

TROOP 31 HANDBOOK



Table of Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Purpose.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Adult Participation</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Troop 31 Organization</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Joining Troop 31</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Scout Handbook.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Fees/Dues</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Troop Structure.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Troop Meetings.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Troop Uniform.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Campouts/Activities</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Equipment.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Camp Food</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Behavior</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Troop Calendar</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Rank Advancement</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Eagle Advancement</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Court of Awards.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Fundraising and Scout Accounts</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Service Projects</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Summer Camp.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>High Adventure.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Order of the Arrow</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Merit Badges.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>History of Troop 31</i>	<i>17</i>

Introduction

Welcome to Troop 31! As a new member of Troop 31, Oswego, Illinois, you are joining a group of boys who share your interests in the outdoors, adventure, and learning. As a Scout, you will get the opportunity to learn, see, and do things that other boys may not. You will get the opportunity to acquire new skills, and you will be recognized and rewarded for what you have accomplished. You will have the opportunity to learn leadership, organizational, and other skills that will help you later in life.

This "*Troop 31 Handbook*" acts as an introduction to Scouting in Troop 31 and gives Scouts and Parents a better understanding about how Troop 31 works. Please take the time to read over this handbook, and contact the Scoutmaster or one of the other adult leaders if you have any questions.

Purpose

The purpose of Troop 31 and the Scouts BSA is to provide youth with an effective program designed to enable them to experience:

Growth in moral strength and character - This may be defined as what the boy is himself; his personal qualities, his values, and his outlook.

Participative citizenship - Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society he lives in, and the government that presides over that society.

Development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness - Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self-control, courage, self-respect, and self-confidence).

Respect for others, the environment, and himself.

Adult Participation

STRONG TROOPS HAVE STRONG PARENT SUPPORT!

The adults who give their time, talent, and support to make Troop 31 a success are all volunteers. Both mothers and fathers can assist Troop 31 by providing transportation to and from outings, serving on a Troop committee, becoming a merit badge counselor, becoming an Assistant Scoutmaster, or serving in other leadership positions. If you are a parent or guardian of a boy in Troop 31, please take the time to attend a couple of Troop meetings or leader meetings. Talk to the Scoutmaster or one of the other adult leaders. You may have skills, resources, or contacts that the Troop needs.

Parents should try to:

1. Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting. Parents should attend an informal Boy Scout Fast Start by the Troop Committee.
2. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
3. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Awards.
4. Assist, as requested, in all Troop fund-raisers and other such activities. All such assistance lowers the cost of the program we offer to the Scouts and, therefore, lowers each family's cash outlay for their Scout(s).
5. Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar.
6. When your son comes home, spend some time talking about what happened at the meeting, and upcoming events he has heard about. Ask for any forms that may have been handed out during the meeting. Talk about how he feels about the program, how he was treated and how he treated others. Please let us know if there are any issues that your son is uncomfortable with; social skills are still being developed at this age and occasionally conflicts arise.

Helpful tip: Have a designated place for all Boy Scout information, camping patches, merit badge cards, forms and paperwork. This will save you much time and frustration.

Troop 31 Organization

Troop 31 is associated with the Three Fires Council, Maramech Hills District, Central Region, Scouts BSA.

The District is the geographic area in which a Troop is located. A district may cover one or more neighborhoods in a big city, or it may cover several counties in more rural areas.

The Council is a group of one or more Districts. A Council has a professional staff and volunteers that help make the individual Troops successful. Most Councils run Scout stores where uniforms, books, and other Scouting supplies are sold.

Every Boy Scout Troop has at least one Chartering Organization, which assists the Troop by providing a meeting place, guidance, leadership, and financial assistance. Troop 31 is proudly chartered by the Oswego Presbyterian Church, 1976 Rt. 25, Oswego, Illinois.

