Scouts BSA
Troop 171B and Troop 171G

INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

Sponsored by Grace Commons Church of Boulder

Dear Parents and Scout,

Welcome to Scout BSA Troops 171B and 171G -- "B" for boys and "G" for girls. Although these are separate troops, they operate with the same policies. You are joining a troop with a proud history that was started in May 1952. In the years since then, our major focuses have been advancement in Scouting, citizenship, and the outdoor program. We believe that you are joining a troop with one of the strongest Scouting programs possible.

There is one noticeable trait that is consistent throughout the Scouts who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout. They are active in the troop, both in Monday night meetings and the outdoor program. This is vital if you are going to be successful in Scouting. Camping, both winter and summer, adventure trips, leadership training, advancement and troop meetings are all part of the excitement of Scouting.

Parents, Scouting is fun, but it is also very challenging. Through the Scouting program, young people learn to take care of themselves. On campouts, they must carry their own pack, cook their own food and solve their own problems. These strides in growing up are difficult but very rewarding. Please encourage your son or daughter to meet the challenges that Scouting has to offer. Stay active and participate in as many of the activities as possible - especially the outdoor program.

Another part of Scouting that most people do not realize is that the troop is actually run by the Scouts, not the adults. The Senior Patrol Leader is in charge. Patrols are run by Patrol Leaders. Together, they plan the troop meetings and organize the campouts. This organizational structure is not the most efficient. It leads to mistakes. However, one of the most important goals of Scouting is to build leadership. Please forgive the mistakes they may make. Missed or late phone calls, activities that may falter are called guided discoveries. With youth leadership, Scouting is full of guided discoveries. However, with the framework and guidance Scouting provides, guided discoveries can be the best learning situations of all. Finally, when given a chance, your son or daughter and the other Scouts in the troop will surprise you. They will rise to the occasion and provide the leadership that has made Troop 171 one of the best Scout troops.

This information notebook is provided to you to help answer questions about the operation and activities of the troops. Please take time to look it over. If you have questions, please contact one of the people listed on the troop adult leader roster. If your son or daughter has questions, please encourage him or her to call his or her Patrol Leader or the Senior Patrol Leader.

Thank you again for choosing Scouts BSA Troop 171B or BSA Troop 171G. We hope your time here is fun and exciting!

- Keith Reis, Scoutmaster Troop 171B
- Dani Coleman, Scoutmaster Troop 171G
- Troop 171 Scoutmaster Staff and the Adult Committee

CAMPING INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

Camping is a very important part of the Troop 171B and Troop 171G program. Below are some guidelines to help your son or daughter and the troop have a good experience.

PERMISSION SLIPS

It is most important that you, the parent or guardian, complete the permission slip for each campout your Scout attends. As a rule, the slip will be in the form of a Google Doc link sent via email.

DRIVING

Parents should also always indicate on the permission slip if they can or cannot drive. This is a tremendous help when the transportation chairperson sets up transportation for each campout. Drivers are reimbursed for gas on trips over 50 miles. With troops this size, you will be asked to drive approximately every third trip. However, if you have a 4-wheel drive vehicle, you may be asked to drive on a higher percentage of winter trips.

TIMES OF DEPARTURE AND RETURN

Please note the time that we gather to leave for each campout and the time of return is always stated on trip information and on the electronic permission slip. The return time is subject to change because of weather and traffic conditions. Scouts can call from the church when they return. NOTE: **Scouts may not be able to leave just as soon as they return to the church.** All Scouts must do their share of unloading and putting equipment back into the troop closet. Also, each Scout is expected to take home either a tent, stove or piece of cook gear to clean.

Using cell phones, Scouts are sometimes able to call when they leave the campsite or pass through a town on the way home. At a minimum, they can call when they arrive at the church. IMPORTANT – PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY KNOW A NUMBER WHERE YOU CAN BE REACHED! We have had instances where Scouts rely on their cell phone directory and do not know their own parent's/guardian's cell phone or home number. Please make sure your Scout can reach you when they arrive at the church.

MEDICAL INFORMATION REQUEST

Safety is our prime concern in Troop 171B and Troop 171G. We ask that you make us aware of any special issues that may affect the health and safety of your son or daughter. This includes life-threatening allergies and medical conditions. We have had instances where Scouts had behavioral conditions such as ADD, ADHD, or bi-polar disorder that was not relayed to the troop leadership. In some cases, parents took Scouts off of medications for the summer without telling us. This is a setup for problems. We will respect Scout and family privacy, and we will share information only on a need-to-know basis. Please help us help your son or daughter be successful in Scouts by sharing appropriate information.

Information about BSA medical forms is located later in this booklet.

FOOD PURCHASES AND COST TO SCOUT

The troops run for the most part by its Scouts and their decisions. On every campout, one Scout in the patrol will be assigned to purchase the food for the patrol (they take turns). As a parent, you will need to remind the Scout to keep the grocery receipt after purchasing the groceries for his or her patrol. The Scout must return this receipt to the Scoutmaster or the Troop Treasurer when he or she reports to the campout. Then, the amount spent will be credited to your son or daughter's account. Before turning the receipt in, Scouts must write their name on the receipt so that we know whom to reimburse. The names of all Scouts in their patrol who should be charged must be written on the receipt also.

IMPORTANT: If your Scout signs up for a campout but finds for some reason he or she needs to cancel, the Scout must call the Patrol Leader or the Scoutmaster by Wednesday of the week of the campout, or the Scout will be charged for his or her portion of the food purchased.

PARENTS CAMPING WITH THE TROOP

Parents are always welcome and encouraged to camp with the troops. This is a fun way for parents to be involved with their son or daughter in a positive way. To make this successful for you, your son or daughter and the rest of the Scouts in the troop, please follow these guidelines and suggestions when attending a campout.

