

## TROOP 57 UNIFORMS, ADVANCEMENTS AND MERIT BADGES

### 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 Boy Scouts of America official retail 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 and red epaulets, BSA BELT AND BUCKLE (is suggested), and Boy Scout short pants or appropriate olive colored shorts (for Summer Camp), (We know the cost of scout class "A" clothing and how fast boys out grow them so we accept jeans and other pants but no sweat pants or wild colored 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 events (plain color T-shirts, camp shirts, etc. are acceptable but no sports, rock bands, etc. type shirts). The appropriate dress for troop meetings and events is listed on the Troop Schedule or as designated by the Senior Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster. The only hats permissible for wear at any Troop 57 meeting is an official BSA approved hat (such as Troop cap, camp cap, BSA cap). The Troop recycles uniforms and other clothing items so if there is interest in previously worn items contact a leader to see what is available.

The leader's uniform includes a khaki shirt, BSA BELT AND BUCKLE, scout pants, and red epaulets and 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.

### 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 and ground pad
- BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK AND PEN
- 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)
- A COMPASS

### ADVANCEMENTS:

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. It is the scout's responsibility to select and work on rank advancements and track progress

via sign-offs in his Scout Book (He is not spooned feed as in Cub Scouts). He needs to do or learn how to do the requirements and be able to show or tell about it to a senior troop member before the requirement is signed as complete (via a senior scout). 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 committee 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, and 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 to do, the Scout needs to see the Scoutmaster for approval, an application (blue card) for the Merit Badge and to be given the name and telephone number of an approved 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 prints **very clearly** the information on the Blue Card in ink. 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 BOTH parts. The scout returns THE PART INDICATED to the ADVANCEMENT CHAIRPERSON, AND the scout saves 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 when records are reviewed prior to receiving any rank above the First Class Rank. The First Aid Merit Badge is typically handled within the Troop in fall before the North Valley District First Aid Meet. Summer Camp is an excellent opportunity to work on many merit badges that the scout otherwise may not have the opportunity to obtain. Other merit badges are partially completed during some Troop activities and are signed off by the merit badge counselor.