

PARENT'S GUIDE

*Helpful information for parents of
Boy Scouts in Troop 39*



Boy Scouts of America

Troop 39
Cumming, Georgia

FORWARD

The BSA Troop 39 Committee would like to thank the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters and Troop parents for their help in developing this guide. We would also like to thank our chartered organization, the Cumming Kiwanis Club, and the Cumming VFW Post for their ongoing support of the Troop 39 Scouting Program. Without the help of these fine people and organizations, our program could not exist.

We appreciate the confidence you have placed in us by having your son join Troop 39. Together, we can make a positive difference in your son's development and provide him with skills and abilities that will prepare him to meet the many challenges he will face in the future. We look forward to working with you and your son as he progresses through the Scouting Program.

If your son is a new Webelos crossover or is new to Scouting, please take time to explore *The Boy Scout Handbook*. Read and discuss with him the insert, "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide," found in the front of the book.

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CONTENTS

FORWARD	I
ABOUT THIS GUIDE	1
ABOUT BSA TROOP 39	1
Background	1
New Parent Orientation	1
Where and When We Meet	1
Communication	1
Parental Involvement and Leadership	2
Annual Dues	2
Uniform Requirements	3
Two Basic Uniform Requirements	3
TROOP 39 CLASS A UNIFORM	4
TROOP 39 CLASS B UNIFORM	4
Scout Handbook	4
UNIFORM ASSISTANCE	5
RANK ADVANCEMENT AND MERIT BADGES	5
Rank Advancement	5
Merit Badges	5
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES	6
Camping with Troop 39	6
Patrol Method	7
Low-Impact Philosophy	8
Personal Equipment	8
Equipment in Starter Kit	8
TROOP FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES	9
Cumming Fair Parking	9
Popcorn Sales	9
HOW WE CAN HELP YOU	9
Special Needs Scouting	9
Financial Aid	10
HOW YOU CAN HELP	10
Supporting Your Son	10
Supporting Troop 39	10
CURRENT LEADERS IN TROOP 39	11
CAMPING EQUIPMENT ADVICE	12
Camping Equipment Retailers and Resources	15

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide will help answer questions that many parents have when their son joins a Boy Scout troop. It is intended to inform and clarify the experience of scouting in Troop 39 in order to maximize your son's learning and enjoyment of the program *This publication is not an official handbook of the Boy Scouts of America.* In the event of conflict between this document and the official policies of BSA, the BSA policies take precedence. This document is also available on the troop website located at www.troop39.net. We hope you find this resource helpful, and we welcome your suggestions and comments.

ABOUT BSA TROOP 39

Background

BSA Troop 39 was formed in the late 1940s. Since that time, it has been an active troop serving the needs of youth in Forsyth County, Georgia. The chartered organization, the Cumming Kiwanis Club, retains the official charter for the troop.

New Parent Orientation

Parents of new scouts are requested to attend a new Scouting parent orientation meeting conducted by the adult leaders of the troop. The session is scheduled during the crossover season, when parents are most in need of learning how Troop 39 operates. This session covers a number of topics regarding the goals and principles of Scouting. It gives you the opportunity to meet and ask questions of the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee members. We strongly urge all new troop parents to attend one of these sessions.

Where and When We Meet

Troop 39 meets year-round at the Scout Hut located on the property of VFW Post 9143 in Cumming (1045 Dahlenega Hwy). Troop meetings are held every Monday (except the first Monday of each month, see Patrol Leader's Council information below). Troop meetings begin promptly at 7:00 pm and conclude at 8:30 pm. Directions to the Scout Hut can be found on the troop website. Changes in meeting schedules (due to holidays, activities or other reasons) are communicated to troop members in advance and by email and can always be found at www.troop39.net.

The Troop 39 Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. Most PLC meetings are held at the Scout Hut. In the event of a holiday occurring on the first Monday of the month, the PLC meeting will be held at 6:00 pm before the next scheduled troop meeting at the Scout Hut. All boys in a patrol leadership role or troop office are expected to attend PLC meetings.