- Scouts are responsible for the activities and leadership. On most trips, Scouts cook their own meals, clean their own dishes, set up their own tents, and make their own mistakes. Adults may be able to do all of these things better, but the Scouts will not learn if we do not let them try.
- Keep the focus on the troop and the Scouts in it. Do not single out your child for special activities, treats or privileges. For example, please do not leave camp with your son or daughter for a trip to the store or a special day of fishing during summer camp, etc. This causes hard feelings and takes away from the patrol organization.
- Please do not criticize your Scout. It is tough to watch your Scout make mistakes. But, the structure of the troop provides a great sense of direction. Most times, the Scouts in the troop will provide a positive example and the correction necessary to help your son or daughter be successful.
- Please end a trip at the church or the designated spot communicated by the troop leadership. After a full week or weekend of camping, it is tempting to go straight home after a campout. But, each Scout is expected to do his or her share of work to help return equipment to the troop closet. They need to return to the church with the troop for this part of every trip. Before leaving, each Scout must checkout with the Troop Quartermaster, their Patrol Leader, and the Senior Patrol Leader.

SPECIAL CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES
Our Scout troops have four special, long-term camping programs available. These opportunities are Summer Camp, Micro Adventure, Mini Adventure, and High Adventure.

These special programs are available to different age Scouts. The age requirements are as follows:

SUMMER CAMP	All Scouts. Any age (11 - 17)
MICRO ADVENTURE	First year Scouts (usually age 10 - 12)
MINI ADVENTURE	Age 12 to 14 ONLY
HIGH ADVENTURE	Age 14 to 17 ONLY

SUMMER CAMP is available to all Scouts. We spend a week at one of three different Scout summer camps. While at camp, Scouts may work on any of approximately 20 merit badges. Canoeing, Hiking, Rock Climbing and Fishing Merit Badges are among the merit badges offered. In recent years, we have begun a three-year rotation for summer camp.

- Year one: in-council summer camp located in Colorado.
- Year two: Troop-sponsored summer camp at Flaming Gorge in Utah.
- Year three: Out-of-council summer camp (e.g., Wyoming, South Dakota, etc.).

At some camps, Scouts live in two-person wall tents and sleep on cots. Other camps have different camping situations.

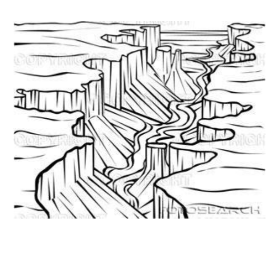
The Scouts do their own cooking while at camp organized by Patrols. Each Scout will have the opportunity to prepare the food, cook, and clean.

Transportation is coordinated by the troop. Each Scout is charged for transportation and the drivers are reimbursed for their actual gas charges according to the troops' Adult Committee policy.

The cost of summer camp is between $300 and $400 depending on the location and year of the rotation.

MICRO ADVENTURE is a backpacking trip designed especially for first year Scouts. All Scouts age 10 and 11 are highly encouraged to participate in this adventure. It is designed to start them on the road to Scouting adventure trips and is often required before Scouts can participate in the troops' more challenging backpacking trips. The distance and terrain will be challenging but reasonable for Scouts who have never backpacked before. First year Scouts on this trip will have all of the responsibilities that older Scouts have on their adventure trips including food planning, navigation, and packing and carrying troop gear. Since older Scouts will not be on this trip, the younger Scouts will get their first taste of trip leadership.

MINI ADVENTURE is an outdoor experience offered only to Scouts between the ages of 12 and 14. It will typically involve backpacking between 15 and 20 miles in four days. Some Mini Adventure trips may last up to a week and be as far away as Utah or



Arizona. Because these trips are in wilderness areas, all cooking is done with backpacking stoves. No/low impact camping is stressed on these trips as well as all of our other trips.

The purpose of the Mini Adventure trip is to help younger Scouts develop the leadership and backpacking skills that they will need for the High Adventure trips when they are older. Because the trip is limited to Scouts age 14 and under, they must make their own decisions and provide the crew leadership without the benefit of the older Scouts.

Scouts must be at least a Second Class Scout and have the First Aid Merit Badge. Special camping gear is also required. Items such as rain jackets and rain chaps or pants (instead of ponchos) are a must to help in preventing hypothermia. The equipment requirements are discussed at a pre-trip meeting.

The terrain and length of these trips are specifically geared for this age group. It is definitely a challenge, but is possible.

HIGH ADVENTURE is the ultimate of troop outings. Only the imagination, dedication, determination and resources of the Scouts participating limit these adventures. For this reason, Scouts must be between 14 and 17 years old, be First Class or above, and have first aid, camping, and cooking merit badges. Other requirements may exist depending on the trip. A list of trip requirements can be found on the front of the troop Website.

Most High Adventure trips are 9 to 14 day backpacking trips and cover about 50 miles. There is a High Adventure trip every summer, and additional High Adventure trips are possible during other times of the year. Trips may be during Christmas vacation (such as ski touring in Yellowstone National Park) and during spring break vacation. Specialty trips may include canoeing, backpacking, scuba diving, or skiing. Because these trips are usually in wilderness areas, no-impact camping is stressed.

The length, difficulty and the remote areas where these trips are taken make proper gear very important, including a waterproof rain jacket and rain pants. These offer good protection against hypothermia in the windy and rainy conditions that are often encountered above timberline. Ponchos have proven to be very ineffective in these conditions. A full list of equipment is available on the troop website and will be discussed at the pre-trip meeting.

CAMPING GEAR SUGGESTIONS

TROOP WEBSITE – Checkout the camp gear suggestions on our troop website. It shows our most recent suggestions for gear. Feel free to also contact one of the adults in the troop for suggestions.

BACKPACKS - For most of our campouts, frame backpacks are essential. Although there are many good internal frame packs on the market, they do not seem to work well for younger Scouts. On trips over 1/2 mile, it is very important that the frame fit correctly. Also, when loaded with gear, it should not weigh more than 1/3 of the Scout's weight. Each Scout will also be carrying his or her share of troop equipment and food. A good guide is to leave space about the size of a volleyball in their backpack for food and crew gear. Adjustable, external frame packs made by Kelty, Camp Trails, and other manufacturers seem to work the best and are a good buy for the money. Feel free to ask for advice from the troop adults before making such a large purchase.

ACCESSORY STRAPS - Nylon straps are much better than ropes or bungee cords for fastening a sleeping bag to a backpack or its frame.

