

Boy Scout Troop 342
Guidebook
Parkview Christian Church
Findlay, OH

Black Swamp Area Council * American Elm District

1. WELCOME TO BOY SCOUT TROOP 342

Boy Scout Troop 342 has been sponsored by Parkview Christian Church. Our Troop Committee and Scoutmaster pledge to assist each Scout in the development of his duties to God and Country, to others and to himself. We strive to develop an awareness of self-reliance, to improve individual and group skills, and to increase abilities and knowledge, particularly those of the outdoors and nature.

Scouting involves more than the basic activities usually associated with the program, such as tying knots, cooking, and camping. While this is an integral part of Scouting, the program also includes adventures and work, with emphasis on growth and advancement in all phases of character building, citizenship, acceptance of responsibility, planning, execution, and evaluation.

Should a question arise or a problem develop, please contact the Scoutmaster, one of the Assistant Scoutmasters, or a member of our Troop Committee. Such contact is particularly necessary should any situation arise that may affect the Scout's relationship with his fellow Scouts, Patrol, or Troop. That way we can work together to address any difficulties.

Our Troop believes that it can be successful by being flexible and adapting to the changing times and interests of its members. Everyone's thoughts and suggestions are always welcome. This help is needed to make our Troop the best it can be.

The following material has been written to assist new Scouts and their families in learning some of the expectations and procedures that will help our Troop to remain successful and enhance each Scout's enjoyment of the program.

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2. TROOP MEETINGS

Our Troop meets every Monday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at Parkview Christian Church in Findlay. Any school holiday on a troop meeting night or Level 2 Emergency automatically cancels the Troop meeting. Exceptions will be announced at the Troop meetings and on the Troop web site.

3. JOINING TROOP 342

Membership in Troop 342 is open to any youth that meets the joining requirements for the BSA. Your son can be a scout if he has completed the fifth grade, or is 11 years old, or has earned the Arrow of Light award, but has not reached the age of 18. Scouts are expected to attend all scheduled Troop meetings. The youth leaders will have additional planning meetings.

A parent or guardian should accompany his/her son to a troop meeting. When the decision is made to join our Troop, a membership packet will be given to the parent for review and completion of the necessary forms. The parent, with son, will meet with the Scoutmaster or an assistant Scoutmaster to discuss our Troop's Scouting Program. The boy can not participate in Scouting functions until he is registered and his fees are paid.

The Membership packet includes:

Boy Scout Application
Medical Forms
Troop Guidebook

Yearly Calendar
Troop Resource Survey
Troop Roster

4. BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

5. AIMS OF SCOUTING

The Scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "Aims of Scouting." They are character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness.

6. METHODS OF SCOUTING

The methods by which the aims are achieved are listed below in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each.

Ideals

The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout Motto, and the Scout Slogan. The Boy Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them, he has some control over what and who he becomes.

Patrols

The patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

Outdoor Programs

Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and humankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Boy Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Advancement

Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

Personal Growth

As Boy Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Boy Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development

The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Scouts fitting the requirements for NYLT will be reimbursed for **half** of the NYLT **early fee** by T342 after the scout has successfully completed NYLT and their goals to the troop.

Uniform

The uniform makes the Boy Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Boy Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Boy Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Boy Scout activities and provides a way for Boy Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

7. TROOP ORGANIZATION

Our Troop operates on the patrol method, where each Scout is assigned to a patrol. Each patrol is composed of approximately seven to nine Scouts of similar ages. Patrols are encouraged to operate as independent units for many of their activities, such as camping trips, summer camp, etc. Patrol meetings, in addition to regular meetings, are encouraged. Each patrol chooses a patrol emblem to be worn on the uniform and elects patrol officers. Scouts desiring to change from one patrol to another may do so with the approval of the Scoutmaster. Elections are held in September and March.

The Patrol Leader represents the Patrol at the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC). The PLC consists of an elected Senior Patrol Leader, the Patrol Leaders and other youth leaders. The PLC develops and implements our Troop Program with the guidance of the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters.

The Troop Committee Chairman is responsible to ensure that all Troop functions are properly delegated, coordinated and completed so that our Troop program is accomplished according to the policies of the BSA.

