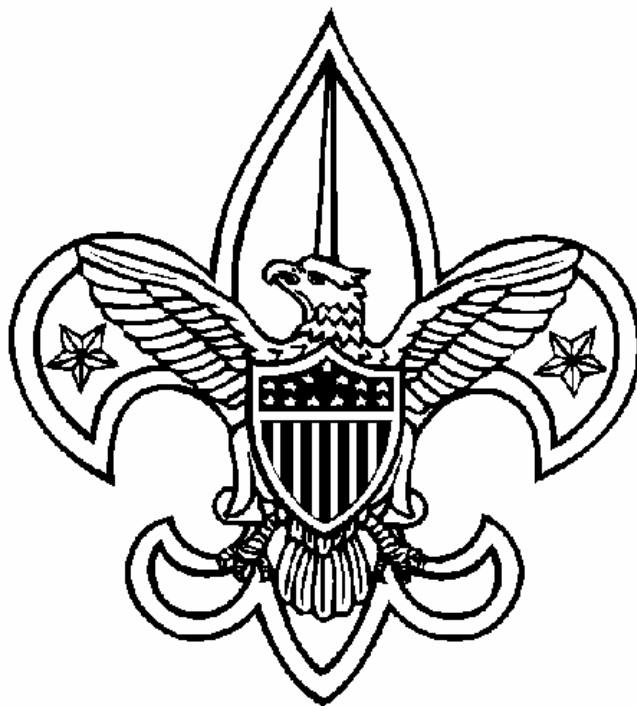


BOY SCOUT TROOP 62 HANDBOOK



South Windsor, CT

NEW PARENTS: WELCOME TO TROOP 62!

The information in this handbook is designed to give a new scout and his parents details about Scouting and Camping in Troop 62. It is our supplement to The Boy Scout Handbook.

The promise of Scouting is:

ADVENTURE...

LEARNING...

CHALLENGE...

RESPONSIBILITY.

Our goal is to provide opportunities for our sons to:

- develop friendships;
- experience the great outdoors;
- set and achieve goals in Scouting;
- become an active part of their family, community, and nation;
- mature into strong, wise, adults.

TROOP 62 IS A BOY-RUN TROOP

It is the goal of Boy Scouts of America and Troop 62 that scouts themselves plan and execute their own program to achieve the goals outlined in the Boy Scout Handbook. Parents and adult leaders participate in and support the boys' program. New scouts begin with small jobs under the guidance of more experienced scouts. As their skills and knowledge improve, new responsibilities are given to them. Each scout will learn the skills needed to carry out his job in the troop and will learn how to pass those skills on to other boys.

We use *camping as a method* for boys to learn teamwork, leadership, basic first aid, outdoor and survival skills while having fun. In small groups called patrols, each boy has an opportunity to develop both team-oriented and leadership skills.

MEETING TIME AND PLACE

The troop meets at First Congregational Church on Thursday nights at 7:30 sharp. The meetings run until 9:00. Scouts must be dropped off and picked up in the scout meeting room. Please do not drop off your scout in the parking lot because we need to be sure each scout has adult guidance at all times. Scouts must be courteous and quiet. Parents are welcome at the meetings. Scouts are expected to keep their families up to date about troop schedules and activities. We welcome your help and you are encouraged to become active as a troop leader or a merit badge counselor. Generally we leave for weekend activities from the parking lot of St. Francis of Assisi Church on Ellington Road. This is done to reduce our imposition on the First Congregational Church and because parking at First Church is limited.

TROOP 62 HAS A WEB SITE

The address is <http://www.troop62sw.org>

This site is kept current with all the latest activities, including last-minute changes due to weather or other factors, and the schedule for the year. The Scoutmaster, Committee Chair and Webmaster can all be reached by e-mail through the website.

HOW IS TROOP 62 ORGANIZED?

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) granted a charter to the Main Street Scouters Association to operate a scouting unit. (The charter must be renewed annually.) The Main Street Scouters Association selects the Troop Committee Chairman who in turn organizes a troop committee. The Scoutmaster is then recruited and recommended by the committee for approval. Youth Leadership is elected by the boys and approved by the Scoutmaster. The Patrol Leaders Council (youth leadership) is responsible for developing the monthly meeting, outdoors, and advancement programs. These programs are developed with the guidance of the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters and are then submitted to the committee for approval of necessary funding. Policy making along with planning for fund raising, social, and all other occasions is the responsibility of the Troop Committee. The Scoutmaster guides the scouts in developing the program.

GETTING STARTED

BSA Application

Complete a BSA application by the end of your first Boy Scout meeting. The application is available from the Scoutmaster.

