

# Elburn Troop 7 Handbook



# Introduction

Troop 7 is located in Maramech Hill District of [Three Fires Council](#), part of the [Boy Scouts of America](#). Troop 7 is chartered to the [Community Congregational Church](#) in Elburn. We have been continuously chartered since 1924.

## Scout Goals

We hope your son will have an enjoyable time learning Scouting Skills while a part of Troop 7. We are here to help with his advancement at Troop meetings, campouts and all other Troop activities. We are committed to offering your son every opportunity to advance from Tenderfoot to Eagle. We try to get all scouts to the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> class in the first year of scouting. Scouts who accomplish this are more likely to continue in scouting past their first year.

Unlike Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts is intended to be a boy-run organization. Scouts decide what events to do, plan those events, and carry them out. Scouts are responsible for teaching the scout skills required for rank advancement up to 1<sup>st</sup> class. Older scouts provide leadership to the troop.

## Aims of Scouting

The goal of Troop 7 is to help boys develop into honorable men. Scouting activities are pointed towards the three basic Aims of Scouting. **Character Development** focuses on honesty, confidence, respect, independence, and reverence. **Citizenship Training** helps them be active informed citizens, respectful of others, appreciative of the environment, and to be a cheerful servant. **Mental and Physical Fitness** challenges them to learn new things, participate in vigorous outdoor activities, keep their minds and bodies clean, and to use sound judgment in leading.

## Methods of Scouting

Troop 7 uses the 8 Methods of Scouting to meet the boys' need for fun and adventure and accomplish the three Aims of Scouting:

- The Ideals** – Scout Oath, Scout Law, Outdoor Code, Scout Motto, Scout Slogan
- The Patrol Method** – A group of 6 – 10 boys with a sense of pride and identity
- The Outdoors** – A variety of outings held at least monthly with varied skill levels
- Advancement** – Recognition for learning new skills and showing leadership
- Association with Adults** – Scout Leaders acting as positive role models
- Personal Growth** – Growing physically, spiritually, emotionally into men
- Leadership Development** – Progression through increasing levels of leadership
- The Uniform** – A symbol of belonging and equality

# Parental Involvement

Scouts with active parents are much more likely to enjoy and succeed in scouting. If you make scouting a priority, your son will also make it a priority. Parents are always welcome to attend troop meetings and activities. All parents should complete [Youth Protection Training](#) online.

Many volunteers are needed to deliver the scouting program. Troop 7 requires at least one parent of each boy to volunteer in some capacity. Volunteering may involve being a committee member, coordinating an event, being an Assistant Scoutmaster, coordinating a fundraiser, driving, merit badge counselor, or filling a committee position. Please ask if you are unsure where your skills would be best suited. Non-participating parents will be contacted and asked to perform a specific task or choose from a list of open positions.

## Adult Drivers

Scouts with a valid license may only drive himself or an immediate family member to or from any scout activity. All adults who volunteer to drive scouts to and from scouting events are required to carry at least the minimum required insurance amounts required under Illinois law. Driver information including DL number, vehicle description(s), address, phone number and birth date will be requested by the Troop Tour Coordinator. The BSA requires [tour permits](#) for activities involving Troop travel so that BSA insurance is in effect. Having this information on file lets the Coordinator fill out the requests without having to call you.

## Troop Committee

The Troop Committee sets the course for the troop and ensures the troop is run in accordance with BSA policies. The committee meets the first Monday after the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the Scout meeting room of the Community Congregational Church. All parents are encouraged to attend.

## Patrol Leaders' Council

Patrol Leader Council (PLC) meetings are the first Tuesday after the first Thursday of each month (or the Tues. following the Committee meeting) at 6:30 P.M. in the Scout meeting room of the Community Congregational Church. This is one hour prior to the regular meeting.

## Troop Meetings

The Troop meets on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 – 8:45ish. The Troop follows the Kaneland school calendar. There is no Troop meeting if school is cancelled or not planned. During the summer, the Troop meets twice a month per announced schedule.

