

# Troop 50 FAQ's

	Question	Answer
1	<p>What is a boy led Troop?</p> <p>Is Troop 50 a boy led Troop?</p>	<p>One of the methods of Scouting is leadership development. To facilitate that the scouts themselves are the leaders of the troop. A boy-led troop certainly means a lot of work by the adults as well. Adults are there to coach and mentor the Scouts as they work through all the necessary steps to lead the Troop.</p> <p>"Empowering boys to be leaders is the core of Scouting. Scouts learn by doing, and what they do is lead their patrols and their troop. The boys themselves develop a troop program, then take responsibility for figuring out how they will achieve the goals. One of our most important challenges is to train boy leaders to run the troop by providing direction, coaching and support. The boys will make mistakes now and then and will rely upon the adult leaders to guide them. But only through real hands-on experience as leaders can boys learn to lead." - from the Scoutmaster's Handbook.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes, Troop 50 is a boy led troop.</p>
2	<p>What is the reason for camping permission slips?</p>	<p>Camping permission slips allow us to gauge the youth and adult participation for an upcoming trip. This includes drivers to and from the event as needed. It is very important to get these forms in on time so we are not rushed at the last minute with trip details. The form also serves as permission to administer some over the counter medications, provides emergency contact information, etc.</p>
3	<p>How often do we go on camping trips?</p>	<p>In general there is a trip each month except for December where we usually have a day trip and the July and August timeframes where we will normally have Summer Camp and Planning Weekend. Planning Weekend does not include the entire Troop. Consult the Troop calendar for our schedule for the year. <a href="http://www.t50bsa.org">www.t50bsa.org</a></p>
4	<p>When the troop comes home from a camping trip why does it take so long before my Scout can leave?</p>	<p>There are many things that happen when we return from a trip. The group normally will need to empty the trailer and distribute gear to be taken home to be cleaned, return gear to the shed, etc. We are also keeping track of everyone that was on the trip to ensure we have accounted for everyone. Everyone must stay to help until the SPL gives their patrol leader permission to dismiss their patrol. Everyone is responsible for the care of troop gear and for working as a patrol and a troop. As seen in many of these questions, we are teaching responsibility along with having fun.</p>
5	<p>Does my Scout need to stay for the whole trip when you go camping or to summer camp?</p>	<p>No, but it is best for him to be involved in as much of the trip as possible. If he will show up late or leave early, please make sure that the trip leader is aware of this beforehand and also when he leaves or returns. There are a lot of priorities that need to be worked through and we understand that. At some point there may be tough decisions that need to be made around priorities.</p>
6	<p>Who decides on the activities for the month? For the year?</p>	<p>Around the June timeframe, each member of the Troop completes an annual survey. This includes opportunities to provide feedback about completed activities and what they would like to do in the future. Each August several Scouts and adults get together and talk about the plans for the upcoming year. There are trips that are consistently on the schedule every year and there are also new ideas. Consideration is also given to survey responses as well as council and district events if those dates are known at the time of our planning weekend.</p> <p>The monthly schedule is based off of the yearly plan and is worked on during the monthly PLC meeting. Generally the activities prior to a camping trip are dedicated to the skills needed for that upcoming trip.</p>
7	<p>What is a PLC or a TLC?</p>	<p>A PLC is a Patrol Leaders Council meeting and a TLC is a Troop Leaders Council meeting. These are held once a month to plan the upcoming activities and to discuss troop happenings. Participation is important!</p>
8	<p>How are payments made for trips?</p>	<p>Each trip will have information about payments on the permission slip. Some are simple and others get a little complex. Read the permission slip carefully to see where money should be given and in what form (cash or check). If the form says, \$5 cash to your patrol leader and \$5 cash/check to trip coordinator, please do not write a single check for \$10. The cash to the patrol leader is for the purchase of food for the trip which is normally done by patrol. The money to the trip adult is to cover camping fees or rentals, etc. Giving the patrol leader a check or combining all money due will cause delay and complication. It is suggested to put your patrol food payment in a clearly marked envelope and your permission slip and payment in separate envelope. Clearly mark with your name, the trip and what the money is for.</p> <p>Larger trips like summer camp or high adventure trips have a payment plan to follow. It is OK for a patrol to get together and put in a little extra money depending on their menu plans but this should be done as an agreement from the whole patrol. A Scout can use his account to pay for trips.</p>
9	<p>How is information distributed to parents?</p>	<p>Information is available on the website and at meetings during announcements. Flyers and permission slips that are sent home contain information. There is also usually a weekly email from the Scoutmaster that provides information. There are also messages that should be provided directly to your Scout from his patrol leader / troop guide. See more about those messages in another question.</p>
10	<p>T50 website?</p>	<p>Yes! Please visit <a href="http://www.t50bsa.org">www.t50bsa.org</a> for information.</p>

11	What is on the bulletin board?	The bulletin board contains permission slips for current trips, a record of patrol progress toward honor patrol and additional troop information. Take a minute and look at the board now and then.
