

# 2010

## TROOP 451 - INFORMATION SUMMARY

*updated January 2010*

Chartered to Westminster Presbyterian Church since 1971  
and home to 85 Boy Scouts in Southwest Durham

**Web Site:** [www.troop451durham.org](http://www.troop451durham.org)

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## 1. MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

**Regular Troop Meetings** – Except for the first Tuesday night of each month, the troop meets on every Tuesday night from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Calhoun Cabin, a.k.a. the Scout Hut, at Westminster Presbyterian Church located at 3639 Old Chapel Hill Road, Durham, North Carolina. When school is out during the summer, the troop goes on an irregular Tuesday night meeting schedule. Check the troop's website calendar at [www.troop451durham.org/calendar](http://www.troop451durham.org/calendar) for the most current information.

**Parents Meetings – First Tuesday Night Each Month** – The Troop Committee (all parents and adult leaders) meets on the first Tuesday night of each month, except March and July, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Calhoun Cabin, a.k.a. the Scout Hut, at Westminster Presbyterian Church. At these meetings, the Scoutmaster spends the first 20-30 minutes discussing upcoming troop activities, so this is a great time for parents to ask questions and obtain the most current information.

**Weekend Camping Trips** - We generally meet on Fridays at 5:30 PM at the Scout Hut for camping trips. Following the camping trips, we generally return on Sunday mornings or early afternoons to the Shannon Road Post Office which is across the street from Westminster Presbyterian Church. Return times are always announced in advance of the trips, and parents receive a telephone call announcing the troop's exact return time when the troop is an hour away.

## 2. JOINING REQUIREMENTS

**Youth** – To join Troop 451 and the Boy Scouts of America, a youth candidate must: (1) be a boy; (2) who has either completed the fifth grade, earned the Cub Scout Arrow of Light Award, or is at least 11 years old; (3) who is not over 18 years old; and (4) who completes the Boy Scout joining requirements as found in the Boy Scout Handbook.

**Parents** – **Our basic rule is that if your son joins the troop, so do you.** Parents of youth members are not required to submit an application nor pay any annual fee to participate in troop activities with their sons. Without parental participation, Troop 451 cannot provide the quality program of which we are so proud. It is in large part due to parental support and encouragement that our youth members advance in Scouting and realize their full potential.

**Adult Scouters** – Male and female adults over the age of 18 can join Troop 451 and the Boy Scouts of America as an adult Scouter provided that his or her application is accepted by the troop committee and approved by the Boy Scouts of America.

Adult leader candidates must provide their social security numbers and submit to background checks which include searches for criminal convictions. The Boy Scouts of America will deny membership to adults with criminal convictions involving drugs, sex crimes, or violence.

### 3. FORMS AND FEES

Troop fees and Boy's Life Magazine subscriptions are based on an annual figure (based on our charter year of May 1 through April 30), prorated if you are joining during the charter year. The troop's charter year expires every April 30, so we collect annual fees, annual medical permission forms, and deposits for upcoming troop activities, etc., on an annual Registration Night which takes place on the first Tuesday in March of every year in the Fellowship Hall.

Annual fees are used to defray troop operating expenses such as camping equipment, advancement awards, leadership training, etc.

You should be prepared for other expenses during the year, such as food and transportation costs for regular camping trips, or special costs for special troop outings outside the "norm" of the regular camping trips.

**Youth** – For a boy to officially join Troop 451, one of his parents must: (1) complete the official, white Boy Scouts of America Youth Application form; (2) complete a BSA Annual Health and Medical Record; and (3) submit a check payable to Troop 451 for the following fees:

Required Annual Fee	60.00
Boy's Life Magazine One Year Subscription (Optional)	12.00

#### **SPECIAL NOTES** for the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record:

The BSA Annual Health and Medical Record is comprised of three parts: Parts A and C are to be completed annually by the parent or guardian. Part A is comprised of general information such as emergency contact information, allergies, medical history, and medications. Part C is comprised of an informed consent and hold harmless agreement, and a talent release form. Part B is completed annually by a licensed physician who has examined the camper, but only required for events that exceed 72 consecutive hours, such as summer camp, or when the nature of the activity is strenuous and demanding such as high-adventure treks.

