

Troop 188 Expectations

Our focus is on the outdoors

Every scout will learn to be competent in camping and outdoor skills.

- **Calendar:** Every camp-out will be memorable. This can be from place, skill, and/or activity. There will be a monthly theme tied to the camp-out and the majority of meetings will be used to prepare for camp-outs.
- **Skills.** The Scoutmaster will have a list of outdoor skills, approved by the committee, that the scouts in this troop will be given a chance to master. These are not required for rank advancement but are useful in being competent in the outdoors. These skills are all found in Merit Badges.
- **Being active.** Scouts are expected to be active in the troop. This means attending at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the camp-outs (anyone with a Position of Responsibility to attend at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the camp-outs), summer camp attendance is expected. Also, being active includes participating in at least one non-meeting activity a month (campouts, service projects, Eagle projects, MBU, Haunted House, etc)
 - **Rank advancement:** Only scouts who are active in the troop will be considered for rank advancement.
 - **High adventure:** Only scouts who are active in the troop will be eligible for high adventure trips.
 - **Exceptions:**
 - If a scout has another activity that precludes him from being active he should talk to the Scoutmaster. If the Scoutmaster feels this is a reasonable extra-curricular activity this time will not count against rank advancement or high adventure trips, as long as it is not too much.
 - If a patrol has over $\frac{1}{2}$ its members attending $\frac{3}{4}$ of the campouts or $\frac{3}{4}$ of its members attending $\frac{1}{2}$ of the campouts then the rank and high adventure requirements will be waved for everyone in the patrol.

- **Uniforms.** Full uniforms are an expectation for meetings and events, including travel to and from campouts.
- **Older scouts.** Older scouts in upper ranks are expected to help the troop with organizing activities, teaching skills, and working with the younger scouts. Those scouts that help will be periodically invited to attend events set up just for them.
- **Parents.** Parental involvement at some level is expected of all families.
 - Parents should attend a series of orientation meetings when their son joins the troop.
 - Parents are strongly encouraged to attend at least one campout per year.

Patrol Method

- **Patrols** are groups of scouts that work as a team. The patrol is the most important building block of the troop. Patrols will have a flag and a cheer. For each campout, at meetings there will be regular competitions between patrols at meetings and campouts.
- **Patrol Leaders** are responsible for:
 - Campouts: The Patrol Leader will assign responsibilities for other scouts to lead cooking, cleanup, QM, and cheer-meister. **Patrols will no longer be mixed for campouts.** Patrols will camp as patrols as long as at least two scouts in a patrol go camping. If it's only one scout then that scout can ask to participate with another patrol.
 - Meetings: The Patrol Leader will assign responsibilities for patrol scribe and cheer-meister.
 - Advancement: The Patrol Leader is responsible for ensuring that scouts under the rank of First Class are trained in the skills required for rank advancement. The Patrol Leader will also present his scouts with rank advancement for ranks up through First Class at Courts of Honor.

- Patrol Leader Training – Each patrol has an adult Patrol Advisor that coaches the Patrol Leader. The Patrol Advisor contacts the PL weekly. Patrol advisers need SM specific training and will regularly participate in SM meetings. There will be Patrol Leader training for new Patrol Leaders.
- Patrol Leaders will no longer be asked to organize troop wide events. They may be asked to help identify scouts in their patrols that can organize troop wide events.