

# TROOP 8 PARENT'S GUIDE

## (2024 – 25)



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### TROOP 8 CONTACTS

Scoutmaster	Bill Spence	601-594-0884	pspence01@aol.com
Scout Committee Chair	Neil Haraway	601 278-4775	neilharaway@yahoo.com
Operations	Jackie Meck	601-842-0909	jackiemeck@gmail.com
Advancement Chair	Richard Rebich	601-832-3045	rebichr@bellsouth.net
Eagle Advisor	Paul Calhoun	601-624-5135	paul@pcalhoun.com

### CHARACTER | LEADERSHIP | ADVENTURE | FAITH

*A Century of Service to God and Country*

Chartered 1921 by

First Baptist Church of Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Parent,

Welcome to Troop 8! Your son is joining more than four million members of the Boy Scouts of America. Please take time to review this very important information so that your son's Scouting experience will be the best it can be with your help.

Whether you are new to the Scouting experience or an experienced helper, we want you to be a part of this experience with your son. Your son needs your involvement in the activities he will experience. He needs your help to stay on top of the things he will be asked to learn. In the Scouting experience, you have a wonderful opportunity to share life with your son in a way that many parents miss and often regret later.

Scouting is a challenge, and the tasks are often time consuming and hard. But the time invested in your son's life (and in the lives of the other boys) leads to a priceless treasure in the harvest we see as these boys blossom into fine young men.

As fellow parents we want to get to know you, to become your supporters and encouragers as you try to help your son in Scouts. We will be available to you in any way we can. Feel free to call on us for any need.

At the same time, Troop 8 needs your help. Not only does your son need your involvement, but so do many other young men whose parents are not involved. We need parents who are willing to care, to share, to help. We will provide any training you may feel you need

We look forward to working with you and your Scout in the next few years

In Scouting,  
Bill Spence  
Troop 8 Scoutmaster

## **TROOP 8 | BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

The Boy Scouts of America troop at First Baptist Church of Jackson, Mississippi, is known as Troop 8. Begun in 1920, Troop 8 is one of the longest continuously sponsored troop by the same organization in the nation. We have been chartered by First Baptist Jackson since 1921.

With this distinction also comes a very close relationship between the values of First Baptist Jackson and Troop 8. The Boy Scouts of America advocates service to God. As a ministry of our sponsoring organization, Troop 8 advocates a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and supports the Mission, Vision and Statement of Faith of First Baptist Jackson.

Troop 8 also has a proven track record of producing Eagle Scouts – with over 700 Scouts achieving the rank of Eagle since 1921. Our ultimate goal is for every Scout to reach the rank of Eagle. But our immediate goal is to provide a safe and secure environment for each Scout to explore and discover his God-given potential to succeed in all areas of life. The process of moving toward the rank of Eagle is as important as achieving that rank. What a Scout (and a parent) experiences in team-work, self-discipline, leadership, and many other skills will be treasured for a lifetime.

## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

- Scout Meetings are held every Monday Night from 7:00pm to 8:30pm
  - Scouts must be in proper uniform to receive attendance credit.
- Campouts are held Monthly from September through April
- Scouts share Troop-owned Tents until achieving the rank of First Class.
- 60% attendance required at Meetings and Campouts over 6 month period.
- Scouts Book requirements cannot be signed by a parent.
- Merit Badge & Service Hour paper work should be turned into the Advancement basket in the Scout Room.
- All Advancement Credit must be submitted 2 weeks prior to the Court of Honor.
- Board of Review is calendared after every campout, but only held for Scouts that schedule it. Must be requested 1 week in advance.
- The Eagle Board of Review must be held no less than 1 month prior to Eagle's Court of Honor
- Scouts – Joining Requirements
  - Membership Application
  - Dues: \$425 for Scouts (\$250 for half year)
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sibling: \$375 for the year
    - Eagle Patrol Dues: \$250 for the year
    - Minimum \$250 due July 1.
    - Balance due August 15.
    - Scholarships Assistance available
  - Health Form needed for Winter Camp / Summer Camp
- Adults – Joining Requirements
  - Membership Application
    - Signed Application
    - Signed Background Check
  - Affirmation of Leadership Expectations
  - Proof of Youth Protection Training (within 2 weeks)
  - Dues: Covered by the Scout

## **KEYS FOR SUCCESS**

### **Attend the Meetings & Campouts**

In order to succeed as a Scout, your son must participate. Those who drop out feel left behind because they miss campouts or the weekly meetings on Monday nights. Please encourage your Scout to come as often as is feasible. **Your Scout must be in his uniform to attend on Monday nights.** Often sports practice will require the Scout to change into his uniform at the Christian Life Center.

