

TROOP 401

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH



Parent Guide

**Two Chiefs District
Ohio River Valley Council
September 2001
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All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind are convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth. --Aristotle

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America and Troop 401! By becoming a parent of a Boy Scout, you are setting your son out on the grand adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him.

The following pages describe what the program is all about, how much it will cost, and the organization of our Troop. Reading this guide will help you understand how, with your help, your boy can progress through the Scout ranks. This guide is also designed to help you understand how you can be of help to your son and the Troop, and what the various adult volunteers are doing to help the Troop.

WHAT IS BOY SCOUTING ALL ABOUT?

There are four aims to Boy Scouting:

- C To build character
To build self-reliance, self-discipline, self-confidence and self-respect
- C To foster citizenship
To foster love of community, country and world, along with a commitment of service to others and an understanding of democratic principles.
- C To develop fitness
To develop physical, mental, emotional, and moral fitness that will stay with a Scout for the rest of his life.
- C To teach skills
To enable a Scout to meet challenges they will confront in life and to serve others. First aid, safety instructions and emergency preparedness are among the important skills a Boy Scout learns.

These four aims are the bedrock of the American Scouting movement. They represent the long-term outcomes desired for every boy.

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to serve others by helping to instill values in young people, and in other ways to prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are found in the Boy Scout Oath and Law.

Scout Law	Scout Oath
<i>A Scout is:</i> <i>Trustworthy</i> <i>Loyal</i> <i>Helpful</i> <i>Friendly</i> <i>Courteous</i> <i>Kind</i> <i>Obedient</i> <i>Cheerful</i> <i>Thrifty</i> <i>Brave</i> <i>Clean</i> <i>Reverent</i>	<i>On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;</i> <i>To help other people at all times;</i> <i>to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.</i>

Since 1910, these principles have been taught in an atmosphere of recreation and fun, which allows young people to develop self-confidence, leadership and moral character. More and more men, trained as Scouts, are taking their places in today's world as responsible adult leaders. Men, who earned badges as Scouts, sit on the Supreme Court of the United States. Others hold important offices in our government, business and industry. Most of the members of the present U.S. Congress were Scouts. Of the 2401 pilots and scientists selected as astronauts since 1959, more than 125 were Scouts or have been active in Scouting, as well as most of the astronauts who have walked on the moon. The long list of famous Scouts includes:

President John F. Kennedy, Boy Scout	Neil A. Armstrong, First person on the moon: Eagle Scout	President Gerald Ford: Eagle Scout
Steven Spielberg, Director/Producer: Eagle Scout	J. Willard Marriott, Jr.; President of Marriott Corp.: Eagle Scout	William C. Devries, MD; transplanted first artificial heart: Eagle Scout
Sam M. Walton, Chairman/CEO, Wal-Mart: Eagle Scout	Barber B. Conable, Jr.; President of the World Bank: Eagle Scout	Bill Bradley, United States Senator: Eagle Scout

The Boy Scouts of America is the largest youth oriented organization in the United States. More than 4 million young people and leaders are currently registered in the Boy Scouts of America.

Unlike Cub Scouting, which many of you are familiar with, Boy Scouting is a youth-led organization. The boys learn responsibility and boys elected to leadership learn how to organize and lead the Troop. Sometimes these lessons are hard, however, we try to make sure that all challenges we place before the Scouts are challenges they can, with a little effort, overcome. After training, and with adult supervision, the boys run the show.

