



Troop 18
Membership Guide
Boy Scouts of America
San Marcos, Texas

(Revised September 19, 2021)

Boy Scout Troop 18 Membership Guide

<https://www.troop18sanmarcos.com>

Welcome to BSA Scout Troop 18. Your Troop is a proud part of the Boy Scouts of America that was founded in 1910. We hope this guide will answer many of your questions about membership in Troop 18. Welcome Aboard!

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Boy Scout Troop 18 At A Glance

- Troop 18 has a campout or day event every month.
- Troop 18 is Scout-Led to every extent possible. There is always adult supervision provided.
- Troop 18 goes to Summer Camp each year.
- Troop 18 uses the “Patrol Method” of Scouting, in which every Scout is a member of a patrol and every patrol is Scout-Led.
- Troop 18 expects good manners from every Scout.
- Troop 18 expects Scouts to respect themselves and others and to use appropriate language at all times.
- Troop 18 welcomes Scouts of all religious backgrounds. We conduct a non-denominational “Scouts Own” Worship Service on every campout.
- Troop 18 encourages participation in the Order of the Arrow, a Boy Scout Honor Camping organization that recognizes those with excellent camping and leadership skills. Scouts are nominated by fellow Scouts for membership in this Organization.
- Troop 18 expects every Scout to advance in rank.
- Troop 18 is a uniformed Troop.

Troop Meetings

Regular Troop Meetings

Regular Troop meetings are held Monday evenings at 6:45 to 8:00 at the FUMC Activity Center, located at 129 W. Hutchison St in San Marcos, TX. Room setup starts at 6:30 pm. Troop meetings are not normally held during holidays and when the Troop is away on long term campouts. The troop sends e-mail notifications about meetings, campouts, activities, and schedule changes.

Post-Campout Meetings

Meetings that fall on the Monday after a campout will include a Patrol Leader Committee meeting and opportunities for individual scouts to work on advancement if needed. If a Scout desires to come in to work on rank or merit badge requirements, he should notify the Advancement Chairperson or Merit Badge Counselor to ensure arrangements are made to help the Scout during that time.

Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review are also done at this time. Only Scouts on the Patrol Leader Committee and those who arranged for a SM Conference, BOR, or to work on advancement should attend since there are no other activities planned.

Courts of Honor

The Court of Honor is a time where Scouts are recognized for their achievements and advancements. Courts of Honor are held about three times a year, usually during a regular Troop Meeting. Your family is encouraged to attend and share in your accomplishments. Courts of Honor are announced via e-mail and are on the Troop calendar.

Rank Advancement Signoffs

Rank advancement signoffs may occur on campouts or at Troop meetings. Troop 18 has at least one meeting per month devoted to rank advancement. Scouts need to bring handbooks or advancement worksheets to all meetings and campouts to get sign off for rank requirements. In addition, during the setup time 15 minutes before regular Troop meetings, Scouts may seek out an adult leader (Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Advancement Coordinator, or Merit Badge Coordinator) to discuss questions and/or issues with advancement.

Merit Badge Signoffs

Merit badges are the second main area of the Boy Scout advancement program. They expose Scouts to a wide variety sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers. There are many opportunities to earn merit badges, and Scouts should become aware of reputable Merit Badge Universities and other opportunities that may be presented. See Adult Leaders for more information about these events. In general, it is recommended that first 1-2 years Scouts focus on rank advancement before starting merit badges (with the exception of Summer Camp).

1. There is no time limit for completion of merit badges other than age 18, but it is recommended that Scouts complete them within one year.
2. To begin a merit badge, a Scout should get approval/guidance from the Scoutmaster or Merit Badge Coordinator. They will help guide the Scout in selecting a merit badge that is appropriate and isn't part of the upcoming program.
3. After approval has been granted from the Scoutmaster or the Merit Badge Coordinator, the Scout should notify the Advancement Chairperson so the merit

badge can be opened in the advancement software (Trooptrack or Scoutbook).

