



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
BE PREPARED!

A Charter Organization of Forest Hills United Methodist Church



BSA Troop
93

Brentwood, TN

Troop 93 Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Question: Is Troop 93 "boy lead"?

Answer: Absolutely. Technically, there's no other way a troop should be led.

Question: Can I be with my old den members when we crossover?

Answer: During the first year, all new Scouts will be placed in a First Class Emphasis (FCE) patrol. Our goal is to have all new Scouts earn their First Class rank by the end of their first year in the Troop. Throughout the first year, we will conduct activities specifically for the FCE Patrol to help achieve this goal. The first step will be working to complete the rank of Tenderfoot by the time Scouts go to Boxwell during the first week in June. Within a month or so of joining, we will also assign new scouts to a standing Troop patrol.

Question: How are new patrols led?

Answer: The FCE Patrol is led by an older Scout called a Troop Guide. The Troop Guide will be with the new Scouts their first year. Additionally, there is an adult associated with the patrol called the New Scout Coordinator. He or she provides adult supervision and guidance to the new Scouts and the Troop Guide.

Question: What fundraisers does the troop have?

Answer: Troop 93 pre-sells Christmas trees every year in October and November, and the Scouts deliver them upon arrival. The Troop does not set up a tree lot from which to sell trees. Scouts who sell at least on tree will have troop dues waived.

Question: Can a Scout play sports or be in band and still be in Scouts?

Answer: Absolutely. We have had many Scouts who have been involved in the marching band, varsity sports and traveling sports, and still earned Eagle. It may take longer, but Scouts who have a plan, especially a written plan, should be successful.

Question: What do the boys crossing over from Cub Scouts receive?

Answer: We traditionally give the new Scouts the Boy Scout Troop 93 "Class B" t-shirt, a Troop 93 neckerchief and slide, and Scout Handbook.

UNIFORM:

Question: What is the official Scout uniform?

Answer: The Class A uniform is the Khaki Boy Scout shirt with the appropriate designated patches, the troop neckerchief and slide, olive green pants or shorts, and closed-toe and heel shoes. The Class B uniform is the red, Troop 93 T-shirt, olive green or khaki shorts, and closed-toe and closed-heel shoes. Scout MAY NOT wear sandals, flip flops, jean shorts, athletic shorts or pants,

or any non-khaki or olive green shorts. Scouts who show up at meetings in inappropriate attire may be asked to leave the meeting.

Question: When is each uniform worn?

Answer: The Class A uniform is worn at all Court of Honor programs, Eagle Ceremonies, anytime a Scout conducts a Scoutmaster Conference and/or Board of Review, and at designated service projects. A Scout who does not wear the Class A uniform to his Scoutmaster Conference or Board of Review will not be allowed to participate in either meeting and will have to reschedule. The Troop leadership will notify Scouts if the Class A uniform is required at other events. The Class B uniform is worn at all weekly Troop meetings and at most service projects in which the Scouts participate, whether as part of a Troop function or independently.

Question: Where can I get the Scout uniform?

Answer: At the Scout Shop in Green Hills. The address is 3414 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville 37215. You can also find bargains on eBay and other online resources.

ADVANCEMENT:

Question: What are the BSA Scout ranks?

Answer: When Scouts cross-over from Cub Scouts, they must first earn the Scout Badge, which consists of completing several joining requirements and a Scoutmaster Conference. The Scout Badge is not an official BSA rank. The Boy Scout ranks, in ascending order, are Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle.

Question: When do I have to turn in my completed requirements for rank advancement?

Answer: For Tenderfoot through Eagle, upon completing all of the rank's other requirements, Scouts must complete both a Scoutmaster Conference and a Board of Review to advance. Troop 93 conducts the Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review on the first Monday of each month. Additional times will be scheduled prior to Troop Court of Honor programs to allow Scouts additional opportunities to complete their final rank advancement requirements. Scouts need to contact the Advancement Chair at least one week in advance to request a Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review and to turn in a copy of his completed requirements (an electronic photo of the requirement pages from the Scout Handbook can be emailed to the Advancement Chair, or you may provide a hard copy).

Question: What is a Court of Honor and when do they occur?

