

## **Troop 7008 Bylaws**

Messiah Lutheran Church

Madison, AL

Boy Scouts of America

Greater Alabama Council

Talakto District

Revised February 5, 2012

## PREFACE

These bylaws contain procedures and requirements established by the current Committee and Scoutmaster by which Boy Scout Troop 7008 (hereafter referred to as Troop 8 in this document) will govern itself. Changes to these bylaws require approval by a 2/3 majority of the registered Committee members, plus the Scoutmaster. The Committee Secretary will update this document and submit it to the Committee Chairman, Scoutmaster, and Chartering Organization Representative for signatures.

Per BSA guidelines, the Chartered Organization effectively "owns" the troop and allows the troop to establish its own unique identity in keeping with the chartered organization's goals in its youth work (See the Committee Member's Guidebook). Boy Scout Troop 8 is chartered by Messiah Lutheran Church of Madison, AL as an outreach ministry of the church.

Many aspects of this ministry coincide with Boy Scout of America's own ideals: leadership training, respect of and accountability to leaders, ethics and morals, and self-reliance. It is the intention of Troop 8 to train our boys in these values. We view each boy in our Troop as commissioned from God to our care. We also recognize that in these formative years of the boys' lives, the things that our boys experience here, will remain with them as significant influences. In view of this, we will take very seriously each individual boy, with the understanding that even seemingly small things could be a profound long-term influence on his life.

This document does not supersede BSA guidelines or policies.

These Troop 8 bylaws, adopted by the Troop 8 Committee, take effect on the date of adoption.

Adopted on February 5, 2012



Terry Frazier  
Committee Chair



Mike Murphree  
Scoutmaster



Stephen Strand  
Chartered Organization Representative and Executive

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## 1.0 CHARTER ORGANIZATION

The Chartered Organization (CO), using the scout program, will provide a meeting place, approve selection of the Scoutmaster (SM), appoint a Troop Committee, and choose a Chartered Organization Representative.

### 1.1 Chartered Organization Representative

The Chartered Organization Representative (COR) must be a member of the CO and is responsible for the following:

- A. Secure Troop Committee Chair
- B. Encourage Training
- C. Maintain liaison with the Troop Committee Chair
- D. Help recruit other adult leaders
- E. Serve as liaison between the Troop and CO
- F. Assist with Unit Chartering
- G. Be an active member of the district committee
- H. Encourage service to the CO
- I. Can multiple-register as a Troop Committee member

### 1.2 Facilities and Equipment

1.2.1 All Troop 8 equipment is owned by the CO.

1.2.2 The CO will provide space for the following activities:

- A. Troop meetings and merit badge classes
- B. Troop Committee meetings and Boards of Review
- C. Scoutmaster Corps meetings
- D. Courts of Honor
- E. Special gatherings, such as fundraising activities

1.2.3 The CO will provide space and insurance for the following:

- A. Troop equipment
- B. Troop equipment trailer(s)
- C. Troop pioneering trailer
- D. Troop equipment storage building

## 2.0 ADULT LEADERSHIP

### 2.1 Overview

2.1.1 Adult leaders consist of the Troop Committee, the Scoutmaster Corps (SM and Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM)), and Merit Badge Counselors (MBC). All prospective adult leaders will complete a BSA Adult Application, which must be approved by the Troop Committee Chair

and COR before being sent to District/Council for final approval. Once approved, new adult leaders will have the BSA and Troop 8 rules of conduct explained by the Committee Chair or SM.

- 2.1.2 All adult leaders must complete initial/recurrent BSA Youth Protection Training and other training, as required for their respective position, by BSA.
- 2.1.3 Any interested adult may be an adult leader. All leaders must be at least 21 years old, except ASMs, who must be at least 18.
- 2.1.4 Adult leaders of Troop 8 will maintain high moral and ethical standards at all times. It is understood that the boys will model the behavior they see from their adult leaders, whether parents, relatives, teachers, or their Scout Leaders. The behavior of Troop 8's adult leaders should be a model of the Scout Oath.
- 2.1.5 Grounds for dismissal of an adult leader can be, but are not limited to, the following: criminal activity, falsification of troop records, and any violations of Troop 8 adult leader behavior guidelines stated in Section 5.0. BSA guidelines require the immediate notification of District/Council for specific circumstances.
- 2.1.6 Grounds for disciplinary action of an adult leader or unregistered adult involved in a troop activity shall occur for violations discussed in Section 2.1.5 and Section 5.0. BSA guidelines require the immediate notification of District/Council for specific circumstances.
- 2.1.7 Prior to the dismissal of adult leaders or the disciplinary action of registered or unregistered adults, details of the incident and formal recommendations from the SM (for ASMs, MBC, or unregistered adult) or Committee Chair (for Committee Members and SM) shall be presented to the Committee for discussion and a vote on the dismissal/disciplinary action. Prior to a vote, the adult leader or unregistered adult considered for dismissal/disciplinary action will be invited to appear before a 2/3 majority of the Committee to provide additional information. Dismissal of an adult leader or disciplinary action of a registered or unregistered adult requires a 2/3 majority vote of the entire Committee. Incidents requiring notification of District/Council will be investigated and resolved by the District/Council.
- 2.1.8 The Committee Chair will notify the District and Council after the dismissal/disciplinary action of adult leaders or the disciplinary action of an unregistered adult, including the circumstances and action taken. The Committee will accurately document the reason(s) for dismissal or disciplinary action.