**Adult Scouters** – For an adult to officially join Troop 451, he or she must: (1) complete the official, white Boy Scouts of America Volunteer application form; (2) provide his or her social security number (3) submit to a background check; and (4) submit a check payable to Troop 451 in the amount of \$15.00.

#### **4. TWO THINGS YOUR SON NEEDS RIGHT AWAY**

Your son needs two things right away to get involved with troop activities: (1) a Boy Scout Handbook; and (2) a full Boy Scout uniform. Troop 451's full Boy Scout uniform consists of the official BSA Scout shirt, Scout pants, Scout belt, and Scout socks. Troop 451 does **not** require hats or neckerchiefs as part of its uniform, although your son can wear them if he wishes.

You can buy the Boy Scout Handbook from the Scoutmaster. You can buy the uniform and other Scout supplies at the Council Scout Shop in Raleigh, telephone number (919) 850-0301, or by BSA Catalog Sales at (800) 323-0732. Be sure to get the NEW Scout Handbook which is the Twelfth Edition and has a picture of an eagle and white water rafters on the front cover. **BE SURE YOUR SON WRITES HIS NAME IN HIS HANDBOOK RIGHT AWAY!**

#### **5. UNIFORM**

The Scout uniform is worn at all regular troop meetings, Courts of Honor, Boards of Review, and while traveling to and from camping trips. Between the May Court of Honor and the September Court of Honor, Troop 451 allows the wearing of a "Class B" uniform which consists of Scout pants or shorts, Scout belt, Scout socks, and Scout t-shirt, although some boys come in their full regular uniform. Regardless of date, the full regular uniform is always worn while traveling to and from camping trips.

#### **6. UNIFORM PATCHES**

Your son will be given the red loops for his uniform shirt and six patches by the Scoutmaster when he joins the troop: (1) an Oconeechee Council patch; (2) a one-piece, red and white patch containing the numbers 451 (our troop number); (3) a purple World Crest patch; (4) a Scout rank patch; (5) a patrol emblem; and (6) a Centennial Quality Unit patch.

The Oconeechee Council patch is worn on the left shoulder. The one-piece red and white patch containing the numbers 451 is placed on the left shoulder directly below and centered on the Oconeechee Council patch. The purple World Crest patch is placed 3 inches below the left shoulder seam centered over the left pocket. The rank patch (new Scouts get the Scout rank patch after completing the joining requirements) is centered on the left pocket. The patrol emblem is worn on the right sleeve just below the American flag. The Centennial Quality Unit patch is worn on the right sleeve just above the lowest seam. The positioning of patches is shown on the troop's website at [www.troop451durham.org/Uniform](http://www.troop451durham.org/Uniform) and on the inside covers of the Boy Scout Handbook.

The American flag should already be factory-sewn on the right shoulder of the uniform. If your son was a Cub Scout, some of these required patches may already be on his Cub uniform and can be transferred to the Boy Scout uniform. If your son earned the Arrow of Light Award, the Arrow of Light patch can also be worn on the lower left pocket. As your son progresses in Scouting, he will earn more patches for his uniform.

## 7. YOUTH PROTECTION

Troop 451 has adopted the following policies to provide safety and security for our members. In some cases, Troop 451 has adopted additional and more stringent policies than those of the Boy Scouts of America. These policies are primarily for the protection of our youth members; however, many of them also serve to protect our adult leaders from false accusations of abuse. The following information is provided so that parents can detect any deviations from the approved program. Any deviations from the following policies should be reported to the Committee Chairman immediately.

**1. Two-deep leadership.** Two registered adult leaders or one registered leader and a parent of a participant, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required on all trips and outings. Although the minimum is two adults, we prefer to have as many as possible. The troop functions best when we have a large number of adults participating in our activities.

**2. No one-on-one contact.** One-on-one contact between adults and youth members is not permitted. In situations that require personal conferences, such as Scoutmaster's conference, the meeting is to be conducted in view of other adults and youths.

**3. Respect of privacy.** Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp, and intrude only to the extent that health and safety require. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations.

