



# Orientation/Reference Packet

Troop 603

Boy Scouts of America

Sponsored by

Stevensville United Methodist Church

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# **1. QUICK REFERENCE INFO**

(Last Updated: August 15, 2005)

**Scoutmaster:** Doug Weingart (465-9978) DWeingart@Utilimaster.com  
**Committee Chairman:** Tom Andert (422-1308) teandert@aep.com  
**Troop Finance:** Jerry Klinke 429-1759 Jklinke@ACRATECH.com  
**Troop Advancement:** Robin Weingart 465-9978  
**Charter Organization Representative:** Bill Gobert 429-7467  
**Troop Web Site:** www.troop603.org

**Wabano District Executive:** Rose Beach Work: 927-3133 Home: 429-3547  
Rose\_Beach\_BSA@yahoo.com

**Wabano District Service Center:**  
185 E. Main Street, Ste 603  
Vincent Building  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022  
(269) 927-3133  
FAX (269) 927-3128  
Hours: Mon-Fri 10:30-1:30 and 2:30-5:30

**Council Service Center:**  
1035 W. Maple Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
Phone: (269) 343-4687, (800) 272-7962, FAX: (269) 343-3311  
Hours: Mon-Thurs 9-5 & Fri 9-3  
E-mail addresses: swmcbsa@bsaswmc.org , Scout Shop: Scoutschop@bsaswmc.org  
Website: www.bsaswmc.org

## **Scouting Related Web Sites**

[www.macScouter.com](http://www.macScouter.com)  
[www.usScouts.org](http://www.usScouts.org)  
[www.Scoutstuff.org](http://www.Scoutstuff.org)  
[www.campmor.com](http://www.campmor.com)

## **Scouts**

Josh Boardman	(429-7138)	Nick Pillow	(426-7040)
Erik Donarski	(325-9919)	Kyle Post	(468-3486)
Erik Faust	(556-0338)	Don Richardson	(428-2882)
Tim Gaul	(465-4677)	Kyle Sankey	(422-1743)
Nathan Glenn	(470-9985)	Casey Snow	(736-9446)
Vince Groeger	(428-2327)	Cody Steffans	(428-4478)
Tristan Hammond	(428-4759)	Travis Tomaszewski	(429-4557)
Kevin Klinke	(429-1759)	Chris VanEpps	(429-5733)
Jacob Kohn	(556-1187)	Dain VanEpps	(429-5733)
Jim Murtha	(429-8489)	Ryan Weingart	(465-9978)

## **2. Who Are We – Troop 603**

### History of Troop 603

In 1959 our troop began as Troop 63. In 1961 the troop was renumbered Troop 103. With the merger of Wabano and the Southwestern Michigan Councils in 1974, Troop 63 became Troop 603. Our troop has been continuously chartered as a Boy Scout troop sponsored by the Stevensville United Methodist Church for over 45 years. We are honored to continue the tradition of excellent outdoor adventure through Scouting.

### Troop Makeup

The troop is composed of two or more boy led patrols who report to a Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. The Senior Patrol Leader reports to the Scoutmaster, who acts as a mentor to the boy leaders. Patrol Leaders and Assistants lead each patrol. Additional troop leaders act as Quartermasters, Scribes, Librarians, Buglers, Chaplain Aide, Troop Historian, and Troop Guides.

### Troop Sponsor Organization

Stevensville United Methodist Church  
5506 Ridge Road  
Stevensville, Michigan 49127  
Charter Organization Executive Officer: Pastor Gordon Barry  
Phone: 429-5911  
Charter Organization Representative to Troop: William Gobert (429-7467)

### Who Can Join Troop

Our troop is open to all boys who meet the BSA age requirements. Any boys between the age of 11 and 18 may become members. Boys who are 10 years old may also join if they have either completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade or completed the Cub Scout Arrow of Light requirements. Boys do not have to have been in Cub Scouts to become members of our troop. Boys are not obligated to join the Boy Scout Troop closest to their home, and we welcome Boys from all over the Southwest Michigan area. Boys from Stevensville, St. Joseph, Coloma, Bridgman, Three Oaks, Sawyer, Lakeside, and Berrien Springs are or have been members of our troop. We welcome the diversity of boys, both geographical and of varying ability. We have also worked with, and welcome boys with disabilities.

Adult participation is also encouraged and welcome. Part of the tradition of our troop has been strong parental participation. We encourage new parents to become involved with their sons and enjoy the outdoor experience. Our troop abides by the two deep leadership rules for all outings. Additional adult participation is always welcome! Adults are encouraged to become registered with our troop to be protected through the troop insurance and liability coverage. Parents are always needed to help with meeting activities, as merit badge counselors, committee members,

and for transporting Scouts to and from activities. Our troop has traditionally paid for adult registration annually.

### When the Troop Meets and Where

**Regular Troop Meetings:** All Monday nights that Lakeshore Schools are in session, at 7:00 PM

Exceptions: When Lakeshore Schools are not in session, either weather related or planned, or as announced in advance, meetings may be cancelled.