Communication

With so many events going on involving the troop, it can be difficult to stay informed. The best way for parents to keep up with information is to stay for the first part of each meeting when announcements are made and return about 8:15 to hear any concluding announcements. Our Troop Website at www.troop39.net contains most permanent information about the troop such as forms, packing lists, and a list of leader contacts. Troop 39 also maintains a Yahoo Group at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/troop39> which contains up-to-date calendars and announcements. A weekly email is sent to the Yahoo Group which summarizes the announcements of the week and has a calendar for the next few months. In order to receive these emails and view the Yahoo calendar, you must join the Yahoo Group. Please contact the Communications Coordinator to join. Anyone can also send an email to the entire troop through the Yahoo Group by emailing troop39@yahoogroups.com. These emails are moderated so they may not be sent out immediately. If you have an urgent message, please call the Communications Coordinator to expedite its delivery.

Parental Involvement and Leadership

Troop 39 welcomes and encourages parental involvement in the troop's activities and programs. In fact, the troop wouldn't survive without it! Parents are welcome to attend any function either to provide leadership, actively participate, or just to observe. It is a well known fact that the vast majority of scouts who successfully navigate through the program have counted with active involvement of at least one parent in Scouting.

Having said that, please realize that Troop 39 is a boy-led troop. This means the boys plan and carry out their meetings and activities. Adults are always around to ensure a safe experience, provide coaching and serve as mentors, but the boys are leading the way. Note that this *will* lead to some mistakes being made, but life's lessons are often learned by one's mistakes.

We encourage you to fill out the Troop Resource Survey (located on the website) which allows you to indicate areas of leadership you would be interested in pursuing within the troop. At a very minimum, the Troop encourages all parents to participate in the monthly Parents/Committee meeting held on the third Thursday of each month at 7pm at the Troop 39 Scout Hut. This committee oversees (note "oversees" not "leads") the activities of Troop 39 and carries out the business required to administer the troops business on an ongoing basis. Also, some scouting activities will require parent volunteers to provide transportation (see more below under "Outdoor Activities")

Troop 39 requires that all registered leaders and drivers take BSA's "Youth Protection Training" annually. This is easily accomplished online at <https://scoutnet.scouting/elearning>

Note that Troop 39 covers the annual registration costs of it's active, registered leaders.

Annual Dues

A membership dues payment will be requested when your son joins the troop and annually (January) thereafter. A breakdown of where the 2008 dues payment goes is given below. Our annual troop budget is based on the dues received. Dues may be adjusted in the future if the troop Finance Committee sees a need. Registration and Insurance are paid to National BSA. A scout who is already registered through Cub Scouts or another Boy Scout troop pays only a \$1 registration fee. "Awards" covers badges, patches, adult recognition and occasional Diary Queen awards. "Operations" covers heat, office supplies, trailer registration, web site, and other supplies. The "Adult registration portion" pays for the registration and insurance of our active adult leaders. Scouts who are new to the troop should expect additional payments for materials being provided. A subscription to "Boy's Life" magazine is an optional addition.

Troop 39 policy is that any Scout who has not paid dues may not receive any awards or go on any outings. If payment of returning scouts is not received by the January deadline, a returning scout will need to complete a new BSA application to essentially “re-join” Scouting.

Returning Scout Dues	
Registration	\$ 10.00
Insurance	\$ 1.50
awards	\$ 18.00
operations	\$ 12.00
adult regist portion	\$ 3.50
TOTAL	\$ 45.00
Boy's Life	\$ 15.00
TOTAL	\$ 60.00

New Scout Dues Not Registered	
Registration	\$ 10.00
Insurance	\$ 1.50
awards	\$ 18.00
operations	\$ 12.00
adult regist portion	\$ 3.50
red loops	\$ 2.00
39 numbers	\$ 3.00
Parent's packet	\$ 3.00
nametag	\$ 5.00
Class B t-shirt	\$ 6.00
TOTAL	\$ 64.00
Boy's Life	\$ 15.00
TOTAL	\$ 79.00

New Scout Dues Already Registered	
Registration	\$ 1.00
Insurance	\$ 1.50
awards	\$ 18.00
operations	\$ 12.00
adult regist portion	\$ 3.50
red loops	\$ 2.00
39 numbers	\$ 3.00
Parent's packet	\$ 3.00
nametag	\$ 5.00
Class B t-shirt	\$ 6.00
TOTAL	\$ 55.00
Boy's Life	\$ 15.00
TOTAL	\$ 70.00

the following will be available for purchase:	
handbook	\$ 9.00
council patch	\$ 4.50
Class B tshirt	\$ 6.00

