

Troop 144

Guidelines

Version 3.0
Updated: 11/6/2013

TROOP 144 GUIDELINES

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1.00 TROOP MEMBERSHIP

1.01 An "Active Scout"

In order for a scout to remain a member of Troop 144, it is necessary for him to meet the requirements outlined under the term "active scout". Units may not create their own definition of active; the following is national standard effective January 1, 2010.

A Scout will be considered "active" in his unit if he is:

1. Registered in his unit (registration fees are current)
2. Not dismissed from his unit for disciplinary reasons
3. Engaged by his unit leadership on a regular basis (informed of unit activities through Scoutmaster Conference or personal contact, etc).
4. In communication with the unit leader on a quarterly basis.

If the Scout does not initiate communication, the unit leader is to contact the Scout and ask if the youth wishes to remain in Scouting. If the answer is negative, then the unit leader should no longer communicate with the Scout. If the answer is affirmative, the unit leader should provide the unit calendar. After six months of nonparticipation, the unit leader may cease to contact with the youth and drop the Scout from the unit at recharter time.

The Scout may return to the unit at any time while on the unit charter. At any time a Scout is dropped from a charter, the youth may re-apply to a unit for readmission; the acceptance of the application is at the discretion of the unit. The youth would be reinstated at the rank and level that can be documented by either the Scout or the unit.

2.00 THE TROOP

2.01 Meeting Location

Regular troop meetings are held at the St. John's United Church of Christ, located at 1415 Rising Sun Rd., in Laurys Station.

2.02 Meeting Time

Meetings are held on Tuesdays of each week. The meetings begin at 7:00 pm and end around 8:30 pm. Anyone picking his or her son up after the meeting is asked to be punctual. Adult leaders may not leave until all boys have departed. Meetings may, from time to time, be switched to another night of the week. These dates will be announced ahead of time.

PLC (Patrol Leaders Council) meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month, before regular troop meeting from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. All members of the PLC are expected to attend the meeting. It is at these meetings that the boy leaders decide our troop activities.

2.03 Purpose/Format

It is during Troop meetings that the boys develop the plans for the various activities throughout the year. Such things include developing menus for camp outs, learning life saving techniques, working on elements in their Boy Scout Handbooks that can be done as a group, as well as many more activities.

Generally, some sort of "Rowdy. . . Energetic. . . Fun" activity will be a part of the meeting as well.

Patrol meetings give the patrols time to go over meal and activity planning, as well as reviewing scouting skills. Troop meetings cover subjects that involve the entire Troop.

Formats of the Troop and Patrol meetings are developed by the Scouts during the Patrol Leaders Council.

Patrols may need to schedule patrol meetings on off nights. These meetings would be used to complete tasks that were not able to be finished during the regular patrol meetings. They will be scheduled by the Patrol Leaders.

3.00 TROOP UNIFORM

3.01 Class "A"/Field Uniform - Required & Suggested

REQUIRED

- A Tan Boy Scout Shirt (short sleeve or long sleeve) with American Flag emblem on the right sleeve and a World Crest Emblem
- Green Shoulder Loops
- Minsi Trails Council Shoulder Patch
- 144 numerals
- The Scouts current Rank Badge
- A Green BSA Troop Neckerchief OR Bolo tie for older Scouts who have earned them (e.g. Order of the Arrow, Eagle Scout, etc.)
- A Neckerchief slide (BSA official or may be handmade)

SUGGESTED

- A pair of long Boy Scout (or reasonable facsimile) trousers OR
- A pair of Boy Scout (or reasonable facsimile) shorts;
- An official Boy Scout (or reasonable facsimile) belt;
- A pair of official Boy Scout (or reasonable facsimile) socks.

It is required that boys wear their Class "A" uniforms to all troop meetings. There are occasions when old clothes are needed and the Scoutmaster or Asst. Scoutmaster will let the boys know of these occasions.

It is required that boys wear Class "A" uniform (including neckerchief and current rank insignia) to Board of Review.

The full Class "A" uniform including required AND suggested items above is considered our "Dress Uniform" and must be worn at all formal occasions (Courts of Honor, Scout Sunday, parades, etc.). Full class "A" includes the entire above items (no jeans) plus merit badge sash and any medals the Boy Scout may have earned.

