

**Boy Scouts of America  
Troop 33 Handbook**



**Pen Argyl, PA**

**2005 Troop 33 Handbook**

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## TO THE PARENTS

As a parent in a Scouting family you have a commitment to your son's advancement in Scouting. This guidebook is intended to help parents as well as the Scouts in Troop 33 to understand what is expected for advancement, as well as the Troop's policies. Take the time to read the requirements and information describing Troop activities. If you have questions after reading this material, contact the Scoutmaster for clarification. Our intention is to help you and your son have a more meaningful Scouting experience.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this manual is to provide a method for equal evaluation of rank advancement and guidelines to help clarify what is expected of each Scout and Leader. In this way, each Scout in Troop 33 will be on an equal footing with recognition provided in a consistent manner. This guide is intended to augment The Boy Scout Handbook as a method of clarification of what is expected to attain rank within our Troop.

This guide is intended for each Scout, Leader and parent or guardian.

Also, this guide is intended to be a living and growing document and as such will change as conditions require. If you have any suggestions that may improve or clarify this guidebook's contents, please contact the Scoutmaster.

## INTRODUCTION

The goal of Troop 33 is to provide young men with a full program in the Scouting experience. The values we strive to instill are based upon those found in the Scout Oath and Law.

### THE SCOUT OATH

On my honor I will do my best  
to do my duty to God and my country  
and 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

A further explanation of the Oath and Law can be found in the Scout Handbook.

## SLOGAN AND MOTTO

"Do a Good Turn Daily", and "Be Prepared", are the Scout slogan and motto. Scouts in Troop 33 are expected to do a good turn daily every day, not just when they are camping, but when they are at home and school. A Good Turn is an unsolicited action by the Scout where a useful service is performed for family, friend, or neighbor. Be Prepared - the Scout motto - is encouraged in all we do, be it preparing for a hike, packing for a camping trip, preparing for a school field trip, or helping to get ready for a family vacation; its value never ceases to be realized. Teamed with camping, the fellowship of their peers, the Scout Law, Oath, Slogan and Motto, all of these can only enhance and promote your character and self confidence.

## SCOUT SPIRIT

"Scout Spirit" - After attaining the rank of Tenderfoot, a Scout has a new requirement for each of the ranks on his trail to Eagle. This is perhaps the most important requirement a Scout needs to have to reach Eagle. It is Scout Spirit that compels a young person to step away from the crowd and stand up for what he knows is right rather than shrugging his shoulders

and thinking "everyone else is doing it...". Scout Spirit is the temperament and attitude of a young person that defines the ability to lead and to be lead, and is perhaps the best measurement of your Scouting qualities.

Scout Spirit is a feeling. A feeling of pride in belonging to and carrying on the traditions of Scouting. This pride shows itself in the actions you exhibit as a Scout, both as an individual and as part of a group. Scout Spirit demonstrates to others that you, through your deeds and actions, are proud to be a Boy Scout. While no one can know how you feel inside about Scouting, there are certain things you can do to show others that you have Scout Spirit. These things include:

- ◆ DO YOUR BEST to live the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- ◆ The most worn uniform in the world is the Boy Scout Uniform. Always wear your uniform correctly to all Scout functions. Be Proud To Be A Scout. This uniform has 90+ years of tradition and heritage behind it. Troop 33 Scouts always travel in uniform.
- ◆ Helping when asked to participate. It is far too common to sit and say, "I don't know" or "I can't do that" or "I don't want to do that" or "Why do I always have to help"... But it is a Scout with determination and spirit that will earnestly try to carry out what is asked of him. That is the Scout who is not afraid to think and act on what he has learned or the Scout who will pick up his book and learn... a Scout with a "can do" attitude.
- ◆ Attending as many Scout functions as possible. Don't stay home because the weather is bad or it doesn't sound like it is going to be fun. Help make it fun, no matter what the weather or activity. 80% or more participation will also save you money at our recharter time in January
- ◆ Volunteering for activities, such as skits at Camporees. Scouting can only be fun if you participate.
- ◆ Being on your best behavior in public. How you act as a Scout reflects on all Scouts everywhere.
- ◆ Having a positive attitude. The way you feel and act rubs off on the other Scouts around you, so make the best of any situation: others will appreciate it and you more.

