



BSA

Boy Scout Troop 278
Woodland Presbyterian Church
5217 Park Avenue
Memphis, TN 38119



RePaKeHa

Troop 278 Parent's Guide

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America! By joining Troop 278, you are setting out on the grand adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that will turn into a life-transforming experience.

The following pages are designed to help you understand the basics of the Scouting program here at Troop 278. Reading this will acquaint the families of new Scouts with the basic operations of our Troop. Please see the Troop 278 Handbook for more detailed coverage of the Troop policies and procedures. The Scoutmaster and Committee Chair encourage you to discuss any questions or comments you might have with them. Contact, calendar and other information may be found at the Troop 278 website at <http://www.woodlandscouts.org>.

A Few Words from Our Scoutmaster

Parents,

We would like to welcome you and your son into Troop 278, chartered by Woodland Presbyterian Church.

The emphasis of the Boy Scout program is to promote and encourage boy leadership in a safe and courteous environment. Behavior must reflect the religious tenants that our chartering organization endorses. Adult volunteer leaders are present as advisors and role models to ensure safety and to keep the program oriented toward Scouting ideals and troop goals. Boy leaders run the camping and day trips, and troop, patrol and Patrol Leaders' Council meetings.

But, boys-will-be boys, and there may be times when you will question, Why do they seem to be disorganized? Why are the meetings so noisy and appear unproductive? Why don't the adults step in and do something? In scouting we believe the best way to develop leadership is to let the boys have as much freedom as possible, applying just enough adult authority to keep them safely focused on the task at hand. As long as they are sincerely trying to accomplish the duties of their positions, they are learning the rudiments of leadership. The program works to build young boys into young men with character, self-reliance, practiced leadership, and fun experiences.

RePaKeHa is short for: Respect others (and their property), Participate, Keep an Open Mind, and Have Fun! We feel that all of the ideals of scouting are summed up in this Troop 278 Code-of-Conduct. Troop 278 encourages an environment where every scout is respected for who he is and where every scout is encouraged to do his best and learn scouting skills at a pace appropriate to his background and ability. Troop 278 does not tolerate overly aggressive or dangerous behavior, bad language, or disrespect for other scouts or adult leaders.

Troop 278 is proud of who we are. We are a unique troop, having risen in 2001 from the ashes of the former Troop 278 as symbolized by our Phoenix mascot. We are identified by our uniform. The Boy Scout uniform serves several purposes: it identifies the troop's location, city, state, council and each boy's identity within the troop -- his rank, patrol, and leadership office. We have both formal, Class A uniforms and informal, Class B uniforms. This Parent's Guide and the Troop 278 Handbook details when each must be worn.

Lastly, we want you to know there is always a place for you in the troop program. We highly value our adult advisors for the boy leadership positions, merit badge counseling, and troop committee member support. Your involvement will serve as a model for all of us and without it, the troop cannot operate.

Many thanks,

Danny Hopper
Scoutmaster

What Scouting is All About

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts Of America to provide an effective program designed to instill within the youth desirable qualities of character, to train them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to help develop their personal fitness, providing this country with citizens who:

1. are physically, mentally and emotionally fit.
2. have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage and resourcefulness.
3. have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts.
4. have the desire and skills to help others.
5. are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
6. have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
7. are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts Of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law.



The 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.

The Scout Law

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous,
Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, Reverent

Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily

Troop 278 Code-of-Conduct

RePaKeHa

Respect Others, Participate, Keep an Open Mind, Have Fun

Joining Troop 278

We invite parents and boys to visit Troop meetings and ask questions prior to committing to join the troop. To become a member of Troop 278, you need to turn in the following items to the Scoutmaster:

1. Completed **BSA membership form** with parent/guardian signature (remember to fill out health history on back of form.)
2. **\$25.00 registration fee** (includes council fee and Boys' Life subscription).
3. **Annual dues** – currently \$75.
4. Completed **Troop Resource Survey**.

