



Boy Scouts of America

Boy Scout Troop 261

Parent Handbook

2007

Table of Contents

Boy Scouts of America - Mission Statement.....	Page 1
Aims of Scouting	
General Information	Page 2
Uniforms and Supplies	
Meetings	
Attendance	
Codes of Conduct	Page 3
Fees and Camping Accounts	
Fund Raisers	
Friends of Scouting	
Merit Badges	Page 4
How to fill out a Merit Badge Card	
Rank Advancements.....	Page 5
Youth Leadership Positions of the Troop	Page 6
Campouts	Page 7
Camping Locations	
Campout Rules	
Tomahawk Scout Reservation	
High Adventure Treks	
Mid Adventure Activities	
Camping Gear and Supplies	Page 8
Levels of Boy Scout Troops.....	Page 9
Training.....	Page 10
Youth Protection Policy	

This handbook includes the general and financial policies of Troop 261.
Policies change occasionally so ask for a copy of the policies for more specifics.

The updated general and financial policies take precedence over anything in this handbook.

Originally chartered
May 24, 1971

Boy Scouts of America

Mission

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to prepare young people to make ethical choices throughout their lives by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

The Aims of Scouting

The goal of the Boy Scouts of America is to help boys develop into honorable men. Scouts have many opportunities to learn the skills of leadership, of the outdoors and of life. Each Scout decides what he will learn and how fast he will do it.

There are 3 basic aims of Scouting:

1) Character Development

Scouting strives to help a boy's character develop by:

- helping him become confident.
- being honest with himself and others.
- doing his best in any situation.
- respecting others and their differences.
- being able to take care of himself in emergency situations.
- helping him maintain a good personal appearance.

2) Citizenship Training

Scouting encourages each Scout to:

- learn about and take pride in his national heritage.
- develop an understanding of the social, economic and governmental systems.
- be of service to others.
- have knowledge of and respect for other cultures and social groups.
- be aware of community organizations and their functions.
- appreciate the environment and seek to protect it.

3) Mental and Physical Fitness

Scouting helps each Scout to work towards the goals of being mentally and physically fit by motivating him to:

- improve his general physical condition through exercise and participation in vigorous activities that include outdoor adventures and sports.
- eat properly, get enough sleep and follow the habits of good health.
- reject experimenting with tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs and other activities that can be harmful to himself and others.
- strive to become mentally alert.
- use good judgment and make sound decisions.
- train himself to be resourceful in solving problems.

General Information for Troop 261

Uniforms and Supplies

The Troop will give the new Scout a neckerchief at his first campout and his Patrol patch at a meeting or Court of Honor.

The new Scout's registration fees will include purchase of a green Troop 261 T-shirt.

The new Scout must purchase the following:

1. A Scout shirt (long or short sleeved).
2. Red shoulder loops, Troop numerals 261, 35-year veteran strip, World Crest patch, and Indian-head Council patch (and sew on uniform in the proper locations).
3. Neckerchief slide.
4. A Boy Scout Handbook (with his name on the OUTSIDE). This should always be with him at every meeting and campout. It is used for skill learning and to record the Scout's progress.

These and other Scouting supplies may be purchased at the following Scout Shop locations:

Northern Star (East) Council	393 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul	651-224-4175
Northern Star (West) Council	5300 Glenwood Avenue, Golden Valley	763-545-9459
Maplewood	County Road B & Snelling Avenue, Roseville	651-633-7500
Burnsville	14250 Plymouth Avenue So, Burnsville	952-892-0206

Meetings:

Scout Meetings: Monday nights, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity, 15601 Maple Island Road, Burnsville, MN 55306

Regular Meetings: All Scouts should wear their Scout shirt, tucked in, with neckerchief and slide, and Scout Handbook.

Courts of Honor: As above, plus Merit Badge sash (sash must have at least 3 merit badges before it can be worn).
Mothers may wear their Mother's Pins in honor of their Scout(s).

Attendance

Star, Life and Eagle Rank have an active participation requirement that is met through a Scout's attendance. For active participation, a Scout must earn at least 75% of all eligible points by attending meetings, campouts and selected activities for each month.

Attendance is taken by the Patrol Leader, and the following point system is used:

- 4 pts. : full uniform (shirt tucked in, neckerchief and slide).
- 3 pts. : attendance in shirt only.
- 2 pts. : attendance, but out of uniform.
- 1 pt. : excused absence that has been called to the Scoutmaster before the meeting.
- 0 pt. : unexcused absence.