4. Next step is to contact the merit badge counselor. Merit badge counselors are posted on the Troop 18 website. The Scout should set up a time to work with them in a group setting, preferably at the advancement meeting. Two-deep leadership must always be used when meeting with a Scout.
5. When a Scout has completed a merit badge, he should call his counselor again to make an appointment to review his work. The Scout should take along the things he has made to complete the requirements. If they are too big to move, he should take pictures or have an adult tell in writing what has been completed. The counselor will ask the Scout to do or explain each requirement to make sure that he has completed the work.
6. Once the Merit Badge Counselor has signed off on the merit badge completion, the Scout will need to provide documentation to the Advancement Chairperson so that the merit badge completion can be entered into the advancement software.

Partial Merit Badges--If a Scout has a partial merit badge in which no progress has been made on in one year, it is the Scout's responsibility to let the Merit Badge Coordinator know that he wishes to continue to work on it. Otherwise, it will be deleted from the system.

At the beginning of the school year, each Scout will be given a packet with all of his information, including merit badge partials. This is the best time for him to review partial merit badges and let the Merit Badge Coordinator know whether or not he wishes to complete the merit badge.

Annual Expenses

Troop 18 provides around 600 hours (almost 25 days) of supervised, planned programs per year to the Scouts. The monies collected from your family in the form of dues, fees, donations and fundraising help us to provide this program for your son.

Registration Fee

Boys who join Troop 18 will pay a one-time registration fee. This fee covers the initial registration, Boy's Life magazine, Troop neckerchief & slide, Troop numbers and shoulder loops, and Scout Handbook.

Dues

Troop membership dues provide the money for general operations including awards, equipment, supplies and re-charter fees. Troop 18 operates on a fiscal year basis of September 1st to August 31. Scouts are asked to bring dues in full to the first regular meeting in September. This may also be paid semi-annually with the second half due the first week of February. Scouts who join mid-year are charged a pro-rated amount for each month remaining in the fiscal year.

Camping Fees

Fees are charged for every campout. Campout fees pay for food, supplies, transportation and campground fees. Campout fees must be paid by the due date so that we will know how many are going for the purposes of buying food and arranging transportation.

If you are unable to attend a campout after paying the fee, you may receive a partial or full refund if you notify your Patrol Leader before the food is purchased. Weekend campout fees are collected the Monday before the campout.

Long term campouts such as Summer Camp and High Adventure Trips vary based on the location and length of the event. Summer Camps normally range from \$250 to \$350. High Adventure trips are typically over \$1000 per attendee. These type events (summer camp and high adventure trips) are often paid in installments and due dates are announced and posted on the Troop website.

Troop 18 Uniform Policy

The Scout Uniform is a symbol of the Boy Scouts of America. It tells others that you are a Scout and represents Scouting's history of service to the nation and the world. Wearing the uniform allows Scouts to show they are equals and that they share the values and beliefs. Your uniform is also a sign that you are a person who can be trusted and that you will lend a hand whenever help is needed. Dressed as a Scout, you will want to act like a Scout. *Centennial Boy Scout Handbook, 12th Edition*

Class A "Dress" Uniform

The Troop 18 Class A "Dress" uniform consists of the following Official BSA uniform parts:

- Shirt with green shoulder tabs
- Long or short pants—Troop 18 recommends Official Boy Scout pants or shorts. Other non-BSA long pants or shorts (in good repair) are allowed if they match one of the three colors in the Troop 18 shoulder patch. No gym type shorts, blue jean shorts or pants with holes in them.
- Belt (Scout belt or black web belt included in Scout pants)
- Boots or Tennis Shoes (no sandals, flip flops, or crocs) Black or Brown colors are preferred.
- Green Neckerchief or other approved Scout Neckerchief such as Eagle or Wood Badge.
- Boy Scout Neckerchief Slide (other than Official BSA must be approved by the Scoutmaster)

- Merit Badge Sash or Order of the Arrow Sash if appropriate.

When to wear: The Class A “Dress” Uniform is the required dress for all Courts of Honor, Church Services, Pack Meetings, public speaking events or at other times as requested by the Troop.

