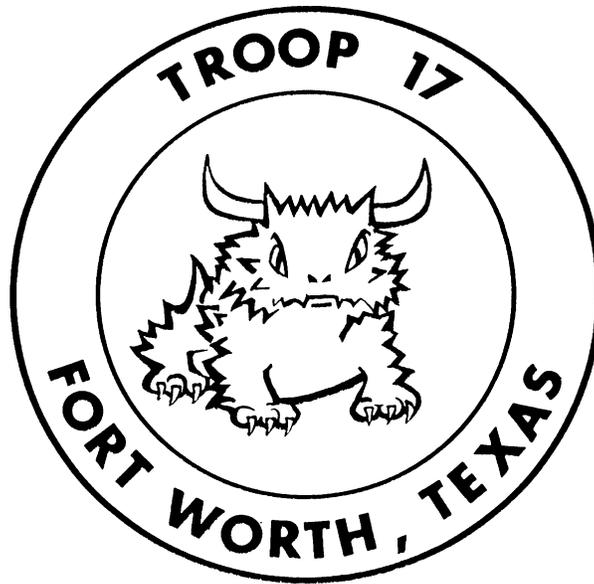


TROOP POLICY



CHARTERED BY
ST STEPHEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Updated March 1, 2025

HISTORY

Boy Scout Troop 17 was first chartered in March 1922 at the Broadway Presbyterian Church. In 1948 the church moved to its current location above Forest Park, in the TCU area and changed its name to St. Stephen. So important was the Scout program at the church that the Scout Lodge was the first building completed on the new site. The lodge was paid for largely with funds raised from the sale of scrap paper, which the boys in the troop collected. Troop 17 has a long and interesting history as one of the leading Boy Scout troops in the Fort Worth area.

PHILOSOPHY

Troop 17 is a Scouts BSA unit of Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America) under charter sponsorship of St. Stephen Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth, Texas. Troop 17 is a **boy-led** troop the mission of which is to offer boys in the community a program designed to accomplish the three Aims of Scouting: To build character, foster citizenship, and encourage physical mental and spiritual fitness. These aims are designed to be delivered through a program that stresses the acquisition of a variety of outdoor skills and through the pursuit of a structured program in which meritorious achievement is rewarded through advancement. In all facets of the program, the following Ideals of Scouting are emphasized:

The Scout Oath:

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

The Scout Law:

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean & reverent.

The Scout Motto:

Be prepared.

The Scout Slogan:

Do a good turn daily.

The Outdoor Code:

As an American, I promise to –

- Be clean in my outdoor manners.
- Be careful with fire.
- Be courteous in the outdoors.
- Be conservation minded.

TROOP POLICIES

Troop 17 policies are built on the ideals and goals of Scouting. These are identified in the words of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. No policy document can or should attempt to cover every situation a Scout, parent, or volunteer (collectively called members here) might encounter. When in doubt, the member should always consider the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

JOINING REQUIREMENTS & YEARLY DUES

Troop 17 is open to all boys who meet the requirements of the Scouting America, and who agree to accept, subscribe to, and live by the aims and ideals described above and who agree to follow these Troop Policies. Upon joining, the Scout is asked to obtain a complete uniform. The Troop will provide the following for each new Scout: one set of troop numerals, one pair of scout socks, one pair of shoulder loops, and one troop neckerchief. The Troop also maintains a supply of gently used Scout uniforms that may be available to those with a need.

Annual dues are required of all new members and are payable upon joining. Dues for youth currently registered in Scouting America who transfer in from another Cub Scout Pack or Scouts BSA Troop are pro-rated for the balance of their first calendar year. Thereafter, their dues, as well as those of other existing members, are payable annually.

The Troop Committee determines the annual dues based on the fees charged by Scouting America and the budgetary needs of the Troop. The Troop maintains a scholarship fund for families based on need. The Scoutmaster and the Committee Chair may award scholarships as funds allow. See the finances section below for more information.

