

TROOP 310

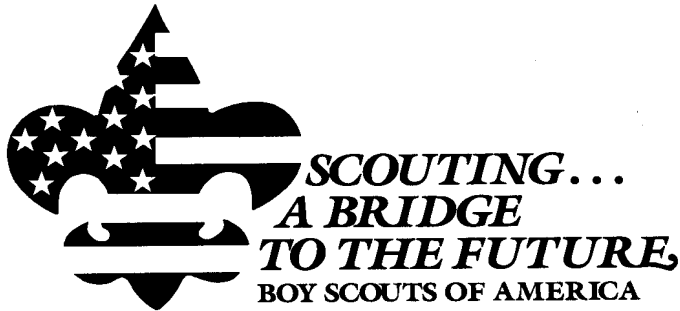
Parent Guide



Bogue Tuchenna District
Istrouma Area Council

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?	1
ORGANIZATION	3
CHARTERED ORGANIZATION (SPONSOR)	3
TROOP COMMITTEE	3
TROOP 310	3
TROOP MEETINGS	5
ADULT LEADERSHIP	5
PATROLS AND PATROL LEADERS	5
TROOP PARENTS	6
ADVANCEMENT	6
ADVANCEMENT THROUGH FIRST CLASS	8
ADVANCEMENT FROM FIRST CLASS TO EAGLE	8
MERIT BADGES	9
BOARDS OF REVIEW	9
COURTS OF HONOR	10
ADMINISTRATIVE	10
RECHARTERING AND FEES	10
ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEES	10
FEES FOR OUTINGS / ACTIVITIES	10
FUNDRAISING	11
FRIENDS OF SCOUTING	11
UNIFORM	11
SCOUT SHOPS	12
AND FINALLY	12



All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind are convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth.

--Aristotle

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America! By becoming the parent of a Boy Scout, you are starting your son on the grand adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him.

What is it all about? What will you be expected to do? What does it cost? We have prepared this booklet to answer these questions.

The following pages describe the organization of a Troop and the advancement pattern that each boy will follow. Reading this will help you understand how your son can progress through the ranks with your help. It will help you understand how you can help and what the various adult volunteers are doing to help the Troop.

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

There are three aims to scouting:

- Aim I -- **To build character**
- Aim II -- **To foster citizenship**
- Aim III -- **To develop fitness**

These three aims are the bedrock of the American Scouting movement. They represent the long term outcomes we want for every boy.

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people, and in other ways to prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime in achieving their full potential.

The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Boy Scout Oath and Law.

SCOUT LAW	SCOUT OATH
<i>A Scout is:</i> Trustworthy Loyal Helpful Friendly Courteous Kind Obedient Cheerful Thrifty Brave Clean Reverent	On my honor I will do my best To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Since 1910, these principles have been taught in an atmosphere of recreation and fun which allows young people to develop self confidence, leadership and moral character. More and more men, trained as Scouts, are taking their places in today's world as responsible adult leaders. Men who earned badges as Scouts, sit on the Supreme Court and in the chambers of Congress. Others hold important offices in government, business and industry. Most of the members of Congress were Scouts, as well as most of the astronauts who walked on the moon. The long list of famous scouts includes:

President John F. Kennedy	Boy Scout	Neil A. Armstrong, First person to set foot on the Moon	Eagle Scout
President Gerald Ford	Eagle Scout	Steven Spielberg	Eagle Scout
J. Willard Marriott, Jr. President of Marriott Corporation	Eagle Scout	William C. Devries, M.D.; Transplanted First Artificial Heart	Eagle Scout
Sam M. Walton Chairman/CEO, Wal-Mart	Eagle Scout	Barber B. Conable, Jr. President, World Bank	Eagle Scout

The Boy Scouts of America is the largest youth oriented organization in the United States. More than 4 million boys and leaders are currently registered in the Boy Scouts of America.

Unlike Cub Scouting, which many of you are familiar with, Boy Scouting is a youth-lead organization. The boys learn how to organize and lead the Troop. After training, and with supervision from the adult leaders, the boys run the show.

