

Troop Handbook

Troop 187

“A Knot Above The Best”

Boy Scouts of America
Bucks County Council
Tohpendel District

SIGNATURE PAGE

Scout Name: _____
Date Given to Scout: ___/___/___

I acknowledge receipt of the Troop 187 Troop Handbook and hereby acknowledge that I have read it.

Scout Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Parent Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Parent Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Signature Page Returned to Troop 187 _____ Date: ___/___/___

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www.bsa187.org

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Introduction

WELCOME to Boy Scouting and Troop 187 of the Tohpendel District of the Bucks County Council. This handbook was prepared to provide you with information regarding your son's scouting experience. We trust that you will find it helpful and informative.

If you have any questions or can suggest additional topics that might need to be included in later editions, please contact the Scoutmaster or any Troop Committee Member.

- A Scout's regular attendance at the **Thursday night meetings**, usually at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Dublin (Rt 313 & Quarry Rd), is important in order for him to participate fully in scout activities and be informed of upcoming events. Meetings normally begin at 7:00pm and finish at 8:30. We sometimes have meetings at the Forrest Lodge VFW Post #245 at 2118 Old Bethlehem Pike, which is about one mile northwest of N Ridge Road (Rt. 563)
- All parents are encouraged to attend the **Monthly Troop Committee Meetings**. Troop Committee Meetings are normally held the third Tuesday of each month. Locations can vary and include St. Luke's Church, our troop sponsor VFW Post, or at parent's houses. Meetings begin at 7:30pm.
- All parents are strongly encouraged to attend our **Court of Honor** ceremonies. Typically the troop has two a year and they are normally scheduled to coincide with an Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Instead quarterly ceremonies, as BSA recommends, our Troop tries to schedule these two events together because we want all the scouts, and their parents, to see how regular advancement leads down the path to Eagle Scout. It also promotes greater attendance at these important recognition ceremonies.
- **The Troop 187 Phone Chain** is used to pass along reminders or last minute changes or cancellations. The phone chain is set up per patrol.
- The Troop also maintains an active **email chain group** for Scouts. The intent is that troop communications be done between the Scouts and not between the adult leaders, parents, and the Scouts. Each Scout is encouraged to have their own email address wherever possible and appropriate. It is the Scout's responsibility to notify their parents of changes to the Troop schedule.
- The Troop also maintains an active website home page at www.bsa187.org.

In the rare and unfortunate situation where a Scout's or a parent's behavior or actions causes, or may cause, harm to a Scout, another parent, or the Troop in general the Troop reserves the right to take appropriate action. In keeping with the ideals of Scouting, the Troop will endeavor to make such action a positive learning experience for all those considered to the extent possible. However, a Scout's safety, both mind and body, shall remain paramount and the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee reserves the right to evoke discipline including suspension or expulsion from the Troop at their sole discretion.

Role of the Parents

SCOUTING is an experience designed to foster growth and accomplishment in young men and women. Obviously, a large part of this program is working with other young adults under the supervision of trained adults. In any process that contributes to the growth and maturity of young people, the involvement of the parents is crucial. The Senior Patrol Leader, under the supervision of the Scoutmaster and his assistants, runs the weekly meeting. It is important that parents provide positive reinforcement for all activities to help keep their child interested. (Starting in 2005, Troop 187 instituted a co-Senior Patrol Leader system with staggered one year terms of office.) Our current Scoutmaster, Mr. Esposito, began formalized meeting of the Scout Patrol Leader's Council in the fall of 2007 to initiate an entirely Scout run chain of information, both bottom up and top down.

In addition, the Troop is operated under policies made by the Troop Committee. This group meets once a month. All parents are invited to be active participants at our Troop Committee meetings. We ask for your support and encourage you to become a vocal member in setting the operating policy for the Troop. In addition, if you would like to be formally registered with Boy Scouts of America you must complete an application form that must be approved by the Troop Committee Chair and Chartering Organization Representative. The troop will pay the \$10 annual fee.