Class A Uniform

The Troop 18 Class A Uniform consists of all of the above Class A “Dress” uniform parts except no neckerchief or merit badge sash is required. Official Scout pants or shorts are recommended but long blue jean pants or shorts that match one of the three colors in the Troop 18 shoulder patch may also be worn.

When to wear: The Class A Uniform is the required dress for all Troop Meetings, Trips, and most Community Service Projects. It may also be required at other times by the Troop. It is worn when traveling to and from a Scout outing such as a campout.

Class B Uniform

The Troop 18 Class B Uniform consists of the following parts:

- Scout T Shirt (Troop 18 shirt, Camp Shirt, other Scout related shirt)
- Official Scout pants or shorts are recommended but long blue jean pants or shorts that match one of the three colors in the Troop 18 shoulder patch may also be worn. No gym type shorts, blue jean shorts or pants with holes in them.
- Belt
- Boots or Tennis Shoes (no sandals, flip flops, or crocs)

When to wear: The Class B Uniform may be worn on outings or campout but not when traveling to and from the event.

Insignia & Socks

The Scout Handbook has information on placement of patches and other insignia. Scout socks are encouraged but not required.

Hats

Only Official BSA or an approved Scout related hat should be worn when the Troop is lined up in ranks at an Official Scouting Event. On outings, non-BSA hats maybe worn with Sr. Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster permission. Hats are suggested for outdoor events.

Camouflage Clothing

Camouflage pants and shirts are not allowed by the Boy Scouts.

Scout Clothes Closet

Scouts grow and need to change uniforms. Troop 18 provides you with an opportunity to borrow or exchange uniform items from our Scout Closet. We only ask that you return them when you leave the Troop. If you have slightly worn uniform parts and would like to donate them it would be greatly appreciated.

Regular Campout Checklist

This checklist is an aid regarding what items are generally required for a campout. A Scout is NOT expected to own every one of these items prior to his first campout.

	Sack Lunches/dinner if required on trip
	Money (if needed on trip)
	Backpack or duffel bag for gear and pack cover (or large trash bag for rain)
	Sleeping bag (pillow or pad optional)
	Mess kit (utensils, plate and bowl)
	Drinking cup with name on it
	Water bottle or canteen (wide mouth Nalgene type are good- 2 quarts)
	Short and/or Long Pants depending on weather (1-2 pair)
	Scout uniform shirt (wear for traveling)
	Socks (1-2 pair)
	Hat or cap
	Sleeping clothes (with warm cap if cold)
	Rain Gear (poncho or rain suit)
	Shoes (2 pair) for hiking and camp shoes (No crocs, open toed, sandals)
	Swimsuit if needed for campout
	T-shirts or Shirts (preferably a Scout type) (1-2)
	Underwear (1-2) or thermal underwear if needed
	Warm jacket, gloves and sweats depending on the weather. (layer)
	Comb or brush
	Minor first aid kit (Troop has larger first aid kit)(optional)
	Necessary daily medications -in prescription bottle or original packaging
	Soap in container or small travel size liquid soap (double wrapped in plastic bags.)
	Sunglasses (optional)
	Sunscreen & chap stick
	Toothbrush and toothpaste

	Washcloth and hand towel
	Battery operated flashlights -- small is good. LED are good
	Emergency whistle
	Large zip-Lock plastic bag for clothes or other needs (several)
	Notebook and pencil
	Compass (and Map of area if needed)
	Scout Handbook or Advancement Worksheets
	Pocket Knife & Totin' Chip Card (no locking knives or sheath knives)
	Insect repellent (optional)
	Folding chair or camp stool (optional)
	Matches in flameproof/waterproof container if needed
	Other:
	Optional: Camera, Dunk bang for rinsing dishes, Merit Badge books
	DO NOT BRING: Axes, pets, personal digital devices such as ipads, mp3 players, etc.; firearms, fireworks, tobacco products, drugs or alcoholic beverages, liquid fuel, unhealthy snacks, sodas. Phones must be put away or placed with adults during campouts.

Important Information

Your Name: _____

Patrol Name: _____

Patrol Leader _____

Patrol Leader's Phone Number: _____

NOTES: _____

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