

Troop



Parent Packet

Troop 51, Alamo Area Council, Two Rivers District is chartered by the Schertz United Methodist Church. 3460 Roy Richard Drive, Schertz- 210-658-3202 www.schertzumc.com



WELCOME!

My name is Richard W. (Mr. Rick) Shelton, and I have the privilege and honor of being the Scoutmaster of Troop 51. Originally chartered on December 1st, 1951, we are now in our 65th year.

Troop 51 prides itself on being “Boy led”. Youth Leadership Training is conducted twice a year, and a week-long National Youth Leadership (NYLT formerly called Cedar Badge) course is available for older Scouts that show enthusiasm and want to improve their leadership skills. The youth are involved in the decision making of the events and campouts that they want from year to year. Our adult volunteers are trained PRIOR to being appointed as Assistant Scoutmaster’s, and conduct continual new training as it occurs. As much as a Scout deserves a Trained Leader, our Adults deserved to be trained.

Troop 51 is a very active Troop with scheduled 2 or 3 day campouts ten months out of the year, summer camp every June, and the high adventures of Philmont Scout Ranch every other year. However, we do more than just camp. We attend the USS Lexington (Aircraft Carrier @ Corpus Christi, TX) Live Aboard Program, the USS Texas (Battleship @ Houston, TX) Live Aboard Program, as well as attending the NASA (Houston, TX) Boy Scout Camp-In Program.

In addition to all the camping and fun activities, Troop 51 is involved in community service. From the “Wilenchik Walk for Life” to serving our Senior Citizen’s dinner on Columbus Day, supporting the Buffalo Valley Youth Association, and the continual service to our chartered organization, Schertz United Methodist Church. We are involved in assisting our youth to become better citizens in our neighborhoods, community, state and country. We are helping to build tomorrow’s Servant Leaders.

Our Troop is also involved in the Order of the Arrow, the National Honor Society of Boy Scouts. You will find out more about this program when you have been in the Troop for a while.

While our schedule is full of wonderful experiences and opportunities, we have found from experience, the more camping and activities you attend, the more fun you will have. However, you and your family must find the balance between Scouts, school, UIL, church, and all other things that you are already involved in.

See you on Wednesday!

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Welcome

Your child is joining more than four million members of the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts of America makes Scouting available to our nation's youth by chartering community organizations to operate Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, Varsity Scout Teams, and Venture Crews. The chartered organization must provide an adequate and safe meeting place while capable adult leadership must adhere to the principles and policies of the BSA.

Key Points About BSA

Chartered organizations agree to use the Scouting program in accordance with their own policies as well as those from BSA. The program is flexible but major departures from BSA methods and policies are not permitted. As a parent, you should be aware that:

- Leadership is restricted to qualified adults (BSA trained for each position) who subscribe to the Declaration of Religious Principle, the Scout Oath, and the Scout Law.
- Citizenship activities are encouraged, but partisan political activities are prohibited.
- Marksmanship and elementary drill for ceremonies are permitted (per BSA policy and leader's organization)
- The Boy Scouts of America recognizes the importance of religious faith and duty; it leaves religious instruction to the member's religious leaders and family. Members who do not belong to a unit's religious chartered organization shall not be required to participate in its religious activities.
- Two registered adult leaders or one registered adult leader and a parent of a participant, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required on all trips and outings. If activities are co-educational leaders of both sexes must be present.
- Corporal punishment and hazing are not permitted. Parents and unit leaders must work together to solve discipline problems.
- One-on-one activities between youth members and adults are not permitted; personal conferences must be conducted in plain view of others.
- If you suspect that anyone in the unit is a victim of child abuse, immediately contact local authorities and the Scout Executive who is responsible for reporting this to the appropriate authorities.
- All Scouting activities are open to parental visitation. There are no "secret" organizations within the Boy Scouts of America. (However, this does not mean parents can follow their sons around!)
- Scouting uses a fun program to promote character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness for every member. You can help by encouraging perfect attendance, assisting with your child's advancement, attending meetings for parents, and assisting with transportation

Charter Organization

Schertz United Methodist Church is the chartering organization of Troop 51. As such, the Troop has to comply with policies established by the church. One such policy is the review and approval of adult volunteers. Scouting's adult volunteers provide leadership at the unit, district, council, and national levels. Many are parents of Scouts; many entered Scouting as youth members. Each chartered organization establishes a unit committee, which operates its Scouting

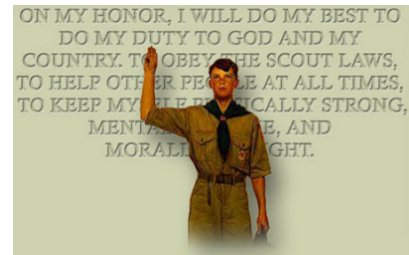


unit, selects leadership, and provides support for a quality program. Most unit committees depend on parents for membership.

Troop 51

Core objectives

Boy Scout Troop 51 core objectives are to develop character, promote personal fitness, and teach good citizenship for its youth members including service to others. We believe strongly that every boy has an opportunity through the Scouting program to learn important lessons that will help them to be a strong citizen and team player and grow into a well-rounded adult no matter what rank they achieve. Every boy is important to us regardless of their background, economic or disability status.



Boy Led Troop

Troop 51 is a boy led troop. As boys grow within the troop, their leadership skills are utilized in various positions. The Boy Leaders in Troop 51 are expected to run the Troop meetings, plan outings, coordinate activities, and manage campouts. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters are facilitators of the programs. The Troop Committee works in support of the scouts, scoutmaster, and assistant scoutmasters.

The main focus for Troop 51 is leadership via a Boy Run Organization, meaning that we put the decision making process, planning and running of the Troop in the hands of the Scouts. This places a lot of responsibility on the Scouts, but it also enables the Scouts to learn firsthand and understand the impact of decisions they make in a safe and supportive learning environment. In case you or your son is unsure about what is supposed to be happening, your son should call his Patrol Leader or the Assistant Scoutmaster of your son's patrol for guidance and clarification.