## Assistant Scoutmasters

The Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM) advises and guides the scouts through their rank advancement. ASMs verify the scout has learned the skills required and sign the scout's book. ASMs also hold scoutmaster conferences with each scout when they finish the requirements of each rank. It is vital to the troop to have enough trained ASMs to provide this one-on-one interaction with the scouts.

## Outdoor Activities

The troop has a minimum of one troop activity per month. A troop activity is open to all scouts in the troop and is typically a weekend camping trip, but could be a day activity such as rock climbing, bike trip, ski trip, or hike. Scouts who are in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year are eligible to attend medium adventure outings. These are typically 3-4 day trips involving moderately strenuous activities such as canoeing, backpacking, rafting, or biking. Scouts 14 years of age are eligible to attend high adventure outings. These outings are typically one week or longer and involve highly strenuous activities such as backpacking, canoeing, or sailing in remote areas. The [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) applies to all activities.

## Campouts

A tucked-in uniform and [permission slip](#) are required for all campouts. Personal electronics devices are not allowed. Troop 7 supplies tents, tarps, lanterns, and other patrol equipment. As part of the Patrol Method, scouts should not bring their own tents without prior permission. Scouts should compile a checklist of personal equipment to bring on each campout. The list in the BSA Handbook can be used as a starting point with items added and deleted based on weather and personal preference.

One scout per patrol is "grub master". He collects \$10 from each scout and purchases the food for the [menu plan](#) the patrol has prepared. Scouts should not bring candy, soda, or personal food items on campouts. The scouts learn to plan meals, cook, eat, and cleanup as a patrol. Each scout must bring his mess kit to each campout.

Local trips usually involve parents dropping off scouts at the event. Adult drivers are needed for trips outside the local area. Typically, we meet at the Community Center on a Friday at 5:45 to leave at 6:00. Normally, we return to the community center by noon on Sunday. Scouts may use an adult's cell phone to arrange pickup before arrival. Scouts should be picked up promptly.

## Communication

The primary method of communication is the announcements at the Troop meeting. Additional information will be broadcast via email. Urgent messages are sent through an automated callingpost.com phone message. Troop 7's website is located at [www.troop-7.org](http://www.troop-7.org) and contains a calendar, forms, information, and pictures.

# Troop Uniform

A Boy Scout 'Class A' uniform is required at **all** troop meetings. This consists of:

- 1) Tucked in Boy Scout Shirt with correct [insignia](#)
- 2) Red Troop neckerchief with slide until rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Class is achieved
- 3) Boy Scout Bolo after rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Class is achieved
- 4) Clean and hole-free blue jeans, khakis, shorts, or dress pants with belt loops. Sweats, cutoffs, and bottoms without belt loops are not allowed.
- 5) Belt
- 6) BSA or Troop 7 cap if cap is worn

Per BSA rules, the 'Class A' uniform is required to be worn to and from **all** Scout activities. It is also required by the Three Fires Council's accident and sickness insurance that is in effect during Troop activities. Scouts who arrive for an activity without the appropriate uniform will not be allowed to participate. Typically, the neckerchiefs or bolos are not worn to camping and hiking activities.

## Advancement

Items being completed for advancement must be done with the approval of the Scoutmaster or Merit Badge Counselor or someone designated by them. Requirements must be fulfilled while actively working on the badge or advancement with the instructor. Parents may not approve advancement work without the specific consent of the Scoutmaster or Merit Badge Counselor involved. Only Assistant Scoutmasters may sign the scout's book. 1<sup>st</sup> year scouts may not work on merit badges held in troop meeting until reaching the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> class.

## Merit Badges

[Merit badges](#) are offered during troop meetings, on outings, and at summer camp. All scouts must have the Scoutmaster's permission to participate in a merit badge. 1st year scouts cannot participate in merit badges during troop meetings until they have reached the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> class. Parents are welcome to register to be a counselor for merit badges they have an interest in. Merit badges must be offered to all eligible scouts in the troop.