The boys in the Troop will be working towards their 1st Class and then Eagle ranks. As they travel on their trail to Eagle they will not only learn how to lead a team to a goal, but they will actually lead teams of scouts in a number of situations. Many Eagle Scouts put their accomplishments on their resumés and find they are often considered in obtaining acceptance into college or the work force.

Boy Scouting also provides for growth of moral strength and character, teaches citizenship, and enhances the development of physical, mental and emotional fitness. This is all done in the spirit of fun and adventure.

Please take a few minutes to read Chapter 1 of your son's Boy Scout Handbook.

ORGANIZATION

Troop 310 is a participating member of the Bogue Tuchenna District of the Istrouma Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop's organization consists of a Chartered Organization, a Troop Committee, the Troop, and the Troop's parents.

Chartered Organization (Sponsor)

Every Troop belongs to an organization. The Chartered Organization for Troop 310 is the Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic Church. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and ensures that there is adequate, trained leadership. It is the Chartered Organization's responsibility to appoint the Scoutmaster and Committee Chairman. A Chartered Organization Representative (who may also serve as the Committee Chairman) acts as liaison between the Troop and MQP.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee functions as an administrative and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of the non-program issues surrounding the Troop; i.e. newsletters, Troop funds, fund raising activities, membership drives and Troop coordination, activity permits and coordination, advancement records, procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment.

The Committee meets monthly. The meetings are open and attendance is encouraged by all parents and other interested adults.

Members of the Troop Committee, led by the Advancement Chairman or Troop Committee Chairman, conduct Boards of Review.

Troop 310

Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of the Troop. The Scoutmaster and his assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. The importance of the Scoutmaster's job is reflected in the fact that the quality of his guidance will affect every youth and adult involved in the troop. The Scoutmaster can be male or female, but must be at least 21 years old. The Scoutmaster is appointed by the head of the chartered organization.

The Scoutmaster's duties include:

General

- Train and guide boy leaders.
- Work with other responsible adults to bring Scouting to boys.
- Use the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting.

Meetings

- Meet regularly with the patrol leaders' council for training and coordination in planning troop activities.
- Attend all troop meetings or, when necessary, arrange for a qualified adult substitute.
- Attend troop committee meetings.
- Conduct periodic parents' sessions to share the program and encourage parent participation and cooperation.
- Take part in the annual membership inventory and uniform inspection, charter review meeting, and charter presentation.

Guidance

- Conduct Scoutmaster conferences for all rank advancements.
- Provide a systematic recruiting plan for new members and see that they are promptly registered.
- Delegate responsibility to other adults and groups (assistants, troop committee) so that they have a real part in troop operations.
- Supervise troop elections for the Order of the Arrow.

Activities

- Make it possible for each Scout to experience at least 10 days and nights of camping each year.
- Participate in council and district events.
- Build a strong program by using proven methods presented in Scouting literature.
- Conduct all activities under qualified leadership, safe conditions, and the policies of the chartered organization and the Boy Scouts of America.

As you see, the Scoutmaster has many responsibilities.

The Assistant Scoutmasters are appointed by the Scoutmaster, subject to the approval of the Chartered Organization and Troop Committee Chairman. They serve at the discretion of the Scoutmaster. Their function is to support the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster may delegate to his assistants one or more of his responsibilities.

Troop Meetings

Troop 310 will hold meetings weekly. Meetings currently are held every Sunday, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as early as possible to allow for proper planning. Troop 310 does not meet the first week of each

month, as that meeting is reserved for the PLC. Troop 310 also does not generally meet following an overnight activity.

Adult Leadership

Troop 310 requires at least one parent formally register with the Boy Scouts of America at the same time that a youth application is submitted. The Troop believes that the chance of a boy succeeding in Scouting is directly related to the commitment a parent makes to the program. By registering, the parents will be covered by BSA insurance, and will be asked to serve on Boards of Review. A registered adult may volunteer to assist in any of the programs offered by Troop 310.

Adults who accept leadership responsibilities are expected to participate in Boy Scout Fast Start Training and Youth Protection Training in the first ninety (90) days after registering with the troop. Adults are encouraged to complete Position Specific Training and Outdoor Skills Training. For those serving in the capacity of Assistant Scoutmasters, the Position Specific Training is mandatory.

