

**Troop 719
BSA**

Policy and Procedures



**Approved by the Chartered
Organization**
Original signed by Rev. Dr.
William Brown for Wesley
Freedom United Methodist
Church

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Troop 719 Policy and Procedures

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Introduction

Boy Scout Troop 719 was chartered in October 1958 at Wesley Freedom United Methodist Church in Eldersburg, Maryland, making us one of the most senior troops in the Carroll District. Troop 719 subscribes to the goals of Scouting, which are to build character and leadership, foster citizenship, and to develop physical and spiritual fitness. Our Troop participates in at least one special activity each month. These activities range from camp outs at a local farm to white water rafting trips to venturing inside a dark cave. Each year we also attend summer camp, which is a week long camp out where the scouts can earn merit badges, advance in rank, cope with challenges, and have fun. Scouting is about fun and provides the scouts with opportunities to have fun, while meeting new people and being introduced to new ideas. The Troop expects scouts to follow the Scout Oath, abide by the Scout Law, give respect to leaders, and to show Scouting Spirit along their scouting experience.

Meetings

Boy Scout Troop 719 meets at Wesley Freedom United Methodist Church, located at 961 Johnsville Road, Eldersburg, Maryland. Meetings are held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm, lasting approximately one and one half hours. Special events may cause variations in the schedule. **If schools are cancelled or closed early by weather, scout activities are cancelled for that evening. If improving conditions permit prudently reinstating an activity, an effort will be made to inform members.** Parents must wait until their sons are able to get inside the church and have verified that 2 adult leaders are present.

Membership

Membership is open to all boys who have completed fifth grade, or are 11 years of age, or have earned the Arrow of Light Award, but are younger than 18 years of age. Members must subscribe to the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, and the BSA Declaration of Religious Principle.

Dues

Dues are established annually by the Troop Committee. Dues are a membership fee, to be paid by each scout for the privilege of participating in the Scouting program provided by the Troop. Dues support the general funding of registration fees, buying of troop equipment, purchasing of merit badges, etc. Trips and special activities may necessitate additional payment for participation.

Troop Fundraisers:

Because dues are insufficient to cover the total operating costs of the troop, the troop holds one mandatory fund raiser each year, the Christmas Tree Sale. The Committee is committed to encouraging Scouts to participate in our troop activities, by helping to offset some of the costs of the trips through fund raising. Additional voluntary fund raisers maybe held throughout the year.

Troop Subsidy Policies

Troop Subsidy Accounts are an internal troop bookkeeping mechanism wherein the Troop may subsidize a portion of the costs of an individual Scout's activities. **The moneys raised through fundraisers always remain the property of the troop.** The efforts of the individual scout in fundraising may determine the amount credited to the account. Each Scout shall have two troop subsidy accounts- a general account and a high adventure account. Money in the general subsidy account maybe used towards summer camp, High adventure, or any activity sponsored through the troop or through Boy

Scouts. (e.g., this could include participation in Jamboree, a weekend caving trip, NYLT, etc.) Money in the High Adventure account may only be used for High Adventure activities. The Committee retains the right to determine whether the proposed activity is appropriate for Scout Subsidy Account fund use.

Upon joining the Troop, the Treasurer will open a troop subsidy account for each scout. If the Scout participates in any voluntary fund raisers after he joins, the amount determined will be credited to his subsidy account in accordance with the fund raiser disbursement rules. The High Adventure crews may also hold fund raisers which are for the participants in high adventure trips only. Moneys raised from these fund raisers are credited to the Scout's high adventure subsidy account.

The Treasurer or his/her designee shall maintain an accounting of each scout's subsidy accounts, including all additions to and subtractions from the accounts. The Treasurer will provide records of the accounts to the troop committee, when requested. In addition, the fund raiser coordinator shall report to the treasurer and troop committee the amounts to be credited to each scout subsidy account at the conclusion of the fund raiser, or on a regular basis for ongoing fund raisers. Each Scout will also be advised of the amount to be credited to the subsidy account. If the scout is not in agreement with the amount to be credited, all information will be brought to the attention of the troop committee and the troop committee will make the final determination.

