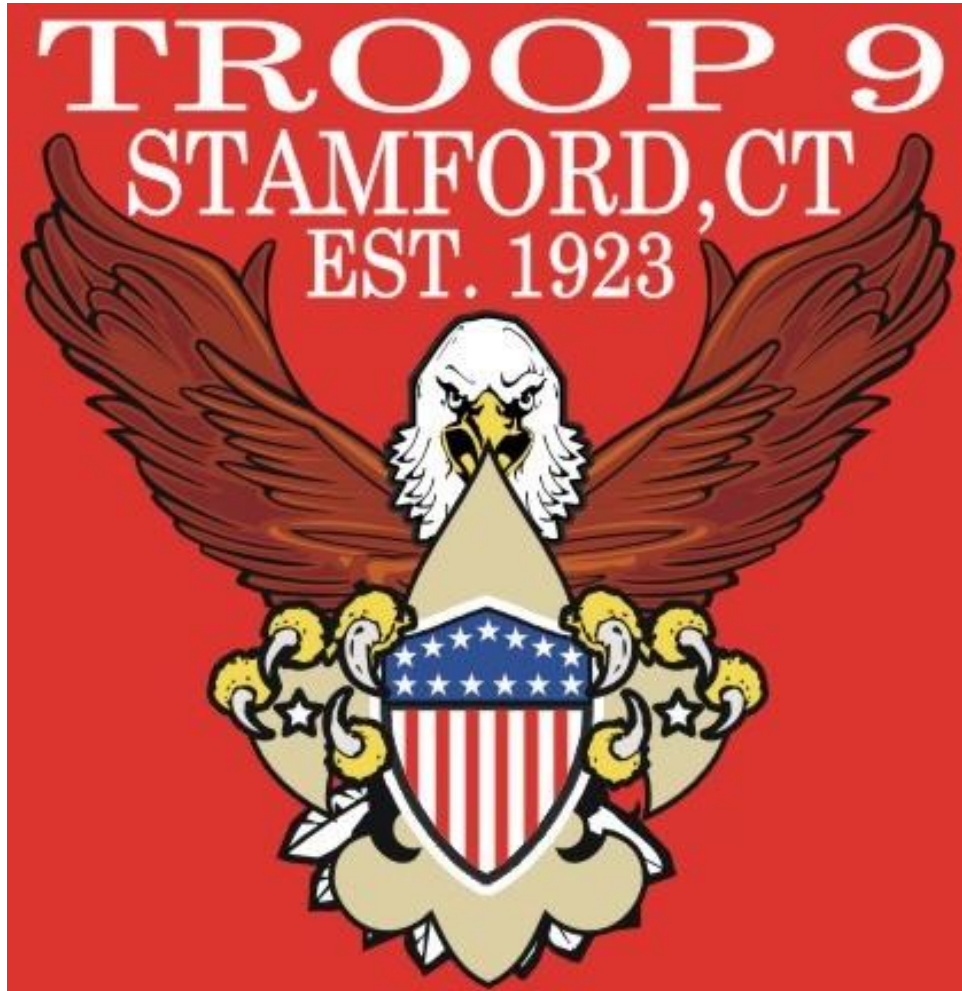


Boy Scouts of America
Troop 9
Stamford, Connecticut
www.troop9stamford.org



Troop 9 Guidelines

Revised 09/01/11

Boy Scout Troop 9 sponsored by & meets at:

First United Methodist Church

42 Cross Rd. Stamford, CT. 06905

Weekly Meeting: Thursday 7:30pm -9:00pm

BSA Troop 9 Stamford CT Troop Guidelines
Roger Williams, Scoutmaster

Troop 9 Welcome Letter & Guidelines

Welcome new and returning Scouts and Scouting Families and thank you for being part of our Troop 9 family. Troop 9 was established in 1923 and it has remained an active troop in the community with weekly meetings and monthly campouts. We look forward to working with you and making the scouting experience enjoyable and educational. An exciting program has been planned for the entire scouting year, and with your active participation we will ensure its success.

The mission of Boy Scouting is to serve the community by helping to instill values in young people and to prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law.

Our objective in Troop 9 is to provide the boys with a program that is fun, adventurous, and offers opportunities for them to learn new skills as they advance in rank and live a rewarding scouting experience through the Boy Scout program. The following material has been written to assist new scouts and their families in learning some of the rules and procedures that have helped our troop remain successful and enhances each Scout's enjoyment and success in our Troop 9 Scouting program.

