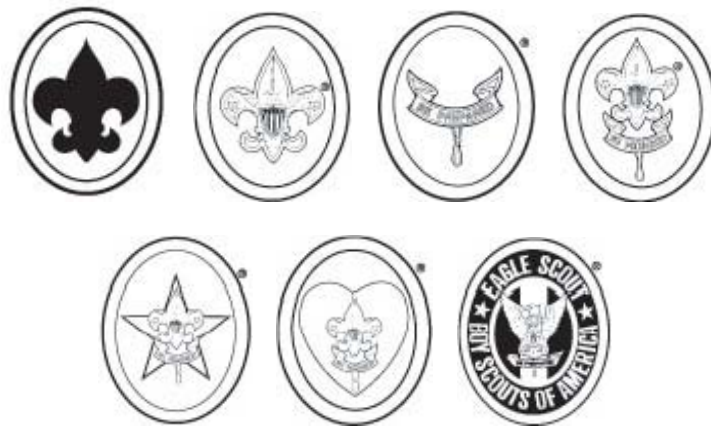




## TROOP 85

MANDEVILLE, LA

# TROOP HANDBOOK





## **WELCOME TO TROOP 85**

We are glad to have you as a member of one of the best Troops in the Bogue Tuchenna District and are looking forward to having you as a contributing member of our Troop. With effort, desire, persistence and support the highlight of your Scouting career will be your Eagle Court of Honor.

This guide outlines Troop 85 activities and policies. Please do not hesitate to ask any adult Scouter or senior Boy Scout if you need clarification about any Scouting subject.

Step into the world of Scouting, and you'll find yourself hiking along trails, canoeing across misty lakes, camping under the sky, and sleeping under the stars. Smell the fresh air of the woods while filling your stomach with food that you and your companions cooked on an open fire. Travel the backcountry without leaving a trace and live well with only what you can carry in your pockets and in your pack. Scouting is also a doorway to friendship. Boys you know might be joining our Troop and you'll meet lots of other Scouts along the way.

You are not just joining an ordinary organization when you become a Scout. You are entering a world full of exciting adventures. You will hike and camp, learn how to live in the out-of-doors, and discover many ways to care for the land. You will develop strength, confidence, judgment, and leadership skills.

Scouting experiences will help you discover that you can make good things happen in your life by planning, setting goals, and achieving those goals. You are in charge of yourself and your experiences.

Want to learn the skills that are used outdoors? Scouts learn how to find their way with a map and compass, to stay warm and dry in stormy weather, and to give proper first aid. They observe wildlife close up and study nature surrounding them. You also teach others what you know. Everyone helping everyone else - that's a great part of Scouting.

Outdoor adventures, service projects, and leadership in your patrol and Troop are experiences central to Scouting. The Scout Oath and Law provide the guidelines you need to grow into a strong confident adult. Knowledge and attitudes you develop as a Scout will carry over into the rest of your life.

Finally, Scouting is fun. You look around during Scouting activities and notice a smile on every face. Everyone is sharing, learning, and living the Scout life. You have taken the first step into the wonderful world of Scouting and great adventure lies ahead!

## **JOINING REQUIREMENTS**

To join Boy Scouts a boy must be 11 years of age or have completed fifth grade or have earned the Arrow of Light Award through the Cub Scout program. A boy is welcome to

join Troop 85 by submitting a BSA application. Please include parent's or guardian's names and work/home phone numbers on the form and complete the brief medical questionnaire on the back of the application. We keep all applications on file and take them with us on all outings so the medical information is available in case of an emergency.

### **TROOP ORGANIZATION**

Our Troop consists of registered Boy Scouts organized into patrols of 6 to 8 boys. Each patrol elects a patrol leader who appoints his assistant patrol leader. The Scout Troop leader is the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) elected by the Troop. Patrol leaders report directly to the SPL while the other junior leaders such as Quartermaster, Scribe, Historian report to the Assistant SPL (ASPL) who reports to the SPL. The SPL reports to the Scoutmaster. Adult supervision consists of the Troop Committee, Scoutmaster, and Assistant Scoutmasters. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters are present at regular Troop meetings and camp outs. The Scoutmaster reports to the Troop Committee that reports to the Chartered Organization.

### **TROOP COMMITTEE**

A Troop Committee consists of registered adults who determine and approve Troop policy. The Committee reports to the Chartered Organization Representative who is a member of the Mandeville Lions Club. Committee meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. All adults are welcome to attend these meetings and express their opinion; however, only BSA registered adults can vote. Complete an adult application form and provide the required fee to become a registered Committee member. The Committee consists of Committee Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer, Advancement Chairman, SM, ASMs, and members at large. The Committee approves Troop 85 Eagle Scout service projects and monitors Troop programs. Becoming a member of our Troop Committee is an excellent beginning if you want to become involved in Troop activities. Only Troop Committee Members may sit on Troop Boards of Review.

