



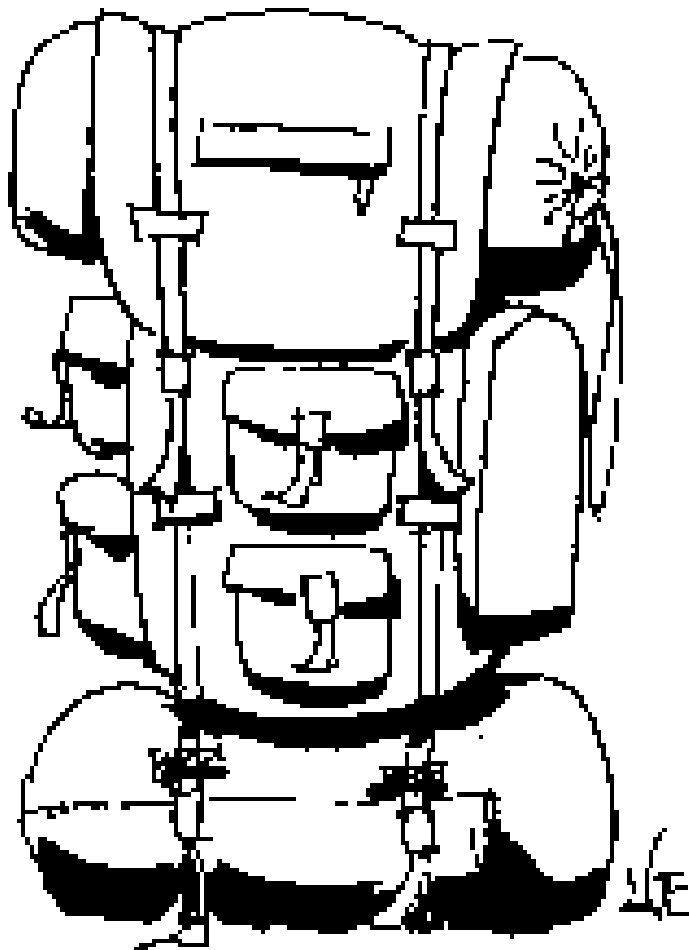
Boy Scout Troop 353 – Eastchester, NY



Westchester – Putnam Council
<http://troop353.wordpress.com>
www.wpcbsa.org

Troop 353

Parent Guide and Handbook



January 16, 2009

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General Troop Information:

Boy Scout Troop 353 of Eastchester holds its weekly Troop meetings at the Tuckahoe Community Center, 71 Columbus Ave., Tuckahoe, NY every Sunday evening 6:30--8:00pm & is part of the Westchester-Putnam Council (www.wpcbsa.org). When there is a weekend campout, the troop often meets on the following Monday night. It is important that scouts arrive to troop meetings a few minutes early. Any boy (and his parent) residing in the greater Eastchester & surrounding communities ages 11--17 interested in a challenging yet exciting & varied 12-month outdoor scouting program is encouraged to visit our troop meeting at any time. There is a long standing commitment to the Eastchester, Tuckahoe and Bronxville communities to see that all boys and their families can participate in scouting irrespective of any perceived limitations. A profile of our annual program of activities can be seen on page 20.

The Youth Leaders of the troop are called the Green Bar patrol, because the leadership patches on their left sleeve have green bars. The senior youth leader is called the Sr. Patrol Leader, or SPL. The SPL has a monthly planning meeting with required attendance for all Green Bar Patrol members and this is called the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meeting and this is held @ 5pm on the last Sunday of the month.

The Adult Leaders of the troop also meet monthly & these committee meetings coincide with the 2nd troop meeting of the month, 7—8pm. Adult leaders are comprised of the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, and all Committee members. This monthly committee meeting is open to ALL parents.

Training: The registered Adult leaders go through considerable formal training, including a mandatory Youth Protection Guidelines module. Boy Scouts operate under a “2-deep Leadership” (per 10 boys) philosophy.

Forms: Upon joining our troop and/or prior to attending any campout, a scout turns in a 1-page, *Parental Consent and Medical Release Authorization* form, which is taken to every outing. This information must be reviewed for any changes annually. Other forms are required for other activities, including canoe trips, Camp Read in the summer, etc.

Communication: The troop relies heavily on E-mail and the posting of critical information on our troop website <http://troop353.wordpress.com>. A contact sheet for all members of troop 353 is provided. A smaller contact sheet with home phone numbers (divided up by patrols) only is provided to each boy, as each boy is expected to communicate with his patrol leader (or Senior Patrol Leader) on a weekly basis. There is a regular **chain of command** that boys follow any time there is a question or a need to communicate. See discussion below on “The Patrol Method”. The Scoutmaster is unable to handle directly all incoming calls from +40 youth & their parents, but he strives to always be available to scouting parents in need of assistance.

Chartering Organization: Our scout troop is sponsored by the Eastchester Youth Council (EYC), an organization that provides a summer theater workshop for Eastchester, Bronxville and Tuckahoe town residents aged 13 – 21. Instructions in drama, voice, dance; instrumental music and theater crafts are given tuition-free with a musical presentation in August. Miriam “Bunny” Rappaport is the Chartering Organization’s Executive Officer.

Troop Calendar: Is on all pages of our troop’s website and copies of [January](#), [February](#) & [March](#) are provided.

For more information & facts about the Boy Scouts of America, see, “What is Boy Scouting” in your folder.

Stuff Scouts Need:

Boy Scout Uniform: Any new scout that joins Troop 353 is entitled to receive a *Boy Scout Handbook*, a pair of green epaulets for the shoulder loops of the Class “A” scout shirt, and a Class “B” scout shirt (T-shirt), and the green & tan troop numeral patches “353”. Boys are not required currently to wear scout belts, neckerchiefs or hats. Jeans, shorts & sneakers are acceptable for troop meetings, but khaki pants & dark shoes are preferred for formal Court of Honors, Public Service Projects, Scoutmaster’s Conference & Boards of Review. Since so many boys play sports, they are allowed to wear their sport uniform to the troop meeting if they are arriving late from a sporting event.

Class “A” Scout shirts can be purchased at the Scout Shop in Hawthorne (773-1216) or at Liebman’s Children Clothing (632-2770) in New Rochelle. See the inside cover of the *Boy Scout Handbook* for placement of patches.

Class “B” Scout T-shirts, caps and winter fleece pullovers with the ‘Troop 353 Eastchester’ logo can be ordered from the “troop download” page of the troop website.

Boy Scout Handbook: Upon receipt, a boy should write his name on the outside with a black sharpie pen. A scout is required to bring his *Boy Scout Handbook* (and pen & paper) to all troop meetings and campouts. This is a very important as the *Boy Scout Handbook* is frequently utilized and advancement activities are recorded in the back of the book.

Camping Gear: See *Boy Scout Handbook* & “Camping Gear – Thoughts for the Parents of First Year Scouts” on pp. 21--22.

Advancement:

The Scouting program has 3 specific objectives, commonly referred to as the “Aims of Scouting”: character development, citizenship training and physical & mental fitness. There are 8 methods utilized to achieve these objectives, the combination of these 8 methods is what makes it different from other youth programs. The 8 methods are: Ideals (Scout Oath, Law, and Motto & Slogan), Patrol Method, Outdoor Programs, Advancement, Association with Adults, Personal Growth, Leadership Development, & Uniform.

Advancement activities are a series of surmountable challenges that become progressively more difficult and comprehensive in scope. The completion of various levels of progress is referred to as “rank advancement”. The various levels & order of rank advancement are: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life & Eagle. Scouts need to complete a variety of tasks to attain each rank and though common themes run throughout the ranks, the degree of difficulty increases the higher the rank. Scouts can work on different ranks simultaneously, but the ranks must be earned in order.

Members of the Green Bar have varying degrees of advancement sign-off privilege. The SPL, the ASPL, Troop Guides, Patrol Leaders (except first year scouts) & Instructors can sign a scout’s handbook for all advancement requirements from Scout through First Class. The Assistant Scoutmaster for the New Scout patrol can also sign off on all requirements from Scout through First Class. For the requirements of Star, Life & Eagle, only the Advancement Chairman and Scoutmaster are authorized to sign a scout’s book.

Although less than 5% of all registered boy scouts ever attain the rank of Eagle, the troop works very hard to get a scout up to the rank of First Class within 18—24 months. A First Class scout is a well rounded individual with a strong working knowledge all the basics of the scouting program. After attaining the rank of First Class, merit badges, service projects and positions of youth leadership within

the troop are required to advance further. For the ranks of Star, Life & Eagle, there are 12 different merit badges that are required to be completed (from a universe of 15 total required merit badges). In total, there are over +100 other different elective merit badges that a boy may choose. A boy does not need to attain the rank of First Class to begin working on merit badges, but it is generally advised to do so, as the merit badge requirements are often a bit more advanced.

Advancement happens in four steps: 1) A Scout Learns (often at a troop meeting, an outing, monthly First Class Emphasis-FCE Instruction, or on his own), 2) A Scout is Tested (once he has learned and practiced a skill), 3) A Scout is Reviewed (once all requirements have been completed for a given rank, his work is reviewed by the Scoutmaster and then by a Board of Review, 4) A Scout is Recognized (once he completes a rank, he is recognized immediately and then again in a more formal ceremony called a Court of Honor; which occurs about three times a year).

Thus, the advancement process is very different in Boy Scouts than in Cub Scouts. In Boy Scouts, a youth is taught various scouting skills by his fellow scouts and the youth must prove his knowledge and prowess to qualified youth leaders to complete an advancement requirement (not to his parents or den leader as in Cub Scouts). After successfully displaying a mastery of the requirement, the qualified youth (or adult) leader (as noted above) can sign off on completion of that requirement in the boy's *Boy Scout Handbook*. Then, the scout should visit the Troop Scribe & the Advancement Chairman to ensure his troop advancement records are kept up to date in the troop data base on a timely basis.

Parents are strongly encouraged to work with their son on advancement activities so that their boy is prepared to display his skills. However, parents are typically prohibited from signing off in their son's *Boy Scout Handbook* that he has completed a rank requirement.

