

St. Jude Church Boy Scout

Troop 172 and

Venture Crew 2172

Policy Document

November 2002

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A. TROOP COMMITTEE

1. The 172/2172 Troop Committee is made up of men and women who want to provide Scouting to the youth of St. Jude Church. They may be parents of Scouts, members of St. Jude Church, or simply persons interested in youth, or all three at once. The 172/2172 Troop Committee structure shall conform to the national BSA rules and regulations and shall have additional members responsible for: advancement, membership, outdoor program, fund raising, and transportation. The Committee will have as many members as needed to provide an equitable distribution of time commitments.
2. The 172/2172 Troop Committee is directly responsible to St. Jude Catholic Church for making sure the Scouting program is offered in an appropriate manner.
3. The 172/2172 Troop Committee has two key jobs: (1) to select the best possible person as Scoutmaster; and (2) to help the Scoutmaster succeed in providing a sound Scouting program for the Troop.
4. The 172/2172 Troop Committee shall meet on a regular basis as agreed to by its members. Currently the meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month. Meetings will be held at such location as the Committee, from time to time, shall select. These are open meetings and all parents of Scouts or other interested persons are invited to attend.
5. At a time chosen by the Committee, an annual election shall be held for the position of Chairman. At this time, other members may elect to retain their position, rotate to another position, or leave the Committee as their personal needs dictate.

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C. ADVANCEMENT

1. Boards of Review and Scoutmaster Conferences for advancement will be held as announced by the Troop Committee Advancement Chairman. Scouts requiring a Board of Review and/or a Scoutmaster Conference need to contact the Troop Committee Advancement Chairman to request one.
2. The scout book and appropriate computer printout from "Troopmaster" must be maintained up to date prior to requesting a Board of Review. If you are requesting a Board of Review for Star Scout and above, the "Request for Rank" form must be completed.
3. Being "Active" in your troop is a fundamental requirement for successful advancement at all levels. Regular attendance by the Scouts is a must. In this regard, Scouts in Troop 172 & Venture Crew 2172 should attend at least 60% of the regular Troop meetings scheduled for each quarter. All Scouts are further asked to attend 50% of the camping trips or other scheduled Troop outings during the calendar year. A Scout should not miss two (2) camping trips or Troop outings in a row. Failure to meet these requirements could delay advancement, if deemed so by the Board of Review. Each situation will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
4. Scout Spirit - The main underlying requirement for advancement from Tenderfoot to Eagle is scout spirit. There are many tangible and intangible parts of scout spirit. Do you wear your uniform, how do you wear your uniform is it wrinkled or torn or is it neatly pressed. Is my neckerchief rolled and tied correctly. How do I behave at all activities. Am I disruptive, do the adult leaders have to constantly tell me to behave. Do I respect others and their properties. How do I treat my fellow scouts; do I call them names, pick on them, gang up on them or help them. Do I follow the 12 points of the scout law, and do I live the scout oath.
5. Courts of Honor - There are generally 4 Courts of Honor scheduled during the year. There will be two major Courts of Honor one in August, and one in February. Two smaller Courts of Honor may be held in May and November, as necessary.

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D. GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND RULES FOR BEHAVIOR

The Boy Scout Oath and Scout Law are the guiding principles of Troop 172. We recite them before each meeting to remind ourselves that these should guide our lives in and out of Scouting. Scouts and adult leaders are expected to uphold these high standards. In addition, the following rules are to be followed for the benefit of the boys and the Troop:

1. Individual safety and well-being are of utmost importance. Actions of individual scouts may be restricted if they are judged to be a hazard or nuisance to themselves or to others.
2. A scout's possessions are personal and not to be tampered with by others.
3. Any open flame of any type is prohibited inside tents or outside approved areas for cooking and campfires.
4. Scouts will not possess or use tobacco products at any time while engaged in Scouting activities. Adults are encouraged to refrain from using tobacco products during Troop activities.
5. Fighting, horseplay, excessive rowdiness, and any form of "hazing" are prohibited.
6. Alcoholic beverages, illicit and/or illegal drugs, "adult" reading material and fireworks are prohibited at any Scout activity.
7. Firearms of any type are not to be possessed, unless part of an activity specifically organized for that purpose, e.g., the Rifle Shooting Merit Badge.
8. No butterfly, pushbutton, or sheath knives are allowed. After a Scout has earned his "Totem Chit," he may carry a folding pocketknife.
9. Vulgar or profane language will not be tolerated.
10. In general, the Scoutmaster or his designate is responsible for discipline and safety. All Scouts and their parents are required to sign the "Troop 172 Discipline Policy and Procedure" which will be invoked if necessary, this includes Summer Camp.

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E. DISCIPLINE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

The objective of scouting is to provide means for scouts to have fun and fellowship while learning life skills in a wholesome environment. A large part of the process is having the scouts plan and conduct the meetings and outings themselves with minimal adult leader intervention. While this provides opportunities for the scouts, it can also pose problems. Without constant, close adult supervision there can be discipline problems. It is very difficult to get a scout leading a skills demonstration, meeting, or other activity if other scouts are disruptive and/or unruly. Therefore the troop committee has approved the following procedure.

1. The patrol leader/senior patrol leader when observing disruptive or unruly behavior should bring it to the attention of an adult leader. The adult leader will discuss the behavior with the offending Scout(s).
2. If the behavior persists, the adult leader should bring it to the attention of the scoutmaster or the adult leader in charge of the activity. There will be a conference with the Scout and at least 2 other adult leaders.
3. If the disciplinary situation must again be elevated to the adult leader level or if the offense is serious enough to warrant immediate adult involvement such as property destruction, threat to someone's person, or any of the item listed in "Guiding Principles and Rules for Behavior," the Scout will be dismissed from the meeting/activity and his parents will be called. A meeting will be set up with the Scout, his parents, the scoutmaster and other adult leaders as deemed necessary to develop an action plan to monitor and correct the behavior.
4. If adult discipline is again needed or the action plan is not followed by the Scout, the Scouts parents will be notified and the situation will be brought before the Troop Committee for consideration of probation or suspension.
5. Troop Probation: Any Scout placed on probation shall retain all rights and privileges of full Troop membership. However, he must correct his deficiency during the allotted time period set by the Troop Committee to avoid Troop suspension. Probation cannot take place without a conference with the Scout and his parents.
6. Troop Suspension: Any Scout placed on Troop suspension will be considered to be barred from Troop activities for the period of the suspension. Prior to any suspension taking place, the Scout and his parents will be notified and receive a full explanation from the committee member responsible for Troop membership. Suspension will be initiated by the Scoutmaster who must discuss the problem with at least three (3) members of the Troop Committee: the Scoutmaster and all such Committee members must be in agreement as to the terms and conditions. In all cases in order for a Scout to return to full Troop membership after being put on suspension, there must be a conference with the Scout, his parents, the Scoutmaster, and at least two (2) members of the Troop Committee.
7. Punishment: There will be **NO** physical punishment.

Scout Name (Please Print)

Parent Name (Please Print)

Scout Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

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F. DUES AND REGISTRATION FEES

1. The annual fee to register in the Troop is \$36.00. This includes fees for the national registration of the Troop, annual subscription to "Boy's Life" magazine, Troop assessment for local Council fee, and miscellaneous Troop expenses. This is payable in December prior to re-charter time in mid-December or in January of each year.
2. New boys coming into the Troop will pay the following prorated fees:

January through March 31 -	\$36.00
April through June 30 -	\$27.00
July through September 30 -	\$18.00
October through December 31 -	\$9.00

New boys transferring into the Troop from Webelos Scouts or another Boy Scout Troop will pay the current transfer fee of \$1.00 plus \$15.00 Troop fee.

