

# Boy Scout Troop 112 Handbook



## **Carmel Lions Club**

141 East Main Street  
Carmel, IN 46033

[www.troop112.org](http://www.troop112.org)

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## INTRODUCTION

### Welcome!

Boy Scout Troop 112 welcomes you to Scouting! This pamphlet is intended to tell you a little bit about what you can expect from Troop 112 and what is expected of you when you join and beyond. This brochure will fit inside the cover of your Boy Scout Handbook, so you can refer to it easily. This handbook is updated regularly, but to conserve paper, is only handed out to Webelos crossovers. The latest version is always posted on the troop website.

Troop 112 is different from your other activities outside of school. Being in Troop 112 will help you learn to be responsible for your own actions and activities. Boys are expected to take an active role in troop management and leadership, with guidance, of course, from adult leaders.

Scouts are expected to live by the Scout Oath and the twelve points of the Scout Law and become better citizens tomorrow because of it. We expect you to participate in Scout activities, learn Scouting skills, and most importantly, have fun while you are a member of our troop.

You must keep Scouting in proper perspective at all times, so remember...***school work and family obligations always come first!!***

### History

Troop 112 was founded on March 1, 1941 and represents one of the oldest Boy Scout units in the area. The troop has been centered in the Carmel community area during this time. Our troop can proudly boast of producing over 200 Eagle Scouts so far. We are open to any boy in the Carmel area, regardless of race, religion, or creed.

### Our Sponsor

Troop 112 is sponsored by the Carmel Lions Club, which is a group of men and women who volunteer service to the community. The Carmel Lions Club provides us with a place to meet and some

financial support throughout the year. In turn, Troop 112 shows its appreciation by helping the Lions Club with their annual Fish Fry in August, which is a mandatory service project for all Troop 112 Scouts.

## **Meetings**

Troop 112 normally meets at the Carmel Lions Club, 141 East Main Street in Carmel, on Monday evening at 7:00 PM. Periodically, a meeting will take place at another location, which the Scoutmaster will communicate via email to all Scout families. Meetings normally last 90 minutes. We meet throughout the year except after a campout, during summer camp and major holidays. As a member of Troop 112, regular meeting attendance is expected after school work and family obligations have been met.

## **TROOP WEBSITE**

The troop website ([troop112.org](http://troop112.org)) is a great resource for information about the troop. In order to access the secure (non-public) parts of the site, you must register by doing the following:

- Go to website, click on Login in the menu. Below the login boxes, click on register,
- Enter your username, password, email, phone number, etc.
- Use Invitation Code: LionsClub112Register
- Once registered, you will need to validate your email address by clicking on a link in an email that you should receive within a few minutes.
- Select Login on the [troop112.org](http://troop112.org) menu and enter your username and password.

Both parents and Scouts can register for the website. ***The registered users of the website will receive email announcements from the troop, so please register with each email address on which you wish to receive troop emails.***

Once registered, you can use the troop website to:

- Sign up for troop activities
- Make payments to the troop

- View the troop calendar
- Check out pictures of past events
- Download forms (health forms, special permission slips, etc.)
- View regularly updated reports, such as:
  - troop roster
  - troop leadership listing
  - merit badge counselor listing
  - activity attendance and service hours records
  - Scout Account balance
- See the listing of items held in the troop library
- Get the guides for Scoutmaster Conferences and Board of Review
- Gear checklist for outings & places to buy gear
- Download the latest version of this Troop Handbook
- And much more!

In summary, there is so much useful information here that you will want to bookmark the page!

## **MONEY MATTERS**

### **Dues**

Troop dues are collected each year in November for the following year, or when a boy joins the troop. Annual dues amounts are determined each year by the Troop Committee based upon budgeted expenditures for the upcoming Scout year. The dues cover:

- \$24.00 National BSA Membership Fee
- \$1.00 Insurance
- \$10.80 Boys Life
- The balance is the Troop Membership Fee, which pays for badges, awards, equipment, maintenance and other expenses incurred by the troop as a whole.

The Scout year is the calendar year, January through December. Boys who join later in the Scout year pay pro-rated dues for that year:

- Cub Scouts crossing over to Troop 112 pay 67% of full year dues, because their National BSA Fee and Boys Life have already paid through their Pack.
- Join by April 1: full year dues
- Join between April 1 and June 30: 67% of full year dues
- Join between July 1 and end of year: 33% of full year dues

Eagle Scouts who remain active in the troop pay a reduced amount of dues compared to other Scouts.

Dues cover only a portion of the Troop's operating expense; the remainder comes from sponsor support, donations, activity fees, and/or special designated fund raising activities. It is the troop's policy that when boys sell fundraiser items, 100% of the net earnings from the boy's fundraiser sales are for the individual Scout's use.

