

Policies and Procedures Troop 97 BSA



St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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Fort Collins, Colorado 80525

Minor Revisions (11/2014; 1/2016)

Previous Revisions (5/1984, 5/1989, 10/2006)

Original: 4/1981

Summary of 2016 Changes & Updates

- 2.10 & elsewhere—Changed references to Venture Scouts to 'older' or 'senior' Scouts since BSA has dropped the term from the latest handbooks. Removed references to BSA Venture uniform patch, which has apparently been discontinued.
- 3.3—Updated troop offices to match new *Boy Scout Handbook*.
- 9.7—Minor change to \$350 Eagle Scout award to require remaining active.
- passim—Updated title of *Scoutmaster Handbook* to *Troop Leader Guidebook* and updated exact names and order of Scouting Methods to match the latest handbooks.

Summary of 2014 Changes & Updates

- 1.1—Minor expansion of purpose.
- 1.8—Minor update to include parents as an important example for the Scouts.
- 2.4—Expanded/updated description of troop committee membership, training, and voting.
- 2.5—Minor update to description.
- 2.6—Added reference to 4.2 pre-requisites to be an ASM.
- 2.10—Updated requirements to be a Troop 97 Venture Scout.
- 3.3—Added newest BSA Scout offices.
- 3.4—Minor changes to reflect current practices.
- 4.1—Added description of 'other registered adults'.
- 4.2—Updated description of BSA requirements for registering merit badge counselors, and deleted old policy to register a parent of every Scout (since BSA has no proper category); updated SM/ASM registration requirements to include 6 months involvement with Troop 97 and to complete BSA training before being registered; updated troop committee registration requirements.
- 4.3—Minor update to active service standard; minor clarification to removal policy for Assistant Scoutmasters and parents.
- 4.4—Minor clarification to expulsion policy.
- 5.2—Updated PLC & APC attendance policy; added info about mid-summer break & 'picnic in the park'; expanded committee meeting information; updated description of Courts of Honor.
- 5.3—Minor changes to show that activities are open to parents, not just registered parents. Updated summer camp information.
- 5.4—Minor updates to show latest BSA water safety and bicycling safety plans; updated permission form information to current BSA requirements.
- 6.3—Updated active service requirement to match latest BSA standard.
- 6.4—Added troop guide.
- 6.5—Updated to current badge counts.
- 7.4/7.5—Minor changes to update uniform practices and reflect BSA changes.
- 7.6—Minor update to description of troop neckerchiefs.
- 8.1/8.2—Updated to show current financial practices.
- 8.3—Expanded to describe sales of BSA popcorn, and use of affinity cards.
- 8.7/8.8—Updated to show current fee structure.
- 9—Updated to show current practices.
- 10.1—Minor description update.
- 10.2—Updated to match current policy.
- 10.3—Updated to reflect current electronic devices.
- 10.4—Added new email guidelines and updated newsletter rationale.
- 10.9—Updated to reflect current issues with PCDs

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Chapter 1

Overview and Troop Goals

1.1–General (2014)

These Policies and Procedures are not rigid rules, but provide guidelines and goals for the operation of Troop 97 BSA, sponsored by St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Fort Collins, Colorado. They are not intended to cover every possible eventuality. We must apply them using common sense and fairness. The Policies and Procedures devote much space to the Scoutmaster's responsibilities, because his performance is the key to a successful troop, and because all other troop adult jobs support the Scoutmaster's efforts.

1.2–Enforcement and Changes (1989)

As the troop's executive officer, the Scoutmaster is empowered to enforce and to waive all policies, whichever in his judgment is in the best interest of Troop 97 and its members. The troop committee has final authority over any question of interpretation. The troop committee must approve all changes to the Policies and Procedures.

1.3–BSA Policies (1989)

The Scoutmaster needs the training, knowledge, and initiative to make sure that Troop 97 operates in full accord with the Charter and Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and with all applicable BSA policies and procedures. The troop committee needs to acquire the training and knowledge to meet their responsibility to ensure that the Scoutmaster so operates the troop. Primary resources for Scouting knowledge are the *Boy Scout Handbook*, *Troop Leader Guidebook*, and *Troop Committee Guidebook*.

1.4–Troop Philosophy (1989)

Today, too many people are satisfied with mediocrity. Too many people are casually dishonest, unethical, and immoral in their everyday conduct. Too many people are satisfied to follow rather than lead. In Troop 97, we want to teach our Scouts to be leaders, to set the example, to stand up for what they know is right. We want our Scouts to be honest, to set high goals for themselves, and to be achievers.

1.5–Challenge and Adventure (1989)

Scouting magazine described Troop 97 this way: "The *Official Boy Scout Handbook* promises adventure, and the leaders of Colorado's Troop 97 deliver it." Challenge and Adventure, too often missing in adolescent life today, are vital elements to maintain the interest of the Scouts and to help them develop leadership and self-confidence. We must do everything we can to include these elements in every aspect of our troop program.

1.6–Leadership Development (1989)

Scouting teaches leadership. And the only way to learn leadership is to practice it by holding leadership responsibilities. As Scouts mature in the troop, they become directly responsible for the development of the younger Scouts. First Class Scouts plan, execute, and evaluate the troop program, under the watchful guidance of the Scoutmaster.

1.7–BSA Aims and Methods (1990)

Troop 97 uses all the eight Methods of Scouting to achieve the three Aims of Scouting, as explained in the *Troop Leader Guidebook*.

SCOUTING'S AIMS:

to develop future LEADERS of

- strong CHARACTER;
- good CITIZENSHIP; and
- physical, mental, emotional, and moral FITNESS.

SCOUTING'S METHODS:

- Adult Association
- Advancement
- Ideals (Promise, Law, Motto, Slogan)
- Leadership Development
- Outdoors
- Patrol Method
- Personal Growth
- Uniform

1.8–Values (2014)

We expect all troop leaders and parents to stress traditional moral and ethical values, in Scouting and in their daily lives as an example to the Scouts, especially by doing their best to live in accordance with the Scout Law and Scout Promise.

Chapter 2

Troop Organization

2.1–Troop Program Year (2006)

Troop 97 plans its program from September through August, matching the school year. The troop activity calendar is planned annually a few months in advance of the beginning of the program year, to allow time for research, and for approval by the troop committee. The troop sends a brief annual report, annual calendar, and annual statement of account to each family at the end of each program year. The beginning of the school year is a time for Scouts, families, uniformed leaders, and troop committee to re-evaluate their activities and make plans for a new year.

2.2–Troop Organization (1989)

Troop organization includes the following major components:

- chartered organization (sponsor)
- troop committee
- parents
- uniformed adult leaders
- Patrol Leader Council
- regular patrols
- New Scouts Patrol
- senior-Scout programs

2.3–Chartered Organization (Sponsor) (1989)

Troop 97 is sponsored and owned by St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The chartered organization is obligated by the BSA Charter agreement to provide an adequate meeting place, including storage for troop equipment, and to secure and approve new troop adult leaders. The chartered organization appoints a Chartered Organization Representative (Scouting Coordinator) to be the key liaison between the troop and the chartered organization. The chartered organization has the ultimate responsibility to ensure that the troop operates in full accord with all BSA policies.

2.4–Troop Committee (2014)

The troop committee is composed of a chairman and several members with functions as described in the *Troop Committee Guidebook*. Specific jobs should cover:

- advancement
- treasurer
- secretary
- transportation
- troop supper/fund-raising coordinator
- adult membership
- quartermaster
- uniform exchange
- potluck suppers
- merit badge counselors list

All committee members must be registered with the Boy Scouts of America, and must take the applicable online BSA training for committee members. The committee has three primary functions:

- to secure new adult leaders as vacancies occur
- to approve troop programs and activities as planned by the Patrol Leader Council and Scoutmaster
- to provide troop program support as requested by the Scoutmaster, especially transportation and adult leadership for outings

Because BSA requires adult registration for some activities (typically summer camp & trek) and does not provide a special registration category for such registrations, such adults must be registered as BSA code "MC" (committee member). But these adults are NOT members of the Troop 97 committee and are not entitled to vote on committee actions. Troop 97 committee members are those registered and trained adults specifically designated as committee members by the troop committee chairman.

By troop custom, all Troop 97 committee members, uniformed adult leaders, and parents are welcome at regular committee meetings, and are usually welcome to vote on issues discussed at those meeting. The committee chairman has the discretion to restrict voting solely to the committee.

2.5–Parents (2014)

Parents must participate actively if they want their son to succeed in Scouting. Troop records show that most Scouts whose parents are not involved do poorly in Scouting. Troop 97 expects and encourages at least one parent from every family to be actively involved with the troop. It is the responsibility of the Scoutmaster and troop committee to determine what level of involvement is acceptable.

