

Boy Scouts of America - Troop 957

Guide to Troop Operations - Spring 2009



Who Are We

Boy Scouts of America – Troop 957

Who Charters Us

Clear Lake Church of Christ
938 El Dorado Blvd.
Houston, TX 77062

When Did We Start

The Bay Area Presbyterian Church (BAPC) Session officially voted to charter Troop 957 on Sunday March 17, 2002. Final paperwork for the new troop was turned in to Sam Houston Area Council on March 27, 2002. In August 2003, the Troop changed chartering partners to Clear Lake Church of Christ (CLCC). The Troop recharter each year in March.

When Do We Meet

Troop 957 has regular Troop Meetings on Tuesday nights from 7:00pm-8:30pm. Occasionally the meeting times may be extended due to special events.

Camping trips are planned for most months and generally extend from Friday evening until Sunday midday.

The Troop attends Summer Camp in various locations and supports other long-term camping opportunities that become available.

The Troop also schedules other activities such as canoe trips, nature hikes, or attendance at sporting events that are of interest to Troop members.

Service projects occur during camping trips or may be scheduled at other times.

Where Do We Meet

Troop Meetings are held in the Family Activity Center at CLCC. On some occasions meetings may be held at alternate locations.

How Much Does It Cost

The Troop 957 yearly Scout registration fee is payable in February. Returning Scouts pay \$35 while Scouts coming into Troop 957 pay \$45.

Dues of \$5 per month are paid during the pre-camp planning meeting to the Patrol Scribe. Dues are owed to the Troop even if the Scout is inactive for a period of time. Scouts who are not current on their dues may not be allowed to participate in events.

Most campouts have a flat fee of \$10 per person not counting food. Depending on the event this fee may be increased or decreased. Food for events is planned, bought, and paid for at the Patrol level. The Troop has a Texas State Park Youth Passport which allows members over the age of 13 admission to the park without paying the normal entry fee. The \$10 is not prorated for late arrival or early departure.

Scouts are responsible for their own personal equipment. The Troop furnishes tents and group cooking equipment for use.

Summer camp costs vary from year-to-year and are dependent on the activities scheduled for that year. Some years the Troop may offer multiple summer camp opportunities.

Scouts eligible to participate in high-adventure activities are responsible for providing personal gear that is suitable for use during the high-adventure activity. Incoming Scouts are encouraged to NOT purchase expensive sleeping bags and backpacks until they gain experience in Troop activities.

No Scout will be denied Scouting because of a lack of financial resources. If needed, financial arrangements, such as payment plans or council scholarships, can be made available to help make Scouting expenses more manageable.

Troop Membership

Total membership of the Troop, excluding High Adventure eligible boys, is a maximum of 30 Scouts. There is no restriction in the number of HA Scouts.

Therefore, the eligibility for joining the Troop in a given year is dependent on the number of boys currently registered AND actively participating in Troop 957.

Eligibility for enrollment in Troop 957 is the following priority order:

- Siblings
- Charter Organization Membership (Clear Lake Church of Christ)
- In order of Registration Receipt

Packs have different schedules for Webelos attaining Arrow of Light and being eligible to bridge to Boy Scouts. Troop 957 will have a waiting list for the months of December and January, in order to insure the priority of siblings and Charter Organization membership will be followed. Thereafter, starting the first of February of a given year, order on the waiting list will be used to fill vacant posts in the troop.

The waiting list will be maintained by the Membership Coordinator.

In addition, at time of enrollment, a parent or responsible adult must be willing to actively participate in the troop, either as a Assistant Scoutmaster or Troop Committee member. At the time of a boy's registration into Troop 957, the designated adult must sign-up for a volunteer position.

Any exception to this policy must be approved by the Troop Committee.

Mission Statement of the Boy Scouts of America

"It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law."

The Aims and Methods of Scouting

Boy Scouting works toward three aims.

- One is growth in *moral strength and character*. We may define this as what the boy is – his personal qualities, his values, and his outlook.
- The second aim is *participating 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 to the government that presides over that society.
- The third aim is *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, and self-respect).

To accomplish these aims, Boy Scouting has developed its program using eight methods:

Ideals

The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, motto, and slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. If challenges occur within the Troop, we will work through solutions to the challenges using the guidance provided by these Scout ideals. We will also use one additional ideal from which essentially all others can be derived and that is the "Golden Rule".

