

TROOP 52 PARENTS GUIDE

Troop 52, Union Congregational Church,

167 Buckingham Street, Oakville, CT 06779

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History & Dedication

Troop 1, Oakville was founded in November, 1911, merely a year after the Boy Scouts of America was founded. The troop grew slowly at first, and because of leadership problems, ceased meeting for a short time in the 1920's.

While many individuals have spent countless hours of service to the troop over the years, two men provided the special dedication required to build and maintain an outstanding unit. Walter Thorne, Scoutmaster from 1932 to 1955, and Joseph LeClair, Jr., Scoutmaster from 1955 to 1976, provided the dependable leadership the troop needed. During that period of forty-four years, Troop 1 (which became Troop 52 in 1958) developed the reputation as one of the finest troops in the Waterbury area. This guidebook is dedicated to Mr. Thorne and Mr. LeClair.



Walter Thorne



Joseph LeClair Jr.

Purpose of Scouting

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to provide for boys an effective program designed to build desirable qualities of character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to the development of American citizens who:

- Are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit
- Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness.
- Have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts.
- Have the desire and skills to help others.
- Understand the principles of the American social, economic and governmental systems.

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- Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
- Have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
- Are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society and in the forums of the world.

No one would suggest that Scouting alone will bring boys into manhood with these qualities. The man is the product of many influences. Scouting is just one of these. The home, the school, the religious faith, the boy's own companions all contribute to the man he will become. Scouting adds to these. Not all schools are able to meet the demands on them. Not every boy is influenced by his church or synagogue. In the lives of such boys as these, Scouting is even more important as an influence.

Methods of Scouting



1. Scout Ideals

We promote Scout Oath, Law, Motto, Slogan

2. Patrols

The boy joins a patrol of 5-10 boys, each with its own name and elected leader. This leader represents the patrol at the Greenbar meetings where the troop program is planned.

The patrol arranges its own transportation, menus, equipment, etc., for all activities.

The patrols compete in Scout skills, uniform inspections, fun games, etc.

3. Advancement

There are six major awards, called badges of Rank. To earn a badge of Rank, Scouts have to pass certain requirements or earn merit badges. In addition, a service project and leadership position may be required. See your son's Scout Handbook for a more thorough explanation.

4. Adult Association:

Every boy needs contact with adults he can copy. Scouting is one more way for the boy to be influenced by a good example. He will meet troop leaders, numerous merit badge counselors, camp counselors, and others, who will serve as friends, coaches, and counselors. Parents are encouraged to get involved in the troop as merit badge counselors, troop committee members, Mothers' Auxiliary members, and drivers.

5. Outdoor Program

Scouting is a thing of the outdoors. Exciting outdoor activities act as a magnet to boys, and help achieve each of our goals. Our outdoor programs give the boys a chance to learn and/or improve new Scout skills. The camp is a mini-community of which your son is a citizen. The outdoor program is a focal point of our weekly meetings.

6. Leadership Development

If your son remains in Scouting for three years or more, chances are he will get a chance to actually lead others. We believe that leadership is a set of skills that can be learned, and that with practice, boys can be highly skilled in it. The skills involved in leading a patrol do not differ except in complexity from those in leading a corporation, a labor union, or in doing a foreman's job in a shop. We will encourage your son to lead for the best.

7. Personal Growth

We make conscious efforts towards personal growth. The boy, with the guidance of adult leadership, sets goals for himself during a conference with the Scoutmaster prior to each rank advancement. After the conference, he sets out to achieve his goals.

Standard Policies & Procedures

Troop Meetings (Wednesday Evenings)

6:30 PM: The Scoutmaster arrives. Scouts are welcome anytime after. If you arrive before an adult leader, please don't enter the building.

6:40 PM: A "pre-opening" program begins.

Each month, a patrol takes its turn as "service patrol". The service patrol sets up the hall, cleans up afterward, and sends one member to work the parking lot, to tell Scouts when their parent arrives. Service patrol members should plan on staying until **9:00 PM**.

All Scouts should be in full uniform. If coming from another activity, the Scout uniform can be carried in a bag, and the boy can change in the bathroom.

Meetings are not always canceled when school is canceled. Often winter storms are cleaned up in the afternoon, allowing us to hold our evening meeting. Your patrol leader will call if a meeting is canceled.

7:00 PM: Opening Ceremony conducted by "program patrol".

8:45 PM: Closing Ceremony

Each boy waits inside after the meeting until a member of the service patrol tells him his ride has arrived.

The parent should let the Scoutmaster know if a boy has to leave a meeting or activity early.

The Scout Uniform

The uniform says "I belong". Every Scout should have a uniform, wear it to each troop meeting, district function, summer camp, and other special activities. Troop 52's uniform is:

- Official Scout short sleeved shirt
- Neckerchief* with slide
- Official Scout trousers or shorts with Scout belt
- Green or brown socks (Official Scout socks with shorts)
- Brown or black shoes or work boots
- Troop hat*

*Troop 52 is proud to have its own troop neckerchief and hat. Each boy will receive them when they join the troop. In addition, Scouts in our troop are given a bar to wear over the troop numerals, signifying Troop 52's age.

Scout uniforms and equipment may be purchased at:

Connecticut Rivers Council Scout Shop, 129 Scott Road, Waterbury

The complete uniform is often called "Class A". "Class B" is the complete uniform except substituting a Scout t-shirt for the dress shirt, and wearing sneakers instead of leather shoes. Troop 52 t-shirts are available for sale at any troop meeting.

A less expensive alternative is to buy a used uniform that has been donated or sold to the troop. The Mothers' Auxiliary maintains a small stock of items that are available at every troop meeting. It is hoped that when your son outgrows his uniform you trade it, sell it, or donate it to make affordable uniforms available to every boy.



Participation

Unlike many sports coaches, we do not *demand* attendance at all functions. Our Scouts know that the more meetings they attend, the faster they'll earn badges and advance. They participate because they enjoy the activities, not because they were threatened. We encourage some common sense when conflicts arise:

A baseball game or a swim meet is a very important activity and your team is depending on you. It should take precedence over a typical troop meeting.

A Court of Honor, camping trip, Klondike Derby, etc., is our 'big event' and should take precedence over a practice for a sport. Your patrol and troop are depending on you.

When a baseball game and Scout 'big event' fall on the same weekend, the Scout has a decision to make. Some come late or leave early from the campout in order to make the game. Some choose one event over the other.

Making tough decisions is part of growing up.

Merit Badge Guidelines

Scouts are required to work on merit badges in order to earn the Star rank. In special cases, like at summer camp, some boys start them sooner. Most merit badges are covered by Troop 52's counselors. All merit badge counselors must register with the Mad River District. Parents are invited to share their skills by registering as counselors. Here are a few guidelines:

- A Scout wishing to work toward a merit badge will get a blue merit badge application from the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster will sign the card, giving his approval for the Scout to start the badge, and will fill in the appropriate merit badge counselor's name, address, and phone number.
- The Scout will contact the counselor to make an appointment. Some counselors will visit a troop meeting to counsel a Scout. Some will meet at the Scout's home or the counselor's home. Scout guidelines prohibit any adult from meeting alone with a boy. Someone else should always be present.
- No parent should counsel his or her own son on a merit badge unless the troop advancement chairman finds no other individual qualified to counsel that badge. We've found that a parent will be too easy or too rough on his own child.
- The blue merit badge application is in three tear-off sections:
 - The *application*
 - The *applicant's record*
 - The *counselor's record*

As a Scout passes a requirement, the counselor dates and signs the chart on the back of the *applicant's record*. When all requirements have been met:

1. The counselor signs the back of the *application* and the *applicant's record*.
2. The counselor keeps the *counselor's record*.
3. The Scout gives the *application* and the *applicant's record* to the Scoutmaster.
4. The Scoutmaster signs the *applicant's record*, gives it to the Scout, then sends the *application* along with an advancement report to the Scout council office.

The *applicant's record* is the Scout's "receipt". He should keep it in a safe place like any other important record. We suggest a small loose-leaf binder with pages made for baseball cards. Keep all *applicant's records*, merit badge certificates, and rank certificates in the binder. Your wallet is not a good storage place.

The troop library has a good supply of merit badge pamphlets on most popular subjects.



The Troop Committee

It is the committee's job to select and recruit the best leaders available and then give these men unending support. The committee has the final say in all program and financial decisions. The committee, comprised of parents of present and former Scouts plus interested members of the community, meets on the first Wednesday of each month.



Order of the Arrow

The "O.A." is the honor camper organization of the B.S.A. Youth candidates for membership are elected by their units each year on the basis of their leadership and camping skills, and for living up to the Scout Oath and Law. Candidates are required to complete a weekend 'ordeal' at Camp Mattatuck before they can become members. The Order of the Arrow conducts service projects, promotes good camping, and provides inspiration and leadership opportunities to our older Scouts.

Mother's Auxiliary

The Mothers' Auxiliary of Troop 52 was founded in 1957 and has remained very active through the years. The objectives of the Auxiliary are to assist the Troop Committee in raising funds for the troop and to assist the troop in planning and coordinating special events such as the annual family picnic and Eagle presentations.

Our main fund-raiser for the past few years has been the Ziti Dinner this has enabled us to provide funds for the troop to help defray costs such Camporees, Order of the Arrow, Klondike Derby, and a portion of Summer Camp fees. It has been our greatest pleasure to host the reception following each Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

We want scouting to always be affordable for each and every scout. We have found out that by working together we can accomplish this while having fun. Its also a great place to get another mom's support if you have any questions or concerns.

We have an "Oldie But Goodie Shop" that enables us to sell used uniforms and equipment. Several times during the year we announce when the items will be displayed for sale. You can always let us know, though, when you are in need of something.

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the parlor of the Union Congregational Church. (very convenient--drop off your sons and stop by--you'll be done by the time your son is and you'll enjoy coffee, too.)

Current President and Vice President: Barb Losee 860-274-1965 and Laurie Wenhardt 860-274-0936

Troop Income

Dues...Each Scout is encouraged to earn his own money to pay his dues. Our fiscal year starts in September. Dues are collected as follows: \$15 due March 1, \$15 due September 1.

Fund Raising...Troop 52 participates in the CT Rivers Council Trails End popcorn sale each Fall. The Scout gets credit for a percentage of his sales toward summer camp or "high adventure" fees. it is not uncommon for boys to sell \$200 or more, thus earning \$40 and up. A few boys have earned free weeks at Mattatuck through this sale!

The Mothers' Auxiliary runs a Ziti Dinner fundraiser each Spring to raise funds to support the troop. Families are asked to help out, sell tickets to friends and family, and Scouts serve as waiters at the dinner.



Communications

Troop news is e-mailed to every family on or before each Tuesday. We do not send paper handouts home from meetings. Each scout and leader in Troop 52 is assigned an email address. The format is first initial and last name@tr52.com. For example Joe LeClair's email is assigned jleclair@tr52.com. All email sent to this address automatically forwards to Joe's home email address. If you would like to email any scout or leader in the troop, you can use this format to contact them.

We have also set up groups of addresses.

- To contact all scouts, use scouts@tr52.com
- To contact all leaders, use leaders@tr52.com
- To contact the troop committee use committee@tr52.com
- To contact everyone use troop52@tr52.com

Insurance

Each boy in the troop is covered by an insurance policy purchased from the council. The insurance covers the boy at all Scout meetings and activities, as well as to and from these activities in a car or on foot.

Outdoor Activities

Each boy must bring a permission slip (see attached at the end of the guidebook), filled out and signed by a parent, for each outdoor activity he attends on the Wednesday before a trip. The purpose is so the leadership has current information about the boy's health, and of the parents' plans during the trip. This way, if we need to contact you, we can. Keep some photocopies of blank slips on hand.

The patrol plans menu, equipment, and transportation and has it approved by an adult leader. Each boy is told how much the food is expected to cost, and should pay that amount the Wednesday before the trip. The patrol leader should not be stuck with the bill and have to chase people for his money.

The patrol sends a couple of boys to shop. Receipts should be kept, the bill divided by the number of boys, and any leftover money distributed equally.

The following are standard times unless otherwise specified:

Friday departure	5:45 PM from church
Saturday departure	8:30 AM from church
Sunday pick-up	10:30 AM from campsite

Each boy must have a durable raincoat or poncho for every outdoor activity. It should keep him dry and should not fall apart easily.

From October 1 to May 1, each Scout must have a winter hat and gloves in his pack.

Each Scout must pack soap, towel, toothbrush, toothpaste...and use them!

The troop is well equipped because we take care of our gear. Each Scout is assigned his share of patrol equipment. It must be returned clean and in good condition on the Wednesday after the trip. Axes and saws should be cleaned and blades lightly oiled. If cooking gear is returned dirty, it will be washed at the troop meeting by the Scout.



Troop Activities

Every Troop 52 activity is supervised by a qualified leader over 21 years of age, assisted by at least one other adult over 18 years of age.

Troop Meetings...Held each Wednesday evening, 6:45 to 8:45, at the Union Congregational Church to learn skills, prepare for upcoming activities, pass requirements, and receive awards. We **do not** cancel our meetings because schools may be closed that day. You will be notified if a meeting is canceled due to weather or other reasons. Parents are invited to observe any meeting. Often, parents gather in the hallway during the closing. You are invited into the hall to listen to the announcements and "Scoutmaster's Minute".

Camping Trips...We usually get out each month. We plan our own overnights, and sometimes attend Mad River District Camporees, which are held in May and October.

Day Hikes...on local trails. Troop hikes are planned almost as often as Campouts. Patrols can also plan their own hikes provided they secure adequate adult leadership.

Summer Camp...Each year Troop 52 camps at Camp Mattatuck in Plymouth. This is a great experience for every Scout. He takes part in swimming, boating, sailing, nature study, scoutcraft activities, handicraft, archery, rifle range, and more. It is the ideal opportunity to earn merit badges. The Scout can earn part of the fee by working on the fund raising sale, and may get a financial boost from the Mothers' Auxiliary. If you have financial difficulties, we can help. See the Scoutmaster for details.

Klondike Derby...Each winter, the Mad River District runs an exciting one-day competition between the patrols in its twenty troops. Preparations are begun at least a month in advance to build dog sleds, get equipment together, and practice skills. This is one of the truly unforgettable Scouting experiences.

Service Projects...A service project is required for several rank advancements. The troop performs various projects around the community, often under the leadership of an Eagle Scout candidate.

Greenbar meetings...The Troop Leaders Council (or "Greenbar"), consisting of the patrol leaders, Senior Patrol Leaders, and Scoutmaster, meets each month to plan the following month's program. In the summer, the Greenbar plans a general program for the entire year and issues a calendar to each family.

High Adventure...Since 1983, boys who are 13 and are First Class rank have explored, either on foot or canoe or raft Philmont Scout Ranch (New Mexico), Maine, The Adirondacks of New York, the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, and the White Mountains of New Hampshire. We usually take a week-long trip in the summer and a couple of weekend trips during the school year.

Family Picnic...Games, good food, and a chance to get to know one another. It is usually held in September.



Activity Calendar

6 Year High Adventure Plan

2011 - Hiking/Camping, White Mountains NH

2012 - Florida Scout National Sea Base Sailing at Abacos- Bahamas

2013 - Cycling - NH to Canada

2014 - Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico

2015 - Canoe Trip - Allagash River, Maine

2016 - Hiking, Sea Kayaks and Biking - Acadia National Park, Maine

*Younger Scouts are prepared for high adventure trips by participating in weekly meetings and monthly camping and hiking trips.



Equipment

Troop 52 owns cooking gear, tentage, etc., for seven patrols, plus Leadership Corps. Troop gear is kept in a large closet at the church. The troop quartermaster (boy), an assistant scoutmaster, and a troop committee member all concentrate their efforts on keeping track of equipment. Your son is responsible for any patrol or troop gear that he signs out or is given by the patrol quartermaster. By taking care of our gear, we can keep our expenses down.

Your son will need some personal equipment, most of which can be found around the house:

1. For day activities:

- small pack
- pocket knife(no sheath knives)
- simple 1st aid kit
- 1 qt water bottle (plastic)
- toilet paper
- matches in waterproof case
- extra socks
- poncho or raincoat(must be strong and waterproof)

2. For overnights, day hike equipment plus:

- backpack with aluminum frame
- warm sleeping bag in waterproof bag
- extra clothing according to the weather
- knife, fork, spoon
- plastic cup
- plastic bowl
- small flashlight
- 3' x 6' plastic sheet for ground
- foam sleeping pad
- leather work gloves
- towel, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.
- 15' nylon cord (parachute cord or equivalent)



Check with one of the troop leaders for advice before buying anything expensive, or before buying anything that isn't on this list.

A good source for gear: <http://www.campmor.com/>

Winter Clothing

Dressing for camping and hiking need not be fashionable. It must be functional. Light, loose fitting **layers** insulate better and are more versatile than heavy overcoats.

Some suggestions:

- Wool socks are a must for winter. Wool is warm even when wet. Most veteran outdoorsmen wear them year-round.
- Other layers of wool, such as shirts, sweaters, hat, and pants are great. See what grandma's got in the cedar closet.
- Avoid wearing cotton. Blue jeans, cotton socks, and cotton "thermal" underwear are the worst things to wear when active in the outdoors. When damp from perspiration or precipitation, cotton provides almost no insulation.
- Invest in polypropylene underwear. Its properties are amazing. It actually wicks moisture away from your skin, leaving you feeling dry, comfortable, and warm.
- Leather boots are preferred for camping. Rubber-bottomed boots are best in snow.
- Most of your heat loss is through the head. Wear a hat!
- An outer nylon windbreaker with a hood can cut down on the wind chill factor.
- A durable raincoat or poncho with a hood is required to be carried year-round.

More detailed information is available from Troop 52's "[Winter Camping](http://www.tr52.com/winter.html)" outline:

<http://www.tr52.com/winter.html>



Safe Transportation

As part of our team, you'll want to take your turn in helping with transportation. This is done on a patrol basis, and you are encouraged to let your son know before a troop meeting, if you can drive Scouts to or from the upcoming outdoor activity. While there's no formal schedule, we try not to have the same people driving time and time again. A few rules:

1. Drivers must be responsible, and at least 18 years old. If driving out of state, you must be 21.
2. Seat belts must be worn by all Scouts.
3. The cargo area of a pick-up truck, van, or station wagon is not acceptable for transporting boys. Each Scout must have a seat with a seat belt.

All drivers are required to complete the form below and return it to us as soon as possible. Be sure to make us aware of any changes as time goes by.

Insurance

All vehicles must be covered by a public liability and property damage liability insurance policy. The amount of this coverage must meet or exceed the insurance requirement of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. (It is recommended, however, that coverage limits are at least \$50,000/\$100,000/\$50,000) Any vehicle carrying ten (10) or more passengers is required to have limits of \$100,000/\$300,000/\$1,000,000. In the case of rented vehicles, the requirement of coverage limits can be met by combining the limits of personal coverage carried by the driver with coverage carried by the owner of the rented vehicle. All vehicles used in travel outside the United States must carry a public liability and property damage liability insurance policy that complies with or exceeds the requirements of that country.

Kind Year and Make of Vehicle	No. Passengers	Owner's Name	Seatbelts for all?	Public Liability Each Person	Public Liability Each accident	Property Damage



Permission Slip

May be downloaded :

<http://www.tr52.com/forms.html>

PERMISSION SLIP

I give my son permission to go to _____ on _____
with Troop 52

In the event of an injury and I am not available I give permission to the troop leadership to authorize whatever medical attention is required for my son.

I plan to be home while my son is at camp.

Yes _____

No _____

If I am not home I may be reached at:

Vehicle Year and Make	_____
#Passengers	_____
owner's name	_____
Driver's license #	_____
Seatbelts for all?	_____
Liability each person	_____
Liability each accident	_____
Property damage	_____

If I cannot be reached please contact:

My son is taking the following medication(s):

_____ taken at (time) _____
My son will arrive at camp at _____ (time) on _____ (day)
He will leave at _____ (time) on _____ (day)
and return at _____ (time) on _____ (day)

My son has the following allergies:

My son can take Benedryl: Yes _____ No _____

_____ (signature)

Relation to Scout _____

Troop Insurance: Health Special Risk, Inc (HSR) Policy # **PTP N00327402**

Family Insurance: _____ Company _____ Policy No. _____

Home Phone: _____

Scout's Name: _____



Troop Leadership Directory

MC	Andrew	Jonathan	860	274-1079	jandrew@tr52.com
SA	Bartlett	Joshua	860	945-3748	jbartlett@tr52.com
SA	Bartlett	Oscar	860	945-3748	obartlett@tr52.com
MC	Belval Sr.	Richard	860	274-4897	rbelval@tr52.com
SA	Ciarlo	Victor	203	437-5730	vciarlo@tr52.com
MC	Cullen	Donald	860	274-6934	dcullen@tr52.com
SA	Doback	James	860	945-9520	jdoback@tr52.com
CC	Dodge	Allan	860	945-0094	abdodge@tr52.com
SA	Dodge	Allan W	860	945-0094	awdodge@tr52.com
SA	Downey	Matthew	860	274-8544	mdowney@tr52.com
SA	Emmons	Clifford	860	274-2644	cemmons@tr52.com
SA	Garceau	Steven	860	417-3094	sgarceau@tr52.com
SA	Hanover	Bradford	860	274-7850	bhanover@tr52.com
SA	Hanover	Justin	860	274-7850	jhanover@tr52.com
SA	Hoffman	Michael	860	274-0593	mhoffman@tr52.com
MC	Hoffman	Paul	860	274-0593	phoffman@tr52.com
SA	Hughes	David	860	945-6267	dhughes@tr52.com
SA	LeClair	Matthew	860	283-4029	mleclair@tr52.com
SM	LeClair III	Joseph	203	217-7123	jleclair@tr52.com
MC	LeClair Jr.	Joseph	203	756-3957	bigjoe@tr52.com
SA	Martin	Justin	860	274-1174	jmartin@tr52.com
SA	Martin	Timothy	860	274-1174	tmartin@tr52.com
SA	McClendon	Gary	860	417-2113	gmccclendon@tr52.com
MC	Prince	Ronald	860	274-0352	rprince@tr52.com
SA	Prince	Connor	860	274-0352	cprince@tr52.com
IR	Ramponi	Stephen	860	274-4175	sramponi@tr52.com
SA	Shannon	Brian	860	584--0849	bshannon@tr52.com
MC	Shields	Charles	860	945-6400	cshields@tr52.com
SA	Turner	Brian	203	266-6961	bturner@tr52.com
MC	Vito	David	860	417-3102	dvito@tr52.com
SA	Westcott	David	203	206-3103	dwestcott@tr52.com
MC	White	Ronald	860	274-3172	rwhite@tr52.com
MC	Wilkes	Bruce	860	945-9519	bwilkes@tr52.com
MC	Winslow	Keith	203	729-3151	kwinslow@tr52.com
SA	Zawislak Jr.	Raymond	860	274-9071	rzawislak@tr52.com

IR Scouting Coordinator (liaison to Union Cong'l Church)

SA Scoutmaster's Assistant

MC Troop Committee member

SM Scoutmaster

CC Troop Committee Chairman

