

Boy Scouts of America
Troop 226
Plano, Texas
Circle Ten Council, Great Plains District



Policies and Procedures

Approved 12/06/2005

Membership – Troop 226 is open to Christian Homeschool families in the Collin County area. The Scout must be a home schooled boy at the time of admission to the Troop. The family must be a member of a Christian Homeschool organization including, but not limited to: PEACH, MARCH, N-TECH, PATH, RHSA, or Frisco HIS. Other Christian Homeschool support groups will be considered by the Troop Committee. To be considered a homeschool boy, more than 50% of his education must be conducted at home. If a Scout is a member in good standing and he is no longer being home schooled, the Committee will consider allowing him to continue in the Troop on a case by case basis.

Boys Scouts of America Mission: To prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Scout Oath

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.

Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous,
kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave,
clean and reverent.

Troop 226 Mission: Founded on the wisdom of Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it”. The mission of Troop 226 is, via the Scouting program, to train and equip our young men to be capable Christian leaders.

TROOP 226 POLICIES & PROCEDURES

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TROOP 226 POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Section 1. General Information

Meeting Day: September through June on Tuesdays, except on certain holidays, or as determined by the Troop Committee.

Meeting Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Meeting Place: Christ the Servant Lutheran Church

Charter Organization: PEACH – Plano Education Association of Christian Homeschoolers

Website: <http://troop226.greatplainsbsa.org>

Section 2.1. Scout Dues

Dues are \$40.00 per scout per year (\$30 for the Troop and \$10 for BSA). This covers registration, insurance, advancement awards, and basic operating supplies. Subscriptions to Boys Life may be purchased at this time for an additional \$12.00. Dues for new members are prorated based on the actual date of joining the Troop. (See Appendix A). Registrations must be paid by the first Troop meeting in November of each year for scouts to participate in any and all activities. Dues are subject to change without notice.

Section 2.2. Leader Dues

Dues are \$10.00 per leader per year. This covers registration, insurance, and the Scouting magazine. Dues for new members are prorated based on the actual date of joining the troop. (See Appendix A). Registrations must be paid by the first Troop meeting in November of each year for leaders to participate in any and all activities. Dues are subject to change without notice.

Section 3. Troop Structure

Troop 226 is in the Great Plains District of the Circle Ten Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The troop follows all guidelines of the national BSA organization. The troop is made up of patrols generally consisting of 6-12 scouts. Each patrol has a Patrol Leader (PL) and Assistant Patrol Leader (APL). The patrols operate as a group during meetings and activities, and each patrol chooses a patrol name, yell, and flag. Membership of Patrols will vary over time in the discretion of the Scout Master/Assistant Scout Master.

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) run troop meetings. The SPL is elected by the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC), and the ASPL and all other troop offices other than Patrol Leader and Asst. Patrol Leader are appointed by the SPL. The term of office for all Scout positions in the troop is six months, with elections in May and December. Certain offices specifically Jr. Asst. Scoutmaster, Troop Instructor, Troop Guide and Den Chief are appointed by the Scoutmaster and normally hold a one year term in that office.

The Patrol Leader Council (PLC) is comprised of the SPL, ASPL, PL's, and other troop officeholders. Meetings are called as needed. The SPL presides over the PLC and the Scoutmaster attends to offer support and guidance, and to act as a liaison between the PLC and the Troop Committee.

The Troop Committee oversees the operations and activities of the troop, and is comprised of the Committee Chairman and Committee Members. The Scoutmaster and Asst. Scoutmasters may attend as non-voting members to the committee. All members of the Committee shall be registered adult Scouters through the troop. The Committee shall make all final decisions. The Troop Committee shall meet on a regular monthly basis on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30, in conjunction with the Scout meeting, but the Committee may be called upon at any time

to make decisions outside the regularly scheduled meetings. All Committee members are required to take Youth Protection Training (YPT) and Fast Start within 2 weeks of joining. Both courses are offered online. Committee members are also required to complete Committee Member Training within 6 months of joining the Troop Committee.