Patrols

The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. Essentially the Patrol Method establishes a chain-of-command within the Scout Troop with information traveling up and

down the chain from the Senior Patrol Leader to the Patrol Leaders to the individual scouts. A Green Bar Patrol made up of the youth members (SPL, ASPL, and PLs) and advised by the adult leadership plans the program for the Troop.

Outdoors

Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. The Troop will provide opportunities for camping or other outdoor activities almost every month. Some of these activities may involve group camping with other Troops during District events. The Troop will attend at least one long-term summer camp each year. Since most teaching and leadership opportunities within Scouting are centered on the outdoor program, boys who do not participate in the outdoor program generally do not gain full benefit from the opportunities provided.

Advancement

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The Troop provides opportunities to complete advancement tasks on a regular basis; however it is up to the Scout to take advantage of those opportunities. If a Scout misses one opportunity, another will be available in a reasonable time period. Advancement is not required for participation; however advancement demonstrates the skills needed to participate in more advanced outdoor activities.

Adult Association

Boys learn from the example set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage of a young man's development. Scouts will have an opportunity to associate with adults during regularly occurring Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review, Service Projects, and during the earning of Merit Badges when Scouts meet with Merit Badge Counselors (MBC).

Personal Growth

As Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. The religious emblems program is also a large part of the personal growth method. The Troop will participate in several service projects each year including the Interfaith Caring Ministries food drive; Trash Bash, and other appropriate projects.

Leadership Development

Each Scout will have the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting. The Troop will not ask Scouts to take on adult responsibilities, but will instead ensure that the responsibilities that they undertake are ones that can be accomplished by the Scout. This can be looked upon as "Age Appropriate Leadership". Scouts will be given tools to help them accomplish these roles including both Troop-based Junior Leader Training Courses and BSA-based National Youth Leadership Training.

Uniform

The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good 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 who believe in the same ideals. The Troop expects that each Scout will wear a full uniform to all Troop functions (see more information later). Assistance from the Troop will be available to any family unable to purchase the full uniform with their available resources. Ultimately, the boy inside the uniform, rather than the uniform itself, is what is important.

The Troop Committee

The Troop Committee is generally made up of parents of the Scouts. The Troop Committee can be seen as the “administrative” part of the Troop. It is desired that a parent from each Scouting household participate with the Troop at some level, even if this is only to assist with phone calls or an occasional BOR. *Membership of parents or guardians is not mandated as a requirement for youth membership in the organization*

Chartered Organization Representative - The Chartered Organization Representative (COR) represents CLCC and is approved by the Church leadership.

Committee Chairman - The Chairman oversees the operation of the administrative side of the Troop and presides at committee meetings.

Secretary/Treasurer - The Secretary/Treasurer records minutes of committee meetings, maintains Troop accounts, manages Troop funds, and provides a statement of accounts on a regular basis. The Secretary/Treasurer works with the Troop Scribe.

Advancement Chairman – The Advancement Chairman maintains advancement records and schedules BORs.

Outdoor Activities Chairman – The Outdoor Activities chairman coordinates most aspects of the Troop’s outdoor program. A Transportation Coordinator and Camping Coordinator might work with the Outdoor Activities Chairman.

Merit Badge Counselor (MBC) Coordinator – Coordinates the approval of MBCs within the Troop and assists Scouts working on specific merit badges in locating MBCs.

Equipment Coordinator – Maintains Troop equipment and works with the Quartermaster.

Health & Safety Chairman – Maintains all health forms and ensures that they are kept updated.

Communications Coordinator – Assists in keeping parents and Scouts aware of upcoming events both within the Troop and outside through Council or private resources.

Fundraising Chairman – Coordinates all fundraising activities in the Troop.

Training Coordinator – Ensures all Leaders, both adult and Scout are provided with opportunities to attend Leadership Training Courses. It is a goal of Troop 957 that all adults active in the Committee or Scoutmaster Staff be “Trained”.

The Scoutmaster's Staff

The Scoutmaster's Staff consists of the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters. The Scoutmasters are responsible for working with the Green Bars to develop a program consistent with the goals of Scouting. The Scoutmasters are ex-officio members of the Troop Committee and are not permitted to serve on BORs. These positions may be shared with one person doing more than one task. Scoutmaster

Assistant Scoutmaster

Assistant Scoutmaster (First Year Program Coordinator)

Assistant Scoutmaster(s) (Patrol Liaison)

Assistant Scoutmaster(s) (High Adventure)

Assistant Scoutmaster (Logistics)

Patrol Leader's Council (PLC)

The Youth leaders of the troop meet regularly as a Green Bar Patrol to perform program planning. Annual planning also occurs to set dates for monthly camping and outdoor activities, troop meeting topics and instruction, advancement, and other events.