TROOP ORGANIZATION AND LEADERSHIP

The Troop is organized into patrols, each of which consists of approximately eight Scouts. Each patrol has a Patrol Leader, an Assistant Patrol Leader, and a Gear Master. The leadership structure for the Troop, called the Greenbar (based on the green bar's on the Scouts' position patch) or the Patrol Leader's Council, is composed of the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL), the Staff Patrol, the Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders. The customary staff positions, selected by the Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster, may exist as required. These positions include Scribe, Quartermaster, Troop Guide, Instructor, Librarian, Historian, Bugler, Chaplain's Aide, and Order of the Arrow representative. The positions of youth leadership will be appointed by the Scoutmaster. Adult positions are appointed and approved by the Troop Committee.

The Troop encourages advanced leadership training for boys including the National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) program and Longhorn Council's Aquatic School.

MEETINGS

Troop 17 meets every Tuesday evening from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM at the Harry R. Male Scout Lodge, 2648 Sandage Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76109. This is on the campus of St. Stephen

Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Sandage and McPherson Avenues. Meetings are held year-round with the exception of New Year's Day, Independence Day, Christmas Day, Christmas Eve, and when the troop is at another troop-wide event. Parents are asked to have their Scouts arrive at the meetings on time. The meetings will consist of a uniform inspection, patrol activities, a demonstration of a scout skill done by the SPL and the Staff, a planning period for an upcoming event, and a game. Each meeting will open with the Pledge of Allegiance, the Scout Oath, and Scout Law. Meetings close with singing of the Scout Vesper, and recitation of the Scoutmaster's Benediction: "And now, may the Great Master, of all Scouts, be with us until we meet again."

Consistent attendance (as defined below) at troop meetings and activities in full scout uniform is required for each Scout's advancement. The proper uniform is described in the handbook. If the Scout wears a hat, it must be a Troop 17 hat. No other hats will be permitted with the field uniform. A Scout may purchase a Troop 17 hat once he achieves the rank of Tenderfoot Scout.

In the event of inclement weather, the Troop will generally follow the Fort Worth ISD's inclement weather decisions. If Fort Worth ISD cancels school or all after school activities due to inclement weather, the Troop will follow suit and cancel that evening's meeting. Meeting cancellations will be posted on the Troop website and sent to the Troop email distribution list. Should hazardous weather move into the area prior to or during a meeting, the Scoutmaster may cancel a meeting or end a meeting early at his or her discretion. In the event of impending dangerous weather, sheltering in place in the Scout Lodge or the church may be a preferred option. Each person, including Scouts and adults, has a responsibility to make decisions for themselves to ensure their safety and well-being. Even if a meeting or event is not cancelled, families should evaluate conditions and make their own determination if they will attend or not.

ADVANCEMENT

Participation in at least 50% of the troop's meetings AND 50% of all camping, service projects, and other troop activities is required for any Scout to be eligible for advancement.

The first rank, Scout, will be achieved under the direct supervision of the Scoutmaster. Achievement of the next three ranks, those of Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class, will be primarily under the supervision of the Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader of the Scout's patrol. The remaining three ranks, Star, Life and Eagle, involve emphasis on earning Merit Badges and leadership skills.

Upon completion of a rank, the Scout requests a "green card" from the advancement chair to begin work on their next rank. The Scout works with their Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, or another Scout that holds at least the rank of First Class *and* the rank that they are working on, or a higher rank. Adults, including parents or other volunteers, may not approve that a Scout has successfully completed a rank skill (see Guide to Advancement 2025

section 4.2.1.2). Achieving the skill is recorded on the Scout's green card. Scouts are responsible for maintaining their green card and ensuring that they have it with them at all Scout events. Green cards cannot be reissued but new (empty) green cards can be requested.

Once a Scout qualifies for a particular rank, he will participate in a conference with the Scoutmaster and then go before a Board of Review. The board consists of the Troop Committee Member or Assistant Scoutmaster in charge of advancement and two to three other members of the Troop Committee. It is not appropriate for a parent to participate on a Board of Review before which his or her Scout is to appear. The Scoutmaster should also not sit on a Board of Review. Boards of Review are usually held every month, or as often as necessary. A Board of Review must be a personal and individual experience. The time and location of the Board of Review should reflect this goal. Scouts appearing before a Board of Review should do so in full uniform. See also the Guide to Advancement 2025 section 8 for a detailed description of the Board of Review.

