



TROOP 562

NEW MEMBER GUIDE

Slidell, Louisiana

TROOP 526

New Member Guide

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FROM THE SCOUTMASTER...

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Troop 562 and the Boy Scouts of America. It is my belief that the BSA is the best experience for boys to become men in a safe environment, while still having fun. Troop 562 is no exception to this principle. Our dedicated Adult and Youth leaders are here to assist you in any way to achieve this goal.

Troop 562's year round program offers a diverse Scouting experience filled with camping trips and other outdoor activities as well as visits to National Historic Sites. These outings along with our meetings are designed to give each boy an experience that cannot be provided by any other youth organization. All Troop Functions are planned and executed by youth leaders elected by the Scouts. We take pride in being a truly boy lead Troop.

If you have any questions, problems, or would like additional information, never hesitate to contact me.

Your Friend in Scouting,

Chris A. Wilder, Jr.
Scoutmaster
Troop 562
scoutmaster@bsatroop562.org

Troop 562 operates a year round Boy Scout program filled with meetings, outdoor activities, service projects, and day trips. Meetings are held on Mondays at First United Methodist Church Located at 433 Erlanger Street in Slidell from 7:15 PM till 8:45 PM. At least once a month, the Troop will conduct a camping trip or other activity. Our entire program is planned and executed by youth leaders who are elected by the other Scouts in the Troop. Troop 562 is blessed to have experienced, dedicated, and enthusiastic leaders who believe in “Delivering the Promise” of the Boy Scout Program.

The purpose of this booklet is to inform you, as new scouts and parents, of Troop 562’s program. Our rules are set in accordance with the National Boy Scouts of America and the Scout Oath and Law governs each Scout.

A SCOUT’S COMMITMENT

When a boy joins a Scout Troop, he makes a commitment that he will attend the meetings and participate in the activities to the best of his ability. Participation is the first and biggest step to advancing and earning awards. In addition, every Scout has a responsibility to the other members of the Troop and his Patrol to carry his share of the duties, as well as have his share of the fun.

TROOP OPERATIONS

Troop 562 is a boy lead Troop and is run by youth leaders with the advice and guidance of Adult Leaders. The Patrol Leaders Council, consisting of the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s), Patrol Leaders and other youth leaders, sets the agenda for each Troop meeting and conceives and plans camping trips and other Troop outings with the assistance of the Scoutmaster. The Senior Patrol Leader is the top youth leader of the Troop and is responsible for directing the activities planned by the Patrol Leaders’ Council.

UNIFORM

The uniform of Troop 562 will be the complete Boy Scout Uniform.

- An Official BSA uniform shirt with patches correctly sewn on (See page 5 of this guide)
- Official BSA Pants
- Official BSA Socks
- Official BSA Belt
- Troop 562 Neckerchief with Slide

