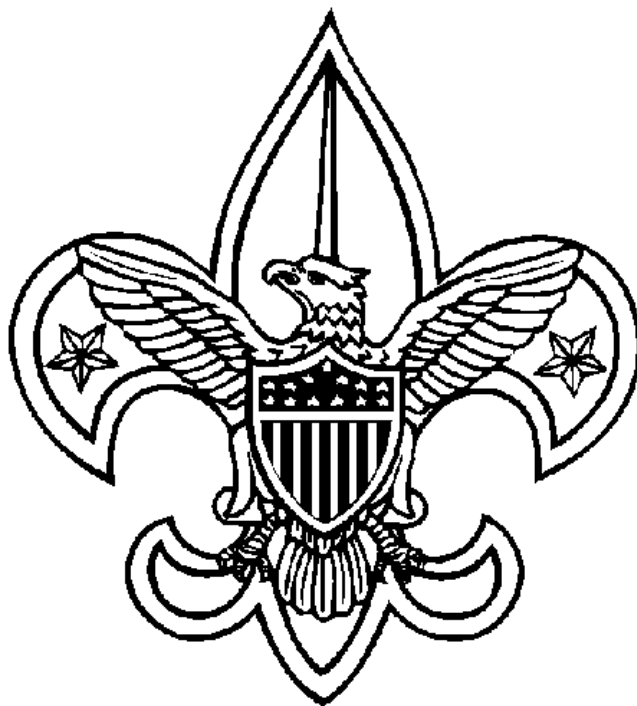


BOY SCOUT TROOP 62 HANDBOOK



South Windsor, CT

Index

Topic	Page
1. Welcome	3
2. Meeting Place and Time	3
3. Troop 62 Web Site	3
4. How is Troop 62 organized?	4
5. Getting Started	4
6. What is Expected of Our Scouts?	4
7. Parental Commitments	5
8. Uniform	5
9. Participation	7
10. Advancement	7
11. Camping	8
12. Required Forms	8
13. Medication on Camping Weekend or Summer Camp	9
14. Inappropriate Behavior	9
15. Dues & Registration Fees	10
16. Payment Policy	10
17. Fund Raisers	10
18. Event / Camping Fees	11
19. Friends of Scouting	11
20. Boy's Troop Account	11
21. Registered Adults with Troop 62	11
22. Guidelines for Troop Committee	12
23. Patrol Leaders Council	12
24. Basic Camping Equipment List	13
25. Electronics Policy	14
26. Agreement Form	15

NEW PARENTS: WELCOME TO TROOP 62!

The information in this handbook is designed to give a new scout and his parents or guardians details about Scouting and Camping in Troop 62. It is our supplement to The Boy Scout Handbook.

The promise of Scouting is:
ADVENTURE...
LEARNING...
CHALLENGE...
RESPONSIBILITY.

Our goal is to provide opportunities for our sons to:

- develop friendships;
- experience the great outdoors;
- set and achieve goals in Scouting;
- become an active part of their family, community, and nation;
- mature into strong, wise, adults;
- have fun!

TROOP 62 IS A BOY-RUN TROOP

It is the goal of Boy Scouts of America and Troop 62 that scouts themselves will plan and execute their own program to achieve the goals outlined in the Boy Scout Handbook. Parents and adult leaders participate in and support the boys' program. New scouts begin with small jobs under the guidance of more experienced scouts. As their skills and knowledge improve, new responsibilities are given to them. Each scout will learn the skills needed to carry out his job in the troop and will learn how to pass those skills on to other boys.

We use *camping as a method* for boys to learn teamwork, leadership, basic first aid, outdoor and survival skills while having fun. In small groups called patrols, each boy has an opportunity to develop both team-oriented and leadership skills.

MEETING TIME AND PLACE

The troop meets at St. Peters Episcopal Church on Thursday nights. We reserve the 7:15-7:55 PM time for Merit Badge and Advancement training only. The official troop meeting starts at 8:00 PM sharp. The meetings run until 9:00. Scouts must be dropped off and picked up in the scout meeting room. Please do not drop off your scout in the parking lot because we need to be sure each scout has adult guidance at all times. As always, you are welcome to stay. For weekend activities (e.g. Camping trips), we generally leave from the Geissler's parking lot on Sullivan Avenue.