Two registered adult leaders, or one adult leader and a Scout parent, both of who must be at least 21 years of age, are required for all Troop 310 meetings, trips or outings.

Mary, Queen of Peace requires that Troop 310 select adult leaders who are parishoners of the church parish to the extent practical. Further, Mary, Queen of Peace limits adult participation in the troop's leadership to those adults who either have a son in the Troop, or who is an alumni of the Troop leadership.

Patrols and Patrol Leaders

The Troop is a group made up of several patrols. Each Patrol usually consists of a Patrol Leader and no less than four Scouts and generally, no more than twelve Scouts. There are exceptions. The boys in a patrol elect their Patrol Leader who in turn appoints the Assistant Patrol Leader. An Assistant Scoutmaster is assigned specifically to each patrol to provide counseling.

The Senior Patrol Leader is an elected position. The Senior Patrol Leader selects his Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, as well as fills the other youth leadership positions in the Troop. The Patrol Leaders, with the Senior Patrol Leader as their head, form the Patrol Leaders' Council, which plans the activities and runs the Troop meetings.

Elections for Patrol Leader are held in August and February of each year. Elections for Senior Patrol Leader will be held in August each year. Any boy seeking to hold a position of leadership in Troop 310 must first obtain Scoutmaster approval.

Patrol Leaders' Council

The Patrol Leaders' Council, not the adult leaders, is responsible for planning and conducting the Troop's activities. The Patrol Leaders' Council is composed of the

following voting members: Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leaders, Troop Guide, Venture Crew Chief, Varsity Team Captain.

The Troop's activities are selected and planned at the annual program planning conference. The Troop's yearly plan is then submitted to the Troop Committee for approval. The Troop Committee either approves the plan or makes alternative suggestions for the Patrol Leaders' Council to consider. At its monthly meetings, the Patrol Leaders' Council organizes and assigns activity responsibilities for the weekly troop meetings. The Troop Committee interacts with the Patrol Leaders' Council through the Scoutmaster.

Troop Parents

The role of parents within Troop 310 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

1. Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting. Parents should attend an informal Boy Scout Fast Start by the Troop Committee.
2. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
3. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
4. Assist, as requested, in all Troop fund-raisers and other such activities. All such assistance lowers the cost of the program we offer to the Scouts and, therefore, lowers each family's cash outlay for their Scout(s).
5. Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar.

ADVANCEMENT

There are many definitions of advancement, but the Scouting definition might well be, simply, "the art of meeting a challenge." For that is exactly what the Boy Scout advancement program asks the boys to do. The Boy Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a Scout climbs at his own pace. As he acquires these skills he moves up through a series of ranks, for which he is awarded badges. Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks -- and the more rewarding.

Achievements include:

- Learning skills that qualify for Scouting's more rugged and exciting outdoor challenges.
- Developing body and mind, growing self-confidence, and helping younger Scouts climb the advancement ladder.

- Discovering how it feels to go further -- in so many ways -- than he ever thought he could.

We don't look at advancement as a goal, but as a natural outcome of a planned, quality Troop program.

There are four steps of advancement:

- The Boy Scout **Learns**.
- The Boy Scout is **Tested**.
- The Boy Scout is **Reviewed**.
- The Boy Scout is **Recognized**.

What must never be forgotten is that the advancement program is but the means we in Scouting utilize to help the boys achieve the mission of scouting. Our purpose is not to make experts of the youth in a subject, but to introduce them to areas of interest that might spark an interest in further study, and ultimately may lead to a vocation or avocation. Our Troop believes that a Scout's trip down the trail to Eagle is made with the full support of the Troop and the adults who support it.

Our advancement program is under the direction of the Scoutmaster, and he is the final authority within the Troop on whether a Scout has successfully met any or all of the requirements for any rank or badge. He may delegate this authority to one or more Assistant Scoutmasters, or to appointed advisers. Of course, the Unit Commissioner or District Advancement Chairman are available to discuss any questions regarding advancement.