2.6–Uniformed Adult Leaders (2014)

The uniformed adult leaders consist of one or more Assistant Scoutmasters operating under the direction and control of the Scoutmaster. Their duties are to train and guide boy leaders, and to use the Methods of Scouting to achieve the Aims of Scouting. The Scoutmaster has full responsibility for all program decisions of the troop. We expect all uniformed adult leaders to take the basic Scout leader training offered by the local BSA district and to read the *Boy Scout Handbook* and *Troop Leader Guidebook*. See section 4.2 for pre-requisites.

2.7–Patrol Leader Council (2006)

The Patrol Leader Council (PLC, “Green Bar”) plans and conducts the troop program under the guidance of the Scoutmaster, who trains its members and who has ultimate authority and responsibility over all decisions made. The operation of the PLC is a key means of leadership development. Voting members of the PLC are:

- Senior Patrol Leader
- Patrol Leaders
- Troop Guide (senior Troop Guide if there is more than one troop guide)
- senior Scout patrol or crew leader

Non-voting members are:

- Scoutmaster
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s)
- Assistant Troop Guide(s)

The Scoutmaster always has veto power over PLC decisions.

2.8–Regular Patrols (2006)

The patrol method is the most important and distinctive characteristic of Scouting, and it is one of Scouting’s eight methods. Only the Senior Patrol Leader, the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s), and any Junior Assistant Scoutmasters are not in patrols. Troop 97 has several “regular” patrols as well as two special patrols (described below). Scouts are free to choose a patrol once they have earned Tenderfoot, although new Scouts typically remain in the New Scouts patrol until the end of the Adventure Weekend. The Scoutmaster may choose to assign patrols. Each patrol elects its own Patrol Leader, who represents the patrol on the Patrol Leader Council. Patrols function as described in the *Boy Scout Handbook* and *Troop Leader Guidebook*.

2.9–New Scouts Patrol (2006)

The New Scouts patrol is a special Troop 97 feature (adopted by the BSA in 1989) that has helped increase retention of younger Scouts. All new Scouts are placed in the New Scouts patrol upon joining Troop 97, where they receive special training under the guidance of a senior Scout (Troop Guide) appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader with Scoutmaster approval. A Scout gets to choose his regular patrol after the completion of the Adventure Weekend (if he has earned Tenderfoot), or as soon after the Adventure Weekend as he has earned Tenderfoot.

2.10–Senior Scout Programs

2.10.1–General (1994)

Both Troop 97 and the BSA offer several special programs for senior Scouts. Troop 97 organizes some of its senior Scouts into an optional older patrol or crew . The troop organizes a backpack, canoe, or bicycle “Trek” crew each year. In addition, senior Scouts may organize into temporary crews (see the *Boy Scout Handbook* and *Troop Leader Guidebook*). And the Scoutmaster may appoint 16 and 17 year old Scouts as Junior Assistant Scoutmasters.

2.10.2–Senior Scouts (2016)

Troop 97 considers Senior Scouts to be any Scout who is 14 or older, or who has completed a Troop 97 Trek.

2.10.3–Senior Patrol (2016)

Troop 97 Senior Scouts may remain in a regular patrol or join the senior patrol. All Senior Scouts (not just senior patrol members) may take part in Senior-Scout activities. Each Senior Scout should have specific leadership responsibilities in the troop, and we must actively encourage older Scouts to hold key troop leadership positions. The senior patrol is led by an elected Senior Scout as their patrol leader. Senior Scouts wear no special insignia other than any badge of office to which they are currently entitled. The Scoutmaster may appoint one or more Assistant Scoutmasters, and the troop committee chairman may appoint one or more committee members, to work with the older Scouts. The senior patrol may plan special, Senior-Scout-only activities appropriate to their age and experience level separate from the troop. The Senior Scouts may plan some meetings and campouts separate from the troop meetings and campouts, subject to Scoutmaster approval.

2.10.4–Trek Crew (2016)

Each year, Troop 97 conducts a special “Trek” (described under Outings). Participants must be Star rank or higher (the Scoutmaster may allow First Class Scouts to participate at his discretion), and must meet all other qualifications set by the Scoutmaster. While part of a Trek crew, Scouts remain members of their regular patrol or the senior patrol.

Chapter 3

Scout Leadership

3.1—Leadership Development (1989)

Leadership development is one of Scouting's eight methods. For Scouts above First Class, leadership and service are more important than earning merit badges. The troop's boy leaders are responsible for planning and executing the troop program.

3.2—Elections (2006)

The two most important troop positions (Senior Patrol Leader/SPL, Patrol Leader/PL) are elected by their peers to six-month terms. Elections for SPL occur in January and during summer camp. The Senior Patrol Leader is chosen by secret ballot of the entire troop (more than half the active Scouts must be present). If no candidate receives a majority, the troop will immediately hold a runoff election between the top two vote-getters. Patrol Leaders are elected in a similar manner by the members of their patrol. PL elections often occur a week or more after SPL elections to allow time for the new SPL to select his staff. Elected officers take office immediately, except that the SPL elected during summer camp assumes offices immediately after camp.

3.3—Scout Leadership Positions

3.3.1—Senior Patrol Leader (1989)

The troop is led by its elected Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). He chairs the Patrol Leader Council and leads meetings and outings. The SPL normally serves only one six-month term, to allow as many senior Scouts as possible to hold this leadership position. The Scoutmaster may, at his discretion, allow an SPL to run for another term.

3.3.2—Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (1994)

The SPL appoints one or more Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPLs), subject to Scoutmaster approval. ASPLs serve at the pleasure of the SPL, normally for one or more six-month terms.

3.3.3—Troop Guide/Senior Troop Guide (2006)

The SPL appoints one or more Troop Guides, subject to Scoutmaster approval. The Troop Guide works with the New Scouts Patrol(s). His position is equivalent to an ASPL. The Troop Guide serves at the pleasure of the SPL, normally for one or more six-month terms. When there is more than one New Scout patrol, a senior Troop Guide may be appointed to supervise the Troop Guides.

3.3.4—Patrol Leader (1989)

Each patrol is led by its elected Patrol Leader. He represents his patrol on the Patrol Leader Council, which plans troop programs and activities. Patrol Leaders are elected to six-month terms.

3.3.5—Senior-Scout Patrol & Crew Leaders (2016)

Like any other patrol, the senior patrol elects its own patrol leader. In addition, any Senior Scout crew set up for a specific Senior-Scout activity may select a crew leader for the duration of that activity. The leader of the annual troop Trek is also a Senior-Scout crew leader.

3.3.6—Instructor/Senior Instructor (2006)

The SPL appoints instructors, subject to Scoutmaster approval. Each instructor is responsible for teaching in one or more skill areas. The instructors serve at the pleasure of the SPL, based on performance and active service. The SPL may appoint a Senior Instructor (equivalent to an ASPL) to train and supervise the instructors.

3.3.7—Junior Assistant Scoutmaster (1990)

The Scoutmaster appoints Junior Assistant Scoutmasters (JASMs). Each JASM has responsibilities similar to the adult Assistant Scoutmasters. The JASM serves at the pleasure of the Scoutmaster, based on performance.

3.3.8—Other Officers (2016)

Each Patrol Leader appoints his Assistant Patrol Leader, subject to the approval of the SPL. The Patrol Leader may rotate the Assistant Patrol Leader job to provide experience to several patrol members. Den Chiefs are requested by the Cub Scout pack, subject to Scoutmaster approval. They serve at the pleasure of the Cub Scout pack. The SPL appoints the troop Scribe, Quartermaster, Librarian, Historian, Bugler, Chaplain Aide, Outdoor Ethics Guide, and Troop Webmaster. These officers have duties as described in the *Boy Scout Handbook* and *Troop Leader Guidebook*, and they serve at the pleasure of the SPL, normally for one or more six-month terms.

3.4—Requirements for Office

3.4.1—Requirements for All Positions (2014)

All officers must receive the Scoutmaster's approval in advance, and all must be actively attending meetings and campouts in order to fulfill the job requirements. The PLC and Scoutmaster may change requirements for troop offices as the needs of the troop change.

3.4.2—Senior Patrol Leader (2014)

- Star rank or higher
- Must be attending most meetings and outings
- Have been a member of Troop 97 for a minimum of one year
- Have been a Patrol Leader, ASPL, or Troop Guide in Troop 97 for a minimum of six months

3.4.3–Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (2014)

- Star rank or higher
- Must be attending most meetings and outings
- Have been a Patrol Leader or Troop Guide in Troop 97 for a minimum of six months

3.4.4–Senior-Scout Patrol Leader (1994)

- Same requirements as Senior Patrol Leader

3.4.5–Troop Guide/Senior Troop Guide (2014)

- Star rank or higher
- Must be attending most meetings and outings
- Have been a member of Troop 97 for a minimum of six months

3.4.6–Patrol Leader (1992)

- First Class rank or higher
- Must be attending most meetings and outings
- Have been a member of Troop 97 for a minimum of six months

3.4.7–Instructor/Senior Instructor (2006)

- First Class rank or higher (Star for senior Instructor)
- Willing to accept specific instructional and leadership responsibilities

3.4.8–Junior Assistant Scoutmasters (2006)

- 16 or 17 years old (BSA requirement)
- should be Eagle, minimum Life rank
- Willing to accept Assistant Scoutmaster-type responsibilities

3.4.9–Other Officers (1989)

- Any qualified, interested Scout
- Preference to Scouts First Class and higher, who need leadership to advance

Chapter 4

Membership Standards

4.1–Membership

4.1.1–Membership Categories (2014)

Membership in Troop 97 consists of the following categories:

- Scouts
- uniformed adult leaders
- troop committee members
- other registered adults
- member families

(A) Troop 97 Scouts are boys who meet BSA age requirements, are currently registered with the BSA as Troop 97 Scouts, and are currently active in the troop.

