

### Welcome to: Boy Scout Troop 299 Blue Ash, Ohio

Blue Jacket District - Dan Beard Council



# **Family Handbook**

A Resource for Boy Scouts and Their Families

# Visit Our Website: <u>http://www.boyscouttroop299.com</u>



# We Are Troop 299

Troop 299 celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2011, having been first chartered on January 18,1937. Meetings were held at Blue Ash Presbyterian Church until 1948. Then the meetings moved to the Blue Ash Civic League until 1995. In that year, we were fortunate to have the opportunity to move to our current location in the Blue Ash Recreation Center on Cooper Road near Reed Hartman Highway.

Troop 299 has a history of excellence and service for over 65 years. Troop 299 has earned the National Quality Unit Award nearly every year since the troop was started.

The Troop's average membership consists of about 25 Boy Scouts, A few Youth Assistant Scoutmasters, 5 Assistant Scoutmasters and a Scoutmaster. Troop 299 Committee consists of many dedicated parents who help support the troop.

Troop 299 meets each Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Blue Ash Recreation Center.

#### Leadership

A leadership chart is located in this manual and a current list of adults and youth occupying those positions is updated regularly.





#### Introduction

Boy Scout Troop 299 District: Blue Jacket District Council: Dan Beard Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Chartering Organization: The Blue Ash Civic League

Welcome:

In order for Troop 299 to remain a great troop and have a fun, quality program for you, we need your help. A lot of parents, professional Scouters and others put in a lot of time and money to help us have "fun with a purpose."

Your troop elects a Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leaders who meet once a month at a TLC meeting (Troop Leader's Council). With your input and help, your troop leaders plan your Scouting Experience. This is a very important part of being part of a boy-run troop.

We have a Troop Committee that works with the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters to help the Scouts have the program they want. The Committee takes care of the management, financing, and oversight of the Troop. Our troop holds fundraising events each year including Taste of Blue Ash and the Fourth of July Blue Ash celebrations. We also participate in the Memorial Day Parade and certain other events when asked to by the City of Blue Ash. Other fundraising events have been held at other local festivals from time-to-time.

To avoid charging a large annual Troop fee, you are required to work our fundraising events and participate in the parade, etc. If you cannot attend a fundraiser, you may put in more time at another. By not showing up and helping, you put a larger burden on your fellow Scouts. These fundraisers help buy new equipment and provide transportation so your parents don't have to drive on the campouts (it's also a benefit because everyone's mommys and daddies aren't camping with us (although they are always welcome).

In the Parents' section, we have a parent's survey. Please have your parents take time this evening to answer the questions, which we will use to update our Troop records. Their answers will be used by the Troop Committee and the Scoutmaster to improve the program in the coming year.

Again, welcome to Troop 299,

Scoutmaster, Troop 299 (See current troop roster)

#### **Family Manual - Table of Contents**

#### Fact Sheet (Pages 11-15)

Purpose of Scouting; Program Membership; Volunteers; Who pays for It?Aims & Methods; Outdoor Activities; The Beginning of Scouting;Publications; Conservation; Scout Law, Oath, Motto, And Slogan, Law

#### Troop Essentials (Pages 16-26)

History of Troop 299; Parental Support; Troop Meetings; Troop Meeting and Campout Rules;Rules Acknowledgement; Disciple Code; Communications; Troop Committee; Uniforms

#### Camping (Pages 27-30)

Scouting Outdoor Essentials; Warm Whether Camping Gear; Extras for Campouts; Tent Policies

#### Advancement (Pages 31-34)

Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Ranks; Merit Badges; What is a Merit Badge Counselor?

#### Fundraising (Pages 35-37)

Fundraisers-Troop 299; Optional Fundraiser Commission Policy; Popcorn Sales Information

#### Index (Page 38)

Appendixes Troop Phone List; Patches & Uniforms; Directional Maps; Summer Camp Information; Scout Book Cover Art **Family Manual-Fast Facts** 

# What Is Boy Scouting?

#### **The Beginning of Scouting**

Scouting, as known to millions of youth and adults, evolved during the early 1900s through the efforts of several men dedicated to bettering youth. Baden-Powell eventually wrote Scouting for Boys. The book rapidly gained a wide readership in England and soon became popular in the United States. In 1907, Baden-Powell held the first campout for Scouts on Brownsea Island off the Coast of England; troops were spontaneously springing up in America.

William D. Boyce, a Chicago publisher, incorporated the Boy Scouts of America in 1910 after meeting with Baden-Powell. (Boyce was inspired to meet with the British founder by an unknown Scout who led him out of a dense London fog and refused to take a tip for doing a Good Turn.) Immediately, after its incorporation, the BSA was assisted by officers of the YMCA in organizing a task force to help community organizations start and maintain a high quality Scouting Program. Those efforts climaxed in the organization of the nation's first Scout camp at Lake George, New York, directed by Ernest Thompson Seton. Beard, who had established another youth group, the Sons of Daniel Boone (which he later merged with the BSA), provided assistance. Also on hand for this historic event was James E. West, a lawyer and advocate of children's rights, who would later become the first professional Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America. Seton became the first volunteer national Chief Scout, and Beard, the first national Scout Commissioner.

#### **Purpose of BSA**

The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated to provide a program for community organizations that offers effective character, citizenship, and personal fitness training for youth.

Specifically, the BSA endeavors to develop American citizens who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit; have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness; have personal values based on religious concepts; have the desire and skills to help others; understand the principles of American social, economic, and governmental systems; are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand our nation's role in the world; have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people; and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to American society.

#### Family Manual-Fast Facts, cont.

#### Who Can Be A Boy Scout?

Boy scouting is available to boys who have earned the Arrow of Light Award in Cub Scouting, or have completed the fifth grade, or who are 11 through 17 years old.