Troop Leadership Organization

Approximately every six months, the Troop Leadership changes with elections and appointments. The SM works with the SPL to ensure that Scouts have leadership opportunities for their advancement.

Required Positions

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL - elected by troop)
 Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL – appointed by SPL)
 Scribe (appointed by SPL)
 Quartermaster (appointed by SPL)
 Chaplain's Aide (appointed by SPL)
 Patrol Leaders (elected by patrol)
 Assistant Patrol Leader (appointed by PL)
 Patrol Quartermaster (appointed by PL)
 Patrol Scribe (appointed by PL)

Variable Positions

Troop Guide (FCE – appointed by SM))
 Instructor (appointed by SPL or SM)
 Librarian (appointed by SPL)
 Historian (appointed by SPL)
 Bugler (appointed by SPL)
 Den Chiefs (selected by SM)
 Junior Asst Scoutmaster(s) (appt by SM)

Other elected and/or appointed offices as determined necessary and defined in the Standing Rules

Guidelines**Member Expectations**

Work hard, play fair, respect all that is around you, and live by the Scout Oath and Law

Stay in contact with your patrol leader. If you miss a meeting, call and find out what happened.

Participate as much as you can and you will get the most benefit. A very full Troop program will be built and it is up to the Scout and his family to prioritize participation. Youth leaders are held to a higher participation standard.

Parents are welcome and need to participate. We encourage parents to become registered and trained leaders, and perform whatever tasks they can perform. Every little bit helps! Parents are always welcome at all Troop meetings and activities. Parents should ensure that the booklet exercises in the front of the BSA Handbook are reviewed with their Scout. Parents should understand though that the Troop is run by the Scouts and that they need to allow the Scouts to handle issues that may arise.

Occasionally, a Scout will decide to leave the Troop. Call us and let us know. If there's a problem, let us know before it gets to the "point-of-no-return".

Scouts are expected to show mutual respect for one-another and Leaders at all times. In the event that this expectation is forgotten, a Scout may be counseled and in certain circumstances may be asked to attend events with a parent that is able to remind him of this obligation. No individual's behavior will be allowed to interfere with others ability to participate in Troop activities.

Advancement

Scouts are responsible for their own advancement and maintenance of records in their Scout Handbook. The Troop will make an effort to maintain a separate record but the Scout needs to not rely on this. All pocket and "blue" merit badge completion cards need to be maintained by the Scout in a safe place.

Scouts should record service hours, campouts, troop activities, and leadership positions in his handbook or other logbook.

Remember that Scout skills cannot be mastered by performing them just once. A Scout will have many opportunities to practice each skill, and will be thoroughly tested before it is "signed off". A Scout should expect to practice each skill repeatedly, even after it has been signed off. As he progresses, a Scout will also have opportunities to teach these skills to less experienced Scouts, which will further reinforce his knowledge and skill.

Scoutmaster Conferences (SMC) will be scheduled as soon as a Scouts readiness for a rank can be verified. SMC's are usually held during camping events but can be scheduled at any time.

Boards of Review (BOR) are generally available at the Troop Meeting after camping events. Scouts should attend in a full dress uniform. This is not a retest but is a review of the Scouts progress in Scouting and a review of the Troop program through the Scout's eyes.

A Scout's relative may not sign advancement, perform his SMC, nor sit on his BOR.

Rank patches will generally be awarded at the first opportunity following completion of a BOR. The pocket cards will be awarded at the next Court of Honor (COH). Merit Badges will only be awarded at a COH. Completed MB cards are due to the Scoutmaster one-week prior to the COH.

BSA Advancement Policy and Procedures will be followed.

Merit Badges

Earning merit badges allows Scouts to explore many fields, helps them round out their skills, and introduces them to subjects that may become lifelong interests or a rewarding career.

There are about 120 merit badges for Scouts to choose from. Scouts may work toward earning any merit badge at any time, once they have gotten Scoutmaster approval. Scouts do not need to be a certain rank, nor wait for someone to tell them which merit badge to work on. Information on merit badge requirements is in the merit badge pamphlet and the current BSA Requirements book.