(B) Uniformed adult leaders are adults who meet BSA age requirements, are currently registered with the BSA as Troop 97 Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters, and are currently active in the troop.

(C) Troop Committee members are adults who meet BSA age requirements, are currently registered with the BSA as Troop 97 Committee Chairman or Committee Members, and are currently active in an assigned area of committee responsibility.

(D) Other registered adults are adults registered with BSA solely for the purpose of providing leadership on a Scout activity where BSA registration is required (such as summer camp or trek). Because BSA has no registered category for these adults, they must be register with BSA code “MC” (committee member), but they are NOT members of the Troop 97 committee.

(E) For the purposes of troop membership, **member families** are the parents and minor brothers and sisters of Scout members, or the spouse and minor children of registered adult members. While other relatives and friends are welcome at Courts of Honor, most other activities are restricted to one or more member categories.

4.1.2–Active/Inactive Members (1995)

A Scout is considered active if his attendance at meetings and campouts meets the active service standard below. Uniformed adult leaders, troop committee members, and parents are considered active if they meet the parent involvement standard below. Active members have full membership privileges. Inactive members may be denied certain privileges, including attendance on some activities, advancement, and leadership.

4.2–Entry Requirements

4.2.1–Scouts (2006)

Any interested boy who meets the membership requirements above may register as a Scout in Troop 97, subject to the restrictions in this section. The Scoutmaster and troop committee may limit the number of new Scouts admitted each year to maintain overall troop size at a level that allows for a quality program, based on current membership, the number and quality of adult leaders, and anticipated membership losses. The most desirable entry period is from January through May, so that new members can attend summer camp and the Troop 97 Adventure Weekend shortly after joining. The troop always admits younger brothers or sons of present or former members in good standing regardless of the present membership level.

4.2.2–Merit Badge Counselors (2014)

BSA requires that all merit badge counselors, whether otherwise registered or not, must fill out a merit badge counselor registration form to “register” as a counselor.

4.2.3–Parent Involvement (1994)

At least one parent of every Scout must agree to be actively involved with the troop as a condition of their son's membership in the troop. The Scoutmaster and troop committee shall publish a list of parent job opportunities and set standards for active involvement.

4.2.4–Scoutmaster / Assistant Scoutmaster (2014)

Anyone desiring to become Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 97 must meet the following requirements:

- Be approved by the chartered organization, the troop committee chairman (in consultation with the troop committee), and the Scoutmaster (in consultation with the other uniformed leaders);
- Have completed all BSA training for the position;
- Have been actively involved with Troop 97 for a minimum of 6 months.
- The first 6 months as a ‘uniformed leader’ is a probationary period; during that time either the troop committee chairman or Scoutmaster may ask that leader to step down without additional process.

4.2.5–Troop Committee Members (2014)

Anyone desiring to become a member of the Troop 97 Committee must meet the following requirements:

- Be approved by the chartered organization and the troop committee chairman (in consultation with the troop committee);
- Complete basic BSA online training for committee members.

4.3–Standards of Membership

4.3.1–General (1995)

To retain full membership in Troop 97, a Scout must be active, must wear a full uniform, and must meet the behavior standards of the troop.

4.3.2–Active Service Standard (2014)

A Scout must be active to reap the full benefit of Scouting in Troop 97. Because camping is the heart of Scouting, the troop expects its Scouts to attend overnight camps winter and summer, and to make every effort to attend the annual week at summer camp. A Scout is considered active if he attends a minimum of 50% of regular meetings (excluding summer meetings) and a minimum of 50% of regular campouts (including summer camp). There are no excused absences since the 50% standard is intended to allow sufficient leeway for such things as illness, school activities, family activities, or sports. Scouts aged 16 or 17 are considered active if their attendance is 33%. Although the troop does not suspend inactive Scouts, the Scoutmaster may exclude them from certain activities. Inactive Scouts may pay higher fees.

4.3.3–Parent Involvement Standard (1995)

Parent involvement is vital for each Scout, and vital to the overall troop operation. An active parent is one whose family earns a minimum of 100 troop activity credits each year. The Scoutmaster may exclude inactive parents from certain activities (such as the annual Trek). Scouts whose parents are inactive may pay higher fees.

4.3.4–Advancement Standard (1995)

A Scout needs to advance regularly to learn the skills and leadership that are central to the Scout program. Troop 97 expects all Scouts to earn First Class within one year of joining, and to continue to advance at least one rank per year after that. The Scoutmaster may restrict certain activities to Scouts holding specific ranks or merit badges as appropriate to the activity or as a reward for advancement.

4.3.5–Uniform Standard (1995)

Troop 97 requires a complete and correct Scout uniform for all Scouts and uniformed adult leaders. Scouts and adults may have a reasonable time to acquire a complete uniform or to replace worn or outgrown components. The Scoutmaster may exclude Scouts without proper or complete uniforms from uniformed activities. No Scout may appear before any Board of Review without wearing a complete uniform (the Scoutmaster may make exceptions for new Scouts appearing before a Tenderfoot Review and for Scouts appearing before a Review during a non-uniformed campout). The Board of Review may deny advancement to those who consistently wear less than full uniform.

4.3.6–Behavior Standard (1989)

Troop 97 expects reasonable behavior in accord with the Scout Promise and Law. The Scoutmaster should counsel with any Scout whose behavior is disruptive. If counseling fails, the Scoutmaster may dismiss the Scout from the activity and notify the parents of the problem. If the Scout continues to create behavior problems, the Scoutmaster may suspend him, usually for a period of six months. The troop committee has the final right of appeal.

4.3.7–Removal of Adults (2014)

General–The chartered organization may remove any adult leader, in accordance with BSA policy. In general, the chartered organization leaves such actions within the troop, stepping in only when necessary.

Scoutmaster–The Scoutmaster serves at the pleasure of the chartered organization and troop committee. He may be removed only by joint action of the chartered organization and troop committee.

Assistant Scoutmaster–Assistant Scoutmasters serve at the pleasure of the Scoutmaster and troop committee. They may be removed by the troop committee or by request of the Scoutmaster to the troop committee. This does not preclude the Scoutmaster's authority to dismiss a leader from a troop activity for cause, pending later action of the troop committee.

Chartered Representative–The Chartered Representative serves at the pleasure of the Institutional Head. He may be removed by action of the chartered organization, or by request of the troop committee to the chartered organization.

Committee Chairman–The committee chairman serves at the pleasure of the chartered organization. He may be removed by action of the chartered organization, or by request of the troop committee to the chartered organization.

Committee Member–Troop committee members serve at the pleasure of the committee chairman. They may be removed only by joint action of the committee chairman and the troop committee.

Merit Badge Counselor–Merit Badge Counselors serve at the pleasure of the troop committee. They may be removed by the troop committee, or at the request of the Scoutmaster to the committee.

Parent of Scout–Parents of currently active Scouts are normally permitted full access to troop activities, with the exception of certain activities (like the annual troop Trek) that have necessary adult participation restrictions. The troop committee may restrict parent participation or remove all participation privileges as necessary for the safety and well-being of the Scouts (court-ordered custody restrictions, legal convictions, unwillingness to live by the Scout Law/Promise, etc).

4.4–Discipline

4.4.1–General (1989)

Discipline needs to be positive rather than negative whenever possible, and it must be applied using common sense and fairness. Troop 97 does not permit corporal punishment or hazing of any kind, nor does it allow disciplining through pushups or other punitive physical exercise. For more serious offenses, the troop may use probation, suspension, and expulsion.

4.4.2–Probation (1989)

Probation is a period of evaluation both by the troop and by the Scout under probation to determine fitness or desire to remain in the troop. A Scout under probation may not normally hold any troop leadership position, and is generally barred from certain “special” troop activities, at the Scoutmaster's discretion.

4.4.3–Suspension (1989)

Suspension is the temporary loss of all membership privileges in the troop, typically for 3 or 6 months. A Scout is not eligible for any advancement during the suspension period. A suspended Scout may be readmitted at the conclusion of the suspension period only after he has submitted a letter to the troop committee, signed by himself and his parents, stating his pledge to meet all troop standards fully.