SLEEPING BAG AND FOAM PAD - Sleeping bags may well be the most expensive piece of camping gear a Scout owns. For winter camping, it is also a very important piece of gear. On many of our campouts, the temperature may drop below zero.

The sleeping bag should be either down or synthetic (for example, Climashield, PrimaLoft One, etc.). Whatever it is made of, it should be rated for winter temperature. Mummy-shaped sleeping bags are much better than rectangular bags. Rectangular bags are heavier to carry and they have cold spots in the winter. Also, the Scout needs to practice stuffing (or rolling) it and tying it to the backpack at home.

FOAM PAD – REQUIRED - An expensive sleeping bag is worthless without a foam pad. Closed-cell foam works the best in the winter. Air mattresses are not good for winter use, because they crack, lose air, and do not provide good insulation. Self-inflating foam pads (such as the Therm-a-Rest brand) are excellent pads.

CLOTHING - For clothing items, wool or synthetic fabrics are the best. They retain the largest percentage of its insulation value even when wet. For hat, shirt, pants, gloves, and socks, wool or synthetics are required. Wool pants for younger Scouts are both expensive and hard to find. The alternatives include synthetic ski pants.

Camping checklists provided by the troop require synthetic fabrics and NO cotton. Although it adds some cost to the gear, it is important for Scouts to begin building a camping wardrobe of non-cotton, synthetic clothing. Not only will this make them more comfortable on our trips, it may save their lives.

No matter what the clothes are made of, layering is the best method. This allows you to add extra clothes when you are cold and to take layers off when you are warm. When layering clothes, you can start with a long underwear shirt, long sleeve shirt, sweater, vest, and finally a shell parka. If it is really cold, you can add more layers including a heavy jacket. For the rest of the "layered look," wear long underwear bottoms and pants.

BOOTS In the long run, boots may be the most difficult piece of gear. They are expensive and for some reason, Scouts always seem to grow out of them just before a hike or campout.

There are several types of boots for winter camping. They each have their good and bad points. Whichever kind of boots you get, you MUST wear wool socks. If you are allergic to wool, wear a pair of tube socks and a pair of wool socks.

SUMMER LIGHTWEIGHT HIKING BOOTS (Nylon and leather)
This is what most Scouts own. They are good because they can be used in the summer, spring, and fall. They do tend to be cold in the winter. Therefore, they must be large enough to allow you to wear two pair of socks

(at least one of which is wool), and still have room to move your toes. All leather boots should be waterproofed before every campout. Bear grease, mink oil, or any other kind of oils tend to allow the leather to stretch out of shape and can rot the stitching. Nylon or Gortex boots have varying treatment requirements. Check with the store or packing tags for details on waterproofing these boots.

SOREL, FELT-LINED BOOTS - Sorel boots have a removable wool felt liner, leather uppers, and rubber soles. These are the best winter boots available although they are very expensive (approximately $100.00+). There are some imitation brands that are available at a lower price. **Scouts MUST have winter boots for winter trips!**

BOOTIES and OVERBOOTIES - Booties are for wearing at night or around camp and are made of either down or synthetic (i.e., PolarGuard). Synthetic fill is the best material, because it stays warmer when it is wet. A good addition to booties are overbooties. These nylon, knee length bootie covers protect the booties and keep them dry. We have had Scouts comfortable at -36 degrees F. in this combination of footwear. Please note that overbooties are difficult to find.

GAITERS - A pair of gaiters will last for years and will make snow camping much more enjoyable. Gaiters fit over the top of your boots and the bottom of your pants to keep the snow out. They cost anywhere from $10.00 to $40.00. The cheaper ones work fine. Remember to put them on before you get wet.

WATER BOTTLES - The plastic wide mouth bottles are the best. Mixing powdered drink mix is easier with the large mouth. Second, they seal tighter. This is important because you usually need to keep the water bottle in your tent to prevent it from freezing at night. Finally, they are cheaper than metal canteens and they also fit in the side pockets of backpacks. TWO bottles are required for adventure trips. Nalgene bottles with ounce and metric measures on the side help with cooking. Remember to bring your water bottle FULL. Also, be sure to put your name on the lid and the bottle.

WHERE TO BUY CAMPING GEAR

Camping gear can be a very large investment. However, there are several ways to keep the cost down. First, the cheapest items are not always the best value. Many times, it is worthwhile to look for used items of higher quality than to buy cheaper items new. There are several places to find good used items. Second, many of the local mountaineering shops have bulletin boards that people use to advertise used equipment. Many times a "wanted to buy" ad will bring results. There is also a bulletin board in the U.M.C. (student center) on the C.U. Boulder campus. This is an excellent place to find sleeping bags and frame packs for larger people. Another good place for used gear is second hand camping stores.

Camping and backpacking equipment sources:

<u>Boulder</u>

- Recreational Equipment, Inc. (R.E.I.)
- Dick’s Sporting Goods (Flatiron Crossing in Broomfield)
- The North Face
- Red Fox Outdoor Equipment
- Neptune Mountaineering

- Jax
- Boulder Sports Recycler (used gear)
- Play it Again Sports (used gear)

Web Orders

- Campmoor <http://www.campmor.com>
- Sierra Trading Post <http://www.sierratradingpost.com>

Before you buy major and expensive items such as boots or sleeping bags, talk to several of the major mountaineering shops. It may seem confusing, but every salesperson has his/her own view of what you need. By talking to several, you can learn a lot.

NEW SCOUTS - TROOP-OWNED EQUIPMENT

Most new Scouts do not have all the equipment that is needed for camping and backpacking. The cost of all this equipment at one time would be quite high. For this reason, the troop owns or has access to a large amount of gear. We have several backpacking tents and other equipment that Scouts may borrow. We also have some personal camping gear that can be used by new Scouts for their first several campouts. We have many cups, dishes, wool socks, and other miscellaneous gear. These items are for the use of new Scouts. All they have to do is ask.

Each Scout is expected to begin providing their own gear as time goes on so that the next new Scout can have the opportunity to use the equipment.

SCOUT ACCOUNTS and FUNDRAISING

The Troop Treasurer maintains an account for each Scout. Fundraising proceeds, deposits from parents, reimbursements to drivers, and charges for activities are credited to and charged against these accounts. Several times a year, you will receive an itemized bill detailing charges and credits. Please check it carefully when it arrives. Please do not wait until the end of the year to inform us of a mistake that occurred on a trip months before.