In order to access the moneys credited to his Scout subsidy account, the Scout must be a member in good standing in the Troop, the Scout must have participated in the current Christmas tree fund raiser, and the money must be used for an approved Scout activity. This means that a Scout joining the troop between the months of January through the end of the current year's tree sales, may not access the account until they have participated in the year's tree sale. (E.g., whether a Scout joins in March or November, they both become eligible to access money from the scout subsidy account the following January, if they participated in the tree sale and are otherwise eligible to receive money from their account.) If a Scout and his family failed to participate in the Christmas tree fund raiser, the Scout will not have access to either scout subsidy account, until he has participated in the following year's Christmas tree fund raiser. This means that if a Scout and his family fail to participate in the Christmas tree fund raiser, the Scout may not use any funds accumulated in either account for any Scout activity *the entire* following year.

The moneys in the scout's subsidy account may accumulate from year to year. The permission slip for each activity shall include a line where the Scout may designate the intent to use Scout subsidy funds for the activity. The amount of the subsidy must also be included.

There may come a time where the fund raiser occurs before an activity but after the date that the fees are due for the activity. This is most likely to occur with the High Adventure activities and the mulch sale. In this circumstance, the Scout may be reimbursed from his Scout subsidy account for fees that he was required to spend in order to reserve his spot for the trip. Note that this is only available for fund raisers that occur prior to the actual trip.

Adult leaders participating in a high adventure activity may also maintain a high adventure subsidy account. These accounts will follow the same guidelines as the Scout high adventure subsidy accounts. Adult leaders may not have a general subsidy account.

Finally, at all times the funds that are designated in the individual Scout subsidy accounts remains the property of the Troop. If the Scout leaves the troop for any reason, any funds still in his individual scout subsidy accounts are then transferred back into the General fund of the troop.

Annual Christmas Tree Fund Raiser

Troop 719 has one MANDATORY Troop fund-raiser per year, the sale of Christmas trees. This is an all hands effort, in which all families (parents and scouts) are expected to participate. Proceeds from this sale supplement the troop activities throughout the year. In January, the Committee will confirm the amount of money to be set aside per scout for the general subsidy account

For Scouts joining the troop after the Christmas tree sale (including Webelos who may have participated in the tree sale as a younger brother of a current scout), but before summer camp has occurred, the Committee will determine an amount that will be applied to the summer camp fees. This is a onetime subsidy for new scouts. If the Scout chooses to not attend summer camp that year, the subsidy will be absorbed back into the troop's general funds. The one-time only subsidy for new Scouts can only be used for summer camp, not to offset any other Scout activity. The reason for this is that the Committee recognizes that summer camp is an essential component of our Scouting program and the Committee's desire to encourage participation by New Scouts. This subsidy is not added to the Scout's general subsidy account.

For Scouts who were members of the Troop during the tree sale, participated in the tree sale, and are continuing in the troop for the following year, the Committee will determine an amount to subsidize each Scout. This amount will be placed into the Scout's general subsidy account and can be used by the Scout in accordance with the Scout subsidy account policies.

Annual Mulch Sale Fund Raiser/ High Adventure Fund Raisers

The mulch sale is a VOLUNTARY fund raiser that has been traditionally run and organized by High Adventure Crews. Scouts who are participating in current High Adventure Crews, or are planning on participating in future High adventure activities are encouraged to participate in the fund raiser. The Mulch sale organizer will report to the Committee prior to the sale, advising how the proceeds from the sale will be disbursed among the participants. All proceeds will be placed in the participants' Scout high adventure subsidy account. All high adventure fund raisers must be approved by the committee prior to the fund raiser will begin.

Other Fund Raisers

Other voluntary fund raisers may be organized from time to time. To organize a fund raiser (excluding Eagle Project fund raisers), the organizer must present the proposal to the Committee for its approval prior to beginning it. The proposal must contain the reason for the fund raiser, all details relating to how the fund raiser will be operated, the duration, and a proposal as to how the proceeds of the fund raiser are to be used. All BSA required forms must accompany the proposal. The Committee may require that a portion of the proceeds be designated to the General Troop Fund in addition to the Scout Subsidy accounts. The Committee must approve the fund raiser and all the terms before it may begin.