Once a Scout has completed all requirements for an award, he is given the badge or patch recognizing that achievement as soon as possible unless a Court of Honor is imminent (with the exception of Eagle Scout, for which a special court is conducted). Courts of Honor are held every three to four months, or as often as necessary. The Court of Honor is held instead of the normal Tuesday night meeting and is devoted to formally recognizing all Scouts that have earned or received rank advancements and or other merit badges or awards since the previous Court of Honor. It is very important that the parents of all Scouts being recognized attend these very special gatherings.

To work on merit badges, the Scout obtains a merit badge application from the Advancement Chair and asks for the name of a counselor in that particular skill (example, Water Skiing.) The Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Member in charge of advancement will identify an approved adult Merit Badge Counselor from the list provided by the council and provide the Scout with his or her name and phone number. The Scout must make contact with the counselor and make arrangements to work with him or her at times that do not conflict with existing Troop or patrol activities. The appointment and work on the badge are the responsibility of the Scout. Meetings with Merit Badge Counselors must follow Scouting's Youth Protection (YPT) Guidelines which include no one on one contact between adults and youth. Unless a parent is certified on the Council Merit Badge Counselor list, he or she may not sign off their Scout's work on the badge.

See the references section below for more information on advancement.

THE OUTDOOR PROGRAM - CAMPING

Troop 17 typically conducts a weekend campout once a month, attends a long term Scouting America summer camp during the summer, and plans a high-adventure activity during the summer. The typical campout commences at 5:30 PM on Friday of the designated weekend and concludes the following Sunday afternoon. All campouts begin and end at the Scout Lodge.

Scouts will be excused upon completion of a campout only after all troop equipment has been collected, cleaned, and stored. Rather than waiting for your Scout in the parking lot, we prefer that he call you as the Troop arrives back at the Scout Lodge. Every attempt will be made to return on time, but camping and traveling can frequently lead to unforeseen surprises. The date and location of all scheduled campouts are published (subject to later revision) in the troop calendar.

All Scouts attending any campout should leave as a unit from the Scout Lodge, and likewise, should also return as a unit to the Lodge. Only the Scoutmaster may authorize alternative travel arrangements for any Scout. Alternate travel arrangements, including planned late arrivals or early departures, must be coordinated *in advance* with the Scoutmaster.

The Troop always strives to minimize the impact of the Troop's travel by keeping the number of vehicles going to the event to a minimum. A typical weekend event campout should include the troop bus, the troop trailer pulled by a truck, and an emergency vehicle. Parents are encouraged to ride the bus (a bus monitor is needed on every trip).

The troop will follow Scouting America transportation guidelines as published in the Guide to Safe Scouting and available at <https://scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss11/>. The guidelines include no one-on-one contact during transportation *and the prohibition of youth (under 18) drivers*.

Permission / release forms will be furnished to each Scout in advance and must be signed by his parent or guardian prior to each monthly campout. This permission slip **must** be turned in to the Patrol Leader at the regular weekly meeting prior to the scheduled campout. If a Scout fails to turn in the permission slip, he cannot be permitted to attend the campout.

Each Scout is asked to pay a fee to cover the cost of food for meals that his patrol will need to buy for the campout. The covered meals exclude Friday supper, which must be brought as a sack-lunch. This fee must be paid to the Patrol Leader, preferably in cash, at the weekly meeting prior to departure. If a Scout plans to attend and pays this fee but must withdraw at the last minute after the food has been purchased, he must pay his share regardless.

The Patrol Leader will determine two weeks in advance who will be attending the campout and will then generate a food budget. At the patrol meeting period of the troop meeting, the patrol will set up a duty roster for the campout and plan the menus and required food list. All meal plans must be approved by the Scoutmaster, or his designee. Shortly before departure, the Patrol Leader and other patrol members will purchase all food on the food list and ensure that it is brought to the Scout Lodge to be packed with the patrol gear.

The Troop requires all meals to be cooked from scratch which requires the Scouts to learn to cook. Most canned or pre-prepared items, soft drinks, and candy are not permitted on

campouts. Outdoor cooking is an important part of the skills the Scouts are to learn, and the use of 'shortcut' items -- as well as too many sweets -- undermines this effort.

The Troop uses patrol chuck boxes containing condiments, pots, pans, and cooking utensils as well as Dutch Ovens that are available to the patrols. Each Scout must supply his own unbreakable cup, plate, knife, fork & spoon. Quality camping gear, along with tents, make great birthday and holiday presents. Disposable personal gear for eating and drinking is not permitted.