Registered leaders will receive both Scouting magazine and the Bucks County Council newsletter. Leaders are registered either as an Assistant Scoutmaster or a member of the Troop Committee. All registered leaders are strongly encouraged to obtain their Boy Scout "Trained" certification from Bucks County Council. All registered leaders are covered under Boys Scouts' insurance policies. All registered leaders are required to complete Youth Protection, Troop Committee Challenge, and Boy Scout Leader Fast Start training. Each of these classes are free, available online, and takes approximately 30 minutes each to complete.

In order to help on the regular Troop camping trips, parents are requested to provide transportation as needed. *

*Note: Fathers might not be permitted to attend summer camp unless they are registered and "Trained". Summer camp slots, and assignments made to the registered leaders for the week, are made based upon the needs of the troop. Troop leaders will clarify this policy as needed as well as answer any questions you may have.

The Basics of Scouting

Purpose of the Boy Scouts of America:

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to provide boys an effective program designed to build desirable qualities of character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop in them personal fitness, thus to help in the development of American citizens who:

- Are physically, mentally and emotionally fit;
- Have a high degree of self reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness;
- Have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts;
- Understand the principles of the American social, economic and governmental system;
- Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American Heritage and understand America's role in the world;
- Have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people; and,
- Are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society and in the forums of the world.

Scout Oath (or Promise):

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

Scout Motto:

“Be Prepared”

Scout Slogan:

“Do a Good Turn Daily”

Troop 187 Motto:

“A Knot Above The Best”

Outdoor Code:

AS AN AMERICAN, I WILL DO MY BEST TO:

BE CLEAN IN MY OUTDOOR MANNERS

(I will treat the outdoors as a heritage. I will take care of it for myself and others. I will keep all trash and garbage out of lakes, streams, fields, woods, and roadways.)

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

(I will prevent wildfire. I will build my fires only where they are appropriate. When I have finished using a fire, I will make sure it is cold out. I will leave a clean fire ring, or I will remove all evidence of my fire.)

BE CONSIDERATE IN THE OUTDOORS

(I will treat public and private property with respect. I will use low-impact methods of hiking and camping.)

BE CONSERVATION MINDED

(I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, wildlife, and energy. I will urge others to do the same. I will also lead by example to others.)

Scout Law:

A SCOUT IS:

TRUSTWORTHY

(A Scout tells the truth and keeps his promises. Honesty is his code of conduct. People can depend on him.)

LOYAL

(A Scout is true to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school, and nation.)

HELPFUL

(A Scout is concerned about other people. He does things willingly for others without pay or reward.)

FRIENDLY

(A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He seeks to understand others. He respects those with ideas and customs other than his own.)

COURTEOUS

(A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows good manners make it easier for people to get along together.)

KIND

(A Scout understands there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. He does not hurt or kill harmless things without reason.)

OBEDIENT

(A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop and obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules are unfair, he tries to change them 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 unforeseen needs. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.)

BRAVE

(A Scout can face danger even if he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at or threaten him.)

CLEAN

(A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He goes around with those who believe in living by these same ideals. 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.)

The Aims & Methods of Scouting

Aims:

The Boy Scout Program works toward three aims. One is growth in moral strength and character. We may define this as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, and his outlook.

A second aim is participating citizenship. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society he lives in, to the governments that presides over that society. Our scouts ideally learn that they are members of several types of communities and receive the rights and burdens of the obligations to those communities. The types of communities include families (nuclear and extended), governmental, political, religious, educational, and social.

A third aim of the Boy Scout program is development of physical, mental and emotional fitness. Fitness includes body (well tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self control, courage and self respect). The troop recently adopted a "No Scout Left Behind" policy in terms of scouts who may have disabilities or who may have difficulty participating in troop activities and in advancement. Should you have any questions or concerns about scouts with disabilities please contact the Scoutmaster or the Advancement Chair.

The methods are designed to accomplish these aims. Thus it is important that you know and use the methods of the Boy Scout Program. Other methods are good, but they may bring different results - results quite different than those we are seeking. Ideally, Scouting should be "Fun With A Purpose".

Methods:

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.

