

Parent's Handbook

Troop 187 *Flying Tigers*



Fairfax, Virginia
Sponsored by United Methodist Men of
Fairfax United Methodist Church

Introduction and Welcome

Congratulations on your selection of Troop 187 as your choice for you and your son to experience Scouting over the next few years. The Troop Committee, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, and members of the troop welcome you and your son(s) to a new or continuing experience in Scouting. We hope that you find Scouting to be as rewarding as we and numerous others have over the last 90 years.

The adults of the troop offer you a Parents' Handbook to help you feel more comfortable with the Boy Scout program as a whole, and in particular, to make your tenure with Troop 187 as rewarding as possible. This handbook contains basic information that we think will be helpful. You will find the following in the handbook: basic troop information, the troop's goals and objectives, an overview of the troop program and costs, advancement procedures, how you can help your son to advance, our expectations of the Scouts and parents in order to make the troop program successful.

Please take time to read this handbook and then go over the information with your son. You will also want to keep this handbook handy for occasional reference throughout the year. Scouting is designed to be a safe, fun, and fantastic learning experience. We are sure you will find your family's experience in Scouting with Troop 187 to be fun and fantastic, too.

When you finish reading this handbook, please fill out a medical form, parent's resource form and a few other helpful documents. You will need to fill out an official BSA membership form and merit badge counselor application in order to become an adult leader or Merit Badge counselor.

Again, welcome! We look forward to your experience together in Scouting!

Scoutmaster, Troop 187

Troop Committee Chair, Troop 187

Troop Goals and Philosophy

The goals of Troop 187 follow those of the Boy Scouts of America. We help direct the development of young men in their citizenship responsibilities, shape the moral strength and character of young men, and enhance the development of the physical, mental, and emotional fitness of America's young citizens. We recognize with pride the achievements of our Scouts who attain Eagle, Scouting's highest rank. We are equally proud of those young men who set and achieve goals of gaining self-reliance, proficiency in Scoutcraft skills, and develop into responsible active citizens.

Scouting succeeds because of the proven approach of utilizing the talents and skills of older, more experienced Scouts to teach and develop the talents and skills of less experienced Scouts. Even though the advanced Scouts who teach other Scouts may not be recognized immediately by others in the troop, the knowledge and compassion they learn will remain with them throughout their lives. Experienced Scouts have a unique opportunity to be a role model for the less mature Scouts. Adults learn BSA philosophy and method in all the leadership training forums (e.g., Scoutmastership Fundamentals, Youth Protection, monthly Roundtable Meetings, and Wood Badge).

The troop is run by boy leaders under the supervision of adult Scouters. The senior boy leader in any troop is the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). The SPL is elected by the boys in the troop at a semi-annual election, usually in September and March. Each patrol, which consists of about eight boys, there is a Patrol Leader (PL) elected by the boys in that patrol at semi-annual elections. Other leadership roles are Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL), Quartermaster, Scribe, Historian, Bugler, Librarian, and Chaplain's Aide. They are appointed by the SPL. The only other offices not assigned by the SPL are the Assistant Patrol Leader, who is appointed by the Patrol Leader. Instructors, Troop Guides, and Junior Assistant Scoutmasters are certified and appointed by the Scoutmaster.

In Boy Scouts, the boys run the program. This requires some adjustment in expectations when compared to Cub Scouting where the adults do the planning and running of the program. Those who have come from the Cub Scouts are used to the dependability and consistency of adults running the program. Therefore, some boys and parents may not be completely at ease with the boy leadership aspect of the Boy Scout Program.

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Troop Organization

District, Council, Regional, and National Organization

Troop 187 is one of nearly 50 troops within the George Mason District comprised of units within Fairfax City and nearby areas. The George Mason District is part of the National Capital Area Council (NCAC), which is made up of Scout units in the Metropolitan Washington, DC area. The Council (NCAC), one of nearly 500 councils in the US, is one of the largest in the nation. NCAC headquarters is at 9190 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, MD, in the Marriott Scout Service Center (301-530-9360). The Scout Shop is also located at the Marriott Scout Service Center and is the main location for BSA uniforms and equipment locally. The NCAC is part of the Northeast Region, headquartered in North Brunswick, NJ. This is one of four regions for the BSA.

Chartered Organization

The National Boy Scout organization charters or “licenses” its program to a wide variety of organizations. Troop 187 is sponsored by the United Methodist Men, Fairfax United Methodist Church (FUMC), 10300 Stratford Avenue. In addition to supporting the troop with qualified adult leadership and meeting space, the church provides storage for equipment, and the United Methodist Men periodically donate funds to help us provide a safe, quality youth development program. We are allowed every opportunity to run a successful program and make use of church resources. A Troop Committee member, the Chartered Organization Representative, is our liaison between the troop and the church. He/she communicates our needs and program direction to the Church. They keep the troop informed about upcoming church programs and assists with the annual rechartering and recruiting adult and youth members for the troop.

Troop Structure

Troop 187 is the oldest troop in Fairfax, dating back to the 1920's. At most times we have 40+ scouts and a similar number of registered adult members. The Scoutmaster is Andy Grafton (703-968-8766). With the help of the Troop Committee, the Assistant Scoutmasters (SA's) and other parents, our troop has continued to provide boys with one of the most successful Scouting programs in the area. Please ask for a current list of boys and adult leaders in the troop. While the troop prides itself on the number of adult leaders, we are always looking for more assistance! Parents are encouraged to serve as Merit Badge Counselors and to become Assistant Scoutmasters or members of the Troop Committee. Adult BSA membership is only \$10.00 a year – and the training that is offered - sometimes, but not always, required - is outstanding!

