



New Scouts

WELCOME! This document is intended to provide a ‘cheat sheet’ of documents, activities, expectations and FAQs for the new Scouts coming into Troop 90. The activities are provided in rough order of importance (start attending weekly meetings, get the paperwork done, buy the uniform and handbook, going on first campout then summer camp) but nothing prevents these from all occurring in whatever order. Although to attend a campout, there are documents (application, health form) that must be completed due to liability and safety issues. Please don’t let this list intimidate you or your Scout. These are just helpful hints/recommendations and any questions/ concerns can always be addressed during the weekly meetings. Please note that all of this info is available on the Troop 90 Website (<http://www.troop90sa.net/>) under the Resources and then Forms section (<http://www.troop90sa.net/index.php?page=forms>).

1. Weekly Meetings

- a. **Logistics – Meetings occur every Tuesday from 7:15– 8:30pm at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church** 14700 San Pedro Ave, San Antonio, TX, 78232 ([click here for Map](#)), in the Gym. On occasion, the meetings will occur at the Scout Hut, which is in the South East corner of the Church Parking lot. When the meetings are in the church gym, there will be sign in sheets (by patrol) and tables organized with a flag denoting each patrol. The meetings usually begin and/or end with a game of dodgeball or basketball to keep them fun.
- b. **Attire - During the School year the attire is Class A, During the Summer is Class B**
 - i. **Class A:** Tan BSA Shirt (Recommendation: short sleeve with vent in back), Green BSA Pants or Shorts (Recommendation: pants with zip off legs), Green BSA web belt (or other BSA belt), BSA Socks. Troop 90 will provide Neckerchief, shoulder loops, Patrol Patch, Scout Rank Patch. Eventually the scout will also need a Merit Badge Sash.
 - ii. **Class B:** Troop 90 or other Boy Scout related T-shirt and BSA shorts/pants. If we have the Troop 90 t-shirts in stock we will be ordering more this Spring.
- c. **Materials:**
 - i. **Handbook** -Scout will need an Official Boys Scout Handbook (Recommendation: spiral bound with the green cover and zippered compartment to store pens). **Until the Scout reaches First Class, they should expect to bring their BSA Handbook to every meeting.**
- d. **Purpose** – During the weekly meeting there are a variety of different things that will be accomplished, including (but not limited to): work on rank advancement requirements, have

scoutmaster conferences, plan and prepare for upcoming campouts (activities, menus, patrol assignments, gear preparation), work on merit badge requirements, guest speakers.

- e. Attendance – the Troop recognizes that scouts won't be able to attend every meeting but there are a few key meetings to keep in mind. **Boards of review for rank advancement usually occurs once a month** on the 3rd Tuesday (refer to Troop 90 calendar on website). Note that a Scout must first have a Scout Master Conference and then request the Board of Review. **If planning to attend the monthly campout, it's important to attend the Tuesday meeting before** so that permission slips, money, food menu input, etc. can be taken care of.

2. **The Paperwork and Required Adult Training:**

- a. Application forms (provided at weekly meeting):
 - i. BSA Youth Application Form
 - ii. Adult Volunteer Application Form: Note that we ask for one adult volunteer per family, and you will have to declare a position (2 choices only):
 - 1. Assistant Scout Master (ASM) –The ASM works with the Scoutmaster and the Senior Patrol Leader to provide leadership direction to the boy leaders within the individual patrols and the troop as a whole. The ASM is a mentor and coach to the boy leaders and instructors.
 - 2. Committee Member - Coordinate the troop's program, provide administrative support and help with troop charter renewal. Supervise finances and equipment. Ensure that all Scouts receive a year-round, quality program.
- b. BSA Health Form : http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf
 - i. Part A & B required for Campouts less than 72 hours.
 - ii. Part A, B & C (which includes a physical) required for Summer Camp & High Adventure.
- c. Adult Required Training:

- i. **Youth Protection Online Training (Youth Protection training is required for all BSA registered volunteers):**

You need not be a registered member or have a member ID to take Youth Protection Training. To take YPT: <https://myscouting.scouting.org/Pages/Home.aspx>

- 1. From the menu on the left, click E-Learning.
- 2. From the General tab, scroll down to Youth Protection Training and click Take Course.
- 3. When you complete the course, print a certificate of completion and you can either submit with your volunteer application (see 1. a. ii.) or you can provide a copy of the training completion to the Troop 90 Committee Chair for processing at the local council.

