



**Boy Scouts of America  
Troop 649  
Belgrade, MT**



**Welcome to Troop 649 and the family of Scouting!**

**Boy Scouting works toward three aims:**

- ❖ The first is **growth in moral strength and character**. We define this as what a Scout is, his personal qualities, values, and outlook.
- ❖ The second aim is **participating citizenship**. Citizenship meaning the Scouts relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society he lives in, and to the government that presides over that society.
- ❖ The third aim is **development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness**. Fitness includes the **Body** (well-tuned and healthy), the **Mind** (ability to think and solve problems), and **Emotions** (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

**To accomplish these aims, Scouting has developed a program using eight methods:**

- 1) **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.
- 2) **PATROLS**: The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches Scouts how to accept it. Patrols are not led by adults, but by the Scouts themselves.
- 3) **OUTDOORS**: Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at Troop meetings come alive with purpose.
- 4) **ADVANCEMENT**: Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and progress at his own pace, as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system helps a boy grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others.
- 5) **ADULT ASSOCIATION**: Boys learn from the example set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female. The association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage of a young man's development. Patrol Advisors consisting of Assistant Scoutmasters are assigned to each Patrol to advise the Scouts only, not lead the Patrol.
- 6) **PERSONAL GROWTH**: As a Scout plans his activities 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. The religious emblems program is also a large part of the personal growth method.
- 7) **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**: Boy Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared leadership, and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guide him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.
- 8) **UNIFORM**: All Scouts and assistant Scoutmasters **MUST** have a complete Troop uniform. The uniform represents a democratic ideal of equality. Boys wear the same uniform and cooperate as equals. The uniform identifies a Scout as a member of the Troop. Badges on the uniform tell other members that he belongs to the patrol, Troop and council. The uniform displays badges and other awards so the accomplishment of each Scout can be immediately recognized.

# Boy Scouts of America

## Troop 649 Bylaws

### Belgrade, MT

To support the goals of Scouting, Belgrade Troop 649 has adopted the following Rules. Every Scout, parent and adult leader involved in Troop 649 is responsible to read and accept the Troop Rules annually. Modifications to the Troop Rules are the responsibility of the Patrol Leaders Council and approved by the Troop Committee.

1. **Code of Conduct:** All Troop functions are considered a Safe Haven, meaning every Scout and Adult will be able to attend a Scouting function without feeling intimidated or threatened. All members of Troop 649 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, cursing, drugs and alcohol have no place in the Scouting program and may result in the revocation of a Scout's or Leader's membership in the Troop. **If confronted by threats of violence or other forms of bullying from other youth members, Scouts should seek help from their Troop leaders.**
2. **Advancement:** Scouts must bring their Scout books to all meetings and campouts. Requirements cannot be signed off if a Scout does not have his book present at the time the requirement(s) are worked on. These requirements will be considered not finished and will have to be repeated.
  - a. **Active Scout:** Active Scouts attend 75% of meetings and 50% of Troop activities in the prior 2-month period. In order to advance, the Scout MUST also meet the Active Scout requirements specified by the Scout Handbook. Excused absences must offer at least as much educational opportunity that the Scout would have received if they had not missed the meeting/activity. For example, family, school or sports activities.
  - b. **Scout Spirit:** Scout Spirit applies to how a Scout lives and conducts his 'daily' life. He shows Scout Spirit by being a role model to his peers, living by the Scout Oath and Law. The concept of Scout Spirit is not based on how many Scouting events or outings a Scout attends, but rather by how he helps bring out the best in others as a reflection of his own character and attitude in his 'daily' life. Scouts must show Scout Spirit in order to advance. Scout Spirit includes wearing the appropriate complete uniform for the activity.
  - c. **ScoutBook:** All campouts and advancements should be logged in the Scout Handbook first. All attendance and advancements should also be logged in ScoutBook. Scouts and parents should be familiar with ScoutBook or contact a member of the Troop Committee for assistance.
  - d. **Board of Review:** Board of Reviews are held on the second Monday of each month and must be attended by at least three Troop Committee Members. Parents are not eligible to attend Boards of Review for their Scout.
    - **Scoutmaster Conference:** The Scout must request a Scoutmaster conference **at least one week prior to Board of Review night**. All work for the rank of the Board of Review must be completed **BEFORE** the Board of Review night.
    - **Board of Review Scheduling:** The Scout must schedule a Board of Review with the Advancement Chair **at least one week prior to the Board of Review**.