12	Weekly Scoutmaster email?	Our Scoutmaster tries to send a weekly email to keep everyone informed; however, his email is not the main source of information for your Scout. Scouts should be getting information at meetings and through troop phone messages. Please contact the Scoutmaster if you are not getting his emails.
13	What's up with Troop Messages?  Can I get information to tell my Scout what is going on in the Troop? What are messages? Why can't the information be emailed out to make it easier?	You will often hear the subject of messages come up. Who got messages? What was the content of messages?  Messages are a tool to keep everyone informed of upcoming events. They are usually very specific to the next upcoming meeting. What to wear, what is due, where we'll be, etc. What is also being taught here is responsibility. Messages start at the top with the SPL (Senior Patrol Leader) and they are to trickle down through the troop until eventually everyone is informed. This allows the patrol leader and those upstream of him to do their job around troop communication. Messages are not a one way communication though and all Scouts have a responsibility with messages. When Scouts get messages they should write them down. The SPL begins the process of communication. If your Scout has not received messages by Tuesday night, he should be on the phone trying to contact his patrol leader or troop guide to get them. If he can't get in touch with his immediate leadership, he should follow the path of leadership and contact the next leader in line until he gets what he needs. He should call his patrol leader or troop guide or the assistant first. From there he should contact someone from the youth leadership group up to and including the SPL.
14	How can I get involved? How can I become a leader?	Frequent comment: I don't know any of the leaders and they all seem to have known each other for years. We are happy to help you get involved in a number of ways. It may seem that we've known each other for years and in some cases that is true, but there is always room for another adult to get involved. There are many responsibilities that you can get involved with. You can be a member of the committee, or lead a trip, or help with the banquet or pancake breakfast, etc. Please ask the Scoutmaster or the committee chairman how you can get involved.
15	What is a blue card?	A blue card is a necessary piece of documentation when working on a merit badge. It is a 3 part form and has some redundant information on it but that is by design. When the merit badge is completed the form is separated and the different sections are headed in different directions. It is important to fill out all of the information clearly. The Scout must get the Scoutmaster's signature before he begins work on a merit badge. Scouts can get the forms from his patrol advisor.
16	What is a PRB?	A PRB is a progress review board. This is also known as a board of review (BOR). This board is a conversation between the Scout and usually 3 adults from the troop. This is the final step in the advancement for each rank. Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Palm boards are conducted at the troop level. The Eagle board will be held at the district level.
17	Why do we collect dues?	Dues are collected each week. Remembering to bring them is part of being a responsible Scout. The money raised can be used to buy patrol patches and other items.
18	What is a Scout account?	A Scout account is where money is placed for each Scout when they participate in troop fundraising. They can use these funds to pay for Scouting related items like gear, summer camp or other trips, etc. To use these funds they are to meet with the youth troop treasurer and fill out the proper form.
19	Who is my Scout supposed to work with?	Your Scout will be in a patrol and he should work with his patrol leader / troop guide and the rest of his patrol. He will also work with the Scoutmaster or an assistant Scoutmaster at times. He will be taught what the chain of command is and he should follow that until he gets what he needs.  As a parent you can help out and encourage your Scout but the responsibility is theirs to complete requirements, pack their bag, take care of gear, etc.