Uniform Requirements

Wearing the Boy Scout Uniform is one of the eight methods the Boy Scouts of America uses to achieve the Aims of Scouting. Troop 39 supports the proper wearing and display of the Boy Scout uniform. Likewise, adult leaders in the troop are encouraged to wear the proper uniform to meetings and other troop events. From time to time the troop will conduct uniform inspections. The purpose of a uniform inspection is not to single out or embarrass a scout, but to assist him in properly wearing the uniform. Proper uniform is especially important when the scout reports for a Board of Review (see below)

Two Basic Uniform Requirements

The *Class A* uniform is the dress uniform of Scouting (BSA calls it the “official uniform”). This uniform is to be worn to all meetings and all troop functions, including traveling to and from campouts. Scouts are also required to wear the complete *Class A* uniform when attending their Boards of Review. The *Class A* is worn for meals and ceremonies at Summer Camp. The uniform can be purchased at Boy Scout Stores in Lawrenceville (http://www.nega-bsa.org/lawrenceville_service_center.htm) or Pendergrass ([\[www.troop39.net\]\(http://www.troop39.net\)](http://www.nega-</p>
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bsa.org/jefferson_service_center.htm), at Outside World in Dawsonville (<http://www.theoutsideworld.net/outside>) or online at <http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsasupply>. Instructions for proper placement of the various Scouting insignia are available at: <http://www.scouting.org/pubs/33066/06.html>.

The *Class B* uniform (BSA calls it an “activity” uniform) is worn during campout activities and other outdoor events, such as community-service projects. Scouts wear the *Class B* daily at summer camp and will need several.

TROOP 39 CLASS A UNIFORM

Uniform Class A	Notes
BSA Uniform Shirt	Short sleeve shirt recommended. A long sleeve shirt can be worn under the shirt during cold weather.
Red BSA Shoulder Loops	
Patches — NEGA Council Patch, Troop 39 Numerals, World Crest	Troop numerals supplied by the troop.
Patches (Optional)	Arrow of Light and Religious Square Knots earned as a Webelos may be worn.
Patches — Patrol, Rank and Office Badges	Supplied by the troop.
Belt — Official BSA Scout Web Belt	
Pants or Shorts — BSA issue	One pair will get you started, but by your first summer camp, an additional pair may be advisable
Socks — BSA issue	One pair will get you started, but by your first summer camp, an additional pair may be advisable
Pen and paper	A scout is always prepared to make notes

TROOP 39 CLASS B UNIFORM

Uniform Class B	Notes
Troop 39 Tee-shirt	Purchased from Troop 39
Scout Pants or Shorts, Belt and Socks	As shown above in <i>Class A</i> uniform section

Scout Handbook

Though not a part of the official uniform, the Scout Handbook is a constant companion for each boy, at least in the early months of the program. Advancements will be completed regularly and progress towards ranks will be officially signed off in the handbook. It is recommended that each boy clearly label his book with his name on the outside, so it can be readily identified at a glance. Books get thrown around during meetings, and it is not uncommon for the wrong handbook to go home with the wrong scout. This is traumatic and stressful, but avoidable if everyone labels their handbook in a clear fashion. (Most boys write their names down the edge of the pages with a bold marker). Loss of a handbook can be expensive (approx \$10 at the Scout Shop) and burdensome as signoffs need to be re-produced from records that are not always easily attainable. Please take care your Scout Handbook!

UNIFORM ASSISTANCE

Scout uniform purchases often cause an unplanned expense that may create a financial burden to some parents. The troop maintains a *Used Uniform Closet* of “experienced” uniform items. Don't hesitate to ask the adult leaders about available items. Also, when uniforms are outgrown, please consider making a donation to the program. For assistance with the Used Uniform Closet, please see the Troop membership coordinator.