If your Scout misses a campout or a meeting or two, he can make up the work he misses. Depending on what is missed, it could affect his rank advancement by not being ready for his Board of Review. (Please read "Attendance Requirements")

### **Be committed to the group. (PATROL ASSIGNMENT)**

Troop 8 is divided into smaller units called "patrols." Each patrol chooses a specific animal as an identifying name. Each patrol will need to have **at least** two adult Assistant Scoutmasters. (We need you to consider being a helper in this area.) The Scouts in a patrol are given the opportunity to learn leadership by being part of the patrol leadership. Patrol leaders change often during the years of Scouting to give each Scout an opportunity to participate in leadership training.

First Years Scouts are organized into a patrol called the "Fox Patrol", which is focused on an adult-guided 1 year plan to achieve the First Class rank.

### **Parent Participation**

Please come! Every adult is a leader, and we need your help, especially on the camping trips. You don't have to know everything...just be willing and available.

## **JOINING TROOP 8**

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has set the following guidelines for boys who can join: completed the 5th grade, or be 11 years old, or have earned the Arrow of Light Award must be younger than 18 years old

### **Youth Joining Requirements**

- a) BSA Membership Application
- b) Online Troop8 Registration & Dues
  - a. Financial Assistance Scholarships available. See Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair
- c) Health Form needed for Winter Camp / Summer Camp
  - Immunizations** - Verification of the following protections is strongly recommended before participation in activities conducted by BSA:
    - a) Tetanus and diphtheria toxoid within the past 10 years
    - b) Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) since first birthday
    - c) Trivalent oral polio vaccine (TOPV); four doses since birth
- d) **Obtain Boy Scout Handbook and Uniform: (See next page & Appendix A)**

## **ADULT LEADER REQUIREMENTS**

Any adult participating in leadership with Troop 8 (and all parents are needed and welcome), should do the following:

- Complete BSA Adult Application form (Sign in 2 places: Application page and Background Check page)
- Online Troop8 Registration
- Complete Youth Protection Training (YPT) within 2 weeks.

All adults attending an offsite event must complete the online Youth Protection Training course. The completion certificate is valid for 1 year and should be on file with the Troop. To access the course, create a userid at <http://my.scouting.org> – Click "Dashboard". You can send a copy of your certificate to [Troop8@gmail.com](mailto:Troop8@gmail.com)
- Complete Health Form (for Winter Camp / Summer Camp)

**VOLT Training** | Adult leaders are invited and encouraged to participate in the optional VOLT Training for Scoutmasters and Assistant Leaders provided by the Andrew Jackson Council. VOLT is Volunteer Outdoor Leader Training and is conducted several times a year over a weekend. This training covers the Patrol Method, Advancement, Program Planning and the scouting skills required to have an outdoor program.

## **BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK**

The Scouting Handbook contains most of the information a Scout (and the parent) will need in the Scouting experience. **The Scout needs to bring the Scout Handbook to all meetings, campouts and Board of Reviews.**

**The Handbook is the official advancement record.** The handbook should last a Scout throughout his Scouting career, so he needs to protect it and keep up with it. A zip-lock bag is excellent for carrying the handbook, notebook, and a pen.

The Scout records in the handbook all the progress he makes, which then must be “signed off” by his adult leader. Losing a handbook with many months of work signed off would be a problem. **This is the boy’s record— he will need this for proof of progress.**

## **UNIFORMS**

*“The Uniform makes for brotherhood, since when universally adopted it covers up all differences of class and country” —*  
Boy Scout Founder Sir Robert Baden-Powell

Uniforms will be worn to all Scouting activities. There are three uniform types:

1. **Class A Uniform** | Official Scout shirt, Scout pants/shorts, Scout socks, Scout belt, dark shoes
2. **Formal Class A Uniform** | Includes Class A above, but adds Scout neckerchief, slide, and Merit Badge sash (if 6 merit badges have been earned)
3. **Class B Uniform** | A Scout t-shirt, Scout pants/shorts, Scout socks, Scout belt

