

BSA Troop 200

First United Methodist Church

Cary, NC

Parents' Guide

Ver: 1.5 - 20171004

Table of Contents

I. Introduction	4
1. The Scouting Program	4
II. Organization	7
1. Charter Organization	7
2. Troop Committee	7
3. Uniformed Leaders	8
4. Youth Leadership	8
III. Troop Meetings	10
IV. Parents	11
V. Troop Rules and Policies	13
VI. Medical Forms	14
VII. Advancement	15
VIII. Annual Cost of Scouting	17
1. Registration	17
2. Annual Recharter	18
3. Fees for Camping Trips and Activities	18

4. Summer Camp Fees	18
5. Other Opportunities	19
IX. Funding and Fundraising	20
1. Luminaria	20
2. Popcorn	20
3. Pancake Supper	20
4. Friends of Scouting	21
X. Uniform	22
1. Class A Uniform	22
2. Class B Uniform	22
XI. Recommended Camping Gear	23
XII. Conclusion	24

Introduction

Welcome to BSA Troop 200. You and your son have joined a program that has been serving the youth of our community since 1948. For over 6 decades Troop 200 has been using the methods and teaching the values offered by the Boy Scouts of America to help the youth of our area grow into the leaders of tomorrow through an exciting program of Advancement, Leadership, Service, and Outdoor Experiences.

Our goal with this booklet is to give you an overview of what you and your son can expect, what we expect from you and your son, and a little bit about what the Boy Scouting program is all about. It will give you a better idea of what to expect from the different areas of our program such as your son's advancement, his first year in our Troop, camping and our outdoor programs, and what the adult leaders of our Troop do to provide this program for your son. It will also outline what we expect from each Scout and his family as well as the responsibilities of each to the Troop.

The Scouting Program

The Scouting program was started in the United States in 1910. Since then it has evolved into the program that we have today, changing with the times to best support the youth of the program. The Goals of the Scouting program in Troop 200 are:

- *Character Development
- * Leadership
- * Citizenship
- *Personal Fitness

These goals are what we try to instill in every young man in Troop 200 and they come from the system of values established by the Boy Scouts in the Scout Oath and Law. Everything that we do in Troop 200 is based on these values and it is the standard that we expect all members of our program to adhere to “in their everyday life”.

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Scout Law

A Scout is: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent

Since 1910 the principles found in the Scout Oath and Law have been the guiding force for our program and for all those who choose to participate. Through its history, the BSA has trained boys to become men, many of whom have become the leaders of this country both in Government and in the business communities. Members of the Boy Scouts have gone on the sit in the Oval Office and the chambers of Congress, to run some of the most prestigious companies in the world, and served their fellow man as doctors and leaders helping the needy around the world. Just about anywhere you look, you find men who have taken and promised to live by the same oath that your son will take and learn to live by in his everyday life.

The BSA is the largest youth organization in the United States serving over 4 million youth through its programs.

Unlike Cub Scouts, the Boy Scouts is a youth led program with the adults behind the scenes so to speak to advise and train the youth leaders how to plan, organize, and carry out the Troop program.

Each Scout will work on Advancement while they participate in our program and will be on what we call the "Trail to Eagle". This trail will start with the rank of Scout and continue on to Eagle Scout. During your son's travel along this trail, he will learn the basic Scout skills that he will need to participate in our outdoor programs. He will be taught leadership skills and will be required to put these skills to use as he progresses in rank with more time and leadership required the further he progresses. One of the greatest things that we get to see when working with Scouts is watching them come into the program timid, scared, and unsure of themselves and then a few short years later seeing that same Scout who was so homesick on his first camping trip; running the Troop as Senior Patrol Leader and a strong and confident young man.

Our Troop through the program prescribed by the Boy Scouts of America will allow your son to grow mentally and morally, will give him a solid base from which he can move into adulthood having developed strong physical, mental, and emotional fitness. He will have developed a strong character and understanding of the ideals of citizenship that will allow him to be a positive member of society.