Troop Meetings

Troop Meetings are on Mondays (except when the public schools are closed) beginning at 7:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall of the Fairfax United Methodist Church (FUMC). ***The complete designated uniform is required for troop meetings.*** Please refer to the ***SCOUT HANDBOOK*** for uniform specifications. Also in the ***SCOUT HANDBOOK*** (Chapter 8) is a list of recommended personal camping gear. The purchase of an ***OFFICIAL BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK*** is mandatory. This handbook should be well marked with the Scout's name and brought to every meeting. It is a basic text of resource and outlines the requirements and serves as a place to record each boy's advancement.

Weekly troop meetings are organized around specific themes, providing an opportunity for the Scouts to learn new skills and to prepare for an upcoming camping trip or activity. Troop meetings have several parts: Pre-opening, Opening Ceremony, Skills Instruction, Patrol Meetings, Inter-Patrol Game or Activity, and Closing. The meetings are planned to be over at 8:45 p.m., often with a brief patrol meeting or Patrol Leaders Council afterward. Guest experts, older Scouts, and parents with expertise in particular areas provide the skills instruction portion of the meeting. For this reason, we ask that all adults indicate their areas of knowledge on the Adult Resource Survey (Appendix A) and return it to the Troop Committee. Especially needed are those related to the required Merit Badges (MB's) on the trail to Eagle.

We encourage all parents or guardians to try and join the Scouts for the closing at 8:40 to receive details regarding upcoming activities and keep informed about what the troop is doing.

The Patrol

This is the core of Scouting. It is the nucleus of the troop. The patrol size is based on the natural group of boys that would hang out together as determined by Baden Powell, the founder of Scouting. Patrol members camp together, participate in activities together, and learn new skills together. This opportunity to experience group living teaches boys cooperation and the acceptance of increasing responsibility. Everyone pitches in, and the Scouts quickly learn to take pride in their patrol's accomplishments. Each patrol has an identity (name, call, flag, and patch).

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The patrol is an important part of the Scout's life in Scouting. It is in the patrol that the Scout learns how to live, work, and have fun with others in the outdoors and in his community. A Scout quickly learns the importance of belonging to a group—patrol and how to work toward common goals.

As a Scout, working together with the other members of his patrol over a period of time, builds in himself a spirit that will keep him going even in the worst conditions. The relationships established in his patrol can last a lifetime. That is why Troop 187 and the Scouting program place such an emphasis on the patrol, the patrol method, and patrol spirit. Patrols stay together and operate together as a unit on camping trips, troop meetings and other activities. Scouts may be pulled out of their own patrol for very special activities, like a High Adventure activity where only older boys may be eligible to participate. High Adventure activities can include ski trips, bike trips, white water rafting trips, canoe trips, or caving trips, among many others.

Patrol Method

This method is used because of its beneficial results. In a small, controllable organizational structure, youth live and learn citizenship, how to organize and execute a successful program, and to take responsibility for someone beside themselves. Patrols are generally organized with boys of all ages and Scouting experience working together. In this way, the boys teach and learn from each other. Frequently, however, new Scouts, ages 10 _ - 12, will be placed in a 'New Scout Patrol' with more adult and older Scout involvement to help acclimate them to the Scout Program and learn basic Scout Skills as learned between the ranks of Tenderfoot and First Class.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee consists of adults, many of whom are parents of boys in the troop. The Troop Committee is responsible for securing the proper adult leadership for the troop and assisting the Scoutmaster in executing the Scouting program. The Committee approves the overall annual program and provides administrative support to the troop. Specific functions include Committee Chair, Troop Treasurer, Committee Secretary, Advancement Chair, Summer Camp Coordinator, Transportation Coordinator, Fund Raising, and planning and organizing for specific events. The Committee meets on the third Thursday of every month from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at FUMC. An ad hoc sub-committee of the Troop Committee also meets on troop meeting nights to conduct Boards of Review for rank advancement from Tenderfoot to Life. New parents are encouraged to join the Troop Committee. Please refer to a current roster of adult leaders on the Troop Committee.

The Patrol Leaders Council

The Senior Patrol Leader, his Assistant and the patrol leaders comprise the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC). The PLC meets to plan and organize upcoming meetings and activities. Regular PLC meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Leaders should be sure to check the troop calendar to insure their attendance. The PLC serves as the means by which each of the Scouts plays an important role in the democratic operation of the troop. Also, short PLC meetings are often held immediately following troop meetings to insure details for upcoming activities are in place.

The troop's annual program is developed by the Patrol Leaders Council at a planning meeting in June or July. At this meeting, the PLC with the support of the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters, review the responses to a poll taken of the Scouts in the troop and develop the plan for the next year. The PLC uses the Fairfax County Public School calendar, District and Council calendars, BSA, patrol and adults in the troop as resources to develop a complete annual plan. Following the development of the annual program, the Senior Patrol Leader presents it to the Troop Committee for their approval and commitment of support. Once the approval has been given, the PLC begins administering the program. The monthly PLC meeting is used to review and refine the program. The PLC ensures each month that the annual plan meets the current needs of the troop and makes changes where necessary. The PLC reviews the individual patrol's responsibilities and helps ensure that the troop program will take place as planned. The PLC also assures that campouts and other special activities are planned, organized and happen without significant problems.

Part of the Scout Program is to develop a boy through varied leadership experiences. Scouting is one of only a few organizations that places emphasis on the development of leadership skills in boys 11 to 18 years. Under supervision of adult leaders, boy leaders have the opportunity to plan, organize, and to be responsible for the well-being of the other Scouts in their patrol and troop.

