

Boy Scouts of America

TROOP 40 HANDBOOK

2011 - 2012 Troop Year

Mount Vernon, Iowa

Hawkeye Area Council

Three Rivers District

<http://mvScouts40.org/BoyScouts.html>

Introduction

The information in this handbook is designed to give a new Scout and his parents details about Scouting and participation in Troop 40. This handbook describes the organization, operation, and functions of Troop 40 and should be used as a supplement to The Boy Scout Handbook.

Our goal is to provide opportunities for young men to:

- develop friendships
- set and achieve goals
- become an active part of their family, community, and nation
- mature into strong, wise, adults
- grow in moral strength and character
- participate as active citizens in the community
- develop physical, moral, and emotional fitness
- develop comfort and appreciation of outdoor activities

Background & Organization

Troop 40 is part of the Hawkeye Area Council and Three Rivers District. The United Methodist Church has chartered the troop for over 75 years, making Troop 40 one of the oldest troop's in Eastern Iowa.

The troop is divided into patrols, with each patrol consisting of at least six Scouts. The patrols elect a patrol leader and an assistant patrol leader. Patrol leaders learn to manage troop activities by working under the direction of a senior patrol leader and an assistant senior patrol leader. Older, experienced Scouts may serve as troop guides, to assist new Scouts in learning Scout skills.

The volunteer leaders in Troop 40 provide a full range of BSA approved activities. These activities include camping, merit badges, community service projects, and leadership opportunities.

The Troop Committee meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the United Methodist Church basement. The purpose is to support the Scoutmasters and troop leadership in running a successful, safe program. The committee aids the leadership in policy development, program planning and review, advancement approval of individual Scouts, and administration.

Scoutmaster:	Denny Dietrich	(319) 895-6322
Assistant Scoutmaster:	Dave Hof	(319) 310-4254
Assistant Scoutmaster:	Paul Bevans	(319) 310-8739
Assistant Scoutmaster:	Dan Gaines	(319) 895-6584
Assistant Scoutmaster:	John Maddock	(319) 533-9146
Committee Chairperson:	Bob Smith	(319) 895- 8502
Troop e-Mail:	mtvtroop40bsa@yahoo.com	

Troop 40 Website

The address is <http://mvScouts40.org/BoyScouts.html>. The site includes the troop calendar, health forms, and information on ranks, merit badges, camping facilities, and the Mount Vernon Community. In addition, several helpful links are provided to Boy Scouts of American program and the Hawkeye Area Council.

Meeting Times and Location

The troop meets at the Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church, 304 1st Street West Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314, Monday nights from 7:00-8:30PM. The schedule is based on the school calendar, therefore, if school is cancelled due to inclement weather etc. the scout meetings will also be cancelled. All troop meetings are Scout led. All Scouts and adult leaders are required to wear class "A" uniforms to all functions unless a class "B" or other attire is authorized.

The Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and the Troop adult leadership have a monthly meeting on the 1st Monday of every month, to coordinate and plan all activities. Since the Troops are Scout led, all scouts are welcome to attend but attendance is not required at the leadership meeting.

There is an additional adult leadership meeting on the Sunday prior to the 1st Monday of each month. The 1st Thursday of every month is when the Three Rivers District host the monthly round table. Leaders from all of the Boy Scout Troops in the Three Rivers District conduct district business.

Dues and Registration Fees

Each Scout is responsible for paying an annual dues, which are currently \$40.00. Registration is paid by January 1st. If additional activity fees are required they will be explained at the time of the events. Contact the Treasurer or Troop Committee if assistance is needed with any fees. No Scout will be turned away if for inability to pay. Please speak with the Scoutmaster or Treasurer if there are financial hardships.

Boy Scout Uniform

The Scout uniform is the symbol of membership in and commitment to Scouting. It is the visible reminder of the spirit and ideals of Scouting and should be worn properly and neatly.

Scouts should wear their "Class A" uniform to campouts, trips, meetings, board of review meetings, and court of honor celebrations. However, "Class B" uniforms are allowed at meetings following a campout or trip. The "Class A" uniform consists of:

- Official BSA long or short sleeved shirt with colored shoulder loops
- Neckerchief and slide (formal events only)
- Merit Badge sash (once Merit Badges are earned – formal events only)

The proper position of all badges and patches can be found in the Boy Scout Handbook, or the website <http://www.scouting.org/>.

If a Scout needs assistance in acquiring a full Class "A" uniform, please do not hesitate to inform the Scoutmaster, or a Troop Committee member. Please donate used uniforms in good condition, so more Scouts can benefit from this service.

Boy Scout Handbook

Both Scouts and parents should become familiar with the contents of the Official Boy Scout Handbook, as it will provide answers to many questions. Descriptions of the requirements for each rank, skill award, and several key merit badges are included. As your son advances in rank leaders will date and sign off on the completion of rank requirements in the handbook. Over time, this book will become a valuable record of your son's achievements. All Scouts should bring their books to each weekly meeting. Scouts should care for their books as they are a record of their personal advancement through the ranks.

Rank Advancement

In order to move through the ranks of Boy Scouts, the Scouts strive to accomplish levels of achievement. Level steps / rank advancements are an important part of the Scouting program. If a Scout attends meetings, weekend campouts and summer camps on a regular basis, the program balance will help him advance. Advancement is dependent upon the work and bookkeeping of the Scout, although, the Troop 40 Leaders strive to assist the Scout in their advancements by presenting, planning, and sponsoring activities that will help them move through levels.