## 2.2 **Committee Members**

- 2.2.1 The role of the Troop 8 Committee is to provide administrative support to the SM and ASMs. Administrative functions to be performed by the Committee include, but are not limited to: receipt/expenditure of troop funds, advancement recordkeeping, maintaining medical and permission forms, submitting reports to District/Council/National BSA as required, and conduct Boards of Review and Courts of Honor. The Committee will be staffed and operated per the general guidelines recommended by the BSA in the Troop Committee Guidebook.
- 2.2.2 The Troop Committee recruits and selects the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters.
- 2.2.3 In order for the Committee to conduct routine business, a simple majority must be present. Disciplinary or dismissal meetings require a 2/3 majority to be present.
- 2.2.4 Additional information regarding the makeup, function and operation of the Troop Committee can be found in the Troop 8 Committee Standard Operating Procedure (CSOP).

## 2.3 **Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters**

- 2.3.1 The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of the troop. He serves as a role model for the scouts and must be willing to teach and guide boys how to be leaders and allow them the opportunity to lead.
- 2.3.2 Assistant Scoutmasters help the SM manage, operate and run the troop. ASMs are assigned to patrols or other duties by the SM. ASMs must be prepared to lead the troop in the absence of the SM.
- 2.3.3 The Scoutmaster Corps (SM and ASMs) is responsible for providing leadership and guidance to the scouts at all troop activities, including individual patrol activities.
- 2.3.4 Additional information regarding the makeup, function and operation of the Troop can be found in the Troop 8 Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

## 2.4 **Merit Badge Counselors**

Merit Badge Counselors must be trained, approved, and registered with the Council and District. For additional information, see CSOP.

### **3.0 TROOP OPERATION**

The operation of the troop will be in accordance with the Troop 8 SOP. The SOP will be generated and updated by the Scoutmaster Corps, and comply with BSA Policies and Procedures. The SOP shall be approved by the SM, Troop 8 Committee Chair, and COR.

### **4.0 TROOP COMMITTEE OPERATION**

The operation of the Troop Committee will be in accordance with the Troop 8 CSOP. The CSOP will be generated and updated by the Troop Committee members and comply with BSA Policies and Procedures. The CSOP shall be approved by the Troop 8 Committee Chair and COR.

### **5.0 BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines define the expected behavior of scouts and adults at scout functions:

- 5.1 All members of Troop 8 are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Physical violence, hazing, bullying, theft, verbal insults, and drugs and alcohol have no place in the Scouting program and may result in the revocation of membership in the unit. The official operating policy of the Troop is, "Treat others in the same way you would want to be treated." Our adult leaders must model behavior that they expect to see in the Scouts.
- 5.2 Profanity will not be tolerated. Cursing, dirty jokes and obscene sexual talk are not appropriate for the Scouts or adult leaders.
- 5.3 Racial or religious slurs will not be tolerated.
- 5.4 There are times when it may be necessary for an adult leader to raise his or her voice to a Scout. However, this procedure should be used as a last resort. We expect our Scouts and adult leaders to be respectful in their conversation. Abusive or inappropriate speech will not be tolerated.
- 5.5 Scouts must learn to control their tempers. Adult leaders must provide a model for our youth. We expect our adult leaders to turn the leadership over to another adult if they are about to lose their temper.
- 5.6 Physical and sexual abuse will not be tolerated. Adults shall never strike a Scout. Only physical contact that is appropriate and does not violate any BSA or Troop policy is allowed. BSA guidelines require the immediate notification of District/Council for specific circumstances.
- 5.7 Use of tobacco products by adults near or in the vicinity (such that they can see you) of Scouts is prohibited.

5.8 Use of alcohol, illegal drugs, or abuse of prescription drugs is prohibited.

5.9 Other behavior that negatively impacts Troop operations will not be tolerated.

## 6.0 **ACCIDENT AND LIABILITY INSURANCE**

The Council provides secondary accidental health insurance for all Scouts and adult leaders, and general liability insurance and legal support for all adult leaders, should an incident occur at scout functions.