

BYLAWS, POLICIES AND RULES

TROOP 145

GARLAND, TEXAS

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

REDEVELOPED JANUARY 2010

APPROVED FEBRUARY 2010

CHARTERING ORGANIZATION:
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1333 Belt Line Road, Garland, Texas 75040

Troop 145 Bylaws

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Purpose:

The purpose of these bylaws is to provide the governing rules by which the troop functions. In addition to these bylaws, we will follow the rules outlined in the Boy Scout Handbook, the Scoutmaster Handbook and The Guide to Safe Scouting. Specific details concerning certain points in these bylaws can be found in the Troop Handbook, which is to serve as a companion to these policies. These bylaws are never to be in contradiction to National BSA guidelines.

Philosophy:

Troop 145 is a boy led troop. Our goals are:

- 1) to help the boys develop moral strength and character
- 2) to learn and practice good citizenship
- 3) to develop leadership skills
- 4) to develop physical, mental, and emotional fitness, and
- 5) to have fun

Service to Others:

“Do A Good Turn Daily” is the Scout Slogan. "To help other people at all times" is part of the Scout Oath. Service to others is an integral part of Scouting. Troop 145 encourages each Scout to participate in several different service projects each year. Scouting for Food, where the Scouts collect canned goods for donation to a local food bank, is one such project. We also try to participate in local service projects that benefit our city as well as scouting. Scouts are encouraged to participate with Eagle projects, which often benefit churches, schools, or hospitals. Troop 145 participates in a regular road clean-up program for the City of Garland. Lending a helping hand is key to developing Scout Spirit.

Membership:

All applicants must fill out a BSA application and must comply with BSA membership requirements. This includes both boys and adults. All registration fees must be paid annually, during the recharter period. Parents are encouraged to participate in troop activities and campouts and to register as troop leaders. A troop cannot be successful without adult volunteers, and boys whose parents are involved tend to be more successful in the scouting program. Adults attending troop events must have current Youth Protection Training.

Meetings:

Troop meetings are held from 7:00 to 8:30 on Mondays at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Meetings during the school year are not typically held when school is out that day, but that decision is up to the scoutmaster. Troop committee meetings are held regularly.

Organization and Leadership:

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1333 Beltline Rd., Garland, TX, charters Troop 145. We are part of Gray Owl District in Circle 10 Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Our charter is renewed in January of each year.

Troop 145 consists of the Troop Committee, the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters, and Boy Scouts ages eleven through seventeen. The Committee Chairman leads the Troop Committee. Chairman elections are held annually at the January committee meeting, with the term running from February 1 to January 31 of the following year. The Troop Committee is the governing body of the troop and is to assure compliance with BSA policies and procedures and guarantee that the troop is running a quality program. The committee is comprised of registered adult leaders. Non-registered adults may attend meetings but may not vote on committee matters. Specific duties of committee members are outlined in the Troop Committee Guidebook. Adult leaders are encouraged to take part in Boy Scout training offered through the district and/or council and to attend monthly Roundtables.

An ad hoc committee, with the approval of the Committee Chairman, shall decide upon the Scoutmaster. This person should be a member of the troop for one year before being considered for Scoutmaster. The term for scoutmaster shall be three years. The duties of the Scoutmaster will include but not be limited to:

- 1) have attended Scoutmaster/outdoor leadership training; WoodBadge training is preferred
- 2) communicate with and support the SPL in providing a quality program for all boys
- 3) attend and oversee regular planning meetings with the SPL and Patrol Leaders Council
- 4) attend Troop Committee meetings and work with the committee to provide a quality program for all boys
- 5) work with Assistant Scoutmasters to provide camping experiences, training opportunities, and the means for advancement
- 6) attend district roundtable on behalf of the troop

The Scoutmaster appoints assistant scoutmasters, and the Scoutmaster determines their specific duties. Their purpose is to share the duties of the Scoutmaster. Guidelines for these positions are further discussed in the Scoutmaster Handbook.

Copies of the Scoutmaster Handbook and the Troop Committee Guidebook are available for review upon request to the Committee.