CHARGES/CREDITS TO ACCOUNTS

FOOD CHARGE - Permission slips are sent out for all trips. If your son or daughter is going on a trip and does not cancel before the food is bought, he will be charged for his or her share.

If you must cancel, THE SCOUT must call or e-mail:

- His or her Patrol Leader
- Transportation Chairperson
- Scoutmaster

BUYING FOOD - Scouts in the patrols take turns buying food for campouts. If your Scout is asked to buy food, he or she needs to:

1. Check with the Patrol Leader for an exact count before buying food.

2. Save the grocery receipt.
3. Circle any items not used that have been returned or you are keeping.
4. Write the name of the trip on the top of the receipt.
5. List the names of the Scouts he or she bought food for, even if they did not go. Please make a special note of the Scouts who did not go but you bought food for anyway.
6. Most importantly, write the name of who bought the food on the top of the receipt.
7. This receipt is to be turned in at the next regularly scheduled troop meeting.

DRIVING - If you are driving on a trip further than 50 miles from the church, we ask that you fill up your gas tank before leaving town. Save all gas receipts for gas purchased on the road. Also, fill up when you return to Boulder. To be reimbursed, turn in the receipts at the next meeting. Be sure to include your name and the name of the trip on the receipts.

Special Notes: Scouts will be charged for transportation on trips over 50 miles. Sometimes parents choose to donate the cost by not turning in receipts for gas. This is acceptable, but your son or daughter will still be charged for gas since other vehicles may have been used for gear, supplies, etc.

Please turn in gas receipts as soon as possible after a trip. We cannot complete the trip billing until all receipts have been received. Items received after three weeks may not be reimbursed.

SUMMER CAMP and ADVENTURE TRIPS are always prepaid.
TICKETS - If you sign up to attend a function where we pre-purchase tickets such as skiing, and your son or daughter does not go on the trip and there is no one to take his or her place, the Scout will be charged.

CAMPERSHIP - The troop has some funds that are available for Scouts who need financial help. Financial help is available for Summer Camp, spring break adventures, and monthly campouts. Typically, we are able to match payments made by the Scout family. In some cases of extra need, camperships can cover more of the costs. If a Scout family needs assistance to participate in the camping program, please contact the Scoutmaster, Troop Treasurer or Troop Committee Chairperson. All such requests remain confidential.

TROOP BILLS - All charges for activities are billed through Scout accounts. Scout families receive a bill via email every couple of months. Major trips have a payment schedule with a final payment due before the trip. If you find there is a problem with paying the account, please contact the Troop Treasurer so arrangements can be made for payments.

Payments towards troop accounts can be made in any of the following ways:
1. Mail or bring in a paper check made out to "Troop 171".
2. NEW! Transfer funds via Venmo. Search for @BSA171Boulder. You will know you have the right account when you see a picture of the Troop patch (the one on your Scout's neckerchief.)

No fees are charged with this method of payment!

3. Transfer through your PayPal account with NO FEES (be sure to choose the transfer option). In your PayPal account, just "friend" the email address "treasurer@bsa171.org" and you can transfer funds with no associated fees.
4. You can also pay with a credit card via PayPal. However, any associated fees will be billed to your Scout account (about 3%). Search for our PayPal account by email address "treasurer@bsa171.org".

TROOP NECKERCHIEF - One neckerchief is issued when Scouts join the troop. We do not wear neckerchiefs at each meeting. They are normally worn only at courts of honor, boards of review and other special events. The replacement cost is $10.00.

REIMBURSEMENTS - Troop policy is that we will happily reimburse you by check for any costs incurred if you request it. Otherwise, your Scout's account will be credited with the amount.

Excess funds in the Scout accounts may be used for camping equipment or Scout uniforms. If your son or daughter is interested, please have him or her obtain approval from the Troop Treasurer before purchasing the items. To be reimbursed, the Scout needs to bring the sales receipt to the Troop Treasurer at the next troop meeting and a check will be issued.

NEW MEMBER COSTS, REGISTRATION and FORMS

There are troop and national level fees associated with Scouting. These include annual registration, *Boys' Life* magazine, troop dues, new member charge, and a camping deposit. Scouts transferring from another troop will also have a transfer fee. These fees are detailed below and listed on the Troop Treasurer's Worksheet.

1. <u>Registration B.S.A.</u> - The annual registration fee for the Scouts USA is $60.00. For Scouts new to the troop, this fee is collected at the time of registration with the troop and is prorated at $5.00 per month. In continuing years, Scouts will pay this fee with the rest of the troop during the troop registration in November (for January renewal date).

2. <u>Transfer Fee</u> - If your son or daughter is currently a member of another Scouts BSA troop or Cub Scout pack, he or she can transfer membership for $1.00.

3. <u>Boys' Life Magazine</u> - There is an optional fee for Scouts wanting to receive the monthly magazine for Scouts BSA. Annual subscription is $12.00.

4. <u>Troop Dues</u> - A required fee used by the troop to defray the cost of running the troop. This includes equipment, training, postage, copying, etc. Troop dues are billed in December. Currently, the annual dues for Troop 171 are $90.00. This fee is adjusted down to $50.00 for new Scouts to help them afford the start-up cost of Scouting such as uniforms, handbook, camping equipment, etc.

5. <u>New Member Charge</u> - This $20.00 fee is required by the troop and covers the cost of a troop

neckerchief and other startup charges including $12.00 to purchase a five-year Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue (CORSAR) card. Your CORSAR card helps fund rescue missions across the State of Colorado by contributing to the Search and Rescue Fund (https://cdola.colorado.gov/funding-programs/search-and-rescue-fund).

6. Camping Deposit - The troop maintains an account for each Scout to track financial activity. Campout food and transportation costs are charged to this account. Because of the high number of troop activities your Scout may participate in, each Scout is expected to keep a minimum balance of $20.00 in his or her account.

