



The Troop 206 Family Handbook

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Section I

Statement of Philosophy – The Aims and Methods of Scouting

Welcome to Troop 206. The purpose of this troop handbook is to familiarize scouts and their parents with what the Boy Scouts and Troop 206 are all about. We think that we run a fun and exciting program. If a program is not fun, it will fail. As you will learn, however, there is much more than fun involved in scouting!

The philosophy of Troop 206 is to provide an outdoor program in which young men can have fun and adventure in a safe, clean and wholesome environment. The outdoors is the focus of our program and the Boy Scout experience in general. Fun and adventure! There is plenty of this in the great outdoors. Our troop focuses on learning camping and outdoor skills, which will last a lifetime. The outdoors is a place where scouts can learn much about living with others. Scouts face real life challenges and learn to solve real problems. Outside, a scout can get close to the natural world: the land, the wildlife and the environment. The program of the Boy Scouts of America is unique among youth organizations in its focus on the “Outdoor Experience”.

The principal aims of the Boy Scouts of America are to provide a program, which builds character, fosters citizenship and develops fitness in both mind and body.

What is character? It is hard to define. It is a moral and ethical quality. It is honesty, courage and integrity. It includes the four “self” qualities: self-reliance, self-discipline, self-confidence and self-respect. What is citizenship? It is defined as, “behavior in terms of the duties, obligations, privileges and functions of a citizen.” It is the quality of an individual’s response to membership in a community. Citizenship is about love of country and community. It is understanding government, democracy and our heritage and history. What is fitness? The scouting program strives to develop physical, mental emotional and moral fitness in young men, and many aspects of the program focus on this aim. Each scout swears to the scout oath and lives by the scout law of conduct, which pertains to these aims of scouting. In this day and age, what parent could not agree that these are some of the most important principles a young man could be exposed to?

There are several methods that the scouting program utilizes to achieve the aims of scouting. These methods are tried and true and will be discussed in this handbook. The methods include: Scouting Ideals; The Patrol Method; The outdoor Program; Advancement; Personal Growth; Adult Association; Leadership Development; and the Scout Uniform.

So; for any who may have thought that scouting is only good hearted adults taking a bunch of kids on a hike or out camping; Welcome to the real world of scouting!

Scouting is an organized, national and worldwide program that strives in many ways to help young men grow up right. It is a fun and important program to which Troop 206 Adult

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Leaders are deeply dedicated. As a parent, what can you do to help? If you have any special talents or interests, share them with us. Pick up your scout's Boy Scout Handbook and look it over. You'll be amazed and very pleased with what it contains. Encourage your son to read and study his handbook. You'll be doing him a great service.

Probably the most important philosophy of Troop 206 is the concept of, "The Boy Run Troop." Our troop is organized so that the scouts do the work of running the troop. Boys learn by doing. Scouting recognizes the advantages of learning by making mistakes, practicing skills, and eventually being successful. Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting said, "Give a scout a job, and then let him do it!" This is great advice for parents and leaders, alike. In Troop 206, we give a scout the means; the training; the know-how; and then we let him do the job. This handbook explains how the boys run the troop.

It takes a lot of work by the leaders, the Troop Committee, and all of the dedicated parents, to supervise this program.

PARENTS! We ask you to get as involved as you can in your son's scouting experience. Behind every successful scout is an interested and participating parent. Please do whatever you can to help your son along the way. We hope that someday, you may know the pride of seeing the Eagle Scout Award pinned to your son's chest.

Section II

Troop Organization and Troop Committee

Troop 206 is a fully chartered and accredited troop in the Boy Scouts of America. Our charter is granted by the Viking Council, BSA and we are sponsored by the Trinity Lutheran Church of Long Lake. The troop was initially chartered in 1946 and had been in continuous operation since then. The charter is reviewed and renewed annually after Troop 206 re-charters. The Viking Council consists of seven districts of approximately 18 to 20 Troops per district. Troop 206 is part of the Lake Minnetonka District.

The charter is granted to the Troop Committee, whose responsibility it is to handle the troop administration and support the troop program.

The Troop Committee is a group of adults who assume the responsibility of administering the troop in accordance with national and council BSA policy. The Troop Committee is responsible for supporting the program and providing all that is necessary for the program to exist and run smoothly. All business is brought before and discussed by the Troop Committee. The Troop Committee chooses the Scoutmaster and supervises the adult leadership. Our troop is fortunate to have a large and active Troop Committee.