The Boy Scouts are the reason the troop exists. One of the purposes of Scouting is to teach boys leadership skills. Leadership positions and their functions are outlined in the Boy Scout Handbook and the Troop Leadership Handbook. All positions in Troop 145, except OA Rep, Instructor and Troop Guide, are elected according to the following schedule:

All elected positions: terms run from January 1 to June 30, and July 1 to December 31; elections will be held in December and June

All Scouts who are running for a position and/or voting in an election must have been a member of the troop for at least two months. Fees must be current and the attendance record for the 6 months previous to the election must be approved by the Scoutmaster before a Scout is eligible to run for any position. The Scoutmaster will assure that all age and rank requirements are followed, that all required speeches are given, and that the election is done in a fair and equitable manner.

Scouts who have three unexcused absences in a row can be removed from office at the discretion of the Scoutmaster. Excused absences include sickness, conflicts with church and school functions, other Scouting events/responsibilities, and family emergencies. Homework should not be an excuse for excessive absences. The boy should notify his Patrol Leader or the SPL that he will not be attending the meeting.

Advancement:

Advancement in Boy Scouts provides opportunity for participatory citizenship, character growth, plus mental and physical development. Meeting the challenges of each rank and being recognized for these achievements builds self esteem and encourages maturity.

When a Scout first joins the troop, he will be guided on the Trail to First Class, learning Scout Skills as designated in the Boy Scout Handbook. As he earns first his Scout badge, then Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks, the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Troop Guides and other Scouts will help him. He learns by doing, growing in ability and becoming a valued member of his patrol and his troop. As each boy learns, he is asked to teach others. In this way, boys learn to lead, and the troop is "boy led".

The Scout is tested as he learns and the requirements for advancement are "signed off". When the requirements for a rank are complete, the boy is eligible for his Scoutmaster conference. In these conferences, the Scoutmaster determines when a Scout is ready to advance. Then he recommends the Scout to the Troop Committee for a Board of Review.

The review for all ranks except Eagle are arranged by the Advancement Coordinator and consist of no less than three committee members. During this Board of Review, the Scout is not "re-tested" but rather asked to recap his achievements toward attaining this rank, and to display his Scouting attitude and his understanding of the Scouting ideals. The Eagle Board of Review is coordinated with the District Advancement Chairman, and is more fully explained by our Eagle Advisor. Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, parents, and guardians of the boy being reviewed may not serve on that Scout's Board of Review.

Ranks after First Class are Star, Life, Eagle, and Eagle Palms. These ranks focus on serving in leadership positions, providing service to others, and earning merit badges. There are certain merit badges that a Scout must earn in order to become eligible for the rank of Eagle. He must also earn a certain number of elective merit badges. Merit badges may be taught partially in group instruction, but the completion of each merit badge is the individual responsibility of the Scout.

A Scout will obtain a "blue card" from the Advancement Coordinator with the permission of the Scoutmaster and will choose a merit badge counselor with whom to work. Troop 145 posts a list of available merit badge counselors. If no counselor is available through the troop, the Advancement Coordinator will locate an approved counselor from Gray Owl District. The Scouts are encouraged to use the buddy system in merit badge work. All Troop 145 merit badge counselors have Youth Protection Training, and these guidelines are followed in all interaction between Scouts and counselors. Merit badge booklets are available from the troop library or from the Council Scout shops. The merit badge counselor will review the Scout's work and "sign off" the blue card as it is completed. Extensive outlines are available online at www.usscouts.org/meritbadges.asp

It is the responsibility of the Scout to maintain his achievement records in the form of his handbook and blue cards. These items are the "final word" should a question arise about a requirement having been fulfilled. As the Scout is "signed off" on requirements, he should notify the Advancement Coordinator so that troop records may be kept current. When a rank is successfully completed, it is announced immediately to the troop and the rank badge is awarded as soon as possible so that the Scout may update his uniform. Merit badges are awarded at Courts of Honor. The Advancement Coordinator is responsible to promptly report advancements to Circle Ten Council and to obtain the necessary badges, patches, certificates, and/or pins.

Courts of Honor are held semi-annually to recognize the achievements of the Scouts and to celebrate Scouting. In Troop 145, the Senior Patrol Leader plans this event for the date determined by the troop committee. Family and friends, as well as troop members, are encouraged to attend Courts of Honor.