When your volunteer application is approved, you will receive a BSA membership card, which includes your member ID number. **You must enter this member ID into your MyScouting profile, so that your local council has a record of the training you have taken online.** To do this, log into MyScouting, click My Profile, and enter your member ID number. This links your Youth Protection training, and any other MyScouting training, to your BSA membership.

- ii. **Youth Protection In Person Training** (This is required for any Adult going to campouts more than 72 hours – Summer Camp or High Adventure). This is being scheduled for April, *check Troop 90 calendar for latest dates at* <http://www.troop90sa.net>

3. **Events** - Check Troop 90 calendar for latest dates at <http://www.troop90sa.net>
- a. Monthly:
 - i. Scout Master Meeting - For Adult Assistant Scout Masters (ASMs) this is a meeting where campout, training, summer camps are discussed. Usually 1st Monday of the month.
 - ii. Boards of Review - these usually occur on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Its where the Committee interviews Scouts for rank advancement. Scouts will need to wear full Class A uniform including Neckerchief and Merit Badge Sash for the review.
 - iii. Committee Member Meeting - For Adult Committee Member volunteers this is a meeting where the troop budgets, fundraising, finances, membership are discussed
 - iv. Campouts – Campouts are Monthly except for the month in which Summer Camp occurs (June this year).
 - b. Court of Honor – March 31st. Ceremony for Merit Badges, Awards, etc. Occurs Quarterly.
 - c. BBQ Troop Fundraiser – April 11th. Annual Fund Raising Event for the Troop.
 - d. Outdoor Leader Skills - April 17th – 18th OR Aug 21-22 classes for 2015. For Adult Volunteers interested in becoming ASMs. This is hands on training for all of the key BSA skills (safety, knots, fire starting, cooking, etc.). It's only held a few times a year so it's best to try jump on these when they are available.
 - e. Merit Badge Universities - Periodic events at the Troop and District level where a Scout can attend and work towards multiple Merit Badges. Attendance is optional, but recommended. Don't worry about buying the Merit Badge Handbooks as the Troop has quite a few copies already. A great resource for Merit Badge workbooks, Rank Requirements, etc. is <http://meritbadge.org>.
4. **Preparing for the first campout:** Check Troop 90 calendar for latest dates at <http://www.troop90sa.net> ;
 Note that the more detailed campout essentials list can be found on troop 90 website:
<http://www.troop90sa.net/uploads/images/images/EssentialCampGearPrimerforNewScoutingParents.pdf>
- a. Preparation:
 - i. Complete BSA Health Form section A & B and turn in to Committee member in charge of Health Forms. **This is only needs to be done once a year because the Troop will keep it on file.** Form can be found here: <http://www.troop90sa.net/index.php?page=forms> (parts A & B)
 - ii. Campout Sign Up form available during weekly Scout meetings
 - iii. Permission Slip: available during weekly Scout meetings
 - iv. Money for campout: Make check payable to BSA Troop 90 and give to Treasurer. Checks are better than cash or credit cards.
 - v. Medicines (supply for only days needed in original labeled containers) – see 'What to Pack' below
 - vi. Food Allergies or Accommodations: Scout needs to let their patrol grub master know of any allergies or accommodations needed. If the food allergy is severe, then its needs to be

noted on Health Form and the Campout Scout Master and Medicine Man need to be made aware.

