout is an achievement that lasts a lifetime. Our troop aims to accord each Eagle with a ceremony planned by the Eagle Scout and his family and the full support of the troop family befitting this very special occasion. Since no Eagle achieves this rank on his own, the Troop Committee has determined that each Eagle Scout Court of Honor be a command performance by all Scouts in Troop 378 to honor his fellow Scout on this special day. Likewise, parents and siblings are encouraged to honor the Eagle candidate with their presence.

9. Troop Finance

Dues

Troop dues are \$60.00 per year for Scouts, \$30.00 per year for adult leaders. If a Scout or an adult are members of Order of the Arrow, there is an additional cost of \$15.00 each. Dues are used for the Scout neckerchief, Boys Life subscription, insurance, national registration, leadership training, site and activity reservations, equipment, awards, and many other things.

FOS (Friends of Scouting)

Every spring, the District conducts a Friends of Scouting campaign. Our contributions are used to support Scouting at the Council level. At the same time, the Troop asks parents to also consider a donation to the Troop. It is hoped that parents will contribute as generously as possible when asked to do so.

Fundraisers

The Troop participates each fall with the annual Scout Popcorn sale. Additional fundraising activities, in accordance with BSA guidelines, may also be planned. Scouts are encouraged to participate when these activities are held. A percentage of popcorn sales are used to help reduce the fees for Summer Camp.

10. Appendices & Attachments

Guide to Boards of Review & Scoutmaster Conference Guidelines

These are guides for parents and leaders to help them in conducting a Troop Scoutmaster Conference and/or Board of Review.

Sample Questions for: Scout | Tenderfoot | Second Class | First Class | Star | Life

REMINDERS FOR BOARDS OF REVIEW

1. The following pages contain sample questions that may be used by a Board of Review. The board will not necessarily use all of these questions, but following this format will assist them in determining if a Scout is prepared for advancement.

2. Before the interview begins the Board should take the time to review the Scout's handbook; this way they too can formulate their own questions. The Scout should be assured that what is said during the review is between the Scout and the Board and will not be repeated outside of that forum! Information gathered during the reviews should be used to help improve Troop management.

3. The Board can take this opportunity to give the Scout a "once over" on his uniform. This is a chance for the Scout to show pride in his uniform and in the patches he has earned. This is not meant to be a formal uniform inspection, but it should be used as another opportunity to make certain that the uniform is worn correctly.

4. There is not a right or wrong answer to any of the questions. They are a tool. The Board of Review member's first responsibility is to make certain that the Scout UNDERSTANDS what he has achieved with his PENDING rank advancement and the additional responsibilities that the Scout will assume as he grows within the Troop. One of the greatest needs of boys is confidence (in advancing the Scout builds that confidence). You want the Scout to walk away from the Board knowing what he has achieved is something very worthwhile. Make it a pleasant experience for him and the Board.

5. The Board of Review is not just a question and answer period. The Board should attempt to determine the Scout's attitude and his acceptance of Scouting ideals. A discussion of the Scout Oath and Law is in keeping with the purpose of the review, to make certain that the candidate recognizes and understands the value of Scouting in his home, unit, school, and community.

The Board should remember that the Scout advancing to Tenderfoot or Second Class will not have the same kind of answers as a Scout trying to advance to the rank of Life or Eagle.

During the review, each member of the board must form a judgment concerning the Scout's qualifications.

- Has the scout accomplished the tasks that are required?
- What sort of experience is he having in the Troop and within his Patrol?
- Is he ready for advancement and the responsibilities that come with it?

- Where does he plan to go from here? Encourage him to verbally set goals.

6. If the Scout is not actively participating in his review, or appears to have little or no interest in the questions being asked, the Board is obligated to inform the Scout that he will need to come back at a later date when he is truly prepared. If the Scout does **not pass** the Board of Review for any reason, the Board is required to specify to the Scout exactly why he did not pass.

7. Advancement accommodates three (3) aims in Scouting:

- participating citizenship
- growth in moral strength and character
- Growth in mental and physical development.