Sometimes the requirements for a merit badge will change from those listed in the MB pamphlet. The controlling requirements are those found in the Requirements Book that is published each year. MB pamphlets can still be used as a reference material to learn about the subject. All of them are available for purchase from the Scout Shop. When a Scout finishes using merit badge pamphlets that they own, we encourage Scouts to donate the pamphlets to the troop library.

Here are the steps to earning a merit badge:

- Contact the Scoutmaster and request permission to begin work on a Merit Badge. He will provide you with a blue merit badge card and the name and phone number of a counselor (or you may request to use a particular counselor). Fill in your name and address on the blue card. The Scoutmaster's signature indicates that you have approval to work on that merit badge. In rare cases, the Scoutmaster might counsel the Scout on his choice of merit badge.
- Call the counselor and set up an appointment and decide on a meeting place. Along with a buddy (another Scout, a family member, or a friend), meet with the counselor. The counselor will explain the requirements and help the Scout get started.
- The Scout works on the badge requirements until he completes them. The Scout meets with the counselor (along with his buddy) whenever necessary. The Scout keeps the merit badge card until all the requirements are completed and the counselor has signed the card. If the Scout loses this card, he will have to start the badge over unless the counselor is willing and able to vouch for what the Scout has already completed. There is no time limit for completing a merit badge, except that all requirements must be completed and the MB Card signed by the Scout's 18th birthday. If a Scout changes counselors for any reason, it is up to the new counselor to decide if he will accept the work the Scout did with the previous counselor.
- After signing the merit badge card, the counselor will detach his section and return the rest of the blue card to the Scout. It is the responsibility of the Scout to bring the rest of the card to the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster will keep the troop section and return the Scout section to the Scout for his personal records. The Advancement Chair includes the merit badge in the Troop's advancement report.
- The Scout will receive his merit badge at the next Court of Honor.

Uniforms

In general the Field Uniform is worn for all Troop meetings; travel to and from campouts, evening dinner and flag ceremonies, and the Scouts Own Worship Service. Depending on the activity, a neckerchief and slide may not be required with the Field Uniform. Fancy Neckerchiefs and Slides should be reserved for Dress Uniform occasions. The uniform requirement for an activity will be distributed by the Green Bars to the members. Uniform rules are usually relaxed during summer months.

Clothing with alcohol or tobacco advertisements, t-shirts with material not consistent with the Scout Oath or Law, and camouflage clothing are not acceptable wear. There may be unavoidable situations where a Scout may have problems attending a meeting in uniform. This would most commonly involve a Scout

coming to a meeting from a seasonal sports event. Scouts are encouraged to bring their uniform and change in the restroom if this becomes necessary.

Uniforms are one of the eight methods of Scouting and will be used by the Troop. There are four classes of uniforms available for Troop use. The following table shows the items used for each uniform type.

	Dress	Field	Utility	"Grubbies"
BSA Uniform Shirt w/ correct patches sheets	X	X		
Scout related T-Shirt			X	X
BSA Shorts, Slacks, or Switchbacks(recommended) w/ Scout Belt	X	X	X	
Socks (BSA green with red band)	X	X	X	
Shoes appropriate for activity	X	X	X	X
Neckerchief & Slide	X	X		
Pins and Medals, Name Badge, MB Sash	X			
Work shirt, blue jeans, etc.				X

Campouts and other events

Campout or other event commitment (decision to attend the campout) occurs at the Troop Meeting approximately 10 days prior to the event. This time is needed to ensure adequate supplies, equipment, and planning is completed prior to departure. The campout fee (usually \$10) or other event fee is due at that time. Commitment forms will be available prior to the due date and should be completed and attached to the fee. A note on the form can be used to indicate that the fees are to be withdrawn from the Scout's Passbook Account.

If a Scout has registered and paid for an event, but is unable to go due to sickness or other reason, a portion of the fees may be refunded to the Scouts Passbook Account based on avoidable costs.

The patrol's Grubmaster for the outing has responsibility for purchasing and packing the patrol's food. It is up to the Patrol to ensure that the Grubmaster is repaid for these purchases and that the amount budgeted for the food is not exceeded. The Grubmaster is responsible if funds in excess of those budgeted are spent for food.

The Grubmaster will also take an ice chest and a food box home from the pre-campout Troop Meeting. Perishable food can be brought from home to the campout without ice and ice will be added to the chest from the church's icemaker. Other food should be stored in the food box.

