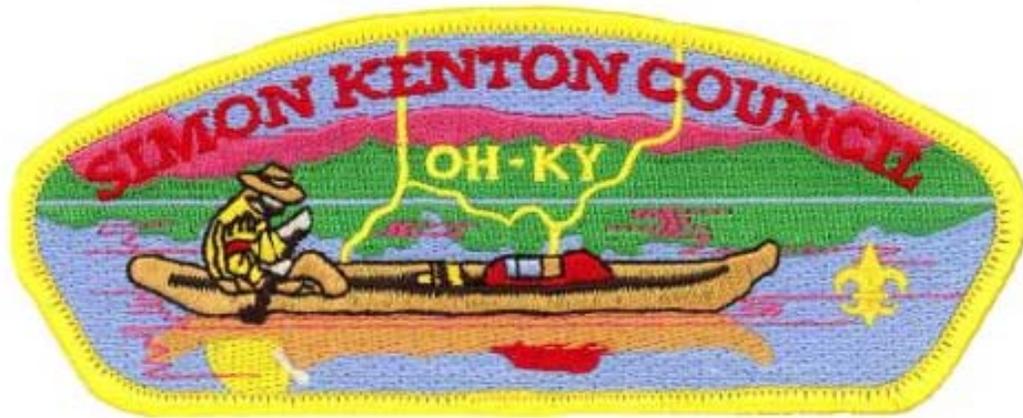


# Welcome to Troop 96 Boy Scouts of America

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# TROOP



# 2009 Parent Guide

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<http://www.boyscoutfun.org>

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## Introduction

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America and Troop 96! By becoming a parent of a Boy Scout, you are setting your son out on the grand adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him. What is it all about? What will you be expected to do? What does it cost? We have prepared this booklet to answer these questions.

The following pages describe the organization of our Troop and the advancement pattern that each boy will follow. Reading this will help you understand how your boy can progress through the ranks with your help. It will help you understand how you can assist and what the various adult volunteers are doing to help the Troop.

## What does a Scout do in Troop 96?

### Weekly Troop/Patrol Meetings

- Every Monday, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Meeting will start and end on time.
- Meetings are held at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2070 Ridgecliff Road, Upper Arlington Ohio 43221.
- Scouts work on rank advancement, merit badge activities and preparing for campouts.
- Class A uniforms shall be worn to troop meetings, unless otherwise designated by the Scoutmaster.
- A scout is expected to live his life by the principles of the scout oath and law. He is an example to those around him of the values, character and leadership of the Boy Scouts of America. This personal code of conduct is taken very seriously within Troop 96.
- All boys should come to troop meetings prepared with their Scout Handbook, notebook, and pencil or pen. It helps to give your scout an old book bag or cloth bag for storage.
- At the end of each meeting there will be brief announcements to let parents and scouts know upcoming events. Please be respectful of the announcements.

### Monthly Campouts

- Troop 96 loves to camp year around.
- Campouts will be announced at the end of each troop meeting with sign-up sheets for the scouts. A Troop calendar is kept on our website at [www.boyscoutfun.org](http://www.boyscoutfun.org)
- Campouts typically cost \$15 per scout but may vary based on the location/activity.
- We send e-mail to announce the campouts and other activities of the troop

### Service Projects

In addition to weekly meetings and monthly camp activities, Troop 96 scouts develop a sense of citizenship and strength in their community by participating in service projects

throughout the year. Troop sponsored service projects that are approved for rank advancement, are posted on our website. For service projects not listed, the scout must obtain Scoutmaster's approval prior to working on the project if he wants to apply it towards a rank advancement requirement.

## **Training**

One of the goals of scouting is to develop trained youth leaders. The unit and council provide leadership training opportunities, encourages scouts to attend Junior Leader Outdoor Workshop (JLOW), Den Chief, and National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) such as Nagatamen or Eagle Feather. Once a scout has achieved the rank of First Class he will select troop wide leadership responsibilities to develop leadership skills in a specific area.

## **Courts of Honor**

Troop 96 conducts a Court of Honor at least twice each year to recognize Scout advancements and awards. The Court of Honor is a public ceremony, and is a chance for the Scouts to be recognized for their achievements. Families and their guests are encouraged to attend. Eagle Courts of Honor are special ceremonies recognizing the Eagle Scout separately from the Troop Court of Honors.