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PARENTS! Is there a spot on the committee for you? Speak with the Troop Committee Chairperson any time. The Committee meets once a month. Parents are always invited to our Troop Committee/Parent's Meetings. If you have a special agenda item to discuss, please call the Troop Committee Chairperson ahead of time so that he/she can be aware of your request. (See Appendix 1 for the name and addresses of Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters and Troop Committee members.)

Section III

The Patrol Leaders Council / Junior Leader Training

The Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) is comprised of scouts and is the governing body of the troop that develops and carries out the program. The PLC consists of an elected Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and Patrol Leaders (PL). The PLC also includes the appointed positions of Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (appointed by the SPL), the Quartermaster, Scribe, Troop Guide(s) Librarian, Den Chiefs and other junior leaders appointed by the Scoutmaster are members of the PLC. The Scoutmaster supervises and advises the PLC. The PLC meets in a planning session once a month and tries to meet briefly once a week.

In a boy-run troop it is absolutely necessary that the PLC run smoothly. This can only occur if all members of the PLC (Troop Junior Leaders) do their jobs. The scouts depend upon their elected Patrol Leaders to attend the PLC and communicate information to them. The PLC cannot be passive in a boy-run troop.

PLC or Troop 206 elections and appointments are made once a year, usually at the end of March, insuring change and encouraging participation by all scouts in junior leadership. This junior leadership is required for scout advancement beyond the First Class Rank. If a scout is incapable or unwilling to do his job, he will be removed from the junior leadership position and will not be credited with completing that junior leadership position for rank advancement. We urge all scouts who accept junior leadership positions to fulfill their obligations.

All junior leaders are given written descriptions of their responsibilities and are supported by the Scoutmaster and his assistants. Scouts are always encouraged to seek junior leader positions and to help as much as possible whenever needed. (Appendix 2 – Job Descriptions for Junior Leaders)

Once each year, formal troop junior leader training occurs, usually in late April or early May. Is there a parent out there who might be interested in being a Troop Junior Leader Training Chairperson?

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Advanced Viking Council Junior Leader Training or Pine Tree is held once a year for one week at Stearns Scout Camp. This is a Council sponsored program, which is extremely worthwhile to those that participate. Troop 206 tries to send the SPL to Pine Tree in June. The cost of the training is paid for by the Troop.

Section IV

The New Scout Patrol

A highlight of the year is the induction of new scouts into our troop. Most scouts enter the Boy Scout Troop 206 from the Webelos Dens of Cub Scout Packs 26 and 206 in this community. Without new scouts, of course, our troop would die. The transition from Webelos to Boy Scouts is exciting but may be difficult for boys and anxiety producing for the parents. Our troop recognizes this and actively tries to make the transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts as easy as possible. Our goal is to make every new member welcome and made to feel a part of the troop as soon as possible. All new scouts are placed in a new scout patrol(s) to closely supervise the new scout's adjustment to the troop, teach the basic skills, and get the new scouts involved in the troop program. Because this is a boy-run troop, there is a specific junior leader called a "Troop Guide" who joins the new scout Patrol(s) and works with the New Scout Assistant Scoutmaster to help the new scouts along the way. If a new scout has a special problem or if a problem develops, parents are encouraged to talk to the New Scout Assistant Scoutmaster about it. It is very important to the adult leadership that the new scouts are comfortable and successfully assimilated into Troop 206.

See the following page for a troop organization chart.

Section V

Meetings / Programs / Summer Camp

Scouting is a year-round program. Our troop meets once a week for troop meetings. Meetings are held at the Trinity Lutheran Church downstairs in the Fellowship Hall on Mondays from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Parents should do their best to help the troop with meeting attendance. We try to start on time and end on time, so we like to have rides for the scouts return to the church by 8:30 PM. The meetings are valuable, interesting, fun and

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the forum for troop announcements. If your son is not there, he will be missing out on information.

Our troop prides itself on its outdoor program. We try to go camping on a two night overnight trip once each month. This takes lots of planning, work and cooperation for scouts, leaders and parents. Encourage your son to participate. Written information on all trips is made available to all scouts and parents.

Periodically, our troop will participate in special scout functions such as day trips, special camporees or camporalls.

Our troop spends one week a year in troop residential summer camp at Many Point Scout Camp. A week at summer camp is an event that will be remembered for a lifetime!