**4. Appropriate attire.** Proper clothing for activities is required. For example, skinny-dipping is not appropriate as part of Scouting.

**5. Separate accommodations.** No youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than his own parent or guardian. Male and female youth participants may not share the same sleeping facility. Male and female adults require separate sleeping facilities, but married couples may share the same quarters if appropriate facilities are available. Adults and youth of the same gender may occupy dormitory or single-room accommodations, provided there is a minimum of two adults and four youth. At a minimum, one of the adults is required to be youth-protection trained. Adults must establish separation barriers or privacy zones such as a temporary blanket or sheet walls in order to keep their sleeping area and dressing area separated from the youth. When separate shower facilities are not available, separate times for adult and youth should be scheduled and posted for showers. The same policy is used when separate shower facilities are not available for adult males and females.

**6. No secret organizations.** The Boy Scouts of America and Troop 451 do not recognize any secret organizations as part of their program. All aspects of the Scouting program and troop activities are open to observation by parents and leaders.

**7. Constructive discipline.** Discipline used in Scouting should be constructive and reflect Scouting's values. Unit leaders are not permitted to use corporal punishment when disciplining youth members. Adult leaders are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and interceding when necessary. When circumstances warrant, parents of youth members who misbehave may be informed and asked for assistance.

**8. Transportation.** Seat belts are required to be worn by all occupants at all times. Driving time is limited to a maximum of 10 hours which must be interrupted by frequent rest, food, and recreation stops. The beds of trucks or trailers must never be used for carrying passengers. Vehicles must not travel in convoy. All drivers must have a valid driver's license and be at least 18 years old. Automobiles must be covered by automobile liability insurance with limits that meet or exceed requirements of the State. Recommended coverage limits are at least \$50,000 / \$100,000 / \$50,000. Any vehicle designed to carry 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of \$100,000 / \$500,000 / \$100,000.

**9. Firearms.** Firearms are absolutely prohibited on camping, hiking, backpacking, and all other Scouting activities except those specifically planned for target shooting under the supervision of a certified BSA or National Rifle Association firearms instructor. Among the purposes of this policy is to prohibit adult leaders and parents from bringing firearms on outings and to unit meetings. Since Scoutmaster Jim Salamon and many other adult leaders hold the proper firearms certifications, Troop 451 usually has two activities each year for target shooting. Boy Scouts in Troop 451 are permitted to fire shotguns, muzzle-loading long guns, and .22 caliber, bolt-action, single-shot rifles. The use of handguns is prohibited.

**10. Alcoholic beverages and controlled substances.** The consumption of alcoholic beverages and use of controlled substances is prohibited at any activity involving participation of youth members.

**11. Fireworks.** The Boy Scouts of America prohibit the securing, use, and display of fireworks in conjunction with programs and activities except where the fireworks display is conducted under the auspices of a certified or licensed fireworks control expert.

**12. No flames in tents.** No flames are permitted in tents. Only flashlights and electric lanterns are permitted in tents.

**13. Knives.** Parents should reiterate to Scouts that even though they are allowed to carry and use knives at Scouting activities, they should never carry knives to school. A sharp pocketknife with a can opener on it is an invaluable back country tool. However, large sheath knives should be avoided. They are unnecessary for most camp chores except for cleaning fish. Before a Scout can carry and use a pocketknife, he must receive safety training and be awarded a "Totin' Chip" card which indicates that he has received the required training.

**14. Bike safety.** All cyclists must wear a properly sized and fitted helmet which meets the standards approved by either the Snell Memorial Foundation or the American National Standards Institute.

**15. Other prohibited activities.** The following activities are prohibited at any BSA event: the use of All-terrain vehicles, go-carts, motorbikes, hang gliders, ultra lights, experimental class aircraft, hot-air balloons, and motorized water craft, such as jet-skis. Flying in aircraft as part of a search and rescue mission is also prohibited. Other prohibited activities include: hunting, boxing, karate and other martial arts (except judo, aikido, and Tai Chi); exploration of abandoned mines; participation in amateur or professional rodeo events, varsity football and interscholastic or club football competition; paint-ball games, and attendance at motorized speed events, including motorcycles, boats, drag racing, demolition derbies and related events.