Until dues are paid, a boy is not registered with the troop and, because of insurance, cannot go on troop outings.

## **Fundraising**

Troop 112 offers opportunities for families to pay for their Scouting in ways that are consistent with family goals. Some prefer to write a check, some prefer to have a fundraising goal by the Scout to pay for all or part of the program costs.

In the past, Troop 112 has normally sponsored three fundraising events each year. The BSA Popcorn sale takes place in September, and other fundraising events as decided by the Troop Committee each year.

Troop 112 has the philosophy that the 100% of the profits from the fundraising events are deposited into the boy's individual Scout account. In the event that the troop needs to raise funds for a major capital expenditure, e.g. new trailer or tents, the committee may elect to have a specific fund raising event for that purchase or designate a portion of the profits from one of the sponsored event to go the troop fund.

## **Scout Accounts**

A Scout Account is established for you when you join the troop. You will have an opportunity to add money to your scout account by participating in the troop sponsored fundraising events. You can spend the money in your scout account on any scouting activity you like, such as summer camp, the ski outing, or any other troop outing. By participating in these fund-raisers you can get experience earning your own money and you can also help your parents pay for your scouting activities.

In addition to paying for troop outings, your Scout Account can be used to pay your dues the following year. You may also use your Scout Account to cover the cost of Scout items from the BSA Scout store or to purchase camping supplies from a local merchant. To use your Scout Account for items purchased at the Scout shop or local merchants you will need to:

- 1) Seek approval to purchase the item from the Scoutmaster  
(items must be used by the Scout in Scouting)

- 2) Purchase the items
- 3) Turn in the receipt to the Troop Treasurer for reimbursement

When registering for an outing using the website and electing to pay using a Scout Account, Scouts should first verify they have a sufficient balance in their Scout Account to cover the cost of the outing. A listing of current Scout Account balances is available on the troop website. Scout accounts with negative balances (the Scout owes the troop money) puts the troop in a financial bind and is not allowed by the troop. The Troop Treasurer will notify families that have a negative balance, and it is expected that the negative balance will be cleared promptly. If there is a financial hardship that prevents a negative balance from being cleared promptly, it is the parents' responsibility to contact the Troop Treasurer to resolve the situation. ***Scouts whose Scout account balance is negative will not be eligible to have a Scoutmaster Conference for rank advancement until the negative balance is resolved.***

If you transfer to another troop and your new troop has Scout accounts, you may request that your Scout account funds be transferred to the new troop. Scout accounts associated with Scouts who drop out of Scouting prior to age 18 are put into the troop's general fund.

### **Making Payments to the Troop**

In the last few years, the troop has transitioned from collecting cash and checks to having nearly all payments made through PayPal. This allows for better record keeping, more transparency, and fewer problems with lost or delayed payments. You do not need to have a PayPal account in order to use it for making troop payments. On PayPal.com, there are several links under "Get to Know PayPal" that can help a first time user get started.

To pay for troop activities, including dues, go to the troop website, troop112.org, and click on Sign-ups in the Navigation menu. The signup page will show you all the items currently available to be paid for. This can include outings, merit badge activities, summer

camp, dues, etc. Select an item, go to your cart, fill in the requested information, and then pay by PayPal or Scout Account. That's it!

### **Camperships (Financial Assistance)**

It is Troop 112 policy that no Scout should miss an opportunity to participate in troop activities because of money. Please contact the Troop Committee Chairman for assistance.

### **SCOUT UNIFORM**

Scout uniforms are worn at all troop functions and Scout-sponsored activities. In addition to troop or Scout sponsored activities, the Scout uniform is worn during the travel to and from a troop activity, e.g. monthly outdoor activity. **Scouts are expected to eventually have a complete uniform and wear it. At a minimum, Scouts must have a complete Scout uniform shirt, with all insignia properly placed.** Scouts will not be able to sit for their Scoutmaster Conference for rank advancement unless they have the minimum uniform and their Scout book.

Uniforms may be purchased at the Scout Office located at the Scout Center at Shadeland and Fall Creek, near Camp Belzer.

### **What is a complete Boy Scout Uniform?**

- Scout long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirt with appropriate insignia properly placed
- Scout pants or shorts
- Scout socks
- Scout belt and buckle

### **Class A**

The Scout shirt is often referred to as the "Class A". We suggest that a boy have a short sleeve Scout shirt. Insignia is available at the Scout shop located at Crossroads of America Council headquarters. In addition to the shirt, the Scout should purchase the epaulettes, US flag patch, council patch, and a *Scout Handbook*.

Troop 112 provides the troop number patch, patrol patch, rank

patches and merit badges, and leadership position patches.