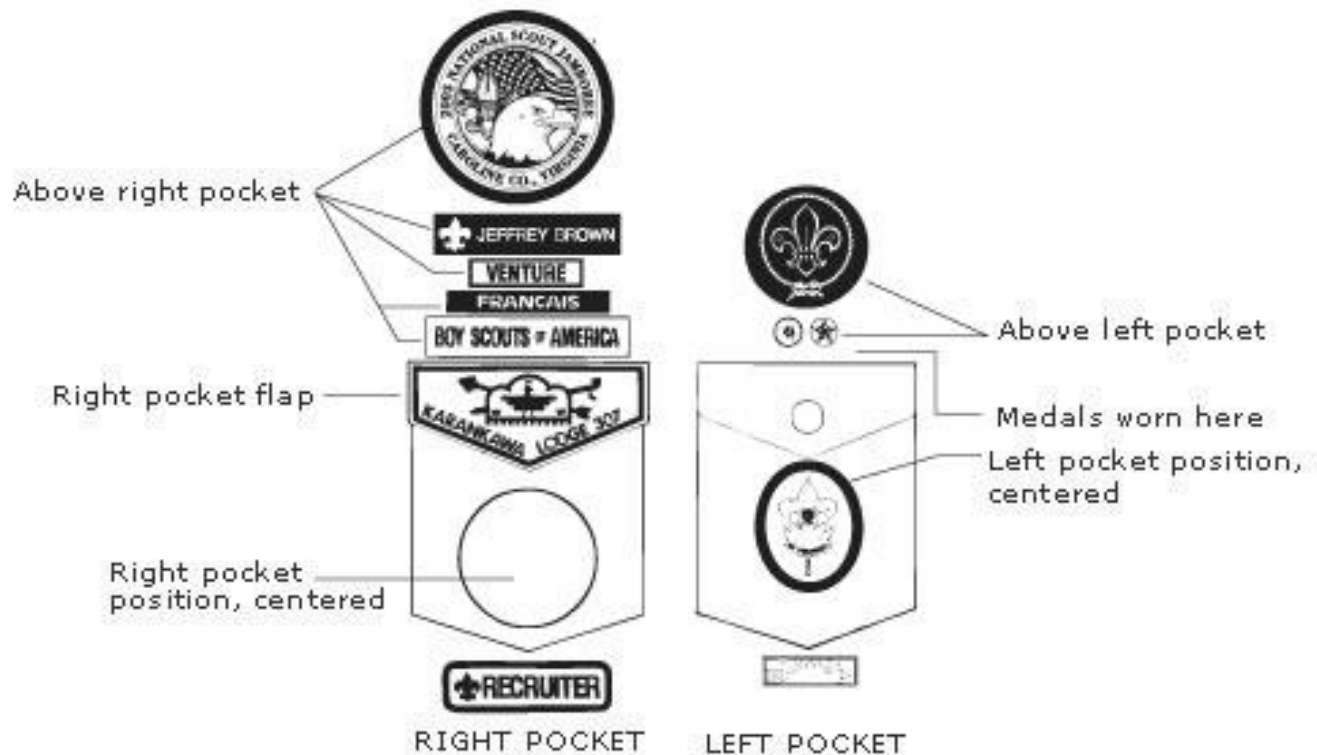
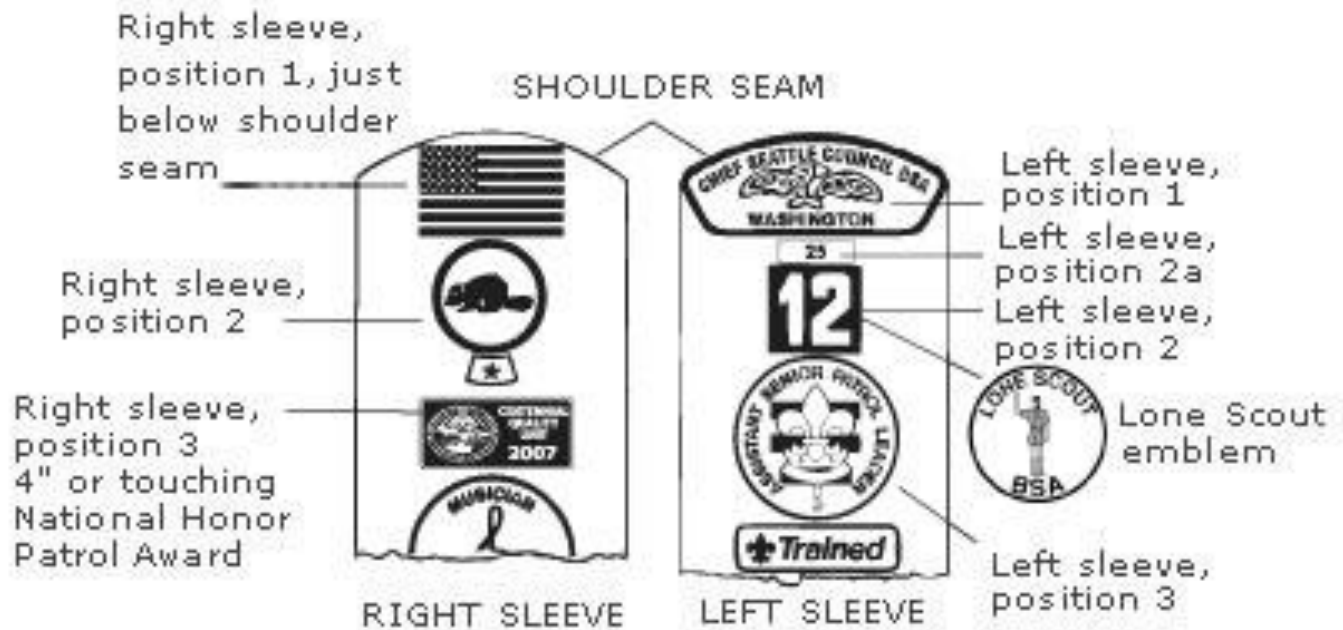
The Troop neckerchief with slide will be issued to each new scout once he has met the following requirements: Paid registration fees, has a full uniform, and completes and turns in a health form.