We use the following methods to accomplish our aims:

- C Ideals - Each Scout commits himself to the personal behavior guides and standards in the Scout motto, the slogan, the Oath and the Law
- C Patrols - Patrols give Scouts experience in teamwork, democracy and leadership.
- C Outdoors - Scouting emphasizes outdoors activities, which foster an appreciation of nature and our ecology. Along the way, Scouts practice and learn new skills and develop confidence in their own abilities to cope with obstacles. Scouting is outing! Your son will advance and enjoy Scouting if they go on the outings, otherwise there is a very good chance they will lose interest in the program.
- C Advancement - The advancement program provides Scouts with a ladder of skills to climb at his own pace. On the way up, he has many opportunities to learn and to be recognized for his achievements.
- C Personal growth - All of the other methods contribute to the personal growth of a Scout through experience. The quest for growth is a method, too.
- C Adult association - Adult leaders, male and female, provide an example to Scouts of the high character they should strive for in their personal growth.
- C Leadership development - Making boys get leadership experiences is one of the most valuable things Scouting does.
- C Uniform - The uniform reminds a Scout of who he is and what is expected of him. It identifies him as part of a patrol, troop, council and worldwide youth movement. He can take pride in being a Scout, and in the achievements shown on his uniform and sash.

The boys in the Troop will be working towards their 1st class and then Eagle ranks. As they travel on their trail to Eagle and beyond, they will not only learn *how* to lead a team to a goal, they will actually lead teams of Scouts in a number of challenging situations. This is all done in the spirit of fun and adventure!

Please take a few minutes to read Chapter One and Two of your son's Boy Scout Handbook. These chapters will give a quick overview of the Scout program.

For families to achieve the full benefit from the program, parents should realize that Scouting is as educational as sitting in a classroom.

ORGANIZATION

Troop 401 is a participating member of the Two Chiefs District of the Ohio River Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop's organization consists of a Chartered Organization, a Troop Committee, the Troop, and the Troop's Parents. Founded in 1992, Troop 401 has been a positive element in Steubenville, maintaining a full Scout program of meetings and exciting outings.

Chartered Organization (Sponsor)

Every Troop belongs to an organization called a Chartered Organization or Sponsor. The Chartered Organization for Troop 401 is the Holy Family Catholic Church. The Church shares our objectives for the boys, provides service opportunities and insures that there is adequate, trained leadership. A Chartered Organization Representative acts as liaison between us and the Church. He is active in the Troop Committee.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee functions as an administration and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of the various issues surrounding the Troop. For example: newsletters, Troop funds, fund raising, membership drives, coordination with local Packs, tour permits, advancement records, procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment. The Troop Committee also reviews Eagle Service Projects and prospective Eagle Scouts, and recommends projects that meet requirements to go on for review to the District Advancement Committee.

The Committee meets monthly. Any Scout parent is welcome to visit and/or serve on the Troop Committee. Call the Troop Committee Chairperson for more information (see the last page of this guide).

Patrols and Patrol Leaders

The Troop is a group made up of patrols. Each patrol usually consists of a Patrol Leader and no less than four Scouts and no more than ten Scouts. The boys in a patrol elect their Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader.

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is the chief boy leader of the Troop. He attends the monthly Troop Committee meeting and runs the program at the troop meetings and on outings. Together with the Patrol Leaders and other youth officers, he runs the troop. Troop 401 holds elections for Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader and other troop officers approximately every six months. Other elected Troop offices are: Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide (who helps newer Scouts to advance in rank), Quartermaster, Scribe, Librarian, Historian and Cheermaster.

The Patrol Leaders, ASPL, and Scribe with the Senior Patrol Leader as their head, form the Patrol Leaders' Council, which plans Troop activities, outings and the Troop meetings. The PLC meets after every troop meeting for a half hour and once monthly to plan the next month's outing and meeting activities.

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters

Troop 401 has one Scoutmaster and a number of Assistant Scoutmasters. The Scoutmasters' job is to teach the Senior Patrol Leader and other youth leaders how to run the troop, to insure overall safety and to watch over the advancement of the Scouts. The Scoutmasters work with the Troop Committee to oversee the troop and other aspects of troop planning.

Troop Meetings

Troop 401 holds meetings weekly from the 3rd week in August to the last week of June. Meetings currently are held every Monday, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church.

Changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as early as possible to allow for proper planning. It is expected that the Scouts will communicate changes among themselves and to their parents. Troop 401 normally will not meet the week following an overnight activity, unless an announcement is made in advance. A Patrol Leader's Council Meeting may be held on these Mondays.

