

Welcome to

Troop 539

Boy Scouts of America

Kings Park N.Y.

Parents Guide

For Additional Information, come to any Tuesday Night Troop Meeting

OR

Visit the Troop Web Site at <http://www.troop539kingspark.org>



Boy Scouts of America
Troop 539
Kings Park, NY



Dear Scouts and Parents,

Welcome to Troop 539.

The Boy Scouts of America provides a program with the objectives of developing the character, citizenship, and personal fitness qualities among youth by focusing on a program of outdoor activities. Troop 539 provides an active program for our boys, guided by our adult leaders, but mostly lead by the Scouts themselves. Troop 539, was established in 1983, and just recently celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2008.

Boy Scout Troops are chartered (registered) by a community or religious organization. We are chartered by the Kings Park Volunteer Fire Department.

Scout Troops are organized by Councils and grouped within those Councils as Districts. We are in the Matinecock District of Suffolk County Council. The Suffolk County Council Headquarters and Scout Shop is located at 7 Scouting Boulevard in Medford.

Our Troop meets every Tuesday night at the Kings Park William T. Rogers Middle School cafeteria from 7:00 to 8:30. The opening ceremony begins at 7:15. The Troop does not meet on those days when the school is closed.

The Troop Parents Guide is meant to be a source of general information and Troop policies. Questions not answered by this guide may be directed to the Committee Chairman or the Scoutmaster.

Yours in Scouting;

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Purpose of the Boy Scouts of America

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts Of America to provide an effective program designed to instill within the youth desirable qualities of character, to train them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to help develop their personal fitness, providing this country with citizens who:

1. Are physically, mentally and emotionally fit.
2. Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidence in such qualities as initiative, courage and resourcefulness.
3. Have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts.
4. Have the desire and skills to help others.
5. Understand the principles of the American social, economic, and government systems.
6. Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
7. Have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
8. Are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society and in other forums of the world.

Boy Scouts of America - Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, 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 Scout Oath (Or Promise)

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

The Scout Law

A Scout is:
Trustworthy
Loyal
Helpful
Friendly
Courteous
Kind
Obedient
Cheerful
Thrifty
Brave
Clean
Reverent

Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily

Aims and Methods of the Boy Scout Program

Aims

Boy Scouting works toward three aims. One is growth in *moral strength and character*. We may define this as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, his outlook.

A second aim is *participating citizenship*. Citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society he lives, to the government that presides over that society.

A third aim of Boy Scouting 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 emotions (self control, courage and self-respect).

The methods are designed to accomplish these aims.

Methods

Advancement- Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement process. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. More is discussed about Advancement later in this guide.

Adult Association- Boys learn from the examples set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage in a young man's development.

Personal Growth- As Scouts plan their activity, 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.

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. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them, he has some control over what he becomes.

Patrols- The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating in citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected leaders.

Outdoors- Boy Scouting is designed to take place in the outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here where the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive. More is discussed about the outdoor program later in this guide.

Leadership Development- Boy Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has 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.

Uniform- The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force of good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and 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. More is discussed about the uniform later in this guide.

Troop Organization

Troop 539 is a boy-run troop. Leadership is one of the methods of Scouting. Every boy will have an opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership. The meetings are planned and carried out by the patrol leaders' council. All duties for patrol activities are assigned by the patrol leader. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps the boy accept the leadership of others and helps him to grow into a more responsible adult. The following is an outline of the duties of the key leaders within the troop:

Scoutmaster:

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of the troop. The Scoutmaster and his or her assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. The general responsibilities of the Scoutmaster include:

- Train and guide boy leaders.
- Work with other adult leaders to bring Scouting to boys.
- Use the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting.

Assistant Scoutmasters:

Assistant Scoutmasters are recruited by the Scoutmaster and approved by the troop committee to assist the Scoutmaster in the operation of the troop. Assistant Scoutmasters are assigned program tasks by the Scoutmaster and provide guidance to the boy leadership. He or she also provides the required two deep leadership (two adult leaders present at every Boy Scout activity).