8. There are four (4) steps to advancement in Scouting:

- The Scout learns by DOING.
- The Scout is tested. (Troop Policies and Procedures)
- The Scout is reviewed. (Board of Review)
- The Scout is recognized. (Court of Honor)

SAMPLE SCOUT REVIEW QUESTIONS



Scout was previously a joining badge, but is now considered the first rank, and is earned by completing certain requirements. As of January 2016, the Scout badge has a gold [fleur-de-lis](#) on a tan background. The badge is awarded when the boy demonstrates a rudimentary knowledge of the Scouting ideals such as tying a [square knot](#) and knowing the Scout oath, law, motto, and slogan.

Personal Data ... *(good ice breaker)*

1. When did you join the Troop?
2. What grade are you in? What school?
3. What hobbies do you have (What are your interests outside of Scouting?)
4. Do you have any brothers or sisters?
5. What did you like about Cub Scouting?
6. What do you think you will like about Scouting?
7. Why did you join our Scouts troop?
8. Do you have any questions about Scouting or the troop?
9. What does the Scout Oath mean to you? The Scout Law?

You should explain:

1. The advancement process, including who will be approving and recording his progress
2. The purpose and timing of Scoutmaster conferences
3. How the boy-led troop works and his advancing role in it
4. The patrol method and the new-Scout patrol

Make sure you give the Scout handshake and see that the Scout can demonstrate the sign and salute.

What Every Scout Should Know:

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 Motto: Be Prepared.

Scout Slogan: Do a good turn
daily.

Scout Law: A Scout is... Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous,
Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, Reverent.

SAMPLE TENDERFOOT REVIEW QUESTIONS



I am the Tenderfoot. My three points stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath. You find me on the mariners compass, forever pointing the way to the North Star and a safe journey in life. On my face are two stars representing truth and knowledge, a shield which is the emblem of a nation molded together in justice, and an eagle to guard the freedom of my land.

Personal Data ... *(good ice breaker)*

1. When did you join the Troop?
2. What grade are you in? What school?
3. What hobbies do you have?
4. Why did you join Scouts?

What Do You Think...?

5. How do you live the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life? If you find it a challenge how do you overcome it?
6. What is a good turn? What good turns have you done lately?
7. What troop outings have you attended? What do you think of them?
8. What does "On My Honor" mean to you?
9. What do you think people expect from you as a Scout?

Teamwork ...

10. Have you been able to make it to most of the troop meetings so far?
11. What is the name of your patrol? Do you have a flag?
12. Do you feel that you and your patrol are getting along?
13. Is there anything you would like to see changed in the patrol or troop meetings?

The Big Picture...

14. What do you like best about Scouting?
15. How (or how not) has Scouting been what you thought it would be?
16. Have you taken part in any recent service projects? Which ones?
17. What are your long term plans in scouting?
18. What are your plans for Second Class?

SAMPLE SECOND CLASS REVIEW QUESTIONS



I am the Second Class. The ends of my scroll are turned up in the willing smile of the Scout. On my face is our motto "Be Prepared" and suspended from me is the knot tied there to remind you of the slogan of the Scouts of America, "Do a Good Turn Daily".

Personal Data ... *(good ice breaker)*

1. How old are you?
2. Do your friends at school know you're in Scouts?
3. Do you ever take the time and just talk with members of your family? If so, who?
4. Do you have a hero? If so, who and why?

What Do You Think...?

5. In the Scout Oath, what does "I will do my best" mean to you?
6. Do you ever do more than one Good Turn Daily? What kinds?
7. What point of the Scout Law is the most important to you? Why?
8. Do you have a favorite youth or adult leader? If so, what makes that person a good leader?
9. The Scout Motto is "Be Prepared". What does it mean to you?
10. What do you think it means to be a Second Class Scout? What should people expect of you?

Teamwork ...

11. What did you do for you one (1) hour of service required for Second Class?
12. What did you think of the project? What other service have you done?
13. What type of service projects would you like to work on?
14. Does your patrol have patrol meetings? {Do you find them helpful?} Is there something the troop can do to help your patrol have productive patrol meetings?
15. Is there any part of the patrol program that you would like changed? How would you make these changes? What is the benefit of these changes?

Your Progress...

16. What requirement for this rank was the hardest? Easiest?
17. Have you started earning any merit badges? Which ones interest you, and why?
18. Do you have any difficulty setting goals for yourself?
19. Have you had a chance to cook outdoors? What did you like about it?
20. What outdoor skills do you like best?

The Big Picture...