**16. Chainsaws and mechanical log splitters.** Only trained individuals over the age of 18, using proper protective gear may use chainsaws and mechanical log splitters.

**17. Movie ratings.** On drives to camping trips, some vehicles used to transport Scouts may be equipped with VHS/DVD players. Jim Salamon's mini-bus, for example is equipped with a VHS/DVD player. In addition, on certain troop activities where accommodations with electricity are provided, VHS/DVD players may be made available for use by the troop. Because of the availability of these media devices where Scouts may be allowed to view movies on an outing or a troop meeting, the Troop Committee has adopted certain rules with respect to what movies can be viewed by Scouts during a Troop 451 activity. Basically, these rules provide that no movies with an NC-17, R, or X rating can be shown at any time. Movies with a G or PG rating can be shown at any time. Movies with a PG-13 rating can only be shown when all participants are age 13 or above, or when advance notice has been given to parents. If any parent of a participant under the age of 13 objects to the showing of a particular movie rated PG-13, the movie will not be shown.

**18. In addition to following the above policies, Scouting takes these following steps to keep its youth members safe:**

**A. Background checks.** Personal references are provided by adult applicants and checked by unit leaders. A criminal background check is performed on all applicants for adult volunteer positions. Also, the Boy Scouts of America maintains a list of former leaders who have been deemed ineligible for Scouting leadership positions.

**B. Adult training.** Youth Protection Training is an essential part of the basic leader training provided to Scouting volunteers. It is conducted annually or more often at the local level and is also available as an online course at: <http://olc.scouting.org/>

**C. Youth education.** Scouting has age-appropriate educational materials for youth members. "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide" is a tear-out booklet bound in your son's Boy Scout Handbook. It is designed for parents or guardians and young people to use together. At least once a year, the troop views the Boy Scouts of America's age-appropriate video, "A Time to Tell", which introduces the **three R's** of Youth Protection (**R**ecognize, **R**esist, and **R**eport).

You can find the online version of the Boy Scouts of America's "**Guide to Safe Scouting**" at: [www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx). The Guide to Safe Scouting provides unit leaders with guidelines and rules which address topics such as: aquatics safety, camping, fuels and fire prevention, guns and firearms, sports, transportation, and winter activities.

## **8. CAMPING AND CAMPING EQUIPMENT**

On average, Troop 451 travels 35,000 miles a year in support of its outdoor program. The troop has a camping trip or other weekend activity at least once a month, following a schedule planned in advance by the youth leaders and approved by the Troop Committee. The full uniform is always worn when traveling to and returning from camping trips.

You will want to get your son a good sleeping bag that is rated for cold weather before he goes camping in the fall, and you should talk over this purchase with the Scoutmaster if you have any questions concerning the appropriate rating.

At Scout meetings, your son will learn what other equipment to bring on camping trips and how to stay comfortable outdoors. For many of our camping trips, he can bring his personal gear in a duffel bag or even a small suitcase. Later, he may want a backpack and other special camping equipment, but don't buy any of that stuff yet--wait until he's been in the troop awhile and has an opportunity to learn from the older boys what is the most useful equipment. Backpacks, for example, can be borrowed or rented very inexpensively while you find what is right for him.

The troop has cooking equipment and a number of good tents that can be checked out at no cost from the Troop Quartermaster. The Troop Quartermaster is an older Scout who is in charge of all the troop equipment, including cooking, camping and other outdoor gear. Eventually, your son may want to buy his own tent and camping gear, but don't rush into it - the stuff is expensive and you can run up a big bill in a hurry.

The troop's equipment has been purchased over the years from annual fees paid by Scouts. Much of it is expensive to replace. Scouts who check out and borrow equipment from the Troop Quartermaster are responsible for its safekeeping. We understand that Scouts may accidentally damage equipment, and that equipment does over time wear out. However, we ask that every Scout treat the troop's equipment with respect, just like it was his.

