



**A PARENT GUIDE  
TO  
BOY SCOUT TROOP 57**

*Compiled and Written*

*by*

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**FINAL COPY AS OF 4/8/97  
(TPOL112496)**



## **WELCOME!**

Dear Parents:

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 57. This guide has been prepared to acquaint you with our troop and the Boy Scout Program in general. It tries to answer the most frequently asked questions that parents have when their sons join the troop. It also cites certain BSA and troop policies and procedures which have been established to ensure that our activities are conducted in a safe manner. If you have any questions or concerns about the troop, please feel free to contact any of the Troop Committee members.

Special thanks to Cub Pack 57 of Neffs Church, Pa., for ideas and coordination of policies between Pack and Troop. Another thanks goes to fellow Wood Badger, Larry LaBus from Troop 242 for sharing a few super ideas to "ice the cake".

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## **PARENT GUIDE TO BOY SCOUT TROOP 57**

**PURPOSE: TO ACQUAINT THE PARENTS AND FUTURE SCOUTS OF TROOP 57 TO THE POLICIES DEVELOPED BY THE TROOP COMMITTEE OF SCOUT TROOP 57 SPONSORED BY UNION CHURCH, NEFFS, PA.**

The BSA mission is 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 ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, motto and slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high and, as he reaches for them he has some control over what he becomes.

The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating in citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they easily can relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose.

Being close to nature helps Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and mankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each advancement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a boy grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others.

As Scouts plan their activity, and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. There probably is no device so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn.

## **AIMS OF BOY SCOUTING**

Boy Scouting works towards three aims. One is growth in *moral strength and character*. We may define this as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, his outlook.

A second aim is *participating citizenship*. Used broadly citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn his obligations to other people, to the society he lives in, to the government that presides over that society.

A third aim of Boy Scouting is *development of physical, mental and emotional fitness*. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

The methods are designed to accomplish these aims. The religious emblems program is also a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

## **PURPOSE OF BOY SCOUTING**

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

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to provide an effective program for youth designed to build desirable qualities of character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop in them personal fitness, thus to help the development of American citizens who:

- Are physically, mentally and emotionally fit.
- Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness.
- Have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts.
- Have the desire and skills to help others.
- Understand the principles of the American social, economic, and government system.
- Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
- Have keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
- Are prepared to fulfill the various responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American Society and the forums of the world.

The Boy Scouts of America accomplishes this purpose by making its program available in cooperation with existing groups having compatible goals, including religious, educational, civic, fraternal, business, labor, and governmental bodies.

## **ABOUT BOYS AND OUR TROOP**

Through a year round program developed by boys and supervised and supported by a STRONG adult group the boys of TROOP 57 accomplish many things. Within our District there are 32 TROOPS and each one is run in a different way. Ideally, each Troop is run by and for boys from eleven to eighteen.

The boys get out of Scouting what they put into it. If a boy just wants awards and badges, that's all he gets, nothing more. They learn skills, gain knowledge and find out what it's like to be responsible for some area or function of the Troop as a whole. For most boys they find out that they can do a great deal more than they thought they could. If a scout stumbles and finds himself in an embarrassing moment we know he's learning because success and failure are also a part of maturing into leaders. They learn to take responsibility within the Troop and their community.

Approximately every six(6) months, we hold elections for the various positions within the Troop- everything from Senior Patrol Leader down to Patrol Leader and various other offices such as Scribe, Historian or Chaplain's Aid. At that time Patrols are re-formed by the Scoutmaster and his Assistant Scoutmasters to insure a proper balance within each Patrol.

## **MEETING TIMES**

Troop 57 holds meetings normally once a week on Monday or Tuesday (unless an activity is held on the previous weekend) beginning at 6:30 PROMPTLY and ending at 7:45pm. Parents are EXPECTED to be there to pick up their sons on time. The Senior Patrol Leader is contacted by phone by the Scoutmaster about meeting changes or information that each scout



Winter Camp and a Spring Camp or Jamboree. Some years a major trip is added to the calendar.

All of the above starts with the Scout Registration Form and, most important, the physical exam. Make sure that your son's exam is scheduled, completed and given to the Scoutmaster well before the Troop is ready to board the bus for Summer Camp. Parents are instructed to fill out and sign the form, making sure that any limitations (examples: sleep walking, bed wetting or attention deficit ) or medications are known. Otherwise, all we can administer is Tylenol and immediate first aid. Note that a boy needs a new physical every three (3) years and parent signatures in the appropriate blocks for the other years in between. So, if your son attended Cub Scout resident camp he won't need another physical until two years from the date of the physical shown. The troop needs it to have on any trip that it goes on as a unit in case of an emergency.

## REGISTRATION

A registration fee will be collected by the troop and be paid to Minsi Trails Council upon joining the Troop. This money is not kept by the Troop; it is a requirement of Boy Scouts of America that this fee be paid to Council. An additional (optional) amount may be paid upon registration of the Scout for a subscription to Boys Life Magazine.

Troop 57 will pay for Boys Life and the registration fee in subsequent years from the Scout annual dues. Any boy who has not come to a Troop Meeting within six months will be contacted by the Scoutmaster and asked his intentions. If the boy decides to leave the Troop the reason is noted and kept handy for the next Charter night in January.

When the charter is received, it must be reviewed by all Leaders to make sure all Scouts and leaders are on the list.