The Troop Committee is a group of adults, generally parents/guardians of the Scouts, who provide support and guidance to the Troop. Troop Committee positions include:

Troop Committee Chair	Head of the Troop Committee
Charter Organization Representative	Liaison between the Troop and Chartering Organization
Secretary	Record keeper and takes/maintains Committee meeting notes
Treasurer	Takes care of all incoming/outgoing money for the Troop, maintains financial records and provides monthly financial status to the Troop Committee.
Advancement Chair	Administers the Troop advancement program, maintains records and prepares advancement reports for the Council.
Fund-raiser Chair	Organizes fundraising projects to meet the Troop's needs.
Camping/Outdoor Chair	Works with the Patrol Leader's Council and the Scoutmaster to plan camping trips and outdoor events. Coordinates transportation needs. Obtains any necessary camping permits/reservations and submits tour requests to the Council.
Quartermaster	Works with the Troop and patrol Quartermasters to control and maintain Troop and patrol equipment.
Scoutmaster	Oversees the operations of the Troop.
Assistant Scoutmasters	Advisors to assigned Patrols.

Joining Troop 31

Scouts BSA is available to youth who have earned the Arrow of Light Award and are at least 10 years of age or have completed the fifth grade and are at least 10 years of age but not yet 18 years old. To join BSA Troop 31 as a Scout, you must complete the BSA Rank Requirements for Scout as outlined in the *"The Boy Scout Handbook."* The requirements for Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class ranks may be worked on simultaneously; however, these ranks must be earned in sequence.

Scout Handbook



Each Scout is expected to obtain and keep a copy of a Scout Handbook. The most recent, *"The Scouts BSA Handbook for Boys, 14th Edition"* was just released, but *"The Boy Scouts Handbook, 13th Edition"* is still available. This book should be brought to all Troop activities and campouts. A protective cover (available from the Scout store) is highly recommended.

Fees/Dues

Fundraisers not only greatly reduce the financial burden for parents but provide the boys with great opportunities to understand what it takes to earn money and what it can buy, and instills a sense of pride in the boy of "paying his own way." A Scout who raises the money himself better appreciates the event for which he is paying.

Annual Dues per Scout are \$48. These dues are used for payment to the BSA Council for Troop insurance and annual dues. If your child would like to subscribe to the *"Boys Life"* magazine, the subscription is an additional \$12. Please make every effort to ensure that these dues are paid in a timely manner.

Remember - "A Scout is Thrifty". A Scout should understand the fees associated with Scouting and he should work to help earn the necessary re-chartering and camping fees.

Registered Adult Leaders will also need to pay yearly dues of \$48, which is also payment to the BSA Council for Troop insurance and annual dues.

Merit Badge Counselors will need to fill out a registration form and information sheet. In addition, they must complete Youth Protection training every two years. No fee is required for Merit Badge Counselors.

Campouts and other Troop activities will require funds in addition to the re-chartering dues. Details will be provided for each activity.

Troop 31 holds fundraising events each year. Scouts will have plenty of opportunities to earn money to offset camping and equipment fees. If the boys participate as they are expected to, there should be no reason for parents to have to pay for summer camp.

Troop Structure

Troop 31 is divided into small groups called patrols. A patrol is a group of 6-12 boys who camp together and participate in Troop activities together. If the number of boys in a patrol changes due to growth or attrition, the Scoutmaster may form a new patrol or combine existing patrols as needed. A Scout may make a request to change patrols to the Senior Patrol Leader and the Scoutmaster, who will then decide if the change is justified.

Each patrol has a Patrol Leader and an Assistant Patrol Leader. These are positions of responsibility that are decided by elections once or twice every year by the members of each patrol. Other elected positions within each Troop may include Scribe (record keeper/publisher), and Quartermaster (equipment control). These positions may also be appointed by the Scoutmaster. The positions of Assistant Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader are positions of responsibility open to older Scouts. These positions are appointed yearly or bi-yearly by Troop-wide elections.

Ideally, a Boy Scout Troop is a boy led Troop; the Scouts assist in event planning and taking care of Troop operations via the Patrol Leader's Council (PLC). The adult leaders of Troop 31 are advisors to the Patrol Leader's Council. The senior adult leader is the Scoutmaster and the others are Assistant Scoutmasters or Troop Committee Members.