## **High Adventure Activities**

Each summer, scouts can attend a weeklong summer camp. Older scouts (usually age 14-up who are at least First Class) may embark on High Adventure activities. Recent High Adventure events have included Canoeing in Canada, Gettysburg/Antietam/Harpers Ferry/ Washington D.C..

## **Fundraising**

Additional funds are raised by the boys through various fundraising activities. The Troop plans to do one major fundraising project a year; Selling *Popcorn*. Each scout may receive a portion of the profits for their personal scouting account as they sell items. This account can be used towards the cost of Boy Scout programs and, with prior written approval of the Scoutmaster, to purchase necessary gear for a Boy Scout program.

## **Order of the Arrow**

Our troop participates in Order of the Arrow. The purpose of the Order of the Arrow is fourfold:

1. To recognize those Scout campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives,
2. To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit,
3. To promote Scout camping, and
4. To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

## What does a parent do in Troop 96?

The role of parents within Troop 96 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

- Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting.
- Actively follow their Scout's progress and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
- Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
- Assist in Troop fund-raisers and other such activities.
- Be aware of the Troop Events Calendar.
- Consider serving as Merit Badge Counselor in areas in which they have specialized knowledge and skills. See [www.meritbadge.com](http://www.meritbadge.com) for the 122 merit badges.
- Consider volunteering to be a member of the Troop Committee (see below).
- Consider volunteering to be a scoutmaster or assistant scoutmaster
- Attend Troop 96 Adult training Sessions
- Complete On Line Youth Protection Training
- Complete On Line Boy Scout Fast Start Training

## Outdoor Program

Scouting is effective whenever we take advantage of its truth: The place where Scouting works best is also the place that boys want the most.

### Troop 96 and the outdoor program:

Troop 96 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. These are frequently done by patrol method. For older boys, the troop offers a High Adventure program.

Parents are welcome on monthly campouts, if space allows and they have signed up for the program. They are members of the Adult Patrol and will be expected to fully participate in the Patrol's duties. However, unless requested by the scoutmaster (sometimes herein "SM") or assistant scoutmaster (sometimes herein "ASM"), adults do not assist or participate in the Scouts' programs. When camping, adults are responsible for the Adult Patrol camp, and are there to provide guidance and advice for scouts when needed.

### Commitment for Campouts:

Commitment for the Campouts generally takes place two weeks prior to the campout at the Monday night meeting. Details about the campout will be posted on the Internet and sheets will be available for pick up from the Committee Table. The Scout is required to sign up for the campout and submit the campout fees and permission form by the deadline. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO KNOW AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE

WHO IS ATTENDING. LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS OR WITHDRAWALS MAKE PLANNING AND EXECUTION VERY DIFFICULT AND MAY RESULT IN A LOST OPPORTUNITY FOR A SCOUT. Menu planning and grocery shopping is contingent on the number of people attending. There needs to be adequate adult supervision. The Troop usually requires drivers to get the boys to and from campouts.

The Camping Fee (per participant – Scout, Scouters and Parents) varies depending on what the Troop is doing. It covers the cost of the weekend, including food. Please see the Troop's Internet Site or the Take Home package for the camping fee, permission forms, deadlines, and details.

If a campout is a patrol method campout, one scout (the Grubmaster) from each Patrol will be responsible for purchasing the food for the patrol and bringing it to the campout. Items that require refrigeration should be properly packed in ice chests with ice. The scout presents the receipts for the campout food to the Troop Treasurer during a following Monday meeting for reimbursement.