RANK ADVANCEMENT AND MERIT BADGES

Rank Advancement

The adult leaders of Troop 39 will work with your son to learn the skills required to advance in the ranks of Scouting. It is the Scout's responsibility (not the parent's) to request a Scoutmaster's conference and Board of Review when he feels he is ready to be tested to move to the next rank. The process Troop 39 uses was put in place to assure that qualified adult leaders are available to aid your son in his Board of Review. The process is as follows:

1. When the scout has completed all the items required for rank advancement and they have been signed off in his Handbook, he should see the Scoutmaster to schedule a Scoutmaster's conference. These are frequently held between 6-7pm before the regular meeting. If no other adult leaders are present, a parent must stay in the building during the conference. The scout should prepare himself for the conference by reviewing all the requirements for the new rank. The Scoutmaster may ask him about any of the rank's requirements (e.g. to tie a knot, orient a compass or explain first aid). It is possible to fail the Scoutmaster conference, in which case the scout will review the requirements and try again.
2. After he has passed the Scoutmaster Conference, the scout should see the Board of Review Coordinator who will review the signoffs in his handbook and assign him a time for his Board of Review, possibly the same night, but often at the next meeting. At the Board of Review, the scout must wear a complete Class A uniform with belt, socks, nametag, pen and paper.
3. When the scout has passed the Board of Review, he must show his handbook to the Advancement Coordinator. He should receive his new rank patch the same meeting.

Merit Badges

Earning merit badges is an important part of your son's skills development, and they are required for rank advancement beginning with Star Scout. During your son's participation in the early ranks of Scouting, we emphasize Basic Scouting Skills. As your son progresses, we urge him to broaden these skills by earning merit badges. The adult leaders of Troop 39 will work with your son to plan merit badge classes during Summer Camp, and to earn merit badges while participating with the troop. Lists of available merit badges and their requirements can be found on web sites such as <http://usscouts.org/meritbadges.asp>. If your son would like to earn a merit badge with one of the Troop 39 advisors here is what he needs to do:

- 1) Request a *Blue Card* from the Advancement Coordinator. (A *Blue Card* is a merit badge record card.)
- 2) Meet with the Scoutmaster to discuss the merit badge and have the Scoutmaster sign the *Blue Card* before initiating any work.
- 3) Choose a buddy to take the class with him. (Two boys to a class is a requirement.)

- 4) Select a merit badge counselor from the troop list and contact him or her.
- 5) Check out the Merit Badge booklet from our library or purchase one at a Scout store.
- 6) Read the booklet.
- 7) Get started and have fun!
- 8) Once the requirements have been met to the satisfaction of the counselor, present the signed off *Blue Card* to the Advancement Coordinator. The actual Merit Badge will be awarded at an upcoming Court of Honor ceremony (scheduled roughly once per quarter).

Parents are encouraged to sign up as Merit Badge Counselors in areas in which they have some expertise (based on either vocational or avocational interest). BSA registration is required as well as Youth Protection Training. Further training specific to teaching Merit Badges is available.

Scout Leadership Positions

As your son advances he will have the opportunity to have leadership positions in the troop. Scouting gives boys a good opportunity to test their leadership skills and parents should encourage their sons to take these positions which may require a little more work. Don't be concerned if your son is not elected patrol leader, there are other troop positions available, such as Librarian, Scribe, Quartermaster and Patrol Guide. Some positions more are suitable for older scouts and adult leaders will help your son choose a good position for his current rank of scouting. Each leadership position is denoted on the scout uniform by a leadership insignia or "badge of office" and is considered part of the complete uniform. Troop 39 provides these for each official leadership position.

Service Projects

Troop 39 helps scouts to "do a good turn daily" by making available service projects within the troop (Eagle projects) or with outside agencies. Please encourage your son attend as many of these activities as possible even beyond the required hours for the next rank. Parents are also welcome to work alongside the scouts in service projects.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Camping with Troop 39

Our North Georgia location offers Troop 39 Scouts a wide selection of weekend camping venues to choose from. Our outings usually start with a Friday evening departure from the Scout Hut, followed by a short drive to trailhead or campsite vicinity. Evening activities often include Scout skills work and a campfire. The Saturday program is often tailored to the location and the Scouting activities planned by the boys. Extended outings may be offered during school holidays, and a weeklong Summer Camp program is offered each year.

Camping fees generally range in the area of \$15-\$25 per outing depending on campground fees. Part of the fee also pays for the gas of drivers. This fee does not include money for food which will be collected by each patrol (see below). A couple times a year there may be an outing including special activities such as caving, skiing, or rafting that require a larger fee. The scouts plan the outings for each year in August and try to keep to a budget of \$250 for the year's trips.

For each outing a permission slip is required. The form is available at www.troop39.net. If you fill out the form with your son's information and save it on your computer it is a simple matter to fill in the trip name, date and destination for each trip. The "tour leader" should be the Scoutmaster unless he will not be present on the trip; in that case it should be a registered and trained adult leader who will be present.