Troop meetings normally include a time of awards and announcements at the end of the meeting. Campouts always have a published gathering time and leaving time. At the gathering time, we do a headcount, gear check, and driver briefing. We try to leave on time, so please arrive early to facilitate this.

Section 4. Uniforms

Scouts are to wear their Boy Scout uniform to all meetings, to and from campouts, Courts of Honor, Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review, and all other functions at which they represent the troop. The official "Class B" shirt may be worn during campouts, hikes, backpacks, and other activities not requiring an official uniform as determined by the event coordinator, Scoutmaster, or Troop Committee. The official Boy Scout uniform consists of the official Scout shirt (long or short sleeves) with appropriate insignia and patches; the official BSA pants or shorts, belt, hiking boots or tennis shoes with official socks, the Troop 226 neckerchief, the Troop 226 hat, merit badge sash or Order of the Arrow sash (not both)(optional). The "Class B" uniform consists of the Troop 226 t-shirt, blue jeans, shorts or other acceptable casual pants; hiking boots or athletic shoes with socks.

Section 5. Advancement

All requirements for advancement are tracked using the Official Boy Scout Handbook. The Handbook is the Scout's official record of advancement. It should always be kept in good condition. Scouts are encouraged to purchase a book cover in order to protect their Handbook. Each Scout should have his handbook at all troop meetings and functions. Advancement requirements may be approved and 'signed off' by any registered Scouter (adult) other than the Scout's parent/guardian, and by any Scoutmaster-approved Scout (normally Troop Instructors). Rank patches are awarded to the Scout at the earliest possible troop meeting or Court of Honor following his Board of Review. A Scout must wear his full uniform to the Board of Review. Formal recognition and written rank card are awarded at the Courts of Honor, held quarterly in June and December, or as needed. Scouts should retain rank advancement cards as proof of completion.

Section 6. Merit Badges

Merit badges are required for Scouts to advance to Star, Life, and Eagle ranks. When a Scout has chosen a merit badge to work on, he is encouraged to find one or more other Scouts to work on it with him. These Scouts should then obtain merit badge cards and counselor names, if necessary, from the Scoutmaster before beginning any work on the badge. The Troop Committee keeps a current list of all available merit badge counselors in the Troop. The Scout then makes arrangements with the merit badge counselor to meet and complete the badge. Upon completion of the merit badge, the Scout has the counselor and Scoutmaster sign the card, and then turns it in to the Awards Chairman. If merit badge booklets are required, the troop has a library with a number of books to loan. The Scout may also purchase his own booklet at Scoutfitters or Elliot's Hardware. Booklets borrowed from the troop library should be returned as soon as practical upon completion of the merit badge. Check www.meritbadge.com for the most up to date requirements and worksheets. Where available, they must complete the merit badge worksheets.

Section 7. Troop Activities

Troop 226 plans an outdoor activity at least once each month. These activities may include camping, hikes, backpacking trips, bicycle rides, field trips and day trips. All participants (youth and adult) at troop activities are expected to behave in an appropriate manner consistent with the ideals and policies of the Boy Scouts of America. General safety and youth protection are of the utmost importance on all outings. Any necessary disciplinary actions will follow the stated troop discipline policy (see Section 12).

Adult leadership/participation shall be at least 'two deep' (at least two adult leaders at each event). **All registered adults participating in Troop outings and events must complete Youth Protection Training.** This training must be renewed every three years. Evidence of completion of training should be provided to the Troop Training Coordinator. Fees are variable for any given activity. All individuals that sign up for a particular activity are required to pay the full fee by the due date specified in order to participate. Fees for outings may be refunded if the participant cancels prior to any food and/or other materials for the outing being purchased or in the event of an unforeseen emergency. All refunds must be approved by the Troop Committee.

On overnight activities, Scouts cannot share tents or other sleeping accommodations with adults other than their own parent/guardian, in accordance with BSA policy. Adults of the opposite sex shall not share a tent unless they are legally married. Overnight camping gear should include the items listed in the Boy Scout Handbook. Pocketknives may only be used after a Scout has earned his Totin' Chip.