TROOP 62 HAS A WEB SITE

The address is <http://www.troop62sw.org>. This web site is kept current with all the latest activities, including last-minute changes due to weather or other factors, and the schedule for the year. The Scoutmaster, Committee Chair and Webmaster can all be reached by e-mail through the website.

HOW IS TROOP 62 ORGANIZED?

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) granted a charter to the Main Street Scouters Association to operate a scouting unit. The charter must be renewed annually. The Main Street Scouters Association selects the Troop Committee Chairman who in turn organizes a troop committee. The Scoutmaster is then recruited and recommended by the committee for approval. Youth Leadership is elected by the boys and approved by the Scoutmaster. The Patrol Leaders Council (youth leadership) is responsible for developing the monthly meeting, outdoors, and advancement programs. These programs are developed with the guidance of the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters and are then submitted to the committee for approval of necessary funding. Policy making along with planning for fund raising, social, and all other occasions is the responsibility of the Troop Committee. The Scoutmaster guides the scouts in developing the program.

GETTING STARTED

BSA APPLICATION

Complete a BSA application by the end of your first Boy Scout meeting. The application is available from the Scoutmaster. The registration fee for new scouts joining in the Spring is \$40.00 which includes a troop 62 neckerchief and Class B t-shirt that will be delivered at summer camp or the first meeting in September.

BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK

A new scout should have a Boy Scout Handbook by his first meeting available from the Scout Office in East Hartford. We suggest that you put a protective cover on it. It will be useful for a boy to use his handbook for recordkeeping for his advancement through scouts. It is recommended that scouts bring their handbooks to all Scouting functions unless told otherwise by the Scoutmaster. Nearly everything a scout needs to know for his first three rank advancements is in that book. This **Troop 62 Handbook** is a supplement to the BSA Handbook.

PARENTS: You should become familiar with the set-up of the BSA Handbook, including rank requirement checklist. Please read Chapters 1 and 2 as well as the pull-out pamphlet, *A Parent's Guide* at the beginning of the handbook. (See the section on Advancement below.)

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF OUR SCOUTS?

We expect each of our scouts to:

- be active
- advance regularly
- wear their scout uniforms
- practice good manners and behavior
- do their best to live by the ideals of Scouting as expressed in the Scout Promise and Law. (See the BSA Boy Scout Handbook, Chapter 1)
- keep their families up to date about troop schedules and activities. Some handouts are provided at the scout meetings for upcoming trips, others may be sent by e-mail (the troop is trying to cut down on paper usage remember, a scout is thrifty). It is the boys' responsibility to provide this information to his family.

PARENTAL COMMITMENTS

Scouting is a family affair. No scout is expected to travel the "Trail to Eagle" by himself. Parents should encourage their sons to work on advancement and to take full advantage of the Scouting program. Parental involvement does not include doing scout's work. A good rule of thumb is: "If a scout can do it, a scout should do it".

Parents (of either gender) are invited to all Troop meetings and especially to Courts of Honor. We also have a monthly Troop Committee Meeting, usually on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the South Windsor Community Center. Parents are invited to attend this meeting. The purpose is to review troop progress, support the Scoutmaster's program, and set Troop policies. If a parent has a special skill or training, she or he may want to serve as a Merit Badge Counselor. There are more than 120 different merit badges available. Merit Badge Counselors must be registered with our parent Connecticut Rivers Council. In addition, parents are needed to drive to and attend weekend trips. Registration is also required for this activity. See the Committee Chairman or Scoutmaster for a registration form. You will also need to provide information including driver's plate number; make, model, color and year of car; and number of seatbelts.

There is always room for anyone who wants to take a more active role in working with the scouts to plan their program. Scouters (adult scout leaders) include Committee Members and Assistant Scoutmasters. Council training programs for new scout leaders are held several times a year, and everyone is encouraged to take advantage of them. All of Troop 62 Scouters have taken formal training courses.

UNIFORM

(see Ch.1, and inside front and back handbook covers for details)

Uniforms are an important part of scouting. It is important that the boys take pride in the uniform that they wear and for the badges displayed upon it. Each badge on the scout's uniform represents the completion of a set of challenging requirements.