3.02 Headgear

No headgear other than our Troop cap may be worn as part of the Class "A" uniform.

3.03 Class "B" Uniform

A Troop T-shirt, or other Scout related T-shirt (Order of the Arrow or special camp) is considered a Class "B" uniform.

The Class "B" shirt may be worn only at the discretion of the Scoutmaster. The class "B" uniform is NOT to replace the standard BSA class "A" uniform.

3.04 Other Items

Boy Scout Handbook; Boy Scout Fieldbook; Junior Leader Handbook.

4.00 TROOP COMMITTEE

4.01 Members

Charter requirements are that we have a Committee Chairperson, a Chartered Organizational Representative, along with two other Committee Members. More members will be recruited as necessary. The Committee oversees the Troop property and assists with Troop policies and procedures. The Committee Chairperson heads the Committee. Parents are always welcome to attend any and all Committee meetings. Parents are encouraged to join Troop 144's committee.

4.02 Meetings/Time/Location

The Committee Chairperson usually holds committee meetings the third Wednesday of each month, or as designated.

Meetings start at 7:30 PM and are normally held off-site.

5.00 TROOP PROGRAM

5.01 Overview

The Boy Scout program uses the "TROOP/PATROL METHOD" to allow for the organized development of young boys into young men. While the program is designed to provide activities that are fun and a real adventure for the boys, it allows for character development, pride in country (citizenship), mental/physical fitness, and religious development. It also demonstrates respect for others, and allows for the desire to lead others.

The boys run the Boy Scout program, with the guidance through leadership training, of an adult Scoutmaster and his Asst. Scoutmasters. It's not a program outwardly run by adults. Adults are there to teach and to ensure safety. This is important, because on occasion, what may look like "disorganization" is really a learning program. What may be something we as adults are not excited about is something the boys said they wanted to do. Scoutmasters and other troop leaders follow one very basic rule of Scouting: "NEVER DO FOR A BOY, WHAT A BOY CAN DO FOR HIMSELF."

5.02 Troop Elections

Boys are elected into key leadership roles. To be a candidate for a leadership position, a boy must be registered with BSA and be an active member of Troop 144. Elections are held at six-month intervals. Junior Leader Training will be provided for all elected leaders.

5.03 Discipline

Disciplines of language, actions, and activities are all a part of the Scouting program. All Scouts are expected to adhere to the Scout Oath and Law and to obey their Scout and Adult Leaders. The Scoutmaster will notify the family of any boy who does not want to work within the rules of the Troop. Boys who continually cause discipline problems within the Troop will be given the following disciplinary action:

- 1st offense, a conference with the Boy Scout and his parent(s)
- 2nd Offense, written notice
- 3rd Offense, they will be asked to leave Troop 144

Any Scout who knowingly destroys or damages another person's property (clothes or otherwise) will be held responsible for the replacement or repair of the item(s).

5.04 Patrols

The Patrol Method is the key element in developing leadership skills, including the many individual skills. Patrols compete with each other and help your son "belong" with boys who want to share the adventure. Remember which patrol he is in, as it's one of the essential parts of his scouting adventure.

6.00 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

6.01 Adult Leadership

Parents are encouraged to volunteer as adult leaders in the program.

Although goal is a program led by boys, it's necessary that these young men have adult leadership to help develop their leadership skills and ensure that the program accomplishes its goals. The boys deal directly with the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters. We will look to each adult for help from time to time.

Training, of adult leaders and boys, is important to ensure the best possible program for each of our sons. Minsi Trails Council requires all adult leaders be fully trained. This training includes Youth Protection, Scoutmaster Specific, and Scoutmaster Outdoor training.

A minimum of two adults must be present at all Troop functions that involve any registered Scouts within our Troop, including both Troop and patrol activities (Two-deep leadership). At least one must be a registered adult. (National BSA Policy)

A minimum of TWO but preferably three adults are needed (for safety reasons) on any Troop overnighter, or any longer camp outs.

There will be absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS to the above policies. If it's not possible to meet these requirements, the activity must be canceled.

Troop 144 uses the "Buddy System" as outlined in the Boy Scout Handbook.

6.02 Committee Member

Parents are always welcome to attend any and all Committee meetings. Parents are encouraged to join Troop 144's committee.