Boy Scout Handbook

A new scout should have a Boy Scout Handbook by his first meeting (available from the Scout Office in East Hartford or Hall's Archery in Manchester). We suggest that you put a protective cover on it. It will be useful for a boy to use his handbook for recordkeeping for his advancement through scouts. It is recommended that scouts bring their handbooks to all Scouting functions unless told otherwise by the scoutmaster. Nearly everything a scout needs to know for his first three rank advancements is in that book. This **Troop 62 Handbook** is a supplement to the BSA Handbook.

PARENTS: You should become familiar with the set-up of the BSA Handbook, including rank requirement checklists. Please read Chapters 1 and 2 as well as the pull-out pamphlet, *A Parent's Guide* at the beginning of the handbook. (See the section on Advancement below.)

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF OUR SCOUTS?

We expect each of our scouts to be active, to advance regularly, to wear their scout uniforms, to practice good manners and behavior, and to do their best to live by the ideals of Scouting as expressed in the Scout Promise and Law. (See the BSA Boy Scout Handbook, Chapter 1)

PARENTAL COMMITMENTS

Scouting is a family affair. No scout is expected to travel the "Trail to Eagle" by himself. Parents should encourage their sons to work on advancement and to take full advantage of the Scouting program. Parental involvement does not include doing scout's work. A good rule of thumb is: "If a scout can do it, a scout should do it".

Parents (of either gender) are invited to all Troop meetings and especially to Courts of Honor. We also have a monthly Troop Committee Meeting, usually on the third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the South Windsor Community Center. Parents are invited to attend this meeting. The purpose is to review troop progress, support the Scoutmaster's program, and set Troop policies. If a parent has a special skill or training, she or he may want to serve as a Merit Badge Counselor. There are more than 120 different merit badges available. Merit Badge Counselors must be registered with our parent Connecticut Rivers Council. In addition, parents are needed to drive to and attend weekend trips. Registration is also required for this activity. See the Committee Chairman or Scoutmaster for a registration form. You will also need to provide information including driver's license number; make, model and year of car; number of seatbelts; and insurance amounts.

There is always room for anyone who wants to take a more active role in working with the scouts to plan their program. Scouters (adult scout leaders) include Committee Members and Assistant Scoutmasters. Council training programs for new scout leaders are held several times a year, and everyone is encouraged to take advantage of them. Most of the Troop 62 scouters have taken formal training courses.

Uniform

(see Ch.1, and inside front and back handbook covers for details)

Uniforms are an important part of scouting. It is important that the boys take pride in the uniform that they wear and for the badges displayed upon it. Each badge on the scout's uniform represents the completion of a set of challenging requirements.

Whether you see a Tenderfoot with a single merit badge or an Eagle Scout with a full merit badge sash over his shoulder, you are looking at a young man deserving of your respect for his accomplishments.

Types of uniforms

There are two types of uniform recognized by Troop 62: Class A or Field Shirt and Class B or Activity Shirt.

Class "A" uniforms are the Boy Scout dress uniform. As soon as practical after registering, a new scout should be wearing his Class "A" uniform to troop meetings and other important events. Due to the high cost of uniform items, purchases may be spread out. The shirt with proper identification symbols should be the first priority.

Troop 62 Class "A" uniform:

Shirt (purchased from Scout Store except where noted):

- ❑ Boy Scout shirt , long or short sleeve (comes only with US flag and World Brotherhood patch)
- ❑ Red Shoulder tab loops (for epaulets)
- ❑ Council Patch (Connecticut Rivers Council)
- ❑ 62 (Troop number; we will provide the scout with his first one)

Pants:

- ❑ **Olive Green pants (preferred), may be long pants, shorts, or zip-offs**
- ❑ **Olive Green Web Belt (preferred)**
- ❑ **Dark , solid color khakis without holes or writing on them are acceptable; no jeans on formal occasions such as courts of honor**
- ❑ **Jeans are acceptable at weekly meetings.**

Footwear:

- ❑ suitable for conditions

Merit Badge Sash:

- ❑ **Sash is a required uniform item for courts of honor or other special occasions when scouts have six or more badges**

Troop 62 Class "B" Uniform:

- ❑ Troop 62 Tee Shirt or Boy Scout class "B" Tee Shirt
- ❑ Suitable pants without holes or writing on them (military fatigues are discouraged)
- ❑ Suitable footwear for conditions

When a Uniform is Worn:

| Activity | Class "A" | "B" | No Uniform |
|---|-----------|-----|------------|
| Troop Meeting | X | | |
| "Special" Meetings (Bowling, Swimming) | | | X |
| Court of Honor | X | | |
| Fund Raisers* | | | |
| Troop, patrol, project | | X | |
| Popcorn sales | X | | |
| Summer Camp | | | |
| Meals: Dinner | X | | |
| Bkfst, Lunch | | X | |
| Opening & Closing | X | | |
| Field Activities | | X | X |

| | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| Camp outs | | X | X |
| Camporees | X | X | X |
| Klondike Derby | | | X |

* Class A uniforms can only be worn for Connecticut Rivers Council fundraising, not for troop, patrol or project fundraising.