Boy Scout national program membership is approximately: 2,855,833 Boy Scouts/Varsity Scouts 53,000 Troops/Teams, 300 Councils 1,138,804 Adult volunteers 4,000 Professional Staff 1,687,986 Tiger Cubs through Webelos \*Does not include membership in other divisions of Scouting

#### What Do The Adults Do?

Thousands of volunteer leaders, both men and women, are involved in the Boy Scout program. They are Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, Committee members, merit badge counselors, and even chartered organization representatives. The chartering organization appoints one of its members as the chartered organization representative. The chartered organization is responsible for arranging for adult leadership, the meeting place, and support for the troop activities.

#### Who Pays for It?

First and foremost, the boy and his parents, the troop, the charter organization, and the community all support the troop financially. Boys are encouraged to earn money whenever possible to pay their own expenses, and they also contribute to their troop treasuries by working on approved money-earning projects such as the BSA annual Popcorn Sale.

The community supports regional Scouting through the United Way, Friends of Scouting campaigns, bequests, and special contributions to the BSA local council. This income provides training, outdoor programs, council service centers and other facilities, and professional service for units.

Dan Beard Council and Troop 299 have scholarships available for any boy(s) who may not be able to afford any part of the Boy Scout program. A confidential appointment can be made with the Troop Committee Chair for application for financial assistance, or information can be obtained from any Parent's Committee member (see roster in appendix for names & contact phone numbers).

#### Family Manual-Fast Facts, cont.

#### **Aims and Methods of Scouting**

The scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as "Aims of Scouting. They are character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness.

The methods by which these aims are achieved are listed below in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each method:

**Ideals.** The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout Motto, Scout Slogan and living the Scout Spirit. The Boy Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches them, he has some control over what and who he becomes.

**Patrols.** The patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where members can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

**Outdoor Programs.** Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. In the outdoors the skills and activities practiced at the troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for the beauty of the world around us. The outdoors is the laboratory for Boy Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Advancement. Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progress at his own p[ace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

**Association with Adults.** Boys learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. Scout leaders can be positive role models for the members of the troop. In many cases a Scoutmaster who is willing to listen to boys, encourage them, and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives.

**Personal Growth.** As Boy Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The good turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Boy Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

#### Family Manual-Fast Facts, cont.

**Leadership Development.** The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

**Uniform.** The uniform makes the Boy Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouts is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Boy Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Boy Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform provides a way for Boy Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

#### **Outdoor Activities**

Local Councils operate and maintain Scout camps. The National Council operates high adventure programs at the ne Bechtel Summit Reserve, High Adventure Base in West Virginia, Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, Northern Tier National High Adventure programs in Minnesota and Canada; and Florida High Adventure Sea Base in the Florida Keys. About 70 councils also operate High Adventure programs. The BSA conducts a national Scout Jamboree every 4 years and participates in world Scout jamborees (also held usually at four year intervals).

#### **Publications**

The BSA publishes the Boy Scout Handbook (more than 37.5 million copies printed); the Youth Leader Handbook, which offers information relevant to boy leadership; the Scoutmaster Handbook; more than 100 merit badge pamphlets (a list of merit badges can be found in your son's Scout Handbook) dealing with hobbies, vocations, and advanced Scoutcraft; and program features and various kinds of training, administrative, and organizational manuals for adult leaders and Boy Scouts. In addition, the BSA publishes Boy's Life magazine for all boys and Scouting magazine for volunteers.

#### Conservation

Conservation activities have supplemented the program of Boy Scout advancement, summer camp, and outdoor activities, and teach young people to better understand their interdependence with the environment.

### The Scout Law, Oath, Motto and Slogan

#### Trustworthy

A Scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises. Honesty is part of his code of conduct.

#### Loyal

A Scout is true to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school and nation.

#### Helpful

A Scout is concerned about other people. He does things willingly for others without pay or reward.

#### Friendly

A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to the other Scouts. He seeks to understand others. He respects those with ideas and customs other than his own.

#### Scout Law

#### Courteous

A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows good manners make it easier for people to get along together.

#### Kind

A Scout understands there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. He does not hurt or kill harmless things without reason.

#### Obedient

A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them.

#### Cheerful

A Scout looks for the bright side of things. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

#### Thrifty

A Scout works to pays his way and to help others. He saves for unforeseen needs. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses his time and property.

#### Brave

A Scout can face danger even if he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at or threaten him.

#### Clean

A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He goes around with those who believe in living by these same ideals. He helps keep his home and community clean.

#### Reverent

A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

#### Scout Oath or Promise

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 Motto

Be Prepared

#### Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily

#### Scout Spirit

A Scout is expected to display Scout Spirit daily. Scout Spirit is an individual's spirit encompassing all of the above.

# How We Do It!

#### **Troop Meetings**

One of the purposes of Boy Scouts is to instill leadership. Troop 299 is a boy-run – adult supervised organization. The boys conduct each meeting, with assistance and guidance from the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters. Some meetings are more chaotic than others, but our objective is to teach the youth leaders how to effectively run a meeting and troop.

#### When Does Troop 299 Meet?

The Troop meets each Tuesday evening at the Blue Ash Recreation Center. The meetings are held year round with occasional exceptions made around Winter Holiday break or upon return from summer camp (see Troop Calendar and Newsletter for updates).

#### Where Does Troop 299 Meet?

4433 Cooper Road, lower level from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm. Being on time is very important. Please arrive at 6:45 pm. End time may vary slightly.

#### What is Required at Each Meeting:

Each boy is responsible for the following at each meeting:

<u>Dues</u> - \$0.25 each week. Dues are used to help the Troop operate and to instill a sense of responsibility and ownership with the boys. Unpaid dues may prevent Scout from attending events (i.e. camping, Boards of Review or Scoutmaster's Conference) or advancing in rank. Scouts are responsible for payment of dues for all meetings whether or not in attendance. Scouts should make up dues for missed meetings at the next meeting.