Answer: The Court of Honor is a formal program where Troop 93 publicly recognizes the Scouts' merit badge and rank advancement achievements and distributes the associated badges, certificates, and cards. Dinner is served at these programs, and the Troop's patrols are assigned items for which they are responsible (e.g. entrees, side dishes, desserts, etc.). Troop 93 conducts three (3) Court of Honor programs annually; one in May, one in August so that we can distribute merit badges and rank advancements following summer camp attendance, and one in November.

Question: As a parent, what role do I play with respect to advancement?

Answer: In Boy Scouts, Scouts are to take ownership of their own advancement. As a parent, you may encourage and provide guidance, but the Scout is ultimately responsible for managing his time, listening to instruction, seeking out information, practicing and demonstrating skills, and completing the requirements needed to advance. In addition, a parent may not sign off on his/her own son's requirements.

Question: Do I have to work on requirements in order that they are listed in the book?

Answer: No, not for the ranks of Tenderfoot through First Class. You can work on requirements and get them signed off in any order. For example, you can work on First Class requirements before getting Tenderfoot. However, Scouts can only advance in rank order. For example, you may not earn Second Class until you have first earned Tenderfoot, though you may have completed requirements under both ranks.

Question: Who may sign off on my advancement requirements?

Answer: For Tenderfoot through First Class, the Sr. Patrol Leader, the Assistant Sr. Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Jr. Assistant Scoutmaster, or an adult leader (other than the Scout's parent) may sign off on advancement requirements. Scouts should look to their Scout leaders first. After First Class, a registered adult leader (other than the Scout's parents) must sign off on advancement requirements.

Question: Who may sign off on my merit badge requirements?

Answer: A registered adult merit badge counselor for the merit badge being pursued must sign off on all associated merit badge requirements. If you don't know who the registered merit badge counselor is for the merit badge being pursued, contact the Troop's Merit Badge Chair or Scoutmaster.

Question: If I started a merit badge under one merit badge counselor does that merit badge counselor have to be the person to sign-off on all of my merit badge requirements and final application (i.e. "blue card")?

Answer: No. A Scout need not pass all the requirements of one merit badge with the same counselor. It may be that, due to timing or location issues, etc., it's not feasible. The new counselor may choose not recognize requirements completed under another counselor, but such refusals should occur only in rare circumstances; For example, a situation where a long period of time has elapsed for a requirement in which safety is an issue, and the counselor wants to ensure that the Scout has retained the necessary knowledge or skill.

Question: Can completion of a requirement be applied to more than one rank or a rank and a merit badge?

Answer: In general, the decision is up to the Scoutmaster. However, here are some general guidelines that will be followed:

- When, for all practical purposes, two requirements match up exactly and have the same basic intent—for example, camping nights for Second Class and First Class ranks and for the Camping merit badge—it is appropriate and permissible, unless it is stated otherwise in the requirements, to use those matching activities for both the ranks and the merit badge.
- Where matching requirements are oriented toward safety, such as those related to first aid or CPR, the Scout will be asked to satisfy the requirement a second time to demonstrate retention of the skill or knowledge previously obtained.
- Some requirements may have the appearance of aligning, but upon further examination actually differ. These nuances are intended to create quite different experiences and thus require that each requirement be satisfied independently.

Question: If I start a merit badge under one set of requirements and the requirements change, do I have to start using the newly approved set of requirements?

Answer: No. The current annual edition of Boy Scout Requirements lists the official merit badge requirements. Once new or revised merit badge requirements appear in this publication, which is released each January, any Scout just beginning work on a merit badge must use the requirements as stated there.

If changes to merit badge requirements are introduced in a revised merit badge pamphlet after the January release of the Boy Scout Requirements book, then the Scout has until the following January 1 to decide what to do. He may continue—or begin work—using the old merit badge requirements and the old pamphlet; or he may switch to—or begin work—using the new requirements and the new pamphlet. Unless it is otherwise stated in the merit badge pamphlet, Boy Scout Requirements, or official communications from the National Council, if a Scout chooses to use the old merit badge requirements and pamphlet, he may continue using them until he has completed the badge.

There is no time limit between starting and completing a badge, although a counselor may determine so much time has passed since any effort took place that the new requirements must be used.

TROOP TRIPS:

Question: How are the Troop's campouts for the year decided?

