

Troop 627 Parent Guide



Welcome Scout

As a new member of Troop 627, you are joining a group of boys who share common interests in the outdoors, adventure, and learning. As a Scout, you will get the opportunity to learn, see, and do things that other boys may not. You will get the opportunity to acquire new skills, and you will be recognized and rewarded for what you have accomplished. You will have the opportunity to learn leadership, organizational, and other skills that will help you later in life.

Welcome Parents

Scouting is a program with a purpose. It is a way for youth to gain strong ethics, moral fiber, and duty to God, all while learning valuable skills. And it is a way to develop future leaders. The world has changed, but the basic concepts of Scouting have remained constant, with values, aims, and methods that continue to mold boys into exceptional adults.

What's It All About?

Boy Scouts of America Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law.

The BASIC CONCEPTS OF SCOUTING: AIMS

Character Development

- Encompasses a boy's personal qualities, values, and outlook.
- A Scout learns confidence, honesty, and self-respect.
- A Scout respects other people, regardless of differences.
- A Scout practices his religious beliefs.

Citizenship Training

- A Scout works among others in a troop with rules based on the common good
- A Scout learns about and takes pride in his own national heritage.
- A Scout understands social, economic, and governmental systems.
- A Scout learns service, tolerance, and community involvement.

Mental and Physical Fitness

- A Scout improves his physical condition through exercise and outdoor activities.
- A Scout encourages good health habits.
- A Scout discourages drug, alcohol, and tobacco use.
- A Scout learns sound judgment, resourcefulness, and decision-making skills.

In turn, we ask the Scout's parents/guardians to continue encouragement of your scout's efforts, especially in planning and helping for his advancement. We may also ask for participation when called upon to assist the Troop. Such assistance will usually be for transportation, refreshments, fundraising, serving on the Troop Committee or as a Merit Badge Counselor. As a new member to Troop 627, you are starting a boy on a tremendously rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him.

This "*Troop 627 Parent Guide*" is intended to act as an introduction to Scouting in Troop 627 and to give Scouts and Parents a better understanding about how Troop 627 works. Please take the time to read over this handbook, and contact the Scoutmaster or one of the other Adult Leaders if you have any questions.

WHO WE ARE

Troop 627 is associated with the Three River District of the Green Mountain Council. The District is the geographic area in which a troop is located. The Council is a group of one or more Districts. A Council has a professional staff and volunteers that help make the individual troops successful. Most Councils run scout stores where uniforms, books, and other scouting supplies are sold.

Every Boy Scout Troop has at least one Chartering Organization, which assists the troop by providing a meeting place, guidance, leadership, and financial assistance. Troop 627 has been chartered by the Underhill/Jericho Fire Department since 1963.

A note to Cub Scout WEBLOS Parents

Boy Scouts is different from Cub Scouts or WEBLOS in several ways:

TOPIC	CUB SCOUTS	BOY SCOUTS
Meetings:	3-4 monthly Den meetings and one monthly Pack meeting	Weekly Troop meetings, at least one monthly campout/outing
Meetings Planned By:	Adult leaders (Den Leader, Cubmaster, etc...)	The Boys!! Patrol Leader's Council (Senior Patrol Leader, Asst. Senior Patrol Leaders, Patrol Leaders, etc...)
Organization:	Boys broken up into Dens based on grade.	New Scouts are integrated into patrols.
Scouts Led By:	Den Leader (adult)	Patrol Leaders (boy). Adults provide supervision & advice.

Campouts/Outings:	Planned and coordinated by adults. Adult partner required with each boy. Meals planned and prepared by adults.	Activities chosen by Patrol Leader's Council, logistics handled by Activity Coordinator (adult). At least two adults required for each outing. Meals planned and prepared (including purchasing food) by each Patrol.
Advancement:	Advancement worked on as a group. Advancement signed off by Parents or Den Leaders	Advancement for early ranks worked on as a group. Some Merit Badges done as a group. Later Rank Advancement and Merit Badge achievement is done on an individual basis. All sign-offs are done by Adult Leaders. Boys have more responsibility to bring their books to meetings and campouts and to get sign-offs as they complete requirements.

