

Troop 184

Greater Niagara Frontier Council, BSA

POLICIES AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America

You have chosen to join the largest club for boys in the world. You will be going on hikes, sleeping in tents, cooking in the out-of-doors and doing many things others only read about. You will learn new skills, make new friends and, most importantly, have fun while achieving the "aims and methods of the Scouting program." As a brand new Scout, you probably have many questions about how you begin. Here are some answers to many of your questions. You will find phone numbers of some people in our Troop that can help answer any other questions you may have on our website at <http://www.troop184gnfc.org>.

The Promise

- Scouting promises you the great outdoors.
- Scouting promises you friendship.
- Scouting promises you opportunities to work toward the Eagle Scout rank.
- Scouting promises you tools to help you make the most of your family, your community, and your nation.
- Scouting promises you experiences and duties that will help you mature into a strong, wise adult.

Table of Contents

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America	1
The Promise	1
1. Troop Ideals and Information	4
Troop 184	4
1.1 The Aims and Methods of Scouting.....	4
1.1.1 The Boy Scouts mission Statement:	4
1.1.2 The Boy Scout Law:.....	4
1.1.3 The Boy Scout Oath:	4
1.1.4 The Patrol Method	5
1.1.5 The Outdoors.....	5
1.1.6 Two Adults Present.....	5
1.1.7 Summer Camp	5
1.1.8 Order of the Arrow	5
1.1.9 Advancement.....	5
1.1.10 Personal Growth.....	6
1.1.11 Adult Association	6
1.1.12 Youth Leadership Development	6
1.2 Uniforms	6
1.2.1 The Class-A or "Field" uniform:	6
1.2.2 The Class-B or "Activity" uniform:	6
1.3 Youth Protection.....	7
1.4 Finance and Fundraisers	7
1.4.1 Dues	7
1.4.2 Scout Camping Account.....	7
2. Code of Conduct	8
3. Scout Spirit Expectations	9
4. Discipline Policy and Procedures	10
4.1 -Discipline	10
4.1.1-General	10
4.1.2-Time Out.....	10

4.1.3-Essays	10
4.1.4-Apology Letters	10
4.1.5-Service to the Troop as a consequence.....	10
4.1.6-Restitution	10
4.1.7-Removal from Activity	10
4.1.8-Probation	10
4.1.9-Suspension	10
4.1.10-Expulsion	11
4.2-Alcohol, Tobacco, and Illicit Drugs	11
4.2.1-General	11
4.2.2-Alcohol.....	11
4.2.3-Tobacco	11
4.2.4-Illicit Drugs.....	11
4.2.5-Caffeinated Beverages	11
4.3-Searches	12
4.3.1-General	12
4.4-Attendance	12
4.4.1-General	12
4.5-Scout Spirit	12
4.5.1-General	12
4.6-Grievance.....	12
4.6.1-Grievance Procedure.....	12
5. Merit Badge Process.....	13
6. Some Important Phone Numbers, E-mail Addresses, Web Sites	14

1. Troop Ideals and Information

Troop 184

Troop 184's #1 goal is to deliver the promise of Scouting to you, and any other boy who wishes it. Troop 184 is sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church, North Tonawanda, NY. Membership in the church is not required and boys of any faith are welcome. The Church provides the Troop a place to meet, and is ultimately responsible for the Troop. Troop 184 is part of Boy Scouts of America, which designs the program, provides training for leaders, writes the Boy Scout Handbook, and gives the Troop the support it needs to run a quality program.

Troop 184 is in the Polaris District of the Greater Niagara Frontier Council, which covers the Buffalo-Niagara Region of Western NY. The local Scout office is in Cheektowaga, NY. Our Troop meets during the school year on every Thursday night at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 453 Old Falls Blvd, North Tonawanda, from 7:00PM to 8:30PM. Each Scout is expected to attend wearing his Class-A "Field" uniform. We have a website at www.troop184gnfc.org where you can find much of the information you need to make the most out of your involvement in the Troop. Quite simply, the more you participate, the more you get out of it!

