

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TROOP 511

SUMMARY HANDBOOK Revised January 2020*

Troop 511 sponsored by: Saint Catherine of Sienna Church, W Holding Avenue, WAKE FOREST, NC 27587

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*Full Handbook Parent and Scout Resource Guide available on www.511scouts.com web site

Troop 511 Short Form Handbook Wake Forest, NC

To the Parents of Troop 511 Scouts:

Welcome to Troop 511! We are sponsored by St Catherine of Sienna Church, with the church providing support to our Troop as an outreach to the community. We truly appreciate all they provide.

Troop 511 is in the Neuse River District of the Occoneechee Council, which serves North Carolina counties. Visit the Occoneechee Council website, www.ocscouts.org, for information such as training, scheduled council events, and it provides a link to our District site.

We strive to develop the skills of the boys through training, activities and leadership. Your support as a parent is very important to the overall development of the scout. We invite you to be active with the Troop through participation in activities, serving as Assistant Scout Master, on Troop Committees, serving as a merit badge counselor, and/or any other help you can provide.

The Occoneechee Council obtains aid from the Friends of Scouting campaign, which includes corporate sponsors and Scouting families. The Troop is self-supporting and needs to raise money to support its activities and purchase equipment. If for some reason, your son is unable to participate due to financial reasons, you can contact the Troop Committee Chair or the Scoutmaster for assistance.

Communication is an important part of any organization. Troop 511 uses email to communicate important upcoming events. Please sign up to receive messages from TROOP NEWS. The following website, www.511scouts.com is also a useful reference resource. Please make sure we have your email address for regular Troop updates.

The adventure begins when the boy enters Scouts and continues as the Scout gives back to Scouting what he has received.

Yours in Scouting,

Kevin Rechenberg, Troop Committee Chair

Jonathan Rector, Scoutmaster

TROOP INFORMATION

Membership

Membership in Troop 511 begins by completing an official BSA Youth Application, obtaining parental approval, and paying the membership fees. The boy is then committed to active participation in the Troop. He should understand that he is an important member of his Patrol, as well as the Troop, and should regularly attend events and activities.

All new or transfer scouts should meet with the Troop Membership Chair to complete their paperwork, receive supplies, and pay any appropriate fees.

Fees

In December, the Troop collects council registration and accident insurance fees along with Order of the Arrow and Troop dues. The scout may also purchase a yearly subscription to Boy's Life magazine. If a scout joins at any other time during the year, fees and dues are prorated.

Occonechee Council Registration	\$120
Accident Insurance	\$12
Troop 511	\$46
Annual Dues Boy's Life Subscription	\$12
Annual Total payable to TROOP 511:	\$190
Monthly Camp/ Outing	\$25/ scout/ outing (Approximate cost)
Special Monthly outing eg Mystery Outing/ adventure Outing:	

Cost charge based on activity & distance

Troop activity t-shirts (Class-B) \$33 (required)

Parents are encouraged to register as committee members or assistant scoutmasters. The fee is \$48.00 per year (\$36.00 registration + \$12.00 insurance).

Discounts: Troop 511 offers a sibling annual fee discount of \$120/ additional scout
Webelos Scouts that transfer over from a Pack in February will be charged \$130

Meetings

Troop 511 holds weekly meetings at the Saint Catherine of Sienna Church on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Scouts should arrive before 7pm so as not to disrupt the opening ceremony. Scouts should be dressed in full “Field” uniform.

Attendance

Regular attendance at Troop meetings as well as bringing the Boy Scout Handbook to meetings is necessary for the Scout to obtain maximum benefit from the Scouting program. One of the requirements for rank advancement from Scout to Eagle is "to be active in your Troop and Patrol." We define regular attendance as attending at least 75% of the scheduled Troop meetings and other activities. The Troop Committee can review attendance when it considers Scout Advancement. Dues must be current and proper uniform is required and include: Assistant Scoutmasters and ideally Committee Members should be active leaders who attend the majority of Troop meetings.

Activities

The Troop organizes special projects for Scouts throughout the year; full participation is expected. These projects vary, but will include Scout demonstrations, participating in community functions, marching in parades, conservation projects, Scout Sunday, fundraising projects and other activities.

Uniform

Field uniform, BSA shirt, BSA shorts, BSA belt, BSA socks, Troop neckerchief and troop provided cap (not for indoors) is required for meetings and travel to and from events. Activity uniform, BSA shorts, BSA belt, BSA socks and Scouting T Shirt are worn for outdoor activities. At all times foot-ware should be closed toe and closed heel, shoes or boots.