Whether you see a Tenderfoot with a single merit badge or an Eagle Scout with a full merit badge sash over his shoulder, you are looking at a young man deserving of your respect for his accomplishments.

TYPES OF UNIFORMS

There are two types of uniform recognized by Troop 62: Class A or Field Shirt and Class B or Activity Shirt.

Class "A" uniforms are the Boy Scout dress uniform. As soon as practical after registering, a new scout should be wearing his Class "A" uniform to troop meetings and other important events. Due to the high cost of uniform items, purchases may be spread out. The shirt with proper identification symbols should be the first priority.

TROOP 62 CLASS "A" UNIFORM:

Shirt (purchased from Scout Store except where noted):

- Boy Scout shirt , long or short sleeve (comes only with US flag)
- Green shoulder tab loops (for epaulets)
- Council Patch (Connecticut Rivers Council)
- 62 (Troop number; we will provide the scout with his first one)

Pants:

- Olive green pants (preferred), may be long pants, shorts, or zip-offs
- Olive green web belt (preferred) or BSA leather belt
- Dark , solid color khakis without holes or writing on them are acceptable; no jeans on formal occasions such as courts of honor
- Jeans are acceptable at weekly meetings.
- Note – official scout pants are not required.

Neckerchief (each boy receives a neckerchief when he joins the troop):

- For Courts of Honor and other special occasions.

Footwear:

- suitable for conditions (no sandals with open toe or backs)

Merit Badge Sash:

- Sash is a required uniform item for courts of honor or other special occasions when scouts have six or more badges**

Troop 62 Class "B" Uniform:

- Troop 62 Tee Shirt or Boy Scout class "B" Tee Shirt
- Suitable pants without holes or writing on them (military fatigues are discouraged)
- Suitable footwear for conditions (no sandals with open toe or backs)
- Class B Tee Shirts will be offered for sale yearly

WHEN A UNIFORM IS WORN:

Event	Class "A"	"B"	No Uniform
Troop Meeting	X		
Court of Honor	X		
Fund Raisers*			
Troop, patrol, project		X	
Popcorn sales	X		
Summer Camp			
Meals: Dinner	X		
Bkfst, Lunch		X	
Opening & Closing	X		
Activities		X	X
Camp outs		X	X
Camporees	X	X	X
Annual "Big" Trip	X	X	

* Class A uniforms can only be worn for Connecticut Rivers Council fundraising, not for troop, patrol or project fundraising.

UNIFORMS AT TROOP MEETINGS

Scouts are expected to wear their Class "A" uniforms at troop meetings unless told otherwise. The exception to this is boys who are coming to the meeting directly from a sporting or other team event where they have not had time to change into their Class "A". In these cases, if the boy is wearing the uniform from his earlier event, he will be considered to be "in uniform" for the meeting. For Courts of Honor or other formal events, the Class "A" is always required.

PARTICIPATION

Simply put, scouts who regularly attend meetings and outings advance more quickly than those who don't. Because of Scouting's focus on the outdoors, many of the skills required for rank advancement or merit badges can only be taught while on weekend trips or at summer camp. Skill instruction and merit badge classes are also part of the weekly troop meetings. Regular participation also allows boys to learn to interact with one another in accordance with the principles of Scouting, and to display leadership, which is a required element of advancement for the higher ranks.

At the same time, we understand that there are many demands on the time of boys and families. Family, school, sports, or religious events occasionally prevent boys from participating in troop meetings or events. In these cases, the leaders will work with the scout to help him cover material he may have missed. If a scout's participation falls below an acceptable level for his next rank, the Scoutmaster will discuss the situation with the boy.

ADVANCEMENT

Because Boy Scout advancement is so different from Cub Scout and Webelos advancement, few Webelos scouts are prepared for scout advancement. Cub Scout advancement is done mostly with parents. Webelos advancement is done mostly in groups with the Webelos leaders. In either case, adults determine the timing and course of the boy's advancement with little input from the boy. On the other hand, **a Boy Scout has almost total control over his own advancement**, which he will do mostly on an individual basis with senior Scouts and adult leaders.

