

SCOUT / PARENT HANDBOOK 2007



**Boy Scouts of America
Troop 149
Falcon, Colorado**

”An Adventure of Fun and Learning”

Chartered by the Grace Community Church, Falcon, Colorado

Visit us on the web at: www.troop149falcon.com

The Troop 149 Handbook Recommended reading for all Scouts and parents! Created: November 20, 2007

Introduction

Welcome to Troop 149! As a new member of Troop 149, you are joining a group of boys who share your interests in the outdoors, adventure, and learning. As a Scout you will get the opportunity to acquire new skills, and you will be recognized and rewarded for what you have accomplished. You will have the opportunity to learn leadership, organizational, and other skills that will help you later in life.

The *“Troop 149 Handbook”* is intended to act as an introduction to Scouting in Troop 149 and to give Scouts and Parents a better understanding about how Troop 149 works. Please take the time to read over this handbook, and contact the Scoutmaster or one of the other Adult Leaders if you have any questions.

Adult Participation

The adults who give their time, talent, and support to make Troop 149 a success are all volunteers. Both mothers and fathers, and legal guardians may assist Troop 149 by providing transportation to and from outings, serving on a troop committee, becoming a merit badge counselor, becoming an Assistant Scoutmaster, or serving in other leadership positions.

If you are a parent or guardian of a boy in Troop 149, or an interested former leader, please take the time to attend a couple of Troop or Committee Meetings. Talk to the Scoutmaster, the Committee Chairman, or one of the other Adult Leaders. You may have the skills, resources, or contacts the Troop needs.

Troop 149 Organization

Troop 149 is associated with the Pikes Peak Council, High Plains District of the Boy Scouts of America.

The District is the geographic area in which a troop is located. A district may cover one or more neighborhoods in a big city, or it may cover several counties in more rural areas. High Plains District is composed of the following counties: Eastern El Paso, Elbert, Lincoln, Kit Carson, and Cheyenne.

The Council is a group of one or more Districts. A Council has a professional staff and volunteers that help make the individual troops successful. Pikes Peak Council is composed of 4 Districts, which cover El Paso, Park, Teller, Elbert, Lincoln, Kit Carson, and Cheyenne counties. Most Councils run scout stores where uniforms, books, and other scout supplies are sold. Pikes Peak Council has one scout shops. It is located at the Boy Scout office in Colorado Springs, CO.

Every Boy Scout Troop has at least one Chartering Organization, which assists the troop by providing a meeting place, guidance, leadership, and financial assistance, if needed. Grace Community Church proudly charters Troop 149.

The troop committee is a group of adults, generally parents/guardians of the Scouts, who provide support and guidance to the troop. Troop committee positions include but are not limited to:

- Charter Organization Representative – Liaison between the troop and Chartering Organization
- Troop Committee Chair – Head of the troop committee.
- Scoutmaster – Oversees the operations of the troop.
- Assistant Scoutmaster – Advisor to assigned Patrols
- Troop Committee Member – Registered volunteer helping with the troop business
- Advancement Chair – Administers the troop advancement program, maintains records and prepares advancement reports for the council
- Fund-raiser Chair – Organizes fund raising projects to meet the troop needs.

Joining Troop 149

To join BSA Troop 149, you must do the following (as outlined in “The Boy Scout Handbook”, Eleventh Edition, page 4)

- *Meet the age requirements – complete the fifth grade or be 11 years old, or earn the Cub Scout Arrow Of Light Award (must be under 18 years old)*
- *Complete a Boy Scout Application Form and health history, signed by a parent or guardian*
- *Repeat the Pledge of the Allegiance*
- *Demonstrate the Scout Sign, Salute, and Handshake*
- *Demonstrate tying the square knot*
- *Understand, and agree to live by the Scout Oath or Promise, Law Motto, Slogan, and the Outdoor Code*
- *Describe the Scout Badge*
- *Complete the “How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent’s Guide” pamphlet from the front of the “Boy Scout Handbook”*
- *Participate in a Scoutmaster Conference*

Scout Handbook

Each scout is expected to obtain and keep a copy of the “*Boy Scout Handbook, Eleventh Edition*”. This book should be brought to all troop activities and campouts. A protective cover (available from the scout store or on-line at www.scoutstuff.org) and having the handbook spiral bound is recommended.