Scout Positions of Leadership

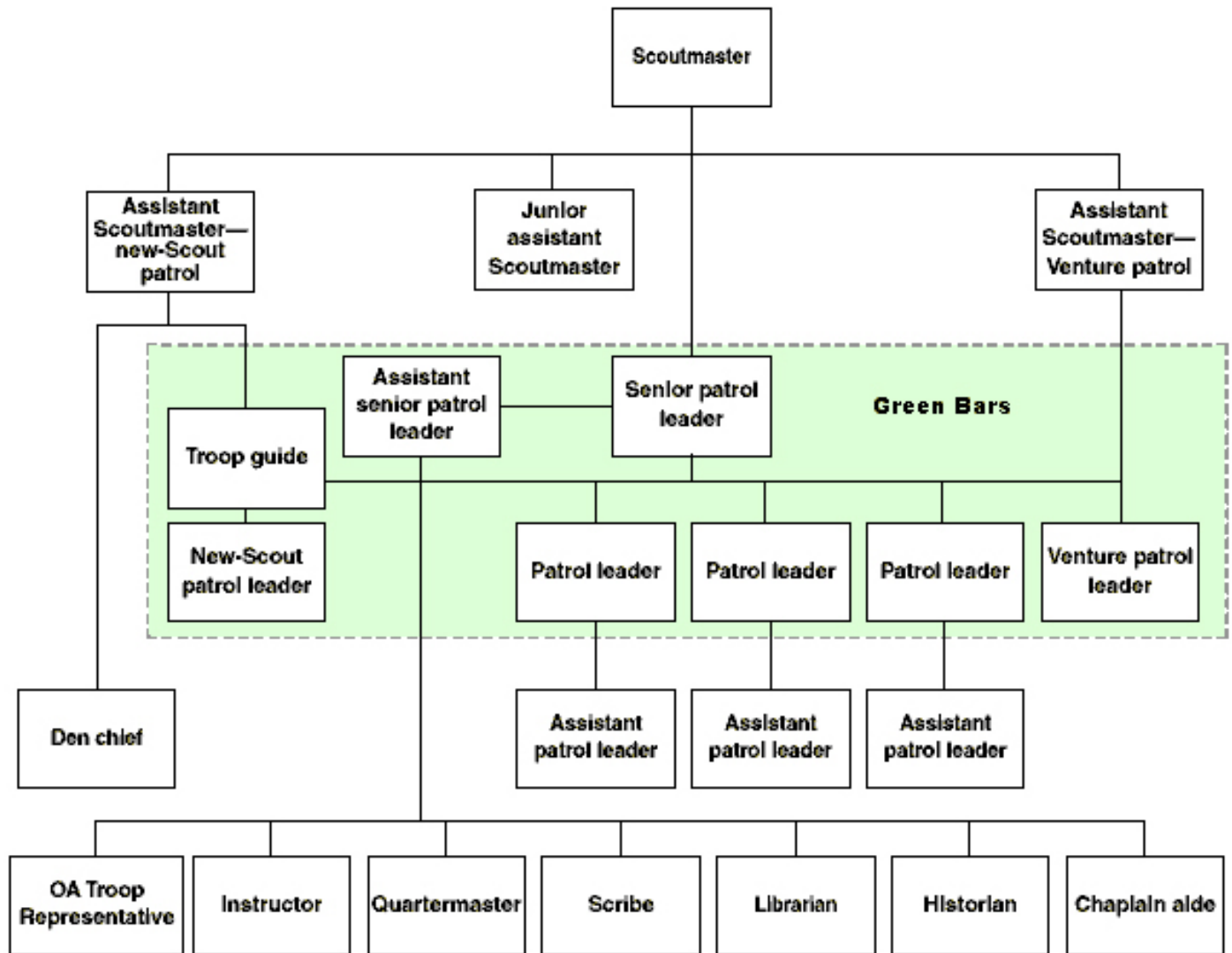
The key leadership positions in the Troop are elected by the Scouts. The entire troop elects the Senior Patrol Leader who holds office for a six month term. The Troop elects its own Patrol Leader who also serves for a six month term and the PL appoints an Assistant PL. The SPL appoints (along with Scoutmaster approval) ASPL's and positions of Quartermaster, Scribe and Chaplain's Aid. The Junior Assistant Scoutmaster and Troop Guides are appointed by the Scoutmaster. The ranks of Star, Life and Eagle all have leadership component to them and Scouts must serve in a Troop Leadership position with earning those ranks.

Patrols and Patrol Leaders

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 attend activities and outings as a Patrol. The Troop is a group made up of several patrols. Each Patrol usually consists of a Patrol Leader and no less than four Scouts and no more than eight Scouts. The boys in a patrol elect their patrol leader who in turn appoints the assistant patrol leader.