## 9. SUMMER CAMPS

One of the biggest camping trips of the year is Summer Camp at Camp Raven Knob near Mount Airy, North Carolina. Check out their website at [www.ravenknob.com](http://www.ravenknob.com). In 2010, our week at summer camp will take place from **July 25 through July 31, 2010**. You should definitely plan to send your son to summer camp because it gives him a chance to earn many of the merit badges and learn many of the skills he will need for his next year in Scouting, and because it is FUN. Swimming, archery, canoeing, rifle and shotgun shooting, handicrafts, small boat sailing, fishing, campfires with skits and sing-a-longs, and many other activities make summer camp one of the year's highlights. The cost will be approximately \$250.00.

This year we are offering a second Summer Camp at Camp Tuscarora in Four Oaks, North Carolina for a limited number of Scouts which will take place from **June 27 through July 3, 2010**. The cost will be approximately \$230.00. You can find additional information about summer camp at Camp Tuscarora at <http://www.bsanc.org/campsummerinfo2010.html>.

## 10. THE PATROL SYSTEM AND YOUTH LEADERS

The troop is divided into six to eight "patrols." Each patrol is part of the troop, but it works together as a separate team. Each patrol has its own flag and identity, and it camps, eats, learns and works together. When your son comes to his first troop meeting after joining, he will become a member of one of the patrols. A patrol is like a den, except that it is led by the Scouts themselves. The leader of each patrol is a Scout called the Patrol Leader who is elected by his fellow patrol members. Elections for youth leaders occur twice a year, in March and August.

The Patrol Leaders are led by a Scout called the Senior Patrol Leader. He is elected by the entire troop, and he also leads the Troop Leaders Council. The Troop Leaders Council determines the troop's program at periodic Troop Leadership Meetings.

The Troop Leaders Council is composed of the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, Patrol Leaders, Troop Guides, and other youth leaders (who are appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader in consultation with the Scoutmaster) such as the Quartermaster, Librarian, Historian, and Scribe. Elections for Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leaders occur twice a year, in March and September, to give everyone a chance to lead. Troop Guides are older Scouts, appointed by the Scoutmaster, who provide guidance to the New Scout Patrols.

In order to advance beyond First Class Rank, a Scout must hold a leadership position. Because we have a large number of very active members, sometimes we do not have a sufficient number of leadership positions for every Scout who needs to serve in a leadership position for rank advancement. When this happens, the Scoutmaster and the Scout can work on getting a special leadership service project together as a substitute.

Some Scouts get their first leadership experience either as a Den Chief, or in one of the

appointed positions. Den Chiefs are basically patrol leaders to a den of Cub Scouts. The Den Chief is also a very important leadership position, since they set the example for young Cub Scouts thinking about one day joining the Boy Scouts. A Scout can be a Den Chief for as long as the adult Den Leader wants and needs him.

## **11. ADVANCEMENT, RANK, AND BOARDS OF REVIEW**

There are seven ranks in the Scouting advancement program: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. They are not directly related to leadership positions in the troop, although some rank requirements include serving in a troop leadership position for a specified period of time. The requirements for all of the Scout ranks are found in the Boy Scout Handbook.

Pass-offs of rank requirements of Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class are done by any First Class or higher rank Scout. This will usually be your son's Patrol Leader or Troop Guide. The requirements are signed off **ONLY** in your son's Boy Scout Handbook. You should therefore make sure that he brings his handbook to every troop meeting. If your son loses his handbook, he will have to get a new book and be required to re-pass any requirements already signed off for the next rank.

When your son has finished all the requirements for a particular rank, he will have a brief conference with the Scoutmaster to see how things are going for him, and then he will appear before a Board of Review. A Board of Review consists of three or four parents and adult leaders who have not been directly involved in your son's rank advancement. The purposes of a Board of Review are threefold. First, it serves as a quality control mechanism for our overall troop program by obtaining feedback directly from the Scouts. Second, it serves to make sure that each Scout has met all of the requirements for the particular rank, and third, it helps prepare your son for the day that he will appear before his Eagle Board of Review.

During a Board of Review, your son will be asked to recite the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto, Scout Slogan, and the Pledge of Allegiance. He will also be asked questions about their meaning and how he incorporates Scouting's principles into his daily life. Other topics for discussion may include school, extracurricular activities, home life, current events, and his participation in troop activities. Questions posed by the members of a Board of Review become more difficult, thought provoking, and abstract as the Scouts advance to the higher ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle.