## **Class B**

Troop 112 has a distinctive t-shirt decorated with the troop logo for summer wear and for activities where a uniform shirt is just not appropriate. This shirt is usually referred to as the troop's "Class B" uniform. The Troop 112 t-shirt is available for purchase each year, usually in the early summer, before summer camp. Other t-shirts with Scouting logos are also classified as "Class B" uniforms.

In the interim period while a Scout is acquiring a complete uniform, it is acceptable for the Scout to wear khaki or dark green pants or shorts to meetings and activities. Athletic shorts of any color are not acceptable. A good rule to follow: if the pants do not have a zipper or belt loops, don't wear them.

## **LEADERSHIP**

The longer you are in Scouting, the more the troop will recognize your experience and knowledge by offering you positions of leadership. Being a good leader is a skill that can be learned only by doing. Troop leadership opportunities will allow you to speak in front of people, guide discussions, make decisions, and encourage others toward greater achievements.

Your patrol is the building block of Scouting. Each patrol in the troop is a team of about six to twelve Scouts. Patrols are typically comprised of boys in the same grade. Patrol leaders are responsible for their individual patrols at all times. With the help of your patrol leader, you plan together, learn together, and turn your plans into action. Your patrol elects its patrol leader every six months. Every member of your patrol has a responsibility, or job.

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is the boy leader of the troop. Twice a year, the troop holds an election for the position of Senior Patrol Leader. The Senior Patrol Leader appoints his Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders and advises with the Scoutmaster on other positions of leadership. The SPL sets the agenda, presides at all Patrol Leaders

Council meetings and runs the weekly troop meetings.

### **Patrol Leaders Council (PLC)**

The Senior Patrol Leader, all of the Patrol Leaders and the Scouts holding other positions of leadership make up the Patrol Leaders Council (the “PLC”). The PLC meets once a month with the Scoutmaster to plan meetings and outings. The PLC normally meets on the second Sunday of each month, at 6:00 PM at the Lions Club.

It is important to note, that when you assume a leadership role in the troop, you are expected to meet the requirements of leadership as indicated in the leadership position description. The leadership position description outlines the roles and responsibilities of each position, as well as participation requirements. If you do not have adequate participation during your tenure in the position, the time spent in this position will not count toward rank advancement.

***If you don't attend activities, you cannot demonstrate leadership.***

## **TROOP COMMUNICATION**

Troop 112 tries very hard to offer a variety of communication methods.

### **Website**

Please check here for information—lots of questions can be answered by the materials you find here! The Troop 112 website is located at [www.troop112.org](http://www.troop112.org).

We use the website for signup online, and payment. There is an acknowledgement that serves as an acceptable permission slip for BSA, which eases the sign up and record keeping process.

### **Email**

Email is a primary communication tool for the troop. Please register at the troop website, both with the Scout's and the parents' email addresses. Website registration provides the email address list for Scoutmaster communications. If you need to change your address, please update your registration at the troop website. ***It is very***

***important that you check your email the day of the troop activity, as there may be last minute updates.***

## **OUTDOOR PROGRAMS**

A strong outdoor program is vital to the health of every Scout troop. Outdoors is a classroom without walls and is ideal for teaching Scout skills. Scouts who share the same trail, cook and eat together learn the value of teamwork, learn patience, respect opinions of others, and develop lasting relationships. On the trail and in camp, boy leaders face real leadership challenges. Outdoors is where the adventure begins.

At a minimum, Scouts should be spending at least ten days and nights outdoors each year via:

- Troop and patrol hikes
- Resident camping (weeklong summer camp)
- Short-term camping (weekend outings)
- Camporees and Jamborees
- National and Council high-adventure programs
- Troop-planned high-adventure activity

### **Weekend Camping Trips**

Troop 112 attempts to have an outdoor Scouting activity each month of the year with the exception of the holiday season in December. The activities are limited only by the imagination of the boys and their desire to organize and participate in them.

Parent permission slips are required for each activity, and these are electronically signed when you pay for the event through the troop website. If event involves non-Scouting providers, there may be a separate and special permission slip required.

All Scouts, and any adults who attend outings, are required by BSA policy to have medical forms, including health care provider's signature, every 12 months. Adults who attend any outing must also complete BSA Youth Protection Training (YPT) online.

The troop usually meets in the parking lot of the Lions Club at 5:30 PM on Friday. Scouts must meet at the Lions Club, or notify the Scoutmaster in advance that they will proceed on their own to camp, so that an accurate count of Scouts may be established. Well prepared Scouts will have a day pack with them, in addition to their main pack for their clothes and gear. The day pack will hold the items needed to get to camp and to set up camp—sack dinner, water bottle, flashlight, rain gear, etc.