1.1 The Aims and Methods of Scouting

The objectives and aims of Troop 184 parallel the "aims and methods of the Scouting program" set forth by the Boy Scouts of America. As with most organizations, the BSA has a purpose or mission statement that outlines who and what they are as an organization.

1.1.1 The Boy Scouts mission Statement:

"The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated to provide a program for community organizations that offers effective character, citizenship, and personal fitness training for youth. Specifically, the BSA endeavors to develop American citizens who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit; have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness; have personal values based on religious concepts; have the desire and skills to help others; understand the principles of the American social, economic, and governmental systems; are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand our nation's role in the world; have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people; and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to the American society."

The aims of the Scouting program are to build **Character**, foster **Citizenship**, and develop **Fitness**. These aims are achieved through a series of Scouting methods that consist of **Ideals**, **Patrol Method**, **Outdoors**, **Advancement**, **Personal Growth**, **Adult Association**, **Leadership Development**, and **Uniform**.

The **Ideals** of Scouting are found in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto (Be Prepared), and Slogan (Do a Good Turn Daily). All Scouts are expected to live by these ideals.

1.1.2 The Boy Scout Law:

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

1.1.3 The Boy Scout Oath:

On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

1.1.4 The Patrol Method

One of the most important concepts to understand about Scouting is that it is a program run by the Scouts. Each Scout is a member of a Patrol. Activities that the Scouts do are all decided by the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC). The PLC is like the executive board of a company, they make all the decisions. They decide what topics should be covered at the meetings, what campouts they want to attend each month, where they want to camp, and what skills or topics they want to cover. The **Patrol Method** develops leadership and teamwork abilities in a small group setting before it is applied on a larger Troop setting. Depending on the number of new Scouts, we may form a new Scout patrol with an older Scout assigned to guide the new Scouts.

1.1.5 The Outdoors

The **Outdoors** is the key setting where the aims and methods are achieved. Weekend camping establishes self-reliance as the Scouts learn to work together and survive on their own. Troop 184 participates in some exciting outings, including: backpacking, hiking, camping, snow camping, canoeing, rock climbing, exploring the USA, and many others. Troop 184 goes on an overnight outing just about every month of the year. Many of these outings are accessible by car or a short hike. For example, we participate in the Nine Mile Island Invitational Campout, Fellowship Weekend, Philmont Scout Ranch, Father and Son Campout, and other activities determined by the PLC. A new Scout will need a backpack, sleeping bag, and entry-level hiking boots. Troop 184's packing list is available on our web site: www.troop184gnfc.org. The backpack provides an excellent place to store Scouting gear.

1.1.6 Two Adults Present

A parent-signed permission slip is required for attendance on any Troop 184 outing. Parents please note that The Boy Scouts of America **requires** that two adults be present at all times. Please do not leave your son until you are certain that **two adults from the Troop are present**. The meeting or outing will be **cancelled** in the event that only one adult is able or willing to stay!

1.1.7 Summer Camp

Each year Troop 184 attends at least one Boy Scout summer camp that is one week long. Summer camp is a great opportunity to earn rank advancements, earn merit badges, participate in high adventure activities, and have a great time. From year to year we also arrange for "high adventure" trips, although these are normally attended by the more experienced campers and travelers of the Troop. Basic Summer Camp experience is available to all Scouts.

1.1.8 Order of the Arrow (OA)

The Order of the Arrow is the honorary camping society of the Boy Scouts of America. The OA, as it is called, is a national brotherhood of Scout honor campers that originated in 1915. The purpose of the OA is to recognize those campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives, to develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit, to promote Scout camping, and to crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

1.1.9 Advancement

Advancement creates a challenge to all Scouts by providing them with a series of obstacles to overcome. Furthermore, it provides a rewarded sense of accomplishment for the Scouts hard work and determination. As a new Scout, your first challenge is to advance from Scout to the rank of First Class, through Tenderfoot and Second Class. One of the things Scouting is best known for is earning Merit Badges. A merit badge is an

invitation to explore an exciting subject, and to be rewarded for learning that subject. There are no merit badge requirements for the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class or First Class. Once you have obtained First Class, you will need to earn merit badges in order to advance to the ranks of Star, Life & Eagle. There are more than 100 merit badges available for you to earn. Troop 184 has a Merit Badge policy, which involves consultation with the Scoutmaster before any work on a Merit Badge is begun. The ranks of Star, Life and ultimately Eagle also require demonstration of Leadership and Service.