Uniforms

Scouts are highly encouraged to obtain and wear an official scout uniform. This uniform should be worn at all scouting events and is worn with pride. The uniform is an outward sign that a scout believes in and stands for the values expressed in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. It demonstrates that he takes pride in the way he looks and in displaying the badges and awards that testify to his advancement in skills and leadership. The uniform provides the scout with a feeling of belonging, not only to his patrol and troop, but also to the worldwide brotherhood of Scouting. Wearing of the uniform builds the identity of the troop. The uniform presents a wholesome image to the community and reminds the scout that he is a scout and that people will expect him to act like one at all times. The display of the scout

uniform is the best way to show a scout's Scouting Spirit.

Scout Uniform ("Class A")

- Official Scout shirt
- Troop or official Scout neckerchief with slides or bolo tie
- Troop or official Scout hat
- Appropriate pants or shorts OR
- Official Scout pants or shorts
 - worn with belt and socks
- Appropriate footwear

Activity Uniform ("Class B")

- Any Scout shirt with Fleur-de-lis or BSA logo
- Troop or official Scout hat
- Appropriate pants or shorts
- Optional Scout pants/ shorts, belt, and socks
- Appropriate footwear

Pants appropriate for wearing with the Troop uniform are clean and of good repair and of colors and materials that complement the uniform. Examples are blue or black denim jeans, olive or khaki casual slacks, or olive green (not camouflage) cargo pants. Bright or clashing colors, oversize pants, and pieces of sports uniforms are not appropriate.

Appropriate shoes depend on the activity. Hiking boots that provide ankle support are recommended for most outdoor activities. Sneakers or athletic shoes may be appropriate for troop meetings and in-camp wear. Sandals are appropriate only for showering and for certain boating activities. They do not provide adequate foot protection for general activity wear. No open toe shoes are permitted.

Scouts should wear their Class A uniforms at all meetings, courts of honor, Eagle ceremonies, Scoutmaster conferences, boards of review, departure and return for Scout Trips, and whenever the troop appears before the public. Class B uniforms should be worn during summer camp events, camping trips, and other scout activities not listed above.

Certain Carroll District, Baltimore Area Council, or national events require wearing the complete Scout uniform, in which the Scout pants or shorts, belt, and socks are not optional. While the Troop uniform provides an inexpensive way to enter Scouting, families may need to purchase the complete uniform over time.

Requirements for Participation

A scout must meet the following requirements to participate in a scouting event, unless otherwise excused. Annual dues must be paid prior to the event. A permission slip, required for all outings, must be turned in and any additional event fees must be paid. Attendance is expected at meetings prior to the outing, for preparation. The scout and his parent/guardian must have read and affirmed the Troop 719 policy and procedures. Most importantly, appropriate behavior is required of all scouts, at all times.

Respect

Scouts will show respect for Troop and adult leaders and for each other at all times. This includes showing common courtesy and following directions. All forms of hazing, initiations, ridicule, and inappropriate or excessive teasing demonstrate lack of respect and are prohibited. Hazing includes exacting unnecessary and unusually demeaning tasks and abusive or humiliating tricks and comments. Scouts who fail to show respect for others are not displaying good Scouting Spirit and may be delayed for advancement. Persistent display of poor respect will result in disciplinary action.

Scouting Spirit

Scouting Spirit describes a scout's general attitude toward the principles upheld by Boy Scouting and his interaction with other scouts and his leaders.

When a boy is truly committed to Scouting, he enthusiastically participates in Troop meetings, planning activities, and the fun and adventure of Troop outings and other activities. He proudly wears his uniform, follows the directions of his Troop and adult leaders, and shows respect and cooperation to other Scouts. He actively seeks advancement along the Trail to Eagle, seeks to grow in character, leadership, and fitness, and to become a good citizen of his community, his nation, and the world. Along the way, he gladly shares his skills with younger scouts, no matter how many times he has done so in the past.

A boy who demonstrates Scouting Spirit conducts himself in an appropriate manner while enjoying the challenges of the Scouting experience. He makes these activities fun for himself and for others around him.

Scouting Spirit will be considered during the Board of Review when a scout is considered for advancement. Poor Scouting Spirit is cause for disapproval of advancement. Persistently poor Scouting Spirit is cause for disciplinary action.