Weekly Troop Meeting:

Troop 9 meets weekly on Thursday nights in the Fellowship Hall at the First United Methodist Church, 42 Cross Street, just north of Lord & Taylor. Meetings start promptly at 7:30 PM, ending at 9:00 PM. Plan to arrive at 7:15pm for pre-opening activities and to assist with preparations.

Scouts arriving after opening ceremony begins are to stand, at attention, on the side and not join their patrol until the conclusion of the ceremony. We ask this out of respect for the Troop and our flag.

Parking at the Meeting:

Please park in the Lord & Taylor lower parking lot adjacent to the Church, entrance is on Long Ridge Road. **DO NOT** Park in the small lot next to the Church's Fellowship Hall. The limited numbers of spaces are needed for Adult Leaders to load and unload equipment and supplies. Parking in unmarked spaces causes a safety hazard as well.

The Troop program:

Troop 9 is organized following the BSA Patrol Method. "Boy run and adult guided program". The Troop activities are planned and executed by the Scout leadership through the "**Green Bar**" patrol leadership council, with adult participation and support. The scouts elect a **Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)** each year. It is his job to oversee the entire troop. Each patrol, in turn, elects its own leader. It is the **Patrol Leader (PL)** who is responsible for guiding his patrol at meetings and on camping trips. The patrol works together as a team to accomplish their group and individual goals and tasks.

During the initial troop and patrol meeting, the scouts will discuss upcoming events and troop activities, permission slips, medical forms and registration information will be handed out. Information regarding the purchase of new Scout uniforms and accessories (Scout handbook, advancement books and camping equipment) or availability of previously worn "experienced" uniforms will be discussed during the troop meeting.

BSA Troop 9 Stamford CT Troop Guidelines **Roger Williams, Scoutmaster**

Scouts will be working on Scout skills, training and getting ready for our upcoming camping trips. The boys will work together on similar skills and individual advancement activities with the other members in their patrol on a weekly basis. **New Scouts** will be assigned to a “New Boys” patrol, led by 2 or 3 senior Scouts as Troop Guides acting as their Leaders. They will also have an adult leader assigned to help the new Scout get established in the Troop’s program.

Troop 9 Website: www.troop9stamford.org.net

Our interactive website features useful information, such as upcoming activities, events and past experiences and is always available for you to keep informed of our activities. The current Troop calendar, Scout and Adult rosters and committee assignments are included in this packet for your information. The calendar does get updated throughout the year, so please check for latest versions on the web site. If you have any questions or problems contact the Scoutmaster, one of the other adult leaders or send an email to: troop9stamford@optonline.net

Scout Handbook: Be Prepared!

Pick it up and READ IT. Bring your Scout Handbook to be ready to learn and have fun. Advancement records are kept in your handbook. You will need to have it with you to get your progress in ranks signed off at our meetings and camping trips. Label your book with your name on the sides and interior cover so it’s easy to identify. Include your telephone number so that the finder can contact you.

Scout Outings & Camping trips:

Every month we schedule an outing, which is usually a camping or backpacking trip or other overnight event. There are several special events during the year such as a skiing, biking, canoeing, rock climbing, High Adventure course, and the “***Invitational Trip***”.

Required Personal Camping Gear/Equipment: (see T9 Camping Gear List)

All Scouts are requested to have the following equipment:

- Sleeping bag (weather appropriate)
- Backpack or duffel bag
- Eating utensils (i.e. knife, fork, spoon, plate, bowl and cup)
- Clothing appropriate to the season, including an extra pair of shoes or boots
- Raincoat/gear or poncho
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Official Scout Handbook, notebook and pen or pencil

(Refer to the Scout Handbook and our web site for personal camping list suggestions)

*All personal gear should be labeled with scout’s name for easy identification.

Troop 9 is proud and fortunate to own the best “state of the art” camping and backpacking equipment. Tents and other major camp gear are provided by the troop. From time to time other gear may be necessary depending on the type of outing.

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Roger Williams, Scoutmaster

Damage to Troop Equipment/Property:

The Troop has invested a great deal of money and time in equipment for the use of the Scouts, therefore each Scout is expected to use and care for it better than if it were his own. Deliberate or negligent damage by any Scout will be cause for such Scout to be responsible for the repair, replacement or reimbursement to the Troop for the cost of such repairs/replacements.