Leftover non-perishable food should be stored by the patrol in their food box for reuse on future campouts. Perishable food remaining after a campout should be distributed to patrol members to be consumed or destroyed.

A list of personal equipment needed by Scouts is in the BSA Handbook and may be supplemented with one from the Troop.

The following rules are in place to protect the Scouts and to maintain compliance with the Guide to Safe Scouting.

- Knives and axes may not be used until the Scout has earned the Totin' Chip.
- Inappropriate or oversized knives will not be allowed.
- Stoves and fires may not be lit, without adult supervision, nor may a Scout possess matches until he has earned the Firem'n Chit.
- Scouts that are unsafe with wood tools or fire will lose their privilege to use these items until they satisfactorily demonstrate that they can comply with the appropriate safety and use rules.

Radios, CD players, and other electronic equipment will only be allowed in vehicles during travel to and from events with the permission of the driver. During the event, these items will be locked in vehicles. The Troop is not responsible for any damage or loss of these items.

Scouts should plan to eat prior to arriving for a campout. Since most campsites are relatively close to Houston, Scouts will not eat Sunday lunch on the way home. This may vary with different campouts and will be noted on the commitment forms. Soft drinks and/or candy use will be decided on a campout-by-campout basis.

There are very few items that will get a Scout sent home immediately; however there will be zero-tolerance for possession of smoking materials, alcohol, or illegal drugs.

Adults who must smoke or use tobacco products will be required to do so completely out of view of Scouts for the duration of the campout and may be subject to other rules for specific camps.

Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Chairman is responsible to ensure that Health and Safety Requirements are followed by all participants.

All registered youths and adults must have turned in a complete BSA Medical Form prior to participating in any Troop events. A completed form includes immunization data and a signed permission to treat. Immunization data needs to be transcribed from the Scouts "shot records" onto the BSA form. Most camps are now requiring copies of insurance cards for participants. A copy of the front and back of the participant's insurance card should also be provided to the troop.

Class 1 – required for all persons that will be attending an event that lasts 72-hours or less. This includes non-camping committee members and does not require a physical exam

Class 2 – required of all youth and adults less than 41 years old for events that are greater than 72-hours long. The Class 2 Medical Form requires a physical exam.

Class 3 – required of all adults over 40 years old and for youth attending high adventure activities.

Special Medical Exams – certain camps (Philmont, Florida Sea Base, etc.) may require special medical forms to be completed prior to allowing attendance.

When in doubt as to whether to use the Class 2 or Class 3 Medical Form, the Class 3 is recommended since both require a physical exam.

Medication use is the responsibility of the parent and Scout. However, the parents should notify the Scoutmaster Staff of any required medications prior to any activity or campout. Detailed dosing procedures should be provided. Medications need to be in an original, properly labeled prescription bottle. A Scoutmaster may, if comfortable, elect to assist in administering the medications.

Scouts take medications for a variety of reasons. Parents will at times decide to allow their child to refrain from taking medications during non-school days. The ability of the Scout to appropriately participate in a Scouting event in a safe, responsible manner should be considered by the parent prior to a medication vacation. Parents should be aware that a Scout might lose the very opportunities that they desire for their child because of safety or behavioral issues. This is a family decision, however parents should discuss possible results of this decision with the Scoutmaster Staff.

Parents should also inform the Scoutmaster in advance about any special needs of a Scout, including dietary restrictions, bedwetting, sleepwalking, acute homesickness, etc. Not telling the Scoutmaster about these actions could lead to an unsafe situation for more than just the Scout. If, in the opinion of the Scoutmaster Staff, a Scout's medical conditions will place him at excessive risk for participation in a given activity, the Scoutmaster Staff can decline to include that Scout in that activity or can require the Scout's parent to attend and be present with the Scout during the activity.

Fundraising

The Troop Fundraising Chairman is responsible for coordinating fundraising activities by the Troop. The Troop will participate in several fundraising events each year. It is through fundraising that the Troop is able to purchase equipment and supplies for the Troop activities and Scouts are expected to be active

participants in the fundraising activities. Generally, for fundraisers where a Scout sells products by himself, ½ the profit from those sales will be placed in the Scouts "passbook" account. In the event that the Troop sells products during a group sales event, other event-to-event procedures will be approved by the Troop Committee.