3. Adult registration fee is \$10.00 each December and includes the national registration fee and a subscription to "Scouting" magazine.
4. There are no monthly Troop dues. However, a \$10.00 fee is attached to each monthly camping activity, \$5.00 to be used by the Scout to purchase food and \$5.00 to provide for replacement of troop camping gear as needed and cover any fees associated with the area that is used to camp. The \$5.00 fee for replacement of troop camping gear or cover camping fees, maybe waived at the discretion of the Scoutmaster or his designee for certain Troop Outings. An additional fee may be required for certain outings due to the need to rent equipment or cover fees associated with a specific activity, i.e. rock climbing, whitewater canoeing.

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G. UNIFORMS

1. We have found that Scouts do like to wear the uniform and that when boys are in uniform they tend to act, behave and think more like Scouts. A boy in play clothes is ready to play... A boy in his Scout uniform is ready to play, but he is also ready for Scouting. In fairness to all in the Troop, our policy is that after a boy is registered with the Troop for 60 days, he should begin to acquire his Scout uniform. This is adequate time to determine whether or not the boy intends to stay in Scouting. By the end of 90 days a boy must have a Class "A" uniform. The uniform requirements will not apply to any boy who has been registered in the Troop less than 90 days. Class "A" uniform, will be worn while traveling to and from all Troop outings.

Class "B" uniform can be worn to Troop activities when announced, at the discretion of the Scoutmaster or his designee.

Class "A" uniform in our Troop is the current official BSA uniform as shown and described in the catalog issued by the Boy Scouts or as shown in the catalog of any official Scout equipment supplier such as J. C. Penney or the Council Scout Office. Each boy should have the uniform shirt (short sleeve is suggested), the pants or shorts, the web belt and buckle, and the Troop 172/2172 red and green neckerchief (cost of neckerchief is \$5.00 and is purchased from the Troop). Dark green socks are suggested. If a hat is worn, it should be the Scouting type ball cap or a Scouting brim hat. A hat is not required as part of Class "A" uniform; however, the complete uniform is required at all Troop uniform inspections, courts of honor, advancement review boards for first class and above and any time a Scout is serving as a member of a color guard.

Class "B" uniform is either B.S.A. style green pants or shorts, and a non-uniform shirt of a type that relates to Scouting. Suggested would be: A Skymont T-shirt, the T-shirts or sweatshirts sold by scout suppliers or a shirt from a special scout event such as a raft race, Order of the Arrow conclave, etc. The shirt must relate to Scouting. Green socks, either long or short, are recommended to be worn with green shorts.

With both Class "A" or "B" no special shoes are required; but a Scout in Class "A" should be wearing shoes that are neat, clean, and in good repair. The uniform shirt must have firmly sewn in the proper position the following: The Council strip, unit numbers 172/2172, the 25th year bar, and Troop office patch (if appropriate) on the left sleeve. If a boy is elected to a Troop office, he has 30 days to get his patch of office on his shirt. On the right sleeve will be the patrol or leadership corps patch, quality unit strip and American flag. The current badge of rank will be on the left pocket. These are the minimum requirements.