Medical/Health & Safety

The health, safety, and well being of your Scout is very important to the leaders of Troop 145. We will do everything possible to keep your child safe and healthy while he is involved in scouting activities. The following guidelines have been set in place to help us achieve this goal.

- A permission slip must be completed and signed on the Monday prior to the outing; if this is not done, the Scout will not be allowed to go on the trip
- A current medical form must be kept on file with the Troop Medicals Coordinator
- In case of a medical emergency, the parent will be notified as soon as possible
- The injury/emergency will be handled in the best way deemed necessary by the trip leader
- All medications necessary during an event should be given to the trip leader; it is the responsibility of the parent to make sure that at least one leader on the trip knows and understands the medical necessity, appropriate dosages, etc.
- Scouts with physical and/or mental disabilities are encouraged to participate in Scouting as much as possible. In some cases, parental assistance may be required.

Camping:

Troop 145 is committed to a strong camping program. The outdoor experience is an integral part of scouting. Some of the benefits of camping include self-sufficiency, teamwork, skills development, and the confidence to do things never before thought possible. We strongly encourage all Scouts to be highly involved in camping.

Our outdoor program includes monthly weekend campouts, annual weeklong summer camp and winter camp, day hikes, and other outdoor activities.

Our troop strives to be involved in district, council, and national events including Order of the Arrow, Scout Show, Webelos Woods, Camporee, and annual popcorn sales.

To make each and every camping experience as enjoyable as possible, the following guidelines have been set in place:

- Camping fees shall be set annually by the troop committee for the purchase of food and normal camping fees
- Permission slips and money are due the Monday before the campout. Some district events require earlier registration.
- Any extraordinary health problems that your son has need to be communicated verbally and in writing to the trip leader
- If you must cancel, you must let the trip leader and grubmaster know by Wednesday 5:00 pm in order to receive a refund for the trip
- Funds for events which require Troop pre-payment are not refundable
- What to bring: (as a minimum)
 - Sleeping bag
 - Mess kit with eating utensils
 - Water bottle
 - Clothing appropriate to the weather and planned activity

- What not to bring:
 - Aerosol cans
 - Sheath knives
 - Lighters
 - Firearms or projectile weapons of any kind, including airsoft and paintball guns, slingshots, etc.
 - Personal food
- No siblings or pets
- **Eat** before you come to the church on Friday evening
- If providing transportation to the campout, your vehicle must be in good working condition and have an up-to-date state inspection sticker. Proof of insurance must be provided to the troop committee. The trip leader has the responsibility to check trip vehicles for roadworthiness and has the right of refusal for any vehicle that is deemed not roadworthy.
- Scouts are expected to arrive early enough on the departure day to help load the trailer. The group has the right to leave 15 minutes after the appointed scheduled time for departure without notice. If you are running late, call to notify the trip leaders. Troop phone lists are available.
- On trips, parents are not considered parents but are Scout leaders and should treat each boy equally.
- Sometimes the troop stops for gas or restroom breaks. At that time, if the boys have their own money they may purchase snacks to be eaten during the car ride. Leaders will not provide money to Scouts. Parents are not required to send money. Suggestion: limit the amount of money your Scout brings.
- Scouts are responsible for bringing and keeping up with their personal equipment. Leaders will provide for the safety and health of your son to the best of their ability. The leaders will not provide items that your son forgets that are not essential to his health and safety.
- The parent of a Scout who misbehaves or disturbs an outing may be called to come and pick him up from the outing location. Parents receiving such a call are expected to depart within 15 minutes of notification, assuring the leaders of prompt arrival at the outing location.
- Leaders transporting boys must not make special stops aside from the rest of the troop and should stay at the church until the trailer is unloaded. Two leaders will wait with any Scouts remaining after the trailer is unloaded.
- Arrival time of the troop back to the church will vary. Parents should have a plan for retrieving their Scouts. We will try to call you when we are close to the church.
- Upon returning to the church, every Scout is expected to help unload the trailer as well as clear out all personal gear from the vehicle in which he was riding. The Scouts are not dismissed until the SPL for the campout dismisses them.

Troop equipment:

The Troop Quartermaster is the registered adult leader in charge of the troop equipment. The Troop Quartermaster is responsible for maintaining a system for checking out and in the equipment, for care and replenishment of equipment/supplies according to the troop committee guidelines, and for working with the youth quartermaster as needed. No troop equipment may be removed or added to the troop shed or troop trailer without the knowledge of the adult quartermaster. Personal use of troop equipment is prohibited. Only members of Troop 145 will be permitted to check out equipment for use at scouting functions. The youth quartermaster or the adult quartermaster may refuse to accept equipment that is dirty, damaged or in an unacceptable condition. Individuals checking out equipment are responsible for prompt return and will be charged for any damage or loss caused by misuse or carelessness. The troop bears responsibility for upkeep, repair and replacement due to normal wear and tear.

Finances:

When a boy joins scouting, he will pay a fee set by BSA. At yearly recharter, he will pay a fee set by the troop committee. The fee will cover yearly registration as well as a subscription to Boys' Life magazine. Adults will pay fees according to BSA. An annual Transportation fee will also be charged at the time of recharter. See the Troop Handbook for specific dollar amounts for all fees and dues.

The troop charges monthly dues to cover the cost of advancements and other troop needs. Dues can be paid in whatever increments work best for each family, but they need to be kept current. Boys who are sixty days delinquent on troop fees and dues will not be allowed to attend campouts and activities. All fees and dues must be current before a boy can have a Board of Review or receive an award.

The Troop Treasurer will:

- 1) maintain a checking account and financial records for the troop
- 2) maintain an account for each Scout, wherein the Scout can deposit money to be used for scouting needs
- 3) have the Committee Chair initial monthly bank statements
- 4) work with a budget committee to form a budget to be approved at the January committee meeting

The Troop Treasurer will not:

- 1) write checks to him/her self
- 2) make cash withdrawals or keep cash

All purchases must be pre-approved by the committee. The exception to this rule is that the adult quartermaster has the authorization to spend a designated amount per month on equipment needs. This specific amount will be on record with the Troop Secretary. All receipts for purchases and receipts requiring reimbursement must be turned over to the treasurer. To be eligible for gas reimbursement after a campout, you must be a

designated driver for that campout. Fill up prior to going to the church on Friday evening. On return, fill up again and submit the second receipt to the treasurer.

A yearly audit of the treasurer's books will take place each February, possibly within the first two weeks of the month.

If a boy transfers to another troop, his scout account can be transferred. A check will be written to the new troop. If a boy drops out of scouting, the money in his account will revert to the troop.

Boys are expected to participate in fundraisers to benefit the troop and their own personal account. The troop committee will determine the exact percentage of proceeds the boy receives.

Uniforms:

Field (formerly known as Class A) uniforms are to be worn at all scout functions unless otherwise determined by the Scoutmaster. The uniform must be worn when traveling to and from activities and camping trips. Leaders are encouraged to purchase a uniform and should wear it as an example to the boys.

The Troop 145 Field uniform consists of the khaki BSA uniform shirt with all appropriate badges and patches in the correct placement, pants (long or short) with belt loops, a belt, and close-toed shoes. The Troop 145 neckerchief will be added for Boards of Review, Courts of Honor, and special ceremonies.

At times, activity uniforms are considered appropriate dress. This means a Boy Scout t-shirt instead of the khaki shirt. All other parts of the uniform still apply. Troop t-shirts are available for a nominal fee. Non-scouting logos or camouflage are not acceptable.

Conduct and Discipline:

Guidelines for proper behavior are outlined in the Troop Handbook. Any correction or misconduct will first be handled by the SPL, then by the Scoutmaster and/or Assistant Scoutmasters. Occasionally there are extreme cases that must go before the Troop Committee. The committee will arrive at a solution that is fair and equitable to all parties. There may be times when district or council personnel are called upon for advice. If these measures fail to resolve an issue, a boy may be put on probation and/or asked to leave the troop.

I HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THE BYLAWS, POLICIES AND RULES FOR TROOP 145. I INTEND TO FOLLOW THE POLICIES OF THE TROOP.

SCOUT'S SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT SIGNATURE

DATE

I HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THE TROOP 145 HANDBOOK.

SCOUT'S SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT SIGNATURE

DATE