**Which uniform to wear for:**

- **Campout Departure and Return** ..... Class A
- **During Campouts**..... Class B
- **Monday nights** ..... Class A
- **Monday nights after Campout, if no Board of Review needed** ..... Class B
- **Board of Review** ..... Formal Class A
- **Court of Honor** ..... Formal Class A
- **Participation in Church Services** ..... Formal Class A

**To obtain uniform:** Uniforms are now purchased online. Visit the Council website at [www.bsa-jackson.org](http://www.bsa-jackson.org) for “Scout Shop” information.. Cost is approximately \$125.

**\*\* See Appendix A for Uniform Components to purchase**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Troop 8 has a master email list for Troop-wide announcements. To add an email to the email list, please send a message to: [troop8-fbcj+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:troop8-fbcj+subscribe@googlegroups.com)

This is an “announcement only” group, used for outbound messages about Troop activities.

The Troop also maintains a website at [www.Troop8-FBCJ.org](http://www.Troop8-FBCJ.org). This website displays the master Troop calendar and displays photos from our different events. Many forms are also available on the Resources section of the site. We also have the ability to take credit card payments through the website.

## **HEALTH FORMS**

All Scouts should have a current completed health form on file for any Council event like Winter Camp. Health forms expire after 1 year.

Certain events such as Winter Camp or a Summer trip require every participant, Scout and Adult, to complete a Health and Physical form. This form is valid for 1 year.

For new Scouts, Troop 8 will arrange a night in the Fall, prior to Winter Camp, when health professionals are available in the Scout Room to complete the physician portion of the form. If unable to attend this event, families should make other arrangements to have a physician complete the form.

Another hosted night with onsite physicians is provided in May or June for anyone needing to renew their form.

## TYPES OF MEETINGS

### Scout Meeting

**Scout Leadership:** 6:00 – 7:00 pm (or held by Zoom)

**Monday nights:** 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Christian Life Center of First Baptist Church Jackson. Always bring the Scout Handbook and pen. The Class A uniform should be worn for regular meeting, excluding the neckerchief and sash. Proper uniform attire is required for attendance credit.

#### Typical Monday Night Meeting Agenda

**6:00 pm** Scout Leadership Meeting or special classes (optional / as needed)

**7:00 pm** General Scout Meeting

The Senior Patrol leader will call the meeting to order. Selected Scouts will lead in the opening activities: Boy Scout Oath/Promise, Scout Law, Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer

**7:15 pm** For older Scouts, merit badge guidance/teaching and/or program. The first year Scouts are dismissed at 7:15 along with their Troop Guides for training in basic camping and Scouting activities.

**8:00 pm** Closing ceremony / Troop Devotional by Chaplain or Chaplain's Aide

**8:30 pm** Scouts dismissed

Scouts sit together in a group—as a patrol. This is a Scout-led meeting, so the adults try to sit back and let them lead.

From 7:00 to 8:00 the Scouts are to be in a Scout-related (Scout-led) activity. This means not shooting pool or basketball or other activities in the Christian Life Center. If you are going to pick your son up early, please come get him to avoid having a Scout wandering in the Christian Life Center.

If you have questions, please stop an adult leader and they should be able to point you in the right direction. We want to help!

### Scoutmaster Conference

A Scoutmaster Conference is a chat between the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster and the Scout. The Scout's progress, goals and desires will be discussed. This is a required meeting when the Scout is ready to advance to the next rank. A Scoutmaster conference must be completed prior to the Board of Review. (See "Rank Advancement" for Conference Scheduling)

### Board of Review

The Board of Review is a board consisting of two or more adults and/or senior Scouts who will ensure that the Scout has completed all of the requirements for advancement. The leaders will talk with the Scout about his progress, complete an advancement checklist, and suggest any areas for improvement. The Scout may be tested on any skill required for the rank he wishes to achieve. **"BE PREPARED."**

Boards of Review are scheduled on the Troop calendar. A Scout must sign up for a Board of Review at least 1 week ahead of time. **Attire for Board of Review: Formal Class A uniform with a merit badge sash (if he has one) and neckerchief.** The board will deny a review for incomplete uniforms. (See "Rank Advancement" for Board of Review Scheduling)