Our troop is usually at camp the last week of July. Scouts should have a record of good attendance, display efforts towards advancement and must comply with National and Council requirements (be registered and have appropriate health examination and paperwork – Personal Health and Medical Record, Class 2 #4414) to attend camp at Many Point Scout Camp. Our troop has a long history of excellent times at summer camp. All first year scouts should plan to attend. Many Point Scout Camp focuses on advancement, swimming, cooperation and having a great time! (See Appendix – Suggested Summer Camp Gear)

Section VI

Transportation

Most of the troop's outings and trips require motor vehicle transportation. The parents need to provide the great majority of this transportation. We need to have a Troop Committee member who coordinates troop transportation. Parents need to be willing to do their part to help out with scouts and/or gear transportation. All parents should send the Troop Committee Transportation Coordinator a completed Troop 206 Transportation Vehicle Registration Form. (See Appendix)

The best way to be sure there is always room for your scout is to be sure that your car is helping!

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Section VII

Registration Fees & Dues

As in most other active organizations, it takes money to be able to run and to maintain a quality troop program. Scouting is not free and each scout is expected to pay for his fair share when it comes to registration, paying dues and sharing camping expenses.

Registration fees collected each year are a major income source for the Boy Scouts of America National Organization. Troop 206 recharter and pays registration fees to the National Organization on February 28th of each year. When a young man joins the troop, he initially pays the registration fee, the Boy's Life subscription cost and a Troop 206 fee. The total fee is generally \$35.00 depending on the specific costs mentioned above. At this time, Troop 206 does not collect any meeting or monthly dues because the current troop fundraisers are making adequate funds for the troop. This dues policy may change if fund raising income for the troop declines.

The costs of camping trips are determined by the cost of food, fees, transportation and etc. Camping trip fees are usually very reasonable. Scouts and parents should be sure that camping trip fees are paid on time. Deadlines for trip deposits and payments are usually well publicized. If a scout is not allowed on a camping trip because of non-payment, parents must understand that this is troop policy and should support it.

Parents should provide a check made out to "Troop 206" for all troop trip fees. Be assured that accurate financial records are kept on all trip fees.

Section VIII

Uniform Policy

Troop 206 is committed to the wearing of the uniform as established by the Boy Scouts of America. The wearing of the uniform helps the troop in a number of ways:

When smartly worn, the uniform helps build troop spirit and a scout's pride in himself. By wearing the uniform, the scouts give each other support and when properly worn on the correct occasions, it can attract new members. Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive youth image in the neighborhood, thus helping to counteract the negative feelings that some adults have about youth. The uniform makes the troop visible as a force for good in the community. As scouts wear the uniform. They are standing for their principles, in the open where everyone can see. Scouts in uniform are standing with each other, not alone, declaring their intent to support the principles which scouting stands for.

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The uniform is to be worn to ALL SCOUT ACTIVITIES, including meetings, camp outs, and outings unless specified by the Scoutmaster or other adult leadership in charge. When the troop is going to or coming from a Scouting function or event, we require all members to wear a “class A” uniform. Once we arrive, we normally allow scouts to change into a “class B” uniform or other shirt depending on the conditions. Troop 206 does not allow any scouts to wear clothing that advertises alcoholic beverages, cigarettes or tobacco products or any other derogatory or offensive messages. Troop 206 adheres to the normally required uniform parts that are listed in the Boy Scout Handbook. Some parts are optional or provide more than one choice, and due to the cost of the uniform, the troop has worked out some alternatives.

Uniform Definitions:

- Class A:**
1. Official tan scout shirt. We recommend the short sleeve, because it is better for year around wearing.
 2. Official olive long pants for winter wear; official olive shorts for summer wear. Red-topped green socks of any length are worn when the shorts are worn. *To reduce costs, the troop will accept khaki type pants or blue jeans if they are in good repair.
 3. Official Scout green web belt or BSA Leather belt. *To reduce costs, the troop will accept any belt in good repair.
 4. Boy Scouts of America red and olive ball cap or BSA Camp or activity cap. Any warm hat or stocking hat for winter time use.
 5. Shoes or boots. (flashy sneakers are discouraged)
 6. Scout Red-topped green socks of any length are worn when the shorts are worn. *To reduce costs, the troop will accept any good athletic or hiking socks with full length pants if they are in good repair.
 7. Troop neckerchief – Solid red neckerchief with black embroidered BSA and black embroidered piping trim and neckerchief slide. Other neckerchiefs earned through training or extra BSA activities will be Ok'd by the Scoutmaster.
- Class B:**
1. Dark Green Troop 206 T-shirt.
 2. Official olive long pants for winter wear; official olive shorts for summer wear. Red-topped green socks of any length are worn when the shorts are worn. *To reduce costs, the troop will accept khaki type pants or blue jeans if they are in good repair.
 3. Official Scout green web belt or BSA Leather belt. *To reduce costs, the troop will accept any belt in good repair.
 4. Boy Scouts of America red and olive ball cap or BSA Camp or activity cap. Any warm hat or stocking hat for winter time use.
 5. Shoes or boots. (flashy sneakers are discouraged)
 6. Scout Red-topped green socks of any length are worn when the shorts are worn. *To reduce costs, the troop will accept any good athletic or hiking socks with full length pants if they are in good repair.

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Troop 206 emphasizes correct insignia on the uniform. Certain insignia are provided by the scout, while others are provided by the troop. Your Boy Scout Handbook shows you where to correctly sew on your uniform insignia.

Insignia provided by the scout:

1. Viking Council Strip – for the left shoulder.
2. 50 year Veteran Unit Bar – On the left shoulder between the Council Strip and the 206 numerals
3. Troop 206 numerals – on the left shoulder below the Veteran Unit Bar.
4. American Flag – On the right shoulder. Normally included on the uniform shirt.
5. Red Boy Scout Loops. – For the uniform shirt epaulets.
6. World Crest Patch – Above left pocket
7. Order of the Arrow pocket flap – If a member of the O.A., it goes on the right pocket flap.

Insignia provided by Troop 206:

1. Patrol Patch – for the right shoulder below the American Flag
2. Current badge of rank – for the left shirt pocket.
3. Badge of Office – if any, for the left shoulder below the 206 numerals.
4. Trained Strip – if a trained leader for the right sleeve just below and touching the badge of office.
5. The current Quality Unit Award – for the right sleeve just below other patches.
6. Service stars – If the troop provides, it is awarded for the number of years with the troop. To be worn 3/8" above and centered on the left pocket.

The Troop will provide the above insignia for one uniform shirt for each of the youth members of the troop. The scout is responsible for all insignia for additional uniform shirts that he may own.

Uniform parts are expensive. Unfortunately at this time, Troop 206 does not have a uniform exchange program that can help defray the cost of uniform parts.

Parents! Does someone want to start up a uniform exchange program? The Troop Committee is looking for a Uniform Exchange Chairperson. (See Appendix for details on a uniform exchange program)

New uniform parts may be purchased at the Viking Council Scout shop on Glenwood Avenue or at United Stores in the area or can be ordered directly through the BSA catalog.

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Section IX

Equipment

It takes a lot of equipment to run a Boy Scout Troop. Troop equipment is the responsibility of the Troop Committee who assigns a member to do this job. The scouts have an appointed Quartermaster to keep track of the equipment. All scouts must be responsible for the troop equipment they use, and care for this equipment properly. All precautions are taken for the safe use of all cutting tools. No new scout may use a cutting tool of any kind until he has received his Tot' n Chip Training and can demonstrate safe use of cutting tools. Axes are never used in Troop 206. Carrying of matches or cigarette lighters is not allowed. Matches are supplied and supervised by the Scoutmaster and the other Adult Leaders.

Troop 206 is well equipped with tents, stoves and lanterns, 20lb. Propane fuel equipment, patrol cooking gear, dining tarps, patrol boxes, food and drink coolers and a trailer for hauling the equipment to our activity and camping locations. Troop ownership of this equipment saves the individual scouts from having to purchase this equipment, but it carries with it the responsibility of each scout taking care and maintaining this equipment for use by future members of Troop 206.

