



TROOP 9 PARENT GUIDE (2026)

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to new Scout parents. One of the major differences between Cub Scouts and Scouts is that Scout meetings and campouts are scout-led to help them learn leadership, organization and project management skills. In keeping with that approach, the first response to any question asked to an adult leader will be “*Did you ask your patrol leader*” and then “*Did you check your handbook*”? The following common topics are ordered alphabetically for reference.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL): Deputy to SPL; second-scout-in-command

Advancement: Process to achieve rank. Handbook defines all rank advancement requirements. Scout records their progress in handbook; at conclusion of meeting/activity can have SM/SPL/ASPL sign off or schedule a meeting with SM (*see Scoutmaster Conference*) for multiple recordings. SM reports completed advancement to Advancement Chair. Advancement requirements are completed at meetings, campouts/hikes, Lost Pines summer/winter camp, etc. Scouts can request through SPL/ASPL specific advancement activity to occur at T9 meeting.

Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM): Assigned to patrol to help with advancement and other patrol needs. Supports Scoutmaster.

Board of Review (BOR): Scout meets with board of Committee Members after completing all requirements for a rank. After Scoutmaster Conference, Scout will request a BOR from Advancement Chair, who will determine eligibility. If eligible, Scout will then contact the Board of Review Coordinator for a BOR and should provide preferred date / times and must copy parent on emails.

Blue Cards: Application for recording merit badge progress. Only merit badge counselors note progress on blue card. When complete, present blue card to SM for approval and recording.

Class A Uniform: Formal scout uniform (*see uniform*). Should be worn to all scout activities and meetings unless otherwise directed.

Class B Uniform: Any Troop 9 or Scout t-shirt; worn when directed. T9 shirts are available for sale at each meeting.

Camping: The Troop camps monthly. The scouts plan and organize the campouts including food plan and designation of roles, eg, *grubmaster*. This usually occurs at the Sunday meeting before the campout. The troop camps in one area with parent support nearby in a separate area. Scouts are encouraged not to share a tent with family (like in Cub Scouts). Each campout has a designated adult Camp Coordinator; parent questions should be directed to the specific camp coordinators. Scout questions should be to Patrol Leader. Parents are not required to attend campout, but each campout does need parental support.

Committee Meetings: These are parent support meetings where parents sign up to help with campouts, learn about T9 activities, etc. Each Troop family is encouraged to have a parent participating.

Like school, scouts with parental involvement are more successful.

Court of Honor (COH): Special ceremony to recognize Scouts for achievements (rank advancements and merit badges). Held quarterly during the weekly meeting.

Directory: Troop directory provided by request to Records Chair. For privacy purposes this by request only.

Equipment / Gear: The HB lists what gear is needed for specific scout activities. T9 has gear (tents, sleeping pads, cots, stoves, backpacks, etc.) that can be checked out for use. Sign gear out on the clipboard at the back of the Scout hut. Younger scouts can buddy up with two in a tent. Each scout should own the camping essentials (HB, page 268).

Guide to Advancement: Resource for more detailed information on advancement. Available online.

Grubmaster (GM): Designated Scout responsible for purchasing food and preparing during campout. Patrol will determine menu and head count. Should do the grocery shopping and collect equal share funds from the rest of patrol. (HB, page 10).

Handbook (HB): Parents and scouts should read the Adventure Ahead chapter of the Boy Scout handbook. The book is the manual to scouting and should be the first resource for questions. The book defines all rank advancement requirements. Scouts should be recording rank progress, hiking, camping, service hours in their book and have SM or SPL/ASPL sign off. If an advancement activity is covered at weekly meeting, Scout should record date and have SM or SPL/ASPL sign off. SM records attendance.

High Adventure trips: Philmont / Seabase / Northern Tier / Summit: 7 to 10-day high adventure treks at national BSA camps. Must be first class and specified age depending on the trek. T9 typically goes on one or more high adventure trip per summer.

Leaders: Parents volunteer to serve as leaders to the troop. See Leadership box on following page for some positions.

Listserv: T9 uses a listserv for announcements. Announcements traditionally come from SM, SPL or event coordinator. To join the listserv email the committee chair.

Meetings: Held Sundays from 1:00-2:00 at the Scout Hut, Bryker Woods Elementary. These are boy-led and organized. Meetings are not mandatory; participation is highly encouraged. Scout must make arrangements with SPL/ASPL/Patrol Leader or SM to make

up any missed rank advancements. Adults are encouraged to stay but not required to stay. This is a great opportunity for parents to ask questions and to learn more.

Merit Badges (MB): 135 merit badges to choose from. Can only be accomplished under the direction and guidance of an authorized merit badge counselor. Can be earned at Lost Pines summer/ winter camps, Merit Badge University, specialty classes through local business (i.e., Bass Pro Shop, Microsoft, Pioneer Farms, etc.). For partial merit badges, it is up to the Scout to contact a counselor to finish the merit badge (HB, page 416). All merit badge requirements are available online.

Merit Badge Counselor: Individual authorized to award merit badge. Counselor may be from troop or council. SM helps scout find a MB counselor. To receive a merit badge, a blue card must be signed by an authorized counselor and the SM. The SM will report to Advancement Chair for processing. Extra blue cards are kept in the hut.

New Parent Coordinator: Adult leadership role; answers questions and educates parents on T9 scouting. This or the Committee Chair should be your first resource for questions, not SM.

Paperwork, Required: New scout registration (registration link available online; coordinate with committee chair); Medical forms A, B and C (annually to Records Chair); Activity consent form for each offsite activity (as needed to adult leader in charge). Adults must also be registered in scouting to participate in scouting event and take SYT. Registration link is here:

<https://my.scouting.org/online-registration/c62ad105-c01d-4653-ad1f-6f76f5b79e43/applicant-type>.

Patrol Leader (PL): Designated leader of each patrol. Directs patrol including communication. Typically serves six months to one year.

Patrol Leader Council (PLC): Made of the SPL, ASPL, all Patrol Leaders and Troop Guide. Responsible for planning the yearly scout program and meets monthly to fine tune the plans in the upcoming month. Meetings are usually held Saturday, 8:30 am on the weekend after a campout.

Patrol method: The troop is divided into Patrols, usually organized by grade and/or friend group. Each patrol is responsible for organizing themselves including delegation of responsibilities and equipment/gear needed for activities. Each Patrol is led by the elected *Patrol Leader*.

Progress Reports: Scouts can request an achievement progress report from *Advancement Chair*

Rank: A Scout's current rank. Order as achieved: Scout, Tender- foot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle. The handbook defines rank advancement requirements. Rank activities are accomplished at weekly meetings, campouts, hikes and Lost Pines summer/winter camp. *See Advancement*.

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL): Highest ranking scout position. Scout-in-charge.

Scoutmaster (SM): The Scoutmaster's role is to guide the scouts and ensure health and safety at scout events. Parents should direct questions to the appropriate adult leader or the new parent coordinator, versus parents contacting the SM.

Scoutmaster conference: Meeting with SM as required for rank advancement. Ordinarily occurs after all rank requirements are satisfied but before board of review. Youth contacts SM to schedule meeting.

Two Deep Leadership: Basic safety requirement of scouting; at least two adult leaders are required for all scout activities. As long as more than one Scout is in the car, one adult is ok.

Uniform: Can be purchased at Fickett Center Scout Store or online. Patch placement (HB pages 23-24); Required: council, fleur-de-lis, troop number. Troop 9 requires shirt, neckerchief, slide, applets and belt. Pants/shorts do not have to be licensed scout apparel but should be appropriate to conditions. Closed toed shoes are mandatory.

Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT): To be registered in Scouts, adults must take SYT; available online at *my.scouting.org*. No scout is ever alone with an adult unless that adult is their parent. Two scouts (minimum) and one adult are ok.

New Parent Resources

- **Get Trained!** Online YPT and committee training are required, and other useful online and in-person trainings are available. See *scouting.org*.
- Read *Adventure Ahead* chapter in the

- Scout Handbook
- Email questions to New Parent Coordinator
- **Common Abbreviations**
- **ASPL:** Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
- **BSA:** Boy Scouts of America

- **BOR:** Board of Review
- **HB:** Handbook
- **MB:** Merit Badges
- **SM:** Scoutmaster
- **SPL:** Senior Patrol Leader
- **T9:** Troop 9

Troop 9 Leadership 2026

POSITION	CURRENT PARENT	FUNCTIONS	EMAIL
Advancement Chair	Melissa Hargis	Tracks achievements; contact for progress reports	advancement.troop9@gmail.com
Committee Chair	Shelby O'Brien	Registration (new / annual renewal); leads adults	shelby_obrien@hotmail.com
New Parent Coordinator	Lauren Lind	Questions	llindtroop9@gmail.com
Records Chair	Kate Clark	Medical forms	medicalforms.troop9@gmail.com
Scoutmaster	Sean McCain	Leads the scouts; manages health and safety	scoutmastert9austin@gmail.com

Treasurer	Jon Graf	Collects dues; manages Troop funds	jongraf4111@yahoo.com
BOR Coordinator	Mike Donovan and Dee Donovan	Organizes boards of review	borcoordinator.troop9@gmail.com