### Court of Honor

The Court of Honor is a ceremonial meeting to recognize the achievements a Scout has made. Rank advancements, merit badges, and special awards are presented during this meeting. Family members and friends are invited to attend. All Scouts are encouraged to attend the ceremony to honor the Scouts who are receiving awards. Dates for the Court of Honor are on the Scout Calendar. **Attire for Court of Honor: Formal Class A uniform with a merit badge sash (if he has one) and neckerchief.** (See "Rank Advancement" for Court of Honor Preparation & Deadlines)

**REMINDER: Formal Class A official Scout uniform including neckerchief and sash is required for both Board of Review and Court of Honor.**

## **CAMPING / MONTHLY OUTINGS**

Our experience has been that each leader wants to help a Scout have a good time camping and participating in the Scouting experience. It is amazing the skill and dedication that Troop 8 has assembled.

**CAMPING CALENDAR** | Troop 8 has a set camping calendar. It is not flexible. We camp rain, shine or snow. Do not call and ask if we are camping. If it is on the calendar, we are camping. This eliminates the parents' need to wonder. Much effort is made to have the least conflicts with sporting events and other First Baptist Church activities. If for some reason the campout is to be cancelled because of life-threatening weather or other circumstances, you will be notified through the master Troop 8 email system. (See Communications).

**CAMP SITES** | Camp sites are usually on private lands arranged by the Camp Committee of the Troop. Arranging these sites takes a lot of preparation as many Scouts and adults attend the campout. These camp sites usually offer features that help with a particular theme or focus. For example, the February campout is usually the Wilderness Survival camp. Land with brush, leaves, etc. is sought for this camp. These areas vary from 60 acres to 500 acres in size.

**FIRST YEAR CAMPING** | **So, what does your son do in 1st year camping?** The focus of 1st year Scouting is three-fold; How to build a fire, how to erect a shelter, and how to cook. If a Scout learns how to stay dry, warm and fed, he will have a good time camping and stay with it. The Scouts are required to prepare their own breakfast and supper. Lunch is usually a sandwich or some other simple item prepared by themselves. Here they are required to prepare the meal also. The Scouts will prepare a grocery list to be purchased and a duty roster. Initially, everyone cooks bacon and eggs on an open fire. Supper is usually a hobo pack or stew. Each Scout and camping adult should have a mug for drinks, knife, fork and spoon, and a plate and bowl (plastic or metal, nothing disposable). Personal eating utensils should be brought on every campout.

**CAMPING NEEDS** | The Scout needs a sleeping bag, Scout uniform, etc. (See Appendix B for Common Packing List). The Scout will be taught to use a knife and an ax. The Scout is not allowed to bring a knife until he has earned his "Totin' Chip" (a card that shows they have been taught and tested about the safety and proper use of knives and woods tools).

Tents, lanterns, stoves, etc. are provided by Troop 8. Scouts will be expected to be responsible for his own equipment and the troop's equipment and his own safety in using that equipment. Each tent is a "Eureka" brand tent that costs \$300.00. There are rules to be complied with on handling these tents. The Scouts (and parent leaders) will be shown how to properly fold and unfold the tent and its fly as well as how to set up and take down the tent.

- If the tent is still wet when it is taken down on Sunday, different Scouts will be assigned a tent or tarp to take home, dry, and return folded at the next Monday night meeting. No food, fire, or drinks are to be inside the tent.
- **A tent damaged or lost by a Scout must be replaced by his parents.** This applies to all Scouts.
- Once a Scout achieves the rank of First Class, they are permitted to bring and use their own tent.

**TYPICAL CAMPOUT SCHEDULE** | Following is how a typical campout operates:

**FRIDAY** | On campout weekends we typically meet at 5:00 to depart at 5:30 Friday afternoon at the Christian Life Center. The Scout must wear his Scout uniform, have his camping gear, have already eaten supper or bring a "sack-lunch". Wearing the uniform fulfills insurance requirements, and an announcement may be made to wear Class A or Class B. It's "Class A" if not announced. We'll travel and set up camp when we arrive.

The Scouts will camp by patrols. While Scouts are setting up camp, the adult Quartermaster (in charge of equipment) sets up the supply trailer having assigned tents to Scouts.