Furthermore, for scouts to begin participating in outdoor activities, the troop must have on file:

1. Completed **BSA Class 1 Medical Form (Class 3 required for summer camp)**.
2. Troop 278 **Annual Permission and Release of Liability** form.
3. Signed **Permission Slip and payment** approximately one and a half weeks prior to each outing.

Parents of new scouts must meet with a designated troop leader for a parent orientation to Troop 278.

Troop Schedule

Troop 278 maintains a 12 month program. The program consists of weekly troop meetings, held at Woodland Presbyterian Church on Thursdays from 5:00-6:30, a monthly outdoor activity that is usually a weekend campout, and formal awards meetings known as Courts of Honor held three times a year. In June, the Troop attends a week-long Summer Camp. Generally, the activity schedules are reduced in July and December for vacations and holidays. Details of the calendar for the coming year may be found at woodlandscouts.org.

Troop Parents

The role of parents within Troop 278 is to be supportive of the troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Furthermore, parents who choose to take an active part in their son's Scouting endeavors will find that he stays in longer and gets more out of the program. Parents should, at a minimum:

1. Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting. Parents can also borrow the Boy Scout Fast Start video tape from the troop library to familiarize themselves with the basics of Scouting.
2. Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar. Most troop activities are updated on the website (<http://www.woodlandscouts.org>) with regularity.
3. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement and a gentle "push" when needed.
4. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Courts of Honor.
5. Assist, as requested, in all Troop fund-raisers and other such activities. All such assistance lowers the cost of the program we offer to the Scouts and, therefore, lowers each family's cash outlay for their Scout(s).
6. Be prompt in dropping off and picking up Scouts.

Parents are encouraged to attend troop and committee meetings. Parents are also encouraged to join the Troop Committee. Committee meetings are held at irregular intervals as called by the Committee Chair and as recommended by the Scoutmaster. The Committee oversees the general aspects of the troop program, calendar, chartering, finances, and property. The Scouts themselves are responsible for specific aspects of the program and calendar.

Uniform

Whenever a Scout sees another person in a Scout uniform he knows he is like that person because both have committed themselves to the principles of the Scout Oath and Law. The Scout Oath and Law bind all Scouts of the world together in a common purpose.

By wearing the uniform, Scouts give each other strength and support. It helps them to feel like part of the team. The uniform also commands respect among other boys since it's insignia represent advancement and leadership positions.

Finally, by wearing the uniform, Scouts are declaring to all those who see them, that they adhere to Scouting's long-standing ideals. It is a way of making visible their belief in God, their loyalty to their country, and their commitment to helping other people who need them.

In addition to the Class A and B uniforms described below, scouts must bring their Boy Scout Handbooks to all meetings. Troop 278 designates the Scout Handbook as a part of the official uniform at troop meetings; it is required to pass uniform inspection.

Class A Uniform

The Class A uniform is required for all troop activities except those for which Class B is specified below. This includes most troop meetings, all Courts of Honor, and travel to and from campouts. The base Class A uniform consists of official scout shirt with current insignia, official scout pants (slacks or shorts), official scout belt and socks. For outdoor activities, it includes the

Troop 278 cap. For formal events such as Courts of Honor and Scout Sunday, it includes the Troop 278 neckerchief and merit badge sash.

Class B Uniform

The Class B uniform may be worn for troop meetings during the summer (between the end and start of school semesters), campouts when not in transit, and as specified by the Patrol Leaders' Council for certain events. The Class B uniform consists of any Boy Scout-theme T-shirt worn with official scout shorts or slacks, belt and socks. Cargo pants or shorts in an olive color may be worn for outdoor activities in place of official scout pants.

Official placement of insignia may be found on the inside front and back cover of the Boy Scout Handbook. Merit badge placement on sashes is shown on page 186 of the Boy Scout Handbook (11th edition). Merit badges may be worn in any order that the Scout chooses; most wear them in the order in which they are earned. We recommend that all patches be sewn rather than glued or ironed on, and we encourage the boys to sew on their own patches. The merit badge sash is worn over the right shoulder. (Note: Order of the Arrow (OA) sashes are only worn at OA functions, not at regular troop meetings except OA election night.)