The full uniform is to be worn at all scouting activities unless otherwise directed by the Scoutmaster (NO EXCEPTIONS). Failure to wear the uniform will result in the boy not participating in troop activities.

For Troop Courts of Honor, the scout must wear his Scout Pants and wear dark shoes that are clean (never white or other bright colors).

Each Scout is also required to have a notebook and pen and the Official Scout Handbook. The Handbook is necessary for each Scout to keep track of his own personal advancement records, as well as his participation in events and activities. It will also be used to record each Scout's accomplishments as well as his leadership responsibilities.

Adult leaders are called upon to set the example and therefore the Scoutmaster and all Assistant Scoutmasters are required to be in full uniform at all functions of the Troop as directed by the Scoutmaster.



ATTENDANCE

The Patrol Leader's Council and Troop Committee of Troop 562 make every effort to plan trips that are affordable for all scouts. Scouts are given several opportunities to raise funds to help pay for trips and each Scout has a Scout Account into which funds can be deposited at anytime. Troop 562 encourages all Scouts to take advantage of fundraisers.

Once a scout has committed to attend a trip, he is expected to pay for that trip (exceptions: illness or family emergencies). Many times reservations and food will have to be paid for in advance and are therefore, non-refundable. A Scout is also expected to pay for the full trip. Partial trips or variations of the complete itinerary are not allowed. Attendance at Troop Activities is recorded, and each Rank and Position is required to attend a specific percentage of these activities. The Scoutmaster sets these percentage requirements .

PERMISSION SLIPS

Permission slips will be required for all outings. **Please read these very carefully.** Permission slips contain all information on each outing including departure/return times, fees due, special equipment instructions, and due date for registration. Return times are approximated. A phone committee will be set up for each outing. This committee will notify each Scout's household about 30 minutes prior to arrival of the Troop back home. Unless otherwise stated all departures and returns will be from the FUMC Parking Lot at 433 Erlanger Street. Permission slips are due one week prior to the date of the trip. The Troop Committee must have time to arrange sufficient transportation based on total attendance.

MEDICAL FORMS

Each Scout must have a current signed medical form on file with the Troop to participate in any troop activity. Parts A and B of the Medical form must be filled out annually. Part C (signed by a Doctor, Nurse Practitioner, or Physician's Asst., and conducted within the last 3 years) must be on file for participation in any event longer than 72 consecutive hours. Any medicine that needs to be taken during Scout activities must be turned over to the Scoutmaster or designated adult, along with written instructions for its administration prior to departure to said activity.

FINANCES

FEES and DUES

Annual Registration fees are **\$50.00**. This covers membership in both the Boy Scouts of America and Troop 562 as well as insurance coverage for Troop functions.

Monthly dues are **\$6.00** that is primarily used to cover the cost of maintaining and replacing troop equipment. **Delinquent dues may result in a Scout not being allowed to attend activities or receive awards.** Once a scout becomes two months behind in dues, this fee will be added to the cost of the next outing or withdrawn from the scout's account. Scouts can pay dues on a monthly basis, every other month, or all at once. Check with the Troop Treasurer on how the troop can meet your needs.