Troop Outings

Troop 401 normally schedules an outing once a month during the main program year from September through June. The outing ideas are developed with the scouts and the Troop Committee and a schedule of outings is prepared by early September. The cost of outings is paid by the participating scouts and range in cost from less than \$10 to over \$30 depending on the outing program. Most outings involve camping where scouts have the opportunity to develop their outdoor skills.

Over the years, the Troop has developed a list of essential outing items which each scout is expected to bring on all overnight outings. This essentials list can be found in the appendix of this document.

In July, the Troop normally attends the Ohio River Valley Council Summer Camp held at Fort Steuben Scout Reservation. August is normally reserved for a special high adventure outing planned and for participation by the senior scouts of the Troop.

Troop Parents

The role of parents within Troop 401 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel.

1. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend the two Courts of Honor (normally held in September and March) to support their sons and other Scouts, and to learn about the past and future activities and plans of Troop 401.
2. Parents should read their son's handbook, especially chapters 1 and 2, and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting.
3. Parents should actively follow their Scout's progress and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
4. We would appreciate parents volunteering to serve on the Troop Committee or Board of Review, to drive to outings and even to attend weekend outings occasionally. Some parents may even consider becoming a merit badge counselor or serving as an Assistant Scoutmaster. (Please discuss this with the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair if interested.)
5. Parents should assist, as requested, in all Troop fund-raisers and other such activities. All such assistance lowers the cost of the program we offer to the Scouts and, therefore, lowers each family's cash outlay for their Scout(s).
6. Finally, parents should be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar.

ADVANCEMENT AND RECOGNITION

There are many definitions of advancement, but the Scouting definition might well be, simply, "the art of meeting a challenge." For that is exactly what the Boy Scout advancement program asks the boys to do. The Boy Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a Scout climbs at his own pace. As he acquires these skills, he moves up through a series of ranks called: Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks -- and the more rewarding. Unlike in Cub Scouts, a Boy Scout must accomplish the requirement exactly as written, simply 'doing your best' will not satisfy a requirement. Only the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters can "sign off" a Scout on requirements for these ranks. Only a registered Merit Badge Counselor can "sign off" a Scout on merit badge requirements. All Boy Scout requirements are designed to be challenging to a Scout, and age was taken into consideration when the requirement was written.

Achievement Goals include:

- Learning skills that qualify for Scouting's more rugged and exciting outdoor challenges.
- Developing body and mind, growing self-confidence, and helping younger Scouts climb the advancement ladder.
- Discovering how it feels to go further -- in so many ways -- than he ever thought he could.

We don't look at advancement as a goal, but as a natural outcome of a planned, quality Troop program and it is integrated with our outdoor activities. Advancement happens on campouts. Troop 401 also normally devotes the first half hour of Troop meetings to advancement, but the Scouts must take the initiative to "Be Prepared" for advancement and to approach a Scoutmaster to pass requirements.

Advancement through First Class

Until a Scout reaches First Class, he should bring the Scout Handbook to every meeting and campout.

From the time the Scout enters the Troop through the time he earns advancement to First Class, he is learning basic Scouting skills to enable him to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, perform other tasks in the outdoors and to work as a member of a team. With those first steps, the Scout begins to build himself physically, mentally, and morally. He will start to live with the Scout Oath and Law. Soon he will learn the symbolism inherent in the Scout badge; he will learn that there are three points of the trefoil which stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath: Duty to God and country, duty to other people, and duty to yourself. The advancement goal of this Troop is to provide opportunities for the Scout to achieve the rank of First Class as soon as possible. This is a sign that the Scout has mastered the fundamentals of Scouting and can begin to start the long process of learning to lead others, refining the learned skills and learning more advance skills. It is important that parents realize that this is a goal, not a requirement. There is a lot to Scouting besides earning rank, and some Scouts take longer to earn First Class, than others. Sometimes particular requirements for advancement to the next rank are only able to be achieved (or are achieved more easily) at particular outings or at Boy Scout Camp. If a Scout does not advance as rapidly, this does not necessarily mean they are not benefiting from the

program. The leaders understand this and will work with each boy accordingly.

