

BSA Troop 107

Guide for New Scouts

Welcome to Troop 107!

You are now part of a long tradition of scouting in Taylors, South Carolina (we date back into the 1920's). Our troop is focused on promoting BSA principles, enjoying the outdoors, advancing through BSA ranks to Eagle, learning leadership and other essential life skills, and above all, having fun! Troop 107 is in the Foothills District of the Blue Ridge Council. Taylors First Baptist Church in Taylors SC is the charter organization (sponsor) for the troop.

You are the future of Troop 107, and the leaders and older scouts of the troop are dedicated to helping you ease your transition from Cub to Boy Scouting and learn new skills. These overviews provide some answers to frequently asked questions, but feel free to contact any of the leaders or other scouts if you have questions.

Current Scoutmaster – Brian Hicks

Phone 864-423-3650 email – vols_721@charter.net

Current Committee Chairman – Roger Metcalf

Phone 864-331-9928 email - themetherd@bellsouth.net

Getting Started

Please complete the following prior to the next meeting.

- Complete and return Boy Scout application with parent's signature.
- Review "A Parent's Guide" in the Boy Scout Handbook with your parents.
- Discuss attending Summer Camp (June 19 – June 25th(2011)) with your parents (See information memo about summer camp).

Meetings

Troop 107 meets on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Scout House at First Baptist Church, Taylors SC. There will be no meetings on days that Greenville County Schools are closed due to holidays or inclement weather. School delays in the morning typically do not apply, but safety first. We meet every other Tuesday during the summer. Please visit our website, www.bsatroop107.org, it will always show our current schedule of meetings and events. Unlike Cub Scouts our meetings are led by the scouts themselves. The adult leaders act as guides and make sure that true Boy Scouts practices are followed. Typical meetings have the following agenda:

Event Leader Time

Opening	Senior Patrol Leader
Old Business / New Business	Scribe
Announcements	Adult Leaders 5 – 15 minutes
Patrol Breakout	Lead by Patrol Leaders 10-20 minutes
Activities (varies from meeting to meeting)	
Demonstrations	Senior Scouts 15 – 25 minutes
Small Group Activities	Patrol Leaders 15 – 25 minutes
Merit Badge Instruction	Adult Leaders 20 – 30 minutes
Scout to First Class Instruction	Senior Scouts and / or Adult Leaders – 20 -30 minutes
Games Scouts	30 minutes
Scoutmaster Minute	Scoutmaster 5 minutes
Closing	Senior Patrol Leader

Demonstrations will be used to teach skills to the whole troop for things like how to pack a backpack, cook a meal, handle a knife and axe, etc. This is a good learning opportunity for the troop as well as the demonstration leader, since presentation skills can be used throughout his life. If you want to volunteer to demonstrate something to the troop, contact the Senior Patrol Leader. This time may also be used to prepare for an upcoming event.

Small Group Activities will be used to work on badges, advancement, or skills that require significant participation. The troop will not initially divide into formal patrols – groups will be assembled based on skill level and requirements.

Until you reach First Class Scout you need / must bring your Boy Scout handbook to every meeting and outdoor activity.

Alternate Meetings

Once a month, the troop will try to do a fun activity away from the church. We are open to suggestions for low-cost activities that everyone can enjoy. In the past, we have attended local sporting events such as a baseball or hockey games and met at Frankie's Fun Park or "Rocks and Ropes". Current scouts are quite fond of going to a movie also.

Once a month your scout will be asked to bring his scarf and sash (if he has earned a Merit Badge) to a Troop only Court of Honor. At this time your scout will be recognized for his advancement and other achievements. Twice a year, a Family Court of Honor will be held to present awards and celebrate past advancements and achievements with their families present. We will also be serving a meal at this event.

