

SCOUTS BSA TROOP 2018

PARENT HANDBOOK



Baltimore Area Council

The River Hawk District

Chartered to:

American Legion Post 226, Edgewater, Maryland

This Parent's Handbook was developed to help answer questions that Scouts or their parents may have about Troop 2018 and how it functions. It covers questions that often come up in a Scouts BSA troop. Our troop was founded on February 1st, 2019 and already has a proud heritage. Our troop number commemorates the year that BSA first brought girls into Cub Scouts. Mayo United Methodist Church first chartered Pack 2018 as one of the first all-girl Cub Scout packs in the country. Pack 2018 was also Maryland's first all-girl Cub Scout pack. Girls from Troop 2018 had their first unofficial meetings in 2018 as well. The policies listed in this handbook are intended to promote excellence in the program as we venture down the path of leadership and life skill development toward the Eagle Scout rank while we have fun, learn, and work together. We do hope that the parents and new Scouts will read this handbook so they understand what is expected from the family and the Scout, and what should be expected from the troop.

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I. INTRODUCTION

TO THE PARENTS:

We extend a warm welcome to you and your daughter! Your daughter has joined an organization whose purpose is to provide an effective program designed to build the desirable qualities of moral strength and character, the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and the development of strong physical, mental and emotional fitness. How the Scouts accomplish this involves a diverse program of methods and activities.

The Scouting program works at its best when generous amounts of parental motivation and encouragement are there to help the Scout along the way. All parents will be called on to provide some assistance to the troop from time to time. We all need to work together to provide the best Scouting experience for our girls.

For those who would like to become more active in the organization and travel with us, we always have openings in the leadership and committee positions! All adult leaders are required to complete Youth Protection Training, and then submit an official BSA application with the registration fee to begin this exciting journey with us. In addition, starting September 1, 2023, all adults attending overnight activities must be registered, paid adult members of BSA.

We ordinarily send out a weekly email to everyone with important info for the week, and additional information can be found on Troop2018.com. The password to access the private information on our website is MUMC2018.

TO THE SCOUTS:

We welcome you to Troop 2018! We are glad that you decided to join us for the fun, excitement, and learning experiences we will share. Invite a friend to join! We welcome any girls who:

- Are younger than 18 years of age,
- Are at least 10 years of age and in the 5th grade, registering on or after the first of March, or
 - o Have earned the Arrow of Light as a Cub Scout and are at least 10 years old, or
 - o Are at least 11 years old

We hope that you find this a rewarding and fulfilling experience as you grow, learn new skills, make new friends, go on incredible adventures, and achieve more than you can imagine at this point. Good luck on your trail to Eagle. You are going to LOVE this!

SCOUT SPIRIT

- It is easy to BECOME a Scout. It is not easy to be one. Becoming a good Scout requires bravery and determination. It means knowing and living the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan. It means PARTICIPATING and playing by the rules of the game to be a good member of the team. We will help you out, but it is ultimately all up to you.

II. THE AIMS AND METHODS OF SCOUTING

THE AIMS OF SCOUTING:

Scouting works towards three aims. One is growth in moral strength and character: her personal qualities, her values, and her outlook. A second aim is growth in citizenship. Used broadly, citizenship means the Scout's relationship to others. She will learn of her obligations to other people, to the society she lives in, and to the government that presides over that society. A third aim of Scouting is development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

THE METHODS

The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan. The Scout measures herself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as she reaches for them, she has some control over what she becomes. Showing Scout Spirit, a requirement for each rank advancement, means living up to these ideals.

PATROLS

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

OUTDOORS

Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live and work with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Scouts gain an appreciation for nature, and mankind's place in it. The outdoors is a perfect laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources. We practice and follow the BSA Outdoor Code.

ADVANCEMENT

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The Scout plans her advancement and, by participating in the troop program, progresses as she overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps her gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Scout grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others.

ASSOCIATION

Scouts learn from the example set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, but at least one female leader must be present at all Scouting activities or

events where girls are present. Association with adults of high character is encouraged for Scout character development.

PERSONAL GROWTH

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

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Scouting encourages Scouts to learn and practice leadership skills. Understanding the concept of leadership helps a Scout accept the leadership roles of others and guides her towards the citizenship aim of Scouting.

THE UNIFORM

The uniform makes the troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Scouting is an active program, and wearing the uniform gives the Scout identity in a worldwide movement of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Scout activities and provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

III. THE PHILOSOPHY OF SCOUT-LED ACTIVITIES

THE MAGIC

Our troop is Scout-led. This means that the Scouts are in charge of the decision-making, planning, leadership, and daily operation of the troop. It is a safe place to try something, make mistakes, evaluate, learn, and try again. The Scouts will often make mistakes, but they learn ownership of the patrol and troop, and gain a lot from the process.

Our Scoutmaster's vision is for our troop's young women to lead skillfully, make good choices, and serve others. There truly is magic in our program. We will foster their independence, teach them self-advocacy, coach them in how to seek out and work with adult mentors, and have them grow to incredible new heights by placing responsibility on them so they learn how to make and learn from their own mistakes. These invaluable life skills can help boost their success in life.

This program works. You might not see the potential now, but your daughter will very soon:

1. Learn skills to help her become a community leader, coach, or youth group leader.
2. Gain tools to help her become a CEO, professional, manager, or owner of her own business.

3. Develop skills that will help her become a better parent.
4. Acquire skills that will help her be a better spouse.
5. Journey down the path to become an Eagle Scout.

“JUST A VOLUNTEER”

It is often difficult for many of our new parents, but we **will** need something very small yet very important from you. Even though it is fairly small, your daughter will benefit from this in a very big way! When you volunteer with the troop, we ask that you are there as “volunteer,” and not as “parent/guardian.” When you are there to help the Scoutmaster run the program, your daughter will be free to learn and grow. Just like when your child was learning how to walk, eventually she did it better because you learned to let go of her hand. We ask that parents refrain from attending their daughter’s first and maybe second campout with us to allow your daughter bond with the others and find her place in the troop without having to attend to you. This will let her learn from the other Scouts first, helping her bond with the others and form solid relationships in the troop. This way she will gain some confidence without having mom/dad/guardian there as a safety net or a buffer, which can interfere with her bonding with the other Scouts. It can also be a fantastic confidence-builder for her to show you what she has learned when you do join us once she has settled in. It can be tough to ignore that strong parenting instinct to be there for her every step of the way, but if the other girls step in for her, she’ll grow by leaps and bounds!