Active Participation

To gain full advantage from the Scouting program, a boy needs to be present when things are happening. Active participation is necessary in the early ranks to learn the Scout skills and to prepare for upcoming events. As a boy grows and attains higher rank, active participation is necessary to his growth in leadership, citizenship and service, which, in turn, is necessary to his continued rank advancement. His participation provides the leadership, instruction, and positive example that are critical to the success of his patrol and troop. His suggestions and assistance in planning and conducting troop activities keep the program fresh and interesting for himself and other Scouts. Active participation is considered essential to the demonstration of Scouting Spirit.

A scout is considered not to be actively participating if his dues are not current (unless special arrangements have been made) or when his participation in troop meetings or events falls below 50 per cent in the preceding four-month period. If a scout has an activity conflict that interferes with his ability to maintain his attendance, to remain active in the troop, the scout must notify the Scoutmaster and his patrol leader of the conflict. The Scoutmaster has the discretion to excuse or not excuse the absences. To become active again, his dues must be paid and he must participate in at least 50 per cent of troop meetings and 50 per cent of troop activities for four months. The Scoutmaster has discretion to appoint a scout to a position of responsibility and has sole discretion as to whether to schedule a Scoutmaster conference. (Each position of responsibility has additional qualifications, performance requirements, and responsibilities that are described in the *Troop 719 Scout Leadership Positions Duties and Responsibilities* document.) The scout may request, or the Scoutmaster may offer, a Scoutmaster

conference to provide counseling and a review of requirements and progress toward rank. The Troop Committee may offer a Board of Review to assist the scout in developing a plan of action for meeting his advancement requirements. The action plan will be mutually acceptable to the Board and the scout. Such activities should in no way be considered as punishment, but rather as a tool to provide focus and assist the scout in continuing his Trail to Eagle.

Advancement

The Scouting program provides many opportunities to learn skills and take part in adventurous and fun activities. It recognizes achievements by awarding badges of rank. Active participation and advancement go together. To advance in rank, one must complete all requirements listed in the Boy Scout Handbook for each rank. The process of advancement is an endless cycle, where older scouts teach newer scouts how to do the tasks required, and thereby develop their own leadership skills.

Only the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Junior Assistant Scoutmasters, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leaders, and Troop Guides may sign off rank advancement requirements. The scout is responsible for demonstrating the accomplishment of each requirement to an authorized leader. The leader is expected to verify the completion of the requirement before signing it off. The scout should present a note listing the name and title of the individual with whom he discussed his rights and obligations as a U.S. citizen to the leader signing off his First Class citizenship requirement. Parents may not sign off advancement requirements.

Upon completing the requirements for a rank, the scout appears before a Board of Review. The Board of Review comprises at least three but not more than six members of the Troop Committee. The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, the scout's parents or guardians, and anyone who has signed off an advancement requirement for the rank may not serve on the Board of Review. (Non-registered community leaders, former Eagle scouts, and others who understand the significance of the Eagle review process may be invited to sit on an Eagle Board of Review.) It is the scout's responsibility to arrange the Board of Review in advance with the Advancement Chairman, allowing time to schedule attendance by Troop Committee members.

Merit badges are required for the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle. Merit badges are awarded for fulfilling requirements in specific fields of interest. Merit badges are completed under the guidance of merit badge counselors. Merit badge counselors are registered adult members of the Boy Scouts of America who are 18 years of age or over, of good character, and who possess sufficient skills and education to instruct the subjects for which they are registered. When a boy feels that he is ready to earn a merit badge, he obtains an Application for Merit Badge (a.k.a., the "blue card") and the name of a counselor from the Scoutmaster, who has access to the list of registered counselors maintained by the Carroll District. Because the Boy Scouts of America does not permit a youth member to work alone with an adult, each scout must have a buddy scout to accompany him, or the session must take place in full view of other participants, such as at a Troop meeting. The counselor will sign the scout's blue card upon completion of the merit badge requirements. The scout should retain all blue cards and rank advancement cards for future reference. Although other records are maintained, these cards are accepted as proof of completion of any requirement that is challenged. (The use of plastic photo album or baseball card collection sleeves to organize and store the cards is recommended.) Parents are encouraged to support the Scouting program by becoming registered Merit Badge Counselors in fields of interest to them. Although opportunities to earn merit badges are frequently presented at summer camp and during Troop meetings, it is the scout's responsibility to arrange for and earn the merit badges needed for advancement.