**Boy Scout Handbook** - Books can be purchased at the Scout Store (see directions in "Maps" section of this manual). The handbook is considered part of their uniform at meetings, campouts and summercamp.

<u>Uniform</u> – The boys MUST be in official BSA uniform to attend the weekly meetings (see "Uniform" section of this manual). The whole uniform must conform to Troop 299 and BSA policy. BSA has recently updated the uniform but recognizes all officially issued parts. It is not necessary to buy the current uniform. Thrift shops and the troop itself are a great source of uniform parts. Please ask before you buy. If finances are an issue, the troop has resources to provide uniforms. We also collect used uniform parts for re-distribution to other scouts, this includes hiking boots and gear. Current patches must be attached to the uniform (Patrol, Council, Troop, World Crest, etc.)

Troop Meetings, cont.

#### A typical meeting will follow an outline similar to that found below:

One patrol will set up the room before the meeting begins. The Patrol responsible will rotate from month to month.

7:00 pm - The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) will signal the start of the meeting by taking his position at the front of the room. The boys are divided into Patrols, and form up in those Patrols when the meeting begins.

An "Opening" takes place, led by a different Patrol each month. Attendance is taken. Boys are either present, excused or accounted for. "Accounted for" boys are those boys who have contacted their Patrol Leader prior to the meeting to inform him that they will not be in attendance.

- 7:10 pm Patrol Breakdown. Patrols meet to cover areas of business for the Patrol. The Patrol Leader (PL) conducts this portion of the evening for his Patrol.
- 7:30 pm Class. A class is conducted by: a Patrol, a scout, an Adult Leader, an Adult Volunteer, or a guest. Sometimes, this is basic scout craft (knots, etc.), a particular aspect of Troop life (camping guidelines), a presentation by someone outside the Troop (Order of the Arrow, a parent teaching a Merit Badge, etc.).
- 8:00 pm Games. One Patrol each month is responsible for conducting a game. In good weather this may be outdoors at the Recreation Center facilities, or indoors during the darker winter months. Patrols are encouraged to plan skill building games whenever possible.
- 8:20 pm Closing. The SPL gathers the patrols together, makes important announcements

Announcements are made. These are by the boys involving upcoming events and opportunities for all the boys to participate in Troop activities. The adult leaders and other adult volunteers present can also make announcements at this time.

8:29 pm - Scout Master's Minute. Then the SPL conducts a closing ceremony.

8:30 pm - End of meeting.

# Meeting and Campout Rules of Troop 299, B.S.A.

#### A Scout:

- must show good sportsmanship and Scout spirit! (Ref: BSA Handbook of Scouting)
- must wear appropriate troop approved Scout uniform.
- must participate as a Patrol/Troop in the activities unless excused by the SPL beforehand.
- For safety, may <u>not</u> leave a Scout meeting/function without permission from the Scoutmaster.

#### Violating the Following Rules Will Result in Swift Disciplinary Action:

- 1. Cursing, swearing and other socially inappropriate actions are not acceptable at Scout functions.
- 2. I-Pods, Walkmans or any other electronic devices are not to be taken on Scout functions. *They may, however, be used during extended (1 hour or more) bus rides with earplug devices in place, and they must stay on the bus during the Scouting function.* <u>The Troop is not responsible for damaged, lost or stolen electronics or personal gear.</u>
- **3.** CELL PHONES ARE NOT GENERALLY PERMITTED ON CAMPOUTS. THEY WILL BE CONFISCATED AND TURNED OVER TO THE SCOUT'S PARENT AT THE NEXT REGULAR TROOP MEETING UPON REQUEST. 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Phone will be turned over to the Troop Committee. (Some Council and National Events may have a different policy). The Troop is not responsible for damaged, lost or stolen electronics or personal gear.
- 4. No one will go into another person's tent or through his belongings unless they have prior permission from that person.
- 5. No beer, liquor, tobacco or drugs will be permitted at or used by Scouts while attending any Scout function. Scout will be sent home immediately.
- 6. Vandalism, fighting and theft will not be tolerated.
- 7. Firearms, firecrackers, bow and arrows, slingshots, large knives, bayonets and sheath knives are not to be brought to campouts or meetings (They will be confiscated). Questions regarding acceptable knives should be directed to the Scoutmaster and the Scout may be sent home immediately.
- 8. No adults will sleep in tents with Scouts unless it is an immediate family member and only with Scoutmaster's permission.
- 9. Hazing or harassment of others will not be tolerated.

#### Adults:

Adults who wish to use tobacco products may do so away from the scouts (at least 50 ft. downwind) but is generally discouraged and usually prohibited on Council properties.

If any of the rules are not followed, parents may be called and it will be their responsibility to arrange to immediately pick the boy up from the meeting or camp (no matter what distance may need to be driven or flown).

Call your Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader or an adult Scouter if you have any questions.

# **Discipline Code**

Scouting activities are meant to be a fun learning experience. The basis of the rules of Scouting can be found in the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. The "Spirit of Scouting" dictates high expectations for the behavior of troop members. Self-control and self-discipline are attributes expected from all scouts in Troop 299. Certain conditions require immediate reporting to a representative of BSA.

To insure the safety, health and quality of the program, disciplinary actions may be necessary. Discipline is preventive in nature and not designed as a punishment. Troop adult leaders are ultimately responsible for enforcing a fair and consistent discipline plan. Scouts will receive positive reinforcement when exhibiting appropriate behavior.

Difficulties are first discussed at the Patrol Leader Committee (PLC) Meeting. Further disciplinary action will consist of four (4) levels. Certain conduct will result in the immediate escalation of the disciplinary level (i.e., use of drugs is an automatic Level 4 action).