- e. **Court of Honor:** The Troop will hold four Courts of Honor throughout the year to celebrate Scout advancements and achievements. All family and friends are encouraged to attend.
3. **Uniform:** All Scouts **MUST** have a complete Troop uniform. If a family experiences financial hardship in purchasing a complete uniform, they should contact a member of the Troop Committee (scholarships are available). The “Class A” formal uniform consists of a Scout shirt, Troop scarf, Scout belt, Scout pants or Scout shorts (with Scout socks) and current insignia. The “Class B” activity uniform consists of the Troop t-shirt, Scout pants or shorts (with Scout socks) and belt. The applicable Troop uniform is **REQUIRED** at all activities and meetings. Scouts will wear their full Class A uniform to each Troop meeting, at meals and when traveling for Scout activities. During the summer months when school is not in session, Scouts can wear a Class B uniform from other campouts or other Scouting events. The Class B activity uniform is the preferred uniform for daily activities at all campouts.
  4. **Troop Functions:** Empowering boys to be leaders is the core of Scouting. Scouts learn by doing, and what they do is lead their patrols and their Troop. The boys themselves develop a Troop program, then take responsibility for figuring out how they will achieve the goals. One of our most important challenges is to train boy leaders to run the Troop by providing direction, coaching and support. The boys will make mistakes now and then and will rely upon the adult leaders to guide them. But only through real hands-on experience as leaders can boys learn to lead.
    - a. **Troop Meetings:** Meetings are held every Monday from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at Shift Church. Patrol meetings are held as part of the Troop meeting. Scouts are expected to attend all meetings in order to be eligible for Troop activities. Planning for campouts and activities are done in the patrol meetings.
      - **Meeting Attendance:** The Troop Scribe will keep track of meeting attendance. To be excused from a meeting, the Scout must call one of the following people (listed in order of preference): Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster or Patrol Advisor. The Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair will verify that the Scouts attendance meets the definition of “active scout” prior to scheduling the Board of Review.
      - **Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader Attendance:** The Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leaders have added responsibilities for their positions. Their attendance at Troop meetings and activities is imperative. To be excused from a campout or activity, the Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader need to call the Scoutmaster with a reason of absence, and the name of the substitute Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, or Assistant Patrol Leader if the Patrol Leader is the one not attending.
    - b. **Troop Campouts:** Troop campouts are proposed by the Patrol Leaders Council. Adult leaders will provide transportation to/from campouts. Scouts needing to arrive/leave early to/from a campout must coordinate with the adult leaders attending the campout. Campouts always require at least two trained adult leaders in attendance. In the event two adult leaders are not able to attend the campout, the campout will be canceled and may be rescheduled. Campouts are not typically canceled because of bad or cold weather.
      - **Campout Fees:** Scouts will indicate their desire to attend a campout by submitting an RSVP on the ScoutBook calendar event prior to the registration deadline set by the PLC. The Treasurer will use the RSVP as authorization to deduct campout fees from the individual Scout accounts following campout completion. All receipts for the campout should be turned in to the Treasurer within two weeks of the event.