ADVANCEMENT

Because Boy Scout advancement is so different from Cub Scout and Webelos advancement, few Webelos scouts are prepared for scout advancement. Cub Scout advancement is done mostly with parents. Webelos advancement is done mostly in groups with the Webelos leaders. In either case, adults determine the timing and course of the boy's advancement with little input from the boy. On the other hand, **a Boy Scout has almost total control over his own advancement**, which he will do mostly on an individual basis with senior Scouts and adult leaders.

Advancement is an important part of the Scouting Program. If a scout attends meetings, weekend campouts and summer camp on a regular basis, he will have the opportunity to advance. Advancement is totally dependent upon him. Each scout is expected to pursue the various advancement requirements, awards, badges and ranks, at his own pace. We encourage him to involve his family, other scouts, the scoutmaster and any other sources to help him. Advancement requirements for the first three ranks are listed in the Chapter 1 of "The Boy Scout Handbook."

Advancement to the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class concentrate on Scouting skills rather than merit badges. Remaining ranks are Star, Life and Eagle, which require leadership, community service, and merit badges. Also, Eagle Palms may be earned upon completion of additional merit badges beyond the rank of Eagle until the scout's 18th birthday.

CAMPING

For all Boy Scouts, camping and the other outdoor experiences are a major part of the Scouting Tradition. In addition to the Summer Camp, we plan many local overnight campouts, usually one a month weather permitting. Boy Scouting is absolutely different from Cub Scouting or Webelos! And while parents (and sometimes whole families) often accompany the scouts on campouts, the scouts camp with their patrols and not with their parents and family members. Boy Scout camping activities center on the patrol, where boys learn teamwork, leadership, and most camping skills. It is important that as new adults to the troop you are not in the middle of your son's patrol activities such as site selection, tent pitching, meal preparation, and anything else where boys get to make practice decision-making. Troop leaders step in *only* if it is a matter of immediate safety or if the mistake will be immediately costly. All members of Troop 62 will observe the outdoor code. This will include leaving the campsite better than found. NOTE: The Personal Equipment that the scout needs to bring is listed in the Basic Camping Equipment List, below. **No** electronic equipment is allowed without Scoutmaster approval.

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

The goal of the adult leaders is to have a safe, fun troop program for the scouts. The adult leaders have the right and responsibility to intervene in any situation which they deem unsafe. If a scout is unwilling to abide by the requirements of the adult leaders in

charge, they may require a parent to come get the scout, whether the situation occurs at a troop meeting or during an outing. Also, if a scout is disruptive at a meeting or otherwise prevents the boy leaders from running the meeting, the Scoutmaster or leader in charge at the meeting may call a parent to pick up the scout.

Scout Discipline: Any reasonable discipline for scouts is at the discretion of the Scoutmaster or the designated leader.

Adult Discipline: The Scoutmaster, Committee Chairman or Charter Representative are authorized to suspend any adult as needed until the review process is initiated and completed. In the case of Scout Safety the adult must be removed from contact until reviewed.

DUES AND FUND-RAISERS

DUES AND REGISTRATION FEES

Each scout is responsible for paying an annual registration fee, currently \$50 (but subject to change) and weekly dues of \$2.00. Dues are collected at weekly meetings. Registration is paid at the August Court of Honor or at the first meeting of the new school year.

Registration and weekly dues make up the bulk of the troop's annual income. This income covers fixed scout expenses including registration, re-chartering costs and advancement awards. This money also covers expenses incurred in running the scout program including the purchase of new equipment and supplies used by the troop. Typically, expenses for our monthly camping trips and most special events require an additional fee.

A boy scout will not be required to pay weekly dues once he advances to eagle Scout rank, which occurs when the eagle Board of Review is successfully completed. If an Eagle Scout attends a paid trip/event, he will be required to pay an extra assessment of \$8 (equivalent of four weeks' dues) in addition to the cost of the trip/event.

All payments will be made to the Committee treasurer. If payment by check is made, please make it payable to Troop 62. If cash payment is made, you may request a receipt for your payment.