### **COUNCIL/DISTRICT**

Troop 85 is a member of the Bogue Tucheña District headquartered in Mandeville, which is a member of the Istrouma Area Council located in Baton Rouge. Bogue Tucheña District consists of Washington and St. Tammany parishes excluding Slidell. Istrouma Area Council consists of 13 central and southern Louisiana parishes and Hancock County, Mississippi.

### **CHARTERED ORGANIZATION**

Troop 85 is officially chartered by the Mandeville Lions Club and has been chartered for over 26 years. The Boy Scouts of America is a private organization chartered by the United States Congress and has been rechartered annually since 1916.

### **MEETINGS**

Troop meetings are held on three Tuesdays of each month 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at New Covenant Presbyterian Church, 4375 Hwy 22, Mandeville, La. A Patrol Leaders Council

(PLC) meeting is usually held at the same location on the remaining Tuesday of each month from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Meetings are not normally scheduled during major school holiday weeks or the week following summer camp. Scouts are expected to be punctual in attending meetings - Troop meetings begin on time. Parents or guardians are expected to be punctual in picking them up. An adult must remain until all Scouts have been picked up - please be on time.

In addition to regular Troop meetings, patrols hold monthly meetings on their own. Patrol meetings may be at a member's home and should last about an hour. Advancement requirements, patrol planning, making a patrol flag, discussing the upcoming patrol's program responsibilities, are some of the items a patrol can cover during meetings. All patrol meetings must include two adults who monitor the meetings. The adults may be patrol mentors or parents or guardians of a patrol member. Patrol meetings are excellent times to work on advancement and merit badges.

### **WEBPAGE**

Troop 85 maintains an informational website which contains information on upcoming events, a copy of the troop calendar, permission slips, Scout Account Withdrawal Forms and links to other important information. The URL is:

<http://troops.scouter.com/la/t85-mand-la/index.htm>.

### **INSURANCE, MEDICAL FORMS, PHYSICALS**

Troop 85 carries required Boy Scout accident insurance. It is limited in benefits and applies after the limits of your personal insurance have been met. Generally speaking, you should depend on your own health and accident insurance.

First Aid kits are taken on every outing and contain non-prescription items for minor cuts, sprains, insect stings, headaches, upset stomach, poisonous plants, minor burns, etc. If your son has any serious allergies, reactions to insects, or other medical situations, please make sure the Scoutmaster and other adult leaders are aware of his situation.

A completed Class 1 & 2 physical form (available from the Scoutmaster) is required to attend summer camp. These forms are valid for a 3-year period and are kept by the Scoutmaster. A completed Class 3 physical form is required for adults and is good for 3 years up to the age of 40 and then must be renewed annually. No one may attend summer camp or a high adventure trip without a current medical form. All medications must be checked in with the Scoutmaster or designated adult leader.

### **DUES/FINANCES**

Troop 85 does not collect individual Scout dues. An annual registration fee is required of Scouts and adults at the beginning of each March when rechartering. A portion of this money is allocated for the national organization, insurance, and a subscription to *Boy's Life* or *Scouting* magazine. The remainder goes into the Troop operating fund towards Scouting activities.

## **ANNUAL PLANNING SESSION**

An annual Troop planning session is usually scheduled in July or August after the Council and District calendars are published. The session is open to all Troop 85 Scouts and adults. All are strongly encouraged to attend. Strengths and weaknesses of the Troop, what went well, what did not go too well, etc. are reviewed. The Troop events calendar is based on planning session decisions and participation in selected Council and District events.

## **FUND RAISING**

The Troop conducts fundraisers every year. A garage sale has been the primary event. Profits are used to replenish Troop equipment, provide camping scholarships, and purchase various items required by the Troop. The annual Council popcorn sales program also raises money for the Council and our Troop. Scouts are strongly encouraged but not required to participate in fund raising activities. Parents or guardians are asked to contribute to the Council Friends of Scouting program and/or to the Troop.