We usually leave our campsite at 9:00 AM on Sunday morning and arrive back to the Lions Club between 11:00 AM and noon, depending on the distance from the campsite. All Scouts and adults participating in the outing are expected to: (1) camp all nights of the outing (since Scouts generally camp in pairs, if one were to leave early, it leaves his tent mate sleeping alone, which can be problematic), and (2) return to the Lions Club to help unload the troop trailer and to divvy up troop gear to be cleaned. ***If a Scout and/or adult will not be able to return to the Lions Club, they must seek the Scoutmaster's permission in advance of departure from the campsite.*** The Scoutmaster is responsible for all Scouts being returned safely to their parents; they cannot fulfill this responsibility unless they know that all Scouts return to Carmel safely.

When we arrive at the Lions Club, the troop will unload the troop trailer and the troop Quartermaster will assign gear to the participants to take home to clean and/or dry and repack (tents). All patrol and troop gear, i.e. tents, must be returned to the Lions Club at the following scheduled meeting. The troop typically does not meet the following Monday after an outing.

### **Who may go on an outing?**

- Registered Boy Scouts (Scouts)
- Registered adult leaders (Scouters)
- Parents and Legal Guardians of Scouts who have a current certification for the BSA Youth Protection Training (YPT)

## **Grubmasters**

Each patrol is responsible for planning, purchase and cooking their weekend meals. Consistent with the Patrol Method, one Scout is assigned as the Patrol Grubmaster. The Patrol Grubmaster duties are rotated throughout the patrol, so that each Scout gets an opportunity to shop. Grubmasters are given a budget of \$4.00 per meal per Scout for purchase of food and supplies.

Scouts should plan on eating prior to departure on Friday or bring a sack lunch for Friday night.

Grubmasters should bring their receipts for food purchases to the Friday departure, so a reimbursement check can be delivered promptly to cover the expenses incurred.

## **Summer Camp**

Troop 112 typically will schedule summer camp after July 4th and before the start of school. Troop 112 typically attends Camp Ransburg for summer camp. Beautifully situated on Lake Monroe, one of the state's largest lakes, Camp Ransburg is 624 acres of adventure. Sailing, water skiing, horseback riding, hiking, nature trails and more await each Scout who spends a memorable week at Ransburg.

All new Scouts are strongly encouraged to attend summer camp. In February/March timeframe, the troop will begin collecting a \$100 deposit for summer camp and final payment is due May.

## **Camping Coup Program**

In order to reward and encourage our Scouts to participate in the troop's monthly outings, Troop 112 has implemented the Camping Coup Program. Native American Indians were awarded an eagle feather called a feather coup (pronounced coo) for acts of bravery. An Indian would rather part with his horse, tepee or even his wife, than to lose his eagle feathers. To do so would be dishonor in the eyes of the Tribe. The camping coup program is based on this Native American Indian tradition.

The camping coup is a bead or other small object that is given to a Scout or Adult Leader for attending a campout or other special event. The coup are displayed on coup holder, a leather fob, with 2 leather strands. The fob is slit so it can be worn on a belt.

The purpose of the camping coup program is 1) reward those who actively attend campouts and other troop activities, 2) motivate Scouts and Adult Leaders to attend campouts, 3) promote excitement and pride in accomplishments, 4) provide memories of past camping experiences, 5) generate a visible record of attendance and camping history for advancement in Scouting, and most of all to have fun!

## **CAMPING EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING**

When outfitting a new Scout, you are faced with buying a lot of equipment within a short period of time. Some stores in the Carmel area offer a Scout discounts, e.g. Gander Mountain. We also have access to several on high quality suppliers via direct online negotiated prices. Check with the troop if you are interested.

Again, it is Troop 112 policy that no Scout should miss an opportunity to participate in troop activities because of money. Please contact the Troop Committee Chairman for assistance.

Often, new Scouts can buy used equipment from older Scouts who are upgrading gear for high adventure trips. Postpone equipment purchases until your son demonstrates he is committed to Scouting – not all boys that join Scouts stay in Scouts. Here are some suggestions to help you as your son gets started.

- A backpack is not needed until the program indicates that we will be backpacking. An old duffel bag or sports bag will work fine. Trash bags or other light duty bags will not work.
- A daypack is handy for all outings, and is best carried with the Scout in the car on the way to the camp. It should be big enough to carry a lunch or dinner, water bottle, Scout

Handbook, flashlight, rain gear/jacket and gloves. A school “book bag” may be adequate, but remember it will get dirty, wet and thoroughly used, so last year’s bag would be appropriate.

- Acquire equipment slowly as needed. Scout equipment makes great gifts.
- We camp in all seasons. Make sure the equipment can be used in all 12 months.
- Talk with older Scouts and Scouters about what equipment they have found to be the best.
- “Buy Quality Once, Cheap Twice!” This saying applies to equipment purchases. Try to buy quality equipment as it will tend to last longer.