7. Forms Due at Registration:
   - BSA Registration Form (from Troop Treasurer).
   - Scout Roster Information Google Form. Please enter all of the information requested. All data is kept confidential. Information supplied is available to trip leaders and provided for BSA Trip Permits. Also available as a hard copy.
   - BSA Medical Form (downloaded from Troop Website) – BSA requires that all camp participants have a BSA medical form signed and dated by a physician within the 12 months preceding attendance at a summer camp. Troop 171 requires that Parts A, B and C be on file with the troop at all times.
   - Medical Release – Short Form – This form is available from the Troop Treasurer. It is a short medical and emergency contact/consent form that is carried with the troop at all times.

Troop numerals are available as a single patch from the troop as well for $7.00.

It is our intention to offer our Scouting program to any young person who wants to participate. If the start-up cost of Scouting presents a financial problem, please contact either the Scoutmaster, Adult Committee Chairperson or Troop Treasurer.

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO TROOP 171

FUNDRAISING - GROCERY CERTIFICATES and POPCORN

King Soopers and Safeway Cards [NOTE: THIS PROGRAM HAS CHANGED- NO NEED TO RELOAD A CARD]

King Soopers and Safeway reloadable gift cards are available at troop meetings from the Troop Treasurer. When you purchase them at face value from the troop, your Scout receives 5% into their Scout account. Example:

$100 per week = $5.00 into your son or daughter’s Scout account per week
50 weeks per year x $5.00 = $250.00 per year

This program can cover many of the costs of Scouting. Some families have given cards to neighbors or relatives and the 5% from those cards goes to their Scout’s account. The cards are good at any Kroger store including City Market. When buying food, the dollars into Scout accounts can really add up!

These cards are the same as cash. If they are lost, please let the Troop Treasurer know as soon as possible. With the card number, it MAY be possible to reduce the loss.

Trails End Popcorn Fundraiser

The ninth point of the Scout Law is "Thrifty." Scouts are encouraged to help earn at least part of their Scouting costs. Each year, usually in the fall, the Scouts in the troop as well as the rest of the other troops in Longs Peak Council, sell popcorn as a fundraiser. The profit portion of the sales (approximately 30%) goes directly into a Scout's account, not into the troop account, which is different from most Cub Scout Packs. There are also drawings at troop meetings for cash and prices for top sales.

LEAVING THE TROOP

There are many reasons that a Scout may choose to leave the troop. It is important that Scouts not just fade away. If the program does not meet your needs or your schedule gets too busy for Scouts, please let us know and give us feedback. If you do decide to drop or move, please remember the following:

1. Have your Scout call Greg Brown or Marta Turnbull.
2. If you are transferring to another troop, the Advancement Chairperson needs to know so that he or she can prepare a transfer form.
3. Scout Accounts:
    - Scout accounts MUST be paid in full.
    - Transferring to another troop - Any funds available, after all charges have been paid to Troop 171, will be transferred to the new troop.
    - Quitting Scouts - Any funds available, after all charges have been paid to Troop 171, that were put in by the parents can be refunded if requested in writing. Funds earned through membership in the troop will remain in the troop. This includes funds earned through popcorn sales, King Soopers cards, Safeway cards, etc.

INTERNET and INTERNET POLICY

Troop 171 makes extensive use of the Internet via the troop Website.

1. The troop Website address is: http://www.bsa171.org.
2. Many downloadable forms are pdf documents. This format can be read using Adobe Acrobat Reader which is available free of charge from http://www.adobe.com in either Windows or Macintosh formats.
3. Many parts of the Website are password protected. The login and password are confidential. Please respect the confidential nature of the site and not share the password with others. Parents and Scouts only are to have access to the Website password.
4. If for some reason you feel the confidential nature of the protected areas of the Website have been breached, please let the adult leaders know and the password will be changed.
5. If you have a specific picture or information on the troop Website that you wish to have removed, please contact the troop staff.
6. Scouts and adult leaders must have an Internet Release form on file with Troop 171.

ADVANCEMENT - Ranks and Merit Badges

Advancement in Scouts BSA is very different from Cub Scouts. In Cubs, advancement was usually done with all members of a den working on the same thing. In Scouts BSA, advancement is a very individual process. Scouts work on advancement requirements and merit badges at their own pace. Only at special times, such as summer camp and some troop meetings, do Scouts work as a group towards a certain rank or merit badge. This does not mean that several Scouts or an entire patrol cannot organize themselves to work on a badge. The choice is theirs.

Another major difference is the role of parents in advancement. In Cub Scouts, parents signed many requirements. In Scouts BSA, troop leaders, registered merit badge counselors, or other members of the troop signoff requirements.

RANKS

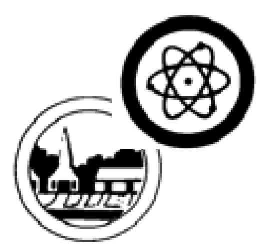
Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class
The requirements for being awarded the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class are found near the end of the *Scout Handbook*. Scouts are checked on these requirements and signed off by other Scouts in the troop who have reached the rank of First Class or above. Many times, several Scouts or an entire patrol will get together and work towards the next rank.

When all requirements have been completed and signed off, Scouts need a Scoutmaster Conference. This may be done with any member of the Scoutmaster Staff. The Scout and Scoutmaster Staff members arrange a time for the conference. These are usually <u>not</u> scheduled during a Monday night meeting unless it is absolutely necessary. Most conferences are held at the church and last between 10 and 20 minutes.

The final requirement to earn a rank is a board of review; except for the rank of Scout, which only requires a Scoutmaster conference after all of the other requirements are completed. This involves the Scout and three to five adults, usually members of the Troops' Adult Committee. The Scout must appear before the board in a uniform shirt, troop neckerchief, and have his or her *Scout Handbook* with all necessary signatures for the rank at hand. Boards are usually held on Monday nights during troop meetings. To arrange a board of review, the Scout must contact the Advancement Chairperson.

Even though merit badges are not required for advancement for Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class, younger Scouts may still earn them. The procedures for earning merit badges are listed below.

Star, Life, and Eagle
The requirements for these ranks are found near the end of the *Scout Handbook*. They involve earning merit badges, providing leadership to the troop, and giving service to others. The guidelines for earning merit badges are listed below.