In addition, all scouts working on the level of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class & First Class are required to review the official Boy Scouts of America Advancement video clips for EACH requirement. The early rank advancement videos can be found here → <http://www.scouting.org/applications/rankvideo.asp?x>

As mentioned above, the next to last step in advancement is to complete a Scoutmaster's Conference (with the Scoutmaster and a designated Assistant Scoutmaster). The boy also must meet with several committee members in a Board of Review. These meetings are an opportunity to visit with a scout about his scouting experience in the troop, his non-scouting interests and to revisit advancement goals. These meetings are NOT a forum for retesting a scout's skills learned for that level of rank. In Troop 353, all scouts are required to complete LEGIBLY a "Scoutmaster's Conference Preparation Worksheet" prior to their Scoutmaster's Conference. This form is found on the "Troop Downloads" page of our troop's website. Generally, Scoutmaster's Conference and the Board of Review are organized to occur on either the first or second troop meeting of the month.

Troop 353 also has a special policy for the Board of Review for the rank of Tenderfoot & Second Class. These Boards of Review are led primarily by the SPL, ASPL and potentially one other designated senior member of the Green Bar Patrol, along with 2 other adult committee members. This practice yields many benefits, all of which reinforce the boy-led troop concept, a cornerstone of Boy Scouting.

Nearly all troop activities, troop meetings, outings, & FCE Instruction sessions are great opportunities for any boy to complete advancement requirements. Finally, there is no set deadline for attaining any of the ranks of advancement, except that one has to attain the rank of Eagle before one reaches their 18th birthday. Still, the troop leaders generally try to ensure that a youth has completed Second Class by the end of their first twelve months and First Class within 18—24 months. **Importantly, there is considerable evidence to show that continual progress in advancement is a key factor in sustaining a boy's interest in scouting.**

Service Projects:

A number of service project opportunities occur throughout the scouting year. A scout's participation is an integral part of the scouting program. Service hours are required for the rank of Second Class, Life, Star and Eagle Scout. Eligible service hours for scouting rank advancement include only official troop activities. However, any troop service project that a boy participates in may be also allowed to be counted toward school service requirements. Many of Troop 353's service project activities are chronicled on the "In the News" page of the troop's website.

Beginning in 2008, troop 353 will begin to issue a special annual Service award to the scout that generates the largest number of service hours for his troop, school, church and/or community. All service hours must be documented and submitted to the Advancement Chair.

Martin Luther King: In January, Troop 353 participates in the Martin Luther King celebration sponsored by Eastchester Community Action Program (ECAP). This typically entails an opening flag ceremony at this very well-attended annual local event. Scouts should be in full, formal uniform.

Graymoor Good Turn Campout: Every Spring the troop goes up to the Graymoor Monastery and works on a variety of outdoor tasks & projects to beautify and improve the grounds.

Scout Camp: Troop 353 often participates in a few hours of service project work during the week of summer camp at the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation in the Adirondacks as well as the occasional outing at nearby Agatha A. Durland Scout Reservation in Putnam County.

Thanksgiving: For 17 years, Troop 353 has participated in the ECAP's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Yearend Holidays: Troop 353 participates in the December holiday tree lighting ceremony for the town of Eastchester. This typically entails an opening flag ceremony at this very well-attended annual local event.

Eagle Projects: Scouts always participate in Eagle Projects for Eagle Scout candidates of Troop 353 and are heartily encouraged to assist other friends in other local scout troops. A listing of recent Troop 353 Eagle Projects can be found on the "Eagle's Nest" page of our troop's website.

Other Service Projects: There are a variety of potential service projects that Troop 353 may undertake in any given year. From clearing debris around the Bronx River Parkway to improving the storage area for our troop's camping gear at the Immaculate Conception Church garage, Troop 353 always finds an opportunity to serve its community.

Additionally, Troop 353 has a Special Service Award given out annually to the one scout that has devoted more hours to community service than all others. See "Troop 353 Special Awards", page 8.

It is important that parents help their son document accurately the number of troop service hours, including time and place, their sons accomplishes on a timely basis. Scouts can keep records of their service hours in their *Boy Scout Handbook*. Since Scouts have been known to lose or misplace their *Boy Scout Handbook* it is strongly suggested that parents keep a record in a file on your computer.

The Patrol Method:

Another one of the eight methods utilized to achieve the three main objectives of scouting (character development, citizenship training & personal fitness) is the Patrol Method. The Patrol Method is one of the most important tenets of scouting. This method gives boys an experience in group living and participating in citizenship. It places responsibilities on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it and manage it more effectively.

According to Lord Robert Baden-Powell the founder of Scouting, the Patrol Method “is the one essential feature in which Scout training differs from that of all other organizations”. Why are patrols needed? The answer, according to Baden-Powell, is two-fold. First the patrol is “the character school for the individual,” where Scouts learn “subordination of self to the interest of the whole”. Second, it’s a leadership school for the youth leader, a way to give real responsibility to as many Scouts as possible. In other words, everyone in the patrol typically has a specific job to do: Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Scribe, Patrol Grubmaster, and Patrol Quartermaster.

For a patrol to be successful, it must develop its own identity, almost to the point that the members think of themselves as the Hawk Patrol first and members of Troop 353 second. For this reason, Patrols develop their own names, Patrol Flags, Patrol Yells and each member wears a Patrol patch. Patrols should target a minimum of 10—12 members as nearly every boy is active in at least 2 other organizations besides school (sports, music, church) & a critical mass of 6 is needed on outings.

One, two, three, four, or even five Patrols, each under its own boy leader, form the Troop. The Patrols are the working units in Scouting, while the Troop organization provides supervision and coordination, and establishes loyalty and opportunities for service. In other words, a Troop is not divided into Patrols. A Troop is the sum total of its Patrols.

There are different types of patrols: the first-year scout patrol, the regular patrol and venture patrols. Each has different levels of scouting competency. The Green Bar patrol can be comprised of members of each.

The single troop activity that best illustrates the elements of the Patrol Method in action is the monthly campout. Patrols must organize themselves, collect money, plan their meals, who is acquiring the menu items, who is securing needed troop equipment, tent mates and draw up duty rosters that include such tasks as gathering & chopping fire wood, gathering water, cooking, & cleaning dishes.

Unlike a Cub Scouting camping trip, where the parents shop & prepare all the food and the program is not impacted by late arrivals or early departures, on a Boy Scout camping trip every Scout has an important role within his Patrol. The Patrol is led by the Patrol Leader and his Assistant Patrol Leader. Each Scout in the Patrol is assigned duties, in advance of the trip, which are posted on the Patrol’s Duty Roster. These responsibilities may include food purchasing, food preparation, cooking, cleanup, water collection, building a fire, etc. Other duties on a camping trip may include packaging and carrying some of the Patrol’s camping gear (tents, water jugs, pots, etc.), erecting the campsite, gathering firewood, striking the campsite, packing the Patrol’s gear, patrolling the site for litter, etc.

There’s plenty of time for fun and games as well, but ALL of these duties are performed by the Scouts themselves. Scouts quickly learn that if they don’t do it, it doesn’t happen. So, it should be clear how arriving late or leaving early can be disruptive to the functioning of the Patrol. Who is going to take down David’s tent, if he has to leave before breakfast on Sunday morning? Who is going to do clean up if the person listed on the Duty Roster for that chore is suddenly gone?

There may be times when a late arrival or an early departure is absolutely necessary in order to participate in an event back home. And we will certainly try to accommodate those special scheduling needs that enable a Scout to participate when there is a conflict (sports, family events, etc.). But please understand that each member of the troop and the Patrols is important, and it is extremely disruptive to the program when people come and go. So please, try to keep this to a minimum.

Likewise, as a troop prepares for any type of event, there is a need to confirm the “final” headcount. Accordingly, communication follows a **chain of command**, with patrol members calling their patrol leaders, the patrol leaders calling the Sr. Patrol Leader (or Assistant SPL) and the SPL calling the Scoutmaster or other adult event leader. All patrol members are expected to communicate with each other **weekly** about the upcoming troop meeting and any other activity. Communication by the boys can take the form of calling on the phone, emailing, text messaging or just visiting with each other during or after school. Generally, boys do not begin to become regular users of email until they reach high school.

The adult leaders act as role models on campouts and form the “Old Goats” Patrol, securing a separate campsite, planning and performing the same tasks as the boy patrols and try to keep their distance from the boys in order to allow their patrols to function as a complete unit.

For more info on **first-year scouts, adult’s role on campouts** and general **Troop Policies**, see “Webelos Introduction to Troop 353” & “What Adults Do on Scout Campouts on pages 25--27.

Troop 353 Special Awards:

Troop 353 currently has two prestigious awards that are given to its most deserving scouts annually: Scout of the Year and the special Overall Scout Service.

Scout of the Year: This highly-coveted award is for the scout that embodies all elements of the Scout Law and Scout Oath. This boy is also one that supports the troop program with a high overall level of participation in all scouting activities. The recipient of this once-in-a-lifetime award is one that has accomplished well above-average advancement and is a cheerful, helpful, & highly motivated youth leader—one that is truly a brother to ALL scouts of the troop. All youth members of the troop are eligible. The winner receives an engraved plaque and a special Boy Scout medal which can and should be proudly worn during Courts of Honors.

Overall Scout Service: This special award recognizes a scout for his **total** contribution to community service. As boys get into high school, community service often becomes more important. Community service can be performed through Scouting, church, school and directly with other volunteer organizations. Official documentation from the sponsoring entity must be submitted for proper credit. All youth members of the troop are eligible. The winner receives an engraved plaque and a special Boy Scout medal which can and should be proudly worn during Courts of Honors.

Order of the Arrow:

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is Scouting’s National Honor Society and is an important opportunity for every eligible scout. The OA is a separate scouting organization that seeks “to recognize those youth who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives...& to crystallize the scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others”. The OA has its own service projects, camping events, high-adventure activities and is meant to be another scouting opportunity for boys as they become older and are yearning for something new & different to do.

During the first 3 months of every year, Boy Scout troops are strongly encouraged to seek eligible (OA) candidates through an election process. The OA activities have a long tradition of being a bit secretive in their communications; which is meant to enhance the mystique and mystery of the process of being admitted into the OA. To be an eligible OA election candidate, a youth must be approved by the Scoutmaster and have completed 15 nights of camping (inclusive of cabin camping), in a Boy Scout venue (not family camping) inclusive of 6 consecutive nights of summer/winter camping, during the 2 years prior to the OA election. In addition, the eligible OA candidate must be at least 1st Class in rank.

Youth Leadership:

A Boy Scout troop is a small democracy. With the Scoutmaster's direction, the boys are formed into patrols, plan the troop's program, and make it a reality. In order for that to happen, a troop relies upon Scouts serving in positions of responsibility. One of the key elements of Scouting that truly distinguishes it from other youth organizations is the focus on youth leadership.

