

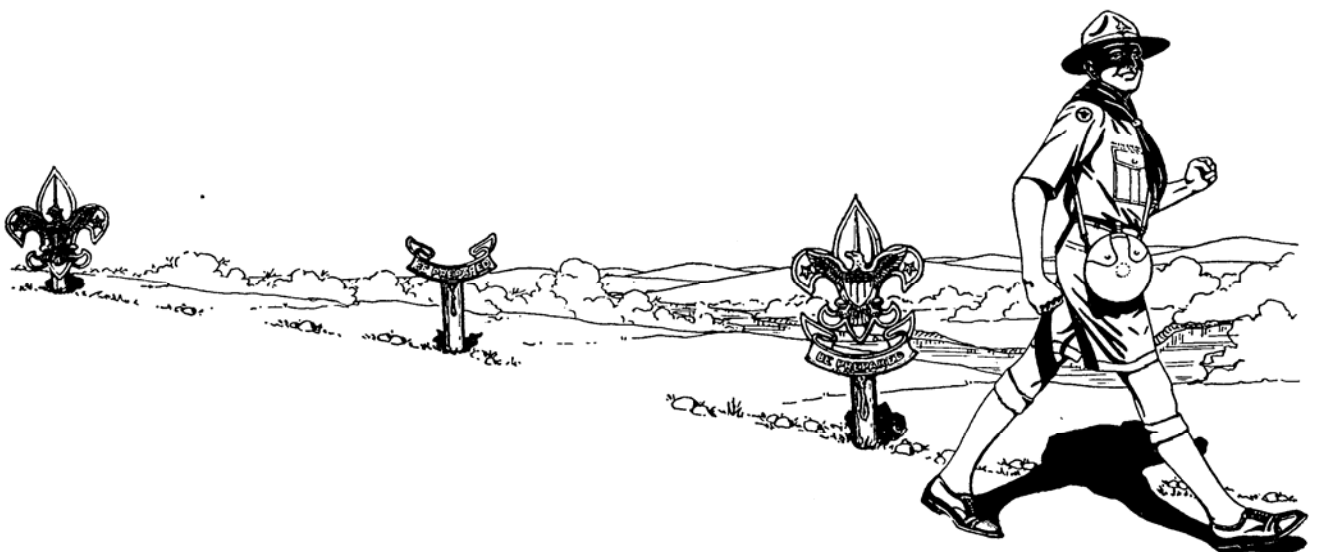
*Mankato Moose 1414*

*Boy Scout Troop 95*

*Policy Book*

*Third Edition*

*March 2005*



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## **SCOUT LAW**

- Trustworthy. A Scout tells the truth. He is honest, and he keeps his promises. People can depend on him.
- Loyal. A Scout is true to his family, friends, Scout leaders, school, and nation.
- Helpful. A Scout cares about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting payment or reward.
- Friendly. A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He offers his friendship to people of all races and nations, and respects them even if their beliefs and customs are different from his own.
- Courteous. A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows that using good manners makes it easier for people to get along.
- Kind. A Scout knows there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. Without good reason, he does not harm or kill any living thing.
- Obedient. A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them.
- Cheerful. A Scout looks for the bright side of things. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.
- Thrifty. A Scout works to pay his way and to help others. He saves for the future. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.
- Brave. A Scout can face danger although he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at him or threaten him.
- Clean. A Scout keeps his body and mind fit. He chooses the company of those who live by high standards. He helps keep his home and community clean.
- Reverent. A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

## **SCOUT MOTTO**

Be Prepared

## **SCOUT SLOGAN**

Do a Good Turn Daily

***THIS IS THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TROOP 95***

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Troop 95! For many years, Troop 95 has been active in Mankato. We were first chartered in 1991 by the Mankato Moose Lodge, 1414 who remains our charter partner today. Our troop has a wonderful history of providing quality programming for Scouts and has produced 15 Eagle Scouts in the last 10 years.