4.4.4–Expulsion (2014)

Expulsion is the permanent loss of all membership privileges in the troop. The troop committee, acting as a committee of the whole or by request from the Scoutmaster, may permanently expel any member for any of the following:

- illegal conduct, in or out of Scouting;
- illicit use of drugs or alcohol, in or out of Scouting;
- bullying, hazing, or harassment of another Scout;
- stealing from another Scout;
- misbehavior or refusal to abide by troop policies which is seriously detrimental to the welfare of the troop;
- willful disregard of the Scout Law or Scout Promise, especially by an adult in a position of trust.

Chapter 5

Troop Activities

5.1–General (1998)

Troop activities are divided into meetings and outings. Meetings include troop meetings, Patrol Leader Council meetings, troop committee meetings, Courts of Honor, and the Annual Planning Conference. Outings include day outings, weekend campouts, family outings, summer camp/Adventure Weekend, and the annual “Trek” or other special Senior-Scout trips. We expect all activities to start and end on time, and we expect Scouts and adults to arrive and to be picked up on time.

5.2–Meetings

5.2.1–Troop Meetings (2014)

Regular troop meetings occur on Mondays, usually twice per month, year round, from 7 until 8:15 or 8:30 pm, as designated by the Scoutmaster. The troop generally takes a brief hiatus during July, except for a mid-summer ‘picnic in the park’ meeting, as determined by the Scoutmaster. Scouts and leaders are expected to arrive on time, in uniform, and to be picked up promptly. The Patrol Leader Council plans and conducts all troop meetings under the direction of the Senior Patrol Leader. Attendance is open to all members (Scouts, uniformed adult leaders, troop committee members, and member families) and to visitors who are interested in joining a Scout troop.

5.2.2–Patrol Leader Council Meetings (2014)

The Patrol Leader Council (PLC or “Green Bar”) generally meets about one Monday per month in lieu of a regular troop meeting. At the meeting, the PLC plans the troop meeting and outing programs through the next PLC meeting. Attendance is primarily for PLC members and uniformed adult leaders, but other interested Scouts are welcome.

5.2.3–Troop Committee Meetings (2014)

The troop committee generally meets once per month except during summer. The Committee Chairman and Scoutmaster jointly plan the agenda. Attendance is open to troop committee members, uniformed adult leaders, and all interested Scout parents. The Scoutmaster needs to attend to present the plans and needs of the troop as decided at the PLC meeting. The committee may hold additional meetings as necessary to address specific issues, and these meetings may be restricted to official committee members only, at the discretion of the Committee Chairman.

5.2.4–Courts of Honor (2014)

Troop 97 generally holds four formal Courts of Honor per year, typically in August, November, February, and May. The August Court of Honor is typically a picnic or potluck supper, while the others are followed by a shared dessert. Attendance is open to all members (Scouts, uniformed adult leaders, troop committee members, and member families), interested family friends and relatives, and visitors who are interested in joining a Scout troop. Since badges and awards are presented as soon as possible after being earned (and neckerchiefs are presented only on campouts), the Court of Honor is a second, formal recognition, in front of the parents, of rank certificates, mother’s pins, and of all other significant accomplishments that have occurred since the last Court of Honor.

5.2.5–Annual Planning Conference (1998)

Prior to the beginning of each program year, the PLC meets to plan the troop’s annual program. Planning should include monthly theme ideas, dates/places/ themes for outings, and special events. The conference is also an opportunity for the Scoutmaster to conduct junior leader training. Attendance is primarily for PLC members and the uniformed adult leaders (including Junior Assistant Scoutmasters), but other interested Scouts First Class rank and higher are welcome.

5.3–Outings

5.3.1–Purpose (1989)

The outdoor program of camping and hiking is the heart of Scouting, and is one of Scouting’s eight methods. A variety of overnight experiences, conducted on a monthly basis year round, in all weather, is essential to a successful Scouting program.

5.3.2–Patrol System (1989)

The patrol system is one of Scouting’s eight methods, and it is central to the operation of a good Scout troop. Troop 97 Scouts should camp by patrols, and the campouts should support the patrol method, to the maximum extent possible.

5.3.3–Attendance on Outings (2014)

All Troop 97 Scouts, the troop’s uniformed adult leaders, and parents may attend most overnight outings, unless the Scoutmaster determines that special restrictions are necessary. All registered leaders, parents, and leader spouses may attend most day outings. The troop (and BSA) do not permit mixed tenting except between husband and wife. Additional attendance policies are contained under each type of outing below.

5.3.4–Day Outings (1989)

The PLC plans occasional day outings to places of interest when overnight camping is impractical or inappropriate. Attendance at most day outings is open to all troop members (Scouts, uniformed adult leaders, troop committee members, and member families). The Scoutmaster may restrict attendance at some outings as necessary for the troop program.

5.3.5–Weekend Campouts (2014)

The PLC plans a year-round program of weekend overnight campouts providing a variety of outdoor experiences and covering the full range of the Scout program. Attendance at most campouts is open to all Scout members, uniformed adult leaders, and parents. The Scoutmaster must make every effort to attend as many campouts as possible. The Scoutmaster may restrict attendance at some campouts as necessary for the troop program.

5.3.6–Family Outings (1989)

Family outings are day or overnight trips open to member families (Scout brothers and sisters may attend only if they are under the supervision of their parent). The Scoutmaster should designate at least two family outings each year, including at least one overnight family outing. The Scoutmaster needs to select family activities so as not to interfere with the normal operation of the program for the Scouts and patrols. All family members must abide by BSA and troop policies and are subject to the decisions of the troop leaders. The purpose of family outings is to strengthen the family unit, to encourage families to camp on their own, and to expose family members to the values and ethics of Scouting.

5.3.7–Summer Camp/Adventure Weekend (2014)

The annual week at summer camp is vital to the success of the troop's year-round program. We expect ALL Scouts to make every possible effort to attend summer camp. The Scoutmaster also must make every effort to attend the full week of summer camp. Troop 97 normally holds its "Adventure Weekend" for new Scouts the opening weekend of summer camp. The troop's senior Scouts run the Adventure Weekend under the direction of the Troop Guide. Activities cover requirements for Tenderfoot (and at least some of Second Class and First Class), as well as basic camping, cooking, and first aid skills, and Troop 97 traditions and procedures. The troop committee conducts Boards of Review during the weekend. We expect a parent of each new Scout to attend. Attendance at summer camp is open to all Scouts, uniformed adult leaders, and parents. Attendance at the Adventure Weekend is restricted to Scouts who have not been to summer camp with Troop 97 and their parents, senior Scouts selected by the Troop Guide (and approved by the Scoutmaster), and uniformed adult leaders. All adults providing summer camp leadership must be registered.

5.3.8–Troop 97 Trek (2006)

Troop 97 provides an annual one- to two-week "Trek" for senior Scouts. The Trek has three purposes:

- to develop maturity, leadership, self-confidence, initiative, and teamwork;
- to develop the boy leadership team for the coming year; and
- to help maintain older-boy interest in Scouting.

This leadership-development experience goes considerably beyond the level of other troop outings in degree of difficulty and challenge, and should be aimed at senior Scouts who have experienced all the more usual troop activities, who can benefit from a more advanced activity, and who are most likely to pass on their new learning to the other Scouts over the coming year. The Scoutmaster determines appropriate attendance requirements and trip policies necessary for the safety and success of the Trek; he may limit group size and adult participation based on wilderness codes or safety; and he must ensure that proper training is given. Attendance is restricted to qualified senior Scouts and qualified uniformed adult leaders, subject to any group size limits set by the Scoutmaster or the wilderness area. The Scoutmaster may in his judgment permit qualified, non-uniformed parents to participate as adult leaders to meet the needs of the Trek. All adults on the Trek must be registered.

The troop typically offers a backpacking "Trek" in odd years to nearby areas of Colorado and Wyoming. It typically offers "Expeditions" and "SuperTreks" in alternating even years, which are more ambitious backpacking, canoeing, cycling, sailing, or touring treks further afield. SuperTreks are longer and more ambitious than Expeditions.

5.3.9–Adult Leadership on Outings (2006)

To lead a Troop 97 outing, an adult must:

- be registered with Troop 97
- have current BSA Youth Protection training
- have current BSA Scout Leader Basic Training (or be approved by the troop committee)

In addition, one adult must:

- have current BSA Safe Swim and Safety Afloat training (if aquatics will be involved, other than at a public pool with lifeguards or at a BSA staffed summer camp)

To attend a Troop 97 outing, an adult must be registered with Troop 97 (or be approved by the troop committee). The troop committee and Scoutmaster may also further restrict adult qualifications for specific activities.

To participate on a Trek or similar Senior-Scout activity, all adults must:

- have current BSA Youth Protection training
- be active with the troop and knowledgeable about our Scouts
- be in appropriately good physical condition

5.4–Activity Policies

5.4.1–Adult Presence at Activities (1990)

In accordance with current BSA Youth Protection and adult leadership policies, at least one adult must be present at all non-overnight troop or patrol activities, and a minimum of two qualified, registered adults must be present at all overnight troop or patrol outings. A minimum of one registered adult must be present at all troop meetings, patrol meetings, and merit badge sessions. If only one adult is present, a minimum of two Scouts must also be present (no one-on-one adult/Scout activities). Scouts must work on merit badges in buddy teams (a single Scout may *not* meet outside of a troop meeting with a merit badge counselor). When an adult needs to talk privately with a Scout, either a second adult must be present or they must be in plain sight of other Scouts/adults. If the Scoutmaster is not present on an overnight activity, the adult in charge must be approved by the Scoutmaster. One adult and one Scout may *not* tent together (unless they are father and son, although we recommend that adults and Scouts always camp separately to support the patrol method). At least one adult on any overnight activity must be male.

5.4.2–Tour Permits (1989)

The troop must secure a proper BSA Tour Permit for each outing, in accordance with BSA policy.

5.4.3–Permission Forms (2014)

The troop must obtain annually a Health & Medical Statement (usually the standard BSA summer camp medical form) for each Scout, signed by his parents, in accordance with BSA guidelines. The troop must also obtain a permission slip & surgical waiver for each Scout on each outing.

5.4.4–Driving Safety Policies (1989)

The troop should provide a copy of the troop driving safety policies once a year to every person who provides transportation for Troop 97 as a volunteer driver. The driving safety policies should list current BSA and Troop 97 policies which the troop committee believes will contribute to driving safety.

5.4.5–Sign-up and Payment Deadline (1989)

The newsletter should indicate a sign-up and payment deadline for each campout. Scouts are responsible for meeting this deadline. Those who miss the sign-up deadline may be excluded from the campout. Those who fail to pay on time may be required to pay a late penalty. Those who sign up and then cannot go are obligated to notify the Scoutmaster and their Patrol Leader immediately. Scouts who cancel too late may forfeit the cost of food and other non-refundable expenses.

5.4.6–Aquatic Activities (2014)

All aquatic activities must function in accordance with the BSA "Safe Swim Defense Plan", BSA "Safety Afloat" plan, BSA "Kayaking Safety", BSA "Scuba Safety", BSA "Snorkeling Safety", or "BSA Whitewater Safety", as appropriate, and must follow BSA and Longs Peak Council Water Trip Policies. In addition, it is troop policy that only qualified swimmers (those who have recently passed the BSA 100-meter swimmer test) be allowed to water ski or to be in a canoe, sailboat, or river raft. Anyone swimming in moving water, or from a boat, must wear a lifejacket at all times.

5.4.7–Bicycling Activities (2014)

All bicyclists, adult or Scout, must wear a bicycling safety helmet at all times while riding, including to and from troop meetings.

5.4.8–Horse Riding (1992)

All horse riders, adult or Scout, must wear a riding helmet or a bicycling helmet at all times while riding.

5.4.9–Pets (1994)

No one may bring a pet on any troop activity unless specifically approved in advance by the Scoutmaster.

5.4.10–Guns (1994)

Troop 97 does not allow any Scout or adult to bring a gun on any troop activity. Shooting activities (such as for Rifle Shooting merit badge) must conform to current BSA policies and be conducted at a proper, approved shooting range.

5.4.11–Snow Shelters (1994)

Sleeping in a snow shelter is part of the fun of winter camping. This policy is designed to provide Scouts with the opportunity to sleep in a snow shelter safely. Scouts may not use a pre-existing snow shelter of any kind, because of the uncertainty of the condition and structural strength of a shelter that is not new. Scouts may not build or sleep in a snow cave. Snow caves are risky because: there may be a meter or more of snow above the occupants in case of collapse; it is difficult to provide adequate supervision during construction because snow caves must be scattered (they must be built where the snow has accumulated deep enough); and there is considerable uncertainty regarding the condition of the various layers of old snow that may constitute the structure. Scouts may build "quinzhee" snow shelters, igloos (from snow/ice bricks), or construct a snow trench, subject to the following conditions: 1) A designated and qualified adult must instruct all Scouts in the proper construction of the snow shelter. 2) All shelters must be located in a designated area. 3) One or more adults must provide supervision during construction. 4) Pairs/teams building a shelter must work with one person inside and one outside at all times. 5) An adult must provide a final inspection of the shelter before Scouts sleep in it.

Chapter 6

Advancement

6.1—General (1989)

Scouts learn by advancing. Advancement is one of Scouting's eight methods because it teaches useful skills and because it teaches leadership and service. The Scoutmaster may require a specific level of advancement for some activities, due to the nature of that activity or as an inducement to encourage advancement. Troop 97 expects each Scout to advance regularly, to achieve First Class within one year of joining (the BSA standard), and to meet the troop's minimum advancement standard.

6.2—Ranks (1989)

The first three ranks (Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class) emphasize basic skills. The higher ranks (Star, Life, Eagle) emphasize leadership and service; skills at this level are secondary. Advancement in Troop 97 must operate in full accord with the requirements contained in the current editions of the appropriate BSA literature. Advancement through the six ranks consists of performance in the following seven categories.

6.3—Active Service (2014)

BSA has essentially eliminated the active service requirement for the first three ranks. However, the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class still require attendance at a specified minimum number of activities and overnight campouts.

6.4—Basic Scout Skills (2014)

The basic Scout skills for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class must be certified (signed off) by Patrol Leaders, instructors, troop guides, or by the uniformed adult leaders. Parents may certify a skill only with the Scoutmaster's approval (the intent of the advancement plan is to let Scouts learn leadership and develop their own skills by teaching other Scouts).

6.5—Merit Badges (2014)

There are close to 140 merit badges. Thirteen specified merit badges are required by the time a Scout achieves Eagle. Eagles must earn an additional eight optional badges for a total of 21. A Scout of any rank may earn any merit badge. The merit badge system is designed to propel the Scout beyond the home, to learn to communicate with strangers, and to learn about a subject from a local expert. Scouts desiring to earn a merit badge must first secure the name of an approved adult counselor from the Scoutmaster. The troop committee is responsible for maintaining a current list of merit badge counselors. Parents may counsel their son on a badge only if they are the approved troop counselor for that badge.

6.6—Leadership (1989)

A Scout must hold an approved troop office and execute it in an acceptable manner for at least the minimum period of active service required for Star, Life, and Eagle. For Star or Life, a Scout may also carry out a specific leadership project approved by the Scoutmaster.

6.7—Service Projects (1989)

This is useful service to the church, school, community, or Scouting, performed under the direction of troop leaders or with the Scoutmaster's prior approval. It is important to future citizens to develop the habit of service to the greater community. An Eagle Scout candidate must be the leader in charge during his project, and the Eagle project must benefit the community outside of Scouting.

6.8—Scoutmaster Conference (1989)

After completing all requirements, and prior to the Board of Review, a Scout meets with the Scoutmaster or another adult designated by the Scoutmaster to discuss past progress and future plans.

6.9—Board of Review (1990)

After completing all requirements, a Scout is reviewed on work done. The troop committee conducts reviews for all ranks from Tenderfoot through Eagle, under the direction of the troop advancement chairman. In addition, the BSA requires that a representative of the district or Council advancement chairman be present at an Eagle review (or at Council option, the Eagle review may be conducted at a district or Council level).

Chapter 7

Uniform

7.1—Significance of the Uniform (1989)

Scouting is a uniformed movement. Throughout our society, only certain special people are entitled to wear a uniform. Just as a sports uniform proclaims one's membership on a team, the Scout uniform proclaims one's membership in the largest voluntary youth movement in the world. The Scout uniform tends to diminish the importance of an individual's financial, social, and ethnic background, while clearly showing his degree of accomplishment in Scouting. At the same time, the uniform maintains one's individuality since no two uniforms are completely alike, and they show off that individual's Scouting achievements.

7.2—Full Uniform Required (1989)

The uniform is so important it is one of Scouting's eight methods. Troop 97 requires a complete and correct Scout uniform for all Scouts and uniformed adult leaders, and has a Membership Standard (Chapter 4) on uniforming.

7.3—Uniform Exchange (1989)

The troop committee is responsible for providing a uniform exchange of used uniform items for resale at a reasonable price.

7.4—Uniform Components

7.4.1—General (2014)

Troop 97 has selected the BSA uniform options listed below; no other BSA options are permitted. The troop presents the following components:

- Troop 97 hat
- Troop 97 neckerchief
- Troop 97 Eagle neckerchief
- numeral 97 with 55-year bar (single piece)
- badge of office
- patrol medallion
- Quality Unit badge
- badge of rank
- troop nametag

The troop budget pays for all items.

7.4.2—Standard (“Class A” or “Full”) Uniform (2014)

The standard Troop 97 “Class A” uniform consists of the following components:

- Troop 97 hat (optional at indoor meetings)
- official BSA short-sleeved tan-colored shirt with appropriate insignia (long-sleeved shirt optional but NOT recommended)
- Troop 97 neckerchief or Troop 97 Eagle neckerchief
- any neckerchief slide
- official BSA olive-green pants, shorts, or zip-off
- any BSA belt and any BSA buckle
- official BSA olive-green socks (low-cut socks, NOT knee socks)
- any shoes or sneakers (socks required; no flip-flops, Crocs, or sandals)—Sandals no longer allowed due to too frequent abuse by adults & Scouts who refuse to wear socks.

7.4.3—Summer (“Class B”) Uniform (2014)

The “summer” Troop 97 “Class B” uniform is the same as the “Class A” uniform **except** that the shirt & neckerchief may be replaced with a Troop 97 T-shirt OR Troop 97 Trek shirt. The “summer” uniform may be worn at most summer troop meetings and during the day at summer camp, as determined by the Scoutmaster.

7.4.4—Standard Shirt Insignia (2014)

The following insignia are required on the official BSA shirt, and must be sewn in the correct position according to the appropriate BSA publications:

- Shoulder tabs—forest green shoulder loops;
- Left sleeve—Longs Peak Council shoulder patch, numeral 97 with 55-year bar, badge of office (if applicable);
- Right sleeve—American flag, patrol medallion, and current-year Quality Unit Patch;
- Left pocket—badge of rank, Arrow of Light (if earned);
- Above right pocket—troop nametag.

Other insignia are optional, but must be sewn in the correct position, if worn.

7.4.5—Adult Leader Uniforms (1992)

Adult leaders wear the same uniform as the Scouts, except they do not wear a badge of rank or patrol medallion.

7.5–Special Troop 97 Uniform Components

7.5.1–Troop-stocked Components (2014)

The troop stocks Troop 97 uniform components, or places an annual order for those components that are too expensive to stock. Typically, it is economical to stock “one size fits all” items such as the neckerchief, Eagle neckerchief, hat, numeral 97 with 55-year bar, and BSA-restricted uniform insignia (badges of rank, badges of office, Quality Unit badge). Items that require multiple sizes (troop T-shirt, fleece jacket) are typically ordered once per year, in the early spring so that new Scouts can order them before summer camp. The troop tries to maintain a small extra stock of T-shirts. Trek shirts are ordered for specific troop Treks. Base color should be royal blue to match the T-shirt, so that Scouts look reasonably uniform at summer activities. The troop gives each Scout and uniformed adult leader a neckerchief, hat, and appropriate insignia for one shirt. Insignia for extra shirts may be purchased through the troop. The troop gives each Troop 97 Eagle Scout an Eagle neckerchief. The troop sells the T-shirt, Trek shirt, and fleece jacket, except that each Scout going to summer camp gets one free T-shirt (built into the troop’s camp fees).

7.5.2–Who Can Wear Troop 97 Uniform Components (2016)

Only currently active Troop 97 Scouts and uniformed adult leaders may wear the Troop 97 neckerchief (see below). Only those who earned Eagle Scout as a member of Troop 97 may wear the Troop 97 Eagle neckerchief (see below). Only Troop 97 “Trek” participants may wear the Troop 97 Trek shirt. Any Troop 97 Scout, leader, or family member may wear the Troop 97 hat, T-shirt, and fleece jacket.

7.5.3–Wearing Troop 97 Uniform Components (2016)

The Troop 97 neckerchief and hat are required parts of the standard uniform. Troop 97 Eagle Scouts may choose to wear the Troop 97 Eagle neckerchief in place of the standard troop neckerchief. The Troop 97 T-shirt is required for summer camp and optional at certain other times. The Troop 97 fleece jacket is optional.

7.6–Troop 97 Neckerchiefs

7.6.1–Description (1989)

The Troop 97 neckerchiefs are the most distinctive and unique emblems of our troop. They symbolize the honor and reputation of this troop and should be respected and protected. The light blue color represents the daytime sky and the dark blue color the nighttime sky under which we camp. The mountains on the patch represent both the outdoors and the adventures there waiting for us. The snow on the mountains reminds us of the many winter activities we do in Colorado. The “97” in the center stands for our troop. The gold circle surrounding the number stands for Excellence and reminds us of our duty to set the example and give leadership to others (light the way). Finally, the red ring enclosing the gold circle is the ring of brotherhood and the color of honor.

7.6.2–Wearing the Neckerchief (2014)

Only Troop 97 Scouts and uniformed adult leaders are entitled to a Troop 97 neckerchief. All Scouts and uniformed adult leaders wear either the standard Troop 97 neckerchief or the special Troop 97 Eagle Scout neckerchief. The standard neckerchief is worn by all members who do not qualify to wear the Troop 97 Eagle Scout neckerchief. The Eagle neckerchief is worn by any Scout or adult who earned the Eagle rank as a member of Troop 97 (it may NOT be worn by Troop 97 members who earned their Eagle in another troop). Other neckerchiefs (OA, etc) should not be worn at Troop 97 functions.

7.6.3–Presentation (1990)

The standard neckerchief is presented only on campouts. New members, including uniformed adult leaders, should receive their neckerchiefs on their first overnight campout, if possible. The Eagle neckerchief is presented at the Eagle Court of Honor.

7.6.4–Sale/trade/replacement (1989)

Neither Troop 97 neckerchief may be sold, traded, or given to anyone not entitled to wear that neckerchief. Members are entitled to only one standard neckerchief, and Eagle Scout members are entitled to only one Eagle neckerchief. Members may purchase a replacement neckerchief for one worn out or lost. Those who earned their Eagle rank in Troop 97 before the Eagle neckerchief was created may purchase one. In exceptional circumstances where an individual has rendered outstanding services to Troop 97, the Scoutmaster may, at his discretion, present a standard neckerchief to that individual. In no case may an Eagle neckerchief be presented to a non-member. The neckerchief is presented only to individuals; it may not be presented to any organization, camp, building, etc.

Chapter 8

Finances

8.1–Finance Responsibilities

8.1.1–Troop Committee (1989)

The troop committee approves the annual troop budget, and it approves all expenditures in advance, except those spent by the treasurer or Scoutmaster in accord with the approved budget. The troop committee carefully selects the troop treasurer and oversees the treasurer's actions. The committee is responsible for conducting a simple annual audit of the previous year's income and expenses, assisted by the treasurer and the Scoutmaster.

8.1.2–Troop Treasurer & Scoutmaster (2014)

The troop treasurer must be a registered member of the troop committee. The treasurer is responsible for maintaining adequate records of all troop income and expenses. The treasurer provides a written report of income and expenses at the regular troop committee meetings.

The Scoutmaster may keep a petty cash fund for routine small expenses and for reimbursing others for authorized or routine expenses.

The treasurer or Scoutmaster may make approved purchases using a personal credit card for later reimbursement.

At the beginning of each activity year, the treasurer and the Scoutmaster prepare a summary of the previous year's income and expenses and prepare a proposed budget of all projected income and expenses for the coming year, for review and approval by the troop committee. The treasurer guides and assists the committee in conducting a simple annual audit of the previous year's income and expenses.

8.2–Troop Checking Account (2014)

Troop funds are kept in a checking account (interest-bearing, if possible) under the name of Troop 97 BSA. The troop treasurer is the primary disbursing officer of troop funds, although the Scoutmaster may keep a checkbook of separately numbered checks to use at summer camp and on other activities where the treasurer may not be present.

Checks over one-thousand dollars must require two signatures to be valid. It is recommended that the treasurer and Scoutmaster be check co-signers, with the Committee Chairman as a backup in case one of the others is unavailable.

8.3–Fund Raising

8.3.1–General (1997)

The troop committee is responsible for the conduct of all fund raising. Since 1980, the troop's primary fund raising has been the annual Troop Supper. We expect all Scouts and families to participate in fund raising efforts. The troop committee will decide how much of any funds earned go to the troop's general

budget and how much will be credited to each Scout's account, and for what purpose the funds may be used.

8.3.2–BSA Popcorn (2014)

The troop committee will provide the opportunity for interested Scouts to sell BSA popcorn on an optional basis. Profits from popcorn sales are credited to the Scout's account in proportion to his sales (the troop does not take a 'cut').

8.3.3–Affinity Cards (2014)

The troop committee may arrange for Scout families to use affinity cards from Kings Soopers, Safeway, etc. Such cards generally provide a 5% credit for purchases made at that store to be used for charitable purposes. Card credits are applied as earned to each Scout family's account as troop credits (the troop does not take a 'cut').

8.4–Annual Family Expenses (1989)

Annual expenses for the family of each Scout include annual troop fees, summer camp, annual troop "Trek", food for the monthly campouts, and occasional rental of cross-country skis. Less frequent expenses include purchase of a Scout uniform and small fees for certain activities (such as camporees). We expect families to encourage their sons to develop thrift by requiring them to earn a reasonable part of their Scouting expenses.

8.5–Payment Deadlines and Penalties (2006)

Annual fees for the next calendar year are payable by the end of the preceding September. Families have the option to pay in several installments as long as they make arrangement with the Scoutmaster BEFORE the September 30 deadline. Families who pay late or turn in their annual signup forms late, and who fail to make arrangement for installment payments before September 30, are subject to a late penalty (see 8.7). This is an inducement to pay on time so that the troop can budget and recharter in a timely manner. The Scoutmaster should set reasonable payment deadlines for other payments, and publish them when possible in the troop newsletter. Any Scout who fails to pay by the published deadline may be assessed a late penalty of up to 10% of the applicable fee, or he may be excluded from that activity, at the discretion of the Scoutmaster. All fees are payable in advance of the activity.

8.6—Refunds

8.6.1—General (1989)

Annual fees for the current calendar year are not refundable. The unexpended part of fees paid toward the next calendar year is refundable at the Scoutmaster's discretion. Fees paid by new members are not normally refundable. The intent of this policy is to encourage families to evaluate their interests carefully and to commit fully to Scouting in Troop 97, as well as to allow the troop to budget adequately. Other monies paid to the troop are refundable on request, if not already spent by the troop, and subject to any other applicable troop policy. The troop may make refunds only after the family requesting them has fulfilled all its other family financial obligations to the troop. The troop committee is the final arbiter on all refunds.

8.6.2—Non-refundable Deposits (2000)

For activities requiring commitment of significant fees well in advance, it is troop policy to require a non-refundable deposit (typically \$100/person, but this may be set this higher or lower as appropriate). In connection with this, the Scoutmaster or tour leader will determine a "signup" deadline and a "final drop" date. The signup deadline should be set as close to the activity date as possible, but early enough to allow adequate planning and reservations. The final drop date should be set at the time the first outside financial commitments must be paid for the activity.

To sign up for such an activity, each person must pay the deposit by the signup date. Those signing up after that date will be placed on a waiting list. For those who drop out of a trip, deposits (and other fees) are refundable as follows:

- 1) Before the signup deadline, all deposits and fees are fully refundable.
- 2) Between the signup deadline and the final drop date, the deposit will be credited to a Scout's troop account and is therefore available for regular troop expenses, but not otherwise refunded. Any additional fees paid are fully refundable.
- 3) After the final drop date, deposits are forfeited. Forfeited deposits will be disbursed as follows: (a) to pay for any actual expenses incurred on the person's behalf; (b) to help defray other participants' costs which have increased due to the person's withdrawal (e.g., the fair share of a chartered bus ride); (c) to the general troop budget (if any amount is credited to the general troop budget, a record of the amount will be given, on request, for tax purposes). If the deposit is insufficient to cover (a) and (b), then additional funds will be withheld before any additional fees paid by the withdrawing person are refunded. A full accounting of the withheld items will be supplied.

8.7—Annual Fee (2014)

The troop committee reviews the fee structure annually. The annual fee generally includes a credit (usually \$100) toward the cost of summer camp, to encourage attendance at camp. New Scouts who join before summer camp pay the full annual fee (less any troop credits). The occasional new Scout who joins after summer camp pays a pro-rated fee for the remaining months of the calendar year. The annual fee covers BSA registration for the Scout, Boys Life magazine subscription, accident insurance, and other general budget expenses. Transfers (new members currently registered in another troop or Cub Scout pack) do not receive credit for BSA registration, Boys Life fees, or any other fees paid to another unit (this greatly simplifies computation of fees and credits, reduces errors, and provides for all new members' paying the same rate).

8.8—Summer Camp Fee (2014)

The troop fee for summer camp is set as the actual camp fee plus an amount to cover troop expenses and T-shirt. Camp credits are explained in Chapter 9. The troop pays as much of the cost of summer camp for new Scouts as possible.

8.9—Adult Leader Expenses (1990)

The troop pays the BSA registration fee for all active uniformed adult leaders and for active troop committee members. The cost of registering one parent for each Scout is contained within the annual fees. The troop also pays for a Boys Life magazine subscription for any active uniformed adult leader who does not have a son in the troop. The troop pays the cost of BSA basic training for active uniformed adult leaders, and the troop pays a portion of the cost of any advanced training for active uniformed adult leaders, as determined by the troop committee. The troop also pays entry and other fees and for meals for adults on outings when the budget permits (as determined by the Scoutmaster). If the budget does not permit paying for all adults, the troop pays for the uniformed adult leaders, if possible. Uniformed adults are responsible for the cost of their own uniforms.

8.10—Other Expenses (1989)

The only expense on most campouts is for food. Scouts generally eat in their patrol groups. Each Patrol Leader is responsible for collecting and disbursing the money for campout food. The costs of summer camp and the annual troop "Trek" are reduced through the troop supper credit and other credits. The budget also normally includes a direct subsidy of the "Trek" costs, particularly the cost of the trip commemorative patch.

8.11—Payment by Check (1995)

We encourage families to make all payments to the troop by check. This provides a record of payment and a safeguard for both the family and the troop in the event of a mistake. It is troop policy not to accept payments of more than \$50.00 in cash.

Chapter 9

Credits, Scholarships, Eagle Monetary Award

9.1—Credits (2014)

Credits (also called discounts) are a means of reducing the costs of Scouting, especially for active families. The primary purpose of troop credits is to encourage each family to be involved, and to reduce expenses for those who are. The troop currently offers the following credits.

Credits for all Scouts (see 9.3)—

- parent involvement (activity) credit
- summer camp credit
- troop supper credit
- popcorn sales credit
- affinity cards

Special Credits (see 9.4)—

- brothers in troop
- senior Scout
- Eagle Scout

Special Credits for New Scouts (see 9.5)—

- first-year summer camp credit
- first-year Adventure Weekend credit

9.2—Using Credits

9.2.1—General (2014)

A family may use its credits for any Scouting expense, especially the annual fee, summer camp, and annual “Trek”. A family may use its credits for the intended purpose only, as described below. Credits go to a Scout’s “account” and are not paid out as cash, except that a Scout may use excess credits to purchase Scout or camping equipment as approved by the committee.

9.2.2—On Leaving the Troop Before Age 18 (2014)

Credits are earned by each family and are intended to be used solely by that family. When a family leaves the troop, any unused credits are lost. Unused credits may not be transferred to another family, nor may they be taken to another Scouting unit, should a family transfer or move to another town. Since the troop supper, popcorn, and affinity card credit are the only credits based on actual cash earned, the committee may allow a departing member to use the unused portion of those credits toward the cost of summer camp in his new unit the first summer after he transfers. The treasurer will make any check payable to the new troop and not directly to the family.

9.2.3—On Leaving the Troop After Age 18 (2014)

A Scout who remains active in Troop 97 through age 18, and who still has unused credits remaining in his account, may continue to use his credits while he remains in the troop. Upon leaving the troop, all unused credits are lost except that unused cash-based credits may be used toward the purchase of camping or similar equipment as approved by the troop committee.

9.3—Credits for All Scouts

9.3.1—Parent Involvement (Activity Credit) (2006)

This is the troop’s primary credit. It rewards families for parental involvement and leadership, which is essential to a continued quality troop program. Activity credits (“points”) are awarded based on a master list approved by the troop committee and kept by the Scoutmaster. The activity credit system attempts to recognize the value of most potential parent contributions, and is set up such that earning 100 activity credits reflects a reasonable and desirable level of parent involvement. The committee has the authority to award activity credits for any special contributions not covered by the standard list. The committee annually sets a value for the credits based on the total activity credits earned and the amount they feel the troop can budget (usually about \$1/point). Typically, 25% of the credit is reserved for uniform replacement, and the other 75% for general use. This credit is calculated based on the current activity year (September through August), and is usually credited in late August (when annual statements are sent out).

9.3.2—Summer Camp Credit (2014)

Scouts receive a credit toward Troop 97 summer camp from their annual fee, as determined annually by the troop committee (typically \$100). This may not be carried over beyond the year for which the fee is paid. Scouts who miss camp because they are on a BSA camp staff receive the full credit toward their next year’s annual fee. Scouts who miss camp for any other reason do not receive the credit. The credit applies only to summer camp with Troop 97.

9.3.3—Troop Supper Credit (2014)

The troop committee has determined that each Scout is required to sell (or contribute) \$60 in pasta supper tickets. This money goes into the general budget. Scouts receive 50% of any sales/donations beyond \$60 for their Scout accounts. The troop’s share of supper profits particularly funds summer camp for first-year Scouts, and any scholarships. Scouts may use their Scout account fund to pay for any Scouting expense, as with other credits. In most cases, the credit helps the Scout pay for summer camp, which is a key purpose of the credit.