Please bring payment and the permission slip to a meeting before the campout. No scout will be allowed to depart on an outing without the proper payment, permission form, and personal health and medical form on file with the troop. Planning for transportation and adult supervision must be completed by the meeting before the trip.

Parents are always welcome on outings. We have a large number of boys to transport on every trip and it's only fair that each parent contribute by driving occasionally. Parents and leaders must pay for the outing at the same cost as the scouts but they will be reimbursed for gas. The only requirement for a parent to attend an outing is that they complete Youth Protection Training. This is an online training available at <https://scoutnet.scouting.org/elearning>. You will be asked to create an account (if you haven't already), and log in. Once you've completed the course, please print out the certificate and bring it to the Adult Training Coordinator so our records can be kept up to date.

Personal Health and Medical Forms

All registered scouts and registered adult leaders who participate in outings must have an official BSA Personal Health and Medical Form (see www.troop39.net/forms) on file with the troop. Each outing will have an assigned Medical Forms officer assigned to verify that participant forms are in order, and the forms are readily accessible in an emergency.

Class 1 and Class 2 forms (actually a single form, in two parts) are required of most scouts. Class 1 is updated annually for all outing participants and suffices for short activities such as overnight hikes, or other programs not exceeding 72 hours, with level of activity similar to that of home or school. This form includes current personal health and medical summary (history) is attested by parents to be accurate. The Class 2 form is updated once every 36 months for all participants under 40 years of age. Activities requiring Class 2 forms include summer camp or any other activity such as backpacking, tour camping, or recreational sports involving events lasting longer than 72 consecutive hours, with level of activity similar to that at home or school. The Class 2 form includes results of a medical evaluation by a licensed healthcare practitioner.

Participants over age 40, or who are engaged in certain high adventure activities will require a Class 3 personal medical form. These are renewable annually and require a physical evaluation by a licensed healthcare professional.

Troop 39 traditionally arranges medical evaluations by volunteer licensed healthcare professionals during the period leading up to summer camp. Schedules are announced well ahead of time and posted via the normal communications methods,

Patrol Method

The heart of any Boy Scout troop is a team of boys called a patrol. Each patrol is comprised of approximately eight boys that work together to accomplish tasks, and live and eat together on the trail. The troop is made up of a number of patrols. When your son joins Troop 39 he will also

join a patrol. Each patrol has an older scout Patrol Guide and an Adult Patrol Advisor. The patrol will elect a Patrol Leader. Together, the patrol plans menus for each campout, and assignments are made for patrol duties, such as food shopping and cooking. Each patrol member chooses a *buddy* for the campout and tent assignments are given.

Troop 39 Scouts plan menus and cook as patrols. One Scout from each patrol will be responsible for shopping for food to support the menu. The Scout who does the shopping for each patrol is responsible for calculating the amount of money due to him from each Scout in the patrol and collecting that amount. The cost is usually \$8-\$15, paid in cash and is usually collected just before the campout or the next meeting. Please have some cash available and remind your son to pay for his food.

Each patrol is responsible for checking out and maintaining camping equipment from the troop Quartermaster for each trip. This equipment includes:

Provided by Troop 39

Tent (Shared by two boys)	Cooking stove and fuel
Ground Cloth	Fly / Awning
Cooking Kit	

Low-Impact Philosophy

Troop 39 follows low-impact hiking and camping practices, we adhere to the Leave No Trace outdoor philosophy. We try to avoid the use of disposable plates and cups on campouts. Scouts should bring their own lightweight (plastic), plate, bowl, cup and silverware on each trip and clean them after use. Radios, MP3 players, cell phones or other personal electronic gear are not allowed on campouts.

Personal Equipment

The troop has placed warm and cold weather equipment lists on the website. Please review this list and its contents with your son. Even on a warm summer's day, it is possible for a boy to suffer from hypothermia after a brief summer rain, followed by a slight breeze while hiking in the North Georgia mountains. Help your son to plan ahead and *Be Prepared*. However, note that there is no need to purchase the entire packing list at once before a scout's first outing. As the boys gain experience they will learn what equipment is of vital importance vs that which is nice to have, but can wait until the next trip. The appendix to this document includes some general advice to assist in the equipment purchase decisions.