Monthly Outdoor Activities

Troop 107 is a very active outdoor troop – we camp or hike about once a month, almost every month of the year. Our activities are planned so that scouts of every ability will be able to participate and enjoy themselves. Activities are usually either car camping (camping near the car, such as in state parks), or backpacking (carry in equipment for overnight camping on your back for hikes of 2 or more miles). Depending on cost and interest we have also done canoeing trips, tours of museums, whitewater rafting, ect.

The troop has a large selection of camping equipment – see *Equipment* section for details. The scouts choose the outdoor activities at a planning meeting held twice a year in early March and early September. The activities have been chosen with the abilities of the new scouts in mind. The schedule appears on our website at www.bsatroop107.org. The schedule is subject to change, so please check the website frequently. We try to give as much notice as possible to changed or cancelled events. Most of our outdoor events take place in South or North Carolina, with ventures into Tennessee and Georgia occasionally.

Our typical outdoor plan for the year breaks down like this –

Jan – Hiking – length is determined by the leader – typically 2 miles

Feb – No outdoor activities planned, service projects and merit badge work usually take up every weekend.

Mar – Foothills Spring Camporee – locations vary each year (this is a two night camping trip)

Apr – Camping in NC

May – Camping in SC

Jun – Summer camp

Jul – Outdoor fun event like whitewater rafting, gem mining, visit to Columbia and see the state house and State museum (for Merit Badges). Also, great month to work on an Eagle Project or two. Cave exploring in Tennessee.

Aug – Camping in SC or NC (water related)(swimming/fishing/canoeing etc.)

Sep – Foothills Fall Shootree – shooting skills practiced at Camp Old Indian. This is always a big hit with the boys. (two night camping trip)

Oct – Camping at Carroll Brown Campsite – even years – Wilderness Survival Merit Badge taught. Odd years – Orienteering Merit Badge taught.

Nov – Camping in either NC (Camp Grimes (bass fishing, kayaks, hiking and canoes) or Camp Daniel Boone(trout fishing, hiking) or Camp Arrowhead (skills instruction and fishing). Or we use this month to checkout a campsite we have never been to. Or we use this month for a 2-3 backpacking adventure.

Dec – Cold weather camping trip (skill instruction). This trip is geared more to First Class and above scouts, because of equipment needs and familiarity.

At least two (2) adults are required for the monthly outdoor activities. Parents are always welcome to attend.

Annual Events

The troop attends *Summer Camp* every year, at Camp Old Indian. Details of this year's camp are provided in a separate memo. The district or council sometimes sponsors special day events that focus on a particular merit badge or theme. We will have notice of these events well in advance. There is a Spring and Fall *Camporee* sponsored by our district or council. A *Camporee* will provide the outdoor activity for that month and are planned like any other car camping trip. The troop conducts several service projects throughout the year. This usually requires a few hours on a Saturday or Sunday. Service hours are required for rank advancement. Fundraising events may be planned depending on the need for troop funds or troop supplies/equipment.

Dress Code

A scout uniform shirt, belt, BSA socks are required. Uniforms can be purchased at the Blue Ridge Council office at One Park Plaza, Greenville SC 29607, 864.233.8363, (Exit 34 off Interstate 385) . Your Boy Scout Handbook has information on where to sew patches on the uniform.

- Full Class A uniforms are Class A shirt, green scarf (one provided by the troop), merit badge sash, belt, approved pants, and scout socks.
- Regular Class A uniforms are Class A shirt, belt, approved pants/shorts, and scout socks.
- The Class B uniforms are the troop T-shirts (one provide by the troop) and appropriate clothing for the particular activity.

The following dress code is required for troop events.

Troop Meeting – Regular Class A uniform

Court of Honor – Full Class A uniform

Travel to camping/hiking events – Regular Class A shirt (will be left in car)

Council/District Activities – Class A (or sometimes Class B)

Scout Participation

Scouts are required to attend a minimum of 50% of meetings and events to remain an active troop member. Only active troop members can advance in rank, earn merit badges, and attend special events.