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H. OUTDOOR PROGRAM

1. There will be one Troop campout or outing scheduled each month except for December; the July outing will be summer camp. Once planned, the outing will be carried out unless weather conditions indicate otherwise. The Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster in charge of the outing will be able to cancel an outing.
2. A brief Sunday morning devotional service is generally held on each outing.
3. Patrol/venture crew are highly encouraged to go on an individual camping trip or outing however, the plan must be submitted to the Scoutmaster for his approval. Each patrol/venture crew should try to have one individual trip a year using patrol parents to go with the patrol and be the responsible adults in charge. All BSA rules and regulations will be followed on any patrol outings. It will be the duty of the patrol parents to learn the regulations, including required vehicle insurance, seat belt rules, etc. Copies of the "Safe Scouting" manual are available in the troop scout house.
4. The use of liquid fuels on camping trips is restricted to adults and senior troop officers only. (i.e., fueling lanterns and stoves).
5. The outdoor code is the code of our Troop on all camping trips and outings. It is the responsibility of each Scout, staff member and patrol parent to know and uphold it.
6. The Scoutmaster or adult in charge can remove any member of the Troop from campouts or other Troop activities for unsatisfactory conduct.
7. Water activities (swimming, canoeing, etc.) will be permitted only under proper BSA Supervision Guidelines.
8. A permission slip signed by a parent or guardian will be required for each Scout for each outing. Exception being if the Scout has a parent going on the outing, otherwise.. no permission slip? No Go!
9. The rules and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America regarding use of and transportation of Scouts in motor vehicles will be followed. It is the duty of the Scoutmaster or Adult(s) in charge to be familiar with them and make sure they are followed.

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I. SCOUT/CAMP FUND

The purpose of the Scout/Camp Fund is to allow each Scout to earn and save money for Summer Camp.

1. The cost of Summer Camp is ~\$130.00 (Year 2002 funds).
2. Examples of earning money include selling poinsettias, bringing in aluminum cans, and working at the County Fair.
3. Scout/Camp funds in excess of the money required for Summer Camp can be used to pay for monthly camping fee's and other scouting activities and for the purchase of camping/scouting equipment with the appropriate sales receipt provided to the Troop Treasure. No cash advances will be provided to a Scout.
4. Scouts that leave Scouts forfeit their Scout/Camp Fund to the Scouting Program at the end of the Scouting year. No refunds of balance will be provided to the Scout.

I. SCOUT SPIRIT PANEL

The purpose of the Scout Spirit Panel is uphold the consistency and quality of Scout Spirit .

1. The Scout Spirit Panel will consist of the following: one adult leader chosen by the Patrol Leaders Council, one adult leader chosen by the Scoutmaster, and one adult leader chosen by the Scout requesting a Scout Spirit Signoff.
2. Observers to the Scout Spirit Panel may consist of the Senior Patrol Leader* and the Scouts Patrol Leader* (*If the Scout going for Scout Spirit is the Patrol Leader or the SPL then no substitutes will be made for observer.)
3. Rules of the Scout Spirit Panel:
 - a. All adult members of the panel must agree that the Scout is worthy of Scout Spirit.
 - b. If Scout is found worthy of Scout Spirit then they may proceed to the next step in their advancement of rank.
 - c. If an adult member does not agree that the Scout is worthy of Scout Spirit, then that adult member(s) must identify reasons why Scout is not worthy of Scout Spirit and a plan and goals must be established for providing the Scout direction on achieving Scout Spirit signoff. Input into the plan may be obtained from the Scout. Additional review dates should be set for the Scout to be reevaluated. The plan and goals will be provided to the Scout for his review and acknowledgement.
 - d. If the final decision of the Scout Spirit Panel requires clarification, then an appeal with the Scout Spirit Panel and Scout may occur.
 - e. If further clarification is necessary then the Troop Committee should convene.

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Attachment A

Example of a Permission Form

BSA Troop 172/Venture Crew 2172 – Annual Parental Permission Form

In consideration of the benefits to be derived, and in view of the fact that the Boy Scouts of America is an educational institution, membership in which is voluntary, and having full confidence that every precaution will be taken to ensure the safety of my son or ward, namely, _____, on the activity named below, I agree to his participation and waive all claims against the leadership of this troop, officers, agents, representatives of the Boy Scouts of America, and the sponsor. I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that my son or ward is adequately prepared to participate in BSA Troop 172/Venture Crew 2172 yearly activities (including but not limited to camping, hiking, rappelling, caving, whitewater canoeing) and that he complies with stated requirements for these events.

Special medication needs: _____

Calendar Year: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____