Again, Welcome to Troop 200.

Tommy Grubbs

Scoutmaster

Organization

Troop 200 is a member of the [Occonechee Council of the Boy Scouts of America](#). The Occonechee Council is comprised of Districts of which we are in the [Crosswinds District](#) which covers the area in and around Cary and Apex, NC.

Chartered Organization

Our Troop is sponsored or chartered by the Methodist Men of the First United Methodist Church in Cary, NC. The Methodist Men are responsible for carrying our Charter from BSA, for assuring the quality of the program, for providing qualified adult leaders for our program, and providing a proper meeting place. They appoint an individual; [Charter Organization Representative \(COR\)](#); who oversees the day to day operations of the Scouting programs in the church. The COR is responsible for approving all adult leaders for the units and establishing a Troop Committee.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee (TC) is headed by the [Committee Chairperson](#). The TC is responsible for the non-program issues in support of the Troop such as transportation, fund raising and management of Troop funds, advancement, approval of purchases requested by the Troop, and the general overseeing of the program of the Troop. The TC is also an important part of the advancement process in our Troop having the final say if a Scout is ready for advancement and by having members sit on Boards of Review for all Scouts to make sure that they are prepared to move further down the Trail to Eagle.

The TC also has an integral part in the process that a Life Scout has to complete in order to work on his Eagle Project by giving advice and support to the Eagle candidate, by approving his Eagle Leadership Project, and ultimately giving final approval for the completion the Scout's rank of Eagle Scout.

The TC is made up of anyone approved by COR and Committee Chairperson and is led by the Chairperson ensuring that the Troop program is supported. The TC meets once a month on the first Monday of each month (unless a holiday) at 7:00 pm and is usually attended by the leadership of the Troop but is open to all parents as well who are encouraged to attend.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE OR VOLUNTEERING TO HELP ON THE TROOP COMMITTEE, PLEASE CONTACT THE [COR](#), [COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON](#), OR THE [SCOUTMASTER](#). WE ENCOURAGE ALL PARENTS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION OF OUR PROGRAM.

Uniformed Troop Leaders

Uniformed leader is a term that is used to identify the adult leaders that work the closest with the youth of our unit. These consist of the Scoutmaster(SM) and one or more Assistant Scoutmasters (ASMs). The Scoutmaster's job is to oversee the day to day operations of the Troop, to assist the youth leadership of the Troop in the execution of the program, to make sure that all Troop activities are appropriate and safe, to approve Scouts for advancement, and many other jobs that pop up throughout the year. The Scoutmaster has Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM) who helps with the overseeing of the operation of the Troop and being there to help out whenever they are needed with the Troop program. These ASMs will do jobs in the Troop such as working with the First Year program, working with the Senior Patrol Leader, helping with the Troop program and Patrol Leader's Council, assisting the PLC with Planning for upcoming events and activities, and acting as advisors to the youth who are serving in the youth leadership positions in the Troop.

Youth Leadership

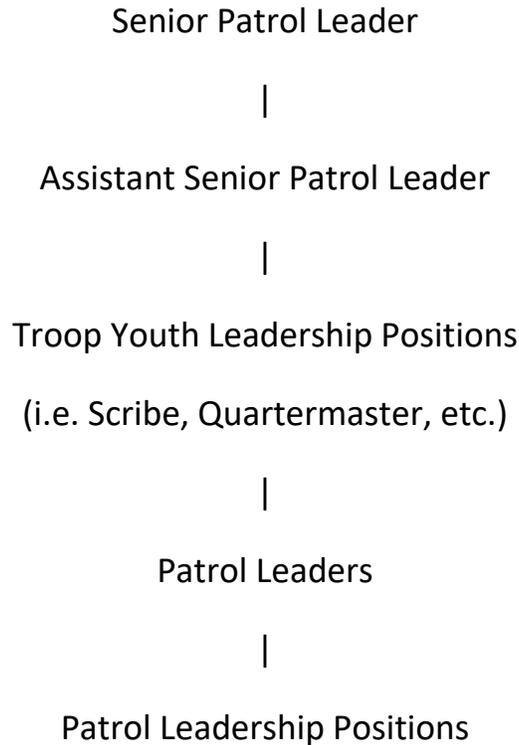
As stated before, the Boy Scouts is a youth led program which means that the youth are responsible for the planning and execution of the program at meetings and other Troop activities. It is often said that Scouting is a youth led organization and we do practice this in Troop 200 with one caveat and that is that the Troop is