1.1.10 Personal Growth

Personal Growth is developed as Scouts provide service, advance, and develop a plan for the Scouting years. Our service projects include the community at large, our sponsoring organization, and Scouting itself. All service activities provide an opportunity for the Scouts to grow as individuals and members of their community and religious organizations.

1.1.11 Adult Association

Adult association provides role models for the Scouts to observe and also creates a setting where adults and boys work together to achieve common goals and have fun while doing so. Every family is expected to help out, either by serving as Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Committee Member, Merit Badge Counselor, and as a driver for outings. You will find that if you participate as a family, your boy will get a lot more out of the Scouting program, and will progress a lot further. Behind every successful Scout is a supportive family.

1.1.12 Youth Leadership Development

Leadership Development is formed as each Scout assumes a Junior Leader position. The development starts with patrol positions on a smaller level, and fully develops as Scouts assume Troop Junior Leader positions that are essential to the operation of the entire Troop. These Junior Leader positions include: Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Patrol Leader, Scribe, Quartermaster, Historian, Librarian, Chaplain Aide, and Den Chief. The Troop Guides are especially important, for they guide the new Scouts into the Troop. Remember, your sons as leaders, run the Troop.

1.2 Uniforms

The uniform gives Scouts an identity. The Boy Scout Uniform has long served as an expression of a Scout's friendliness to all other Scouts regardless of whom they are or where they're from. The uniform represents Scouting's spirit of equality and democracy, and identifies a boy as a brother to every other Scout. Wearing the uniform promotes comradeship, loyalty to one's Patrol and Troop, and public recognition of membership in the Boy Scouts of America. Troop 184 almost always wears Class A uniforms when traveling to and from outings.

1.2.1 The Class A or "Field" uniform:

The complete uniform includes a BSA khaki shirt, (with patches), Troop 184 neckerchief & slide, olive BSA pants or shorts, with BSA leather or web belt, BSA olive socks. A good place to find uniform materials is at the GNFC Boy Scout Office (*see address and phone number in Section 6*).

1.2.2 The Class B or "Activity" uniform:

The "activity" uniform consists of a Troop 184 T-shirt. It may be worn with olive pants or shorts, or other presentable leg wear. This is the uniform most frequently worn on outings, to protect the more expensive Class-A uniform. See the Troop Quartermaster for purchase of a Class-B uniform shirt (each new Scout receives one when joining the Troop but boys typically outgrow them quickly).

Troop 184 maintains a "Scout Closet". If you have Scout clothing that no longer fits, please donate it to the Troop. If you are in need of uniform clothing items and cannot afford them, please see the Troop Scoutmaster.

1.3 Youth Protection

Please read over with your parents the Youth Protection guidelines in the front section of your Boy Scout Handbook. The important point to know is that no adult leader will ever ask you to go with him/her alone.

Conferences are always in view of others. On camp-outs, you may not share a tent with an adult unless it is your parent. All adult leaders are required to take Youth Protection Training given by GNFC before they can attend an overnight campout. The Scoutmasters and Junior Leaders will not tolerate any harassment, shoving, hitting, or disrespectful treatment of any other person. You are expected to help maintain a safe haven by monitoring your own behavior.

1.4 Finance and Fundraisers

Troop 184 is a completely self-sufficient Troop that supports itself through fundraisers and Troop dues. The fundraisers include, among others, the BSA Annual Popcorn Sale.