Advancement to the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class concentrate on Scouting skills rather than merit badges. Remaining ranks are Star, Life, and Eagle, which require leadership, community service, and merit badges. Eagle Palms may also be earned upon completion of additional merit badges until the Scout's 18th birthday.

Each Scout will pursue the various advancement requirements, awards, badges and ranks, at his own pace. We encourage each Scout to involve his family, other Scouts, the Troop 40 Leaders, and community members in his work. Advancement requirements are described in more detail in the "The Boy Scout Handbook."

Board of Review

At the completion of each rank from Tenderfoot to Eagle, the Scout is required to participate in a conference with the Scoutmaster. This is to ensure that all requirements have been satisfactorily completed. When a Scout has completed his Scoutmaster conference, he will have a conference with the Scoutmaster to assure that all requirements have been met and to prepare the Scout for the Board of Review. The Board of Reviews will take place the 1st Monday of every month. At the Board of Review the Scout should present himself to the Board in the full uniform he has at his rank. Scouts are expected to have a Class "A" formal uniform and their Scout Handbook. The Board of Review is conducted by Troop Committee and is required for all ranks. The Board of Review for the

lower ranks may include general questions related to the skills he has learned, but will not be a re-test of those skills. As the Scout advances in rank, the questions will be more centered on leadership, citizenship, character.

For Eagle Scout rank, it is required that a representative from the Hawkeye Area Council attend an Eagle Board of Review. After successfully passing the Eagle Board of Review, the Scout has officially earned the Eagle rank. Following this accomplishment, the district and national approvals will then be requested. After both district and national approvals are granted, the Eagle Court of Honor can be scheduled.

Court of Honor

The purpose of the Court of Honor is to recognize the ranks, merit badges, and leadership roles earned by each Scout since the last Court of Honor. They are usually held 3 times a year. We typically ask families to bring food so that all may share a meal at these celebrations. All family members are encouraged to attend. The dates, times and locations of the Courts of Honor are announced at the weekly meetings and will be noted on the calendar of events. A menu will be pre-determined by the Scouts with a theme for the pot-luck event that evening.

Eagle Scout

Upon obtaining the Life Scout degree, Scouts can apply for the Eagle Scout. Scouts considering the Eagle Scout should request the Troop 40 Eagle Scout Rank Requirements from the Scoutmaster or a committee member. There are time lines and specific requirements for the Eagle Scout rank, so this information is crucial to the successful completion of an Eagle Scout rank in Troop 40.

Camping

Camping and the other outdoor experiences are a major part of the Scouting tradition. These activities allow the Scouts to have fun, but more importantly focus on teamwork, leadership, the acquisition of good camping skills, and earning merit badges. In addition to the week-long summer camp at the Howard Cherry Scout Reserve in Waubek, Iowa, there are monthly campouts (weather permitting) and a lock-in in December.

Adults on campouts may offer Scouts advice and guidance, but should not actively assist the Scouts in performing their tasks such as, pitching tents, cooking meals, and working together as a patrol. Parents also help to assure that the campouts are safe, and that every Scout has an opportunity to enjoy his weekend. If a parent observes any behavior that is dangerous or in violation of Scouting principals he/she should immediately put a stop to it, and inform the Scoutmaster in charge at the first opportunity.

Inappropriate Behavior

Troop 40 expects a safe and fun troop program. The adult leaders have the right to intervene in any situation that they deem unsafe or inappropriate. If a Scout is unwilling to

abide by the directions of the adult leaders, or by Scouting rules (Scout Oath, Scout Law, Motto, and Slogan), they will not be allowed to participate in the current activity, and the situation will be brought to the attention of the parents. Reasonable discipline for Scouts is at the discretion of the Scoutmaster or the designated leader.

All Troop leadership members are expected to uphold the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Motto, and Slogan. If adult leadership behavior is in question it will be addressed by the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee. The Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee are authorized to suspend any adult as needed until the review process is initiated and completed. In the case of Scout safety the adult must be removed from contact immediately until the matter is reviewed and resolved. If any adult disciplinary issue is not satisfactorily resolved to the satisfaction of the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee, it will be taken to the District Executive for resolution. All adult leaders and Troop Committee members are required to abide by the Youth Protection Training Policy.

Fundraisers

Our primary fund-raiser, the Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast, is held at the fire station. All Scouts are required to participate in this event prior to the parade and Memorial Day activities in the cemetery. The Scouts work at the breakfast, take a break to march in the parade, and then return to the breakfast activities.

There are some other seasonal fundraising activities, like trash collecting following high school football games, and bottle and can collection. If Scouts participate in the bottle and can collection the money is deposited in an individual account for the Scout. These funds can be used by the Scout to offset the cost of summer camp, their Eagle Scout project, or the trip to National Jamboree.

Parental Involvement

Scouting is a family affair. No Scout is expected to travel the "Trail to Eagle" by himself. Parents should encourage their sons to work on advancement, but not do the work for the Scout. Parents (of both genders) are invited to all Troop meetings and especially to the Court of Honor ceremonies. There are always opportunities to get involved. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Attend weekend campouts and trips.
- Attend Scout meetings or advisory committee meetings.
- Attend summer camp.
- Assist with fundraisers or other special programs.
- Become a Merit Badge Counselor. There are more than 120 different merit badges available. Ask a leader if a badge exists in a field that you have proficiency or expertise.
- Become a Scout leader or a Committee Member. Council training programs are held several times a year, and everyone can participate.