Fees/Dues

The Boy Scouts of America is a very cost-effective program that seeks to develop boys into men with honor, but it does cost money. Most can be earned through fundraisers and placed into a Scout account.

Dues – Each Scout pays a monthly dues of \$2.00 per month. Dues are payable on the first Tuesday of each month. It is best if the Scout pays from in own earnings. If desired, the Scout can also pay a full year at re-charter time. This pays for most of his badges and other awards.

Re-Charter Fee – Each January the Troop begins the re-charter process with Pikes Peak Council. Each Scout who wishes to remain in the troop pays \$10.00 for the re-charter fee plus an additional \$12.00 is he chooses to receive Boys Life magazine. Fees are collected at the beginning of January and cover the Scouts registration and insurance fees. These fees should also be paid by the Scout from his own earnings.

Summer Camp – Fees for Summer Camp can range from \$200.00 to \$300.00 depending on what camp is attended by the Scout. There may be other fees associated with the camp such as the cost for leatherwork kits, pottery, horseback riding, and other such necessities for earning the various merit badges.

Remember, “A Scout is Thrifty”. A Scout should understand the fees associated with Scouting and he should work to help earn the necessary fees.

Registered Adult Leaders will need to pay yearly re-chartering dues of \$10.00. Merit Badge Counselors will need to fill out a registration form and information sheet once each year. No fee is required for Merit Badge Counselors.

Campouts and other Troop activities will require funds in addition to the re-chartering dues. Troop 149 holds two fundraiser events each year to cover camping and equipment costs. Scouts will have the opportunity to earn money for their individual accounts during the scouting year (i.e. Annual Popcorn Sales). Additional fundraisers for High Adventure trips may be necessary.

Troop Background

Boy Scout Troop 149 was formed in Falcon, Colorado in 1991. The troop originally chartered to Falcon Middle School on June 6, 1991. In 2005 the Troop became chartered to Grace Community Church. Over the years, Troop 149 has had 18 Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle.

Troop Structure

Troop 149 is run by the Senior Patrol Leader and is divided into several small groups called patrols. The Senior Patrol Leader is promoted from Assistant Senior Patrol Leader for Patrols, who is elected by the troop. Qualifications for this position are as follows: Boy must have served as a patrol leader and successfully completed the Junior Leadership Training course with the Scoutmaster; Boy must express a desire to hold the position prior to the troop elections; and the boy must agree to honor the attendance requirements and guidelines set up by the Scoutmaster.

A patrol is a group of 6-10 boys who camp together and participate in troop activities together. In our troop, boys are assigned to patrols based on age and experience in Scouts. If the number of boys in a patrol changes due to growth or attrition, the Scoutmaster may form a new patrol or

combine existing patrols as needed. A Scout may make a request to change patrols to the Senior Patrol Leader and the Scoutmaster, who will then decide if the change is justified.

Each patrol has a Patrol Leader. The Patrol Leader is elected by the members of his patrol and serves for a six month term. The boy must express a desire to hold the position prior to the troop elections; and the boy must agree to honor the attendance requirements and guidelines set up by the Scoutmaster. Patrol Leaders are engaged into a training program with the Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader providing the training for each Patrol Leader.

Other Troop positions include but are not limited to: Assistant Senior Patrol Leader for the Cabinet (appointed by the SPL), Quartermaster (equipment control), Chaplain's Aide (religious duties), Historian (documents troop activities), Librarian (maintains troop library), and Scribes (record keeper/treasurer). These positions are appointed semi-annually by the Senior Patrol Leader based on interest shown by the boy and each boy's need for leadership for rank advancement.

The exceptions to this are the Troop Guide(s) (assists younger scouts through the program), OA Representative (attends OA meetings and relays information to troop members), and Instructor(s) (able to teach the Scout skills required for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class) who are appointed by the Scoutmaster to serve for a period of one year and the boy must agree to honor the attendance requirements and guidelines set up by the Scoutmaster. The position of Junior Assistant Scoutmaster is available to any Eagle Scout who has reached the age of 16 and is appointed by the Scoutmaster. Junior Assistant Scoutmasters remain in their positions until a time where they become too old to remain in Boy Scouts or their performance and attendance does not meet the guidelines set up by the Scoutmaster.