- vii. Print out Troop 90 Camping Checklist

(<http://www.troop90sa.net/uploads/images/images/EssentialCampGearPrimerforNewScoutingParents.pdf>) and this document to make sure you have the essentials.

b. Drop Off and Pick Up

- i. Drop Off will be at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church (APLC) down by the Scout Hut usually 5:30 or 6:30pm on Friday depending on distance to campsite. Make sure to eat prior to drop off (or hit the drive thru on the way to APLC) as the Scouts won't eat until late Friday and it will be more of a snack (Cracker Barrel – cookies, cheese, chips, summer sausage, etc.) Need to make sure Permission Slip turned in and Medicines dropped off with Medicine Man.
- ii. Pick Up will be at APLC usually around 12noon on Sunday. Please make sure Scout has phone number memorized (or handy) if they need to call anyone for pickup. Scouts do need to help unpack trailers & gear. Scout may be asked to take home a tent to unroll and dry out if the tents were wet when packed up Sunday morning.

c. What to Pack (**Bold** = required), Label everything you can with Sharpie (Black or Silver for dark colors):

- i. **Medicines:** please make sure to pack medicines needed during the campout in ziplock back with Scouts name on it and drop those off with the Medicine Man on Friday. Please plan to have scouts continue to take their medicines for ADHD, allergies, etc. on the campout so that their camping experience is as pleasant as possible. **Caution: If a Scout has an inhaler or Epi-Pen, then please ensure they have one on them as well as having a back up with the Medicine Man.**
- ii. **Water Bottle** (1 L with carbineer): Nalgene brand (sold at Academy, REI, etc.) are great as they are practically indestructible. Recommendation: get the large mouth Nalgene's and then buy an insert or adapter to neck down the opening. That makes it easy to fill up with water or ice and still easy to drink. A label maker sticker is a good idea as Sharpies tend to wear off and a lightweight carbineer provides an easy way clip it to their belt or backpack.
- iii. Clothes:
 - 1. **Class A:** We wear Class A (Official uniform: Shirt, Pants, Belt, Socks, Neckerchief is optional) to the campsite and on the way home from the campsite.
 - 2. Shoes: **Comfortable walking shoes required.** Hiking boots are optional but a good idea, especially if your son is planning on going to summer camp as well. No open toe (flip flops) shoes for safety.
 - 3. Hat wear: **Baseball cap or similar for sun protection.** Stocking cap for cooler weather.
 - 4. Pack rest of clothes commensurate with expected weather. It never hurts to have extra underwear and socks. Fleece is good option for layering and sleepwear.
 - 5. Rain gear (check weather forecast): jacket with hood or poncho
- iv. **Sleeping bag** and Pillow. Make sure its at least rated down to 40 or lower for the winter campouts. Foam mats or self-inflating air mattresses are nice additions but not required.

Try to avoid thick air mattresses as it tends to induce the bouncy house syndrome in the Scouts and they lose all ability to control the urge to jump on them./