TROOP 627 BACKGROUND

Boy Scout Troop 627 was formed in Underhill, Vermont in 1963. Over the 10 years, more than 25 Scouts in Troop 627 have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

TROOP STRUCTURE

Troop 627 is divided into several small groups called patrols.

A patrol is a group of 6-10 boys who camp together and participate in troop activities together. In our troop, we like to keep boys of similar age and experience together in a patrol. If the number of boys in a patrol changes due to growth or attrition, the Scoutmaster may form a new patrol or combine existing patrols as needed. A Scout may make a request to change patrols to the Senior Patrol Leader and the Scoutmaster, who will then decide if the change is justified.

Youth Leadership and Positions of Responsibility

Each patrol has a Patrol Leader (PL) and an Assistant Patrol Leader (APL). These are positions of responsibility that are decided by elections once or twice every year by the members of each patrol. The positions of Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) are positions of responsibility open to older, more experienced Scouts. Yearly Troop-wide elections are held to fill these positions. Other positions of responsibility are appointed by the senior patrol leader with the advice and counsel of the Scoutmaster; these positions of responsibility include:

Scribe - Takes minutes at patrol leaders council meetings and troop meetings, submits press releases to local news outlets (with prior review by the Troop Committee)

Quartermaster - Maintains the troop's equipment and meeting place

Librarian - Maintains the troop library of instructional material (Merit Badge books, etc.)

Den Chief - Works with a den of Cub Scouts, assisting the den leaders and helps retain Cub Scouts when they cross over into Boy Scouts. Helps the new Scouts complete the joining requirements.

Troop Guide - A senior Scout who provides guidance to new Scout patrols

Order of the Arrow Representative - Provides a line of communication between the Order of the Arrow and the troop, he attends all OA meetings and reports to the PLC and Troop as needed.

Troop Instructor - Teaches Scout skills to younger Scouts

Ideally, a Boy Scout Troop is a "Boy Run Troop"; the Scouts do all of the event planning and take care of all Troop operations via the Patrol Leader's Council (PLC). The adult leaders of Troop 627 are advisors to the Patrol Leader's Council. The senior adult leader is the Scoutmaster and the others are Assistant Scoutmasters or Troop Committee Members.

Boys in leadership positions are expected to attend the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) meetings held once each month. This is where the troop plan is implemented and young leaders are born. This is a serious responsibility for our boys as patrol leaders (or their designated alternate) become the communication nexus for their patrols. Please make every effort to encourage the boys to attend.

Adult Leadership and Positions of Responsibility

The adults who give their time, talent, and support to make Troop 627 a success are volunteers. Mothers, Fathers, and community volunteers can assist Troop 627 by providing transportation to and from outings, serving as a troop committee member, becoming a merit badge counselor, becoming an Assistant Scoutmaster, or serving in other leadership positions.

If you are a parent or guardian of a boy in Troop 627, please take the time to attend a couple of troop meetings or Adult Leader's meetings. Talk to the Scoutmaster or one of the other Adult Leaders. You may have skills, resources, or contacts that the Troop needs.

The Troop Committee is a group of adults, generally parents/guardians of the Scouts, who provide support and guidance to the troop. This committee:

- Ensures quality leadership is recruited and trained, including Scoutmasters and assistant Scoutmasters.
 - Assigns qualified assistant Scoutmasters to continue the program if the Scoutmaster slot is vacated.
 - Supports leaders in carrying the program.
 - Responsible for finances, adequate funds, and disbursements based on the annual budget developed by the committee.
- Serves on boards of review and courts of honor.

Troop committee positions include:

- Troop Committee Chair - Head of the troop committee.
- Charter Organization Representative - Liaison between the troop and Chartering Organization.
- Secretary - Record keeper and takes/maintains committee meeting notes.