Advancement is an important part of the Scouting Program. If a scout attends meetings, weekend campouts and summer camp on a regular basis, the program balance will help him advance. Advancement is totally dependent upon him. Each scout is expected to pursue the various advancement requirements, awards, badges and ranks, at his own pace. We encourage him to involve his family, other scouts, the Scoutmaster and any other sources to help him. Advancement requirements for the first three ranks are listed in the Chapter 1 of "The Boy Scout Handbook."

Advancement to the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class concentrate on Scouting skills rather than merit badges. Remaining ranks are Star, Life and Eagle, which require leadership, community service, and merit badges. Also, Eagle Palms may be earned upon completion of additional merit badges until the scout's 18th birthday.

Twice a year at the Court of Honor, each scout will be provided a printout of his rank and merit badge achievements.

CAMPING

For all Boy Scouts, camping and the other outdoor experiences are a major part of the Scouting Tradition. In addition to Summer Camp, we plan monthly camping trips with the exception of July and August. Only cancelling will be due to severe weather conditions or lack of available adult leaders.

While parents are very welcome on campouts, the scouts pitch tents with their patrols and not with their parents and family members. Boy Scout camping activities center on the patrol, where boys learn teamwork, leadership, and most camping skills. It is important that as new adults to the troop you are not involved in their son's patrol activities such as site selection, tent pitching, meal preparation, and anything else where boys get to make practice decision-making.

Troop Guides will be assigned to the new scout patrol and will provide guidance on trips. Troop leaders step in only if it is a matter of immediate safety or if the mistake will be immediately costly.

Your scout will not need to bring meals on trips unless required for a specific Merit badge. There are two ways we cook on trips. **Troop Cooking and Patrol Cooking.** **Troop cooking** is planned by the Patrol Leaders and food is purchased by the Scout Leader in charge of food and supplies. The scout will pay one fee for the trip which covers the cost of food, travel and the campsite.

Patrol cooking is planned by the patrol. Each Patrol will plan a meal, have it approved by a leader and then shop for the ingredients. Your scout may be responsible for preparing items prior to the trip. They may also be responsible for safely transporting it to the camp site. You will pay a small fee to the troop for the camp site rental and other costs and then reimburse the patrol member for shopping for the food, usually around \$12.00-\$15.00.

The Senior Patrol leader will have a duty roster and each scout will participate in set up and or clean up when we do patrol cooking as well as troop cooking.

All members of Troop 62 will observe the outdoor code. This will include leaving the campsite better than found.

NOTE: The Personal Equipment that the scout needs to bring is listed in the Basic Camping Equipment List, below. No electronic equipment is allowed without Scoutmaster's approval. See Page 14 for Troop 62 Electronics Policy.

REQUIRED FORMS - for camping and other troop activities

Upon joining and then annually you will be asked to fill out several forms

1. **Troop 62 Permission Slip and History.** This form gives the scout permission to participate in activities with the troop. It also gives the troop leaders permission to act on your behalf in an emergency. Without this form properly filled out medical care could be delayed to your child. This form is filled out annually or as your scout's medical condition changes. This includes a change in medical diagnosis or medication. We highly recommend you letting us know on this form if your scout has ADHD or other learning disabilities so we can help your child in the best way. In addition if your scout is prone to wandering or sleep walking this is good information for us to know when setting up tents. This form is not signed by an MD.

2. **BSA Medical Form.** This is required annually for Summer Camp, High Adventure Trips or any trip exceeding 72 hours (such as the Spring “Big Trips”). Part A and B – General Information filled out by the parent or guardian including current medications. A copy of your scout's immunizations attached to the form is acceptable. Please write in the last tetanus date for quick reference. Under Part B ADULTS AUTHORIZED TO TAKE YOUTH TO AND FROM EVENTS: 1) Please put Any Troop 62 leader (this allows two leaders to transport your scout to an emergency center for treatment) **Part C must be filled out and signed by an MD**
3. The Camp Emergency Medical Plan must be filled out if your scout has Asthma or allergies requiring an epi Pen.
4. Also, please submit two copies back and front of his current insurance ID card.