Beginning in the Fall of 1994, Scouts are required to show Scouting Spirit, both in their Scouting and daily lives in order to advance. This may only be signed off in your Handbook by the Scoutmaster.

**Scout Spirit is easy - all you have to do is try!**

## **THE SCOUT UNIFORM**

The purpose of the uniform is to identify yourself as a Scout, to showcase your achievements of rank, and as the name would imply, to enhance a sense of uniformity amongst your fellow Scouts. You are expected to wear your uniform to all Scout meetings, on camping trips, hikes, fun outings, and all official Scout functions. Troop 33 Scouts always travel in uniform. There are no other exceptions other than those expressly given by the Scoutmaster for special occasions. When buying a uniform, Troop patches need to be purchased, but advancement and special recognition patches will be provided as they are earned. An optional route to obtaining a uniform is by participating in the "experienced" uniform program. See an adult leader for more information. A resource listing of catalog stores and local retail stores in the vicinity has been listed later in this guide for your convenience. We, as a Troop, also provide once-a-month service where we will pick up various Scouting items; you provide the size, quantity and payment.

The Troop 33 Scout Field Uniform consists of:

- Shirt (short sleeve preferred)
- (Custom) Minsi Trails Council/Pen Argyl, PA patch
- 33 patch
- World of Scouting crest (preferred, shows you believe in the world brotherhood of scouting)
- Arrow of Light (only if earned in Webelos)
- Patrol patch

All other patches must be earned or awarded to you or the Troop, such as the "Quality Unit Award". Check your Scout Handbook or Insignia Guide for correct placement of insignia before you have it sewn on. (See note.) Troop 33 encourages its' adult Leaders to attend training and earn adult Leader "knots". Wearing earned adult knots is optional; however, we suggest that Arrow of Light, Eagle Scout and/or Religious knots be displayed on their uniforms.

-Scout pants (long or short)

Note: We are not the military. Please do not blouse your pants or substitute camouflage pants with your uniform. The image of BSA within today's societal changes is having a hard enough time.

-Neckerchief (Working Troop 33)(Received when you join)

-Neckerchief (Custom Troop 33)(Received when you are invested)

-Scout belt and buckle

-Scout beret, red with custom Troop 33 "Brotherhood of the Hand" patch

-Scout socks (green with red tops)

If you are not currently a member in good standing with the OA lodge (dues paid), you are not entitled to wear the lodge flap and should remove it from your uniform.

Name tags are worn on the right pocket flap unless you are in the OA, in which case it is worn above the "Boy Scouts of America patch".

Note: Only one "Quality Unit" patch may be worn at one time. Do not sew more than one on a uniform.

## **SCOUT MEETINGS**

Weekly Troop meetings are held at the Pen Argyl Community Scout Hall @ WEONA Park from 7:00 to 8:30 PM on Tuesday nights. There will be no Troop meeting the last Tuesday of each month. Other locations, such as the Pen Argyl American Legion Hall, 2nd floor, may be announced from time to time. Patrol Leaders, the Assistant Patrol Leader (Second) and above, and adult Leaders are encouraged to arrive at 6:30 PM. The Service Patrol should arrive by 6:45 PM to prepare the facilities for the meeting. Parents are always welcome to attend, especially on those nights when special speakers are brought in, or when we are touring a special facility.

The Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) will meet from 6:30 to 7:00 PM before each Troop meeting. If you are a member of the PLC, be sure the adult who is providing your transportation is aware of this additional time.

The last Tuesday of each month the PLC will meet from 6:30 to 7:00 PM at Scout Hall followed by the Troop Committee from 7:30 to 9:00 PM.

At each meeting and campout, you will be expected to bring the following items:

1. A notebook and pencil or pen.
2. Your own Scout Handbook.
3. Wear your complete Scout Field Uniform.
4. Monthly Troop dues, or event fees.
5. Permission slips (when required for an outing)

We cannot stress enough that you have your own Scout Handbook and notebook, and that you bring it to every meeting! While we do not want to recreate a schooling atmosphere, much of the information provided must be written down for later use. We expect Scouts to accept responsibility for obtaining and disseminating this information. In addition, while your Scout Handbook is a valuable source of information, it is also a record of your advancement. You must bring it with you to every meeting and campout and keep it in excellent condition.