The Charter Organization is represented by the Charter Organization Representative, who serves as the liaison between our Troop and Parkview Christian Church.

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of our Troop. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. The importance of the Scoutmaster's job is reflected in the fact that the quality of his guidance will affect every youth and adult involved in our Troop.

Scouting Policy states there must be two adult leaders at all Troop activities. The Assistant scoutmasters and other adults provide this two deep leadership. In addition, they assist the Scoutmaster in performing his duties in guiding our Troop program.

8. ADULT INVOLVEMENT, TROOP RESOURCE SURVEY

Boy Scouting is for adults as well as boys. It is expected that each Scout's family will contribute to our Troop and its program in some way. We invite you to offer your skills and interests so the best possible program can be developed for our Troop. If our Troop Resource Survey does not address your resources and talents, discuss with the Committee Chairman ways you can assist the Troop. Please return the survey to the Committee Chairman.

The benefits that a Scout receives are directly proportionate to both the QUALITY and QUANTITY of Parental support and participation. Encourage and assist your son in obtaining the most out of scouting. He needs your support!

Please get involved. Our Troop needs many adult volunteers to keep our program running smoothly. Most adults enjoy their role in our troop, but we need to spread out the load, so that no individual is overburdened. The adult volunteers in the troop include treasurer, advancement, outing planning, troop committee, merit badge counselor and many more.

The Troop's Committee meetings are held the same day as the PLC at 7 PM, unless there is a conflict. These meetings are to solicit suggestions, comments and ideas on how to enhance the program. Troop financial information and plans for our Troop's future are normally available. PLEASE be there—our Troop needs the support and input from all its Scout's parents.

Additionally, we encourage you to read "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A parent's guide". You will find it in the front of your son's Scout Handbook. This booklet explains ways to safeguard your children from child abuse. Please discuss this with your scout (or maybe with all your children). This discussion is one of the requirements for your Scout's first rank or advancement, the Scout (Joining) Badge. The prevention of Child Abuse is a topic that our Troop and the Boy Scouts of America take very seriously.

9. TROOP OUTINGS

You can't take the "outing" out of Scouting. In addition to weekly meetings, our Troop has a camping activity each month. These and other activities enable each Scout to enhance his learning experience. They also allow him to utilize and enjoy the rewards of the previous skills he has learned.

Some examples of past and future activities our Troop anticipates are:

- **Camping:**
- **Week long summer camp:** Camp Berry/ Out of Council Camp
- **Service projects:**
- **Courts of Honor** (parents and family also participate)
- **Fundraisers** (parents also participate):

The week of summer camp each year provides a unique advancement opportunity. Certain skills and merit badges can be very difficult to get anywhere else.

All activities are based on Scout and parent input. If you would like to see something new, please bring it up to the Committee or the Patrol Leaders Council.

10. UNIFORM

CLASS A

All Scouts are required to wear the complete Scout uniform to all activities. It is a BSA requirement when traveling to and from outings. The uniform includes the official BSA shirt, BSA pair of pants or shorts and proper insignia on the shirt as shown in Appendix 2 of this guide. All items are available at the Scout Shop in Findlay or Lima.

A complete BSA uniform is required (for example, to usher at Ohio State football games and at a Court of Honor). The complete uniform would also include pants, socks and belt. Most Scouts prefer the BSA uniform shorts and a hat in the heat of the summer. If a hat is worn, it must be either an official BSA hat or a Scout theme hat.

CLASS B

This is worn whenever the planned event involves strenuous physical activity. When announced, Scouts are permitted to wear a Scout T-shirt (like our generic Troop 342 T-shirt or a shirt with the Black Swamp Logo) with BSA pants or shorts.

NOTE: Camouflage pants and shirts are discouraged.

11. ADVANCEMENT

Since the Scout Advancement Program is an integral part of the learning experience, each Scout is encouraged and expected to set certain attainable goals. Scouts are expected to fulfill the requirements to progress to their next rank in a reasonable time. Scouts encountering difficulty in attaining their goals should discuss the difficulty with the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster. Parents are welcome to join in these discussions.