**Where:** Basement of Stevensville United Methodist Church  
5506 Ridge Road, Stevensville, MI 49127

There is an access road off Red Arrow Highway to the back of the church. The main entrances to the church are off Ridge Road on the west side of the road. The church basement is in the front section of the church under the sanctuary.

### **Where we meet for camping activities:**

Normally we depart for most activities from the church. For campouts that start on Friday evenings we will depart at a pre-arranged time (normally between 5 PM – 7 PM). We depart promptly at a prearranged time. Plan on showing up between 15 to 30 minutes early to help with loading equipment and taking care of last minute items.

### **3. Boy Scout Basics**

#### **Individual**

A boy enters the troop as a new Scout and progresses through the following ranks:

**Scout**  
**Tenderfoot**  
**Second Class**  
**First Class**  
**Star**  
**Life**  
**Eagle**

The progression from Scout to Eagle Scout is known as “The Road to Eagle.” Along the way, Boy Scouts learn skills needed to survive in the outdoors, learn to communicate effectively, learn how to make new friends, become leaders within the troop, and learn to teach others skills they are proficient in. During the first four ranks, (Scout through First Class) the requirements are well defined and teach basic Scouting skills. To achieve the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle a boy works primarily on merit badges and projects. Many of the ranks require service project time. New Scouts are able to work on any and all rank requirements simultaneously, after completing the Scout rank. It has been common for Troop 603 Scouts attending Boy Scout summer camp to work on Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class rank requirements, while at the same time completing Swimming merit badge. There are eleven required merit badges to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. For the ranks of Star and Life a percentage of these required merit badges must be completed (See the Boy Scout Handbook). An approved Eagle Scout Project is required to complete the Eagle Scout requirements.

#### **Troop**

##### **Basic Patrol Method**

The Boy Scout troop is led by boys. This is done by first electing boy leaders. The boys vote on who will be their leaders. **What makes Scouting special is that YOU (the boy) make the decisions.** That is right, YOU run the troop. Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, made it plain in Aids to Scoutmastership when he wrote,

*“The best progress is made in those Troops where power and responsibility are really put into the hands of the Patrol Leaders.”*

This means you have real decision-making power. As a troop leader you will:

- Plan and run troop meetings
- Pick troop outings, where to camp, what to do
- Plan advancement opportunities for all troop members
- Select High-Adventure programs
- Determine troop policy
- Help other Scouts along the “Trail to Eagle”

Each leadership position within our troop has a term of office, normally six months. Some positions have qualification requirements. Troop positions include the following:

**Senior Patrol Leader** - Required to be 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scout and previously served as a Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, or Assistant Patrol Leader. Must have at least 50% attendance for all troop events over past six months and regularly attend all meetings. While a Senior Patrol Leader, you are expected to attend 75% of all troop meetings, Patrol Leaders' Council meetings, outings, and service projects. You are expected to give this job your best effort. You set the example by living the Scout Oath and Law in your everyday life. You show the Scout Spirit in everything you say and do.

**Leadership Responsibilities:**

- Run all troop meetings, events, activities, and the annual program planning conference.
- Run Patrol Leader's Council meetings.
- Appoint your Assistant Senior Patrol Leader with advice and counsel of the Scoutmaster.
- Assign duties and responsibilities to junior leaders.
- Assist the Scoutmaster with Junior Leader Training.

**Assistant Senior Patrol Leader** – Appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader. Required to be 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scout and have at least a 50% attendance for all troop events over the past six months.

**Leadership Responsibilities:**

- Help the Senior Patrol Leader lead meetings and activities
- Run the troop in the absence of the Senior Patrol Leader
- Help train and supervise the Troop Scribe, Quartermaster, Guide, Librarian, Historian, and Chaplain Aide.
- Serve as a member of the Patrol Leader's Council

**Patrol Leader** - The Patrol Leader may easily be the most important job in the troop. He has the closest contact with the patrol members and is in the perfect position to help and guide them. The Patrol Leaders, along with the Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader are the primary members of the Patrol Leader's Council.

**Leadership Responsibilities:**

- Appoints the Assistant Patrol Leader
- Represents the patrol on the Patrol Leader's Council
- Plans and steers patrol meetings
- Helps Scouts advance
- Acts as the chief recruiter of new Scouts
- Keeps patrol members informed
- Knows what his patrol members and other leaders can do

**Assistant Patrol Leader** – The APL actively helps to run the patrol. He is appointed by the Patrol Leader.

**Leadership Responsibilities:**

- Helps the Patrol Leader plan and steer patrol meetings and activities
- Helps the Patrol Leader keep patrol members informed
- Helps the patrol get ready for all troop activities
- Represents his patrol at Patrol Leader's Council meetings when the Patrol Leader cannot attend.
- Lends a hand controlling the patrol and building patrol spirit.

**Troop Quartermaster** – The Troop Quartermaster keeps track of troop equipment and sees that it is in good working order.