9.3.4—Popcorn Credit (2014)

Scouts may optionally sell BSA popcorn. The troop credits their full sales credit to their Scout account (the troop does not take a ‘cut’).

9.3.5–Affinity Cards (2014)

As much as practical, the troop committee will arrange for Scout families to use affinity cards (typically King Soopers, Safeway, etc). Such cards typically provide a 5% credit for purchases made at that store to be used for charitable purposes. Card credits are applied as earned to each Scout family's account as troop credits (the troop does not take a 'cut').

9.4–Special Credits

9.4.1–Brothers in Troop (2014)

Families with multiple sons in the troop at the same time receive a \$25/Scout reduction in the annual fee.

9.4.2–Senior Scout (2014)

Scouts who reach age 16 before January 1 receive a \$75 reduction in the annual fee.

9.4.3–Eagle Scout (2014)

Eagle Scouts receive a \$200 reduction in the annual fees. If a Scout receives the Eagle credit, the Senior Scout credit does not apply.

9.5–Special Credits for New Scouts

9.5.1–First Year Summer Camp Credit (2014)

The troop pays as much of the summer camp fee as practical for new Scouts who attend camp during their first calendar year in the troop. The troop committee determines the amount that the troop can cover. This recognizes the vital importance to new members of summer camp, particularly at the beginning of their Scouting career. It also reduces the initial costs of Scouting. New Scouts who do not go to summer camp do not get any reduction in their first-year annual fee.

9.5.2–First Year Adventure Weekend Credit (1999)

The troop will credit \$40 toward the following calendar year's annual fee for new Scouts who attend the Adventure Weekend with a parent during their first calendar year in the troop. This recognizes the important head start provided by the Adventure Weekend.

9.6–Scholarships (1989)

Troop 97 provides scholarship assistance to needy Scouts to cover fees, campout costs, or summer camp. The troop committee is responsible to determine financial need. The troop requires recipients to be active, to attend a majority of campouts, and to advance regularly; and the troop requires recipients to earn some part of their expenses and pay regularly based on their ability.

9.7–Troop 97 Eagle Monetary Award (2016)

The troop will offer any Scout who earns the Eagle award in Troop 97 \$350 to use toward any future Scout activity or trip (high adventure trek, jamboree, Philmont, Sea Base, etc). The money will be available the moment a Scout has successfully completed the Eagle Scout Board of Review, but the Scout must meet the troop's active involvement standard up through the activity for which the award will be used. The troop committee is responsible to determine if the budget may require a reduction in the award amount, or to allow other uses of the money.

Chapter 10 Miscellaneous

10.1–Troop-owned Equipment (2014)

The troop owns the minimum necessary equipment for troop outings, including troop trailer, patrol boxes, stoves, etc. The troop committee is responsible for overseeing troop equipment and assessing appropriate charges to individuals or patrols for any lost or damaged troop equipment checked out to them. Troop and patrol equipment is intended for use by troop members on troop activities. Equipment may not be loaned to non-members. The Scoutmaster is responsible to determine when equipment may be loaned to current or to former members for non-troop activities; such use should be infrequent.

10.2–Scout and Scoutmaster Handbooks (2014)

Troop 97 gives a copy of the *Boy Scout Handbook* to each new Scout. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters are expected to purchase a copy of the *Troop Leader Guidebook* and read it.

10.3–Banned Items (2014)

The following items are banned from all troop activities for all youth and adult participants, unless specifically approved by the Scoutmaster:

- candles or candle lanterns
- non-folding knives (sheath knife, machete, etc)
- butane lighters
- glass containers
- electronic games
- cell phones allowed but use should be kept to a near-emergency minimum

10.4–Troop Communications

10.4.1–Newsletter (2014)

Because communication is vital to a successful program, the troop publishes a newsletter approximately monthly. The newsletter, which is mailed first class to every troop family, keeps families and Scouts informed of dates, activities, changes, BSA and troop policies, and other useful information. We expect all Scouts, leaders, and parents to read every newsletter entirely. While electronic delivery is an option, we prefer first-class mail, believing it more likely that multiple family members will read a ‘hard copy’ and perhaps post the newsletter on the refrigerator.

10.4.2–Troop Website (1997)

The troop will maintain an Internet website with appropriate information available to troop families and the general public. The purpose of the website is to inform troop families, promote the troop to potential members, and help other troops and Scout leaders benefit from our experience. Keeping in mind the public nature of the Internet, the troop “webmaster” will take care not to publish names, dates, or other information that could be used to harmful purposes.

10.4.3–Other Troop Publications (1997)

The troop will create and distribute other publications as needed to keep families and Scouts informed.

10.4.4–Email Guidelines (2014)

Due to an ever-increasing number of emails, the committee approved these guidelines.

- “All-family” emails should be sent by the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman. If anyone needs something sent to all families, send it to the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman first.
- The troop sends out “all-family” emails using an anonymous broadcast so that recipients cannot ‘reply all’ or harvest everyone’s email address. (Anyone who hits ‘Reply All’ will just send the email back to the Scoutmaster only.)
- Do not use email addresses from the troop roster to send out non-Scouting-related messages. The troop roster is intended for Scouting-related purposes only, and all emails should be sent to the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman first. Those who use email to generate sales for personal business may NOT email anyone in the troop unless they have indicated their willingness to receive such solicitations.

10.5–Alcohol, Tobacco, and Illicit Drugs

10.5.1–General (1996)

As required by BSA policy, the troop will make every possible effort to provide a completely alcohol-free, tobacco-free, and drug-free environment for our Scouts.

10.5.2–Alcohol (1996)

No Scout and no adult may possess or consume alcoholic beverages at any time during any Scouting activity. Violators will be dismissed from the activity and suspended from the troop until they appear at a troop committee meeting (with a parent, if a Scout). The committee will determine any further actions, including the possibility of permanent expulsion from the troop.

10.5.3—Tobacco (1996)

Use of tobacco products is not consistent with the Scout Law and Promise. No Scout may possess or use tobacco products at any time on any Scouting activity, regardless of parental consent. Adults who smoke/chew must do so completely away from the Scouts (we recognize the nasty reality of addiction to nicotine which requires most users to need frequent doses). Violators will be dismissed from the activity and suspended from the troop until they appear at a troop committee meeting (with a parent, if a Scout). The committee will determine any further actions, including the possibility of permanent expulsion from the troop. [Because of the increase in tobacco use by teenagers, and its long-term potential for serious harm, we have chosen to take a strict position against its use, consistent with BSA policies.]

10.5.4—Illicit Drugs (1996)

Troop 97 bans the possession or use of illegal drugs (marijuana, etc), other abusable substances (glue, prescription drugs, etc, except when used for their intended purpose), and drug paraphernalia (roach clips, pipes, etc). Adult violators (age 18 & up) will be turned over to the police. Police involvement for Scout violators will be at the discretion of the adult leader in charge based on individual circumstances. All violators will be dismissed from the activity and suspended from the troop until they appear at a troop committee meeting (with a parent, if a Scout). The committee will determine any further actions, including the possibility of permanent expulsion from the troop.

10.6—Caffeinated Beverages (1996)

The troop discourages but does not ban the consumption of caffeine-containing beverages (coffee, tea, caffeinated pop) by Scouts. If necessary, the adult leaders may limit consumption by Scouts who drink excessive amounts.

10.7—Searches (1996)

Scouting is based on trust, and we prefer to trust our Scouts. Unfortunately, a very few dishonest boys have abused this trust to bring contraband or to steal from other Scouts. It is sad that the honest majority must pay the price for the unethical few. In view of our obligation to protect our Scouts from harmful influences, and recognizing the difficulty of learning about such influences in a timely manner, we must reluctantly reserve the right to ask a Scout to show the contents of his pockets, pack, or tent, or to call in the police to assist. We especially want those few who may be goaded by the temptations of dishonor to know that they may be checked at any time. At the same time, we want to maintain an environment based on trust where we are not tempted to search anyone. Only the Scoutmaster or other adult leader in charge is empowered to conduct a search of a Scout, his pack, or his tent, upon reasonable suspicion. A minimum of two adults and the Scout must be present during any search. The adult leader in charge has the responsibility to determine if police involvement is required.

10.8—Advertising (1996)

The troop will not accept any kind of commercial or personal advertising in its newsletter or website. This does not prevent the troop from making families aware of sales or other business offerings that may be advantageous to the Scouts. The committee will decide any question of interpretation.

10.9—Personal Communications Devices (2014)

Troop Meetings—Ear buds out, and all electronic devices out of sight and turned off. No texting.
Campouts/Travel—We go to the wilderness to learn, have fun, educate, and interact with each other. Electronic devices take away from this experience and provide no value to any of those objectives. Electronics may be used only during travel and in the tent at night, and then only in silent mode.