Boy Scout Troop 404 Guidelines



Denver Council Timberline District Boy Scouts of America

Starlight Christian Youth Leadership Corporation Littleton, CO

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Welcome to Troop 404

This guide is meant to give you the basics of our program and activities. No guide can cover all situations and questions and we invite you to ask any adult leader, attend a committee meeting or visit our website for more information. We want both our Scouts and their parents to be comfortable with Troop 404 policies.

A copy of this guide book will soon be available on our website. The web site also includes greater detail on current activities and Troop background information.

Our website address is: http://www.troop404.com

Once again, welcome to Troop 404.

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Getting Started

OUR MISSION: To prepare young men by equipping them with the necessary values and skills to become Godly leaders, instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law and promoting positive character development.

REGISTRATION, MEMBERSHIP and DUES: Scouts are registered when they join the Troop.

New Scouts will be asked to:

- 1. fill out and submit a BSA registration form
- 2. complete and submit 3 copies of Part A and Part B of the BSA Medical Form AND 3 copies of the Scout's current Medical Insurance Card
- 3. submit Part C of the BSA Medical Form annually, due in March
- 4. pay monthly dues
- 5. maintain a \$50 balance in your Scout's account

Dues cover camping equipment, Troop supplies, rank advancements, awards and badges. Please note that dues do not cover ALL Troop expenses and Scouts will be required to pay for monthly activities unless they have funds in their Scout account (see details in Scout Accounts on page 4). Troop 404 recognizes that there may be extenuating circumstances and hardship cases. Should you fall into this situation, please contact the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chairman IN CONFIDENCE so the manner may be resolved swiftly.

MEETINGS: Troop meetings are held every Monday from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Front Range Christian School's Holy Grounds Cafè, with the exception of the week of Christmas and the week of New Year's. Scouts are advised to check the Troop website (<u>www.troop404.com</u>) and/or their email for last minute cancellations. Scouts are expected to attend all meetings. If your Scout cannot attend, he must notify his Patrol Leader and check with the Troop website for any information he may have missed. Scouts are expected to attend meetings in CLASS A Uniforms unless otherwise specified. Scouts are also expected to bring their Scout Handbook, a notebook and a pen or pencil to every Troop meeting. **UNIFORMS:** Scouts have two uniforms - a CLASS A Uniform and a CLASS B Uniform.

CLASS A UNIFORMS - WHEN:

- Boards of Review
- Courts of Honor, Eagle Court of Honor and Ceremonies
- Parades
- Scoutmaster Conferences for Rank Advancement
- Traveling to and from outings unless notified by the Scoutmaster
- Working with any merit badge counselor unless notified by the Scoutmaster or the Counselor
- All Troop Meetings
- All Fundraising

CLASS A UNIFORMS - WHAT:

- Scout shirt from Council and all appropriate patches
- Olive green pants/shorts/switchbacks (BSA short/pants are recommended but not mandatory) blue jeans are not a part of CLASS A Uniform
- Scout belt
- Shoes, hiking boots or work boots tennis shoes are not permitted at Courts of Honor, Eagle Court of Honor or Ceremonies
- Merit Badge Sash is optional
- Troop 404 Neckerchief and slide
- Olive green Scout hat

CLASS B UNIFORMS - WHEN:

• Outings or events such as camping or a car wash

CLASS B UNIFORMS - WHAT:

- Troop designed T-shirt
- Olive green Scout hat

In the event your Scout is involved in after school activities, the uniform must still be worn at all meetings. If necessary, please have your Scout bring his uniform and change prior to the meeting.

New Scouts have six (6) weeks to obtain a uniform. Uniforms can be purchased at the Scout Store in Denver (10455 West 6th Avenue, Denver, CO 80215) or online at <u>www.scoutstuff.org</u>. Older Scouts are asked to recycle any uniform shirts and pants that no longer fit them to a younger Scout.

Troop 404 Activities

To fully participate in Troop 404 programs your Scout will want to attend:

Troop and Patrol Meetings

Regular meetings are held in Holy Grounds at Front Range Christian School, 6657 West Ottawa Avenue, Littleton on Monday nights from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Meetings are held throughout the year for the exception of the week of Christmas and the week of New Years Day.

Courts of Honor

A Court of Awards is a ceremony that recognizes the boys who have earned an advancement in rank, merit badges, etc. These are held quarterly: in February, May, August and November. Parents, Families and Friends are encouraged to attend.