6.03 Merit Badge Counselor

Parents can help the program by registering as a Merit Badge counselor.

6.04 Project Involvement

Scouting is a family program. We will be calling on each family to participate in the various projects throughout the year. We will use your talents, so that you too can enjoy the fun and excitement of scouting. Do not allow only a few volunteers to carry the program for your son. To have the best Troop, we must all pitch in!

7.00 COSTS

7.01 Registration/Dues/Boys Life Magazine

Annual dues/registration for each Scout is a total \$60.00 collected at start of scout year. This includes BSA registration, annual subscription to Boy's Life magazine, and troop dues. Scouts coming into the troop from crossing over from a Cub Scout Pack must pay fee of \$35.00 (includes transfer fee, scout book, troop neckerchief, hat, Class B T-shirt and troop dues).

7.02 Troop Activities

Activities are planned throughout the year and many have a fee. There will be a sign up sheet for each activity with fee and deadline listed on the sheet. Typically scouts will have to prepay \$20 for a weekend campout to cover food costs. Payment must be made in advance of the event by those boys who will participate. Each boy is responsible for individual costs. There are no refunds for last minute cancellation or no shows. Verbal commitments to attend are considered binding when the Troop must prepay based on show of hands.

7.03 Training Costs

Quality training is the best way for our troop to continue to grow and have quality leadership. Most training costs for Leaders and Scout leader training will be paid for by the troop. Training requests will go before the committee for final approval for the total amount, or a shared payment. Required training for Leaders, as well as Scouts, will be paid for by the Troop.

7.04 Fund-Raisers

The Troop will usually hold several fundraiser events throughout the year. Proceeds go to the Troop's general fund and/or to individual scout accounts (see section 8.00)

We will have a fund-raiser during late summer or early fall each year. Our fall fund-raising goal will be to cover the majority of expenses of the Troop for the year. We may be required to have an additional fund-raiser during the year if we find it financially necessary.

We encourage all Scouts to participate in the fund-raiser in order for boys to work as a team to build our troop, thus paying their own way as recommended by the Boy Scouts of America.

We encourage anyone interested in joining our fund-raising committee to contact the Scoutmaster or another Committee Member. We are always in need of new and improved ideas for fund-raising.

7.05 Summer Camp Fees

A policy has been established to allow this fee to be paid in installments. Payment schedule is dictated by camp policy and will be communicated in late winter/early spring. It is the responsibility of the Scout and/or his parents/guardian to make sure the payments reach the Troop Treasurer on time. Once a payment, either deposit and/or balance, has been made, it is usually not refundable.

“Camperships” are generally available to those families in need. These are provided for by the Minsi Trails Council and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

8.00 SCOUT ACCOUNTS

8.01 Goal of Scout Accounts

The goal for scout accounts is to: fund high-adventure trips; establish a scout paying his own way; and ease the financial burden on families to pay for everything.

8.02 Scout Account Guidelines:

- Earnings
 - Scouts can earn account funds by participating in fund raising activities designated by the Troop Committee. Funds will be credited to the individual Scout based on participation in the designated fund raising activity.
 - Fundraisers involving sales will be allocated to each Scout based on his overall sales.
 - Fundraisers involving service will be allocated to each Scout based on participation rather than the number of hours.
- Use of Scout account
 - Scouts may use scout account to pay for Summer Camp, High Adventure trips, Uniforms/Scout Shop purchases, and Patrol/Troop outings.
- Transfer of Scout bucks
 - If a Scout transfers to another troop, his Scout account will be transferred to his account in the new troop. If the new troop has no such account, the Scout account will be credited to the troop general fund of Troop 144.
 - If a Scout leaves the troop and has a sibling in the troop, his money can be transferred to his sibling.
- Resignation
 - If a Scout resigns from or fails to maintain his status as an active Scout per Troop 144 Guidelines for a period of 6 months, his earned Scout account will be applied to any outstanding amounts he owes to the troop and any remaining balance will be credited to the Troop 144 general fund.
- Graduation
 - After a Scout reaches his 18th birthday (and until he reaches his 19th birthday), he will be allowed to participate in fund raising activities and earn funds and to continue to access the account as outlined above, so long as he remains active with the Troop as an adult leader.
 - In addition, after he reaches his 19th birthday (the scout cannot earn more funds, but can access his account until he reaches his 21st birthday), he will be allowed to access the account as outlined above so long as he remains active with the Troop as an adult leader.
 - Any amount remaining after a Scout’s 21st birthday will be placed in the Troop 144 general fund.
- Other Use
 - Requests for release of account funds for anything other than outlined above (e.g. training fees, Eagle Service projects, etc.) will be considered by the Troop Committee on a case by case basis. Scouts should submit these requests to the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair for consideration.
 - No Scout bucks will ever be transferred to the Scout in order to “close out” the account.
 - Boys who commit to an activity, and fail to attend will forfeit the amount of out-of-pocket expenses that the troop must bear. These funds can be deducted from the Scout’s account to pay for any costs the troop may have already incurred, such as food and reservation fees. Since every activity has different circumstances that can’t be factored in, the Committee will review and decide each case individually.