Ideally, a Boy Scout Troop is a "Boy Run Troop", the Scouts do all the event planning and take care of all Troop operations via the Patrol Leader's Council (PLC). Troop 149 holds PLC meetings on a monthly basis. These meetings are not only for planning activities, but also for the boys to critique the activities and their own actions on an activity, to try to improve the program. The Scoutmaster and sometimes another adult leader of Troop 149 are advisors to the Patrol Leader's Council.

Troop Meetings

Troop 149 meets every Tuesday evening at Falcon Middle School in Falcon. See the current Troop 149 Web Site (www.troop149falcon.com) calendar for changes or additions. The regular Troop Meeting is 7:00-8:30. Scoutmaster Conferences and Board of Reviews will be held at regular meetings as required. **Scouts will not be permitted to leave any meeting early without permission from a leader who is at least 21 years old. Parents will be notified if a scout leaves without permission prior to the end of the meeting.**

The Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) meets on the last Monday of each month. The meeting times are 6:00-7:00pm. All Patrol Leaders, the Senior Patrol Leader, the Troop Guides, the troop Scribe-Secretary, and other Junior Leaders when requested, should attend this meeting. The Scoutmaster and one adult leader will also attend this meeting. The PLC works with the Scoutmaster and the other Adult Leaders to plan upcoming troop activities.

All Scouts are encouraged to attend every Troop meeting. Scouts who miss a Troop meeting are expected to contact other members of their patrol or check the website to get information regarding upcoming events.

Troop Uniform

The Boy Scouts of America is a uniformed organization. Wearing the Boy Scout uniform shows a sense of belonging and pride the Scouting movement. All members of Troop 149 are required to wear the approved uniform and insignia to all troop meetings and activities. Adult leaders should set an example and wear the proper adult uniform.

Troop 149 will supply any merit badges, and patches earned by a troop member. Any duplicate badges / patches (lost or duplicates for additional uniforms) will be paid for by the Scout. BSA Troop 149 has approved the following uniform:

The UNIFORM to be worn during **all** Troop Meetings and for travel to and from all Troop campouts and activities consists of the following:

- Official BSA Khaki long or short sleeved shirt (with appropriate Troop 149 numerals, Pikes Peak Council patch, red shoulder loops, current leadership position patch, and rank insignia. See the inside cover of the BSA Handbook for details.)
- Troop 149 blue and white piped neckerchief and slide (the first neckerchief is provided free, additional neckerchiefs are available for minimal cost from the troop). The Troop logo patch shall be worn on the neckerchief for First Class and above Scouts. A bolo is acceptable for camping activities only! Eagle Scouts may wear the white NESAs Eagle Scout neckerchief.
- Blue Jeans (in good condition) with belt are acceptable. BSA olive pants or shorts with belt (or Kaki shorts (above knee level)) are recommended. Official BSA scout socks should be worn with BSA shorts (OPTIONAL).
- Any official BSA scouting hat is optional.
- Regular civilian clothes, when worn, **MUST** reflect the spirit of scouting. It will be up to the leaders' discretion if the civilian clothes are inappropriate.

The UNIFORM to be worn during **all** Courts of Honor and Boards of Review consists of the following:

- Official BSA Khaki long or short sleeved shirt (with appropriate Troop 149 numerals, Pikes Peak Council patch, red shoulder loops, current leadership position patch, and rank insignia. See the inside cover of the BSA Handbook for details.)
- Troop 149 blue and white piped neckerchief and slide (the first neckerchief is provided free, additional neckerchiefs are available for minimal cost from the troop). The Troop logo patch shall be worn on the neckerchief for First Class and above Scouts. A bolo is acceptable for camping activities only! Eagle Scouts may wear the white NESAs Eagle Scout neckerchief.
- Blue Jeans (in good condition) with belt are acceptable. BSA olive pants or shorts with belt (or Kaki shorts (above knee level)) are recommended. Official BSA scout socks should be worn with BSA shorts (OPTIONAL).
- Any official BSA scouting hat is optional.
- The merit badge sash will be once the Scout has earned his first merit badge.

- Regular civilian clothes will **not** be worn at any time for a Court of Honor or Board of Review.