Advancement Through First Class

From the time the Scout enters the Troop through the time he earns advancement to First Class, he is learning basic scouting skills to enable him to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, and perform other tasks in the outdoors and to work as a member of a team. With those first steps the Scout begins to build himself physically, mentally, and morally. He will start to live the Scout Oath and Law. Soon he will learn the symbolism inherent in the Scout badge; he will learn that there are three points of the trefoil which stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath: Duty to God and country, duty to other people, and duty to yourself. The goal of this Troop is for the Scout to achieve the rank of First Class within his first year in the Troop. This is a sign that the Scout has mastered the fundamentals of scouting and can begin to start the long process of learning to lead others, refining the learned skills and learning additional skills.

First Class Rank Badge



Advancement from First Class to Eagle

From the achievement of First Class through Eagle, the Scout will be demonstrating leadership, performing service projects, earning merit badges and using the skills learned while achieving the rank of First Class. The next ranks he will earn are Star and Life. These ranks are harder to obtain than the earlier ranks, but are also more interesting for the older scouts. Upon completion of all the requirements for Star and Life, the Scout will be eligible to work for Eagle. The original principals - the Scout Oath and Law - now have fuller meaning for the Scout and their understanding of them is much greater. In addition, scouts pursuing these ranks are required to be extremely active in both the troop and their patrols. They should be returning to the



Eagle Rank Badge

Troop, in the form of instruction and advise, the lessons which benefited them along the trail to Eagle. The final steps towards Eagle are filled with leadership experiences.

Details for advancement are contained in the Boy Scout Handbook, which every Scout should obtain as soon as possible after joining the Troop. Take a look at Chapter 1. This short chapter has an advancement summary through First Class.

While there is not a defined time table regarding advancement, some general guidelines exist. Troop 310 encourages new scouts to complete the path to First Class by the anniversary date of their joining the troop. The Star rank should take at least 6 months. From there, it will generally take 1 year to complete the Life rank, and another year to

move from Life to Eagle. As you can see, it will take a commitment of at least 3 ½ years to reach Eagle, and that assumes that the scout attends virtually all of the troop functions and Summer and Winter Camps. The outside limit on reaching Eagle is the scout's 18th birthday. Remember that the path to Eagle is filled with life-lessons, and many of those lessons can only be appreciated with the maturity that comes only with age.

Merit Badges

The goal of the Merit Badge Program is to expand a Scout's areas of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. Merit badges are earned by a Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor. The Scout is required to contact the counselor to arrange for times and places to meet with the counselor. When the Scout completes the work on the merit badge, the counselor will inform the Merit Badge Program Adviser or the Scoutmaster that the Scout has completed the requirements for that badge. Merit Badges earned will be presented to the Scout at the Troop's next Court of Honor.

In many instances, Scouts work on merit badges at scout camp. Although the camp counselors may certify completion of merit badge requirements, their certification is merely advisory, and the troop is the final judge on completion.

All parents of Troop 310 Scouts are encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors. Even if a parent is not the actual counselor on a particular merit badge, parents are encouraged to assist their sons in succeeding.

Please see our Merit Badge Program Adviser, Dr. Peter Simoneaux, to complete a Troop Resource Survey. This will allow him to determine what expertise you have which may benefit the boys.

Boards of Review

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he appears before a Board of Review composed of members of the Troop committee. The purpose of the review is not an examination. Rather it is to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals; to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement, to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program, and to encourage him to keep working towards advancement. One important function of the Board of Review is to compare the impact of scouting on various members of the troop in order to insure uniformity and fairness.

A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a boy about his lack of progress toward advancement.

Courts of Honor

Troop 310 will conduct a Court of Honor several times a year. Generally, a Court of Honor is held in February and August. The Court of Honor recognizes all Scout appointments, elections, awards, and advancements since the last Court of Honor. Adult recognition may be presented prior to the opening of the Troop Court of Honor. It is the responsibility of the Troop's Patrol Leaders' Council to plan and conduct the Courts of Honor. The Troop Committee will support the Courts of Honor as requested.