The Cost of Scouting

Troop 278 makes every effort to minimize the cost of scouting. We hold at least two general fundraisers per year. A portion of money earned in each fundraiser is placed in a personal troop account of each scout who participates in the event. The scout may use such funds to offset camping fees and to purchase personal equipment used in scouting.

In addition to the annual registration fee, dues, and Class A scout uniform, each scout is required to purchase a troop T shirt (approx. \$12). The troop has established a standard camping fee of \$15 per scout to cover camp food, transportation, and camp site fees for most monthly campouts. Scouts will often need to bring or purchase their own food for one or two meals in transit to and from camp. Some campouts require additional fees such as the annual District Camporee (\$35 in addition to the \$15 troop fee), and summer camp (\$140, plus additional charges for some activities and merit badges). Finally, scouts will need standard camping equipment such as mess kit, utensils, sleeping bag, and backpack (required for an annual backpacking trip). The troop provides tents and cooking gear. Our intention is not to have the cost of scouting limit any boy's ability to participate. If scouting places an extraordinary burden on your family's finances, please discuss the matter with the Scoutmaster.

How Our Troop Works

Troop 278 is operated by our chartered organization, Woodland Presbyterian Church. They help to support us financially, approve the adult leaders who administer the troop's affairs, and provide meeting and storage places.

The adult leaders are the Scoutmaster and his assistants and the Troop Committee. All are unpaid volunteers; most are parents of boys in the troop. The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, and Troop Committee members work to maintain the charter of the troop and oversee its financial and logistical operations. Boy Scouts of America policy requires that at least two adult leaders are present at all scouting activities, and Troop 278 policy requires that at least three adult leaders attend campouts.

However, since the troop is ultimately a boy run organization, troop meetings and events are planned and conducted by the Senior Patrol Leader and his assistant, with the input and approval of the Patrol Leaders' Council, and under the coaching and guidance of the Scoutmaster and his assistants. This crucial part of the plan is to help the Scout grow by making decisions and taking an active part in making the troop program successful.

A typical troop meeting follows a 90-minute program that may include a game or two; work on outdoor skills, first aid, fitness, citizenship, or some other aspect of Scouting; a brief Patrol meeting for advancement progress or planning a future event; and ceremonies highlighting Scouting's ideals.

Within the Troop, a Scout will be assigned to a Patrol – typically a group of six to eight boys. His Patrol will be his team for games and contests, his bunk and mess mates in camp, and his teachers as he works on advancement. New scouts join established patrols with older scouts so the older scouts can gain leadership experience and the newer scouts have experienced role models.

At troop meetings and working on his own, the Scout will have a chance to earn many badges and awards. He will quickly earn his "Scout" badge after learning the basics about Scouting. After that, he will work on the advanced Scouting ranks and any of more than 100 merit badges. As he earns these awards and badges, he will progress from learning basis scouting skills of Tenderfoot through Second and First Class ranks into the more difficult requirements for the Star and Life Scout badges. Finally, he may earn the most distinctive of all - the Eagle Scout Award.

Advancement

Advancement is the process by which youth members progress through the ranks in the Scouting program by the gradual mastery of scouting skills. Ranks are simply a means to an end, not an end in themselves. Everything boys do to advance and earn these ranks, from the day they join

until the day they leave the program, is designed to help boys have an exciting and meaningful experience.

Advancement is the responsibility of the Scout. Parents and other adults are encouraged to help, but it is not the troop's or the parents' obligation to ensure progress. For those new Scouts who are bridging from the parent-run Cub Scout program, this will be quite a change.

Boy Scout advancement, a four step process:

1. The Boy Scout learns.

A Scout learns by doing. As he learns, he grows in ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and the troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others. In this way, he begins to develop leadership.