- Treasurer - Takes care of all incoming/outgoing money for the troop, maintains financial records and provides monthly financial status to the troop committee.
- Advancement Chair - Administers the troop advancement program, maintains records and prepares advancement reports for the council.
- Quartermaster - Works with the troop and patrol Quartermasters to control and maintain troop and patrol equipment.
- Scoutmaster - Oversees the operations of the troop.
- Assistant Scoutmasters - Advisors to assigned Patrols.
- Life to Eagle Advisor - Assists and encourages boys with the rank of Life to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Troop Committee holds a committee meeting once per month (generally the week following the Three Rivers District Roundtable Meeting). Parents are welcome to attend.

Adult Leader Training and Youth Protection

Troop 627 follows the policies of the Boy Scouts of America regarding Leadership Training and the protection of youth and adult leaders. The official policies can be found in the Guide to Safe Scouting at:

<http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>

As of 7/1/2010, all Adult Leaders must complete the on-line Youth Protection available at the Online Learning Center <http://olc.scouting.org>. This training needs to be taken every two years. You will need a valid e-mail account, your BSA ID number (on your BSA membership card), and our council number to create a "MyScouting" account so that you can get credit for taking the training.

New Adult Leaders must set up a "MyScouting" account and complete the on-line Youth Protection training. Please print a copy of your course completion certificate and turn it in along with your Adult Application. Once your application has been processed, you can update your account profile with your BSA ID number and our council information.

All registered Adult Leaders participating in any nationally conducted event or activity must have completed BSA Youth Protection Training. At least one registered adult who has completed BSA Youth Protection Training must be present at all events and activities that require a tour permit.

SCOUTMASTERS & ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTERS are considered trained and may wear the trained strip on their uniforms when they have completed:

1. Fast Start Orientation - Available at THE ONLINE LEARNING CENTER. 2. New Leader Essentials Training 3. SM/ASM Leader Specific Training 4. Outdoor Leader Skills Training

TROOP COMMITTEE MEMBERS are considered trained and may wear the trained strip on their uniforms when they have completed:

1. Fast Start Orientation - Available at THE ONLINE LEARNING CENTER. 2. New Leader Essentials Training 3. Troop Committee Challenge Training - Available at THE ONLINE LEARNING CENTER.

Troop Meetings

Troop 627 meets Wednesday evenings at Browns River Middle School in Jericho. As a general rule, there are no Troop meetings on Wednesday nights when there is no public school, or when school is cancelled due to weather. See the current calendar at www.Troop627.com, but the following is typical: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Regular Troop meeting

The format of the meeting varies but a typical boy run meeting might include an opening flag ceremony and announcements; small group work for skill building, advancement or merit badge work, followed by a game or other activity that Scouts can join in on as they finish planning/meeting/working. Parent, please note that “circle up” time at the end of the meetings is a good time to catch a recap of special announcements and scout recognition.

Scoutmaster Conferences and Board of Reviews can take place at meetings or outside of meetings. They need to be scheduled in advance by the Scout. If a Scoutmaster Conference takes place outside of the Troop meeting the Scout is responsible for arranging an adult advisor to accompany him.

A District Round Table Meeting is held on the second Tuesday of each month. An adult member of the Troop Committee and the Scoutmaster or his assistant will attend this meeting.

Troop 627 Adult Leader's meetings are held on the first Monday of each

month from 7:00 to 8:30 at the Underhill Jericho Fire Department. All Leaders and interested Parents are encouraged to attend.

All Scouts are encouraged to attend Troop meetings. Many of our Scouts are involved in school activities and sports, which may make attendance a problem. This is understood by the Troop, and events are planned around the Chittenden East Supervisory Union school calendar whenever possible. Please contact the Scoutmaster if you have a schedule conflict that will cause you to miss several meetings in a row. Scouts who miss a Troop meeting are expected to contact other members of their patrol to get information presented at the Troop meeting. The troop maintains a website, www.troop627.com, which is a resource to learn what is going on in the troop.