To become a Boy Scout, your son must:

- Complete the fifth grade or be 11 years old, possibly have earned the Arrow of Light Award, but be younger than 18 years old.
- Submit a completed Boy Scout application and health history signed by his parent or guardian ( applications of Webelos in Pack 57 crossing over into the troop will complete the application and should turn it in at the close of the orientation meeting held in Spring ).
- Complete the joining (these requirements will be explained during your son's first troop meeting).
- All boys either crossing over from Cub Pack 57 or transferring in from another Troop will be obligated to pay the transfer fee plus his dues.
- The troop traditionally has purchased the red neckerchiefs and slides for each second year Webelos scout who crosses over from Cub Scout Pack 57. All other boys who register are responsible to purchase the neckerchief and slide as part of their uniform.
- The first Friday in May is usually the night for boys to cross over into Troop 57 from Cub Pack 57. **The final coordination of the event and the date is worked out between the Cubmaster and the Scoutmaster of Cub Pack 57 and Troop 57 respectively.** No more ranks for Cub Scouting may be earned once a Cub crosses over and is registered in Troop 57.

- Any boy who meets the initial requirements and wishes to join the troop may visit the Troop during an evening meeting. He is then obligated to attend the following meeting with a parent for an orientation meeting with the Scoutmaster to register as a Boy Scout of Troop 57.

## THE SCOUT ACCOUNT

At the time your son joins the troop, an account will be started for him in the troop treasury in his name. Through various fundraising activities, or from Scout of the Quarter/Year. Funds can only be used for Scouting activities or the individual Scout's equipment (anything related to Scouting) **and** all funds in the Account must be used for equipment within **six months after he leaves**.

A policy statement has been provided which explains this further. It states:

**"Scout Financial Account Purpose:** To allow Scouts the opportunity to accrue funds through participation in various Scout Fund Raisers. These funds can then be utilized to pay for various Scout functions, thereby, minimizing any adverse impact on the family budget. Scouts' account balances are posted frequently on the lodge bulletin board. Because the Scout Organization in total puts forth a considerable amount of time and effort in planning Fund Raisers, and the Scout financial structure is normally very precarious, any funds not utilized when a Scout resigns are AUTOMATICALLY FORFEITED to the general Troop treasury after a six (6) month period ."

If the Scout has a younger brother in the Troop, his funds can be transferred to his brother's account when he turns eighteen (18) years of age or leaves the Troop for some other reason.

## UNIFORM

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

Scouts are expected to wear the **complete** Scout uniform to all troop meetings and activities, unless instructed otherwise. Uniforms can be purchased at the Minsi Trail Scout Shop, or through the J.C. Penny catalog.

The parts of the uniform are described in the Scout Handbook. The short sleeve rather than the long sleeve shirt is preferred since the uniform is worn often during summer camp (a sweat shirt or jacket may be worn over the uniform during cold weather). Your son may wear long pants or shorts.

Troop 57's Class A uniform includes the khaki Boy Scout shirt, with the correct patch placement (according to the inside covers of the Boy Scout Handbook), the appropriate neckerchief or red epaulets, BSA BELT AND BUCKLE (is suggested), and Boy Scout Short pants or appropriate olive colored shorts(for Summer Camp), ( DEFINITELY **NO** sweat pants) The Class A uniform is required at Courts of Honor, at District Meets, at Scout Camp for the Retreat and Dinner meals and, special activities.

Class B uniforms (Troop T-shirts) will be worn as designated. The appropriate dress for Troop weekly meetings will be at the discretion of the Senior Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster.



The only hats permissible for wear at any Troop 57 meeting is an official BSA approved hat.

The leader's uniform includes a khaki shirt, BSA BELT AND BUCKLE, scout pants, and red epaulets or neckerchief (as per Boy Scout regulations). Class A or Class B uniforms should be worn by leaders for Troop Meetings, trips, and special events. Adult leaders are mentors and should lead by example.

## **BOOKS**

Books can be purchased (at the Scout Store) by the Scout/parent upon joining the Troop. Normally, Cub Pack 57 or the parents purchase the Boy Scout Handbook for each boy crossing over into Troop 57. It depends yearly on the funds in the treasury of the Cub Pack. All other boys who become members are expected to purchase a handbook and it is suggested to have his name printed on the edges of the books. Books should be brought to all Troop meetings.

## **CONDUCT**

If a Scout has any special needs, please advise the Scoutmaster immediately.

Scouts are expected to behave and cooperate. According to BSA policy, the following items should never be brought to any scouting activity: tobacco, alcohol, drugs, firearms, or fireworks. Scouts are also encouraged to leave their 'boom boxes' at home. Small, personalized tape or disk players with headphones **ONLY** may be used by individual Scouts **ONLY** when they are in their sleeping areas.

Games such as Dungeons and Dragons, Truth or Dare, or Strip Poker are unacceptable for the Boys and young men of Troop 57. Any activity even **perceived as** hazing of younger boys of the Troop is unacceptable and will be dealt with on an individual basis.

In the event of such unacceptable behavior, the Scoutmaster will give one warning to the boy, and if ignored it will be followed by a phone call to the parents. This action will be documented and submitted to the Committee Chairperson and a copy of the written report of the situation will be forwarded to the parent as well.

The Scoutmaster, Committee Chairperson, Assistant Scoutmasters, and parent(s) will meet to make a decision as to whether the Scout should remain in Troop 57. (At the discretion of Troop 57, if the boy wants to remain, a parent will be requested to become Boy Scout Trained and attend all meetings.)

## **SPECIAL ACTIVITIES**

Special activities (such as hikes, campouts, swim nights, etc.) are held periodically. Information about these activities will be given to your son at troop meetings. Consult the personal equipment checklist found in the Scout Handbook for help in determining what to bring on hikes and campouts. All trips and outings must be led by at least two (2) adult leaders, one of which is Boy Scout Trained and one of whom must be 21 years or older. Parents interested in providing adult leadership should notify the Scoutmaster and fill out an Adult Application form.