Troop Meetings

Troop 31 meets most every Monday evening from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the [Oswego Presbyterian Church](#) located at 1976 Rt. 25, Oswego, IL.

Scoutmaster Conferences and Board of Reviews will be held as often as needed as time permits.

The Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) meets occasionally to help plan the learning objectives and schedule for the upcoming months. All Patrol Leaders, the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Scoutmasters, and the Scoutmaster should attend this meeting. The PLC works with the Scoutmaster and the other Adult Leaders to help plan upcoming Troop activities.

Troop 31 Adult Leader's meet periodically and interested parents are encouraged to attend. We are always looking for new ideas and help. Dates, times and locations of these meetings are sent to available email addresses.

All Scouts are expected to attend every Troop meeting in full and complete uniform. Many of our Scouts are involved in school activities and sports, which may make attendance a problem. This is understood by the Troop, and events are planned around the school calendar and sports schedule whenever possible. Please contact the Scoutmaster if you have a schedule conflict that will cause you to miss several meetings on a row. Scouts who miss a Troop meeting are expected to contact other members of their patrol to get information presented at the Troop meeting. Each Scout should have a Troop phone list handy.

Troop Uniform

Scouts BSA is a uniformed organization. Wearing the Boy Scout uniform shows a sense of belonging and pride in the Scouting movement. The uniform makes the Scout Troop visible as a unified group and creates a positive youth image in the community. Wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth that believe in the same ideals.

All members of Troop 31 are strongly encouraged to wear the approved uniform and insignia to all Troop meetings and activities. Adult leaders should set an example and wear the proper and complete adult uniform.

Troop 31 will supply any merit badges, patrol insignia, and patches earned by a Troop member. Any duplicate badges/patches (lost or duplicates for additional uniforms) will be paid for by the Scout.

BSA Troop 31 has approved the following two uniforms:

- Class "A" Uniform - to be worn to all Troop Meetings, Court of Awards, Boards of Review, and for travel to/from all Troop campouts/activities. The Class "A" Uniform consists of the following:
 - Official BSA Khaki long or short sleeved shirt (with appropriate Troop 31, Three-Fires Council, World Crest, patrol emblem, olive green shoulder loops, and rank insignia. See the inside cover of the BSA Handbook for details.)
 - Troop 31 kerchief and slide or handmade "woggle" or other approved slide.
 - Optional: BSA olive pants or shorts with belt (or Khaki shorts above knee level). Official BSA Scout socks should be worn with the BSA shorts.
 - Any official BSA Scouting hat is optional
 - Merit badge sash is requested for Court of Awards and other special events after six merit badges are earned (up to six merit badges can be worn on the right sleeve of the long-sleeve uniform shirt)
 - Order of the Arrow (OA) sashes may be worn at Court of Awards ceremonies only, otherwise these are for OA functions only.
- Class "B" Uniform - to be worn while on campouts and for other designated Troop activities.
 - Troop 31 T-shirt (Available from the Troop for a cost) or other BSA T-shirt.
 - Blue jeans or shorts in good condition.

Uniform items can be purchased from the following to name a few:

- Naperville Scout Shop: (630) 791-8342
- Norris Scout Shop (St. Charles): (630) 584-9250
- The Chalkboard (Aurora - Fox Valley area): (630) 585-8700
- Rainbow Council Shop (Morris): (815) 942-4450



Campouts/Activities

Troop 31 generally participates in one Troop campout per month. Dates and places for each campout are announced in advance.

A permission slip will be available on the Troop website at www.oswegotroop31.org or will be handed out to Scouts as soon as possible in advance of each campout or activity. This permission slip must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian. The permission slip must be turned in (along with any fees) before the campout. Keep the contact information by your phone so you can contact the Troop in an emergency. If a boy decides at the last minute not to attend, his money will not be refunded. Equipment lists with necessary gear specific to the planned activity and weather conditions will be provided for each campout or can be found in the Scout Handbook.

Whenever possible, an interdenominational Sunday morning religious observance will be held at all campouts - "*A Scout is reverent*". Arrangements can be made for a Scout to attend a service at a nearby church - please contact the Scoutmaster in advance of the campout.

