

# **Troop 144**

# **Guidelines**

Version 2.0

Updated: 03/08/2006

# TROOP 144 GUIDELINES

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.00 TROOP MEMBERSHIP. . . . .	Page 1
1.01 An "Active Scout". . . . .	Page 1
1.02 Failure To Be Active. . . . .	Page 1
1.03 Rejoining the Troop. . . . .	Page 1
2.00 THE TROOP. . . . .	Page 1
2.01 Meeting Location. . . . .	Page 1
2.02 Meeting Time. . . . .	Page 1
2.03 Purpose/Format. . . . .	Page 1
3.00 TROOP UNIFORM. . . . .	Page 2
3.01 Class "A"/Field Uniform - Required & Suggested. . . . .	Page 2
3.02 Headgear. . . . .	Page 2
3.03 Class "B" Uniform. . . . .	Page 2
3.04 Other Items. . . . .	Page 2
4.00 TROOP COMMITTEE. . . . .	Page 3
4.01 Members. . . . .	Page 3
4.02 Meetings/Time/Location. . . . .	Page 3
5.00 TROOP PROGRAM. . . . .	Page 3
5.01 Overview. . . . .	Page 3
5.02 Troop Elections. . . . .	Page 3
5.03 Discipline. . . . .	Page 3
5.04 Patrols. . . . .	Page 3
6.00 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT. . . . .	Page 4
6.01 Adult Leadership. . . . .	Page 4
6.02 Project Involvement. . . . .	Page 4
7.00 COSTS. . . . .	Page 4
7.01 Registration/Dues/Boys Life Magazine. . . . .	Page 4
7.02 Troop Activities. . . . .	Page 4
7.03 Training Costs. . . . .	Page 4
7.04 Fund-Raisers. . . . .	Page 4
8.00 ADVANCEMENT. . . . .	Page 5
8.01 Working With Your Son. . . . .	Page 5
8.02 Advancement Approval. . . . .	Page 5
8.03 Merit Badges. . . . .	Page 5
8.04 Merit Badge Counselors. . . . .	Page 5
8.05 Service to Others. . . . .	Page 6
8.06 Scoutmaster Conference/Boards of Review. . . . .	Page 6
8.07 Courts of Honor. . . . .	Page 6
9.00 TRAINING. . . . .	Page 6
9.01 Junior Leader Training. . . . .	Page 6
10.00 TROOP CALENDAR. . . . .	Page 6
10.01 Troop Calendar of Events. . . . .	Page 6

10.02 Troop Newsletter.....	Page 7
10.03 Troop 144 Call Down.....	Page 7
11.00 TROOP ROSTER.....	Page 7
12.00 TROOP TRANSPORTATION POLICY.....	Page 7
13.00 PERMISSION /RELEASE FORMS. ....	Page 8
14.00 CAMP OUT COSTS/ TROOP EQUIPMENT. ....	Page 8
14.01 Camp out Costs.....	Page 8
14.02 Troop Equipment. ....	Page 8
15.00 TOTIN' CHIP / FIREM'N CHIT PRIVILEGES. ....	Page 8
15.01 Totin' Chip.....	Page 8
15.02 Firem'n Chit.....	Page 8
16.00 ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP.....	Page 8
17.00 CAMP OUT POLICIES.....	Page 9
17.01 Rides. ....	Page 9
17.02 Departure from Camp. ....	Page 9
17.03 Cleanup of Troop Gear.....	Page 9
18.00 TROOP ELECTIONS AND ORDER OF THE ARROW.....	Page 9
18.01 General Overview. ....	Page 9
18.02 Elections. ....	Page 9
18.03 Youth Membership Requirements. ....	Page 9
18.04 What To Do Before The Election for O. A. and Troop Positions.....	Page 10
19.00 ADULT LEADERSHIP. ....	Page 10
20.00 TROOP 144 SPONSOR.....	Page 10
21.00 TROOP 144 RECORDS.....	Page 10
21.01 Storage of Official Troop Records. ....	Page 10
21.02 Maintenance and Update of Official Troop Records.....	Page 10
21.03 Update of Newsletter and Website.....	Page 10
22.00 LEADERSHIP POSITIONS.....	Page 10
22.01 Scoutmaster. ....	Page 10
22.02 Asst. Scoutmaster. ....	Page 11
22.03 Other Adult Leaders and Committee Members.....	Page 11
23.00 REVISION OF TROOP 144'S GUIDELINES. ....	Page 11
23.01 Revisions and Approval. ....	Page 11