It is the Scout's responsibility to arrive at the meeting on time as a courtesy to others and to ensure that the meetings begin and end on time.

Active participation can be given for an alternate Scouting activity taking place at the same time if a request is made in writing, signed by the Scoutmaster, and given to the attendance recorder within 30 days of the activity.

Codes of Conduct

All Scouts are expected to live by and demonstrate the Scout Oath and Law in their everyday lives. They are expected to listen quietly, respect and listen to all adult and Scout Leaders of the Troop. When a Scout's behavior requires discipline, the following steps may be taken:

- The Scout will be conferenced by the Scoutmaster
- The Scout will be conferenced by the Scoutmaster and Board of Review
- The Scout will be conferenced by the Scoutmaster and the Scout's parents
- The Scout will be asked to leave the Troop.

Fees and Camping Accounts

Each Scout has a camping account with the Troop. Funds from wreath sales and other fundraisers are placed directly into this account, which is used to pay for Scouting related activities. A Scout may transfer money from his camping account to pay for campout fees.

The initial account is funded by the Scout's Pack account and/or opened with a parent. When a Scout leaves the Troop, the camping account funds revert to the Troop because the funds were raised in the name of Troop 261, and do not actually belong to the Scout.

Parents attending campouts with the Troop pay the same fees as their Scout.

Campout Refunds: After money for a campout has been collected for the second night, a refund will only be given if another Scout takes the place of the Scout not going. The fees for the campout are determined by the reservation fees, campground charges, commemorative patches and groceries. These fees are generally paid on the first and second meetings of a given month. Transportation costs are volunteered by the drivers.

The Troop will pay up to \$25.00 for youth training, or youth staff fees if on training staff.

Grey Wolf courses may be attended by a Scout with permission of the Scoutmaster. The Scout pays the deposit and the rest is paid by the Troop.

Adult Leaders Fees

For all activities, the Troop will pay up to \$10.00 for all registered leaders of the Troop.

For campouts, the Troop will pay up to \$25.00 for each registered adult participating. For high adventure treks, the Troop will pay up to \$20.00 for each registered leader participating, or up to \$50.00 for each participating trained registered leader who has completed Scout Leader job-specific training (Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster or Committee Member).

Tomahawk fees are free for registered leaders of the Troop attending for the whole week. Untrained leaders or non-registered adults attending Tomahawk Scout Reservation pay 50% of the fee for the week, or the cost of the meals for the time they are there. These fees must be paid before departure to Tomahawk.

Fundraisers

The Troop does one major fundraiser annually: Christmas Wreath Sales, in which all of our Scouts are required to participate. This fundraiser is used to pay for equipment and activities enjoyed by all Scouts in the Troop. Therefore, a participation fee of \$30.00 is charged, and is offset if 5 wreaths are sold. If less than 5 wreaths are sold, the fee is prorated for the number sold.

Participation is also required for selling at the corner wreath stand.

There are other fundraisers that have worked well for us, and participation is on a voluntary basis. Some of these are Spring Flower Sales and Council Popcorn Sales. Most of the proceeds from these sales go into the Scout's camping account.

Friends of Scouting (FOS)

This is an annual fundraising program for Northern Star Council. Participation is optional but appreciated. Meeting our goals means that the Troop saves about \$200.00 in rank advancement and merit badge awards each year.

Merit Badges

“Two of the reasons for the Scout Merit Badge Plan are (1) to give you more skill in things you like to do; (2) to give you a chance to try out new activities, so that you can find new things which you really like.” (p. 185, *Scout Handbook*). Merit Badges are explained in the Scout Handbook on pages 185-193.

There are a total of 118 merit badges, 21 of which are required for Eagle Rank; 12 merit badges are specified by the BSA (pp. 188-189) and 9 are electives (pp. 190-193). They can be earned in any order but some ranks require a certain number of Eagle-required merit badges for advancement (pp. 444-446).

Troop 261 prefers merit badges be earned after the Scout has completed First Class Rank. The first year a boy is in the Troop, he should concentrate on learning the basic skills of Scouting. Merit badges are not required for rank advancements until after First Class Rank has been achieved.

Troop 261 prefers merit badges be earned with a non-parent counselor, and no more than two badges with the same counselor.