1.4.1 Dues

The Troop annual dues fee is \$75.00 per Scout or such other amount as the Troop Committee may from time to time decide. First year dues are prorated, based on the month that a new Scout joins the Troop. Dues are used to pay the Troop's operating costs such as each Scout's first neckerchief, Class "B" t-shirt, and Scout handbook, advancement awards, the purchase of Troop camping equipment and re-chartering fees. These dues include BSA's National registration fee and insurance. Boys' Life, the national Scouting magazine, is not included in dues but may be purchased separately through the Troop.

1.4.2 Scout Camping Account

One of the goals of the Scouting Program is teaching Scouts how to earn their way through personal management. Troop 184 organizes fundraisers throughout the year. Some fundraising is split 50% of proceeds go into the individual Scout's "Scout Camping Fund" account and 50% into the Troop's operating fund (or some other split). Others are 100% proceeds to the Scout's Camping Fund which can be used to pay for outings, summer camp, Troop dues, camping equipment, etc. Many Scouts use their Camping Fund for major trips such as Philmont.

For reimbursement of purchases of CAMPINGS/SCOUTING related items, please present the receipt and an expense report form. After approval from the Scoutmaster or his designated assistant, the request is forwarded to the Troop treasurer for payment out of the individual Scout's account.

When a Scout transfers to another unit, his "Scout Camping Fund" can be transferred to the new unit. A letter requesting the transfer is required, with the new unit information. If a Scout leaves Troop 184 and does not leave instructions concerning a new unit, the "Scout Camping Fund" will be transferred into the Troop operating account. In the event family members of the departing Scout are registered with Troop 184 the funds can be transferred into their accounts as well. Under no circumstances will a Scout's individual account be paid to a Scout or former Scout for non-Scouting purposes.

2. Code of Conduct

To ensure that all Scouts and Scouters have a good experience, we ask that you read this with your son and sign below.

1. As a Boy Scout, I agree to obey the Scout Oath and Law.
 - **The Scout Law:** A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.
 - **The Scout Oath:** On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty to God and my country, to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times, and to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.
2. I will follow all rules of the BSA, GNFC and Troop 184.
3. I will follow all safety rules.
4. I will listen to all leaders and do as they instruct me to, unless I feel uncomfortable and I will then let that leader know that I am uncomfortable or I will let an adult leader know.
5. I will participate in all activities while in attendance, unless excused by the Scoutmaster or for medical reasons.
6. If I have any problems, I will inform my patrol leader. If I am not comfortable talking with him, or the SPL, I will go to my Scoutmaster.
7. I will not humiliate my fellow Scouts in any way.
8. Profanity will not be tolerated.
9. I will not break or destroy Troop or personal property.
10. I will show respect to all fellow Scouts and leaders. I will, in turn, receive respect.
11. I understand that not following these rules may disqualify me from advancement and participation in Troop functions.
12. Rule violations will be handled by the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC). In extreme cases, or when the PLC is unable to resolve the issue, adult leaders and/or the Troop Committee will be involved. Each violation will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
13. All adults are expected to comply with the intent of this Code of Conduct also.

I have read the Code of Conduct and have discussed it with my son.

We agree to follow the Code of Conduct at all times.

Parent's Signature(s) _____

Parent's Name(s) _____

Scout's Signature _____

Scout's Name _____

3. Scout Spirit Expectations

The Scouts, leaders and families of Troop 184 are expected to commit themselves to attaining the primary aim of Scouting – Building Character, Fostering Citizenship and Developing Fitness. The Scouting Program does this through a variety of methods. The outcome of these methods should be behaviors which exemplify the Scouts "living the Scout Law" or "showing Scout Spirit".

Demonstrating "Scout Spirit" is one of the requirements for all BSA rank advancement beyond Tenderfoot. Simplistically, this means that the Scouts demonstrate that they live the Scout Law in their everyday lives. Additionally, this means that there is an expectation that older Scouts will participate in the purpose of this article to provide guidance to the Scouts, their parents and Troop 184 leaders as to what types of behaviors demonstrate that a Scout is "living the law".

Trustworthy

- Scouts do not lie, mislead, nor steal.
- When assigned a Troop duty Scouts must carry through with the duty as the welfare of others depends on his completion of the duty.
- Scouts exercise initiative and responsibility to find out what their duties are, rather than "sitting back" waiting for someone to remind them.