Boards of Review for all ranks except Eagle are held during all regularly scheduled troop meetings or by appointment made with the Troop Advancement Chairman, Mr. Bob Rosell, when circumstances require. Your son must wear his full uniform when appearing before a Board of Review.

Participation in troop activities are required for advancement to the Second and First Class Ranks. The following count as one activity each: A troop camping trip or special event;

troop Court of Honor; Eagle Scout Court of Honor; troop service project; a day's work on another Scout's Eagle Scout service project; Scout Sunday; and any other troop activities which the Scoutmaster decides count as activities. A week at summer camp counts as TWO activities!

Earned ranks and merit badge patches are given out at the end of regularly scheduled troop meetings. Then, at the Court of Honor which is a special ceremony held two times a year in place of a regular troop meeting, all ranks and merit badges earned since the last Court of Honor are again publicly recognized, and the Scouts receive recognition cards for each rank and merit badge earned. Courts of Honor are held on the second Tuesdays in May and September.

Five plaques with the names of more than 100 Eagle Scouts who have earned this high honor in Troop 451 are mounted above the fireplace of the Scout Hut. One day we hope to see your son's name there too.

## **12. THE NEW SCOUT PROGRAM**

Rising sixth graders joining in the spring, together with sixth graders who wait until the fall to join, are assembled upon joining into "New Scout Training Patrols." The New Scout program of Troop 451 lasts approximately nine months. The purpose of the New Scout Program is to help our new Scouts learn basic Scout skills quickly and advance through the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. Experience teaches us that advancement to the rank of First Class within the first year has a direct correlation to whether a Scout stays in Scouts and reaches the rank of Eagle.

The members of the New Scout Program attend the opening ceremony of each troop meeting. Then they break off to themselves in the Fellowship Hall or outdoors depending upon that evening's program. During this time, they focus their efforts on completing the requirements for Tenderfoot through First Class. Once the objectives for the evening have been reached, the members of the New Scout Program rejoin the troop for the duration of the troop meeting.

The troop generally hosts two "advancement camping trips" for our new Scouts each year. These camping trips are dedicated to helping Scouts complete the outdoor rank requirements for Tenderfoot through First Class, such as plant identification, cooking, orienteering, etc.

The New Scout Program is led by Assistant Scoutmaster Mike Millward. He will be assisted by other veteran Scouters and by older Scouts known as Troop Guides who will lend their leadership to the New Scout Program by providing guidance to the Patrol Leaders of the new Scout patrols. Meetings end at 9:00 pm sharp.

## **13. PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. **Pamphlet Exercises:** As part of your son's Scout joining requirements, you must complete the exercises in the pamphlet, *How To Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide* which can be found on the inside front cover of your son's Boy Scout Handbook.

2. **Transportation:** The outdoor program is one of the cornerstones of the Scouting program. It is fun, and at the same time it teaches self-reliance, cooperation, and responsibility. It is the one thing that most boys like best about Scouting. Our troop goes camping at least once a month, and sometimes more. We attempt to provide one of the highest quality outdoor programs available in this area. However, long gone are the days when a troop could meet and then hike to the campground. Most decent campgrounds are at least an hour's driving time away, and we rely significantly on parent drivers to transport boys and gear in order to go camping regularly. We use a centralized troop driving system, which is a combination of Jim Salamon's mini-bus plus parents' vehicles, for the transportation of Scouts and equipment. Upon request, the troop will reimburse parent drivers for fuel expenses.

3. **Camping with the Troop.** You should try to camp with the troop at least once each year. All parents are more than welcome on any trip and you will most likely find it as much fun as the boys do. Many adults already involved with the troop have extra gear you can borrow. Come on along, it's a good way to spend time with your son. It's also a good way to get to know the troop's adult leaders and other parents. If you can spare a week or part of a week, we always need and welcome adult leaders for summer camp.

