



Troop 1333

Polaris District

Sam Houston Area Council

Boy Scouts of America

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 1333. This Guidebook is provided to the Troop's scouts, parents, and leaders to help them understand the Troop's policies and procedures. Please refer to the Guide to Safe Scouting and Youth Protection Guidelines for a complete discussion of the rules and regulations governing the Boy Scouts of America. These can be found on the Sam Houston Area Council's website (www.shac.org), or the BSA National website (www.scouting.org).

Boy Scout Troop 1333 was chartered by Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church U.A.C. (Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod) in December 1996. Pursuant to the terms of the charter, Trinity provides all of the necessary facilities for the Troop's meetings, and Trinity owns legal title to all Troop equipment. Troop 1333 is a Boy Scout Unit within the Sam Houston Area Council, a 16 county area in Southeast Texas based in Houston. The Polaris District is one of SHAC's 9 districts. Polaris consists of the Klein, Magnolia, Tomball, and Spring School Districts. Information regarding Polaris district events and news can be found on the Polaris website (www.polarisbsa.org).

Purpose of Scouting

There are three aims of scouting: character development, citizenship training, and promoting personal fitness (mental, spiritual, and physical). There are eight methods of scouting that are used to accomplish the three aims:

- Ideals – Defined by the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan.
- Patrols – These are small groups of six to ten scouts.
- Outdoors – The Troop plans many campouts and other outdoor activities..
- Advancement – The means by which the Scout earns his Rank and Merit Badges..
- Association with Adults – Working with Assistant Scoutmasters, Patrol Coaches, Merit Badge Counselors, and other adult leaders.
- Personal Growth – The Scout learns personal responsibility.
- Leadership Development – We are a Boy-Led, Adult-Supported Troop.
- Uniform – Identifies us as a member in the World Brotherhood of Scouts and shows achievements.

Scout Oath “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.”

Meetings

Troop Meeting

A Troop meeting is a regularly scheduled meeting that is attended by all members of the Troop. These meetings are an important part of the Troop’s program and parents should encourage their Scouts to attend. If a Scout cannot attend a Troop Meeting, he should contact his Patrol Leader before the meeting to explain his absence.

Troop meetings are held in accordance with the published calendar, established by the Troop and ratified by the Troop Committee. The current calendar is published on the Troop’s website. The calendar may be changed due to unforeseen circumstances. If necessary, last minute calendar changes may be distributed by e-mail. Please check your email immediately prior to any Troop event to look for such last minute changes.

Special meetings may be called by the Scoutmaster or his designee.

PLC Meeting

The Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) Meeting is a meeting conducted by the Senior Patrol Leader and attended by the youth leadership of the Troop. At this meeting, the PLC may plan the Troop meetings and other upcoming Troop activities.

The PLC meetings are held in accordance with the published calendar, established by the Senior Patrol Leader and/or the Scoutmaster and ratified by the Troop Committee. Special meetings may be called by the Senior Patrol Leader and/or the Scoutmaster or the designee of either.

Court of Honor

A Court of Honor is a special ceremonial Troop meeting where the Scouts receive advancement and special recognition awards. All Scouts and their parents should attend each Court of Honor, to honor those receiving awards, advancement, and recognition.

Courts of Honor are held in accordance with the published calendar, established by the Troop and ratified by the Troop Committee.

Troop Committee Meeting

This is a planning meeting attended by the Committee members, the Scoutmaster, and interested parents. Core Troop Committee members are elected by the parents of boys who are registered and in good standing with our Troop at an annual parents meeting. The core Troop Committee members are Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. Other committee members may be appointed at the discretion of the Chairman, such as Advancement, Camping, Publicity, Fundraising, etc. Voting members of the Troop Committee are the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, the Chartered Organization Representative, and other Committee members as appointed by the Chairman and ratified by the Troop Committee. The Chairman and Treasurer are elected in odd numbered years and the Secretary is elected in even numbered years. The Chartered Organization Representative is established by the Chartering Organization.

The Troop Committee meetings are held in accordance with the published calendar, established by the Troop and ratified by the Troop Committee. Special meetings may be called by the Troop Committee Chairman

Parent Participation

Troop 1333 is a B L A S T, a Boy Lead Adult Support Team, but without the support and participation of the parents, there would not be a Troop 1333. There are many opportunities for parents to assist the Troop-become an Assistant Scoutmaster, join the Troop Committee, participate on Boards of Review for rank advancement, become a Merit Badge Counselor, assist with a Fund Raising Project, help with transporting Scouts, or help with other Troop projects. When called upon, please focus on how you can help, rather than why you can not! This is your Troop as well as your son's Troop. The active participation of both Scouts and their parents makes for a good Troop and a great scouting experience for our boys.

Scout Uniform

The Boy Scouts of America is a uniformed organization for good reason - Boy Scouts and Scouters in uniform represent a symbol of pride in Scouting's timeless values. Troop 1333 recognizes both a field uniform and an activity uniform, which consist of the following:

Field Uniform - Scout Shirt (including red shoulder loops (epaulets) and all patches correctly sewn in place), Scout Pants or Shorts, Scout Belt, Scout Socks and Troop Neckerchief. The Troop Neckerchief is optional when traveling as a Troop. If a hat is worn, an official Scout Hat is to be worn.

Activity Uniform - Scout related T-shirt, Scout Pants or Shorts, Scout Belt and Scout Socks.

Troop 1333 promotes the proper wearing of the correct, complete uniform on all suitable occasions. The Field Uniform is to be worn at Courts of Honor, Boards of Review, and when traveling as a Troop (the neckerchief is optional while traveling). The Activity uniform is to be worn at Troop Meetings and other Troop Activities. The type of uniform to be worn at Troop meetings and events is listed on the Troop's Calendar on the website.. The Merit Badge Sash

may be worn with the Field uniform at Courts of Honor and Boards of Review. The Activity uniform may be worn at work projects and during camping trips (not while traveling unless told to do so by the Scoutmaster). Good jeans may be worn as part of the Field uniform at events as approved by the Scoutmaster or his designee.

Troop Equipment

The Troop has invested a considerable amount of money in acquiring equipment for use on camping trips. This equipment consists of patrol boxes, tents, propane tanks and stove, cooking utensils, coolers, lanterns, dining fly, the trailer and other assorted items. The equipment is assigned to specific patrols. It is expected that the Scouts will treat the equipment with care. Should any of the equipment be damaged due to abuse, the responsible Scout(s) and their parents will be responsible for the repair or replacement of the damaged equipment. Abuse can be defined as the result of "horseplay" or the unauthorized use of knives, matches, etc.

At the end of campouts, Scouts may be requested to take Troop Equipment home with them for cleaning and drying. The equipment should be returned as determined by the Scoutmaster or his designee.

Personal Equipment

An excellent list of items needed by a Scout for outdoor activities is in the Boy Scout Handbook. As a minimum, each Scout will need the following personal equipment on a campout. Each item should be labeled with the Scout's name.

- * Sleeping Bag
- * Cup, plate and eating utensils
- * Bag or pack for clothing and toiletries

The use of personal electronic equipment, such as "GameBoy" and "Walkman", is permitted only in vehicles during travel to and from campouts at the discretion of the Scoutmaster or his designee. They will remain in the vehicles at the campsite.

The Troop is not responsible for any loss or damage to personal equipment.

Knives

Sheath Knives and axes are not authorized personal gear for Scouts in Troop 1333. The Scout may carry a locking pocketknife when they have completed the requirements and earned their "Tote'n Chip". Any inappropriate use of a knife will result in confiscation of the knife.

Troop Expenses

Money is a governing factor in the activity level and success of Troop 1333. The Troop operates on an annual budget that is determined by the Troop Committee. The major expenses are the cost of the outdoor program and the advancement awards. Examples of Troop expenses and sources of income are as follows.

Registration Fee

The Troop recharter each year in December. Each Scout and Scouter (registered adult) is charged a registration fee established by the Troop Committee.

Troop Dues

The Troop Committee establishes yearly dues for each Scout and Scouter based on the operating expenses of the Troop.

Camping Expenses

The annual troop dues cover most monthly camping expenses such as food, campsite fees, and permit fees. Occasionally, there may be additional expenses for special activities that will be the responsibility of each scout.

Summer Camp Expenses

Fees for Summer Camp expenses vary depending on the camp attended and can range from approximately \$130 to \$150. Other costs include transportation charges and spending money for souvenirs and food. Specific information and payment schedules will be published as the information becomes available.

Fund Raisers

Throughout the year, the PLC and the Troop Committee will identify fund raising opportunities. Currently the Troop holds an Annual Smoked Chicken Fundraiser in October. The profits are used to purchase necessary equipment and refurbishment of the scout hut. The Annual Smoke Chicken Fundraiser is mandatory for all Scouts and one parent to participate and attend.

There are other opportunities for the scout to raise funds to be used to off set his camping and registration expenses. Some of those opportunities include the BSA Popcorn sale where the scout can earn 35% of the total sales, the sale of Scout Fair Tickets in which 40% of the sale of tickets can be used, and other types of fundraising opportunities. The main focus is to provide the opportunity for the Scout to earn his way through Scouting.

Medical Information

Each Scout and Scouter are required to complete a medical form in compliance with BSA policy, Camp policies, and the policy established by the Troop Committee.

Medicine

All medicines (aspirin, prescription drugs, etc.) are required to be in the custody of the Scoutmaster or his designee during Troop campouts. These should be in a zip-lock bag clearly labeled with the Scout's name and information related to the usage of the medicine(s). A form should be filled by the parent and given to the Scoutmaster instructing the Scoutmaster how the medicines are to be dispensed.

Camping

The place where scouting works best is also the place that boys want most - the outdoors! Therefore, Troop 1333 plans regular campouts each year and a week of long term Summer Camp.

The monthly campouts are at locations within reasonable driving distance and are usually scheduled from Friday night to Sunday afternoon. On some occasions, the campout will be on a long weekend and last until Monday afternoon. The Scouts camp and cook together by Patrols where they share responsibilities and learn to live together. Activities on the campout are structured towards completing advancement requirements and improving Scouting skills.

All parents are invited to attend the campouts with the Troop. The adults camp together with the Scoutmaster Corps. Special registration requirements may be required for parents attending campouts.

Summer Camp

Summer Camp is one of the most influential and beneficial experiences of a Scout's career. It is a week long camp filled with opportunities for the Scout to make new friends, work on advancement requirements and Merit Badges, as well as participate in activities like horseback riding, rock climbing, canoeing and hiking. Summer Camp is very important for new Scouts as most camps offer a First Class Emphasis Program that focuses on the requirements needed to achieve the First Class rank. Most summer camps also provide a "high adventure" program for older scouts.

Advancement in Boy Scouts

The Scouting Advancement Program provides the Scouts with a series of achievable goals and the steps to achieve them. A Scout receives a reward for the completion of each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. Each Scout is responsible for planning his advancement and progresses at his own pace through the ranks. However, the help and guidance of the boy's parents is essential if he is to complete the Trail to Eagle.

The requirements for each rank are progressively more difficult. They include Scouting skills, completion of Merit Badges, participation in service projects and demonstration of leadership abilities. A Scoutmaster or Troop Guide, not the Scout's parents, verify completion of rank requirements.

Rank Advancement Procedures

1. Scout completes all requirements as specified in the Boy Scout Handbook for the current rank.
2. Scout arranges to have a Scoutmaster conference.
3. Scout arranges for Board of Review. A Board of Review member signs handbook.
4. Scout shows signed Scout Handbook to Assistant Scoutmaster of Advancement for recording in official troop records.

Merit Badge Procedures

Merit badges are earned at troop functions, Summer Camp, or independently with Merit Badge counselor.

1. Scout request permission from ASM Advancement or Scoutmaster to participate.
2. Scout receives and keeps blue merit badge card.
3. Meets with counselor.
4. Works on requirements in merit badge Book.
5. Completes merit badge and has blue merit badge card signed by counselor.
6. Informs ASM Advancement of completion and turns in portion of blue card so that it may be recorded in troop records.

New Scout Patrols

The Scouting Program operates on the Patrol Method that allows the Scouts to act in small groups. It places a certain amount of responsibility of the Scouts and teaches them to accept it. When a new Scout joins Troop 1333, he is assigned to a Patrol. An Assistant Scoutmaster and/or a Troop Guide are assigned to assist and work with each of the Patrols.

Policies & Discipline

The Scoutmaster Corps and Troop Committee will not tolerate undisciplined behavior by any scout (or adult) such as, fighting, hazing or verbal abuse, etc. Minor incidents of unacceptable behavior will be dealt with by a warning and/or restricting participation in the activity. Any discipline problems of a severe nature will involve the scout's parents being notified of the incident, and they may be required to remove the boy from the activity. This policy also applies to summer camp. It is a policy of the troop that a scout who continually misbehaves and becomes a disciplinary problem, or is involved in a major incident of unacceptable behavior, will be asked to withdraw from the troop. The Scoutmaster Corps and the Troop Committee will make this determination.

Scouting Acronyms

ASPL	Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
OA	Order of the Arrow
JLTC	Junior Leader Training Conference
PLC	Patrol Leaders Council
SPL	Senior Patrol Leader
TJLT	Troop Junior Leader Training
SM	Scoutmaster
ASM	Assistant Scoutmaster

Troop 1333 Code of Conduct

As a Scout of Troop 1333, I promise to:

1. Acknowledge and respect the authority of the adult leadership, senior patrol leader and other leaders in the troop.
2. Not to participate in "horse play", name calling, teasing, or other such behaviors unbecoming a scout.
3. Not to use foul language or other such language unbecoming of a scout.
4. Respect the opinions of others and recognize their right to hold such opinions.
5. Respect and treat with care all troop equipment and property.
6. Respect the property and equipment of others and do not use without the owner's permission.
7. To be in proper uniform for all meetings and functions of the troop.
8. Be helpful at all times to ensure the success of my troop.
9. To uphold the Scout Law, Scout Oath, and Scout Motto at all times.

I realize that violations of this Code of Conduct will result in penalties that could include, but are not limited to, my removal from the meeting or activity, having my parents or guardian be called and remove me from the activity, summer camp, or other sponsored events and the denial of the right to participate in future troop activities.

I have read and understand the above Code of Conduct for Troop 1333.

Scout's signature

Parent's signature

Date