Patrols:

The Patrol Method gives Scouts an experience in 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 easily can relate to each other. These small groups, 5-9 Scouts in our Troop, determine activities through their Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader.

Scouts are assigned to patrols by the Senior Patrol Leader(s), Senior Patrol, and Scoutmaster. Care is taken to make sure the patrols are balanced in terms of numbers, rank, personality, and commitment to the troop. Requests from parents to place a Scout in a certain patrol or with, or not with, certain other scouts may be considered but in no way can be guaranteed.

Outdoors:

The Boy Scout program 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 the 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 mankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources. The Troop is always looking to have an active, and growing, outdoor program through camping and backpacking.

Advancement:

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement methods. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a boy grow in self reliance and the ability to help others. The troop has an Advancement Committee that meets quarterly to monitor the advancement function within the troop. The committee members are the Senior Patrol Leader(s), Troop Guide(s), Scoutmaster, Advancement Chair, and Merit Badge Coordinator(s).

Adult Male Association:

Boys learn from the example of their adult leaders. In his quest for adulthood, every boy needs contact with men whose positive role models he can strive for and copy. The Scoutmaster and his assistants provide the appropriate image for the Boy Scout.

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 evidence 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. Troop 187 in the past has not had a robust religious emblems program but that recently changed in 2007 with the creation of a program for those of the Roman Catholic faith. Any leaders or parents who wish to start an active program for their faith or denomination are encouraged to do so.

Leadership Development:

Boy Scouts actively 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 role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

The Troop has instituted a vital Patrol Method in 2007. Scouting is all about teaching boys strong leadership skills. Scouts cannot hope to become successful members of the Senior Patrol or become successful Troop Guides unless they have first personally experienced failed and successful leadership skills as Assistant Patrol Leaders, Patrol Leaders, and other leadership positions within the Troop. Patrol Leaders, and Assistant Patrol Leaders in their absence, are have a strong responsibility to themselves, scouts in their patrol, and the Troop in general to be active participants in the Troop's Patrol Leader Council.

Uniform:

The uniform makes the Scout visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. The Boy Scout program is an action program and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aim and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform also provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished. All Scouts in the Troop are required to wear their uniform with their patrol emblem, current rank patch, and leadership position promptly after being awarded by the troop. A Scout who does not respect his patrol, rank, and leadership position will not be permitted to advance in rank.

Troop 187 Fee Schedule

Annual Dues for Scouts Registered the Prior Year in Troop 187 \$35.00

This fee is due to be paid by September 30th of each year. If dues are not paid by the 3rd Thursday in October then the Scout will be dropped from the Troop Charter.

Registration of a New, Transferring, or Lapsed Registration Scout to Troop 187 \$45.00

This registration fee pays for a new scout's current year Council Registration, Boy's Life Magazine, B.S.A. Insurance, Scouting Global Crest patch as well as rank and leadership patches. New scouts also receive a Boy Scout Handbook, Troop Neckerchief, and one Troop "Class B" tee-shirt. Replacement patches or neckerchief are charged to the Scout. Additional Troop tee-shirts can be purchased for \$5 each.

No Scout will ever be dropped due financial hardship or inability to pay. However, it is the Scout's or parents' responsibility to contact the Scoutmaster for a waiver.

Adult Registered Leaders of Troop 187

\$10.00 (Troop Pays)

Uniforms

The Troop does not supply uniforms. The Troop does supply red (green effective 2009) shoulder loops to those who join our troop.

All Scouts are required to wear the Troop Neckerchief at Court of Honor ceremonies and Boards of Review. Replacements can be purchased for \$7. The Troop supplies rank patches, troop leadership patches, and patrol patches. All Scouts sitting for an advancement Board of Review are required to appear in full and proper uniform, including merit badge sash with all Troop issued patches attached properly, or their advancement will not be submitted to Council. A uniform exchange can be arranged to help defray the costs of new uniforms as needed. Please see the Scoutmaster.

Other Fees:

Camping and Special Events fees generally vary based on the type of event and the costs involved with the event. We attempt to keep the base trip cost below \$25 for local trips and below \$60 for a longer distance driving trip, to reimburse the drivers for gas costs.