ITEMS NOT PERMITTED ON OUTINGS FOR ALL WHO ATTEND:

- **Sheath knives or fixed blade knives**
- **Electronic music players, games or entertainment devices**
- **Cell Phone / Smart-Phone use is limited to emergency use only****
- **Alcoholic beverages**
- **Firearms, ammunition or fireworks**
- **Drugs OF ANY KIND.** Required prescription drugs and non-prescription drugs must be given to the outing leader by parent prior to departure with Scout's name and written instructions for use. All medicines must be in the original container
- **Excessive amounts of snack food or candy as determined by the outing leader**
- **Cell phone use is limited to emergency use only by Adults on trips and meetings**

****Cell Phone / Smart-Phone use is limited to emergency use only** by adults or scouts with parents advanced written permission on trips and meetings. All participants must adhere to the Scout Oath & Law. All users must maintain confidentiality and privacy of all other participants and comply with BSA rules for Youth Protection. If approved in advance by uniformed adult leaders, use of Cell Phones or Smart-Phones with cameras or standard cameras are restricted and limited to use in a responsible manner during scouting activities. No inappropriate pictures should be taken, nor should any pictures be transmitted electronically under any circumstances. Devices will be forfeited at the discretion of the adult troop leadership in issues of concern.

Troop 9 adheres to the BSA Guide to Safe Scouting

This guide can be viewed by going to:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>

The Boy Scouts of America prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the Boy Scouts of America, or at any activity involving participation of youth members.

Our adult leaders support the attitude that young adults are better off without tobacco and **may not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth participants.** All Scouting functions, meetings, and activities should be conducted on a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas located away from all participants.

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Roger Williams, Scoutmaster

Conduct:

Scouts live by the Scout Oath, the Law, and the Motto and are expected to conduct themselves accordingly. In the interest of the safety of all Scouts, as well as the enjoyment and successful learning experience of the scouting program, common sense and good conduct is required at all times.

Foul language and misbehavior will not be tolerated. Scouts or adults using offensive language will be fined \$1.00 per incident. Uniformed leaders and adults will be fined \$5.00 per incident. This money is paid to the Treasurer who deposits it into the "Swearing Fund".

Troop 9 maintains a zero tolerance for problem behavior or actions that endanger the safety and health of our troop members. Problem behavior is unacceptable. If the bad un-Scout-like behavior persists and is unchanged, the Scout will be suspended from participating in Troop activities.

Examples of unacceptable behaviors offenses and disciplinary actions:

1. Verbal teasing, ridicule, harassment
 - a. Verbal warning to Scout to immediately cease
 - b. Apprise parent of situation
2. Taunting; physical or verbal
 - a. Verbal warning to Scout to immediately cease
 - b. Apprise parent of situation
3. Shoving, wrestling, boxing (fake or real), karate demonstrations, etc.:
 - a. Mandatory service hours completed within a specific time. Hours TBD by Troop Committee (i.e. half the amount required to advance to next rank)
 - b. Rank advancement contingent on completion of service hours
 - c. Increasing, up to 6 months, the waiting time prior to eligibility for next rank
 - d. Scout finds project and submits write up to Committee for approval
 - e. Scout produces letter stating satisfactory completion of project
 - f. Apprise parent of situation
4. For striking or attempting strike to another scout:
 - a. In addition to those actions listed in item # 3 above the following applies.
 - b. Expulsion or up to a two-year suspension period.
 - c. Apply to committee for reinstatement
 - d. If reinstated must sign Letter of Behavior
 - e. Apprise parent of situation
5. For striking or attempting to strike another parent/adult:
 - a. Immediate expulsion
 - b. Apprise parent of situation
6. Use or possession of a controlled substance, alcohol or illegal weapon at a Scout function.
 - a. Immediate expulsion
 - b. Police notified
 - c. Apprise parent of situation

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Roger Williams, Scoutmaster

Scout Spirit advancement requirement: What is it?

As you progress through the scouting advancement program, it is important to understand and honor your commitment to **Scout Spirit**, by living by the Scout Oath & Law. This is accomplished by fulfilling your Troop leadership responsibilities and actively participating in Troop activities, meeting, outdoor trips and service projects, etc. Your participation and attitude serves as a positive role model for other scouts. Lead by example in your leadership role and give back to the troop by reinforcing the positive experiences for new and older scouts.

Balancing your priorities becomes more challenging as you get older. The Scoutmaster and Troop committee appreciate this, and are willing to work with you. However, we want to remind you of your commitment to the troop and scouting program, as you advance towards Eagle Scout.

Troop 9's committee has prepared a guideline (available on our web site) that each scout must minimally adhere to in order to successfully complete his requirements for "Scout Spirit" during each advancement evaluation.