Once camp is set Friday night, the Scouts will have an activity to work toward their rank advancement. Friday nights can be full, so sometimes "lights out" is extended until 11:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY** | Saturday there are activities related to the Scouts' ability and age. "Lights out" is around 10:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY** | Sunday morning there is a church service, camp is struck and we return to First Baptist Church at 12:00 p.m. The Scouts need to help unload at the Christian Life Center. This is also a part of camping. Roll is taken after everyone has unloaded.

**Dads - please come!** The first year for the Scouts is rather hectic and we need your help. If you know everything, **Great!** - you can teach us; if not, the others will teach you. Friday night, there could be coffee, etc. You may want a camp chair. We eat Saturday breakfast before or after the Scouts. There will be stoves to cook on, but you'll need a frying pan to cook in. Bring forks,

knives, paper towels, plates to eat on, cup/glass for your beverage - same for supper - bring what you need to cook what you brought to eat.

**ADULT TENTS** | If you camp, there are adult tents available through the Troop, or you may sleep in your own tent (many do, afraid of a little snoring). The adult food is not provided - you eat what you bring; however, no one has ever gone hungry.

## **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Attendance at Troop activities is an important part of Scouting. Participation affords the Scout the opportunity to learn new skills and satisfy requirements for rank advancement and merit badges.

Wearing the complete and proper uniform is required to receive credit for attendance. The Scout must also bring his Scout Handbook, a notepad and pen to every meeting and campout.

In addition to fulfilling each item needed for a rank advancement, a Scout must meet the Troop's activity expectation. Troop 8's attendance expectation is calculated any of three ways:

- 60% or better attendance on Monday Nights and Campouts for the 12 months prior to this *Board of Review*.
- 60% or better attendance on Monday Nights and Campouts for the *6 months prior to this Board of Review*.
- 60% or better attendance on Monday Nights and Campouts *since his last Board of Review*.

At the end of each Monday night meeting, the Troop Scribe is available at a known location for Scouts to record their attendance at that meeting. After each campout, attendance is taken before Scouts are dismissed. Historically, attendance is the number one issue that holds back rank advancement.

Again, attendance is calculated prior to the Board of Review. In the course of a Scouting year, to achieve *at least* 60% attendance a Scout could miss 14 Monday nights and 2 campouts.

## **RANK ADVANCEMENT**

The rank advancement of Boy Scouts is: **Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle**. Many activities overlap ranks, so a Scout may be working on requirements for multiple ranks simultaneously, however rank advancements must be achieved in order.

**FIRST YEAR RANK GOAL** | At Troop 8, the adult leadership's goal for a first year Scout is to reach 1st Class rank by the end of his first year. As part of this process, we encourage first year Scouts to attend **Winter Camp**, where they can take part in a DAVY CROCKETT advancement program, designed to quickly attain many rank requirements.

Personal responsibility is an important skill taught through the Scouting method. One area where this is found is for the Scout to make sure that he is signed off in his handbook on advancement activities, service hours, leadership positions, merit badges, etc. as they are completed.

**RECORDKEEPING** | In the Scout Room there is a clearly marked bin where Scouts should place items they would like to be recorded, such as merit badge forms, boards of review, etc. These items are collected each Monday night, recorded by the advancement team into the master Troop database, signed, dated and then filed in each Scouts file. Scouts may also meet with a member of the advancement team each week to record items that have been marked off in their handbook.

**SCHEDULING THE SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCE** | The Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster needs 1 week notice for holding the Scoutmaster Conference in order to request and receive reports showing attendance, service hours, advancement, etc. Part of the purpose of the Scoutmaster Conference is to ensure the Scout is prepared for the Board of Review.

**SCHEDULING THE BOARD OF REVIEW** | Scouts can request a Board of Review any time they have completed requirements for a rank, however to facilitate the process, we have regularly scheduled Boards of Review the Monday after every campout.

Scouts wishing to sit for a Board of Review should notify the Scoutmaster as soon as possible, but no later than one week prior. The Troop needs to make sure they have the required adults available to perform these boards and to generate the advancement records.

The date of the Board of Review is the date that a rank is achieved, even though the rank will be presented at a Court of Honor on a different date.