The Court of Honor is a public ceremony, and is a chance for the scouts to be publicly recognized for their achievements. Parents and all other interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

ADMINISTRATION

Rechartering and Fees

The process of rechartering is the annual collection of registration fees for the scouts and leaders. The Troop also makes a formal visit to the chartering organization to renew their commitment for the coming year. The process of rechartering the Troop must be completed by the end of March of each calendar year.

Annual Registration Fees

How much does Boy Scouting cost? As little as possible, but nothing worthwhile is free. The annual fee for each Scout in Troop 310 is:

\$60.00

- \$35.00 for Troop membership (Pays for badges, awards, and other expenses incurred by the Troop as a whole.)
- \$10.00 for *Boys Life* magazine (optional, but really enjoyable, and gives the Scouts ideas for activities and outings. A good buy.)
- \$15.00 for Troop Neckerchief (first year) or for Equipment Reserve (subsequent years)

Fees for Outings / Activities

Individual activities may have fees associated with them. If so, the parents will be notified. Registration and payment for these activities are handled through the Troop, under the direction of a parent volunteer who acts as the event Chairman.

Fundraising

Additional funds are raised by the boys through various fundraising activities. The Troop's major fundraiser is our Jambalaya Dinner. We also assist the KCs at their Lenten Fish Fry, sell popcorn and conduct other minor fundraisers. Our fundraisers are designed so that the money raised will be used to purchase Troop equipment. Our goal is to provide all of the necessary equipment for our patrols, excluding any personal camping gear. Details on this year's fundraisers will be available at future Troop meetings.

Friends of Scouting

Each year, the Council operates its Friends of Scouting (F.O.S.) campaign to raise money for the Council operations. The Council is responsible for maintaining the Council Camps, Camporees, as well as other Council activities, Local BSA administration and local advertising. Contributions are voluntary, but the Troop has a good record of support for this activity. As years go by, F.O.S. is becoming a critical source of BSA funding.

UNIFORM

The Scout uniform helps to achieve the objectives of Scouting. The uniform by itself can not make a good Scout or a good Troop, but its use has been proven to improve both the Scout and the Troop because it is a visible symbol of Scouting and unity. Each scout is required to have and wear, within a reasonable amount of time after joining the Troop, the following uniform items:

Field or "Class A" Uniform

- Tan scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches (Istrouma Area Council strip, red shoulder loops, and patrol emblem.)
- Troop number.
- Troop 310 neckerchief (obtained from Troop).
- Neckerchief slide (can be purchased or made by Scout).
- Olive Scout pants or shorts.
- Boy Scout Socks.
- Boy Scout Hat (Patrol Option).
- Scout web belt and buckle or other scout belt and buckle.
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots.

Activity or "Class B" Uniform (worn, as instructed by Troop leadership, when activities may cause damage to the field uniform).

- Scout T-Shirt.
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots. Socks are required.
- Pants or shorts.
- Socks.

Uniforms and insignia are worn a certain way. The Troop Leaders and staff at the Scout Shops will be able to answer any questions you might have on where to put what badge. Inside the cover of the Handbook there are guides for badge placement.

Troop 310 conducts periodic and unannounced uniform inspections as determined by the Scoutmaster. The purpose of the inspections is not to punish any boy who is out of uniform, but to reward those who have given the extra time and effort to follow troop policy.

SCOUT SHOPS

There are two Scout Shops in the Mandeville area where you can purchase scout uniforms and supplies:

Southeast Louisiana Scout Shop

I-10 Service Road
Metairie, LA

Istrouma Area Scout Shop

Off of Airline Highway
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 926-2697

There are also private businesses who sell Boy Scout supplies. Playville in Covington and Slidell Army Surplus in Slidell are the two locally. You can also order uniforms and supplies on-line at <http://www.scoutstuff.org>.

AND FINALLY

You are joining a great organization that includes tens of thousands of adult leaders, interested parents, and the BSA professional staff. Scouting is much more than enjoying the outdoors. The Troop teaches leadership skills and community skills. Scouting also shows the boys how they can keep themselves strong and healthy and make the most of school. With hard work and dedication, your son will be able to serve as a leader in the Troop and advance in rank along the trail to Eagle.

Above and beyond anything else said in this packet, the boys and us "big kids" are in Scouts to have fun!

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