

SCOUT / PARENT HANDBOOK 2008



**Boy Scouts of America
Troop 423
Durham, NC**

"An Adventure of Fun and Learning"

Chartered by McMannen United Methodist Church
Visit us on the web at: www.mcmannenscouting.org/troop423

The Troop 423 Handbook
Recommended reading for all Scouts and parents!
Updated: May 01, 2008

Introduction

Welcome to Troop 423! As a new member of Troop 423, you are joining a group of boys who share your interests in the outdoors, adventure, and learning. As a Scout you will get the opportunity to acquire new skills, and you will be recognized and rewarded for what you have accomplished. You will have the opportunity to learn leadership, organizational, and other skills that will help you later in life.

The "Troop 423 Parent / Scout Handbook" is intended to act as an introduction to Scouting in Troop 423 and to give Scouts and Parents a better understanding about how Troop 423 works. Please take the time to read over this handbook, and contact the Scoutmaster or one of the other Adult Leaders if you have any questions.

Adult Participation

The adults who give their time, talent, and support to make Troop 423 a success are all volunteers. Both mothers, fathers, and legal guardians may assist Troop 423 by providing transportation to and from outings, serving on a troop committee, becoming a merit badge counselor, becoming an Assistant Scoutmaster, or serving in other leadership positions.

If you are a parent or guardian of a boy in Troop 423, or an interested former leader, please take the time to attend a couple of Troop or Committee Meetings. Talk to the Scoutmaster, the Committee Chairman, or one of the other Adult Leaders. You may have the skills, resources, or contacts the Troop needs.

Troop 423 Organization

Troop 423 is associated with the Occoneechee Council, Mawat District, in the Eastern Region of the Boy Scouts of America.

The District is the geographic area in which a troop is located. A district may cover one or more neighborhoods in a big city, or it may cover several counties in more rural areas.

The Council is a group of one or more Districts. A Council has a professional staff and volunteers that help make the individual troops successful. Occoneechee Council is composed of 14 Districts, which cover DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, and Kendall counties. Most Councils run scout stores where uniforms, books, and other scout supplies are sold. Occoneechee Council has two scout shops. One is located at the Boy Scout office in St. Charles, IL and the other is located in West Chicago, IL.

Every Boy Scout Troop has at least one Chartering Organization, which assists the troop by providing a meeting place, guidance, leadership, and financial assistance, if needed. The Sugar Grove United Methodist Church proudly charters Troop 423.

The troop committee is a group of adults, generally parents/guardians of the Scouts, who provide support and guidance to the troop. Troop committee positions include:

- Charter Organization Representative - Liaison between the troop and Chartering Organization
- Troop Committee Chair - Head of the troop committee.
- Scoutmaster - Oversees the operations of the troop.
- Assistant Scoutmaster - Advisor to assigned Patrols
- Troop Committee Member - Registered volunteer helping with the troop business
- Advancement Chair - Administers the troop advancement program, maintains records and prepares advancement reports for the council
- Fund-raiser Chair - Organizes fund raising projects to meet the troop needs.

Joining Troop 423

To join BSA Troop 423, you must do the following (as outlined in "The Boy Scout Handbook", Eleventh Edition, page 4)

- Meet the age requirements - complete the fifth grade or be 11 years old, or earn the Cub Scout Arrow Of Light Award (must be under 18 years old)
- Complete a Boy Scout Application Form and health history, signed by a parent or guardian
- Repeat the Pledge of the Allegiance
- Demonstrate the Scout Sign, Salute, and Handshake
- Demonstrate tying the square knot
- Understand, and agree to live by the Scout Oath or Promise, Law Motto, Slogan, and the Outdoor Code
- Describe the Scout Badge
- Complete the "How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide" pamphlet from the front of the "Boy Scout Handbook"
- Participate in a Scoutmaster Conference

Scout Handbook

Each scout is expected to obtain and keep a copy of the "Boy Scout Handbook, Eleventh Edition". This book should be brought to all troop activities and campouts. A protective cover (available from the scout store) is optional.

Fees/Dues

Yearly Dues of \$50.00 per scout for re-chartering are collected each year in September. This money is to cover the expense of registration and insurance required of each boy on an annual basis. This fee also is intended to cover the cost of any awards or patches the boys earn during the year as well as registrations for camping trip sites and other activities. There is an additional \$12.00 fee if the boy wants to subscribe to "Boys Life" magazine. Please make every effort to ensure that these dues are paid in a timely manner. Remember - "A Scout is Thrifty". A Scout should understand the fees associated with scouting and he should work to help earn the necessary re-chartering fees.

Registered Adult Leaders will need to pay yearly re-chartering dues of \$10.00. Merit Badge Counselors will need to fill out a registration form and information sheet once each year. No fee is required for Merit Badge Counselors.

Other Troop activities will require funds in addition to the re-chartering dues. Troop 423 holds one fundraiser event each year to cover camping and equipment costs. Scouts will have the opportunity to earn money for their individual accounts during the scouting year (ie. Popcorn sales). Additional fundraisers for High Adventure trips may be necessary.