4. **Work on Ranks/Encourage Your Son's Achievements.** In order to help your son move forward in Scouting, it is necessary that he receive positive encouragement from you. We find that many boys cannot "get it together" for that first Tenderfoot Rank, and parental involvement in getting your son "over the hump" of that first Tenderfoot Rank is invaluable. If there are still questions after reading over the material, don't hesitate to call the troop leaders.

5. **Merit Badge Counselors.** Troop 451 is involved in an ongoing effort to provide our Scouts with opportunities to earn more and different merit badges. You do NOT have to be an expert to be a counselor for a merit badge, only have interest in the subject and a willingness to share this interest with our Scouts. The Boy Scout program boasts 122 different merit badges in a wide variety of areas. Merit Badges can only be earned by a boy working closely with an **adult** counselor. Most of our merit badges are taught by an interested Scout parent in a group class format. Merit badge counselors are recruited by the Merit Badge Coordinator, Cathy Millward. Look over the merit badges listed in the Troop Resource Survey, or in your son's handbook, or on our website at [www.troop451.org/MeritBadges](http://www.troop451.org/MeritBadges) and let Cathy know which subject you would be willing to teach. We particularly need counselors for "required" merit badges such as First Aid, Personal Fitness, and the three Citizenship badges.

6. **Adult Leaders.** Troop 451 has approximately 85 Scouts enrolled in the program at any one time. In order to maintain our program, and take on additional Scouts, we are always

in need of more adult leaders. Being a leader is a fun way to put in some quality volunteer time. Come join us in the fun! We usually have to recruit at least some new leaders to be Assistant Scoutmasters to the training patrols.

7. **Troop Committee.** All parents are strongly encouraged to attend the monthly meetings of the Troop Committee which occur from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Calhoon Cabin, a.k.a. the Scout Hut, on the first Tuesday night of each month, except March and July. The Troop Committee is responsible for setting troop policies, and particularly to free up as much of the Scoutmaster's time as is possible. Committee members are currently involved variously in the troop budget and finances, rank advancement, organizing the merit badge program and recruiting counselors, communications (website, newsletters, and troop e-mail), dealing with growth and other issues, liaison with Cub packs and Webelos dens, youth leadership training, etc. As boys grow older and leave the troop, their parents go with them; we constantly need members and can use your help. This is a GREAT way for parents of new Scouts to get a handle on what is happening in the troop.

8. **Resource Survey.** The adults of each family may be asked to complete a resource sheet, identifying potential areas of interest for which we can recruit you. Please return the resource sheet when your son registers with the troop.

#### **14. ADULT LEADERS OF TROOP 451**

The Scoutmaster is Jim Salamon. He works directly with the Scouts and provides discipline, guidance, supervision, and training to the Scouts. He is always in charge of the troop whenever he is present.

The Committee Chairman is Brendan Turner. He is responsible for organizing the troop's adults to see that all adult functions are delegated, coordinated, and completed. He presides over the monthly committee meetings and any special meetings that may be called.

The Troop Treasurer is Steve Musick. He is responsible for maintaining the troop's finances and checking account. You should contact him if you have any questions regarding payments of fees or the amount of money held in your son's Scout Account.

The Troop Advancement Chairman is Bob Rosell. He is responsible for the troop's advancement program, and he arranges Boards of Review. When it comes time for your son to appear before a Board of Review, Bob Rosell is the person your son needs to call. He also arranges and serves as Chairman of Eagle Scout Boards of Review.

The Troop Merit Badge Coordinator is Cathy Millward. She is responsible for securing and assisting adult merit badge counselors. If you have any desire to teach a merit badge, you should contact Cathy. She will be more than happy to get you started or team you up with another adult who is also interested in teaching a merit badge.

The Chartered Organization Representative is Chip Reinhardt. He is the liaison between Troop 451 and our chartered organization, Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The Assistant Scoutmaster for the New Scout Program is Mike Millward. He will be assisted by other adults. They work directly with the Scouts of the New Scout Program and provide discipline, guidance, supervision, and training.

## 15. TROOP E-MAIL GROUP

Troop 451 has its own e-mail group which we use to send instant reminders and announcements to Scouts, their parents, and adult leaders. Please provide us with all of your e-mail addresses when you join. You will never receive any junk mail from Troop 451.