### **Troop 112 Ten Outdoor Essentials**

This is a minimal, “survival” list. You should have these items with you on all Troop 112 outdoor activities.

- 1) Pocket knife (with troop issued Totin-Chip card)
- 2) Matches in waterproof container
- 3) Rain gear
- 4) Personal first aid kit (see *Scout Handbook* for an example)
- 5) Flashlight with good batteries
- 6) Compass (& map if indicated)
- 7) Water bottle (1 liter plastic bottle, filled)
- 8) Emergency snack bar(s)
- 9) Whistle or signaling device
- 10) Extra clothes based on weather and area

### **Personal Overnight Camping Gear for Beginning Scouts**

**Mess Kit** Plastic bowl, plate and cup are fine. BSA mess kit is fine, but too heavy for backpacking and the metal will get hot to handle from the food. The cup should have a handle. As the Scout becomes more experienced, they will gravitate to using only the bowl and cup.

**Utensils** Knife, fork, and spoon (stainless steel or plastic). Do

not bring plastic picnic utensils.

**Sleeping Bag** A good sleeping bag is one the most important items to purchase. A Scout who is cold on an outing will not look forward to future campouts. Although goose down bags are lighter in weight, they do not insulate well when wet. A synthetic bag with a rating of 20° or lower is a good choice. In the summer time, the Scout can sleep with the bag unzipped and in the winter, you can add a fleece liner to improve its warmth. Cotton sleeping bags are not recommended.

**Sleeping Pad** A pad is used to insulate the camper from the ground. ***It is not for comfort.*** More body heat is lost to the ground than to the air. When camping in winter a good pad is essential.

**Rain Gear** Campmor.com and other online catalog suppliers have nylons suits that stuff into small bags. They are lightweight and cover well in a blowing rain and are less likely to overheat. Ponchos are ok for an emergency, but in a blowing rain you are likely to get wet.

**Knife** Swiss Army knife is fine, but avoid one that has too many gadgets on it. A BSA knife is always a good choice. ***Sheath knives (i.e., knives with blades that cannot be folded closed) are not acceptable on troop outings per the BSA guidelines.***

**Flashlight** It should be waterproof and durable to withstand being dropped. Always carry extra batteries. A headlamp is a good option, since it frees up hands for setting up tents or other activities in the dark.

**Compass** A reliable compass is a must for every Scout. You

don't need to spend a lot of money to obtain this item, \$7 - \$15. It should have a clear plastic base with directional arrow and, preferably a small scale on the side.

**First Aid Kit** The *Scout Handbook* lists the essential items to have in a personal first aid kit. Your personal first aid kit should be brought on every outing.

**Hiking Boots** High top hiking boots offer the best support. You will want to have them broken in before any long hikes. Most hiking boots have a Gortex® lining which aids in keeping your feet dry. Dry feet are always a plus on a campout.

**Socks** Socks are one of the most important items you can pack for a campout. The preferred hiking sock is wool. A good choice is Smartwool®. Polypropylene sock liners are a must for long hikes or cold weather camping. The liner “wicks” sweat away from the foot greatly reducing risks of problems from blisters or cold feet. Make sure enough socks are packed for each outing, plus an extra pair. Cotton socks are not a good choice.

Please **label every item that a Scout owns**, with either the Scouts last name or initials. When items are misplaced, it makes the task of returning the item to the proper owner easier.

### **Backpacking/Hiking Gear**

Internal frames backpacks are very popular. However, for a new Scout, an external frame backpack is an excellent choice. The pack should fit the Scout now! Don't plan on your Scout growing into a backpack or purchasing a backpack that they would eventually use on a High Adventure trip, such as Philmont. When selecting a backpack consider the following: a) ask other Scouts and Scouters their opinion and have your son try on several types of backpacks to

see which one they like, and b) Purchase the pack from a reputable store so that the backpack can be fitted properly. And c) get on the internet for information on selecting backpacks. REI.com is an excellent site which discusses the selection of a backpack.

**Backpack** The pack should fit the Scout NOW! Good youth packs include the Jansport® Scout, BSA pack or the Kelty® Youth pack. The hip belt should fit snugly (the weight of the backpack should be supported by the hips). These external frame backpacks will work fine for younger Scouts for a few years. Generally, a Scout should carry approximately 20% of their body weight in a properly fitted backpack.

**Pack Cover** The pack cover will cover the backpack when hiking in the rain. It is also used to cover the pack up over night.

## **Cold Weather Camping**

**Clothing** Layering is the key! Dress like an *onion*! The first layer is the single most important item, long underwear. The best fabric is polypropylene. Common brand names are Thermax®, Polatec®, and Capilene®. Do not purchase cotton long johns. Once wet or damp from perspiration, the material will chill you. A set for the activities during the day and another set to sleep in is the preferred way to stay warm. For the next layer, choose wool or one of the newer synthetics, such as fleece. The outer shell should be wind proof and waterproof.