Troop Rules and Regulations

Troop 149 has established several troop rules and regulations, which are to be followed at all times by the boys. These rules are set for the safety of the boys and must be respected and observed by the boys at all times. **Remember to put into practice the 12 points of the scout law.**

The following rules are always in effect during Troop 149 activities and meetings:

1. The Scout Uniform is required during all scout meetings, while traveling to and from any activities, and during all scouting activities unless it is deemed that the activity warrants the class "B" uniform. Regular civilian clothes are only approved for Troop campouts after the final formation upon arrival.
2. The **"BUDDY SYSTEM"** is to be followed at all times.
3. Bows, arrows, ammunition, fireworks, and firearms of any kind, may not be brought to any scouting activity.
4. Under no circumstances may fireworks be brought to any scout activity.
5. Each boy must have successfully completed his **Totin' Chip** class prior to opening or using a knife, saw, or axe of any kind.
6. No sheath knives or fixed blade knives are permitted. The Scoutmaster must approve all knives, axes, saws, and hand axes. Any unapproved items will be confiscated and returned to the parent upon returning from the outing.
7. No matches, candles, cell phones, pets, or aerosol spray cans of any kind are to be brought to any scouting activity.
8. No **"HORSEPLAY"** is allowed in the campsites.
9. No running in the campsites.
10. No throwing of objects of any kind (balls, sticks, Frisbees, etc.) is allowed in the campsites.
11. Boys are not allowed to leave the campsite after dark unless they have prior permission from a leader and have a buddy with them. Any boys discovered away from the campsite after dark will be searched for. If the boy is not found, he will be deemed missing and the boy's parents will be contacted by phone immediately (no matter what time it may be), to advise them on the situation.
12. Please remind your son that he is a guest in the car of the person providing transportation. **The driver of the car is in charge, and what he says is the rule in his car.** This means:
 - Seat belts are mandatory at all times while in transit to and from a scouting activity.
 - No throwing of objects in or out of the car.
 - No eating or drinking in the car unless **PRIOR** permission is given.
 - Do not distract the driver.
 - Loud, unruly, or obscene talk or gestures will not be tolerated.
 - A Walkman, MP3, or radio with the earphones and/or handheld video games may be played in the car going to a scout activity. Upon arrival, they will be collected and locked in a car trunk. Remember the car trunk can get hot and some items can be damaged.
13. Advancement by scouts through the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Star, Life and Eagle, are strongly encouraged and necessary to help their development in scouting. There are some privileges awarded to those boys with higher ranks. These privileges are meant solely to reward boys for their achievements and to encourage other boys to strive for higher ranks.

An adult leader, according to BSA Policy, can discipline any boy who breaks one of these rules. Most cases will earn the boy some type of **“Special Duty”**, (i.e. empty a water bucket, carry the garbage to its disposal area, or some type of other small extra job on the outing), which will be assigned by an adult leader. If the boy blatantly breaks a rule, it is up to the adult leaders to decide how to approach the situation (according to BSA Policy). The most serious situations would result in a phone call to the parents who will be asked to come to the outing and take the boy home.

Individual Accounts

The boys have the opportunity to put money into their individual accounts during the year. We participate in the National Popcorn Sales Program each year. The proceeds of each Scouts popcorn sales are put directly into the individual Scout accounts. The purpose of the account is to allow the boys to earn money for long term camping, High Adventure trips, the purchase of Scout uniforms, camping or hiking gear.

Troop Web Site

As you now know, our troop has its own website (www.troop149falcon.com) on the Internet. We're quite proud of the fine job our scouts have done on this site, and we encourage you to visit the site from time to time to see their work. At the site, you will find a calendar of upcoming scouting events, and you can print out campout permission slips and other items for your convenience. We would like to put some pictures on this website from time to time, showing our boys at campouts and the like. **Allowing your son to join the Troop is consent to allow us to post pictures of your son on our website. Per BSA policy we will never use last names for Scouts under 18.**

Questions or Comments

We, as a committee, would like to thank the parents for their support. We encourage any questions or comments you may have regarding this Troop 149 Handbook. If you have a question or comment, please direct it to the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman.

Yours in Scouting,
The Scoutmasters and Committee Members of Troop 149