Sometimes, in this learning-by-doing process, a boy leader will make a mistake. Making mistakes is natural and a part of being human. When a boy makes a mistake and learns from it, the lesson learned is more meaningful than either being told how to do something, or always succeeding. The adult leaders of the troop usually allow these mistakes to happen to aid in the learning process, but make sure that mistakes do not affect any of the boys' health, well-being, or safety.

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Parent and adult support is an integral part of a successful Scouting Program. You can help your son(s) gain the most from Scouting by talking about the meetings. Find out what he is learning at the Scout meetings and what activities he is planning on attending. Ask what he needs to continue his advancement. Encourage him to participate in all troop activities. Help your son set goals that are appropriate to for his age and that will help him attain the next rank. The advancement program is set up in steps that enable the Scout to set an achievable goal and succeed in achieving it. Once your son has set a goal, encourage and support him in his efforts to succeed in completing that goal. This may mean getting him to a troop meeting a few minutes early to get a requirement signed off or it may mean working with your son on a project at home on a weekend. It also may mean driving your son to his Patrol Leader's house to work on a requirement.

Communication

The troop uses a phone tree to get out a message quickly. It is supposed to work like this: 1) the Senior Patrol Leader informs the Patrol Leaders and other member of the PLC; 2) each Patrol Leader informs the members of his patrol, resulting in every Scout being informed. Many times individual Scouts do not get the message for one reason or another. We have found this hierarchy, that builds leadership in the boys, is sometimes frustrating for adults. In addition, you will notice that adult leaders and parents are not mentioned in the above process. The SPL is to call the Scoutmaster who will then inform the other adult leaders. However, there are three sure ways for parents to keep informed:

- 1) Ask your son to keep you informed (which is sometimes difficult),
- 2) Come to the weekly troop meetings and monthly Troop Committee meetings for the regular distribution of calendars, rosters, and general information that the Scouts are supposed to write down in their notebooks,
- 3) Consult the troop web site at <<http://troop187.tripod.com>>.

In addition, for each outing, we send home permission slips for the parent(s) to give permission to attend, along with permission to administer first aid should a medical emergency arise. These permission forms need to be returned (occasionally with a trip deposit) about two weeks in advance. This allows us to plan for drivers, file a BSA Tour Permit Application and to properly organize and prepare.

Parents are welcome and, in fact, are encouraged to attend or observe meetings! If you are not receiving calendars, rosters, or permission slips regularly, ask your son, or come in at the end of a meeting and pick up materials from the table just inside the door to the Fellowship Hall.

Overview of Program

Outings and Activities

The program published in our annual calendar is distributed in September. We provide updates to the program as the program changes after the beginning of the Scout Program year. These are available on-line and printed copies are provided to Scouts and their families at Courts of Honor held in September, December, March, and June. One glance at the calendar shows that Troop 187 is an active troop with a full schedule of planned events. We schedule a major activity each month, such as camping, biking, backpacking, or canoeing, which is the essence of the Scouting Program. It is said "three-fourths of Scouting is outing." Campouts are planned at various interesting places throughout the year, and each requires a different level of skill on the part of the Scouts. In addition to monthly campouts, there are other special events that make up the program, including the Scout Expo, District Camporees, a week of summer camp at Goshen Scout Camp or another major Scout Camp location, High Adventure outings, the Troop Annual Dinner, and participation in Scout Sunday at the Fairfax United Methodist Church.

Service Projects

Scouting also involves participating in service projects. These can be both fun and a meaningful part of a Scout's responsibility as he provides service to his community ("Help other people at all times"). Service is done by participation in troop-sponsored service projects such as collecting food in the "Scouting for Food Drive" in November, conservation projects held periodically throughout the year, stream cleanup for the troop's adopted stream, and projects for our sponsor. Each Scout is required to give cheerful service by participating in projects for his rank advancement. These need to be pre-approved by the Scoutmaster for the Ranks of Star and Life, and need considerable planning as a Scout undertakes his Eagle project.

Fund Raising

The troop also holds Fund Raising projects, such as leaf raking, painting house numbers on curbs, and others projects to raise funds for equipment and materials to keep the troop operating. Recently, the troop has had success with a garage sale in the spring, donut sales, and Scout Pizza Nights at a local restaurant. The troop needs parental support in these efforts, especially getting your son(s) to participate, as well as planning and transportation. These

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activities are important parts of being a Scout and learning to pay your own way. All members of the troop are expected to participate in Fund Raising, as well as the outings and troop meetings. Adults are always needed to serve as coordinators for the service and Fund Raising projects, please speak to the Troop Committee Chair to volunteer your leadership.

Troop 187 is one of only a few troops to have earned the Quality Unit Award and the National Camping Award every year since 1981. These awards recognize the boys and adult leaders for their adherence to a set of strict criteria by which BSA measures its units to ensure a quality program is being administered. Criteria used in determining eligibility for these two awards are: Growth in membership; advancement; trained adult leaders; participation in overnight outings; performance of service projects; and, in general, a well balanced and well managed program at all levels.

Program Cost

Troop 187 re-charters with the National BSA each January. All youth and adult leaders re-register and pay annual dues – dues that are far less than the fees for sports or many other youth programs. We currently operate with a fee of \$45.00 for Boy Scouts (\$33.00 for each additional Scout in one family). This pays for registration with the National Office, *Boy's Life Magazine* subscription, insurance fees, as well as funds to support the troop program. This is less than the amount of money needed to purchase equipment and fully operate the troop. Fund Raising and support from other organizations allow us to keep dues at a reasonable level. The troop uses the fees to purchase patches, awards, tents, stoves and all other items needed to have a quality program. If the fees are an obstacle to your son's participating in Scouting and becoming a part of the troop, please contact the Scoutmaster or Chartered Organization Representative to receive special consideration of your circumstances. The Scouts put a high value on your son's future with Scouting and the matter will be handled in strict confidence.