In addition to weekly Troop meetings, there will be Patrol meetings at least once a month and preferably twice. They will meet according to each Patrol's agenda and will vary due to each Patrol's Scouting Spirit. The importance of these meetings cannot be over emphasized as this planning activity is crucial to the operation of the Troop's program. The adult advisor for each patrol is expected to attend these meetings or find a substitute in order to properly advise the Patrol. Prior telephone or e-mail contact should be made with the Patrol Advisor by the Patrol Leaders to establish the agenda for the meeting but the meeting should be conducted by the Scouts, with the adult present only in an advisory capacity.

As part of each week's Troop meeting, Patrol Corners should be established to cover any Patrol business which is pertinent to current or future activities such as campouts, outings, dues collection, attendance, work assignments and food money and chuck box contents.

## INSPECTION

As part of each weekly meeting, following the opening ceremony, a Troop inspection may be conducted. This inspection is intended to encourage the Scouts to "Be Prepared". Items each Scout is expected to bring each week and wear correctly are:

Scout hat (red beret)	Scout socks
Scout shirt with all proper patches	BSA membership card
Scout neckerchief (Troop 33)	Scout Handbook
Scout pants	Notebook
Scout belt	Pen or pencil

## SCOUT COSTS

Some typical costs associated with Scouting through the year are listed below. Note: uniform costs are not included.

- ◆ Dues are presently \$2.00 per week, payable at the first meeting of each month.
- ◆ Annual re-chartering fees per active Scout and Scouter will be agreed upon by the Troop Committee and announced annually. The re-chartering fee is currently due in December of each year. Inactive Scouts, that is those Scouts who participate in less than 80% of the Troops activities, may re-charter for a higher amount than active Scouts. Scouts not in good standing because of outstanding dues owed to the Troop will not be permitted to re-charter until all back dues for the previous year are paid.

Note: Scouts are not permitted to attend summer camp if they are not registered with BSA.

- ◆ Activity fees for most outings are \$12.00. For a campout this will pay for the Patrol food. Any additional fee required for extra activities or patches will be disclosed in advance.
- ◆ Summer camp costs are announced annually by Minsi Trails Council (<http://www.minsitrails.com/>)(This cost can be significantly offset by the "Scout Account".) See below.
- ◆ "Friends of Scouting" (FOS) a donation to Scouting, solicited by the Minsi Trails Council, to help support all Scouting activities within our Council. Each family is asked to give from \$5.00 to \$15.00.
- ◆ "Scouting Pocket" or "Scout Account": Money earned by the Scouts for certain fund raising activities are credited to an account for each participating boy and is primarily used for helping to offset summer camp expenses. These funds may be used for uniform or equipment such as backpacks, boots, sleeping bags, etc. if approved by the Troop Committee for these purchases. These funds may also be used to pay dues or pay for normal monthly camping activities. Once approval for purchase of uniform or equipment is obtained, the Troop will reimburse the Scout upon presentation of a receipt for the item. Checks will not be drawn ahead of time, except when special arrangements have been made.

## BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

It is not the responsibility of the adult leadership within Troop 33 to deal with consistent disciplinary problems. We expect each Scout to live by the BOY SCOUT OATH AND LAW at all Boy Scout activities. Behavioral problems that are not consistent with these values and B.S.A. regulations will result in the parents', guardians', or their designees' removal of the Scout from the activity, regardless of its location. In this situation the Scout is not allowed to return to any activity with the Troop until a Scoutmaster Conference, with an Assistant Scoutmaster or Committee Member present has been held with the Scout and his parents or guardians. It is our intent at this meeting to have a clear understanding of the problem, by both the Scout and his parents or guardians as well as developing a cooperative solution to the issue.

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Reoccurring disciplinary problems will be directed to the Troop 33 Committee Chairman for immediate Committee action. Committee action at that point might include: probation, suspension or expulsion of the Scout from Troop 33, after consultation with the Minsi Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America. A detailed copy of Troop 33's discipline policy will be provided to, and signed for by each family.