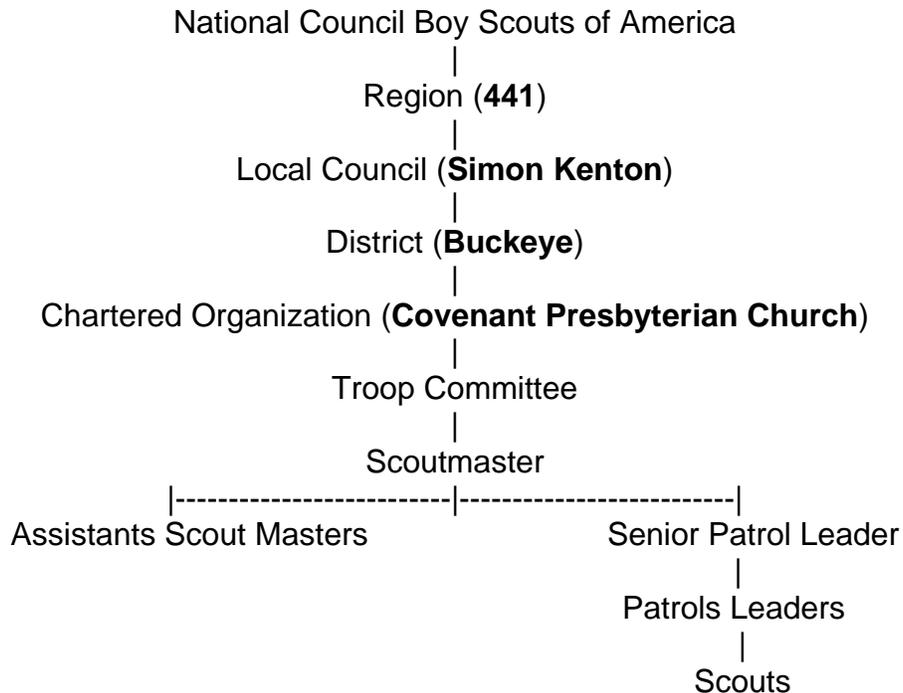
### **What to bring on a campout**

The Boy Scout Manual tells what is needed for each type of camping and the troop usually provides a list of specific equipment needed for campouts.

### **Cancellations**

If your Scout becomes ill or another event occurs that precludes attendance for a campout for which your Scout has registered, there are some people who must be notified. Scouts must call their Patrol Leader and their Grubmaster. They also must call the Campout Leader or an attending Assistant Scoutmaster. Paid campout fees are considered "donated" to the Troop Treasury to cover the fixed cost of the event.

## BSA and Troop 96 Organization



### Troop Committee:

The Troop Committee meets monthly to discuss the direction of the troop and actively seek comments, insights and /or concerns regarding the troop's program from parents and troop leaders. The success of the troop largely depends on the support of parents and adult leadership. Therefore, Troop 96 encourages all parents, both Moms and Dads, in becoming active participants. Participation is greatly appreciated at any level: from attending troop meetings, becoming committee members, becoming a merit badge counselor or becoming a uniformed leader. If a parent is interested in becoming a committee member or a uniformed leader, and is willing to take some BSA training, please contact the Scoutmaster, any Assistant Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman. All Committee members are encouraged to obtain Troop Committee Challenge training.

### 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). Assistant Scoutmasters are required to take Scoutmaster Fundamental training like Blackfoot, Greenbar or Okama. They are encouraged to take additional training such as, safety afloat, safe swim defense, safe trek, specialized leadership training, Powderhorn and Woodbadge for the 21st century.

**Senior Patrol Leader:**

The senior patrol leader (SPL) is the top boy leader in the troop and is elected by his peers. He leads the patrol leaders' council and, in consultation with the Scoutmaster, appoints other junior leaders and assigns specific responsibilities as needed. Troop 96 recommends its SPL to have taken JLOW and a NYLT course (or signed up) to be eligible for election to the position as part of our commitment to trained boy leadership. The SPL is also an invited member of the Troop Committee.

**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, troop guides, and instructors.

**Patrol Leaders:**

The patrol leaders (PL) are responsible for giving leadership to the members of their patrols and are elected by their patrol members. They are their representation on the patrol leaders' council.

**Assistant Patrol Leaders:**

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

**Patrol Leaders' Council (“PLC”):**

The patrol leaders' council, not the adult leaders, is responsible for planning and conducting the troop's activities. The patrol leaders' council is composed of the following voting members: senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, Troop guides and patrol leaders.

**Patrols**

Troop 96 is a boy-run troop. Leadership is one of the methods of Scouting. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps the boy accept the leadership of others and helps him to grow into a more responsible adult.

**New Scout Patrols**

New Scouts are placed with other new Scouts in patrols of up to 8 to 10 boys. The Scouts will have ample opportunity to interact with boys in the other patrols. The

Scoutmaster and SPL will assign a Troop Guide to each new patrol. The Troop Guide is an older Scout who functions as a special guide for new Scouts, to teach them about the patrol method and has been chosen because he has previously demonstrated the ability to work well with younger Scouts. All new Scouts should bring any issues, problems, or questions to the attention of the Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Patrol Leader, senior leader or Committee member.

## Advancement

There are many definitions of advancement, but the Scouting definition might well be, simply, "the art of meeting a challenge." For that is exactly what the Boy Scout advancement program asks the boys to do. The Boy Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a Scout climbs at his own pace. As he acquires these skills he moves up through a series of ranks, for which he is awarded badges: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks -- and the more rewarding.