Advancement from First Class To Eagle

From the achievement of First Class through Eagle, the Scout will be demonstrating leadership, performing service projects, earning merit badges and using the skills learned while achieving the rank of First Class. The next ranks he will earn are Star and Life. These ranks are harder to obtain than the earlier ranks but are also more interesting for the older Scouts. Upon completion of all the requirements for Star and Life, the Scout will be eligible to work for Eagle. The original principles, the Scout Oath and Law, now have fuller meaning for the Scout and the understanding of them is much greater. The final steps towards Eagle are filled with leadership experiences.

The fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting, but also as he enters higher education, business or industry, and community service. The award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well maintained over the years. Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank; only about 2.5 percent of all Boy Scouts do so. This represents more than one million Boy Scouts who have earned the rank since 1911. Nevertheless, the goals of Scouting-citizenship: training, character development, and personal fitness-remain important for all Scouts, whether or not they attain the Eagle Scout rank. After obtaining Eagle, the Scouts go on to take senior leadership responsibilities in the Troop, eventually to become Junior Assistant Scoutmasters if they wish to continue in the Scouting program.

Details for advancement are contained in the Boy Scout Handbook, which every Scout should obtain as soon as possible after joining the Troop. Look at Chapter 1. This short chapter has an advancement summary through First Class.

Merit Badges

The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a Scout's areas of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. A Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor earns merit badges. A Scout wishing to start a merit badge must go to the Scoutmaster and request to begin the badge. The Scoutmaster will determine if the Scout has initiated too many merit badges, and really should complete one before starting an additional one. If the Scoutmaster agrees that the Scout should begin the new badge, he will give him a blue merit badge card and encourage him to find a merit badge counselor. The merit badge counselor will not be the Scout's parent. The Scout is required to contact the counselor to arrange for times and places to meet with the counselor. All work on the merit badge is supposed to start after the Scout meets with the merit badge counselor. When the Scout completes the work on the merit badge the counselor will inform the Advancement Chairman by signing a certificate known as a 'blue card'. Merit Badges earned will be presented to the Scout at the next Troop meeting, they will also be recognized during the Troop's Courts of Honor.

Scouts must follow the Troop Guidelines for Obtaining Merit Badges and adults must follow Guidelines for Merit Badge Counselors. (See *appendix*)

There are over 100 different merit badges. Parents of Troop 401 Scouts are encouraged to consider become Merit Badge Counselors in their areas of expertise. **Please** fill in the attached Troop Resource Survey and return it to a Troop Leader.

Boards of Review

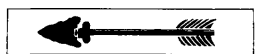
When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he appears before a board of review composed of members of the Troop committee, volunteer Scout parents and/or community leaders. The purpose of the review is not an examination. Rather it is to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals; to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement, to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program, and to encourage him to keep working towards higher advancement. A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a boy about his lack of progress toward advancement.

Courts of Honor

Troop 401 conducts a Court of Honor two or three times a year. The Court of Honor recognizes all Scout appointments, elections, awards, and advancements since the last Court of Honor. Adult recognition may be presented before the opening of the Troop Court of Honor. It is the responsibility of the Troop's Patrol Leaders' Council to plan and conduct the Troop Courts of Honor. The Troop Committee will support the Courts of Honor as requested.

The Court of Honor is a public ceremony, and is a chance for the Scouts to be publicly recognized for their achievements. Parents and all other interested individuals are strongly encouraged to attend.