The key boy leaders of the troop make up the Green Bar Patrol, as noted above, and as noted in the Youth Leader Organization chart on page 28. There are a variety of youth leadership positions. These leadership positions are covered in detail in the document, "Leading the way....Troop 353 Scout Leadership Positions, Duties and Responsibilities"; which is available on the "troop download" page of our troop's website here → <http://troop353.wordpress.com/troop-downloads/>.

As discussed above, monthly planning meetings of the Green Bar Patrol are called Patrol Leaders Council (PLC), which is conducted by the Senior Patrol Leader. At these meetings, the Patrol Leaders and the Troop Guides present ideas and feedback from their patrols about the various troop activities (past and future) to improve or fine-tune troop events. Once agreed upon by the Green Bar, they take their decisions to the rest of the troop members.

Where do the Scoutmaster and the adult committee members fit into this process? In short, as little as possible. The Scoutmaster attends the PLC meetings, but only as a coach or as an information advisor to enhance the program the Green Bar is planning. Ultimately, the troop committee and the Scoutmaster have veto power over all decisions of the Green Bar, but this is rarely utilized & primarily when there is an issue of safety or potential violation of BSA policy.

As a result, parents (and boys) need to realize that every troop meeting and troop activity will not be perfectly planned, but that there's a method to the madness. That is, our responsibility as adults is to promote the "process" of Scouting. What is important for us is:

- Not the food on the campout, but that the boys cooked it.
- Not a sharp-looking flag ceremony, but that the boys put it together.
- Not who would make the best patrol leader, but that the boys elect one.
- Not that Johnny learns first aid, but that Billy teaches him.
- Not that we cover all items on a meeting agenda, but that the senior patrol leader is in charge.

Our goal (as parents) is not to get things done, but to create a safe and healthy environment with the training and resources that the Scouts need, and **then let them do it**. It can be a very messy business, and painful to watch. Meetings where the boy leaders are in charge can be very chaotic. And it can be very tempting for adults to jump in and sort things out, because that is what adults do. But we have to remember that that is the process of Scouting. That is how they learn—even from disorganization and failure. We just have to remember that our business as adults is not the same as the business of the boys. It is up to them to get things done. It is up to us to make sure they have what they need, (within the bounds of health and safety) not what they do with it.

Scouting and youth leadership are a journey, not a destination.

In sum, the troop is truly run by the boys. They elect their leaders, make their own rules and design their own calendar of activities. It is the boy's own private club. The Scoutmaster and the adult committee merely make suggestions on how to enhance these plans and look out for the well-being of all members of the troop.

Adult Leadership:

Scout troop are supposed to be run by the youth leaders (as discussed above), but a troop can't operate, legally or practically, without having adults leaders involved. BSA policy requires at least two adults attend every outing, with one having completed Youth Protection Guidelines. And even if they weren't required, a troop couldn't get very far without someone to drive! In truth, **all** Scouter parents have a job to do in the troop—whether its being an assistant Scoutmaster, an officer of the troop committee, hauling boys to camp, bringing refreshments to Courts of Honor, participating in troop meetings or just being involved with their sons' advancement. The Adult Leader Org chart is on page 29.

Opportunities: Troop 353 is blessed with many very engaged parents. Parents are encouraged to participate in both troop meetings and campouts. And activities are not limited to dads only, as we've had mom's participate in rock climbing, rifle shooting and even summer camp!

In our troop, there is always a need for a volunteer parent to become a registered adult leader. We strongly encourage all adults to complete an adult registration form when their son joins the troop. There are several reasons for this. For example, it is our troop's policy that only registered adult leaders are able to drive scouts (other than their own son) on official troop outings. Otherwise, a parent can only drive their son. The troop's transportation policy also requires us to secure car and car insurance information for each driver. A registered adult leader also enjoys the benefit of the BSA's insurance policy, which is important any time transportation of children is involved.

There are ample opportunities for parents to get involved. For example, there is always a need for an **Outing / Event Sponsor** (one per outing) and we target having a different *Outing Sponsor* for every monthly troop activity. An Outing / Event Sponsor ensures sufficient adult leadership, works with the youth leader in charge of planning, and assists with any necessary filing of tour permits and/or campsite reservation. Likewise, there is always a need for **Patrol Leader Advisor**, a parent that mentors Patrol Leaders through their various responsibilities, aids in enforcing discipline during patrol meetings and ensures that the patrol leader is communicating effectively each week.

Parents are also strongly encouraged to become *Merit Badge Counselors*. It is best to choose a merit badge in which you have either professional training, have strong work experience or a long-time hobby. Becoming a merit badge counselor is easy, requiring the completion of both an adult application form and a brief merit badge counselor form. Parents should target counseling only 4 or 5 merit badges initially. As an example, if a parent does a lot of work in the computer area, they could become a Computer merit badge counselor. Or if one collects coins or stamps, there are merit badges for these activities. There are over 100 merit badges to choose from and a listing of our troop's merit badge counselors is posted on the "Troop Downloads" page of our troop's website.

Training: ***It has been proven repeatedly that the greater number of BSA-trained leaders, the stronger scouting program for the boys.*** Troop 353 has an ongoing goal for 100% of its adult leaders to receive official BSA training. Fortunately, most of the training is fairly short. All registered adult leaders in Troop 353 are required to complete the online Youth Protection Guidelines which lasts 20—25 minutes. If a registered adult leader has not completed the Youth Protection Guidelines within 12 months, then the adult in question may be barred from future outings until such training has been completed. In addition to broad-based training modules, there are several specialized training courses, many of which can be completed on-line. For example, we require all adults participating in our annual canoe trip to complete both Safe Swim Defense & Safety Afloat on-line training modules beforehand.

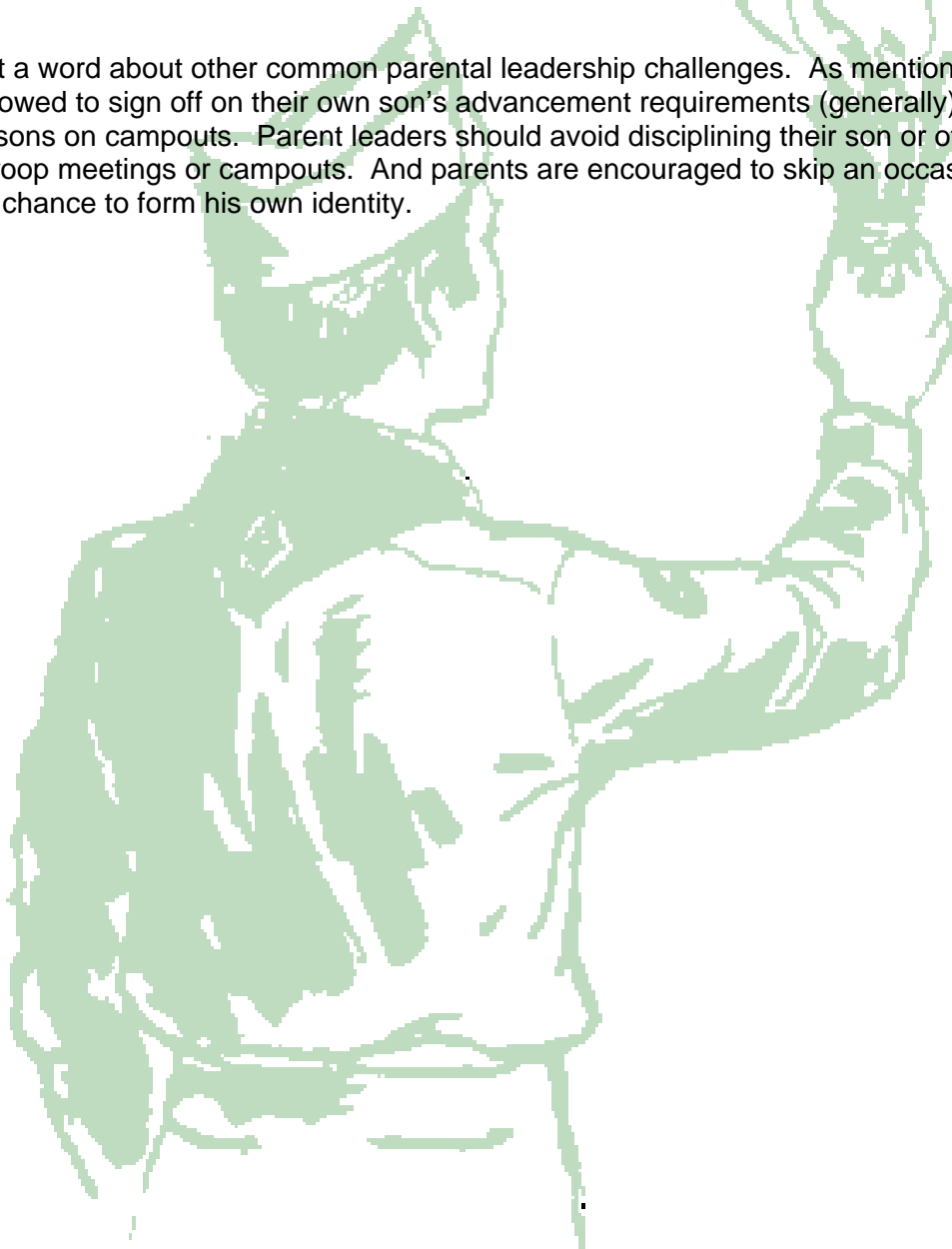
Similarly, in each of the past several years, all youth and adult members have been privileged to receive the opportunity to be certified by the American Red Cross in CPR training for adults and children. All water-related and rock-climbing events require the need for CPR-trained adults.

In order for our troop to maintain its coveted, long-run track record of earning the National Quality Unit award (ribbons are tied to the troop flag), it is necessary for our registered leaders to complete Basic Leader Training (New Leaders Essentials plus Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Specific Training or Troop Committee Challenge) in addition to Youth Protection Guidelines.

Another resource for adult leaders is the annual University of Scouting program sponsored by the Westchester-Putnam Council. This is an enormously beneficial one-day program & adults can sign up for as many of the 45 minute classes as they want. It is a seminar of real-life adult leadership challenges and best practices. Like most conferences, some of the greatest benefit is in the networking opportunities.

Leadership and training go hand in hand. A responsible parent would certainly not put their child on a school bus if the bus driver had not met certain qualifications. ***All Scouts deserve a trained leader!***

Finally, just a word about other common parental leadership challenges. As mentioned earlier, parents are not allowed to sign off on their own son's advancement requirements (generally). Parents do not tent with their sons on campouts. Parent leaders should avoid disciplining their son or offering them special favors at troop meetings or campouts. And parents are encouraged to skip an occasional outing to give their son a chance to form his own identity.