Parent participation in the advancement program

We ask that parents work with their son on their rank advancement from the time they join through the rank of First Class. The requirements for these ranks are outlined in the Boy Scout Handbook. Parents should read through these and test their son on what he knows. When your son has learned a requirement, he may have the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster sign it off.

Merit Badges

Scouts planning to pursue merit badges need to get permission from the Scoutmaster and to get a blue merit badge card prior to starting the merit badge. Then the scout seeks out a Merit Badge counselor. Merit Badge counselors are adults that have knowledge of a specific skill or ability (for example a Safety merit badge counselor might be a Police Officer, a Fireman, etc.) Our Troop maintains a list of counselors that are available and on file with the BSA Office. The parent's responsibility is to ENCOURAGE their son to achieve the next rank. The SCOUT should contact the counselor and make arrangements to get the badge requirements completed.

We would like to keep our Troop Merit Badge counselor list up to date. If your hobbies or employment fall under one of the merit badge titles, please let our Advancement Committee Chair know. He will help you to get signed up as a merit badge counselor. For your son's benefit, we suggest that you not serve as a merit badge counselor for your own Scout.

Award Presentations

Awards for advancement, achievements or special situations will be handled as follows:

- For rank advancement, the scout first has a scoutmaster conference, then a Board of Review organized by our Troop Advancement Chairperson. These will be scheduled as needed.
- For merit badges or other awards, the proper paper work should be turned in to the Scoutmaster for approval and forwarding to the Advancement Chairperson two weeks before for a Board of Review.
- We try to procure the badges, patches, etc. earned two weeks prior to the Court of Honor.

- Scouts are required to keep track of any documentation (Merit Badge and Rank Cards) issued to them from the Advancement Chairperson. These may be necessary as they advance to the next rank.

A Court of Honor is held to recognize and award each Scout's achievements during the prior period (usually June, August and December). This is a formal meeting. Parents together with family and friends are encouraged to attend in support of their sons. This also provides an opportunity for parents to learn more about the upcoming troop events and hear details of the past months activities. Scouts are expected to be in full Class A uniform for Courts of Honor.

12. TROOP COMMUNICATIONS

As boys develop into adults, it is essential that they assume the responsibilities of listening to announcements and taking necessary notes to ensure that their parents are aware of upcoming activities and other pertinent information. At each Troop meeting various announcements are made pertaining to updated information. If a Scout is unable to attend a regular Troop meeting, he is responsible for contacting his patrol Leader or another patrol member to obtain any information from that meeting. It should not be the parent's responsibility. Yearly a calendar will be sent home.

Communications outside of a regular meeting will be passed by telephone through the Senior Patrol Leader to each Patrol leader and subsequently to each Patrol member. This may be supplemented by e-mail.

If you find you are not receiving required information, discuss it with your Scout. Then contact his patrol leader, the senior patrol leader and finally the Scoutmaster.

13. THE COSTS OF SCOUTING

Camp Outs and other activities

Although the Troop may occasionally pay for or supplement the cost of an outing, most outings will charge youth and adult participants based on expected costs. The Troop will estimate the costs before each outing and will try to charge fees so that each outing pays for itself.

The charges include the cost of food, lodging, supplies, admission fees, etc. The fees will be collected by the person organizing the event. This early commitment greatly helps those planning for transportation and other outing details. If you need to cancel out of an outing, please let the scoutmaster know as soon as possible. Refunds, less expense already incurred, will be considered.

Most of the time, the scouts are reminded of upcoming events at Troop meetings, the parents are not. Please encourage your Scout to take responsibility for making sure that he has your permission and the needed funds or materials for the event.

Fund Raising

Our Troop desires that all boys be able to participate in the scouting program regardless of their personal financial situation. Because of this, various fund raising projects are a

regular part of our Troop activities. All Scouts are expected to participate in various fund raisers to insure that the financial needs of our Troop are met.

Some of the money earned from fund raising projects (30%) goes towards Troop equipment, awards and expenses. The Scouts earn (60%) from the fundraisers which can be used for summer camp, monthly camp outs or other scouting expenses. Our Troop uses the remaining (10%) for community service projects.