### Achievements include:

- Learning skills that qualify for Scouting's more rugged and exciting outdoor challenges.
- Developing body and mind, growing self-confidence, and helping younger Scouts climb the advancement ladder.
- Discovering how it feels to go further -- in so many ways -- than he ever thought he could.

We don't look at advancement as a goal, but as a natural outcome of a planned, quality Troop program. There are four steps of advancement:

- The Boy Scout **Learns**.
- The Boy Scout is **Tested**.
- The Boy Scout is **Reviewed**.
- The Boy Scout is **Recognized**.

### Advancement through First Class

From the time the Scout enters the Troop through the time he earns advancement to First Class, he is learning basic scouting skills to enable him to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, and perform other tasks in the outdoors and to work as a member of a team. With those first steps the scout begins to build themselves physically, mentally, and morally. He will start to live with the Scout Oath and Law. Soon he will learn the symbolism inherent in the Scout badge; he will learn that there are three points of the trefoil which stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath: Duty to God and country, duty to other people, and duty to yourself. The goal of this Troop is for the Scout to achieve the rank of First Class within his first year in the Troop. This is a sign that the scout has mastered the fundamentals of scouting and can begin to start the long process of learning to lead others, refining the learned skills and learning additional skills.

## **Advancement from First Class to Eagle**

From the achievement of First Class through Eagle, the Scout will be demonstrating leadership, performing service projects, earning merit badges and using the skills learned while achieving the rank of First Class. The next ranks he will earn are Star and Life. These ranks are harder to obtain than the earlier ranks, but are also more interesting for the older scouts. Upon completion of all the requirements for Star and Life the Scout will be eligible to work for Eagle. The original principals, the Scout Oath and Law now have fuller meaning for the Scout and their understanding of them is much greater. The final steps towards Eagle are filled with leadership experiences.

Details for advancement are contained in the Boy Scout Handbook, which the Troop typically gives to each incoming Scout. Take a look at Chapter 1. This short chapter has an advancement summary through First Class.

## **Merit Badges**

The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a Scout's areas of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. Merit badges are earned by a Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor. The Scout is required to contact the counselor to arrange for times and places to meet with the counselor. When the Scout completes the work on the merit badge he and/or the counselor will inform the Scoutmaster that the Scout has completed the requirements for that badge. Merit Badges earned will be presented to the Scout during the Troop's semi-annual Court of Honor.

Parents of Troop 96 Scouts are encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors. If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, please contact the Merit badge Chair or any uniformed adult leader.

## **Merit Badge Procedures**

This is the procedure to be followed by a Scout to earn a merit badge:

Decide on a merit badge to pursue. Our troop librarian has some merit badge books. Please sign them out and return them timely. Also, if you purchase a badge book and no longer need it, please consider donating it to the library. Helpful references to Internet resources for badge work can be found on our Internet site, <http://www.boyscoutfun.org>.



meet the requirements as they are stated -- no more and no less. You are expected to do exactly what is stated in the requirements. If it says, "show or demonstrate," that is what you must do. Just telling about it isn't enough. The same thing holds true for such words as "make," "list," "in the field," and "collect," "identify," and "label."

4. Be sure the counselor has signed the blue card in all applicable places. The counselor will keep one part.
5. Then, take the blue card to the Scoutmaster for his review and sign off. You will receive back the portion entitled "Applicant's Record." You must keep this copy, and you will need it for your Eagle Board of Review.

### **Scout Script for calling a merit badge counselor**

This is a just suggested script, which may help you feel more comfortable when making your contact.

*"Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a new Boy Scout with Troop 96. I'm sorry to call you at home, but may I please speak to \_\_\_\_\_ about a Merit Badge?"*

*(Counselor comes to phone)*

*My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I understand that you are a merit badge counselor for the \_\_\_\_\_ badge. Would it be possible for us to make an appointment to go over this merit badge? Is it okay if a fellow scout friend of mine also works on this badge with you?*

*(After they agree)*

*Thank you very much for your help.*

### **Boards of review**

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he appears before a board of review composed of members of the Troop committee. The purpose of the review is not an examination. Rather it is to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals; to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement, to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program, and to encourage him to keep working towards advancement. A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a boy about his lack of progress toward advancement.