Items **not** allowed by Scouts include:

- Axes or hatchets
- Sheath knives or any knife with a blade longer than 4 inches
- Wire saws
- Butane lighters
- Glass containers
- Firearms, munitions, or fireworks
- Aerosol insect repellent
- Electronic devices (approved for traveling to and from activity)

Section 8. Camp/Activity Fee Scholarships

Scholarships or supplement funding may be provided by the Great Plains District. A boy can pay his own way by actively participating in Troop fundraising activities.

Section 9. Youth Training

The troop recognizes the importance and benefit of qualified youth leaders in the troop. Annually the Council offers National Youth Leader Training (NYLT), Oak Leaf, and Golden Acorn. Candidates must demonstrate a desire to strengthen leadership skills, have a desire to better themselves, and regularly attend and participate in troop meetings and activities. Participation requires approval of the Scoutmaster. Normally the troop will send a maximum of two scouts to training annually, however may elect to send more depending on the size and needs of the troop.

Section 10. Service Time

Scouts are expected to earn community service time towards rank advancement and in support of the Boy Scout motto "Do A Good Turn Daily." Service time includes volunteer work to a community, school, church, or other non-profit organization. In order to earn service time

towards rank advancement, scouts MUST be working as a boy scout during the time the service is provided. All service time must be approved by the Scoutmaster PRIOR TO the service time being completed.

Section 11. Patrol Cooking

The troop uses patrol cooking as often as possible. Patrol cooking provides a fun learning experience for Scouts and fulfills necessary rank advancement requirements. Patrol menus must have the approval of an adult leader. Each patrol is responsible for planning a patrol menu and grocery list prior to the outing and having it approved by an adult leader. The patrol will elect a grub master to purchase the food or the patrol can go together as part of a patrol meeting. The patrol will have a grocery budget of \$15.00 per patrol member participating in the event. For example: \$2 – breakfast, \$3 – lunch, and \$4 – dinner. For a Friday night to Sunday campout, \$15 will be given to the Grubmaster. After the food has been purchased, the 'grub master' will submit the grocery receipt for the food attached to the patrol menu planner and grocery list to the Troop Treasurer who will reimburse the grub master up to the allotted amount of \$15.00 per participant. Any charges above the allotted amount will not be reimbursed without prior approval of the Troop Committee. The boys may submit a request to the Troop Committee to increase their grocery budget. Patrol boxes are available through the troop. Some supplies are in the boxes, but each patrol should make sure that their patrol box is stocked with all necessities and for notifying the Troop Quartermaster of any needed supplies. Each Scout is responsible for his own mess kit, drinking cup and utensils.

Section 12. Medical Procedures

All youth and adults who wish to participate in troop activities are required to complete a **BSA** Troop Medical Form. These forms are good for 36 months unless the individual is over 40, in which case it must be reviewed annually. The Committee should be notified of any changes in information ASAP. This form provides the troop with basic medical, physician and insurance information. Medical forms shall be reviewed annually. Medical forms are taken to all troop activities so the adult leadership can deal with medications and other situations appropriately. Council or other medical forms may be required for certain functions such as summer camp and High Adventure activities. These forms will be required in addition to the troop medical forms when appropriate. Prescription medications and over-the-counter medications should be given to a leader for safe keeping and appropriate dispensing during an activity. Parents/guardians attending activities may keep the medications and administer them to their son, except where local camp rules may apply.