20	Who should my Scout go to if he has an issue with his patrol leader, etc.?	There are several people he can contact if there are issues. He can talk to his patrol leader or assistant patrol leader. He can talk to any of the Scouts that are in the leadership patrol as well. Your Scout can also talk with the patrol advisor, the Scoutmaster or any other troop adult he feels comfortable talking to.  We can only work on things that we are aware of so please make sure to speak up.
21	Why do I hear adults say "Have you asked your patrol leader?"	Adults are often asked questions that should be addressed by the patrol leader. The patrol leader is learning how to lead and the Scout with the question is being taught how to follow a chain of command, self sufficiency and procedures. Your Scout should ask his patrol leader first. If the patrol leader does not know the answer, he is supposed to find the answer. The adults will certainly answer questions immediately if for example there is a safety issue. Questions like "When are we going to eat?" or "Where are we camping?" or "What are we doing now?" are questions that their patrol leader should be able to answer and are responsible for answering.

22	How is a patrol organized? What are their roles?	<p>A patrol is created at reorganization or when new cub Scouts cross over into our troop. New Scouts will be assigned a patrol and a troop guide to lead them. Other patrols are organized by finding the Scouts that are qualified and willing to be a patrol leader. The rest of the Scouts within the troop are able to select which patrol leader they will be with for the year. There is a leadership patrol as well that is made up of more senior Scouts from the troop.</p> <p>Patrols are individual groups but they are all part of the same troop. There are many things that are accomplished by using the patrol method. Leadership is one item learned in the patrol method but there are many other advantages. Get involved...find out more!</p>
23	What do the Troop adults do?	The troop adults do a lot of different tasks. There are adult patrol advisors, and adults that work with the quartermasters, committee members, the Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmasters, etc. We are all here to work with the Scouts to ensure we have a quality and safe program.
24	Can adults go on camping trips? How much experience do I need?	<p>Yes adults can go on camping trips! No experience necessary. You can talk with any of the adults if you'd like to understand more about what you'll need to do on a particular trip. The troop may have enough gear to let the adults use as well, but it may be necessary for you to provide your own tent. Please check with the trip leader as the situation will be different for each trip.</p> <p>We will ask anyone going on a trip or two to complete online youth protection training at a minimum. If you will be going on many of the trips or on a longer duration trip like summer camp or high adventure, you will be asked to register with the troop. This will ensure you are covered by Scouting insurance and that you receive proper additional training.</p>
25	Are the Troop adults professional Scouts?	No. The adults of the troop are volunteers. Many have Scouts in the troop currently or had Scouts in the troop in the past.
26	Does my Scout have to go to summer camp?	No, but it is highly recommended that they do. There are so many things that are learned and accomplished at summer camp it is hard to list them all here. There are the merit badges they will work on, the friends they will make, to begin with. This may be the only time they spend away from their family. They will learn to take care of themselves if they haven't learned that already. Scouts that go to summer camp normally will advance beyond those that do not go and they are often the ones who stay in the Scouting program.
27	What do patrol advisors do?	Patrol advisors are adults that work directly with patrols. The advisor helps the patrol leader / troop guide in understanding what they should be accomplishing, how to plan, etc.
28	What is the OA?	<p>The OA is the Order of the Arrow. The OA recognizes Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Arrowmen are known for maintaining camping traditions and spirit, promoting year-round and long term resident camping, and providing cheerful service to others.</p> <p>This is a group that Scouts are elected to by other Scouts. Adults are also elected to be a part of the OA. Scouts elected to the OA are an example to other Scouts and very involved with the troop. At the troop banquet in February there is a tap out ceremony that is held. The Troop election is held a week or so before the banquet. Candidates have 1 year from their election to attend an OA weekend to participate in their ordeal. After the ordeal is completed the ordeal member must wait 10 months and then he can attend another OA event to seal his membership in brotherhood. Of course he can attend any other OA events during that time as well. There are many opportunities to OA members including High Adventure opportunities.</p>
29	What is a Quartermaster?	There are one or more Scout quartermasters. They work with one or more adults. Their job is to take care of and keep track of all the troop gear. This is a very time consuming job but also a job where a Scout learns a great deal. Everyone can make the Quartermaster job easier by being on time when returning gear, ensuring it has been taken care of properly, reporting any problems with gear, etc.