**COURT OF HONOR PREPARATION** | An Individual History report will be given to each Scout 4 weeks prior to a Court of Honor. The Scout then has two weeks to review what is currently listed in the master Troop database. Should there be a discrepancy, the Scout should notify the advancement team, Scoutmaster or Patrol Advisor in writing as soon as possible.

**COURT OF HONOR DEADLINE** | The Monday night, two weeks prior to a Court of Honor is the deadline to turn in items that would be presented at that Court of Honor. Items turned in past that deadline are credited to the Scout, but will be presented at the following Court of Honor. This deadline is needed in order to make sure we have time to process all items and that the scout shop has the needed time to order any materials not in stock.

**EAGLE COURT OF HONOR DEADLINE** | The Eagle Board of Review must be held at least 30 days prior to an anticipated Eagle Court of Honor in order to have the required 4 weeks that National BSA needs to complete the paperwork and return it to the Council Office. Eagle Boards of Review are held at the Council Office on the first Thursday of the month.

## **MERIT BADGE ADVANCEMENT**

Merit Badges are another means of acknowledging a Scout's achievements. Normally, merit badges are not emphasized in the first year of Scouting due to the work to be accomplished in reaching 1st Class. However, merit badges for **Orienteering** and **First Aid** are achievable the first year, as the requirements for these overlap many of the requirements to reach First Class rank.

In order to achieve Eagle rank, a Scout must advance through the ranks listed above and have been awarded at least 21 merit badges - of which 13 are specifically required for Eagle rank. The other 8 merit badges are the choice of the Scout.

There are approximately 120 merit badges to choose from. The Eagle-required badges have a silver border and the others have a bright green border.

Scouts have opportunities to earn merit badges on Monday Nights, during campouts, at summer camp, as well as at special merit badge workshops held by the council or Troop 8. Scouts may also work on merit badges on their own.

A merit badge form signed by the Scoutmaster is needed to start progress on a merit badge. This form is also signed when the merit badge is completed, and turned into the advancement team. This form is available in the Scout Room or can be downloaded from [troop8-fbcj.org](http://troop8-fbcj.org).

For every Merit Badge, there is a merit badge pamphlet or book. We have a collection in the troop library a Scout may check out, they can be purchased at the council Scout Shop, or they may be found online. It is the Scout's responsibility to "check out", purchase or find these books online when needed.

Merit badge and rank advancement patches and pins are provided by the troop and presented at a Court of Honor.

## **LEADERSHIP**

Boy Scouts is a unique organization in that it is youth led. Scouts are responsible for planning and running most of the activities. Adult volunteers are there to provide advice, leadership training, transportation and administrative support. The Scout in charge of the Troop is the *Senior Patrol Leader*.

During the period your son serves in a leadership position he will have the opportunity to develop his leadership skills only if the other Scouts are there for him to lead. Likewise, his participation in activities during periods that he is not a leader is very important. Other Scouts need the opportunity to serve in a leadership role, which means your son must be present for them to develop their skills.

The adult leadership of Troop 8 makes every attempt to provide equal opportunity for a scout to fulfill his leadership requirements.



## **POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

### **UNAUTHORIZED AND RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES**

**KNIVES** | A sharp pocketknife with a can opener on it is an invaluable backcountry tool. Keep it clean, sharp and handy. *Avoid large sheath knives.* On any knife, no blade needs to be longer than 4 inches. Since its inception, Boy Scouting has relied on an outdoor program to achieve its objectives. This program meets more of the purposes of Scouting than any other single feature. We believe we have a duty to instill in our members, youth and adult, the knowledge of how to use, handle and store legally owned knives with the highest concern for safety and responsibility.

**FIREARMS** | Generally, firearms are not brought to campouts. If firearms are to be demonstrated at a campout, Troop 8 follows BSA policies regarding firearms.

**FIREWORKS** | BSA prohibits the securing, use and display of fireworks in conjunction with programs and activities except where the fireworks display is conducted under the auspices of a certified or licensed fireworks control expert.

**ELECTRONICS** | Scouts may not bring electronics on campouts. Electronics include but are not limited to MP3 players, PDAs, CD players, radios, DVD players or any handheld electronic games. The Scoutmaster may occasionally approve electronic devices for use during travel, but these devices must remain in the vehicle upon arrival.