## **1.00 TROOP MEMBERSHIP**

### **1.01 An "Active Scout"**

In order for a scout to remain a member of Troop 144, it is necessary for him to meet the requirements outlined under the term "active scout" that includes the following:

- Must attend 50 percent or more of all troop and his patrol's meetings.
- Must attend 50 percent or more of all troop and his patrol's camp outs.
- Must attend 50 percent or more of all other troop and his patrol's functions.
- Must advance based on his abilities and in a timely manner.
- Be current with all dues or other payments required.

Due to the fact that some of the older Scouts sometimes find it difficult to participate in some events because of their work, school schedule, or other outside activities, the Scoutmaster may make an exception for these Scouts. The Scouts must however, discuss this conflict with the Scoutmaster prior to the event.

### **1.02 Failure To Be Active**

Any Scout who falls into an inactive status will be contacted by the Scoutmaster over the phone and in handwriting to determine why a Scout has not been meeting the requirements. An opportunity will be given for the Scout to return to active status; however, if the Scout fails to return to an active level of participation, he will be put on an inactive list, yet still remain a member of Troop 144.

### **1.03 Rejoining the Troop**

Any Scout removed from the roster will be allowed to re-register and become active again provided he follows the guidelines of Article 1.01.

## **2.00 THE TROOP**

### **2.01 Meeting Location**

Our normal meetings are held at the St. John's United Church of Christ, located at 1415 Rising Sun Rd., in Laurys Station.

### **2.02 Meeting Time**

Meetings are held on Tuesdays of each week including the summer months. The meetings begin at 7:00 pm and end around 8:30 pm. Anyone picking his or her son up after the meeting is asked to be punctual. Adult leaders may not leave until all boys have departed. Meetings may, from time to time, be switched to another night of the week. These dates will announced ahead of time.

PLC (Patrol Leaders Council) meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month. PLC meetings will last an hour, from 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM. All members of the PLC are expected to attend the meeting. It is at these meetings that the boy leaders decide our troop activities.

### **2.03 Purpose/Format**

It is during Troop meetings that the boys develop the plans for the various activities throughout the year. Such things include developing menus for camp outs, learning life saving techniques, working on elements in their Boy Scout Handbooks that can be done as a group, as well as many more activities.

Generally, some sort of "Rowdy. . . Energetic. . . Fun" activity will be a part of the meeting as well.

Patrol meetings give the patrols time to go over meal and activity planning, as well as reviewing scouting skills. Troop meetings cover subjects that involve the entire Troop.

Formats of the Troop and Patrol meetings are developed by the Scouts during the Patrol Leaders Council.

Patrols may need to schedule patrol meetings on off nights. These meetings would be used to complete tasks that were not able to be finished during the regular patrol meetings. They will be scheduled by the Patrol Leaders.

### **3.00 TROOP UNIFORM**

#### **3.01 Class "A"/Field Uniform - Required & Suggested**

##### **REQUIRED**

- A Tan Boy Scout Shirt (short sleeve or long sleeve) with American Flag emblem on the right sleeve and a World Crest Emblem
- Red Shoulder Loops
- A Minsi Trails Council Shoulder Patch
- 144 numerals
- The Scouts current Service Star
- The Scouts current Rank Badge
- A Green BSA Neckerchief OR Bolo tie for older Scouts who have earned them (Order of the Arrow, Eagle Scout, etc.)
- A Neckerchief slide (BSA official or may be hand made)
- A merit badge sash (for those Scouts who have earned merit badges).