## **NECESSARY EQUIPMENT FOR EACH SCOUT**

The following is a minimal list of equipment for each Scout to function in Troop 57:

CLASS A UNIFORM WITH ALL PROPER PATCHES(inside covers of the Handbook)  
T-SHIRT(CLASS B UNIFORM)

MERIT BADGE SASH  
**BOY SCOUT BELT and BUCKLE**  
SLEEPING BAG-A GOOD ONE, APPROPRIATE TO THE SEASON  
BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK  
POCKET KNIFE (A CHEAP ONE) (AFTER THE SCOUT HAS EARNED HIS  
"TOTE'N'CHIP" - see 15 and 76 in  
the Boy Scout Handbook)  
TWO PAIR OF FOOTWEAR - 2 PAIR OF BOOTS (WHEN WINTER COMES)

## TO BEGIN

Rank Advancements are attained by the scouts by attending meetings, camp-outs, summer camp, etc. Parents/guardians should never sign their son's handbook or do the requirements for him. He needs to do or learn how to do the requirement and be able to show or tell about it to a troop member before the requirement is marked as complete. Active troop participation and rank advancement go together..

When a Scout completes all the requirements for a rank, **HE is RESPONSIBLE** to see the **ADVANCEMENT CHAIRMAN** who will sit down with him to verify the completion of requirements for any advancement. If it warrants a Scoutmaster's Conference the Advancement Chairperson or another designated person will help the Scout arrange for a Scoutmaster Conference with the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster. This is a very important part of personal growth and the Scoutmaster can be very influential.

After this, the Advancement Chairman will arrange for a Board of Review. The Board of Review is conducted by adult troop leaders interested in your son's progress as a Scout. They want to make sure your son really has completed the requirements for a rank. They may also have suggestions for how your son can get more out of Scouting. Awards will be presented to scouts passing their Boards of Review at the next Court of Honor.

## MERIT BADGES

(Sewn on the sash from top to bottom in rows of three and worn by the Scout from the right shoulder to the left hip)

Merit badges are badges awarded to scouts for fulfilling requirements in specific fields of interest. There are more than a hundred merit badge hobbies and Scouting skills. Merit badges can guide a Scout toward a career, enrich his leisure life, hone his fitness, enhance his ability to help others, and stimulate personal growth. General information about merit badges are found in the back of the Scout Handbook and the Merit Badge Requirements Book to aid the Scout to decide which one he would like to do.

Merit badges must be earned to advance in rank beyond First Class and certain merit badges are required to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Any registered Scout, regardless of rank, may work on a merit badge and are usually awarded the merit badges at the next Court of Honor.

There are **two** kinds of Merit Badges-those **circled in silver (required)** and those **circled in green (non-required)**.

After he decides which merit badge wants to do, the Scout needs to see the Scoutmaster for approval, an application for the Merit Badge and to be given the name and telephone number of the Merit Badge Counselor (or he can look at the list of Merit Badge Counselors found on the Lodge wall but usually the Scoutmaster will have a more up to date list). The Scout then needs the Merit Badge book for the specific Merit Badge (he can usually find a copy in the Troop

library) and then **HE** must contact THE COUNSELOR. HE MUST DO THE WORK (**NOT** BORROW IT FROM HIS OLDER BROTHER OR FRIEND) A SCOUT IS HONEST AND TRUSTWORTHY.

Most merit badges should be completed within a reasonable amount of time subject to the Merit Badge Counselor's discretion.

**Make SURE the counselor signs off on the application on the BOTH parts. your son returns THE PART INDICATED to the ADVANCEMENT CHAIRPERSON, AND your son gives YOU his copy for safe keeping in case any or all of the other copies get lost. This is his proof that he did the Merit Badge.** This May prove valuable to your son when his records are reviewed prior to receiving any rank above the First Class Rank.

The First Aid Merit Badge is normally handled within the Troop in Fall before the North Valley District First Aid Meet. Other merit badges are partially completed during some Troop activities and are signed off by the Scoutmaster.



**MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS** (AVAILABLE IN TROOP 57 PARENT STRUCTURE)

ARCHERY	MR. GRAY
AMERICAN BUSINESS	MR. GRAY
ART	MR. RICKETTS
ATHLETICS	MR. BILLIG
BACKPACKING	MR. MERTZ
BUGLING	MR. BILLIG
<b>CAMPING</b>	MR. MERTZ
CHEMISTRY	MR. MINFORD
<b>CITIZENSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY</b>	MR. deKRAFFT
<b>CITIZENSHIP IN THE NATION</b>	MR. deKRAFFT
<b>CITIZENSHIP IN THE WORLD</b>	MR. BURDICK, MR. deKRAFFT
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	MR. MERTZ
COMPUTERS	MR. KRADEL/MR. MINFORD
COOKING	MR. MERTZ
ENERGY	MR. KRADEL
ENGINEERING	MR. KRADEL
<b>FAMILY LIFE</b>	MR. MINFORD/MR. BILLIG/MR. deKRAFFT
FINGERPRINTING	MR. RICKETTS
FIREMANSHIP	MR. MINFORD
<b>FIRST AID</b>	MR. MINFORD
GARDENING	MR. MERTZ
GOLF	MR. KRADEL/MR. BILLIG
HANDICAP AWARENESS	MR. BURDICK
HIKING	MR. MERTZ/MR. GRAY/MR. MINFORD
METAL ENGINEERING	MR. MINFORD
MUSIC	MR. BILLIG
ORIENTEERING	MR. RICKETTS
PAINTING	MR. RICKETTS
<b>PERSONAL MANAGEMENT</b>	MR. BURDICK
READING	MR. BURDICK
RIFLE SHOOTING	MR. GRAY
<b>SAFETY</b>	Mr. deKRAFFT/MR. MINFORD/ MR. RICKETTS
SCHOLARSHIP	MR. KRADEL/MR. MINFORD

**PHONE NUMBERS OF COUNSELORS**

MR. BILLIG	799- 5429
MR. BURDICK	799-3515
MR. deKRAFFT	799-0934
MR. GRAY	799-2271
MR. MERTZ	799-3343
MR. MINFORD	262-1419
MR. RICKETTS	799-0806

**ADVANCEMENTS OR RANKS**

Some ranks don't need Merit Badges , others need both regular requirements and Merit Badges to gain advancement to the next rank. As your Scout grows and moves through the ranks, he is expected to give service time THAT HAS HAD PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE Scoutmaster as well as be responsible for a certain position within the Troop Structure. Along with that he needs a certain amount of time in a each rank before he can move to the next rank on his upward trail to Eagle.