30	What does the SPL do?	The SPL (Senior Patrol Leader) is the Scout in charge of the Troop. He works with his leadership team and the other youth troop leaders on everything from trips to regular meetings. The SPL also works closely with the adult troop leadership, especially the Scoutmaster, on trips, meetings, etc. He's the guy you'll see calling everyone to order at meetings or giving out information on trips, etc. It's a tough job but he learns a lot!!
31	What happens in a committee meeting?	Lots of things! You may hear Eagle project proposals, reports about fundraisers, reports on upcoming events and trips, reports from committee members, the Scoutmaster, the treasurer, etc.
32	What is a Den Chief?	A Den Chief is a Scout who is trained as a Den Chief and then works with a Cub Scout den from a nearby Pack. This is often one of the first leadership positions for a Scout.
33	Will my Scout be in the same patrol for the whole time he's a Boy Scout?	No. Troop 50 reorganizes each year. There will be a new SPL elected, new leadership members and new patrols formed. Your Scout will have the ability to decide which patrol he will be in at reorganization time unless he is a first year Scout. First year Scouts are placed together with a Troop Guide as the leader of their patrol.

34	What the heck is a gear goo?	These sessions are held after a camping trip where Troop gear was used. The expectation is that Scouts bring back gear that was used. They should have taken the gear home from the trip and cleaned it as needed. This can include tents, pots, etc. NOTE: Adults, it is OK to help your Scout in this task, but the responsibility is his. You should not be doing the cleaning for him.
35	How does Troop 50 raise money?  Does my Scout have to sell popcorn?	The Troop holds a pancake breakfast once a year to raise funds for the Troop. This is the primary fundraiser for the Troop. Some of the money from his ticket sales is allocated to his Scout account based on his sales of tickets and a communicated set of rules around timing and percentages. It is expected that each Scout will sell 1 packet of tickets. It is OK to help your Scout with sales, but the responsibility is his. He's learning from having contact with others.  Other fundraising is performed by the Troop for high adventure trips, Eagle projects, etc. Popcorn is a supplementary fundraiser and is not required. Participation in pancake ticket sales is to take precedence.
36	Does my Scout have to take the swim test? Do adults have to take it?	Taking the swim test helps classify our Scouts as nonswimmers, beginners, and swimmers. This is necessary information on any activity near or on the water. Additionally there is a requirement in Second Class that will require your Scout to swim a short distance and First Class requires passing the BSA Swimmers test. If there are concerns please make sure you let the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair know. Adults must take the swim test for classification of swimming ability if they plan to be involved in an activity on the water.
37	What is a merit badge? Why does my Scout need to earn them?	A merit badge is an achievement that can be earned by a Scout. There are many badges available to be earned. Some are required to become an Eagle Scout and some are not. Eagle required badges are also necessary to become a Star or Life Scout. The variety of badges gives the Scout the opportunity to try different things. We often talk about Scouts finding a hobby from the merit badge program or even finding something that may end up being their career.
38	Why is so much attention put on Scouts being in uniform?  Do Uniform pieces need to be new?	The uniform is an emblem of Scouting. By dressing alike the Scouts show that they are equals and a member of a common group. The uniform is also a sign to others and to yourself that you have committed to live by the Scout oath and law. We pride ourselves on wearing the full uniform. When a Scout fails to wear the uniform properly it indicates a lack of commitment to the oath and law. If there is any issue with being able to afford uniform parts, please visit our uniform closet and also speak with a troop adult. Scouts can use their account to buy uniform parts too. If a Scout is looking for a way to show his individuality, it should be done by earning a merit badge or some other achievement that not many Scouts earn. Their right pocket is also a spot for temporary patches that can help show individuality.  Uniform parts do not need to be new. Old Del-Mar-Va council patches can be worn as well as the older style of pants to name a few. For example, the new zip off pants are nice but are not a requirement. If you have questions, please ask.
39	What is a Class A uniform? Class B? Class C?	A field uniform or as we call it a Class A uniform is the Scout shirt with all the proper patches, troop neckerchief, appropriate neckerchief slide, Scout pants, Scout belt, Scout socks and appropriate shoes (closed toe and heel). If a hat is worn it must be a Scout related hat. The activity uniform or class B is the troop t-shirt, Scout pants, Scout belt, white or Scout socks and appropriate shoes. A class C uniform is any Scout related t-shirt and the rest is the same as class B.
40	What is a High Adventure trip?	High adventure is usually one trip per year. At times there will be a second offering. These trips are several days in length up to possibly 2 weeks. They are generally farther away than a normal camping trip and involve activities that are suited to older Scouts. These trips also include a rank requirement. These can include trips to established Scouting high adventure bases or might be something we plan ourselves.
41	What are "High Adventures" and "Low cost high adventures"?	See the question about "What is a High Adventure trip?" This will answer some questions. Some of the trips are in the range of \$1400 to \$2000 depending on the location, length, etc. When a higher cost trip is offered there may also be a lower cost trip planned, but that will not always be the case. Lower cost trips are still longer in duration than a regular trip and involve activities for older Scouts that are a specific rank or more, and are usually \$300 or \$400. Each trip will have specific details and costs. Please note that personal gear required for these trips is not included in the cost.

42	What Medical form do we use and why?	<p>We use the current Annual Health and Medical Record from the Boy Scouts of America. The form is updated regularly so we need to use the current form. The form is available on our website (<a href="http://www.t50bsa.org">www.t50bsa.org</a>) and also on the National website (<a href="http://www.Scouting.org/Scoutsource/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx">http://www.Scouting.org/Scoutsource/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx</a>). Websites are constantly changing so a search for the form might be needed.</p> <p>There may be a different form used for a high adventure base. Each trip will tell you what form is needed. The Annual Health and Medical Record has 4 parts. For a regular weekend trip you will only need to complete parts A and B. There is no doctor signature required. For a trip that will last longer than 72 hours part C must be completed and signed by a medical professional as detailed on the form. Part D is to be reviewed by the participant if they are going on a high adventure trip and should be shared with the medical professional. These requirements are for youth and adults.</p> <p>The medical form must be completed each year. A med form is valid for 12 calendar months. Please coordinate getting this done as early as possible but we understand you may need to coordinate the completion of this form along with forms for school.</p>
43	How are medicines administered on camping trips?	<p>An adult meds officer is selected at the beginning of any trip. Medications (in their original containers) are put in a plastic bag and marked with the Scout's name. They are given to the med officer when we are gathering to leave. The exception here is for things like an inhaler or epi pen that must be kept with the Scout. An extra should be given to the meds officer in these cases.</p> <p>The meds officer will ensure that the medicine is administered based on the instructions given.</p> <p>Want to help this process go better? Talk to your Scout and make sure he knows when his medicine is to be taken and have him look for the meds officer at that time rather than the meds officer having to track him down. Additionally, please do not change medications or stop prescription medications near the time of a trip especially a long term camping trip like summer camp or high adventure. If medications change near a trip please let the meds officer and trip leader know. THANK YOU!</p> <p>There may be special instructions depending on the trip. Please keep an eye out for these.</p>
44	What if my Scout has allergies to certain foods?	<p>Please make sure this is noted on their medical form and also make sure to let the adults know. Your Scout should also communicate this. The more communication the better! The patrol will need to take this into account when they are shopping for a trip and depending on the severity we'll need to ensure we are ready for any unexpected issues. This can be noted on permission slips as well.</p> <p>This should not hold your Scout back from participating. We'll make any necessary arrangements needed.</p>
45	How is food purchased for camping trips? What if my Scout spends more than the patrol collected?	<p>Food is purchased by someone within the patrol. They may be referred to as the grub master. This may be a different person for each trip. The patrol should plan a menu as early as possible and decide how many of the patrol are going. If they do this early they may be able to be more THRIFTY and find better deals. This can be a challenging endeavor due to the need to combine patrols and late sign ups.</p> <p>There may be trips where only certain meals are provided at the patrol level. Consult each trip permission slip for details.</p> <p>What if they spend too much? This happens often. The Scout buying the food should keep track while shopping of what is being spent so he will not spend too much. If it happens, he should tell his patrol and they should make up the difference. Any issues with this should be discussed with the patrol advisor and troop leadership as necessary. This is another place where lessons are learned. With that in mind, please allow your Scout or group of Scouts to do the shopping themselves. You can guide them through the process but you should <b>not</b> do this for them.</p>
46	What is a Jamboree and how often are they?	<p>There are World Jamborees, National Jamborees and also Council Jamborees. These are opportunities to interact with Scouts from the council, the nation or from around the world. Jamboree's have many activities and opportunities to earn awards and experience many different activities, etc. The National Jamboree is a high adventure program and will have age and rank requirements. The Council Jamboree will include all Scouts. National and World Jamborees are usually every 4 years.</p>
47	What is a "District" and a "Council"?	<p>Troop 50 is in the Iron Hill district of the Del-Mar-Va council. A district is made up of units (packs, troops, etc.) from a specific region. Iron Hill is generally made up of the Newark, Middletown, Odessa, and Townsend areas. We have a professional Scouter to work with that is in charge of our district. He is our district executive. There are many volunteers that are on our district committee as well. Our council is made up of several districts across the Delaware, Maryland and Virginia areas. For more information you can refer to <a href="http://www.delmarvacouncil.org">www.delmarvacouncil.org</a>.</p>

48	What Training do adults need?	<p>National has made recent changes (January 2012) on the course requirements to be considered "Trained". Del-Mar-Va Council Training policy requires that 100% of all direct-contact leaders be trained within 90 days of becoming registered.</p> <p>Depending on your registered position, there are several classes to take. Many of these can be completed online. Some may need to be in person. You can refer to the training section of the council website for further information. <a href="http://www.delmarvacouncil.org">www.delmarvacouncil.org</a></p> <p>For example, for an assistant Scoutmaster to be considered trained, they must take Youth Protection, Scoutmaster and Assistant Specifics, and Intro to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS).</p> <p>There may be other classes that you need to take depending on activities you will be involved in. An example would be Wilderness First Aid for a high adventure trip or Safe Swim Defense, etc.</p> <p>YOUTH PROTECTION will always be the first to get done as soon as possible. Please talk with our Scoutmaster and/or our Committee Chairman to decide what position you should register for. Thanks for volunteering!</p>
49	What is Youth Protection training?	<p>Youth Protection is one of the basic training classes required for all adults. There is even a version that we provide for the Scouts as well. The intent is to protect our youth from sexual abuse, bullying, etc. There are rules to follow about how many leaders are needed, one to one contact, etc. Two deep leadership is stressed.</p>
50	How is my training tracked?	<p>You will need to create an account on <a href="http://myScouting.org">myScouting.org</a>. When you create an account you will be able to link it to your ID number if you are a registered Scouter. This is the best way to ensure everything is tracked in the Scouting system. If you are not registered, you can still create an account and take classes. It is HIGHLY recommended that everyone print and save all of your certificates when you take a class. Never give up the original! Give copies to those who ask for them. For other classes that are not done online, keep track of these as well and any cards or certificates. They should appear on your myScouting records but that does not always happen. There are several classes to take and each has it's own rules of whether it is a one time only or needs to be repeated on a regular basis.</p> <p>Experience has shown that all efforts should be made to get your registration number associated with your online training account as soon as possible to ensure your training is connected to you and you can obtain it in the future. Please ask if you have any problems getting this taken care of.</p>
51	What if I have other questions?	<p>Please ask! You can ask the Scoutmaster or any other adult. This can be done in person at a troop meeting, at a committee meeting, etc.</p>