A series of rules pertaining to Troop 206 owned equipment has been established:

1. It is the responsibility of each scout to use and maintain any troop owned equipment in the manner for which it is intended in order to keep it in working order. Any malfunctioning or damaged equipment should be immediately reported to the adult leaders immediately. This is primarily the responsibility of the Patrol Leaders and the Troop Quartermaster.
2. Any scout that damages any troop owned equipment is responsible for fixing or replacing that piece of equipment. If a specific person cannot be identified or the damage is due to rough-play by several members of a patrol, the entire patrol will be responsible for the cost of the repair or replacement.
3. Damage through ignorance of how to use a piece of equipment is NO EXCUSE for a scout not replacing a damaged item. There are plenty of scouts or adult leaders that can assist in the correct use of equipment. If you don't know how to handle the equipment – ADK BEFORE YOU USE IT!!!
4. During camp-outs, all cooking equipment is to be thoroughly cleaned by the scouts and all scouts will be expected to participate in an equipment clean up the first meeting after the outing.
5. DO NOT spray insect repellent in or near the tents. It can ruin the nylon tent or the water proofing.
6. Troop owned equipment may not be borrowed for non-Scouting events.

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A certain amount of personal equipment is needed by each scout for participation in the camping and outdoor activities conducted by the troop. The Boy Scout Handbook does an excellent job reviewing equipment that each scout should have. The scout should use the handbook as a resource. The cost of the personal equipment can be high, but if the scout and parents focus on the necessities and gradually add to these, before long a scout will be well equipped. (See Appendix – Suggested Personal Equipment) Scouts need to be responsible for their own equipment and at times will need to carry their gear for long distances. Scouts are encouraged to bring along equipment that they will need and not burden themselves with gear that they won't need. Parents should help the scouts pack for a trip but do not do it for them! Scouts need to know what they have and what they don't. where their gear is and how to repack it when the trip is over and time to go home. The Scoutmaster and Adult Leaders can't do it for them and they should not expect it. Scouts need to learn to be responsible for their own belonging and how to take care of their gear! The scouts need to have their name and phone number on everything that they take with them.

There is also a list of prohibited items:

1. Sheath or large "Bowie Type" knives. BSA has banned all use of these types of knives. Accepted knives include any Official Scout Knife, or any folding blade knife that has blades that are no longer than 3". Banned knives will be confiscated and held for parents if they are brought to any scout activity.
2. Any weapons – including laser pointers, sling shots, pellet or BB guns, peashooters, blackjacks, brass knuckles and etc. Weapons may need to be reported to and turned over to law enforcement officials.
3. Radios CD or tape players, TV's or electronic games. These are not appropriate for scout functions, especially at outdoor activities. Any of these items will be confiscated and held for parents if they are brought to a scout activity.
4. Any obscene, vulgar or questionable materials including adult magazines. Any of these items will be confiscated by the adult leadership and held for the parents.
5. Soft drinks and candy. We do not allow pop or candy at camp-outs. It draws animals and the smell can attract animals. It also can stain or damage equipment and attract animals on future outings.

Section X

Advancement – Troop 206

Having become a Boy Scout, your son will be expected to advance at his own pace. This does not mean that he will or should be left entirely on his own. The leaders of the troop will always be there to guide and assist as well as to prod your son.

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In the early ranks, (Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class) your son will be getting quite a bit of group training. As part of the first year Patrol, he will have an Assistant Scoutmaster and a Troop Guide to guide him. He will be part of the new scout Patrol for his first year and should attain the rank of First Class in that time.

As a parent, you should show an interest in your son's advancement. Have your son show you where he is signed off for achieving the requirements for the first three ranks. Then make sure that he is doing something for advancement. If it seems that he will not get to First Class in one year then please talk to the Assistant Scoutmaster or Scoutmaster about your son's advancement.

After a scout becomes First Class, he is expected to take even greater responsibility in his own advancement. The ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle require earning Merit Badges and having positions of responsibility. The Scoutmasters are always there to guide but the scout himself has to decide which Merit Badges interest him, what service he wants to perform and what positions of leadership he wants to hold. As a parent, you should try to motivate him to always be working on his advancement. A scout should always be working on a Merit Badge, especially those that are required for Eagle.

Advancement instills pride and self-confidence in a scout. Acknowledgement of any and all advancement is given at least twice. First, as soon as possible after the scout's achievement, usually at the end of a meeting. Then at least four times a year we have a "Court of Honor". The scout will be recognized for his achievements and we would like to have all parents attend these Courts of Honor.

Finally, when a scout attains the rank of Eagle, we have a special ceremony called an "Eagle Court of Honor". We ask that all scouts and their parents attend these. It is such a big achievement, the Eagle Scout deserves as much recognition as we can give him.

Your son has started the trail to Eagle. Seldom does a scout get there by himself. We have made the commitment to help him; please make your commitment to help your son become an Eagle Scout.

New scouts should get started on their Tenderfoot requirements. New scouts will need their parents help and encouragement with this. New scouts should always have their Scout Handbook with them, as opportunities to learn skills and get them signed off are frequent. Scouts should be careful with their handbooks and not lose them. Scouts should put their name on the their handbook in several places, not just on the cover. Scouts may want to cover their handbook for protection and identification. Troop advancement record keeping is a big job and one that needs to be done correctly. Fortunately, we have an Advancement Chairperson that is assigned the task and keeps this information on the troop's computer. The Advancement Chairman records all rank advancement and earned Merit Badges. Scouts should be cautioned to keep all proof of rank advancement and blue cards documenting the completed merit badges in a safe place. Some day, they may be needed to document advancement towards Eagle.

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As a scout completes his rank advancement requirements he must complete a Board of Review and a Scoutmaster Conference. The purpose of the Board of review is to make sure that all of the requirements for a badge of rank have been earned. It is not a re-examination, spot checking is all that needs to be done in a Board of Review. Three or more members of the Troop Committee conduct the Board of Review for Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star Scout and Life Scout. Parents may not be present at the Board of Review. A Lake Minnetonka District Advancement Committee Member along with at least three members of the Troop Committee conducts Eagle Rank Board of Review. The parents and the Scoutmaster are not present for this Board of Review.

The Scoutmaster Conference is a brief meeting to focus the scout on his next advancement and to review dates and signatures for his sign-offs.

Section XI

The Patrol and the Patrol Method

The main unit of the troop is the patrol. Every Boy Scout Troop is made up of patrols, which are groups of approximately eight scouts that work together as a team.

Each patrol elects its own leader. The Patrol Leaders, with an elected Senior Patrol Leader at their head, form the core of the Patrol Leaders Council. (PLC) It is the job of the PLC to plan and run the troop program. Each Patrol Leader represents his patrol on the PLC and interprets and brings back to his patrol the plans and decisions that the PLC makes. Patrols may also have their own meetings, elect their own patrol officers and plan and carry out their own patrol activities with proper adult supervision.

Section XII

Communications

What could be more important than proper communications for the smooth operation of a troop? Scouts should have good attendance at weekly meetings because many announcements are made and lots of information is shared at troop meetings. Scouts need to pay attention when the “scout sign” is up and when someone is talking. Lots of information is missed because scouts don’t always listen carefully. It’s a good idea for a scout to carry a small pad of paper and a pencil or pen in case he would like to take notes on important dates, times and places. All efforts are made by the Scoutmaster and his assistants to send home written information regarding trips, events and etc.

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It is the job of the Patrol Leader to make sure that important information is passed on to his patrol members, even those not present at a particular meeting. The Senior Patrol Leader needs to be able to effectively communicate to the Patrol Leaders and other scouts. From the Chairperson of the Troop Committee to the newest scout, good communication is vital. Scouts should practice their communications skills by taking notes and double checking information with a phone call, when needed.

Our troop should have a monthly or bi-monthly newsletter published by a dedicated Troop Committee member. The “Scoop on the Troop” should be automatically sent to each scout family. If a scout and parents read the newsletter every month, all will be very well informed. Parents and scouts should save the newsletter and post it on the home bulletin board or the refrigerator door as a resource throughout the month.

Each week at the troop meeting, one of the patrols will present a demonstration or “demo” concerning a topic pertaining to the scouting theme of the month. Through the “demo” scouts are exposed to speaking before a group and experiencing first hand teaching and leading group discussions. This type of experience is very valuable to the boys and teaches a great deal about communications skills.

If a parent or friend of scouting has a particular interest or skill he would like to share with the troop, they should let the Committee Chair or Scoutmaster know about it. We would love to invite you to a meeting to ‘communicate’ with us.

There is a chain of command in scout communications. If a scout has a question, he should call his Patrol Leader or a Troop Guide. If there is still a question, the Senior Patrol Leader should be asked. Finally, if there is still a question, one of the Scoutmasters should be asked. Why not call the Scoutmaster directly? The Scoutmaster shouldn't be inundated by all of the question that Junior Leaders should be answering. Part of the Junior Leader's job is to be available to provide information and answer questions. Parents are asked to help with this. If a scout has a question he should call his Patrol Leader or appropriate Junior leader first.

Section XIII

Discipline

The Scouting program is not designed to solve youth discipline problems. On the contrary, it is designed to build into youth the necessary character and responsibility to prevent discipline problems. The Scouting Program needs all of the time available to it to accomplish these aims – thus administering the Scouting Program does not provide the troop leadership with any extra time to waste dealing with discipline problems. We believe it is the PARENTS who should have the direct responsibility to instill and reinforce good manners, socially acceptable behavior and respect for authority in their boys.

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In any organization like the Boy Scouts, a code of discipline is needed. The PLC, the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee determine the discipline policy. Scouts are expected to conduct themselves according to the Scout Law and Oath. Disruptive behavior, foul or vulgar language, or any form of physical or mental abuse towards another Scout is not permitted or tolerated. Tobacco, drug or alcohol use is not permitted or tolerated. The Scoutmaster is responsible for maintaining order and protecting the scouts. Violations of laws and civil ordinances will result in contact with the responsible law enforcement authorities and the parents immediately. There are “housekeeping” and safety rules necessary in any group. Supervising general scout behavior is the domain of the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters. The Scoutmaster’s word must be the law for the safety and comfort of the entire Troop. Minor disciplinary actions are handled in the troop. Major disciplinary actions are based on fair and thoughtful discussions between the Scoutmasters and the Troop Committee. If warranted, parents may be called to pick up a boy from the meeting or an event regardless of the distance involved, if a boy’s behavior or actions warrant this. Again, this decision has to rest with camp or out staff and/or the Scoutmaster.

If any scout is witnessed by a leader stealing from, striking another scout or otherwise intentionally planning to hurt or physically or mentally abuse another scout, he will immediately be sent home after the scout himself notifies the parents. This policy has dramatically reduced this unfortunate type of behavior. Scouts with major or repetitive discipline problems may be placed on suspension with loss of privileges by the Troop Committee. The parents are required to counsel the scout about his problematic behavior, and a follow-up phone call by the parents to the Scoutmaster to discuss the situation is required before the scout may participate in any further troop meetings and/or activities.

For extreme infractions, the Troop Committee will meet with the Scoutmaster and make a decision to ask the scout to leave Troop 206.

Section XIV

Scout Spirit

Anyone who has spent any time with Troop 206 knows how important scout spirit is to the troop. Scout spirit means living – by the Scout Oath and Law. A scout with good spirit thinks about what the Scout Oath and Law means and tries to incorporate this into their everyday life. A scout with true scout spirit shines in the troop. He’s happy, helpful and ready to volunteer. He’s thoughtful, active in the scouting program and assumes leadership and responsibility. Scout spirit is a requirement for advancing beyond the First Class Rank. Parents should encourage scout spirit in their son. A scout can recite the Scout Oath and Law; he must keep the Oath and live the Law.

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Section XV

Youth Protection Program

The Boy Scouts of America has the largest organized youth protection program of any youth or young adult program in the world. Troop 206, as a fully accredited troop, has implemented all of the youth protection guidelines developed by the BSA. The program is a five-point plan to combat child abuse and to improve the environment in which young people live. The key elements of this strategy include the following points:

1. Educating Scouting volunteers, parents and the scouts themselves to aid in the detection and prevention of child abuse.
2. Establishing leader selection procedures to prevent individuals with a history of child abuse from entering the BSA leadership ranks.
3. Establishing policies that minimize the opportunities for child abuse to occur in the program of the BSA.
4. Encouraging scouts to report improper behavior in order to identify offenders quickly.
5. Swiftly removing and reporting alleged offenders.

Many leaders in our troop have received Council-run training in Youth Protection. We need a Youth Protection Coordinator as part of our Troop Committee whose job it is to administer the Troop Youth Protection Program. All leaders are encouraged to participate in the Council sponsored Youth Protection Training Course.

We have available for our scouts and parents a video tape produced by the BSA, "A Time to Tell," which addresses the problem of sexual abuse. Boy's Life Magazine and Scouting Magazine (The national publication for scout leaders) have regular features providing up to date information concerning the Youth Protection Program of the BSA. For each scout to advance to the rank of Scout (the first rank in scouting) the parents must document that they have reviewed the detachable booklet from the front of the handbook entitled, "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide," with the scout. If a parent has any questions about the Youth Protection Program, please call the Troop Committee Chairperson.

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Section XVI

Fund Raising

Troop 206 depends on regular troop fund raising projects to earn the money the troop needs to run its program. The mainstay of our troop's fund raising is wreath sales. All scouts are requested to participate in the wreath sale drive. One parent from each patrol is asked to be a wreath parent and we need one parent to be the Troop Wreath Sales Coordinator. This is a troop function that should not be left to the Committee Chairperson. If everyone participates it is easy work. If only a few participate, then much more work is required of the participants and the non-participating scouts and families are getting a "free-ride." The money raised supports the program. The money is used for troop [equipment, scout camp subsidies for each scout, awards, badges, and training for scouts, leaders and Troop Committee members. Scouts must do their part to help out! Parents must also be willing to volunteer and do their part to help with the fund raising efforts.

Section XVII

National Quality Unit Award

Each year the National Quality Unit Award is presented to each troop which satisfies a set of [predetermined criteria for quality in a Boy Scout Troop. Each member of the troop receives an official uniform patch to signify that his troop has earned this award for many years in a row.

Section XVIII

Boys Life Magazine

Boy's Life Magazine is a national scouting publication and is designed and published for scouts. Boy's Life is a vital program tool for the troop. One of the fees covered at registration covers the subscription to Boy's Life. Incorporating Boy's Life into the scout's life encourages reading and thought, improves skill development, facilitates advancement and is just plain good sense. Parents should encourage their son to read his issue. Scouts should read Boy's Life from cover to cover every month!

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Section XIX

Special Troop Events and Activities

On a regular basis you son will have the opportunity to participate in special troop events which may be just for fun, for a change of pace, or to perform a service of some sort. Many times these activities will benefit the community, as in the “Scouting for Food” program; the chartering organization, as a fall leaf raking for the church; another scout as in helping with an Eagle Scout service project.

We participate in many District Scouting events. Whatever the event, parents should encourage their son to participate.

Section XX

Order of the Arrow

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is a national brotherhood of scout honor campers. It is based on brotherhood and cheerful service to fellow men. Troop members are nominated and elected to membership by fellow scouts in their troop. They must meet certain entry requirements and qualifications that are established by the National OA. Each troop may hold an annual election supervised by the Council’s OA lodge. Scouts are not admitted to OA ceremonies unless they are OA members. Election to the Order of the Arrow is a distinct honor and the OA is a very important part of the scouting experience.

Section XXI

Friends of Scouting

Friends of Scouting (FOS) is an annual fund raising effort conducted by the Viking Council to secure funds for the operation of the Council. The Boy Scouts of America believes that each adult, family or parent should determine for themselves the amount of their enrollment. An enrollment serves to show to the community at large the enthusiasm and desire parents and leaders have for a strong, active scouting program in their community. As of year 2000, the Viking Council will spend approximately one hundred dollars per registered scout in the Council. Parents, leaders and friends of scouting must do their part to keep our Viking Council financially strong so that the high quality support and the programs that the Council supplies can continue to keep our scouting program strong for the benefit of our scouts, our sons. Parents are urged to donate generously to annual FOS when they are asked.

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Section XXII

The Twelfth Point of the Scout Law

The twelfth point of the Scout Law is, "A Scout is Reverent." We don't talk about this point very often. The Boy Scout takes an oath to do his duty to God. Our troop encourages each scout to do his duty to God and be reverent.

Part of the First Class Scout advancement is to lead the patrol in grace before meals prepared on a camping trip are served. Ecumenical services are held at all formal scout events such as camporees. At summer camp we have one evening for vespers. We participate in Scout Sunday Services each year. It's not important how the scout performs his duty to God; it's just important that he does. A scout is very fortunate to be able to experience so much of the great outdoors and be so close to God's work. Scouts should take this duty to heart. They should discuss their beliefs with their parent's clergy. Scouts should be thinking about earning one of scouting's many religious awards. Parents should do their part to make duty to God and reverence to God a part of each scout's home life, whatever their religious beliefs may be.

Section XXIII

From the Scoutmaster

This family handbook has been put together to help new scouts and their families become familiar with the philosophy of our troop, the Boy Scouts of America and how Troop 206 operates. A handbook like this can never be complete because there is too much to include. Many resources such as the Boy Scout Handbook are available to supplement this handbook. Policies and procedures of the troop are constantly changing. We hope this handbook is helpful as a guide and scouts and families are encouraged to use it. Suggestions for future issues are always welcome.

C.J. Gonsior
Scoutmaster, Troop 206
January 2000