21. What are your plans for First Class?
22. Is there anything the troop can do to help you?
23. What are your long term plans in scouting?
24. What part of scouting interests you the most?
25. Are you enjoying Scouting? Why or Why not?

SAMPLE FIRST CLASS REVIEW QUESTIONS



I am the First Class. I was tenderfoot and I laid my course by the stars of truth and knowledge and girded myself with the righteousness of justice and freedom. I added a smile that I might be a friend to all and bound myself together with the knot of duty to others.

Personal Data ... *(good ice breaker)*

1. What grade are you in?
2. What do you like about school? What is your favorite subject?
3. What do you tell your friends about the things you learn and do in Scouts?

What Do You Think...?

4. To you, what does it mean to "Do my duty to God"?
5. What point of the Scout Law is the hardest for you to live up to?
6. What more does "Be Prepared" mean to a First Class Scout, than to a Second Class Scout?
7. What does "On my Honor" mean to you?

Teamwork ...

8. How does your Patrol function as a team? What part do you take in helping your Patrol?
9. What was the last project your patrol worked on as a unit?
10. How do you apply teamwork in your home? With friends?
11. Have you had a chance to teach the younger Scouts any of your recently earned scout skills? What did you teach?
12. What do you think Shared Leadership is?

Your Progress...

13. What merit badges do you have?
14. Which merit badge was the most valuable to you? Why?
15. For this rank you met with a civil employee and discussed your constitutional rights and obligations. Who did you meet with, and what (if anything) did you get from your talk?
16. What was the most challenging requirement (rank or merit badge)?
17. Do you think that your first aid knowledge will actually help you? How? Have you had an opportunity to use any of it?

The Big Picture...

18. What are your plans for your progress toward Star? Do you have a goal date when you would like to make Star by?
19. If you had the opportunity to add or delete one (1) requirement for this rank, what would it be and why?
20. What effect has Scouting had on your life?
21. Do you have a long term goal for your Scouting career?

SAMPLE STAR SCOUT REVIEW QUESTIONS



I am the Star. Now that I can stand alone, I have earned the right to improve on my own. To me goes the honor of choosing my field. Before me lies the horizon of endless opportunity.

Personal Data ... *(good ice breaker)*

1. What do you do with your spare time?
2. What other activities do you participate in? (i.e. sports, music, social/religious groups, etc.)
3. How many younger siblings do you have? What sort of impression do you think you give them and others about Scouting?
4. Do you keep a small sewing kit in your backpack? Have you ever had a need to use it while on an outing (i.e. tent zipper, clothes rip, massive wound, etc.)?
5. Who makes sure your uniform is clean and the patches are all sewn on for you to wear?
6. How do you help out at home? Do you do it to "chip in" or earn money?

What Do You Think...?

7. What should the statement, "A Scout is Trustworthy" mean to a Star Scout?
8. What do you think the role of a Star Scout is in relationship to younger scouts?
9. How does the Scout Oath affect the life of a Star Scout differently than it would the life of a Tenderfoot Scout?
10. What do others have a right to expect of a Star Scout?
11. What point of the Scout Law is the most important to you? Why?
12. How do you feel that you live the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life?
13. What is the Scout Slogan? {answer: "Do a Good Turn Daily"} What type of "Good Turns" do you do?

Teamwork...

14. What part do you take in the Troop Meetings? Are you a leader or a follower?
15. Do you hold a leadership position in the troop now? If so, which one and what are your responsibilities? If no, which position(s) have you held? Tell me a short story about your time as a leader.
16. What service project did you work on to earn your required hours for this rank? What was your job on the project?
17. How do you feel your patrol functions as a team?
18. Have you ever tried to instill a change (long or short term) in your patrol? What was it? How? Did you get the results you wanted?

Your Progress...

19. How would you describe the change in your thinking, actions, and performance since earning First Class? Were they through conscious effort?
20. Which six (6) merit badges did you earn for this rank? Which was the most important to you? Why?
21. What was the most interesting and/or unique requirement you have had in a merit badge?
22. While working toward your Star did you learn anything that you would like to pass on to the younger Scouts? What?
23. What have you learned that might help you as an adult?

The Big Picture...

24. What is your goal for reaching Life Scout?
25. What is your long term goal for Scouting?
26. What do you feel the troop can do most to help the younger Scouts so they will make it to Star and beyond?
27. If you could make one (1) change in the merit badge program (Le. structure, format, add a badge). What would you do?
28. What type of career interests you? Have you looked into earning a related merit badge?