Rank advancement to the higher ranks requires a Scout to be active in his Troop and Patrol for a specified period of time as the previous rank - four months for Star, six months for Life, and six Months for Eagle. An active scout is one who attends a majority of troop meetings, campouts, community service projects, etc. This is considered to be demonstrating the scout spirit. A Scout will fail a Board of Review for his rank advancement if scout spirit is not demonstrated.

Troop Uniform

The Boy Scouts of America is a uniformed organization. Wearing the Boy Scout uniform shows a sense of belonging and pride in the Scouting movement. All members of Troop 627 are strongly encouraged to wear the approved uniform and insignia to all troop meetings and activities. Adult leaders should set an example and wear the proper adult uniform.

Troop 627 will supply any merit badges, patrol insignia, and patches earned by a troop member. BSA Troop 627 has approved the following two uniforms:

- Class "A" Uniform - to be worn to all Troop Meetings, Court of Honors, Boards of Review, and for travel to/from all Troop campouts/activities. The Class "A" Uniform consists of the following:
 - Official BSA Khaki long or short sleeved shirt (with appropriate Troop 627, Three Rivers Council, patrol emblem, green shoulder

loops, and rank insignia. See the inside cover of the BSA Handbook for details.)

- All boys & adult leaders are given a standard issue green neckerchief and slide when they join the troop.
- Troop 627 white/red neckerchief is provided after a scout's first overnight camp out. Any official BSA scouting hat is optional
- Class "B" Uniform - to be worn while on campouts and for other designated Troop activities.
 - Any plain T-shirt or shirt with Troop 627 insignia
 - Blue jeans or shorts (above the knee) in good condition

Activities

Community Service/Service Projects

Scouts in our troop are encouraged to demonstrate scout spirit by participating in all required troop activities. Currently, the Troop Committee requires that each Scout participate in at least one Firehouse Maintenance night, at least one Food-Shelf Distribution, and participate in troop fundraising efforts to qualify for rank advancement. If there are concerns that a boy can't fulfill any of these requirements they should be addressed with the scoutmaster and troop committee chair to determine if an alternate plan will be acceptable. We will accommodate any reasonable request.

Troop 627 generally does one Troop activity per month, except for December (Christmas break), July (summer camp or high adventure), and August (summer vacation). Dates and places for each activity are announced in advance. Check www.troop627.com for details.

A permission slip will be handed out to all scouts in advance of each campout or activity. This permission slip must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian. The permission slip must be turned in (along with any fees) before the campout.

We appreciate help in driving boys to events. When doing so, vehicles transporting scouts must be in good mechanical condition and have a seat belt for each occupant. All vehicles **MUST** be covered by a liability and property damage insurance policy. Operators must be older than 21 and possess a valid drivers license.

Equipment lists with necessary gear specific to the planned activity and

weather conditions will be provided for each campout.

Just in case you lose a gear list or permission slip, these are available on the Troop 627 web site.

"Two Deep Leadership" will be maintained for all Troop activities and campouts. This means that at a minimum, at least one Adult Leader and one parent are present at all times

Summer Camp

Each year Troop 627 attends a BSA summer camp. This camp is one week long and provides a large variety of outdoor activities such as camping, boating, shooting, swimming, crafts, and more. Depending on the activities that Scouts choose to do, it is possible to earn several merit badges while at camp. It is strongly recommended that every scout attend summer camp. It is the single most important activity of the scout year.

All scouts must have up-to-date medical records.

Every year each scout and adult leader advisor must complete and submit an annual Health and Medical Record to participate in any off-site troop activities. This 4-part form (680-001) is available online: www.scouting.org medical form. Note that this form requires an annual medical check-up.

Equipment

Equipment for scouting is broken down into three categories, Troop, Patrol, and Personal.

The Troop will provide items necessary for group activities, such as gear transportation (troop trailers), and items needed for overall Troop support, such as saws, axes, water buckets, dining fly, shovels, Dutch ovens, firewood, ropes, etc.

