

## **Troop 3 Participation Guideline**

For a Scout to advance in rank, starting at Second Class, a Scout must be a 'Member in Good Standing' with the Troop and should be active in the Troop as defined in the Troop Participation Guideline.

Troop 3 Participation Guideline – Attend 2/3rds of Troop Meetings, 50% of Outings, and 50% of Other Activities (Troop service projects, Eagle Scout service projects and any activities deemed necessary by the Troop Committee).

If, since the Scout's last rank advancement, the Scout's participation level has fallen below the Troop Participation Guidelines, then the Scout would need to increase his participation level to meet the Troop's Participation Guideline before he will be considered active and be eligible for a Board of Review.

A scout may request a 'Leave of Absence', and the time he is away and inactive will not be counted against his participation. He will not be able to use this time away towards his advancement as outlined in the Star, Life and Eagle requirements, as he would technically not be active in the Troop.

A request for a 'Leave of Absence' should be given in writing to the Scoutmaster in advance and will start the date stated in the request and end the date the scout returns.

### **Scout's Understanding and Agreement**

By signing this agreement I acknowledge that I understand the Troop's Participation Guideline and what it means to be considered an active member of the Troop.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **Parent's Understanding and Agreement**

By signing this agreement I promise to support my son in his efforts to be an active member of the Troop.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Things Consider In Developing This Guideline

Each rank, from Second Class to Eagle, requires that the Scout demonstrate "Scout Spirit". While there is no strict definition of Scout Spirit, being active in Troop activities is reasonably considered a component of Scout Spirit.

The teenage years are ones of very rapid change in the development of a young man from the time a boy joins the Troop to the time he becomes an Eagle Scout, he will undergo significant changes – physically, mentally, socially, and perhaps morally. A Scout's character will develop and change over time; therefore, it is important for a Scout to remain active in Troop activities so that Scouts and adult leaders can observe that the Scout has and demonstrates the strong character qualities required in scouting.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the Boy Scouts of America's highest award and is widely recognized as a distinguished achievement, it requires a strong commitment to the program. As Scouts get older, there are many other conflicting commitments that make it difficult for them to attend all Troop activities. Scouts are faced with the decision of how to devote their time – school, clubs, sports, church, family, social relationships, and other activities. For a Scout to become an Eagle Scout, and receive Scouting's *highest award*, it is reasonable to expect that scout to make Scouting one of his *highest priorities*.

The Scout Handbook "*describes anyone worthy of the Eagle Scout Award as the 'all around perfect Scout'. That is a very demanding standard.*" The statement in the Scout Handbook implies that becoming an Eagle Scout is not an easy thing to achieve. Outstanding character is one of the most important criteria for a boy to become an Eagle Scout. For members of the Troop (both Scouts and adult leaders) to assess a Scout's character, he needs to be active in Troop activities and we (both Scouts and adult leaders) need to see him "in action" – especially on outings where a young man's true character often reveals itself.

**From the "Aims of Scouting" - Outdoor Programs.** "*Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. In the outdoors the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for the beauty of the world around us. The outdoors is the laboratory in which Boy Scouts learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.*"