**Leadership Responsibilities:**

- Keeps records on patrol and troop equipment
- Makes sure equipment is in good working condition
- Issues equipment and makes sure it is returned in good condition
- Makes suggestions for new or replacement items
- Works with Troop Committee members responsible for equipment

**Troop Scribe** – The Scribe keeps the troop records. He records the activities of the Patrol Leader's Council and keeps a record of attendance at troop meetings and advancement.

**Leadership Responsibilities:**

- Attends and keeps a log of Patrol Leader's Council meetings
- Records individual Scout attendance
- Records individual Scout advancement progress
- Works with Troop Committee members responsible for records and finance

**Chaplain Aide** – The Chaplain Aide helps the troop meet the religious needs of Scouts in the troop. He works to promote the religious awards program.

**Leadership Responsibilities:**

- Assists Troop Chaplain or adult leaders with religious services at troop activities
- Tells Scouts about the religious emblem program for their faith
- Makes sure religious holidays are considered during troop program planning.
- Assists in organizing observance of Scout Sunday participation
- Helps plan for religious observance in troop activities

**Troop Historian** – The Troop Historian keeps a historical record or scrapbook of troop activities. The Historian provides material for displays and presentations of current activities. In addition, the work of the Historian provides a link with the past.

**Leadership Responsibilities:**

- Gathers pictures and facts about past troop activities and keeps them in a historical file or scrapbook.
- Takes care of troop trophies, ribbons, and souvenirs of troop activities
- Keeps information about former troop members

**Troop Librarian** – The Troop Librarian takes care of troop literature. The library contains merit badge books, leader manuals, and historical books.

**Leadership Responsibilities:**

- Sets up and takes care of our troop library
- Keeps records of books and pamphlets owned by the troop
- Adds new or replacement items as needed
- Keeps books and pamphlets available for borrowing
- Keeps a system for checking books and pamphlets in and out.
- Works with troop committee members responsible for finance for purchase of new items.

**Troop Guide** - A 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scout that is 14 years of age or older. The Troop Guide works with new Scouts. He helps them feel comfortable and earn their First Class rank in their first year. The Troop Guide is a friend to the new Scouts and makes their first year fun and successful. This is an important position.

**Leadership Responsibilities:**

- Introduces new Scouts to troop operations
- Guides new Scouts through early Scouting activities
- Advocates and defends the interests of the new Scouts
- Helps new Scouts earn First Class in their first year
- Teaches basic Scout skills
- Coaches the patrol leader of the new Scout patrol on his duties
- Works with patrol leaders at Patrol Leader's Council meetings
- Counsels individual Scouts on Scouting challenges

## **4. What Do Scouts Do?**

### **Meetings**

Meetings are weekly Scout gatherings at the church. Scouts wear their uniforms, learn to fit in and participate in weekly activities. Meetings are an opportunity to work with boys in a group setting. Meetings are used to plan for campouts, to work on rank requirements, to work on merit badges, to learn and maintain Scout skills such as first aid, knots, compass use, and cooking. Many times before or directly after meetings we will work one-on-one with Scouts to complete Scoutmaster Conferences and boards of review. All ranks from Tenderfoot through Eagle Scout require a Scoutmaster Conference and a Board of Review. All Board of Reviews with the exception of Eagle Scout are done within the troop using registered adults. Some meetings are Courts of Honor to recognize the achievements boys have made throughout the year. Typically, Courts of Honor are held at our yearly Family Camp, in November or December, in February or March, and in May.

Meetings are conducted with a set agenda. Preparation time is before 7 PM. At 7 PM the meeting is opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and reciting of the Scout Oath. Announcements follow the opening. After announcements, new Scouts work on advancement or on a project. The experienced Scouts work on merit badges or preparations for an outing. Time is set aside for Patrol Meetings. Some times the whole troop may work on an activity together. The meeting is closed by reciting the Scout Law and the Scoutmaster may offer a Scoutmaster's Minute ending thought. After the meeting, the Patrol Leaders Council is responsible for reviewing the next meeting and plans for any troop outdoor activity. This is also a time for beginning work on next months program features. Meetings last between 60 to 90 minutes depending on the activity.

### **Monthly Activities**

Troop 603 participates in a wide variety of activities during the year. As a troop, we strive to support District activities such as the Fall Camporee, the Winter Klondike campout, and a Spring Camporee. At times, we may choose to do an alternate activity in place of a District sponsored activity when this works better for our schedule. Each month year-round we attempt to have at least one outdoor activity outside of the regularly scheduled weekly meetings. Activities include campouts, hikes, bike rides, tobogganing, wall climbing, canoeing, etc. The boys decide what they want to do and as a troop, we make it happen! We have also participated in the international camporees at Dorchester, Ontario; taken trips to Springfield, Illinois to learn about Abe Lincoln; and cabin camped at Camp Betz.

As a troop, we also take boys to Summer Camp (see separate section), take older Scouts on high adventure outings, and encourage Scouts to participate in the Mackinac Island Honor Guard and Boy Scout National Jamborees.