youth led but it is adult advised. The adult leadership closely monitors and oversees the program of the Troop to make sure that the all activities are appropriate and follow the safety guidelines established by the Boy Scouts.

In Troop 200 we operate under a system known as the Patrol Method. The Troop is divided into smaller groups of Scouts known as Patrols. Each Patrol will consist of around 8-15 Scouts depending on the participation of the members of each Patrol. Each Patrol is led by a Patrol Leader that is elected by the members of the Patrol and serves a term of 4 months and can be reelected for more than one term. The Patrol Leader's job is to plan and execute his patrol's duties in the Troop. This includes meeting programs, camping programs, menu planning and procurement of patrol food, and any other duty assigned by the Senior Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster.

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is highest youth leadership position in the Troop. The SPL is first elected to the position of Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) and serves a 6 month term as ASPL prior to transitioning into the SPL position. This is done so that the Scout gets some on the job training as ASPL before being giving the responsibility of SPL. The Job of the SPL is to run the Troop program. He is the head of the Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) which is made up of all the youth leadership positions in the Troop and is charged with deciding what the Troop is going to be doing in the future. They set where we camp, what we do when we camp, and what the programs are for the Troop meetings. It is then the job of the SPL, ASPL, and Patrol Leaders to execute the agreed upon programs at Troop meetings and camping trips. The SPL is also responsible for making sure that the youth serving in other Troop positions are carrying out their responsibilities to the program.

The chart of organization for youth leadership in Troop 200 looks like this:



Troop Meetings

Troop meetings are held on Tuesday nights each week of the WCPSS traditional calendar from 6:45 pm until 8:15 pm, in the Fellowship Hall of the church, once a month the meeting will be held in the Sanctuary due to the Cub Scout Pack meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Please make sure that your son arrives on time for the meetings so that he does not miss anything or disrupts the meeting by coming in late. The meetings are usually over no later than 8:15 so please be on time to pick your son up; it is not fair to make the adults have to hang around waiting on a late parent. Any changes to this schedule will be noted on the Troop Calendar which can be found on the Troop's web page at <http://troop200.org>. Each parent is responsible for periodically checking the Troop's online calendar for any changes to the schedule.

Troop 200 follows the [Wake County Public School's traditional calendar](#) in planning our events. In the event that a meeting night falls on a vacation period such as Christmas or Spring Break, we will not meet on these nights. If it is simply

a teacher workday and school is back in session the following day (Wednesday) then we will have a meeting. There are also several times during the year where activities at the church preclude our meetings and these will be posted on the Troop calendar. Other unforeseen changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as soon as possible to allow for changes in planning to be made. These short notice announcements may be made via an email or possibly a text in the future but please do not rely on one of these and always check the Troop calendar for the latest most accurate information on the Troop schedule.

Parents

What do we expect from the parents of Troop 200? We expect our parents to be supportive of the Troop's efforts, to be supportive of the policies of the Troop, and be supportive of the Leadership of our Troop.