"Two Deep Leadership" will be maintained for all Troop activities and campouts. This means that at a minimum, at least two Adult Leaders are present at all times or we cannot go.

Equipment

Equipment for Scouting is broken down into three categories, Troop, Patrol, and Personal.

The Troop will provide items necessary for group activities, such as gear transportation (Troop trailers), and items needed for overall Troop support, such as saws, axes, water buckets, dining fly, shovels, Dutch ovens, firewood, ropes, etc.

The Troop will provide Patrol items such as a Patrol Box with a basic cooking kit - pots/pans/utensils/cleanup kit. Tents are provided by the Troop. Use of personal tents is OK for adults only.

Personal gear is provided and maintained by each Scout. Don't go overboard as a New Scout by purchasing lots of top-of-the-line equipment that you will rarely if ever use and grow out of. Before making any expensive purchases, talk to some of the older Scouts and Adult Leaders - they will have valuable advice about what to buy and what to avoid. They may also have advice on where to buy items in the area for the least cost.

As a Scout becomes more experienced and does more camping/hiking, he may need more advanced gear, maybe a better backpack, hiking boots, a tent, better foul-weather gear, etc.

Used equipment may be available; contact the Scoutmaster for details.

Equipment lists may be published for each campout, with specific gear for the season/activity in mind. Please ensure that all items outlined in the gear list are included in your gear - Remember - "*A Scout is Prepared*".

If you have misplaced the equipment list, the following can be used as a general guide:

All gear should be clearly labeled with the Scout's name!

- Duffel/gear bag/Backpack
- Sleeping bag (rated 20°F or lower is recommended). Several blankets will suffice for warmer weather.
- Camp pillow
- Air mattress or ground pad or cot
- Flashlight (with extra batteries/bulb)
- Pocket Knife - "Totin' Chit" required (no sheath knives!)
- Waterproof matches/fire starters - "Fireman Chit" required
- Personal First Aid Kit - See the Boy Scout Handbook
- Water bottle/canteen
- Sunscreen
- Compass
- Medications in original containers (please notify leaders)
- Scout Handbook
- Class "A" Uniform (Wear when traveling)
- Class "B" Uniform (for activities)
- Hat or cap
- Rain gear or poncho
- Windbreaker or light jacket (adjust for season)
- Extra pair of boots/shoes
- Extra change of clothes
- Insect repellent (lotion only, no aerosol spray!)
- Underwear
- Extra Socks
- Sweatshirt/jacket
- Gloves
- Mess kit (plate, bowl, cup, fork, spoon, and knife)
- Cleanup kit (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, washcloth, towel, comb)
- Ground cloth for inside the tent
- Camp chair (optional, space permitting)
- Camera (optional)

Don't Bring:

- Sheath Knives
- Video Games *
- Radio/iPod /CD/MP3 players *
- Butane lighters
- Fireworks
- Valuables

* Exceptions may be made for use of these items while in the vehicle for long trips; these exceptions will be outlined by the Scoutmaster before the trip. Responsibility for the loss of these items will be the Scout's.

The Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters reserve the right to confiscate any item that is deemed inappropriate. The item in question will be returned to the Scout's parents.

Camp Food

When camping as a Troop, each patrol is usually responsible for planning and cooking its meals. After planning the menu, one patrol member will be responsible for buying the food for his patrol. Cost is based upon a budget established in advance per person. Talk to one of the older Scouts or one of the Adult Leaders about where to buy supplies.

Medical

Boy Scouts require that every Scout have a completed medical form yearly. These forms may be sent out with annual dues notification or are available online. Each Scout is also required to have a physical exam by a doctor prior to attending summer camp. Please let us know if your son has any medical problems. It is very hard to deal with medical surprises when we are 200 miles from home.



Behavior

All boys are expected to behave in a manner consistent with the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto, Scout Slogan, and Outdoor Code. See the Scout Handbook for details. Troop 31 has a Zero Tolerance policy in force. If the Scout misbehaves at any Boy Scout function his parents/guardians will be called and are expected to pick him up regardless of where the Troop is.



