

Troop 26

Uniform & Equipment Information for Parents

Boy Scouts of America, and thus Troop 26, is a uniformed organization. Scouts behave better when in uniform. The uniform helps scouts to build pride in themselves, their patrol and their troop. We have adopted an old practice of calling the proper uniform for an occasion by classes and they are defined below along with general guidelines as to when each should be worn.

Class A (Dress): The long or short-sleeved Scout shirt, with all insignia placed in the appropriate locations, with merit badge sash and medals, with no more than five pin-on medals. Scout belt with scout buckle and neckerchief and neckerchief slide. Long or short Scout pants, with matching Scout socks and dark shoes.

This is the uniform one would wear to a Court of Honor or Blue and Gold Banquet or Bridge of Honor; to a special event, or when posing for an official photograph. It shows you in your best Scouting attire, and displays your most recent honors, accomplishments and honors.

Class A: The long or short-sleeved Scout shirt, with all insignia placed in the appropriate locations, WITHOUT merit badge sash and medals. Scout belt with scout buckle and neckerchief and neckerchief slide. Long or short Scout pants, with matching Scout socks and shoes appropriate for activity.

This is the uniform for all other formal Scouting occasions: troop meetings, activities, and ceremonies in camp or home. This is the **travel uniform** of the BSA, which means that medals and other items are to be left OFF and replaced with appropriate square knots and other insignia for youth and adults. This is the uniform by which the public knows us and we should wear it as if we were wearing EVERYTHING with it.

Class B: Troop 26 short or long sleeve tee shirt. Scout shorts or long pants. Scout belt with Scout buckle. Socks and shoes appropriate for the activity but if scout shorts are worn the scout socks are encouraged.

This is the uniform for wear while backpacking, canoeing, rafting or other strenuous activities that will be in the public eye.

Class B (Camp): Any scout logo short or long sleeve tee shirt. Scout shorts or long pants. Scout belt with Scout buckle. Socks and shoes appropriate for the activity but if scout shorts are worn the scout socks are encouraged.

This is the preferred uniform for wear at summer camp and while camping at any BSA property. It is recognized that due to the cost of uniform pants that this may not be practical so blue jeans and other material pants may be worn. We will still wear *Class A* uniform while traveling to and from camp and at morning and evening colors.

The outdoor activities of scouting are one of the tools utilized to teach leadership, self-reliance, ownership of one's actions, planning, organization, and many other things. Troop 26 will normally take backpacking trips between January and July so that scouts will have the opportunity to obtain the necessary equipment for birthdays and other times when gifts are given prior to these trips. The equipment needed for other camping trips and activities is really limited to a sleeping bag suitable for the weather (see note about bags under backpacking below before you buy a bag), a sleeping pad (no air mattresses in cold weather), a poncho or a rain suit (\$3 to \$5 kinds are fine), unbreakable drinking cup, knife, fork and spoon, flashlight, clothing, and any type of bag to carry it in although old school book bags, day packs, or packs with frames are encouraged as they may have to carry their gear for some distance. It is best if it is all securely tied together in some manner as this helps prevent forgetting something, or loss and makes it easier to carry. The BSA Handbook has a very good list beginning on page 224. Everything (including metal items) should be labeled with the scouts name or initials and their day of birth (dmd20). The troop will supply the tents, coolers, food boxes, cooking equipment, rope, etc. Please see troop guidelines for more information!

Backpacking is a whole different story. Lightweight is very important especially for the smaller scouts. The total weight of everything they are carrying should not exceed 20% of their weight. This includes their food, water, cooking equipment, and tents. Packs with frames (either internal or external) are a necessity. Sleeping bags suitable for the weather (generally a 15° to 20° bag) should not weigh more than 3.5 lbs. The following will also be needed: a small mess kit; backpack utensils; a water bottle that can be hooked on a belt and/or pack; and a small flashlight. Eventually the troop will be able to provide backpack tents but for the time being we will use the current troop tents with the parts divided among three scouts. A backpack cook stove and fuel bottles are a luxury for some trips but will be required for some. The troop will be able to help provide stoves at some point. More information and checklists will be provided well in advance of a backpacking trip.