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New Scout's Handbook

This booklet will talk about everything you should know as you start your Scouting America journey. This was written by the Scouts of Troop 54.

Table of Contents/Paragraph Number

Who to go to with questions 1

Schedule 2

Merit Badges 3

Blue Cards 4

Totin' Chip 5

Firem'n Chit 6

Uniform 7

Sign-up Sheets 8

Acronym Descriptions 9

Leadership 10

Rank 11

Health Form 12

Court of Honor 13

Order of the Arrow 14

Camp Wilderness 15

1. With questions you can ask almost any adult involved in the troop. The Scoutmaster is Lance Barnick. You can also ask the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) or Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL).

2. We meet on Mondays at 7PM at the Mandan Eagles. About two Mondays each month, we help with bussing tables for the Golden Age dinners at the

Eagles. These go from 4:30-7pm. We need at least 2 scouts and 2 adults to come each week to help out our Charter, The Eagles. They do a lot for us and this is our way to show our appreciation. Plus, they feed anyone who volunteers! The second week we have the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meeting. This is where we plan all of our meetings and activities in the coming months. Other Mondays are typically activity nights, Meritbadge Mondays, or Rank Advancement, which is voted on by the scouts during the PLC. We try to have a campout one weekend a month. Scouts also vote where we would like to go camping.

3. A Merit Badge is an activity badge. There are 14 Eagle Required with 7 additional that you need to get to Eagle Rank. You must complete all of the requirements to receive the merit badge. To start a Merit Badge, you need to have a counselor for that Merit Badge. The Merit Badge counselor is the person that teaches you all the stuff you need to know to earn the Merit Badge. If you are interested in a certain one, notify the Scoutmaster and they can help you find a counselor. Normally, you need 2 scouts to start a new badge so you have a buddy. You also need a blue card signed by the Scoutmaster to start a merit badge (see section #4). A list of merit badges is in the back of your scout handbook. Most merit badge counselors use Merit Badge worksheets. These can be found at www.usscouts.org

4. A Blue Card is the card that the Merit Badge counselor signs everything off on. It is required to have this in your hands before you start a merit badge. You need to keep this in a safe spot so you don't lose it so you have it when you are finished. This is also where you put the name of your Merit Badge and the Merit Badge Counselor. The contact info of the counselor also goes on them. Once you have all the requirements signed off on the Blue Card, you then get the Blue Card signed by the Scoutmaster. You then turn it into the troop Advancement Chair. The Advancement Chair will then award the Badge to you at the Court of Honor.

5. The Totin' Chip is the card that you must earn, then carry with you when you carry or are using a pocket knife. We will help you earn your Totin' Chip at one of your first couple of campouts. Some of the requirements of the Totin' Chip are learning safety, how to properly carry a knife, axe, and saw. Another requirement is to cut wood with a saw, knife, and axe. Once you do these requirements you then will be awarded the Totin' Chip at the next Court of Honor.

6. A Fireman's Chip is a card that you must have on you when starting a fire. You can earn this at any of your first couple of campouts. You are taught how to start a fire with only matches and items in nature that are not alive, like dead branches. Once you do this, you will receive the card at the next Court of Honor.

7. The Uniform is what you should wear to every scouting event. There is the Class A Uniform and the Class B Uniform. The Class A uniform is the uniform that you put all of your patches such as rank, patrol, and troop number on. On special occasions you wear a sash. This sash is where you put all of your merit badges and activities patches on. The Merit Badges go on the front of the sash. The activity patches go on the back of the sash. Class A uniforms **MUST BE TUCKED IN**. Jeans or scout pants and shorts are best worn with the class A uniform. Class B's can be worn for most activities and on Monday meeting nights from Memorial Day to Labor Day unless you are needing a Scoutmaster Conference or Board of Review. You will learn about these 2 things as you go along in your ranks.

8. Sign-up Sheets are the piece of paper on the table each week that scouts and adults put their names and phone numbers on. This signifies that they want to participate in an activity. Some things that would have a sign-up sheet are Campouts, Activities in the community, dinners at the Eagles, and fundraisers

for the troop.

9. There are many acronyms in Troop 54. Some that you may see very often are, MBM, COH, PLC, SPL, ASPL, CW, and OA. MBM is our abbreviation for Merit Badge Monday. COH is our Court of Honor. PLC is our Patrol Leaders Council meeting. SPL and ASPL are Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. CW is Camp Wilderness and OA is Order of the Arrow.

10. There are many different Leadership roles in Troop 54. The main positions include the following: SPL, ASPL, Quartermaster, Scribe, Librarian, Historian, Chaplain Aide, Guide, and Bugler. Some of these leadership roles require rank requirements. This means that you must be at least a certain rank to be in this leadership role. Troop Elections are held every 6 months so each scout has an opportunity to be in a leadership role. Some of the ranks do require some type of troop leadership position.

11. There are 7 ranks in Scouts. They are Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. Scout is the first rank and you will be able to earn it pretty quickly. Eagle rank is the hardest rank and also the only rank that can be taken away from you.

12. The Health Form is the form that you must have to go on campouts. There are 3 parts of the Health Form. The first 2 Parts have all the information such as medication lists and allergy lists. They also have contact info of your doctor and family. The 3rd part of the Health Form is filled out and signed by your doctor. The first 2 parts of the Health Form you need to go to any campout. The 3rd part you must have if you are camping longer than 72 hours. These are updated every calendar year.

13. The troop Court of Honor is the troop award ceremony. This is where you receive the badges and patches that you have earned. We typically have a Court of Honor about every 3 to 4 months. This allows scouts to have enough time to earn ranks and badges. If you are in the OA you can wear either your green patch/badge sash or your OA sash.

14. The Order of the Arrow (OA) is a group of scouts who have met the needed requirements and have been voted in by fellow scouts. This is the Honor Society of Scouting. Each eligible scout, once voted in by their troop, will receive information needed. You also need a certain amount of camping nights and be at least First Class Rank to be a part of the OA. Once you have successfully gotten into the OA you then get your handbook and sash.

15. Camp Wilderness is our main week long campout. This is where we earn a lot of our merit badges. On a typical year at Camp Wilderness, you can earn up to 6 merit badges that week. One time per day inspectors/commissioners come and check the neatness of your campsite. In the week at Camp you will do many different activities. Some of these include the Polar Bear Plunge, Constellation Climb, Wake Up Wednesday, Tomahawk Throwing, and Fishing.

Thank you for joining Troop 54 and we hope you enjoy your scout experience.

- Troop 54 Scouts

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

A SCOUT IS

TRUSTWORTHY

LOYAL

HELPFUL

FRIENDLY

COURTEOUS

KIND

OBEDIENT

CHEERFUL

THRIFTY

BRAVE

CLEAN

REVERENT