

# Troop 672 Parent Orientation

Updated March 2010

## 1. Introduction

- Why an orientation?
  - Review how BSA and the troop works
  - Leadership responsibilities and goals
  - Scouts and Parent responsibilities
  - Activities
  - Understanding what makes the troop go!
    - Great leaders
    - Involved scouts
    - Involved parents
    - Our pancake breakfast
- Q & A – end of each section
- Acronym Definitions:

ASM – Assistant Scout Master	QM – Quarter Master
ASPL Assistant Patrol Leader	PL - Patrol Leader
BSA – Boy Scouts of America	PLC – Patrol leader Council
CC – Committee Chairperson	SPL – Senior Patrol Leader
COR – Charter Org Rep	SM – Scout Master
MC – Committee Member	

## 2. BSA

- Purpose and Mission:
  - FUN and ADVENTURE while developing boys':
    - character development
    - citizenship training
    - fitness – mentally and physically
    - leadership skills
- Definition of Success
  - Participation in BSA
  - Opportunities for Outdoor activity
  - Understanding service to community
  - 4% registered Boys make it to Eagle = boy still a success even if he does not make it to Eagle

## 3. Troop's organization – the Boys

- The Uniform
  - when and why worn
  - class "A" & "B"
  - respect, formal group, accomplishments, SCOUT SPIRIT
- Troop meetings:
  - general format & what's covered
  - who leads – the SPL or Venture Crew (with SM in background providing guidance and direction)
    - sign-ups and pay dues
    - opening – pledge of allegiance, Scout Promise/Oath
    - announcements

- camp trips
  - community service projects
  - fund raising events
  - closing
    - announcements
    - Scout Oath
    - SM minute / Benediction
  - “Organized chaos”
    - Boys have fun
    - Boys do learn
- Troop organizational chart
- Troop structure - the boys (post First Class) / makes up the PLC:
  - SPL
  - ASPL
  - QM
  - PL
- Patrols
  - What are they
  - What they do
  - How things get done
  - PL leads – min 1<sup>st</sup> Class, elected by Boys
  - ASM’s, MC’s and Venture assist by leading meetings, merit badge sessions, rank advancement activities, games, knowledge shares, etc.

#### 4. “Boy Led”

- How it works
  - Learning via “trial and error” “school of hard knocks”
  - Adjust for circumstances - throttle
  - Can be tough on some adults
- Why it’s so important
- Why it works
- Cub Scouts compared to Boy Scouts
- Significance of “Boy Led”
- Challenges to implementing “Boy Led”

#### 5. Advancement

- TF to Eagle
- Emphasis on TF to 1<sup>st</sup> Class
  - how and why
- How the boys learn
  - who “teaches”
- Who signs the boys’ BSA books
  - SM, ASM
- Scoutmaster conference
  - Purpose and goal
- Boards of Reviews
  - who, why and what happens
- Court of Honor

- Who attends and How often
- Dues
  - why dues; must be current to advance and receive awards

## 6. Merit Badges

- Scout's emphasis is directed in getting to 1<sup>st</sup> Class before merit badges
- When and how to pick them
  - The scout approaches (not the parent) and discusses what he is interested in with Scoutmaster to determine what is available and when
  - Can begin after approval from the Scoutmaster (the magic blue card)

## 7. Troop's activities

- Why, how are they selected, what is accomplished, who "runs" them
- Campouts
  - Monthly; Site selection; What happens at the campouts
  - Patrol method
  - Personal Gear
- Cleaning and returning tents and gear
  - How, when, why
- Summer camp – 1 or 2 weeks
  - Rank advancement; Merit badges; fun in the great outdoors
- Other activities:
  - Skiing, bowling, canoeing, high adventure, etc.
  - Whatever PLC decides (Scouts should tell their PL their interests so it can be discussed and become part of the program)
- Service projects
  - Why, what accomplished, who "runs" them

## 8. Venture Crew

- Purpose and goals
  - High adventure for older scouts; Age 14 through 20
- Leadership:
  - Crew Advisor, Associate Crew Advisor, MC, CC, COR
  - President, Vice President, Treasurer
- Activities:
  - Philmont (backpacking); Boundary Waters (canoeing); SeaBase (kayaking, boating); Rock climbing, etc.
  - Try out new campsite locations before the troop goes

## 9. Troop's organization – the adults

- Organizational chart
- Troop Committee
  - Why a committee?
  - Who?
    - Scoutmaster; Chairperson; Treasurer; Advancement
    - plus Committee members
    - SPL and Venture president
    - and anyone else who wants to get involved
- Monthly / Open meeting
- Purpose: Committee sets Troop's general policy (within BSA guidelines)

- Implementation
  - o Troop Adult leadership helps the boys’ get it done
  - o Made up of all adult leaders plus parents and volunteers
- Adult leadership roles:

MC (committee member)	Merit Badge counselor	Helping Hands (open)
CC (committee chair)	Quartermaster	Transportation Coordinator
MC (committee member)	Advancement Chair	Summer Camp Coordinator
SM (scoutmaster)	Treasurer	Pancake Breakfast Chairman (open)
ASM (asst sm)	Fundraiser Coordinator (open)	Training Coordinator (open)

- Adult Leadership training – GREAT Leaders are TRAINED Leaders!
  - o Youth protection training
    - **REQUIRED for all adult leaders**
    - “Two Deep” Leadership”
      - always minimum 2 adults with any scouts
      - protects the boys and the leaders
  - o Committee (MC) training
    - Explains BSA guidelines and policies
    - Provides guidance to get things done and work together
    - Board of Reviews
  - o SM/ASM training
    - New Leader Essentials
    - Outdoor Leader
    - SM/ASM Specific
  - o District Training

**10. Parent Involvement**

- How can you help?
- Campouts
  - o Fill in gaps when needed (i.e be a driver)
  - o Clean camping gear (coolers, pots, pans, etc.); help your scout clean his tent or tarp
  - o Provide TLC to the leaders (leaders that camp shouldn’t have to take home the boys gear to clean (they have their own))
  - o Make sure YOUR scout is prepared before you get to the parking lot!
- Fundraisers – 2 per year:
  - o Car Wash
    - Usually in Spring
    - Led by a parent (need one for the August one!)
    - 100% of the earnings go into the scouts youth accounts that work the car wash
  - o Pancake Breakfast
    - Primary troop fundraiser
    - EVERYONE must participate – this is what pays for our gear and keeps our camping and activity fees low
    - Minimum participation:
      - Sell 10 tickets; \$100 sponsorship; work a shift
        - o 25-35% of what they earn individually goes into their personal Youth Account to apply to Long-Term camping
    - Planning starts in August; Sign up to help plan and run it

**11. Q&A**  
March 2010

Chartering Organization  
Wildwood Presbyterian Church  
Greg Bostrom Executive Officer