Scout "Passbook" Accounts

Each Scout will have a "passbook" account maintained by the Troop into which proceeds from fundraisers will be placed. Money from this account can be used for any troop activity expenses, to pay restitution for damage to troop or other property, or for the purchase of Scouting related equipment or uniforms. IRS rules prohibit the distribution of the funds as cash to the Scout.

If a Scout leaves the Troop, monies remaining in the "passbook" account will be moved to the Troop's general fund either at recharter or after 6-months of inactivity by the Scout, whichever is greater. A Scout can request that funds from his account be transferred to another Scout Troop should the Scout transfer. In the event the Scout has reached the rank of Eagle and has not joined NESAs, the Troop will use the funds to purchase a membership for the departing Scout with excess funds going to the general fund.

Parents can put money in the account so the scout can "charge" camping fees. Under certain conditions these funds can be refunded if a Scout is unable to attend the camp as planned. Each camp has different rules that will be provided with the commitment forms.

Reimbursement

If Scouts or parents pay for approved equipment or fees for the Troop then they can request reimbursement from the Treasurer. A reimbursement request form from the Treasurer should be completed and turned in with the receipt. Reasons for the expense can be provided on the form. Certain expenses such as those for camping related fees can be reimbursed without further approval. Equipment and supplies purchases may require Committee approval prior to reimbursement.

Youth Protection

BSA Youth Protection Requirements will be followed during all Troop activities. All adults (whether registered with BSA or not) will be required to complete online YPT and to renew it yearly, prior to attending any long term camps with the Troop.

Disaster Preparedness

As we have recently seen, Boy Scouts may be called upon to assist during local, regional, or national disasters. The Scout Oath contains the promise "to help other people at all times." This plan establishes how the Troop will be mobilized quickly to provide this service and will be exercised periodically.

Procedure:

- Scoutmaster receives and approves a request for assistance and notifies the Senior Patrol Leader to mobilize the troop. The Scoutmaster contacts other adult leaders.
- The Senior Patrol Leader initiates a troop phone tree to inform the members of the request. Information will include the nature of the request, assembly time, expected duration of activity, and needed personal equipment. The meeting place will be CLCC unless otherwise noted.
- Scouts should dress appropriately for the weather and task at-hand, and bring a daypack containing their outdoor essentials. The scout uniform will be worn unless otherwise directed.
- Available members of the troop gather at the assembly point at the appointed time. Attendance will be taken so that the leadership is aware of and can account for all participants.
- The Senior Patrol Leader or his designate takes charge of the group and provides detailed information on the activity to the patrol leaders along with an action plan.
- Safety is of prime importance and the buddy system will be in use at all times.

High Adventure Requirements

In order to ensure participant safety and competence, the following minimum requirements have been established to participate in any High Adventure activity while a member of Troop 957. Final approval for any Scout to participate in a high adventure activity rests with the Scoutmaster.

- General Requirements:
- Current Class 3 Physical
- First Class Rank
- First Aid Merit Badge
- Camping Merit Badge
- Have demonstrated leadership skills
- Consistently demonstrate Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Law

Land Based High Adventure

- Meet one of the following requirements
 - a) Orienteering Merit Badge
 - b) Complete a Houston Orienteering Club "Red" course (all control points within the time limit)
 - c) Score 320 points on the Bastrop SP Scout "O" Challenge with one ophter team mate.
- Wilderness Survival Merit Badge
- Meet these additional requirements based on the type activity

Hiking

- Hiking Merit Badge – Req 1-4, plus 5 & 7 (two hikes) ('05 requirements)
- Backpacking Merit Badge – Req 1-10 ('05 requirements)

Horse/Mule

- Horsemanship Merit Badge

Climbing

- Climbing Merit Badge

Water Based High Adventure

- Pass the BSA Swimmer Test within 1-month of departure
- Swimming Merit Badge
- Lifesaving Merit Badge – Req 1-6 & 12-15 ('05 requirements)
- Meet these additional requirements based on the type activity

Flatwater Canoeing

- Canoeing Merit Badge
- Wilderness Survival Merit Badge

Whitewater

- Canoeing Merit Badge
- Whitewater Merit Badge or have completed the Red Cross Basic River Course
- Wilderness Survival Merit Badge

Sailing

- Small Boat Sailing Merit Badge

Snorkeling

- Earn Snorkeling BSA Award or be Scuba certified by a national organization (PADI, NAUI, etc.)

Scuba

- Earn Scuba BSA Award or be certified by a nationally organizaton (PADI, NAUI, etc.)