## **SCOUT ACCOUNTS**

In an effort to teach Scouts the responsibility of earning and spending money wisely, every Scout has a Scout account. Any credit a Scout earns as a result of a troop fundraising activity is transferred into his Scout account. The credit in this account is the Scout's to spend to help cover the cost of troop activities, but can **only** be spent to cover the cost of the activities (campouts, Philmont, summer camp, etc.). The Troop Treasurer keeps a tab on how much each Scout has in his account. To use these funds, the Scout must fill out a Scout Account Withdrawal Slip (available on the webpage), and turn it in as full or partial payment for an activity. If the Scout leaves the troop with a balance in his account, the money is forfeited by the Scout and reverted to the troop's general fund.

## **TROOP RECHARTER**

Troop 85 recharter annually on March 31. A registration fee paid by each Scout and registered adult is collected in early March. Fees cover registration, insurance, and subscription to *Boy's Life* (for Scouts) or *Scouting* (for adults) magazine. Remaining funds go to the Troop treasury for operational costs such as advancement pins and badges, replenishment of Troop supplies, and equipment purchases. BSA Quality Unit paperwork is submitted at recharter time and Troop 85 has been recognized as a BSA Quality Unit for many years.

## **UNIFORMS**

Scouts are expected to attend all Scout functions in uniform with the exception of the PLC. There are two acceptable uniforms; 'Class A' and 'Class B.'

**'Class A'**: Khaki shirt, Scout pants or shorts, Scout belt, and Scout socks. 'Class A' khaki shirt includes the Council patch, Troop numerals 85, American flag, appropriate patrol patch, World Brotherhood of Scouting emblem and rank. A temporary patch may be worn on the right pocket.

**'Class B'**: Boy Scout T-shirt (summer camp, OA, Troop shirt) and Scout pants, Scout belt, and Scout socks.

'Class A' uniforms are worn while traveling as a Troop. On campouts 'Class A' uniforms are worn during meals and 'Class B' uniforms are worn during daytime activities unless otherwise noted. Scouts are required to wear a 'Class A' uniform while participating in Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review, Courts of Honor, Troop meetings, Troop Committee meetings when presenting an Eagle Scout service project, and merit badge classes conducted outside the Troop. Scouts may not wear earrings, baseball caps worn backwards, or bandannas at any Scouting activity.

## **RULES OF CONDUCT/DISCIPLINE**

Every Scout is expected to follow the rules and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America as defined in the Scout Oath and Law. Troop 85 is proud of its fine reputation as a Boy Scout Troop. Scout peer pressure normally works to minimize discipline problems. A problem Scout will be counseled by an adult Troop member to resolve any problem behavior. Parent(s) or guardian(s) may be asked to intervene.

Scouts and adults who violate BSA policies concerning illegal drugs or alcohol will be dismissed from the Troop. Adults who use tobacco are not permitted to use tobacco in view of Scouts.

## **SCOUT EQUIPMENT**

Scouting equipment is a matter of choice for each Scout. First year Scouts start with basic items and acquire advanced outdoor equipment as the Scout advances. Please do not purchase expensive items before discussing the purchase with an experienced adult Scouter. Official Boy Scout equipment is usually of acceptable quality but normally more expensive than equal items found in catalogs or camping stores. Camping equipment suppliers include Campmor, REI, Cabelas, L.L. Bean, Gander Mountain, Sierra Trading Post, and Backpacker.

The March edition of *Backpacker* magazine has a buyer's guide that rates available equipment in numerous categories with recommendations based on consumer's needs, potential use, and cost considerations. It is a very useful guide for more expensive camping items. Gear suppliers in the immediate area include the Backpacker in Baton Rouge (10% discount with a Boy Scout registration card), Adventure Sports in Metairie, Academy Sports in Slidell, Massey's in Mandeville (10% discount with a Boy Scout registration card), and Playville in Covington for official BSA uniforms and supplies. Many of the sales personnel in these outlets are knowledgeable and helpful.

Items to consider are:

**The Boy Scout Handbook** - Every Scout needs to have and bring his copy of the Handbook to every meeting and camp out. A protective cover keeps the Handbook in good shape.

**Sleeping Bag** – A medium weight blanket is fine for the first summer. It can be pinned together with blanket pins and a sheet inserted. Sleeping bags are rated for comfort at a minimum temperature. For this area, a rectangular bag with a

"cold" rating is adequate and is available at local discount stores for about \$30. A good sleeping bag for backpacking should weigh 3 1/2 pounds (20 degrees) to 4 1/2 pounds (zero or lower) and can be stuffed into a small sack that fits inside a backpack. Good backpacking sleeping bags cost about \$70.00 and up. Bags with synthetic fabrics (Hollofil or Quallofil) are washable and are recommended over down in rainy areas. A wet down-filled bag loses insulation efficiency and is difficult to dry. A mummy shaped bag is best for low temperature conditions.