Scouts will camp with their patrol, in their patrol campsite, on campouts. Tents are to be provided by the participants within the patrol. Two Scouts should share a tent within the patrol. No more than 2 Scouts may share a tent. The use of family size or large tents rated for multiple people is not permitted. Additionally, Scouting America requires that youth sharing a tent must be no more than two years apart in age. Adults and youth may not share a tent, even within the same family. Males and females of any age may not share accommodations except for spouses. Scouting's Barriers to Abuse provides additional requirements on accommodations that the Troop will follow. See the references section for more information.

The Troop also has a number of saws and axes that may be used by the Scouts on campouts. No live wood is cut, and no Scout is allowed to carry or use any woods tools (including the Scout Knife) without first demonstrating mastery of the skills required for the 'Totin Chip' certificate. Fixed blade, sheath knives and throwing knives are not allowed at any Scout function.

Patrol equipment used on the camping trip (saws, cooking equipment, water jugs, lanterns, etc.) will be signed out by the Patrol Leader. The entire patrol is responsible for care of the equipment, and any damage or loss due to negligence will be charged to the Patrol. Parents are asked to ensure that any troop gear taken home by the Scout for cleaning is cleaned and promptly returned to the Lodge by the next meeting.

Scouts may not fuel or operate stoves or lanterns until they have been trained by the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster. NO flame is ever to be ignited in any tent at any time. No Scout is to possess any open flames, including a lantern, inside a tent.

All members of Troop 17 will wear the full Scout uniform to and from all trips. Once at the site, Scouts are encouraged to change into clothing appropriate for camping out in the particular season in which the event takes place. The Troop, or other Scout-theme t-shirt and pants or shorts are proper camp clothes. Suitable sun protection, including a wide brimmed hat or long-sleeved attire is strongly encouraged. A camporee, summer camp, or other special event may require the wearing of the Scout uniform during or throughout the event. The only hat that is appropriate with the Scout uniform is the Troop 17 hat. It is most important that all Scouts have the appropriate equipment and clothing. Parents are strongly encouraged to consult with the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster prior to purchasing any camping

equipment for their Scout. Upon arrival at camp, all electric / electronic devices (other than flashlights) brought by a Scout will be secured in the vehicle(s) for the duration of the activity.

Electronics, including phones, radios, televisions, smart devices, speakers, computing devices, and gaming devices are not permitted during the campout. Upon arrival at the camping location, Scouts should secure their cell phones with the adult leader of the Troop. The Scoutmaster may make exceptions on a case-by-case basis. Any parental concerns over this policy and exceptions should be discussed with the Scoutmaster prior to the event or trip.

A brief nonsectarian devotional service will be conducted on Sunday morning of each campout, and each meal will be preceded by a recitation of the Worth Ranch Grace:

"For food, for raiment, for life, for opportunity, for friends and this fellowship,
we thank thee O Lord, Amen."

Summer Camp Program

Troop 17 attends Longhorn Council's summer camp, "The Big Adventure", in the first half of June annually. It is held at Worth Ranch in Palo Pinto County (about an hour west of Fort Worth). Scouts are strongly encouraged to attend this camp. Summer camp is a week-long resident camp where Scouts participate in merit badge classes, camp activities, troop activities, eat in a dining hall and sleep in 2 person canvas tents. This immersive Scouting experience is the highlight of the year for many Scouts. Adults are encouraged to volunteer to spend 2, 3, or the full 6 days with the Troop at camp. Parents are welcome to visit and attend "parents' night", generally on Thursday night.

Scouts will pick their merit badges weeks in advance of the camp at a Troop meeting where the staff and scoutmasters can guide them in their selections. Some merit badges have supply fees that Scouts should discuss with their parents before registering. The Troop does not generally allow Scouts to take Eagle required merit badges at summer camp. We have found that the Troop can deliver a much more meaningful learning experience and drive deeper into the content of a merit badge than is delivered in a camp or "merit badge college" setting. Swimming and Life Saving merit badges are the exception. A first year Scout should plan on taking Swimming at summer camp and take Life Saving in their second year.

Scouts and families should plan on their Scout attending summer camp for the entire week. We recognize that there are a lot of programs and events that Scouts and their families attend and that programming across the entire summer can be challenging. This also may be the Scout's first time away from the comforts of home and homesickness is a real thing. We have found, through decades of experience, that a Scout that *unexpectedly* leaves camp early is much less successful long term in the Scouting program. We would encourage families to discuss with their Scout that the expectation is for the Scout to remain at camp all week. Unless previously planned, we strongly encourage parents to not take their Scouts home on

parent's night. Parents should also be prepared for that separation when it's time to head back home. As of this writing, all of our Scouts have survived summer camp.

Scholarships and other assistance are available to cover some of the cost of summer camp for those with a need. See the finances section below for more information.

High Adventure Program

The Troop takes a "high adventure" trip every July. These trips vary from Scouting America high adventure bases, Northern Tier, Philmont, Sea Base, etc., to Troop planned trips. Troop planned trips have gone to Red River, New Mexico, hiked Big Bend, skied in Colorado, and canoed in Oklahoma.

Every 6 years or so, the Troop takes an international trip. In prior years, the Troop has gone to the International Scout Camp in Kandersteg, Switzerland, toured and hiked in Scotland, sailed in the Bahamas, hiked in Belize, and toured London. These international trips take upwards of two years to plan and raise funds for. By going every 6 years, every Scout should have an opportunity to attend during their tenure with the Troop. These trips provide a wealth of experiential learning, exposure to other cultures, and ideally, interaction with Scouts in other countries. Some of our Scouts built friendships with Scouts in the host countries that have lasted through to adulthood.

To attend the high adventure trips, participants must be active in the troop in advance of the trip and must participate in the fundraising activities (see more about fundraising in the finances section below.) This includes adults and Scouts. To attend a Scouting America High Adventure trip, the Scout must meet the attendance requirements for the trip. In addition, the Troop may require the Scout to attain the rank of First Class and be 14 years of age January 1st of the year of the trip. The Troop Committee reviews all requests for adults and Scouts to attend. Anyone, including adults, wishing to attend a Scouting America high adventure trip will be required to meet the Troop's camping and participation standards in advance of the trip. This will help ensure that the participants are trained, familiar with the Troop processes, and know each other. Experience has shown us that the group that works together in *advance* of the trip has a much more enjoyable experience *on* the trip.

Health and Safety

All Scouts and adults must complete an annual health and medical record. Participants in high adventure events or summer camps must also complete part B2 which includes an examination by a physician. We recommend all participants include part B2 annually. All medications are the responsibility of the participant or participant's parent or guardian. Some events, including summer camps, may have additional medical staff and procedures for storage and dispensing medication.

The Troop generally has adult volunteers with a variety of medical training and skills on every event. Adult leaders on high adventure trips should take Wilderness First Aid (WFA) and

CPR. Training is available from local outfitters and other Scouting units and is valid for 2 years. Scouting America high adventure bases require at least 2 participants in each crew to be WFA and CPR trained.

In the event of an injury, first aid will be rendered as appropriate in the opinion of the event leader or most medically qualified volunteer at the event. In the case of a serious injury or sickness beyond the ability of the Troop to treat, professional medical care, including transportation in an ambulance may be necessary. Parents and legal guardians should always have current emergency numbers on file with the Troop for their Scouts. Event permission slips and the annual health and medical records include a release to allow the Troop to authorize professional medical care in the event that a parent or guardian cannot be reached.

Any serious injuries during a Scouting event must also be reported to the Longhorn Council as soon as reasonably possible.

The adult leadership on a campout or the event staff should have sufficient experience and training to ensure that the event is held in a safe and secure manner. Adults, and youth leaders, should take the Scouting America training course Weather Hazards. Special attention should be paid to lightning safety during high altitude events or events where seasonal storms frequently occur. The pre-event planning should include an evaluation of the risk or potential risk of harm and an action plan based on common sense, community standards, the Scout motto and safety policies and practices commonly prescribed for the activity by experienced providers and practitioners.

The safety of an event is the responsibility of *all* participants.

Adult Volunteers

Troop 17 strictly adheres to national & local Scouting America guidelines on youth protection, which are detailed in the Longhorn Council's Youth Protection Policy. ALL adult volunteer leaders are required to be certified in the guidelines of this policy. Accordingly, all troop activities are supervised according to the principal of 'two-deep' leadership. This means that no less than two adult registered Scout leaders aged 21 or above will be present at all meetings and activities. No adult may participate in troop activities without completing Scouting America's Youth Protection Training (YPT) course. Adults must recertify at a minimum of every 12 months.

Adults are expected to follow Scouting America's Scouter Code of Conduct found at <https://scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/bsa-scouters-code-of-conduct>.

YPT, as well as other pertinent training, is available online at <http://myscouting.scouting.org>. Suggested courses include "This is Scouting", "Fast Start: Boy Scouting", and "Troop Committee Challenge". Parents wishing to attend aquatic (canoeing, boating, or water) campouts are encouraged to also take "Safe Swim Defense", "Safety Afloat",

and “Weather Hazards”. Other supplemental training includes “Physical Wellness” and “Trek Safely”. Courses are available 24 hours, 7 days a week online. Most courses take 30 minutes or less.

Adults interested in volunteer positions with the Troop should visit with the troop Committee Chair or other members of the Troop Committee for more information about the position and expectations. All troop registered leaders must be approved by the troop Committee Chair and the Chartered Organization Representative.

Effective September 1, 2023, all adults staying overnight in connection with a Scouting activity must be registered as an adult volunteer or an adult program participant. This is national Scouting America policy. For more information, see the following websites.

- Scouting’s Barriers to Abuse - <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01/>
- Scouting Magazine article - <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2023/11/08/lets-discuss-the-bsas-rule-on-registering-all-adults-who-participate-in-overnight-activities/>

FINANCES

It is the goal of the troop to ensure that all Scouts have the opportunity to participate in the Scouting program *regardless of their financial situation*.

Fundraising

The Troop will, from time to time, hold fundraisers to offset ongoing costs of running the troop. These costs include equipment maintenance, transportation costs, camping (both long term and short term), and Scouting America national dues. All fundraisers are approved by the Troop Committee. Some examples of fundraising activities include TCU concession stands, plant/bulb sales, garage sales, and bake sales. Scouts and parents are strongly encouraged to actively participate in the Troop’s fundraising activities. Scouting has a long tradition, dating back to the origins of Scouting, that boys should “earn their own way”. By participating in the fundraising, the Scouts get a better respect for the value of the dollars they raise. Scouting America rules prohibit Scouts and parents from soliciting contributions. All items sold in fundraising activities should provide a “value received” to the purchaser.

Fundraising is ideally structured to encourage participation by all members while consideration is still given to those that cannot participate directly. For example, a fundraiser for a specific trip may include activities where the fundraising allocation is based on the member’s participation in the fundraiser. Additionally, it may include fundraising that is more general in nature with proceeds equally divided to all members registered for the trip. The Troop Committee sets the allocation method and targets (troop-wide members or event specific members), in advance, for all fundraising.

The Troop Treasurer, from the Troop Committee, issues checks on behalf of the Troop. Any expenses in excess of \$500 require the approval of a second authorized signer before it may be reimbursed. The Troop Committee meets monthly and reviews the reports of all expenses.

Event Fees

The Troop participates in a variety of events throughout the year including summer camp, high adventure trips, and other trips that may incur a fee outside of the normal monthly fee for weekend camping. These fees may include fees to cover troop costs (food, gear, transportation, etc.) and fees paid to 3rd parties including the Longhorn Council or the event facility.

All fees for the trip must be fully paid by the due date set for each event, normally 2 to 3 weeks in advance of the event. By registering for the event, either through the Troop website, or via the Scoutmaster, the Scout and family are committing to attending and paying fully for the event. Unless otherwise noted on the specific event, all events are non-refundable. By registering for the event, the Troop commits funds, makes purchases, and makes payments to 3rd parties based on the member's commitment to attend.

In many instances, the Troop may pay a vendor or 3rd party based on the planned member's attendance even though the member hasn't fully paid the Troop for the event. For events with a payment to a 3rd party, **the member should contact the vendor directly to request a refund** of any payments the Troop has made on their behalf. For Longhorn Council events, their published refund policy applies.

SERVICE PROJECTS

The Troop, at least annually, holds service projects that benefit other local organizations or the Troop's chartering organization, St. Stephen Presbyterian Church. Eagle Projects are organized by the Eagle Scout candidate. Participation in service projects is part of the attendance standards for all Scouts.

DISCIPLINE

Troop 17 is committed to each Scout's success in Scouting within a caring, responsive, and safe environment that is free of discrimination, violence, and bullying. Troop 17 works to ensure that all Scouts have the opportunity and support to develop to their fullest potential and share a personal and meaningful bond with Scouts and adults in the troop.

From the guide to safe scouting...

Discipline must be constructive.

- Discipline must reflect Scouting's values.

- Corporal punishment is never permitted.
- Disciplinary activities involving isolation, humiliation, or ridicule are also prohibited.

Families should discuss the implications of their Scouts' actions with their Scouts, especially on campouts and trips. Should the Troop leadership at the event determine that a Scout is no longer permitted to continue on the trip or remain at the event, the parents will need to pick up their Scout from the event location. Any expenses incurred in picking up the Scout will be the responsibility of the parents.

If a Scout is found to be involved with any form of controlled substance (in particular alcohol and drugs, other than prescription) or tobacco products, the disciplinary action will be the responsibility of the Troop Committee. Expulsion from the Troop may be implemented where the use of drugs or alcohol is involved.

Serious violations of the Troop policies will be addressed by the Troop Committee. Additionally, violations of Scouting America policies, including allegations of abuse, including youth on youth abuse, may be referred to the Longhorn Council or Scouting America (national) for review and investigation. The Scouts First hotline is 1-844-SCOUTS1 (1-844-726-8871) and is used to report known or suspected abuse. All Scouting America volunteers are considered mandatory reporters and are required to report suspected or actual physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and human trafficking to the State of Texas. In Texas, this is state law that applies to all residents. This can be reported to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services via <https://www.txabusehotline.org/> or 1-800-252-5400. In the event of imminent danger, an emergency, or a life-threatening situation, call 911.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

Parents can help their Scout's progress in the troop by taking an **active interest** in the Troop activities and supporting their son in achieving the goals that he sets for himself. Parents should take turns in supporting these activities. They are also encouraged to discuss any questions or concerns they may have with the Scoutmaster, or Troop Committee members. Likewise, Scouts should direct their questions or concerns to their Patrol Leader and/or Senior Patrol Leader. The New Parent Coordinator is also an outstanding resource for families new to the Troop.

No Scout unit can have enough parental support and participation. The Troop can do nothing but improve as the level of adult participation increases. In turn, all Scouts in the Troop will benefit. Please fill out a Troop Resource Survey (see the references section below) and return it to the Scoutmaster. This will enable the Troop to adequately utilize the skills and talents that it has 'close to home.'

We warmly welcome all Scouts and parents to the Troop 17 family.

CONCLUSION

A quote by Sir Robert Baden-Powell from his 1914 book Quick Training for War is fitting to conclude this policy with.

“... The books lay down definite principles and examples which serve to guide the leaders when applying their common sense to the situation before them. No two situations are ever precisely the same, and it is therefore impossible to lay down exact rules that should guide in every case, but a man who carries precedents and principles in his head has no difficulty in applying their teaching in supreme moments of sudden emergency ...”

REFERENCES

- "Guide to Advancement 2025." Accessed February 24, 2025. <https://www.scouting.org/resources/guide-to-advancement/>
- "The Guide to Safe Scouting." Accessed February 1, 2023. <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/>
- "Scouting's Barriers to Abuse." Accessed February 1, 2023. <https://scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01/>
- "The BSA's Commitment to Safety." Accessed February 23, 2025 <https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/680-07221-Commitment-to-Safety.pdf>
- "Policies, Guidelines, and Model Plans." Accessed February 1, 2023. <https://scouting.org/health-and-safety/guidelines-policies/>
- "Guide to Awards and Insignia." Accessed March 24, 2023. <https://www.scouting.org/resources/insignia-guide/>
- "Troop Resource Survey." Accessed March 24, 2023. https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-116_WB.pdf

I have read the guidelines and agree to follow the policies of Troop 17.

Name (print)_____

Signature of Scout_____

Date_____

PLEASE RETURN TO THE SCOUTMASTER