9.00 ADVANCEMENT

9.01 Working With Your Son

Your son will be making personal growth agreements with his Scoutmaster and himself that encourages him the achievement of the necessary activities to earn the badges in the scouting program. Parents should encourage their son but never do any work themselves towards a boy's advancement. One of the cardinal rules of scouting, "Never do for a boy what a boy can do for himself".

9.02 Advancement Approval

Only the Scoutmaster, a member of his staff, or the present Senior Patrol Leader may sign off in his Handbook.

9.03 Merit Badges

Part of a Scout's advancement requires him to earn Merit Badges. Generally, the Scout, as an individual effort, earns these badges. However, on occasion, merit badge clinics at troop meetings are held so a group of Scouts may work on a specific badge together. This is especially true during Summer Camp or Troop meetings.

In all cases, the Scout must discuss his intentions with the Scoutmaster PRIOR to working on any badge. The Scout must obtain a blue Merit Badge Application card from the Scoutmaster prior to starting the merit badge. Any requirements completed beforehand will not be credited. A Scout must work only with a counselor who has been approved by and is registered with Minsi Trails Council. The Scoutmaster must always check the following 3 items with the scout requesting a blue card - 1) What merit badge is he taking? 2) Who is his merit badge counselor? 3) Who is the buddy taking the merit badge with him?

9.04 Merit Badge Counselors

Only those individuals on Minsi Trails Council approved Merit Badge counselor list may counsel a Merit Badge.

A Counselor must insure that a Scout completes all requirements of the badge he is counseling No more, and no less.

A list of Merit Badges may be obtained from the Scoutmaster (or meritbadge.org) should you wish to become a Counselor.

If you have a special interest or talent, please share it with the Troop. The Troop is always in need of Merit Badge Counselors.

Remember that the advancement "trail" in Boy Scouts is to the rank of Eagle Scout.

9.05 Service to Others

A key part of advancement requires a Scout to perform Service Hours. The Scout will need to perform one (1) hour of service for Second Class rank, and six (6) hours each for both the Star rank and the Life rank. Generally, these hours of service must be of the Scouts choosing. The Scoutmaster and/or Troop committee is not responsible for providing the service project hours for the Scout. They can however, provide suggestions for service hours and/or projects. The Scout must, however, receive approval of any and all service projects from the Scoutmaster PRIOR to starting any projects. Only projects that have been approved in advance by the Scoutmaster will be credited. These hours need to be service to the Troops Charter Partner, a Church or religious organization, a local government, or other Service Organizations. They may not be to any sports group or to another Scout group.

9.06 Scoutmaster Conference/Boards of Review

As your son advances along the trail to Eagle Scout, he must complete a variety of accomplishments. Each rank has a series of requirements that need to be completed. When all requirements for a specific rank are completed, the final requirements are to have a Scoutmaster Conference and then pass a Board of Review. It is during the Scoutmaster Conference that the Scoutmaster ensures that the Scout has fulfilled these requirements. Once satisfied, the Scoutmaster will make arrangements with the Troop Advancement Chairperson or committee member to have a Board of Review interview.

Scouts should initiate their own Scoutmaster Conference!

The Board of Review will conduct the interview with the Scout. They will determine the quality of his experience and decide whether he has fulfilled the requirements for the rank. The Scoutmaster or Asst. Scoutmaster cannot be present at these boards of review. The Board of Review is headed by the Advancement Chairperson.