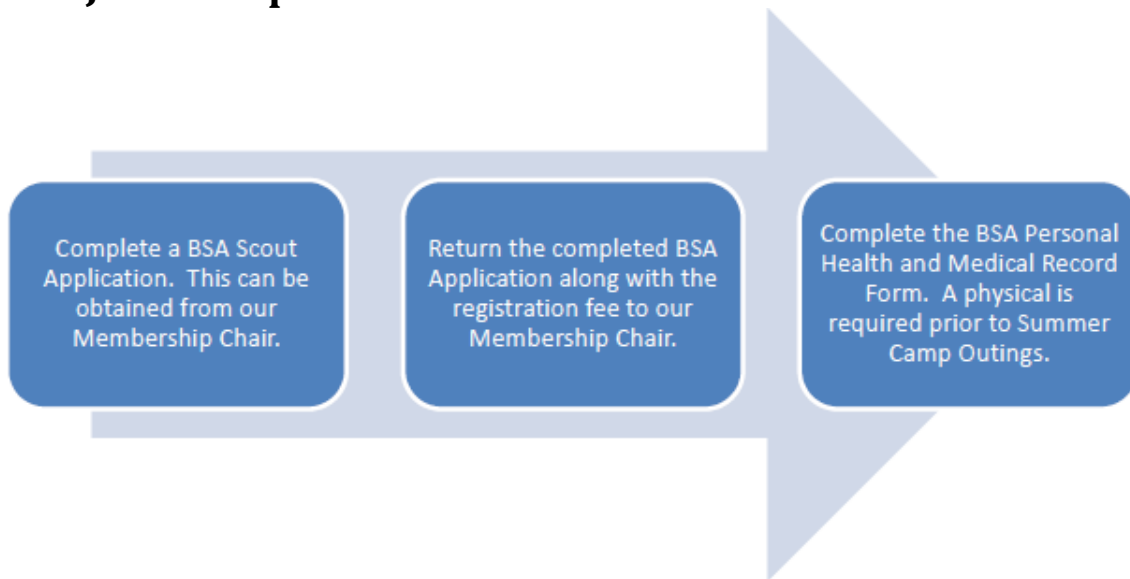
Typical Troop Organization Chart



*Rule of thumb for chain of command: The adult in charge of your son's patrol is the Assistant Scout Master and questions can be addressed to him/her first.



How to Join Troop 51



**Open to boys 11 years old, or completed 5th grade or has earned Arrow of Light and is 10 years old but not 18 years old.

Uniforms

There are four uniforms for scouts in Troop 51. Each is described below:

1. Work Uniform: Consists of scout appropriate blue jeans/shorts/long pants, a belt, closed toe and heel shoes/boots, and appropriate shirt or t-shirt. The work uniform is worn during service or work projects or on campouts where sturdier clothing is required.
2. Class B: Consists of blue jeans/shorts/long pants, a belt, closed toe and heel shoes/boots and a Troop 51 or Boy Scout t-shirt. Class B is worn during camp outs and activities or other functions designated by the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and Scout Master (SM).
3. Class A: Consists of blue jeans/shorts/long pants, a belt, closed toe and heel shoes/boots a Troop 51 or Boy Scout t-shirt, and a Boy Scout khaki shirt with appropriate patches. Class A uniform is worn at all meetings, to and from all Troop campouts/events and other functions designated by the SPL and SM.
4. Class A Special: Consists of blue jeans and a belt, and in some occasions Boy Scout green pants and scout belt, closed toe and heel shoes/boots, a Troop 51 or Boy Scout t-shirt, a Boy Scout khaki shirt with appropriate patches, a neckerchief and slide, and a merit badge sash. Class A Special uniform will be worn for Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review, Courts of Honor, Merit Badge University, and any other events designated by the SPL and SM.

*If coming from a prior non-Scouting event, the uniform must either be worn to the meeting or it must be brought in on a hanger.

*No gym shorts, sweat pants or sleep/lounge pants.

*Underpants may not be visible.

*To purchase a Troop 51 t-shirt contact the Troop Treasurer at the next troop meeting.

*Full BSA uniform required for NYLT and is strongly recommended for District Eagle review boards.



Meetings

Troop 51 meets every Wednesday (except Christmas, Thanksgiving, Spring Break, and summer camp) 7:00 - 8:30 pm @ Schertz United Methodist Church.

The meeting agendas are set by the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) which includes the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, Patrol Leaders, Troop Guides and Den Chiefs. Meetings include planning activities for upcoming events, Merit Badge activities, Scout Skill activities, and various games that encourage scouting principles. Typical meeting format:

- 6:50PM Pre-opening & gathering
- 7:00PM Opening Ceremony (Flags, Scout Oath, Scout Law) followed by:
- Scout Skill Instruction
- Patrol Meetings
- Inter-patrol Activity — "Fun Game"
- 8:15PM Announcements, Scoutmaster's Minute & Closing
- Parents are welcome to attend announcements. However, due to high noise levels, we respectfully request that discussion among adults during meetings be kept to a minimum.

Communications

Meetings

Generally, announcements regarding upcoming activities are made at the end of each meeting. Parents are encouraged to be available during these announcements. In addition, part of a Scout's responsibility is to pay attention to announcements and to communicate with his parents.

Website

Troop 51 has a website @ bsatroop51.com

E-mail

We'll announce activities / key announcements via a Troop E-mail and Facebook.

Make sure that the Troop has your current e-mail address. If you need to update an email address, send notification to the Troop Committee Chair, Secretary or the Advancement Coordinator.

Facebook

Troop 51 has a closed Facebook page limited to members and their families. You must send a request to join Troop 51's Facebook page and receive permission to join.



How to Contact Troop 51

- Committee Chair: committee.chair@bsatroop51.com
- Scoutmaster: scoutmaster@bsatroop51.com
- Webmaster: webmaster@bsatroop51.com

Visit the troop's web site or attend a troop meeting and speak to any leader for additional information.

Paying for Scouting

Troop 51 realizes that families are on a limited budget and we try very hard to balance a robust program for Scouts while making it as affordable as possible. The troop maintains scouting activity accounts for each Scout that the Treasurer sets up when the Scouts joins the troop. Parents can deposit money into the Scouts account at any time to pay for camping or other fees and any money the Scout earns in Troop Fund Raising activities.

Fees

Generally, there are three types of fees that occur in the troop:

1. Dues and Registration - Our current Dues and Registration fees are \$144.00 per year per Scout consisting of:
 - Membership fee set by the national Boy Scouts of America (\$24 per year) and
 - \$10 per month fee for dues (\$120 per year)
2. Scout Outing Fees

Scouts will need to pay for food, transportation, and camp fees prior to organized outings. Cost for camping trips is \$10 and is payable 2 weeks prior to campout. (Longer trips requiring more than 3 meals cost \$20). Unused food costs will be deposited into each individual's scout account.