Fees

An annual fee is collected at re-charter time (March). If you join the Troop at a different time of year, the fee will be reduced (prorated to March). The cost of a uniform shirt and basic camping gear should also be considered.

Miscellaneous

The Troop requests that all moneys **be paid by check to "Troop 342"**. Use the memo line and make a separate check for each event or fee.

The Troop Financial Records are always available for review by interested parents. Financial assistance is available for any family that is unable to be fully involved in Scouting because of financial difficulty. Please let the Scoutmaster or a Committee member know if this help is necessary.

14. OTHER RESOURCES

- **Boy Scout Handbook** – Each scout will need this book.
- **Smoke Signals** – This is the monthly newsletter of the Black Swamp Area Council. You will need to register an adult member on our charter to receive this publication.
- **Boy's Life** – This monthly magazine contains exciting stories for scouts. It comes as part of your annual fees. It may take several months before you get the first issue.
- **Scouting** – This monthly magazine is for adult volunteers. You will need to register an adult member on our charter to receive this publication. It may take several months before you get the first issue.
- **World Wide Web sites** – With millions of scouts nationwide, there are hundreds of on-line resources. Here are a few good sites.
 - **Troop 342 website** www.t342.com
 - **Black Swamp Area Council** www.bsac449-bsa.org
 - **National BSA** www.scouting.org
 - **National BSA Online Scout Shop** www.scoutstuff.org
 - **Merit Badges** www.meritbadge.com
 - **U.S. Scouting Service Project** www.usscouts.org
 - **Boy's Life and Scouter** www.boyslife.org and www.scoutingmagazine.org

15. CARE FOR TROOP EQUIPMENT/PROPERTY

Since our Troop has invested a great deal of money in equipment for the use of many Scouts, each Scout is expected to use and care for it better than if it were his own. This

care may include taking some equipment home (such as drying out a tent). Scouts will be held responsible for deliberate or negligent damage.

16. TROOP HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health and safety of each scouts is very important to us. In order to attend activities and outings with our Troop, we need both **Class I & II** medical forms.

Class I has a brief medical history and emergency contact information. **Class II** includes full medical information and requires an examination by a doctor.

The **Class I & Class II** medical forms are good for 1 year.

17. DRUG, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO USE AND ABUSE

Use of controlled or illegal substances is always prohibited. The Boy Scouts of America prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages at encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the Boy Scouts of America and at any activity involving participation of youth members.

We support the attitude that our youth and adults are better off without tobacco. The use of tobacco products in front of youth is prohibited.

18. DISCIPLINE POLICY

During all events and activities the scouts are expected to live up to the rules established by the Boy Scouts of America, the Troop, and the leaders. All participants are expected to use good judgment and common sense. In the event any scout (or adult) does not follow these rules or threatens the health or safety of any of its members, the leader in charge may take immediate remedial action, including but not limited to immediate suspension from that activity.

19. CAMP OUT GUIDELINES

Unless otherwise notified, when our troop gathers for a camp out after 5:00 PM in the evening, the Troop will not be preparing a dinner. Please, see that your son is well fed before we gather.

The following rules should be noted:

- NO** use of cutting tools (ax, knife. etc.) or matches without successful completion of Totin' Chip and Firem'n Chit Training. Saws and axes will only be used in a defined axe yard.
- NO** flame in tents (Scouts and adults)
- NO** sheath or hunting knives. Also no folding lock blade knives with a blade over 4 inches long. The only exception is kitchen knives.
- NO** personal radios, tape players, video games, etc. except during the travel time to and from the activity.

- NO** Scout will ride on the outside of any motor vehicle. This includes hanging or riding on bumpers, in trailers, in the beds of pickups, etc.
- NO** Scout is to walk in or through another campsite without permission of the other campers.
- NO** Scout is to be in another Scout's tent without the permission of all the Scouts sleeping in that tent.
- NO** trash will be thrown on the ground. The campsite will be left as clean or cleaner, than it was found.
- Camouflage clothing is discouraged.