- **Campout Preparedness:** All Scouts are responsible for their own preparedness for campouts. This includes the proper gear for the weather conditions. If a Scout does not have the proper gear, they should contact a member of the Troop Committee for assistance. The Troop Quartermaster maintains some cold weather gear for Scouts to use.
  - **Gear Check:** The Wednesday or Thursday prior to a campout is typically a gear check. This is an opportunity for the Scouts to review their campout gear and ask for assistance, if needed. If acceptable, gear may be collected and loaded in the Troop trailers for the upcoming campout.
- c. **Fun Night:** Any month with five meeting nights will be a month with a “fun night”. The fun night will be held on the fifth Monday of the month.
- d. **Electronics:** Radios, iPods, cell phones and other electronic equipment are allowed only during transportation to and from events, provided ear/headphones are used. The Scoutmaster and/or Assistant Scoutmasters will provide a cell phone should it become necessary for a Scout to phone home during a trip and/or activity. Scouts should not need a cell phone while participating in most Troop activities and/or events. However, cell phones can be a valuable tool to use during Scout appropriate activities. For example, Scouts may use their phones for taking scenic photos or photos of Scouts in action, a GPS device for orienteering or recording activities in ScoutBook. Electronic devices should not be used for social media or gaming during Scout activities.
- Earbuds will be allowed during the filling of sandbags, provided the Scout can still properly hear and communicate with leaders, other adults and Scouts.
5. **Troop Elections:** Elections for Troop and Patrol offices will be held twice a year. The first election will be held in February, and the second election is held in August. In the case of a tie for Senior Patrol Leader, the Troop will re-vote between the individuals who tied. Scouts **can** be elected if not present, but in order for this to happen they need to call their current Patrol Leader. If a Scout needs a Troop position to advance and they are not elected, they can request a special officer assignment from the Scoutmaster. Nominations for Troop positions are announced the week before the Troop elections. This will allow Scouts to prepare a meaningful speech to deliver on Troop election night.
- a. **Election Speech:** All Scouts who run for a position on the Troop level, **must prepare a meaningful speech** to deliver on election night. This is not required on the Patrol level, but it is suggested. The Senior Patrol Leader and the Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders can all be from the same Patrol. Key points to include in the speech:
- Name and currently held position
  - Positions held in the past
  - Reasons why they should be elected for the position
- b. **Election Eligibility:** To be eligible for a position, a Scout **must be active** (by current Troop Rules) in the Troop. The Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders must have passed the requirements for First Class Scout.
- c. **Scout Leadership Positions:** Leadership positions are necessary for advancement. The requirements for these positions will be explained prior to the election and are also stated in the Scout Handbook. Any Scout not fulfilling the duties of his position, or the attendance requirements, can be removed by decision of the Patrol, and the time spent will not count toward advancement requirements.