A formally documented and reviewed service project demonstrating leadership, organization, and planning is required for advancement to the Eagle Scout rank. The requirements for this project are contained in the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project packet that is available from the Scoutmaster. The process and

requirements are reviewed in the Life to Eagle Seminars conducted by the Carroll District. It is strongly recommended that the scout attend one of these seminars soon after attaining the rank of Life Scout. Work on the project may not commence prior to formal approval.

Service hours are required for rank advancement to Second Class, Star, and Life. Service hours must be of benefit to a school, religious or public institution, the community, or the environment. They cannot directly benefit the scout or the Troop, a business, or an individual. Exceptions are made for service to the elderly or disabled, and where indirect service is rendered to the Troop or scout, such as service to the chartered organization. Where service is rendered to a Scouting organization, it must be above and beyond the normal leadership or rank advancement requirements. Hours can be earned from a fund raising event if service is provided while raising funds for a qualified organization, the funds do not directly benefit the scout or the Troop, and it is not strictly a sales event. Service hours can be earned by participation in an approved Eagle Scout service project. Participation in the Troop sale of Christmas trees does not qualify for rank advancement service hours. Other exceptions may be made, based on an explanation of the proposed service. The scout should obtain permission before performing the service from the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Junior Assistant Scoutmasters, Senior Patrol Leader, or Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. The scout should retain a note signed by the supervisor of the service activity listing the activity, the scout's name, date, and number of hours worked, for verification to the leader signing off the service requirement and for the Board of Review.

Elections

The Boy Scouting program affords scouts the opportunity to learn leadership skills by leading fellow scouts. Positions of leadership are required for advancement into the Star, Life, and Eagle Scout ranks. Elected positions are Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Assistant Patrol Leader. Candidates for these positions will be First Class Scouts and above, as long as sufficient numbers of these ranks are available. Temporary appointments may be made by the Scoutmaster or by the Senior Patrol Leader in consultation with the Scoutmaster. Elections occur annually for the positions of senior patrol leader and assistant senior patrol leader. Patrol leaders are elected twice a year. The term of the position will normally not exceed two years, but length will vary.

Those elected or appointed to positions of leadership within the Troop are expected to actively participate in Troop activities, exemplify Scouting Spirit, proudly and properly wear the scout uniform, and provide a role model for other scouts. Persistent and willful failure to uphold these ideals may result in removal from the leadership position. A scout may be removed from a position of responsibility for three unexcused absences in a row from either troop meetings or activities. Absences due to participation in other Scouting activities are always excused.

Prohibited Items

Out of concern for the safety of others and respect for their enjoyment of the Scouting program, possession of the following items will not be permitted at either Troop meetings or special events.

Knives - No scout may carry a knife before earning the Totin' Chip, as required by BSA rules. Scouts are permitted to carry a folding blade knife having a blade length of 3.5 inches or less, when in possession of a valid Totin' Chip. Safe handling of the knife is required at all times. Unsafe handling can result in confiscation of the knife by a Scout leader and cutting of a corner from the Totin' Chip. If all four corners are cut, the scout must re-earn the Totin' Chip.

Prohibited Items include:

- Firearms and ammunition
- Bows and arrows
- Fireworks
- Martial Arts Equipment
- Electronic equipment
- Sheath Knives
- Pets
- Tobacco/ Alcohol/ Drugs and drug paraphernalia
- Pornographic Material
- Gasoline or Liquid Fuel
- Cigarette-style Lighters
- Laser pointers

Any other item causing a distraction, safety hazard, or interfering with the conduct of the Scouting program may be confiscated at the discretion of the Troop's leaders. Instances of misuse or possession of restricted items will be dealt with in accordance with the Discipline policy.

Cell phones must be turned off during all troop meetings. They may be turned on after the troop meeting is concluded. On Troop Trips, the trip coordinator will specify whether cell phones or other electronic devices are permitted and under what conditions they may be used. Generally cell phones are prohibited on troop trips, unless the trip coordinator specifically allows them.