### **Courts of Honor**

When a Scout advances, he should be recognized as soon as possible - preferably at the next unit meeting. He is recognized a second time at a public ceremony called a Court of Honor. The main purposes of the Court of Honor are to formally recognize achievement and to provide incentive for other Scouts to advance. Troop 96 has formal courts of honor at least two times a year, in the Spring and Fall. All families are asked to attend and guests are certainly welcomed. Every boy who advances deserves to be recognized before his family. The Court of Honor is the boy's special time.

## Scout Uniform

### 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 they are both committed to the principles of the Scout Oath and Law. The Scout Oath and Law bind together all Scouts of the world in a common purpose. Further, wearing the uniform gives Scouts strength and support. Finally, Scouts wearing the uniform declare their faith and commitment to important beliefs that bind them to all people. The uniform is a manifestation of their belief in God, their loyalty to our country and their commitment to helping others.

### How the uniform can help the Troop

1. When smartly worn, the uniform helps build troop spirit.
2. By investing in a uniform, a Scout and his parents are making a commitment to take scouting seriously.
3. The uniform makes the troop visible as a force for good in the community.
4. Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive, youth image in the neighborhood, thus helping to counteract the negative feeling some adults have about youth.

### Required Uniform and Materials

Class "A" Uniforms: New scouts are expected to wear a full Class "A" uniform within one month of joining the troop. The PLC has set the following policy for uniforms: unless otherwise directed, Class "A" uniforms are to be worn: (1) at all regular indoor troop meetings, (2) when travelling to and from a camp, (3) as designated during campout activities or meals, and (4) at Courts of Honor.

The following is Troop 96's Class A uniform and materials:

Provided by the boy:	Provided by the Troop:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shirt (official tan w/current shoulder tabs)</li> <li>• Flag, Council and Troop 96 patches</li> <li>• Belt (official green web belt or other BSA issued belt)</li> <li>• Pants/Shorts (official green)</li> <li>• Socks (official green with red stripe on top or white with green and red strip at top)</li> <li>• Merit badge sash at COH</li> <li>• Optional: Troop 96 hat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Troop Neckerchief (presented at the Crossover ceremony or a scout's first Court of Honor)</li> <li>• Earned rank patches and badges</li> <li>• Optional: 3-ring notebook dedicated to Scout records and rank certificates, including Baseball card vinyl holders to store blue cards</li> <li>• Neckerchief slide</li> <li>• Handbook Presented at Crossover</li> </ul>

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

The BSA Class "B" uniform consists of any scouting shirt - dress polo, or T-shirt with any scout pants and belt. When approved by the Scoutmaster, this can be worn to Summer Troop Meetings and during designated scouting events.

## Troop Finances, Health Forms, and Internet Site

### Dues

Troop 96 dues are currently \$50 annually.<sup>1</sup> This is due when the scout joins our Troop and in December, thereafter. Additional information concerning troop dues, fees and financial aide can be found on our Internet site. Annual dues may be extracted from Scout accounts if sufficient funds are present.

### Health Forms

At the time of registration, or shortly thereafter, each Scout will complete and return Class I and II medical forms. These are found on the Troop's Internet site or may be obtained by contacting an Assistant Scoutmaster assigned to tracking Health Forms. Class I is an annual medical form used by the Troop for all excursions and regular campouts. It includes contact, insurance and medical information. Further, it provides authorization to provide medical treatment. The Class II is the required medical form for any long-term camping, such as Summer Camp. This form is valid for three years and is the only one that requires a doctor's signature. There is also a Class III form that is required for older scouts participating in a High Adventure Program.

Adults who are under age 40 will complete a Class II form for long term camping (Summer Camp) and that form is good for three years or until age 40, whichever comes first. At age 40 and above, each adult is required to annually complete a Class III for long term camping.

### Troop Internet Site

The Troop's Internet site <http://www.boyscoutfun.org> is routinely updated with announcements, information regarding upcoming events, required forms, and event pictures. Please check it regularly – it provides invaluable information.

## Youth Protection

### Parents Guide

The Boy Scouts of America has developed materials for use in the Scouting program that provides 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.

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<sup>1</sup> As of 1.1.09 and subject to change.

**Troop 96 and the Youth Protection Program**

Troop 96 consistently achieves the annual BSA Quality Unit award, which among other things, requires that Youth Protection polices are followed and that all chartered leaders are BSA trained. Troop 96 is committed to following all guidelines of the Youth Protection Program. "Two deep" leaders and the "buddy" system are always enforced at troop and patrol activities. Parents are always welcome and are encouraged to participate in our activities but must complete adult troop training, BSA Youth Protection and BSA Fast Start Training before attending any overnight activities.

NOTES: