

# Draft Revision

## Boy Scout Troop 242

### Parent Information Guide



#### **BSA Mission**

To serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law.

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CHERRYVILLE, PA**

**NORTH VALLEY DISTRICT  
MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL**



## ***WELCOME!***

Dear Parents:

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 242. This guide has been developed by the Troop Committee and Scoutmasters to acquaint you with our troop and the Boy Scout Program in general. It attempts to answer parent's most frequently asked questions. It also cites certain BSA and troop policies and procedures which have been established to ensure that our activities are conducted in a safe manner. If you have any questions or concerns about the troop, please feel free to contact the Scoutmaster or any of the Troop Committee members. Phone numbers are listed on the last page.

**Unlike Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and our troop, is “boy run”. In other words, wherever and whenever possible, the boys make decisions on troop activities and policy. They plan, manage and execute the affairs of the troop – thereby sharing in and growing through the struggles and successes of this process. This aspect of how the troop operates is a key component of a successful Scouting program.**

In addition, the decisions and actions of boy and adult Scouts (and the operating principles of our troop) are guided principally by the items quoted on the next two pages, namely:

**Aims And Methods of Scouting**

**Scout Law**

**Scout Oath**

**Scout Motto**

**Scout Slogan**

## **BSA Troop 242 Parent Information Guide**

Approved by the Troop Committee

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Mr. Wayne Weidner,  
Troop Committee Chairman

Date

**Revision History:**

5/15/01 – WSM – revise fees and discipline

TBA – revisions to discipline, finance, permission, addition of ‘patrol award’, emphasis on outdoor program

3/15/01 – WSM – more information about troop website

2/21/01 – WSM – revise point system, move ‘Fees’ adjacent to Accounts and Fundraising, rename ‘Volunteers’ to ‘Volunteers / Adult Participation’

2/20/01 – LLL – add High Adventure section, elements regarding adult/parent participation, bus leadership

2/16/01 – WSM – add elements emphasizing ‘Boy Run’, delete participation requirements, minor changes to: Courts of Honor, Rank Advancement, make SM Conference and Boards of Review their own subsections, Merit badges, Discipline

## **The Methods of the Boy Scout Program**

### **Ideals**

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

### **Patrols**

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

### **Outdoors**

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

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

## **Advancement**

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

## **Adult Association**

Boys learn from the example set by their adult leaders. Troop leaders may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage of a young man's development.

## **Personal Growth**

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

Boy Scout Troop 242  
Parent Information Guide

## The AIMS of the Boy Scout Program

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

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

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

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

### Leadership Development

Boy Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations.

Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

### THE SCOUT OATH OR PROMISE

On my honor  
I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country.  
To obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times;  
To keep myself physically strong,  
Mentally awake, and morally straight.

### THE SCOUT LAW

A SCOUT IS:

Trustworthy	Obedient
Loyal	Cheerful
Helpful	Thrifty
Friendly	Brave
Courteous	Clean
Kind	Reverent

### SCOUT MOTTO

Be Prepared

### SCOUT SLOGAN

Do a Good Turn Daily

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## Troop Meetings

The troop meets weekly, on Thursdays between 7:00 pm and 8:30 pm in New Fellowship Hall at Hope Lutheran Church in Cherryville. Since opening ceremonies begin promptly at 7:00 pm, your son should arrive at least five minutes early. Scouts are expected to wear their complete scout uniform (see below) to each meeting and should bring their Scout Handbook, pencil and a notebook.

Scouts who cannot attend should contact their patrol leader as soon as possible after the meeting to find out what important information or announcements may have been missed.

Meetings will not be held on Holy Thursday, during summer camp, Thanksgiving day, between Christmas and New Years, and when school has been cancelled due to inclement weather.

## Joining Requirements

To become a Boy Scout, your son must:

- Complete the fifth grade or be 11 years old, or have earned the Arrow of Light Award, but be younger than 18 years old.
- Submit a completed Boy Scout application and health history signed by his parent or guardian (applications of Webelos in Pack 242 crossing over into the troop

should be turned in before the Blue and Gold Banquet).

- Complete the requirements listed on Page 4 of the Scout Handbook (these requirements will be explained during your son's first troop meeting).

## Uniforms

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

Scouts are expected to wear the complete Scout uniform to all troop meetings and activities, unless instructed otherwise. Uniforms can be purchased at the Minsi Trail Scout Shop (see Troop Roster for phone number). The troop also accepts donated, outgrown uniforms which are kept in the troop supply room and are available to all scouts. See our uniform coordinator to check on the availability of uniforms or to donate a uniform.

The parts of the uniform are described on pages 12 and 13 of the new Scout Handbook. The short sleeve rather than the long sleeve shirt is preferred since the uniform is worn often during summer camp (a

sweat shirt or jacket may be worn over the uniform during cold weather). Your son may wear long pants or shorts, however official scout socks must be worn with shorts. The Troop baseball cap is part of you son's official 'Class A' scout uniform and is worn in lieu of a neckerchief.

When instructed, a 'Class B' T-shirt with Troop 242 logo may be worn instead of the 'Class A' uniform shirt. See the Troop Uniform Coordinator to check on the availability Class B T-shirts and Hats.

**Scouts should wear their complete uniform (Class A or B, as instructed) to all scouting activities and will not be allowed to board the bus without it.**

## **Fees**

The troop recharter in January. Annual \$25 must be paid at this time, which covers the costs of merit badge patches, rank emblems, leadership patches, annual subscription to Boys Life (\$9) and the fee to register your son with Minsi Trails Council (\$7) and insurance (\$0.80). If you have more than one boy in the troop, the additional boy(s) fee will be \$25 minus cost of Boys Life.

Failure to pay dues before the troop recharter will require that the scout re-register with Boy Scouts of America. A current, paid registration is required for participation in all troop activities.

New boys joining the Troop are charged \$25 that covers the Boy Scout Handbook, Troop Cap and red shoulder epaulets.

Additional fees are charged for campouts and other special activities that your son participates in. These fees cover the costs of the activity.

All trip fees must be paid in full at the troop meeting immediately prior to the event, or withdrawn from their account. Scouts with an account balance of \$25 or below cannot withdraw money from their account to pay trip fees. Account balance must be brought up to \$25 minimum if scout wishes to attend next event. Parents will be notified ( ) when their son's account balance drops below \$25, your son must maintain a \$25 balance.

Fees should be paid directly to the Troop Treasurer, preferably by check payable to "Boy Scout Troop 242". The best time to pay fees are at the beginning of each troop meeting or at Court of Honor ceremonies, which are held every other month.

## **Accounts**

At the time your son joins the troop, an account will be started for him in the troop treasury in his name. Through various fund-raisers, he will be able to earn money that will be placed in this account. He can then draw on this money for trips, scout

supplies, etc. Fees for trips and other activities may be withdrawn from his account.

Any remaining balance is turned over to the troop treasury when your son leaves the troop. This covers the costs of wear and tear on troop equipment. If you register as an adult Scouter, you may transfer your balance to an adult account.

Scouts attaining the rank of Eagle may apply any balance above \$25 towards the cost of the Eagle Court of Honor. The troop pays for cake and coffee at the reception.

## **Fundraising**

The Troop holds several fund-raisers throughout the year to help scouts earn money for their accounts. Fund-raisers are needed to allow the boys to enjoy a quality program. Ideas are always needed and appreciated. Please present your idea to the Troop Committee and after approval we will help you arrange and run the project. Examples of recent fund-raisers held by the troop include bake sales, car washes, and selling Pizza Hut cards. Except for the two special fundraisers noted below, eighty percent of fundraising profits goes into the scout's account; twenty percent goes into the troop treasury.