New Scouts joining the troop have the option to purchase a starter kit that includes a Troop 39 "Class B" tee shirt, camping equipment, poncho and a Troop 39 hat. The cost for this kit is \$60.

Equipment in Starter Kit

(2) Water Bottles	(4) Tent Pegs
(1) Drinking Cup	(1) Length Parachute Cord (50 ft)
(1) Bowl or Sierra Cup	(2) Lashing Straps
(1) Lexan Spoon	(1) Nylon Rain Poncho
(1) Class B Tee-Shirt	(1) Troop 39 hat

The Appendix gives advice on other equipment you will need to purchase to enhance your son's scouting career.

TROOP FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES

Scout Bucks

The boys of Troop 39 are encouraged to help pay their way in scouting by participating in fund-raising activities. When a scout has earned money this way it goes into his "Scout Buck" account with the troop. Then this money can be used to pay for any scout related activity-outings, dues or even uniforms and camping equipment. A list of the current amount in each scout's account will be posted monthly. To pay for outings and dues with Scout Bucks, simply tell the Coordinator that is your intention. To be reimbursed for uniforms or camping equipment, bring a receipt to the Treasurer.

Parents also earn Scout Bucks when they work at Fair Parking. The money they have earned will go into their son's Scout Bucks account. Also, when a parent drives on an outing, the gas money will be put into the son's Scout Bucks account. Likewise, parents can apply the funds from their son's account to pay for an outing the parent attends.

Discount Card Sales

In the spring of each year, Scouts sell Discount Cards which give the purchaser a discount at various locations. The Etowah District supplies the cards. In the past, cards have sold for \$10 and the scout earned \$4 (the entire profit for the troop) in his Scout Bucks account. The remainders of funds raised go to finance the Etowah District.

Cumming Fair Parking

During the Cumming Fair in October, Wachovia Bank and Forsyth County News allow non-profit organizations to use their parking lots as a fund-raising activity. Every afternoon and night of the fair Troop 39 collects money for parking at the Forsyth County News parking lot. We usually have the Wachovia Bank parking lot for one afternoon and night. Strong participation from parents, Scouts and adult leaders is necessary during this event. The troop retains a portion of the total amount collected to apply to equipment or maintenance needs; in 2007 this was 20%. The remaining 80% is divided among the workers by number of hours worked and added to their Scout Bucks accounts.

Popcorn Sales

Each fall the Northeast Georgia Council of the Boy Scouts of America holds its popcorn fundraiser. Troop 39 Scouts are asked to sell popcorn products in support of Troop 39 and the Northeast Georgia Council. Currently all the troop profits from the popcorn fundraiser go into the Scout Bucks accounts.

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

Special Needs Scouting

If your son has a special requirement or challenge that we should know about, please speak with the Scoutmaster to arrange a meeting to discuss how Troop 39 might help.

Financial Aid

No boy should be denied the opportunity to participate in the Scouting Program. The Troop 39 Foundation supports this philosophy by providing financial assistance to help boys join and participate in the troop activities. Scouts receiving financial aid are expected to be active participants in troop activities and fundraisers. If you are interested in learning more about how the Troop 39 Foundation can help your son, contact the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chairman.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Supporting Your Son

Learning new skills can be a difficult (and frustrating) task for many boys. We encourage you to work with your son as he develops his Scouting Skills and Outdoor Abilities. *The Boy Scout Handbook* contains most of the information you'll need to know to help your son. Attend troop meetings and get to know the adult leaders that work with your son. When you have questions, don't hesitate to speak with a Troop 39 adult leader.

Supporting Troop 39

Troop 39 is always looking for adult volunteers to lead and support projects, serve as merit badge counselors, or become Assistant Scoutmasters or Troop Committee members. We have tasks large and small to be taken on by parents. One of the best ways to encourage your son to advance through the ranks is to demonstrate your belief in scouting by being a volunteer. If you would like to contribute your time, please speak with any adult leader about participating in the troop.