Senior Patrol Leader:

The senior patrol leader (SPL) is the top boy leader in the troop. He leads the patrol leaders' council and, in consultation with the Scoutmaster, appoints other junior leaders and assigns specific responsibilities as needed.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader:

The assistant senior patrol leader (ASPL) fills in for the SPL in his absence. He is also responsible for training and giving direction to the quartermaster, scribe, historian, librarian and instructors.

Patrol Leaders:

The patrol leaders (PL) are responsible for giving leadership to the members of their patrols. They are their representation on the patrol leaders' council. The PL is also responsible for holding monthly patrol meetings outside of the regular troop meetings.

Assistant Patrol Leaders:

Assistant patrol leaders help the Patrol Leader run the patrol and fill in for him in his absence.

The Troop Committee:

The Troop committee may be seen as the "board of directors" of a troop. Members are parents and guardians of boys in the troop who are interested in the program. The Troop Committee Chairperson is responsible for organizing the troop committee. The troop committee's primary responsibilities are supporting the Scoutmaster in delivering a quality troop program, and handling troop administration. The Troop committee has its own meetings and votes on important issues. Parents and adult leaders of the troop may attend committee meetings but do not vote on issues.

Scout Uniform

Scouts in uniform are conscious of their rank and make a greater effort to advance. Only the uniform provides a place for display of badges - important symbols of achievement. Scouts have more fun, stay longer and feel greater pride in advancement.

How the uniform can help a boy:

It is not the purpose of the Scout uniform to hide the differences between the boys or make them feel that they are all the same. But there is one way in which all Scouts are alike. Whenever a Scout sees another person in a Scout uniform he knows he is like that person because both have committed themselves to the principles of the Scout Oath and Law. The Scout Oath and Law bind all Scouts of the world together in a common purpose.

By wearing the uniform, Scouts give each other strength and support. Beyond the common bond between Scouts, by wearing the uniform Scouts are declaring their faith and commitment to some important beliefs that bind them to all people. It is a way of making visible their belief in God, their loyalty to our country and their commitment to helping other people who need them.

How the uniform can help the troop:

1. When smartly worn, the uniform can help build good troop spirit.
2. By investing in a uniform, a Scout and his parents are really making a kind of a commitment to take Scouting seriously.
3. The uniform makes the troop visible as a force for good in the community.
4. When properly worn on the correct occasions, it can attract new members.
5. Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive, youth image in the neighborhood, thus helping to counteract the negative feeling some adults have about youth.

The troop uniform:

The following is the official uniform of Troop 539:

Provided by the boy:

Shirt (official tan w/red shoulder tabs)
Flag, Council, World Crest and Patrol patches
Pants/Shorts (official olive)
Belt (official web belt)
Socks (official above ankle length)
Hat - optional (ball cap style) {See Troop Hat}

Provided by the troop:

Neckerchief
Registration and Handbook
Neckerchief slide
Rank badge and badges of office
Troop T-Shirt
Troop Hat

{NOTE: Troop insignia, 539 (all 3 numbers on one patch), is available for purchase from the Troop}

The official uniform is referred to as the "Class A" Uniform. The Scout should always wear this uniform, **To and From**, all Troop outings and activities, unless specifically told not to.

For Camping Trips and Parades, the Scout should wear hiking boots with the Class A Uniform. Sneakers may be worn with the Class A uniform when attending the weekly Troop meeting.

The "Class B" Uniform is defined by wearing the Troop T-Shirt (in cold weather months, a black long sleeve shirt may be worn under the Troop T-Shirt).

Official placement of insignia may be found on the inside front and back cover of the Scout Handbook.

Advancement

Advancement is the process by which youth members progress through the ranks in the Scouting program by the gradual mastery of Scouting skills. Everything boys do to advance and earn these ranks, from the day they join until the day they leave the program, should be designed to help boys have an exciting and meaningful experience.

Boy Scout advancement, a four step process:

1. The Boy Scout learns.

A Scout learns by doing. As he learns, he grows in ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and the troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others. In this way, he begins to develop leadership.

2. The Boy Scout is tested.

A Scout may be tested on requirements by his patrol leader, Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, a troop committee member or a member of his troop. The Scoutmaster maintains a list of those qualified to test and pass candidates.

