

WELCOME  
Troop 67  
Parents Guide  
~~2006~~2008

# Troop 67

## Boy Scouts of America

### Mesquite, Texas

## Troop By-Laws Adopted October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003

(Amended January 8, 2006)

(Amended August 2008)

### GENERAL

1. Parents or Guardians of all applicants must meet with the Scoutmaster, an Assistant Scoutmaster or the Committee Chairman for a personal interview before a boy will be registered with the Troop. The Troop cannot function without the active involvement of every parent. Accordingly, the Troop must ask each parent to volunteer for a committee or adult leader position, participate in at least one outing or activity annually in a supervisory capacity and sit on monthly Boards of Review for the Scouts on a rotating basis.
2. An annual Parents Meeting will be convened by the Troop Committee Chairman in ~~late-October~~ May. The purpose of the meeting is to approve plans for the ensuing year, including the next year's Activity Calendar, proposed budget and associated fund-raising activities, approve key Committee officers, adult leaders and Troop By-Laws. This meeting is mandatory for the parents/guardians of all boys currently registered with the Troop. Anyone who is unable to attend the meeting must notify the Committee Chairman in advance.
3. Key Committee Positions include the following:
  - 1) Troop Committee Chair;
  - 2) Treasurer;
  - 3) Secretary;
  - 4) Equipment Coordinator
  - 5) Fundraising Chair;
  - 6) Advancement Chair; and
  - 7) Activities Coordinator.

Persons to fill these positions will be elected at the annual Parents' meeting. There shall be no limit to the number of terms for any of these positions.

4. Other Committee Positions. In addition to the Key Committee Positions, the Troop Committee Chairman will seek persons to carry out numerous other tasks such as: Uniform Exchange, Ceremonies Coordinator, Awards/Incentives, Transportation Coordinator, Summer Camp Coordinator, Leader Training Coordinator, Data Processing Coordinator.
5. Committee Meetings. The Key Committee Officers shall meet regularly to discuss Troop Business. Meetings shall be scheduled by the Troop Committee Chairman who will provide a written agenda at least 10 days in advance. The meetings shall be open to parents, registered members of Troop 67 and non-key Committee officers, however, only the key Committee personnel -- as defined in Rule 3 above -- will have the authority to vote. A quorum will exist when any four of the seven key committee officers are present. Meetings will be held the Sunday preceding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month from 4-5 P.M.

Meetings are permissible without a quorum; however, no matters requiring a vote may be decided.

6. A vote of the key committee members will be necessary to approve any expenditure of Troop funds beyond the discretionary \$50.00 allotted to the Scoutmaster. Additionally, the committee must approve the Troop's Scout of the Year nominee and any interim changes to the Troop's By-Laws.

7. Should a need arise to obtain committee approval of an expenditure on an expedited basis, the Committee Chairman shall be authorized to contact the other key committee officers by telephone to discuss the matter and conduct a vote. In any such instance where a telephone vote has been conducted, the results of that vote shall be ratified at the next regular Committee meeting.
8. Interim amendments to the By-Laws may be made by majority vote of the key Committee officers after introducing the amendment at one Committee meeting and publishing the proposed amendment in the Troop newsletter. The amendment will be voted upon at the next committee meeting after the newsletter is distributed. Any interim amendment passed in this manner shall remain in effect only until the next Annual Parents Meeting, at which time it will be offered as a permanent change.
9. Camping permission slips and campout money shall be collected by the Scout coordinator for that event and turned in to the appropriate adult leader one week prior to the activity.
10. Parents shall be responsible for ensuring the transportation of their sons to campouts and other Troop activities. Carpools will be coordinated wherever possible, however the ultimate responsibility will lie with the parents. All drivers must carry liability insurance which meets the minimum requirements under Texas law. All riders must wear seat belts while traveling as required by Texas law. Parents and adult leaders must provide updated information about their vehicle(s) and associated insurance to the Troop annually. Written parental permission is required for any scout to ride with a driver under the age of 21.
11. The Scoutmaster shall have the authority and discretion to suspend any boy who violates the Code of Conduct enumerated below, or refuses to carry out the instructions of the Scoutmaster or his designated representative. In the event such a suspension occurs, the parents/guardians of the boy will be contacted immediately and will be required to make arrangements to take custody of the boy. The Troop shall not be liable for any costs involved; these will be solely the parents/guardians' responsibility. Any boy who has been suspended may be reinstated at the discretion of the Scoutmaster, but only after the boy and his parents have discussed the situation in detail with the Scoutmaster and are prepared to recommend a course of action to ensure that the behavior will not be repeated.
12. The parents are responsible for picking up their sons after a Troop activity or, at least, to be home when the Scout is dropped off by the Troop. The Troop will not leave a Scout at home after a Troop activity unless a responsible adult is present. If a boy is to be dropped off somewhere other than his residence address or to be picked up by someone other than a family member or the parent of another Scout in the Troop, the adult leader must be informed by the parent in writing prior to the Troop activity (e.g., a note on the permission slip for that activity).