Monthly Camping

Camping trips are planned monthly and generally held the 3rd weekend each month. Camping trips are planned by the Scouts under the supervision of the adult leadership. Camping trips are held during all four seasons. Prior to each camp out, each patrol holds a camp out planning meeting to develop menus and plan the outing. Each family will be on a shopping rotation for each monthly campout (see descriptions under Family Responsibilities for more explanation).

Summer Camp

We attend Boy Scout summer camp every year. Typically this trip occurs during the second or third week in July, and lasts one week. This is a great opportunity for the Scouts to work on advancement requirements, such as earning merit badges.

Training Program

The new Scout will be given opportunities at Troop meetings and outings to learn skills and ideals to enable successful camping and life experiences. The camp outs will begin the Scout on his advancement program, which may lead to his earning the rank of Eagle Scout. The senior Scouts, Scoutmaster, and Assistant Scoutmasters work with the boys to guide them through rank advancement. We work on rank advancement on outings and at Troop meetings. Scouts may also work on rank advancement at home.

A Troop calendar, which includes all of our activities, is posted at the beginning of the year and updated throughout the year. The current schedule will be available on the Troop web site.

Troop 404 Policies

<u>Dues</u>

Monthly dues of \$10 is payable the first meeting of every month. This fee, along with the annual Popcorn Sales, covers most of the normal costs (supplemental insurance, badges, Scout handbooks, fees, training, Boys Life subscription) associated with running the Troop for the year. The BSA yearly registration fee and Boys Life subscription fee is included. The Troop pays this to the Boy Scouts of America in January for the upcoming year. Scouts who are behind on dues will not be eligible to receive rank advancement and may not be allowed to attend monthly outings. Exceptions and assistance are offered to Scouts in need. Please contact the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair to have a confidential discussion about options.

All costs for other activities (camp outs, etc.) are separate from the dues and are payable by the participants. If a subsidy is necessary to make an activity available to more Scouts, it must be approved in advance by the Troop Committee.

Annual Fund Raising

Popcorn: The normal autumn sale offered by the Council. This activity is optional and is dependent on a parent volunteer or volunteers to coordinate the materials, ordering, distribution, and money collection. There are no minimum sale amounts. 30% of the net profit goes to the Scour account and the rest goes into the Troop Account.

Scout Accounts

Each Scout has the opportunity to earn money at various Troop fund raiser events. Money earned is kept in the Scout's name in a Troop account. The money may be used to pay for Troop or Scouting events and activities. This includes Troop dues, outing fees and summer camp fees. Only the Scout may use the money in his name. If a Scout leaves the Troop, any balance left in his account will revert to the Troop General Fund.

Attendance

Regular attendance at weekly Troop meetings, monthly outings, and other Troop activities is necessary to fulfill advancement requirements toward the Scout's next rank. Attendance at campouts, service projects, fund raisers, etc. will be considered in evaluating the Scout for "Be Active In Your Troop" and "Scout Spirit" requirements for advancement.

Electronic Devices

Scouts are not to bring electronic devices to Troop meetings or camping. Personal radios and games are allowed during transportation but **will remain in the vehicles for the campout**. The Troop on occasion will use FRS type radios to communicate during transportation or during events that frequent communications is needed. The Scoutmaster may approve a specific device for an event if it is Scout related.

Web Site

The Troop maintains a web site, www.Troop404.com, as a means of making itself visible to prospective new Scouts and to other Boy Scout Troops; and to facilitate communication among our Scouts, their youth and adult leaders, and volunteers and friends of the Troop.

The use of, and content on, our web site adheres to the BSA's philosophy on Youth Protection, and to our own tenets as a boy-led Troop.

These principles and rules include:

- 1. Only selected adult leaders will have their contact information (telephone number(s), email address(es), residential address) publicly visible on the site.
- 2. The web site may (and in fact is encouraged) to make available current Scout rosters, rank advancement information, Scout account information, adult leader rosters, and specific information about individual Scouts and leaders. However, all such information must be provided in such a way that access is restricted to current youth and adult leaders. This specifically means changing the access password(s) annually at time of recharter, or more frequently as conditions dictate.
- 3. Under no circumstances should those with access to the restricted information outlined above, including access password(s), disseminate it to anyone not associated with the Troop.
- 4. In photographs showing Scouts or youth members, only their first name (preferably no name) will be shown with the photo, except for Scouts attaining the rank of Eagle.
- 5. Only events sanctioned by the Troop, council, or BSA will be promoted on the site. This specifically excludes informally-organized events planned and discussed during Troop time, that will have a large participation from Troop members, but are not sanctioned by the Troop, council, or BSA.

