

TROOP INFORMATION

TROOP MEETINGS

Boy Scout troop meetings are held on Monday nights starting promptly at 7:00 PM at the Penningtonville Presbyterian Church in Atglen or during the school year at the Octorara Elementary School on Highland Road. Scouts are to be at the meeting place prior to meeting times so that they do not interrupt the opening ceremonies. Scouts are also to be in proper uniform covered in The Boy Scout Uniform Section on page 19 another part of this manual. Scouts not properly attired will be asked to leave and come back in uniform. No meetings will be held on the following Mondays: Memorial Day, the Monday after Summer camp, Labor Day, any other Monday that is a major holiday and if there is a Monday between Christmas and New Years. Scouts will be informed of meeting cancellations either by their Patrol Leader or the official Troop Web site <http://www.hydrosoft.net/troop20>. Scout meetings are not normally canceled due to inclement weather. Even if School is canceled, there could be a meeting. If the meeting was to be held at the school and there was no school for the day, the meeting will be held at Penningtonville Church.

FUND-RAISERS:

Troop 20 is a self-funding troop which means various fund-raisers are held throughout the year. Scouts are expected to participate in these fund-raisers to help both the troop and themselves. Fund-raisers are for the benefit of the boys as well as the troop. All scouts have two accounts; their regular account and their high-adventure account. Profits made from our fund-raisers are normally either split between the Scouts and the troop (1/3 to the troop, 1/3 regular and 1/3 high adventure account) or if noted at the beginning of the sale, the scout may keep the entire profit for his bank accounts. Whenever a Scout EARNs money from fund-raisers, that money is divided equally between the two accounts. Therefore, when a Scout needs money for camping, whether it is a weekend trip or a high-adventure trip, the Scout has funds available in their accounts. Should the Scout elect to drop out of the troop and he has money in his accounts, the balance will automatically go into the troop treasury. Troop 20 holds the following fund-raisers: sub sales, popcorn sale, Christmas fruit basket sale, and Joe Corbi Pizza Kits & Grandma Corbi Cookie Dough. These fund-raisers are subject to change.

ADULT LEADERSHIP:

Parental help in any organization, no matter how large or small, is always needed and appreciated. Like all volunteer organizations, the program is only as strong as the leaders. Boy Scouts of America is no exception. Even though a Boy Scout troop is a boy led program, adults and adult Scouters are essential for proper implementation of the various programs. Adults become guides for Scouts to learn from and respect. Special skills or hobbies that parents may have can always be used in the merit badge program. Resources that may not be available to present leaders may be what the troop needs for a particular project or camp out. Scouting is a wonderful opportunity for fathers and mothers to be

more involved with their sons. There are many leadership opportunities for both adult males and females in Boy Scouts of America. Please ask the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chairman how you can get involved in the future of our country by serving our Troop. Become an adult leader in Boy Scouts of America.

TOTIN' CHIP:

The totin' chip **must** be earned before any Scouts will be allowed to carry or use a pocket knife, or ax at any Scouting function. Any adult or leadership corps member is qualified to test a new Scout on the skills and requirements of the TOTIN' CHIP. Requirements are in the Boy Scout Handbook.

RANK ADVANCEMENT:

The requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks may be worked on simultaneously; however, these ranks must be earned in sequence. The "show scout spirit" requirements for achieving Second Class through Eagle ranks and for earning Eagle Palms have been changed. The new requirement is "*Demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life.*"

DUES:

Dues are a total of \$26.00 per year. This represents a weekly dues amount of 50 cents. Dues must be paid whether or not the Scout attended the meeting. The annual amount may be paid for one year at a time. It is imperative that a Scout stays up to date with their dues. This money is used for re-chartering your scout with BSA and purchasing miscellaneous supplies used for meetings or advancements.

BANK ACCOUNTS:

These accounts have been designed to assist scouts in raising funds to help offset the expenses of the activities. All boys have two bank accounts that are handled by the treasurer of Troop 20, a regular account and a high adventure account. Whenever Troop 20 has a fund-raiser, part or all of the profit generated goes into the Scouts bank accounts. This money can only be used for Troop 20 activities or for items related to the Boy Scout Program. Regular camping trips and other troop activities can be funded via a Scouts regular account. The Scouts high adventure account can be used **only** on high adventure trips. Theoretically, a Scout could earn 100% of the money needed for camping and other activities via the Troops fund-raisers. When a Scout leaves the Troop, all balances in their accounts automatically reverts back to the Troop treasury.

ORDER OF THE ARROW:

When Scouts reach First Class, they are eligible for election into the Order of the Arrow, a group of honor campers dedicated to service to Scouting. This election is not to be taken lightly or be a popularity contest. Scouts should be elected do to their devotion to the Scout Oath and Law, their willingness to help others, and their knowledge of Scouting skills. It is an honor to be elected into the Order and is only available to a few select Scouts.

AUTOMOBILES AND TRANSPORTATION OF OTHER SCOUTS:

It is essential that adequate, safe and responsible transportation be used for all Scouting activities. Because most accidents occur within a short distance from home, safety precautions are necessary, even on short trips.

General guidelines are as follows:

1. Seat belts are required for all occupants.
2. All drivers must have a valid driver's license that has not been suspended or revoked for any reason.
3. The driver must be currently licensed and at least 21 years of age.
4. Parental permission must be granted to the leader, driver and riders.
5. Licensed drivers between 16 and 21 may transport siblings to scouting functions with parental permission.