

Elburn Troop 7 Handbook



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Introduction

Troop 7 is located in Potawatomi District of Three Fires Council, part of the Boy Scouts of America, also known as Scouts USA. 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 1st 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 1st 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 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 are expected to complete Youth Protection Training, at <http://my.Scouting.org>. This provides a safe environment for both parents and Scouts alike. The current Youth Protection Training certificate is good for a period of 2 years.

Many volunteers are needed to deliver the Scouting program. Troop 7 asks that 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 and have a valid Youth Protection Certificate. The Troop requires a valid Driver's License for drivers and Proof of Insurance for any vehicle used to transport a youth that is not a part of the driver's family.

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 Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the Scout meeting room of the Community Congregational Church. Committee Meetings are open to all and parents are encouraged to attend.

Patrol Leaders' Council

Patrol Leader Council (PLC) meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 P.M. in the Scout meeting room of the Community Congregational Church. This is 45 minutes prior to the regular meeting. The PLC is comprised of the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, Patrol Leaders, Troop Guide and Scribe. If a Patrol Leader is unable to attend, he shall have the Assistant Patrol Leader for his patrol attend.

Troop Meetings

The Troop meets on Monday evenings from 7:15 - 8:45ish. The Troop follows the Kaneland school calendar. In general, there is no Troop meeting if school is cancelled or not planned. During the summer, the Troop meets twice a month per announced schedule.

Scoutmasters & Assistant Scoutmasters

The Scoutmaster (SM) and Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM) advise and guide the Scouts through their rank advancement. Both verify the Scout has learned the skills required and sign the Scout's book. The SM holds Scoutmaster conferences with each Scout when they finish the requirements of each rank. ASMs may also be asked to perform Scoutmaster Conferences. 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 3rd year and up 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 during a campout but may be used during travel to/from a camp site. Troop 7 supplies tents, tarps, lanterns, and other patrol equipment. Scouts who are 3rd year and up may bring their own tents. 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 Elburn Post Office on a Friday at 5:30 to leave at 6:00. Normally, we return to the Elburn Post Office by noon on Sunday. Scouts may use an adult's cell phone to arrange pickup before arrival. Scouts should be picked up promptly.

Scouts attending campouts must turn in a signed [permission slip](#) to the Senior Patrol Leader.

Communication

The primary method of communication is the announcements at the Troop meeting. Additional information will be posted at the Troop's private Facebook Page and broadcast via email. The Troop also uses the "Remind" service to make notifications. Please note that this service has limitations as to the size of the message and uses text messaging for

delivery. Troop 7's website is located at www.elburntroop7.org and contains a calendar, forms and information.

Troop Uniform

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

- Tucked in Boy Scout Shirt with correct insignia
- Red Troop neckerchief with slide until rank of 1st Class is achieved
- Boy Scout Bolo after rank of 1st Class is achieved
- Clean and hole-free blue jeans, khakis, shorts, or dress pants with belt loops. Sweats, cutoffs, and bottoms without belt loops are not allowed.
- Belt
- 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. The Scouts will be notified when it is appropriate to wear Class B T-Shirts to an event.

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.

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. Participation in the Merit Badge is up to the discretion of the Merit Badge Counselor conducting the class. During the class, the counselor will keep track of the requirements and the dates that the Scouts have achieved those requirements. Upon completion of the Merit Badge Class and having signed off on the requirements the counselor will give the Scout his Blue Card and it is the Scout's responsibility to complete the card with their personal information and then turn it in to the Troop's Advancement Coordinator. 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

Rank advancement is typically announced on the date they have passed a Board Of

Review for the rank, the date they are given their Rank patch, and the Court Of Honor following their rank advancement. Merit Badges are awarded at a Court Of Honor. The Troop holds a Court Of Honor 4 times per year.

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. Typical fundraisers are Pancake Breakfast tickets sales, Trails-End Popcorn sales and greenery sales held in the Spring and Fall. 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 Scouting related activities such as:

- Annual Scout registration or dues.
- Summer Camp or High Adventure.
- Camping equipment.
- Materials for advancement/Merit Badge work.
- Their Eagle Court Of Honor ceremony.

Scouts may not use their account funds for:

- Campout food.
- Souvenirs from camp or high adventure.
- 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 individual 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. All parties attending medium or high adventure pay their own way.

Recharter/Registration

Each year, at the direction of the Three Fires Council, the Troop goes through the rechartering process. This process which occurs between November and December, sets the Troop's registration fees for the upcoming year. The Troop will make known as soon as possible what the fees will be for the upcoming year as they change year over year based upon national dues and insurance fees.

During the recharter process, parents may be asked to fill out a new Medical Form Parts A & B for their Scout. This basic, personal information is needed should any medical emergencies arise during a Scout activity. Part C of the Medical Form is required for medium and high adventure Scouting activities.

Parents who are attending a Scouting event lasting more than 72 hours are also required to be registered with the Troop as either an ASM or Committee member. If the parent intends to become active in their registered role, the Troop will cover their recharter/registration fees.

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 Troop's Committee Chairperson or Scoutmaster.

Insurance

Three Fires Council carries an insurance 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.

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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.

Scout's Signature: _____

Additional Scout's Signature: _____

Additional Scout's Signature: _____

Additional Scout's Signature: _____

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.

Parent's Signature: _____

Handbook Acceptance

Signature below is required to acknowledge acceptance and understanding of this handbook.

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____