Troop Fundraisers:

In conjunction with our Sponsoring Organization, VFW Forrest Lodge Post, there is one, and only one, mandatory fundraiser each fall. All scouts are required to fully participate or pay a \$100 opt out fee. The Troop generally participates in Council's annual popcorn sale fundraiser but this is a Scout fundraiser. The Troop receives 10% of all sales and the Scout receives 40% of all sales to be used for summer camp or a high adventure outing such as Philmont. All donations received are split with the Scout receiving 80% and the Troop 20%. Commissions are earned only if \$350 or more popcorn is sold. (These commissions are retroactive to the first dollar sold if the minimum is met.)

Scout Uniform Requirements

Field Uniform (“Class A”)

- Scout Long Pants (Optional) (Scout long pants or similar styled slacks, preferably tan or olive green, are required for all Courts of Honor. Scout pants are required for Eagle Scouts candidates and recommended for Life Scout candidates.)
- Scout Short or Long Sleeved Shirt (We recommend short sleeved for comfort)
- Scout Belt (Optional except for Life Scouts)
- Scout Socks (Optional except for Life Scouts)
- Troop Neckerchief
- Shoes or sneakers (Hiking Boots required for campouts)
- Scout Hat (Optional)
- Merit Badge Sash (Required for all Boards of Review, Courts of Honor and public [i.e. non-outing] functions)
- Order of the Arrow Sash (If applicable; should only be worn at O.A. functions)

Field Uniform to be worn to and from all Scouting Activities.

Service Uniform (“Class B”)

- Troop Tee Shirt
- Shoes or sneakers (hiking boots required for campouts)

Wearing the Troop’s shirt at all outings is strongly encouraged and likely may be required depending upon the outing. It promotes safety and frankly makes it much easier on adult leaders attending such events. For the same reason, adult leaders are encouraged, and may be required, to wear the Troop shirt at outings and in camp.

Troop 187 Meetings

Troop 187 meets on Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30p.m. at the St. Luke's Lutheran Church on Route 313 in Dublin. The PLC (Patrol Leader's Council) will hold planning meetings on a regular schedule as determined by the SPL and the Scoutmaster. Currently PLC meetings are held immediately before all troop meetings at 6:30pm. The Troop may also hold meetings at the Forrest Lodge VFW Post in Sellersville.

A typical meeting schedule may include:

7:00 pm	Assembly & Set Up
	Opening Ceremony
	Inspection
	Patrol Corners
	Instruction
	Patrol Competition
	Game or Activity
	Advancement Recognition
	Announcements
	Scoutmaster's Minute
8:30 pm	Closing Ceremony

During troop meeting, in recognition that we are **complimentary** guests at the St. Luke's Church, the following rules will be strictly observed:

1. During troop meetings, when Scouts are outside with games or otherwise, at least one adult will be outside with them to monitor their activities.
2. For the Scouts:
 - a. You DO NOT leave the church grounds during a scout meeting
 - b. You DO NOT leave the camping area during a campout, without specific permission from an adult registered scout leader.
 - c. If you have specific permission to leave the area, you always take a buddy – NO EXCEPTIONS - EVER.
 - d. You DO NOT ride in a vehicle driven by another scout or adult under 21.
 - e. You must wear your seat belt at all times.
 - f. You, by yourself, DO NOT go anywhere with an adult, other than your parent, during a scout function.
 - g. When you go somewhere with a scout adult leader, make sure you have another adult or scout present.
 - h. No adult or scout is allowed to touch you or speak to you in ways that make you uncomfortable. Report any problems to the Scoutmaster immediately.

Rank Advancement Requirements (as of 01-01-08)

Scout: Detailed Requirements are shown on **PAGE 4** of the Scout Handbook

Note: For all ranks above Scout the Scout must make a request to the Advancement Chair or Scoutmaster for a Board of Review when the Scout believes he is prepared.

Tenderfoot Rank: (Focus on camping, cooking, knots, physical fitness, and first aid.)