Troop Structure

Troop 423 is run by the Senior Patrol Leader and is divided into several small groups called patrols. The Senior Patrol Leader is elected by the troop. His position has a 12-month term. Elections are held at the beginning of the year. Qualifications for this position are as follows: Boy must have served as a patrol leader and successfully completed the patrol leader training course with the Scoutmaster; must express a desire to hold the position prior to the troop elections; and must agree to honor the attendance requirements set up by the Scoutmaster.

A patrol is a group of 6-10 boys who camp together and participate in troop activities together. In our troop, we allow the boys to select which patrol they will participate in. If the number of boys in a patrol changes due to growth or attrition, the Scoutmaster may form a new patrol or combine existing patrols as needed. A Scout may make a request to change patrols to the Senior Patrol Leader and the Scoutmaster, who will then decide if the change is justified.

Each patrol has a Patrol Leader elected by the patrol members and serves for a 6 month period. The Scoutmaster will override the vote if a boy has not expressed a desire to hold the position or who has not agreed to take the position under the guidelines set by the Scoutmaster. Patrol Leaders are engaged into a training program with the Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader providing the training for each Patrol Leader.

Other Troop positions include: Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (appointed by the SPL), Quartermaster (equipment control), Troop Guide (assists younger scouts through the program), Chaplain's Aide (religious duties), Historian (documents troop activities), Librarian (maintains troop library), OA Representative (attends OA meetings and relays information to troop members), and Scribe (record keeper/publisher). The position of Junior Assistant Scoutmaster is available to any Eagle Scout who has reached the age of 16. These positions are appointed annually by the Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster based on interest shown by the boy and each boy's need for leadership for rank advancement.

Ideally, a Boy Scout Troop is a "Boy Run Troop", the Scouts do all the event planning and take care of all Troop operations via the Patrol Leader's Council (PLC). Troop 423 holds PLC meetings on a monthly basis. These meetings are not only for planning activities, but also for the boys to critique the activities and their own actions on an activity, to try to improve the program. The Scoutmaster and another adult leader of Troop 423 are advisors to the Patrol Leader's Council.

Troop Meetings

Troop 423 meets every Monday evening at the Scout Hut at McMannen United Methodist Church except when the day is also a holiday, e.g. Memorial Day. See the current Troop 423 Web Site (www.mcmannenscouting.org/troop423) Calendar for changes or additions. The regular Troop Meeting is 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Scoutmaster Conferences and Board of Reviews will be held at regular meetings as required. Scouts will not be permitted to leave any meeting early without permission from a leader who

is at least 21 years old. Parents will be notified if a scout leaves without permission prior to the end of the meeting.

The Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) meets before the regular troop meeting the first Monday of each month. All Patrol Leaders, the Senior Patrol Leader, the Junior Assistant Scoutmasters, one adult leader and the Scoutmaster should attend this meeting. The PLC works with the Scoutmaster and the other Adult Leaders to plan upcoming Troop activities.

All Scouts are encouraged to attend every Troop meeting. Scouts who miss a Troop meeting are expected to contact other members of their patrol or check the website to get information regarding upcoming events.

Troop Uniform

The Boy Scouts of America is a uniformed organization. Wearing the Boy Scout uniform shows a sense of belonging and pride the Scouting movement. All members of Troop 423 are required to wear the approved uniform and insignia to all troop meetings and activities. Adult leaders should set an example and wear the proper adult uniform.

Troop 423 will supply any merit badges, and patches earned by a troop member. Any duplicate badges / patches (lost or duplicates for additional uniforms) will be paid for by the Scout. BSA Troop 423 has approved the following uniform:

The UNIFORM - to be worn during all Troop Meetings, Courts of Honor, Boards of Review, and for travel to and from all Troop campouts and activities. The UNIFORM consists of the following:

- Official BSA Khaki long or short sleeved shirt (with appropriate Troop 423 numerals, Occoneechee Council patch, red shoulder loops, current leadership position patch, and rank insignia. See the inside cover of the BSA Handbook for details.)
- Neckerchiefs are optional
- Blue Jeans (in good condition) with belt are acceptable. BSA olive pants or shorts with belt (or Kaki shorts (above knee level)) are recommended. Official BSA scout socks should be worn with BSA shorts (OPTIONAL)
- Any official BSA scouting hat is optional.
- Merit badge sash is optional for Courts of Honor and other special events after six merit badges are earned.

Regular civilian clothes, when worn, MUST reflect the spirit of scouting. It will be up to the leaders' discretion if a shirt is inappropriate.