2. The Boy Scout is tested.

A Scout may be tested on requirements by his Senior Patrol Leader, Instructor, Troop Guide, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster or a troop committee member. The Scoutmaster maintains a list of those qualified to test and pass candidates.

3. The Boy Scout is reviewed.

After a Scout has completed all requirements for a rank, he has a Board of Review. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Palms, the review is conducted by members of the troop committee. The Eagle Board of Review is conducted by members of the district advancement committee.

4. The Boy Scout is recognized.

When the Board of Review has certified a boy's advancement, he deserves to receive recognition as soon as possible. Such recognition occurs at an informal ceremony at the next troop meeting. The certificate for his next rank will be presented to him at the next troop Court of Honor, a formal quarterly awards event.

From the time the Scout enters the troop through the time he advances to First Class rank, he is learning basic scouting skills to enable him to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, and perform other tasks in the outdoors and to work as a member of a team. With those first steps the scout begins to build himself physically, mentally, and morally. He will start to live with the Scout Oath and Law.

Later ranks such as Star, Life, and Eagle are earned by serving in a leadership capacity, performing community service work, and earning merit badges. Although these ranks are more challenging to obtain, they are more interesting for the older Scout.

The goal of the **merit badge** program is to provide an avenue for lifelong hobbies and possible job interests. Although some particular merit badges are required, others are electives. Therefore, each Scout can earn merit badges in subjects that are of interest to him. This should be the start of a very exciting trail of fun, achievement, adventure, and knowledge.

Outdoor Program

Troop 278's goal is to maintain a twelve month program with weekly meetings and monthly outdoor activities. Outdoor activities generally involve camping along with hiking, backpacking, conservation projects, skiing, swimming, boating, biking, etc. All of these activities are designed and conducted within an environment to help scouts become confident, independent, and skilled young men with an appreciation for nature and physical and emotional well-being. Troop 278 also spends at least one week in residence at summer camp.

There are a number of good reasons why the outdoor program is the foundation of Scouting. Among them are the following.

- **The outdoors is a great place for learning something about living with others.** When Scouts walk on the same trail, cook and eat together, and share triumph and troubles together, they are going to discover some important things about, say, patience, respect for others' point of view, doing their full share, making a friend more easily, and saying no without losing one. Skills like these are among the "personal growth" skills we want from every Scout. The outdoors is where they grow up best.
- **On the trail or in camp, the boy's leaders will be charged with real-life challenges** such as getting their patrols fed and sheltered, keeping them warm and safe, solving the problems they can solve, and knowing how to get help for those they can't. It's a time when leadership skills can deepen, patrols grow closer, and the troop grows stronger.
- **The outdoors is also a place where a Scout can get closer to the natural world around him** - the land, the forests and their wildlife, the lakes and rivers, the mountains and the seas. Here, in the outdoors, he will learn of the "land ethic" the understanding and respect for the environment we all share, and he will develop an active concern for it's health and a willingness to work to keep it healthy.
- **Outdoors, a scout is challenged by new skills and gains self-confidence and independence.** Most beginning scouts have only a little experience in the outdoors. As Boy Scouts, they will develop skills that enable them to live, eat, and travel in the outdoor environment. They learn these skills at a time when their emotional and physical development is prompting them to seek independence. When they learn these skills in the controlled and supportive environment of the Boy Scout program, they carry for life the self-confidence and ability to cope with them for which Boy Scouts are renowned.

Scouts are expected to prepare their own equipment and pack for campouts themselves. They may forget something the first time or two out, but they will soon learn the value of what they missed and will remember it the next time. Scouts may use duffle bags for their gear, but we encourage scouts to get a backpack as soon as possible. Ask the adult leaders for recommendations on personal equipment. The Scout Handbook details how to pack for campouts. The following is a summary.