The Troop will provide Patrol items such as a Patrol Box with a basic cooking kit - pots/pans/utensils/cleanup kit.

The Troop has a limited number of tents available that can be borrowed. See the Quartermaster for details.

Personal gear is provided and maintained by each Scout. Don't go overboard as a New Scout by purchasing lots of top-of-the-line equipment that you will

rarely, if ever, use. Before making any expensive purchases, talk to some of the older Scouts and Adult Leaders - they will have valuable advice about what to buy and what to avoid. They may also have advice on where to buy items in the area for the least cost.

As a Scout becomes more experienced and does more camping/hiking, he may need more advanced gear, maybe a better backpack, hiking boots, a tent, better foul-weather gear, etc.

Used equipment may be available, contact the Scoutmaster for details.

Equipment lists will be published for each campout, with specific gear for the season/activity in mind. Please ensure that all items outlined in the gear list are included in your gear - Remember - "*A Scout is Prepared*".

If you have misplaced the equipment list, the following can be used as a general guide:

All gear should be clearly labeled with the Scout's name!

- Duffel/gear bag/backpack
- Sleeping bag (rated 20F or lower is recommended). Several blankets will suffice for warmer weather.
- Camp pillow
- Air mattress or ground pad or cot
- Flashlight (with extra batteries/bulb)
- Pocket Knife - "Totin Chit" required (no sheath knives!)
- Waterproof matches/firestarters - "Fireman Chit" required
- Personal First Aid Kit - See the Boy Scout Handbook
- Water bottle/canteen
- Sunscreen
- Compass
- Medications (please notify leaders)
- Scout Handbook
- Class "A" Uniform (Wear when traveling)
- Class "B" Uniform (for activities)
- Hat or cap
- Rain gear or poncho
- Windbreaker or light jacket (adjust for season)

- Extra pair of shoes
- Extra change of clothes
- Insect repellent (lotion only, no aerosol spray!)
- Underwear
- Extra Socks
- Sweatshirt/jacket
- Gloves
- Mess kit (plate, bowl, cup, fork, spoon, and knife)
- Cleanup kit (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, washcloth, towel, comb)
- Tent & Ground cloth (if you are using your own tent)
- Camp chair (optional)
- Camera (optional)

Don't Bring:

- Sheath Knives
- Video Games *
- Radio/Tape/CD/MP3 players *
- Butane lighters
- Fireworks
- Valuables

* - Exceptions may be made for use of these items while in the vehicle for long trips; these exceptions will be outlined by the Scoutmaster before the trip. Responsibility for the loss of these items will be the Scout's.

The Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters reserve the right to confiscate any item that is deemed inappropriate. The item in question will be returned to the Scout's parents.

Advancement

There are many definitions of advancement, but the Scouting definition might well be, simply, "the art of meeting a challenge". For that is exactly what the Boy Scout advancement program asks the boys to do. The Boy Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a Scout climbs at his own pace. As he acquires these skills he moves up through a series of ranks, for which he is awarded badges: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks...and the more rewarding.

Achievements include:

- Learning skills that qualify for Scouting's more rugged and exciting outdoor challenges.
- Developing body and mind, growing self-confidence, and helping younger Scouts climb the advancement ladder.
- Discovering how it feels to go further -- in so many ways -- than he ever thought he could.

We don't look at advancement as a goal, but as a natural outcome of a planned, quality Troop program.

There are four steps of advancement:

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.

2. The Boy Scout is tested.

His Senior Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, a Troop Committee member or a member of his Troop, may test a Scout on requirements. The Scoutmaster maintains a list of those qualified to test and pass candidates.

3. The Boy Scout is reviewed.

When advancing through the ranks, the first stage of review is a Scoutmaster Conference. The Scoutmaster reviews all of the requirements for a specific rank with the boy. It is the job of the Scoutmaster to assure success for the boy at his Board of Review.