**Initial Action** - PLC: Difficulties are first discussed at the Troop Leader Committee (PLC) Meeting among the Patrol leaders with the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters present.

**Level 1** - Personal Conference: Action taken for first offense of less serious rules. Consists of a counseling session between adult leader(s) (Scoutmaster, ASM, or other Adult leader in charge at that time) and scout(s).

**Level 2** - Letter to Parents: Action taken when Level 1 actions are not successful or for breaking certain more serious rules. Consists of writing a letter to the parents with a copy going to the Troop Committee Chair. The letter will contain the following:

- 1. Description of inappropriate behavior.
- 2. Description of immediate disciplinary action. Keep in mind that our goal is not to punish, but to teach, so discipline may include teaching a class to the troop or other remedial action.
- 3. Request for parents' cooperation in the matter and an offer to counsel with both scout and parent(s).
- 4. Notification to scout and parents that if improper behavior continues, disciplinary action will be raised to Level 3.

**Level 3** - Disciplinary Hearing: Action taken when Level 1 & 2 actions have not been successful at correcting the problem or for extremely serious behavioral problems. Consists of a meeting between the adult leadership, scout(s), parents and the Troop Committee. Disciplinary action may include such items as active probation. (Scout continues to participate in activities); parental supervision (Scout continues to participate in activities but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian); inactive probation (scout does not participate in troop activities for a period of time); service project; reimbursement for damages; etc.

**Level 4** - Expulsion: If the above actions fail to correct behavioral problems, the Troop Committee will notify the scout(s) and parents that the scout(s) are no longer welcome to participate in any troop functions. This action will require the majority vote of all registered adult leaders and committee members at a monthly committee meeting.

#### **Rules and Discipline Code Acknowledgement**

Duplicate copies of this sheet are provided. Please sign one copy, tear out, and return it to the Scoutmaster.

The rules will be administered fairly, evenly and impartially (see Discipline Section). Offenses will be handled at the leaders' discretion (i.e., small and infrequent violations will be handled much differently than major, severe and continuous problems). Solutions may include:

- 1. A Scoutmaster conference with both the boy and parent present.
- 2. Letter to Parents.
- 3. Appearance before the Troop Leaders Council meeting.
- 4. Appear before the Troop Committee.

(Details can be found in the Discipline section of the Troop Handbook, page 21).

We have read and understand the rules and Discipline Code (see page 21, next page) for Troop 299.

Parent or Guardian:	_ Date:
Printed Name:	-
Scout:	_ Date:
Printed Name:	_

Please sign this page, and keep it for your records.

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Printed Name:	
Scout:	_ Date:
Printed Name:	_

Please sign this page, tear out, and return it to the Scoutmaster.

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# **Uniforms-What You Will Need:**

#### The Required Official BSA Uniform (Class A or Parade Uniform):

- Scout Uniform Shirt (long or short sleeve) with green Epaulets. The shirt must have the Dan Beard <u>Council Patch</u>, troop numerals, and <u>rank patch</u>. The Troop will provide the Scout's first "299" patch, the green epaulets and <u>Patrol patch</u>. As your son advances, he will need to also wear his Troop Position patch or a "Trained" patch as appropriate. Patches must be attached in the correct locations and is outlined in Appendix A of this manual and in the Boy Scout Handbook. Council patch is available at Scout Shop. Also required are:
- 2) World Brotherhood of Scouting patch (purple patch for shirt-available at Scout Shop)
- 3) Scout Web belt or an approved scouting belt (built-in web belt, summer camp belt, etc.)
- 4) **Pants (Official BSA)** for all official functions. Includes traditional olive green pants as well as BSA Switchback pants (*Scoutmaster's Conference, Courts of Honor, Board of Review, Parades, BSA fundraisers, BSA functions, etc.*)
- 5) **BSA socks Scout Uniform Socks** (*Required when wearing shorts*)
- 6) **BSA Approved hat** (*if wearing a hat*) *eg: Summercamp, Peterloon, BSA hat, etc.*
- 7) A Merit Badge Sash (Scoutmaster's Conference, Courts of Honor, Board of Review, Parades, BSA fundraisers, BSA functions, etc.)
- 8) Order of the Arrow Sash (if OA member only to be worn at official OA functions, including OA elections)

NOTE: Uniforms have changed over the last few years. Any official uniform part (socks, shirts, pants, etc.) is acceptable, it does not have to be the latest version.

#### Activity Uniform:

This consists of a Troop 299 t-shirt, designed by our troop, that we make available for purchase by the boys. It is also available for adults. All Scouts and leaders are provided their 1<sup>st</sup> shirt at no cost. Adults may choose a t-shirt or collared pull-over troop shirt if desired. Any Scout t-shirt is considered a Class B (old terminology) or Activity shirt and is available from the Scout shop, at events and camps unless otherwise specified by the SPL or SM.

# What To Wear...And When To Wear It!

WHEN TO WEAR THE FULL OFFICIAL FIELD UNIFORM: These functions include but are not limited to: Troop Meetings, Summercamp, NYLT, Courts of Honor, Eagle Courts of Honor, Scoutmaster's Conference, Advancement Boards of Review, BSA Popcorn Sale, public BSA events such as parades, Scouting for food drive, etc.), and is the default dress when in doubt. Use this event to show off merit badges, OA membership (pocket flap) & awards. *Advancement depends on being properly dressed in a clean uniform, patches applied appropriately.* No holes in pants. Remember, *A Scout is Clean.* No sandals, flip-flops. OA sash only to be worn at OA sponsored events.

**PATROL LEADERS' COUNCIL MEETINGS:** By vote of the PLC members in Spring 2007, required uniform for Troop meetings includes only the Troop 299 activity shirt.

**<u>CAMPOUTS</u>**: On camping trips, the *Troop activity shirt is* required to be worn on the trip to and from the camping location. (any appropriate pants are allowed including uniform pants). All other camping clothing is activity appropriate. When in doubt, ask a leader. No sandals, flip-flops except as swimming/shower wear.