When you first join the troop, please make an appointment with the Scoutmaster so she/he can have the opportunity to know you and your Scout. This would be a great time to let her Scoutmaster know about any special concerns or challenges that your Scout may face. After that, your daughter will be introduced to the troop and her Patrol Leader. Your Scout will work with her Patrol Leader for advancement, skills training, and learn how to benefit from the Patrol Method and the Scouting experience.

Your Scout will then learn to advocate for herself by also working with the Scoutmaster. When your daughter needs something beyond what the Patrol leader can handle, like permission to work on a new merit badge, or an opportunity to fulfill a community service requirement, *the Scout* should be the one to reach out to the Scoutmaster, and not the adult. Small safe steps lead to great outcomes!

This is an important concept built into the foundation of Scouting, and even the Scoutmasters will have other adults mentor their own Scouts. Girls with helicopter parents don’t bond as well with others in the troop, often miss out on a lot of growth opportunities, and don’t tend to stick with Scouting very long. The troop leaders hold a monthly Committee Meeting to be sure that the troop is headed in the right direction. Parents are encouraged to attend Committee Meetings so they can find out how they can best help out. Everyone benefits this way!

IV. REGISTRATION

As in most other active organizations it takes money to be able to run and maintain the program. Scouting isn't free, and each Scout is expected to pay her fair share when it comes to registration, dues, and camping expenses. Any family experiencing a financial hardship is encouraged to seek out the troop Treasurer to inquire about options for assistance.

Registration fees collected each year for Scouts and adults are a major income source for the Boy Scouts of America national organization. Troop 2018 recharter and pays registration fees to the national organization by January 1st of each year. Baltimore Area Council generally requires the paperwork and payment to be submitted by mid-November. We complete our registration by late October so it can be submitted on time. When a Scout joins the troop, she initially pays the registration fee, an optional Boy's Life subscription cost, and a troop "fair share of expenses"/dues fee. This fee is used to help support the cost of the program and equipment, can sometimes be used to help troop members needing assistance, and is often prorated for members who join later in the calendar year, depending on the financial health of the troop. Scouts registering with BSA for the first time will also pay a national "joining fee." Once the troop builds up some money in its accounts through fundraising, it has the option to pay the registration fees for its adult volunteers.

V. SCOUTS WITH DISABILITIES

We recognize that all Scouts have different levels of ability. The purpose of Scouts is to help Scouts grow to the best of their ability. This troop will make every effort to accommodate the needs of all Scouts. Please bring any concerns or requests to the Scoutmaster as soon as possible in order to facilitate the best possible experience for your Scout.

VI. BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

BEHAVIOR OF OTHERS

Especially in its first few years of existence, Troop 2018 will be under a great deal of scrutiny as one of our country's first troops for girls in a traditionally boy-only environment. It is anticipated that we may occasionally receive some un-Scout-like treatment from other Scouting members. No one is perfect, and many are still learning how to be good Scouts. At all times, our troop members must display behavior in accordance with the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Inappropriate behavior from others toward members of our troop must be immediately reported to the nearest Troop 2018 adult leaders, and then to the Scoutmaster. Do not engage others' poor behavior or stoop to their level!

TROOP MEMBER BEHAVIOR

We must be careful to police our own behavior on outings and while camping because as trailblazers, we have the responsibility to set a high standard for other Scouts following us for years to come. We will always display appropriate behavior and respect to others when in public, and all troop members are responsible for ensuring this in every other member.

- The purpose of Scouting is to develop skills that make us each a better individual, one who stands out as better prepared and better qualified for life's challenges. A lost art in today's world is common courtesy and civility. As Scouts, we will foster mutual respect and courtesy (Adult to Adult, Adult to Youth, Youth to Youth, and Youth to Adult) that makes everyone feel welcome, respected, and appreciated.
- Scouts will always give appropriate honors (stand and salute) to our national flag, national anthem, and pledge.
- Scouts often choose to be part of this organization because what we do is exciting and challenging. We choose to do the difficult things because it builds character, perseverance, and leadership. Personal discipline is required. Scouts will be courteous to and take instructions from their adult and youth leaders. Scouts will be courteous to their fellow troop members and will always strive to lift each other up to make the troop stronger together.
- There will be no drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or vaping present at any Scouting activity. This applies to youth and adults.
- All Scouts must follow the directions of the youth or adult leadership unless it is deemed inappropriate. If it appears that the leadership is doing something wrong, request assistance from the Scoutmaster immediately.
- Follow the rules of Leave No Trace when outdoors. It's a good idea to do it indoors as well! Always leave a place better than you found it.
- Be respectful and courteous to your fellow Scouts.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.
- No Scout will be forced to participate in an activity against her will (but we might sometimes provide a lot of cheerful encouragement!).
- If another Scout asks for your help and you possess the ability to help her, you should do it. If you see something that needs to be done, do it without waiting to be asked. Working together and taking initiative are part of leadership and growing up.
- All Scouts and adults will abide by rules, regulations, and policies of the BSA. Particular attention will be paid to guidelines published in Guide to Safe Scouting.
- Gear may be searched by the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster if necessary to ensure the safety of the troop and its members.

We can expect to regularly be in a coed environment. Expect that boys will be present.

- Use common sense.
- No entering the domiciles (tents, cabins, rooms, etc.) of the opposite gender.
- In order to visit another troop's campsite, there must first be a valid need for this visit, and then a request must be made to enter that campsite. Scouts may only do so with a buddy.

- If separate bathrooms are not available, when females are using the bathroom facilities, males are not allowed, and vice versa. Adults and Scouts should also have separate latrine/bathroom and shower facilities if possible.
- Always maintain 2-deep leadership with adults when Scouting, including with the Scout's own parents.
- The Buddy System (where two or more Scouts are required to stay together to leave and return to the scout activity area, for example, a bathroom break) will always be used when we are outside of our campsite or meeting location. Buddies must be of the same gender, including with siblings.
- Scouts and adults are expected to maintain a high level of professionalism while on Scouting time, and there will be no public display of affection. This includes kissing, hugging, hand holding, or anything other than normal friend-like behavior.
- Scouts must always behave appropriately when Scouting.

DISCIPLINE

The Scouting program is not designed to solve youth discipline problems — on the contrary it's designed to build into youth the necessary character and responsibility to prevent discipline problems. The program needs all the time available to it to accomplish these aims. Administering the Scouting program to Troop 2018's Scouts does not provide the troop leadership any extra time to deal with discipline problems. We expect the parents to maintain the responsibility of making sure their children come to Scouting activities ready to learn and participate fully.