Meetings – 50 % attendance by all scouts is required. The meeting is the best way we can convey important information to you. **If you cannot attend the meeting, please contact your Patrol Leader or Assistant Senior Patrol Leader as soon as possible.**

Outdoor Events - Attendance by all scouts is strongly encouraged. Activities will be set up for the general skill/physical levels of the attendees and are scheduled well in advance. Scouts participate in choosing the troop activities.

Troop Officers – There are many elected positions for scouts to serve in the troop that promote leadership skills. Elections are held every 6-months. Offices include Senior and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol and Assistant Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Instructor, Quartermaster, Scribe, Historian, librarian, Chaplain, etc...

Parent Participation

Parent participation is essential for the success of the troop. Parents are welcome at any meeting or event, and will be asked on occasion to help pick-up/deliver food or supplies, provide transportation, assist in a fundraising event, etc... Parents should also encourage their sons to enthusiastically participate in the troop and alert the scoutmasters of anything that is holding the boy back from getting the most out of the scouting experience.

A minimum of two adults is required to be at Summer Camp at all times. Parents may be asked to participate so that adult leaders will not have to use a full week of their family vacation to cover the entire week.

There are many more formal opportunities for parents to participate.

Committee – The adult committee meets as required to plan events and establish or review troop policies and plans (typically every other month). The committee votes on all issues and new members.

Merit Badge Counselor – Adults are encouraged to lead small groups of scouts through the completion of merit badges. Contact a scoutmaster if you have a skill or interest in a particular merit badge and can attend 2-4 meetings to work with the scouts.

Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters – Troop Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters (adult leaders) rotate duties and there are many opportunities to serve. We welcome anyone that feels motivated to join us.

Remember, it only requires “an hour a week” of your time (an old scouting joke!).

Fees

Annual membership dues for BSA are \$15, and you can subscribe to *Boy's Life* for \$12 per year. Special events such as Camporees may have a nominal entry fee. Camping and backpacking trips usually have a small cost (\$15 - \$20) to pay for food and transportation. You are responsible for fees paid in advance on your behalf. If you cancel on an outing after the grubmaster for your group has bought the food, you are still obligated to pay for your share of the food. Contact the responsible people as soon as possible if you must cancel in order to avoid this situation.

We only have one fund raiser a year (in October) and at that time the committee will decide how much your son will need to sell. If he meets this goal, no additional money will be required from you.

If he does not, a onetime annual fee of \$30.00 (2010) will have to be paid. This fee is prorated for those joining the Troop after the fundraiser. Example a scout joining the Troop in February would pay \$20.00. In return the scout will be given a scarf, green shoulder loops, one Class B shirt, an annual quality patch and special Troop 107 patch.

Equipment

Proper equipment is required for camping and backpacking trips. However, don't feel that you have to rush out and buy this equipment right away. The troop has some equipment that you can use while you decide what you want and need. Backpacks are the most expensive item and should not be bought until your scout has started his growth spurt (usually around 13). The troop provides equipment for group cooking and water purification. We have group camping equipment such as dining tents, tables, lanterns, etc. There are a few troop tents available to borrow on a first-come, first-serve basis (per camping event). New scouts need to own a warm, lightweight sleeping bag (rated 20-30 deg F) for camping and backpacking trips. These can be purchased for \$50 to \$150 at sporting goods or outdoor stores or through mail order. The "scout outdoor essentials" should be carried on all hiking trips. See the Boy Scout handbook for details. A good pair of waterproof hiking boots is required for hiking or backpacking trips. Refer to the Boy Scout Handbook for more information about equipment, or talk to one of the adult leaders.

Many of the demonstrations in meetings will cover the type and use of outdoor equipment.

Contacts

The Troop Roster gives names and contact information of everyone in the troop. It is updated constantly and given to all Adult Leaders and Scout senior leaders. Parents should contact the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman with issues they may have. Scouts should contact their Patrol Leaders first with issue they have. If the Patrol Leaders are not available they can contact the Senior or the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.