CURRENT LEADERS IN TROOP 39

February 2007

Scoutmaster

Eric Barish 770-889-3072 ericLbarish@comcast.net

Troop Committee Chairman

David Kelley 770-887-3621 dbknhk@comcast.net

**Names and contact information of all other leaders may be found on the website:
www.troop39.net under “how to reach us”**

Appendix

CAMPING EQUIPMENT ADVICE

Equipment	Notes
Backpack	<p>There are two basic constructs of backpacks; internal (frameless) and external frame designs. Either style of pack can be used, but it is important that you select a youth pack.</p> <p>Youth packs are smaller in size and have straps and belts sized to the proportions of a boy.</p> <p>Good quality packs can be purchased from an outdoor store for approximately \$60 to \$70.</p>
Sleeping Bag	<p>The choice of sleeping bag depends on the climate and use of the bag. Troop 39 is a backpacking troop that primarily camps in the North Georgia area. We recommend sleeping bags with the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mummy Bag Design</i> — Allows bag to be drawn around head for warmth in cold conditions. • <i>Poly Fill</i> — Poly-filled bags dry fast if they are exposed to moisture. • <i>Synthetic Lined</i> — Cotton lined sleeping bags can feel <i>comfy and cozy</i> when you first get into them, but cotton traps moisture and will become damp (due to perspiration) during overnight use. Select a bag that has a synthetic inner liner. • <i>30 Degree Farenheit Rating</i> — Most outdoor activities Troop 39 participates in are above freezing temperatures. In the case of camping in lower temperatures, liners can be purchased and used to increase the temperature rating of the bag.
Sleeping Pad	<p>Using a sleeping pad on the ground under a sleeping bag performs three functions; acts as a moisture barrier, makes uneven ground more restful, and maintains the thermal efficiency of the sleeping bag.</p> <p>For beginning Scouts we recommend a simple closed-cell foam pad available at most discount or outdoor supply stores for approximately \$8. As your son matures, you may want to investigate more advanced pad designs, such as those that self-inflate.</p>
Flashlight	<p>The basic light source of Troop 39 is the metal, twin AA cell flashlight. This type of flashlight is available at most discount stores and is often supplied in a package with a belt holster for around \$10.</p> <p>We recommend that each Scout have one of these and carry extra batteries and a bulb during campouts.</p> <p>As your son advances, you may want to look into the purchase of a personal headlamp. There are a number of quality products available. The most current design uses LED technology that provides long battery life, no bulb replacement, and is minimal in weight. LED headlamps sell for around \$35.</p>

Equipment	Notes
Hiking Boots	<p>One of the most important investments a parent can make in their son’s Scouting Adventure is their selection of his footwear. Poorly selected hiking shoes or boots can result in a spoiled weekend experience due to hurting feet or, worse yet, blisters on your child’s feet.</p> <p>The adult leaders of Troop 39 strongly suggest that each Scout’s parents consider the purchase of properly fitted hiking boots for their son. Good quality hiking boots can be purchased for less than a pair of brand name athletic shoes in many area stores. Here’s what to do and look for when you select a pair of hiking boots:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy boots in the afternoon, when your son’s feet tend to swell and always fit boots with hiking socks that will be worn on the trail. • Be sure that the toe box is roomy enough for him to wiggle his toes. When your son slides his foot forward in the boot, be sure you can slide / squeeze one finger down the back of the boot. • Have your son walk in the boots and be sure the boot does not slip up and down as he walks. Fabric- and leather-constructed boots are lighter in weight than all-leather boots, and they are often easier to break-in. <p>Once you have purchased boots for your son, have him break them in by wearing them around the house and to troop meetings. <i>Don’t wait to have your son wear his new hiking boots for the first time to a troop outing.</i></p>
Hiking Socks	<p>The first rule in selecting hiking socks is <i>no cotton</i>. Cotton socks absorb moisture (sweat), which makes skin soft and vulnerable to blistering.</p> <p>Synthetic or wool socks should always be used on the trail. BSA recently began offering a line of socks that can be worn with the Boy Scout uniform and offer proper foot protection on the trail. We suggest that your son use these or other non-cotton hiking socks.</p>
Rain Gear	<p>There are two traditional options to protect from rain during outdoor activities; the rain suit and the poncho.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Poncho</i> — Simple waterproof cape with a hood that protects the wearer and his pack from rain. Quality ponchos are constructed of waterproof material, such as reinforced nylon material, and have a flap in the back that can be lowered to accommodate the added bulk of the wearer’s pack. — We recommend that new Scouts use a high-quality nylon poncho. Bargain vinyl or plastic ponchos do not withstand the rigors of life on the trail and often fail within the first use. The troop maintains a supply of rugged nylon ponchos and offers them as part of the Troop 39 starter kit for new Scouts. Replacements are available for purchase for \$22 to troop members. • <i>Rain Suit</i> — Offers more freedom of movement than a poncho. Rain suits appropriate for hiking include a hooded jacket and pants. Rain suits are generally more expensive than a poncho and require the separate purchase of a backpack cover to provide the pack protection from rain. — If your boy is inexperienced or is still rapidly growing, we recommend using a high-quality poncho. As he progresses in his outdoor skills, he may wish to investigate the purchase of a rain suit.