Scouts are expected to live and act according to the Scout Oath, Law, Slogan, and Motto. Hazing, initiation, intimidation or physical punishment is prohibited. No Scout may discipline another. Only constructive discipline shall be used. Below is a list of some behaviors which are inappropriate for Scouting activities. This list has been organized into 3 different categories, of increasing severity. If an inappropriate behavior not listed on the list is encountered, the Scoutmaster will use her or his best judgment as to which category that behavior falls into, and take corrective action, as appropriate. The categories are as follows:

1. The following list contains Category I offenses, which will generally result in a warning or time-out. Parents may be contacted.
 - a. Insubordination or disrespect towards youth or adult leadership
 - b. Harassment (of any kind, for any reason)
 - c. Refusing to act within with troop rules and regulations
 - d. Refusing to get out of bed at reveille
 - e. Refusing to do assigned work
 - f. Use of obscene, abusive, or insulting language
 - g. Disruptive behavior during a meeting or an activity
 - h. Inappropriate touching of another Scout or adult
 - i. Cheating or lying
 - j. Dressing inappropriately
 - k. Bringing electronics or other items when they are not permitted
 - l. Failure to adhere to fire, axe, hatchet, saw, or knife safety rules

2. The following list contains Category II offenses, which will generally result in suspensions and/or probation and may result in dismissal from the troop.

- a. Repeated Category I offenses
- b. Assault and/or battery
- c. Destruction and/or vandalism of troop or location property, or personal property of other members.
- d. Indecent exposure
- e. Theft and/or knowingly possessing stolen property
- f. Sexual harassment / sexual conduct
- g. Bullying behavior
- h. Possession or consumption of alcohol, tobacco products, or vaping materials
- i. Failure to use the Buddy System
- j. Entering a domicile with a male Scout or adult
- k. Use of electronics in a private area, such as a restroom. The item shall be immediately confiscated and investigated.

3. The following list contains Category III offenses, which will generally result in being dismissed from the troop.)

- a. Repeated Category II offenses
- c. Prescription violation (misuse of prescribed medications) including failure to have the adult leaders aware of the medication, or interfering with someone else's medication
- d. Possession and/or use of illegal drugs or alcohol
- e. Bringing a weapon to a Scouting event without authorization
- f. Use of an object as a weapon
- g. Violent behavior which creates a substantial danger to persons or property

VII. THE UNIFORM

WEARING THE UNIFORM

Troop 2018 is committed to the concept of the uniform as established by BSA. When smartly worn, the uniform helps build troop spirit, and a Scout's pride in herself. By wearing the uniform, the Scouts give each other support, and when properly worn on the correct occasions, it can help attract new troop members. Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive youth image in the neighborhood, thus helping to counteract the negative feelings some adults have about today's youth. By investing in a uniform, a Scout and her parents are making a commitment to take Scouting seriously. Scouts are standing with each other, not alone, declaring their intent to support the principles which Scouting stands for.

The uniform can be purchased at the Dorsey Road Scout Shop near BWI. It is to be worn to all Scouting activities, including meetings, campouts, and other outings, unless specified by the troop leadership. During the summertime we generally allow the activity uniform (Class "B" t-shirt), but when the troop is travelling to or from camping trips and summer camp, we ask all members to wear the field uniform (Class "A"). Activity uniforms must be conservative in nature to align with the values of our troop.

The activity uniform t-shirts will be made at a troop meeting as new Scouts join the troop. A troop fleece will be ordered once a year, usually in the spring. Until then, Scouts new to the troop have the option of wearing any Scout shirt or shirt of a similar color to our troop shirts. No tank tops, low cuts, or crop tops are allowed. Swimming activities will generally require a one-piece bathing suit, tankini, or a rash guard top and swim shorts. We do not allow Scouts to wear any clothing that advertises alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, or vaping, or has any derogatory, sexual, or offensive messages.

Troop 2018 adheres to the normally required uniform parts that are listed in the Scout Handbook. It is important for our Scouts to wear the full uniform to help strengthen our credibility as a high-performing Scout troop.

REQUIRED UNIFORM PARTS

1. Shirt – Standard field uniform tan shirt.
2. Bottoms – Standard long green pants for winter wear; green shorts, capris, skorts, or skirts for warmer weather. Long pants are better for out in nature because they protect the legs from brush and insects. They can be, but do not have to be, purchased from the Scout Shop. When wearing the field uniform, the bottoms should have loops for belts.
3. Belt – Scout belt and buckle. Belts are less important when wearing the activity uniform because the t-shirt can cover up a lack of a belt.
4. Hat – Optional. Any BSA or troop hat for summer, warm hat or stocking cap for winter.
5. Closed-toed shoes or boots with socks
6. Troop neckerchief and slide – The troop provides the Scout with a troop neckerchief and slide (woggle) at the Scout's Crossover ceremony or at her first meeting. Replacement neckerchiefs cost \$15 and replacement slides cost \$1. Slides (or woggles) are different colors to note specific camping milestones and the Scouts' camping experience level.
7. Activity uniform t-shirt – We will occasionally make our own troop t's at a meeting soon after a Scout joins the troop, and almost always before we go to summer camp. Our t-shirts are worn for active or messy activities or to reduce wear on the field uniform shirt. Scouts will need one or two shirts for regular campouts, but additional t-shirts for longer events, like summer camp.

UNIFORM INSIGNIA

Troop 2018 emphasizes the importance of “looking the part” with the correct insignia on the uniform. Certain insignia are provided by the Scout, while others are provided by the troop. The Scout Handbook shows where to correctly sew the uniform insignia, but this information can also be found online.

1. The following insignia are to be provided by the scout:

- a. Baltimore Area Council Strip - for the left shoulder
- b. American Flag - on the right shoulder (normally included with the uniform)
- c. Green Loops - for shirt epaulets
- d. World Crest - above left pocket

2. The following insignia are provided by the troop:

- a.

- a. Troop 2018 numbers
- b. Current Badge of Rank - for left shirt pocket
- c. Troop neckerchiefs. Replacements cost \$20
- d. Badge of Office - (if any) for left shoulder
- e. "Trained" Strip - for right sleeve (if a trained youth leader)
- f. The Current Quality Unit Award - for the right sleeve
- g. Patrol patch - for right shoulder

The troop will provide the above items for one uniform shirt for each Scout. Adults will be expected to provide their own uniform and insignia (except for our troop number patch and neckerchief). The Scout is responsible for all insignia for any additional uniform shirts she may own.