##### **SUGGESTED**

- A pair of long Boy Scout trousers OR
- A pair of Boy Scout shorts;
- An official Boy Scout belt;
- A pair of official Boy Scout socks.

It is required that boys wear their Class "A" uniforms to all troop meetings. There are occasions when old clothes are needed and the Scoutmaster or Asst. Scoutmaster will let the boys know of these occasions.

The full Class "A" uniform is considered our "Dress Uniform" and must be worn at all formal occasions. (Courts of Honor, parades, etc.) Full class "A" includes the entire above items plus any medals the Boy Scout may have earned.

#### **3.02 Headgear**

No headgear other than our Troop cap may be worn as part of the Class "A" uniform.

#### **3.03 Class "B" Uniform**

A Troop T-shirt, or other Scout related T-shirt (Order of the Arrow or special camp) is considered a Class "B" uniform.

The Class "B" shirt may be worn only at the discretion of the Scoutmaster. The class "B" uniform is NOT to replace the standard BSA class "A" uniform.

#### **3.04 Other Items**

Boy Scout Handbook;

Boy Scout Fieldbook;

Junior Leader Handbook.

## **4.00 TROOP COMMITTEE**

### **4.01 Members**

Charter requirements are that we have a Committee Chairperson, a Chartered Organizational Representative, along with two other Committee Members. More members will be recruited as necessary. The Committee oversees the Troop property and assists with Troop policies and procedures. The Committee Chairperson heads the Committee.

### **4.02 Meetings/Time/Location**

The Committee Chairperson usually holds committee meetings the third Wednesday of each month, or as designated.

Meetings start at 7:30 PM and are normally held off-site.

Parents are always welcome to attend any and all Committee meetings. Parents are encouraged to join Troop 144's committee.

## **5.00 TROOP PROGRAM**

### **5.01 Overview**

The Boy Scout program uses the "TROOP/PATROL METHOD" to allow for the organized development of young boys into young men. While the program is designed to provide activities that are fun and a real adventure for the boys, it allows for character development, pride in country (citizenship), mental/physical fitness, and religious development. It also demonstrates respect for others, and allows for the desire to lead others.

The boys run the Boy Scout program, with the guidance through leadership training, of an adult Scoutmaster and his Asst. Scoutmasters. It's not a program outwardly run by adults. Adults are there to teach and to ensure safety. This is important, because on occasion, what may look like "disorganization" is really a learning program. What may be something we as adults are not excited about, is something the boys said they wanted to do. Scoutmasters and other troop leaders follow one very basic rule of Scouting: "NEVER DO FOR A BOY, WHAT A BOY CAN DO FOR HIMSELF."

### **5.02 Troop Elections**

Boys are elected into key leadership roles. To be a candidate for a leadership position, a boy must be registered with BSA and be an active member to Troop 144. Elections are held at six-month intervals. Junior Leader Training will be provided for all elected leaders.

### **5.03 Discipline**

Disciplines of language, actions, and activities are all a part of the Scouting program. All Scouts are expected to adhere to the Scout Oath and Law and to obey their Scout and Adult Leaders. The Scoutmaster will notify the family of any boy who does not want to work within the rules of the Troop. Boys who continually cause discipline problems within the Troop will be given the following disciplinary action:

- 1st offense, a conference with the Boy Scout and his parent(s)
- 2nd Offense, written notice
- 3rd Offense, they will be asked to leave Troop 144

Any Scout who knowingly destroys or damages another persons property (clothes or otherwise) will be held responsible for the replacement or repair of the item(s).

### **5.04 Patrols**

The Patrol Method is the key element in developing leadership skills, including the many individual skills. Patrols compete with each other and help your son "belong" with boys who want to share the adventure. Remember which patrol he is in, as it's one of the essential parts of his scouting adventure.