Equipment	Notes
Backpack Cover	<p>When the troop camps for the evening, packs are stored outside the tent. To protect the packs from overnight rain and morning dew they are enclosed with a waterproof cover. A pack cover or heavy-duty trash bag can be used for this purpose.</p> <p>If your son uses a rain suit he should use his backpack cover. If your son uses a poncho, a heavy-duty trash bag can be used in lieu of a pack cover.</p>
First-Aid Kit	<p>Preparing a personal first-aid kit and carrying it on a hike are requirements for achieving the Second Class Scout rank. We believe it is important for all Scouts to develop a personal first-aid kit, become familiar with its use and contents, and begin carrying it in their packs as soon as possible.</p> <p>We suggest that parents work with their boys to develop a first-aid kit as soon as possible. During campouts, adult leaders carry advanced first-aid kits in support of the troop.</p>
Personal Hygiene Items	<p>Each Scout is responsible for his personal hygiene items. A basic personal hygiene kit for Troop 39 should include a minimum of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toothbrush • Toothpaste • Dental Floss (if used) • Soap (Biodegradable / <i>Camp Suds</i>) • Wash Cloth and Towel • Brush or Comb • Deodorant (if used)
Toilet Paper	<p>Troop 39 often camps at primitive locations. Primitive locations do not have modern facilities available.</p> <p>We suggest that each Scout carry ¼ roll of toilet paper in a Ziploc bag in his backpack for primitive camping and for unexpected dashes into the woods. A plastic trail trowel is also useful for digging necessary “cat holes” and covering up the evidence. Don’t worry; we’ll explain the rest.</p>
Knives**	<p>New Boy Scouts are not allowed to carry knives of any kind until they have been properly instructed in their use and care. Your son will be trained in the safe use and care of knives, saws, and axes when he earns his Boy Scout <i>Totin’ Chip</i>.</p> <p>He should not carry a knife to troop functions until he has earned his <i>Totin’ Chip</i>. Possession of a Cub Scout <i>Whittling Chip</i> does not allow your son to carry a knife in a Boy Scout troop. Fixed blade and sheath knives are not allowed.</p>
Matches and Other Fire-starting Materials**	<p>A new Boy Scout is not allowed to carry matches or any other type of fire starting materials until he has demonstrated knowledge of the safety rules in building, maintaining, and putting out camp and cooking fires. When he has been properly trained and has exhibited these skills, he will be awarded the <i>Firem’n Chit</i> and he will be allowed to carry matches or other fire starting materials on troop outings.</p>

** Note: If your son exhibits poor judgment in the use of knives, other sharp camp tools, matches, or other fire starting materials, we will discuss his actions with him. We will either remove a corner from his *Totin’ Chip* or *Firem’n Chit*, or revoke his privilege to carry and use these tools until he is retrained.

A good way to check if your son is exhibiting proper respect for the privilege to carry and use these items is to periodically look for missing corners on his Totin’ Chip and Firem’n Chit. If a Boy Scout has all four corners removed from one of these cards, he must be retrained to earn a new card and the associated privileges.

Camping Equipment Retailers and Resources

There are a number of retail stores and discount outlets in the North Georgia area. Quality camping gear can be purchased at discount prices if you take the time to shop retailers, compare prices and wait for seasonal sales. Listed below are some possible retailers.

Retailer	Location
REI	Recreational Equipment Inc. http://www.rei.com 1600 Mall of Georgia Blvd Buford, GA 30519 (770) 831-0676
Campmor	http://www.campmor.com P.O. Box 700D Saddle River, New Jersey 07485-0700 1-800-CAMPMOR
Outside World	471 Quill Dr., across from outlet mall on GA 400 Dawsonville, GA 30534 (706) 265-4500