# Advancement Recognition

1<sup>st</sup> year scouts are recognized for their rank advancements through 1<sup>st</sup> Class at the troop meetings. The higher rank advancements and merit badges are awarded at a Court of Honor held 3 times per year. These events usually include a potluck meal and an awards ceremony.

## Electronics

Scouting is a program that builds independence and inter-personal skills. Personal electronics are a hindrance toward building these skills. Handheld and other game systems, CD players, MP3 players, headphones, and other personal devices may only be used during travel. They are to be left in the vehicle during the outing. These devices should not be brought to Troop meetings. **Troop 7 strongly discourages scouts from bringing cell phones on any outings.** Adult leaders have cell phones that scouts can use to arrange rides and in case of emergency.

## Scout Account Funds

Ideally, each scout should participate in enough fundraisers to pay their way to summer camp or other activities. The Troop typically has three or four fundraisers each year that your son can use to earn money to pay for scouting related activities. These are typically fire extinguisher sales, popcorn sales, and pancake breakfasts in February and August. The mandatory parental participation requirement must be maintained in order for the scout to use his funds. Families with more than one scout may elect to have one family account or one account per scout.

### **Scout Account funds may be used for the following:**

- 1) Annual scout registration or dues.
- 2) Summer Camp or High Adventure.
- 3) Camping equipment purchased from the BSA Catalog through the troop.
- 4) Camping equipment purchased at a local store with prior Committee approval.

### **Scouts may not use their account funds for:**

- 1) Campout food.
- 2) Souvenirs from camp or high adventure.
- 3) Materials for advancement/merit badge work.
- 4) Cash of any kind.

Each January, Scouts who have not re-registered will be contacted. The Scout will have 30 days to use the funds as stated above. The funds will be transferred to the General Fund if they are not used within 30 days.

## Troop Funds

The Troop has a general fund separate from the boys' Scout Account. This fund pays for outing and activity fees, awards, and other troop expenses. The Troop does not pay for parents to participate in activities such as summer camp. The Troop will typically pay only for the Scoutmaster in Charge. All parties attending medium or high adventure pay their own way.

## Registration

An annual non-refundable registration fee is due the first week of January. This fee is currently \$55.00. The adult leader and committee member registration fee of \$10.00 is paid by the troop. The registration fee is used for the following:

Council Registration	\$10.00
Boy's Life Subscription	\$12.00
Insurance	\$ 1.66
Outing and Activity Expenses	\$15.00
Awards & Troop Expenses	\$16.34

Each year at registration, parents may be asked to fill out a new Class 1 medical form on their Scout. This basic, personal information is needed should any medical emergencies arise during a scout activity.

## Camperships

Troop 7 maintains a fund that can be used by scouts who would otherwise be unable to attend events such as summer camp due to financial constraints. Scouts requiring financial assistance should contact the committee chair.

## Insurance

Three Fires Council carries an accident & sickness policy that is in effect during Troop activities. Copies of the basic policy are available on request. This insurance covers all scouts, registered and volunteer leaders. Non-scouts and adults who are attending because of a potential interest in scouting are covered but must have the Scoutmaster's permission prior to attending. All scouts and adult leaders traveling to and from events must travel in their Class A uniform.

# **Discipline Policy**

## **Scout's Agreement**

Understanding that respect for myself, fellow scouts, adult leaders and parents is part of the Scout Law to be courteous, kind, obedient, helpful and reverent; I agree that if my conduct or speech is unbecoming a Boy Scout, I will call my parents and ask them to pick me up from this scouting activity.

## **Parent's Agreement**

I agree that if the adults at this activity deem my son's behavior or speech to be unacceptable for a Boy Scout, I will pick him up from this activity within an agreed upon time.