### Code of Conduct

This section is intended to provide guidelines for behavior during Troop 67 activities. The rules presented promote Scouting values and facilitate health and safety issues, and to achieve a 'safe haven' for all members. This is a non-exhaustive list of rules that all members of Troop 67 are expected to observe and abide by.

1. All Scouts are expected to live up to the Scout Oath and Scout Law at all times and to adhere to the Outdoor Code during all outdoor activities.
2. All Scouts and adult leaders will wear the proper uniform required for each Troop function.
3. Failure to follow reasonable directives from an adult or junior leader is unacceptable.
4. Unruly, loud, disrespectful or disobedient behavior will not be tolerated. The Scoutmaster or Leader in charge is responsible for each boy's safety and will be obeyed to the fullest extent.
5. When the sign goes up, everyone is quiet. This is true not only at our Troop meetings, but also at every Scout event. Failure to stop talking when the sign is raised cuts into time allocated for activities.
6. No swearing, offensive language, sound-alike offensive language, racial slurs, or use of unfit language.
7. Lights out and quiet time will be respected. Be considerate of your neighbors.

8. Respect other people's property. No borrowing of any person's or troop's or the church's equipment or property without prior consent. If it is not yours, leave it alone. Stealing property, be it from another Scout, shoplifting while the Troop is traveling, or theft from a trading post at a Scout camp or activity is not tolerated.
9. Horseplay or inappropriate physical roughness will not be tolerated. Never restrain another Scout. No shoving, punching, kicking or stick fighting is allowed.
10. No throwing of rocks or other objects.
11. Respect other people's feelings. Threatening or intimidating another person by word or action is not allowed. No hazing, "put-downs", ridiculing, initiations, or name-calling. Use nicknames only if that Scout does not object.
12. No fighting is allowed.
13. No Scout shall leave an activity and/or designated area without the Scoutmaster's or an Assistant Scoutmaster's express permission to do so.
14. The "buddy system" will be used at all times to provide support and safety. Scouts are required to have another person or buddy with them when swimming, meeting with a Merit Badge Counselor and during other specified activities.
15. The intentional destruction of, or damage to, natural or man-made areas, as well as to personal or troop property is forbidden. In addition to disciplinary action, the Scout and his family are responsible for restitution of the affected property.
16. No food, candy, or drinks other than plain water are allowed in tents. This includes cough drops and gum.
17. No alcohol or any other controlled substances are allowed by Scouts or adults (except medication of which the adult leadership is aware).
18. No use of any tobacco products by any boy members. Adults may use with discretion in designated areas per BSA Policy.
19. Firearms, airguns, BB guns, fireworks, ammunition, black powder, sling shots, bows and arrows, paint ball guns, sheath knives, machetes, or any other weapons are prohibited. Exceptions will be made only for Troop-approved archery and rifle ranges.
20. The use of electronic gadgets, including but not limited to cell phones, radios, CD players, games, and iPods is prohibited during Troop activities. Such devices are allowed while traveling to and returning from camps, but will be left in the vehicles during the event. Violation of this policy can result in the device being confiscated for the duration of the event. The adult that confiscated the device is not liable for the device once it is confiscated.
21. Pocket knives are allowed for Scouts that have earned the Totin' Chip card, but will not be treated as toys, nor left lying around. Knives should have a blade less than 4 inches in length. Any knife deemed unacceptable or left laying out will be confiscated. Any behavior deemed unsafe will result in the knife being confiscated. The Scoutmaster's discretion is absolutely final in this area.
22. Scouts will not play with or in a fire. Spraying and igniting an aerosol can is forbidden. Playing with flammable liquids such as lighter fluid is prohibited. Spraying bug spray or deodorant, on oneself, or another Scout and igniting it is prohibited. Fires are not tolerated in tents at any time, including lanterns and candles.