We strongly encourage parents to support our Troop by participating in as many of the following as possible:

1. Participate in the Luminaria Fundraiser. We require all Scouts and parents to participate in our annual Luminaria fundraiser. Luminaria is our primary annual money maker and it is very important that the parents volunteer to assist. The adult volunteers that work week end and week out for your son's benefit should not be expected to do everything and having the parents assist with this project is a great way for the parents to help out with the operations of the unit and to give the adult leaders a day off to boot.
2. Volunteer to be a Uniformed Leader
3. Volunteer to be a member of the Troop Committee.
4. Volunteer to coordinate a special Troop event such as Court of Honor, Eagle Ceremony, request Eagle congratulatory letters, or any of the many other jobs that need to be done each year.
5. Volunteer to be a Merit Badge Counselor.
6. Volunteer to serve on the [District Eagle Review Board](#).

7. Volunteer to drive on camping trips when the Troop expresses a need.
8. Read and know all [Troop policies, rules, and procedures](#).
9. Track your son's advancement and support our advancement program by encouraging him from home.
10. Support your son and the other members of the Troop by attending all Courts of Honor and special events.

If you are interested in helping out with any of these positions please contact any of the Troop leaders and we will put you into contact with the Committee Chair or COR.

The Troop also has several things that we EXPECT each parent to do to assure your son's success in the Troop. WE EXPECT EACH PARENT TOO:

1. Read, understand, and practice the Scout Oath and Law at home with your Scout. It takes us all working together to instill these principles into our Scouts.
2. Parents need to check the email address(es) they provided to the Troop, a minimum of twice a week and also 24 hours prior to a Troop event. Things change sometimes quickly and you need to stay informed of changes and be prepared so that it is not you who holds the entire Troop up.
3. Check the [Troop online calendar](#) at least twice a week. Do not print the calendar because changes may occur after you have printed. Only rely on the online version for the most up to date information. Please note that the [Troop calendar has a link](#) that you can subscribe to on your phone to stay updated without having to go to the web page.
4. When an email requires a response, please do this in a timely manner. Adult volunteers run this Troop so please be courteous and respond so that the adult does not have to spend any more of their time on a task then is needed waiting for you to get around to responding.
5. It is very important that a parent be on time when dropping off and picking up their son for any Troop activity. We understand that sometimes we all get running behind but please make sure that it does

- not become habitual. Remember, the adults who volunteer without pay, have just given generously of their time to your son, so please be courteous to them and pick your son up on time so that our leaders can get back to their families and lives.
6. We require all parents to work with the leadership of the Troop in the event that your son finds himself under disciplinary action by the Troop. Issues can be better handled if all parties are working together in a civil manner. The leadership of this Troop does not make false or “knee jerk” accusations against Scouts so please understand that if the Scoutmaster comes to you about an incident involving your son, he comes to you after already investigating the incident and believing that you need to know what has happened.

[Troop Rules and Policies](#)

The rules and policies that govern Troop 200 are quite simple. They are the 12 points of the Scout Law and the requirements set forth in the Scout Oath. If each member, both youth and adult, live by these laws and standards, we will have no problems. However, things are rarely that simple and we have had to enact some other rules and policies that aid in governing our Troop. All of these can be found on the Troop web page; <http://troop200.org>; under the policies section. These are policies that deal with issues from drugs and alcohol, advancement, electronics, and many other issues that we have had to address over the years. Each Scout and Parent is required to read and understand these policies and each parent is expected to support the Troop in these policies and not to encourage or support the subversion of these policies by their son. These policies have been written and approved by the Troop Committee and the Troop Leadership and are intended to provide a safe and healthy environment for all participants and to limit distractions or disruptions to the program. Any member, youth or adult, who is found to be in violation of these policies or in violation of the Scout Oath and Law may find themselves under disciplinary review by the Troop and could if the infraction is severe enough, find themselves dismissed from our program.

Medical Forms

BSA requires all participants in the program both youth and adult to provide a current medical form to the Troop in order to participate in all Scouting activities. These forms come in 4 different parts and a participant is required to provide the appropriate parts for the activity in which he is participating. Failure to provide the required medical forms for the prescribed activity will result in the participant not being allowed to participate and in some instances; being sent home from the activity at the parent's expense.