6. **Patrol Leader Council (PLC):** The Troop is run by the PLC, consisting of all Troop positions (SPL, ASPL, Scribe, Quartermaster, etc.) and all Patrol Leaders. The PLC meets on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 pm. Scouts and Assistant Scoutmasters who do not belong to the PLC can attend as observers only. They do not have a vote in the PLC.
  - a. **Attendance: Attendance for PLC leadership is mandatory!** PLC members who are not able to attend the monthly PLC meeting must contact their Assistant Senior Patrol Leader or Assistant Patrol Leaders to attend in their absence. If the Patrol Leader cannot attend, he must call his Assistant Patrol Leader and the Scoutmaster letting them know who their replacement will be. If the Senior Patrol Leader cannot attend, he needs to call the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and the Scoutmaster letting them know who their replacement will be.
7. **Financial Account:** The Troop will maintain an “Individual Scout Account” (ISA) for each Scout and leader. Scouts can fund their individual Scout account by submitting money to the Treasurer. Scouts may use their account money for any Scout related activity such as campouts, summer camps, Scout equipment, uniforms, fun night, and dues.
  - a. **Fundraisers:** Money from designated fundraisers will be credited to the individual Scout accounts of those Scouts who participated in the fundraiser. The Troop participates in two annual fundraisers – popcorn and sandbag sales.
  - a. **Dues:** Dues are \$5.00 per month, and are used for awards, registration, Boys Life, etc. All dues and fees must be paid prior to advancing or participating in a Troop activity, unless discussed with the Scoutmaster and Treasurer prior. Dues are automatically deducted from a Scouts ISA on a monthly basis. Regular reports are published by the Treasurer to each family notifying them of their current balance. Scouts are expected to keep their account in good standing with the Troop.
  - b. **National/High Adventure Activities:** Monies raised for National Accounts is handled by a separate committee. Scouts can pay for National activities out of their Troop account, but once the money has been transferred to their National account, it cannot be transferred back to the Troop account. Balances are available at any time by request to the Scoutmaster.
  - c. **Scout Leaves the Troop:** When a Scout leaves the Troop (removed from the charter), they are not eligible to take the remaining funds in their account with them unless they are transferring to another Troop that offers Individual Scout Accounts. The Troop will make every effort to allow the departing Scout to use any remaining funds for Scouting-appropriate items as described above. If after a sufficient amount of time has passed and the funds remain behind, the Troop Committee or the Scoutmaster will determine how the funds in the account will be distributed. Funds are typically distributed to participating Scouts or to a special Troop scholarship fund.
8. **Medical Form:** All registered Scouts and leaders are required to submit a completed Boy Scouts of America Medical Form. The Medical Form is available on the Troop website. Parts A and B are required for participation in basic Scouting activities and weekend camping trips less than 72 hours in duration. Parts A, B and C are required for resident campers or events lasting 72 hours or more.
9. **Charter:** The Troops Charter Organization is Shift Church. The Troop will submit a new charter to the Montana Council Boy Scouts of America each year before December 31<sup>st</sup>. Scouts are encouraged to provide service to the Charter Organization whenever possible.
10. **Order of the Arrow (OA):** Order of the Arrow elections will be held annually between February and April at the discretion of the local OA chapter. To be eligible, the Scout must be active (by current Troop Rules) in the Troop and meet the current published OA requirements and qualifications.

11. **Adults Title:** All Adults should be addressed with a title such as Mr., Mrs., Scoutmaster, etc. This rule also applies when one Adult talks to another.
12. **Parent Involvement:** Scout parents have an integral role within Troop 649. Parents are encouraged to register with the Troop leadership and participate in the Troop Committee through a specific position, in a subcommittee or as an active parent. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend Troop functions with their Scouts. All parents are encouraged to complete Youth Protection Training annually. However, parents and leaders will be “segregated” from Scouts so the Scouts can learn leadership and skills without parents or adults “doing it for them”. Parents are not allowed to camp with their Scouts at an event.
13. **Troop Committee:** The Troop Committee meets monthly on the second Monday of each month at 6:00pm. Parents are invited to attend Troop Committee Meetings. All Troop Committee members are required to complete Youth Protection Training (annually) and other leader specific training in order to be included on the Troops charter.
  - a. **Committee Members:** The Committee is comprised of a Troop Committee Chair, Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader, Treasurer, Secretary, Chartered Organization Representative, Advancement Coordinator, Training Coordinator, Camping Coordinator and Members-At-Large.
  - b. **Voting Members:** Only the aforementioned committee members have voting rights on committee motions.
14. **Disciplinary Actions: The Scout Oath and Scout Law must be understood and followed at all times by all Scouts and Adults and align with BSA policy.** If a Scout violates the Troop Rules and Consequences or the Scout Oath or Scout Law, the following disciplinary actions will be taken:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Call to Parents and talk with the Scoutmaster.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Conference with Parents and Scoutmaster.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Conference with Parents and Scoutmaster. At the Scoutmasters discretion, Scout may miss the next meeting/activity/campout.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Offense: Meeting with the Committee and PLC. Additional consequences may be determined by the Committee at that time.

1. Revised December 2003    2. Revised May 2005    3. Revised March 2006    4. Revised April 2006    5. Revised February 2012  
 6. Revised June 2019    7. Revised January 2023

Please sign and return to the Scoutmaster once you have read all the bylaws with your parents.

**Parent:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_