**BSA/COUNCIL EVENTS OR SUMMERCAMP:** Summercamp, Peterloon, trainings (NYLT) and other BSA events require full Official BSA Uniform. Some require it as the only appropriate dress for the entire event. Full uniform will be worn on the trip to and from these events/camps. Again, NO sandals, flip-flops except as swimming/shower wear. Scouts on staff may be required a specific uniform.

<u>WHAT TO WEAR AT TROOP FUNDRAISERS</u>: The required dress is a Troop 299 activity shirt Activity Shirt and pants appropriate for the event. Other Boy Scout activity t-shirts are not permitted at these events. This helps identify troop members to our leaders and event personnel. *Non-BSA fundraisers*. You must not wear a BSA Uniform Shirt to (non-BSA) fundraising events, unless you have been instructed to do so. (Popcorn sale requires complete official uniform.)

#### **ADULTS ONLY:**

**LEADERS, WHAT TO WEAR:** Dress for your position. If your position requires a BSA Uniform, please follow the guidelines listed above for Scouts. Committee Members should wear an Official Uniform Shirt, Activity Uniform (Troop Class B), or other BSA shirt to most activities. Troop 299 shirts can be purchased from the troop. Committee meetings are generally casual. Council, District and Training events are almost always uniformed events.

# **The Troop Committee**

There is a Troop Committee that meets once a month with the Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmasters. There, future activities and fundraisers are planned and troop policy is set. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M.. at the Blue Ash Recreation Center. We will include this reminder in each newsletter. All parents are invited to attend and voice their opinions and suggestions for the troop. BSA instructional videos and training programs and outdoor training is available for all.

The troop is always in need of help with Fundraising: This committee identifies fundraising opportunities and new ideas are always welcome.

Advancement Committee: This involves checking with each Scout at meetings to see that he is advancing in rank. All Eagle parents are encouraged to help with the Advancement Committee.

Publicity: Send articles regarding the troop to the local papers.

Transportation: We're always looking for individuals who can drive the troop bus to campouts and other scout functions.

Banquet Committee: Help plan our quarterly Courts of Honor and annual banquet.

#### **Troop Communications**

In any organization, communication is essential. We currently have a Troop Calendar that is put out every six months, and a newsletter that is mailed home approximately every two months. Most information is relayed to the Scouts at the weekly troop meeting; that is why regular attendance is important.

For short notice communications, adult leaders will contact other adult leaders. The Senior Patrol Leader will contact the individual Patrol Leaders, who, in turn, contact members of their patrol. We try to instill responsibility so we try not to hold your hand. If your son does not receive a weekly call from his patrol leader on Sunday evening (customarily) then he should call his patrol leader for any news.

# **Camping Information**

#### We Generally Travel By Bus...

For weekend camping trips the bus is parked at the City of Blue Ash Service Garage off Grooms Road (There is a map in the Appendix of this manual). Please meet there. If the gate is shut, please wait until someone arrives. The bus leaves PROMPTLY at 6:30 p.m. on the Friday of the camping trip, so we ask that Scouts arrive no later than 6:pm. They return on Sunday between 11 and 2 p.m. based on how far they have traveled. The boys will call you at home on the return trip using an adult's cell phone.

#### **Bring Your Own Dinner Friday**

A sack sandwich dinner and drink (in a resealable container, please! NO CUPS OR GLASS CONTAINERS). Meal can be sent with each boy to eat on the bus Friday or they can eat dinner at home before they leave. They are to wear their Troop 299 activity shirt when they leave and they will also wear it when they return.

#### Drinks Must Have Screw-on Caps or Seal Securely if Dropped

The Scouts have adopted the policy that if you spill your drink on the bus, you are responsible for mopping the floor of the bus. Therefore, plastic bottles with screw-on caps are the rule.

#### **BSA Policy Regarding Adults/Scouts Interaction**

BSA requires that there be a minimum of two adults with any one boy at any time. There is not a situation where the boys are one on one with an adult leader. We attempt to maintain a ratio of at least two (2) adults for every ten (8) boys on every campout. Boys are also instructed to use the "buddy system."

#### Parents Always Welcome

Parents are welcome on all campouts, and needed on some! Sign up for camping events is done at the meetings before the event. Parents are invited/ encouraged to go on weekend camping trips. Parents are also welcome at summer camp. Parents may be required to register or take certain trainings.

#### **Camping Fees and Dues**

The \$.25 dues that are collected at each meeting help pay for the oil and gas for the bus. These dues must be current before each camping trip. There is usually a fee involved with each camping trip. This is announced at least 3 weeks prior to the trip *and is due no later than two weeks before the campout.* This fee covers the cost of the campsite, food and any "extra expenses" that might apply to that particular outing. The average cost is around \$9.00 per scout (some may cost more). Fundraising activities help keep the cost of our campouts to a minimum. CASH ONLY, NO CHECKS PLEASE! The reason is because the cash is divided between the patrols just prior to the campout for purchasing food. Some council events and summer camp can be paid by check.

#### **Please Label You Camping Gear and Belongings**

Please label your son's name on everything. There are many duplicates in equipment. Camping essentials are listed in the Scout handbook.

#### <u>Tents</u>

The troop provides the tents for the boys in which two boys share each tent. (See tent policy).

#### **Camping Information**, cont.

#### Knives and Other Sharp Tools

The boys need to earn their Totin' Chit which enables them to know the proper procedures and handling of knives and axes. After they have received this they can bring their pocketknife with them to campouts. Axes may be used in the Axe Yard ONLY! NO SHEATH KNIVES ARE ALLOWED BY SCOUTS OR ADULTS.