This guidebook explains the details of Troop 95's self-governance within the BSA guidelines. It is intended to supplement the program and answer many questions that new scouts and their families may have. It will be made available to each member of Troop 95 and to those interested in joining. All scouts and parents must sign and return the last page. Additions and changes will be made at the discretion of the Scoutmaster, with approval from the Troop Committee.

Troop 95's main guiding principles are the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. In addition, Troop 95 firmly believes in the mission of the BSA: "To prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law." Troop 95 also firmly believes in the necessity of the 8 Methods of Scouting:

- 1. Ideals** - The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law motto, and slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them he has some control over what he becomes. "Show Scout spirit," a requirement for rank advancement, means living up to these ideals.
- 2. Patrols** - The patrol method gives Scouts an experience on group living and participating citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.
- 3. Outdoors** - Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose.  
Being close to nature helps Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and humankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.
- 4. Advancement** - Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and, by participating in the troop program, progresses as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each advancement, which helps him gain self-confidence.  
The steps in the advancement system help him grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others.
- 5. Adult Association** - Boys learn from the example set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage of a young man's development.
- 6. Personal Growth** - As Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. There probably is no device so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn.  
The religious emblems program is also a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.
- 7. Leadership Development** - Boy Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.
- 8. Uniform** - The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals.  
The uniform is practical attire for Scout activities, and provides a way for Scouts to wear the badge that show what they have accomplished.

Baden Powell constantly referred to Scouting as "Fun with a Purpose." And that is exactly how Troop 95 views Scouting as well.

Revised and approved March 28, 2005

## **TROOP MEETINGS**

At each troop meeting, discussions will include the details of upcoming events. Scouts should take notes. Meetings are also a time for advancement, patrol activities & fun. Opportunities for advancement will be offered at designated meetings where adult leaders and higher-ranking Scouts will help others achieve their advancements. At the request of the Scout, adult leaders and merit badge counselors will sign off the requirements in the handbook or on blue merit badge cards as each skill is mastered. Scouts must properly wear their Class A uniform shirt to all meetings. The handbook is also a part of the uniform and should be at all meetings and events. A three-ring binder is recommended to hold paper and writing utensils, the troop calendar, baseball card page protectors for merit badge blue cards, worksheets from merit badge opportunities, and service project information, etc. Each Scout (not the parent) is responsible for his own blue merit badge cards and handbook.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Outside of troop meetings, the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and/or the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) are responsible for contacting all of the Patrol Leaders as well as all members of the Leadership Patrol. Troop 95 uses several forms of communication including email, telephone, website, and family mailboxes. Email is used as the primary form of communication. Throughout the year, newsletters and schedules will be available to all Scouting families. Any changes to the schedule will be made by using the above forms of communication. Please note these changes on your calendar.

## **UNIFORMS**

Troop 95 requires that each scout have an official Boy Scout shirt (Class A uniform). The shirt and patches can be purchased at the Scout Office. Badges of rank, positions of responsibility, and patrol patches will be provided by the troop. Patches are to be sewn on the uniform as noted in the Boy Scout Handbook. A Class B uniform (a scouting-themed T-shirt and/or troop T-shirt) may be required for other designated scouting activities.

## **GOOD TURNS**

Troop 95 will conduct good turns both for our sponsor, the Moose Lodge as well as the community at large. We also plan a service project at each weekend campout. Service work is a large part of growing as a scout with personal service hours required for advancement. Remember – the scout motto is “Do a Good Turn Daily” and we recite at every meeting, a Scout is helpful.

## **LEADERSHIP GUIDELINES**

Troop 95 is a boy-led troop – led by the Senior Patrol Leader and the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and guided by the registered adult leaders. Please see the Troop 95 Junior Leader Handbook for more information. Adult Leadership is a combination of registered adult leaders and parental support. Guidelines for adult leaders can be found in the Troop 95 Adult Leader Handbook.