Order of the Arrow: The Honor Society of Scouting



A member of the Order of the Arrow is recognized by their distinctive red-arrow-on-white sash and right pocket-flap patch. The purpose of the Order of the Arrow is fourfold:

1. To recognize those Scout campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives
2. To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit
3. To promote Scout camping
4. To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others

The Order of the Arrow is open to both Scouts and adults, and has strict entrance requirements. To become a member, a youth must be a registered member of a Boy Scout troop or Varsity Scout team and hold First Class rank. The youth must have experienced sixteen days and nights of camping during the two-year period before his election. The sixteen days and nights must include six consecutive days (including five nights) of resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America. The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps. Their fellow unit members, following approval of the Scoutmaster, elect scouts to the Order. The unit committee elects adults.

Scout Religious Awards

The Boy Scouts of America has religious awards for Scouts of different faiths. The basic Catholic religious award, Ad Altare Dei, has been offered twice in our history. Parents interested in helping conduct the program for Scouts to receive a religious award should contact the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair.

ADMINISTRATION

Rechartering and Fees

The process of rechartering is the annual collection of registration fees for the Scouts and Leaders. The Troop also makes a formal visit to the chartering organization to renew their commitment for the coming year. The process of rechartering the Troop must be completed by mid-January of each calendar year.

Annual Registration Fees

How much does Boy Scouting cost? The annual fee for each Scout in Troop 401 is: \$50.00

U \$9.00 for national BSA membership

U \$1.00 insurance

U \$40.00 for Troop membership (Pays for badges, awards, and other expenses incurred by the Troop as a whole.)

Fees for Outings and Activities

Individual activities usually have fees associated with them. Parents will be notified through a memo handed out at Troop meetings. If a scout is absent from a meeting, he should check with his patrol leader to see if any hand outs were given.

Fundraising

Unlike some organizations that have many fundraisers, Troop 401 has only two major fundraising activities. The first is the ongoing Kroger Gift Certificate program. Scouts sell Kroger certificates in denominations of \$10, \$20, and \$50, giving their customer dollar for dollar the same amount in gift certificates as the customer has paid them. Sales must be recorded on the official form obtained from the Scoutmaster or designated representative, and turned in on the first Monday of the month (either at the Troop meeting, Patrol Leader's Council meeting, or at the Scoutmaster's home.) Scouts will be credited with 2.5% of their total sales and the Troop receives 2.5%. The Troop Committee treasurer will keep track of each Scout's earnings, and the Scout may submit a written request of reimbursement of all or part of the amount they have earned to be applied toward fees for a Troop outing, Scout camp, or personal scouting gear (the latter only if they have over \$50 in their 'account'). (See appendix for policy).

The second fundraiser is the National Scouting Annual Popcorn Sale held every fall. Profit from this fundraiser assists the entire Scouting organization from the national level to the local council to Troop 401 and even to each individual boy. Besides a percentage of sales being added to the Scout's 'account' for popcorn sales, the scout will be eligible for prizes depending upon how much popcorn they sell.

Friends of Scouting

Each year, the Council operates various Friends of Scouting (F.O.S.) campaigns to raise money for the Council operations. The Council is responsible for maintaining the Council Camps, the Council Scout-O-Rama, the Council Camporees, as well as other Council activities, Local BSA administration, Leader materials and local advertising. Contributions are voluntary, but the Troop has a good record of support for this activity. As years go by, F.O.S. is becoming a critical source of BSA funding.

SAFETY - ADULT AND SCOUT

Two-Deep Leadership

Two registered adult leaders, or one adult and a parent of a participating Scout, one of whom must be at least 21 years of age or older, are required for all trips or outings. There are a few instances, such as patrol activities, when no adult leadership is required.

Safety Rule of Four

No fewer than four individuals (always with the minimum of two adults) go on any backcountry expedition or campout. If an accident occurs, one person stays with the injured, and two go for help. Additional adult leadership requirements must reflect an awareness of such factors as size and skill level of the group, anticipated environmental conditions, and overall degree of challenge.