3. The Boy Scout is reviewed.

After a Scout has completed all requirements for a rank, he has a Scoutmaster's conference. The Scoutmaster's conference is conducted by the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster. At this conference the Scoutmaster will review with the Scout how he is doing and his future plans in the Scouting program. Next, the Scout will participate in a board of review. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Palms, the review is conducted by members of the troop committee. The Eagle board of review is conducted by members of the district advancement committee. At the board or review, the committee will ask the Scout questions about his scouting experience and review the rank requirements to ensure that they have been met.

4. The Boy Scout is recognized.

When the board of review has certified a boy's advancement, he deserves to receive recognition as soon as possible. This should be done at a ceremony at the next troop meeting. The certificate for his next rank will be presented to him at the next troop court of honor.

Note: Advancement guidelines are included later in this packet.

Court of Honor

As stated above, when a Scout advances, he should be recognized as soon as possible - preferably at the next troop meeting. He is recognized a second time at a formal ceremony called a Court of Honor.

The main purposes of the Court of Honor are to provide formal recognition for achievement and to provide an incentive for other Scouts to advance.

Troop 539 has formal Courts of Honor three times a year. All families are asked to attend and guests are certainly welcome. Every boy who advances deserves to be recognized in front of his family. The court of honor is the boy's special night.

Youth Protection

Program Summary

Child abuse is a major problem affecting our society. Each year more than 2 million cases of suspected child abuse are reported. This means that 1 percent of American children are experiencing physical abuse, 1 percent are experiencing sexual abuse, and 2 to 5 percent are experiencing emotional maltreatment or some form of neglect. Because of the significance of this social problem, The Boy Scouts of America has declared child abuse as one of the "unacceptables" to receive special attention by those involved in the Scouting program.

The BSA has developed a five-point plan to combat child abuse and to improve the environment in which young people live. The key elements of this strategy include the following points:

- Educating Scouting volunteers, parents and Scouts themselves to aid in the detection and prevention of child abuse.
- Establishing leader-selection procedures to prevent individuals with a history of child abuse from entering the BSA leadership ranks.
- Establishing policies that minimize the opportunities for child abuse to occur in the program of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Encouraging Scouts to report improper behavior in order to identify offenders quickly.
- Swiftly removing and reporting alleged offenders.

Parents guide

The Boy Scouts of America has developed materials for use in the Scouting program that provide essential information to members and their families. A detachable booklet in the front of The Boy Scout Handbook, "How to Protect Your Child from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse: A Parents Guide," provides information to help families to increase self-protection skills. Parents are required to read the youth protection guide in the front of the Boy Scout Handbook and review it with your son upon joining Troop 539.

Troop 539 and the Youth Protection Program

Troop 539 is committed to following all guidelines of the Youth Protection program. Any suspected offenses of the Youth protection program must be reported to the Committee Chairman, the Scoutmaster or the Council Executive. All incidents reported to the Committee Chairman or the Scoutmaster will be reported to the Council Executive. All reports are taken seriously and appropriate action is taken to ensure the safety of the youth.

Youth Member Behavior Guidelines

The Boy Scouts of America is a values-based youth development organization that helps young people learn positive attributes of character, citizenship, and personal fitness. The BSA has the expectation that all participants in the Scouting program will relate to each other in accord with the principles embodied in the Scout Oath and Law.

One of the developmental tasks of childhood is to learn appropriate behavior. Children are not born with an innate sense of propriety and they need guidance and direction. The example set by positive adult role models is a powerful tool for shaping behavior and a tool that is stressed in Scouting.

Misbehavior by a single youth member in a Scouting unit may constitute a threat to the safety of the individual who misbehaves as well as to the safety of other unit members. Such misbehavior constitutes an unreasonable burden on a Scout unit and cannot be ignored.

Member Responsibilities

All members of the Boy Scouts of America are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Law. Physical violence, hazing, bullying, theft, verbal insults, and drugs and alcohol have no place in the Scouting program and may result in the revocation of a Scout's membership in the unit.

If confronted by threats of violence or other forms of bullying from other youth members, Scouts should seek help from their unit leaders or parents

Unit Responsibilities

Adult leaders of Scouting units are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and interceding when necessary. Parents of youth members who misbehave should be informed and asked for assistance in dealing with it.

The BSA does not permit the use of corporal punishment by unit leaders when disciplining youth members.