3. Summer Camp Fees

Troop 51 tries to plan at least 1 summer camp for Scouts each summer. Fees are set by the local area councils of the BSA. All new scouts attend Ranger Program. "Camperships" may be used to defray cost. These are contingent on the participation of Troop 51, district and council fundraising efforts.

Fundraising

The troop organizes various fundraising activities so that every Scout has the opportunity to participate in all of the activities Troop 51 is engaged in. We currently participate in Popcorn sales, Camp Cards, Wreaths Across America, Snack Sticks, Shop with Scripts, and volunteer service within our community as fundraising activities to help offset the costs.



Things to know:

- If you have a question, ask your scout first. They are learning responsibility!
- Class A uniform is required at weekly meetings. If scout is not able to wear the uniform (coming directly from sport, etc.) then they must bring it on a hanger.
- Only 4-man tent or smaller allowed on camping trips.
- If you do not want your child's picture added to the Troop Website, contact the webmaster: webmaster@troop51bsa.com

Campouts and Outings

Troop 51 does their summer camp at Bear Creek each year. There are several different types of camping that Troop 51 does.

Hard Site Camping

- Our most basic camping trip
- Scouts get to work on specific themes or skills

Soft Site Camping

- An introduction to backpacking
- Generally designed so that every Scout can participate

Summer Camps

- A week long camping experience
- Scouts work on Merit Badges
- Develop new skills
- Must be a Scout or Registered Leader to attend (and approved by the Scoutmaster)

High Adventure Camping

- Camping for older Scouts, 14+ year's old and 1st class
- Involves Hiking, Rafting, Climbing, Canoeing, or other higher risk camping

Leadership Training Camps

- National Youth Leadership Training
- See www.alamoareabsa.org

National Boy Scout Camps

The BSA has multiple national programs that we try to utilize as part of our older Scouts' High Adventure Program, 4 most common are:

- Philmont
- North Tier
- Sea Base
- The Summit Bechtel Reserve



Camping Policy

In order to maximize the outing experience, a few basic guidelines have been developed. These guidelines are intended to contribute towards a safe outing where leaders and Scouts can spend as much time as possible on advancement activities. If there are any items in these guidelines that now or in the future conflict with any BSA policy then the BSA policy will apply. To attend a campout, a Scout will need the following:

Permission Slip

- Each activity will require a permission slip to be signed by the Scout and Scout's parent or legal guardian. Permission slips should include home and work numbers, as well as other contact numbers or individuals for the entire duration of the outing. The forms must be received two Wednesdays before the campout. Forms can be found on the BSA website www.scouting.org (under Boy Scouts of America/Scouting Safely/Forms) and Troop 51 website.

Scout Outing Fee

- Fees - \$10 for food per scout/adult collected 2 Wednesdays prior to campout (longer campouts \$20) Additional money carried by each scout is suggested.

For all activities there are no refunds for money spent on your behalf. For example if you sign up for USS Texas, USS Lexington and NASA but can no longer attend, you will not be refunded the money. Additionally, if you sign up for a campout, you are responsible for those payments if you decide not to attend.

Medical Form

1. Your scout's health and well-being are important to us in Troop 51. Scout and adult leader health forms as well as our first aid kit accompany us on every camping trip and outing. BSA requires all registered members to submit a yearly Part A and B health form that contains important information about your son's health, allergies, medications, or additional needs/concerns that may arise when you are not present. Part C is the medical exam clearance needed for any outing lasting over 72 hours. This page is completed by an MD, NP, or PA after a physical exam. We will alert scouts when their health forms have expired, as it will be needed before their next campout or organized activity. You may find the forms on www.scouting.org or our troop's website. You may complete the forms online, save, and then print a copy for the troop records.
2. For prescription medications: please put the exact number of pills required for the trip in its original bottle with the name, medication, and dose on the bottle. Place it in a Ziploc bag along with a medication form (on troop website) that states dose, time, how the medication is to be administered as well as reason for the medication.



3. Please share any special concerns the troop may need to be aware of that could impact your son on a campout. Please provide a copy of your current insurance or indicate “no current insurance” if applicable. NOTE: Health forms are confidential.

Preparation for Campouts

Preparations for Campouts are conducted in Patrol Meeting at Troop Meetings. Important decisions such as menu choices, special equipment and other considerations are discussed at the meetings that may impact the safety and comfort of Scouts on a campout. It is critical for Scouts to attend the two meetings immediately prior to a campout. Three Wednesdays prior to the event soft counts and initial menus are due. Two Wednesdays before, the final count, menus and money are due.

Food

Each patrol plans the meals they will cook and arranges to buy their food the week before the trip. Funds are given directly to the cook who maintains accountability of funds and roster and keeps PL informed.

Gear

All Scouts should be prepared for each outing in accordance with the gear recommendations in the Scout Handbook and any special recommendations of the specific outing. Scouts need only a few basics.

- Here are some recommendations:
 - ✓ Good Quality Hiking Boots
 - ✓ 2 – 3 pair heavy or wool socks
 - ✓ Polyester sleeping bag 15° F or below (The troop has a limited number of loaners.)
 - ✓ Sleeping Pad
 - ✓ Cot (Not needed on weekend campouts, but may be needed for longer summer camps.)
 - ✓ Hat and gloves (summer hat and work gloves or winter hat and warm gloves)
 - ✓ Headlamp or flashlight
 - ✓ Mess Kit – you don’t have to buy a mess kit set (plate, cup, fork, spoon and knife)
 - ✓ Water bottle and cup
 - ✓ Toiletry kit (small w/ travel size toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, & small essentials)
- Examples of commonly forgotten items include mess kit, water bottle or drinking cup, sunscreen and hiking boots.