## **PARENTAL SUPPORT**

National Boy Scout Policy states that every outing has a minimum of two adults present. Troop 95 also requires that a trained leader be present at every activity. Nothing happens without the help and support of parents. Adult volunteers at any event will be expected to assist with the leadership of the youth and not just be a body in attendance Please get involved. Troop 95 belongs to everyone. Enjoy It!

## DISCIPLINE

(This section of the policy book was approved October 2006 and replaced the previous discipline policy.)

Discipline is very much a part of the scout oath and laws. Scouts should be aware that their behavior reflects on their advancement in the area of scout spirit.

In order to create a fun and safe environment for all scouts the following are established as rules of conduct. The Scout Oath and Laws are the principles by which we will judge behavior.

It will be the responsibility and authority of the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters & Registered Adult Leaders present to enforce the following policies. If a Scout disagrees with the decision of a Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster or Registered Adult Leader he may appeal it to the Troop Committee.

### Level 1 Offenses:

- Not doing what you are told by Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader or Adult Leader
- Foul Language (swear words) or "Trash Talk" (i.e. put downs or questionable words and phrases)
- Rude Behavior (i.e. bad manners or vulgar behavior including excessive displays of bodily functions)
- Not Wearing Uniform or Wearing Uniform Improperly at the Appropriate Times

### ***Level 1 Possible Consequences (as deemed appropriate by the adult leaders present at the activity):***

- ***Warning by SPL, ASPL, Patrol Leader or Adult Leader***
- ***Time Out with an Adult Leader (Remaining with an Adult Leader for as long as deemed necessary by the Adult Leader)***
- ***Written Incident Report***

### Level 2 Offenses:

- Multiple Level 1 Offenses
- Minor Hitting, Kicking or Pushing
- Racial Slurs
- Picking Fights/Scuffling
- Verbally Threatening Another Scout
- Taking another Scouts property and not returning it when requested

### ***Level 2 Possible Consequences (as deemed appropriate by the adult leaders present at the activity):***

- ***Turned over to Adult Leaders Present***
- ***Time Out with an Adult Leader for the rest of the activity***
- ***Written Incident Report***
- ***A Punishment that "Fits the Crime"***
- ***Meeting Scheduled with Parents and Scout following the activity***
- ***Written Intervention Contract***
- ***Or Other Consequences Deemed Necessary by Adult Registered Leaders Present.***

### Level 3 Offenses:

- Multiple Level 2 Offenses
- Stealing
- Hurting another Scout in Anger
- Destroying another Scout's or Troop Property
- Use of Tobacco, Alcohol or Illegal Substances
- Willful Violation of Troop Policy
- Possession of guns or unapproved scouting knives
- Physically Threatening Another Scout (with a weapon)

### **Level 3 Possible Consequences** *(as deemed appropriate by the adult leaders present at the activity):*

- **Immediate Removal from Activity (Note: Parents will be required to come pick up scouts from activity in a timely manner.)**
- **Written Incident Report**
- **Meeting with Parents and Scout Following the Activity**
- **Suspension from Future Troop Activities**
- **Probationary period of time after the suspension**
- **Expulsion from the Troop**
- **Or Other Consequences Deemed Necessary by Adult Registered Leaders Present.**

**REMEMBER THAT BEING A MEMBER OF TROOP 95 IS A PRIVILEGE NOT A RIGHT.**

## **CAMPING**

Camping is the most important part of Scouting. It is where the Scouts learn the most skills as well as respect for the outdoors. Troop 95 schedules an outdoor activity nearly every month. The scouts plan the meals and do the shopping. All fees for events need to be paid for or deducted from the Scout's account by the event's designated registration deadline. Every Scout that attends an event must have a blanket permission slip signed by a parent or guardian. Each attending Scout must also have the appropriate BSA Health Form on file with the troop. Every outing will comply with the Guide to Safe Scouting.

## **TROOP EQUIPMENT**

Troop 95 carefully provides modern, high-quality camping equipment including tents and cooking gear for Scout use. It is the responsibility of every scout to clean and maintain this equipment in like-new condition. The goal is to always return the equipment better than you found it. When we return from camp, tents will be set up, dried out and returned to the trailer before any scout is allowed to leave.