Answer: They are decided by the Scouts. The Patrol Leader Council, comprised of leaders elected and appointed in November, prepare an initial list of potential trip ideas to which other Scouts and adults may add. The Patrol Leader Council, consisting of Scouts elected and appointed in May, will then conduct a planning meeting during the summer to decide on the trip schedule for the upcoming year (August through July).

Question: How much do campouts cost?

Answer: Costs depend on what we are doing and where we are going. Backpacking trips are usually free. Other activities, like white water rafting, summer camp, USS Yorktown, etc. have costs that vary greatly.

Question: Can I camp with my son if I am not a trained, registered leader?

Answer: Absolutely. The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has a couple of rules you will have to learn and follow, but non-adult leader parents are always welcome.

Question: Can moms come on campouts?

Answer: Yes, absolutely. Troop 93 is by no means a male-only environment.

Question: Can siblings come on campouts?

Answer: Not usually. They are not covered by BSA insurance. We sometimes have family campouts where siblings are allowed (e.g. Paoli ski trip, or rafting at the Ocoee/Hiwassee).

Question: Someone told me that certain campouts are for older boys only. What do the younger boys do then?

Answer: Troop 93 rarely, if ever, conducts a weekend campout for older boys only. Older Scouts might have a different (longer) route that they hike, or may raft a different, harder, river, but the troop campouts will typically be suitable for all troop members. Should the Troop's Patrol Leader Council choose to plan a trip for older, more experienced Scouts, an option for younger, inexperienced Scouts will also be offered. High Adventure BSA programs like Philmont or Florida Sea Base are one to two week long programs that do have minimum age requirements.

CAMPING NIGHTS (Camping Merit Badge)

Question: How are camping nights determined for the Camping Merit Badge?

Answer: The Camping Merit Badge Camping Night Requirement (Requirement #9a):

9. Show experience in camping by doing the following:

- a. Camp a total of at least 20 nights at designated Scouting activities or events. One long-term camping experience of up to six consecutive nights may be applied toward this requirement. Sleep each night under the sky or in a tent you have pitched. If the camp provides a tent that has already been pitched, you need not pitch your own tent.

Troop 93 has historically recognized five nights for the first year that a Scout attends Boxwell, as we typically don't stay Friday night. We have then recognized a single night for second year that the scout attends Boxwell, which gives the scout the sixth camping night for a long-term camping experience. No camping nights are recognized for any long-term camping trips after that, regardless of type (e.g. Boxwell, week-long trip in Colorado, Philmont, etc.).

Here are some key points to help clarify the requirement*:

- The requirement begins with "Camp a total of 20 nights." That means **20 overnights**, so a weekend trip from Friday through Sunday is two nights.
- Next it says, "at designated Scouting activities or events." This means the experiences are **held under the auspices of some level of the BSA**, and that "Scouting" happens on them. For example, an individual family or a couple of Scouts and their parents heading off into the woods doesn't count.
- A long-term camping experience is defined as **at least five consecutive nights**. One of these experiences is allowed, and **up to six nights may count** toward the requirement. For example, Sunday through Saturday. If a Scout goes on a 10-night trek, only six of those nights count.
- If a Scout goes to summer camp twice for a total of 12 nights, only one of the summer camps will count — for up to six nights.
- The remainder of the camping nights **must be accumulated through short-term camping** — normally weekend troop campouts. The long-term camping experience must also be a "**designated Scouting activity or event**." This could be at a council summer camp or on a troop's own 50 miler, a Jamboree, high-adventure base, etc.
- All 20 nights **must be spent under the sky or in a tent**, so **nights in cabins don't count**.
- If camping is done at a camp that **provides tents that are already set up, then all is good**. If tents are not already pitched, the Scout must pitch his tent. If he is sleeping in a two-man tent, then it would

be reasonable the he and his buddy set the tent up together. Sleeping in a tent that Dad or the Scoutmaster, etc., pitched doesn't count.

- I've heard feedback from parents with Scouts in troops that don't do very much camping. They can get in the long-term outing, but it takes a long time for their troop to get out on enough campouts to make up the other 14 nights. As a workaround, they suggest sending their son to summer camp but then **take him home after four nights** so that the experience will not count as a long-term camp. **This doesn't fulfill the requirement. The short-term campouts provide variety in both preparation and experience, and the Scouts are more likely to have to set up their own tent and take more responsibility for outdoor living skills.** A long-term summer camp is still a long-term camp even if the Scout is there for only a portion of the time. It's an entirely different adventure and usually doesn't call for the same level of self-reliance required for a short term camp.

*Reference Source: <http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2012/06/07/ask-the-expert-interpreting-camping-merit-badge-requirement-9a/>

EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES:

Question: Does my Scout need any special equipment before he joins the Troop?

Answer: No. Scouts will have time to acquire gear as they need it and may borrow gear until they decide what they really need or want. In addition, places like REI will inexpensively rent equipment like backpacks, camping stoves, and sleeping bags.

Question: Does a Scout have to buy a tent?

Answer: No. Scouts may borrow tents or share a tent with another Scout. If you are going to buy one, though, buy a good one. It is better to borrow or rent a good tent than to buy (and waste your money) on a cheap tent that leaks.

SUMMER CAMP:

Question: Where does the troop go to summer camp?

Answer: Troop 93 typically attends Boxwell Reservation about 45 minutes northeast of Brentwood. Occasionally, the Troop may rotate to another summer camp like Woodruff Scout Reservation in the Blue Ridge Mountains of north Georgia.

Question: What should first year Scouts sign up for at summer camp?

Answer: First year Scouts sign up for the basic scouting skills course at summer camp. This is called "Green Bar" at Boxwell. This gets them off to a good start. Additionally, Scouts should take the First Aid Merit Badge and at least one other merit badge. More detailed guidance will be provided during the registration process.

Question: What does my son need at summer camp?

Answer: The essentials include Class A and B uniforms, swimsuit and towel, toiletries, camp chair, rain jacket, sleeping bag, comfortable shoes, bug spray, sunscreen, hammock (optional, though many of Troop 93's scouts bring one), and money for merit badges snacks, souvenirs, etc. Some merit badges require additional purchases, like basket kits or film processing. These expenses are paid for at camp by the Scout. In addition, Boxwell has a camp store that sells candy, soft drinks, ice cream, etc. We recommend that Scouts have no more than \$25 in spending money. More detail will be provided during the summer camp planning process.

SERVICE HOURS:

Question: What are the policies governing service project participation?

Answer: Please refer to the Boy Scouts of America Service Policy posted on the Troop 93 website (<http://troop93brentwoodtn.org/>) for complete details.

Question: What are the basic requirements for service projects?

Answer: **Basic Policy Statement:**

In order for a Scout to receive credit in scouting for participating in a service project, the service project should be with a tax exempt, nonprofit, civic, religious or charitable organization, or a governmental body or agency thereof. Further, the service project must be approved by the Scoutmaster or Community Service Project Chair of the Committee **prior to** the Scout performing the service. A Scout can also receive service credit for assisting an Eagle Scout candidate with his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. In all instances in which a Scout is participating in a service project to receive credit in scouting, the official BSA uniform (Class A) shall be worn. Depending on the work associated with the service project, the troop's utility/field uniform (Class B) may be worn.

Individual or Non Troop-wide Projects

Any Scout or group of Scouts that desires to participate in a service project to receive credit in scouting in which the project is not pre-approved as a troop wide project must obtain **prior approval** to participate from the Scoutmaster or the Community Service Chair.

The Scout participating in an approved service project should seek to obtain from the subject organization written confirmation of the hours the Scout participated in the project and a general description of the tasks performed by the Scout on the project. The Scout must deliver such written report to the Scoutmaster or the Community Service Chair promptly after participating in the service project. If such a report is not available from the subject organization, the Scout must prepare and provide his own written report to the Scoutmaster or the Community Project Chair promptly after participating in the service project. Upon receipt of a report, the Scoutmaster or Community Service Project Chair shall review the report, and if deemed acceptable, shall promptly provide the report to the Activities Chair for entry into the troop's activities database. The Scout should also record his service in his Scout handbook.

Question: May participation in a service project be counted toward the completion of more than one requirement?

Answer: No. BSA is a service organization with a mission to support the community. One goal of our Troop is to developing young men who are committed to helping others and serving the needs of their community. We want our Scouts to become leaders in their community. Consequently, the more opportunities a Scout takes to perform service, the closer we get to achieving that goal.