Adult/Parent Camping

Parents and adult family members can camp or participate in troop overnight activities can as long as they are BSA registered adults with required position training. Preferably, these adults are registered in Troop 51. If the adult is not registered in Troop 51, the SM, CC, and volunteer in-charge-of the activity must agree to allow the adult to participate in the activity. For long term camping such as Summer Camp or High Adventure Camp, the adult must also participate in at least two weekend camping events prior to the long term camp to gain understanding and



familiarity with Troop procedures, camping policies, safety protocols, complete additional training if helpful, and cooperation in supporting both youth and adult troop members.

Drivers

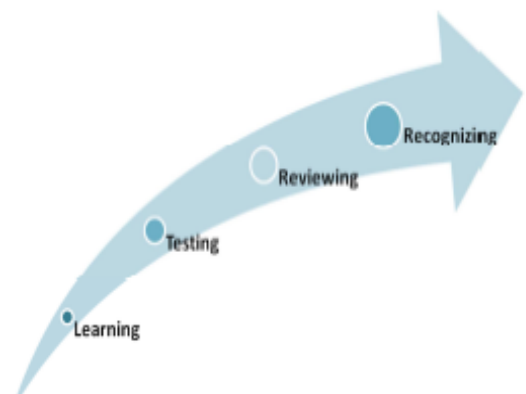
- All Drivers carrying youth must be 21 or older and hold a valid Driver's License and have current automobile insurance.
- Drivers between the ages of 18 and 20 may drive to a campout but cannot carry any youth.
- Current Insurance information needs to be on file with the Troop Membership Chair before driving scouts on campouts and outings. If you have more than 1 vehicle, you must let troop know which one you will be using.
- National BSA Policy as found in the transportation guidelines: Drivers must refrain from using hand-held cell phones while driving. Text messaging while driving is prohibited. Hands-free units are acceptable, but must be used sparingly while they are transporting Scouts.
- Troop 51 will also use radios to communicate during travel to and from events.

Advancement

Advancement is the process by which youth member's progress through the ranks in the Scouting program by the gradual mastery of Scouting skills. Ranks are simply a means to an end, not an end in themselves. Everything boys do to advance and earn these ranks, from the day they join until the day they leave the program, should be designed to help boys have an exciting and meaningful experience. Unlike Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts do not advance as a Patrol, but at their own pace. We will work with each boy and help him along the Trail to Eagle, but he has to drive his own progress. Each boy is different, but ideally, boys should complete the rank of 1st Class in the first two years and the ideal age to become an Eagle Scout is probably 15 or 16. All ranks require a Scoutmaster conference and then a Board of Review except the rank of Scout.

Scout Skills

Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class rank advancements are driven by progressive learning and then demonstration of competence for a variety of Scout skills. First Aid, Fireman's chip, Cooking, Knife and Axe, Camping, Citizenship, Map and Compass, and Water Safety are the key skills that are developed for these ranks. Boys at these rank levels often work with older Scouts to learn these skills and then demonstrate knowledge and proficiency to adult leaders. **Troop 51 tracks progress to rank advancement in each boy's Boy Scout Handbook, which is why we require Scouts to bring them to all meetings and**



campouts. Boys under the rank of First Class can work on merit badges as well, which will count toward rank advancement in the more senior ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle.

Leadership Skills

Star, Life, and Eagle ranks all require the earning of merit badges, completion of service project hours within the community, and serving in leadership positions within the Troop for a period of time. These more senior scouts are also expected to give back to younger boys in the Troop by helping them learn their scout skills, guiding them on the ways of Scouting, and mentoring. The completion of 21 merit badges, the planning and execution of an Eagle service project holding significant meaning to the community and having served in a position of Troop leadership for six months or more since earning Life rank are all required before a scout can be considered for the rank of Eagle Scout. A District/Council Level Board of Review are awaiting those who complete the prerequisites. Achieving the rank of Eagle is no small feat. Fewer than 3 percent of those who have ever been Boy Scouts have achieved that high honor.



We realize that there are many competing interests among youth activities. We do not expect any boy to be at every function. We do believe however that if a Scout actively participates as much as they can, they will continue to learn and grow within the Troop.

The Rank Advancement Process

Step 1: The Boy Scout learns

A Scout learns by doing. As he learns, he grows in ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and the troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others. In this way, he begins to develop leadership as required for the rank he is working towards.

Step 2: The Boy Scout is tested

A Scout may be tested on requirements by his Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, a Troop Committee Member or a member of his Troop. The Scoutmaster maintains a list of those qualified to test and pass candidates.

Step 3: The Boy Scout is reviewed

After a Scout has completed all requirements for a rank, he has a Board of Review (BOR). For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life, the review is conducted by members of the Troop Committee. Usually the board meets during the regular troop meetings on the week following SM conferences. The board does not retest the scout's knowledge of scout skills. Instead the Board holds an open discussion with the Scout regarding the Scout's performance as a leader; the Scout's understanding of and adherence to the Scout Law; the Scout's



experiences camping, merit badge work, and community services work; etc. The Board decides if the Scout merits advancing in rank.

Things to know:

Full uniform (Class A Special) is mandatory at SM conferences, Boards of Reviews (BOR), Court of Honors (COH) or any function deemed appropriate by the Scoutmaster.

Step 4: The Boy Scout is recognized

When the Board of Review has certified a boy's advancement, we recognize him as soon as possible. His rank paperwork will be presented to him at the next Troop Court of Honor.

Merit Badges

Merit badges are awards earned by youth members of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), based on activities within an area of study by completing a list of periodically updated requirements. The purpose of the merit badge program is to allow Scouts to examine subjects to determine if they would like to further pursue them as a career or vocation. In addition, it gives the Scout a chance to hone communication skills through interaction with adults. The program introduces Scouts to the life skills of contacting an adult they haven't met before, arranging a meeting and then demonstrating their skills, similar to a job or college interview. Each merit badge has a pamphlet published by the Boy Scouts of America associated with it; the pamphlet contains information on completing the requirements for the badge. There are designated merit badge counselors for each badge, and a Scout meets with a counselor to demonstrate that he's completed the requirements. The counselor would then 'sign off' on the requirement.