It really takes a lot of encouragement (PUSH) and support from the parent(s) and, IDEALLY, a lot of parent involvement as a driver, an Assistant Scoutmaster or a member of the Parent Committee.

- **ELECTIONS FOR BOY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:** Elections for positions within the Boy Leadership structure of the troop are held twice a year. Each boy who has a desire or needs to hold an elected position (Senior Patrol Leader or Patrol Leader) or an assigned position (Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Scribe, Historian, Librarian, or Chaplain Aide) must communicate an interest to the Scoutmaster prior to the election. If the scout is not going to be present and wishes to be considered it is his responsibility to inform the Scoutmaster of his desire directly. This becomes very important as the boy gets closer to being eighteen years old. In order to be an Eagle Scout the boys of our troop should have had at least been a Patrol Leader, or Senior Patrol Leader at least once. If a scout is elected in Spring to the position of Senior Patrol Leader he is expected to attend Summer Camp. All rules of elections should be reviewed with the scouts by the Scoutmaster at least two (2) weeks before the election.
- **NOTE:** In order to advance in rank, a Scout must show Scout Spirit. Scout Spirit is how well a boy lives up to the Scout Oath, Promise and Law. It is felt that active participation is best expressed in attendance. Each Scout must have attended and participated in at least 50% of all activities, Courts of Honor, special camping trips and other events of the Troop to qualify for the next rank.
- It is under the discretion of the Scoutmaster to award any cloth merit badge or rank award on the spot as a presentation during any meeting or while at Summer Camp to an individual Scout, who has produced the properly completed and documented requirements, and deserves the recognition by his peers. (OR the cloth patch may be given out at the next Court of Honor with its Boy Scout Certification Card.)
- Each Scout who earns any Awards or Ranks will be recognized in front of parents and friends for his COLLECTIVE efforts over the past QUARTER. As stated above it can be either with the patch and the card or just with the cards.
- Some boys we have entering our Troop were never Cubs but were recruited by word of mouth- those boys who do bring someone in will receive the Recruiter patch for his uniform as soon as the new boy earns the Scout Badge of Rank.

## **OTHER AWARDS**

Other awards range from the World Conservation Award to the Recruiter Badge to the God and Church/Country Award. Explanations for other awards are found in the back of the Boy Scout Handbook.

## **COURT OF HONOR**

Courts of Honor are very special events held generally at the end of each Quarter and are announced in a Quarterly Newsletter or at the end of a Scout Meeting to the boys. This is the event in which each scout is given recognition for their achievements and accomplishments during that Quarter. This is a family

event. There are also skits, songs, demonstrations or special guest speakers for these evenings, too. For your son's sake, be a part of his Scouting life as he advances toward Eagle. Even if no awards are earned by your son you should attend to show support of all the other families you've "grown up with" through Scouting. It will mean a great deal to him and the other boys when they know and can feel your support as you share their accomplishments.

Awards and Ranks can be awarded at other times BUT, as mentioned before, all requirements **MUST BE TURNED IN TO THE ADVANCEMENT CHAIRMAN** (OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE) before any scout can be given credit for that award.

ONE VERY IMPORTANT WORD- EACH QUARTER HAS A CUT - OFF WHICH **CANNOT BE TAMPERED WITH, THEREFORE, IF YOUR SON FAILS TO TURN IN THE PROPERLY COMPLETED ITEMS TO THE ADVANCEMENT CHAIRMAN BEFORE THE DEADLINE DATE FOR THE QUARTER HE WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY OF THOSE AWARDS UNTIL THE NEXT COURT OF HONOR.**

**IF THE ADVANCEMENT CHAIRPERSON HAS MADE THE MISTAKE** (which can easily happen if there are a lot of awards to be received) THE SCOUT WILL BE ISSUED THE CLOTH PATCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE COURT OF HONOR HE WAS TO RECEIVE HIS RECOGNITION. AT THE NEXT COURT OF HONOR THE SCOUT WILL BE AWARDED THE CARD AND MOTHER'S PIN IN FRONT OF HIS PARENT(S) AND FRIENDS.

### SCOUT OF THE QUARTER and SCOUT OF THE YEAR

There are two other Awards not mentioned before - one is given at each Court of Honor, the other is given to one scout at the Scout Red and White Dinner in January each year.

Scouts earn points for a lot of different reasons. Each item has been given a point value. At the end of each Quarter the **total points for each scout are tabulated** as of the **cut-off date** and the Scout with the highest total points is awarded the distinction of being the Scout of the Quarter and ultimately, Scout of the Year (the WILMER STAHLEY AWARD).