9.07 Court of Honor

A Court of Honor, a special meeting held every three or four months, is for awarding merit badges, rank advancements, and any other award(s) earned by the Scouts. This is a FAMILY meeting and all family members are encouraged to attend. It's a very special time to the boys in the Troop. They will be recognized for their achievements. We ask that you be there to share this recognition. Times and dates are published in the Troop newsletter and other notifications. Scouts must be in their Class "A" Uniforms in order to receive their award(s).

10.00 TRAINING

10.01 Junior Leader Training

On dates designated by the Scoutmaster, training sessions will be conducted to train the Scouts in leadership.

11.00 TROOP COMMUNICATION

11.01 Troop Calendar of Events

Troop calendar event dates are prepared annually by the Patrol Leaders Council and the Scoutmaster during the planning session held each August.

The Troop plans a theme for each month. The Troop tries to have an event each month. The boys determine these events during the planning session each year. Information about these events is shown in the Calendar of Events page on the Troop website.

11.02 Circle Up

Troop 144 primary form of communication to scouts is at end of troop meetings in "*Circle Up*". Scouts are responsible for communicating information to the parents.

11.03 Troop Newsletter

Troop 144 publishes a Troop newsletter published quarterly and distributed at Troop Court of Honor. The newsletter will provide useful information, dates, upcoming events, and special notices. Everyone is encouraged to use this newsletter to communicate to other members of the Troop 144 family. This is a useful tool to update your family calendar.

11.04 Troop Website

Troop 144 website address is <http://nvtroop144.org>. You can email the Scoutmaster at scoutmaster@nvtroop144.org the Webmaster at webmaster@nvtroop144.org. Everyone is encouraged to make use of the website for Troop information, calendar of events, pictures, etc.

11.05 Email Communication

Troop 144 communicates to parents via email. Program emails with important dates, deadlines, and news on upcoming events are sent monthly. Families who do not have access to email should notify the Scoutmaster or Troop Secretary so hard copy can be distributed.

11.06 Troop 144 Call Down

Troop 144 occasionally uses a call down to distribute important short time notices to each Scout in the Troop. The information goes from the Scoutmaster to the Senior Patrol Leader, then to the patrol leaders. It is the responsibility of the patrol leaders to see to it that each member of his patrol receives the information sent through the call down. It is very important that the information be passed on to everyone so the entire Troop is informed.

12.00 TROOP ROSTER

Periodic troop rosters include names, addresses, and phone numbers. These lists are updated as necessary and will be supplied on request.

13.00 TROOP TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Each Scout must arrange for his own transportation to and from designated meeting location for each local event or camping trip. We recommend that each family locate other Scout families near them, or members of their son's patrol, and car pool. Departure time, location, destination arrival time, and return time will be announced in advance.

Scout leaders and adults attending events or campouts will often provide rides to scouts who need them. This is done as a COURTESY and is not required of any adult attending. Boys who have not arranged for transportation in advance will not be allowed to attend if there is not enough room, Adults not attending who are available for transportation are asked to sign up in advance and indicate availability for transportation to the event or returning from the event or both.

Driver Qualifications: All drivers must have a valid driver's license and be at least 18 years of age. Youth Member Exception: when traveling to a regional, or national Boy Scout activity or any Explorer event under the leadership of an adult (21+) tour leader, a youth member at least 16 years of age may be a driver, subject to the following conditions: (1) Six months' driving experience as a licensed driver (time on a learner's permit or equivalent is not to be counted); (2) no record of accidents or moving violations; (3) parental permission has been granted to leader, driver, and riders; (4) a 21 year-old licensed driver must be a passenger in the vehicle.

14.00 PHYSICAL EXAM AND PERMISSION RELEASE FORMS

It is required that all boys have a medical examination form on file with the Scoutmaster. A physical exam is required every year. Additionally, the parent or guardian must complete a permission/release form for each non-Council or non-District outing the Scout attends. We cannot assume by his payment of fees and his presence that he has gotten permission to attend. These permission/release forms must be turned in to the Scoutmaster a minimum of one week in advance of the outing.

Medical form is available for download on Troop website nvtroop144.org → Forms/Documents.