Troop 261 recommends each Scout, First Class or above, complete at least one merit badge for each Court of Honor. “Scout advancement lets you move ahead in your own way and at your own speed. Rather than competing against others, you challenge yourself to go as far as your ambition will carry you. Your rate of advancement depends upon your interest, effort, and ability.” (p. 187)

These are the steps that a Scout of First Class Rank and above must take in signing up for and earning a merit badge:

1. The Scout decides what merit badge he wants to earn.
2. The Scout obtains a signed merit badge card from the Scoutmaster and the name of a qualified merit badge counselor.
3. The Scout obtains a merit badge book from the Troop Library or buys one.
4. The Scout calls the counselor and asks if the counselor will counsel him. “Along with another Scout, friend, or relative, set up and attend your first appointment with the merit badge counselor. The counselor will explain the requirements of the merit badge and help you plan ways to fulfill them so that you can get the most out of the experience.” (p. 187)
5. “Complete the requirements, meeting with your counselor whenever necessary until you have finished working on the badge.” (p. 187)
6. The counselor approves the requirements as the Scout satisfactorily completes them.
7. After all the requirements have been completed and the counselor has signed the card, the Scout gives the completed card to his Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair.

How to Fill Out a Merit Badge Card

(Fill out the places indicated by the heavy black print.)

Front of card		Back of card
<p>Information for Applicant</p> <p>Use your merit badge counselor for advice and help. Be on time. If you find you can't keep an appointment, let the counselor know ahead of time and arrange for a new one. Only a properly appointed merit badge counselor may approve a merit badge application.</p> <p>Service meetings with your counselor may be necessary before you can win a signature on this application.</p> <p>Turn in your approved application to your unit leader. You will be awarded the certificate and merit badge at a suitable occasion.</p> <p>Information for Counselor</p> <p>Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the applicant's unit leader.</p> <p>The purpose of merit badge counseling is to help Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts and Explorers learn the skills and acquire the knowledge to meet the requirements.</p> <p>You may not change any requirements; all you may share personal knowledge or experience that will make the counseling more interesting and valuable.</p>	<p>APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE</p> <p>Name <u>Name</u></p> <p>Address <u>address</u></p> <p><u>City State Zip Code</u></p> <p>is a registered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Boy Scout <input type="checkbox"/> Varsity Scout <input type="checkbox"/> Explorer</p> <p>of <u>Troop</u> No. <u>261</u></p> <p>District <u>Prairie Lakes</u></p> <p>Council <u>Northern Star</u></p> <p>and is qualified to apply for merit badge points on the reverse side.</p> <p>BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA No. 4124 1624 Printing</p>	<p>Back of card</p> <p>The applicant has personally appeared before me and demonstrated to my satisfaction that he has met all requirements for the <u>merit badge</u></p> <p>APPLICANT'S RECORD</p> <p>Name <u>your name</u></p> <p>of <u>Troop</u> No. <u>261</u></p> <p>has given me his completed application for the <u>merit badge</u></p> <p>Approved on _____ by _____</p> <p>Checked and recorded _____</p> <p>Certificate and badge presented _____</p> <p>Applicant will turn in this portion to his unit leader for record posting.</p> <p>NOTE TO BOY SCOUT, VARSITY SCOUT, OR EXPLORER: Keep this record until you receive your merit badge certificate.</p> <p>COUNSELOR'S RECORD</p> <p>Applicant <u>your name</u></p> <p>Unit <u>Troop 261</u></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>Merit badge <u>merit badge</u></p> <p>Remarks: _____</p> <p>It is suggested that the counselor keep this record for at least one year in case any question is raised later in regard to this award.</p>
<p>Scoutmaster must sign and date before you start the merit badge.</p>		<p>Give this part to the Advancement Chair after it had been completed by the merit badge counselor.</p>

Merit badge counselor keeps this part for his/her records

Rank Advancements

All of the ranks below except for Scout Rank have the requirement of demonstrating Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Law in a Scout's daily life. Also, the Scout must pass a Scoutmaster's Conference and a Board of Review.

Scout The initial rank that a youth receives upon joining the Troop.

Tenderfoot The first rank that a Scout will earn. Tenderfoot Rank covers basic first aid, knots, cooking skills, the meaning of the Scout Oath and Scout Law, identifying with his Patrol, physical fitness, rules of hiking, the buddy system and camping.

Second Class The second rank that a youth will earn. Second Class Rank builds further on the skills learned in Tenderfoot, adding service hours, Patrol activities, fire building and swimming.

First Class The third rank that a youth will earn. First Class Rank builds further on the skills learned in the previous two ranks.