MERIT BADGES

Use the following guidelines and steps when working on a merit badge.

Steps:

∞ Choose a merit badge to work on.
∞ Find at least one other Scout to work on the merit badge with you. A small group is the best. You can ask at the Monday meeting for interested Scouts.
∞ Decide on a counselor from the troop merit badge counselor list. If there is not a counselor on the list, talk with members of the Scoutmaster Staff. We might know of a counselor who is not yet on the list. There are also district counselors who are not on the Troop 171 list. We will provide you with that list if you cannot find a merit badge counselor.
∞ Call your merit badge counselor and make arrangements to meet before you begin working on the badge.

Guidelines For Working on Merit Badges:

∞ You can either work on a merit badge by yourself or with a group.
∞ Only registered merit badge counselors can teach merit badges.
∞ Do not begin working on a badge before meeting with your counselor.
∞ When you make an appointment with a counselor, write it down. Do not miss your appointment and be sure to arrive on time. If your meeting was scheduled more than several days in advance, call your counselor the night before to confirm your meeting.
∞ When you start a badge, complete it. Make the time spent on a badge worth your time and your counselor's time.
∞ Parents may be counselors for up to five merit badges if they are on the troop merit badge counselor list and they are registered with the BSA as a counselor and have completed Youth Protection Training.
∞If you have trouble finding a counselor, meeting with a counselor, or any other problems or questions about merit badges, contact Marta Turnbull or Greg Brown. We can usually help you solve most problems.

Parents: If you have a hobby, vocation, or profession that is related to one of the merit badges, we are always looking for counselors. See one of our Troop Treasurers for information on how to register to be a merit badge counselor.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP TROOP 171

Troop 171B and Troop 171G are very busy organizations. The reason we have been successful for so many years is that everyone does his or her part. It is a great family! Families have different skills, abilities, and capacities to help. We welcome everyone's help but realize that there will be different levels of commitment. Below is a list of suggested ways you can help. **Please support Troop 171 and help when and where you can.**

1. PLEASE fill out all forms completely and return/mail them as soon as possible.
2. It takes a lot of cars to transport Scouts on all of the various trips. EVERYONE needs to drive (if possible) his or her fair share. On an average, that means once every three months.
3. Support your Scout’s account by using King Soopers or Safeway gift cards.
4. Sign up to be a merit badge counselor. There is no cost but you need to fill out a Scouts BSA Adult Application and a merit badge counselor application. You can get these forms at a troop meeting and return them to either the Troop Committee Chairperson or Troop Treasurer.

5. Volunteer to host an Adult Committee meeting in your home. They are very informal. We have one meeting a month and any interested parents are welcome to attend to learn more about the troop and provide input on troop matters.
6. Help prepare a pancake breakfast in February for the Scouts after the Klondike Derby.
7. PLEASE, pick up your Scout on time after troop meetings, campouts, and activities. Troop meetings are over at 8:30 PM, unless there is a special activity such as an extended summer meeting. The volunteers have had a full evening and are ready to leave. Please call your Scout or a Scoutmaster and let us know if you will be late. For the Scouts safety, the Scoutmaster Staff cannot leave until all Scouts have been picked up.
8. If your son or daughter has purchased food for a campout or you have driven on a long trip (over 50 miles), please turn in your receipt to the Troop Treasurer at the following Monday night troop meeting. If your receipts are not received within three weeks, we will assume you do not wish credit to your Scout's account or reimbursement.
9. Store a Klondike Derby sled at your house. We have seven that need "homes."
10. If you can sew and have a sewing machine, we occasionally have some sewing projects.
11. The committee who handles the spring and fall courts of honor, family picnic, and Eagle Scout Courts of Honor can use help.
12. Popcorn fundraising - parents are needed to pick up popcorn from the District, help organize the orders, and help distribute the popcorn to the Scouts who sold popcorn.
13. Encourage your Scout to call his or her Patrol Leader when he or she has any questions. If that is not feasible, he or she can call one of the Senior Patrol Leader Staff. When they have not received an appropriate response, or they have not found an answer, they should feel free to call Greg or Marta.
14. Investment in Character and Leadership (ILC) is the annual fundraising effort for the BSA Longs Peak Council. You will receive a pledge card in the mail from our ILC Chairperson. Each troop is given a dollar goal. Besides supporting four Scout camps and the Boulder District Office, there are benefits for the troop. Upon reaching our goal, we can receive a discount for each Scout going to the Ben Delatour summer camp, where we go every third year, as well as free rank advancement patches and merit badge patches for the rest of the year. This really helps the troop budget.
15. If you have a particular skill or interest that you feel the Scouts would be interested in, let us know. The Scouts plan the meetings up to six months in advance so the sooner we know of a special skill you could present, the better.
16. Go camping. Parents are always welcome on campouts, especially winter trips.
17. FILL OUT ALL FORMS COMPLETELY, QUICKLY AND RETURN ASAP!! THANKS!

King Soopers Rewards Program - Enrollment Information
The rewards program for King Soopers ties directly with the loyalty card rather than using a gift card. Follow the directions below to sign up for rewards

When you choose your organization – choose "Boy Scout Troop 171 – Boulder" (NPO # BC813)

STEP 1: CREATING AN ONLINE DIGITAL ACCOUNT

****NOTE: If you already have an online digital account, skip to step #2**

Go to www.KingSoopers.com/CommunityRewards or www.CityMarket.com/CommunityRewards

• Click on “Enroll Now”
• Select ‘Create an Account’.
• Under Sign-In information, enter your email and create a password.
• **(Write down your email & password—will need it in step 2)**
• Select ‘Use Card Number’.
• Enter your King Soopers Loyalty Card Number or Alt ID, last name and postal code.
• Under ‘Select Your Preferred Store’ enter your postal code.
• Select ‘Find Stores’.
• Choose your store then select ‘Create Account’.
• You will then be prompted to check your email for a confirmation email.
• Click the hyperlink in your email to finish creating your Online Account.
• Continue to step #2 to register for the King Soopers Community Rewards Program of your choice.