If the Scout does not handle an ax or a knife properly, a corner will be taken off his Totin' Chip for each violation. If all four corners are taken off he will have to earn a new card. *This card is to be taken with him on all camping trips. Please also bring your Scout Handbook.* 

#### First Aid Kits

You do not need to buy waterproof matches or a snakebite kit. You can put together your own small first aid kit or purchase one at Wal-Mart or K-Mart. Please see <u>Scout Outdoor Essentials List</u> (found later in this Manual) for recommended gear.

#### **Tent Policy**

- Tents are provided by the Troop for the use of the boys. New tents were purchased in 2008.
- All tents are to be shared by no more than TWO Scouts.
- Tent assignments are given out by the Senior patrol Leader (SPL).
- The two Scouts in the tent are responsible for all damage to the tent. They will be asked for money from the Quartermaster to fix the tents.
- All Scouts have 12 hours from the time they get to the campsite to report all damage or they will be held responsible for it.
- If a boy brings a personal tent, he will be expected to share it.
- Troop 299 will not be responsible for any damage to personal tents.
- The Adult Quartermaster or Scoutmaster will determine all damage responsibility.
- The troop provides a groundcloth for each tent but Scouts are required to bring a plastic sheet to line the inside of the tent. If none is brought, an older tent will be issued.

#### **Additional Information:**

We also attend a week long Boy Scout Summer Camp (destinations vary). Boy Scout Camp gives a scout the chance to attend classes geared toward Rank Advancement along with merit badge courses that will help him toward his path to Eagle. Details including costs, dates and medical form requirements are usually made available in the spring each year.

### What Gear Do I Need to Buy?

COLD WEATHER OVERNIGHT CAMPING

BACKPACK (PREFERRED) OR DUFFLE BAG

SLEEPING BAG (ZERO RATED OR BAG WITH EXTRA BLANKETS)

GROUND CLOTH (8ft x 8ft tarp or plastic)

MESS KIT (PLATE, BOWL, CUP, KNIFE, FORK, SPOON)

TOILETRY KIT (SOAP, TOOTHBRUSH, TOOTHPASTE, TOWEL)

CANTEEN OR WATER BOTTLE

FLASHLIGHT (WITH GOOD BATTERIES, 2 D CELL SIZE FLASH LITE IS GOOD)

CLOTHING FOR THE SEASON:

LONG UNDERWEAR (no cotton, synthetics only) LONG PANTS SWEATER OR FLEECE (synthetic) INSULATED PARKA OR COAT WITH HOOD MITTENS OR GLOVES HAT OR CAP (KNIT HAT TO SLEEP IN) LONG SLEEVE SHIRT EXTRA SOCKS (smart wool socks are recommended) WATER PROOF HIKING BOOTS OR BOOTS WITH RUBBER OVERSHOES RAIN GEAR (PONCHO OR RAINCOAT WITH PANTS) PAJAMAS OR SLEEPING CLOTHES

• NO CELL PHONES, RADIOS, C.D. PLAYERS, I-PODS, GAME BOYS, ETC.\*\*

The Troop provides tents, dining flies, stoves, and a full patrol box complete with cooking utensils, plates. Please see an Adult Leader or committee member if you have questions.

\*\*See exception noted in <u>Meeting and Campout Rules of Troop 299 B.S.A.</u> (Page 19).

#### NOTE:

TROOP 299 WILL PROVIDE A COMPLETE LIST OF GEAR FOR CAMPING. IT CAN ALSO ALSO BE FOUND AT www.boyscouttroop299.com.

#### **Extras for Campouts**

COMPASS (SIMPLE ONE, PATHFINDER IS GOOD)

KNIFE (SCOUTS NEED TO EARN TOTIN' CHIP FIRST)

HAND AXE (SCOUTS NEED TO EARN TOTIN' CHIP FIRST)

FIRST AID KIT (SIMPLE ONE, SEE PG. 289 IN SCOUT HANDBOOK)

MATCHES OR FIRE STARTER (SCOUTS NEED TO EARN FIREMAN CHIT FIRST)

FOAM (CLOSED CELL) SLEEPING PAD OR SELF-INFLATING MATTRESS

NYLON CORD OR ROPE (ABOUT 50 FT., SMALL DIAMETER)

FOLDING CAMP SEAT OR CAMP CHAIR (YOU'LL WANT ONE---NO BORROWING)

AIR PILLOW

HIKING STICK

WATCH

SUNGLASSES

CAMERA AND FILM (MAKE SURE IT IS A CHEAP ONE)

SMALL NOTEBOOK AND PEN/PENCIL

FISHING GEAR (IF APPROPRIATE)

NO RADIOS, C.D. PLAYERS, TAPE PLAYERS, GAME BOYS, ETC.\*\*

You do not need to buy waterproof matches or a snakebite kit. You can put together your own small first aid kit or purchase one at Wal-Mart or K-Mart. Please see <u>Scout Outdoor Essentials List</u> (found later in this Manual) for recommended gear.

\*\*See exception noted in Meeting and Campout Rules of Troop 299 B.S.A. (Page 18).

#### Advancement

#### Individual Rank Requirements



Scout Badge (Boy Scout Joining Requirements)



<u>Tenderfoot</u>







First Class



Life Scout



Eagle Scout



Eagle Palms

# Advancement

The Advancement Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month during the regular Scout meeting. During these meetings the committee talks to Scouts wishing to advance or who are having difficulty advancing. The committee also encourages any Scout having a problem of any kind to meet with them to resolve the problem in a positive manner. The Scout is asked to appear in full uniform with proper badges on his uniform along with his Merit badge sash and OA sash (if member).

#### Scout. Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Ranks

The ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class may be signed off after the Scout has read the book and has shown and/or demonstrated the requirements listed for each rank.