The Scout Oath:

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
Mentally awake, and morally straight.

The Scout Law:

A Scout is:

• Trustworthy	• Courteous	• Thrifty
• Loyal	• Kind	• Brave
• Helpful	• Obedient	• Clean
• Friendly	• Cheerful	• Reverent

Scout Motto:

Be Prepared

Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily

Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to

Be clean in my outdoor manners,

Be careful with fire,

Be considerate in the outdoors, and

Be conservation-minded.

Fighting, hitting, harassing, or in any way causing harm or subjecting a Scout to harm is out of character with Scouting and is prohibited!

Each Scout in Troop 31 (and similarly, any of his family members) has a responsibility to protect and respect our meeting place as well as the property of the Troop and his fellow Scouts. Any damage or loss incurred (intentional, accidental, or otherwise) will be the responsibility of those who cause it.

National Scout policy prohibits alcohol, cigarettes, and/or drug use or possession by anyone at any Scout function. One of our many goals is to provide a drug-, alcohol-, and smoke-free environment in which the boys can enjoy their Scouting experience. Anyone who violates these rules will be sent home. The Scoutmaster, the Patrol Leader's Council, and the Troop Committee may impose additional disciplinary action.

Communications

As boys develop into adults, we feel it is essential that they assume certain responsibilities of listening to announcements to insure that they are aware of upcoming activities and other pertinent information. At each Troop meeting various announcements are made pertaining to updated information that may be additions or changes from previously made plans. In addition to being announced, most information can be found on the Troop's website or Facebook. Both are updated as necessary and contain permission slips, a calendar of events, photos, upcoming items of interest, etc. If a Scout is unable to attend a regular Troop meeting, he is responsible for contacting his Patrol Leader or another Patrol member to obtain any information from that meeting.

Occasionally, Troop-wide telephone calling posts will also be utilized in the event that an immediate announcement needs to be communicated.

If you find you are not receiving required information, first discuss it with your Scout, check the Troop website and if still necessary, then contact the Scoutmaster so any problem can be corrected.

Troop Calendar

Troop 31 publishes a calendar periodically listing the Troop activities and events. Please see the Troop website if you need a current copy. The Scouts are responsible for writing down any announcements and making sure their parents are informed in advance of events.

Rank Advancement

A boy joins the Troop as a New Scout. By completing various requirements, the Scout advances in rank from Scout to Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class.



Scout



Tenderfoot



Second Class



First Class

Advancement to further ranks requires the Scout to earn several Merit Badges, perform approved service projects and achieve tenure since his last advancement. These rank advancements are the Star Scout, Life Scout and the ultimate achievement in Scouting - Eagle Scout.



Star



Life



Eagle

Each Scout wears a patch on his left uniform pocket showing the rank that he has obtained. After completing each rank advancement requirement as outlined in the BSA Handbook, a Scout should ask his Patrol Leader or Adult Leader to sign off on the requirement in his Scout Handbook. The Scout will be asked questions and may be asked to demonstrate the tasks/abilities for the requirement. If the Adult Leader does not believe that the appropriate level of competence has been demonstrated, he/she may decline to sign off on the requirement.

After completing all requirements for a rank advancement, the Scout must ask for a Scoutmaster Conference. Scoutmaster Conferences are held at Troop meetings as time permits.

After completing a Scoutmaster Conference, the Scout must attend a Board of Review. The board ensures that all necessary requirements for the advancement have been met. Boards of Review will be held at Troop meetings as time permits.

Rank advancement patches are presented at time of Board of Review. Rank advancement cards and Merit Badges that have been earned will be presented at the Court of Award/Honor.

Eagle Advancement

An advancement packet discussing Eagle requirements can be obtained from the Scoutmaster or Advancement Chairman after you complete the requirements for Life Scout. The packet contains a National BSA Eagle Scout Application and an Eagle Service Project Workbook. The Eagle Candidate **MUST** use this workbook and follow all instructions.