These first four ranks of Scouting are the foundation of what the youth will need to advance through the other ranks. These first four ranks are typically earned within a year of joining the Troop.

Star The requirements are to be active within the Troop for at least 4 months as a First Class Scout, complete 6 Merit Badges (4 of which are Eagle required), 6 hours of service project work, demonstrate Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Law in his everyday life, and satisfactorily complete a Position of Responsibility for 6 months.

Life The requirements are to be active within the Troop for at least 6 months as a Star Rank Scout, complete 5 additional Merit Badges (3 of which are Eagle required), 6 hours of service project work, demonstrate Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Law in his everyday life, and satisfactorily complete a Position of Responsibility for 6 months.

Eagle The requirements are to be active within the Troop for a least 6 months as a Life Rank Scout, complete 10 additional Merit Badges (5 of which are Eagle required), prepare, develop and lead a service project to help any organization outside of Boy Scouting, demonstrate Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Law in his everyday life, and satisfactorily complete a Position of Responsibility for 6 months.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank in BSA, and fewer than 4% of all Scouts achieve this rank.

Eagle Palms Bronze, Gold and Silver Palms are additional recognition beyond the Eagle Scout Rank. To earn each of these Palms, an Eagle Scout must be active within the Troop for at least 3 months since earning his last Palm, complete 5 additional Merit Badges, demonstrate leadership development, and live by the Scout Oath and Law.

A **suggested** timeline for earning rank advancement is as follows:

6 th Grade	Scout Rank
7 th Grade	Tenderfoot – First Class (approximately 1 year after entering Troop)
8 th Grade	Star Rank
9 th Grade	Life Rank (the Scout is now approximately halfway to his Eagle Rank)
11 th Grade	Eagle Rank

Ranks may no longer be earned after the Scout has reached his 18th birthday.

Youth Leadership Positions of the Troop

Scout Youth Elected Positions

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL): An older Scout who is elected by the Troop to be the leader of the Troop and is the major link between the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee. He is in charge of the Troop meetings from beginning to end, and he chairs the PLC meetings. His job is to ensure that the Troop runs in an orderly and timely fashion. His tenure is typically 6 months and he cannot be reelected as SPL. Troop 261 requires that the SPL be of Star Rank or above, and has successfully completed the ASPL position or taken the Silver Pathfinder course.

SPL Assigned Positions with SM Approval

Troop 261 requires a Scout to be at least First Class Rank to hold any of the following positions of responsibility. Troop 261 ensures that all Scouts who need a leadership position for a Rank Advancement will be given one. Positions of responsibility must be satisfactorily completed for rank advancement.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL): The ASPL helps organize each meeting and campout activities. His specific duties are to provide training and direction for the Quartermaster, Scribe, Historian, Librarian and Instructors. Troop 261 requires that the ASPL be of Star Rank or above, and has successfully completed the PL position or taken the Silver Pathfinder course.

Troop Guide: This Scout instructs and guides the new Scouts that come into the Troop. He works under the Assistant Scoutmaster for Transition and the Assistant Scoutmaster who is the Patrol Advisor for the new Webelos coming into the Troop. He will be the mentor for the Patrol Leader of the new Patrol.

Instructor: This Scout provides "expert" instruction on a particular Scout skill or subject. He instructs the whole Troop and also helps with the new Scouts.

Scribe: This Scout takes minutes at PLC meetings, provides the minutes of these meetings to the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee, and keeps attendance at all meetings.

Quartermaster: This Scout maintains and keeps the Troop Trailers, equipment and supplies for the campouts organized.

Librarian: This Scout maintains and organizes the Merit Badge Book Library. He also takes an inventory just before completing his 6 month tenure and notifies the Scoutmaster if more books are needed.

Historian: This Scout maintains the awards won by the Troop, displays memorabilia and photos at the Courts of Honor and Open Houses, and takes photos of the Troop at various activities. Purchase of a disposable camera and film developing will be paid for by the Troop when the Treasurer is given a receipt.

Den Chief: This Scout provides support and guidance for Den Leaders and their Dens in a Cub Scout Pack.

Bugler: This Scout plays the Troop Bugle at Courts of Honor, campouts and summer camp.

Chaplain Aide: This Scout provides a spiritual remembrance at meetings, campouts and Courts of Honor in accordance to the "A Scout is Reverent" part of the Scout Law.