The four different parts of the [medical form](#) and what activities they are for are as follows:

- Parts 1 & 2: These are simply personal information such as name and age, a medical history and vaccinations, emergency contact information, and an emergency release so that the adult leadership can get your son treated if he is sick or injured while on a Troop activity. These are filled out by the parent for a minor and by the adult for him/herself. These two forms are required for any Troop activity lasting less than 72 hours and not classified as high adventure. These forms are required to be turned in upon initial registration by every member and updated annually during January and February each year.
- Insurance information: Each participant must present a current insurance card to the Troop for scanning to be placed with his med form. Any participant who is self-insured needs to notify us of this when turning in Parts 1 & 2.
- Part 3: Physical performed by a licensed Doctor or Physician's Assistant. This is required for activities that last longer than 72 hours and is required for all participants at summer camp.
- Part 4: High Adventure clearance from a licensed Doctor or Physician's Assistant. This part is required for activities listed as high adventure

such as Philmont, Sea Base, National Jamboree, or any other activity designated as High Adventure by BSA.

Please see the Policy page on the Troop web page for the full [Medical Form Policy](#) and guides for correctly completing these forms. The policy page also has the required forms for any participant who due to religious or other reasons chooses not to have vaccinations or other medical care.

Advancement

In Troop 200 we have a very successful advancement program. The program allows each Scout to participate and advance successfully at their own pace and achieve goals set by them and the BSA program. Each Scout will face challenges along his trail to Eagle that will be progressively more challenging the farther down the Trail to Eagle the Scout progresses.

New members to Troop 200 without previous Boy Scout experience will start their advancement in our First Year program which allows the Scout for his 1st year in the Troop to be with other Scouts of similar age and skill set. He will begin by learning the basic tenants of the program by earning his Scout and Tenderfoot ranks. He will stay in this program for the first year of his membership, led by older Scouts who have been chosen and trained by the Adults to be Troop Guides and who are advised by our cadre of First Year Adult Leaders. If a Scout participates in the majority of the meetings and activities, by the end of his first year he should have attained the rank of First Class, learned the basic scout skills in cooking and camping that he will need throughout the rest of his Scouting career, have developed a confidence that will allow him to be successful in the Troop, and be half way to completing his Eagle by the end of his first year. Please remember that attendance is crucial especially during the Scouts first year in the program and any Scout who habitually misses meetings and camping trips will miss the skill sessions that are required for advancement and will have to make

up this material at a later date and will fall behind his friends and peers in the program.

Scouts who join our Troop with no prior experience but are older than the traditional First Year Scouts (approx. 11-12), may be placed into a non-first year patrol and allowed to participate in the First Year program's activities in order to complete his requirements. We do this because 14 year olds do not want the hang out with 11 year olds and we have found that they do much better with Scouts their own age.

After your son completes his first year in our Troop and hopefully has participated enough to complete First Class, he will be moved into a permanent patrol where he will continue to work on his advancement. At this time he will move from earning skill rudiments to earning merit badges, serving in positions of responsibility, having to provide service to his community, all while working to complete the requirements for the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle.

Advancement on the Boy Scout level, unlike in Cub Scouts, cannot be completed and signed off by anyone other than leaders and merit badge councilors approved and trained by the Troop. This does not mean that you the parent do not have a very important role in your son's advancement. Your job is to maintain a working knowledge of your son's advancement or lack thereof, to encourage your son from home, and to figuratively kick him in the you know where to keep him moving. Encouragement from the family is a very powerful tool in Scouting as well as in other aspects of the Scout's life. Please be careful not to cross the line between helping and doing it for him. We have had parents in the past who have tried to do the work for their son and have him turn it in as his own. Remember, not only is this cheating but the Scout advancement process involves: teaching a Scout, testing a Scout, Reviewing a Scout, and then advancing a Scout. If you do the work for your son, how is he ever going to successfully be tested and reviewed for the information he was supposed to have learned?