What to Bring:	Mess Kit	Sewing Kit	<i>Do Not Bring:</i>
Sleeping bag	Cup	Flashlight	<i>Snack Food</i>
Foam Pad	Soap	Scout knife	<i>Radios</i>
Jacket/sweater	Toothbrush	Watch	<i>Electronic Games</i>
Rain gear	Toothpaste	Personal ID	<i>Firearms</i>
Clothes	Comb	Notebook	<i>Sling Shots</i>
Canteen	Washcloth	Pen / Pencil	<i>Lighters</i>
Eating Utensils	Boy Scout Handbook	Towel	<i>Laser Pointers</i>
Plate	Folding Chair		

The troop provides tents and cooking gear. The troop or patrols provide food. On most campouts, patrols will plan menus, shop for food, and cook and clean up as an individual unit within the troop. On some campouts, we will institute a "Troop Cook" procedure where each patrol is assigned a duty for each meal and the troop eats as a unit.

The twelfth point of the Scout Law is a Scout is reverent. Therefore, our troop holds non-denominational services on every Sunday that we are camping. Scouts are expected to help out with the service in various ways. Our troop's Chaplain and Chaplain Aide conduct the services.

The estimated time of return from a campout will normally be communicated to parents at the beginning of the trip. Usually it will be posted on the website. We will also make an effort to phone parents when about 30 minutes out from arrival. Scouts may be required to bring some troop equipment home to clean or "air-out". These items need to be returned at the next troop meeting.

The troop carries at least one cellular phone and a pager on its trips. This enables adult leaders to get help quickly in the event of an emergency. Ask the trip leaders for the phone number at the beginning of the trip. Please note: cellular service is poor or non-existent at some of our campsites, and we may often have the cell phone turned off to conserve the batteries. Please call the trip only in emergency situations.

Discipline

Youth enter scouting as boys. However, during the first few years of Boy Scouts, they develop into young men. Accordingly, they must learn to behave like young men. The Troop 278 Code of Conduct is to Respect Others, Participate, Keep an Open Mind, and Have Fun. Troop 278 encourages an environment where every scout is respected for who he is and where every scout is encouraged to do his best and learn scouting skills at a pace appropriate to his background and ability. To ensure a safe environment where these ideals persist, Troop 278 does not tolerate overly aggressive or dangerous behavior, bad language, or disrespect for other scouts or adult

leaders. The Troop 278 Handbook details procedures for disciplinary action which may lead to a scout being suspended from troop activities or removed from the troop roster.

Youth Protection

Program Summary

Child abuse is a major problem affecting our society. Each year more than 2 million cases of suspected child abuse are reported. This means that 1 percent of American children are experiencing physical abuse, 1 percent are experiencing sexual abuse, and 2 to 5 percent are experiencing emotional maltreatment or some form of neglect. Because of the significance of this social problem, The Boy Scouts of America has declared child abuse as one of the "unacceptables" to receive special attention by those involved in the Scouting program.

The BSA has developed a five-point plan to combat child abuse and to improve the environment in which young people live. The key elements of this strategy include the following points:

- Educating Scouting volunteers, parents and Scouts themselves to aid in the detection and prevention of child abuse.
- Establishing leader-selection procedures to prevent individuals with a history of child abuse from entering the BSA leadership ranks.
- Establishing policies that minimize the opportunities for child abuse to occur in the program of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Encouraging Scouts to report improper behavior in order to identify offenders quickly.
- Swiftly removing and reporting alleged offenders.

Parents guide

The Boy Scouts of America has developed materials for use in the Scouting program that provide essential information to members and their families. A detachable booklet in the front of The Boy Scout Handbook, "How to Protect Your Child from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse: A Parents Guide," provides information to help families to increase self-protection skills.

Troop 278 and the Youth Protection Program

Troop 278 is committed to following all guidelines of the Youth Protection program. Adult leaders must obtain Youth Protection training. Any suspected offenses of the Youth protection program must be reported to the Committee Chairman, the Scoutmaster or the Council Executive. All incidents reported to the Committee Chairman or the Scoutmaster will be reported to the Council Executive. All reports are taken seriously and appropriate action is taken to ensure the safety of the youth.