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Preparing to camp | 8. Patrol name, yell, & flag |
| 2. Overnight camp | 9. Buddy System & <u>Cybersafety</u> |
| 3. Prepare/Cook meal properly in camp | 10a-b. Physical test & Improvement |
| 4a-b. Demo whip/fuse rope & Demo hitch knots | 11. Poisonous plants |
| 5. Be proficient in hiking safety rules | 12a-b. <u>Choking & First Aid</u> |
| 6. Demo Flag care | 13. Show Scout Spirit daily |
| 7. Memorize & understand Scouting principles | 14-15. SM Conf & Board of Review |

Note: Requirements #9 and #12a were changed effective 01-01-08.

Second Class Rank: (Expanded basic skills and orienteering, service, and swimming.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1a-b. Map and compass use & use on a hike | 6a. Handle “hurry” cases |
| 2a. Do 5 troop/patrol activities with 2 camping | 6b-c. Make first aid kit & show aid |
| 2b. Select & explain a patrol camp site | 7a. Swimming precautions |
| 2c. Use of knife, ax, & saw while camping | 7b. Demo swim ability |
| 2 d-e. Prepare cooking fire & Fire/stove safety | 7c. Demo water rescue |
| 2 f-g. Light fire/stove & Cook over wood stove | 8a-b. Drug/alcohol program & <u>3Rs</u> |
| 3. Participate in a Flag Ceremony | 9. Show Scout Spirit daily |
| 4. Do a 1 hour pre-approved Service activity | 10. Scoutmaster Conference |
| 5. Identify ten local wild animals | 11. Board of Review |

Note: Requirement #8b is new effective 01-01-08.

First Class Rank: (Expands on Scout skills and focuses on the patrol method.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Navigate day & night w/o a compass | 8b. Demo immobilizing an injury |
| 2. Complete an orienteering course | 8c. Evacuation & transport |
| 3. Do 5 troop/patrol activities with 3 camping | 8d. Heart attack & CPR |
| 4a-b. Plan patrol menu & Make food list | 9a. Safe trip afloat requirements |
| 4c. Cook utensils/gear | 9b. Pass BSA swimmer test |
| 4d-e. Know safe food transport & cook meals | 9c. Show line water rescue |
| 5. Visit Civic Leader approved by the SM | 10. Show Scout Spirit daily |
| 6. Identify 10 native local plants | 11. <u>Invite a friend to join *</u> |
| 7a-b. Discuss lashings & demo lashing knots | 12. <u>Internet safety/cyberbullying</u> |
| 7c. Make camp gadget using lashings | 13. Scoutmaster Conference |
| 8a. Demo bowline knot & know why to use it | 14. Board of Review |

Note: First Class Requirement #11 is new as of July 2006. ONLY the Scoutmaster may “signoff” this requirement as complete. The friend MUST be introduced to the Scoutmaster prior to a meeting or permission asked prior to attending an outing. Requirement #12 is new effective 01-01-08.

Rank Advancement Requirements (cont.)

Star Rank: (Requires tenure, leadership, service, and merit badges.)

1. Be active in your troop and patrol for at least 4 months as a First Class Scout.
2. Demonstrate scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life.
(Note: The scout is expected to act and behave as “First Class” in the troop.)
3. Earn 6 merit badges, including 4 from the required list for Eagle.
4. While a First Class Scout, take part in service projects totaling at least 6 hours of work. These projects must be approved by your Scoutmaster.
(Note: The ONLY service time that will be accepted by the Scoutmaster without prior approval is volunteer time associated with our Chartering Organization, VFW Post #245 Forrest Lodge and volunteer time assisting another Troop 187 Scout in his Eagle Project. Hours worked without prior Scoutmaster approval do not count.)
5. While a First Class Scout, serve actively 4 months in one or more positions of responsibility (or carry out a Scoutmaster-assigned leadership project to help the troop. (Note: Assistant Patrol Leader is NOT a leadership position.)
6. Take part in a Scoutmaster Conference
7. Successfully complete the Board of Review.
(The Scout must make a request to the Scoutmaster for a Board of Review when the scout believes he is prepared to sit for his Board of Review and the Scout should have the Advancement Chair confirm all requirements have been met prior to the Board of Review.)