Court of Awards

At various times each year, the Troop will hold a special meeting called the Court of Awards. At this ceremony, boys will be recognized for the advancements and achievements they have earned. They will receive the rank advancement cards or merit badges that they have earned. All Scouts are expected to attend in full uniform. It is a preference that Scouts be present at the Court of Awards to receive earned merit badges or rank advancements. OA members may wear the OA sash at the Court of Awards. Family members are strongly encouraged to attend.

Fundraising and Scout Accounts

Troop 31 sponsors fundraising activities at various times of the year. In some fundraising activities, the money earned will go toward overall Troop finances and Troop needs. Other fundraising activities are specifically aimed at the Scouts earning money to go into an account for each of the Scouts who participate in the fundraiser. Each Scout can apply the earned money towards campout fees, including summer camp, for approved equipment purchases, or for High Adventure fees. Contact the Treasurer if you need to know how much you have in your account. Fundraising projects have included such activities as collecting aluminum cans and hosting spaghetti dinners, along with the BSA approved popcorn sales. Scouts that do not reregister do not keep the money in their Scout accounts; that money is forfeited to the Troop at the time of termination.

Service Projects

Troop 31 participates in several community service projects each year. "*A Scout is Helpful*". These projects may include charity clothing/food drives, Adopt-A-Highway cleanup, Fox River cleanup, collecting donations for the Salvation Army, and other activities that benefit the community. Each Scout should keep a log of time spent on these projects in his Scout handbook (community service hours are required for some rank advancements).

Summer Camp

Each year Troop 31 usually attend a BSA long-term summer camp. This camp is one week in duration and will provide a large variety of outdoor activities such as camping, cooking, boating, sailing, archery, astronomy, shooting, orienteering, woodworking, leather craft, nature study, communications, first aid, swimming, crafts, and more. Depending on the activities that the Scout chooses to do, it is possible to earn several merit badges while at camp.

Each year the Troop chooses a summer camp to attend and they vary based upon week availability, site size availability, cost and other factors. Just ask any Scout that has been there how much fun can be had in one week!

High Adventure

In years past, Troop 31 planned high adventure activities for the older Scouts. In the past, this has included 100-mile canoeing trips down the Current River, hiking expeditions through the [Philmont Scout Camp](#) in New Mexico, and trips through the Boundary Waters, Hiking in the [Black Hills](#), [Glacier National Park](#) Montana, [Yellowstone](#), backpacking in the [Grand Tetons](#), and the Badlands of South Dakota.



Order of the Arrow



The Order of the Arrow (OA) is Scouting's national honor society. The OA recognizes youths (and adult leaders) who exemplify the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their daily lives. OA members must have the rank of First Class or higher, and must have taken part in a minimum of 15 days and nights camping in a two-year period, including a 6-day and 5-night camping experience at a local or national BSA facility. Eligible Scouts are elected to the OA by current members in the Troop, with the approval of the Scoutmaster.

Merit Badges

Merit badges fall into two categories: those that are required for the rank of Eagle Scout and those that are not. Scouts can earn merit badges at any time. Over 100 merit badges are available with topics ranging from American Business to Woodworking. Some merit badges are fairly easy to obtain, and some are rather difficult. All merit badges are educational and will teach skills that can be used later in the Scout's life. The requirements for the Eagle-required merit badges are listed in the Scout Handbook. Twenty-one are required to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout. Thirteen badges are from a list of required badges while the remaining eight are electives. A list of all the available merit badges and their requirements is available in the merit badge pamphlet. The Troop has a copy of the Merit Badge Pamphlet available, or you may purchase one from the Council Scout store.

Studies have shown that if a Scout reaches the rank of First Class within a year of joining, he is more likely to continue in the Scouting program. Scouts who do not advance in rank and do not experience the entire Scouting program have a higher probability of dropping out. Please help your son through all the ranks: Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle.

Wouldn't you rather give your car keys to an EAGLE SCOUT?

Occasionally, a merit badge may be worked on as a Troop activity, but a majority of the responsibility of choosing and completing the requirements for a merit badge is up to the individual Scout. Some merit badges may be completed at Summer Camp.