Patrol Leader (PL): This Scout is not required to be of First Class Rank. The Patrol elects the PL, but Troop 261 ensures that everyone has an opportunity to lead the Patrol if they wish. Patrol Leader responsibilities are to be the communication link between the Patrol and the Troop, and to provide guidance and leadership to the Patrol. He appoints an Assistant Patrol Leader. (Patrol Leaders in a first year Patrol rotate and do not serve 6 months.)

Campouts

Campouts: All Scouts must wear the green Troop 261 T-shirt for traveling to all campouts.

EXCEPTION! Tomahawk Scout Reservation, where they need to wear their Class "A" uniform (Scout shirt, neckerchief, slide) and Merit Badge sash.

We depart from the North parking lot of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity, 15601 Maple Island Road, Burnsville, MN 55306

Departure for most campouts is Friday night at 6:30 pm. Return is normally on Sunday at 1:30 pm. These times and places are subject to change.

Troop 261 schedules campouts every month of the year:

- Regular weekend campouts are held from September to May.
- High Adventure Treks and Mid Adventure activities are scheduled June through August.
- Summer camp at Tomahawk Scout Reservation is during the first week of August.
- Winter campouts are inside cabins, with the option of older Scouts sleeping outside in tents or snow shelters.

Campouts are at various Boy Scout Camps and Reservations, State and National Parks, and at some privately owned campsites.

Campout Rules

These are the rules set by the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC)

There should be:

1. No Magic or Star Trek Cards
2. No candy, gum or Gorp.
3. No Pop.
4. No electronic games, radios or CD players. (Exception: the Electronic Campout)
5. No paper or disposable utensils or eating ware.

Tomahawk Scout Reservation (TSR)

The Troop attends TSR summer camp starting on the last Saturday in July in Sioux Camp, Menomonee Campsite. The Scouts are expected to wear their Scout shirt, neckerchief, and merit badge sash TO the camp. These are for the Sunday night Order of the Arrow campfire and the Friday night Court of Honor. The first year Scouts attend a TSR program called Brownsea where they will work on the requirements for the first three Scouting Ranks.

All Scouts of First Class Rank and above are encouraged to work on at least 3 Merit Badges while at camp. All families are invited to come up to TSR and attend the Court of Honor. The Scouts do so much work during the week that the TSR Court of Honor is a unique one. The families may camp at Family Island or take advantage of the lodging choices in Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

Parents are requested to leave their sons at camp until checkout from the camp on Saturday morning.

High Adventure Treks

Out of state High Adventure Treks are usually held every other year because of the high cost. In the past, the Troop has attended Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and Florida Seabase. Other years, there is usually a trek to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness or Isle Royale. These treks are for Scouts 13 years of age and older who are at least First Class Rank. There may be other requirements (certain Merit Badges, etc.) for going on a certain trek.

Mid Adventure Activities

Requirements and age level for these activities decided by adult leadership. Treks have gone to Eagle Mountain, MN; Badlands, SD and whitewater rafting near Carlton, MN.

Camping Gear and Supplies

Gear for Weekend Campouts

September through April

Clothing:

- 2 long sleeve shirts
- 2 pair long pants
- 3 pair underwear
- 3-4 pair heavy socks (**NO COTTON**)*
- * a material that will wick moisture away from the skin
- 1 pair hiking boots (water resistant treated)
- 1 fall coat
- 1 set rain gear

+ Winter Gear:

- 1 Polar Fleece shirt
- 1 snow pants
- 1 set polypropylene long underwear
- 1 winter hat or headband
- 1 pair snow boots
- 1 pair of indoor shoes
- 1 heavy winter coat
- 2 pair mittens or gloves

Other gear:

- sleeping bag (3-4 lbs)
- sleeping pad (provides a barrier to cold, even in a cabin or on a cot)
- light blanket (like polar fleece)
- pillow (this is optional, and should be small)

toothbrush, toothpaste, wash cloth, small towel, comb, small bottle of camp soap

personal First Aid Kit (see Scout Handbook)

mess kit (cup, bowl, small plate, knife, fork, spoon). These can be metal or Lexan (doesn't freeze!)

water bottle or canteen

Scout Handbook

flashlight, with extra batteries

- optional: compass
- optional: regular playing cards, reading books, small board chess games, etc.
- optional: small knife (**NOTE**: the blade may not be over 4 ½ inches from end to tip; no fixed blade or sheath knives; locking blades allowed)

This can all be packed in a large school-type backpack, or in a frame backpack for hiking. Some places like REI will rent backpacks and other camping gear. This sometimes helps greatly in determining what your son will need and use for his camping adventures.