## **6.00 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

### **6.01 Adult Leadership**

Although a program by boys, it's necessary that these young men have adult leadership to help develop their leadership skills and ensure that the program accomplishes its goals. The boys deal directly with the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters. We will look to each adult for help from time to time.

Training, of adult leaders and boys, is important to ensure the best possible program for each of our sons. It's highly recommended that all members of the Scoutmaster's staff attend Boy Scout Leader Basic Training (Scoutmaster Fundamentals). Troop 144's goal is to have new leaders trained within 6 months of registering.

A minimum of two adults must be present at all Troop functions that involve any registered Scouts within our Troop, including both Troop and patrol activities (Two-deep leadership). At least one must be a registered adult. (National BSA Policy)

A minimum of TWO but preferably three adults are needed (for safety reasons) on any Troop overnighter, or any longer camp outs.

There will be absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS to the above policies. If it's not possible to meet these requirements, the activity must be canceled.

Troop 144 uses the "Buddy System" as outlined in the Boy Scout Handbook.

### **6.02 Project Involvement**

Scouting is a family program. We will be calling on each family to participate in the various projects throughout the year. We will use your talents, so that you too can enjoy the fun and excitement of scouting. Do not allow only a few volunteers to carry the program for your son. To have the best Troop, we must all pitch in!

## **7.00 COSTS**

### **7.01 Registration/Dues/Boys Life Magazine**

Registration for each Scout is a total \$50.00 (Registration of \$10.80/year, Troop dues of \$26/year, an annual subscription to Boys Life magazine of \$12.00.) New Scouts coming into the troop from crossing over from a Cub Scout Pack must pay Registration fees of \$35.00, including a troop T-Shirt.

We re-charter in January, so these fees are due by the middle of January. Boys' Life magazine is optional, but it is highly recommended that at least one member of each family receive a subscription and share it with other members of the family (For those families with more than one Scout in the Troop).

### **7.02 Troop Activities**

Activities are planned throughout the year and many have a fee. These costs will be collected in advance of the event from those boys who will participate. Each boy is responsible for individual costs. Last minute cancellation or no shows will be assessed all costs incurred by the Troop. Verbal commitments to attend are considered binding when the Troop must prepay based on show of hands.

### **7.03 Training Costs**

We believe that quality training is the best way for our troop to continue to grow and have quality leadership. Most training costs for Leaders and Scout leader training will be paid for by the troop. Training requests will go before the committee for final approval for the total amount, or a shared payment. Required training for Leaders, as well as Scouts, will be paid for by the Troop.

### **7.04 Fund-Raisers**

The Troop will occasionally hold a general fund-raiser. Proceeds go to the Troop's general fund.

We will have a fund-raiser during late summer or early fall each year. Our fund-raising goal will be to cover the total expenses of the Troop for the year. We may be required to have an additional fund-raiser during the year if we find it financially necessary.

We encourage all Scouts to participate in the fund-raiser in order for boys to work as a team to build our troop, thus paying their own way as recommended by the Boy Scouts of America. If for some reason, a boy cannot participate in the fund-raiser, he will be offered a "buy out."

If there is interest in having a separate fund-raiser specifically for offsetting the summer camp costs, we will hold that in Spring.

We encourage anyone interested in joining our fund-raising committee to contact the Scoutmaster or another Committee Member. We are always in need of new and improved ideas for fund-raising.

#### 7.05 Summer Camp Fees

A policy has been established to allow this fee to be paid in installments. A deposit is due by the middle of March. The balance is due usually by the end of May. It is the responsibility of the Scout and/or his parents/guardian to make sure the payments reach the Troop Treasurer on time. Once a payment, either deposit and/or balance, has been made, it is usually not refundable.

"Camperships" are generally available to those families in need. These are provided for by the Minsi Trails Council and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

## **8.00 ADVANCEMENT**

### 8.01 Working With Your Son

Your son will be making personal growth agreements with his Scoutmaster and himself that encourages him the achievement of the necessary activities to earn the badges in the scouting program.