The Ranks must be signed off by any registered adult leader (we ask that a son does not go to his parent), Troop Guide, Youth Assistant Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol leader, Life Scouts, and Eagle Scouts in the troop. Failure to test properly or demonstrate the know-ledge required will result in not being allowed to sign off requirements. It is the Scout's responsibility to get things signed off.

When a Scout has everything signed off for a rank he has to see the Scoutmaster to get the requirements of Scout Spirit (very important) and Scoutmaster Conference signed off. (NOTE: You will be expected to have demonstrated Scout Spirit in your everyday life.) When these two requirements have been signed off the Scout can then sign up for a meeting with the Advancement Committee for a Board of Review. After the Board of Review the Scout will be presented a badge of rank at the next regular troop meeting and the advancement card at the next Court of Honor. The Scout must be present at the Court of Honor to receive credit for advancement and be presented with the card.

#### Star and Life Ranks

When a scout is ready to pass Scout and Life ranks, he must have everything signed off, including merit badge requirements and community service hours. He will see the Scoutmaster to get Scout Spirit and Scoutmaster Conference signed off. When these two requirements have been signed off the scout can sign up for a meeting with the Advancement Committee.

#### **Eagle Rank**

The Scout must have a total of twenty-one merit badges, eleven required and ten others. **You may be asked at this time to present your Blue Cards and Rank Cards as proof of accomplishment.** The Scout must also complete a project approved by the Scoutmaster and District Advancement Chairman. The rank must be earned before the Scout's 18th birthday. After earning the Eagle rank, a Scout can earn several Eagle palms using additional merit badges earned. See the Scoutmaster for more information.

# **Merit Badges**

Scouts can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business and future careers. There are more than 100 merit badges. Any Boy Scout may earn any merit badge at any time. Scouts don't need to have had rank advancement to be eligible. A Scout picks a subject, then talks to the Scoutmaster. He reads the requirements in the Merit Badge book (many of the Merit badge handbooks are available from the Troop Librarian - Scouts can check out the book for a \$1.00 deposit fee which will be returned when the book is returned or you will be charged \$4.00 for the book plus forfeiture of the deposit. *Failure to return or pay for the book may delay advancement.* Once selected, the Scoutmaster can give you the name of a counselor. These counselors have special knowledge in their merit badge subjects and are interested in helping the Scout.

After reading the Merit Badge book, the Scout gets a blue card from the Scoutmaster. He then chooses a counselor from the list provided by the Scoutmaster. The Scout should then call the counselor to set up an appointment. During the appointment with the counselor, the Scout should talk to them so he or she can explain what is expected and start helping the Scout meet the requirements. Each Scout must have another person with him at each meeting with the Merit Badge Counselor. This person can be another Scout, a parent or guardian. When the requirements are completed, the Scout contacts the counselor. When the counselor is satisfied that the Scout has met each requirement he or she will sign the application (blue card). The blue card has three parts. The counselor will keep one part of the blue card. The Scout should give the second part of the signed blue card to the Scoutmaster so that the merit badge emblem can be secured. The Scout will keep the third part.

It is **very important (to become an Eagle)** that you do not lose this card. It is proof that you earned the merit badge. You will need this proof in the future when you advance to your Eagle rank. Report any accidental loss immediately so records may be obtained from Council when available.

So as to avoid the appearance of favoritism, Parents (who are merit badge counselors) may not sign off on merit badges, unless the Scout is part of a large group, or Troop class. There are several other opportunities to earn merit badges. During the summer the scout can earn badges at summer camp. Another opportunity is the Merit Badge Challenge held in late January and February. The Challenge is held at a local school. Troop 299 encourages Scouts to work together on Merit Badges. Occasionally the Troop will work on a badge during Troop Class time.

#### What is the Merit Badge Counselor?

The counselor is key to success in the merit badge plan.

The counselor's job is to:

- Assist the Scout as he plans the assigned projects and activities to meet the merit badge requirements.
- Coach Scouts through interviews and demonstrations on how to do the required skills of his own craft, business, or hobby.
- Certify the Scout after determining if he is qualified for the merit badge.

Parents are encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors. Please look over the listing of badges (found in your son's Scout Handbook) to see if there are any subject areas that you would be interested in sharing with a Scout.

# **Fundraising Events**

Troop 299 does very well with their fundraisers. We sell several items at the three major City of Blue Ash events held over the summer. Over \$8,000 was raised in 2000. We would not be able to do this without the support of the Scouts and their families. It is also a wonderful way to get to know the Troop families. The Scouts are asked to wear their troop activity uniform. Parents are also encouraged to wear Troop T-shirts.

#### The Events

- Blue Ash Summerbration the first weekend in June (downtown Blue Ash)
- 4th of July at the Grooms Road fields
- The Taste of Blue Ash last weekend of August (downtown Blue Ash)

Other events may be added from time-to-time when available and approved by the PLC and Troop Committee.

#### The Things we Sell

- Glow in the dark necklace
- Light Sticks
- Light-up roses
- Fiber Optic wands And anything else we can think of.
- Inflatable items

When asked we work the children's games for the City of Blue Ash. We are paid by the city to run them. It's also a good way for the community to meet the Troop.

#### **Optional Fundraiser Commission Policy**

The Scout and his family have an opportunity to earn money toward summer camp, high adventure camp, Philmont, ski trips, rafting trips and more. An example of an opportunity is the annual popcorn sale. This is an optional fundraiser. Other opportunities will be offered as they become available. Any commission earned during those events will be held by the Troop to be used by the Scouts who earned it. It is a way for the Scout to earn his way toward his goal.

The Troop will hold the money earned until the parent of the Scout sends a note or signs a permission slip asking for the money to be applied. Please give the treasury 3 weeks to process. The money in the account is non-refundable if the Scout drops out of the Troop before using it. The money will then be turned over to the Troop's General Fund.