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he appears before a Board of Review composed of members of the Troop Committee and Assistant Scoutmasters (the Eagle board of review is conducted by members of the District Advancement Committee). The purpose of the Board of Review is not an examination. Rather it is to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scoutings' ideals; to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement, to discuss the Scouts' experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program, and to encourage him to keep working towards advancement.

4. The Boy Scout is recognized.

When the Board of Review has certified a boy's advancement, he deserves to

receive recognition as soon as possible. This recognition should be done at the next Troop meeting. The badge for his next rank will be presented to him at the next Troop Court of Honor.

Court of Honor

As stated above, when a Scout advances, he should be recognized as soon as possible - preferably at the next Troop meeting. He is recognized a second time at a public ceremony called a Court of Honor. The main purposes of the Court of Honor are to finish formal recognition for achievement and to provide incentive for other Scouts to advance. All families and siblings are asked to attend and guests are certainly welcome. Every boy who advances deserves to be recognized in front of his family. The Court of Honor is the boy's special night.

Advancement Through First Class

SCOUT, TENDERFOOT, SECOND CLASS, FIRST CLASS

From the time the Scout enters the Troop through the time he earns advancement to First Class, he is learning basic scouting skills to enable him to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, and perform other tasks in the outdoors and to work as a member of a team. With those first steps the Scout begins to build himself physically, mentally, and morally. He will start to understand and live by the Scout Oath and Law. Soon he will learn the symbolism inherent in the Scout badge; he will learn that there are three points of the trefoil that stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath: Duty to God and country, duty to other people, and duty to yourself. The goal of Troop 627 is for the Scout to achieve the rank of First Class shortly after his first year in the Troop. This is a sign that the Scout has mastered the fundamentals of Scouting and can begin to start the long process of learning to lead others, refining the learned skills and learning additional skills.

Advancement from First Class to Eagle

STAR, LIFE, EAGLE

From the achievement of First Class through Eagle, the Scout will be demonstrating leadership, performing service projects, earning merit badges and using the skills learned while achieving the rank of First Class. The next ranks he will earn are Star and Life. These ranks are harder to obtain than the earlier ranks, but are also more interesting for the older Scouts. Upon completion of all the requirements for Star and Life the Scout will be eligible to work for Eagle. The original principals, the Scout Oath and Law,

now have fuller meaning for the Scout and their understanding of them is much greater. The final steps towards Eagle are filled with leadership experiences.

Details for advancement are contained in the Boy Scout Handbook, which every Scout should obtain as soon as possible after joining the Troop. Take a look at Chapter 1. This short chapter has an advancement summary through First Class.

Troop major awards

Troop 627 has created some Troop specific awards over time.

Bill Snyder Award: This award is given in memory of Bill Snyder, a former Scoutmaster of Troop 627 whose love of Scouting and the outdoors was an inspiration to the Troop.

Scoutmaster Award: This award is presented annually at the Scoutmaster's discretion, to the Scout who best displays excellence in advancement, Scout Spirit and participation.

Fire Chiefs Award: This award is given annually to the Scout who best displays the Spirit of Scouting. The award is given in recognition of Troop 627's sponsoring organization, the Underhill/Jericho Volunteer Fire Department.

Merit Badges

Merit Badges fall into two categories: those that are required for the rank of Eagle Scout and those that are not. Scouts can earn merit badges at any time. Over 100 Merit Badges are available with topics ranging from American Business to Woodworking. Some merit badges are fairly easy to obtain, and some are extremely difficult. All Merit Badges are educational and will teach skills that can be used later in the Scout's life. The requirements for the Eagle-required merit badges are listed in the Boy Scout Handbook. A list of all the available Merit Badges and their requirements is available in the Merit Badge pamphlet. The troop has a copy of the Merit Badge Pamphlet available, or you may purchase one from the council scout store.

Occasionally, a merit badge may be worked on in small or large groups as a Troop activity, but a majority of the responsibility of choosing and completing the requirements for a Merit Badge is up to the individual Scout.