Fees for individual Troop Activities will be determined by the Troop Committee. These fees cover the cost of transportation, camping fees, and any event/program or activity fees, and food. **Fees for troop outings are due no later than the Monday prior to the outing.** Paying for outings on time ensures proper planning for the outing. Under some circumstances money may be due farther in advance (i.e. long term trips). This money is due as stated in the literature for that function, no exceptions.

INDIVIDUAL SCOUT ACCOUNTS

As the scouts participate in various fundraising activities, the boys will be able to earn money to place in their individual scout accounts. These scout accounts can be used to pay for anything scouting related as long as it is approved by the Scoutmaster and/or Troop Treasurer.

Scouts may make deposits into their individual accounts at any time. This may be a helpful way for families to budget for more costly trips (i.e. summer camp). Any over payment for trips or other refunds for cancelled outing will also be placed on account for each scout.

In the event a scout leaves Troop 562, he is entitled to a refund of personal money on account (i.e. those funds deposited by the scout and

his family or refunded due to overpayment or cancellation of a troop function). **A scout is not entitled to a refund of fees derived through fundraisers and cannot get a refund for dues or registration fees.**

FUNDRAISING

Every effort will be made by the fundraising committee to ensure that each scout has an equal opportunity to earn funds. Unless dedicated for a specific purpose, 50 % of all profits will be shared by those scouts who participate in the fundraiser based upon the number of hours each scout works. Only the scout can earn money for his account. **Parents or other family members who participate in fundraisers cannot earn funds for a scout or earn credit for that scout in any way.** These funds will be placed in the individual account to be used for camp fees or personal camping equipment.

The other 50% will be placed in the troop's general fund. All members are encouraged to participate in fundraisers as a means of defraying the costs of the scouting program. "A scout is Thrifty".

The Troop will also hold other types of fundraising for the general funds of the Troop treasury in order to purchase troop equipment. All families are expected to participate in these fundraisers, as they benefit every boy in the troop.

CAMPING

CAMPING GUIDELINES

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT:

A list of required and optional items for camping can be found on page of this Guide.

FOOD:

Unless otherwise instructed by the Scoutmaster, all Scouts must eat prior to arrival at scouting functions. All Patrol menus will be completed and voted on by each Patrol during a Troop meeting, and then must be approved by the Scoutmaster to ensure proper nutrition and balance.

Under no circumstances is any food or drink allowed in any tent due to the possible harm from insects or animals.

NOTE: ALL PATROL FOOD WILL BE PURCHASED BY A DESIGNATED MEMBER OF EACH PATROL WHO WILL THEN BE REIMBURSED BY THE TROOP.

TROOP EQUIPMENT:

All troop equipment including tents and dining flies will be cleaned and dried properly prior to departure from any scout activity. If this is not possible it will be necessary for Scouts to be assigned specific equipment to be brought home to be cleaned and dried. It is extremely important that this equipment be dried as soon as possible to avoid the possibility of damage to Troop equipment (i.e., mildew). It is expected that this equipment be returned as soon as possible. **The Scout or his parents must pay for any deliberate destruction or damage to Troop equipment.**

KNIVES:

Pocketknives may be carried and used by a Scout only after he earns his Totin' Chip card. Failure to earn this card before carrying a knife, or failure to use the knife correctly will result in the Scout's card and/or knife being confiscated. Once a Totin' Chip card is taken away, the Scout must then re-earn the card again.