FUND-RAISERS

Our primary fund-raiser held each fall is the popcorn sale. This is a council-sponsored activity. The sale runs September through October. It benefits the scout, the troop and the council. All scouts are encouraged to participate in this event. Approximately one third of the money collected by the scout is credited directly to the scout. This "incentive" money raised by the scout is placed in his scout account and can be used for large-trip expenses such as the annual December ski trip, the extended spring trip or summer camp. Occasionally, if the scouts plan a more expensive activity or trip, or if we set a special long-term goal, additional fund-raisers may be planned.

EVENT/CAMPING FEES

Each month the troop plans a camping trip or special event. Fees are based on the particular requirements for each trip and are due from those scouts and adults that attend. These fees are typically due a couple of weeks prior to the trip

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING

This is an annual fundraiser from the council. The troop does not directly benefit from this but this is an important fundraiser to keep the council and camps running. This is usually held in March.

BOY'S TROOP ACCOUNT

As noted above, fund-raisers are held to benefit both Troop 62 and the scout. (Others may be run to help the boys raise money for their Scouting activities or charitable causes.) The funds raised by the boys for their benefit are placed in scout's troop account. The Treasurer will periodically notify the scouts regarding the balance in their account. Any scout can also ask the Treasurer at any time for the status of his account.

Some restrictions on money in the troop account:

1. Any scout not rechartering with BSA will forfeit all funds to the troop general fund.
2. Guidelines may vary from event to event and from year to year depending on the financial position of the Troop.
3. Cash will not be directly given to the boy
4. Funds will be transferred to another Troop or Unit at the discretion of the Troop Committee.

REGISTERED ADULTS WITH TROOP 62

All parents are invited to become registered members of the Troop. There are three registered groups of people in our troop:

- The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters, work directly with the boys.
- Committee Members, help with the troop functions and set Troop Policy.
- Merit Badge Counselors teach Merit badge classes.

GUIDELINES FOR TROOP COMMITTEE

1. Our Troop Committee will be made up of the following positions.

Committee Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer
Program Coordinator
Outdoor Program
Advancement Chairperson
Fund Raiser Chairperson

People representing the Council and District will assist our Troop and Committee.

- The District Executive (Hockanum River District)
- The District Commissioner
- The Unit Commissioner

2. Any interested parent may become a registered member of the committee by filling out an application and being accepted by Council. All parents will be invited to become registered members of the committee. If they decline and change their minds later, they may register at any time.

Patrol Leaders Council

1. A meeting to discuss the programs, advancement plans, etc. will be held monthly. The scheduling of this meeting will be communicated to the parents at least one month in advance of the meeting.
2. The Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guides and Patrol Leaders will attend. Also, any scout in charge of upcoming activity should attend.
3. The items to be discussed at this meeting deal directly with what the boys in the troop will be working on over the next several months.
4. The results of this meeting will be recapped for the committee at the committee meeting.
5. Decisions about what equipment is needed, what merit badges to work on, where and when to go camping, etc. will be discussed.
6. The people attending this meeting will NOT be empowered to spend troop funds without approval from the committee.

SUGGESTED BASIC CAMPING/SAFETY EQUIPMENT LIST (for monthly trips)

Carrying Gear: Pack

- ❑ External or internal frame with padded shoulder straps & padded hip belt.

Useful Options:

- Adjustable position shoulder straps
- Frame extenders

Sleeping Gear: Sleeping Bag with waterproof stuff sack.

- ❑ Should be rated for cold weather (20 degrees or lower)
- ❑ Light weight -- under 5 pounds
- ❑ Space Blanket (emergency, lined-tarp, non-disposable)

Shelter:

Rain Wear: Poncho or Heavy duty Rain Jacket and Pants.

Ground Cloth: Heavy weight plastic or coated nylon

Eating Gear:

- ❑ Mug for hot and cold drinks -- required
- ❑ Water bottle for hikes -- required

Hygiene Kit:

- ❑ Soap or Campsuds
- ❑ Towel - Medium sized
- ❑ Toothbrush & Toothpaste - Small or Trial Size tube
- ❑ Comb
- ❑ Mirror, Metal, or old compact disk, to be used to signal with if lost
- ❑ 1/2 Roll of Unscented Toilet Paper (Stored in a Ziplock bag)
- ❑ Personal First Aid Kit: Box of Asstd. Band-Aids, Ace Bandage, Gauze Bandage Roll & Squares, Adhesive Tape, Antiseptic (Bacitracin), Soap, Tweezers, Small Scissors.