Section 13. Youth and Adult Behavior

Scouting activities are fun, memorable experiences and the Troop Committee wants the Scouts and Scouters to enjoy themselves at all times. The participants' fun and enjoyment must, however, stay within the boundaries of proper behavior. All Scouts and Scouters must abide by the Boy Scouts of America "Guide to Safe Scouting" and participate in Youth Protection Training. Misbehavior and inappropriate activities will not be tolerated and will be dealt with as described in the 'Disciplinary Policy' section (Section 15) of this document. Examples of inappropriate behavior are as follows:

- Acting in a disrespectful manner
- Disobeying rules of the activity
- Being uncooperative
- Intentionally damaging property or equipment
- Physical aggression or name calling
- Leaving a designated area without permission from a leader
- Using inappropriate language or gestures
- Hazing

Section 14. Disciplinary Policy

During all events and activities, the Scouts and Scouters are expected to live up to the rules and guidelines established by the BSA and Troop 226. In the event a Scout or Scouter does not follow these rules and guidelines, or threatens the health and safety of any participants, the leader in charge may take immediate remedial action as deemed appropriate, including, but not limited to, immediate suspension from the remainder of the activity. Depending on the circumstances, the parents/guardians may be required to pick up their Scout immediately. Should such behavior re-occur by the same Scout or Scouter, that individual may be subject to permanent dismissal from the troop as determined by the Troop Committee. A Scout or Scouter who continually disrupts activities or whose actions endanger him or others will be sent home. If Scout continues to have discipline problems and his parent is a leader, the parent may be asked to take a break from leadership. Once the child has matured and his behavior has improved, the leader may be asked to step back in.

Section 15. Fundraisers

All fundraisers, except Popcorn and Scout Show, must be approved by the Troop Committee and Council Office prior to the event. Proceeds generated from popcorn and Scout show fundraisers will be divided as follows: \$20 to the Troops general fund and the remaining balance to the Scout. Participant earnings will be deposited to their individual passbook account. When undertaken, all Scouts should participate in the fundraisers to support the troop and their individual participation in scouting events and activities. The Troop Committee reserves the right to designate certain fundraisers for the sole purpose of replenishing the Troop's scholarship and/or equipment fund when needed. The Troop Committee may direct the Treasurer to assess each Scouts account to pay specific expenses as needed.

Section 16. Individual Passbook Accounts

Monies earned through certain opportunities are put into Scouts' individual passbook accounts. The Troop Treasurer will track each Scout's account separately. The funds may be used by the Scout to cover the cost of troop activities and annual registration and dues. The treasurer will require a signed note from the Scout and the Scout's parent/guardian stating the amount of funds needed and for what purpose before the funds may be used.

Section 17. Parent/Guardian Participation

Scouts whose parents/guardians are active in the troop will advance farther and have a more rewarding experience than those whose parents/guardians do nothing. All parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to become an adult member of the Troop Committee by registering with BSA. Parents/guardians desiring to participate in troop activities will need to attend Youth Protection training. The troop needs the support and participation of the Scouts' parents/guardians. The Troop Committee requests that parents/guardians be willing to help with at least one activity per year.

Section 18. Adult Advancement Record

Registered adults and Scouters wishing to wear the official Troop 226 neckerchief, or those wishing to be Assistant Scoutmasters or Scoutmaster must participate in the operation of the troop. Requirements to earn each item are as follows:

- Troop Neckerchief
 1. Be a registered Scouter.
 2. Wear the Official Scout uniform with correct patches at all Scouting events.

- Troop 226 Assistant Scoutmaster
 1. Earn a Troop 226 Neckerchief.
 2. Earn the Great Plains District's 'trained' patch for Assistant Scoutmaster by completing the following:
 - Fast Start
 - New Leader's Essentials
 - Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster specific training
 - Introduction to Outdoor Leader's Skills

- Troop 226 Scoutmaster
 1. Complete requirements for Assistant Scoutmaster.
 2. Obtain approval from the Troop Committee and Chartering Organization via the COR.

Section 19. Leader/Driver Responsibility

The troop uses parents/guardians as transportation resources and leadership at activities. When accepting this responsibility, adults are expected to set an example of good scouting and act in accordance with the Scout Oath as well as the policies and procedures outlined in this document. Adults are a role model for the Scouts.