VIII. TROOP PROGRAM ELEMENTS

SCOUTBOOK

Scoutbook is a BSA-wide electronic system that helps troops and Scouts track events, attendance, advancement, awards, Scout funds, and other individual things like attendance, camping nights, service hours, and miles hiked. When each Scout is registered by the council into our troop, she is placed into Scoutbook, and then parents will receive an email invitation with a link to connect to her Scoutbook account. Parents may review advancement progress and award attainment but are not allowed to modify this in Scoutbook. If any discrepancies are noted, the Scout should contact the Advancement Coordinator with the appropriate documentation in her Scout Handbook. For planning purposes, Troop 2018 also relies on families to indicate in Scoutbook whether their Scout will attend meetings and events. If a Scout has her own email account, she can be added to her Scoutbook profile so she can RSVP for troop events.

TROOP MEETINGS

Troop 2018 generally holds one or two Friday meetings each month, and other times as necessary. During meetings, training is provided, activities are planned, and fun activities are held. It is very important that the Scouts attend the meetings on a regular basis so that they can keep up on troop activities and learn to function within the troop environment. Scouts should notify their patrol leaders if they will be absent from a meeting or other activity. Additionally, it is requested that Scouts RSVP within Scoutbook. Meetings will be conducted by the patrol method and led by the Senior Patrol Leader and the adult leadership.

TROOP ACTIVITIES

Troop 2018 will generally expect the Scouts to conduct one weekend campout and at least one skill- or character-building additional activity per month. Camping is a major part of the Scouting program, and our major appeal to the youth. A critical part of our camping program is transportation. This is one area where parents can support our troop.

TRANSPORTATION

Troop 2018 has a box trailer to transport our camping gear and as much personal gear as possible to camping and other activities. We will need someone to transport the trailer to and from those activities. We will also not have enough room to transport all the Scouts in the leaders' cars, so parent participation will be needed! The normal procedure is for parents to sign up to drive 3-4 times a year, thereby limiting the number of vehicles and the number of times that any parent has to drive. If this does not work, the alternative will be that each parent will be responsible for delivering her or his own Scout to the site of the campout. Some special long-distance campouts may require that the drivers camp with the troop. All adults camping with the troop must be registered as volunteers with BSA.

TRIP PLANNING

On the meeting prior to the event, Scouts must bring a permission slip for the upcoming campout, along with money (**in cash**, since it is going directly to the shopper) to cover the cost of the food. Permission slips can be printed directly from Scoutbook. Payment and paperwork are required before Scouts can be allowed to go on the trip. Some trips will require additional registration, waivers, or special activity costs to be paid. Parents may attend trips with the troop, and they must also pay the food cost and any other fees. It is important that the Scoutmaster is made aware of any dietary restrictions prior to any meal planning. Each patrol will determine its meal plans for the event, and the menus will be approved by the adult leadership during the meeting. Patrols may elect to spend additional money for their food, but the general amount to be budgeted will normally be \$20 per person, including attending adults, for a 2-night camping trip. During the meeting, the trip roster and shopping list will be finalized, and money, the number of attendees to shop for, and the shopping list will be given to the patrol shopper to purchase the required items.

A Scout is thrifty. Patrols should stay within their budgets or agree to bring in additional money to share the cost if they will be using expensive ingredients for something special. The shopper should shop carefully and seek out sales, coupons, or other bargains. If the patrol spends more than they are budgeted, then the shopper and her family will be responsible to paying for the rest. If the shopper has money left over, then that money must be returned to the troop. The troop will generally provide the major pieces of kitchen and equipment that the Scouts will require for camping, but sometimes Scouts' plans may require specialized equipment and they should be prepared to bring those items.

Family refunds for food purchases for campouts will not be granted once the food has been purchased. Any member who pays for the campout and then at the last minute is not able to attend will forfeit their payment. Any member who commits to a campout but who doesn't pay when the money is due is still expected to pay for the trip, even if they drop out after signing up once the money has been spent. If the dropout occurred before the money is spent, every effort will be made to provide a refund.

VOLUNTEERING WITH CUB SCOUTS

Troop 2018 will volunteer as Cub Scouting events whenever possible so our Scouts can practice leadership, provide service to other Scouts, and provide a visible presence to younger Scouts looking for an outstanding troop to join when they bridge to Scouts BSA.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Service projects shall be meaningful service not normally expected of a Scout as part of school, religious, or community activities. Troop 2018 shall engage community service projects throughout the year.

- In accordance with BSA requirements, community service is required for rank advancement.
- Any community service project a Scout wishes to gain community service credit for must be approved by the Scoutmaster prior to the date of the service activity.
- Troop 2018 will arrange for multiple community service opportunities throughout the Scouting year to allow Scouts opportunity to accrue necessary community service hours.

ADVANCEMENT

All Scouts will be provided a Scout Handbook, and they are responsible for managing it, and replacing it if it becomes lost. The Scout must bring the Scout Handbook to all scout activities (including any summer camps) so that she can get credit for her accomplishments through regular signoffs by appropriate leadership. Advancement records are maintained in the back of the book, which should regularly be turned into the troop's Advancement Coordinator for entry into Scoutbook during meetings or by email (copying a parent for youth protection). Keeping the electronic records current ensures that Scouts can earn their ranks in a timely manner and provides a secure backup of achievements in case the Scout Handbook is lost.

Rank advancement is one of the methods used in Scouting to help advance the aims of the program and provide recognition to the Scouts who have worked hard. Merit badges, badges of rank, and Eagle Palms are for registered Scouts who have completed the requirements listed in the Scout Handbook. All badges of rank require the Scout to show and demonstrate Scout spirit.

Troop 2018 shall follow the advancement guidelines of BSA. Scouts seeking advancement must meet the requirements for all ranks in the BSA Scout Handbook. The Scoutmaster, an Assistant Scoutmaster, or a senior Scout authorized to sign off advancement items for that rank will verify requirement completion in the appropriate space provided in the Scout Handbook:

- Unless otherwise specified in the Scout Handbook, requirements for any rank can be satisfied at any time, and/or while holding any rank.
- Each Scout shall be responsible for ensuring that her accomplishment of advancement requirements is properly documented in the appropriate space provided in that Scout's Scout Handbook.