Life Rank: (Expands tenure, leadership, service, and merit badge requirements.)

1. Be active in your troop and patrol for at least 6 months as a Star Scout
2. Demonstrate scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life.
(Note: The scout is expected to act and behave as a “Star” in the troop.)
3. Earn 5 more merit badges (so that you have 11 in all), including any 3 more from the required list for Eagle.
4. While a Star Scout, take part in service projects totaling at least 6 hours of work. These projects must be approved by your Scoutmaster.
(Note: The ONLY service time that will be accepted by the Scoutmaster without prior approval is volunteer time associated with our Chartering Organization, VFW Post #245 Forrest Lodge and volunteer time assisting another Troop 187 Scout in his Eagle Project. Hours worked without prior Scoutmaster approval do not count.)
5. While a First Class Scout, serve actively 4 months in one or more positions of responsibility (or carry out a Scoutmaster-assigned leadership project to help the troop. (Note: Assistant Patrol Leader is NOT a leadership position.)
6. Take part in a Scoutmaster Conference
7. Successfully complete the Board of Review.
(The Scout must make a request to the Scoutmaster for a Board of Review when the scout believes he is prepared to sit for his Board of Review and the Scout should have the Advancement Chair confirm all requirements have been met prior to the Board of Review.)

Requirements for Rank Advancement (cont.)

Eagle Rank: (Boy Scouting's highest award with the greatest requirements for tenure, leadership, service, and merit badges.)

1. Be active in your troop and patrol for at least 6 months as a Life Scout
2. Demonstrate that you live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life. List the names of individuals who know you personally and would be willing to provide a recommendation on your behalf, including parents/guardians, religious, educational, and employer references.
3. Earn 10 more Merit Badges (4 must be Eagle Required) for a total of 21 badges.
4. While a Life Scout, serve actively for a period of 6 months in one or more positions of responsibility:
5. Scoutmaster Conference
6. Eagle Board of Review

Special Note to Life Scouts Attempting to Advance to Eagle Rank:

The Troop has a Life-To-Eagle Coordinator. This position's purpose is NOT to actively promote each Life Scout's effort to achieve the Eagle Scout rank. The Path To Eagle is a long one that has many requirements, especially self-initiative and self-determination. The Path To Eagle is not a path that is paved by others and simply followed. Rather it is a path chosen by a scout and the course that he sets, or does not set, is the one that he must follow.

Upon achieving the rank of Life Scout, each member of the troop will be contacted by the Life-To-Eagle Coordinator to review, in general terms, what steps could be taken by the Scout to continue advancement towards Eagle Scout. It is expected the Life Scout, and not his parents or other relatives, be the primary contact with the troop. Efforts by parents or relatives, in lieu of a Life Scout's efforts, shall not be acted on by the Troop.

Special Note to all Scouts Attempting to Advance in Troop 187:

The Troop has two requirements for advancement that are not contained in the Boy Scout Handbook. The two are knowing the Troop 187 Motto, "A Knot Above The Best" as well as the Troop 187 Knot, a recurve figure eight knot.

In keeping with the Troop Motto, Scouts are expected to know well their Scout History, First Aid, and have a thorough, and practical, understanding of rope knots. A one page "cheat sheet" of advancement requirements is available to all Scouts.

Scoutmaster Conference

A Scout must request a Scoutmaster Conference when all other requirements (except Board of Review) are completed for a specific rank. The purpose of the Scoutmaster Conference is to develop, over a period of time, an increasing level of understanding and trust between the Scout and his Scoutmaster. The format of the conference is relatively casual and should allow for the following:

1. Both the Scout and the Scoutmaster should try to learn a little more about each other at each successive conference. This is where the understanding and trust are developed.
2. The Scoutmaster reviews the Scout's current advancement progress. He must feel comfortable enough with the Scout's work to be able to recommend him to the Board of Review. If for any reason, the Scoutmaster does not feel that the Scout is ready to advance to the next rank at this time, he will discuss his reasons with the Scout and together, they will outline a plan to correct the reasons for the Scoutmaster's concerns. The Scoutmaster may refer the Scout to the Troop Committee's Advancement Committee to ensure that all requirements for advancement are indeed fulfilled. (Frequently BSA advancement requirements change and each Scout's Handbook may not have the most current requirements listed.)
3. Together, the Scout and the Scoutmaster chart a course for the next rank. This is a time for goal setting and planning. They work as a team, trying to set reasonable goals for the Scout's future progress.