Other expenses for the Scout include costs that will vary from activity to activity, such as food for campouts, etc. Usually the adult Trip Leader will have identified the common costs of an activity, such as entrance fees, permits, and supplies, and have calculated a per-Scout fee. A Scout is responsible for replacing or repairing any troop equipment he loses or damages while in his charge.

One final, but significant, financial obligation is the troop's participation in the annual Sustaining Membership Fund (SMF). This is the National Capital Area Council annual fund raiser to support the many facets of the Boy Scout Program. The money raised directly benefits the Scouts in our troop through such things as training programs for leaders, summer camp, liability insurance for adult Scouters, program development literature, etc. You will hear more about the SMF campaign in January, when the fund raiser has its kickoff. Troop 187 has a proud history of active participation over the past years. Hopefully, with your support, we will be able to maintain our tradition of supporting this important program.

Advancement Overview

The advancement process is an important part of being a Scout. It is important for you, the Scout's parent to have knowledge of the steps and the process of advancing in Scouting. The BSA Advancement Program is designed to encourage Scouts to accomplish a progressive series of learning experiences in the areas of citizenship, character development, personal fitness, Scoutcraft skills, and leadership. The process provides for the learning and application of knowledge and skills. The advancement process consists of five steps:

Learning - acquiring of knowledge of a subject through participation in activities.

Testing/application - skills are demonstrated to a qualified leader.

Scoutmaster's Conference - process completed, evaluated, new goals set.

Review of work - review to ensure standards have been met and assess the Scouting experience in general.

Recognition - public recognition of achievement at a Court of Honor.

Here are the details of each of the steps...

Learning

Specific requirements for advancement to each rank are listed in the **BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK**. Advancement requires that the Scout learn skills, earn merit badges, participate in service projects, and serve in leadership positions. As the Scout advances, he earns recognition by being awarded badges of rank. The first three ranks are Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. It is permissible to work on any of the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class, while at a lower rank. There are no time requirements for these ranks, however they must be earned and presented in the proper order. In earning these ranks, the Scout learns and demonstrates the basic Scout skills, as well as demonstrating good Scout Spirit and an understanding of the Scouting program.

Testing

Testing can be done in one of several informal or formal methods. The Scout normally demonstrates his ability with Scouting skills to either his Patrol Leader or a Troop Instructor. Frequently, the Scout is tested without realizing it, such as the case of a Patrol hike or troop campout. An approved merit badge counselor, associated either with the troop or District, will normally use the more traditional means of testing for merit badge skills, either by verbal or written questions and answers, demonstrations, or a required written report. Note: requirements need to be observed by a troop certified leader to be recognized as completed. It is important for new Boy Scout parents to realize that parents DO NOT sign off requirements for Boy Scouts as they did in Cub Scouts.

Scoutmaster's Conference

When a young man makes the decision to become a Scout, he will have his first Scoutmasters Conference. For every rank from Tenderfoot through Eagle, a Scout will have the opportunity to sit down with the Scoutmaster. They will discuss his progress in the completion of the requirements to the next rank including Scout Spirit, as well as the setting of goals on how he will continue his progress. These one-on-one conferences are used to encourage and help a Scout focus his attention on his continued development. These conferences can be held at troop meetings, campouts, or at a special time and place mutually agreed upon by the Scout and the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster's Conference must be scheduled at least two weeks (preferably more) before the Court of Honor at which the Scout wishes to receive recognition. The Scoutmaster's Conference is usually a very positive process, a Scout is recognized for the work he has done and the practice of setting and working toward goals is established.

Board of Review

The Troop Committee schedules Board(s) of Review, as necessary, concurrent with the troop meeting. At the troop meeting prior to the date scheduled for a Board of Review, the Advancement Chair will ask for Scouts who are ready for a Board of Review. To be eligible for a Board of Review, the Scout must have completed all requirements for the rank for which he is to be reviewed, including a Scoutmaster's Conference.

At the troop meeting prior to the Board of Review, the Scout requesting a Board of Review will be given a note with reminders for the Scout to prepare for the Board. This includes being punctual, being in complete Troop 187 uniform, including his **BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK**. Only Scouts meeting these requirements will be brought before the Board the following week.

For Eagle candidates, a special Eagle Board of Review is convened. An Eagle Board of Review is made up of Troop Committee members as with other Boards, but, in addition, will have at least one member of the District Eagle Board and generally a staff member from the sponsoring organization. An Eagle Board of Review is scheduled to be held at a mutually agreed upon place and time upon completion of all the work and requirements for Eagle.

Recognition

After successfully completing the review process, the Scout will receive his new badge of rank immediately after the Board of Review for Scout through Second Class. The Scout will receive public recognition at the quarterly Court of Honor. At this time, the Scout will be recognized for his hard work and dedication in front of the entire troop and the parents of the Scout. Courts of Honor are usually held in September, December, March, and June. It is important that parents and family members attend these special ceremonies, not only to participate in the recognition process, but also because a brief parent's meeting is a part of the Court of Honor Meeting.

The Advancement Chair posts a list of awards for the upcoming Court of Honor for the Scout and parents to review one or two weeks prior to the ceremony. To minimize possible disappointment, we ask the boys and you to check this list to ensure that your Scout is scheduled to receive the awards he has earned and is due at the Court of Honor. We recommend that Scouts check the list one or two weeks in advance of the COH. This way any errors can usually be corrected in time for awards to be received at the Court of Honor.