Medication

A scout who requires medication during a Troop event must report to an adult leader for evaluation of the medication. Medication must be accompanied by the original container or a written description of the name, purpose, dosage, and directions for taking. Normally, medication will be collected by a designated adult leader and dispensed at the appropriate time. Written instructions should indicate if the boy should retain direct possession of the medication for self-administration.

Discipline

The following disciplinary procedures are established for handling incidents of un-scout like conduct, possession of prohibited items, or failure to abide by the guidelines established by this policy. Examples of un-scout like conduct include but are not limited to the following:

- Persistent demonstration of poor Scouting Spirit or lack of respect for leaders or other scouts.
- Hazing and bullying of others. Hazing is defined as "to harass by exacting unnecessary or degrading work; to harass by banter, ridicule or criticism; to haze by way of initiation; to harass by abusive or humiliating tasks. Bullying is defined as repeated or consistent harassing or abusive conduct.
- Foul or abusive language.

Disciplinary steps will normally be taken progressively in the order below. In cases of extreme or dangerous behavior, adult leaders may proceed directly to steps 3,4, or 5. Also, progression may be altered depending on the severity of the event.

Step 1- Talk with the Scout. Prohibited items will be confiscated and may be disposed of. A conference will be held with the scout's Patrol Leader and the Senior Patrol Leader.

Step 2- Conference with an Adult Leader. A conference will be held with at least two adult leaders of the Troop, possibly including the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, or members of the Troop Committee. The result of any such conference will be reported to the Scoutmaster if he is not immediately present.

Step 3- Contact the Parent. An adult leader will contact the Scout's parent/guardian.

Step 4- Suspension or Parental Supervision. The scout will be suspended from all Troop activities until reviewed by the Troop Committee. Parental participation and supervision at Troop activities may be required as an alternative to suspension.

Step 5- Expulsion from the Troop. Cases of extreme or repeated misbehavior may warrant permanent exclusion from participation in the Troop. Cases of expulsion will be decided by a majority vote of members attending an announced meeting of the Troop Committee.

Care for Troop Equipment

The Troop maintains outdoor equipment for use by scouts. The Quartermaster is responsible for maintenance and inventory of the equipment. All equipment must be signed out from the Quartermaster prior to use. The scout is responsible for care of the equipment that he has signed out and for returning the equipment in as good or better condition. All equipment must be returned clean and dry! If the equipment needs to be cleaned at home after the trip, it is expected to be returned at the next Troop meeting after use.

Upon returning from an outing, it is expected that all Scouts will assist in storing troop equipment. No scout may leave until the trip coordinator or the senior patrol leader assigned to the trip has specifically dismissed the scouts. Everyone on the trip is required to stay until dismissed

Activities and Permission Slips

The Troop participates in many activities for the enjoyment and advancement of Scouts along the Trail to Eagle. Special events may be held on nights other than the Troop meeting night or on weekends. Each event involving overnight camping or travel will be announced in writing at least *three* weeks prior to the activity. The announcement will contain an overview of the planned activity, including a description of the eating arrangements (e.g., Troop or Patrol cooking), meeting time for the departure, associated fees, estimate of returning time, and a permission slip. The permission slip must be signed by the scout's parent/guardian and the fees must be paid in order for the scout to participate.

The permission slip will request a point of contact for the parent/guardian during the trip and a place to communicate any conditions (medical or other) the adult leaders should be aware of. The Troop will attempt to contact the parent in the event of an injury or emergency, but the signature on the permission slip gives permission for Troop leaders to obtain medical attention if the parents cannot be reached or even without such an attempt if the condition is thought to be life threatening. The permission slip must be filled out completely and signed by the scout's parent/guardian and the fees must be paid in order for the scout to participate. Permission slips and fees must be turned in as requested by the permission slip. Scouts must be present during the the Troop meetings that are identified as trip preparation to obtain necessary information for the trip, unless excused by the trip coordinator.

First aid may be rendered without obtaining the parent's permission. .