Upon successful completion of the Scoutmaster's Conference, the Scout is ready to request his Board of Review from the Troop Committee's Advancement Chair.

Boards of Review

Boards of Review are held with Scouts to discuss their advancement progress or at the request of a Scout wishing to advance to any rank after the rank of Scout. Prior to a Board of Review, a Scout must have completed a Scoutmaster Conference.

The advancing Scout makes his request to the Troop Committee's Advancement Chair for a Board of Review. The advancing Scout should allow enough advance warning and time to assemble a review committee.

For Troop 187, the Board of Review for Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, and 1st Class frequently includes 2-3 scouts of higher rank as well as Troop Committee members. Parents and Assistant Scoutmasters sometimes also attend. The Board of Review for Star and Life is typically composed of 3-5 Registered Leaders of the Troop with at least two members of the Troop Committee.

The advancing Scout should be prepared to review how he achieved his Scout skills for the rank in question, previously achieved requirements, his activity within his patrol, his work accomplished to qualify for his new rank, and Merit Badges. The Board of Review is expected to ask good, fair and reasonable questions, considering the experiences of the Scout. Boards of Review are a building and learning process for the Scout as well as the Troop. The Board of Review is very much interested in the Scout's opinion of how his Patrol and the Troop prepared him in his advancement.

The Scout's attire for the Board of Review is a neat, clean and complete Field Uniform (Class "A"). The uniform must also include the Scout's current badge of rank, troop leadership position (if any), patrol patch, global crest, Troop Neckerchief, and Merit Badge Sash. A Scout wears his patrol patch, rank patch, and leadership patch as a show of respect to himself and others. Accordingly, improperly attired Scouts will typically not be permitted to sit for a Board of Review.

If for some reason a Scout is not advanced, then his weaknesses will be discussed with him compassionately at the Board of Review. He will be encouraged to review the necessary items and come before the Board of Review at the next available time. If a weakness appears to be limited to one particular area then the Board of Review may pass the Scout subject to a later discussion in that one area to a designated adult leader or senior level scout at a later date.

Equipment Regulations

Mess Kit: A BSA-type mess kit is required. It consists of a fry pan, dish, small pot with a lid, and a cup. Since “A Scout is Thrifty”, a mess kit is required for all troop outings, including summer camp. It is the Scout’s personal responsibility to bring this on all outings.

Utensils: Any fork, knife and spoon set is acceptable. Since “A Scout is Thrifty”, utensils are required for all troop outings, including summer camp.

Canteen or Water Bottle: Dehydration is always a serious concern on outings. Even mild dehydration, while not a true medical emergency, can easily cause a Scout to not feel well and ruin an outing. Personal water containers, even just a refilled sports drink bottle, are required for all outings.

Flashlight: The smaller the better! Scouts find that head lamps are useful because they do not need to be held while he is working.

Plastic Garbage Bag: An item with many uses! It can be used as a pack cover in the rain, or an emergency raincoat. Individual items can be placed in small plastic bags to keep them dry and organized. Although they are useful, plastic garbage bags are not substitutes for a good pack or a sleeping bag stuff sack.

Personal Hygiene Supplies: Each boy should have a small bar of soap and a small towel for clean up. Good hygiene benefits all the Troop members as well as leadership. A Scout with dirty hands can easily make several members of the troop sick. Such poor conduct is completely disrespectful to all other Scouts and Scouters and will NOT be tolerated. “A Scout is Clean”.

Knives: Knives are NOT to be carried by any Scout who has not earned his Tote-N-Chip card. Open sheath knives are not permitted to be carried by Scouts at any time.