**CELL PHONES** | Cell phones are allowed, however, their use will be strongly discouraged.

**POWER EQUIPMENT** | Power equipment/tools (i.e. chainsaws, etc.) are not approved for use on a BSA campout unless the adult using the equipment has been trained and certified by BSA.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, and TOBACCO** – BSA prohibits the use of Alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at any activity involving participants of youth members. All Scouting functions, meetings and activities should be conducted on a smoke-free basis. Adult leaders may not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth participants.

**ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATVs)** – All types of ATVs are banned from program use.

### **LEADERSHIP REQUIREMENTS for TRIPS and OUTINGS**

**TWO-DEEP LEADERSHIP** | Two registered adult leaders, or one adult and a parent of a participating Scout, one of whom must be at least 21 years of age or older, are required for all trips or outings. There are a few instances, such as patrol activities, when no adult leadership is required.

During transportation to and from planned Scout outings:

- Meet for departure at a designated area
- Prearrange a schedule for periodic checkpoint stops as a group
- Plan a daily destination point

A common departure site and a daily destination point are a must. If you cannot provide two adults for each vehicle, the minimum required is one adult and two or more youth members - *never one on one.*

When staying in tents, no youth will stay in the tent of an adult other than his or her parent or guardian.

### **SAFETY**

**FLAMMABILITY WARNING – SCOUT TENTS** | No tent material is completely fireproof. The most important safeguard is to keep flames away from canvas materials. For this reason, the following safety precautions are emphasized:

- Only flashlights and electric lanterns are permitted in tents. ***No flames are allowed in tents.***
- Never use liquid-fuel stoves, heaters, lanterns, lighted candles, matches and do not use flammable chemicals near tents - charcoal lighter or spray cans of paint, bug killer or repellent.
- Always extinguish cooking campfires promptly.
- Obey all fire laws, ordinances and regulations.

**AEROSOL CANS** | Aerosol cans (bug spray, suntan spray, etc) are not permitted on Troop campouts unless in secure possession of adult leadership.

**CHEMICAL FUELS** | Knowledgeable adult supervision must be provided when Scouts are involved in the storage of chemical fuels, the handling of chemical fuels in the filling of stoves or lanterns, or the lighting of chemical fuels. The use of liquid fuels for starting any type of fire is prohibited.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

It is essential that adequate, safe and responsible transportation be used for all Scouting activities. Because most accidents occur within a short distance from home, safety precautions are necessary, even on short trips.

#### **General guidelines are as follows:**

- Seat belts are required for all occupants
- All drivers must have a valid driver's license that has not been suspended or revoked for any reason. A commercial driver's license (CDL) is required for vehicles designated to carry more than 15 persons, including the driver.
- An adult leader (at least 21 years of age) must be in charge and accompany the group.
- The driver must be currently licensed and at least 18 years of age. Youth member exception: When traveling to an area, regional or national Boy Scout activity or any Explorer event under the leadership of an adult (at least 21 years of age) tour leader, a youth member at 16 years of age may be a driver, subject to the following conditions:
  - Six months' driving experience as a licensed driver (time on a learner's permit or equivalent is not to be counted)
  - No record of accidents or moving violations
  - Parental permission granted to the leader, driver and riders
  - For other Scouts to ride with a "driving" Scout, written permission must be given by the parent of the driver AND the parent of the rider(s). Written permission must be presented to the Scoutmaster before the campout. Friday of the campout is too late.
- Passenger cars or station wagons may be used for transporting passengers, but passengers should not ride on the rear deck of station wagons
- Trucks may not be used for transporting passengers except in the cab
- All vehicles must be covered by automobile liability insurance with limits that meet or exceed requirements of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. It is recommended that coverage limits are at least \$50,000/\$100,000/\$50,000. Any vehicle designed to carry 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of \$100,000/\$500,000/\$100,000
- Do not exceed the speed limit
- Do not travel in convoy
- Driving time is limited to a maximum of 10 hours and must be interrupted by frequent rest, food and recreation stops. If there is only one driver, the driving time should be reduced and stops should be made more frequently
- Scouts driving their automobiles to a Troop 8 campout must give their keys to their patrol advisor once they arrive at the location of the campout. Scouts that drive to a campout are to arrive no later than 10:00p.m. If they can not arrive by 10:00 p.m. they should wait until the next morning to arrive. (No campout night awarded for the night missed.) This is a safety issue as some of the places we go are in rural areas and the new drivers should not be on some of these dark winding roads late at night. Parents, however, CAN bring their child later than 10:00 p.m.
- Scouts leaving the campout in their automobile prior to the end of a campout are not permitted to return to the campout unless prior arrangements have been made between the Scout, his parents, and the Scoutmaster.