15.00 CAMP OUT COSTS/ TROOP EQUIPMENT

15.01 Camp out Costs

Troop 144 covers most of the fixed camping fees from general fund. The following are some examples of fixed fees that will normally be covered: rental fee for a group of campsites or cabin for a weekend, per person fee for Scout events and tour fees. There will be a decision by the Committee when the fixed fee is over \$20 per person how much the Troop will pay to offset these fees. Scouts will have to prepay \$20 for a weekend campout to cover food costs. This payment must be made when signing up for the trip. This is usually done one week before the camp out! A scout who is not signed up and paid by the deadline WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND.

15.02 Troop Equipment

Troop equipment is purchased through fund-raisers or donations and is the property of Troop144 and St. John's UCC, Laurys Station. A Scout may borrow this equipment by checking it out through the Troop Quartermaster. The cost of repair and/or replacement will be assessed to the family of the boy who damages or loses Troop property. This includes any books from the troop library. All books may also be borrowed and must be checked out through the Troop Librarian.

16.00 TOTIN' CHIP / FIREM'N CHIT PRIVILEGES

16.01 Totin' Chip

In order for a Scout in Troop 144 to use a knife, saw, ax, or hatchet, it is necessary for him to attend a "Totin' Chip" class. This is a class in the safe use of woods' tools, including a pocketknife. Once the "Totin' Chip" is obtained, the boy may use these tools. If a boy does not follow the safe use rules, he will lose a corner of the card for each infraction. If all four corners are lost, the boy no longer has the privilege, and must take the class again. Severe cases of unsafe use will result in immediate loss of privileges.

16.02 Firem'n Chit

In order for a Scout in Troop 144 to build and use a fire, either for cooking or a campfire, he must attend a class in the safe use of fire, thus earning his "Firem'n Chit". As with his "Totin' Chip," any unsafe acts will result in corners cut or removal of the card.

17.00 ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP

Troop 144 attends summer camp each year, usually at Minsi Trails Council Settlers Camp - Trexler Scout Reservation, Jonas, PA. Every third year we try to go out of Council to another BSA summer camp. This is to help break up the same old camping trip and to visit other BSA scout camps for the experience.

Summer camp is a significant element in the success of a Scout and the Troop. Any active Scout is allowed to attend Summer Camp. We strongly encourage each Scout to attend this experience. If you have any questions about summer camp, please contact the Scoutmaster.

18.00 CAMP OUT POLICIES

18.01 Rides

The Troop transportation policy as outlined in Article 12.00 applies and is strictly enforced. Each Scout is responsible for his own ride to and from each local event. Any Scout who does not arrange for a ride prior to arriving at the departure point, will not be allowed to attend the event. This is one more lesson in responsibility.

18.02 Departure from Camp

NO SCOUT will be allowed to leave the event until all troop gear is packed, the campsite has been cleaned and inspected, and the Senior Patrol Leader has released the troop. Please do not ask to leave early. If you leave early, someone else has to do your share of the cleanup. When returning to the Church, all gear must be put in its proper place in our storage shed before anyone may leave. It is not the responsibility of the Troop Quartermaster and/or the Scoutmaster to stow the gear.

If you have a special requirement for arriving late or leaving early before the event is complete, it must be cleared with the Scoutmaster in advance.

Please be on time to pick up your Scout(s). The adults must wait until all Scouts have been picked up.

18.03 Cleanup of Troop Gear

Troop gear, used on the camp outs, is assigned to each patrol who is responsible to thoroughly clean the gear before it is returned. Occasionally, gear must be taken home by the Scout and returned at the following troop meeting. For example, if tents get wet during a camp out, they will be sent home with a Scout to dry. They need to be back at the following meeting, but only if they are completely dry. The Quartermaster keeps a list of who has the gear and checks it off when it is returned in satisfactory condition. If the gear is not returned to the satisfaction of the Quartermaster, it will not be accepted, and must be returned when clean.

Remember, take care of your equipment, and it will take care of you!

19.00 TROOP ELECTIONS AND ORDER OF THE ARROW

19.01 Junior Leader Elections

Elections for Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader are held twice a year in fall and spring. Senior Patrol Leaders have a two term limit. Patrol Leaders have a single term limit.