- Once a Scout earns a rank, she becomes eligible to sign off rank completion items for that rank and below for other Scouts. This is a responsibility that must not be taken lightly. Anyone signing off a rank requirement MUST ensure high performance standards to help boost Scout and troop performance.
- Parents may not sign off their own Scouts' rank or make Scoutbook entries for their Scout.
- It is a good idea to periodically take photos of the completed rank advancement items in the handbook to simplify re-creating the records in case the book is lost.
- It shall be the Scout's responsibility to maintain her Scout achievement records, including but not limited to the handbook, merit badge Blue Cards, award and rank advancement cards, records of service hours performed, and records of nights camping and miles swam, hiked, or biked. Keep all of this on file including rank and blue card parts, for documentation for the Eagle Rank!

To advance to the next rank, a Scout shall:

- Complete all requirements necessary for promotion to that rank as outlined in the Scout Handbook
 - o A requirement is not considered completed until someone who is authorized to sign off advancement initials and dates the appropriate space next to the requirement in the Scout's Handbook
- Request a conference with the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster. This is often the last item to be signed off before a Board of Review, but does not have to be as a Scout may request a Scoutmaster's Conference at any time.
 - o A Scoutmaster's Conference shall be a formal review of the Scout's achievement, understanding, and competence regarding the requirements of the rank to be advanced to.
 - o During the Scoutmaster's conference the Scoutmaster in her or his sole discretion may choose to review with the Scout the Scout's achievement and understanding of all material from previous ranks.
 - o As soon as the Scout has completed the requirements, she should request a Board of Review from the Committee Chair.

THE BOARD OF REVIEW

- The purpose of the Board of Review is to make sure that all requirements for advancement in rank have been met. This means a check of both the technical skills and the Scout's attitude and practice of the ideals of Scouting. Parents/guardians may not be present at or serve on their Scout's Board of Review. The Scout should attend the Board of Review in the full field uniform ("Class A"), including the sash if possible.

THE MERIT BADGE PROGRAM

- BSA requires certain merit badges to be earned to achieve the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle.
- Merit badge requirements may only be approved by a BSA registered merit badge counselor. We are always looking for new merit badge counselors!
- A parent or guardian of a Scout who is a BSA registered merit badge counselor may

not approve the completion of any merit badge requirements for her or his daughter unless she or he is currently serving as merit badge counselor to a group of Scouts and the Scout is among the group working with the merit badge counselor.

- The first step to be taken to start working on a merit badge is for the Scout to receive approval from the Scoutmaster to work on that merit badge.
- Scouts may borrow Merit Badge books from the Troop Librarian, or the books can be purchased from the Scout Shop. They may occasionally be found online.
- When the Scout requests permission to work on a merit badge, she will be given a Blue Card from the Scoutmaster, who will then also assist in locating a merit badge counselor for that particular merit badge.
- As the Scout fulfills the BSA requirements for the merit badge, the Scout will have the merit badge counselor sign the Blue Card when the Scout has completed requirements for the merit badge. Blue cards may be completed on the actual blue cards, on a PDF version, or even submitted through Scoutbook.
- Merit badge requirements may be completed
 - o individually (maintaining 2-deep youth protection with a female leader or the Scout's own parent present),
 - o at troop meetings,
 - o as part of troop activities,
 - o as part of a group event outside of our troop activities, or
 - o at summer camp
- The Scout should turn the Blue Card in to the Scoutmaster or Advancement Coordinator after the merit badge requirements have been completed.

COURTS OF HONOR

- Courts of Honor will be held at least twice a year
- Scouts will be publicly recognized for rank advancement, merit badges earned and other special awards at the Court of Honor.
- Scouts are encouraged to invite families, friends, and any other guests to the Court of Honor.
- Scouts and adult leaders should wear the field uniform, and Scouts should wear the sash if possible.

HEALTH FORMS

Each Scout and adult troop leader should have the appropriate medical form parts A and B on file with the Scoutmaster. Extended trips, camp, and high adventure activities will also require a medical evaluation by a physician to be recorded on part C. The physical must have been completed within one year of the end of the trip. Adults are also required to submit parts A, B, and C for summer camp and some other activities.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The Baltimore Area Council maintains an accident insurance policy as required by the Boy Scouts of America. Parents should be aware that this is a SUPPLEMENTAL accident insurance policy, and as such has limited coverage. It only pays costs that are not covered by the existing medical insurance, and the injury must occur at a Scout function.

Troop activities usually involve travel to other locations in a parent or adult leader-owned vehicle. The troop will adhere to the Boy Scouts of America policy regarding drivers, vehicles, and insurance.

DRIVING

1. The troop will enforce reasonable travel speed in accordance with state and local laws in all motor vehicles. Proof of insurance is required for all vehicles used in Scout functions or transportation.
2. If Scouts are transported by a motor vehicle:
 - a. Driver qualifications: All drivers must have a valid driver's license and be at least 18 years of age.
 - b. Driving time is limited to a maximum of 10 hours per day and must be interrupted by frequent rest, food, and recreation stops.
 - c. Seat belts **MUST BE USED**, 1 per person, by all passengers and the driver. Exception: A school or commercial bus.
 - d. If trucks are used, passengers will ride only in the cab
3. Parents providing vehicles for transportation of their daughter and/or other Scouts for Scouting activities **MUST** adhere to the above stated rules.

VEHICLE INSURANCE

All vehicles must be covered by adequate insurance. The amount of this coverage must meet or exceed the insurance requirement of the state in which the vehicle is licensed and the state(s) where travel will occur. Vehicles not meeting at least the minimum insurance requirement **CANNOT** be used to transport Scouts to Scouting activities.

YOUTH OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

The Scouting program is designed to teach and promote leadership skills. The program structure contains a number of levels of youth leadership. The youth leaders (with guidance from the adult leaders) execute the troop program. These leadership programs are not taken lightly; they are considered very important. BSA requires each Scout to be involved in leadership if she is to advance in the higher ranks of Star, Life and Eagle. Eligibility standards for leadership positions have been formally established by BSA and are a combination of a Scout's participation records and current rank. The top leadership positions are elected while some others are appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster. Elections are generally held two times a year.