FIRES:

The Firem'n Chit must be earned by a Scout before he is allowed to light fires / stoves / and lanterns. **Any inappropriate use of matches or any consumer goods that are flammable will result in the immediate removal of said boy. Troop 562 will not tolerate any behavior that has the potential to harm themselves or others due to the lack of respect for fire.**

ADVANCEMENT

Troop 562 takes a very aggressive attitude towards advancement. All Scout functions shall provide each Scout with the opportunity for

advancement. Progress towards a Scout's rank advancement must be recorded in a Scout's Boy Scout Handbook. Only the Scoutmaster and other designated individuals, who may include certain Scouts, may sign off on requirements. Parents are prohibited from signing off on any requirement. Participation and Leadership are additional requirements for rank advancement, especially for those scouts who are First Class Rank or higher. Leadership skills and Responsibilities should be documented by the Scouts. **Scouts should document in their personal notebook how they have demonstrated leadership within the Troop or Patrol.** The successful completion of these two requirements is at the sole discretion of the Scoutmaster and will be determined during the Scoutmaster Conference.

Scoutmaster Conferences are required for each rank advancement. **The Scoutmaster will conduct these conferences. At the time of the conference, the Scoutmaster will determine if the Scout has satisfactorily fulfilled the "Scout Spirit" requirement by living up to the Scout Oath and Scout Law.** Scoutmaster Conferences will usually be conducted just prior to, immediately after, or during a Troop meetings or event. **Scouts MUST be in full Scout uniform for a Scoutmaster's conference to occur.**

The last requirement for each rank, except for the Scout and Eagle Ranks, is to take part in a Troop Board of Review. These meetings are private and are conducted by the Troop Committee. The Board of Review provides "quality control" on advancement within the unit, it provides an opportunity for the Scout to develop and practice those skills needed in an interview situation, and it is an opportunity for the Scout to review his accomplishments. **Scouts MUST be in full Scout uniform for a Troop Board of Review to occur.** Eagle Rank Board of Reviews are held at the District Level.

Merit Badges offer Scouts the opportunity to explore and learn over 100 different subjects. Twelve specific merit badges are required to reach the rank of Eagle Scout. Troop 562 will offer several of these required merit badges during its Troop meetings and activities. Each Scout working on a Merit Badge will be issued a "**BLUE CARD**" on which he is responsible for keeping track of each individual requirement that he satisfactorily completes. He does this by having the Merit Badge

Counselor "sign off" each individual requirement successfully completed. Scouts who wish to begin working on a Merit Badge, must contact the Scoutmaster first. The Blue Card will be issued by the Scoutmaster and no one else. Upon completion of the entire Merit Badge, the "blue card" will be turned over to the Scoutmaster so that the advancement report can be made and the Troop's records can reflect the Scout's advancement. The Scoutmaster will also work closely with each Scout during Summer and Winter Camp seeing to it that each Scout takes advantage of offered merit badges that are required for his rank advancement. Scouts may also work on Merit Badges that interest them outside of the regular Troop Meetings and activities, but must have prior approval of the Scoutmaster before any work on the badge can begin. Scouts who begin work on these merit badges without prior approval may have to redo all completed work. Upon completion of the specific Merit Badge requirements, the Counselor will sign the "blue card". **The Scout is responsible to keep this card and turn it over to the Scoutmaster so that it can then be recorded on the Troop's records.**

Completed Merit Badges will be awarded to each Scout at the closing ceremony of Troop Meetings. The adult and youth leadership guide the Scout to ensure his success in earning individual Merit Badges.

Troop 562 maintains an extensive Merit Badge library which is managed by the Troop Librarian. Scouts may check out Merit Badge booklets during Troop meetings or by appointment with the Librarian. Scouts may keep books for 6 weeks for non-required merit badges and 3 months for required. Books may be re-checked out, and the Librarian will assign a new return date. Once a book becomes overdue, a scout may not check out any more books and will not receive any merit badges until that book is returned. When the book becomes one year or greater past due, the cost of the book will be withdrawn from the Scout's Account.

COURTS OF HONOR: Two times a year, Troop 562 will have formal Courts of Honor. At these family functions, each boy will be recognized for his achievements and presented with an official card for each award or rank he has earned since the previous Court of Honor. Each Scout should keep these in a safe place for future reference of his Scout

achievements. Full Boy Scout Uniform is required and only clean dark shoes may be worn. Under no circumstance may Shorts be worn to a Court of Honor.

BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT

All Scouts are expected to follow the Scout Oath and Law during all Scouting Events and at Home.

Violations of the Scout Oath and Law during Scouting Events shall be handled by the Scoutmaster.

The Following are possible remedies to these violations:

1. A Parent will be called and asked to speak to the Scout.
2. The Scoutmaster will conduct a meeting with the Scout and his Parents
3. Parents will be required to have Scout sent home at their expense
4. Suspension or Expulsion (Depending on Infraction)

Never Allowed

The following items are never allowed on any Scout Function: tobacco, alcohol, drugs, firearms, fireworks, and sheath knives.

The following behaviors are not allowed on any Scout Function: The use of inappropriate language or behavior (i.e., fighting, etc.) AND disrespect of any kind toward adults or other Scouts will not be tolerated. All adults will be addressed as Mr. or Mrs./Ms.

Earrings or other items of any type inserted into body (piercings), jewelry, and distracting hairstyles or hair colors are not allowed. (Watches are Permitted and encouraged)

Cell Phones, Radios, TV's, Video Games, Computers or other electronic equipment is not allowed on any Scouting activity unless specifically designated by the Scoutmaster.

ADULTS

Registered adult leaders provide guidance and advice to the Junior Leaders. Parents are urged to become registered leaders and to take advantage of the numerous opportunities available for training. The more participation from the parents, the more familiar you will become with the Boy Scout Program. Troop 562 will pay for the registration fee for one parent from each family to become registered. To ensure safety for the Scouts, it is BSA Policy that all registered adults must be Youth Protection Trained. Youth Protection Training is completed online by registering with myscouting.org.

Troop Committee (Must be 21 years or older)

All parents are asked to be members of the Troop Committee and are encouraged to attend the Troop Committee meetings, which are held as needed and called by the Committee Chairman and Scoutmaster. The Troop Committee is the troop's board of directors and supports the troop program.

Assistant Scoutmasters (Must be 18 years or older)

Parents may also become Assistant Scoutmasters. Assistant Scoutmasters help the Scoutmaster in giving direct guidance and teaching to the Scouts. If you are interested in pursuing this Adult Leader path, contact the Scoutmaster for more information.

Parent Meetings

Parents should plan to attend every parent and Committee meeting to receive information that is not discussed at Troop Meetings or publications. In addition, parents will have an opportunity to address the Committee with any concerns they may have and suggestions.

Troop 562 Camping Trip Packing List

Before every overnight trip, each bag will be inspected by the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster, to maintain a safe environment for all Scouts.

Scout Uniform

- All Scouts must wear their full uniform or they will not be able to attend any Troop 562 event.
- Class B Shirt: Any scouting shirt, unless directed by the Scoutmaster.

Shoes

- No open toe shoes are allowed (Sandals, Flip Flops). It is recommended that scouts wear these while showering

Clothing

- Please dress appropriately for the weather. (If it is cold outside, a jacket is required)
- Underwear

Equipment:

1. Sleeping Bag: Troop 562 recommends one that is rated for at least 25 Degrees.
2. BSA Handbook
3. Notebook
4. Pen and/or Pencil
5. Cup (Sierra Cups are preferred)
6. Vittle Kit (Spoon, Fork, Knife)
7. Water bottle or canteen
8. PONCHO
9. Flashlight
10. Toothbrush
11. Toothpaste
12. Towel
13. Camp Soap
14. Dental Floss

Optional Items:

1. Pocketknife (May only be carried by Scouts who are in possession of a Totin' Chip.)
2. Pocket First Aid Kit
3. Sun Protection
4. Bug Spray
5. Comb
6. Watch (Youth Leaders should have one)
7. Sunglasses
8. Swimsuit
9. Camera
10. Blanket
11. Pillow
12. Fan (Battery Operated)
13. Camping Chair

Prohibited Items

1. Food
2. Matches and Lighters
3. Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol
4. Animals
5. Fire Works
6. Video Games
7. Cell phones
8. Toys
9. Sheath Knives
10. Skate Boards