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Roger Williams, Scoutmaster

Troop 9 Meeting and Organization Rules

Registration:

All new and returning Scouts and adults are expected to complete registration in September. The annual registration fee, including a subscription to Boy's Life magazine is:

- ***Make checks payable to: "Troop 9 BSA".***

- **Boy Scouts - \$75/year. Additional Scout in family \$65/year**

- **Adult registration - \$35/year.**

* **WEBELOS joining** our Troop after January pay a prorated registration fee of \$40

Dress Code:

Scouts are expected to be properly dressed for all meetings and events. Full BSA Scout uniforms are required. Every Scout is required to wear a Scout uniform at meetings and events unless directed otherwise. The calendar states which uniform is to be worn, "**Field**" (**aka Class A**) or "**Activity**" (**aka Class B**). Feel free to ask one of the leaders about other uniform patches. Uniform supplies are available at several shops in the Fairfield County area. (The troop has a limited supply of "experienced" uniform parts available. Please ask about them if you are interested.)

Field (aka Class "A") Uniform*

The complete **Field/Class A** uniform includes the official BSA Uniform Shirt with complete and proper insignia as shown in the Official Scout Handbook, Any Official Boy Scouts Uniform Pants or Uniform Shorts, Troop 9's Official Neckerchief (Green with Red trim) w/any neckerchief slide and Troop 9 hat (red cap with black trim).

Activity (aka Class "B") Uniform*

The **Activity/Class B** uniform is more casual and consists of the Troop 9 hat, and any Scout related tee shirt that is worn in lieu of the uniform shirt along with regular BSA Scout uniform pants or Trousers (green or khaki color) of any durable material are acceptable. *Blue jeans are NOT acceptable.*

Only the official Troop 9 hats are permitted. Non-Scout hats (sports caps) are NOT permitted at any meeting and should not be brought to any Scouting activity.

*All New Scouts receive an official **Troop 9 hat, neckerchief, unit # patch** at our next Court of Honor induction ceremony. They will also receive a **long sleeve troop shirt** in the following year.

"Green Bar": - Patrol Leaders Council - Youth leadership council of the Troop.

The Green Bar, consisting of the troop senior youth leaders, **meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month**, for planning and executing the Troop's program. The SPL or ASPL chairs the meeting, which is also attended by the Scoutmaster and adult leader. Special guests, as appropriate, will also attend. Troop activities and meeting planning decisions and recommendations are determined by the Green Bar. The Green Bar consists of the following troop leadership positions:

SPL, ASPL, JASM, Quarter Master, Patrol Leaders and Troop Guides.

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Roger Williams, Scoutmaster

Troop 9 & CT Yankee Council / Powahay District conduct Jr. Leader Training Courses (JLTC) with our Green Bar staff and new potential leaders, to help develop and train the Scout's leadership capabilities.

The Troop Committee - Adult management organization:

The adult management consisting of uniform leaders and the Troop planning committee, **meets once a month on the last Tuesday of the month, normally at the First United Methodist Church, from 7:30pm to 9:15pm.** The meeting is open to the troop adult members and all parents; we encourage you to attend and share your ideas, experience and concerns. Additional volunteers are always welcome as we have many open positions available.

Troop 9 Adult Uniformed Leaders

Scoutmaster

Assistant Scoutmaster

Assistant Scoutmaster

Assistant Scoutmaster

Assistant Scoutmaster

Assistant Scoutmaster

Assistant Scoutmaster

Roger Williams

Frank Browne

Michael Kraus

Mark Kuehn

John Mihok

Barry Morgan

Doug Penn

Scout Rank Advancement:

Scout Advancement Program is an integral part of the learning experience, each Scout is encouraged and expected to set certain attainable goals. All Scouts are required to progress to their next rank in a reasonable time and fulfill their *Scout Spirit* requirements.

Scouts encountering difficulty in attaining goals are requested to discuss any specific problems with the Scoutmaster. Parents are welcome to join in these discussions.

Courts of Honor:

The troop conducts four Courts of Honor (COH) meetings during the Scout year to recognize and celebrate the Scouts rank advancement and awards. See calendar for the Courts of Honor scheduled dates. All Scouting families are asked to show their support of our Scout's accomplishments by attending these ceremonies. Major announcements are made, awards are presented, guests are invited to speak and refreshments are served at the conclusion of the meeting.