### 8.02 Advancement Approval

Only the Scoutmaster, a member of his staff, or the present Senior Patrol Leader may sign off in his Handbook.

### 8.03 Merit Badges

Part of a Scouts advancement requires him to earn Merit Badges. Generally, the Scout, as an individual effort, earns these badges. However, on occasion, merit badge clinics at Troop meetings are held so a group of Scouts may work on a specific badge together. This is especially true during Summer Camp or Troop meetings.

In all cases, the Scout must discuss his intentions with the Scoutmaster PRIOR to working on any badge. The Scout must obtain a blue Merit Badge Application card from the Scoutmaster prior to starting the merit badge. Any requirements completed beforehand will not be credited. A Scout must work only with a counselor who has been approved by and is registered with Minsi Trails Council. The Scoutmaster must always check the following 3 items with the scout requesting a blue card - 1) What merit badge is he taking? 2) Who is his merit badge counselor? 3) Who is the buddy taking the merit badge with him?

### 8.04 Merit Badge Counselors

Only those individuals who have properly registered with Minsi Trails Council may counsel a Merit Badge.

A Counselor must insure that a Scout completes all requirements of the badge he is counseling No more, and no less.

A list of Merit Badges may be obtained from the Scoutmaster should you wish to become a Counselor.

If you have a special interest or talent, please share it with the Troop. The Troop is always in need of Merit Badge Counselors.

Remember that the advancement "trail" in Boy Scouts is to the rank of Eagle Scout.

#### 8.05 Service to Others

Also a part of advancement requires a Scout to perform Service Hours. The Scout will need to perform one (1) hour of service for Second Class rank, and six (6) hours each for both the Star rank and the Life rank. Generally, these hours of service must be of the Scouts choosing. The Scoutmaster and/or Troop committee is not responsible for providing the service project hours for the Scout. They can however, provide suggestions for service hours and/or projects. The Scout must, however, receive approval of any and all service projects from the Scoutmaster PRIOR to starting any projects. Only projects that have been approved in advance by the Scoutmaster will be credited. These hours need to be service to the Troops Charter Partner, a Church or religious organization, a local government, or other Service Organizations. They may not be to any sports group or to another Scout group.

#### 8.06 Scoutmaster Conference/Boards of Review

As your son advances along the trail to Eagle Scout, he must complete a variety of accomplishments. Each rank has a series of requirements that need to be completed. When all requirements for a specific rank are completed, the final requirements are to have a Scoutmaster Conference and then pass a Board of Review. It is during the Scoutmaster Conference that the Scoutmaster ensures that the Scout has fulfilled these requirements. Once satisfied, the Scoutmaster will make arrangements with the Troop Advancement Chairperson or committee member to have a Board of Review interview.

Scouts should initiate their own Scout Master Conference!

The Board of Review, will conduct the interview with the Scout. They will determine whether the Scout is ready to advance to his next rank. The Scoutmaster or Asst. Scoutmaster can not be present at these boards of review. The Board of Review is headed by the Advancement Chairperson.

#### 8.07 Courts of Honor

A Court of Honor, a special meeting held every three or four months, is for awarding merit badges, rank advancements, and any other award(s) earned by the Scouts. This is a FAMILY meeting and all family members are encouraged to attend. It's a very special time to the boys in the Troop. They will be recognized for their achievements. We ask that you be there to share this recognition. Times and dates are published in the Troop newsletter and other notifications. Scouts must be in their Class "A" Uniforms in order to receive their award(s).

## **9.00 TRAINING**

### 9.01 Junior Leader Training

On dates designated by the Scoutmaster, training sessions will be conducted to train the Scouts in leadership.

## **10.00 TROOP CALENDAR**

### 10.01 Troop Calendar of Events

Troop calendar event dates are prepared annually by the Patrol Leaders Council and the Scoutmaster during the planning session held each December.

The Troop plans a theme for each month.

The Troop tries to have an event each month. The boys determine these events during the planning session each year. Information about these events is shown in the Troop newsletter each month, as well as being indicated on Calendar

of Events page on the Troop website.

Troop 144 operates every month, all year long. We take a break from regular meetings starting after summer camp with meetings restarting around September 1 each year. We will, at times, have camp outs, or other events, scheduled during this time and may need to have Patrol meetings to plan their menus and activities. We also hold a winter cabin camp out every year where the leaders will do all the cooking for the boys.

We try to have between 6 to 10 camp outs each year.

#### 10.02 Troop Newsletter

Troop 144 publishes a Troop newsletter. This is published generally monthly. The newsletter will provide useful information, dates, upcoming events, and special notices. Everyone is encouraged to use this newsletter to communicate to other members of the Troop 144 family. This is a useful tool to update your family calendar.

Troop 144 is also online on the World Wide Web. Our website address is <http://nvtroop144.org>. You can email the Scoutmaster at [scoutmaster@nvtroop144.org](mailto:scoutmaster@nvtroop144.org) the Webmaster at [webmaster@nvtroop144.org](mailto:webmaster@nvtroop144.org), or other Leaders of the Troop that have email addresses with the troop. These can change at any time. Please refer to the *Leadership* page on the Troop 144 website. Everyone is encouraged to make use of the website for Troop information, calendar of events, pictures, etc.

#### 10.03 Troop 144 Call Down

Troop 144 uses a call down to distribute short time notices to each Scout in the Troop. The information normally goes from the Scoutmaster to the Senior Patrol Leader, then to the patrol leaders. It is the responsibility of the patrol leaders to see to it that each member of his patrol receives the information sent through the call down.

It is very important that the information be passed on to everyone so the entire Troop is informed.

### **11.00 TROOP ROSTER**

Periodic troop rosters include names, addresses, and phone numbers. These lists are updated as necessary and will be supplied on request.

### **12.00 TROOP TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

Each Scout must arrange for his own transportation to and from each local event or camping trip. We recommend that each family locate other Scout families near them, or members of their son's patrol, and car pool. Boys who have not arranged for transportation in advance will not be allowed to attend if there is not enough room. Departure time, location, destination arrival time, and return time will be announced in advance.

**Driver Qualifications:** All drivers must have a valid driver's license and be at least 18 years of age. Youth Member Exception: when traveling to a regional, or national Boy Scout activity or any Explorer event under the leadership of an adult (21+) tour leader, a youth member at least 16 years of age may be a driver, subject to the following conditions: (1) Six months' driving experience as a licensed driver (time on a learner's permit or equivalent is not to be counted); (2) no record of accidents or moving violations; (3) parental permission has been granted to leader, driver, and riders; (4) a 21 year-old licensed driver must be a passenger in the vehicle.

## **13.00 PERMISSION /RELEASE FORMS**

It is required that all boys have a medical examination form on file with the Scoutmaster. A physical exam is required every three years; however, the parent or guardian must complete a form each year if there are changes in their son's health since the previous year. If there are major changes, the Scout must have another physical exam. Additionally, the parent or guardian must complete a permission/release form for each non-Council or non-District outing the Scout attends. We cannot assume by his payment of fees and his presence that he has gotten permission to attend. These permission/release forms must be turned in to the Scoutmaster a minimum of one week in advance of the outing.

In addition to the Medical Release Form, there is also an Internet Release form that must also be completed, and turned back into Troop 144 for their records.

## **14.00 CAMP OUT COSTS/ TROOP EQUIPMENT**

### **14.01 Camp out Costs**

Troop 144 will cover most of the set camping fees. The following are some examples of set fees that will normally be covered: A rental fee for a group of campsites or cabin for a weekend, per person fee for Scout events and tour fees. There will be a decision by the Committee when the fee is over \$15 per person how much the Troop will pay to offset these fees. For food costs, each patrol is responsible for buying food items, determination of cost, and collection of money from each boy. This is usually done one week before the camp out!

### **14.02 Troop Equipment**

This equipment was generally purchased through fund-raisers or donations. A Scout may borrow this equipment by checking it out through the Troop Quartermaster. The cost of repair and/or replacement will be assessed to the family of the boy who damages or loses Troop property. This includes any books from the troop library. All books may also be borrowed and must be checked out through the Troop Librarian.

## **15.00 TOTIN' CHIP / FIREM'N CHIT PRIVILEGES**

### **15.01 Totin' Chip**

In order for a Scout in Troop 144 to use a knife, saw, ax, or hatchet, it is necessary for him to attend a "Totin' Chip" class. This is a class in the safe use of woods' tools, including a pocketknife. Once the "Totin' Chip" is obtained, the boy may use these tools. If a boy does not follow the safe use rules, he will lose a corner of the card for each infraction. If all four corners are lost, the boy no longer has the privilege, and must take the class again. Severe cases of unsafe use will result in immediate loss of privileges.

### **15.02 Firem'n Chit**

In order for a Scout in Troop 144 to build and use a fire, either for cooking or a campfire, he must attend a class in the safe use of fire, thus earning his "Firem'n Chit". As with his "Totin' Chip," any unsafe acts will result in corners cut or removal of the card.

## **16.00 ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP**

Settlers Camp - Trexler Scout Reservation, Jonas, PA

Troop 144 attends summer camp each year. This summer camp is a significant element in the success of the Troop. Any active Scout is allowed to attend Summer Camp. We strongly encourage each Scout to attend this experience.

If you have any questions about summer camp, please contact the Scoutmaster. Every third year we try to go out of Council to another BSA summer camp. This is to help break up the same old camping trip and to visit other BSA scout camps for the experience.

## **17.00 CAMP OUT POLICIES**

### 17.01 Rides

The Troop transportation policy as outlined in Article 12.00 applies and is strictly enforced. Each Scout is responsible for his own ride to and from each local event. Any Scout who does not arrange for a ride prior to arriving at the departure point, will not be allowed to attend the event. This is one more lesson in responsibility.

### 17.02 Departure from Camp

NO SCOUT will be allowed to leave the event until all troop gear is packed, the campsite has been cleaned and inspected, and the Senior Patrol Leader has released the troop. Please do not ask to leave early. If you leave early, someone else has to do your share of the cleanup. When returning to the Church, all gear must be put in its proper place in our storage shed before anyone may leave. It is not the responsibility of the Troop Quartermaster and/or the Scoutmaster to stow the gear.

If you have a special requirement for arriving late or leaving early before the event is complete, it must be cleared with the Scoutmaster in advance.

Please be on time to pick up your Scout(s). The adults must wait until all Scouts have been picked up.

### 17.03 Cleanup of Troop Gear

Troop gear, used on the camp outs, is assigned to each boy who is responsible to thoroughly clean the gear and return it at the following troop meeting. The Quartermaster keeps a list of who has the gear and checks it off when it is returned in satisfactory condition. If the gear is not returned to the satisfaction of the Quartermaster, it will not be accepted, and must be returned when clean.

If Troop tents get wet during a camp out, they will be sent home with a Scout to dry. They need to be back at the following meeting, but only if they are completely dry. Remember, take care of your equipment, and it will take care of you.

## **18.00 TROOP ELECTIONS AND ORDER OF THE ARROW**

### 18.01 General Overview

The Order of the Arrow plays a vital role in the camping program of Troop 144 and the Minsi Trails Council. Scouts who have demonstrated their ability as honor campers are recognized through their election into the Order of the Arrow. These elections are held once a year and take place with our Troop elections..

### 18.02 Elections

Order of the Arrow youth elections are held in January under the direction of an O. A. Official. Adult elections are handled through the adult nomination selection committee. In order for a troop to conduct a youth election, there must be 50% of the active registered Scouts in the troop present on the election date. The Scoutmaster shall oversee all youth elections, but conducted by two OA youth members who are not members of Troop 144.