**Sleeping Pad** – Sleeping pads provide shielding from heat absorbing ground surface and some degree of cushioning. A Therm-A-Rest self-inflating mattress (3/4 to full length) with a carrying case is comfortable for backpacking. Another mattress type is the closed cell non-inflatable type that is less expensive, lighter, and more durable than the self-inflating type.

**Tents** - Troop 85 has several tents to loan for camping. Tents are rated according to the number of persons they will comfortably accommodate for sleeping and shelter. A tent can be fairly crowded at rated capacity if gear is kept in the tent. Tents rated for 3 would allow for 2 Scouts with their gear and not be crowded. A tent must include a rain fly covering the whole tent. Tents with partial rain fly's will flood during a rain shower. Applying seam sealer to all outside seams is recommended before taking a new tent on a camping trip. Most seams that are not treated will leak and a wet tent does not contribute to a comfortable night in the outdoors. A waterproof ground cloth under your tent will prevent water seeping into the tent from below. New Scouts should try to tent with experienced Scouts who own tents to see what particular type of tent they prefer. Check on the availability of replacement parts. Tent poles and stakes break or are lost. Lightweight twisted metal stakes are recommended. Store pegs in a separate bag so they cannot damage other tent parts. A freestanding tent is recommended if you plan to backpack. A good two-man trail tent with full rain fly, ground cloth, and carrying case starts at around \$120.00 and can sometimes be found on sale after the summer camping season.

**Backpack** - A backpack is useful but not necessary for first year Scouts. A backpack can be borrowed from an adult, another Scout or a neighbor. Be sure and talk with one of our adult Scouts before investing in a backpack. Many beginner and youth sized backpacks are available at small cost.

**Boots** - Very few Scouts wear out a pair of boots before outgrowing them. Therefore, on-sale inexpensive type boots are the best initial buys. When choosing a good pair of boots stand on an incline with toes pointed downhill and make sure your toes do not rub against the boot. Steel shanks are for rugged mountain treks. Gore-Tex waterproofing is a must. Wear medium to heavy weight hiking wool socks over light liner socks. Be sure to have both pairs of socks on when buying your boots.

**Flashlight** - A small light using 2 'AA' batteries is sufficient. Anything larger is too heavy. A shiny or brightly colored flashlight is preferred (it's easier to find than a camouflage or dark-colored flashlight when dropped on the ground).

**Canteen** - A heavy plastic 1-liter water bottle with a carrying case and belt clip is recommended. Only water is to be stored in a water bottle. Drink flavor

additives contaminate the plastic with an odor that is attractive to various pests.

**Knife** - Scouts should own a small pocketknife. A 2-inch blade length is fine. Pocketknives with longer blades and sheath knives are not permitted. Scouts must earn the Scout "Totin' Chip" card in order to carry knives on a camping trip. They must carry the Totin' Chip whenever they carry a knife. Knives are frequently lost; therefore, a Scout's first knife should be inexpensive.

**Compass** - A plain compass with a flat plastic base is recommended. Compasses with a folding mirror are better but more expensive.

**Cooking Gear** - Scouts must have a personal mess kit consisting of Lexan spoon, drinking cup, and bowl. Metal cups and bowls are uncomfortable to hold when filled with hot liquids and food. Troop 85 has necessary patrol cooking equipment for all campouts.

**Rain Gear** - Rain gear is a necessary item in our area. An inexpensive poncho is sufficient for first year Scouts. A lightweight two-piece rain suit is required for backpacking activities.

First year Scouts may lose items on campouts such as knives, compasses, flashlights, shirts, jackets, caps, etc. Each item taken on an outing should be marked or identified with the Scout's name.

### **CAMPING/OUTINGS/PERMISSION SLIPS**

One campout/outing per month is usually planned. These have included Vicksburg and Shiloh National Military Parks, Pensacola Naval Air Station, Red Creek canoeing, overnight backpacking in the Appalachian Mountains, winter and summer camps, advancement campouts, etc. All outings are scheduled at the annual planning meeting where input on camping activities and locations are discussed. Much of the advancement in Scouting takes place on campouts; hence, we encourage camping attendance.

A parent or guardian signed permission slip is mandatory for all overnight outings. Permission slips are normally available several weeks in advance of the outing and should be signed and collected prior to departure. No Scout may attend a Troop outing without a signed permission slip.

Friday evening departure and Sunday return is the normal weekend schedule. Arrival time depends on where we go.

On campouts, unless otherwise notified, Scouts must bring their personal spoon, drinking cup, bowl, and The Scout Handbook. The trip coordinator will list other equipment that may be required.