The Merit Badge Process

A Scout may not work on a Merit Badge until he has a signed Blue Card from the Scoutmaster. If he begins work on a Merit Badge without a Blue Card he may have to restart the Merit Badge once his Blue Card is signed.

Step 1: Scout selects merit badge they want to work on

The Scout obtains a "Blue Card" (Application for Merit Badge three-part card). These are available from the Advancement Coordinator, ASM, or SM. The (double sided) blue card has three sections:

- Applicants Record
- Counselor's Record
- Troop's Record

The Scout enters his information on the blue card as shown below.



Step 2: Scoutmaster approves suggests a Counselor

Scout gives the blue card to the SM. The SM provides a MB Counselor, signs the Troop Record portion, & gives the complete blue card back to the scout.

Step 3: Scout works with Counselor

- The Scout meets with the MB counselor to discuss requirements, arrange meetings & activities, etc.
- The Scout demonstrates to the MB counselor that he has completed one or more of the requirements.
- The Scout has MB counselor initial and date the requirement(s) on the blue card.
- When all requirements are complete, the Scout has the MB counselor sign and enter the date of completion on all 3 sections of the blue card.
- MB Counselor returns Troop and Applicants copies to Scout.

Step 4: Scoutmaster (SM) notified

The Scout takes blue card to the SM who signs the applicant copy and makes the Troop copy.

- The SM Signs the Applicants Record and returns it to the Scout. The Scout should save his copy of the blue card in a safe place.
- The SM provides the Troop copy to the Advancement Coordinator to input in TroopMaster

Step 5: Advancement Coordinator is notified and submits paperwork

The Advancement Coordinator enters the MB in the Advancement Report and submits it to the Council office. The Council office records the MB earned in the council records.

Step 6: Scout awarded Merit Badge

Scout receives his MB patch at the next Court of Honor

Things to know:

- The Scout should keep his new Rank, Merit Badge, Blue Cards, and special recognitions cards and certificates in a safe place.
- Your Scout must have his Scout Handbook with him at meetings and activities so that he can get rank advancement requirements signed off and completed.



Court of Honor

Our Troop holds Courts of Honor at least 3 times per year to recognize Scouts who have completed a rank advancement, earned merit badges, or received special awards. Family members and friends are invited and highly encouraged to attend these special events. We hold our Courts of Honor typically in August, December, and May/June. Refer to the Troop Calendar for dates of COH.

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

Scouts earning the rank of Eagle have their own special Court of Honor where they are recognized individually for their achievement of Scouting's highest rank. Family members and friends from around the country attend and guests from the community are often in the audience. Scouts are expected to attend these very special events. An Eagle Scout Court Honor occurs after a Scout has successfully completed at least 21 merit Badges and all Eagle requirements. While the format may differ, an Eagle Scout Court of Honor is a serious undertaking and is a lot of work.

Parental Participation

The leadership of Troop 51 heartily encourages our parents to participate with the Troop. We find that the more parents involved in support of our events the better. Your Scout will also appreciate scouting more when you participate. Our organization is a volunteer organization and there are many opportunities for you to get involved. We are always in need of parents to drive for our outings, participate in planning of events, join the committee, be a merit badge counselor, and other general support activities. Please feel free to contact any of the adult leaders with questions or to let us know your areas of interest.

Parents Role

The role of parents within Troop 51 (regardless of registration status) is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

- 1) Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting.
- 2) Encouraged to complete the "This is Scouting" online course at www.scouting.org for an overview of the Scouting organization, including history, values, programs, Youth Protection, community involvement, and training.
- 3) Encouraged to complete BSA Youth Protection Training online at www.scouting.org.
- 4) Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
- 5) Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.



- 6) Assist, as requested, in all Troop fund-raisers and other such activities. All such assistance lowers the cost of the program we offer to the Scouts and, therefore, lowers each family's cash outlay for their Scout(s).
- 7) Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar.

Code of Conduct

Troop 51 parents are foundational to our programs success. It is our goal and central to who we are as a Troop that parents who want to help can and do. Each is expected to role model the mission and values of the Scouting Program at all times in working with both youth and adult volunteers.

Youth Protection Program Summary

Child abuse is a major problem affecting our society. Each year millions of cases of suspected child abuse are reported. Youth safety is of paramount importance to Scouting. For that reason, the BSA continues to create barriers to abuse beyond what have previously existed in Scouting. The Boy Scouts of America places the greatest importance on providing the most secure environment possible for our youth members. To maintain such an environment, the BSA has developed numerous procedural and leadership selection policies, and provides parents and leaders with numerous online and print resources for the Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venturing programs. Because of the significance of this social problem, any form of hazing, fighting, or other forms of child abuse will not be tolerated and may lead to immediate dismissal from the troop.

BSA 5 Point Plan

The BSA has developed a five-point plan to combat child abuse and to improve the environment in which young people live. The key elements of this strategy include the following points:

- 1) Educating Scouting volunteers, parents and Scouts themselves to aid in the detection and prevention of child abuse.
- 2) Establishing leader-selection procedures to prevent individuals with a history of child abuse from entering the BSA leadership ranks.
- 3) Establishing policies that minimize the opportunities for child abuse to occur in the program of the Boy Scouts of America.
- 4) Encouraging Scouts to report improper behavior in order to identify offenders quickly.
- 5) Swiftly removing and reporting alleged offenders.