The permission slip will request aid in transportation and adult assistance with the event. All adults who attend overnight activities must register with the troop. In order to register with the troop the adult must take the BSA Youth Protection Course which is offered online. Go to <https://myscouting.scouting.org/> to register and take the course. You must provide a copy of your Youth Protection Certificate to register with the troop. For any trip exceeding 72 hours, BSA policy requires an annual health history signed by a parent/guardian, and supported by a medical evaluation by a licensed health care practitioner within the last 12 months. For this purpose youth members and adult participants must use the Annual BSA Health Medical Record, Parts A,B, and C. For strenuous or high adventure activities, activities in remote areas where readily available medical care cannot be assured, Part D of the form must also be submitted ***Troop 719 requests you provide two copies of your scout's Annual BSA Health Medical Record and two copies of your medical insurance and prescription cards by June 30th (or earlier if you are attending an earlier camp experience) or whenever the information changes. Having this information available improves the chances of a non-parental adult being able to obtain medical attention for a Scout. There can be no guarantee that an available medical facility will be a member of your medical plan, but having this information may save you sizable medical and prescription fees.***

All Troop medical records are maintained in a locked compartment by our Medical Liaison. Troop medical records are given to the trip coordinator or the person designated to maintain the records for the trip. The trip coordinator or his designee is responsible for maintaining the privacy of the records during the trip. Every effort is made to maintain the privacy of the records.

If your plans change, immediately notify the event coordinator and the person who may be purchasing food for the trip. Refunds can only be made until the Troop is obligated to pay for the scout's participation. Individuals often purchase food for the events, with the expectation of being reimbursed. Each scout is expected to pay for food and fees paid for him, whether he attends the event or not.

Transportation

The Scouting program requires transportation for both scouts and equipment. The Troop relies heavily on members of our Scouting family to provide transportation. Each activity permission slip requests assistance with transportation for that event. All drivers must be 18 years of age, have valid driver's license and maintain the minimum insurance requirements set by the State of Maryland. Seat belts are required for each occupant of the vehicle and must be worn during travel. Trucks may not be used to transport passengers, except in the cab. Each family should complete and keep up to date a Driver's Information Sheet containing driver, vehicle and insurance information. The liability coverage provided by BSA depends on this information being available and up to date. The Driver's Information Sheet should be obtained from and returned to the Scoutmaster. This information is needed to complete tour permits required by BSA.

Parent Participation

Participation by parents is essential to the program of the Troop. Parents provide encouragement to their sons to attend meetings and outdoor activities, pursue advancement, wear the uniform, and to take pride in Scouting. Parents are needed to encourage discipline and to help with the Troop program. Parents help to organize outdoor activities, the Troop picnic and Courts of Honor, and provide transportation. Parents are encouraged to assist their scouts with advancement work by volunteering to counsel merit badges. The Troop Committee provides an excellent opportunity for parents to get involved with the Troop program. The Committee makes decisions directly affecting all scouts and supports the Scoutmaster in carrying out the Troop program. The Troop Committee records advancements and conducts Boards of Review. It is responsible for Troop finances and property, provides adequate camping opportunities and outdoor activities, obtains meeting facilities, recruits and trains quality adult leaders, maintains adult training and certification records, and carries out policies of the Boy Scouts of America.

Use of Power Tools

National Council policy permits use of power tools by youth members, with appropriate training and supervision. In accordance with BSA policy on age appropriate activities, Troop 719 establishes the following policy on the use of power tools by its youth members:

Persons under age 18 may use power tools only if:

[a] they have received a mandatory safety briefing for the tools to be used immediately before the activity, and

[b] tools are used under supervision of adults who are proficient in using the tools.

Any adult may stop the use of power tools if he or she witnesses what they deem to be unsafe use.

Troop 719 will permit the use of the following low torque, hand held power tools by youth members after instruction and under supervision of a responsible adult:

screwdriver

drill

sander (other than belt sanders)

jigsaw

rotary tools (e.g., Dremel)

Power tools not on the list may be used only by persons age 18 and over at Troop 719 sponsored activities, including Eagle projects.

Statement of Affirmation and Agreement

I hereby affirm that I have read and understand the policies and procedures of Troop 719. I agree to conduct myself according to these policies and to submit myself to the discipline of the Troop as set forth herein, as a condition of membership in the Troop. I will conduct myself courteously and show respect to my fellow scouts and to my Troop and adult leaders at all times.

Scout's Name (Printed)

Scout's Signature

Date

Witnessed by Parent/Guardian

Date