SAMPLE LIFE SCOUT REVIEW QUESTIONS



I am the Life. I have shown the world that scouting is in my heart. I have mastered the knowledge of subjects that will benefit my country and my fellow man. I am ready to reach for my wings to fly.

Personal Data...

1. How are you doing in school? What do you like the most about it?
2. Do you feel it took you a long time to get here?

What Do You Think...?

3. How does Scouting influence your interactions with people?
4. Have you ever felt you had to defend yourself because someone knew you are in Scouts?
5. Outside of Scouting, tell me about a time when you have had to be a leader. How did it make you feel afterward?
6. Other than your parents, who do you think has influence your life the most? Why? Who's life do you think you have the most influence over? Why?
7. Name one thing you hate doing, but you do it anyway because you know it will please someone. How do you feel afterward?
8. What does "A Scout is Brave" mean to a Life Scout?
9. In this fast paced time of great stress, what should "Be Prepared" mean to a Life Scout?
10. How can you personally help keep up the Scout Spirit in the Troop?
11. What does "Duty to God" mean to a Life Scout? How do you fulfill your duty?
12. What should others be able to expect from you as a Life Scout?
13. What does "On My Honor" mean to you?
14. What is the most difficult part of the Scout Oath and Law for you to live up to in your daily life? How do you overcome it?

Teamwork...

15. How many outings have you been on in the last year? Which did you like the most and why?
16. What have you done since becoming a Star Scout, in caring out additional responsibilities in the Troop? Patrol?
17. Which service projects did you work on for the rank of Life? What did you do?
18. What do you like most about the Patrol Method? Least?
19. What role do you play in your Patrol?
20. What is "Shared Leadership"? How do you see it in your Patrol and in the Troop?
21. What do you think is the most important skill for a leader? Why?

Your Progress...

22. What additional merit badges did you earn for Life?
23. What was the most difficult merit badge for you to earn? How often did you meet with your counselor on that one?
24. Which merit badge did you enjoy the most? Why?
25. What was the most important thing you learned while working toward Life Scout?

26. Who helps you or coaches you in preparing for merit badges?
27. Which merit badges are you working on now?
28. Have you found any merit badges that you think are too hard for scouts to earn? Which ones? What makes them so difficult?
29. What leadership position did you hold for this rank? What was your biggest challenge? How did you handle it? What, if any, leadership position would you be most interested in holding?

The Big Picture...

30. Have you thought about what you will need to do for Eagle?
31. What do you think you can do to help younger Scouts?
32. Which scouting skills do you like the most? Why? Least? Why?
33. What do you think about the Order of the Arrow program?
34. Is the Troop's Outdoor Program adequate to develop skills and maintain the interest of the Scouts? What changes would you make?

Sample Forms

The following documents are available from the Advancement Coordinator.

Adult Resource Survey and Merit Badge Form - updated periodically

We use these forms to identify where adults may like to help with the Troop. Please fill it out, indicate which Merit Badges you may be interested in supporting and return to the Committee Chair or Advancement Coordinator.

Troop 378 Vehicle and Driver Information Record - update annually

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsourc/HealthandSafety/GSS/gss11.aspx>

All adult drivers must document current automobile insurance liability coverage and number of seat belts. This information is required to obtain a BSA Tour Permit for each outing. The Advancement Coordinator keeps these forms on file.

The following documents are available from the Advancement Coordinator and on-line.

Scout/Adult Medical Form - renewed annually

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_ABC.pdf

Medical histories and medical treatment consent forms must be current and on file before Scouts may go on outings. Some camps require their specific forms be used. Other special forms may be required for activities such as firearm usage. All forms must be filed as required or a Scout may not participate in the program. The Scout/Adult Medical Form must be renewed annually.

Parental Permission and Release of Liability Form

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/19-673.pdf>

This form must be fill out, signed and returned to the Advancement Coordinator or the Scoutmaster at the beginning of each new Troop year, usually September.