Digital Safety

The Boy Scout motto is "Be Prepared," and this includes being prepared for issues your son might face while he's online. [Cyberbullying](#), online privacy and scamming are just a few of the topics facing kids online. To ensure that all Scouts are prepared to stay safe, the Boy Scouts of America



developed the Cyber Chip program. The Cyber Chip joins the Totin' Chip and Firem'n Chit important safety tools your Scouts should earn and carry with them. Since today's youth are spending more time than ever using digital media for education, research, socializing, and fun, it is only logical that the use of digital media in and around the Scouting program can enhance learning and add to the overall enjoyment and safety of troop activities. To help families and scouting volunteers keep scouts safe while online, the Boy Scouts of America introduced the Cyber Chip. To earn the Cyber Chip, several topics are addressed such as include cyberbullying, cell phone use, texting, blogging, gaming, and identity theft. The Cyber Chip will be used in the troop as a tool to show skill and a commitment to do what's right in the cyber world. We will require Scouts to earn the Cyber Chip before allowing any electronic use on outings. This is a decision much like the Totin' Chip is used today before Scouts can use a knife and other cutting tools in Scouts. There is one difference. Totin' Chip is earned once while the Cyber Chip must be earned (recharged) annually. This annual recharge will bring new information, news, and a place for the Scout to recommit to net safety and netiquette.

The policy is that all Scouts in the troop who want to use their cell phone and other digital devices during troop activities will earn the Cyber Chip and keep it current. Scouts will not be allowed to use their digital devices during any troop activities. If they do, the Scouts parent(s) will be called to come pick their scout up at once. If a Scout, Scouter, or parent does not follow the Scout Law regarding Cyber Safety/Cyberbullying, they may lose the privilege/access to the digital media they abused for a period of time. If the offence is repeated, consequences set forth in the Troop 51 Code of Conduct will be implemented. This policy will be phased in to allow families, Scouts, and Scouters to become familiar with and complete the training along with the troop implementing required record keeping.

Parents' Guide

The Boy Scouts of America has developed materials for use in the Scouting program that provide essential information to members and their families. A detachable booklet in the front of The Boy Scout Handbook, "How to Protect Your Child from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse: A Parent's Guide," provides information to help families to increase self-protection skills.

Things to know:

Every registered adult, as well as every parent who wishes to attend troop outings, is required to complete Youth Protection Training.

Additional Safety Policies

The BSA has adopted the following policies to provide additional security for our members and we take them very seriously in Troop 51. These policies are primarily for the protection of our youth members; however, they also serve to protect our adult leaders from false accusations of abuse.



- **Two-deep leadership**
Two registered adult leaders or one registered leader and a parent of a participant, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required on all trips and outings. The chartered organization is responsible for ensuring that sufficient leadership is provided for all activities.
- **No one-on-one contact**
One-on-one contact between adults and youth members is not permitted. In certain situations such as Scoutmaster Conferences, he will be in view of other adults and youths.
- **Proper preparation for high-adventure activities**
Activities with elements of risk should never be undertaken without proper preparation, equipment, clothing, supervision, and safety measures.
- **Respect of privacy**
Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp, and intrude only to the extent that health and safety require. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations.
- **Separate accommodations**
When camping, no youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than his own parent or guardian. Councils are strongly encouraged to have separate shower and latrine facilities for females. When separate facilities are not available, separate times for male and female use should be scheduled and posted for showers.
- **No secret organizations**
The Boy Scouts of America does not recognize any secret organizations as part of its program. All aspects of the Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders.
- **Appropriate attire**
Proper clothing for activities is required. For example, skinny-dipping is not appropriate as part of Scouting.
- **Constructive discipline**
Discipline used in Scouting should be constructive and reflect Scouting's values. Corporal punishment is never permitted.

Troop 51 Youth Safety Training

- All Scouts and parents/guardians are required to participate in annual youth protection training. Odd years we watch "A Time to Tell" video and even years we present BSA/Texas Youth Protection Training.
- New Scouts and parents are required to watch "A Time to Tell" prior to their first campout.
- Scouts 14 and older and parents are required to watch "Venture Youth Protection".
- This mandatory training is required by the Chartering Organization to be a member of Troop 51.



Troop Committee

The Troop Committee functions as an administration and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of the non-program issues surrounding the Troop. For example: newsletters, Troop Funds, fund raising activities, activity permits and coordination, advancement records, procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment. The Committee meets monthly, third Tuesday of every month. The meetings are open and attendance is encouraged by all parents and other interested adults.

Committee Organization

(Visit the Troop Website for current Committee Members)

- Scout Master
- Assistant Scout Master
- Committee Chair
- Committee Member
- Merit Badge Counselor
- Scouting Reserve
- College Scouter Reserve

Adult Leader Training

All registered adult positions require completion of Youth Protection Training and position specific training before the application for registration is submitted for Council approval.

Vetting Volunteers

All adult volunteers will go through a vetting process performed by the troop committee members and Scout Master. This vetting process is conducted for a few months to determine:

- Whether the new volunteer compatible with existing members,
- Whether the new volunteer wants to work with current members, and
- If the new volunteer appears to understand, learn, and comply with troop procedures.

ASM Specific Vetting

Additionally, for volunteers who want to be an ASM, there is additional vetting by the SM to determine compatibility, willingness to support the SM and program, and determine the ASM's commitment to the safety of all the Scouts in the troop.

SM / ASM Training

The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM's) work directly with the Scouts. SM and ASM(s) must complete additional Troop required training before applying for or assuming the



position of SM and ASM(s). This additional training will ensure the success and safety of Troop programs and will be completed before assuming the position. Keeping the training current and refreshed is the key to success; therefore, all courses will be kept current. Additional training includes Safe Swim, Safety Afloat, Trek Safely, Hazardous Weather, Venture Youth Protection, and Leave No Trace)

Troop 51 Code of Conduct

To support our core objectives, we have a set of rules that we expect every member to practice. While it is up to both the youth and adult leadership of our troop to enforce these rules, it is also incumbent on every parent of a boy in Troop 51 to support the rules and reinforce with their son. By following the rules, we promote a spirit of cohesiveness and create a safe and supportive environment in which the boys can learn, grow, and have fun.