**APPENDIX A | UNIFORM COMPONENTS**

- **Scout Shirt:** MUST be worn to and from all campouts. (Insurance requirement)
- Official **Scout socks** will be worn with **Scout shorts or pants, Belt and Brown Shoes.**
- The **BSA patch**, the **Andrew Jackson Council patch**, the **“8” patch** and the **Patrol patch.**
- **Slide with Neckerchief:** Troop 8’s neckerchief color is dark red with yellow piping trim
- **Green Loops** for the shoulders
- **Merit Badge Sash:** Displays the merit badges the Scout has earned. The Merit Badge Sash is authorized for wear after 6 or more merit badges have been earned. The sash will be worn at Court of Honor, Board of Review, and Special Occasions as announced.
- All other Patches and Pins (ie. Rank Advancement, Merit Badges) are Troop provided at the Court of Honor.
- See Scout handbook for placement

Uniforms are now purchased online. See [www.bsa-jackson.org](http://www.bsa-jackson.org) for more information.

**APPENDIX B | COMMON PACKING LIST**

\* Seasonal items

\*\* Optional items

If you have any questions regarding items needed for a particular campout, please call your patrol leader

	Bag to carry items / Back Pack		Matches
	Sleeping bag		Sweatshirt or jacket
	Sleeping pad		T-Shirt
	Notebook & pen		Underwear
	First Aid Kit ( to be explained later)		Extra socks
	Bottled water		Extra shoes
	Non-breakable bowl, cup, spoon (1 <sup>st</sup> year needs mess kit)		Gloves
	Flashlight with extra batteries		Swim suit & towel *
	Toothbrush & toothpaste		Sunscreen
	Boy Scout Handbook		Insect repellent
	Small towel		Pocket knife (Requires Totin Chip)
	3 large garbage bags		Hat
	Rain suit or poncho		Compass
	Small pillow **		Small chair
	Bible / Testament **		Soap
	Stocking cap *		Long underwear *



## OUTDOOR ACTIVITY RULES OF CONDUCT FORM

Since the safety and best interest of ALL our Scouts is foremost, we ask that you as a parent (or guardian) review the following guidelines with your child and show your support and agreement by signing and returning it to the Troop 8 Scoutmaster, along with acknowledging the **Parent/Guardian Consent to Participate** and **Release to Seek Medical Care** sections of the online Troop8 Registration form at [www.troop8-fbcj.org/resources](http://www.troop8-fbcj.org/resources), prior to participating in Outdoor Activities.

As participant in Troop 8 outdoor activities you are:

- required to be in your tent with lights out by 10:30 p.m. unless otherwise informed by your adult leader;
- not allowed to leave the group, or the camp site by yourself unless you have permission from your adult leader;
- required to wear seat belts at all times when riding in any motor vehicle and to not stand or move around while the vehicle is in motion;
- required to follow all safety guidelines and instructions;
- required to use appropriate language, have good manners and respect for fellow Scouts and adult leaders at all times;
- required to be responsible for your own gear, personal belongings and valuables; and
- required to obey the **Scout Oath**, **Scout Law** and **Outdoor Code at all times.**

I, the undersigned Scout, have read and fully understand the above rules of conduct and agree that Troop 8 reserves the right to withdraw me from the activity if I show a disregard for these rules of conduct.

As parent/guardian, I agree that if my child is withdrawn from the activity due to improper conduct, I will make arrangements for my child's return home immediately. Further, I have read the description of the activity and fully understand that the Troop 8 Boy Scout program is a moderately strenuous and may involve physical activity.

In accordance with Troop 8 policy, I as a parent/guardian accept the financial responsibility of restoring and/or replacing any Troop-owned equipment **intentionally** damaged or destroyed by my child.

Scout's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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