Electronic Items: Our society is becoming more nature depraved and electronic dependent. It is the goal of Scouting and Troop 187 to reverse both these trends. iPods, Walkmans, and other such entertainment devices are absolutely banned while backpacking and on outings. They may be permitted in an auto driving to and from an outing. Cell phones shall remained turned off, that includes games, at all times during all outings! At certain times, like summer camp, it is EXTREMELY DETRIMENTAL AND DISRESPECTFUL to younger scouts and scout leaders for a Scout to have a cell phone turned on.

BEFORE A SCOUT EVER TURNS ON A CELL PHONE WHILE ON AN OUTING OR IN CAMP HE MUST RECEIVE SCOUTMASTER PERMISSION!

Summer Camp & Troop Outings

Summer Camp

Each summer Troop 187 attends Summer Camp for one week. Traditionally summer camp is held at Bucks County Council's Ockanickon Scout Reservation in Plumstead Township each even year. Each odd year the Troop selects a camp within a 2 to 6 hour driving time. Camp selection is not dictated by the Troop leaders rather the Scouts vote to determine which camp is attended each year.

A deposit of \$50.00 is collected, usually in January. The balance due typically must be paid by May 1st, but the date may vary depending on the camp chosen. **Once Summer Camp money has been paid to the Troop, it is non-refundable.**

Scouts are encouraged to earn the money to attend Summer Camp.

Scouts are NOT permitted to possess cell phones, pagers, and other electronic communication devices while in camp. Any such equipment must be declared by a Scout or handed in to an adult leader once the Scout arrives at camp.

Due to the limited allotments that BSA provide the troop for adults, normally only registered leaders with the troop are allowed to sleep over during summer camp. Leaders attending camp will be selected at the sole discretion of the Scoutmaster.

PARENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO VISIT SCOUTS IN SUMMER CAMP OTHER THAN THE FIRST AND LAST DAY OF CAMP. NOT ONLY DO UNAUTHORIZED VISIT NEGATIVELY AFFECT YOUR SON BUT THEY ALMOST ALWAYS NEGATIVELY AFFECT OTHER YOUNG SCOUTS. OUT OF RESPECT FOR ALL THE SCOUTS AND LEADERS AT CAMP WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR ADHERENCE TO THIS RULE.

Other Troop Outings

Troop 187 believes that outings in the Scout program are essential to a successful program and for advancement opportunities. Therefore, during Troop Outings the following rules will be adhered to:

1. During hikes and backpacking trips, the senior scouts and adult leaders must set a specific protocol to ensure no-one is lost or left behind as a result of being the last hiker;
 - A. At least one adult will always be specified to be the last in line (the sweep); NO ONE will be allowed to fall behind the sweep. They will walk as slow as the slowest scout. Also, at least one adult should walk with the fastest group to keep them together.

Summer Camp & Troop Outings (cont.)

Other Troop Outings (cont.)

- B. Scouts will walk with at least 4 in a group. If someone is hurt, or help must be sent for, one boy will stay behind to assist the one that is hurt.
 - C. At every branch of the trail, 2 scouts will be left behind to point the correct route to the slower scouts. As the sweep catches up, the 2 scouts can then run ahead to catch the main body. If a trail has a large number of branches, two scouts will peel off for every branch. As the sweep arrives, they will join the main body.
 - D. If you get separated from the main group, STOP and wait for help. Do NOT run looking for the main group; we will find you once we realize you are lost.
2. During scout outings, head counts will be taken as often as reasonable:
- A. At the start of a trip to get an initial count (before departure in cars)
 - B. On arrival at the destination or at the trail head (before start of the hike)
 - C. At lunch breaks and full troop stops along the trail.
 - D. Before restarting, if the scouts were off running around.
 - E. Whenever there have been several branches of the trail.
 - F. Evenings at dinner time.
 - G. After any outdoor evening games are complete.
 - H. Just prior to bedtime; tent check.
 - I. As the troop gets ready to leave the campsite.
 - J. In the cars, each driver should count the scouts in his car before the trip start and before leaving each rest stop. The troop will not start driving until each car and each scout is accounted for.