Some Merit Badges may be completed at Summer Camp. Scouts will generally need to choose and sign up in advance for merit badges when registering for Summer Camp. Some Merit Badges may require "homework" before or after Summer Camp.

If a Scout does not fully complete a Merit Badge while at camp, the Advancement Committee Chair can record and track the completed and required requirements so that the Scout can complete the badge at a later date.

In order to earn a merit badge, the Scout will need to:

- Choose a Merit Badge to work on. Before you start, you may want to look at the requirements to see how difficult and time-consuming the Merit Badge may be (see www.meritbadge.com).
- Obtain a merit badge card (blue card) from an adult leader (See the Scoutmaster or the Advancement Committee Chair). These cards have three sections - one for the Merit Badge Counselor's records, one for the Scout's records, and one for the Council's records.
- Meet with the Scoutmaster and tell him which merit badge you are going to work on. He will ensure that you are working on a Merit Badge that is appropriate for your needs/abilities, and he will ensure that you have a Merit Badge Counselor. The Scoutmaster will sign the front of the blue card. This **MUST** be done **BEFORE** starting to work on the merit badge!
- Get a current copy of the merit badge pamphlet. We have the more popular Merit Badge Pamphlets on file - see the Troop Librarian or your Merit Badge Counselor.
- Contact and arrange meetings with a Merit Badge Counselor. The Merit Badge Counselor is a person with in-depth knowledge of the subject. The Counselor will help teach the subject and ensure that the Scout has completed the requirements for the badge. As per BSA Youth Protection rules, any Scout meeting with a merit badge counselor must not do so alone - at least one other Scout, a parent, or another adult leader must be present at all times.
- The counselor will write the requirement numbers in the appropriate boxes on the merit badge card. As each requirement is completed, the counselor will initial the appropriate box on the merit badge card. When all requirements are completed, the Merit Badge Counselor must

sign the back of the card. One third of the card is kept by the Counselor for his/her records.

- Turn in the completed and signed card to the Advancement Committee Chair.
- The Advancement Chair will give the Scout his third of the card for his records. It is a good idea to keep this card as proof of completion of the Merit Badge in case any record-keeping errors are made.
- The Advancement Chair will enter the data into the advancement tracking software and he will register the completion with the Council and arrange for the badge to be presented to the Scout at the next Court of Honor.

Most Merit Badge Counselors will be Adult Leaders in our Troop, or Counselors at Summer Camp. Contact the Scoutmaster if you want to work on a merit badge with no local counselor - there may be counselors available in the council/district that will be available to work with you.

All scouts are encouraged to create a binder to keep track of their advancement. Recording outings, dates, Merit Badges completed and in progress, plus rank advancement is important.

All parents of Troop 627 Scouts are encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors. Please fill in the Troop Resource Survey and return it to a Troop Leader.

What Does It Cost?

The Troop Committee and the Scoutmaster recognize that Scouting has become expensive and can be a strain on a household budget in trying times. Troop 627's program includes a variety of activities. No Scout should be prevented from participating for financial reasons. If you are suffering from financial hardship, please speak to the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair. "Camperships" happen with frequency in all Troops. All discussions will be held in the utmost confidence.

The process of rechartering is the annual collection of registration fees for the Scouts and Leaders. This happens in September.

- \$9.99 Boy Scout Handbook 12th Edition (One time purchase)
- \$35(??) – Annual Troop Registration Fee – This includes the \$16.00 for national BSA membership and insurance and will cover many of

the smaller charges associated with Troop activities incurred throughout the year.

- \$12.00 for *Boys Life* magazine (optional, but really enjoyable, and gives the Scouts ideas for activities and outings). -annual fee
- Fees for Outings and Activities- This really depends on the activity. District Camporee costs are typically \$10-\$20 and we usually attend two per year (Spring/Fall). Obviously, some of our bigger trips will have a higher cost associated with them. Boys will be notified of the approximate costs of an activity during the planning stage for that activity.
- Food for Outings- Part of the Patrol Method involves the boys planning their own meals. The costs of the food will all depend on what the boys choose to eat. They are responsible for supplying their part of their Patrols' meals.
- Class A Uniform – more information found in the Uniform section of this Parent's Guide

Fundraising

Troop 627 conducts several fundraisers throughout the year. Participation by Scouts and Leaders is expected. In the past, these activities have included popcorn sales, fudge, Christmas tree sales, Harvest Market pie sales, Eagle Scout fundraising, and bottle drives. Any suggestions of fundraising ideas are welcome.