As was stated before, we have a very successful advancement program in Troop 200. On the National level, only 6 of every 100 boys who join Scouting complete the rank Eagle (6%); in our Troop that percentage is approximately 45%. Any

Scout who wishes to become an Eagle Scout has the path to Eagle laid out for him in our Troop; all he has to do is to walk down it.

The Mission of the BSA is “To prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over the course of their lifetime, by instilling in them, the values of the Scout Oath and Law.” Advancement; combined with the outdoor program, association with quality adults, the uniform, the patrol method, leadership development, and personal growth; all make up the tool box that we use to accomplish this Mission. The Scout earning his Eagle is just one of many successful outcomes that may be achieved by the Scout. Do not get hung up on the only success your son can have is earning his Eagle. We all know adults in our lives that were Scouts as a youth and never completed their Eagle. Some may only have gotten as far as the lower ranks, others made it to First Class, Star or even Life, but many of these men are some of the finest people we know. So please don't focus solely on your son getting his Eagle, advancement is only one of the methods employed in the execution of the program, but watch what happens to him as he progresses through the program, watch him grow.

Annual Costs of Scouting

Registration

When a youth and his parents decide that they want to join our Troop, there are several forms that need to be completed and turned in to the Troop. Each Scout must turn in an official BSA Application and BSA Medical Form Parts 1, 2, and he must provide a Medical insurance card for scanning. Once these are completed the parents need to return them to the Troop with a check for the initial joining fee, which the amount will be announced at the time of joining. [Included in this fee](#) is the Scout's registration fee with BSA, supplemental insurance coverage, Boy's Life Magazine subscription, and a fee that the Troop keeps to help cover expenses such as camping and transportation throughout the year. Also included in the Scouts initial joining fees is a Troop t-shirt, Troop hat, Troop Neckerchief and slide, green shoulder loops for the uniform, and a current [BSA Handbook](#).

These items are included only with the Scout's initial registration fee however; extra t-shirts and hoodies are available at cost whenever extras are needed.

Annual Recharter Fees

Every year we have to recharter our Troop with the BSA. This is done in January of each year however, we start the process of re-chartering in early December so please pay attention to emails from the Troop and respond within the time frames requested so that we can complete this process on time. The annual re-charter fee amount is dependent upon what BSA sets the registration fees at as well as the amount of Troop fees need as decided by the Troop Committee for each Scout so fees could increase from year to year. Scouts do not receive another shirt, hat, or neckerchief, or other items with re-charter.

Fees for Camping Trips and Activities

Throughout the year, there are many activities in which your son will want to participate. These activities may have fees associated with them. Many of these fees such as fees charged by the properties we may use and camporee fees will be covered from the Troop treasury using the money that our Scouts earn during our annual fundraisers. Occasionally these activities may require that each Scout participating pay for part of the costs. When this occurs, this will be denoted on the permission form/signup email that is sent out 2 weeks prior to the trip and fees will be collected by the Troop on the Tuesday night prior to the activity. Each Scout is also responsible for his share of the Patrol's food for each camping trip unless informed otherwise by the Troop. Each Patrol is limited by the Troop to food costs of \$10 per Scout per trip so that the Scouts do not go overboard and plan extravagant menus, or more likely buy huge quantities of junk food and soda.

Summer Camp Fees

Each summer usually around the first week of July, Troop 200 goes to summer camp. This is a weeklong camping experience where the Scouts earn merit badges and have a whole lot of fun. Each Scout is responsible for paying for his

own summer camp. The fees that each Scout will pay covers the amount required by the camp, some merit badge classes and programs have extra fees associated with the class, and a transportation/extra fee for travel to and from and for things at camp such as pizza and toilet paper. These fees will be collected starting in April when a deposit is required and final payments due by the end of May. First time campers will be required to purchase a trunk to carry their belongings to camp. These can be purchased many places locally. Also each Scout will need some spending money for the week at camp. The Troop usually hires a charter bus or two to provide transportation to and from summer camp and on the trip to camp the Troop will stop at a fast food restaurant for the Scouts to get one last meal before camp food. Each Scout should bring enough money for this as well as pocket money during the week at camp for souvenirs and snacks at the trading post. We usually recommend around \$30 dollars for the week but that is between the Scout and you the parent as to what your son needs.