20. EQUIPMENT AND PACKING

If you have a new Scout, don't rush out and spend lots of money on camping equipment yet. The Boy Scout Handbook is packed with information on the things a new Scout needs to succeed and have a great time. Start by reading Chapters 8 and 9 on Hiking and Camping. Ask some Scouts or leaders what type of pack and sleeping bag they would recommend and why. Have your Scout go on a camping trip using an old sleeping bag (or borrow one) and have him look around at the various types to see what may work best for him.

Make sure that your Scout can handle the gear he will be using. For example, a sleeping bag that stuffs into a small space can be difficult to handle for the first time. A little practice and preparation will help to keep the trip fun. The troop will normally provide tents for all participants.

Do not bring anything that has a high monetary or sentimental value. Things have a way of being misplaced or broken on camp outs.

Sleeping Bags

Synthetic filled bags should have 3 lbs. of fill minimum, and a 4 lb. bag will usually be more than adequate. Additional warmth can be provided by wool or wool blend "Blanket-sheet" inner liner, and a blanket or two on top. There is no need to invest in a "Sub-zero" bag for your son for scouting purposes. A bag that stuffs or compresses into a small space is also a plus.

Hiking

Hiking is an essential part of Scouting. Good shoes are essential for a good hike. Most tennis shoes do not have enough support and will not stay dry. Shoes should be broken in first. Wool socks should be worn as they do not retain moisture like cotton socks do. The uniform socks are wool and have some cushioning for walking. Get a solid canteen that will hold up and a strap or belt clip. The canteen is also nice for a midnight drink of water when you do not want to leave your cozy sleeping bag.

Rain gear

Bring a poncho or rain suit to most outdoor events. Staying dry is an important part of staying warm.

Cooking

The Troop provides troop or patrol cooking gear for meal preparation. We ask that each Scout have a mess kit and eating utensils.

Pocketknife

The knife is a piece of camping equipment that your son will keep and use as he grows older. A cheap knife will dull easily and be difficult to sharpen. While an official BSA knife is not necessary, it will gain a great deal of sentimental value. Otherwise purchase a good brand.

Identification

Everything that your son takes should be permanently marked with his name. Engravers work very well on metal items such as cooking gear. Colored nail polish or tape also works very well identifying utensils which tend to become intermixed.

21. CONTACT INFORMATION

Scout Master

Pete Rethorn, Findlay, OH 419-429-0388

Committee chair

Bob Weiss, Findlay, OH, 419-957-1269

Sponsoring Church

Parkview Christian Church, 15035 SR 12 E., 419-423-2161

Charter Organization Representative

Wayne Siferd, Macomb, OH, 419-293-2993

Local BSA Office

2100 Broad Ave, 419-422-4356

To other BSA Troops and other groups serving youth:

If you find parts of this guidebook useful, feel free to copy it and modify it for your group.

Camping Equipment Check List

- _____ 1. Sleeping bag and/or blankets
- _____ 2. Air Mattress*
- _____ 3. Waterproof ground sheet, plastic*
- _____ 4. Sweater and/or jacket
- _____ 5. Poncho or raincoat
- _____ 6. Rubber boots
- _____ 7. Pair of sneakers
- _____ 8. Complete uniform plus extra parts****
- _____ 9. Swim trunks**
- _____ 10. Pajamas
- _____ 11. Extra shorts**
- _____ 12. Soap in container
- _____ 13. Washcloth
- _____ 14. Toothbrush and toothpaste
- _____ 15. Comb
- _____ 16. Metal mirror*
- _____ 17. Hand towels and bath towel
- _____ 18. Mess kit w/knife, fork, spoon, and cup***
- _____ 19. Flash light*
- _____ 20. Scout knife*
- _____ 21. Boy scout handbook*

Extras you might want to take along

- _____ 22. Watch
 - _____ 23. Camera and film
 - _____ 24. Notebook, pencil, and pen
 - _____ 25. Canteen
 - _____ 26. Pillow
 - _____ 27. Wallet
-
- * Not required but you might want to take along.
 - ** Only need if you are camping during the summer.
 - *** Will need if you are going on n over nighter.
 - **** Only if scout master tells you that you need it.