The scoring guidelines for the above is as follows:

ATTENDANCE.....	1 <sup>POINT</sup>	WEARING A UNIFORM.....	1 <sup>POINT</sup>
ACTIVITIES.....	1 <sup>POINT</sup>	UNIFORM INSPECTION.....	1 <sup>POINT</sup>
MERIT BADGES.....	10 <sup>POINTS</sup>	RANK ADVANCEMENTS.....	20 <sup>POINTS</sup>
EAGLE PALMS.....	20 <sup>POINTS</sup>	NON-PROFIT SCOUT ACTIVITIES.....	5 <sup>POINTS</sup>
OTHER SPECIAL PATCHES (WORLD CONSERVATION, DER,etc.).....		5 <sup>POINTS</sup>	

The year is broken into Quarters, as follows:

1 <sup>ST</sup> QUARTER....	JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH	2 <sup>ND</sup> QUARTER....	APRIL, MAY, JUNE
3 <sup>RD</sup> QUARTER....	JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER	4 <sup>TH</sup> QUARTER....	OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, December

An example using what one scout may have for one Quarter:

2 MERIT BADGES.....	20 <sup>POINTS</sup>
1 ADVANCEMENT.....	20 <sup>POINTS</sup>
10 ATTENDED MEETINGS.....	10 <sup>POINTS</sup>
8 MEETINGS WITH UNIFORM.....	8 <sup>POINTS</sup>
2 OTHER ACTIVITIES.....	2 <sup>POINTS</sup>
	<hr/>
	60 <sup>POINTS</sup>

The Scribe for the Troop marks down in his book the attendance and whether or not a scout is wearing the proper uniform for the day or not. This information is given to the Advancement Chairperson and used in tabulating the Scout of the Quarter and the Wilmer Stahley Scout of the Year award recipient.

\*NOTE: Any boy coming late to a meeting must take the responsibility to see the scribe and tell him that he is there. In addition, any boy arriving more than one-half hour late will be marked absent unless the Scoutmaster has been called before hand.

### **LIFE AND EAGLE SCOUT**

- All Scouts, before they reach or obtain the rank of Life Scout, must have served in an elected position- either as a Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, or Patrol Leader (There are other non-elected positions that qualify). The adult leaders can only encourage the boys to position themselves for election. We do not impose the positions on boys who feel they aren't ready for it yet. The final decision is the boy's.
- As any boy earns the rank of Life Scout the Scoutmaster's conference is scheduled as an appointment with both the boy and his parents to review where the boy is and what he must do to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.
- As a Scout reaches and earns the rank of Eagle, the Troop has traditionally bought the Eagle a Plaque and the Eagle (pin/patch) Kit for his Eagle Court of Honor.
- Each Eagle Scout is in charge of his own Eagle Court of Honor. It is his obligation to meet with the Scoutmaster and plan the court of honor using any of the Ceremonies the Scoutmaster gives him to review. It is important to have other Eagle Scouts participate in his Eagle Court of Honor.

### **EAGLE PALMS**

Just as with any other rank earned, there are requirements for earning an Eagle Palm. Among the requirements are that the Eagle must earn five Merit Badges above and beyond those required for the rank of Eagle. The Eagle Scout must have participated in Troop activities and demonstrated good leadership for three months, and also has asked for and received a Scoutmaster conference for each palm earned.

### **NEWSLETTERS AND TRIPS**

About every three months **ALL** Scouts will (be given to) bring home a copy of Troop 57's Newsletter. All upcoming events and trips(along with permission slips with due dates for turn-in of permission slips and monies for each trip) will be mentioned in a calendar -type of order. Some trips we'd like a parent to attend, if possible, others

will mention equipment to be taken so parents will know far enough in advance what to get. If any parents have questions about any event's importance or equipment when you get the newsletter you should contact the Scoutmaster or talk about it at the next COMMITTEE MEETING.

The events posted in the Newsletter under normal conditions will remain unchanged BUT THIS IS NOT TO SAY THEY CAN NOT BE CHANGED OR CANCELED! ALL BOYS WILL BE CONTACTED THROUGH THE TROOP BOY LEADER PHONE CHAIN WHEN THERE ARE EMERGENCY CHANGES.

The only boys going to North Valley First Aid Meets or SNOWBOUND are those who have been training in their patrols and attending meetings on a regular basis. No one can "magic in" and just show up just before the event who hasn't been practicing or participating.

The troop departs from and returns to Neffs Church, unless otherwise instructed. The troop departs promptly at the times indicated so plan to arrive at least 5 to 10 minutes early. Completed parental permission slips must be turned in before boarding the bus. Permission slips will be supplied at troop meetings prior to each activity.

The troop will return approximately at the times indicated. Parents and/or guardians will be notified by phone of any significant delays in return times. Upon returning, no one leaves before the gear is stored in the troop lodge. Everyone needs to do their share of work.

**ONE NOTE- WHEN WE SAY THE BUS LEAVES AT A CERTAIN TIME YOU'D BETTER BE THERE OR KNOW THE DIRECTIONS TO THE EVENT.**

**ANOTHER NOTE: IF A BOY SAYS HE'S GOING TO AN EVENT AND THE TROOP PAYS THE ENTRANCE FEE FOR THAT BOY THEN IT IS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO GO. IF HE CANNOT GO BECAUSE HE CHANGED HIS MIND HE WILL STILL BE CHARGED FOR THE FEE (UNLESS HE HAS A DOCTOR'S EXCUSE or IS REALLY SICK).**

- Boys must make a choice (within reason) when attending any special week-end event. They can miss part of a Friday evening ONLY WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SCOUTMASTER and arrive late after set-up but they should not leave a Camporee on a Saturday or a Saturday night - there's just too much going on that your son shouldn't miss that will probably be a big part of the total program of events.
- All boys will attend VESPERS (unless other arrangements are made by the Scout master) and if any boys need certification to that effect for Confirmation Classes or Church Attendance Records, the Scoutmaster will give a written statement to the Scout for that purpose.

## **TROOP COMMITTEE**

The Troop Committee meetings are mentioned in each newsletter and PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS to be TOTALLY informed about what is going on or have a say in what does go on, you, as a parent, should be a BIG part of your son's future by being at the COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Parent involvement includes leadership positions (and becoming Boy Scout Trained for that position), transportation, and parent committee membership.