## **PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS**

Parents are required to provide the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster with medication, for those Scouts who are taking both prescription and non-prescription medication, on all outings. This includes behavioral medications and will help ensure that the Scout receives his medicine; everyone enjoys the activities, and help to lessen the incidents of discipline problems. The medications must be placed in a zip-lock bag in their original container. The Scouts name must be on the bag and a detailed note must be in the bag describing the type of medicine and what it is for. In addition, detailed instructions must be provided detailing dosage and frequency of dosage. The only exceptions are for inhalers and epi-pens; however the leader in charge must be advised that the Scout has these items in his possession. It is strongly suggested that a second inhaler and/or epi-pen be turned into the Scoutmaster in case the Scout loses the one he is carrying. Due to Federal Law and the safety of the Scouts there can be no exceptions to this policy.

NOTE 1: It is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to supply the Leaders of the Troop with an emergency phone number of whom to contact when the parents or guardians are not available.

NOTE 2: Adults and Leaders are requested to refrain from the use of any tobacco products during Scouting activities as it does not set a good example for the Scouts. Adults or Leaders using any alcoholic beverages during a Scouting activity will be asked to immediately leave.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Boy Scouts is a participatory organization. Scouts are expected to attend and participate in as many Scouting activities as possible. This includes both indoor and outdoor events, meetings, campouts, hikes, etc. The camping experience is one of the things that set Boy Scouts apart from other organizations.

It is through the outdoor experiences that the Scouts learn and grow, as the program was intended. Without regular participation, the Scout is not gaining from the program. It would be unfair to the Scouts and to Scouting to push the Scouts through the Eagle rank without the skills expected of Scouts in this time-honored position.

After the rank of First Class, participation becomes a requirement for advancement in Star, Life, and Eagle. Up to the rank of First Class, participation reflects on Scout Spirit and may impact a Scouts advancement. With this in mind, Troop 33, along with many other troops requires 80% participation on all indoor and outdoor activities to advance through these ranks. Following a Scoutmaster conference, this may be modified in light of extenuating circumstances.

## **NOTE TO PARENTS**

“Camping is the great point in Scouting which appeals to the boy, and the opportunity for teaching him self-reliance and resourcefulness, besides giving him health. Some parents who have never had experience of camp life themselves, look upon camping with misgivings as possibly likely to be too rough and risky for their boys. But when they see their lads return full of health and happiness outwardly, and morally improved in the points of practical manliness and comradeship, they cannot fail to appreciate the good which comes from such an outing. I sincerely hope, therefore, that your boys will be encouraged to go to camp whenever they can.”

ROBERT BADEN-POWELL  
(First Baron Baden-Powell of Gilwell)  
SCOUTING FOR BOYS, 1908

## **ADVANCEMENT**

"Advancement" - The adult Leaders of Troop 33 realize the importance of advancement through the ranks of Scouting, yet we do not plan our program around the desire to propel Scouts from one level to the next. We believe a Star, Life and Eagle Scout is a cultivation of maturity and self discipline, a desired nature not injected into a boy with tests or skill requirements but rather a continuous growth process in his Scout Spirit from the first day he becomes a Scout. Troop 33 Scouts are encouraged to advance naturally by participating in Troop and Patrol activities. They are encouraged to develop a self-discipline program of advancement by completing advancement requirements and earning the various BSA merit badges. We believe that young people participating in cooperative and leadership roles along with a quality outdoor program of hiking and camping will find advancement a natural byproduct of the Scouting program.

### **Testing procedures**

Testing of Scouts should be conducted without the presence of other untested Scouts as this would give an unfair advantage to Scouts who may be helping or watching. Use Scouts of higher rank or adults if help is required.

Scouts should not be tested at the time they learn or participate in an activity. Allow at least a week to lapse between the testing and the activity. This will facilitate the learning process not merely having them regurgitating information. The use of handbooks by the Scouts during the testing is not allowed. They must know the material on which they are being tested. If there is any doubt as to their knowledge of the subject, have them reread the information and test them the following week.