Loyal

- Cooperating with other Scouts, by demonstrating teamwork and support.
- Supporting Junior Leaders, even while they are still learning and making mistakes.
- Attending Scouting functions and participating in a positive manner.

Helpful

- Demonstrate initiative and responsibility in helping less experienced Scouts.
- Work and cooperate with peers – helping through teamwork.
- Give back to Scouting by teaching younger Scouts – especially important for more experienced Scouts, e.g. First Class and above.

Friendly

- Be friendly to fellow Scouts and visitors.
- Be sensitive to teasing other Scouts – stop when teasing "crosses the line" from fun to harmful.

Courteous

- Be polite and considerate in Scout meetings and events.
- Observe the Scout sign – become silent and attentive when it is up.
- Use proper, courteous language, i.e. no profanity in all forms of communications.

Kind

- The "Golden Rule" applies!
- Do not hurt others, animals or the environment.
- Work with, and compensate for, people with disabilities or different cultural backgrounds.

Obedient

- Follow rules and instructions from Scout leaders.
- Obey laws and rules in community and school.
- Work within the system to change rules with which the Scout disagrees.

Cheerful

- No Whining!
- Laugh at Scoutmaster's jokes (even if they're not funny).
- Have fun.

Thrifty

- Scouts pay their own way.
- Participate in Troop fundraisers.
- Conserve natural resources.
- Care for personal, patrol and Troop equipment.

Brave

- Stand up for what is right in spite of peer pressure to do otherwise.
- Demonstrate the courage to lead and try new things.

Clean

- Scouts have good personal hygiene – both in appearance and in proper sanitation on campouts.
- Wear proper, clean uniform to Scout meetings and outings.
- When a Scout leaves an area, it is cleaner than when they arrived.

Reverent

- Scouts actively participate in their religion.
- Scouts are respectful and participate in the general religious services on Scout events.
- Scouts respect the beliefs of others.

4. Discipline Policy and Procedures

4.1 - Discipline

4.1.1 - General

It is the goal of Boy Scouts of America to provide a safe haven for boys to learn and grow, while presenting a positive image and service to the public. It is not the purpose of this policy to eliminate boys from the opportunities that Boy Scouting offers. The policies' sole purpose is to make clear to everyone that aggressive, disrespectful action towards others, and inappropriate or illegal behavior is unacceptable. Inappropriate behavior includes but is not limited to: Hazing, insubordination, general mischief, shouting, cursing, ridiculing, name calling, initiation activities or demeaning activities of any kind. Discipline needs to be positive rather than negative whenever possible, and it must be applied using common sense and fairness. Troop 184 does not permit corporal punishment, nor does it allow disciplining through pushups or other punitive physical exercise.

4.1.2 - Time Out

This may take the form of being sent outside from a Troop meeting, taking a time out in a tent on a campout, or sitting away from the rest of the Troop. Time outs shall be given in five-minute intervals with additional time added if the negative behavior continues. In order for time to be credited, the Scout must do the time out quietly where asked.

4.1.3 - Essays

The Scoutmaster (or designated adult leader) may require that a Scout write an essay about his behavior.

4.1.4 - Apology Letters

The Scoutmaster (or designated adult leader) when deemed appropriate may assign apology letters.

4.1.5 - Service to the Troop as a consequence

The Scoutmaster (or designated adult leader) may require the Scout to provide a service to the Troop.

4.1.6 - Restitution

A Scout or his family may be asked to pay if property is damaged.

4.1.7 - Removal from Activity

The Scoutmaster (or designated adult leader) may require the parent(s) to pick up their Scout from the activity.

4.1.8 - Probation

Probation is a period of evaluation both by the Troop and by the Scout under probation to determine fitness or desire to remain in the Troop. A Scout under probation may not normally hold any Troop leadership position, and is generally barred from certain "special" Troop activities, at the Scoutmaster's discretion.