For recognition for the rank of Eagle Scout, the Troop Committee will help the Eagle Scout and his family plan for and schedule the unique Eagle Court of Honor at a mutually agreeable date and time. All members of the troop are invited to attend these impressive ceremonies. Each member of the troop will receive an invitation to these special events.

Advancement Procedure

Boy Scout: To achieve the rank of Scout after joining the troop, ask one of the Assistant Scoutmasters to work with the Scout to complete the requirements. In addition, parents need to review and discuss with the son, the parent's supplement found in the front of the **BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK**. A Scoutmaster's Conference is required, but not a Board of Review.

All Other Ranks: The specific requirements for each rank are listed in the **BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK**. Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks do not require time-in-rank before the next advancement, but do have certain camping requirements that must be completed with the troop or patrol, (Camping experience while as a Webelos Scout, while attending a church, school, or family vacation do not satisfy these requirements). The ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class must be earned in order. The ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle not only require time-in-rank, but a leadership position for each rank. As with MB's, it is often more enjoyable for Scouts to work together towards the same rank. The steps for advancement are:

Read the **BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK** to determine the specific requirements:

- 1) For the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class, complete the skill requirements and see the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Patrol Leader, or an Instructor for testing and a sign-off. (legible initials and date).
- 2) For the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle, complete the requirements for time, service project, and MB's. See the appropriate individuals, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters or Advancement Chair, for sign-off. (legible initials and date).
- 3) Scouts should keep accurate records of their individual service hours and camping experiences (which are required for certain ranks). This should include date, number of hours or number of nights, location/place, description/explanation and leader in charge.
- 4) Arrange for a Scoutmaster's Conference with the Scoutmaster for all ranks. A Scoutmaster's Conference will be held only after all the requirements are completed.
- 5) See the Advancement Chair to set up a Board of Review. An Advancement Committee member will review the Scout's handbook to verify that requirements have been met and properly signed off, and that troop meeting attendance and troop activity participation requirements have been met before the Scout meets with Board. If the Scout does not have his handbook available for review by the Advancement Committee, it will delay the Board of Review process. After the review of the Scout's handbook, he will be given an information sheet about his pending Board of Review. The information sheet outlines what the Scout will need to do to be ready for the Board of Review, including wearing his complete uniform and bringing his handbook to the scheduled Board of Review.
- 6) For the rank of Eagle Scout, the Scout should consult the Scoutmaster before the Scout begins his Eagle project to obtain specific guidance on the advancement procedures. When all requirements have been met, the Eagle Scout Coordinator and/or the Troop Advancement Chair is notified that all merit badges, leadership position, service project, and time requirements have been completed. He will provide advice on the application process, and review all necessary paperwork (including the Eagle project report). The paperwork is also reviewed by the Scoutmaster and the Eagle Advisor for accuracy and style. The Advancement Chair will also arrange for a special Eagle Board of Review that requires the presence of a District Eagle Board member.

Boards of Review

Other than for Eagle candidates, the Board of Review consists of three Committee members. A Review is generally scheduled as needed, concurrent with the troop meeting. The Scout's obligation for a Review is to:

- Show up on time in a complete Class A uniform.
- Check in with a member of the Board of Review, and turn in the "Request for a Board of Review" to them. Scouts will be seen in order as determined by the Board of Review Chair.
- Present Scout's handbook for review by members of Review Board.
- After the Board of Review, the Board of Review Chair will advise the Advancement Chair to record the advancement.

Merit Badge Procedures

Merit Badges (MB) are an important part of the advancement program and deal with skills in specific areas requiring a greater base of understanding than the requirements for Tenderfoot through First Class. Merit Badges can be earned in any order, with a few exceptions. In looking at the requirements for Star, Life, and Eagle, one observes that the number of required merit badges increases with each higher rank. It may be more fun to work on badges with a friend. The Scouts should plan to work on specific badges at summer camp and should pay particular attention to getting those required for the next rank advancement. The Scout Leaders help to steer the Scouts to those merit badges that will both expose them to a wide variety of experiences as well as those that will best enable them to advance with regularity. We recommend that the Scout earn the Eagle required merit badges as soon as they

are able. Some merit badges require a great deal of time to complete (up to 6 months). If these are left to the last months before the Scout turns 18 years old, they may be impossible to complete due to scheduling conflicts, school commitments, and the tenure required to complete the work.

The steps to earn merit badges are:

- Study the list of merit badges in the **BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK** or review the more detailed information in the Boy Scout Requirements Book. Choose one based on your interests or requirements for your next rank. Find a buddy who is interested in working on the same merit badge.
- Obtain the Scoutmaster's approval on a blue merit badge application card before you start to work on a merit badge. Be sure to get the blue card before you begin, as only work accomplished after you receive the blue card will be credited. Get the merit badge pamphlet on your subject from the Council Service Center, public library or troop library.
- Contact the Troop Advancement Chair for the list of MB Counselors within the troop and district. Select and contact a counselor prior to starting the requirements. Make an appointment for you and your buddy to see the counselor as is necessary. Some merit badges can be signed off in one session, while others require more appointments. The Boy Scouts of America requires Scouts to go in pairs or with an adult/parent to see the counselor.
- Learn and do the things that are required. Go as far as you can to fulfill the requirements on your own. Try to type the reports or papers, if any.
- When ready, you and the buddy meet with the counselor to go over the important points of the subject. If he/she is satisfied that you have completed the requirements, he/she will sign and date both portions of the blue card. (The blue MB application card must be signed and dated by the MB Counselor when the requirements have been met). If not, you will be told what remains to complete the merit badge requirements.
- Show the completed card to the Scoutmaster and return the card to the Advancement Chair. You will receive your Merit Badge at the next Court of Honor. You need to hold onto the applicant's portion of the card in a safe place. You may need it when you are preparing your Eagle Application.

Leadership, Service and Advancement

Upon achieving the rank of First Class, the Scout should be ready to accept the responsibilities of leadership in the form of Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Instructor, Den Chief, Quartermaster, or Troop Scribe. These positions satisfy leadership requirements for Star and Life, and are rotated every six months. In these positions, the Scout gains self-confidence and an understanding of the responsibilities of leadership. While serving in these positions, the Scout assists others with advancement. Scouts in a patrol should be able to go to their PL for advice, counsel, and for the learning and testing of skills. In completing the requirements for Star, Life, and, even Eagle, the Scout learns and demonstrates leadership at both the patrol and the troop level. While working on more advanced skills that will serve his own advancement, he recognizes the importance of demonstrating Scout Spirit, service to others in his everyday life.

Scouts working on Star and Life must more specifically work on service projects for these ranks. These projects are pre-approved by the Scoutmaster and require the Scout to participate in providing significant service within the troop or community.

The highest rank in Scouting is Eagle Scout. In addition to the required merit badges and fulfillment of the leadership responsibilities, an Eagle candidate must plan, develop, and provide leadership in the completion of a significant service project on his own. Once the candidate decides on his Eagle Scout service project, he meets with the Scoutmaster and a member of the group his project will serve and develops a written plan. Upon the completion of the plan, the Scout presents his project at the monthly Troop Committee meeting and obtains their approval. After receiving the Troop Committee's approval, the Scout meets with a representative of the District Eagle Board and receives approval to begin work. While a Life Scout, the young man is provided with additional support and direction in completing this requirement and the supporting paperwork.

What Is Expected of the Scout

A successful troop involves many ingredients – a responsive chartered organization, a challenging and rewarding program, dedicated and knowledgeable adult leaders, adequate resources, supportive program, but most importantly, interested and motivated Boy Scouts. You, as parents, have certain expectations of your son's troop that probably include the first four of these ingredients, as well as the opportunity for new experiences, growth of character and the rewards of a team environment.

When a boy joins the Boy Scouts, he is frequently not aware of the obligations and responsibilities he must accept which are vital to a successful Scouting experience. Since parents may not be familiar with all of these responsibilities, or expectations, they are listed below for your information. While the Scouts are constantly reminded of these responsibilities during troop meetings and other activities, your assistance in assuring that these expectations are understood by your son would be appreciated.

As part of the Scout Oath - *I will do my best to do my duty to God* - and Scout Law - *A Scout is reverent*- members of Scouting are required to believe in a Supreme Being, whatever he may determine that to be.

Each Scout of Troop 187 is expected to:

- 1) Live by the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto, and Scout Slogan in his day-to-day living, and in all troop meetings and activities. When the Scout sign goes up, his sign will go up and he will become quiet and stand where he is standing. He will treat others with the same respect that he wishes to be treated.
- 2) Attend weekly troop meetings. (Attendance at 2/3 of the meetings since joining or the last 6 months, whichever is shorter, is required for advancement). Troop meetings are noted on the annual calendar and in quarterly updates. In the event that Fairfax County Public Schools are dismissed early or are closed due to weather/snow, the troop meeting will be cancelled. If a Scout cannot attend a troop meeting, he should call his Patrol Leader prior to the meeting.
- 3) Participate in troop activities. If a Scout signs up to participate in an activity, but does not attend, he is still responsible for his financial obligations for the activity (food, transportation, share of camping fees, etc.). In the event an activity is cancelled, the Scout will still be responsible for financial obligations for the outing that cannot be recovered, though every effort will be made to reach an equitable and fair redistribution of costs not incurred (money for food will not be refunded).
- 4) Attend Summer camping activity (normally one week in length.)
- 5) Wear the complete designated uniform at meetings and designated activities in a neat, well-groomed manner. See the SCOUT HANDBOOK for uniform requirements. Camouflage clothing and fatigues are not appropriate. If special clothing is appropriate for a specific activity, then the leaders will let the Scout know in advance.
- 6) Keep his handbook up-to-date and bring it to **ALL** troop meetings and activities. The **BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK** is also part of the uniform, and should be in the boy's possession at all times while in uniform. Each Scout must have a pen or pencil, and a small notebook with which to take notes at troop meetings.
- 7) Return permission slips and registration fees for troop activities on time. This is usually two (2). troop meetings prior to the planned activity. A two week notice is often required in order to make reservations, pay a deposit, or to otherwise properly plan an outing. There may be a fine or fee assessment required for submitting permission slips LATE.
- 8) Enter and exit the church by the doors at the West first floor hallway at the covered entrance near the parking lot. Scouts will stay in the area designated for Scouts before, during, and after troop meetings (hallway on the first floor, the Fellowship Hall, and bathrooms on the first floor). **DO NOT USE THE ELEVATOR UNLESS IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.** Treat the Fairfax United Methodist Church with more care and with more respect than your own house. Scouts are guests in the church.
- 9) Use only folding pocket knives or folding lock blade knives while working with the Scouts. Sheath knives (long knives in a sheath) are prohibited in Scouting.
- 10) Do not bring radios, electronic games, comic books, motorized cars, or other items that are hazardous (firearms, firecrackers, etc.) or cause distractions which are non-Scout related to any troop meeting or activity. This includes homework and non-Scout books.
- 11) Do not wander off from the group, whether at a troop meeting, activity, or campout. His whereabouts will be known by his Patrol Leader, and adult leaders at all times.
- 12) While at troop meetings or activities conduct oneself as a best example of the fine Scouts in Troop 187, so that he can be proud, his parents can be proud, and the adult leaders can be proud of him and his conduct.

Your son's commitment to these expectations should lead to having lots of fun, learning a great deal and to earning higher rank.

I promise on my honor as a Scout to live up to these expectations:

_____ (signed)

_____ (date)

What Is Expected of Parents

Just as you expect the troop leadership to provide a challenging, safe, rewarding and appealing program for your Scout, there are certain responsibilities expected from you, the parents, to ensure a successful program:

- 1) Please encourage and support your son as he embarks on his Scouting adventure, for it will truly help him to grow as a person – physically, mentally and spiritually. Please go over the pertinent portions of this handbook with him, so that he will know how this program is set up and to whom he should go if he has any questions. We don't want him to feel lost or overwhelmed!
- 2) It is important to know that the **BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK** now contains a tear out section entitled "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse: A Parent's Guide". This 21 page section contains excellent advice on how to prevent disastrous occurrences and is designed for you, the parents. As a condition of joining Boy Scouts, you are required to complete this section with your prospective Scout. It is the only item that you, the parent(s), sign off in the Boy Scout program.
- 3) We ask that you attend all Courts of Honor. These are scheduled four times a year, with the exception of Eagle Courts of Honor which are scheduled as required. It is at these Courts of Honor, that we honor your son for his hard work and accomplishments. We also recognize the parents at these times and it is important for the Scout to feel the support and recognition of his parents and family! Even if your son is not a part of the program at a given Court of Honor, you should still attend since important information will be given out, as well as the opportunity for the troop as a whole to recognize its members for their accomplishments. Your support and attendance sends a message to every Scout – that you are interested in and care about his activities and accomplishments. There is a direct relationship between parents' support of their son in the Scouting program and their son's success in Scouting.
- 4) Attend troop functions as well. The annual dinner, in conjunction with the March Court of Honor, has always been an excellent opportunity to meet and get to know the other families and leaders involved in your son's Scouting program. Get to know these individuals. Your Scout Leaders will probably be involved with your son longer than any teacher or baseball or soccer coach he will ever have. These men and women serve as role models for your son for several years. Camp-outs, skating trips, ski trips, and other troop activities give parents the opportunity to watch and experience their son grow and mature. Do try to come along and enjoy life with your son.
- 5) The BSA requires a minimum of 2 adults (one of whom must be at least 21 years old) for any troop function, even if there is only one Scout at the function. If the required number of adults is not present, parents should not leave their Scout until the adults are present, or the activity is cancelled.
- 6) The need for transportation for weekend outings requires your cooperation and support so the load is distributed fairly. We need to have some adults in our troop accompany the boys on their campouts and outings. There is almost always the need for drivers. The Transportation Coordinator maintains a file of all parents and their vehicles. You may be called from time to time to solicit your support for an activity by either driving Scouts to, or bringing Scouts back from, an outing. We provide maps and directions and ask that you support the Transportation Coordinator in their effort to insure we always have transportation we need. Please make sure that you complete the transportation portion of the troop – Resource Survey found in Appendix A related to your vehicles and return it to a Troop Committee member. Vehicles used must have minimum insurance coverage of \$100,000/\$300,000/\$50,000. These are typical coverage limits. Adult leaders, 18 years of age are permitted to drive Scouts to activities, as long as there is also an adult over 21 years old, accompanying the 18 year old driver on the trip.
- 7) The BSA does provide some medical insurance coverage for adult leaders and Scouts who participate in Scouting activities. However, this coverage is supplemental to one's own private insurance. In order to allow the troop leaders to deal with any medical emergencies, please complete the Medical Information Form (Appendix B - one for each Scout and adult) and personally return it to a Troop Committee member at the next troop meeting. This will be kept in the troop file to accompany the troop on all of its outings. It should be updated when any of the medical information changes.
- 8) Please complete the Troop 187 – Adult Resource Survey (Appendix A), one for each parent, indicating your interests and skills in supporting the troop. Please return it to a Troop Committee member at the next troop meeting.

Please feel free to contact any Troop Committee member, the Scoutmaster, any Assistant Scoutmaster, if you have any questions or concerns about the program, or have suggestions for improvement. We welcome anyone who would like to get involved with the troop.

We hope that this handbook has been helpful and that it will be useful throughout your son's and your involvement in Troop 187.

Again, welcome to Troop 187. We trust that your son's Scouting experience will be a rewarding and memorable one.



TROOP RESOURCE SURVEY

Boy Scouting is for adults as well as boys. We invite you to share your skills and interests so the best possible program can be developed for the Boy Scouts in this troop. In making this survey, the committee wishes to find ways you can enjoy using your talents to help our Scouts. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Welcome to the Scout family of Troop No. _____ in the _____ Council.

Please return this survey to _____

(Please print)

Name _____ Home phone _____

Street address _____ Business phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

1. What is your favorite hobby? _____ Occupation _____

2. In what sports do you take an active part? _____

3. Would you be willing to assist the troop leaders and committee members occasionally? _____

4. Please check the areas in which you would be willing to help:

General Activities

- ☐ Campouts
- ☐ Hikes
- ☐ Outdoor activities
- ☐ Troop meetings
- ☐ Swimming supervision
- ☐ Bookkeeping
- ☐ Typing
- ☐ Drawing/art
- ☐ Transportation of Scouts
- ☐ Transportation of equipment
- ☐ Other _____

(please print)

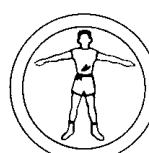
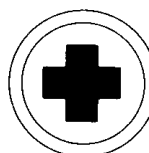
Special Program Assistance

- ☐ I can participate in boards of review.
- ☐ I have a station wagon or _____ truck.
- ☐ I have a workshop.
- ☐ I have family camping gear.
- ☐ I have access to camping property.
- ☐ I can make contacts for special trips and activities.
- ☐ I can help with troop equipment.
- ☐ I have access to a personal computer.

5. Please check any Scouting skills you would be willing to teach:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ropework (knots and lashings) | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Knife and ax handling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Star study | <input type="checkbox"/> Citizenship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map and compass use | <input type="checkbox"/> Camping |

Check the merit badges on the other side of this sheet that you are willing to help Boy Scouts earn.



MERIT BADGES

Check the merit badges that you can help Boy Scouts earn.

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Crime Prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Study | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Cultures | <input type="checkbox"/> Cycling | <input type="checkbox"/> Journalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Reptile and Amphibian Study |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> Dentistry | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Rifle Shooting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Labor | <input type="checkbox"/> Disabilities Awareness | <input type="checkbox"/> Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Rowing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Science | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherwork | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology | <input type="checkbox"/> Drafting | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifesaving | <input type="checkbox"/> Salesmanship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery | <input type="checkbox"/> Electricity | <input type="checkbox"/> Mammal Study | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronics | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Preparedness | <input type="checkbox"/> Metalwork | <input type="checkbox"/> Shotgun Shooting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Astronomy | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Model Design and Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Skating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletics | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorboating | <input type="checkbox"/> Small-Boat Sailing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Atomic Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneurship | <input type="checkbox"/> Music and Bugling | <input type="checkbox"/> Snow Sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auto Mechanics | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Science | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil and Water Conservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aviation | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Oceanography | <input type="checkbox"/> Space Exploration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacking | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Mechanics | <input type="checkbox"/> Orienteering | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketry | <input type="checkbox"/> Fingerprinting | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting | <input type="checkbox"/> Stamp Collecting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Study | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Fitness | <input type="checkbox"/> Surveying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bugling (See Music) | <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and Wildlife Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Pets | <input type="checkbox"/> Textile |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry | <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry | <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneering | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cinematography | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant Science | <input type="checkbox"/> Truck Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Citizenship in the Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy | <input type="checkbox"/> Plumbing | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary Medicine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Citizenship in the Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology | <input type="checkbox"/> Pottery | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterskiing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Citizenship in the World | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Whitewater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coin Collecting | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> Pulp and Paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness Survival |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collections | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Repairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Carving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Horsemanship | <input type="checkbox"/> Railroading | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodwork |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computers | <input type="checkbox"/> Indian Lore | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking | | | |

Other skills and activities I could assist in for the older-Scout program:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacking | <input type="checkbox"/> Freestyle biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Rappelling | <input type="checkbox"/> Survival |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf | <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bowling | <input type="checkbox"/> Hockey | <input type="checkbox"/> Scuba diving | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Kayaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Shooting sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Video/photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-country skiing | <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanics | <input type="checkbox"/> Slow-pitch softball | <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cycling | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain man | <input type="checkbox"/> Snow camping | <input type="checkbox"/> Whitewater canoeing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Downhill skiing | <input type="checkbox"/> Orienteering | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer | <input type="checkbox"/> Windsurfing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Rafting | <input type="checkbox"/> Spelunking | |



Scout's last name, first name, middle initial _____	Venture Scout <input type="checkbox"/>	Adult Scout <input type="checkbox"/>
Address _____	Home phone number _____	
Parent / Guardian last name, first name _____	Work phone number _____	
Parent / Guardian last name, first name _____	Work phone number _____	
Insurance carrier _____	Policy number _____	
Insured _____	Date of last physical exam _____	Date of birth _____

ALLERGIES

Check all that apply	Check all that apply
1. Foods _____ <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Plants _____ <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Insects _____ <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Pollen _____ <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Medications _____ <input type="checkbox"/>	6. Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/>

Describe symptoms and treatment for allergies _____

HISTORY OF

Check all that apply	Check all that apply
1. Fainting Spells <input type="checkbox"/>	11. Learning disabled <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Hearing impairment <input type="checkbox"/>	Medications _____
3. Frequent ear infections <input type="checkbox"/>	12. Emotional disturbance (specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Motion Sickness <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
5. Nose bleeds <input type="checkbox"/>	13. Asthma <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Bed wetting <input type="checkbox"/>	Medications _____
7. Wears glasses <input type="checkbox"/>	14. Epilepsy <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Kidney disease <input type="checkbox"/>	Medications _____
9. Broken bones <input type="checkbox"/>	15. Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/>
Which _____	Medications _____
10. Congenital or other heart disease <input type="checkbox"/>	16. Sickle Cell anemia <input type="checkbox"/>
Which _____	
17. Activity restriction required (specify) _____	
18. Medication not listed above, but taken on a regular basis _____	
19. Any other information you think may be helpful to adult in charge _____	

20. Immunizations (mark if current)	MMR <input type="checkbox"/>	Polio <input type="checkbox"/>
	DPT <input type="checkbox"/>	TB test <input type="checkbox"/> pos / neg (circle one)

21. Last tetanus shot (year) _____
22. **Adult may administer the following ONLY if initialed by parent / guardian**

Tylenol, as needed for headache or pain _____

Sting Kill - bee, wasp, hornet stings _____

After bite, as needed for itching _____