### **SIGN- OFF REQUIREMENTS**

Advancement requirements may only be signed by:

1. The BSA trained Scoutmaster, or
2. A BSA trained Assistant Scoutmaster, or
3. A BSA trained Committee Member, or

Note: "Trained" adult refers to a Scout Leader Essential or higher level trained, BSA registered adult. "Assigned" adult refers to these same positions. Adult Leaders, including the Scoutmaster, are asked not to sign-off on their own son's requirements.

### **The Review Process**

A separate Board of Review is required after each Scoutmaster Conference for each rank. Previous periodic Board of Reviews may not be used for advancement.

Boards of Reviews are conducted during the regular Troop meeting at least once a month.

Any questions dealing with advancement should be directed to:

The Scoutmaster  
The Troop Committee Chairman  
The Advancement Chairman

Note: Unlike Cub Scouts, parents of Scouts may not sign off their son's requirements unless a special arrangement has been made with the Scoutmaster for that particular requirement, and only that one requirement. (This includes all Assistant Scoutmasters and the Scoutmaster.)

It is extremely important that all leaders' initials be legible with the date in mm/dd./yy format for all sign-offs in Scout Handbooks.

## **BSA JOINING REQUIREMENTS**

1. Be a boy who has completed 5th grade; or
2. Be 10-1/2 years old and earned the Arrow of Light award; or
3. Be 11 years of age but not yet 18
4. Submit a completed Boy Scout application and health history signed by your parent or guardian.

At this point you are not yet a Boy Scout. You are a "New Scout" registered with BSA

## **REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A SCOUT**

The Troop Guide, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster will work with and test the Scouts for this rank.

1. Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance to your assigned adult Leader without assistance or use of a book.
2. Demonstrate the Scout salute, sign, and handclasp to your assigned adult Leader without assistance or use of a book.
3. Demonstrate to your Scoutmaster how to tie a square knot without using any reference or example.
4. Describe the Scout Badge to the Scoutmaster without assistance or use of your Handbook.
5. With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse, found in the front of your Scout Handbook.
6. Discuss with the Scoutmaster that you understand and agree to live by:

The Scout Oath  
Code    The Scout Motto

The Scout Law

The Outdoor

7. Participate in a Scoutmaster Conference with the Troop Scoutmaster.

After recognition of the rank, the Scout is allowed to wear the "Scout" badge on his uniform.

## **"TOTIN' CHIP" AND "FIREM'N CHIT" CARDS**

Since new Scouts are anxious to use their knives and build campfires, the "TOTIN' CHIP" and "Firem'n Chit" cards should be earned at this time. It will also help with future requirements. Only a "trained" qualified Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster or their designee can work with you on this.

Note: Knives or matches are not to be used by any Scout prior to earning these qualifications. Their use will result in immediate confiscation. Unsafe use of knives, saws, axes, or fire will result in loss of privileges for a period of three months and require re-testing.

## **RANK ADVANCEMENT**

At this time in your scouting career, you are ready to embark upon one of the most time-honored traditions available to any boy. Honor and respect the traditions of Scouting and you will grow personally as you learn and enjoy all that Scouting has to offer. The fun, adventure, and outdoor knowledge you will gain cannot be duplicated anywhere else in the world.

"SCOUTING IS A GAME WITH A PURPOSE"

Lord Baden-Powell, Founder of World Scout Movement

Your ranks, from Tenderfoot Scout through Eagle Scout are all listed and detailed in your Boy Scout Handbook. Study your Boy Scout Handbook, participate as much as you can and work with your Youth and Adult Leaders and you will excel!

## **POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

Throughout your Scouting experience you will be expected to fill a position of responsibility within your Troop. This position may vary in its duties and responsibilities but will help you grow and understand the meaning of leadership and being responsible, thereby making a contribution to the Troop as a whole. All positions except those within the "New Scout Patrol" will be for a period of six (6) months. Within Troop 33 the qualifications for these positions are as follows:

NOTE: At least 50% of the registered active Scouts must be present to have an election. If at least 50% is not present, the election cannot be held.

**Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)** - The "SPL" is the truest Leader of the Troop. He and his Assistant run the Troop meetings, campouts and outings. He is also the "Chairman" of the Patrol Leaders Council, where each month's activities are planned and mapped out. The SPL must appreciate the singular importance of his role, accept the responsibility fully and be there for his term of office.

- ◆ Must be Star rank or above (unless approved otherwise by Scoutmaster).
- ◆ Must have previously held a position of leadership within a Scout Troop.
- ◆ Must have Scoutmaster's consent.
- ◆ Must have parents'/guardians' consent.
- ◆ Must win election by 50% of voting members present at time of election. If no majority is reached, the two top candidates will compete in a second election with second place Scout becoming Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.
- ◆ Senior Patrol Leader may not hold any other positions in the Troop during time of office.
- ◆ New Senior Patrol Leader will take office as soon as possible after starting date.
- ◆ Senior Patrol Leader may be removed from office by two-thirds (2/3) vote of PLC, or Scoutmaster.

### **Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)**

- ◆ The winning candidate for ASPL will be the runner up (second place) from the SPL election. If there is no runner up the ASPL is selected by the new SPL.
- ◆ All candidates for ASPL will therefore have the same qualifications as required for SPL.

The positions of SPL and ASPL are subject to recall upon two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the PLC, or Scoutmaster.

### **Patrol Leader**

- ◆ Must be at least "First Class" rank (unless approved otherwise by Scoutmaster).
- ◆ All candidates must be active members in their Patrol.
- ◆ All candidates must win by a majority of 50% of the members present in their Patrol. If no majority is reached, the two candidates with the highest number of votes will compete in a second election in which one candidate must win by a majority of 50%.

### **Assistant Patrol Leader**

- ◆ Must be at least "Second Class" rank (unless approved otherwise by Scoutmaster).
- ◆ All candidates must be active within their patrol.
- ◆ The Assistant Patrol Leader will be appointed by the Patrol Leader with the consent of the Patrol's Assistant Scoutmaster.

### **New Scout Patrol Positions**

- ◆ All positions within the "New Scout Patrol" require the member to be active within the Patrol.

#### **Troop Guide**

- ◆ All candidates for Troop Guide must be at least "Star" rank or with Scoutmaster's permission.
- ◆ All candidates will be appointed to the position of Troop Guide by the SPL.

#### **Troop Instructor**

- ◆ All qualifications for Troop Instructor are the same as for Troop Guide.

**Troop Scribe**  
**Troop Librarian**  
**Troop Historian**  
**Troop Quartermaster**  
**Troop Webmaster**  
**Chaplain's Aid**  
**Troop Bugler**

- ◆ Candidates for the above positions must be "Second Class" rank or above.
- ◆ All above positions will be appointed by the SPL with the consent of the Scoutmaster.
- ◆ Incumbent candidates for the above positions will have first choice for re-appointment at each successive election (every six months).

**Patrol Scribe**  
**Patrol Quartermaster**  
**Patrol Grubmaster**  
**Patrol Cheerleader**

- ◆ All of the above positions will be appointed by the Patrol Leader with the consent of the Patrol's Assistant Scoutmaster. These positions do not count towards advancement.
- ◆ Appointed Scouts must be active in their Patrols.

#### **Den Chief**

- ◆ This position requires Den Chief Training from Minsi Trails Council and works with a local Cubmaster as a "position of responsibility".

#### **Junior Assistant Scoutmaster**

- ◆ Appointed by the Scoutmaster with the consent of the SPL.

Additional "Positions of Responsibility" may be assigned and approved by the Scoutmaster with the consent of the SPL.

### **MERIT BADGES**

Merit badges are an important part of your Scouting experience. They help you to learn new skills, or increase knowledge and awareness in a subject area. The subjects are intended to challenge you while being fun. There are currently approximately 119 merit badges available to Scouts, 16 of which are Eagle requirement badges. (The combination of

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merit badges required for Eagle is explained in your Handbook; not all 16 are required for that rank.) Any of the 119 merit badges may be taken at any time while you are a registered Scout, but you should always check the requirements in the front of the merit badge books before jumping into choosing a merit badge. Some will be harder than others and may require that you learn additional skills before attempting that merit badge. Some merit badges have prior requirements before applying, such as "Camping". If in doubt, check with an adult Leader.