4.1.9 - Suspension

Suspension is the temporary loss of all membership privileges in the Troop, typically for 3 or 6 months. A Scout is not eligible for any advancement during the suspension period. A suspended Scout may be readmitted at the conclusion of the suspension period only after he has submitted a letter to the Troop committee, signed by himself and his parents, stating his pledge to meet all Troop standards fully.

4.1.10 - Expulsion

Expulsion is the permanent loss of all membership privileges in the Troop. The Scoutmaster and Troop committee, acting in concert, may permanently expel any member for any of the following:

- Illegal conduct, in or out of Scouting.
- Illicit use of drugs or alcohol, in or out of Scouting.
- Bullying, hazing, or harassment of another Scout.
- Stealing from another Scout.
- Misbehavior or refusal to abide by Troop policies, which is seriously detrimental to the welfare of the Troop.
- Willful disregard of the Scout Law or Scout Promise; especially by an adult in a position of trust.

4.2 - Alcohol, Tobacco, and Illicit Drugs

4.2.1 - General

As required by Boy Scouts of America policy, the Troop will make every possible effort to provide a completely alcohol-free, tobacco-free, and drug-free environment for our Scouts.

4.2.2 - Alcohol

No Scout may possess or consume alcoholic beverages at any time during any Scouting activity. Violators will be dismissed from the activity and suspended from the Troop until they appear at a Troop committee meeting (with a parent). The committee will determine any further actions, including the possibility of permanent expulsion from the Troop.

4.2.3 - Tobacco

Use of tobacco products is not consistent with the Scout Law and Promise. No Scout may possess or use tobacco products at any time on any Scouting activity, regardless of parental consent. Adults who smoke or chew must do so completely away from the Scouts. Violators will be dismissed from the activity and suspended from the Troop until they appear at a Troop committee meeting (with a parent, if a Scout). The committee will determine any further actions, including the possibility of permanent expulsion from the Troop.

4.2.4 - Illicit Drugs

Troop 184 bans the possession or use of illegal drugs (marijuana, etc), other abusable substances (glue, prescription drugs, etc, except when used for their intended purpose), and drug paraphernalia (roach clips, pipes, etc). Adult violators (age 18 & up) will be turned over to the police. Police involvement for Scout violators will be at the discretion of the Scoutmaster (or designated adult leader) based on individual circumstances. All violators will be dismissed from the activity and suspended from the Troop until they appear at a Troop committee meeting (with a parent, if a Scout). The committee will determine any further actions, including the possibility of permanent expulsion from the Troop.

4.2.5 - Caffeinated Beverages

The Troop discourages but does not ban the consumption of caffeine-containing beverages (coffee, tea, caffeinated pop) by Scouts. If necessary, the adult leaders may limit consumption by Scouts who drink excessive amounts.

4.3 – Searches

4.3.1 - General

Scouting is based on trust, and we prefer to trust our Scouts. Unfortunately, a very few dishonest boys have abused this trust to bring contraband or to steal from other Scouts. It is sad that the honest majority must pay the price for the unethical few. In view of our obligation to protect our Scouts from harmful influences, and recognizing the difficulty of learning about such influences in a timely manner, we must reluctantly reserve the right to ask a Scout to show the contents of his pockets, pack, or tent, or to call in the police to assist. We especially want those few who may be goaded by the temptations of dishonor to know that they may be checked at any time. At the same time, we want to maintain an environment based on trust where we are not tempted to search anyone. Only the Scoutmaster (or designated adult leader) is empowered to conduct a search of a Scout, his pack, or his tent, upon reasonable suspicion. A minimum of two adults and the Scout must be present during any search. The adult leader in charge has the responsibility to determine if police involvement is required.

4.4 – Attendance

4.4.1 - General

Each Scout is expected to come to all scheduled events and support the Troop in its activities. Scouts who attend every meeting for any calendar year will be awarded a perfect attendance pin in accordance with Boy Scouts of America guidelines. Any Scout who misses a meeting because of illness, family conflict, or other happenstance can "make up" that meeting by attending any other scheduled event or meeting held by GNFC, the Troop or the boy's patrol. It is the Scout's responsibility to let the Troop scribe know what events he has attended to "make up" unattended Troop meetings.