Training (Youth and Adults)

Youth training is the responsibility of the Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster Staff, and Senior Patrol Leader. The Troop conducts two classes per year, for Troop Junior Leadership Training (JLT) and is held to train all scouts to be successful in their leadership position.

All registered adults are required to have Fast Start, BSA Youth Protection, within 30 days of registering. These trainings can be found at my.scouting.org. The Church requires “Safe Child” training for any adult working with youth through the church. These classes are given throughout the year.

Adults who want to camp, are required to attend position specific training, Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) within 12 months of registering with the Troop, in order to camp.

Troop Committee members are required to complete Troop Committee Challenge Training within one year of registration. This is an online course that can be found at my.scouting.org.

Troop 511 reimburses half of the fee for adult Wood Badge training.

Troop Organization

Troop 511 is a boy lead boy ran organization. The Troop is organized into Patrols, each Patrol elects a Patrol Leader (PL) to represent them at Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) meetings, held monthly throughout the year.

A Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL) are elected by the Troop. They work closely with the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters.

All leadership positions are important for a smooth-operating Troop and an active Scout program, but the position of Senior Patrol Leader is extremely important and demands a deep commitment by the Scout holding the position. Attendance by the SPL at weekly Scout meetings and monthly Patrol Leader Council (PLC) meetings is mandatory for optimum functioning of the Troop. PLC meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month, at 6pm.

Camping and Outdoor Program

Troop 511 maintains an active camping program with approx. 11 outings per year. The equipment required of each Scout for the camping events will depend on the time of the year; however, a sleeping bag, eating utensils, and a mess kit are the basic equipment required to enable a Scout to begin camping. Obviously, more planning is necessary during the cold-weather months, but with adequate clothing and proper food, this is the best camping time. Troop 511 requires that all scouts use a day pack at all times while outdoors, this day pack would be a similar size to a school backpack and should contain the "10 essentials" (see handbook)

Troop 511 provides chuck boxes, dining flies, stoves, tents and woods tools. The Official Boy Scout Handbook and our website contain a list of personal gear guideline for camping.

We post Troop outings on the calendar, located on our website. Permission forms and camp fees are due two weeks in advance of the event for all participants. The Troop uses these fees to purchase food and supplies for each person attending the trip. Fees are non-refundable; however, the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair will consider special circumstances on a case-by-case basis. For routine camping trips there will be a **charge of \$25/ scout per outing**. Occasionally there will be exceptions or additional fee to (e.g., summer camp, self-feed backpacking treks, adventure or mystery outings and merit badge clinics etc.). The Troop will relay this information to members in advance of a trip.

The Troop Treasurer collects all fees. Sign up for outings is done on-line. The Outings/Transportation Chair procures enough seats/vehicles for the trip. The grub master from each patrol will purchase food for the event and turn in a receipt to the treasurer for reimbursement, using the Troop reimbursement form found in the library on the web site.

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In order to attend any outing, a **youth** must have the following items on file with the Troop Membership Chair.

1. Current BSA Medical Form (parts A and B, minimum).
 - a. New members must turn in parts A and B within two weeks of registration or before attending a regular Troop camp or event.
 - b. Part C, which requires a physical exam by a doctor, is due prior to attending Summer Camp. The Troop reviews forms annually prior to camp to ensure compliance.
2. The annual Trip Permission Form hard copy, signed by the Scout's parent or guardian and the on-line event registration.

In order to attend any outing an **adult** must have the following items on file with the Troop Membership Chair.

1. Current BSA Medical Form (parts A and B, minimum).
 - a. New members must turn in parts A and B within two weeks of registration or before attending a regular Troop camp or event.
 - b. Part C, which requires a physical exam by a doctor, is due prior to attending Summer Camp. The Troop reviews forms annually prior to camp to ensure compliance.
2. Adults must complete and maintain BSA Youth Protection Certification and have taken the BSA Outdoor Leadership Skills and be position trained.

Each Patrol plans menus for meals during campouts. (Occasionally, individual Scouts must provide and prepare their own food.) Each patrol is responsible for planning their menu, obtaining the food, assigning camp chores, and determining individual costs. Requests for reimbursement up to \$12 per scout, are due no later than the first meeting following the campout.

The Troop does not permit scouts to bring energy or carbonated drinks, radios, iPods, cell phones or other electronic devices on camping trips. Exceptions to cell phones are for adults who are driving or must carry them due to their jobs. A scout can earn his cyber-chip which will give him permission to bring a cell phone (see Scout Master for details).