## TROOP COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee Meetings will be run by the Committee Chairperson, and will follow a prepared agenda, with minutes of the prior meeting attached. If a Leader cannot attend a Committee Meeting, they should call the Committee Chair with their information (any information needed to be passed on to the Committee).

Committee Meetings start promptly at 7:30 p.m. At the discretion of the Committee Chairperson, the meeting may have to be extended.

Meetings are usually scheduled for the last Wednesday of each month.

The Committee Chairperson is responsible for notifying the chartered organization representative (the President of the Board of Governors) of the date and time of Committee Meetings, and also sending him/her an agenda. If the representative chooses not to attend the meeting, a copy of the minutes should be sent to him/her as soon as possible after the meeting.

## TROOP COMMITTEE POSITIONS

All Troop Committee positions will be appointed for a one year term. Responsibilities of Committee members are as follows:

- **Scoutmaster:** Responsible for coordinating the Troop Programs. BSA Policy, as per the Troop Committee Guidebook, states the Scoutmaster has no vote on Troop Committee decisions. As long as this Troop Committee agrees unanimously, then the Scoutmaster **does** have a vote when decisions are to be made within the Troop.
- **Assistant Scoutmaster:** Assist Scoutmaster at the Troop Meetings and take over in the absence of the Scoutmaster. There can be more than one Assistant Scoutmaster with other special duties. As stated above, BSA Policy may differ but, if the vote is unanimous then the Assistant Scoutmaster also has a vote because he or she is **registered** as a member of the Troop Committee of Troop 57.
- **Committee Chairperson:** Run Committee Meetings and work in coordination with Scoutmaster. Responsible for sending minutes to the charter organization representative as soon as possible after Committee Meetings. Also responsible for making sure someone attends Roundtable. Also has a vote because he or she is **registered** as a member of the Troop Committee of Troop 57.
- **Advancement Chairperson:** Collects and records all Troop advancement information. (Advancements will only be accepted for Advancement Report if turned in and Boards of Review are held before the Quarter's Cut - Off.) Order and obtain badges from Scout Service Center. (Chairperson is responsible for advising Treasurer when account balance needs replenishing.) Has a vote because he or she is **registered** as a member of the Troop Committee of Troop 57.
- **Secretary:** Take/prepare minutes to be read or distributed and approved at each Committee Meeting. Also responsible for any correspondence or responses to

correspondence received. Can vote because he or she is **registered** as a member of the Troop Committee of Troop 57.

- **Treasurer:** Responsible for giving a financial report at each Committee Meeting, paying all approved bills, depositing all receipts, and participating in budget preparation. The Treasurer will have the Troop financial records available for a yearly audit. Can vote because he or she is **registered** as a member of the Troop Committee of Troop 57.
- **Committee Member:** Registered position. Attend Committee Meetings and serve on special committees as needed. Can vote on matters because he or she is **registered** as a member of the Troop Committee of Troop 57.

#### **OTHER ADULT LEADER ISSUES**

- Assistant Scoutmasters must have the approval of the Parent Committee, and must be Boy Scout Trained within one full year.  
IN ADDITION: all registered members of the Troop 57 must review the Child Abuse/Drug Abuse video and the BSA Quick Start Video (Troop copy ) within one month of registration as an adult leader.
- Any adult leader who completes training will be reimbursed for that training. In the case of Woodbadge Leadership Training, the Adult Leader will be reimbursed for 50% of the tuition upon the completion of his or her Woodbadge Ticket.
- Leaders forty (40) years old or older need a physical done yearly by a physician.
- It is a matter of policy that any adult wanting to become an adult leader in the Troop must fill out an Adult Leader Registration Form and pay for his first year registration if he or she has been approved by the Troop Committee. Leaders crossing over with their sons will fill out a registration form and pay the transfer fee, if any.

#### **OTHER BOY LEADERSHIP CONCERNS:**

**Den Chiefs:** Assist Den/Webelos Leaders. Usually assigned by the Troop Parent Committee. Training at Pow-Wow is necessary to become a Den Chief, and the Pow-Wow fee will be paid by the Pack.

- The policy on **Den Chiefs** is simple- first each Den Chief must be at least 13 and a star or higher in rank. Second, each Den Chief must be Trained as a Den Chief during the Council's yearly Pow-Wow. Third, no Den Chief can be working in a den which a younger brother is a member. The Den Chiefs are assigned in reverse order as to the type of Den they will work with. They will be assigned to a Webelos Patrol first and then a Bear and so on. Each boy must understand that this is a year-long commitment and should be honored as such. Each boy assigned as a Den Chief must also attend our Troop meetings on a regular basis. All the assignments will be approved by the Troop Committee. All Den Chief assignments require Scoutmaster approval.

#### **Junior Leadership Training:**

This is a troop run course using the Scoutmaster's Junior Leader Training Kit. Any Scout who is First Class and above should attend this course held each Spring.

#### **Junior Leader Training Conference:**

This is a week long junior leader training seminar for scouts who have been selected by or approved by the Scoutmaster to attend. It is usually attended by our older scouts who are mature enough to take the rigors of a real taxing experience. One, or two boys are chosen from the troop to attend when warranted. Upon satisfactory completion of the course, the boys will be reimbursed 50% of the total cost.

**Order of the Arrow:** Every year we have an election for boys who:

- hold the First Class rank and is under the age of 18 and is registered as an active member of the troop and have the approval of the Scoutmaster for nomination.
- Must have completed at least 15 days and nights of camping under auspices of the Boy Scouts of America during the 2-year period prior to the election. The fifteen days must include one long- term camp (6 consecutive days and nights) the balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short term camps.
- Voting for candidates will be based on their spirit of brotherhood, cheerfulness (no matter how tiresome their duties), and a willingness to give unselfish and wholehearted service to others at all times.