Your e-mail addresses will be kept confidential. When anyone receives e-mail from the group, the e-mail is “blind,” in that only the sender’s e-mail address is shown. The e-mail messages will not show the e-mail addresses of other group members who receive the messages.

## 16. YOUTH MEMBER BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

All members of Troop 451 are expected to conduct themselves and relate to each other in accordance with the principles embodied in the Scout Oath and Law. **Hazing, initiations, bullying, and all acts of violence or threats of violence are absolutely prohibited.**

Such misbehavior constitutes an unreasonable burden on the troop and will not be tolerated. Misbehavior by a single youth member may constitute a threat to the safety of the individual who misbehaves as well as to the safety of other unit members. The Committee Chairman will review repetitive or serious incidents of misbehavior in consultation with the Scoutmaster and parents of the child to determine a course of corrective action. If problem behavior persists, or if a serious incident occurs, the child’s membership may be revoked.

All incidents of hazing, initiations, bullying and all acts of violence or threats of violence should be reported to the Scoutmaster immediately. If the problem persists, parents should contact the Committee Chairman.

## 17. CONTROVERSIAL BSA EXCLUSIONARY RULES

The National Office of the Boy Scouts of America, based in Irving, Texas, sets all of the overall policies of Boy Scout troops in the United States, including such things as rank and merit badge requirements, uniforming, and joining requirements. In response to social activism and court challenges, the BSA has taken several controversial policy stands regarding exclusionary membership rules for its youth and adult membership. You should be aware of these national BSA positions. Troop 451 does not ask pre-emptive joining questions actively seeking to exclude any Scout or adult leader because of these national BSA rules, but the BSA does have the ultimate right to revoke youth or adult membership or deny rank advancement to any Scout who does not comply with these BSA rules. These national BSA positions are:

(a) **Belief in God.** Virtually every religion is represented in Scouting. Each Scout must pledge to live by the Scout Oath (...do my duty to God...) and the Scout Law (A Scout is...

reverent). The Boy Scouts of America has interpreted this to mean that a Scout or adult Scouter **cannot** be an avowed atheist or agnostic. The choice of religious preference by a Scout or adult Scouter is of no consequence to the Boy Scouts of America and Troop 451, so long as that religious preference includes a belief in God. The Boy Scouts of America and Troop 451 do not define nor interpret the term, "God." Interpretation of the term, "God," is the role of the Scout's family and religious advisors. However, you should be aware that the National BSA requires several letters of recommendation accompany each application for the rank of Eagle. According to national BSA policy, an Eagle candidate should demonstrate the same excellence in this area as he would in merit badges or leadership positions in the troop. Therefore, an Eagle Scout candidate must do one of the following:

1. If the Eagle Scout candidate is a member of an organized religious institution, he must list on his Eagle Scout Application a religious reference who knows of the candidate's fulfillment of his duty to God, and the reference must provide a letter on the candidate's behalf.
2. If the Eagle Scout candidate is not a member of an organized religious institution, his mom or dad must write a letter to the attention of the Eagle Board of Review stating that the family has no church affiliation at this time and outlining the reason(s) why. The letter should state whether or not the candidate has a belief in God, and how he fulfills his Duty to God in his daily life.

(b) **Gay, lesbian and/or homosexual lifestyles are prohibited.** The national BSA has determined that, for its youth and adult members, a gay, lesbian and/or homosexual lifestyle is inconsistent with being morally straight, a key element of the Scout Oath. A youth or adult holding a gay, lesbian and/or homosexual lifestyle may not be allowed to join Scouting. If such a lifestyle becomes declared or evident in a Scout or Scouter after joining, the membership certificate of that Scout or adult Scouter may be canceled by the Boy Scouts of America.

(c) **No youth female members.** This prohibition applies ONLY to youth under the age of 18 in Cub Scout packs and Boy Scout troops. Female adult leaders are welcome at ALL levels of Scouting, including Scoutmaster, and high school age female youth are permitted in the Venturing Program. Venturing is a co-ed program open to young men and women ages 14 to 20.