Transportation - Automobiles

It is essential that adequate, safe, and responsible transportation be used for all Scouting activities. Because most accidents occur within a short distance from home, safety precautions are necessary, even on short trips. BSA regulations are as follows:

1. Seat belts are required for all occupants.
2. All drivers must have a valid driver's license that has not been suspended or revoked for any reason. If the vehicle to be used is designed to carry more than 15 persons, including the driver (more than 10 persons, including the driver, in California), the driver must have a commercial driver's license (CDL).
3. An adult leader (at least 21 years of age) must be in charge and accompany the group.
4. The driver must be currently licensed and at least 18 years of age. Youth member exception: When traveling to an area, regional, or national Boy Scout activity or any Venturing event under the leadership of an adult (at least 21 years of age) tour leader, a youth member at least 16 years of age may be a driver, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Six months' driving experience as a licensed driver (time on a learner's permit or equivalent is not to be counted)
 - b. No record of accidents or moving violations
 - c. Parental permission granted to the leader, driver, and riders

5. Passenger cars or station wagons may be used for transporting passengers, but passengers should not ride on the rear deck of station wagons.
6. Trucks may not be used for transporting passengers except in the cab.
7. All vehicles must be covered by automobile liability insurance with limits that meet or exceed requirements of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. It is recommended that coverage limits are at least \$50,000/\$100,000/\$50,000. Any vehicle designed to carry 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of \$100,000/\$500,000/\$100,000.
8. Do not exceed the speed limit.
9. Driving time is limited to a maximum of 10 hours and must be interrupted by frequent rest, food, and recreation stops. If there is only one driver, the driving time should be reduced and stops should be made more frequently.

Sleeping Accommodations

- C Male and female leaders require separate sleeping facilities. Married couples may share the same quarters if appropriate facilities are available.
- C Male and female youth participants will not share the same sleeping facility.
- C When staying in tents, no youth will stay in the tent of an adult other than his or her parent or guardian.
- C If separate shower and latrine facilities are not available, separate times for male and female use should be scheduled and posted for showers. The buddy system should be used for latrines by having one person wait outside the entrance, or provide Occupied and Unoccupied signs and/or inside door latches.

Knives

A sharp pocketknife with a can opener on it is an invaluable scouting tool. Keep it clean, sharp, and handy. Sheath knives will not be allowed at Scout meetings or outings. They are unnecessary for most camp chores except for cleaning fish. Since its inception, Boy Scouting has relied heavily on an outdoor program to achieve its objectives. This program meets more of the purposes of Scouting than any other single feature. We believe we have a duty to instill in our members, youth and adult, the knowledge of how to use, handle, and store legally owned knives with the highest concern for safety and responsibility. Butterfly knives are not allowed in the troop.

Guns and Firearms

Except for law enforcement officers required to carry firearms within their jurisdiction, firearms shall not be brought on camping, hiking, backpacking, or other Scouting activities except if specifically announced by the troop and planned for target shooting under the supervision of a certified BSA or National Rifle Association firearms instructor. If the troop does not officially notify you that you can bring your own firearms, keep them at home.

Radios, TVs, Electronic Games

Radios, TVs and Electronic Games will not be permitted on Scout outings or at Scout camp. An exception may be made in certain cases when a radio is needed to receive weather reports or emergency information.

Unauthorized Activities

There are a number of activities that are not authorized in Scouting. They include, but are not limited to the following:

- C All-terrain vehicles (ATV's)
- C All motorized speed events, including motorcycles, boats, drag racing, demolition derbies, and related events, are not authorized activities for any program level.
- C Parasailing, or any activity in which a person is carried aloft by a parachute, parasail, kite, or other device towed by a motorboat or by any other means.
- C Boxing, karate, and related martial arts - except judo, Aikido, and Tai Chi.
- C Participation in amateur or professional rodeo events.
- C All activities related to bungee cord jumping (sometimes called shock cord jumping).
- C Exploration of abandoned mines.
- C The activity commonly referred to as "War Game" or "Paintball" - in which individuals shoot paint or dye at one another.
- C Flying in hang gliders, ultralights, experimental class aircraft, or hot-air balloons; parachuting.
- C Motorized personal watercraft, such as jet-skis.