If the Scout is using the money towards a high adventure camp such as Philmont and the family pays out money in advance we have a plan. As the Scout earns the money he can be reimbursed for what was paid out by the family. Payment will be made to the parent of the Scout. This type of plan is only for expenses over \$150 and must be approved by the Troop Committee.

Please see a Committee member with any questions.

#### **Popcorn Sale Information**

Each year members of Troop 299 have the chance to earn money for summer camp and other scout related expenses. This money can be earned through the annual Boy Scout popcorn sale held in the Fall. The amount will all depend on how hard the Scout wants to work. This fundraiser is totally voluntary and as a result, only the Scouts participating will benefit. There are two types of sales. The Dan Beard Council also offers different prizes depending on the amount of sales.

#### Show-n-Sell

We set up a display in front of Kroger's on Hunt Road. Scouts dressed in Class A uniforms will ask Kroger customers as they leave the store if they would like to buy popcorn to help support the Boy Scouts. We will have popcorn available and ready for the customer to take home. The dates are usually sometime between late October and early November on a weekend. The commission is divided between the workers, depending on the amount of time they work.

#### **Take Order Sales**

Scouts dressed in their Class A uniforms ask friends and neighbors if they would like to order popcorn. The official start of the sale is in late October and runs through mid- November. We are asked by the **Dan Beard Council not to sell popcorn before the given official start date.** This is done in order to support the United Way Campaign fundraising drive, which is also held in October. United Way supports the Boy Scouts through this annual funding. Please DO NOT take orders at work or start the sales early!

Money for popcorn is due at delivery, which is in early December.

#### The Commission

Troop 299 allows the Scout to use any commission earned for summer camp other events. The commission on the popcorn sales is about 1/3 of the cost of the popcorn. Besides commission the Scout can earn different types of prizes. One of the prizes offered are "Scout Bucks". The Troop allows the Scout to deposit these bucks into their commission fund.

The commission earned from each popcorn item will be held in the treasury in the name of the Scout that sold the popcorn. Only the Scout selling popcorn will benefit from their hard work. The Scout is encouraged to save the commission for larger expenses like summer camp and high adventure camp. If the Scout leaves the Troop before using his commission, the commission will be forfeited to the Troop.

#### Index

Advancement Aims and Methods of Scouting Boy Scout Program membership **Camping Information** Cold Weather Overnight Camping Committee, Troops Communications Conservation Discipline Extras for Campout Fact Sheet Fundraisers History of Troop 299 Meeting and Campout Rules Meetings, Troop Merit Badges **Optional Fund Raiser Commission Policy Outdoor Activities** Parental Support Popcorn sale Information Publications Purpose of BSA Rules Acknowledgement Scout Law Scout Motto Scout Oath or Promise Scout Outdoor Essentials Scout slogan Table of Contenets Tent policy The Beginning of Scouting Uniforms Volunteer Scouters Warm weather Camping Gear What is Boy Scouting? What is a Merit Badge Counselor? Who Pays for It?

#### Appendix

A - Patches & uniforms Appendix

- B Directional maps Appendix
- C Summer Camp Information

#### **Uniform Insignia Placement**

Conduct uniform inspection with common sense; the basic rule is neatness.

Merit Badge Sash. If worn, merit badges are attached to front (and back, if needed) of sash.

Venture/Varsity letter is attached at bottom front comer.

Temporary insignia may be worn on back.

Shoulder Epaulets. Red shoulder loops A identify Boy Scouting (all members of a troop). Blaze (orange) loops indent' Varsity Scouting.

Left Sleeve. Council patches, unit numeral, and badge of office are worn as shown snug up, and touching each other. Badge of office Is centered below and touches unit numeral. The veteran unit bar (25,50,55,60,65,70, 75, or 80 years) is positioned above and touching troop numeral and In turn touching council patch. Den chief cord is worn over the left shoulder and under epaulet Left Pocket Service stars above the pocket If a medal or embroidered knot for youth members Is worn, service stars are raised.

Embroidered square knots are worn centered above the pocket in rows of three. Not more than five medals may be worn, pinned centered immediately above the pocket (extending over knots if both are worn). The wearing sequence for knots or medals is at the wearer's discretion and lead color Is to the wearer's right Badges of rank are worn centered on the pocket above the Arrow of Light Award. Flap buttoned. The World Crest is worn centered horizontally over the left pocket and vertically between the left shoulder seam and the top of the pocket

Right Sleeve. U.S. flag. Only the most recently earned Quality Unit Award may be worn below patrol emblem or below National Honor Patrol star. Musician badge, if in tend or drum corps, is worn % Inchbelow patrol emblem. Up to six merit badges may be worn on the long-sleeve shirt in two columns of three starting 3 inches above the bottom edge of the cuff. Right Pocket Jamboree Insignia (only one) worn above BSA or interpreter strip. Order of the Arrow lodge insignia worn on pocket flap. Temporary insignia worn centered on the pocket Rap buttoned. The Varsity or Venture strip is worn above the BSA strip or above the interpreter strip. Nameplate, if worn, k centered above the BSA strip, Interpreter strip, and Venture or Varsity strip.



LEFT POCKET

RIGHT POCKET





BSA Troop 299



### BSA Troop 299

#### **Merit Badges**



American **Business** 



Archaeology



Archery





American Labor



⊇<u>Art</u>





<u>Animal</u>

Science

Astronomy

Backpacking

Canoeing





Atomic Energy



Auto Mechanics

Bugling

Architecture



**Aviation** 





Citizenship in the Nation



Communications



**Dentistry** 







Disabilities Awareness



**Basketry** 

<u>Chemistry</u>

Climbing

Cooking



0

Cinematography

Coin Collecting

Crime

Prevention





the Community



Collections



Cycling





















#### Visit the Dan Beard Council website at: <u>www.danbeard.org</u> (BLUE JACKET)



#### Maps to Boy Scout Camps