Other Opportunities

Throughout your son's Scouting career, there will other activities in which he may wish to participate. These activities are extracurricular from annual Troop activities and will require the Scout to pay the full cost of participation. Some of these activities may include National Jamboree or a visit to one of the four high adventure bases, Philmont for backpacking in New Mexico, Sea Base for sailing in Florida, Northern Tier for canoeing in Minnesota, or The Summit in West Virginia. Each of these activities are once in a lifetime trips and all fees for these will be at the expense of the Scout's family.

NO SCOUT WILL MISS A TROOP ACTIVITY DUE TO MONEY. If your family ever has difficulty paying for a Troop activity due to financial issues, please let the [Scoutmaster](#), [Committee Chair](#), or [COR](#) know. The Troop does have funds to help. We do ask that the family pay as much as it can pay toward the activity and the Troop will make up the difference.

Funding and Fundraising

Each year Troop 200 participates in several fundraisers which allow the Scouts of the Troop to participate in offsetting the annual costs of the Troop operations. The 9th point of the Scout Law is “A Scout is: Thrifty” and we feel that it is very important for each and every Scout in our Troop to participate in our fundraising efforts.

Luminaria

Each year the Troop participates in a local service project called Luminaria. Luminaria is where the Troop purchases and distributes the kits of candles and bags that the community places on the curb in front of their houses on Christmas Eve. This requires our Troop to have distribution days which occur on the first and second Saturdays of December for about 3-6 hours each day. We have routes that we are responsible for and we need parents to volunteer to drive these routes with our Scouts. We require that each Scout and family help by participating in this fund raising activity. Dates for Luminaria related activities can be found on the Troop Calendar after the annual planning meeting in August of each year.

Popcorn

The Boy Scouts have a national fundraising program that Troop 200 participates in each year. This is the Popcorn Sale. This is done in the early fall and each Scout is required to DO HIS BEST to sell as much popcorn as he can during the sales period. Each year the Troop sets a monetary goal for each Scout in the Troop to do his best to meet. This goal is based on the financial health of the Troop and what the forecast needs of the Troop will be in the coming year. Each parent is expected to see to it that their Scout goes out and does their best to sell popcorn in their community. We feel that responsibility is one of the many important lessons that Scouting teaches and that if it is worth having it is worth working for and that each Scout is responsible for supporting his Troop and doing what is required to earn his own way and not simply have Mom and Dad write a check

because one day soon they are going to have to write their own checks without help.

Pancake Supper

The third fund raiser that our Troop participates in is intended as more of a service to the Church. Each year around the first of February our Troop sponsors a Pancake Supper for the members of our Church. The Troop provides the supplies and the labor and keeps the money collected at the door which after supplies usually nets the Troop around \$500 but this is a great opportunity for our Sponsor to see the Troop and to interact with the Scouts.

Friends of Scouting

Each year, the Occoneechee Council conducts a fundraising effort called Friends of Scouting. Money paid for each Scout's registration each year goes to BSA National and the Troop fees go to the Troop, none of this money goes to the Council. The Occoneechee Council has expenses that have to be covered each year. The Council maintains 2 properties which contain 3 camps (Camp Durant, Camp Reeves, and Camp Campbell) which require money to operate each year. The Council is also charged by National to provide the Boy Scout program to the Units that it serves some of which is to track, report, and provide advancement insignia and merit badges for all the youth in the Council which takes money. Troop 200 relies very heavily on these 3 camps and the services provided by the Council each year. And with usage comes responsibility. To meet this responsibility we require that each family give to the Friends of Scouting program. A minimum family goal of \$125 is suggested; however if your family cannot give this; please give whatever amount your family can afford. Remember, the Council provides our Troop with places to camp and without these places we may be looking to camp in your backyard. So please help the Council out each year. The Troop 200 annual campaign is in late March, early April, each year.