**Mittens** Pair of wool or synthetic mittens is the preferred choice. Your hands will stay warmer with mittens versus gloves.

**Hat** A stocking cap is a must. Most of the heat that the body loses is from the head. You will want to sleep with your stocking cap on.

## Troop Gear

The troop has camping equipment for about 80 Scouts and a double-axel cargo trailer. Our Alps Mountaineering, Sierra Design and Eureka two-man tents with screens and floors are lightweight and suitable for backpacking. There are charcoal and low-impact backpacking stoves for each patrol and dining flies. Patrol cook kits, utensils, and other required camping gear are continually upgraded and added. A three-burner Coleman gas stove is used on troop outings not involving backpacking. Two large snow sleds are available for winter camping.

## Equipment Specifically Not Allowed on Troop Outings

- Liquid fuel equipment (stoves, lanterns, etc). The troop uses propane stoves and lanterns.
- Butane lighters
- Sheath knives (knives with blades that cannot be folded closed)
- Hatchets (hand axes)
- Scouts must **NOT** bring radios, televisions, iPods, electronic games or computers on any troop activity. These detract from the program and might become lost or damaged. ***Please leave these items at home!***
- Many Scouts have cell phones, and these can be considered safety equipment. If a Scout chooses to bring a cell phone on an outing, he must only use it in an emergency so as not to distract from the activity, and he must accept the risk that the phone could be damaged or lost.

## OTHER SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

### Good Turns

The Boy Scout slogan is "Do a good turn daily." Performing service hours is a required part of rank advancement in scouting. Service projects shall be meaningful service not normally expected of a Scout as a part of his school, religious, or community activities. Troop 112 puts this into practice by assisting our sponsor, the Carmel Lions Club, by helping older Scouts complete Eagle projects,

and by participating in the annual Scouting for Food drive. Our troop also conducts periodic service projects when someone needs help.

### **Religious Emblems**

“A Scout is reverent.” All Scouts show this by being faithful in their duty to God. Some go further and give special service. This may qualify them for a religious emblem. Such an emblem is not a Scouting award. It is conferred on a Scout by his religious leader. Each faith has its own requirements for earning its emblem. You are encouraged to see your religious leader to find out more about your own religious emblem.

### **Order of the Arrow**

The Order of the Arrow is a national brotherhood of Scout campers. The honor of becoming a member of the Order of the Arrow is one that you cannot set out to earn on your own. This honor is bestowed on a Scout by the members of his troop. This is done when he has proved himself worthy of receiving it through active participation. A scout must be an outstanding and unselfish camper. Elections are typically held in January.

### **Firecrafter**

The Firecrafter program is an opportunity for Scouts to distinguish themselves while doing long-term camping. It is based on leadership, service and friendship in a summer camp situation. The three ranks of Firecrafter (Camper, Woodsman and Firecrafter) are designed to assist you in your Scouting advancement and provide opportunities for leadership and service. Firecrafter can only be earned at Summer Camp.

### **Voyageur Program**

This is a canoe-centered outdoor program for boys who are First Class rank or higher. In addition to the Canoeing merit badge, participants also earn the Cooking, Camping, Swimming and Lifesaving merit badges. As a Scout earns these merit badges, he passes through the various Voyageur levels: Apprentice, Bowman, Sternman, Guide, and Voyageur. After planning and completing a

25-mile and a 50-mile overnight canoe trip, the Scout is ready to pass a board of review for his Voyageur feather.

### **Miscellaneous Awards**

There are numerous other Scouting activities in which you can qualify for special awards. These are generally outdoor-oriented programs and are listed in your Boy Scout Handbook.

### **ADVANCEMENT**

Advancement is an important part of Scouting. It is a measure of a Scout's growth and achievement. To this end, Scouts in the troop are encouraged and guided through the ranks of Scouting. It is our goal as a troop to embrace and assist the new Scout to reach First Class rank in his first year in scouting. Higher ranks are earned by individual effort along with the troop's assistance. Through participation in troop events, you will learn new Scouting skills, complete requirements for rank advancement, and have a lot of fun. The ultimate goal is the attainment of your Eagle Scout award.

There are four steps of advancement:

- The Boy Scout Learns.
- The Boy Scout is Tested.
- The Boy Scout is Reviewed.
- The Boy Scout is Recognized.

Each Scout keeps his own personal advancement record in his *Scout Handbook*. The troop also keeps advancement records for each Scout.

Only Scouts who have earned the First Class rank or above can sign off on rank requirements leading up to a Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review. Adults members of the troop sign off on these last two requirements for each rank. Brothers are never permitted to sign off on each other's requirements.

***To avoid problems, a parent should not sign off his or her own Scout on any rank or merit badge requirement.*** Only under special

circumstances will this rule be waived by the Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair. For nearly all merit badges, there are counselors in the troop, other than the Scout's parent, and the Scout should make every effort to work with a non-parent counselor before requesting a waiver of this rule.

## **Rank Advancement**

Once a Scout has completed all the rank requirements (the requirements initialed and dated in your *Scout Handbook*), he is ready to schedule a Scoutmaster conference by notifying the Advancement Chair. The Advancement Chair will confirm requirement completion, and schedule the Scout for the Scoutmaster conference. The Scout should prepare for the conference by reviewing the Scoutmaster Conference Questions document on the troop website. ***Scouts whose Scout Account balance is negative will not be allowed to proceed to a Scoutmaster conference.***

When the Scout meets with the Scoutmaster, he must be in full Scout uniform—at a minimum, all insignia (including his current rank patch) must be in its proper place on his Scout shirt. In addition, the Scout must have his Scout Handbook with him. At the Scoutmaster Conference, the Scoutmaster will make sure he is ready for the Board of Review. The Scoutmaster will discuss with the Scout his goals and accomplishments.

A Board of Review will be held for each rank advancement. This Board is a review of past work and a review of how well the Scout has demonstrated Scouting spirit, how the Scout is helping Scouting, and how Scouting is helping the Scout. ***This is not a test!*** It is designed to help the Scout progress in Scouting. The Scout should prepare for the board of review by reviewing the Board of Review Questions document on the troop website.

Rank badges will be presented to the Scout at regular troop meetings. Formal recognition will be presented at the next Court of Honor (COH). Merit badges will be saved for presentation at the

next COH.

After attaining your Life Scout rank, you can meet with one of the adult leaders in the troop to discuss your Eagle Service Project. Special requirements have been outlined for this project, and your Eagle Service Project must conform to these guidelines. As you prepare your outline for your Eagle Service Project, you are asked to present the project to the Troop Committee for comments. Your Scoutmaster, the Troop Committee Chairman, and the District Advancement Chairman must all approve your project before you begin.

### **Merit Badges**

Scouting merit badges are awarded in recognition of proficiency in camping and other outdoor skills, in athletics and hobbies, and upon learning about different career choices. Merit badges must be earned to attain the higher ranks in scouting, and certain merit badges are required in order to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

When you are ready to work on a merit badge, check with your Scoutmaster and tell him your plans. You are encouraged to partner up with another Scout to work on the badge with you. Then, make an appointment with a registered Merit Badge Counselor who will guide and test you to make sure you have learned the subject of the merit badge. A list of Troop 112 Merit Badge Counselors is available on the troop website.

The Merit Badge Counselor will certify on an approved merit badge application form (called a “blue card”) that you have earned the merit badge when he or she is satisfied that you have completed all of the requirements. You will then give the blue card to the Troop Advancement Chairman.

Scouts in Troop 112 have many different options to earn merit badges, through troop sponsored activities, Crossroads of America Council’s Baden-Powell Workshop, Del-Mi District Merit Badge University, and most importantly, summer camp. Scouts who do not

complete the merit badge requirements at one of these events are given a partially completed blue card, commonly referred to as a “partial”. It is the Scout’s responsibility to follow up with either the Merit Badge Counselor they were working with or one of the Troop 112 Merit Badge Counselors for that particular merit badge to complete the remaining requirements.

## **PARENT PARTICIPATION**

All successful Scout troops have in common the ingredient of parent involvement. The adults who guide and direct the troop are all volunteers who have or have had sons in the troop. It is only when parents get involved and help that a Scout troop becomes a success.

Help can be as involved as being an Assistant Scoutmaster, a member of the Troop Committee, Merit Badge Counselor, members of Boards of Review, providing transportation for activities, helping with special events, or giving any other much needed and appreciated assistance to the troop. We encourage all our parents to complete an Adult Boy Scout application, pay the adult registration fee to the troop, and become registered as an adult member of Boy Scouts (a “Scouter”).

The Troop Committee generally meets on the second Sunday evening of each month, 7:00 PM, at the Lions Club. Parents can be a big help to the troop by attending the Committee meetings.

In 2010, the National BSA mandated current Youth Protection Training (YPT) for all adults who participate in Scout activities. This includes a review of procedures and practices to assure safety of our youth on outings. The current training is available on the BSA National Site, [myscouting.org](http://myscouting.org). ***Any parent who wishes to attend an outing must have a current YPT certification.*** YPT certification is good for 2 years from the date of successful completion of the training.

## **What Adults Do on Campouts?**

Parents are encouraged to join the troop on campouts. Outdoor

activities are the heart of the Scouting program. The troop operates by the Patrol Method, with Scouts doing most activities with their patrols. On campouts, the adults also form the Owl Patrol. Visiting parents are automatically part of the Owl Patrol, and will not be part of a Scout patrol. Adults will prepare and eat meals together, and the Scouts will eat their meals together in their patrol. Here is a summary of our troop (and BSA) policies we share with parents on their first campout with the troop.

**Scout Tenting & Meals**—Scouts tent with their patrol in a patrol site separate from the adults. Patrols plan their own menus, and cook and eat together as a team. 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. Adults do not eat or tent with a boy patrol. Adults pay the same campout food cost as Scouts.

**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 parent and son tenting together, it is troop policy that boys tent with boys and adults with adults. If a parent tents with his/her 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!

**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 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 Scoutmaster Handbook, and it's worth your time to read it. The training is called Scout Leader Basic Training, and is offered a number of times throughout the year. It's also a good investment of your time. In addition, the troop encourages all parents to complete Youth Protection Training as soon as your son joins the troop. This training is offered online and is required to attend any troop outing with your son.

### **Summer Camp**

Given that summer camp is six days in length, parents often desire to attend for a day or two to visit their Scout. While we encourage participation, visits need to be coordinated closely with the adult leaders to avoid disruption and to assure space is available in camp. In addition, other special requirements apply, in order to prevent homesickness and deal with other BSA camp-specific policies. Please talk to the adult leaders early if you have an interest in visiting or, even better, spending the week with Troop 112 at camp. Camp Ransburg has a strong cell signal and Wifi is (generally) available for those parents that need to check in on work while at camp.

### **Youth Protection**

As mentioned earlier, a current Youth Protection Training certificate needs to be on file in order for any adult to attend a troop outing. YPT certificates are valid for 2 years from the training completion date.

### **Why these rules about parent involvement?**

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, and happiness of six to twelve other boys depend directly on him. Boy Scouts 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).

The underlying principle is never doing 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). Each year, our Del-MI District ([del-mi.org](http://del-mi.org)) and Crossroads of America Council ([crossroadsbsa.org](http://crossroadsbsa.org)) offer special training on how to do this, which we expect our uniformed adults to take. And any adult is welcome—and encouraged—to take the training (see the Training Coordinator for the dates).

If a parent goes on a campout, you are an automatic member of the Owl 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 Owls 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 boy leaders lead.

Your job is tough, challenging, and ultimately rewarding, because your son will be a man the day after tomorrow. When on campouts and outings, we tell our boys that parents are not there, adult leaders are there. We encourage the boys NOT to come to their parents for help but to use the Patrol Method and escalate issues and questions through the Scout Leadership.

## **GENERAL TROOP RULES**

- 1) Scouts will conduct themselves at all times in the spirit of the

Scout Oath and Law.

- 2) Scout uniforms will be worn to all Scout functions, including troop meetings, camp outs, Courts of Honor, or any Scout sponsored activity. "Class B" uniform (special Troop 112 shirt or other casual shirt with Scout insignia) can be worn during specified times or designated activities.
- 3) No Scout is allowed to leave camp alone and/or without permission.
- 4) Scouts must obtain a Tote-n-Chip before carrying or using an axe, pocketknife, or saw. The Tote-n-Chip is given to each Scout when proper use of knives, axe, and saw is demonstrated.
- 5) No Scout is allowed to "play" with fire. All fires must be contained with the fire ring or cooking areas.
- 6) Lanterns, candles, or any open flames are **never** permitted in tents.
- 7) Fighting, punching, teasing, hazing are **never** allowed.
- 8) Scouts are responsible for intentional damage to troop property.
- 9) Scouts will take wet tents home after camp outs to be properly dried and folded. Scouts issued a tent, or other equipment, are responsible for returning it to the troop at the next meeting.
- 10) Violations of these rules may necessitate a call to the Scout's parents to come and get him. Repeated breach of conduct by a Scout will result in his being asked to leave the troop.
- 11) Fireworks, alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, annoying devices (water pistols, radios, recorders, iPods, etc.) are strictly forbidden at any Scout function.
- 12) Cell phones may be carried but the scout should refrain from using it during the outing. It is a good idea keep the phone in a waterproof bag. The goal is to enjoy the outdoors by not using electronic devices.

## **PAST SCOUTMASTERS**

George Huffman	1984-1990
Marc McFall	1990-1992
Joe Fulkerson	1992-1995
Jerry Hasten	1995-1998
Ed Finley	1998-2002
Rob Baird	2002-2004
David Ralls	2004-2007
David Cobb	2007-2010
Chris Betelak	2010-2012
Will Simmons	2012-2015
Mat Greener	2015-Present