Parent Responsibilities:

It is somewhat of a paradox in Scouting that the troop seeks & encourages adult leaders and parents but then tell them not to lead—or at least not to get in the way of youth leaders. This is perhaps one of the biggest challenges to parents—allowing the boys to lead themselves and to make (predictable) mistakes along the way.

Here are some other actions and responsibilities that parents are expected to fulfill as a common courtesy to the rest of the troop and its members.

Punctuality – It is important that your son arrives a few minutes early to all troop meetings. Some of the most important announcements occur during the first five minutes of the troop meeting. If you think you will be late getting your son to the troop meeting, then have your son inform his patrol leader ahead of time. If your son's sporting event went on longer than anticipated, then please bring your son directly to the meeting late and in his sports uniform & try to notify another parent as soon as you think you will not be on time. For camping trips & other activities, it is important that your son arrive at the predetermined time so as to not hold up the whole troop.

Uniforms – Your son should be wearing his Class A scout shirt to every troop meeting. Class A Scout shirts are typically not required for campouts. Boy Scout patches should be put on immediately upon joining the troop and, conversely, all Cub Scout patches (except for the Arrow of Light award) should be removed immediately upon joining the troop. Shirt tails should be neatly tucked in the pants. A Court of Honor calls for khaki slacks, dark shoes and merit badge sashes.

Food – Food is generally not allowed at the Troop meeting (unless it is the annual pot luck dinner). Boys are prohibited from purchasing food from the vending machine at the Tuckahoe Community Center (TCC) until after the troop meeting. Any food consumed at the TCC must be done in the foyer area, away from the carpet.

Respect – Your son is expected to treat others with respect and to maintain his attentiveness when others are speaking. When the Scout Sign is raised, that is an immediate signal that everyone should do the same and to stop talking & whispering immediately.

Inappropriate Behavior - From time to time youthful exuberance will overstep the boundaries of the code of conduct spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law & the Golden Rule. Under no circumstances are hazing, harassment, name-calling, bullying, cursing, cheating, stealing, lying, vandalism, fighting or any other form of inappropriate behavior ever allowed in Boy Scouting. If a boy is out of line, it is the responsibility of the Patrol Leader to step aside with that Scout and discuss with him why his behavior is not acceptable. If needed, the adult Patrol Leader Advisor may assist. A second warning results in parents being notified and the patrol of the errant scout being required to be the service patrol (flag duty and cleanup) for 4 weeks. A third warning results in a ban from the next outing and a 2-month delay for the next Scoutmaster's Conference and Board of Review.

At all times, safety is the overriding responsibility of the adult leaders. If a parent leader witnesses any Scout engaging in activity that might endanger him and/or those around him on an outing, i.e., putting aerosol cans in the fire, that child will be disciplined immediately by the Scoutmaster and/or the Event Leader and may be precluded from attending the next outing. In this instance, a scout's parents will be notified immediately upon return from the campout.

As noted earlier, parents should avoid disciplining their own child during troop meetings and outings. Allow other parents to take that "bad cop" role for your son and you do the same for other parents.

Patrol Meetings – Patrol meetings occur during nearly every troop meeting and last 20—30 minutes. The patrols break up into their groups and go to different corners and / or rooms of the TCC. If a patrol must utilize a room, 2 parents must attend with the door remaining open. Adults acting as *Patrol Leader Advisors* are expected to help the Patrol Leader maintain discipline during the patrol meeting, guide his Weekend Campout Planning and mentor his overall leadership skills.

Commitment to Activity – **Due to the logistics involving so many people in an inter-dependent way, the troop has a deadline for committing to any non-troop meeting activity of 5--7 days prior to the event.** There is considerable detailed planning that occurs prior to any outing. Last minute additions & cancellations create a domino effect of un-welcomed problems. For example, if your son is signed up to go on a campout and cancels at the last minute and he has responsibility for purchasing food for his patrol (Grubmaster) for the campout, what happens to the patrol's food purchasing? Is another boy suddenly without a tent mate? Was the troop counting on the parent for transportation?

More often than not, it is not the boy that has a last minute schedule change, but the parent instead. Parents, if you think you are going to take a surprise trip during the winter break but your son is not aware of the outing and innocently signs up for an outing, then parents must contact the Scoutmaster to prevent misguided planning efforts of the other boys. The troop calendar is a very public document and there is ample opportunity to know of planned troop activities weeks or months in advance. **It is also the parent's responsibility to stay abreast of the troop calendar of activities.**

Packing – Another common problem for Scouts is when parents do the packing for a campout. For many reasons, parents should ONLY assist their son in packing for their first or second campout. I have been on campouts when a young Scout asked to borrow my flashlight because he could not find the one his parents packed in his bag. A parent that persists in packing their son's belongings prior to a campout is counter-productive to teaching Scouts independence. A complete personal camping gear list is posted on the troop website before each outing and commonly found in the *Boy Scout Handbook*.

Again, Scouts must be allowed to make some mistakes—that is often the way they learn best. Chances are, if your son forgot an extra pair of wool socks for an outing, there'll be another pair that he could borrow. Conversely, parents should not over pack either, e.g., insisting your son brings 10 pair of underwear to summer camp—it's doubtful he'll wear more than 3 pair in one week!

Purchasing food – At some point your son will have to buy food for a campout for his patrol. Troop 353 has other guidelines for parents to hand out at that time, but the major message is resist the temptation to purchase more than what is called for. Your son should have a fairly detailed food list with quantities noted that he and his patrol planned (and that were reviewed and approved by either the SPL or an Adult Leader).

A longstanding rule of thumb for determining how much to spend for a 1 or 2-night weekend campout is \$15--\$20/person. Please do not spend more, as it means more food than is necessary has been purchased and will likely need to be discarded. As well, excess food purchasing means excess reimbursements from the troop's treasury. Curb costs by buying store brands and avoiding individually wrapped items. Part of the reason there is a 7-day cutoff for signing up for camping activities is that this allows adequate time for purchasing food. Similarly, a parent and scout should NOT have to go food shopping on the day of a campout departure.

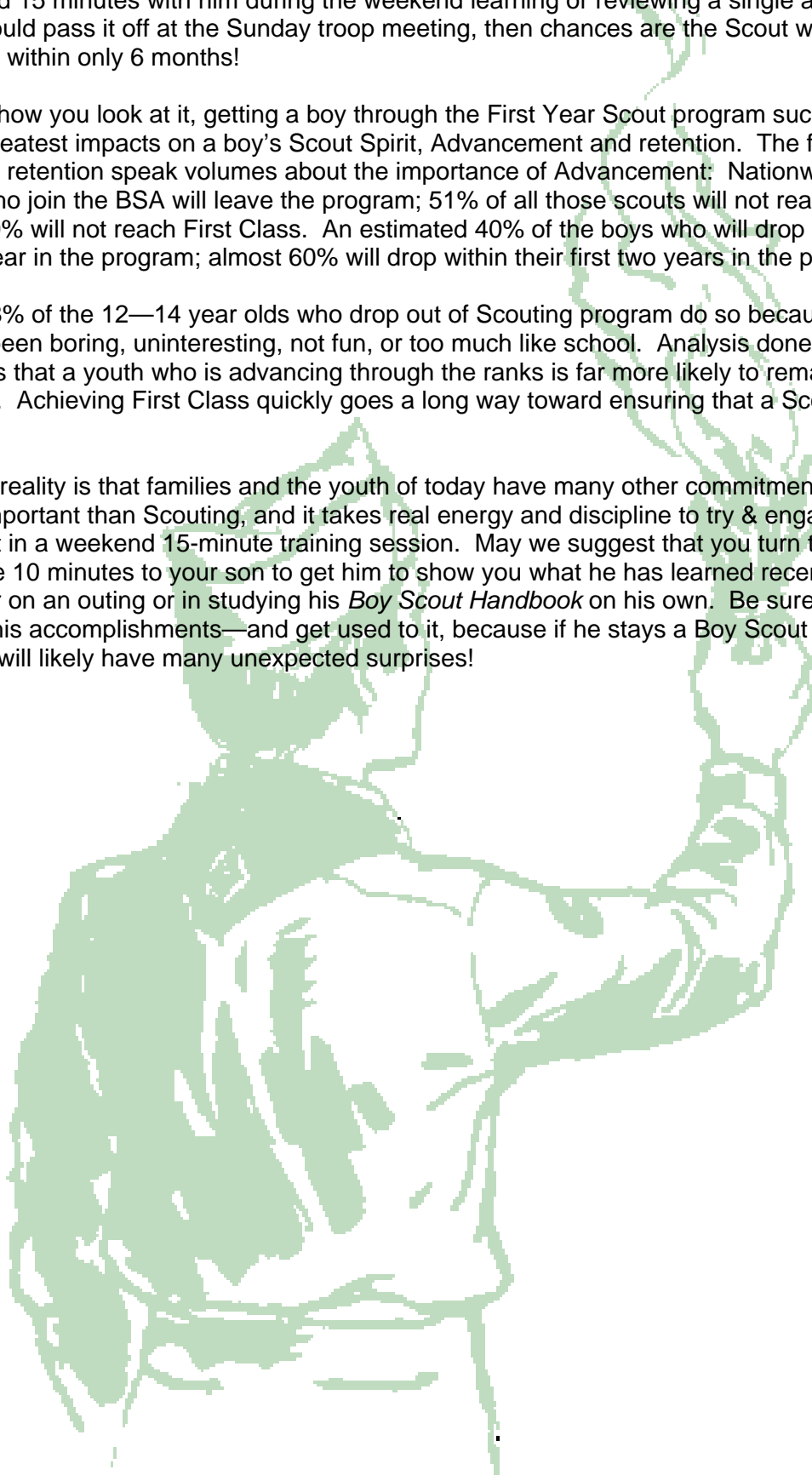
If your son's patrol has planned on a ½ gallon each of OJ & Milk for 6 boys, don't buy 1 gallon each, as the food goes to waste and such largesse drains the precious few funds of the troop treasury upon reimbursement. ***Troop policy mandates that you and/or your son have exactly 7 days after the outing to turn in your grocery store receipt for reimbursement—otherwise consider your purchase of groceries as a tax-free contribution to Troop 353!***

Advancement – As mentioned earlier, parents are strongly encouraged to work with their son to help him learn the scouting skills necessary to complete advancement requirements. As a rule of thumb, if either parent could spend 15 minutes with him during the weekend learning or reviewing a single advancement item, so that he could pass it off at the Sunday troop meeting, then chances are the Scout will attain the rank of First Class within only 6 months!