- v. **Headlamp or Ball Cap with LED lights** built in. The camp set up on Friday night is usually at dusk or in the dark so hands free lighting is needed.
 - vi. **Sunscreen and Bug Spray**
 - vii. Toiletries - **Toothbrush, toothpaste**
 - viii. **Mess kit:** Bowl, Cup, Plate, Fork, Spoon or Spork. Troop does have some of these but its good idea to get an individual one for the Scout. Recommendation: those that come in their own mesh bag and are plastic (Mesh allows them to dry in the bag after being washed and plastic doesn't conduct heat – aluminum plates/ bowl can burn your hand a little if you are holding it by the bottom of your hand and hot food gets placed in it)
 - ix. Camp chair: fold up camp chair
 - x. Day pack: a backpack for day hikes, optionally can get one with hydration bladder (e.g. camelback but beware that they require quite a bit of maintenance to keep them mold free). School backpacks are fine and large overnight backpacks aren't needed until the Scout get older and are doing high adventure.
 - xi. Spending Money (no more than \$5) for food and drinks at gas station stop on way back. If the Scouts wear their Class A and do a good job cleaning up the campsite then we usually stop on the way back at a gas station for food/drinks.
 - xii. Tips for packing: You should have the Scout pack their own gear (Adult should double check that everything is in there – Trust but Verify). By the scouts packing their gear, they know what's in there and where it's at which is usually half the battle.
- d. What not to Pack
- i. No additional food, sodas, drinks. Troop will provide all food and water needed for campout.
 - ii. No electronics (game boys, etc.) other than a cell phone and/or camera. The Cell phones are expected to be put away other than if they are taking pictures. They can also use cell phones to call when we are on the way back to Scout Hut and in case we have to alter campout schedule due to weather, etc.
 - iii. No pocket knives until the Scout has earned their Totin' Chip card.
 - iv. No lighters, fire starters, etc
 - v. Troop will provide Tents, Lanterns, Stoves, Cooking equipment.
- e. Roles and Responsibilities during Campout
- i. *Scout Master(s)*: Adult Leader(s) in charge of Campout has permission slips (contact info) and Health forms.
 - ii. *Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)*: Boy leader in charge of Campout, provides Patrol Leaders and Scouts guidance. Main interface to the Scout Master (s) and ASMs.
 - iii. *Medicine Man*: Adult in charge of storage and dispersing of medicines during campouts.
 - iv. *Grub Masters*: Boys in charge of menus, food purchase and preparation during campout. One Grub Master per patrol. Even the Adults have a patrol (the Draggins) and Grub Master.
 - v. *Patrol Leaders (PL)*: During Campouts a Senior level Boy will be in charge of each patrol which will have their own chuck box, camp site, food, cooler, etc. **This is the Scout's first**

person to go to whenever they have a question or concern. The Patrol Leader will bring issue up to SPL and ASMs as needed.

- vi. *Assistant Scout Masters (ASMs):* Adult leaders on the campout who work with the SPL, PL and Scouts to ensure safety, assist in teaching and providing guidance but only as needed. Primary leadership comes from SPL & PL.

5. Preparing for Summer Camp (June 14-20 at [Lost Pines Scout Ranch Summer Camp](#) *click for more info*).
This event is highly recommended for First Year Scouts, as it allows them to complete the vast majority of their Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class rank requirements.

a. Forms:

- i. *Health Form will need to be updated to include Part C* which includes a physical by a Doctor (See 1.b.ii at beginning of this doc). Form can be found here:
<http://www.troop90sa.net/index.php?page=forms> (parts A, B & C)
- ii. Copy of the Scouts Health Insurance Card
- iii. Special Request Form if needed - food accommodations, special needs, etc.

b. Swimming Test:

- i. Troop will conduct an official BSA swim test prior to Summer Camp which will classify Scouts into one of 3 categories:

1. Swimmer

- a. Jump feet first into water over the head, level off, and begin swimming.
- b. Swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: side, breast, trudgen, or crawl. Swim 25 yards using an easy, resting backstroke.
- c. The 100 yards must be completed without stops and must include at least one sharp turn.
- d. Rest by floating...Long enough to demonstrate ability to rest when exhausted.

2. Beginner

- a. Jump feet first into water over the head, level off, and begin swimming.
- b. Swim 25 feet on the surface.
- c. Stop, turn, and resume swimming back to the starting place.

3. Non-Swimmer

- a. Did not complete either of the swimming tests.

- c. Additional Gear (above gear required for Monthly Campouts) : *Note that the more detailed campout essentials list can be found on troop 90 website:*

<http://www.troop90sa.net/uploads/images/images/EssentialCampGearPrimerforNewScoutingParents.pdf>

- i. Backpack
- ii. Foot Locker including Lock for Foot Locker (combination or extra key will be provided to designated Adult Leader in case of loss)
- iii. Additional Water Bottle (Nalgene 1 Ls) for a total of 2 bottles