Before planning any activity, please consult with the Scoutmaster.

BEHAVIOR - ADULT AND SCOUT

A Scout lives by a strict moral code. It is outlined in the Scout Oath and Law. Every Scout and adult participant is expected to live by this code at all times. Failure to do so may result in being asked to leave the activity (no matter how late at night), having a parent pick up the Scout, and a restriction on future activities until the behavior changes.

Swearing and Jokes

At every meeting, Boy Scouts promise to keep themselves "morally straight" and "clean." The Boy Scout Handbook advises boys that being "clean" goes beyond washing off dirt; it means getting in with a "clean crowd," having a "clean outlook on life" and staying away from "swearing and telling dirty stories." Adults and Scouts are asked not to participate in swearing, lewd behavior or telling dirty stories.

Part of the Scout Law is that a "Scout is Reverent". This is defined as also defending another person's right to their beliefs. No jokes or skits related to a person's faith, handicap, orientation, race or creed will be tolerated in the troop.

Hazing, Initiations, Snipe Hunts, Harassment

All forms of hazing, initiations, ridicule, or inappropriate teasing are prohibited and will not be allowed. Snipe hunts are a form of hazing and are not allowed in the troop.

UNIFORMS AND SCOUT SHOPS

Uniforms

The Scout uniform is one of the eight methods used to achieve the three aims of Scouting. The uniform by itself cannot make a good Scout or a good Troop, but its use has been proven to improve both the Scout and the Troop because it is a visible symbol of Scouting and unity. Each Scout is required to have and wear, within a reasonable amount of time after joining the Troop, the following uniform items:

First Class Scouts and above must wear “Class A” uniforms to Troop meetings and to other Troop activities (unless instructed otherwise by Troop leadership). This includes:

- Tan Scout shirts with appropriate insignia and patches (Council strip, red shoulder loops, and troop numerals)
- BSA Scout pants or shorts
- Boy Scout socks
- Boy Scout Hat
- Scout web belt and buckle, or leather Scout belt.
- Clean shoes or hiking boots

Scouts below First Class rank must wear at least a modified “Class A” uniform to Troop meetings and to other Troop activities (unless instructed otherwise by Troop leadership). This includes:

- C Tan Scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches (Council strip, red shoulder loops, and troop numerals)
- C Boy Scout hat
- C Pants or shorts, solid color, with belt
- C Tennis shoes or hiking boots with socks

Uniforms and insignia are worn a certain way. The Troop Leaders and Scout Shop staff will be able to answer any questions you might have on where to put each badge. Inside the cover of the Boy Scout Handbook, there are guides for badge placement.

Camouflage

National BSA policy, and its Congressional Charter forbids the imitation of US Army, Navy, or Marine uniforms by members of the organization while participating in a BSA activity. Camouflage pants are acceptable at appropriate times, when the class A or B uniform is not required. The wearing of other camouflage gear, fatigues, or jump suites is discouraged.

Scout Shops

There are several ways for you to purchase Scout uniforms and supplies:

Pittsburgh Scout Shop 1275 Bedford Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15219 412-642-7695 They are well stocked with all scout items.	Ohio River Valley Scout Shop Wheeling, WV 26003 304-277-2687 Uniform items, gifts, crafts, adult items, etc.

Order your own scout catalog by calling 1-800-323-0732 or online at www.scoutstuff.org.

AND FINALLY

You are joining a great organization that includes tens of thousands of adult leaders, interested parents, and the BSA professional staff. Scouting is much more than enjoying the outdoors. Troop 401 has already been very active and earned a good reputation for teaching leadership skills and community skills. Scouting also shows the boys how they can keep themselves strong and healthy and make the most of school. With hard work and dedication, your son will be able to serve as a leader in the Troop and advance in rank along the trail to Eagle, and beyond!

Beyond anything else said in this package, the boys and us "big kids" are also in Scouting to have fun!

For more Troop information

visit our website at www.bsatroop401.org
or email us at dsnelling@hotmail.com