## **PERSONAL CAMPING EQUIPMENT**

Each scout must provide their own personal gear. Gear lists will be provided for each activity. The Scout may want to consider purchasing a good sleeping bag, cot, compass and flashlight. Scouts are not allowed to bring electronic equipment, including cell phones into camp.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Any scheduled troop event requiring transportation, relies on BSA-approved, volunteer drivers. Drivers must provide a current, completed, Volunteer Driver & Transportation Record for the troop's files.

## **HIGH ADVENTURE**

Troop 95 periodically schedules high adventure outings. Participants must be at least First Class Rank, at least 14 years old and approved by the registered adult leaders in charge of the specific trip. Younger participants who are at least First Class Rank may be considered depending on space, skill level and type of high adventure activity at the discretion of the attending adult leaders. High adventure is defined as any trip that is planned for and by the older Scouts with adult supervision. Fund-raising for all high adventure trips shall be the responsibility of the Scouts who are participating.

## **ADVANCEMENT**

The BSA Handbook lists the requirements for rank advancement. When a Scout has completed the minimum requirements, it does not necessarily mean that he will automatically advance to the next rank. His attendance, participation and leadership qualities will also be considered. If the Scoutmaster feels that he has not shown growth in his rank, or has not attended at least 50% of the troop meetings and activities, he will not be allowed to advance and will continue in his present rank until at least the next scheduled Board of Review. Boards of Review are held as shown on the troop calendar. Advancement requirements and Boards of Review must be completed at least one week in advance of the Court of Honor recognizing the achievement.

After a Scout has completed all the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star & Life ranks or an Eagle Palm, he appears before a Board of Review. This Board of Review is made up of at least 3 and not more than 6 members. One member serves as the chairman. Relatives or Guardians may NOT serve as members of a Scout's Board of Review.

New Scouts and their parents should be aware of the Troop 95 policies on advancement toward the rank of Eagle Scout. Only registered Scout leaders are authorized to sign off and verify advancement requirements. Parents are discouraged from signing off on their own child's advancement. The troop encourages steady, but not hurried advancement.

The troop believes that leadership qualities are one of the most important requirements of the upper ranks of Scouting and feels that this comes with troop participation, leadership involvement and maturity. It is also required that a Scout have good attendance in order to attain the rank of Eagle Scout.

There is no minimum age requirement for the Rank of Eagle. However, the candidate should possess the leadership qualities and maturity necessary to achieve this rank.

## COURTS OF HONOR

The Courts of Honor held by Troop 95 are very important milestones in the growth of the Scouts. Troop 95 will hold 3 Courts of Honor per year. Class A uniforms will be worn by all scouts and registered adult leaders at every Court of Honor. These ceremonies are held to recognize the achievements of our sons. Parents and family are encouraged to attend. Eagle Courts of Honor are scheduled and planned by the candidate and his family and held whenever the Scout chooses his date.

## FINANCIAL POLICY

Upon entering into Troop 95 an account is established for each scout. Troop 95's Fundraising Committee will organize money-earning opportunities for every Scout. Funds can be earned or deposited in the account to be used to pay for camps and activities. For further detail see the Troop 95 Financial Policy and Guidelines.



**See next page for document to sign and return. Please sign this page as a reminder that you have read this policy book and understand and agree to its provisions.**

*The committee and leaders of Troop 95 thank you for taking the time to read and discuss these policies with your Scout.*

.....

*I have read and understand the policy as described in the Troop 95 Policy Book.*

SCOUT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF SCOUT: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN: \_\_\_\_\_



**The lower section of this page must be SIGNED & RETURNED to the troop before a Scout can be permitted to take part in any scheduled outing.**

*The committee and leaders of Troop 95 thank you for taking the time to read and discuss these policies with your Scout.*

.....

*I have read and understand the policy as described in the Troop 95 Policy Book.*

SCOUT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF SCOUT: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_