Part of the money earned will go toward overall troop finances, and part of the money will be put into an account for each of the Scouts who participate in the fund-raiser. Money earned by each Scout can be applied to campout fees, or it can be used for approved equipment purchases, or for High Adventure fees like Sea Base. Contact the Treasurer if you need to know how much you have in your account.

Boy Scouts With Special Needs Physical and Mental Disabilities

The BSA's policy has always been to treat members with disabilities and special needs as much like other members as possible, but a local Council may make some accommodations in advancement requirements if necessary. A Scout with a permanent physical or mental disability may select an alternate merit badge in lieu of a required merit badge if his disabling

condition prohibits the Scout from completing the necessary requirements of a particular required merit badge.

Other Medical Considerations

Please seek out the Scoutmaster and let him know what, if any, special requirements are in place for your Scouts health. Nut allergies, bee sting or other seasonal allergies, asthma – we need to know. It is also important for us to understand the difference between “ I don't like that” or “I can't eat that.”

EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOR

Scouts, leaders and parents are expected to live the ideals of scouting in their everyday lives. All are expected to live by the scout oath, live by and practice the scout law, and to live by and practice the outdoor code. Any persons found to be engaging in illegal, inappropriate or offensive behaviors may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including removal from the troop. Our team approach requires that we maintain an environment of trust and mutual respect at all times. Behaviors such as bullying, hazing, inappropriate touching, fighting, flagrant disrespect, use of foul language, disobeying leaders, lying, cheating, stealing, acting in a manner which jeopardizes the safety of yourself or others, refusing to follow procedures, being uncooperative., disrupting activities, intentionally damaging property or equipment, refusing to take prescribed medications, and excessive teasing will not be tolerated.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Persons experiencing conflict are expected to remove themselves from further direct interaction and are asked to report their differences to the Scoutmaster or another registered adult leader. The Scoutmaster or leader should make every effort to diffuse the situation and provide an unbiased resolution. If warranted, one or more individuals may be immediately removed from an activity. All significant behavioral issues must be reported to the Scoutmaster, the Committee Chair and the Charter Organization Representative for review.

DISCIPLINE

Appropriate behavior in keeping with the Scout Oath and Law is expected at all times. The consequences of misbehavior will vary depending upon the severity and frequency of the action. These consequences can include

warnings, sitting out during an activity, asking a parent to remove a boy from an activity, parent conferences, and expulsion from the Troop. Adult leaders and parents who display unacceptable behavior, manner or actions will be subject to disciplinary actions. The PLC, Committee, Charter Organization or Scoutmaster will manage discipline for behavior problems.

A four-person committee, comprised of the troop committee chair, Scoutmaster, Charter organization representative and the SPL, will review disciplinary issues. A quorum of 3 is required for a decision.

Resources and Contact Information

- Local Scouting Shop – Waterbury Scout Shop, 838 US Route 2, Waterbury, VT. Great resource for uniforms, and Scout handbook.
- <http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsasupply/>– National BSA site for BSA related supplies
- <http://www.scoutingvermont.org/> - Green Mountain Council

Contacts:

If there is a concern about Troop activities or leadership, please speak directly with the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair. We can't address an issue if we are not made aware of one.

Scoutmaster	Ken Thurgate Kurt Johnson
Committee Chair	Jean Kleptz
Advancement Chair	David Wechsler Jim Bentlage
Charter Org. Rep.	Dwight DeCoster
Treasurer	Andy Bibb
District Commissioner	David Sem
Unit Commissioner	David Schuler