- 6. Posted content and photographs must adhere to all standards set forth by BSA, and the Troop reserves the right to remove any content or photographs that violate these standards, or any common-sense standards of appropriate behavior, spirit of the Scout Law, etc.
- 7. Any content or photographs deemed in violation of these standards should immediately be reported to the webmaster, who, in consultation with the person(s) reporting the violation and the Troop Committee Chairman, may direct that the content be altered or removed.

The Troop webmaster maintains the content of the web site, works with other members of the Troop on refining the presentation and content on the site, and works with the treasurer in evaluating expenditures related to web hosting, content development, features, etc.

Troop 404 Disciplinary Rules

Troop 404 strives to be a Boy Scout Troop that helps the Scouts to live by the guidelines outlined In the Boy Scouts of America Oath and Law.

Scouting should be fun and safe. A Scout should be able to learn and grow through organization, cooperation, and activities that are lead by their Troop leaders. They will gain new skills, self-esteem and confidence in their abilities.

By gaining a new outlook and life values, Scouts will realize they are members of a larger organization and that the Boy Scout rules are to be obeyed.

RULES

- 1. OBEY THE Scout OATH AND Scout LAW.
- 2. No unnecessary or inappropriate physical roughness and contact (fighting).
- 3. No bullying, hazing or harassment of another Scout.
- 4. No comments that threaten to hurt or attempt to intimidate others.
- 5. No misbehavior or refusal to abide by the Troop's policies which is seriously detrimental to the welfare of the Troop.
- 6. No negative and derogatory banter as well as foul language.
- 7. Troop Prohibits
 - Smoking
 - Alcohol and drugs
 - Fireworks
 - Firearms
 - Knives with a blade larger than 3.5"
 - Pornography
- 8. Disruptive or abusive remarks and behavior which shows disrespect to the group and/or Troop Leadership. When the Scout behaves in this manner, it affects the other members of the Troop.
- 9. Stealing
- 10. Vandalism
- 11. Inappropriate use of fire (i.e. lighting aerosol cans)

Disciplinary Actions

A Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader or another Scout will not administer any discipline to another Scout. Any violation of the Troop Rules must be reported to the Scoutmaster or an Adult Leader.

Discipline should be done immediately (or as soon as possible).

1. Mild infraction - Inappropriate behavior (see rules 1-6)

a) The Scout will be issued an "official warning". This will be documented. If the behavior continues or occurs again, the Scout will be dismissed from the meeting. The parent(s) or guardian will pick the Scout up and be advised why he was asked to leave.

b) If the conduct or behavior continues a "second warning" will be issued which will require a disciplinary meeting. The Scout, his parent(s) or guardian, Scoutmaster and one or more adults acting on behalf of the Troop will address the problem. They will obtain an agreement on how the Scout will act according to the rules of Scouting and be able to achieve acceptable behavior.

c) If the Scout continues to violate the rules outlined before, the Scoutmaster and Troop committee will inform the Scout and his parent(s) or guardian that the Scout is immediately suspended from all Troop activities for a period of one (1) month.

d) If, after the Scout returns, the misconduct continues, the Troop Committee will meet with the pertinent individuals and take appropriate action This may mean negotiation of a new contract with the Scout and his parent(s) or guardian requiring the Scout's parent(s) or guardian attend and monitor all events the Scout partakes in or the committee may require some other action.

2. Major Infraction (see rules 7-10)

a) Problems of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs should be dealt with speed and in a stronger manner. Consultation with the Scout's parent(s) or guardian must occur. The Scout may be suspended for a period of time as agreed between all parties and the Troop committee.

3. Camp outs

a) If Scouts on any camp outs continue to violate the rules of conduct (including curfew) after a second warning, the parent(s) or guardian must be called and the Scout removed from the event. The Troop Committee should take up the issue after the trip is concluded.

Being Active in the Troop

While we encourage members of the Troop to attend every meeting and activity we sponsor, we recognize that the demands of family; school and personal Interests will make this a rarity. However, the Troop needs the Scouts participation to remain a vibrant unit and provide an effective Scouting experience to all our members.