The unit committee should review repetitive or serious incidents of misbehavior in consultation with the parents of the child to determine a course of corrective action including possible revocation of the youth's membership in the unit.

If problem behavior persists, units may revoke a Scout's membership in that unit. When a unit revokes a Scout's membership, it should promptly notify the council of the action. The unit should inform the Scout executive about all incidents that result in a physical injury or involve allegations of sexual misconduct by a youth member with another youth member.

Each Cub Scout den and Webelos Scout den and each chartered Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, and Venturing crew shall have one leader, 21 years of age or older, who shall be registered and serve as the unit or den leader. A unit leader may not serve simultaneously in any other position within the same unit. The head of the chartered organization or chartered organization representative and the local council must approve the registration of the unit or den leader on the appropriate form.

Primary reference: Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America

Outdoor Program

The place where Scouting works best is also the place that boys like the most, the outdoors. There are a number of good reasons why the outdoor program is so special, here are the four that are especially good:

1. The outdoors is the best place for learning outdoor skills.
2. The outdoors is a great place for learning something about living with others. When Scouts walk on the same trail, cook and eat together, and share triumphs and troubles together, they are going to find out some important things about patience, respect for other points of view, doing their full share, making a friend more easily, and saying no without losing one. Skills like these are among the "personal growth" skills we want from every Scout. The outdoors is where they grow up best.
3. On the trail or in camp, the boy's leaders will be challenged by the real thing - getting their patrols fed and sheltered, keeping them warm and safe, solving the problems they can solve, and knowing how to get help for those that can't. It's a time when leadership skills can deepen, patrols grow closer, and the troop grows stronger.
4. The outdoors is also a place where a Scout can get closer to the natural world around him - the land, the forests and their wildlife, the lakes and rivers, the mountains and the seas. Here, in the outdoors, he will learn of the "land ethic" - the understanding and respect for the environment we all share, and he will develop an active concern for its health and a willingness to work to keep it healthy.

Troop 539 and the outdoor program:

Troop 539 has a very active outdoor program and all boys are encouraged to participate. Our program includes monthly weekend campouts, annual long term summer camp (1 week), day hikes and other outdoor activities.

What to bring on a campout:

A suggested weekend camping equipment list, typical for a warm weather Long Island camping trip, is provided at the end of this guide. Additional lists, for other specific outings, are made available prior to the event.

Recommendations of the type of equipment and clothing to purchase can be obtained from the Scoutmaster and his staff. Troop 539 also has a Troop Account with Campmor, a camping equipment store with a mail-order catalog. Personal camping gear may be purchased with a 10% discount, through this Troop Account. See the Scoutmaster for more details.

Expenses

Expenses: Scout

1. Weekly dues shall be \$1.00 (one dollar) for each Troop meeting. Dues are collected at each troop meeting after the opening ceremony. Scouts who neglect to pay their dues on time or are absent from the meeting are responsible for paying back dues.
2. Annual registration fee of \$100.00. New scouts joining the troop mid-year will pay a reduced registration fee of \$50.00.
3. Summer Camp costs approximately, \$320.00. Each Scout will be encouraged to earn this money himself through participation in the Troop fund raiser.
4. Each Scout shall pay for his own food for each campout or other activity. Patrols will assume responsibility for purchasing their food for campouts. Money for food should be collected in advance of the purchase; otherwise the patrol members shall reimburse the purchaser(s) for the expense of the food within a reasonable period of time (for example, at or before the next Troop Meeting). The Troop shall not be involved in reimbursing Scouts for food expenses.
5. Each Scout is also responsible for buying his own personal equipment. Recommendations on which equipment to purchase can be obtained from the Scoutmaster and his staff. Note: tents, tarps, and patrol equipment are part of the Troop Expenses.

Expenses: Troop

The Troop shall be responsible for paying the following expenses:

1. Boy's Life (annually).
2. Troop Insurance (annually)
3. Troop equipment (as needed).
4. Advancement pins, merit badges, etc.
5. Summer Camp fee for adult leaders.
6. Leadership Training Costs for the Adult Leaders from the Troop.
7. Neckerchief, Slide and Boy Scout Handbook, supplied once, to new Scouts.

Fund Raising

Fund raising sufficient to support the Troop is the responsibility of each Scout and his parent. Each Scout and his family must undertake an obligation to contribute time working on the annual fundraiser. Troop 539 has only one fundraiser to satisfy our financial needs so participation in this one activity is **MANDATORY**.

Each Scout in Troop 539 has his own activity fund account which can be used to pay for the Scout's annual registration fee, summer camp, other trips and outings, and equipment expenditures.

Scouts involved in the fundraiser gain a sense of accomplishment and learn that hard work brings rewards. It also teaches your son fiscal responsibility, as it provides the means for him to pay his own way. But we also need your help to make the fund raising sale a success.

The Activity Fund guidelines are included later in this package.

Activity Fund

Purpose: The activity fund's primary purpose is to provide funds so that the scout may participate in summer camp. After the fund has accumulated sufficient funds to cover the cost of summer camp, additional funds may be used to cover the fees for those extraordinary outings (outings or activities not covered by annual activity fee) with the troop. If additional funds remain in the activity fund after payment for summer camp at the end of the school year, it will be carried over to defray the costs for the following year.

Source: A scout will generate funds for his Activity fund by participation in the troop's fund raising activity(s).

Accounting: The Troop Treasurer will maintain a current accounting of each scout's "Activity fund"

Use: Requests to use Activity fund for extraordinary outings will be made to the Troop Treasurer. The Treasurer will determine if sufficient funds will be remaining in the fund to cover summer camp before considering approval of using the fund for extraordinary outings.

Requests to use Activity fund for camping equipment may be made to the Scoutmaster. The Treasurer will advise the Scoutmaster if sufficient funds are available for the equipment and summer camp. After consultation with the scout's parents, the Scoutmaster has the option to discuss the request with the committee chairperson prior to making his decision.

Disposition of Unused Funds:

Any funds remaining in the Activity fund at the end of the Scouting Year (school year) will be carried over to the following year, and may be used toward the payment of the annual "Activity Fee"

If a scout transfers to a different troop, the balance of his Activity fund will be transferred to the Camp Fund of his new troop, upon formal request by the new troop.

If a scout drops out of scouting, his Activity fund will remain for one year after the last troop meeting or activity attended. After the one year, if the scout has not returned to scouting, the Activity fund will be closed out and the funds transferred into the Troop General Fund.

Boy Scout Troop 539 Advancement Guidelines

To advance to the next Scout rank, the Scout must meet all the requirements listed in the Boy Scout Handbook. The following will further explain the requirements and the steps each scout must follow to advance in rank.

For the ranks of Tenderfoot through First Class, the requirements can be signed by any other scout who has achieved the rank of First Class or higher, although it will usually be the Patrol Leader. Upon receiving each, the Scout will receive an advancement card. The Scout **must** keep these cards in a safe place, as they are a required part of the application for the rank of Eagle.

Scouts of any rank may earn Merit Badges. Merit Badges are required for ranks above First Class. These merit badges must be signed by an approved adult Merit Badge Counselor. **Before** calling a counselor, the Scout must get a blue merit badge card from the Scoutmaster. This card must first be signed by the Scoutmaster, and then by the Merit Badge Counselor after he/she is sure that the Scout has completed all the requirements of the Merit Badge. The blue card is then returned to the Scoutmaster. At the next Court Of Honor the Scout will receive the Merit Badge, a white Merit Badge card, and the "APPLICANT'S RECORD" section of the blue card. The Scout **MUST** keep these cards in a safe place – these cards are a required part of the application for the rank of Eagle.

Each of the ranks has requirements about "ACTIVE PARTICIPATION" in Troop activities, service hours, and scout spirit.

The Troop Committee has established the following guidelines that each scout must meet for advancement:

1. **BE ACTIVE IN THE TROOP**: This Troop defines active as attending **75% of all regular troop meetings** and **50% of all Troop outings** since the scout's last advancement in rank.

Troop Meetings include: Regular meetings
 Patrol Meetings
 Patrol Leader Council Meetings (for Scouts with Leadership positions)
 Courts Of Honor
 Memorial Day Parade

Outings include: Summer Camp
 Weekend Campouts
 Day Hikes

2. **TAKE PART IN SERVICE PROJECTS**: Service projects must be **approved by the Scoutmaster in advance**. The hours spent on the service project must be recorded in writing by the person in charge of the service project and then reported to the Troop Advancement Committee Member. Time spent on Eagle service projects count towards this requirement. Service projects do not count towards the **ACTIVE** requirement (item 1 above).

The Role of the Troop Parents

The role of parents within Troop 539 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to help provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. The Troop is fortunate to have many adults contributing what time they can. All parents are welcome to participate, and all help is appreciated. It is expected that the parent or guardian of each Scout in Troop 539 participate in some capacity. This is not intended to be a burden, but rather an opportunity to support one's son as he develops into a fine adult. For more information see the Committee Chairman or the Scoutmaster.

Parents Attending Camping Trips

Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend camping trips and outdoor activities. However, all adults attending camping trips, summer camp, and other outdoor activities must be trained so that they can properly understand the importance of program intent, youth protection, health and safety issues, and appropriate activities.

Boy Scout Policies

Transportation Policy

Parents of scouts are responsible for the transportation of their sons to campouts and other Troop activities. Carpools will be coordinated whenever possible; however the ultimate responsibility will lie with the parents. All drivers **must** carry liability insurance of at least \$50,000 (each person), \$100,000 (each accident) and \$50,000 (property damage). Parents and adult leaders must provide updated information about their vehicle(s) and associated insurance to the Troop annually.

All riders **must** wear seat belts while traveling as required by New York State law. All Scouts and Adult Leaders **must** wear their class "A" uniform when traveling to and from Troop activities as per BSA policy. Drivers **must not** deviate from the specified route or they will jeopardize insurance coverage.

Parents are also responsible for picking up their sons after a Troop activity or, at least, to be home when the Scout is dropped off. The Troop will not leave a Scout at home after a Troop activity unless a responsible adult is present. If a boy is to be dropped off somewhere other than his residence address or to be picked up by someone other than a family member or the parent of another Scout in the Troop, the Adult Leader **must** be informed by the parent prior to the Troop activity.

Prescriptions

The taking of prescription medication is the responsibility of the individual taking the medication and / or that individual's parent or guardian. A scout leader in Troop 539, after obtaining all the necessary information, can agree to accept the responsibility of making sure the Scout takes the necessary medication at the appropriate time, but BSA policy does not mandate nor necessarily encourage the Scout Leader to do so. It is also the parents' responsibility to keep the Troop informed and updated on any medical conditions that the Scout has and any medications the Scout takes.

Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Use

The Boy Scouts of America prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the Boy Scouts of America, or at any activity involving participation of youth members.

Troop 539 supports the attitude that young adults are better off without tobacco and **does not allow the use of tobacco products at any Troop activity involving youth participants**. All Scouting functions, meetings, and activities are conducted on a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas located away from all participants.

Some General Camping Rules:

Scouts should never share:

Canteen/water-bottle, pocket knife, eating utensils, drinking cups... ***Bring your own!***

Every Scout should **always** bring their own:

Flashlight, Rain Gear, mess-kit (knife, fork, spoon, plate, cup), Pen & Paper, and Scout Handbook.

- Sneakers should never be the only foot wear on a trip (water-proof hiking boots should be primary gear).
- No Electronic Games, CD Players, Cell Phones (these are not needed and easily damaged out-doors).
[For long trips (up and back): Electronic Games, CD Players may be brought, must be labeled with name, and left in car.]
- No food, snacks, or candy is to be stored in backpacks or tents - must be in Patrol Box, Coolers, animal-proof containers, or stored in car trunk

For Winter Camping:

- **Sleeping Bag** – Check Temperature Rating of Bag (*should be on tag*)
- **Blanket** – (Optional ONLY if sleeping bag rating is well within the expected temperature for the weekend)
- **Ground Cover** – for inside the Tent (“space blanket”). Form padding is recommended for additional insulation.
- **Every Scout must bring a warm hat that covers the ears, 2 pairs of gloves, and the Proper sleeping gear.**
- **Snow Boots** should be primary foot gear, water-proof hiking boots as secondary back-up foot wear.

On Every Trip Scouts Must...

Always tell one of the Adult Leaders if you get cut or hurt, no matter how minor.

Always tell your Patrol Leader when you leave the campsite, and you always **MUST** have a buddy with you.