Adults volunteering to drive to activities must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license that has not been suspended or revoked for any reason. If the vehicle to be used is designed to carry more than 15 persons, including the driver, the driver must have a commercial driver's license (CDL). Drivers are expected to show up early at the designated departure location. Vehicles should be in good operating condition with seat belts for all occupants. All vehicles must be covered by automobile liability insurance with limits that meet or exceed requirements of the state of Texas. It is recommended that coverage limits are at least \$50,000/\$100,000/\$50,000. Any vehicle designed to carry 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of \$100,000/\$500,000/\$100,000. Proof of insurance and driver's license should be on file with the Scoutmaster. The Troop Committee shall make all final decisions regarding suitability of drivers and/or vehicles for any and all transportation needs. Any Scout or Scouter with concerns about a vehicle or driver should bring it to the attention of the Leader in Charge of the activity. These concerns may include condition of the vehicle, impaired abilities of a driver to alcohol or drug use, or any other concern. Appropriate action will be taken as soon as possible. Safety is paramount and the troop will not compromise on this issue.

Adults driving and participating in a troop activity will not be allowed to leave early unless an emergency dictates otherwise. Should a driver wish to depart earlier than the bulk of the group, prior arrangements must be made to transport all affected gear and/or Scouts back home.

Smoking or use of tobacco products of any form is strongly discouraged at troop activities as per BSA policy. Tobacco use, by legal adults, should never be done in the presence of Scouts. In any case, tobacco use will not be allowed by or around the Scouts or in the immediate vicinity of tents or campsites. Alcohol is strictly prohibited.

Section 20. Troop Website

The Troop maintains a website with a monthly calendar and additional information and updates at <http://troop226.greatplainsbsa.org>.

Section 21. Siblings

Boy Scout meetings and activities are “for the boys”. Siblings are not allowed. At functions where both parents are serving, siblings are allowed as long as they can quietly entertain themselves. Parents with small children may not be able to serve at the same time if they can’t arrange for babysitting.

Section 22. Family Campouts

Our regular monthly campouts are not family campouts. A parent is welcome to attend with their Scout, as long as they have completed YPT. Siblings may not participate in Boy Scout campouts. The Troop will have a family campout each year and everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate.

Section 23. Approved Spending

The Scoutmaster, Treasurer, Quartermaster, and Committee Chair may spend up to \$35.00 per month without prior approval of the Committee. Prior approval by the Troop Committee is necessary for expenses of \$35.01 or greater, except in the case of an emergency. A leader may spend money as long as they have prior approval of the Committee. The Awards Chairperson may spend what is necessary to procure earned awards.

Section 24. Troop Audit

The Troop Treasurer will request the Treasurer of Pack 226 to audit our books annually in April.

Section 25. Document Changes

This document will be reviewed on an as needed basis. Anyone wanting to request a change may do so by submitting a written request to the Committee Chair at least one week prior to the regular committee meeting.

Appendix A

Boy Scout Fee Schedule

| Month | BSA Reg.** | Boys Life | Troop Fee |
|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| November* | 10.85 | 13.00 | 32.50 |
| December | 10.00 | 12.00 | 30.00 |
| January | 9.35 | 11.00 | 27.50 |
| February | 8.50 | 10.00 | 25.00 |
| March | 7.65 | 9.00 | 22.50 |
| April | 6.80 | 8.00 | 20.00 |
| May | 5.95 | 7.00 | 17.50 |
| June | 5.10 | 6.00 | 15.00 |
| July | 4.25 | 5.00 | 12.50 |
| August | 3.40 | 4.00 | 10.00 |
| September | 2.55 | 3.00 | 7.50 |
| October | 1.70 | 2.00 | 5.00 |
| | | | |

*November – pays for current month plus following year.

**Adults pay only the BSA Registration fee.

All current members are paid through November. Fees are due the first meeting in November so we can re-charter and meet “Quality Unit” guidelines.

Acknowledgement and Agreement

This is to acknowledge we have received a copy of the Troops Policies and Procedures and agree to read and abide by them as written. We understand that any exceptions to or deviation from these policies and procedures must have prior approval from the Troop Committee.

Scout's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____

Date _____