4.5 – Scout Spirit

4.5.1 - General

During Boards of Review, each Scout shall be prepared to answer questions regarding their participation in actions that promote good citizenship within the Troop and/or the Troop's relationship with the community. Boards of review and Scoutmaster's conferences will not be conducted unless the Scout appears in full "Class A" uniform.

4.6 – Grievance

4.6.1 - Grievance Procedure

A basic philosophy of Boy Scouts of America is to respect the interest and concerns of its members. To maintain open communication, Scouts and parents are encouraged to discuss questions or concerns. The following policy has been established:

- A Scout or parent with a concern is encouraged to bring the matter to the attention of the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or Troop Committee Chairman. Any of these adults can offer suggestions or speak to the parties involved. If further discussion or resolution is needed, the Troop Committee Chairman will bring the matter before the Troop Committee. If needed, the matter will be brought before the Troop/council liaison for final discussion, recommendation and/or action.
- Our Troop charter representative and liaison is directly responsible to council in areas that might be deemed necessary. It is strongly recommended that matters be brought forth to the Troop Committee before being brought to charter representative or council.

5. Merit Badge Process

Scout **MUST** have a buddy to work the merit badge (Scout, parent, sibling, friend, etc). The "buddy" system is designed to build camaraderie, maintain the Scout's safety, and encourage cooperation to achieve a goal.

Use the following process for earning a merit badge:

1. Pick a merit badge of interest
2. Get a copy of the booklet (Scout librarian, public library, or buy from the GNFC Scout Shop, etc.) and review it. Go to website <http://www.meritbadge.org> and print out the "worksheet".

NOTE: Most of the requirements can be answered with the booklet's information.

3. Review the booklet and requirements and if still interested, go on to step #4.
4. Meet with the Scoutmaster. Tell him of your interest and get a "blue card".
5. Fill out the blue card front and tops of inside three parts.
6. Take the completed card to the Scoutmaster and have him sign it to allow you to start working on the merit badge. The Advancement Chairman will give you the name(s) and phone number(s) of the available Merit Badge Counselor(s).
7. Contact the Merit Badge Counselor and arrange to meet so he/she can set goals on how to start the work.
 - The Scout(s) will:
 - Use Merit Badge Counselor as a resource for information.
 - Make meeting time with Merit Badge Counselor when needed.
 - Scout and buddy to work on the merit badge together.
 - Wear uniform and bring the Scoutmaster signed blue merit badge card to all meetings with the Merit Badge Counselor.
 - Fill out the requirements on the worksheet as you do them.
 - Show the Merit Badge Counselor that you know this "stuff".
 - The Merit Badge Counselor will:
 - Help the boy(s) set their goals.
 - Be a resource for the boys, teach, offer suggestions, etc.
 - Check to make sure the boy(s) know their merit badge requirements, and help them to learn it.
 - Sign the blue card when all the requirements are met.
 - Will keep one part of the completed blue card and give the other two parts to the Scout to turn in to the Advancement Chairman.
8. Return the borrowed Merit Badge Booklet if borrowed from the Troop 184 Library
9. Merit Badge completed.

6. Some Important Phone Numbers, E-mail Addresses, Web Sites

GNFC Council Office

2860 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY 14225.

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 AM -5 PM; Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 AM -7:30 PM

Phone: (716) 891-4073 or FAX: (716) 891-4008.

Greater Niagara Frontier Council Web Page

<http://www.wnyscouting.org>

TROOP 184:

<http://www.troop184gnfc.org>

Boy Scout National Web Page

<http://www.scouting.org>

US Scouting Service Project

<http://www.usscouts.org>

Scout Catalogue

<http://www.scoutstuff.org>

Scout Song Book

<http://usscouts.org/songs/songbook.html>

Skits, Stories, Songs, Ceremonies on-line

<http://www.macscouter.com>

<http://www.scoutorama.com>

Merit Badge Resource Center

<http://www.meritbadge.org>