Summer Camp

Attendance at summer camp is strongly encouraged, especially for first year scouts. Summer camp is a one-week stay at either the Council's Scout Reservation, or another location chosen by the Troop. Fundraising opportunities are available to help each Scout earn credit toward the summer camp fee. Summer camp is a great opportunity to earn several merit badges and participate in higher adventure activities. Cost is typically \$250-300 per scout.

Advancement

The Scout advancement plan is designed to encourage Scouts to accomplish a progressive series of learning experiences in the area of citizenship, character, and personal fitness. The advancement plan provides for ensuring and recognizing these experiences.

Rank advancement is an integral part of the Scouting program. A Scout does not automatically advance in rank with the passage of time; he earns his advancement by participation in Troop functions, acquiring skills and knowledge, and living the Scout ideals. Skill awards and merit badges are earned in the course of advancement. A total of 21 merit badges are required to become an Eagle Scout.

Parents are encouraged to review the requirements for the various ranks and encourage their son to learn the Scouting skills required; however, no parent may approve his/her own son for rank advancement. All ranks must go before a Board of Review by the Troop Committee. Parents should encourage self-reliance through the advancement program. If no advancement is apparent within a reasonable length of time, the Scout will be counseled to find the reason.

In order for a Scout to work on a merit badge, he must first speak with the Merit Badge Coordinator to secure a registered merit badge counselor. (A parent may not be a counselor for his/her son unless another youth is also working on the merit badge.) A blue card must then be secured and signed by the Merit Badge Coordinator ideally before any work on the merit badge may be started.

Any Scout going before the Board of Review with the Troop Committee is required to have his Boy Scout Handbook signed and completed.

Every Scout will not become an Eagle Scout, but every Scout will have the opportunity to learn many of the skills and ideals required of an Eagle Scout and thus become a better citizen and a better individual. To meet these goals, we seek your support.

TROOP 511 POLICIES

Two-Deep Leadership:

The Boy Scout program requires at least two adults over 21 at every meeting and event. If this requirement cannot be met, then the meeting or event will be canceled. Again, the parents need to provide full support in order for all activities to take place.

Fundraiser Money Distribution

- Popcorn -The amount of profit the Troop retains is set by Occonechee Council; all profit goes to the scout's credit account based on individual and show & sell sales.
- Other fundraisers' will be determined and communicated when planned by the committee eg camp cards, NC State Football and Applebee breakfasts.

Finances

- Troop 511 will determine its annual budget during August of the preceding year based on the number of active scouts. We will then divide the number of scouts in the Troop into the annual budget to determine the annual dues, currently at \$190.
- Dues will include scouting award expenses, patrol awards, and/or expenses for new or replacement equipment for the Troop.
- The Troop participates in the annual Friends of Scouting council fundraiser, during which families are asked to donate to the council. These donations help maintain quality camp facilities, Scouting District positions, etc. Each family is asked to donate what they can, so Scouting can continue in the area.
- Each Scout has his own personal account. The Troop Treasurer maintains the account, and the money in it can only be spent on Scout-related activities (Campouts, Dues, Training, Summer Camp are examples). Money is added to the account when the Scout earns it during a fundraiser, or when money is transferred from another Troop.
- If a Scout quits Troop 511 or ages out (turns 18 years of age), his personal account can be handled in one of several ways. Please refer any questions to the Treasurer.
- Troop 511 will reimburse volunteer adult drivers for the cost of the fuel for transporting Scouts to outings when their services are necessary. Receipts are to be turned in to the Troop Treasurer within **one (1) week** of the trip for reimbursement.
- The Troop will attempt to provide scholarships to families who need financial assistance for their Scout to participate in basic Scout functions, summer camp, and monthly outings. The Scout will be expected to participate in all aspects of Scouting, primarily coming to meetings and taking advantage of all fundraising opportunities, to be eligible for scholarship money. These scholarships will be approved by the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee Chairperson.
- The Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster has the authorization to make emergency purchases in an amount up to \$150.00 while on a campout, as needed.
- The Troop will pay 50% of the fees for Scouts who attend National Youth Leadership Training. The Scout will pay the remaining 50%.

Disciplinary Matters:

This policy is described in the full TROOP 511 Parent Resource Guide and includes standards of Behavior and Conduct including:

Live Scout Oath and Law

No touch policy

No hazing

No use of inappropriate language

In the event of a complaint there will be a proper investigation and follow up and then any necessary disciplinary action is taken in accordance with the severity of the problem in full compliance with all BSA guidelines. Parent and Scout Resource Guide found at www.511Troop.com/library

By signing this page, the Scout and Parent acknowledge they have read the abridged policies and agree to read the full Parent and Scout Resource Guide found at www.511Troop.com/library