

Boy Scout Troop 207
Cumming, GA
Etowah District
Northeast Georgia Council
Family Handbook

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Introduction

Welcome to Troop 207. As a new member of Troop 207 you are joining a group of boys who share your interest 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 Handbook is intended to act as an introduction to Scouting in Troop 207 and to give Scouts and Parents a better understanding about how Troop 207 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.

Purpose of the Boy Scouts of America

The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated to provide a program for community organizations that offers effective character, citizenship, and personal fitness training for youth.

Specifically, the BSA endeavors to develop American citizens who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit; have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness; have personal values based on religious concepts; have the desire and skills to help others; understand the principles of the American social, economic, and governmental systems; are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand our nation's role in the world; have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people; and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to American society.

Chartered Organization

Troop 207 is a chartered unit in the Etowah District of the Northeast Georgia Council.

Creekside United Methodist Church of Cumming, Georgia, charts Troop 207. The Chartered Organization Representative is the liaison between Troop 207 and the chartering organization. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the Scouts and insures that there is adequate trained leadership.

Adult Participation

The adults who give their time, talent, and support to make Troop 207 a success are all volunteers. Both mothers, fathers, and legal guardians may assist Troop 207 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 41, 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.

Membership Requirements

To join BSA Troop 207, you must do the following (as outlined in "The Boy Scout Handbook", Eleventh Edition)

- 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 Allegiance

- Demonstrate the Scout Sign, Salute, and Handshake
- Demonstrate tying the square knot
- Understand, and agree to live by the Scout Oath or Promise, Scout Motto, Scout Law, Scout 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 meetings.

Fees/Dues

Annual dues in the amount of \$65 per scout are collected during re-charter in January. The dues cover the cost of any awards or patches the boys earn during the year. In addition, there is a yearly registration fee for returning scouts of \$15. This fee is also collected during re-charter in January. An optional fee is the subscription to “Boys Life” magazine for \$12.90. Please make every effort to ensure that these payments are made in a timely manner.

No fee is required for Merit Badge Counselors.

Campouts and other Troop activities will require funds in addition to the payments mentioned above. Scouts will have the opportunity to earn money for their individual accounts during the scouting year.

Troop Organization

Troop 207 is run by the Senior Patrol Leader and is divided into small groups called patrols. The Senior Patrol Leader is elected by the troop. His position has a 12-month term, which is renewed automatically unless another qualified boy challenges him. These challenges can only occur at the beginning of each school year. Qualifications for this position are as follows: The Scout must have served as a patrol leader and successfully completed the patrol leader training course with the Scoutmaster; the Scout must express a desire to hold the position prior to the troop elections; and the scout must agree to honor the attendance requirements 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, we allow the boys to select which patrol they will participate in. 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 Scoutmaster at the beginning of the school year appoints this position of responsibility. The Scoutmaster will not select a boy who has not expressed a desire to hold the position or who has not agreed to take the position under the guidelines set 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: Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (appointed by the SPL), Quartermaster (equipment control), Troop Guide (assists younger scouts through the program), Chaplain's Aide (religious duties), Historian (documents troop activities), Librarian (maintains troop library), OA Representative (attends OA meetings and relays information to troop members), and Scribe (record keeper/publisher). The position of Junior Assistant Scoutmaster is available to any Eagle Scout who has reached the age of 16. These positions are appointed annually by the Scoutmaster based on interest shown by the boy and each boy's need for leadership for rank advancement.

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 207 holds two PLC meetings a year. 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 another adult leader of Troop 207 are advisors to the Patrol Leader's Council.

Troop Meetings

Troop 207 meets every Monday evening at the scout hut on the grounds at Creekside United Methodist Church. See the Troop 207 website (www.troop207.com) Calendar for changes or additions. The regular Troop Meeting is 7:00-8:15. 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.**

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.

Advancement

Purpose

Advancement is the process in which scouts progress through the ranks in the Scouting program by the gradual mastery of scouting skills. Ranks are simply a means to an end, not an end in themselves. Everything boys do to advance and earn these ranks, from the day they join until the day they leave the program, should be designed to help boys have an exciting and meaningful experience.

Four-Step Process

- **The Boy Scout learns.** A Scout learns by doing. As he learns, he grows in ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and the troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others. In this way, he begins to develop leadership.
- **The Boy Scout is tested.** A Scout may be tested on requirements by his Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, a Troop Committee Member or a member of his Troop. The Scoutmaster maintains a list of those qualified to test and pass candidates.
- **The Boy Scout is reviewed.** After a Scout has completed all requirements for a rank, he has a Board of Review (BOR). For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Palms, the review is conducted by members of the Troop Committee. The Eagle Board of Review is conducted by members of the district advancement committee.

- **The Boy Scout is recognized.** When the Board of Review has certified a boy's advancement, he deserves to receive recognition as soon as possible. This should be done at a ceremony at the next Troop meeting. The certificate for his next rank will be presented to him at the next Troop Court of Honor.

Boards of Review (BOR)

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he appears before a BOR composed of members of the Troop Committee. 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 advancement. A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a boy about his lack of progress toward advancement.

Troop Uniform

The Boy Scouts of America is a uniformed organization. Wearing the Boy Scout uniform shows a sense of belonging and pride for the Scouting movement. All members of Troop 207 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 207 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.

The uniform will be worn during all Troop Meetings, Courts of Honor, Boards of Review, and for travel to and from all Troop campouts and activities. The uniform consists of the following:

- Official BSA Khaki long or short sleeved shirt (with appropriate Troop 207 numerals, Northeast Georgia Council patch, red or centennial shoulder loops, current leadership position patch, and rank insignia. See the inside cover of the BSA Handbook for details.)
- Troop 207 has adopted the Boy Scout bolo tie for all troop activities. 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)
- Troop 207 has also adopted the Boonie Hat for all troop activities. The hat can be purchased from this online dealer: <http://www.flyingtigerssurplus.com/search.php?query=1052d>. Merit badge sash is optional for Courts of Honor and other special events after six merit badges are earned.

Regular civilian clothes, when worn, must reflect the spirit of scouting. It will be up to the leaders' discretion if a shirt is inappropriate.

Troop Rules and Regulations

Troop 207 has established a set of troop rules and regulations, which are to be followed at all times by the boys. The 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 207 activities and meetings:

- The Scout Uniform is required during all scout meetings, while traveling to and from any activities, and during all scouting activities. Regular civilian clothes are only approved for Troop campouts after the final formation upon arrival.
- The “BUDDY SYSTEM” is to be followed at all times.
- Bows, arrows, ammunition, fireworks, and firearms of any kind, may not be brought to any scouting activity.
- Each boy must have successfully completed his Tote and Chip class prior to opening or using a knife, saw, or axe of any kind.
- 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.
- No matches, candles, cell phones, pets, or aerosol spray cans of any kind are to be brought to any scouting activity.
- No “HORSEPLAY” is allowed in the campsites.
- No running in the campsites.
- Boys are not allowed to leave the campsite after dark unless they have prior permission from a leader and have a buddy with them. A search will be conducted for any boys discovered away from the campsite after dark. 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.
- 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.

An adult leader, according to BSA Policy, will 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.

Troop Website

Troop 207 has its own website at the following address: <http://www.troop207.com>. On the website you will find a calendar of troop events, merit badge information, forms and flyers, and resources to help guide you in troop activities and camping trips.