You can contribute by [clicking this link](#), make sure you list Troop 200 so we get credit.

Uniform

Class A Uniform

Our Troop's Class A uniform consists of the Official BSA Short Sleeve or Long Sleeve Shirt with patches; see the insignia guide on the inside front and back covers of the Scout Handbook [for proper placement of the patches](#); and pants and shoes appropriate for the weather conditions.

The official uniform is required in Troop 200 for all Courts of Honor, Summer Camp, Camporees and Order of the Arrow events, Eagle Boards of Review, and any other activity for which the Troop Leadership decides that it is appropriate.

Class B Uniform

The Activity Uniform commonly referred to as our "Class B" uniform will consist of the Red Troop 200 t-shirt and proper other attire such as pants and shoes appropriate for the activity. This is the uniform that you son will use the most. We understand that the pieces of the Scout uniform are expensive and that it is very difficult to keep a boy who is going through growth spurts in clothes and that they will destroy clothing that they take camping on a regular basis. So we have come up with this activity uniform so that parents do not constantly have to spend large sums of money on Scout shirts and pants. The Troop will provide each new Scout with a Troop t-shirt as part of his joining fees and additional t-shirts can be purchased from the Troop at our cost. We would encourage you to purchase several of these especially for summer camp where your son will be in the t-shirt day in and day out during the week at camp.

If your family's financial situation does not allow for you to provide all or parts of the required uniforms, please let the [Scoutmaster](#), [Committee Chair](#), or [COR](#) know and we can help out. We have ways of providing uniforms to Scouts who need them so that no one is ever left without a uniform. We also have gently-used, clean t-shirts, if interested, contact our [COR](#).

Camping Gear Recommended For Weekend Camping with Troop 200

The camping gear that your son brings on outdoor activities with our Troop is very important. This can make the difference in him enjoying camping or hating camping. Please do not skimp on items such as tents, sleeping bags, and sleeping pads. Please do not buy these items from discount or big box stores. They may be cheaper money wise but they will definitely be cheaper quality wise. Remember, in a rain storm is not the time to find out that you should have bought a better tent and when it is below freezing in the winter it is not a good time to realize that you should have bought a better sleeping bag.

Also note that as of January 1, 2016 every Scout in Troop 200 who attends a camping trip is required to have a personal mess kit which should contain a plate and/or bowl, eating utensils, and a drinking device such as a cup, water bottle, canteen, etc. As of January 1, 2016 the Troop will no longer provide plates, cups, and utensils for the patrols.

For a comprehensive list of recommended equipment and accessories, please go to the Troop web page at the following address:

http://troop200.org/wp/wpcontent/uploads/2015/01/Boy_Scout_Camping_Gear.pdf

If you have any questions please feel free to ask any of the 1st Year leadership or other adult leaders about equipment needs and requirements.

Conclusion

Hopefully you have found this packet helpful in getting to know about Troop 200. Of course this is just an overview of the whole program and you will get to know much more about all of the aspects of this program as you and your son go through it over the next several years. Additional information about our Troop and Troop Policies can be found on our Troop Web Page at <http://troop200.org>. We are extremely proud of this program and will be happy to provide additional information when you need it, just ask any of the leaders and we will be happy to explain what you need to know. This is a collaborative effort between you the parent and the leadership of the Troop to provide the best possible program that we can to benefit your son on his trail to adulthood. We look forward to getting to know you and your son and watching him grow into the best young man that he can be and with your help and support we will accomplish the mission of the Boy Scouts of America and Troop 200.

Welcome to Troop 200!!!