Food is purchased by each patrol based on menus planned by that patrol. Patrol menus are planned at patrol meetings and approved by the SPL and ASPL's. Each Scout in a patrol takes a turn being a grubmaster, and is responsible to purchase the food. Fees are collected approximately 2 weeks prior to the outing. Once the food is purchased, no refunds are available. Each patrol has an assigned chuck box carried in the Troop trailer

with necessary cooking utensils and some condiments. These are replenished as needed. Cooking is with Dutch ovens and charcoal, backpacking stoves, and propane stoves depending on the situation. Adult leaders dine with patrols as invited guests. Troop 85 Scouts develop into versatile cooks.

The following items are prohibited from all Troop activities:

Personal food items including snack foods and soft drinks.

Personal electronic equipment and toys. (These items may be brought on trips requiring long drives but must remain in the vehicle.)

Firearms including slingshots and pneumatic pistols and rifles.

Alcoholic beverages.

## **SUMMER CAMP**

Summer camp is an annual event for Troop 85 normally attended during the second week in June. Summer camp lasts six nights (Sunday to Saturday). Activities include Scout crafts, aquatics, rank advancement, merit badges, COPE (for older Scouts), rifle and archery ranges, etc. Summer camp cost is about \$120.00 with additional money needed for certain crafts and merit badge books, handicraft projects, and, of course, the trading post. Each Scout and adult attending summer camp must have a current BSA Class 1, 2, or 3 Medical form completed and on file with the Troop.

Summer camp opportunity exists for Scouts who cannot attend summer camp with the Troop but still want to go to summer camp. Istrouma Area Camp Avondale has a provisional camper program where Scouts form a Troop with other provisional Scouts.

All first year Scouts are highly encouraged to attend summer camp where they will participate in a special program for first year Scouts (Pathfinder). This program is designed to complete the outdoor requirements for the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks.

Many Eagle-required merit badges may be completed at summer camp.

Older Scouts may participate in the COPE (Challenging Outdoor Physical Encounter) program that is designed to build self-confidence and teach the importance of teamwork.

Depending upon summer camp location Troop 85 may do its own cooking at the campsite. We develop very good cooks when we prepare our meals.

Camp trading posts sell T-shirts, belts, buckles, merit badge pamphlets, cameras, film, and other miscellaneous items. Usually \$20.00 is sufficient to cover trading post purchases. Camp fees are due in April and include a Troop t-shirt and cap.

## **WINTER CAMP**

Winter Camp is open to First Class Scouts and higher. It begins after Christmas and ends before New Year's and costs around \$130.00. Winter Camp provides an excellent opportunity for older Scouts to earn Eagle-required non-outdoor merit badges.

Scouts must provide personal tents and cots during winter camp. Meals are prepared by camp staff and eaten in the camp dining hall. Each Scout and adult attending Winter Camp must have the same medical forms required for Summer Camp. Each adult attending Winter Camp is requested to teach a merit badge class of their preference.

## **FIRST YEAR SCOUTS**

New Scouts are placed in same-age patrols and boys from the same Webelos den are assigned to one patrol. They elect a patrol leader and assistant patrol leader. New patrols are assigned an older Scout (Troop Guide) whose responsibility is to stay with the new patrols during Troop meetings and help them during the first year. Adult patrol mentors are also assigned to new patrols. Their job is to advise the patrol during once-a-month patrol meetings, assist patrol members working on advancement, instruct Scouts on how to use the Handbook, and assist in patrol problem solving.

All first year Scouts are strongly urged to attend summer camp where they can take advantage of a special first year Scouting program designed to complete a great deal of the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class outdoor rank requirements. The Troop's goal is for all first year Scouts to achieve First Class rank by the end of their first year in Scouting. Most boys who drop out of Scouting in the first six months to a year do so because they are not having fun or are not challenged. Advancing to First Class in the first year of membership minimizes these problems.

## **ADVANCEMENT**

All advancement requirements are outlined in The Boy Scout Handbook. Boys begin Scouting by earning the rank of Scout. With hard work, diligence, support, and desire, they will advance to the ultimate honor of Eagle Scout. Only about 2% of those joining the Boy Scouts of America earn the Eagle Scout award. Troop 85's record is much better, averaging three Eagle Scouts per year. Scouts are required to bring their Handbook, notebook, and pencil to all meetings and camping activities in order for requirements to be initialed and dated ("BE PREPARED"). Unlike Cub Scouts, parents and guardians of Boy Scouts do not approve their son's advancement requirements. An older Scout or an adult Troop leader does this through the rank of First Class. There are a few exceptions to this rule. Pet Care, Plumbing, Home Repairs are examples of advancement that can be approved by a parent or guardian. Please see the Scoutmaster if you have any questions concerning parent or guardian approved advancement.