## **Boy Scout Resident Camp**

Boy Scout Resident camp is a week-long adventure for Scouts to, work on advancement including merit badges, shoot guns, practice archery, swim, play games, hike, eat, sing songs, make new friends, make crafts, and enjoy living in the outdoors. Summer camp can be the highlight of a Scout's yearly activities. Summer camp is a time for fun, adventure, and getting to know boys in their troop and new Scouts from other troops. First year Scouts are encouraged to participate in structured programs, which aim to advance them on the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Scouting ranks. They can work on all three at the same time. Older Scouts are encouraged to earn three to four merit badges during the week. Normally our troop goes to summer camp in July. Summer camp begins on a Sunday afternoon and ends on Saturday morning.

For the past three years our Scouts have attended summer resident camp at Camp Chief Little Turtle, a part of the Anthony Wayne Scout Reservation, south of Angola, Indiana. This modern camp provides excellent structured programs for new Scouts working on their early ranks (Alanya) and a variety of merit badges for the older boys. The camp includes a private lake with water craft activities, swimming, and more. The camp of choice is selected yearly by the troop based on cost, quality of the programs offered, the experience of the staff, the quality of the food, and the facilities.

What should I take to summer camp?

- Take all of the items listed under normal camping supplies in the Scout Handbook
- Money for items to buy in camp store
- Merit badge books
- Sun screen
- Swim suit and towel
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Any special project materials needed for merit badges
- Class 2 medical form signed by a doctor
- You may also want to bring mosquito netting

## **High Adventures**

Annually Troop 603 takes a high adventure outing. Past outings have included hiking on North Manitou Island, canoeing and fishing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA), hiking on Isle Royale, hiking a section of the North Country Trail, and hiking in the Philmont Scout reservation. These adventures are geared toward the older Scouts, who have demonstrated their skills and ability in the outdoors. They can hike carrying all their gear on their backs and are

comfortable living close to nature for a week at a time. Normally we like boys to be at least 13 years old, but have made exceptions and allowed 12 year old Scouts accompanied by a parent to participate. Depending on the rigors of the adventure we will discuss the appropriateness of younger Scouts participating in this yearly outing. Our overriding objective is to have fun in the outdoors with safety always in mind. A Class 3 health form signed by a doctor is required for all participants in high adventures.

### **Community Service Projects**

One goal of our Troop is to conduct at least one or more community service projects each year. This past year our troop coordinated a Food Drive in the Stevensville area to collect food for a local food pantry. Other projects conducted, in the past, included helping with Eagle Scout service projects, picking up trash along Lake Michigan, and helping the United Methodist Church set up for their annual Rummage Sale. The number of things that can be done are as varied as the interests of the boys and the support required from parents. We encourage all of our boys to participate in at least one community service project each year. Part of the Scout Oath is to “help other people at all times.” In keeping with the Scouting traditions and to fulfill the rank requirements for Scout advancement our troop actively encourages and supports community service.

### **Other Activities**

Scouts can get involved in many other activities related to or associated with Scouting. In this past year we have had boys from our troop participate as Honor Guards at Mackinac Island and attend the National Scout Jamboree in Virginia. As a troop in the past year we have attended a Silver Hawks game in South Bend, taken several bike rides together, tobogganed at Pokagon State Park, wall climbed at Climb Kalamazoo, and canoed down the Manistee River. The activities we participate in are as varied as the boys who are participating and the ideas they come up with. Activities are discussed extensively at the Annual Family Camp weekend. Always plan to attend this event to ensure your input is included.

### **Annual Planning Campout**

Once per year in late August our troop conducts an Annual Planning Campout. This campout is for the entire family. We encourage siblings as well as Scouts and their parents to attend. We have been conducting these campouts over the past three years at the River Valley Antique Power Association Grounds in Three Oaks. This location is approximately two miles west of River Valley High School. Each year we gather for weekend fun as a Scouting family and work together to plan a Scout calendar, which will meet the needs and desires of our Scouts. Each activity planned will include the equipment needed, schedule, projected cost, needs for adult participation, and program content. The Family Planning Campout is a time for Scouts to set annual advancement goals, to select activities they want to participate in, and an opportunity to get to know their fellow Scouts better. Every Scout and his family are strongly encouraged to participate, if only for the Saturday planning sessions in the morning and early afternoon. We camp both Friday night and Saturday night. Following a Sunday Scout worship service we break

camp, return to the church with our gear, then head for home. Everyone participates in cleaning up camp at the end and helping with the weekend activities.

### **Family Participation**

Scouting is not just for the boy. Parents are encouraged to participate as well. To meet the Scouting requirement for two-deep adult leadership, we welcome as many parents, male and female, to participate as possible. There is always room for another helping hand in activities. Siblings are also welcome at to participate in some of our activities. We have taken siblings along to Climb Kalamazoo, on bike rides, cross-country skiing, and tobogganing. With special arrangements, some siblings can attend selected campouts provided a parent accompanies them.

## **5. What is Expected of Me?**

This section addresses both the requirements and expectations for Boy Scouts and Adults associated with Troop 603.

### **Joining Our Troop**

To join BSA Troop 603 requires that an application be filled out and submitted with a check for \$25.00. A boy must be either at least 11 years old, have completed the Cub Scout rank of Arrow of Light, or have completed the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The \$25.00 cost of joining includes: an application cost of \$10.00, mandatory Scout insurance cost of \$1.66, Scout numbers for your uniform, epaulets for your uniform, and a troop neckerchief. Also required are a Scout uniform and a Scout handbook. These items can be purchased either at the Scout Shop in Kalamazoo or at Dunham's Sporting Goods. Our troop also requires that a level 1 health form be completed along with a copy of your insurance card to participate in normal campouts. Week long campouts, summer resident camp, and high adventure campouts all require at least a class 2 medical form. To obtain a monthly subscription to "Boys Life Magazine" is optional and \$12.00 extra cost. Normally we renew our subscriptions annually in February during re-chartering of our troop.

*So, what do I need to do again to get started?*

1. Complete Scout registration form and pay beginning fee of \$25.00.
2. Buy a Boy Scout Handbook (~ \$7.95)
3. Buy needed camping gear for outdoor campouts (see Equipment)
4. Buy a Scout shirt
  - a. Our troop has some Scout shirts available for borrowing. Our supplies are limited and your size may not be available. We lend these uniforms on a rotating basis. If you take a shirt or pants we ask that you return them when you no longer need them. They are free for you to use.
5. Complete the Class 1 medical form, make a copy of health insurance card and turn in for file.
6. Attend meetings regularly

7. Feel free to discuss with our Scoutmaster or other adults your needs and goals in Scouting.

### **First Year Costs**

The cost to participate depend on the level of involvement of each Scout. More on Scout accounts, fund raising, and paying for Scouting is discussed below in the section on Troop Finances. Estimated first year costs include initial registration of \$25.00; a Scout uniform, which may cost approximately \$40.00; a Scout handbook (\$7.95); campouts (average of \$10 - \$20/weekend); summer resident camp (\$200.00+) and cost of gear. Many Scouts start simple and over time acquire gear they need to participate in high adventures and other special activities.

### **Participation**

Participation is the cornerstone for advancement and having fun in Scouts. Only through participation in campouts, monthly activities, weekly meetings, and summer camp can boys walk the road toward Eagle Scout. Regular participation and Scout enthusiasm are the ingredients to having fun in Boy Scouts. There are no guarantees on how far or how fast a boy will go, but with regular participation and enthusiasm, most boys move quickly through the early ranks and are well on their way within a year. We encourage new Scouts to set a goal of earning First Class Scout rank within their first year in Scouts.

Scouts are not obligated to participate in activities. It is up to them to decide how active and involved they want to be. We encourage new Scouts to attend all meetings and activities. But, we understand how busy boys and parents are today. Many of our Scouts are active in school and church groups. School demands can sometimes require missing a meeting or a campout. Experience has shown that boys actively involved are advance the quickest and get the most from their Scouting experience.

A parents involvement will normally foster a boys advancement and participation in Scouting. Although not required, many parents find participation in Scouting activities to be an excellent time to bond with their sons and a time to encourage and support their development into young men. Our troop encourages both male and female adult participation in all activities, and will make any reasonable accommodations. Adult participation as committee members is strongly encouraged. Many hands make the troop stronger and require less be done by each participant. Each parent brings special talents to our Troop, which help enrich the Scouting experience for all of the boys.

Boys are responsible through their chain of leadership to establish and uphold the Scouting code of conduct, which is based on the Scout Oath and Law. Adults are present to help mentor our boys and to ensure a safe and enriching experience.

## **Equipment**

### ***What do I need for campouts?***

For most campouts a Scout should bring the following items:

- Bring Scout Release form and ensure medical form on file with troop
- Scout shirt/uniform
- Sleeping bag (20 degree or lower rating)
- Ground pad (mattress)
- Flash light
- Clothing – pants, shirt, socks, underwear, outdoor shoes, jacket, hat, etc.
- Rain coat or poncho
- Scout Handbook
- Bag to contain Scout gear
- Canteen or water bottle
- Medications (if applicable)
- Personal first aid kit
- Wash cloth & soap
- Personal hygiene items (tooth brush, etc.)
- Insect repellent
- Pocket knife

### ***Outing Specific Items Can Include:***

- Winter camping requires a hat, coat and gloves
- Compass
- Camp seat
- Camera
- Cards, frisbee, ball
- Backpack
- Mess kit
- Silverware set (spoon, fork, knife)

Our troop contains some limited supplies of items that can be borrowed. See the troop quartermaster for checking out these items.

### ***Things that should be left at home include:***

- Video games
- Gameboys, etc.
- Large knives (sheath knives)
- Expensive items
- CD Players

- Firearms, fireworks, etc.
- Hand axes
- Food that will not be shared
- Cell Phones
- Any materials inappropriate to an outdoor adventure
- Any “good” clothes or shoes that could be ruined
- Any valuable items, that if lost, would cause problems

### ***Where can I buy Scout related items?***

There are several sources where Scout items can be purchased. Possibilities include:

**Dunham’s Sports** (limited Scout items: cooking gear, merit badge books, uniforms)  
 1000 E. Napier Ave.  
 Benton Township, MI 49022

**Scout Shop at Council Service Center**  
 1035 W. Maple Ave.  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
 (269) 343-3775  
 Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30 – 5:30  
 Sat 9:30 – 1 PM

**Boy Scouts of America Supply Division**  
 National Distribution Center  
 P.O. Box 65989  
 Charlotte, NC 28265-0989  
 Web: [www.Scoutstuff.org](http://www.Scoutstuff.org)  
 (800) 323-0732

**Kabelin’s Ace Hardware**  
 432 Saint John Rd (behind Marquette Mall)  
 Michigan City, IN 46360  
 (219) 872-5431

**Campmor**  
 P.O. Box 700-B  
 Saddle River, New Jersey 07458-0700  
 (800) 230-2153  
 Web: [www.campmor.com](http://www.campmor.com)

### **Troop Finances**

How do the troop finances work?

Each Scout has a Scout account with our troop. Money can be added to or taken from the account to fund Scouting related activities and supplies. Several times during the year, Account Reports are given to the Scouts.

#### How does the troop help Scouts earn money for their accounts?

There are two primary means for boys to earn money for their accounts with Troop 603.

1. Popcorn Sales. Each boy is encouraged to sell popcorn to earn Scout Bucks. The majority of profits that would normally go to the troop from sale of popcorn are put into a Scout's account based on the amount and type of popcorn sold. Scouts can also receive the normal gifts for level of popcorn sales or have the equivalent amount of cash added to their account.
2. The second way a Scout makes money is by helping with canopy tent rentals. Our troop currently owns three canopy tents (two 20' X 30' and one 20' X 40'). The boys can earn up to \$30.00 for tent setup and \$30.00 for tent teardown. If more than one boy sets up or tears down a tent, the money is divided equally between the boys. If multiple tents are set up at one time, the amount of money added to the account is doubled for two tents or tripled for three tents. Normally two or more boys participate in each tent rental. Participation is optional, but encouraged.

#### What expenses can I expect while in Scouts?

Our troop does not collect weekly dues. Instead, a flat fee of \$25.00 per Scout is assessed in February to cover the cost of re-registration, insurance, and patches. This cost can be taken from a Scout's account if adequate funds are available to cover the cost. Boy's Life Magazine is not included in this fee.

Weekend campouts normally cost between \$10.00 to \$20.00 per Scout. This covers the cost of food, any special fees assessed per boy at District Scouting events, and transportation. If we stop for a separate meal on the way to our camp (fast food restaurant), we ask parents provide their son with additional cash to purchase a meal. This is not covered in the weekend camping fee. If food is available in our troop supplies at the church, we will use this first and the resulting cost of food may be less. We have had some campouts where there was minimal cost to the boys for the weekend. When a Scout is Food Chairman for an outing, he and his parent are expected to take care of planning and purchasing the food for the troop for that outing. Keep receipts for food and materials purchased so that proper reimbursement can be made from troop funds.

Special outings such as tobogganing or climbing at Climb Kalamazoo may cost more, depending on the fees charged for these activities.

Other long-term activities will normally be more expensive, such as Scout summer resident camp and high adventures. Some of our boys also attend special Scouting events such as DIBC – Dorchester International Brotherhood Camporee in Dorchester, Ontario; Mackinaw Island Honor Guard on Mackinaw Island; and National Jamborees. The cost of these outings can be considerable. If a Scout has been a good fund-raiser of Scout Bucks, the cost of these event can

be taken from their account and result in considerably less out of pocket expense. Typical summer camp cost for a week at Camp Chief Little Turtle is \$200.00. Depending on the high adventure, the cost can range from \$200.00 to \$350.00 for a week. The cost of the Dorchester Camporee has run about \$50.00.

Based on an agreement developed in 2002, Scout Bucks are used only for Scouting related expenses. If a Scout transfers to another troop, he can request, in writing, that his unused Scout bucks be transferred to the new troop. Transfer requests have never been denied. Scout Bucks which have not been used by the time a Scout quits the troop or becomes 18 years old revert back to Troop 603. Scouts may use money from their accounts to pay for the yearly troop fee (\$25.00), campout costs, purchase Scout uniforms, camping equipment, backpacking equipment for use on Scouting events, and other Scouting related materials (books, etc.). This money is also normally used to pay for campouts, and portions of longer-term Scouting events such as summer camp and high adventures. If a Scout is active in Scouting, the need for Scout Bucks is normally more than the available funds. Scouting is NOT FREE. Scouts and their responsible parent(s)/ guardian(s) are expected to cover the costs incurred from participation in events. We will attempt to estimate the cost of events beforehand. If costs for events are less than the assessed cost, the extra money is either refunded or placed in the Scout bucks account, based on what is requested.

## **6. What Can Adults Do to Help?**

Parents are encouraged to become active in our troop. We welcome parents to sit in on our weekly meetings. Parents are also welcome to join in on monthly campouts, bike rides, hikes, etc. Our troop always abides by the two-deep leader rule for all Scout outings and functions. We always need parents to drive our boys to activities (see Transportation below) and to help their boys as activity chairmen. Adults also help with boards of review. The help you give your son and our troop can be an invaluable aid to toward his advancement on the Road to Eagle. Boys whose parents are involved in their activities generally do better and get more out of Scouting.

### **For A Deeper Involvement**

Parents are always welcome as committee members, merit badge counselors, and as Assistant Scoutmasters. Our troop pays yearly registration fees for our adult leadership. Adult leaders are always needed for summer camp. Adult leader summer camp fees, for up to two adults, are paid for by our troop. Consider becoming an Adult Leader. Ask for a registration form from one of our current Adult Leaders.

Adults are encouraged to fill out the attached resource form to become merit badge counselors. This should be turned into the troop Advancement Chairperson. (See Appendix G)

## **Troop Committee**

Our Troop Committee is made up primarily of parents of Scouts. It is open to all interested adults. Positions include, Committee Chairman, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Finance Chairperson, Advancement Chairperson, Charter Organization Representative, High Adventure Coordinator, Popcorn Coordinator, Activity Advisor, and Committee Members. One person may hold more than one position. Training is available for adult leadership.

The **Committee Chairman**, a required troop position, is responsible for coordinating operation of the troop committee, calling regular meetings, and assisting with operation of troop.

The **Scoutmaster**, a required troop position, is responsible for leading the troop.

The **Assistant Scoutmaster**, a required troop position, is responsible for assisting the Scoutmaster in leading the troop.

The **Finance Chairperson** is responsible for maintaining the troop financial records and accounting associated with troop finances.

The **Advancement Chairperson** is responsible for maintaining records of Scout advancement, filing advancement reports, procuring badges, and helping with coordination of Courts of Honor.

The **Charter Organization Representative**, a required position, is responsible for approving all adult applications and acting as liaison between the troop and Stevensville United Methodist Church.

The **High Adventure Coordinator** is responsible for coordinating yearly high adventure experiences. This involves obtaining information, executing contracts where necessary, collecting money for the adventures, and communicating plans to the Troop and committee.

The **Popcorn Coordinator** and **Tent Rental Coordinator** act as coordinators for fund raising for the troop.

The **Committee Members** lend their assistance in making troop functions run smoothly by participating in troop decision-making. They can participate in campouts by transporting Scouts and materials. They can also assist other committee members.

The **Activity Advisor** assists the Boy Scout in charge of an outing by helping with filing tour permits, estimating costs, creating permission slips, and collecting funds. This person also provides guidance to the Scout as to what other requirements the outing may need, such as food, equipment, reservations, etc.

The **Senior Patrol Leader** and **Assistant Senior Patrol Leader** represent the Scouts at committee meetings and are responsible for bringing issues about activities, Scout gear, etc. to the committee for resolution.

### **Transportation to Outings**

Parents are responsible for transporting their son to the Church and to other Troop activities. For most activities, carpools will be coordinated by the Adult and Scout in charge of the Activity. However, the ultimate responsibility for transportation will lie with the parent(s). All carpool drivers must carry liability insurance of at least \$50,000 (each person), \$100,000 (each accident), and \$50,000 (property damage). All drivers must wear seat belts while traveling, as required by Michigan law. Parents and adult leaders must provide updated insurance information about their vehicle(s) to the Troop annually in September. All drivers who transport Scouts in their vehicle must be 21 years of age or older, no exceptions. Scouts are not allowed by National Scout rules to drive to or from Scout activities. Generally, the normal costs incurred by carpool drivers (gas, tolls, etc.) are reimbursed by the troop as part of the cost of the outing.

### **Transportation Home**

Parents are responsible for picking up their son at the Church after a Troop activity. Keep in mind that all participating Scouts will be expected to help with unloading and stowing all Troop equipment before they can leave. They may make other arrangements with another Troop Parent, but must communicate this in writing to the Scoutmaster or Activity chairperson. As a rule, no Leader should leave a Scout at home after a Troop activity unless a responsible adult is present. If a boy will be dropped off somewhere other than his home, or will be picked up by someone other than a family member or a parent of another Scout in the Troop, the adult leader must be informed by the parent in writing prior to the Troop activity (e.g., a note on the permission slip for that activity). Adult leaders are to use common sense, and consider what is in the best interest of the Scout, should the occasion arise that a parent is not available when a Scout must be dropped off, or no parent is available to pick up a Scout.

**APPENDIX A**

**SCOUT CODE OF CONDUCT**

*TO BE DEVELOPED BY TROOP 603 SCOUTS*

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Troop 603 Scoutmasters are as follows:**

1959 – 1960	Willis Harmon
1960 – 1965	Howard Houtz
1965 – 1968	Richard G. Boelcke
1968 – 1969	James A. Alexander, Jr.
1969 – 1971	Michael A. Knuth
1971 – 1976	David J. McCaa
1976 – 1978	Ray L. Ashbrook
1978 – 1979	William J. Hild
1979 – 1985	Ronald L. Tungett
1/85 – 4/85	Larry G. Burman
5/85 – 1987	Mark Crawford
1987 – 1990	Richard Murphy
1990 – 1996	Mark J. Patterson
1996 – 2000	Robert A. Metz
2000 – 2005	Thomas E. Andert
2005 – Present	Doug Weingart

### **Eagle Scouts of Troop 103**

Paul Broadstone	11/1961
Robert Robbins	2/1963
Daniel Hill	2/1963
John DeDan	7/1964
Jerry Riedner	10/1965
Tom Myers	10/1965
Robert Niedbala	4/1968
William Bartels	3/1973

### **Eagle Scouts of Troop 603**

Scott Walters	5/1976	Mark Patterson, Jr.	7/1993
Kevin Smiley	8/1977	Jonathon Schrader	2/1994
Timothy Tungett	5/1980	Andrew Romelhardt	11/1994
James Bellmer	9/1980	Jim Patterson	12/1995
Dale Grover	11/1980	Kam Truhn	10/1996
Todd Rockwell	9/1981	Steven Young	4/1997
Brian Coulomby	5/1982	Matthew Biek	9/1997
Steven Petros	9/1985	Matthew Bradley	2/1998
Rob McPherson	9/1986	Ryan Truhn	7/1998
James McPherson	2/1987	Brett Swearingen	8/1998
Scott Goodenough	5/1988	John Metz	9/1998
Ryan Arnt	12/1989	Andrew Young	7/1999
Jason Murphy	12/1989	Bradford Berndt	4/2001
Jeffery Messer	11/1990	Kevin Holmes	10/2001
David Feather	7/1991	William Andert	4/2005
Timothy Kragt	5/1992		
Dan Seifert	6/1993		

We look forward to many more boys names to be added to this list of Eagle Scouts.

## APPENDIX C

### List of Merit Badges

Eagle Scout Required Merit Badges include:

- First Aid
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communications
- Personal Fitness
- Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving
- Environmental Science
- Personal Management
- Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling
- Camping
- Family Life

Merit Badges in Alphabetical Order include:

American Heritage  
American Labor  
Animal Science  
Archaeology  
Archery  
Architecture  
Art  
Astronomy  
Athletics  
Atomic Energy  
Auto Mechanics  
Aviation  
Backpacking  
Basketry  
Bird Study  
Bugling  
Camping  
Canoeing  
Chemistry  
Cinematography  
Citizenship in the Community  
Citizenship in the Nation  
Citizenship in the World  
Climbing  
Coin Collecting

Collections  
Communications  
Computers  
Cooking  
Crime Prevention  
Cycling  
Dentistry  
Disabilities Awareness  
Dog Care  
Drafting  
Electricity  
Electronics  
Emergency Preparedness  
Energy  
Engineering  
Entrepreneurship  
Environmental Science  
Family Life  
Farm Mechanics  
Fingerprinting  
Fire Safety  
First Aid  
Fish and Wildlife Management  
Fishing  
Forestry  
Gardening  
Genealogy  
Geology  
Golf  
Graphic Arts  
Hiking  
Home Repairs  
Horsemanship  
Indian Lore  
Insect Study  
Journalism  
Landscape Architecture  
Law  
Leatherwork  
Lifesaving  
Mammal Study  
Medicine  
Metalwork  
Model Design and Building  
Motorboating  
Music

Nature  
Oceanography  
Orienteering  
Painting  
Personal Fitness  
Personal Management  
Pets  
Photography  
Pioneering  
Plant Science  
Plumbing  
Pottery  
Public Health  
Public Speaking  
Pulp and Paper  
Radio  
Railroading  
Reading  
Reptile and Amphibian Study  
Rifle Shooting  
Rowing  
Safety  
Salesmanship  
Scholarship  
Sculpture  
Shotgun Shooting  
Skating  
Small-Boat Sailing  
Snow Sports  
Soil and Water Conservation  
Space Exploration  
Sports  
Stamp Collecting  
Surveying  
Swimming  
Textile  
Theater  
Traffic Safety  
Truck Transportation  
Veterinary Medicine  
Water-skiing  
Weather  
Whitewater  
Wilderness Survival  
Wood Carving  
Woodwork

## APPENDIX I

### GLOSSARY OF SCOUT TERMS

Board of Review	A final review by registered adults of completion of requirements for rank advancement by a Scout.
Cracker Barrel	A gathering at the end of the camp day to eat snacks around the campfire.
JLT	Junior Leader Training
Scoutmaster Conference	Discussion of future advancement between Scoutmaster and Scout