- iv. Folding Sleeping Cot
- v. Swimming Trunks, Swimming goggles (optional)
- vi. Towels, Wash Cloth, Soap, Shampoo, etc. in large zip lock bags
- vii. Sun Hat (full brim) and Sun Glasses
- viii. Hiking Boots (make sure they are already broken)
- ix. Crocs or Flip Flops for Showering
- x. Spending money (Money is provided to a designated Adult leader and Scout can withdraw money from their 'bank account' to purchase items at summer camp trading post)
- xi. Pocket Knife can be packed but not used until Scout has earned Totin' Chip which is part of the first year Scout training program.
- xii. Battery Operated Fan (optional)
- xiii. Playing Cards, Football, Frisbee, etc. (optional)

BSA Troop 90 New Scouts - FAQ's

1. Question: When can my son join Troop 90?

Answer: A boy can become a Boy Scout when he:

- a. Is 11 years old or
- b. Has completed the fifth grade; or
- c. Has earned the Arrow of Light Award as a Cub Scout and is at least 10 years old.

2. Question: When does "membership" in Troop 90 begin?

Answer: Membership in Troop 90 begins when:

- a. A completed application or transfer form is submitted to the Scoutmaster, Committee Chairperson, or the Committee's Membership Representative (currently Scott Kruse, Scoutmaster, Hugh Rote, Committee Chairperson, or Anne Shanks, Committee Membership Representative); and
- b. All fees are paid (including registration fee and troop dues).
- c. Although highly recommended, a subscription to Boy's Life is optional.

If the Scout has a sibling who already receives Boy's Life, the new Scout need not subscribe. Our goal is for each Scout family to receive one issue.

Note: A current (within 12 months) Health and Medical Record, parts A & B, must be submitted with the application. Before any strenuous activities or long-term camps (exceeding 72 hours), a completed Part C

(Physical) must be submitted. Maintaining currency for medical records is the responsibility of the Scout or Scouter (adult leaders).

3. Question: If my son is crossing over from a Cub Scout Pack, what will he receive from Troop 90 at the Crossover Ceremony?

Answer: Representatives from Troop 90 will present him with a troop scarf, green loops, a troop number patch, and a patrol patch. Parents will receive a New Scout Packet containing a troop welcome letter, Scout and Adult Application Forms, and a New Scout Checklist. He will also receive a troop t-shirt at a later date.

4. Question: What does it mean to "transfer" into Troop 90?

Answer: In order to "transfer" into Troop 90, a Scout must have re-chartered for 2015 with his Cub Scout Pack. This includes paying the BSA Scout registration fee for 2015 as well as paying for Boy's Life. If your Scout re-chartered with his Cub Scout Pack for 2015, there is no fee to transfer to Troop 90. If you did not pay the 2015 registration fees to your son's Cub Scout Pack, your son will join Troop 90 as a completely new Scout. The registration fee is \$24 annually, prorated by month. The Boy's Life fee is \$12 annually, prorated by month. The same applies to Committee Members and Assistant Scout Masters (ASMs). If you re-chartered in 2015 with the Cub Scout Pack, transfer is free. If not, you join Troop 90 as a completely new Committee Member or ASM. The BSA Registration Fee for Committee Members and/or ASMs is \$24, prorated monthly.

5. Question: Are parents or guardians required to join Troop 90?

Answer: Troop 90 expects for one parent or guardian per family to join either the Troop Committee or become an Assistant Scout Master (ASM). The more the merrier --we have many families who have both parents serving either as Committee Members or ASMs. We do expect regular participation from at least one parent or guardian.

6. Question: What are the troop dues? When do they have to be paid?

Answer: Troop dues are \$55 per Scout annually. Troop dues are not prorated at joining. Payment is due when the Scout joins Troop 90 and again annually during recharter.

7. Question: Who will provide my Scout's Boy Scout Handbook?

Answer: It is the Scout's responsibility to acquire from the Scout Shop. The boys should bring the handbook with them for every Scouting event until they earn First Class. We recommend the green spiral case with zipper for pens.

8. Question: Who will provide my Scout's uniform items?

Answer: The Scout is responsible for acquiring the BSA uniform items (shirt, pants/shorts, socks, belt) from the Scout Shop. Troop 90 has a limited amount of used BSA uniform items that you may sort through to look for items that fit your son.

9. Question: Is financial assistance available to cover the cost of Scouting and troop activities?

Answer: Troop 90's philosophy is that financial hardship should never be a reason for a boy not to be a Scout or participate in troop activities. See the Committee Chairperson if you have concerns.

10. Question: When can my son begin participating in Troop 90's activities?

Answer: Any Scout who is a member of Troop 90 (as defined in the answer to question 2 above) may participate in troop activities. If your son is a Cub Scout, he may start attending Troop 90 meetings prior to Crossover. You and your Scout may camp with Troop 90 prior to Crossover, if the parent has attended Youth Protection Training. In this situation, you will share a tent with your Scout and be directly responsible for him. You will also need to bring a copy of your current Scout's Physical.

11 Question: Should my son attend Boy Scout Camp this summer?

Answer: Yes, absolutely! Scouts who attend summer camp in their first year have a huge advantage towards making rank advancements and continuing in Scouting to reach First Class Rank.

12. Question: How and when do I register my son for Boy Scout Camp this summer?

Answer: _____ is handling Summer Camp Registration for Troop 90 this year. Register your Scout for Summer Camp as soon as he becomes a member of Troop 90.

13. Question: Who from Troop 90 will accept my son's Physical documents?

Answer: Our Troop medical representative is _____. He will accept all medical documents. If he is not available, please give them to Anne Shanks, the Membership Representative or Hugh Rote, the Committee Chairperson.

14. Question: Does the troop provide an orientation program for new parents?

Answer: Yes, the troop provides at least one New Parent Orientation Meeting per year. This year we are planning one for mid-April, exact date TBD. Please plan to attend this meeting. It is very helpful and will answer many of your questions regarding troop activities, advancement, Summer Camp, etc.

15. Question: How does my son register for a Troop Camping Activity? When is payment due?

Answer: Sign-up sheets for campouts are posted at Troop Meetings. You or your member son may sign himself up initially. The Scout's parent or guardian must then complete and sign a registration/release form for the campout, which must be submitted to the ASM in charge of the camp out. The registration/release form and payment for the campout are due at the Troop Meeting immediately preceding the camp out.

16. Question: How will my son know what to pack for camping activities?

Answer: Troop 90 has packing list for regularly scheduled camping activities as well as Summer Camp. Please see Section 4 and 5 above as well the more detailed info on the Troop Website:

<http://www.troop90sa.net/uploads/images/images/EssentialCampGearPrimerforNewScoutingParents.pdf>

17. Question: Does Troop 90 offer fundraising activities to defer the cost of Scout activities?

Answer: Yes, Troop 90 conducts an annual dinner and silent auction fundraiser each spring. This year's Barbeque Dinner and Silent Auction is scheduled for Saturday, April 11. Parent and Scout participation are required. This event raises funds for various aspects of the Scouting program, including maintaining and/or replacing camping gear. It also allows each Scout the opportunity to "bank" a portion of his ticket sales proceeds into his Individual Scout account. Troop 90 may also offer several other fundraising activities through out the year, including but not limited to Boy Scout Popcorn sales, pancake breakfasts, etc.

18. Question: What is an Individual Scout Account?

Answer: Although all money earned under the BSA Troop 90 name belongs to Troop 90, Scouts may contribute or raise money that is reserved in an Individual Scout Account. All money reserved in an Individual Scout Account MUST be used for BSA activities. Money reserved in Individual Scout Accounts may be used for dues, registration fees, camping activities, purchases made through the troop (i.e., troop t-shirt, neckerchiefs, etc.), deposits/payments for summer camp, troop high adventure activities, or any other Troop 90 activity deemed appropriate by the Troop Committee.

19. Question: Is there a document that outlines Troop 90's policies and procedures?

Answer: Troop 90 has a Troop Guidelines document that is currently under revision. Many of the FAQ answers are taken directly from that document