### **How to Choose a Merit Badge**

1. Find a merit badge you would like to do from the list in your Handbook. If you have questions about a merit badge, contact one of the adult Leaders in the Troop.
2. After selecting a merit badge, find a Scouting friend to do the badge with you. (Always take merit badges with one or more fellow Scouts).
3. Check the "Merit Badge Counselors List" (Forks of the Delaware District) for a counselor who offers the merit badge "District-wide" (which means he/she will work with any Scouts within the Forks of the Delaware District). If you are having a problem finding a counselor for that merit badge, check with one of the adult Leaders for assistance.
4. Read the merit badge book thoroughly to familiarize yourself with the subject. (The Troop adult Leaders have merit badge books you may borrow. As Troop 33 grows we expect to develop our own library of merit badge and other books.)
5. Obtain a signed merit badge card from the Scoutmaster.
6. Contact the merit badge counselor for an appointment to meet and discuss the requirements and/or instructions for that merit badge.
7. Meet with the merit badge counselor with your Scout partner and/or parent or guardian and start working on your merit badge.
8. When you have satisfactorily completed the merit badge, return the signed merit badge card to the Troop Advancement Chairman for Council recognition.

### **ADULTS WHO WANT TO BE A MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR**

If you would like to work with Scouts on a merit badge in a subject with which you have knowledge, you will need to do the following:

1. Fill out an Adult Scouting Application. (The Advancement Chairman can help you with this).
2. Fill out a Merit Badge Counselor's Form. (Do not sign up for more than six (6) merit badges. Scouts should learn to contact other adults outside the Troop as part of the maturing process.)
3. Have the forms approved by the Scoutmaster and Troop committee.
4. Wait for the approval from Council before proceeding.
5. Do not offer a merit badge if you have not been approved by Council for that merit badge.
6. Once you have made it known you are available for a merit badge, let the Scouts contact you. They are supposed to be doing the work, not you. Don't chase after them to do the merit badge.
7. "Always have two-deep leadership any time you are working with Scouts on a merit badge." NO EXCEPTIONS.

### **SCOUT STORES**

Minsi Trails Scout Shop

991 Postal Road

Allentown, PA

(610) 266-7770

Hours: Mon and Friday - 9 AM to 5 PM

Tues, Wed, Thurs - 9 AM to 8 PM

Sat - 10 AM to 3 PM

[Troop 33 highly recommend the Minsi Trails Shop as it is a "National" store, is fully stocked, and they can order whatever else you may need.]

Dunkelbergers Sports Outfitter  
6th and Main Streets  
Stroudsburg, PA  
570-421-7950

(Note: Order of the Arrow and Eagle awards requires proof of award to purchase most items.)

## **SCOUTING LITERATURE**

Many of the questions Scouts and parents have regarding skills or general information can be found in Scouting publications from BSA. Listed below are those books which will provide the answers to most of your questions.

**The Boy Scout Handbook:** This book is required and provides the general information and advancement record. Troop 33 provides this to all new Scouts.

**FIELDBOOK - Boy Scouts of America:** Contains information on outdoor skills and is supplemental to the HANDBOOK.

**Insignia Guide:** Contains information on the proper placement of all insignia and correct wearing of uniform items.

**Boy Scout Requirements:** Includes information on all merit badge requirements, advancement and special opportunity awards.

**Junior Leader's Handbook:** Provides information on the responsibilities for each Troop position and organization. (Highly recommended.)

**OKPIK:** Provides valuable information on cold weather camping and outdoor skills.

A great many additional books, from Dutch Oven Cooking to Wilderness Survival and Scout Songs, are available from the Minsi Trails Council Scout Shop. Some of the books listed above are available from Troop 33 adult Leaders who have agreed to lend them on occasion. Check with them first. All of the books listed above are available through Scouting distributors if you wish to purchase any of them.

Troop\_33\_Handbook

## **Troop 33 Website**

Troop 33 maintains a website on the internet. The address is <http://www.troop33.homedns.org>. Important information concerning the troop as well as items of interest can be found there.