### **Scout Through First Class**

Scouts begin by earning the Scout rank. The skill requirements must be initialed and dated in order to document requirement completion. New Scouts should earn Scout rank within the first month of joining Troop 85. Inside the front cover of the *Handbook* is a pamphlet "*How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse*". Parents(s) or guardian(s) must review this pamphlet with their Scout and sign the front of the pamphlet indicating the review has been completed.

Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class advancement require skills learned on

campouts, hikes, patrol and Troop meetings, and similar activities. After a Scout completes a requirement, he has the older Scout or adult who taught, reviewed, or approved the skill initial and date the Scout's Handbook. A Scout may work on the requirements for all three ranks in any order, but the ranks will be awarded in order (i.e., Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class).

Scouts may earn merit badges after the rank of Scout and prior to completing First Class. However, Scouts should focus their energy on obtaining First Class by the end of their 1st year with the Troop. After completing all but the last two requirements for a particular rank the Scout must request a Scoutmaster's Conference and, after the Scoutmaster's approval, appear before a Board of Review. Please refer to the Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review Topics in this guide or peruse the Handbook for further information on these subjects.

### **Star, Life, and Eagle**

Merit badges, service projects, and leadership positions are required to earn these ranks. The path to Eagle requires learning basic skills for advancement to First Class. Then 21 merit badges must be earned. Of these, 12 must be from the required merit badge list and 9 are elective. Troop 85 encourages Scouts to earn at least half the electives from the following: Aquatics group, Archery, Cooking, Forestry, Fish and Wildlife, Nature, Orienteering, Pioneering, Rifle, and Wilderness Survival. These merit badges instill self-confidence. Summer Camp is an excellent place to earn many of these merit badges.

A list of available merit badges is in The Boy Scout Handbook. The Troop maintains a library of many merit badge books and Troop members may check them out through the Troop Librarian. Merit Badge requirements are updated periodically and we update our library as needed. A Troop Committee member is designated as Troop advancement chair and coordinates advancement records for Troop 85 and the local Boy Scout Council.

### **Scoutmaster Conference**

A Scout schedules a meeting with the Scoutmaster called a Scoutmaster Conference after completing all requirements for a rank. This meeting can take place during a Troop meeting or a camp out. The Scout must wear his Scout Class 'A' uniform and bring his Handbook. The Scout reviews his progress and requirements for his next rank. During the conference the Scoutmaster engages in some general conversation on what the Scout likes and dislikes about Scouting and the general direction the Scoutmaster would like see the Scout move. A date is set for achieving the next rank as a goal. A Board of Review is the next step after the Scoutmaster Conference.

### **Board of Review**

A Scout goes before a Board of Review after completing a Scoutmaster conference. The intent of the Board is to ensure the Scout has completed rank requirements and has a basic understanding and knowledge of Scouting skills. The Board consists of a minimum of three Troop Committee members who ask

general Scouting questions and review rank requirements. The Scoutmaster, Asst Scoutmasters, and Scout's parents or guardians cannot sit on the Board. The Scout must present himself in a neat and complete Scout uniform and have his Handbook. After talking with the Scout, the Board confers and announces the results to the Scout and Scoutmaster. All rank and awards earned since the last Court of Honor are presented at the next quarterly Court of Honor.

### **Court of Honor**

A Court of Honor is the final step in recognizing a Scout's advancement efforts. Troop 85 holds a Court of Honor every 4 months on Tuesday evenings at our normal meeting time and location. Parents or guardians, Scouts, and guests are invited to attend. Scouts are formally presented ranks and other awards they have earned since the last Court of Honor. Scouts host Courts of Honor and refreshments are normally served after the meeting. Parents or guardians are included as part of each rank advancement ceremony and are requested to attend. We normally hold our summer Court of Honor outside and it includes a covered dish family picnic with the Troop providing and cooking the meats. A National Eagle Court of Honor is held for those Scouts who have achieved the highest rank in Scouting and includes a formal speaker and reception.

### **Service Projects**

Participation in service projects is a requirement for the ranks of Second Class, Star, and Life. These include assisting in Eagle Scout service projects, Troop food and clothes drives, beach cleanups, etc. 50% of the service hours counted for advancement can be completed during Eagle projects. Scouts should seek SM approval before a project is started if there is a question about service project qualifications.

### **Eagle Scout Service Project**

An Eagle Scout service project is a requirement for the Eagle award. Project goal is to establish a Scout's ability to conceive, implement, and execute an idea. He must plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a project of help to any religious organization, school, or community. When finished the project must be of lasting value. Maintenance only type projects are not acceptable.

A critical element of the Eagle Scout Service Project is that the Scout must show leadership of others in the process. Adult involvement is limited to such necessary aspects as transporter, photographer, historian, cheerleader, and minor coach.

### **Merit Badges**

A Scout can earn any of about 125 merit badges. Of these, 21 are required for the rank of Eagle (12 specific and 9 elective) and are noted in The Boy Scout Handbook and the Boy Scout Advancement Requirements booklet updated and published about every 2 years. Several steps are required to complete a merit badge:

- Obtain a merit badge application (blue card) from the Scoutmaster.
- Complete the personal information requested and request the SM or ASM to sign the blue card.
- Begin work towards completion of the merit badge.
- The Scoutmaster has a list of approved merit badge counselors and their phone numbers.
- The Scout presents the blue card to the counselor at the first meeting.
- The counselor will sign and date the blue card and return it to the Scout after completion of all the requirements.
- The blue card is given to the Scoutmaster for signature and recording in the Troop and Council records.
- The Scout records merit badge completion in his copy of the Handbook.
- The merit badge and accompanying merit badge card are presented to the Scout at the next Troop Court of Honor.

Scouts are urged to store merit badge cards in a safe place. Cards may be needed as proof that it was earned in case of a problem with Troop or Council record keeping.

One-on-one (Scout and counselor) merit badge sessions are not permitted. A Scout is responsible for having a buddy attend merit badge counseling with him and may have another adult (Scout's parent) present. There is no time limit to earning a merit badge but dragging it out creates unnecessary problems and delays. Summer and winter camps are ideal times to earn many interesting merit badges.

### **SERVICE HOURS**

A core value of Scouting is to “help other people at all times.” So Troop 85 tries to be involved in service activities as often as possible. All Scouts in the troop are *strongly encouraged* to be involved in as many of these as possible. As a prerequisite to certain advancements, service hours are a requirement. Unless otherwise agreed to by the Troop Committee, Troop 85 allows for a maximum credit of two (2) service hours for each project, regardless of actual hours worked. So if a rank requires six service hours, the Scout will have had to have worked on at least three projects.

### **TROOP ELECTIONS**

Troop elections are held semi-annually to elect the SPL, ASPLs, PLs, Librarian, Bugler, Scribe, Quartermaster, Historian, Venture Crew Chief, and Chaplains Aide. Assistant Patrol Leaders are appointed by PLs. Each elective and appointed position has a job description in the Handbook and is explained to each Scout by the SM. Troop Junior Leader Training follows each Troop election to educate and train newly elected leaders in their responsibilities.

Good youth leadership is important to the success of Troop 85. Few Scouts are effective leaders immediately after election. Most will learn their job and perform that job well near the end of their six-month tenure. PLC members are constantly coached about their job performance and given opportunities to improve. A Scout may be released from a vital Troop leadership position if he is not ready or mature enough to assume the responsibility entrusted to him or does not try to improve poor job performance. Opportunities exist to improve and try leadership again.

### **PATROL LEADERS COUNCIL (PLC)**

The PLC runs the troop program with adult guidance and supervision. A PLC consists of Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant SPL, Patrol Leaders, Assistant PL's, Quartermaster, Venture Crew Chief, and Scribe. They meet on Tuesdays from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm to plan the month's program and discuss improvements to the prior month's activities. Monthly activity planning includes menus, transportation requirements, costs, and other details.

### **JUNIOR LEADER TRAINING**

There are four levels of junior leader training within the Boy Scouts of America program.

Junior leader training is continuous within our Troop and is one of our highest priorities. Troop Junior Leader Training (JLT) sessions are conducted twice a year and scheduled the first or second weekend after Troop elections. These sessions include problem solving at the patrol level, understanding the needs of individuals, program planning and implementation, representing the needs of the patrol and the Troop, etc. These sessions are for all newly elected Troop leaders and is conducted by the Senior Patrol Leader. We review the next 6-months Troop programs and assign program responsibilities to the different patrols.

District JLT is held annually in the fall and is open to junior leaders such as Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Quartermasters. It includes job description analysis, practical application of possible solutions, and team building.

Council JLT is a weeklong program held at Camp Avondale. It is modeled after the adult Wood Badge Course and each boy is rotated through different Troop leadership positions during the week. It is open to 3 boys in each Troop (must have the Scoutmaster's recommendation) who demonstrate Senior Patrol Leader potential.

The final level of JLT is National Junior Leader Training (NJLT) conducted at Philmont Scout Ranch. Scout leaders are recommended by the District Executive to attend NJLT and are current SPL's or former SPL's who are expected to staff future council JLT's. We have had two Scouts from Troop 85 attend NJLT.

### **HIGH ADVENTURE**

There are several high adventure activities sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America including Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, Canoe Base in Minnesota, and Sea Base in Florida. Our Troop participates in high adventure trip of its own or with other Troops in the District. High adventure participation requirements are limited to First

Class Scouts or higher with selected skill merit badges earned depending on the nature of the trip.

High adventure activities have included canoeing the Buffalo River in Northern Arkansas, white water rafting in North Carolina, hiking portions of the Appalachian Trail, backpacking coastal Maine, touring national Civil War military parks, snow skiing, and caving. These trips require logistics planning, coordination, and funding considerations, but are the types of activities that enable us to retain our older Scouts. Attendance and input at our annual planning meeting is encouraged to determine high adventure outings.

In addition to high adventure trips, Scouts from Troop 85 attend the National Boy Scout Jamboree held at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia every three years and the World Jamboree in the year following the national jamboree.

### **Philmont Scout Ranch**

An outdoor experience highlight of Scouting is participating in a weeklong high adventure trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. Troop 85 participates in this high adventure trip every second year with other Troops in the District. A Scout must be 14 years old by January 1 of the year attending Philmont. To attend Philmont's high adventure you must be in good physical condition and attend and complete a minimum of two backpacking trips with the designated Philmont leader. The Ranch also offers many adult Scouting education and training classes including activities for accompanying family.

### **ORDER OF THE ARROW**

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is an honorary service organization of honor campers elected by fellow Scouts. The purpose of the OA is to encourage camping through chapter, lodge, section, regional, and national organizations. OA members are expected to promote the fun and skills of outdoor camping to younger Scouts. The OA patch covering their right pocket flap and the white OA sash worn during ceremonies and other OA functions identifies OA members.

A Scout must be at least First Class, have 15 or more nights of camping, 6 of which must be long term camping (summer camp), and be recommended by the Scoutmaster. A Scout must have at least 50% of the vote's cast to be elected to the OA. Scouts may vote for none, some, or all of the eligible candidates. Elected members must attend and complete an Ordeal held at Camp Avondale in early May or November. A Scout has one calendar year to complete his Ordeal or he must stand for re-election.

The Troop Committee elects one adult each year as OA candidate. Adult candidates must meet the same camping requirements and attend and complete the Ordeal.

### **ADULT PARTICIPATION**

The Scoutmaster's Handbook defines the "Aims of Scouting" as:

- I. To build character
- II. To foster citizenship
- III. To develop fitness

Some other goals might be:

- IV. To develop self-confidence
- V. To provide a positive influence that says it's ok to do the right thing
- VI. To have fun in accomplishing the above
- VII. To provide each Scout the opportunity to earn Eagle rank.

If the "outing" is taken out of Scouting, it ceases to be fun for the boys. The key to our success is an active youth-run program. This active program is dependent on the assistance, input, and participation of adults. Experience shows that few boys will be awarded Eagle Scout without positive and supportive adults. When families bring their sons to meetings and activities and participate in our program in some manner for at least two years, the aims and goals stated above become realities. We understand that not every adult enjoys or will go camping. Camping, however, is only a portion of the things we do and non-camping opportunities include: patrol mentor, providing transportation, teaching merit badge classes, helping with our fund raising activities, becoming a Troop Committee member and serving on Boards of Review, volunteering as an Assistant Scoutmaster, attending summer or winter camp for a few nights... the list is vast.

All parents or guardians are requested to volunteer for at least two jobs during the year. Troop 85 is fortunate in that on Tuesday meeting nights we have around 12 uniformed adults in attendance. It is the voluntary willingness of adults to help that makes the program go and grow. It is with the cooperation and assistance of every Scout family that our Troop program becomes a reality. Adults are requested to complete a Troop Resource Survey form at our orientation nights each fall and spring.

### **ADULT TRAINING**

Adult training consists of:

Fast Start videotape presentation including Child Protection Training.

Basic training – Leadership Specific Training held in April.

Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat training.

Advanced training - Wood Badge, a weeklong or a three-weekend session depending on the Council training committee.

Merit badge counselor training available at various times during the year.

Unit Commissioner training.

Monthly Boy Scout Roundtable meetings are held at St. Timothy's United Methodist Church

A Troop 85 goal is for all registered adults to complete fast start training. The more trained adults we have, the better. All ASM's should try to attend basic training.