Please submit two copies of all forms. One is for the Troop's records and one goes to the Health Lodge at Summer Camp

Boy scout camps require the BSA Medical Form. Do not substitute documents issued by your physician. These forms are carried by the Scoutmaster or Trip Coordinator on all trips in case of emergency.

All blank forms are available on our website under camping.

MEDICATION ON CAMPING WEEKENDS OR SUMMER CAMP

If your scout requires medication during weekend trips, please see the Trip Coordinator to hand over medications (including over the counter medications) and provide information on storage and administration of the medication(s). In addition include what the medication is used for as the person administering it most likely will not be medically licensed person. The trip coordinator will most likely refer you to the person in charge of medication for the weekend. Please supply enough doses for the trip plus one extra in case a dose gets dropped. (Do not send a thirty day supply.) Unless it is a new medication an updated medical form and permission slip must be submitted. Medications will normally be stored either on the person in charge of medications or in a locked vehicle depending on the outside temperature. At summer camp medications are turned over to the Camp Health Lodge upon check in.

Please note: the only medication that the scout is allowed to carry are emergency medications such as EpiPens and asthma inhalers.

Please do not wait until we are loading the cars to provide valuable information on new medications or medical conditions as this is a very busy time for the scoutmaster. This information should be communicated ahead of time whenever possible. As always if you are concerned about your child's condition , parents are always welcome on trips.

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

The goal of the adult leaders is to have a safe, fun troop program for the scouts. The adult leaders have the right to intervene in any situation which they deem unsafe. If a scout is unwilling to abide by the requirements of the adult leaders in charge, they may require a parent to come get the scout, whether the situation occurs at a troop meeting or during an outing. Also, if a scout is disruptive at a meeting or otherwise prevents the boy leaders from running the meeting, the Scoutmaster or leader in charge at the meeting may call a parent to pick up the scout.

Scout Discipline: Any reasonable discipline for scouts is at the discretion of the Scoutmaster or the designated leader.

Adult Discipline: The Scoutmaster, Committee Chairman or Charter Representative is authorized to suspend any adult as needed until the review process is initiated and completed. In the case of Scout Safety the adult must be removed from contact until reviewed.

DUES AND REGISTRATION FEES

Each scout is responsible for paying an annual registration fee, currently \$70 (but subject to change) and weekly dues of \$2.00, whether they attend the meeting or not. Dues are collected at the beginning of weekly meetings by the scout's Patrol Leader; scouts can prepay dues (i.e. a month in advance) during this time. Registration is paid at the first meeting of the new school year. Checks are acceptable - made payable to Troop 62. If the check includes payment for trips and dues, please write the breakdown in the memo section of the check.

Registration and weekly dues make up the bulk of the troop's annual income. This fee covers fixed scout expenses including registration fees to our local and national BSA organizations, re-chartering costs and advancement awards. This money also covers expenses incurred in running the scout program including the purchase of new equipment and supplies used by the troop. Typically, expenses for our monthly camping trips and most special events require an additional fee. All payments will be made to the Committee treasurer. If payment by check is made, please make it payable to Troop 62.

PAYMENT POLICY

To ensure a smooth and accurate process of collecting and recording payments, the beginning of the meeting, from 8:00-8:15pm is set aside for the Patrol Leaders to collect dues and trip payments from the scout. **We strongly suggested that all payments for a scout, be made by the scout to his patrol leader when dues are collected.** This does a few things: it helps the scout to be responsible for the payment, it helps him to know what has been paid for (trips, dues) and it is a tracking system for payments.

After payments are collected by the patrol, they are turned in to the adult leaders who verify that the money collected matches the patrol record for that week. All payments are then recorded in the troop's computer record system. Our goal is to finish recording before the end of the meeting. With the current meeting format, it is more of a challenge to complete the financial record keeping in the allotted time. However, we realize that some parents may have financial questions regarding their son's account and we have set aside the time period from 7:15-7:55 PM for this. Diane Wicks, Linda Holmes, and/ or Jerry Brodeur will be available at this time. Please be aware that after 7:55 PM we will not be able to accept any payments or field specific financial questions.