19.02 OA Elections

The Order of the Arrow plays a vital role in the camping program of Troop 144 and the Minsi Trails Council. Scouts who have demonstrated their ability as honor campers are recognized through their election into the Order of the Arrow. These elections are held once a year.

Order of the Arrow youth elections are held in January or February under the direction of an O. A. Official. Adult elections are handled through the adult nomination selection committee. In order for a troop to conduct a youth election, there must be 50% of the active registered Scouts in the troop present on the election date. The Scoutmaster shall oversee all youth elections, but conducted by two OA youth members who are not members of Troop 144.

19.03 Youth Membership Requirements

A Scout must have the Scoutmaster's approval as to:

His Scouting Spirit;

His adherence to the Scout Oath and Scout Law;

His participation in activities and events as outlined in Article 1.01.

For OA eligibility a Scout must have fifteen nights of camping under the auspices of the Boy Scouts of America within two years prior to the election. These fifteen nights must include one long term BSA camp experience (6 consecutive nights) and at least nine nights of short term camping (1, 2, or 3 nights)

For OA and Senior Patrol Leader eligibility a Scout must hold the rank of First Class. For Patrol Leader there is no rank requirement.

19.04 What To Do Before The Election for O. A. and Troop Positions

The Scoutmaster is to have a discussion with the Scouts of Troop 144 about the election itself. The Scouts are to be made aware of the fact that these elections should not be considered a popularity contest. The Order of the Arrow is looking for those Scouts who show true understanding of the Scouting ideals as set forth in the Scout Oath and Law. The younger Scouts should be told that this is a private election - no one will know how they voted. They should not be voting for a Scout who just appears to be the most popular. The troop is looking for those Scouts who are willing to take on the responsibility of a troop leadership position. Rules for troop elections will be discussed with the troop prior to elections.

20.00 ADULT LEADERSHIP

A current listing of Troop 144's adult leadership will be provided on request.

21.00 TROOP 144 SPONSOR

St. John's United Church of Christ sponsors Boy Scout Troop 144. St. John's is located on Rising Sun Rd. in Laurys Station, PA.

22.00 TROOP 144 RECORDS

22.01 Storage of Official Troop Records

The storage of official troop records and information lies with the Scoutmaster, the Troop Advancement Chairperson and the Troop Treasurer. The Scoutmaster will keep all Scout records. The Advancement Chairperson will keep official advancement information and general Troop information on computer, with backup. The Troop Treasurer will keep all financial records. The Treasurer will report to the Committee.

22.02 Maintenance and Update of Official Troop Records

The continual maintenance and updating of official troop records as outlined in 22.01 will be the sole responsibility of the individual involved.

22.03 Update of Newsletter and Website

The monthly updating of the newsletter and the website will be the responsibility of the Troop Secretary.

23.00 LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

23.01 Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster is the person in charge of the Troop who quietly but effectively pulls all together to get the results he's after: helping young boys grow into good responsible citizens. He works by training boy leaders to help run the Troop and managing and supporting the Assistant Scoutmasters.

Scoutmaster position description:

- Train and guide boy leaders to run their Troop using the Patrol method.
- Work with and through responsible adults to bring scouting to the boys.
- Help boys grow by encouraging them to learn.
- Guide boys in safety and planning of the Troops program needs.
- Help the Troop committee in recruiting and managing Assistant Scoutmasters.
- Conduct Scoutmaster conferences.
- Chain of Command

The Scoutmaster is the one - and only- Troop leader who relates closely to each of the other links in the chain of command of Troop operations. His voice is first in line in the adult leadership chain of command.

23.02 Asst. Scoutmaster

Assistant Scoutmasters play a strategic part in all troops, for they support the Scoutmaster and share in the challenge. They may be called upon to assume the role of Scoutmaster in the absence of the regular Scoutmaster. They must obey all rules set by BSA and Troop committee. The Scoutmaster will assign each Assistant Scoutmaster a list of actual duties and responsibilities.

23.03 Other Adult Leaders and Committee Members

All other adult leaders and/or committee members will serve according to their appointed position responsibilities and according to BSA National Standards. All adult leaders and committee members can serve as second deep leaders in the absence of either the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster when needed.

24.00 REVISION OF TROOP 144'S GUIDELINES

24.01 Revisions and Approval

All revisions to Troop Guidelines must be reviewed and approved by the Troop Committee.