STEP 2: REGISTER FOR KING SOOPERS or City Market COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Go to www.KingSoopers.com/CommunityRewards or www.CityMarket.com/CommunityRewards

• Select ‘Sign-In’.
• Enter your email and password then select ‘sign in’.
• **(This will be the email and password you created in step 1)**
• Select ‘My Account’ from drop down menu. Then select Community Rewards from the left-hand side under ‘Account Summary’
• Click on Community Rewards.
• Under Find an Organization: Enter the organization name or the NPO number (**You can get the NPO number from your organization)** before clicking on search make sure the organizations description is selected (example: Education, Faith Based, Animal, Athletic) on the view by type area.
• Then select Search Results.

“Boy Scout Troop 171 – Boulder” (NPO # BC813)

You should now see your organization information listed under ‘Community Rewards’ on your Account.

INSURANCE INFORMATION

Provided by the Longs Peak Council to all registered youth and adult members:

April 2013 Update
Below are brief outlines of insurance coverages available to volunteers and chartered organizations.

Comprehensive General Liability Insurance

This coverage provides primary general liability coverage for registered volunteer Scouters with respect to claims arising out of an official Scouting activity. This coverage responds to allegations of negligent actions by third parties that results in personal injury or property damage claim that is made and provides protection for Scouting units, volunteer Scouts, and chartering organizations.

Registered volunteers are provided primary coverage through the BSA general liability program, but not for vehicle or maritime (watercraft) liability, which is only on an excess basis; the owner's vehicle or maritime (watercraft) liability is primary. This insurance is available only while the vehicle or watercraft is in the actual use of a Scouting unit and being used for a Scouting purpose.

The insurance provided to unregistered Scouting volunteers through the general liability insurance program is excess over any other insurance the volunteer might have to his or her benefit, usually a homeowners, personal liability, or auto liability policy.

The general liability policy **does not** provide indemnification or defense coverage to those individuals who commit intentional and/or criminal acts. Scouts BSA does not have an insurance policy which provides defense for situations involving allegations of intentional and/or criminal acts.

Automobile Liability Insurance

All vehicles MUST be covered by a liability insurance policy. The amount of this coverage must meet or exceed the insurance requirement of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. (It is recommended, however, that coverage limits are at least $100,000 combined single limit.) Any vehicle carrying 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of $500,000 single limit. In the case of rented vehicles, coverage limit requirements can be met by combining the limits of personal coverage carried by the driver with coverage carried by the owner of the rented vehicle. All vehicles used in travel outside the United States must carry a liability insurance policy that complies with or exceeds the requirements of that country.

Chartered Organizations for Scouting Units

The general liability policy provides primary liability insurance coverage for all chartered organizations on file with the BSA for liability arising out of their chartering a traditional Scouting unit. Automobile and maritime liability coverage is provided on a secondary or excess basis. All vehicles used in Scouting activities must be covered by automobile liability insurance with limits that meet or exceed the requirements of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. All boats/vessels used in Scouting must be insured by the owner for liability exposures. The amount of coverage is determined by the size and usage of the boat. $1 million is recommended. Chartered organizations do not need a certificate of insurance. The chartered organization endorsement is a part of the insurance policy contract and is enforceable under the policy contract.

Accident and Sickness Coverage

(Optional coverage for council or units)
Accident and sickness insurance (also known as accident and health insurance) coverage for Scouts and Scouters furnishes medical reimbursement in case of death, accident, or sickness within the policy amounts. Information regarding unit accident coverage is available through the local council. **The coverage provided has maximum limits it pays and a maximum benefit period, usually 52 weeks from the date of the incident.**

Coverage is excess of all other insurance or healthcare plans in force. This policy is excess to any and all other available sources of medical insurance or other healthcare benefits.
Who is covered?

- All registered youth and seasonal staff are eligible.
- Registered leaders and volunteer leaders.

Conclusion

The coverage provided has a maximum limit it pays and a maximum benefit period, usually 52 weeks from the date of the incident. The plans do not "take care of everything." Claims should be filed with the accident and sickness carrier as soon as possible along with any other source of medical insurance or other healthcare benefits.

Accident and sickness plans and insurance companies have specific procedures for processing claims. Volunteers need to check with their local council to verify which plan/policy their council provides or is available.

<u>What Coverage is Available to Non-Owned Boats Used in Scouting Activities?</u>

- Only general liability insurance coverage is available; no hull damage insurance is provided.
- Owners (chartering organizations or others) **<u>must</u>** carry their own liability coverage. Boats under 26 feet and donated for use in Scouting activities need to have at least $300,000 in coverage. Boats 26 feet and over should have $500,000 in coverage. Risk Management will provide certificates of insurance up to $2,000,000.BSA's coverage is excess of the liability coverage ($300,000 or $500,000) carried by the owner.
- The following are examples of watercraft/boats that need not be insured by the chartering organization and others if they are to be used in an Official Scouting Activity: canoes, kayaks, rafts, catamarans and sailboats (under 26 feet). However if these watercraft are to be used for non-Scouting activities the chartering organization or others should provide liability insurance as there is no liability coverage for chartering organizations or others for non-Scouting activities.
- Watercraft owned by local councils, chartering organization and others should be licensed by USCG and the operator should be licensed if required.

<u>Unauthorized and Restricted Activities</u>

The Scouts BSA general liability policy provides coverage for a bodily injury or property damage claim that is made and arises out of an Official Scouting Activity. The Guide to Safe Scouting contains a listing of Unauthorized and Restricted Activities. Unauthorized activities are not considered Official Scouting Activities. Volunteers (registered and unregistered), Units, Chartered Organizations and Local Councils are jeopardizing insurance coverage for themselves and their organization by engaging in unauthorized activities. PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOURSELF AT RISK.

Troop Legal Advice AND Longs Peak Council Information

The following is the advice that I have been giving my clients and friends *vis a vis* recent changes in Colorado auto insurance law. As I mentioned to you the other day, I think it should be the Troop's policy to require medical pay coverage on all tort auto policies, since many of our Scouts do not have health insurance:

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Per your request, here is what I recommend you do to protect yourself, your family, and any passengers in vehicles you own, with the return of Colorado to a tort system of auto insurance. Please feel free to share this email with those interested and to call or email me if you have any other questions or concerns.

