



Troop 841

Welcome to Troop 841. This is a brief guide to help you and your Scout become acquainted with Scouts BSA and Troop 841 procedures. Scouts are provided opportunities for achievement through advancement of ranks, earning merit badges and awards and participating in Troop outings.

Band and Scoutbook

Band is the group communication app that Troop 841 uses. All relevant Troop information will be posted in Band. It is the best place for the Scout to get information about weekly meetings, changes, upcoming events and deadlines. Scoutbook is Scouts BSA's advancement tracking tool.

Troop Meetings

Troop 841 is Scout-led and adult advised/supervised, meaning meetings can sometimes resemble organized chaos. This is how Scout grow, gain experience and learn. Meetings are held every Monday from 6:45 to 8:30 pm year-round. Meetings start with a flag ceremony and recital of the Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, and Scout Law. Scouts will follow an agenda based on what the patrol leader's council (PLC) has come up with for that meeting. It can include games, meal planning for Troop outings, demonstration and performing Scout skills or Rank advancements, discussion of upcoming events, advancements, service projects etc. Individual Scouts will have opportunities to have requirements signed of in their Scout Handbook and talk with MBCs. Meetings end with a closing ceremony and announcements.

Patrol Leader's Council (PLC)

Our Troop provides numerous opportunities for Scouts to take on leadership positions. Elected positions include Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader. Scouts are elected by their peers. Appointed positions include Assistant Senior Patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, troop guide, den chief, scribe, bugler, quartermaster, chaplain aide, instructor, order of the Arrow representative, outdoor ethics guide. Interested Scouts (not the parent/guardian) ask the Scoutmaster or SPL to appoint them for leadership positions. Scouts should speak with the ASPL and research responsibilities for each position before asking to be appointed.

<https://troopleader.scouting.org/troop-positions/>

The Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) selects, plans, and leads Troop activities, and is the key to having a Scout-Led Troop. The patrol leaders' council plans the yearly troop program at the annual planning conference. It then meets the first Thursday of every month from 7 to 8:00 pm to fine tune the months meetings.

Ranks

The Scouts BSA requirements for rank are the basis for a Scout's advancement. There are four steps in the Scout BSA advancement procedure: learning, testing, reviewing, and recognition. Opportunities for completion of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class ranks are

provided at Troop Meetings and Troop Outings. Additional opportunities can be found at Atlanta BSA First Year Scout Skills workshops and Summer Camp Programs. Requirements for each rank are found in the Scout Handbook (bring this to every meeting and outing). Each requirement must be signed off in the Scout Handbook by a Scout of First Class Rank or higher, by an Assistant Scoutmaster or by the Scoutmaster. Some requirements (such as leadership requirements) can only be signed off by the Scoutmaster.

Scoutmaster Conference (SMC)

A Scoutmaster Conference may be requested at any time during rank advancement. The Scout (not the parent) must request a SMC. The Scoutmaster will determine if the Scout is ready for the conference. The SMC is a chance for the Scout to show their growth and understanding of Scouting's ideals, to review requirements of the next rank and to review Scout skills.

Board of Review (BOR)

A BOR is an interview with a panel of 3-6 parents (you cannot sit on your own Scouts BOR) to determine the quality of the scouting experience. The Scout needs to be prepared (in uniform with their Scout Handbook) to introduce themselves and answer (in complete sentences) questions relating to their scouting experience. The Scout (not the parent) must request a BOR. BORs typically take place the first Monday of the month, but it is always best to check Band for information. After the BOR, the Scout must email pictures of the pages from the Scout Handbook with all signatures and dates of approval to advancement841@gmail.com. The Advancement Chair will enter this information in Scoutbook.

Merit Badges

Merit badge requirements for rank advancement beyond First Class:

Star: 2 elective + 4 Eagle required

Life: an additional 2 elective + 3 Eagle required

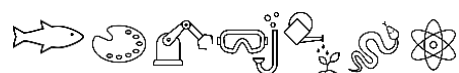
Eagle: 21 total (7 elective and 14 Eagle required)

Eagle Required Merit Badges: camping, citizenship in the community, citizenship in the nation, citizenship in society, citizenship in the world, communication, cooking, emergency preparedness OR lifesaving, environmental science OR sustainability, family life, first aid, personal fitness, personal management, swimming OR hiking OR cycling.

Merit badges can be earned at summer camp, at merit badge clinics, through Troop events (meetings and campouts). Scouts should keep a binder with all completed merit badge work for future reference if needed for the Eagle BOR. It is up to the Scout to choose merit badges and ensure the most up to date requirements are done.

<https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/>

Merit Badge Process:



Pick a Subject. There are 139 merit badges to choose from, to match any interest. Speak with the Scoutmaster or Merit Badge Delegate about your interests and get a blue card for the merit badges you choose to do. This blue card can be opened electronically in Scoutbook or a paper blue card can be given.



Read the requirements of the merit badges. This is very important! Some requirements state that you discuss with or need approval from a Merit Badge Counselor (MBC) before starting the requirement.



You must have another person with you at each meeting or on each contact with the MBC. The Scoutmaster can give you contact information for merit badge counselors.