FUND-RAISERS

Our primary fund-raiser held each fall is the popcorn sale. This is a council-sponsored activity. The sale runs September through October. It benefits the scout, the troop and the council. All scouts are encouraged to participate in this event. Approximately two-thirds of the money collected by the scout is returned to the scout council. The remaining one third is credited directly to the scout. This "incentive" money raised by the scout is placed

in his scout account and can be used for any scout trip-related expense. (see Boy's Troop Account" for specific guidelines). Typically, scouts use their "popcorn money" to offset the cost of summer camp, or use it to pay for monthly camping events. Occasionally, if the scouts plan a more expensive activity or trip, or if we set a special long-term goal, additional fund-raisers may be planned.

EVENT/CAMPING FEES

Each month the troop plans a camping trip or special event. Fees are based on the particular requirements for each trip and are due from those scouts and adults that attend. These fees are typically due a couple of weeks prior to the trip. Refund policy - other than what is stated for that particular trip, refunds are limited to the amount not spent at the time of notification.

Please refer to trip flyers for the date on signing up for a particular trip. Scouts will not be allowed to attend if sign up occurs after the deadline. Late notice of attending trips create problems with the purchasing of food and ensuring sufficient transportation. The Adult Leader in charge of the trip may create a waiting list after the deadline for situations where space becomes available when a scout drops out of a trip.

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING

This is an annual fundraiser from the council. The troop does not directly benefit from this but this is an important fundraiser to keep the council and camps running. This is usually held in March.

BOY'S TROOP ACCOUNT

As noted above, fund-raisers are held to benefit both Troop 62 and the scout. (Others may be run to help the boys raise money for their Scouting activities or charitable causes.) The funds raised by the boys for their benefit are placed in scout's troop account. The Treasurer will periodically notify the scouts regarding the balance in their account. Any scout can also ask the Treasurer at any time for the status of his account.

Money placed in the scouts troop account may be used for the following purposes:

1. To pay for Summer Camp fees.
2. Monthly campouts or
3. Fees for BSA/Troop activities.

Some restrictions on money in the troop account:

1. Any scout not rechartering with BSA will forfeit all funds to the troop general fund.
2. Guidelines may vary from event to event and from year to year depending on the financial position of the Troop.
3. Cash will not be directly given to the boy
4. Funds will be transferred to another Troop or Unit at the discretion of the Troop Committee.

REGISTERED ADULTS WITH TROOP 62

All parents are invited to become registered members of the Troop. There are two registered groups of people in our troop:

- The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters, work directly with the boys.
- Committee Members, help with the troop functions and set Troop Policy.

GUIDELINES FOR TROOP COMMITTEE

Our Troop Committee is made up of the following positions.

Committee Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer
Program Coordinator
Outdoor/Activities Coordinator
Advancement Coordinator
Chaplin
Fund Raising Coordinator

People representing the Council and District assist our Troop and Committee.

- The District Executive (Hockanum District)
- The District Commissioner
- The Unit Commissioner

Any interested parent may become a registered member of the committee by filling out an application and being accepted by both our Charter Organization and the Connecticut Rivers Council. All parents will be invited to become registered members of the committee. If they decline and change their minds later, they may register at any time.

PATROL LEADERS COUNCIL

The PLC is a meeting held monthly to discuss the programs, advancement plans, and other troop activities. The scheduling of this meeting will be communicated to the parents at least one month in advance of the meeting.

A PLC is attended by the Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guides and Patrol Leaders. Also, any scout in charge of upcoming activity should attend.

The items to be discussed at this meeting deal directly with what the boys in the troop will be working on over the next several months.

The results of this meeting will be recapped for the committee at the committee meeting by the Senior Patrol Leader.

Decisions about what equipment is needed, what merit badges to work on, where and when to go camping, etc. will be discussed.

The people attending this meeting will NOT be empowered to spend troop funds without approval from the committee.

BASIC CAMPING EQUIPMENT LIST

Carrying Gear:

- ❑ A duffle bag or Back Pack (similar to a school back pack)
- ❑ If involved in Backpacking trips, an external or internal frame with padded shoulder straps & padded hip belt would be used - this is later in scouting.

Useful Options:

- Adjustable position shoulder straps
- Frame extenders

Sleeping Gear: Sleeping Bag with waterproof stuff sack.

- ❑ Should be rated for cold weather (20 degrees or lower)
- ❑ Light weight under 5 pounds
- ❑ Space Blanket

Shelter:

Rain Wear: Poncho or Heavy duty Rain Jacket and Pants.

Ground Cloth: Heavy weight plastic or coated nylon (troop can provide)

Eating Gear:

- ❑ Mug for hot and cold drinks
- ❑ Mess Kit: plate and/or bowl, eating utensils (Sun-Sun carryout plastic containers!)
- ❑ Water bottle for hikes

Hygiene Kit:

- ❑ Soap or Campsuds
- ❑ Towel - Medium sized
- ❑ Toothbrush & Toothpaste - Small or Trial Size tube
- ❑ Comb
- ❑ Mirror, Metal can be used to signal with if lost
- ❑ 1/2 Roll of Unscented Toilet Paper (Stored in a Ziplock bag)
- ❑ Personal First Aid Kit:
Box of Asstd. Band-Aids, Ace Bandage, Gauze Bandage Roll & Squares, Adhesive Tape, Antiseptic (Bacitracin), Soap, Tweezers, Small Scissors.

Working Gear:

- ❑ Boy Scout Handbook
- ❑ Compass with Lanyard
- ❑ 25 Feet of Rope or Parachute Cord
- ❑ Flashlight
- ❑ Set of Extra batteries for the Flashlight
- ❑ Folding Knife - Blade No Longer than 4 Inches - not required for first year scouts (Tot N' Chip Card Required)
- ❑ Scabbard for folding knife
- ❑ Notebook small 3" x 5" in Ziplock bag
- ❑ Pencil or Pen
- ❑ Watch
- ❑ Waterproof Container of Wood Matches

Troop 62 Electronics Policy

To promote the best aspects of scouting on our troop trips, we have decided to introduce an official electronics policy. This policy has been in effect for the troop in the past, but we feel it is important to communicate it in writing so there are no misunderstandings. Before stating the rules, we think it is important to state why we feel the rules are important.

First, when the troop is on a camping trip, it is a chance for us to all get away from the noise of everyday life. Electronic devices distract us from one of the biggest benefits of camping – to get away and spend time in the outdoors.

Second, when we are camping as a troop, we would like to promote a spirit of community. When scouts are off on their own to listen to an iPod or to type a text message into his cell phone, he withdraws from the troop and our activities.

Lastly, as Scout Leaders, our job is to keep our boys safe. We work to keep our scouts not only physically safe, but also safe from media (songs, pictures, videos, and games) that may not be appropriate for our scouts. Our electronics policy helps us do our job of ensuring our scouts are not exposed to inappropriate material.

Our policy is as follows:

- Cell phones are not permitted on troop trips. If a cell phone is found on a trip, it will be confiscated and returned to the scout at the end of the trip. Parents will be given a list of leader phone numbers so they can contact their sons in case of emergency.
- Portable music players and game systems are not permitted on trips unless stated beforehand. Exceptions may be made on some trips with long travel times, but devices will remain in the vehicles when we are not traveling. There will be no sharing of ear buds for sanitary reasons and no sharing of the music via splitters or passing the ipod over to another scout to plug in their headphones / ear buds.
- When portable music players and game systems are allowed, the music and games must be appropriate. If a leader determines that the content is not consistent with scouting values, the device may be confiscated, and will be returned at the end of the trip.
- Individual video players are not permitted. Video players in vehicles are permitted as long as the driver is in control of the player and is familiar with the material being played.
- Cameras are permitted on all trips. The camera must be standalone and not part of any other media device (iPod, Cell phone, etc).

Adult leaders – please be sure to understand this policy and set a good example for the entire troop.

Thanks in advance for your help in enforcing this policy. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman.

TO THE SCOUTMASTER:

As the parent/guardian of Scout _____,

I have read the Troop 62 Handbook with my son and fully understand the rules, regulations and guidelines as outlined. I am also aware of the responsibility my son holds as a Scout, the responsibilities of the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Registered Committee Members, and my responsibility as a parent/guardian.

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

Signature of Scout:

Date:

Ways I can assist the troop:

- Transportation
- Merit Badges (which ones)
- Chaperone
- Fund Raising
- Paper Supplies
- Mailings
- Other:

Please return this sheet to the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chairman