23. Gambling for money or possessions is prohibited. Playing poker or a like game for "chips" only is acceptable provided the chips have no other value associated with them.
24. Behavior and incidents outside of Troop 67, or other Scouting activities will not be taken into consideration. While it is hoped that the Scout Oath and Scout Law become a life style, and not just words to Troop 67 members, such activities are outside the purview of the Troop and the BSA in general. The exception to this provision is illegal activities, arrest, or conviction of a crime. Such incidents will be examined by the Troop committee, and a final disposition will be determined for the situation.
25. Rapping and gang like activities. Many rap artists utilize inappropriate language, racial slurs, and explicit depictions of sexual activity, violent acts, and gang affiliation. Many of them use gang signs and depictions in the cover art on their CDs. Such behavior is not in line with BSA policies and best practices and is therefore inappropriate. This provision is not intended to be a censor. There are other musical venues that venture into this area, and these are inappropriate as well. Each Scout may listen to the music of his choice, subject to the electronic gadgets policy, but inappropriate music and display of gang signs is not permitted.
26. The Scoutmaster (with counsel from his Assistant Scoutmasters) reserves the right to determine other forms of unacceptable behavior as they occur.

## Uniform Policy

1. Troop 67's uniform policy is a three tier policy:
  - Dress uniforms are worn at Courts of Honor, District Dinners, and other formal occasions. A dress uniform consists of as much of a Boy Scout uniform as the Scout owns. Official BSA shirt with proper insignia, Scout belt, merit badge sash, OA sash worn at the belt, and the Troop neckerchief with a slide. Additional items include medals, and other awards the Scout has earned that are not normally worn. Scout pants are optional, but recommended for the dress uniform.
  - Class 'A' uniforms are worn at regular meetings, while traveling, during dinner at summer camp and at other times as deemed by the Scoutmaster. The Class 'A' uniform is a "waist up" policy. This includes an official BSA shirt with all proper insignia affixed in its proper place, a scout belt, the troop neckerchief with slide. The OA sash is worn if the Scout is attending an OA function. Blue denim pants or shorts are worn, or the official BSA pants or shorts.
  - Class 'B' uniforms are worn during outdoor activities, and at the Scoutmasters discretion. A Class 'B' shirt consists of a Scout T-shirt or polo. Pants or shorts of any type are acceptable, though denim and official BSA are recommended.
2. The BSA uniform is to worn with proper decorum. The uniform will be as clean as conditions permit. The insignia will be current, and in the proper places on the uniform shirt. The shirt will be worn tucked in at all times. The uniform will be worn in a manner that is not sloppy or slovenly. This is meant to address the issue of the uniform being worn in accordance with the letter of the policy, but not the spirit. A Boy Scout uniform shall be worn in a neat, respectful manner. Cutting and hemming the shirt so that it does not need to be tucked in is not permitted. The current fashion trend of 'sagging' is not permitted. Wearing the uniform shirt with flannel pants or shorts (essentially pajamas) is not permitted.
3. During all Troop functions, proper shoes are to be worn. The BSA policy of closed toed shoes is to be observed. If hiking, appropriate boots are required. Crocs, flip-flops, and sandals are not appropriate to wear at Scout functions.
4. Scouts shall present themselves in proper Class 'A' uniform in order to be eligible for Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review.
5. During a regular Troop meeting, the Scout book, a pen or pencil, and a notebook are a part of the Class 'A' uniform.