Troop 378 Adult Resource Survey

Welcome to our Scouting family. Though Scouts are expected to run the troop, Scouting is for adults as well as boys. It is only through your talents and involvement that we can offer the best program to all of our sons. In Troop 378 *we request some involvement by each Scout's parents, friend or guardian* to help the troop function. There are many things to be done, and through this survey the Troop Committee wants to find ways you and the Scouts can enjoy using your talents together. The troop needs your help!



Please complete one form per adult and fill in all the blanks. Thank you.

Scout's Name(s): _____

Parent/Guardian/Adult : (*one form for each adult*) _____

Street: _____ Town/State/Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone(s) Home: _____ Work: _____ Mobile: _____

Occupation/Employer: _____ Hobbies: _____

I have had the following training:

(Please circle Y or N)

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Y N First Aid (BSA/Red Cross) | Y N Webelos Outdoor Leader |
| Y N Cub Leader | Y N BSA Fast Start |
| Y N Scout Leader Basic training
(or Scoutmaster Fundamentals) | Y N BSA Youth Protection |
| Y N Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) | Y N Wood badge |

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1) I am willing to become an assistant scoutmaster | Y | N |
| 2) I am willing to spend about an hour a month on a troop committee | Y | N |
| 3) I am willing to help organize an event such a fundraiser, dinner, or campout | Y | N |
| 4) I can help contact parents to let them know about schedule changes or events | Y | N |
| 5) I am willing to help transport Scouts/equipment to events/camping. | Y | N |
| 6) Do you have a truck or van available? ___ Truck ___ Van ___ Neither | | |
| 7) Do you have a trailer hitch? | Y | N |
| 8) I am willing to help out on some camping trips. | Y | N |
| 9) I can spend one evening a month on a Board of Review.
(These are very important for our scouts. Without them they cannot advance and they need to be done by adults other than assistant scoutmasters) | Y | N |
| 10) I can share my talents becoming a Merit Badge counselor.
(There are many merit badges please check the Merit Badge List for those that you are willing to help our Scouts earn. This is one of the best ways you can share your talents!) | Y | N |

Special Program Assistance

(Please check boxes to affirm)

- ___ I have a workshop and/or tools
- ___ I have access to camping property
- ___ I own or have access to fishing area(s)
- ___ I have access to a swimming pool
- ___ I can make contacts for special trips and activities
- ___ I can help with troop equipment, repair, etc.
- ___ I have family camping gear
- ___ I have backpacking gear
- ___ I own or have access to a canoe/sailboat(s)
- ___ I have access to a cottage or something similar

Scout Skills

(Are you willing to help teach, assist, or do you have resources for someone teaching)

- ___ Rope work, Knots and Lashings
- ___ Cooking (types)
- ___ First Aid
- ___ Map and compass
- ___ Conservation
- ___ Edible plants
- ___ Forestry or native plants
- ___ Knife and ax use and safety
- ___ Star study
- ___ Other outdoor skills

Other Special assistance or comments _____

Please return to Advancement Coordinator Tom Gensichen at the Scout meeting

Thank you "Many Hands Make Light Work!"

Scout/Parent Supplemental Data Collection Form

Scout Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Address: _____ Mailing: _____

Scout Phone(s)

Home: () _____ DOB: ____/____/____

Mobile: () _____ Grade: _____

_____ () _____ School: _____

Joined Unit: ____/____/____

Troop 378 Dues for Cub Scouts joining Scouts is \$35.00
 Checks can be made out to: Troop 378

Cub Scout From: : ____/____/____ to : ____/____/____ Highest Cub Scout Rank _____

Emergency Contact(s): _____ Phone: () _____

_____ Phone: () _____

Doctor: _____ Phone: () _____

Insurance: _____ Phone: () _____

Insurance Policy: _____ Group No.: _____

Allergies: _____

Medications: _____

Other: _____

Father: _____ Nickname: _____ Guardian: Y / N Phone(s) Work: () _____ Home: () _____ Mobile: () _____ Email: _____ Employer: _____ Occupation: _____	Mother: _____ Nickname: _____ Guardian: Y / N Phone(s) Work: () _____ Home: () _____ Mobile: () _____ Email: _____ Employer: _____ Occupation: _____
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Remarks: _____

Scout Troop 378
St. Margaret Mary

2019 Vehicle Information Form

Scout: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Driver's License #: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Driver's License #: _____

Vehicle Information				Insurance (1000)			
Year	Make/Model	Plate #	# Belts	# Passengers	Person	Accident	Property