The actual election is held by an Order of the Arrow Election team and the outcomes of that election are based on a formula that will be explained to the scouts the evening of the election.

The boys selected will be told to attend a "Tap Out" ceremony during the Summer on a Wednesday evening. The boys must complete their Ordeal Weekend in the Fall of that year or the Spring of the following year.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Parent Survey Sheets (attached) out when your son joined the troop. Please complete and return them so the boys in our troop can benefit from your talents.

Merit Badge Counselors are needed to help the scouts complete their merit badge requirements. These are people (mostly parents or relatives) who are skilled or knowledgeable in certain areas that are covered in the BSA Merit Badge System. Volunteers would be appreciated and will be offered help to get started. Simply fill out an Adult Application form and list your qualifications. This is a great way to volunteer minimal time to help the boys with their advancement.

## **DRIVERS FOR SCOUTING EVENTS**

Bus Drivers are always in need to transport our active troop. A Commercial Driver's License is required by any adult to transport our scouts to scouting events. Our current drivers would gladly help with training any adult interested in helping out. The cost of the license will be reimbursed to those who get qualified.

This troop travels the whole eastern seaboard and the benefits the scouts receive from this advantage are endless. With no bus or driver, we either sit at home or we all car caravan. Think about how many trips your son would go on if you had to drive him everywhere!!

In accordance with BSA policy, scouts under 18 can drive to BSA activities **alone** only under the following conditions:

- a) Six months driving experience as a licensed driver (time on a learner's permit or equivalent excluded),
- b) No record of accidents or moving violations,
- c) Parental permission in writing is shown to the Scoutmaster.

**Additionally, the troop requires that parents or guardians notify the Scoutmaster in advance if their son will be driving to a BSA activity and will be arriving late or departing early.**

Lastly, seat belts must be worn by all occupants and scouts may not ride on the rear deck of station wagons or in the bed of pickup trucks.

Parents who act as drivers must submit to Leaders their insurance coverage information. A copy of a Local Tour Permit will be supplied to each additional driver by the Tour Leader. The parent driver must fill out the permit form, and the Scoutmaster or his Assistant Scoutmaster is responsible for keeping the form. A new form should be filled out for each trip. (If parents drive only their own sons, they don't need to fill out the insurance information form.) Each time there is more than one Scout in a vehicle on a Troop activity or trip, there must also be a BSA Trained leader and one other adult. This is called "TWO DEEP LEADERSHIP".

### **CHECK REQUESTS**

Leaders will be required to submit a Check Request Form for funds to cover Troop projects/activities. All bills/receipts incurred for Troop expenses, up to the **budgeted** amount, should be approved by the Committee Chairperson, Scoutmaster, and Assistant Scoutmaster and submitted to the Treasurer by the Scout Leader for payment.

No check will be issued by the Treasurer without a completed Check Request Form (see below). Any check request for more than \$50 must be approved by the Treasurer or the Troop Committee Chairperson or at a Committee Meeting. A receipt should be obtained upon payment for merchandise/service, and should be forwarded to the Treasurer, to be attached to the Check Request Form. In the case of issuing a blank check, all receipts will be attached to the Check Request Form when the check has been written.

**Troop 57  
Check Request Form**

Check Requested By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Check is to be Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Payable to: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Description/Reason for Check: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Approval:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please obtain a receipt, to be forwarded to the Treasurer, and attached to the Check Request Form.)

Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Check Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Troop 57  
Check Request Form**

Check Requested By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Check is to be Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Payable to: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Description/Reason for Check: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Approval:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please obtain a receipt, to be forwarded to the Treasurer, and attached to the Check Request Form.)

Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Check Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PERMISSION SLIPS**

It is required that permission slips be obtained to cover each of the

Troop activities (other than meetings). The Scoutmaster must keep the permission slips on file for each event. The permission slip must be signed by the Scout's legal guardian. A new permission slip must be completed each time the Troop goes on a different field trip.

## **FUND - RAISERS**

The Troop holds several fund-raisers throughout the year to help scouts earn money for their accounts. Fund-raisers are needed to allow the boys to enjoy a quality program. Ideas are always needed and appreciated. Please present your idea to the Troop Committee and we will help you arrange and run the project. Some recent fund-raisers held by the troop included bake sales, car washes, and selling popcorn.

Volunteers for Fund Raiser Chairperson and Co-Chairperson will be solicited at a Troop Committee Meeting for each fundraising event.

A Chairperson and Co-Chairperson for each individual fund raising event will be responsible for processing orders and distributing the merchandise to the Scouts. Fund raising receipts are to be turned in to the Fund Raiser Chairperson by each individual Scout at the designated Troop Meeting following delivery of merchandise. (Each Scout will submit one check payable to Troop 57. It will be the Scout's parent's choice whether to accept cash or a check from each customer.) Actual collecting of money will take place 1/2 hour before and after the Troop Meeting; no money will be collected during the meeting. The Chairperson/Co-Chairperson will give each Scout a receipt for his payment. (Receipt books with carbons will be available from the Treasurer.)

The Fund Raiser Chairperson will turn the money over to the Treasurer, who will be present at the Troop Meeting. The Treasurer will provide the Chairperson with a receipt for the funds. The Treasurer will make a night deposit of the funds after the Troop Meeting.

Anyone unable to attend the Troop Meeting must contact the Fund Raiser Chairperson within three days to make payment arrangements. If a Scout's parent fails to do so, after the three day grace period, the Fund Raiser Chairperson will contact the Scout's parent. All receipts and an accounting of the cost and profit of the fund raiser must be turned in to the Treasurer within seven days after the Troop Meeting. Any open accounts one week after the Troop Meeting will be reviewed at the next Committee Meeting, and recommendations made for further follow-up action.