## Discipline Policy

Scoutmaster to determine this section

## Camping Policy

Camping, while a cornerstone of the Boy Scout program, is none the less a privilege at Troop 67. The Scoutmaster and other members of the adult leadership corps are responsible for the boys while they are camping, and in order to insure a successful delivery of the program, as well as health and safety, adherence to this policy must be observed by all Troop 67 members.

1. High Adventure Camps represent unique challenges both in the program that will be offered, and in the discipline that is required for a successful experience. Boys that have a history of violating the Code of Conduct provisions or are suspended by the Scoutmaster are not eligible to participate in high adventure camping opportunities. Additionally, the Scoutmaster, Committee Chairman, and the tour leader have the right to bar a Scout from a trek. Simply because a parent can afford the high price of a trek does not mean their Scout is entitled to go. A high adventure program is one in which one bad attitude can and often does ruin the experience for the other members on the trek. Discipline issues and poor behavior will be enough to prevent a Scout from being given the opportunity to attend a high adventure venue.
2. High adventure camping opportunities are hard to get at times, particularly Philmont and Sea Base. Should Troop 67 have unused slots in a trek, at the discretion of the Scoutmaster, these slots can be made available to select Scout(s) from other units. This may mean that a Scout from another unit is given preferential consideration over a Troop 67 Scout if the Troop 67 Scout has behavioral issues precluding his eligibility for a high adventure camp. This provision makes such preferential consideration acceptable.
3. Long term camps such as summer camp and winter camp present some Scouts with challenges, particularly the younger boys. Homesickness, the length of camp, and the often aerobic nature of the facility wear on all participants. Thus, Scouts must attend at least one short term camp before being eligible to attend a long term camp. This policy gives the leadership corps an opportunity to evaluate a boy's behavior and demeanor prior to being at a camp that is an inconveniently long distance from home. The Scoutmaster has the option of waiving this requirement.

Boys that have a history of violating the Code of Conduct provisions or are suspended by the Scoutmaster are not eligible to participate in a long term camp. Additionally, the Scoutmaster and Committee Chairman have the right to bar a Scout from a long term camp.

4. Short term camps are typically a two or three day weekend long Troop campout. Scouts who have a history of violating the Code of Conduct, or are suspended by the Scoutmaster are not eligible to attend short term camps. Short term camps are where younger boys fulfill requirements for rank advancement. Older Scouts will be tolerant of these efforts, will assist the younger boys where appropriate, and will not disrupt activities on a campout simply because they are bored. Bored Scouts should stay home. Part of Scouting is older boys instructing and mentoring younger Scouts. This is part of the leadership program in Scouting and will be expected of older Scouts.
5. Other types of camping opportunities include an OA function, a Den Chief camping with his Pack, Oak Leaf, NYLT, or Twilight Camp. Scouts who have a history of violating the Code of Conduct, or are suspended by the Scoutmaster are not eligible to attend these events. During these camping opportunities the Code of Conduct will be strictly observed. Scouts attending such events are representing Troop 67 at these times. As such they are expected to conduct themselves with the highest standards of Scouting.
6. Camping trips mean Scouts will be away from home and their normal routine for several days at a time. It is expected that parents will send all necessary medications along with adequate dispensing instructions. It is also an expectation that parents will make the Troop Health and Safety Chairman and the Scoutmaster aware of any and all medical or behavioral issues prior to the Scout going on a campout. Simply filling out and turning in the Class I medical form is not deemed adequate notification of medical issues. Additionally, a Scout cannot refuse to take medication that is sent along with dispensing instructions directing him to take the medication. A call to a parent may clarify the situation, but Scouts are expected to take all required medications.