Maid Service:

Be responsible for your personal property and take home what you bring. If you leave your personal items behind at the end of the meeting or campout, you will owe a "**maid service penalty**" to the Scoutmaster or other adult leader who finds it. Maid service is usually collected during a camping trip. Setting up or breaking down a tent is the most common maid service.

Medical Forms:

Each year all Scouts and Adults** are required to submit a completed BSA approved medical form signed by a parent or guardian. Effective on January 1, 2010 everyone who participates

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in a Scouting event should have a current Annual Health and Medical Record, Parts A and B, completed. The medical form will be kept confidential and must have emergency contact phone numbers, parent's current medical insurance coverage, special medical instructions or limitations that could affect your son's health or care in an emergency situation. This information will be kept confidential unless needed in an emergency. (The responsible adult leader takes these forms on all trips.)

**Adults attending overnight camp programs must also have a completed BSA approved medical form, to meet BSA medical requirements.

Permission slips:

Permission Slips will be issued prior to Troop activities where the Scout will be attending. Additionally the permission slips provide parents with information to keep you informed of the Troop's agenda, departure and return times for pickup. **These forms must be completed and signed by the Scout's parent and returned prior to departing on the Troop trip or activity. All trip fees should be settled prior to the trips departure along with the completed permission slip.** Blank permission slip forms are available on our troop website; copies are sometimes available at meetings.

The Cost of Scouting:

The Troop desires that all boys be able to participate in the scouting program regardless of their personal financial situation. Because of this, various fundraising projects are a regular part of Troop activities. In special cases, the Scoutmaster & Troop Committee Chairman can make special allowances to assist a scout in need; this is done on a confidential basis. The Doc Abbott High Adventure Campership fund is also available at the discretion of the Scoutmaster & Troop Committee Chairman.

Fund Raisers:

To ensure the troop has adequate funds to support outings, activities, rank award badges, and to maintain our equipment, the Troop conducts several fund-raisers. Both Scout and parent participation is critical to the success of these fund-raisers. All Scouts are eligible to earn Scout Credits for their efforts. The more funds you raise, the more credits you earn, and qualify for the exciting "Invitational Trip".

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|--|--------------|
| ➤ Popcorn Sales – Show 'n Sell & Individual orders | Sept. & Oct. |
| ➤ Holiday Decorations – Take orders, deliver & sell | Nov. & Dec. |
| ➤ Other fund raisers as recommended by the Troop Committee | As needed |

Cash Prizes for 3 top earners for the Fall Popcorn and Holiday Decorations Sales:

- 1st highest: \$25 prize
- 2nd highest: \$20 prize
- 3rd highest: \$15 prize

Scout Credits:

All Scouts earn "Scout Credits" to reward their personal fund-raising efforts. Current minimum gross sales goal per Scout is \$300. Credits are applied as follows:

- 20% credit for sales over minimum goal

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- NO credits are earned on sales of less than the minimum goal

Scout Credits must be applied to a Scouting activity trip fee (i.e. ski trips, summer camp) or towards the purchase of a Scout related item (i.e. backpack or sleeping bag, etc.). You must use them this Scouting year and cannot carry them forward for use next year. Credits cannot be applied to food costs and will not be paid in cash.

Invitational Trip:

Each Scout must (a) raise their minimum total fund-raiser revenues and (b) show Scout Spirit throughout the year to attend the **Invitational Trip** for which all of the scout's expenses are paid with the exception of food.

Previous Invitational Trips:

2010-2011 Trip: *NY Zip Line Tours*

2009-2010 Trip: *Whitewater Raft Trip*

2008-2009 Trip: *Bike Riding on Martha's Vineyard*

2007-2008 Trip: *Historic tour of Cooperstown, NY & Baseball Hall of Fame*

2006-2007 Trip: *Whitewater Raft Trip*

2005-2006 Trip: *Bike Riding on Martha's Vineyard*

2004-2005 Trip: *Historic tour of Boston, MA*

Trip and Food Costs:

All participants will pay the cost for food and consumable supplies for the Scout trips. We budget about \$10-\$15 per weekend trip for food per person unless otherwise noted on the trip permission slip. Any additional activity fees for events or rental equipment (i.e. rafts, etc.) will be noted on the trip permission slip.

* Major trips will require a small deposit that may not be refundable.

Doc Abbott High Adventure Campership Fund:

Doc Abbott committed over 75 years to Scouting and developing our boys into responsible young men. Troop 9 has established a campership fund to ensure Doc's spirit and objectives are perpetuated and to help boys experience these exceptional events as part of their Scouting career. These are the types of activities that form lasting Scouting memories and serve to help older Scouts retain interest and commitment to the Scouting program.