If a check is returned to Troop 57 by the bank, only cash will be accepted as payment of the Scout's account, and any penalty fee assessed on our account by the bank will be passed on to the Scout's parent.

Every Scout will be expected to sell an appropriate amount for each sale, to be determined by the Budget Committee. In lieu of selling, a designated contribution is requested, to be given to the Fund Raiser Chairperson at the Troop Meeting.

## **CAMPERSHIPS**

Minsi Trails Council offers camperships for families in **need if your son will be camping in one of the Council Scout Camps**. Parents should contact Council directly at 264-8551 to obtain the necessary form to be filled out.

## **UNIFORM BANK**

A uniform bank is available for anyone who needs it. See the Committee Chairperson or the Scoutmaster for information. Mr. Mel Mertz, our Unit Commissioner, is in charge of the Uniform Bank. He says it is a two way street- you have to make a "deposit" to "withdrawal"

another uniform. Before you take all the patches off the uniform you are trading in, see if the one you are getting has the patches your son needs first. Mel's phone number is 799-3343.

## **PROJECTS INVOLVING CHURCH PROPERTY**

According to the Union Board of Governors, if a Scout or Patrol wants to do anything involving church property (for example, the Conservation Project that is pre - approved by the Troop Committee), the Scout Leader should call the Property Committee Chairman to determine if the Project must be submitted in writing, to be approved by the Union Board. The phone number of the church Secretary is 767-6961.

After the project is completed, the Scout Leader in charge of the project or the Scout himself should send the Union Board a thank-you note, with a summary of what was done and what award was earned.

## **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

The **Budget Committee** will include the Scoutmaster and/or Assistant Scoutmaster, Committee Chairperson, Treasurer, Advancement Chairperson, , and any interested Troop Committee members who wish to volunteer to serve on the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee will be responsible for developing the following estimates and projections in order to prepare a budget for Troop 57:

1. Determine the "per Scout cost" for a Scout to participate in Troop 57 activities. (List the expenses involved during the scouting career: charter, Boys Life, handbooks, achievement/advancement badges, year pins, quality unit awards, etc.)
2. Set up guidelines for "per Scout" expenses, to cover costs.
3. Determine the contribution amount required in lieu of selling for the fund raisers.
4. Estimate the profit from fund raisers, to be able to come up with a projection of available funds for Troop expenses.
5. Report back to the Troop Committee in six months to report on the Budget Committee's progress in preparing the budget/projections.

## **LIST OF SCOUTMASTER'S REFERENCES (as of 10-30-96)**

### PHYSICAL FORM

MERIT BADGE REQUIREMENT BOOKS

MERIT BADGE BOOK FOR 1994-95 (OR LATER)

BLUE MERIT BADGE APPLICATION

BOY SCOUT AND LEADER APPLICATIONS

BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK, TENTH EDITION, dated 1990

JUNIOR LEADER HANDBOOK, 1992 PRINTING

SCOUTMASTERS HANDBOOK, 1993 PRINTING

TROOP RECORD BOOK

TROOP COMMITTEE GUIDEBOOK, 1992 PRINTING

SCOUTMASTER'S JUNIOR LEADER TRAINING KIT, 1990 PRINTING

DEN CHIEF HANDBOOK, 1995 Printing

## **RATIFICATION CRITERIA**

The proposed Boy Scout Policies will be submitted to the Troop Committee on January 25, 1995. Troop Committee members will be given approximately one month to review the recommendations.

Written comments/questions for consideration will be collected at the February 22, 1995 Committee Meeting. The Policy Committee will meet to revise the policies on February 28, 1995. A vote will be taken on March 29, 1995 to approve the policies; a majority vote from all registered members of the Troop Committee will determine approval.



# Boy Scout Troop 57

## RELEASE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

THAT I/WE, \_\_\_\_\_ for and in consideration of the sum of ONE (\$1.00) DOLLAR-----and the benefits received by our child by participation in Boy Scout Troop 57 of Neffs, Pennsylvania,

do hereby remise, release and forever discharge BOY SCOUT TROOP 57 of Neffs, Pennsylvania, its representative, successors,-----

James Sup, Robert Billig, Charles Ricketts, Randy Surman, Gary Gray, Rev. George DeKrafft, Eric Minford, Rodney Wark, Mel Mertz, John Simmock, individually, their

heirs, executors, and administrators, of and from all, and all manner of actions and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, accounts, bonds, covenants, contracts, agreements, judgments, claims and demands whatsoever, in law or equity, especially:

for any Boy Scout activity participated in by our son, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

and the above individuals, which against the said Boy Scout Troop 57 of Neffs, Pennsylvania/I/We-----

ever had, now have or which their heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, or any of them, hereafter can, shall or may have, for or by reason of any cause, matter or thing whatsoever, from the beginning of the world to the date of these presents.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF \_\_\_\_\_(I/WE) have hereunto set \_\_\_\_\_(MY/OUR) hand and seal the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, AD 19\_\_\_\_\_.

SIGNED, SEALED & DELIVERED  
in the Presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_ (SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_ (SEAL)

Approved by the Troop Committee  
March 29, 1998

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**Chuck Ricketts Ricketts, Scoutmaster**

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**Gary Gray, Committee Chairman**

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**Gerry Hoffman, Troop Secretary**

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**Eric Minford, Assistant Scoutmaster**

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**Rev. George De Krafft, Troop Chaplain**

-----  
**Mike Best, Advancement Chair**

-----  
**Randy Surman, Assistant Scoutmaster**

-----  
**Ron Hoffman, Treasurer**