The troop holds two special fundraisers (a chicken dinner in the spring and a spaghetti dinner in the fall) that scouts are required to participate in to raise money to cover the cost of maintenance, repairs and insurance for our troop bus and for major camping equipment

purchases. Scouts are required to sell a minimum number of tickets. Proceeds from tickets sold in excess of the minimum amount go into the scout's individual account.

Parents can also help earn money for their son's account by saving Redner's Market receipts. Put the scout's name on each one and submit them to the Troop Treasurer each month.

## **Courts of Honor / Family Night**

Courts of Honor (COH) are generally held bi-monthly on the last Thursday of February, April, June, August, October and December. Eagle Courts of Honor are schedule separately. During Courts of Honor, scouts are awarded rank advancements, merit badges and activity patches

The Court of Honor -is a family event. Information of special interest to parents is always presented. There are also skits, songs, demonstrations, or special guest speakers on these evenings. Please make your best effort to attend to be a part of your son's life as a Scout on his way to Eagle. Even if no awards are earned by your son, you are encouraged to attend to show support of all the other families you have grown up with through Scouting. It will mean a great deal to him and the other boys when they know and can feel your support as you share their accomplishments. Parents will be scheduled approximately once a year to bring a

snack and help with setup and cleanup.

## Special Activities

Special activities (such as hikes, campouts, swim nights, etc.) are held monthly. Information about these activities will be given to your son at troop meetings. Chapter 8 in the new Scout Handbook contains checklists and tips on what to bring on hikes and campouts. The following items should never be brought to any scouting activity: tobacco, alcohol, drugs, firearms, fireworks. Scouts are also encouraged to leave their 'boom boxes', TVs, and video games at home. Personal radios and walkmans are acceptable.

If your son has registered to attend an activity and changes his mind at the last minute, please notify the tour leader by phone as soon as possible. Deposits, which are typically collected to cover entrance fees that must be paid in advance, will not be refunded unless approved by the Troop Committee.

All trips and outings must be led by at least two (2) adult leaders, one of whom must be 21 years or older. Parents interested in providing adult leadership should notify the Scoutmaster and fill out an Adult Application form. Assistant Scoutmasters are required to attend the Boy Scout Leader Basic Training Course within 18 months of registration. Troop Committee members are also encouraged to

attend Basic Training for Troop Committee members.

## Communication and Information

Each scout has his own personal folder in the Troop's hanging file. Important announcements, schedules, and monthly calendars are placed in the hanging folders to provide scouts and their parents with important information on special activities, etc. Scouts should check their folder for new information at each meeting.

Communication also occurs by phone via a phone tree to alert scouts of changes or provide reminders or details on an upcoming activity. The Senior Patrol Leader will contact Patrol Leaders who, in turn, will contact each member of their patrol.

The troop has also established a webpage: <http://www.lehigh.edu/~wsm0/T242> to help publicize topics of general interest. An e-mail distribution list for the troop committee facilitates communications, to help the adult leaders manage planning and operations. Further information for parents and boys, such as details about youth and adult protection and safety ("Guide to Safe Scouting"), personal gear, Boy Scout Policy, and much more, may be found at the website.

## Transportation

The troop travels to most activities in the Troop Bus. Cars or vans will be

used in the event that only a few scouts attend. The troop departs from and returns to Hope Lutheran Church, unless otherwise instructed. The troop departs promptly at the time indicated so plan to arrive at least 5 to 10 minutes early. Completed parental permission slips must be turned in before boarding the bus. See the tour leader to obtain a permission slip.

The troop will return approximately at the time indicated. Parents/guardians will be notified by phone of any significant delays. Upon returning, no scout may leave before the gear is stored in the troop shed and they are dismissed by the Senior Patrol Leader. Everyone needs to do their share of work.

Two adult leaders, including the bus driver, will be present on the bus during all trips.

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

- a) Six months driving experience as a licensed driver (time on a learner's permit or equivalent excluded),
- b) No record of accidents or moving violations,
- c) Parental permission granted to the leader, driver and riders
- d) Tour leader is an adult at least 21 years of age.