In order to earn a merit badge, the Scout will need to obtain a merit badge card (blue card) and get it signed by the Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair. *This MUST be done BEFORE starting to work on the merit badge!* He will then need to get a current copy of the merit badge requirements from the merit badge pamphlet. He must then contact and arrange meetings with a merit badge counselor. The merit badge counselor is a person with in-depth knowledge of the subject. The counselor will help teach the subject and ensure that the Scout has completed the requirements for the badge. As each requirement is completed, the appropriate box in the merit badge card must be initialed. When all requirements are completed, the merit badge counselor must sign the card.

Some counselors may be in the Oswego area; some may be further away. Contact the Scoutmaster if you want to work on a merit badge with no local counselor - there may be a counselor available in the Council/District that will be available to work with you.

After successfully completing all of the merit badge requirements, submit the completed initialed and signed merit badge card to the Advancement Chair at the next scheduled Board of Review meeting. The Advancement Chair will register the completion with the Council and arrange for the badge to be presented to the Scout at the next Court of Awards.

As outlined by BSA regulations, any Scout meeting with a merit badge counselor must not do so alone – at least one other Scout, a parent, or another adult leader must be present at all times.

History of Troop 31

Oswego Boy Scout Troop 31 is 90+ years old. The Troop began in 1927 with our first Scoutmaster, John Clayton. Since then we have had numerous other Scoutmasters, many serving multiple years and some serving multiple terms.

John L. Clayton	1927-1932	Maurice L. Hachlen	1933-1934
Harold Manning	1934-1937	Norman Hulse	1937-1938
Ford Lippold	1939-1942	John Leuttich, Sr.	1943-1945
Richard Young	1946	Grant Conklin	1947-1950
Ralph D. Wheeler	1951-1952	Ford Lippold	1953-1956
George Akerlow	1957-1959	Howard Dannenberg	1960-1970
Chuck Schalz	1970-1971	Delano LaGow	1972-1983
Howard Wesley	1984-1985	Delano LaGow	1986-1993
Gregory Lambke	1993-1997	Delano LaGow	1997-1998
Neil Schilling	1999-2001	George Webber	2002-Present

In addition, our Troop is also fortunate to have many Eagle Scouts, the first being presented in 1928. These Scouts represent the ultimate Scout.

Frederic Howard	1928	Merrill Wolf	1929	Harlan Peshia	1930
Donald Lippold	1935	Richard Bailey	1940	Richard Young	1943
Start Heberg	1958	Thomas Fitzgerald	1958	Ronald Ervin	1963
Gary Dannenberg	1964	Jack Weis, II	1964	Curtis Barthell	1966
Duane Anderson	1966	Grant Wegner	1966	Michael Dannenberg	1967
David Krahn	1967	Guy West	1970	Jeff Krahn	1972
Russell Boggs	1974	Philip Politowicz	1974	Stephen Politowicz	1974
Gary Zarling	1975	Mark Albrecht	1976	James Trippon	1976
Eric Mathewson	1977	Eric Fredenburg	1977	Mark Iten	1977
Todd Piller	1977	Wayne Ostrom	1978	William Ring	1978
Jeffrey Bowman	1970	Scott Ostrom	1979	James Biever	1980
Daniel Lindblad	1980	Steven Box	1980	John Hernandez	1980
Arthur Politowicz	1980	Steve Phenecie	1980	David Cornwall	1982
Kevin Baldwin	1982	Keith Hansel	1982	John Clausen	1983
Gregory Leathers	1983	Dave Schodin	1983	Jeffrey McCauley	1983
Ronald Cornwall	1984	Jeffrey Daurer	1986	Robert Palmer	1986
David Hornburg	1987	Timothy Roth	1987	Craig Logston	1988
Tim Wienke	1988	Brad Snyder	1989	Erik Zoeller	1989
Steven Barosko	1989	Paul Soltis	1990	Kurt Barrett	1990
Christopher Daurer	1991	Christopher Morton	1991	Jason Soltis	1991
Eric Nadler	1991	Nathaniel Matile	1992	Andrew Mundsinger	1992
Ryan Palmer	1993	Timothy Carlson	1994	David Craig	1995
Timothy Morton	1995	John Daurer	1996	Michael Hofner	1997
David Wycislak	1997	Brett Sauter	1997	Jeremy Falkos	1998
Vernon Skach	1998	Matthew Randazzo	2001	Glenn P. Webber	2002
Patrick Doyle	2003	Matthew T. Palmer	2003	Matthew Hofner	2004
Gregory Schilling	2004	Mark Goggin	2005	Kennith Johnston	2005
Matthew Schindlbeck	2006	Alex Retter	2006	Christopher L Erickson	2006
Javan M. Bonham	2007	Lucas J. Magee	2008	Andrew Schilling	2008
Christopher J. Clark, Jr.	2008	William T. Doody	2009	Collin J. Pasch	2009
Iain C. Pasch	2009	Kevin J. Cargo	2009	Michael A. Blecher	2009