The Basics:

1. We support and follow the Youth Protection Guidelines of the BSA. All adults involved with troop activities, events and functions with your child are required to complete the online BSA Youth Protection Training found at www.scouting.org once every two years. Copies of completed certification will be turned in and recorded by the Troop.
2. No fighting, hazing, or bullying. We do not tolerate these behaviors. Youth and adult leaders are always available to mediate differences. Scouts engaging in these disruptive behaviors may be suspended from future activities and possible separation from the Troop as determined by the Scoutmaster.
3. No cursing or using foul language, hand signals, or any other form of inappropriate communication.
4. No smoking, drinking of alcohol, or taking illegal or illicit substances by youth and adults alike at or near any troop event.
5. We encourage parents to work with their Scouts on practicing and reinforcing behaviors in line with Scouting principles as set forth in the Scout Oath & Scout Law.
6. Safety during troop functions including but not limited to meetings, camping experiences, and service projects is of utmost priority. Scouts are expected to follow directions. Scouts who are unwilling to follow directions may face disciplinary actions ranging from suspension to possible separation from the Troop as determined by the Scoutmaster.
7. Our sponsoring entity for Troop 51 is the Schertz United Methodist Church. We have enjoyed a long excellent relationship with our sponsoring entity. All youths and adults are expected to practice respectful behaviors while on church property.
8. We encourage communication regarding any challenges a youth member may be facing that may contribute to behavioral or attitude issues within the Troop. Our leadership is dedicated to supporting scouts and positive development especially when a scout is faced with stressful life challenges.



9. Troop 51 follows BSA standards regarding 2 deep Scouting Trained leadership. At least 2 adult leaders must be present during any discussions with a Scout including counseling sessions, and Boards of Review. SM conferences are conducted within sight of other scouts/adults.
10. Adult participation is highly encouraged. There are many opportunities for adults to support their children in Troop 51 such as committee membership, merit badge counseling, drivers on camping trips, organizers for Scouting activities, etc. The Alamo Area Council offers many training opportunities for adult participants.
11. Transportation for Scouting activities is strictly controlled for safety purposes. All drivers must be a licensed driver over the age of 21, be registered with BSA and must carry at least the minimum insurance coverage required by the state in which the vehicle is licensed. Parents in Troop 51 who wish to transport their children to Scouting activities must provide driver information to the Membership Committee Chairman prior to the activity. All laws must be followed in strict accordance. No cell phones may be used by a driver while operating a vehicle during Scouting activities.

Consequences for Disruptive Behavior, Language, and Disrespect- Youth

1. All members of the Boy Scouts of America are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Physical violence, hazing, bullying, theft, verbal insults, and drugs and alcohol have no place in the Scouting program and may result in the revocation of a Scout's membership in the unit.
2. Adult leaders of Scouting units are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and interceding when necessary. Parents of youth members who misbehave should be informed and asked for assistance.
3. This type of behavior will not be tolerated within Troop 51 at any level, however, each individual event will be looked at to determine the root cause and appropriate actions will be taken. The following actions are guidelines for Adult Leadership to follow in dealing with Inappropriate Actions of a Youth Member:
 - Each incident should be handled at the Patrol Level with the Youth Leadership and ASM. The Scout will be instructed to inform his parent(s) of all infractions and conversations prior to the next Troop meeting. The ASM will inform the SM of the violation(s) and provide a written outline of the details of the issue before leaving the meeting. If the parent(s) do not contact the ASM by the following meeting, the ASM will contact the parent(s) and ask the SM for assistance.
 - Continued violations will be elevated to the SM. The SM will counsel the youth and direct him to inform his parents of the discussion prior to the next Troop meeting. Failure to do so will result in the SM pulling the Scout from the meeting and contacting the parent(s) for a conference and assistance.
 - Any further violations, the SM will address the Troop Committee with suggested corrective action, which could include suspension from the Troop.
 - Once all remedial criteria are met, the Scout may return to full Troop activities.



****NOTE:** Issues involving Youth Protection Training will be brought to the Troop Leadership immediately upon discovery. Appropriate action will be taken IAW Boy Scouts of America Youth Protection Training Policies.

Consequences for Disruptive Behavior, Language and Disrespect - Adult

1. All members of the Boy Scouts of America are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Physical violence, hazing, bullying, theft, verbal insults, and drugs and alcohol have no place in the Scouting program and may result in the revocation of an Adult's membership in the unit.
2. All leaders of Scouting units are responsible for monitoring the behavior of members and interceding when necessary.
3. This type of behavior will not be tolerated with Troop 51 at any level, however, each individual event will be looked at to determine the root cause and appropriate actions will be taken. The following actions are guidelines for Troop Leadership to follow in dealing with Inappropriate Actions of an Adult Member:
 - For each incident, the Adult will meet with the Scout Master (SM) or the Committee Chair (CC). The incident will be discussed and the inappropriate behavior identified. The adult will be asked to correct the behavior. The SM or CC will take note of the incident and closely monitor the situation.
 - If there are additional incidents, the Adult will be brought to both the SM and CC. The inappropriate behavior will be addressed and a plan to address the inappropriate action will be outlined. If the Adult cannot or does not accept the change of behavior, then the matter will be raised to the Charter Organization Representative.
 - If there are further incidents, the Adult will be required to follow the written plan established in to correct the inappropriate actions. Additional administrative actions can include:
 - Suspended from all Troop Activities for 30 days
 - Not allowed to participate in a camp out
 - Not allowed to hold a leadership position within the Troop or have their current leadership position suspended.
 - The Adult could be required to apologize to the Troop Adults and Leadership depending upon the circumstances.
 - Once all criteria are met, the Adult may return to full Troop Activities.

****NOTE:** Issues involving Youth Protection Training will be brought to the Troop Leadership immediately upon discovery. Appropriate action will be taken IAW Boy Scouts of America Youth Protection Training Policies.

