

# Expectations

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The Troop expects a lot from your scout, and so do you; this is why you have them in Scouting. Here are some expectations the Troop has for both your scout and for you.

## Scout Expectations:

1. **Uniform:** Scouts should attend all troop meetings and Courts of Honor in full uniform (Khaki shirt and green pants called the "Field Uniform" or "Class A"). When specified, scouts may wear the troop "Activity Shirt" or "Class B." Typically, these are worn, at summer meetings or when they are very active. The troop has its own Activity Shirt, ask a leader about how to purchase one for a small cost.
2. **"Active Scout":** According to the Scout Handbook, a scout seeking to attain the rank of Star, Life, or Eagle must be active in a Troop and Patrol. Scouts working toward their upper rank advancement will also be in leadership positions, and scouts can't lead if they are not at the meetings and outings. Attendance at Troop meetings and outings will be recorded and used as one guide to qualify for rank advancement at the Star, Life, and Eagle levels. See Appendix on "Active Scout" for more details.
3. **Harassment:** Scouts do not use profanity or "put down" others. They do not engage in harassment of any type. If you see any type of this activity occurring, let leaders in the troop know about it right away.
4. **Community Service:** Scouts should participate in **community service during the year**. Opportunities are posted regularly. Scouts should track their own service hours in their scout advancement notebook, or in their Scout Handbook. Some ranks may have a requirement for additional service hours.
5. **Money:** Scouts are expected to carry some extra money for themselves when they go on trips, for a meal on the road, or in case of emergency. They are also expected to promptly repay their portion of food costs to the Scout Grubmaster who purchases food for the trip they attend.
6. **Outings and Activities:** In addition to troop meetings, scouts should attend at least one scouting activity per month, with either the troop or their patrol. The scout should track activities and outings that they attend by writing them in their Scout Advancement notebook, or in their Scout Handbook.
7. **Summer Outings:** Scouts are expected to go to a week-long summer camping experience. This could be a formal summer camp or a multi-day trip with the troop. We usually have at least 4 during the summer.
8. **Borrowed Equipment:** When possible, the Troop may provide tents, stoves, camp tables, cooking pot sets, water filters and lanterns, and other types of equipment. When a scout is given responsibility for troop equipment, they are expected to take it home, promptly clean, dry, and repack it. Then return it, ready for its next use, within the next week.
9. **Personal Equipment:** Scouts should have collected a complete camping outfit by the time they are in 9th grade. Scouts may need to purchase other personal equipment if they are participating in an activity that requires specific gear, for example a life vest for kayaking. Responsibility for the safekeeping of personal gear belongs to the owner; this is especially true of electronics.
10. **Electronics:** Scouting activities are designed to encourage in-person social interaction, and often provide opportunities to experience new sights and sounds. Thus, electronics generally do not belong at any troop meetings or outings. When electronics are present scouts are expected to show proper courtesy and restraint in their use. During meetings this means silencing and not interacting with or displaying them. The troop has adopted an electronics policy based on the Scout Law as outlined in [this article](#).
11. **Communication back home:** Scouts don't call or text during an outing without the primary adult leader's knowledge, whether back home or among themselves. This is to encourage your scout's independence and interaction with his Patrol. Contact outside the outing group should be through the primary adult. Exceptions are at the discretion of the outing leader, and scouts who see a legitimate need should speak with the adult leader.

## Parent Expectations:

Just as the troop has expectations of your scout, it has expectations of you, their parents, guardians, and caretakers:

1. **Monthly Participation:** You are expected to attend the monthly parent meetings held the Second Tuesday of each month. You should feel free to voice your concerns at the Parent, Committee, or Scoutmaster meetings. Our troop will only be as good as you help make it, and we need your interest and input. Parent participation is also appreciated at weekly meetings.
2. **Driving:** Parents are expected to volunteer to drive on trips. You do not have to drive on every trip, but you should be driving your fair share. You are expected to have auto insurance, and to require all passengers in your car to wear a seatbelt. When volunteering to drive, the expectation is that your car is in good repair and safe.
3. **Outing Participation:** All parents are leaders. Without Parents assisting scouts in planning and organizing the outings, the outings would not happen. Plan to hike, camp, ski, etc. with your scout to the greatest extent you can. With the inclusion of girls in scouting an adult female is required on every outing, and adult females are appreciated to attend as many outings as they are able.
4. **Merit Badge Counselor:** We expect each parent to be a Merit Badge Counselor for at least one Merit Badge that they have a personal interest in.
5. **Pay Dues and Fees:** If your scout signs up for an activity, you and your scout are expected to pay whatever fees or dues are assessed. In most cases you will be asked to pay these fees even if your scout changes their mind or cannot attend.
6. **Youth Attendance:** You are expected to arrange to get your scout to regular meetings and activities. You don't have to drive your scout, they may be able to walk, or get a ride with another scout, but you need to clear their schedule to attend, and facilitate their attendance.
7. **Advancement:** You are expected to take an interest in and monitor your scout's advancement. If you have questions about your scout's advancement, you are expected to contact the Scoutmaster or Advancement Chairperson.
8. **Borrowed Equipment:** Parents are expected to support their scout in caring for borrowed equipment, its proper cleaning, and speedy return. As part of their contribution to group efforts your scout may be asked to care for gear that they did not personally use. Troop leaders are happy to answer any questions on care or assigned duties. If something needs attention, write a note, and mention it verbally when returning the gear.
9. **Personal Equipment:** Families work together to provide the equipment that a scout needs or wants to have. The family must decide when the scout is mature enough to be responsible with more expensive and more fragile equipment. Adult leaders will do their best to keep a climate where personal possessions are safe, but they aren't able to ensure that a scout will not lose or damage their equipment. Risks that have been realized are theft, damage, and loss.
10. **Harassment:** Scouts do not use profanity or "put down" others. They do not engage in harassment of any type. If you see any type of this activity occurring, as a parent it is your responsibility to stop it immediately, and then discuss it with the Scoutmaster. Above all, choose to set a good example yourself.
11. **Communication:** Communication to and from a group away from home should go through the primary adult leader. This avoids misunderstandings and surprises, also the scouts are busy having fun and may not have the full picture. Keep in mind that many of the places we go do not have reception. If there is known need for communication, please let the primary adult know prior to departure.
12. **Youth Protection:** You are expected to complete a Scouts of America program on "Youth Protection", which is the term for protection against child sexual abuse (<http://my.scouting.org>). Please send the certificate of completion to the committee for tracking.

**Never place your Scout or any Scout in a position where they are alone with an adult who is not their parent!**

# **What is an “Active Scout?”**

According to the Scout Handbook, a scout seeking to attain the rank of Star, Life, or Eagle must be **active** in a Troop and Patrol.

Scouts working toward their upper rank advancement will also be in leadership positions, and scouts can't lead if they are not at the meetings and outings. Attendance at Troop meetings and outings will be recorded and used as one guide to qualify for rank advancement at the Star, Life, and Eagle levels.

To make it clear and easy to understand, Troop 282 has added the following clarifications to what being **"active in your troop and patrol"** means to upper rank scouts in our Troop.

- **Meetings**
  - Troop youth leaders need to attend at least 75% of the Troop/Patrol meetings.
  - Troop youth leaders need to attend 100% of the monthly Patrol Leader Council meetings or have another scout (Assistant Patrol Leader, etc.) attend in their place.
  
- **Outings**
  - Troop youth leaders need to attend at least 50% of the Troop/Patrol outings.

Troop 282 scouts will determine which events they want on their Troop calendar, attend every event they can, and achieve greater than 50% attendance at meetings and outings. Our definition of this requirement is designed to show the minimum attendance needed to advance for scouts who are so busy with other activities that attending everything they want is not an option.

All meetings and outings must be sanctioned by the Committee and must follow Scouts of America guidelines including the Guide to Safe Scouting and having at least two adult leaders (at least one needs to be registered with the Scouts of America, appropriately trained, and 21 years of age or older). Outings also require permission slips, tour permits, adult drivers, etc.

## **How can I make sure I'm active?**

Keep track of the outings and meetings you attend. Attend everything you can, and you should be in great shape. Compare your list to the online Troop calendar and make sure you hit at least 75% of the meetings and 50% of the outings. The intent of this requirement is that you do your best and get the most out of what our Troop has to offer.

Demonstrate Scout Spirit when attending meetings and outings (participate fully, not half-heartedly). If you miss more than half of a meeting or outing, you can't count it as part of your active status.

## **How long do I need to be active?**

The requirement in the Scout Handbook is clear. Four months for Star, six months for Life or Eagle. If it takes you a year to complete all of the requirements for the rank of Life, the six-month period of time you need to be active can be any six consecutive months during that year. Since you will also have to fulfill a leadership position and so doing requires a high standard of involvement, you will likely fulfill the "active" requirement as the natural result of meeting the standards for leadership.

## **What if I have other activities?**

We all have to make choices in what we do every day. Can't make a couple meetings due to school, sports, or band? That's OK. That's why the minimum participation is not 100%. Talk to your teachers, coaches, and other leaders and let them know what you're doing in Scouting ahead of time. Maybe you can miss a couple practices or a game. If not, plan for your active time in the Troop to happen when other activities aren't happening. Our Troop and Patrols can't function properly if our leaders are missing. Talk to your Troop leadership too if you anticipate you'll have to miss some meetings or outings. The Troop leadership may have some strategies to help you remain active in Scouts, even if you have a busy schedule.