## **EXPENSES: SCOUT**

1. Monthly dues shall be \$56.00
  - Any Scout in arrears by more than \$20.00 may be suspended.
  - A suspended Scout may be readmitted when he pays all back dues he owes.
2. Uniform--shirt, pants, socks, belt, neckerchief.
  - The Troop maintains a uniform exchange.
  - Parents and Scouts are encouraged to donate used uniform items to the Troop (with the appropriate patches still sewed on-the Troop will supply the patches for the new shirts)
3. Summer Camp costs. Each Scout will be encouraged to earn this money himself through participation in Troop fund raisers or his own enterprise.
4. Each Scout shall pay for his own food for each campout or other activity. Patrols will assume responsibility for purchasing their food for campouts. One person shall buy the food and the other patrol members shall pay him for the expense before the campout. The Troop shall not be involved in reimbursing Scouts for food expenses.
5. Each Scout will have their own account into which any dues, money earned through fundraising, or any extra money deposited by the parents can be used for campout fees, summer camp, High Adventure Trips (i.e., Philmont), or Jamborees. If a boy leaves the Troop, the money will revert into the Troop's general funds. The Troop Treasurer will administer accounts and statement of accounts will be supplied each month.
6. Each Scout shall be strongly encouraged to acquire his own tent as soon as possible. It is recommended, for conformity, that the tent not be larger than a 9' x 9' domed tent.

## **EXPENSES: TROOP**

The Troop shall be responsible for paying the following expenses:

1. Troop Registration (annually)
2. Troop Insurance (annually)
3. Troop equipment (as needed).
4. Advancement pins, merit badges, etc.
5. Summer Camp fees for adult leaders.
6. Leadership Training Costs for selected Scouts and Adult Leaders from the Troop. Paid in whole or in part to be determined by the Committee.

## **FUND RAISING**

1. Fund raising sufficient to support the Troop is the responsibility of each Scout and his parent. This obligation shall be separate and distinct from a Scout's weekly dues requirement. Scouts may choose to satisfy the obligation by participating in Troop fund-raisers, through their own or their family's contributions or some combination of these alternatives. For the Troop fiscal year, September through October, a monetary value (announced at the beginning of the year) will be set. Scouts not participating in fundraisers sufficient to support the Troop will be required to make a monetary payment to the Troop.
2. All Scouts in the Troop will be afforded ample opportunities to participate in fundraisers and other projects to earn enough money to meet this requirement, thus ensuring the Troop's ability to meet its obligations. Fund raising activities shall be supervised by the Fund Raising chairman and will be conducted as needed. These activities will include Popcorn Sales, sales of home safety items, Scout Show Tickets, car washes, and the semi-annual Buddy Poppy donation collections conducted in conjunction with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) on Memorial and Veterans' Day and other activities agreed to by the key Troop Committee officers.

3. With the exception of the annual garage sale, 75% of profits from fund raising activities shall be credited to his individual Scout fund. The remaining 25% will go to the Troop's general fund. At the annual garage sale, 85% of profits shall be credited to a boy's individual Scout fund, and the remaining 15% will go to the Troop's general fund
4. Individual Scout's Fund moneys are Troop moneys designated for use by individual Scouts for summer camp, other campout fees, weekly dues payments and, with the written authorization from a parent and Scoutmaster approval, for other camping or Scouting related expenses. Individual Scout Fund money earned by any Scout and not used by the time that Scout leaves the Troop shall be returned to the Troop Fund. If a scout transfers to another Boy Scout Troop, a percentage of his fund balance may be eligible to be transferred (within 90 days of leaving) upon Committee review. <Amended 1/8/06>

## **SCOUTMASTER'S FUND**

1. The Scoutmaster out of Troop funds as working capital may maintain a fund of \$50.00.
2. The Treasurer only upon presentation of receipt(s) shall replenish this fund

## **INQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS**

All complaints and/or inquiries shall be directed to the Committee Chair, Debra-Ray/William D. Hayden, who can be reached at 972-686-1551/972-285-7917 (Hm) or 214-641-3995 (Mb).

The by-laws as set forth above were reviewed and amended by the Troop Committee and approved by a majority vote during Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003 as mandated by General Rule 2. On January 8, 2006 verbiage was added regarding funds in scouts accounts.

A notation will be added here stating the dates of the 2008 changes.