Uniforms can be purchased on-line from www.scoutstuff.org or from the council's store in Raleigh. I recommend going to the store to actually try the clothes on. The address is:

Occoneechee Scout Shop
3231 Atlantic Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27604
(919) 850-0301
Toll-Free 1-888-421-4744

HOURS

Monday through Friday: 9 A.M - 6 P.M.
Saturday: 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. Closed Sunday

Troop Rules and Regulations

Troop 423 has established several troop rules and regulations, which are to be followed at all times by the boys. These rules are set for the safety of the boys and must be respected and observed by the boys at all times. Remember to put into practice the 12 points of the scout law. The following rules are always in effect during Troop 423 activities and meetings:

1. The Scout Uniform is required during all scout meetings, while traveling to and from any activities, and during all scouting activities. Regular civilian clothes are only approved for Troop campouts after arrival.
2. The "BUDDY SYSTEM" is to be followed at all times.
3. Bows, arrows, ammunition, fireworks, and firearms of any kind, may not be brought to any scouting activity.
4. Under no circumstances may fireworks be brought to any scout activity.
5. Each boy must have successfully completed his Toten' Chip class prior to opening or using a knife, saw, or axe of any kind.
6. No sheath knives or fixed blade knives are permitted. The Scoutmaster must approve all knives, axes, saws, and hand axes. Any unapproved items will be confiscated and returned to the parent upon returning from the outing.
7. Boys are not allowed to leave the campsite after dark unless they have prior permission from a leader and have a buddy with them. Any boys discovered away from the campsite after dark will be searched for. If the boy is not found, he will be deemed missing and the boy's parents will be contacted by phone immediately (no matter what time it may be), to advise them of the situation.
8. Please remind your son that he is a guest in the car of the person providing transportation. The driver of the car is in charge, and what he says is the rule in his car. This means:
 - a. Seat belts are mandatory at all times while in transit to and from a scouting activity.
 - b. No throwing of objects in or out of the car.
 - c. No eating or drinking in the car unless PRIOR permission is given.
 - d. Do not distract the driver.
 - e. Loud, unruly, or obscene talk or gestures will not be tolerated.

Advancement by scouts through the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Star, Life and Eagle, are strongly encouraged and necessary to help their development in scouting. There are some privileges awarded to those boys with higher ranks. These privileges are meant solely to reward boys for their achievements and to encourage other boys to strive for higher ranks. In order to assure that scouts and leaders have a clear definition of when and where ranking is appropriate these (3) instances have been chosen where ranking has been deemed appropriate:

1. Choosing a troop tent for a campout.
2. Initial selection of tent site or bunk selection upon arrival at a campsite or cabin.
3. Place in food line upon completion of saying grace at campsite or cabin. (Excludes any eating establishment while in transit).

An adult leader, according to BSA Policy, will discipline any boy who breaks one of these rules. Most cases will earn the boy some type of "Special Duty", (i.e. empty a water bucket, carry the garbage to its disposal area, or some type of other small extra job on the outing), which will be assigned by an adult leader. If the boy blatantly breaks a rule, it is up to the adult leaders to decide how to approach the situation (according to BSA Policy). The most serious situations would result in a phone call to the parents who will be asked to come to the outing and take the boy home.

Individual Accounts

The boys have the opportunity to put money into their individual accounts during the year. The purpose of the account was to allow the boys to earn money for long term camping, High Adventure trips, the purchase of Scout uniforms.

Troop 423 will consider any scout who is registered at the beginning of our scouting year- September 1 through August 31 - and is under 18 years of age on September 1 to be eligible to participate in fund raisers and receive High Adventure Assistance until the beginning of the next scouting year. That is:

1. The scout will be eligible to receive any funds he has accumulated in his troop account to apply to his long term or high adventure camp. This includes camp registration fees and transportation fees.
2. The scout will be eligible to work in any fundraiser to add funds to his account up to the departure date for the long term of high adventure camp.
3. Once the scout turns 18, BSA considers him an adult. The beginning of the scouting year, (September 1), that the 18 year old scouter registers as a leader ends all financial assistance and fundraiser eligibility for the scouter. At this time all funds in his accounts reverts back the troop or to a younger brother in the troop.
4. Funds in an account can be shared by brothers and transferred to brother's accounts.
5. When a scout leaves the troop, his funds will be held in the account for one year, after which, the funds will revert back to the troop. Should a scout rejoin the troop after the one year time period, his account will be with a zero balance. Example: A scout drops out in 2007 and does not re-register in January 2008; his funds will revert back to the troop in January 2009.

Troop Web Site

As you now know, our troop has it's own website (www.mcmannenscouting.org/troop423) on the Internet. At the site, you will find a calendar of upcoming scouting events, and you can print out campout permission slips and other items for your convenience. We would like to put some pictures on this website from time to time, showing our boys at campouts and the like. If you are willing to allow us to put pictures of your son on our website, please fill out, sign and return the back page of this booklet.

Questions or Comments

We, as a committee, would like to thank the parents for their support. We encourage any questions or comments you may have regarding this Troop 423 Handbook. If you have a question or comment, please direct it to the Scoutmaster, Committee Chairman, or any other Committee member.

Please fill out, sign this sheet in the appropriate places, and return to Mr. Anderle.

(Print Scout's Name)

I have read and agree to follow the Troop 423 Scout / Parent Handbook.

(Parent's Signature & Date)

I give my permission to Troop 423 to put pictures of my son on the Troop's Internet website.

(Parent's Signature & Date)