One of the requirements for advancement for each rank beyond 1st Class, is being active In the Troop for a defined period of time. For purposes of rank advancement, a Scout must have his dues paid and needs to participate in at least 50% of all Troop activities to be considered active in the Troop. Troop activities include Troop meetings, outings, fund raising events, summer camp, service time events including volunteering to help on Eagle projects, Scouting for food, swim nights, and other Scout events part of the Troop calendar, district or council events or National Boy Scout events...

Also, the period of participation should be consecutive. If a rank advancement requirement is "be active with your Troop for four months" a Scout would need to meet the 50% attendance requirements for four consecutive months.

A higher level of participation may be required of Scouts who accept leadership positions with the Troop. These levels may vary by position and will be set by the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) and in consultation with the Scout Master.

Parental Role in Scouting

These are some of the things that will help your child get the most out of Boy Scouts.

Help your Scout learn to plan ahead, so that Scout activities will have minimal conflict with school work. We realize their school work must come first.

Help your Scout learn the Scout skills and by helping him plan opportunities. This will help him toward the goal of mastering Scout skills. The Troop leaders will sign a Scout's book when a skill is learned. See the Boy Scout Handbook for details. Encouragement from you can be very helpful in making steady progress in advancement.

Join your Scout on Troop camp outs. You'll be surprised you can have a good time on outings too!

Attend the Courts of Honor which are held quarterly to honor the boys who have advanced in rank or earned merit badges.

Serve our Troop as an adult leader. This can be as an Assistant Scoutmaster, Committee Member, Merit Badge Counselor, or other volunteer position. Please contact the Committee Chairman or Scoutmaster for more information.

Support the Troop fund raising program. Each year, the Troop spends funds, limited to donations, for equipment, awards, campground fees, and adult and boy leadership training programs. We count on the Scouts' parents to support our fund raising efforts.

Provide your Scout with the basic Scouting equipment needed for meetings and camp outs.

And most of all support the ideals and purposes of Scouting. In addition to providing fun activities for Scouts, the purpose of Scouting is to build character, citizenship, and physical and mental fitness. Your Scout will get as much out of Scouting as he puts into it. Our experience and the National BSA experience shows that he will derive much more from Scouting if you, as parents, are involved in the program.

Parent Participation

Every parent is expected to take on some of the work to keep the Troop running. Some roles require steady participation throughout the year, while other only require occasional effort. The Troop Committee maintains a list of these positions. Here is a list of just a few roles that parents can take on:

<u>Assistant Scoutmaster:</u> Assistant Scoutmasters assist the Scoutmaster in putting on the Scouting program for the Scouts. They work directly with the Scouts, and provide instruction in the basic skills that a Scout needs to master in order to advance.

<u>Troop Committee:</u> The role of the Troop committee is to support the Scoutmaster and the Troop in an advisory capacity. The committee helps to generate ideas, manage finances, coordinate activities with the sponsoring organization, and provide logistical support, such as coordinating camping trips, special events etc. for the Troop's Scouting program.

Merit Badge Counselor: One of the purposes of Scouting Is to have the boys advance in rank by earning merit badges. Any parent with a skill who can advise the boys, organize the activity, or teach the skill can be an adviser. A merit badge counselor is registered with the Boy Scouts of America and is available for counseling and approving the Scout for earning the merit badge. Any adult can be a merit badge counselor. Having adults associated with our Troop as counselors makes it easier for the boys to earn merit badges in just about every field. We always need more merit badge counselors.

<u>Special Events Coordinator</u>: There are many kinds of special events, ranging from service projects to camping trips to fund raising. The coordinator's function Is to put the proper plans in place to ensure that the special event is a success. This type of activity is ideal for the parent(s) or guardian who want to help the Troop, but cannot do so on a regular basis.

<u>Camping</u>: On the camping outings, there is always room for parent(s) or guardians other than registered leaders to attend along with their sons to assist in overseeing the boys. The camp outs are always a lot of fun so please consider participating!

<u>Drivers:</u> Drivers are always needed for camp outs, field trips, meetings away from the church, summer camp, etc. Driving is fairly painless, but always appreciated.