No matter how you look at it, getting a boy through the First Year Scout program successfully can have one of the greatest impacts on a boy's Scout Spirit, Advancement and retention. The following statistics on Scout retention speak volumes about the importance of Advancement: Nationwide, about 25% of all boys who join the BSA will leave the program; 51% of all those scouts will not reach Second Class; & nearly 70% will not reach First Class. An estimated 40% of the boys who will drop out will do so during their first year in the program; almost 60% will drop within their first two years in the program.

Further, 38% of the 12—14 year olds who drop out of Scouting program do so because their experiences has been boring, uninteresting, not fun, or too much like school. Analysis done by the BSA consistently shows that a youth who is advancing through the ranks is far more likely to remain in the Scouting program. Achieving First Class quickly goes a long way toward ensuring that a Scout remains a Scout.

The harsh reality is that families and the youth of today have many other commitments, most of which are more important than Scouting, and it takes real energy and discipline to try & engage your budding boy scout in a weekend 15-minute training session. May we suggest that you turn the situation around to dedicate 10 minutes to your son to get him to show you what he has learned recently either at a troop meeting or on an outing or in studying his *Boy Scout Handbook* on his own. Be sure to share in the enjoyment of his accomplishments—and get used to it, because if he stays a Boy Scout for more than 2 years, you will likely have many unexpected surprises!



Money & Fundraising:

Annual dues for registered youth are \$65 and include a 12-month subscription to *Boys' Life* magazine. Annual dues for registered leaders are \$10 and this covers the cost of BSA insurance, among other items. Dues notices are mailed in September and payment should be received in the troop treasury by the end of October. Annual operating costs include such items as: advancement patches, swim nights, free scout T-Shirts, *Boy Scout Handbooks* and epaulets for new scouts, annual re-chartering costs, partial reimbursement of Eagle Scout Court of Honor costs, campership funds & miscellaneous other supplies. If a person joins part way through the scouting year, they are charged annual dues on a pro-rata basis.

In nearly every instance, any troop activity entails some incremental cost to the scout's family. These **activity fees** include everything from annual CPR training, to indoor rock climbing, to purchasing fleece jackets for the winter to campout fees. Campout fees (typically \$20--\$25) cover the cost of food, camp site fees and any related patch and must be collected prior to departure. In a few cases, some troop activities are free, notably the multiple troop swims in the Spring at the White Plains YMCA and the popular rifle shoot outing.

Troop 353 has a reimbursement policy that any item that was purchased for an outing must have the receipt turned in to the Troop's treasurer within 7 days of the event. So, everyone must be diligent about saving their grocery store receipts and turning them in for reimbursement on a timely basis. The troop historically has not reimbursed adult drivers for gas mileage for outings. However, during '08 the cost of gas escalated, and measures were taken for drivers to collect gas fees from passengers (based on mileage). Also, the troop historically has not reimbursed families for the annual pot luck dinner in October. Finally, in '06 the troop committee unanimously adopted a proposal to reimburse an Eagle Scout's family \$85.00 for various items needed for an Eagle Court of Honor.

When the troop goes to **summer camp**, it often participates in a few extra-curricular activities that invariably cost families an incremental \$50--\$100 in addition to the basic summer camp fee of approximately \$300. Any time there is an extra-curricular activity, the adult leaders shop for the best possible price for the services rendered and the troop is nearly always charged a discounted rate given its tax-free, charitable status.

Members of the Green Bar Patrol, the youth leaders of the troop, often bring in \$5--\$10 for pizza for the monthly planning meetings, given that those boys are at scouts from 5--8pm.

The troop also undertakes at least one **fundraising** event every year. Additional money is needed to replace worn out camping gear. As well, a growing troop requires a growing inventory of camping gear. The troop has other needs to finance such as a storage facility to hold a variety of troop supplies and the troop's library of books and training material at the Tuckahoe Community Center.

It is important to remember that no scout is ever unable to participate in a Troop 353 activity because of a lack of family funds. If a scout cannot afford a particular activity, then the Troop pays for it confidentially through maintained campership funds. Recently, the troop held a successful car wash. Fundraising activities can include the sale of popcorn, holiday wreaths, hosting a breakfast or a dinner and/or an annual appeal letter.

All money, checks and receipts should be forwarded to the current Troop Treasurer (not the Scoutmaster): Mike Palumbo, 14 Lockwood Ave., Bronxville, NY 10708

If you need to write a check to the troop, it should be made payable to:

"Boy Scout Troop 353 Eastchester".



Boy Scout Troop 353 – Eastchester, NY



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Troop 353 Patrol Point Contest:

Troop 353 utilizes a quarterly Patrol Point system that rewards winning patrols for the following items:

Troop Meetings- based on attendance

- Scout 30
- Parent 15 (must stay at least 45 minutes)
- PLC 45
- PLC unexcused absence <90>

Uniform Inspection - based on 20-pt Scale

- Full Class A with Correct Badges 20
- Class A Shirt 10
- Current Rank Badge 5
- Current Green Bar Badge 5
- ANY Incorrect Badge <10>

Patrol Flag- 25

Camping & Activities-

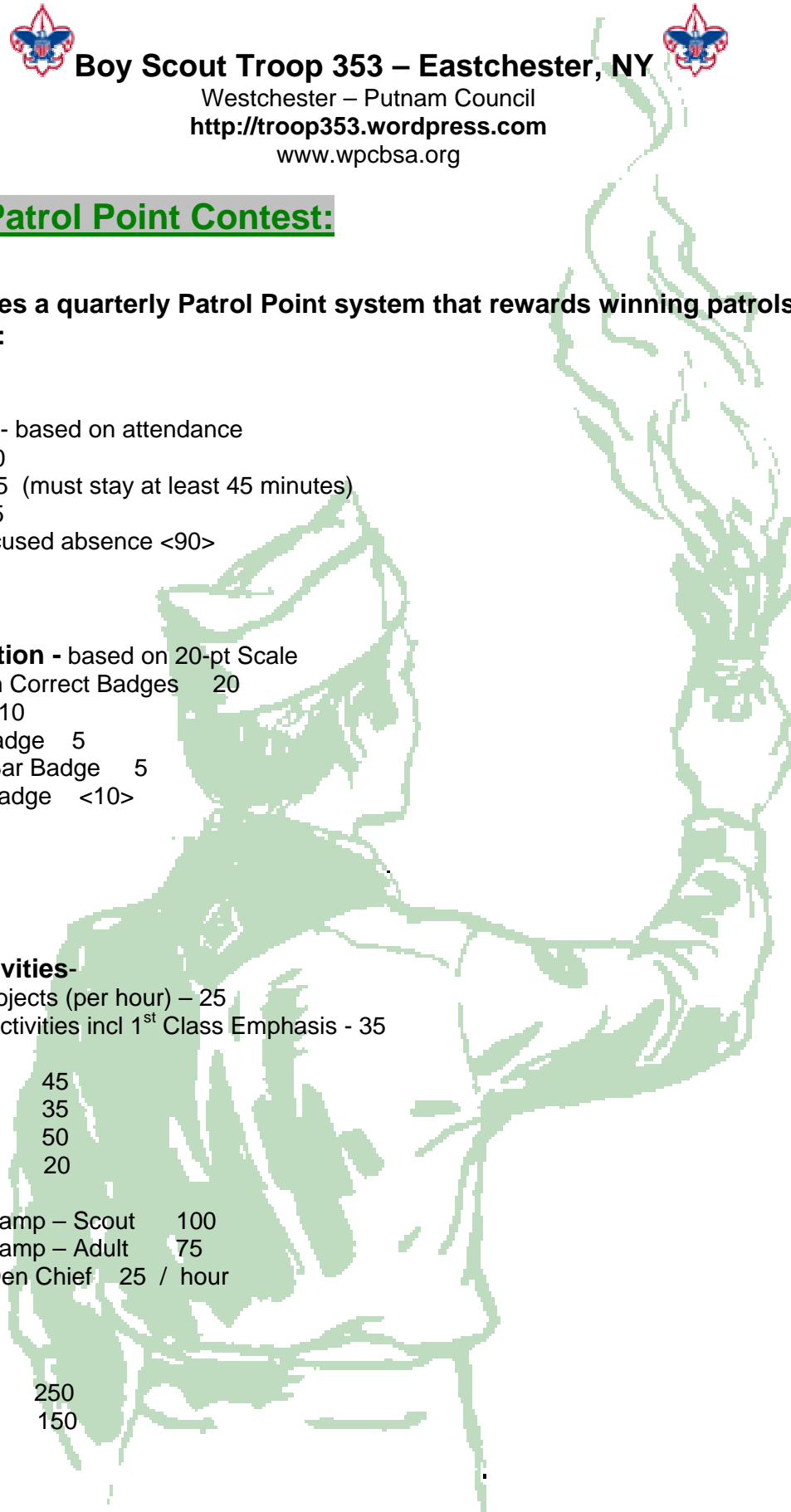
- Service Projects (per hour) – 25
- All Other Activities incl 1st Class Emphasis - 35

- Day Trip- 45
- Two Day- 35
- Three Day- 50
- Adults- 20

- Summer Camp – Scout 100
- Summer Camp – Adult 75
- Webelos Den Chief 25 / hour

Recruitment –

- New Scout 250
- Old Scout 150



Advancement-



New Scout- 75



Tenderfoot- 100



Second Class- 125



First Class- 150



Star Scout- 200



Life Scout- 250



Eagle Scout- 500



Eagle Palms- 150

Merit Badges

Required- 100

Non- Required- 75

Patrol Contests and Competitions at meetings or on trips:

1st place- 25

2nd place-20

3rd place- 15

Special BSA Awards:



Snorkeling B.S.A.- 50



Mile Swim B.S.A.- 50



B.S.A. Lifeguard- 100



World Conservation Award- 150



Paul Bunyon Woodsman- 50

Totin' Chip – 25

Firem' Chit – 30



50 Miler Award – 200



Den Chief Service Award- 100

Order of the Arrow:



Ordeal- 50



Brotherhood- 75



Vigil Honor- 100

Any BSA Religious Award- 150

Leave No Trace Awareness Award- 150

All Other Special BSA Awards - 150

<http://home.earthlink.net/~otherawards/>

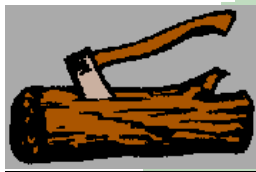
Training:

Scouts –

Troop Led Training 300
Patrol Leader Development 250
Den Chief Training 200
National Youth Leader Training 500 / day

Adult Leaders –

Youth Protection * 100
Fast Start * 100
Safe Swim Defense * 50
Safety Afloat * 50
Hazardous Weather * 50
Committee Challenge * 200
University of Scouting 50/ 1 hour class
Troop Led Training – Instruction 200
New Leaders Essentials 150
Scoutmaster & Ass't SM Specific Training 250 / day
Wood Badge 500 / day



Red Cross CPR Training 75

- **Online Training =**
- <http://www.scouting.org/Applications/MyScoutingFull.aspx>



Boy Scout Troop 353 – Eastchester, NY



Westchester – Putnam Council
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The scouts of Troop 353 keep a busy schedule of fun outings & events.

Over the past several years we have:

• Climbed Mt. Stevens at Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation • Caved at night at Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation • Ridden Horses in Lake George, NY • Rafted the Sacandaga River, Lake Luzerne, NY & the Lehigh River Gorge, Jim Thorpe, PA • Rock Climbed at Clear Lake Scout Camp, Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation & The Rock Club, New Rochelle, NY • Canoeed the Upper Delaware River • Hiked the Breakneck Ridge Trail, Hudson Highlands State Park, Cold Spring, NY • Hiked Anthony's Nose & numerous other peaks in Harriman State Park, Harriman, NY • Hiked Storm King Summit Trail, Storm King State Park, Cornwall, NY • Backpacked along the Appalachian Trail, Clarence Fahnestock State Park, Carmel, NY • Toured Yankee Stadium, Bronx, NY • Ice fished at Ten Mile River Scout Reservation, Narrowsburg, NY • Camped on the beach at Hither Hills State Park, Montauk, NY • Camped at Margaret Norrie Lewis State Park & visited FDR's home, Hyde Park, NY • Camped at Yawgoog Scout Reservation, Rockville, RI • Snow Skied at Belleayre Mountain & Catamount Ski Area, Highmount, NY Mt. Snow, VT • Help to beautify the grounds of the Graymoor Monastery, Garrison, NY • Participated in the Algonquin District Kon-Tiki at Clear Lake Scout Camp, Putnam Valley, NY • Participated in the Westchester-Putnam Council's Klondike Derby @ Ft. Smith, Peekskill, NY • Shot .22 caliber rifles under NRA instruction, Camp Bullowa, Stony Point, NY.

Every summer we:

Spend a week at Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation in Adirondack Park, Brant Lake, NY

Every fall we:

We raise a substantial amount of food for the Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Eastchester Community Action Program to distribute to needy individuals & families in our surrounding communities.

Every winter we:

Become certified in American Red Cross CPR / AED for adults & CPR for children & infants.

Every few years we attend a high-adventure trip:

Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, NM: 1997, 2004.

50-mile Canoe Trek, Long Lake, High Peaks Wilderness Area, Adirondack Park:1998 (Summit Base).

Florida Sea-Base, Lower Matecumbe Key, Islamorada, FL: 2000 Outer Island Adventure.

Tahawus Tract, High Peaks Wilderness Area, Adirondack Park, Newcomb, NY: 2004 (Summit Base).

We have a continuing collaborative effort to earn Merit Badges in:

Camping
Communication
First Aid
Personal Management

Citizenship in the Community, Nation & World

Climbing
Family Life
Personal Fitness
Rifle Shooting



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Camping Gear -- Thoughts for the Parents of First Year Scouts

Parents of first year scouts can be overwhelmed at the need to “gear up” for outdoor activities, particularly if their child had limited camping experience in Cub Scouts or did not participate in Cub Scouts. Before you go out and spend +\$400.00 on new camping gear (which is easy to do), we would stress that you keep “absolute need” in balance with “practicality”. For example, your son does not need the latest in hi-tech, hi-performing clothing & shoes, as he is still growing. Furthermore, the troop has considerable spare equipment (tents, sleeping pads, mess kits, backpacks, etc.)—just ask Assistant Scoutmaster / Equipment Coordinator (currently Peter Palma) or the Scoutmaster (currently Tom McCandless). After your child has remained in Boy Scouts for at least one year and appears committed to Scouting, then you might consider purchasing more expensive, optional items (clothing, tents, lightweight backpack stoves, water treatment systems, GPS systems, etc.).

A large part of gear determination is contingent upon the type of seasonal outdoor activity the troop is planning. Clearly, there is no need to pack a swimming suit or mosquito netting for a winter outing. In the *Boy Scout Handbook*, there are packing lists for different seasons (pp. 203—204). Consequently, prior to each planned outdoor activity, Troop 353 provides a “modified” gear list, suitable to the activity.

Frequently, several camping gear items are often already in your possession. For example, in anticipation of going on a winter campout, one can use a child’s snow skiing or snowboarding clothing instead of purchasing a lot of new expensive clothing. Likewise, in preparing a personal first aid kit, many items can be frequently found in your home medicine cabinet. We advocate using a large black plastic trash bag to cover your backpack in case of rain, instead of purchasing an expensive backpack cover. *Boys’ Life* and/or *Scouting* magazines also frequently have suggestions for cheaper gear alternatives. Some items are available at basic hardware stores, i.e., LED flashlights & batteries.

Chapters 8 & 9 of the *Boy Scout Handbook* provide an excellent discussion of hiking and camping gear, with a basic camping gear list provided on pp. 224-225. On the next page we have reproduced a basic camping gear list, with page references as needed. Several items toward the bottom are optional.

In terms of gear, just a few things to note: #1) your child does NOT need a backpack immediately. He can use a duffel bag or a sports bag of some type. If you buy a pack, get one that is classified as an “external frame” pack. #2) An old blanket is a suitable alternative to a sleeping bag liner. #3) Most kids have sports-related water bottles—these work fine. #4) Sleeping pad—clearly not a required item for a child (most certainly for adults!), but try to avoid an air mattress for winter as these do not insulate against the cold ground. Go for a “closed foam” version. #5) Rain Gear—an absolute MUST. MUST have a hood. Breathable material is synonymous with expensive. #6) Insect repellent—another absolute MUST. Ticks are prevalent in NE; Deet is the best protection. #7) hiking boots—a requirement for nearly all outings, except canoeing. Sneakers do not provide adequate support. #8) small pillow—put existing clothes in a small pillow case can be just as effective.

Outfitters I have used: #1) Campmor (the largest & cheapest nationwide), 2) Walmart—Coleman gear, clothing, 3) Target—Coleman gear, clothing, 4) Amazon, 5) REI, 6) American Terrain (White Plains), 7) Sierra Trading Post, 8) Campsaver, 9) Cabela’s, 10) EMS (expensive), 11) Altrec. All have big websites. Also check out www.hikerdeals.com, an aggregator site that monitors all gear sales on a timely basis.

CAMPING GEAR CHECKLIST

(to be worn, carried or packed)

(Boy Scout Handbook, Ch. 8 & 9, Hiking & Camping)
Basic Camping Gear List = pp 224--225

Personal Gear:

Nalgene water bottle or canteen (filled at home, at least 32 oz., Empty 1 liter soda bottles are ok)

Backpack (External Frame) OR Duffle Bag

Sleeping Bag (Mummy style, avoid down-filled, suitable to 25 degrees F.) in waterproof stuff sack

Sleeping Bag Liner (synthetic lining, Mummy style), OR Fleece Blanket

Fleece Blanket, OR Sleeping Bag Liner

Ground Cloth (space/emergency blanket works, but not durable)

Sleeping Pad (Therm-a-Rest brand = air-filled foam, works in all 4 seasons)

Flashlight or Headlight (w/ 1 set spare batteries)

Personal Toiletry Kit:

toilet paper (biodegradable), toothbrush/paste, comb/brush, Purell (small), anti-bacterial wipes, washcloth/Camp soap (biodegradable), hand towel, dental floss, metal mirror (optional).

Personal First Aid Kit (Boy Scout Handbook, p. 289)

band-aids, antibacterial cream, pain reliever, moleskin, lip balm, sunscreen, anti-diarrhea tablets, INSECT REPELLANT (ticks & mosquitoes, at least 30% DEET preferable) NO AEROSOL CANS.

Clothing: (dress in layers in colder weather, "cotton is rotten")

* Hiking Boots - Waterproofed (preferably ankle high--MUST BE BROKEN IN BEFORE)

* 1 pr hiking socks (wool or synthetic preferred)

* 1 pr of underwear (synthetic long underwear in Winter)

* 1 short sleeved shirt (synthetic preferred)

* 1 long sleeved shirt (synthetic preferred)

* 1 pair pants (synthetic/nylon--sweats are NOT good for day wear; jeans ok)

* 1 fleece pullover or sweatshirt

* 1 Jacket or shell (that fits over your insulation layer)

* Hat or Baseball Cap

Poncho or "waterproof" raincoat W/ HOOD (REQUIRED), breathable material preferred

sleepwear (PJs, shorts, or sweats)

Other footwear (sneakers for campsite)

Warm Hat (wool or synthetic to cover ears) / baseball cap in Summer/Spring

Pr. Gloves (REQUIRED in colder weather)

Swimsuit w/ towel

* = Wear # = Pack

Other Required / Optional:

Boy Scout Handbook (REQUIRED)

Pen & Small Notepad (REQUIRED)

Compass (REQUIRED)

Whistle (REQUIRED)

BSA Mess kit (REQUIRED)

Fork/spoon (REQUIRED)

Large Trash Bag (REQUIRED, to cover backpack in case of rain and/or trash).

Rope or Nylon Twine (50 ft.)

Small Pillow

Matches (waterproof or in waterproof container)

Scout Knife (no sheath knives or automatic opening styles); Totin' Chip Card (required)

Duct Tape (can be attached to backpack)

Spare large zip lock freezer bags

Sponge

Sunglasses

Camera

Binoculars



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Webelos Introduction to Troop 353

New scout patrols are for scouts just joining the troop and who have not yet entered seventh grade. Although new scouts may join the troop earlier in the year, the new scout patrol is formed in April or as soon as possible after the Crossing Over ceremony. Based upon the number of new scouts, it may later be divided into two or more patrols. Boys joining scouting who are in or beyond seventh grade may be assigned to a regular patrol or the new scout patrol based on discussions with the Scoutmaster.

New Scout Patrols

We place all our new Scouts in a special New Scout Patrol, led by an experienced senior Scout called the Troop Guide. We also assign an adult Assistant Scoutmaster to work with the Troop Guide as an advisor. At most troop meetings, the Troop Guide plans a program for his new Scouts separate from the regular troop meeting program. Mostly, they will work on basic Scout skills, and work toward Tenderfoot rank. On campouts, the New Scout Patrol camps like any other patrol, with the Troop Guide teaching them the basic skills. Although some things may be taught by an adult, most teaching is done by the Troop Guide and by other senior Scouts he may ask to help out.

New scout patrols stay together for one year and receive help from the Troop Guide, who works with the new scout patrol leader(s). The new scout patrol operates pretty much like a regular patrol but a few things are done differently so scouts will have a chance to do all the jobs in a patrol while working on advancement toward First Class. Each member of the patrol has a job. The jobs are Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Scribe, Quartermaster, Grubmaster and Cheermaster (optional). In the new scout patrol, these jobs are rotated monthly so everyone gets to learn all the jobs.

By summer camp, most new Scouts have been in the troop for a few months and have been on a couple of weekend campouts. They may (should) have made new friends, and are getting to know enough about the other Scouts in the troop to know who they most like to do things with. Still, for the next year, the New Scouts stay together as a patrol, until the troop elections the following June. *At that time they have two choices: they can choose to join one of the regular patrols already in existence, or they can get together with a number of other Scouts and organize a new patrol. In this case, they need to find a qualified First Class (or higher) Scout to be their patrol leader (we don't allow a Scout to be a patrol leader until he has been a Scout for at least a year—if he tries it sooner, he is likely to find this challenging job is just plain miserable).]*

Troop Guides

The Troop Guide is a standard BSA youth leadership position. He is an experienced older Scout who volunteers to work with new Scouts to help them get started. In our troop, the Troop Guide is usually at least 1st Class rank, 14-years old and must have been a patrol leader of a regular patrol or a Sr. Patrol Leader or an Assistant Sr. Patrol Leader. As well, former Webelos Den Chiefs can be well equipped for this expanded leadership role provided they meet the age (+14 years) and rank

requirements (+1st Class). This is a vitally important job, to get our new Scouts started right (remember, nationally, more than half of all new Scouts drop out their first year; in our troop, we have found that if we can keep a new Scout active for the first year, he will likely stay an average of about four years, which is more than double the national average).

Most years, we have enough new Scouts to organize one or two new Scout patrols. Each has separate activities led by a Troop Guide (who may have another older Scout as his assistant Troop Guide). The overall program for our new Scouts is coordinated by an Assistant Scoutmaster, Coordinator of the New Scout Patrol. His job is to make sure the Troop Guides do their job, and to coordinate and evaluate the overall program for our new Scouts. The ASM / Coordinator of the New Scout Patrol typically provides overall leadership for 12 to 18 new Scouts and other senior Scouts who function in Troop Guide or Instructor roles. A Troop Guide can frequently go on to become our Senior Patrol Leader and his experience with the program for new Scouts has prepared him well to lead the entire troop.

Scoutmaster Appointments

The Scoutmaster will appoint **Webelos Den Chiefs** in August to serve for a term of one year and begin with senior Webelos den activities in September. Additionally, den chiefs may be appointed depending upon the need of our sister Cub Scout Packs 353 & 7 and Troop 353's capacity to provide such qualified youth leadership.

In June or around the time of troop youth leadership elections, the Scoutmaster announces the appointment of the new **Troop Guide(s)**, who will serve a one-year term beginning September 1st and continuing through the end of August. He will be required to attend Junior Leadership Training and will spend time initially with both the former Troop Guide and the Scoutmaster to aid in training and development. Each Troop Guide serves one class or patrol of new scouts. The Troop Guide must have previous experience either as a Troop Guide, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader or Den Chief.

Also in June or around the time of troop leadership elections, the Scoutmaster announces the appointment of new **Instructor(s)**, who will serve a one-year term beginning September 1st and continuing through the end of August. He too will be required to attend Junior Leadership Training and will spend time initially with both former Instructors and the Assistant Sr. Patrol Leader to aid in training and development. Instructors are often helpful assistants to the Troop Guide(s), the Sr. Patrol Leader, the Assistant Sr. Patrol Leader and the Assistant Scoutmaster New Scout Patrol Coordinator. The Instructor(s) needs to have completed the rank of First Class and be at least 13 years old.



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What Adults Do On Scout Campouts

An Adult "Patrol"

In Troop 353, we call them "Old Goats." The Old Goats are a special "patrol" for uniformed adult leaders and parents who go on troop campouts. Our adult patrol has great times together, sharing ideas, watching and helping the Scouts as needed. We organized the Old Goat patrol for two reasons:

- To set an example of camping and cooking that the Scout patrols could see and follow (we can tell them a thousand times, but seeing an example and deciding to follow it themselves works better)
- To give inexperienced parents a place to eat and camp, and to give them a place to be near their sons without "meddling" in the boy leadership operation of their sons' patrols.

Here is some information for parents on their first campout with the troop.

Camping is the heart of Boy Scouting, so please take a few minutes to read this. Boy Scouting is absolutely different from Cub Scouting or Webelos! And while parents (and sometimes whole families) often accompany the Scouts on campouts, the Scouts camp with their patrol and not with their parents and family members.

General Troop Policy - Summary

Here is a summary of our troop (and BSA) policies, followed by the reasoning for the policies. There are exceptions, but these policies are in effect on most outings.

Scout Tenting & Meals—Scouts tent with their patrol in a patrol site separate from the other patrols. Patrols plan their own menus, and cook and eat together as a team. In general, adults do not eat or tent with a boy patrol.

Adult Tenting & Meals—Adults tent with the adult patrol in a patrol site separate from the other patrols. We plan our own menu, and cook and eat together as a team. In general, adults do not eat or tent with a boy patrol.

Adult/Boy Tenting—BSA youth protection policies forbid an adult and a boy sharing the same tent. While youth protection policies may not apply to a father/mother and son tenting together, it is troop policy that boys tent with boys and adults with adults. If a parent tents with their son, it has been our experience that the boy will lose out on many opportunities to make decisions and be part of the patrol team! [Yes, you are probably the rare exception, but it wouldn't be fair to the other adults to single you out.]

Smoking/Drinking—Drivers may not smoke while Scouts are in the car. Adults may not smoke or use tobacco products, nor drink alcoholic beverages during a Scout activity. Adults who must smoke or chew must do so discretely out of sight of the Scouts.

Boy Leadership—Adults should not interfere with the functioning of boy leaders, even if they make mistakes (we all learn best from our mistakes). Step in only if it is a matter of immediate safety or if the mistake will be immediately costly. If possible, involve a uniformed adult leader first.

Boy Growth—***Never do anything for a boy that he can do himself!*** Let him make decisions without adult interference, and let him make non-costly mistakes.

Adult Training & Resources—The Boy Scouts of America provides an outstanding handbook for adults, and an excellent training course to help us understand the goals of Scouting and how to attain them. The adult manual is called the *Scoutmasters Handbook*, and it's worth your time to read it. The training is called Scout Leader Basic Training, and is offered in our area twice a year. It's also a good investment of your time. Troop 353 gives our uniformed adult leaders a copy of the *Scoutmasters Handbook*, and strongly urges that they complete Scout Leader Basic Training (New Leaders Essential + Scoutmaster / Assistant Scoutmaster Specific) and / or the Committee Challenge during their first year of office. We encourage other adults to follow suit.

Rationale

Boy Scout camping activities center on the patrol, where boys learn teamwork, leadership, and most camping skills. It is important that adults not be in the middle of patrol activities such as site selection, tent pitching, meal preparation, and anything else where boys get to practice decision-making.

A key difference between Boy Scouting and Cub Scouting/Webelos is leadership. Look for the word "leader" in a job title, and you will begin to appreciate the difference. The responsible person for a Cub/Webelos den is the adult Den Leader. The responsible person for a Boy Scout patrol is the boy Patrol Leader.

This isn't token leadership (like a denner). A Patrol Leader has real authority and genuine responsibilities. Much of the success, safety & happiness of six to ten other boys depend directly on him.

Boy Scouting teaches leadership. And boys learn leadership by practicing it, not by watching adults lead.

So what do we adults do, now that we've surrendered so much direct authority to boys? Here are our troop's guidelines on the indirect, advisory role you now enjoy (no kidding, you should enjoy watching your son take progressively more mature and significant responsibilities as he zooms toward adulthood).

As note above, the underlying principle is never do anything for a boy that he can do himself. We allow boys to grow by practicing leadership and by learning from their mistakes. And while Scout skills are an important part of the program, what ultimately matters when our Scouts become adults is not whether they can use a map & compass, but whether they can offer leadership to others in tough situations; and can live by a code that centers on honest, honorable, and ethical behavior.

Boys need to learn to make decisions without adult intervention (except when it's a matter of immediate safety). Boys are in a patrol so they can learn leadership and teamwork without adult interference. Being an adult advisor is a difficult role, especially when we are advising kids (even worse, our own sons).

If a parent goes on a campout, you are an automatic member of our "Old Goat" (adult) patrol. This patrol has several purposes—good food and camaraderie (of course), but more important is providing an example the boy patrols can follow without our telling them what to do (we teach by example). Since a patrol should camp as a group, we expect the "Old Goats" to do so also; that way, adults don't tent in or right next to a boy patrol where your mere presence could disrupt the learning process.

Quite simply, our troop policy requires adults to cook, eat, and tent separately from the Scouts (even parents & sons). We are safely nearby, but not smotheringly close. Sure, go ahead and visit the patrol sites (not just your son's), talk to your son (and the other Scouts), ask what's going on or how things are going. But give the guys room to grow while you enjoy the view. Show a Scout how to do something, but don't do it for him. Avoid the temptation to give advice, and don't jump in just to prevent a mistake from happening (unless it's serious). We all learn best from our mistakes. And let the patrol leader lead.

Your job is tough, challenging, and ultimately rewarding, because your son will be a man the day after tomorrow.



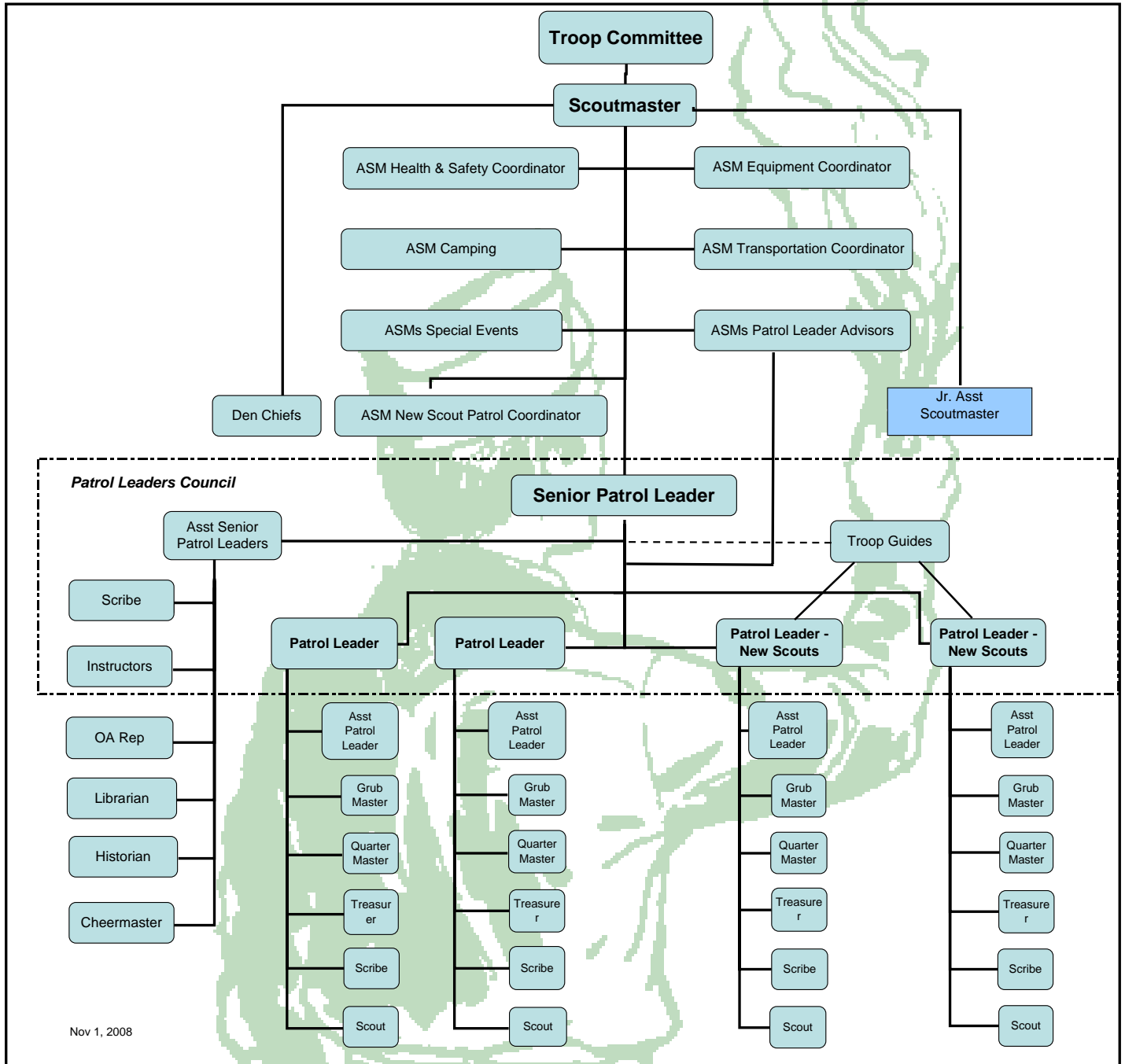


Boy Scouts Troop 353 – Eastchester, NY



Westchester – Putnam Council
<http://troop353.wordpress.com>
www.wpcbsa.org

Youth Leader Organization of Boy Scout Troop 353



Nov 1, 2008

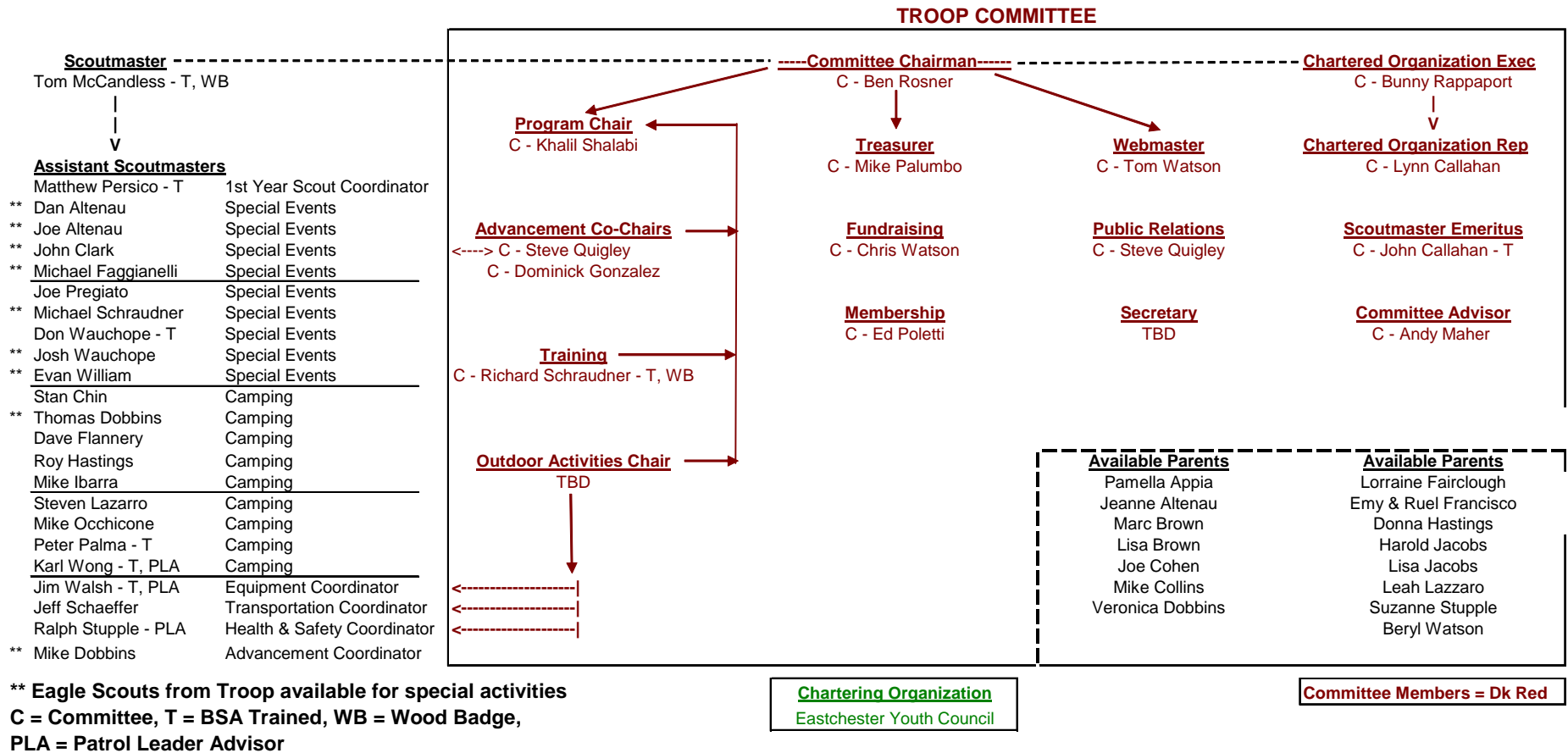


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Adult Leader Organization of Boy Scout Troop 353





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Codes of Conduct

Scout Oath or Promise

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
And to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
Mentally awake, and morally straight

Scout Law

A Scout is:
Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful
Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent

Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily

Outdoor Code

As an American,
I will do my best to Be Clean in my outdoor manners,
Be careful with Fire, Be Considerate in the Outdoors,
and Be conservation-minded.

Golden Rule

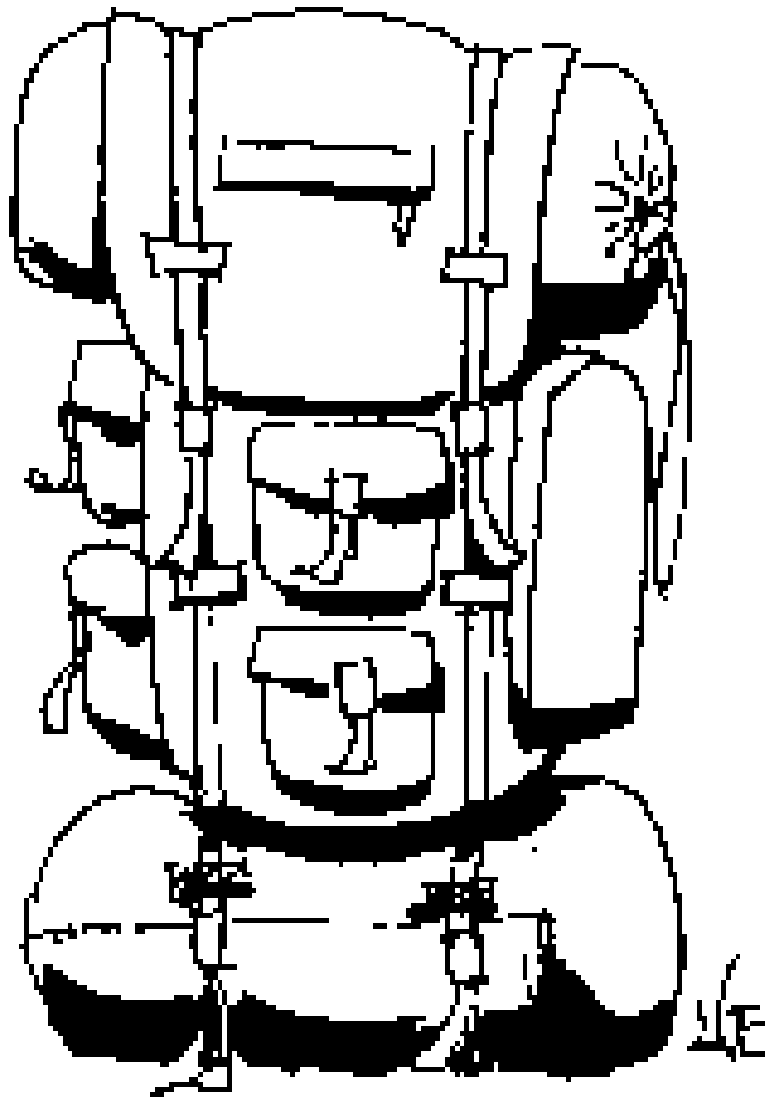
Do unto others as you have them do unto you.



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Gone Camping!