1. Senior Patrol Leader - The SPL is the top youth leader in the troop. She conducts the troop meetings and Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meetings, passes on information from the Scoutmaster and generally watches over and leads the troop during scheduled activities. The Scribe, Quartermaster, Librarian, Historian, Den Chief and Chaplain's Aid report to the SPL.
2. Assistant Senior Patrol Leader - The ASPL is the SPL's assistant and stand-in for the SPL when she is unavailable. There may be more than 1 ASPL.
3. Patrol Leader - The PL is the leader of the patrol. She has the energy and training to make the patrol work as well as possible.

4. Assistant Patrol Leader - The APL is the Patrol Leader's assistant and replacement for the PL whenever she is unavailable.
5. Other Positions - These positions include Scribe, Quartermaster, Historian, Librarian, Den Chief, and Chaplain's Aid. They are explained in the Scout Handbook, and they are considered leadership positions for the purpose of advancement.
6. In order to be eligible for, or to remain in any leadership position, in the previous six months a Scout must have attended at least 70% of the troop meetings and monthly activities.

CAMPING

1. We will generally try to camp once a month, from Friday at approximately 5:30 pm until Sunday mid-day. Parents are always welcome at our troop campouts, whether for a short visit or camping with the troop. All adults must be registered BSA volunteers to camp with the troop, and the Youth Protection Certificate must be provided to the Outdoor Coordinator or Scoutmaster before camping each year. If you plan to camp with the troop or stay for meals, you must notify the troop the same time the Scouts do so that you can be figured in the food budget, and you must also pay for the food cost IN CASH, as well as any other fees. All adults must provide their own tents. ALL trip attendees must RSVP in Scoutbook and then turn in paperwork and money by the deadline to go on the campouts.
2. Scouts will ordinarily be allowed to choose their tentmates on campouts, as long as there are no other considerations or limitations, they camp within their patrols, and if the Scouts are no more than two years apart. Adults may not share a tent with Scouts, even their own daughters.
3. The camp plan should be created and ready to be published by the end of the meeting before the trip. This lead time allows for all troop members to BE PREPARED for the trip.
4. Patrol meal planning will be accomplished with care to accommodate any patrol members' dietary restrictions.
5. All adults, the SPL, and the ASPL should bring a hanging "totem" to hang on the troop board.
6. The Buddy System will be used any time Scouts are not in the troop campsite.
7. Aerosol insect repellent or sunscreen is prohibited because it is a health hazard for individuals with respiratory problems and it is an environmental hazard. It also ruins the waterproofing of our tents!
8. If a Scout is asked to take care of a tent and/or tarp after camping, great care must be taken to make sure the tent is fully dried out as soon as the Scout goes home. It is generally expected that Scouts will take turns drying tents each time we camp. If a Scout fails to dry out a tent and it gets moldy, the family will be required to pay to replace it.

9. Make sure all of your daughter's gear has her name on it. All troop members are responsible for their own personal gear, and should ensure that the troop gear is well cared for.
10. When camping, don't forget your water bottle, silverware, mess kit, and toothbrush!
11. Except for medical reasons, the only food allowed on campouts for the Scouts is the food purchased by the patrols for the campout. Extra snacks or drinks are prohibited.

TROOP 2018 EQUIPMENT

Troop 2018 owns a large amount of camping and associated types of equipment of substantial monetary value. The troop is well equipped with tents, stoves and lanterns, propane fuel equipment, patrol cooking gear, pop up canopies, patrol boxes, food and drink coolers, etc. and a trailer for hauling this equipment to our activity and camping locations. Troop ownership of this equipment saves the individual Scouts from having to buy this equipment, but each Scout bears the responsibility of taking care and maintaining this equipment for use by future members of the troop.

1. It is the responsibility of each Scout to use and maintain any troop owned equipment in the manner for which it is intended to keep it in working order. Any malfunctioning or damaged equipment should be reported to the troop Quartermaster, who will then notify the adult leadership immediately.
2. The Quartermaster is responsible for inventorying the troop camping gear at the end of each trip or activity.
3. The Patrol Leaders are each responsible for inventorying their patrol's camping gear and checking it back in to the Quartermaster at the end of each camping trip or activity. The patrol may be held responsible for replacing or repairing any equipment that was lost or damaged while the equipment was under their control.
4. Any Scout who damages or loses any troop owned equipment or another Scout's equipment is responsible for fixing or replacing that piece of equipment. If a specific person cannot be identified, or the damage was due to horseplay by several members of the patrol, then the entire patrol will be responsible for the cost or repair.
5. Damage through ignorance of how to use a piece of equipment is NO EXCUSE for a Scout not replacing the damaged item. There are plenty of other Scouts and adult leaders who can help. If you don't know the equipment. ASK BEFORE YOU USE IT!
6. During campouts, all cooking equipment is to be thoroughly cleaned by the Scouts. Patrol Leaders are responsible for making sure this takes place.
7. Food is not allowed in any tents. EVER. This is a safety rule that keeps us safe when we camp in bear country.
8. Aerosol repellent or sunscreen is prohibited because it is a health hazard for individuals with respiratory problems and it is an environmental hazard. It also ruins the waterproofing of our tents!
9. Troop-owned equipment MAY NOT be borrowed for non-Scouting events.
10. Only the adult leadership, the Quartermaster, or a Scout given special permission may enter the trailer or other troop gear storage gear area. Scouts needing to use troop

gear must contact the Quartermaster. Scouts may only use troop equipment with the permission of the Quartermaster.

11. Scouts are responsible for returning troop gear clean, and in good condition to the Quartermaster in a timely manner. The Quartermaster may reject the return of any equipment that is in her opinion dirty, damaged, not properly cared for or deemed to be otherwise unacceptable.

PERSONAL GEAR (Label everything to make sure it comes home again!):

Equipment is a big part of the Scouting program and is often the subject of many questions by the parents and Scouts. "What do we need, what type do we need, and how good does it need to be?" are common questions from families. Here is what you need to know:

The troop does not loan personal gear, such as sleeping bags, knives, backpacks, etc. All personal items should be labeled with the Scout's name and should be kept neatly within the Scout's personal area. The troop is not responsible for a Scout's personal gear left adrift. A Scout will be held responsible if she loses or damages someone else's property.