### 18.03 Youth Membership Requirements

A Scout must have the Scoutmaster's approval as to:

His Scouting Spirit;  
His adherence to the Scout Oath and Scout Law;

His participation in activities and events as outlined in Article 1.01.

A Scout must have fifteen nights of camping under the auspices of the Boy Scouts of America within two years prior to the election. These fifteen nights must include one long term BSA camp experience (6 consecutive nights) and at least nine nights of short term camping (1, 2, or 3 nights).

A Scout must hold the rank of First Class.

#### 18.04 What To Do Before The Election for O. A. and Troop Positions

The Scoutmaster is to have a discussion with the Scouts of Troop 144 about the election itself. The Scouts are to be made aware of the fact that these elections should not be considered a popularity contest. The Order of the Arrow is looking for those Scouts who show true understanding of the Scouting ideals as set forth in the Scout Oath and Law. The younger Scouts should be told that this is a private election - no one will know how they voted. They should not be voting for a Scout who just appears to be the most popular. The troop is looking for those Scouts who are willing to take on the responsibility of a troop leadership position. Rules for troop elections will be discussed with the troop prior to elections.

### **19.00 ADULT LEADERSHIP**

A current listing of Troop 144's adult leadership will be provided on request.

### **20.00 TROOP 144 SPONSOR**

St. John's United Church of Christ sponsors Boy Scout Troop 144. St. John's is located on Rising Sun Rd. in Laury's Station, PA.

### **21.00 TROOP 144 RECORDS**

#### 21.01 Storage of Official Troop Records

The storage of official troop records and information lies with the Scoutmaster, the Troop Advancement Chairperson and the Troop Treasurer. The Scoutmaster will keep all Scout records. The Advancement Chairperson will keep official advancement information and general Troop information on computer, with backup. The Troop Treasurer will keep all financial records. The Treasurer will report to the Committee.

#### 21.02 Maintenance and Update of Official Troop Records

The continual maintenance and updating of official troop records as outlined in 21.01 will be the sole responsibility of the individual involved.

#### 21.03 Update of Newsletter and Website

The monthly updating of the newsletter and the website will be the responsibility of the Troop Secretary.

### **22.00 LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

#### 22.01 Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster is the person in charge of the Troop who quietly but effectively pulls all together to get the results he's after: helping young boys grow into good responsible citizens. He works by training boy leaders to help run the

Troop and managing and supporting the Assistant Scoutmasters.

Scoutmaster position description:

- Train and guide boy leaders to run their Troop using the Patrol system.
- Work with and through responsible adults to bring scouting to the boys.
- Help boys grow by encouraging them to learn.
- Guide boys in safety and planning of the Troops program needs.
- Help the Troop committee in recruiting and managing Assistant Scoutmasters.
- Conduct all Scoutmaster conferences.
- Chain of Command

The Scoutmaster is the one - and only- Troop leader who relates closely to each of the other links in the chain of command of Troop operations. His voice is first in line in the adult leadership chain of command.

#### 22.02 Asst. Scoutmaster

Assistant Scoutmasters play a strategic part in all troops, for they support the Scoutmaster and share in the challenge. They may be called upon to assume the role of Scoutmaster in the absence of the regular Scoutmaster. They must obey all rules set by BSA and Troop committee. The Scoutmaster will assign each Assistant Scoutmaster a list of actual duties and responsibilities.

#### 22.03 Other Adult Leaders and Committee Members

All other adult leaders and/or committee members will serve according to their appointed position responsibilities and according to BSA National Standards. All adult leaders and committee members can serve as second deep leaders in the absence of either the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster when needed.

## **23.00 REVISION OF TROOP 144'S GUIDELINES**

### 23.01 Revisions and Approval

The Scoutmaster, with the approval of the troop committee, can only revise these Guidelines