In order to address coverage concerns it is worthwhile to first consider what we Coloradoans used to have under the Colorado Auto Accident Reparations Act or, as it was known, the No-Fault law.

A standard Colorado no-fault policy contained a provision for the following as to anyone in your insured vehicle (as well as any pedestrian or bicyclist that might have suffered injury due to the operation of your vehicle):

*   Payment of up to $50,000.00 of reasonable and necessary medical benefits during the first five years following a motor vehicle accident, without regard to fault.
*   Payment of up to $50,000.00 of reasonable and necessary rehabilitation benefits during the first ten years following a motor vehicle accident, without regard to fault.
*   Payment of up to $25,000.00 for lost wages and the payment of essential services (e.g. housekeeping services, lawn mowing, assistance making a house move by prescription of a health care provider).

The no-fault benefits listed above were not subject to subrogation, that is, you never had to repay the benefits to your auto insurance company if you were injured through the fault of another party and you made a claim or otherwise sued an at fault driver to recover monies for your pain and suffering, loss of income above the $25,000.00 benefit, or had some other compensable loss.

Your existing no-fault automobile insurance policy is good until your next policy renewal date. You

should not cancel your no-fault policy before it's renewal date if you value the coverages listed above. Any automobile policy written after July 1, 2003 will, by law, be a tort policy.

No-fault was Colorado's law for 30 years. With the return of a tort-based system you now must carefully review your automobile and health policies to ensure that you have adequate coverages in place to protect yourself, your family and your passengers.

The first consideration you should have is whether you are carrying sufficient **Liability Insurance**. Liability Insurance is insurance that pays for those times when you are (or are accused of being) at fault in an accident. <u>The best rule of thumb is that you should always do a net worth analysis before you begin thinking about what coverage you need</u>, since an attorney considering whether to sue you or accept your insurance company's offer of settlement, will often investigate "what you are worth" as part of their evaluation of whether your insurance coverage is sufficient to resolve their client's claim. At a minimum, if you own a home or other substantial assets, you should not carry less than $100,000.00 in liability insurance, although higher amounts are available and can be obtained at a rather modest increase in your premium.

The second consideration is whether you have **Uninsured/Underinsured motorist coverage** on your policy of auto insurance. The short answer is: you better have it and the amount you carry for liability (e.g. what you would pay out if you were at fault) is a very good measure for what you should carry in the event that you are injured due to the fault of either an uninsured or underinsured motorist (e.g. someone who has a very small liability policy and no substantial assets above the policy). Again, considering that about 20 percent of the motorists in Colorado are operating uninsured vehicles, it is important to provide yourself, your family, and your passengers with some means of recovering for their medical bills, pain and suffering and economic losses, if you or they are injured due to the fault of another party. Minimum suggested coverage for someone with substantial assets is no less than $100,000.00.

The third consideration for an auto insurance policy in the tort era is whether or not you should add **Medical Pay Coverage**. The short answer is "yes, definitely!" Even if you and your family are covered by adequate health insurance there are still two good reasons why you should have medical pay coverage (and as much as your insurance company will sell you - in some cases up to $100,000.00 in medical pay coverage):

First, your non-family member passenger may not have health insurance coverage. In order to obtain payment for his or her medical bills such a passenger will have to make a claim against the "at fault driver's insurance company". You may be the at fault driver! You may be partially at fault, or the only driver carrying any insurance in a multi car accident. If your auto insurance carrier declines to pay your passenger's medical bills in such a circumstance can you imagine who will be the target of a lawsuit?

Second, most major medical insurance policies issued in this day and age are governed by the Employment Retirement Income Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), Sections 1001 through 1461, Title 29, U.S. Code. ERISA governed medical plans and policies, unlike the no-fault benefits that used to come standard with a Colorado policy of auto insurance, carry the requirement that your insurer be 100% subrogated to any claim you may make against an at fault party. In other words, under most ERISA policies, your plan requires that the first dollar collected (e.g. without regard to your costs or out of pocket expense/loss) be paid back to your insurance carrier. While this can sometimes be negotiated with the Plan Administrator, such a provision often means that unless you have an adequate source of recovery (through someone else's insurance or your own) your claim may benefit no one but your health insurance carrier. There are also other types of medical liens that can be asserted against any claim or suit you bring, including hospital liens, which are perfected under Colorado state law. Even the medical pay coverage you buy from your automobile insurance carrier will likely be subject to the requirement of subrogation, or pay back, however, repayment of automobile medical pay coverage is subject to other equitable and legal considerations including the Common Fund Doctrine. In English, this means that, at the least, your auto insurance carrier will be required to discount your subrogation, or pay back obligation as a result of your expenditure of costs and the efforts of your attorney. Sometimes a common fund discount can be as much as 50 percent of the subrogation, or pay back, obligation. In other words, you get to keep more of the money you and your attorney worked to recover from an at fault driver if you elect the medical pay endorsement.

Please note, however, that most medical pay plans offered by your automobile insurance company are pale reflections of the benefits you enjoyed under no-fault. The plans I have reviewed largely restrict payment to medical type benefits only ... limiting or excluding access to chiropractic care, massage therapy, Rolfing, physical therapy and other rehabilitative therapies that have helped many injured persons return to normal physical function in the past. Your auto med pay will also not provide you with lost wage coverage or essential services benefits! The recovery for such treatment options will likely come from your claim, if any, against an at fault driver.

A fourth consideration you should make is whether you should carry **Umbrella Insurance coverage**.
If your automobile(s) and home are insured by the same carrier, and you have substantial assets, such as home equity in excess of $100,000.00, it is important to consider fully protecting yourself and your family with umbrella coverage. Umbrella coverage extends that amount of liability and uninsured/underinsured motorist coverages you have to coverages that are typically sold in million dollar blocks. A million dollar umbrella policy is a bargain for the amount of insurance coverage you can obtain - typically at a premium of $400.00 or less per year.

Please note that some insurance companies have a practice of offering partial umbrella policies. You should make certain that you ask your insurance carrier to provide umbrella coverage for both liability and uninsured motorist coverages, if available.

I hope this helps, let me know if you need further information.

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