<u>Idea Generator:</u> Any good idea for an activity will be welcomed, whatever the source. These ideas may range from suggesting an interesting tour to take (place of work, historical walking tour, etc.) to new or different approaches to fund raising, to suggestions for camping trips.

Required Equipment for Scouts

There are four "MUST HAVE" items for the Scouts:

- 1. The OFFICIAL BOY Scout HANDBOOK, latest edition
- 2. The OFFICIAL BOY Scout UNIFORM
- 3. Pen/Pencil and Paper
- 4. Water Bottle

The uniform, as worn by the Scouts of Troop 404, is required. The Scout will be considered out of uniform if he is not wearing the uniform properly.

Required:

- Long or short sleeve shirt, official BSA, with American Flag. (right sleeve)
- Pair of green shoulder epaulets, and the Troop 207 Patch (left sleeve)
- Emblems of office (left sleeve)
- Rank patch, Neckerchief, and slide
- Awards
 - Note: Most Scouts have the short sleeve shirt.

Optional:

- Pants, long or short, official BSA
- Socks, green, official BSA
- Web belt and buckle, official BSA
- Hat, official BSA

See the Scout Handbook for exact placement of emblems.

The Scout Handbook, neckerchief, slide, and Troop 404 patch are provided by the Troop when the Scout joins. Rank emblems are presented at Troop meetings and then recognized at a Court of Honors ceremony. All other items are available at the Scout store at the Denver Scout Store.

If the Scout has earned the the Cub Scout Arrow of Light emblem and or a Cub Scout Religious Knot, these may be warn on the Boy Scout uniform. Those are the only Cub Scout emblems that may be worn by Boy Scouts.

Uniforms are required for all regular meetings and should worn during travel to and from camp outs. Uniforms are also required at summer camp, preferably short sleeve shirts.

Basic Camping Equipment for the Scouts

For an overnight camp outs and for summer camp, the Scout will need the following equipment:

General Items

Qty	Item	Description / Notes
1	Scout Uniform	Scout Uniforms are worn To and From all camping trips.
1	Backpack / Duffel Bag	Best if lined with a large ziploc clothing bag to help keep everything dry.
1	Sleeping Bag	40° Bag + fleece blanket if colder.
1	Ground Pad	NO AIR MATTRESS closed cell foam pad These are available for \$5 - \$15 in Target, Kmart or Walmart's camping section. Better but, more expensive – Thermarest self inflating sleeping pad. Price range - \$25 on up.
1	Pillow	Old pillow/ pillow case for camping only. It will come home dirty.
2	Flash Light	One Head lamp light plus one hand held (2 hand helds are OK for now).
1	Spare Batteries	
1	Water Bottle(s)	It will be worth investing in a good Nalgene water bottle, 1 liter capacity.
1	Scout Handbook	Mandatory for getting requirements signed off.

Dishes / Eating Items

Qty	Item	Description / Notes
	Mess Kit	
	Travel Mug	A travel thermal mug with a handle is best. It easier to hold while wearing gloves or mittens.
	Knife/fork/spoon	Use old silverware, plastic (non disposable) camp utensils or Sporks.

Personal Hygiene

These items should be packed for all weekend camp outs. Don't be surprised if they come back unused. Boys will be boys and they will learn these responsibilities as they go.

Qty	Item	Description / Notes
1	Soap	
1	Toothbrush	
1	Toothpaste	
1	Hand Towel	
1	Comb	
1	First Aid Kit	The Scouts will make a personal first aid kit as part of their rank advancement.
1	Deodorant	

Clothing for an Overnight Camp Out

All items should be taken on all camping trips unless otherwise noted (Use your judgment depending on the weather, length of camp out, etc.). Remember: Cotton Kills in Cold Weather.

Qty	Item	Description / Notes
1	Poncho / Rain Gear	Good Ponchos are available at Target, Kmart, or Walmart for about \$15. Resist the urge to buy disposable ponchos. These plastic bags won't last a weekend when they are really needed. The best rain gear is Gortex but, it is expensive. I would wait until they stop growing to make this investment.
1	Hiking Boots	These are a MUST. They should be Boots (not hiking shoes) at least ankle high and water proof. There are several hiking boots available for under \$30 at Target, Kmart, or Walmart. You should buy them one size larger than normal shoes.
1	Slip-on Shoes	No Sandals, Crocks, or other open toed shoes.
1	Jacket / Sweater	FLEECE or WOOL are the best. Otherwise PolyesterNO COTTON.
1	Parka / Winter Coat	
1	Hat	Baseball cap for day time. Knit ski cap for sleeping when the forecast is for under 40° at night.
2	Pants	Lined wind pants are great for camping and a pair of zip off (switch back) pants are a must.
1	T-Shirt	Troop or other Scouting Activity shirt (Class B).