Articles of any personal value should NOT be brought to campouts or summer camp, nor should personal electronics, such as Gameboys, Walkmans, CD or cassette players, or portable radios. Electronics may be brought only to the Electronics campout.

Levels of Boy Scout Troops

Northern Star Council
Prairie Lakes District
Lakeville Lions Chartering Partner Representative
Troop Committee
Scoutmaster

Scout Youth Positions of Responsibility

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)
Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)
Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)

SM Support Adult Leaders

Scoutmaster (SM)
Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM)
Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM) - Transition
Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM) - Patrol Liaison

Other Youth Positions of Responsibility

Patrol leaders
*Scribe, Historian, Quartermaster, Bugler
*Chaplain Aid, Instructors, Librarian,
Den Chief

New First Year Patrol(s)

Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM) - Transition
Assistant Scoutmaster - New Patrol
*Troop Guide

* These positions are assigned by the SPL, with the approval of the Scoutmaster

Patrol Leader Council (PLC)

A committee made up of the youth leaders of the Troop which includes the following: SPL, ASPLs, Patrol Leaders, Troop Guides and Scribe.

The PLC plans and runs the Troop's program and activities and gives long range direction with an annual program planning conference that lays out the Troop's calendar for the coming year. They meet once a month and briefly after each meeting to do fine tuning for the next meeting.

Troops are made up of Patrols. Troop 261 meets once a week from September to May and camps out once a month.

Patrols are usually a group of 8-10 Scouts headed by a Patrol Leader who is responsible for assigning grub masters, cleanup duties for the Patrol and being the liaison between the PLC and the Patrol.

Adult Leadership

Chartering Partner – The organization outside of BSA that sponsors a Troop. Our Chartering Partner is the Lakeville Lions Club.

Troop Committee – A committee of volunteer parents and involved adults that is headed by a Committee Chair. They attend to the administrative coordination of the Troop. The Troop Committee's responsibilities are to:

- Select quality leaders
- Develop community service projects
- Arrange transportation
- Plan and direct fundraisers
- Provide special needs and assistance to individual Scouts
- Serve on Boards of Review and Courts of Honor
- Run the Friends of Scouting campaign
- Maintain the Troop's finances and advancement records
- Charter renewal process

Scoutmaster (SM) – An adult volunteer who is responsible for executing a sound and effective program for the boys of the Troop. His task is to train youth leaders so they in turn run the Troop.

Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM) – An adult volunteer who assists the Scoutmaster in training and guiding the youth.

Training

Adult Leadership Training

Northern Star Council offers the following training courses for adult leaders:

- Fast Start Training** This is a videotape presenting an overview of the fundamentals of the Boy Scout program and organization.
- Adult Leader Training for Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters** consists of three parts:
- New Leader Essentials** This course is for all new adult leaders to give them a better understanding of how they fit into the program of Scouting. (taken only once)
 - Youth Protection Training** This course gives leaders an understanding of what to look for in adults who might abuse children. Renewed every two years.
 - Leader Specific Training** This course gives leaders an understanding of the Scouting program and presents the different ways to train the Scout youth to become leaders and how to effectively run a Troop.
- For Troop Committee Members** The Troop Committee Challenge exposes committee members to the responsibilities of the various adult leadership positions in the Troop.
- Wood Badge Training** This is an intense course that puts the leader in a Troop situation, presents leadership styles and demonstrates skills for team building.

Northern Star Council and Prairie Lakes District offer other training opportunities throughout the year as well.

Youth Leadership Training

- Junior Leadership Training** These are courses presented to the youth in a Troop by the Scoutmaster and his Assistant Scoutmasters. They define leadership skills, cooperation and team building skills and conflict resolution skills.
- Grey Wolf** This is a course offered through the Council to Scout youth selected by the Scoutmaster. It requires a week in residence at Tomahawk Scout Reservation where the Scout is taught leadership and team building skills.
- Den Chief Training** This course teaches Scouts the skills needed to help a Den Leader with running a Den. They are representatives of the Troop and of Boy Scouting, sharing their Scout skills and demonstrating the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.

Youth Protection Policy

The Boy Scouts of America have a policy of **Two-Deep Leadership**. With the exception of family, there are to be no **one-to-one** activities between any adult and Scout; a third party must be present at all meetings. This is an effort to protect the youth from any incidents of any kind of abuse. During campouts, no adult (except the Scout's family) may sleep in the same tent with a Scout youth.