**Additionally, the troop requires that parents or guardians notify the tour leader in advance if their son will be driving to a BSA**

**activity and will be arriving late or departing early.**

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

## Rank Advancement

Scouts are awarded badges of rank in recognition of their scouting achievements. The first three are Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class. Next come Star and Life. The highest rank is Eagle Scout.

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

Requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class may be signed off by Scout Instructors or by Assistant Scoutmasters. All sign offs will be conducted in accordance with BSA advancement policy. Specifically, the Scout must demonstrate that he has acquired the skill or completed the task exactly as stated in the requirement.

Active troop participation and rank advancement go together. By attending regularly, all new Troop 242 scouts can become First Class Scouts within 1 year

### Scoutmaster Conference

When a Scout completes all the requirements for a rank, he should notify the Scoutmaster to schedule a Scoutmaster Conference. During the Conference, the Scout will receive a signed Board of Review Check Sheet which he should read and bring to his Board of Review. The Scoutmaster is responsible for informing the Troop Committee about pending Boards of Review based upon Completion of Scoutmaster Conferences.

Boards of Review are conducted during the Troop Meeting one week prior to Courts of Honor by Troop Committee members who are interested in your son's progress as a Scout. They want to make sure your son really has completed the requirements for a rank. They may also have suggestions for how your son can get more out of Scouting. Scouts should arrive for their Board of Review on time, in complete Class A uniform, with their Handbook and signed Check Sheet. Awards will be presented to scouts passing their Boards of Review at the next court of honor. Boards of Review will be held for all Life Scouts at six month intervals to review their progress towards Eagle.

### **Merit Badges**

Merit badges are badges awarded to scouts for fulfilling requirements in specific fields of interest. The merit badges 'process' – contacting, working with and learning from an adult (in many cases someone the boy may not have known before) - is

an important part of the Scouting program.

There are more than a hundred merit badge hobbies and Scouting skills. Merit badges can guide a Scout toward a career, enrich his leisure life, hone his fitness, enhance his ability to help others, and stimulate personal growth. The steps to follow in earning a merit badge are presented in Chapter 7 of the new Scout Handbook, and includes a requirement of written Scoutmaster approval prior to starting a merit badge and contacting a merit badge counselor. See the Advancement Chairman or Troop Librarian for a current list of merit badge counselors.

Merit badges must be earned to advance in rank beyond First Class and certain merit badges are required to attain the rank of Eagle Scout (see pages 188 & 189 of the new Scout Handbook). Any registered Scout, regardless of rank, may work on a merit badge and receive the award when he earns it.

### **Elections**

Every six months, in March and September, the troop hold elections for various leadership positions within the troop. A very important point is that the **boys elect their leaders**. Only boys under 18 years of age are eligible to vote. Scouts may only be nominated for a leadership position if they are present in their full Class A uniform. The date of elections will be posted on the Troop monthly calendar.

The following leadership positions are elected by the scouts:

*Senior Patrol Leader\**  
*Scribe*  
*Chaplain Aide*  
*Librarian*  
*Historian*  
*Quartermaster*  
*Patrol Leaders* (elected by patrols)

Note:

\* Scouts must have attained First Class Rank or higher to be SPL.

Scouts are encouraged to remain in their same patrol to foster patrol spirit. However, at the time of elections, scouts may reform or switch patrols with some involvement from the Scoutmaster and his Assistants to insure a proper balance within each patrol.

The Scoutmaster appoints the following additional leadership positions:

*Troop Guides*  
*Instructors*

Lastly, the Senior Patrol Leader, the Patrol Leaders and the Quartermaster each appoint an assistant.

## **Patrol Leaders Council**

The Patrol Leaders, with the elected Senior Patrol Leader as their head, form the Patrol Leader's Council. It is the council's job to plan and run the troop program. And it is each patrol

leader's responsibility to represent his patrol on the council and to interpret to his patrol the plans and decisions the council makes. Failure to regularly attend will result in not receiving credit for leadership position held. All Junior Leaders are required to attend PLC meetings.