Clothing for an Overnight Camp Out - continued

Qty	Item	Description / Notes
1	Long sleeve shirt / sweatshirt	
3	Underwear	1 extra pair for the # of days in the field.
2	Socks, Regular	2 extra pairs for the # of days in the field.
2	Socks, Hiking	Wool or Wool blend
1	Notebook	
1	Pen/Pencil	
	Pajamas	Fleece or other warm sleep wear.
	Long underwear	Extra layers are needed to ensure warmth both day and night.
	Gloves	
	Sunglasses	

Optional

Qty	Item	Description / Notes
1	Ground Cloth	5'x7' poly tarp
1	Rope	10-15' nylon cord to practice knots and lashings.
1	Compass	
1	Knife	Folding knife only 4" blade or shorter. No fixed blade knives.
	Lawn Chair	
	Camera	

Feel free to discuss any questions or concerns with a Troop Leader before purchasing any equipment.

CAMPING EQUIPMENT NOT TO BUY

- 1. Sheath knives of any type are not allowed by BSA.
- 2. Axes of any type are not needed. The Troop will supply axes, and provide proper instruction in their safe use.
- 3. No liquid: fuel hand warmers or any other devices which use liquid fuel are allowed.
- 4. Candles or any other flame lights are not allowed in tents.
- 5. Absorbent cloth or canvas sleeping bags (these are not effective for cold weather camping).
- 6. No aerosol cans (insect repellents, deodorant, etc.). They can explode in campfires.
- 7. Tents
- 8. Dining Fly / Canopy
- 9. Cookware
- 10. Water Jugs
- 11. Dutch Ovens.
- 12. Stoves
- 13. Saw

The Troop also maintains a well stocked first aid kit.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT FOR WINTER CAMPING

Our experience is that fall and winter camping. can really be fun, but only if the Scout is well prepared for cold weather. Therefore, in addition to the basic camping equipment previously listed, we recommend the following equipment for cold weather activities and camp outs from November March (and sometimes in October and April as well).

The quantities listed are appropriate for an overnight winter camp out.

Clothing

Qty	Item	Description / Notes
1	winter boots with removable liners	This type of boot: is available from most discount stores, K-Mart, Dick's, etc. This type of boot is a MUST for winter camping, most other types of boots lead to cold feet. Snowmobile boots are warm but nylon tops may get sparks from the campfire.
2	long pants	
1	snow pants	
2	shirts - long sleeve	
1	sweater/fleece	
1	jacket/winter coat	
2	warm hat	
2 or 3	gloves/mittens	Warm leather gloves or mittens are preferred, as the nylon variety may get burned.
1	scarf	
1	rain gear	
1	pajamas (socks & hat for sleeping)	
1 or 2	face mask	

Sleeping

Qty	Item	Description / Notes
1	Winter Sleep Bag	 A mummy style bag Is the best for heat retention. It should have 3 or more pounds of polyester fill and be rated to + 20 degrees F. or less. Temperature ratings should be clearly established before the purchase is made. Down bags are not recommended as they lose their insulating value when wet or damp. Polyester is less expensive and retains insulating properties even when damp. Polyester bags are also machine washable. An alternative is to use two sleeping bags, with one stuffed inside the other. Try this at home first to make sure that there is plenty of room for the Scout.Extra covers (blankets, sheet, etc) can also be taken for warmth.
1	Sleeping Pad	Closed cell foam sleeping pad: This should be one half inch thick and can be with or without a cover. Pads of this type are necessary for winter camping to insulate the sleeper from the frozen ground. Conventionan air mattresses do not provide the necessary insulation, although the self-inflating camping mattress works well. Pads should be 22-24 inches wide and 72 inches long.
1	Ground Cloth	

We strongly suggest that parents check the Scout's equipment and clothing the first several times before he leaves for a winter camp out.

The Troop Leaders can also provide additional guidance.

** Acknowledgement is graciously provided to Troop 207 in the development of Boy Scout Troop 404 Guidelines