Working Gear:

- ❑ Boy Scout Handbook
- ❑ Pair Leather Work Gloves (Depending on activity)
- ❑ Compass with Lanyard
- ❑ 25 Feet of Rope or Parachute Cord
- ❑ Flashlight
- ❑ Set of Extra batteries for the Flashlight
- ❑ Folding Knife - Blade No Longer than 4 Inches (Tot N' Chip Card Required)
- ❑ Scabbard for folding knife
- ❑ Notebook small 3" x 5" in Ziplock bag
- ❑ Pencil or Pen
- ❑ Watch
- ❑ Waterproof Container of Wood Matches

SUMMER CAMP CHECKLIST

Medical forms: Completely filled out and signed. No one stays in camp without one. Hopefully this item has already been given to the troop to send out early to camp.

Scout must bring his Class A shirt on a hanger with all badges of rank and Order of the Arrow sash if he is a member.

This checklist is the Troop 62 list "What Do I send With My Scout to Summer Camp?"

Uniform: The shirt, with all badges of rank, and his Order of the Arrow sash, if he's a member.

Sneakers: Or hiking boots of other comfortable, inexpensive footwear; two pair – one to wear and one to dry.

Sweatshirt: or jacket it gets cool at night sometimes.

Poncho: Or raincoat. This item could make a great deal of difference, attitude-wise, on a rainy day.

Extra Shirts: At least one long-sleeved one.

Extra socks: The most commonly lost item in camp.

Shorts: Several pairs at least (It occurs to me that we could save space by sending the kind of pants that can turn into shorts with a drawstring or zipper.)

Underwear: You'll probably send seven clean sets, and six will come back clean.

Swimsuit: Not shorts or underwear that look like swim trunks!

Towels: Two, at least – one to be wet and drying and another to use.

Toiletries: Soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, etc.

Sleeping bag: Or 2 blankets. See note below about mattress cover.

Mattress cover: Make sure to have him pack one (twin size); the mattress he uses has been used by others. (A fitted sheet with also work.) Out experienced campers bring a mattress cover (cloth), flat sheet, 2 blankets (or sleeping bag), and a pillow and pillow case; they usually sleep better than anyone else.

Flashlight: Send extra batteries. They're always out of them at the camp store.

Watch: This item may keep your scout and/or his buddies out of trouble with his leaders at camp.

Camera/film: The disposable type, not your family's best camera, please!

__Sunglasses: Cheap, they're gonna get lost, anyway.

__Notebook/Pencil: Maybe if you send a pre-addressed, stamped postcard with him, he'll sign it and mail it.. maybe.

__Pocket first aid kit: Don't get carried away; we do have medical facilities at camp!

__Handbook: The Boy Scout Handbook; he'll be working out of it.

__Insect repellent: Make sure it's safe for kids.

__Pillow: This item could spell the difference between a restful or sleepless night for some kids.

__Fishing equipment: I am a great believer in the use of rubber worms (no mess).

__Mosquito netting: Or "Mosquito bar" as it is called. See the note about the pillow.

__3-4 foot X ¼ to 3/8 in. dowels (4 of them): These can be duct taped to the corners of your scout's bunk to hold up the mosquito bar.

__Net bag: To store wet, dirty, slimy and smelly clothing in (plastic bags make damp clothing smell worse).

__ Hat: Send another one that he'll want to wear when he loses the first.

__Belt pack: A handy item to store and carry weird items during the day.

__Sting med.: The "stong-ease" products are handy to have around the woods.

__Sun screen: You and I know that he'll only wear the strange colored ones.

__Storage: If you have been contemplating the purchase of a plastic footlocker, I highly recommend it! (Get a padlock, so other people's stuff doesn't get mixed in with your kid's stuff.)

__Nylon line: If you can get the smooth, thin stuff called "parachute line," do so.

__Duct tape: Someone once said that, given duct tape, a coat hanger, and vice-grips, that they could "start civilization from scratch;" it's great for leaky tents, too.

__Cup or Mug: Plastic, with cover attached by a string. Buy a carabiner or clip to attach it to a belt loop, if you can.

__Showershoes: Or cheap plastic thing-type sandals (cause you never know about the shower room floor).

Please put your scout's name on all clothing and camping items.

TO THE SCOUTMASTER:

As the parent/guardian of Scout _____,
I have read the Troop 62 Handbook with my son and fully understand the rules,
regulations and guidelines as outlined. I am also aware of the responsibility my son
holds as a Scout, the responsibilities of the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters,
Registered Committee Members, and my responsibility as a parent/guardian.

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

Signature of Scout:

Date:

Ways I can assist the troop:

- Transportation
- Merit Badges (which ones)

- Chaperone
- Fund Raising
- Paper Supplies
- Mailings
- Other:

Please return this sheet to the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chairman