A certain amount of personal equipment is needed by each Scout for participation in the camping and outdoor activities conducted by the troop. There is also a list of prohibited items that have no place during a Scouting activity or campout. We will provide a troop pack list for weekend trips and a different one for summer camp, but here is a quick idea of what things are needed:

1. Bedding

a. Sleeping bag or bed roll - Troop 2018 camps many nights per year in all types of weather. A middle-weight bag is recommended for most of the troop's camping. "Slumber party bags" that you might use in your home are only suitable for the warmest camping weather. During winter camping, extra blankets might be needed to increase the sleeping bag's ability to retain heat. We camp in sub-zero temperatures several weekends throughout the year, and appropriate equipment and clothing are a must. A sleeping bag rated for minus 10 or minus 20 degrees might be needed for the coldest of outings. Adding an extra blanket inside or on top, nestling the sleeping bag inside another sleeping bag, or even adding in a special sleeping bag liner can help boost the temperature rating of your sleep system. It might be helpful to think of the rating as a temperature in which the bag will keep your Scout "alive," but not necessarily "comfortable." Disposable handwarmers are also a nice comfort item on cold nights.

b. Sleeping Mat - A closed cell foam sleeping mat used by hikers is a good item to have on regular camping trips and is essential in cold weather to insulate the body from the cold ground. These also have temperature ratings. Most summer camps provide cots, so mats won't be necessary then. Mats roll up in a small space and provide some ground cushion.

2. Clothing

a. A poncho or raincoat is needed anytime rain is a possibility.

- b. Change of clothing - On a summer overnight campout, usually one change of clothes is all that is needed. During cold weather, rainy, or snowy campouts, 2 or more changes of clothes are required. Extra socks are always a good idea throughout the year because feet can get wet in the morning dew on the grass on even nice days. We will wear the activity uniform ("Class B") t-shirt on the campouts, but Scouts will still need green bottoms.
 - c. Outer clothing - In the summer we only carry light jackets, but winter means a warm coat, hat (preferably a stocking cap, and is especially appreciated while sleeping), and gloves. Cotton (commonly called the "death cloth" by survivalists) is prohibited in cold weather because it does not keep the wearer warm when wet. Synthetics or wool are better options. Remember you will stay warmer dressing in layers, and layers can be removed or added as the temperature changes. It is a good idea to wear hats at all times outdoors. This helps with warmth in the winter and sun protection in the summer.
 - d. Swimming suit and beach towel – when needed. Conservative one-piece or a rash guard top and swim shorts only, please.
 - e. Pajamas, sweatpants/shirts, or long johns for sleeping. Slippers or slipper socks can be added to the feet on cold nights for cushy warmth.
 - f. Closed-toes shoes are required at all BSA activities. Flip-flops or sandals are OK in the shower area only. Some places will allow cros, but not all camps allow them. Shoes that can get wet, such as old tennis shoes or closed-toe sandals will be required for non-pool water and boat entry. Waterproof hiking boots are the best option for most hiking situations.
3. Toiletries: Soap, washcloth, towel, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, female hygiene items, non-aerosol sunblock, non-aerosol bug spray, orthodontic and eye supplies, comb or brush. It's also a good idea to bring a little extra "TP" (Toilet Paper). Many BSA activities seem to underestimate the amount of TP needed in women's restrooms. "Be Prepared."
4. Prescription medication: Parents will fill out the troop medication form before the trip and then deliver the form and prescription medication, in its original container, to the parent administering the medication on the trip. Scouts should not carry their own medicine.
5. Scouting's "10 Essentials" should be carried in a backpack any time a Scout leaves the campsite. The Scout's name should be placed on the pack and her other belongings.
- a. A pocketknife or multitool can be handy in a wide variety of situations.
 - b. A first-aid kit can be a lifesaver. Literally.
 - c. Bring extra clothing to match the weather. Multiple layers are better than a single massive jacket, because layered clothing is adaptable to a wide range of temperatures.
 - d. Rain gear is very important.
 - e. A flashlight, headlamp or a rugged penlight is important for finding your way in the dark. Bring extra batteries, too.
 - f. Trail food is good for maintaining your energy. When hiking, bring more than you think you'll need in case you get stuck (or lost) in the woods. Never keep any

food stored in our tents. It will attract animals and can leave food smells in our tents for later. This can be dangerous in bear country.

- g. Water can prevent dehydration, heat exhaustion and heatstroke. Use a lightweight, unbreakable, container made from metal or a safe plastic with a secure lid.
- h. Matches and/or a fire starter may be used to light fires for heat, or for signaling for help. Store matches or lighters in resealable plastic bags.
- i. Sun protection might include sunblock, sunglasses, lip balm and a wide-brimmed hat. Sun protection is also important during winter outings where the Scout may be out in bright sun for extended periods of time, especially during snow camping.
- j. A map and compass are probably the most important tools you can carry in case you get lost.

6. Other items

- a. NON-AEROSOL Insect repellent and sunblock. The aerosol versions are prohibited because they are a health hazard for individuals with respiratory problems and it is an environmental hazard. It also ruins the waterproofing of our tents!
- b. Trash Bags – have a multitude of uses at camp besides taking care of trash. Scouts should keep a couple extra on hand as a raincoat, or if nothing else, for disposal of sanitary supplies when facilities are not available.
- c. Scout Handbook, pencil or pen, and paper.
- d. Totin' Chip and Firem'n Chit - The Scouts are required to carry these cards whenever they are at an outdoor Scout function. If your Scout has a pocketed cover on her Scout Handbook, this is a great place to store these cards.
- e. Camp stool - Many of our campsites won't have picnic tables or other places to sit.
- f. Personal silverware and mess kit items. Mess kit items should be safe for hot foods so chemicals from plastic won't be transferred to her food. On some trips, we will use mess kits, and on others we will use troop dishes. Scouts will always need their own silverware. Goodwill has a nice stash at a bargain.
- g. Bug netting (optional) - At some summer camps and campouts, bug netting is a good idea.

All personal equipment items except for the sleeping bag and the stool should fit in the pack and must be light enough for the scout to carry for some distance where a long hike or "pack in" is required.

7. Prohibited items

- a. Sheath or large "Bowie Type" knives - BSA has banned all use of these type of knives in Scouting. Accepted knives include any official Scout knife, or any folding blade knife with blades no longer than 3+ inches. Banned knives will be confiscated and held for the parents if they are brought to a Scout activity.
- b. Any weapons - including slingshots, pellet or BB guns, pea-shooters, blackjacks, brass knuckles, pepper spray, etc.
- c. Cell phones, tablets, or any other electronics – Unless they are being used as a Scouting tool, they are not appropriate for Scout functions, especially an outdoor

experience. Scouts have plenty of time for this at home. Anyone found using these items for other than as a Scouting tool will be required to turn them over to the Scoutmaster. It is likely that the Scout will not receive them back until the outing or meeting is over.

- d. Any obscene, vulgar, or questionable material. - These items will be confiscated by the Scoutmaster and will be held for the parents.
- e. Sugary drinks or personal snacks - we do not allow these on our campouts!
- f. Alcohol or illegal drugs.
- g. Fireworks or explosives.
- h. Tobacco or vaping materials.

SUMMER CAMP

The Patrol Leaders' Council will select a summer camp for the troop to attend together each summer. Attending summer camp is VERY IMPORTANT to the advancement growth of the Scouts. Scouts are provided with camping facilities, high-quality activities of their choice, and trained leadership to earn rank advancements and merit badges that are difficult or impossible for Troop 2018 to provide during the rest of the year. This opportunity is especially important to new Scouts. Summer camp provides a quick start to the Scout program and gives these Scouts exposure to most of the requirements they will need to earn the advancement ranks up through First Class! Many summer camps have a special orientation program for first-time campers, and we will make use of that as much as possible to help with rank advancement for Scouts who have not yet reached the rank of First Class Scout. We will generally need a few adult chaperones for the week, and this can be split with different parents throughout the week. Scouts and volunteers are required to submit BSA medical forms A and B when joining the troop. Form C is also required for summer camp or other extended activities. Please note that Scouts may attend additional Scout summer camps on their own by contacting the camp directly. This is called being a "provisional" camper, and is a great way to rapidly advance, earn more badges, have more fun and exciting experiences, and make new Scouting friends.

BEFORE GOING TO SUMMER CAMP

Informational Meeting - The Troop will hold a meeting several weeks prior to summer camp to explain summer camp policies and procedures. It is very important that parents attend this meeting so that any questions can be answered.

Camp Fees - All camp fees must be paid by the deadline before going to camp. The troop will set a schedule for collection of the fees to ensure that everyone has paid by the deadline, and to avoid having anyone charged a late fee. To help pay for camp, troop 2018 may participate in several fundraisers throughout the year, such as selling camp cards or holding car washes. Camperships may be available for those who need it, but these often have short deadlines. Families on a limited budget should inquire about camperships through the troop treasurer.

Pack Inspection - There will be a pack inspection scheduled prior to summer camp, and campers must have all mandatory clothing and equipment before they will be allowed to go.

Personal Equipment - The troop will provide a list of the mandatory clothing and equipment in advance.

Troop Equipment - The Troop will provide normal troop camping equipment, such as tents, dining canopies, patrol boxes, etc.

Transportation - Transportation of troop equipment and as much personal gear as possible will be provided by the troop leadership. Transportation of youth members is the responsibility of troop parents through carpooling. Normally we try to do this in the manner described in "Transportation" section above.

TROOP SUMMER CAMP RULES

1. Conduct - All Members will conduct themselves as "Scouts" at all times, and the Buddy System will be used in all non-organized activities when not in the Troop camping area. Scouts who do not abide by the Buddy System may be immediately sent home. This is a personal safety issue that cannot be negotiated.

2. Programs – Scouts below the rank for First Class will generally be placed in the special "first-year Scout" camp orientation program. First Class Scouts and above are expected to take at least 3 merit badge courses during the week. Scouts will be required to participate in all troop activities at camp.

3. Meals and water - Scouts are required to attend all meals. At most camps, the field uniform is required for all meals. As it will likely be hot, all adults and Scouts must drink plenty of water throughout the day.

4. Formations - Scouts are required to be at formations on time. Repeated abuse of this rule reflects poorly on our Troop and will bring appropriate disciplinary action.

5. Discipline - Severe discipline problems will result in the parents being called to come pick up their Scout. See the Discipline section of this document for more details.

6. Dietary restrictions – The Scoutmaster will be made aware of any Scout or adult dietary restrictions at time of summer camp registration so that the camp staff can be alerted. Most BSA camps are generally very accommodating with this.

7. Prescription medication – Parents will fill out the troop medication form before camp and then will then deliver the form and prescription medication, in its original container, to the parent administering the medication at camp.

8. Sunscreen and bug spray – Scouts will be responsible for applying these to themselves as necessary every day. Only non-aerosol products are permitted, and any spray products must be applied away from other people and tents.

9. Tents - Scouts will ordinarily be allowed to choose their tentmates at summer camp, as long as there are no other considerations or limitations, and if the Scouts are no more than two years apart. Adults may not share a tent with Scouts, even their own daughters.

10. Campfire program - We will participate in the camp's campfire program. Care will be taken to ensure we adhere to BSA's guidelines on skits:

All skits must...

- Be appropriate to all the audience (all ages!)
- Display the standards and values that BSA strives to achieve.

- Avoid skits:
 - about body functions (underwear, toilet paper, sex)
 - that contain violence (shooting, hitting, killing, suicide, war)
 - that embarrass or demean anyone (Sometimes it is OK to tease troop adults or camp staff. Check with Scoutmaster first!) or any group of people (religion, culture, race)
 - with cross-dressing
- Uphold the Scout Oath and Law
- If there is a hint that it might be inappropriate, choose another skit. Don't do it!

HIGH ADVENTURE

Troop 2018 may participate in an occasional high adventure program. This could be something like a long-term wilderness backpacking or canoe trip. To be eligible, a Scout must have successfully completed a long-term summer camp with the troop and have attained the rank of First Class. Some trips will require a Scout to be at least 13 or 14 years old. This opportunity is intended to challenge the Scouts to use all of their abilities and to provide a lifelong memorable experience. Parent chaperones may be necessary, and attendance numbers may be limited without sufficient adult presence. If this happens, preference will be given to Scouts or patrols that are able to recruit adult leaders to participate.

FUNDRAISING

Let's face it, our camping gear is expensive! While fundraising activities are not mandatory, we ask that everyone participate or consider making a donation to the troop each year to help purchase gear to replace things that wear out, prepare ahead for things like trailer repairs, or to be able to support troop members experiencing financial difficulties. 10% of all of the fundraising will go into the troop's general fund to help pay for repairs and replacement of the troop gear and troop trailer. Another 10% of all fundraising goes to "Friends of Scouting."

IX. ITEMS NOT COVERED

Decisions about issues that arise within the Troop and which are not covered in this policy manual will be decided upon by the Scoutmaster when on an outing and reviewed by the Troop Committee at the next meeting. This document will then be amended to reflect necessary changes and additions.