Among its objectives is to encourage and help boys to experience high adventure types of Scouting activities such as 50 Miler Canoe trips, Philmont Treks, Jamboree, as well as challenging camping and backpacking trips. These funds provide some financial assistance, to deserving Scouts, to enable them to participate in these activities.

This is a perpetual Campership fund that is open to anyone wishing to contribute to these goals and activities. This scholarship fund is separate from the normal operations of the troop.

Retention of older Scouts is a challenging task as there are so many distractions and outside options for these young men. The High Adventure focus helps keep these young men engaged and involved in the Scouting program, by challenging their skills and self confidence, while building character and responsibility, through challenging outdoor activities.

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Roger Williams, Scoutmaster

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Parents roles in the success of the Troop:

We are all adult **volunteers**, dedicated to making the boys experience in scouting a positive one. Adult management and participation makes for a successful Scout troop. Your participation can range from volunteer driver to uniformed leader. ***All we ask is that each parent make it a point to find something that they would enjoy doing.*** We are always in need of merit badge counselors and help with our fund raising. None of which require significant amounts of time – all of which make a significant contribution to the success and vitality of the troop.

Parents update meetings:

Parents are encouraged to stay and participate because parental involvement makes for a stronger Troop. At some of our regular Thursday night troop meetings, we will conduct brief 15 minute parent meetings to discuss issues pertinent to the Troop operations as well as give updates on upcoming Troop activities and projects. Basic Scouting program training can be included as well. Additionally, parents are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly Troop Committee meetings, help-out as drivers and volunteers on outings, instructors and work on activity committees. We look forward to working with all the parents.

Transportation / Driver Responsibility:

The Troop uses the resource of the parents to provide the transportation and the leadership for our outings. When accepting this responsibility, we ask that as a leader and/or parent, you do your best to set a good example, and act according to the Scout Oath and Law.

To ensure our scouts safety, as a driver, you and your vehicle should be in good driving condition. Proof of auto insurance must be provided prior to driving for an outing.

Troop 9 maintains a zero tolerance for any issues or actions that endanger the safety and health of our troop members. A driver may be asked by the Troop leadership not to drive if there is ANY concern that there may be a problem, such as a driver being impaired by physical exhaustion, alcohol or drugs.

If any parent has a concern that one of our drivers may be impaired, please bring it to the attention of the leader in charge of the activity. Your son's safety is our first concern. We adhere to the Safe Scouting Guide & Youth Protection rules.

Parents encourage scouts rank advancement:

Scouts pursuing rank advancement and merit badges are required to review their Scout handbooks and other resources, then seek assistance from the Troop leadership with scout skills testing and for more advanced work, with merit badge counselors. Merit Badge counselors are adults who have knowledge of the area they have signed up to teach. The Scoutmaster maintains a list of counselors that are available, both within our Troop and outside our Troop.

The parents' responsibility is to ENCOURAGE their son to achieve the next rank. The SCOUT should contact the troop leadership and MB counselors and make arrangements with them to get the badge requirements completed along with a buddy.

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Roger Williams, Scoutmaster

Parent's participation in the MB advancement program:

Scouts planning to pursue merit badges are required to seek out merit badge counselors. Merit Badge counselors are adults who have a knowledge of the area they have signed up for (i.e. Safety Merit Badge counselors may be a police officer, nurse, fireman, etc.). The Scoutmaster maintains a list of counselors that are available, both within our Troop and outside our Troop. The SCOUT should contact these counselors and make arrangements with them to get the badge requirements completed along with a buddy.

Policy - Parent working with their own son on MB Advancement:

It is always preferable not to use a parent if another counselor is available. Among the positive developmental skills in Scouting, is the opportunity the boys have to work with adults outside their home environment or school. This prepares them for the time when they go out into the world and need to deal with older adults as peers.

Of course, if the MB is being done as a group, we would not exclude the scout, if his parent is the instructor. **Always maintain the "Scout Youth Protection" policy of 2 deep leadership.** Meeting should be conducted in plain sight, where visible by other leaders, etc.

Merit Badge Counselors:

We would like to expand and keep our Merit Badge counselor list within the Troop up to date. If your hobbies or employment fall under one of the merit badge titles please let our uniformed leaders know and they will give you the necessary information to become a merit badge counselor.

Merit Badges

(See Troop 9 MBC list available on our web site for additional information)