Contact the MBC asking if they are available and explain that you want to earn the merit badge. The MBC will ask to meet you to explain what is expected and to start helping you meet the requirements. You should also discuss work you have already started or possibly completed. Work on a merit badge can be completed any time *unless otherwise specified in the merit badge requirements*.



After completing all the requirements for the merit badge, have a conversation with the ScoutMaster or Merit Badge Delegate about what you learned.



Completed blue cards are sent to advancement841@gmail.com to be entered into the Scoutbook. Alternatively, the Scout may invite a MBC to be linked in Scoutbook and the MBC will enter completed requirements directly in Scoutbook. Parents do not enter completed merit badge requirements in Scoutbook.

Awards

There are many awards listed under the Scout profile in Scoutbook. If the Scout is interested in any of them, they should read the requirements. The following awards are required for the Scout to complete rank requirements and earn merit badges.

Firem'n Chit- required for the Scout to carry and use fire-lighting devices (matches, lighters etc) and build campfires. It is required for the Cooking merit badge and several rank requirements.

Totin' Chip -required for the Scout to carry and use wood tools (pocketknife, axe, saw). It is required for the Woodcarving merit badge.

Personal Safety Awareness training is required for both Scout and Star ranks (Cyberchip is phased out as of Jan. 1, 2024).

<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/scouts-bsa/>

Court of Honor (COH)

A Court of Honor is a formal Troop ceremony where Scouts are recognized for their achievements. COHs are held 3 times a year, typically in August, December and March/April. All are welcome to help celebrate the hard work of the Scouts.

Eagle Scout Projects

One of the best ways you and your Scout can support the Troop is to volunteer to help our Life Scouts on their journey to Eagle. Eagle Rank requirement 5 states “While a Life Scout, plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school, or your community”. For our Scouts to be successful in meeting this requirement, they need to show leadership by leading youth volunteers in completing the Eagle Scout Service Project.

Parent/Guardian Opportunities

Your role is to stay informed and encourage and assist your Scout through the scouting experience. We are a very active Troop and young Scouts may need guidance to keep track of events and deadlines. We recommend that parents: talk to your Scout, meet the adult leadership and other parents, attend the end of Troop meetings when announcements are made, actively participate in Band, attend committee meetings that occur the first Thursday of every month, read the newsletters, access the Troop website at <https://www.t841.org/> Parents/guardians can show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending Troop Courts of Honor, encouraging Scout participation in Troop fund-raisers and service opportunities. Any parent that attends an overnight event must be YPT certified and be a registered adult member of the Troop.

The Troop provides interested parents with many opportunities to be involved and support their Scouts journey and the Troop.

Merit Badge Counselors: Quality MBCs are necessary to support Scouts and give them opportunities to explore and earn merit badges. <https://counselor.atlantabsa.org/>

Committee Members: The Troop committee sets policies and handles administrative functions, allowing the Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmasters to focus on working directly with the Scouts. The Committee is important to ensure a successful troop. Functions include, but are not limited to, maintaining financial records, promoting membership and communications, advancement and the planning, co-ordination and execution of all logistical functions that support Troop outdoor activities and fundraising.

Leadership: The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters team work together with the Scouts to ensure each Scout has the opportunity for advancement, leadership and outdoor adventure.

Volunteer: We are an active Troop because of our volunteers. We need adults to drive to/from events and to plan and help out at events.

Uniform

The Troop provides each new Scout with a Scout Handbook, Scout Merit Badge binder, shoulder epaulets, Troop 841 numbers, neckerchief, Troop t-shirt and sash. The Scout is responsible for their BSA uniform shirt. <https://www.scoutshop.org/scouts-bsa-collection>
Atlanta BSA Scout Shop storefront is located at 1800 Circle 75 Pkwy, Atlanta, GA 30339.

Equipment



The troop provides items necessary for support of group activities, such as troop trailer, saws, axes, water containers, kitchen canopies, shovels, Dutch ovens, ropes, etc.



The troop provides the Patrol box which contains basic cooking items, including pots, pans, utensils, cleanup kit etc.



Personal gear is provided and maintained by each Scout. Before making any expensive purchases, talk to older scouts and adult leaders for advice about what they recommend. Scouts may share tents and the Troop has a few backpacks available to borrow. Scouts should have a personal mess kit, sleeping bag, and sleeping mat and some type of carryall. Personal gear should be clearly labeled with the Scout's name.

Troop Outings and Events



Our Troop meets Mondays year-round for regular meetings. We typically have one weekend event per month. We attend summer camp every year. We also include opportunities for longer outings each year. It is very important that Scouts and parents/guardians check Band for upcoming events and sign-up deadlines. There is a tremendous amount of logistics planning that goes into each event. As our Troop grows, it is very important that deadlines for sign-ups to events are met. Announcements will be posted in Band and reminders are given at each meeting for upcoming events and deadlines to sign up for events.

Christmas Tree Fundraiser



Our Troop collects Christmas Trees to be recycled as a fundraiser. It is required that Scouts participate. The fundraiser can only be successful if the entire Troop takes part. Important Dates: Monday meeting after Thanksgiving is typically when Scouts fill flyer packages and choose neighborhoods to deliver flyers to. The flyers are delivered as soon as possible at the Scouts convenience. First Saturday in January is typically when the Christmas trees are collected to be recycled. The troop relies on the City of Milton to set this date.