Tyler S. Roberts	2010	Shawn R. Sadler	2010	David O. Cabrera	2011
Connor P. Seppelfrick	2012	Ryne A. Krall	2012	Andrew Acuff	2012
James T. VanMeter	2013	Michael A. Rizzi	2013	Thomas J. Doody	2013
Nathan W. Post	2014	R. Ethan Gilmer	2014	Matthew Frantik	2015
Michael Brennan	2015	Colin Page	2015	Benjamin Sapet	2015
Riley Burgin	2015	Timothy Culbertson	2015	Albert Miller	2016
Adam Fowler	2016	Jacob Bentz	2016	Ryan Davey	2016
Jacob Brummel	2017	Daniel Zawadzki, Jr.	2017	Reese Henning	2017
David Miller	2017	Cameron Burgin	2018	Robert Johnson	2018
Braeden Culbertson	2018	Timothy Elliot	2019		

The following page from Boy's Life magazine illustrates the kind of qualities you will find in a Troop 31 Scout.

A TRUE STORY OF
**SCOUTS
IN ACTION**
BY ALSTEN



**A SUDDEN SEIZURE
THREW HIM INTO THE RIVER!**



ON AUGUST 23, 1975, TROOP 31, OSWEGO, ILL., WAS SWIMMING IN THE KANKAKEE RIVER, BOURBONNAIS, ILL. THREE 13-YEAR-OLD SCOUTS—TODD PILLER, ALAN BUCK, AND JIM BIEVER—CLIMBED ONTO A LARGE FLOATING LOG.

AS THEY DRIFTED DOWNSTREAM, JIM SUDDENLY HAD AN EPILEPTIC SEIZURE. HE FELL INTO THE WATER AND FLOATED FACE DOWN, UNCONSCIOUS!



TODD AND ALAN DIDN'T KNOW JIM WAS AN EPILEPTIC. AT FIRST THEY THOUGHT HE WAS JUST FOOLING. BUT SOON THEY REALIZED HE WAS IN REAL TROUBLE. THEY JUMPED INTO THE 3-FOOT-DEEP RIVER AND LIFTED JIM'S HEAD OUT OF THE WATER. KEEPING HIS HEAD UP, THEY DRAGGED HIM TO A NEARBY ISLAND. OTHER SCOUTS HELPED LIFT JIM INTO A CANOE. ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER CHARLES ANDERSON PADDOLED JIM TO CAMP, WHERE HE SOON RECOVERED FROM THE SEIZURE.



FOR THEIR QUICK AND COOL-HEADED RESPONSE TO THIS EMERGENCY, WHICH POSSIBLY SAVED JIM BIEVER'S LIFE, SCOUTS **TODD E. PILLER** AND **ALAN N. BUCK** WERE AWARDED THE MEDAL OF MERIT BY THE NATIONAL COURT OF HONOR, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.

TODD AND ALAN ARE MEMBERS OF TROOP 31, OSWEGO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OSWEGO, ILL.



TODD

ALAN

FROM BOYS' LIFE MAGAZINE

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to read this handbook. If you have any questions regarding the information in this booklet, find any information in this document that is incorrect, or if you feel that there are topics that need to be added, please contact the Scoutmaster, George Webber at 708/373-4878.