## **High Adventure**

First Class scouts who are ready for more challenging activities will have an opportunity to participate in the troop's high adventure program. High adventure activities may include extended overnight backpacking trips, snow camping, rock climbing, cycling, skiing, wilderness survival, etc.. Activity coordinators will be selected to plan the activities, with the advice of an Adult Leader.

## **Outstanding Scouter**

To reward scouts for active participation and rank advancement, the Outstanding Scouter Award is awarded at each Court-of-Honor to the scout that receives the highest number of "points" during the previous two-month period. Points are awarded for attendance at troop meetings and special activities, wearing the complete scout uniform to meetings, earning merit badges and other special awards, and advancing in rank.

The Outstanding Scouter will receive a Certificate of Recognition and a "Traveling Medal" which he may

wear for the following two month period. The Traveling Medal will then be handed over to the new Outstanding Scouter at the next Court of Honor.

Points are awarded as follows:

Troop meeting	1
Full uniform (A or B)	1
Handbook	1
Uniform inspection	*0-10
Day activity <4hrs	3
Day activity >4hrs	5
Overnight/Weekend	7
Summer camp	10
Tenderfoot	10
Second Class	10
First Class	10
Star	15
Life	15
Eagle	20
Merit Badge (eagle req'd)	10
Merit Badge (other)	5
Other Awards (e.g. Religious)	10

\* 1 point per each 10% interval (rounded down) of the max 100% standard uniform inspection scale

## Scout of the Year

The Scout-of-the-Year Award will be presented at the annual Christmas Party to the scout earning the highest number of points during the year. Scouts earning this award will receive a special plaque of recognition.

## Discipline

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

To ensure the safety of all scouts, discipline is of great importance. Scouts are expected to behave and to cooperate, and abide to the highest standards of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

The Troop Committee has adopted the following discipline policy to handle unruly behavior. [These are the minimum standards. Where the health and safety of the troop is at risk, higher standards may be enforced.:](#)

*1st offense:*

Offense is discussed with Scout by Scoutmaster and Committee Chair.

*2nd offense:*

Committee [Chair](#) and Scoutmaster meets with Scout [and parents](#) to discuss the offense.

*3rd offense:*

In order to return as an active scout, he must go before the Committee and explain why he should be allowed to participate again in all activities.

*4th offense:*

Permanent expulsion.

## Volunteers / Adult Participation

Parent Survey Sheets were handed out when your son joined the troop. Please complete and return them so



the boys in our troop can benefit from your talents.

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

Bus Drivers are always in need to transport our active troop. A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) is required and our current drivers would gladly help with training. Troop 242 travels the whole eastern seaboard and the benefits the scouts receive from this advantage are endless. With no bus or driver, we either sit at home or we all car caravan. Think about how many trips your son would go on if you had to drive him everywhere!!

Assistant Scoutmasters support the Scoutmaster and guide specific program areas, such as the first year program, the high adventure program, the outdoor camping program, etc. Assistant Scoutmasters must complete basic leader training within 2 years after joining.

Parents must obtain approval of the Scoutmaster to accompany the troop on an outdoor activity and must abide by the same rules as the boys.

You are along as an observer and, if asked, as a helper.

## Troop Committee

The Troop Committee is composed of parents or relatives of current or former Scouts. This group oversees the proposed trips chosen by the scouts and decides what needs to be done to make things happen. It helps supervise service projects, money projects, camping trips, equipment needs, etc. To join, fill out an Adult Application and pay \$8.00 dues per year (prorated after January). The committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. Training is recommended and offered every spring.

**HELP! Any time you have questions please call a leader, another parent, or an older scout. Listings are available upon request. If you don't ask questions, we assume you understand what's going on in your son's scouting life. Remember, the only dumb question is the one you don't ask!!**

## **Phone Numbers**