

# Summary

## Description:

Trail Life USA is a national organization which sponsors a Christian youth outdoor program for boys from kindergarten to age 18, and a coed program for boys and girls over age 18. The program focuses on Adventure, Character, and Leadership and is based in Biblical moral values and promotes a Christian Worldview.

## Mission:

To guide generations of courageous young men to honor God, lead with integrity, serve others, and experience outdoor adventure

## Youth Participation:

Open to boys of all ethnicity, race, and religion.

**Adult Leadership:** adult leaders who are Youth Protection Trained, national and CBC background-check cleared, and all adhering to a doctrinal statement of Faith as published by Trail Life USA and endorsed by Calvary Baptist Church.

## Program Overview:

Weekly Troop meetings, Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:30 PM:

* Youth-Led – for the purpose of developing leadership skills
* Hands-on skills instruction & practice
* Planning: Upcoming trips, upcoming service projects
* Fun Monthly Trips:
* Week-end camping and high-adventure outings Annual High Adventure Outing:
* Week-long backpacking, climbing, canoeing excursion

## Cost:

$32 national dues and $100 Troop 942 dues for the calendar year. Dues will be prorated, for those who join later in the year, on a per quarter basis. Additional costs may be required for materials such as a handbook, trips, uniform, and personal equipment. Beginning in January 2014, the national organization will set national dues (more information to follow). Financial assistance available as needed. Contact Alan Casey to discuss specifics and need.



# Welcome

We are excited that you are interested in joining Trail Life USA, Troop 942. Trail Life USA is a national faith-based character development organization for young men and as a charter member, it is considered a ministry of Calvary Baptist Church. Calvary has enjoyed a long and fruitful partnership with the Boy Scouts of America and considers the partnership with Trail Life an extension of a commitment to the discipleship and training of young men.

At Trail Life, we aim to provide a healthy, wholesome environment in which your son can learn skills for life – skills that not only enable him to excel today, but skills that help him to grow into a leader of others with the distinct attributes of purity, service, stewardship, and integrity.

While a member of Trail Life USA, Troop 942, your son will be able to enjoy the rigors and thrills of camping, hiking, cycling and white-water rafting. He’ll learn to cook over an open fire or on a camp stove. He will learn valuable leadership skills and be able to practice them. As he grows older, he will have an opportunity to participate in high-adventure activities as canoeing, fishing, backpacking, and even sailing among others. He’ll learn how to help an injured person or to save a life. And he’ll learn how to tie knots, lash spars and build camp gadgets. He will learn this within the context of established Biblical Values and a distinctly Christian Worldview, and he will have fun.

We at Trail Life Troop 942 are committed to seeing your son learn skills and experience adventure, as well as grow in character, and leadership.. To help him and you get started, we’ve provided this packet of information. This is not intended to be an exhaustive report on everything to expect, but it does cover a lot of details that will help you and your son make the adjustment to the Trail Life.

Also included in this packet are the necessary forms for registering your son with Trail Life, Troop 942. And there is an opportunity, where you can volunteer to help as an adult leader.

If you have further questions, feel free to ask any of the adult leaders.



# Description

An outreach ministry of Calvary Baptist Church, Trail Life USA, Troop 942 is a chartered member of a national organization which sponsors a Christian youth outdoor program for boys from kindergarten to age 18, and a coed program for boys and girls over age 18. The program focuses on Adventure, Character, and Leadership and is based in Biblical moral values and promotes a Christian Worldview.

# Vision

The Vision Statement of Trail Life USA states: ‘*we aim be the premier national character development organization for young men which produces Godly and responsible husbands, fathers, and citizens’*. The vision for the program is to develop these traits through exposure to outdoor skills and activities.

# Mission

The mission of Trail Life USA is to guide generations of courageous young men to honor God, lead with integrity, serve others, and experience outdoor adventure.

# Membership

The program is open to all boys irrespective of race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin. Parents from all faiths are welcome to place their children in the program. While boys may come from every religious background, adult leaders in the program - from the National Board level to individual unit volunteers - will adhere to a standard statement of Christian faith and values.



# When Do We Get Together?

Trail Life USA, Troop 942 meets from 7:00 to 8:30 each Tuesday night of the year, except on major holidays, days when public school is out because of inclement weather, and during the month of July.

Meetings are held at the James B. Sechrist Center on the campus of Calvary Baptist Church, 5000 Country Club Road.

During our meetings, boys will work on outdoor skills and advancement. They will meet as a group, and they will break out into patrols and by rank. They will work on age appropriate skill training and also plan for outings.

Outdoor trips are generally scheduled the third weekend of each month; however, some events do have to be rescheduled for various reasons. Changes will be announced at meetings and publicized in the meetings and by a on-line Troop management system.

Troop 942 may meet at other times throughout the year, too. For example, we may schedule training sessions other days of the week, participate in a community service event, help someone with a service project, or schedule a work day at the James B. Sechrist Center.

# Who Runs the Show?

Troop 942 is a boy-run organization with adult supervision and oversight. Youth leaders run the meetings and lead others on outings. They are actively involved in such activities as camping trips and other events. They lead the ceremonies, when youth receive recognition.

Adult leaders add support to this effort, working behind the scenes, helping to ensure that meetings are well-planned and that outdoor events go well. The senior adult leaders is the Troopmaster, Alan Casey, who helps run all Trail Life USA, Troop 942 activities.

By having a boy-run organization, boys are able to learn leadership skills, and all youth are expected to assume various leadership roles within the Troop. We place a high importance on leadership growth and development.

The First Officer is the senior youth leader in Troop 942. He has one or more assistants called Second Officers. Other leadership positions include Quartermaster, Patrol Leader, Jr Patrol Leader, and Chaplain’s Aide. Troop 942 is divided into smaller groups called Patrols.

The First Officer, Second Officer, Quartermaster, Chaplains Aide, & Patrol Leaders, meet with the Troop adult leadership each month, in the Officers Conference, to plan meetings and activities. The Officers Conference is scheduled by the First Officer, and is held at the James B Sechrist Center. Attendance is required for all youth leaders.

# Adult Leadership

Troop 942 has approximately 15-20 Registered Leaders who have dedicated responsibilities in the Troop and participate in various other roles. In addition, we have Registered Adults, who are Youth Protection Trained and participate as needed, but do not have specific responsibilities on a weekly basis. The Troop operates on a 2-deep leadership principle, which requires 2 adult leaders present when direct contact with the boys is going on, so there is always a need for more leadership. Adults are needed to lead skills training courses, to help with special events, to participate in outdoor activities, to drive vans and mini-buses, and in many other ways. If interested. Please speak to the Troopmaster, Alan Casey, or one of the other Registered Leaders.

# Conduct Is Important

You will find no rules for behavior posted in the Sechrist Center. However, Troop 942 does expect each youth to exhibit appropriate conduct by exhibiting Youth Spirit as well as the Character Traits of Trail Life (Purity, Service, Stewardship, and Integrity).

Just a few specifics:

Youth are expected to attend Troop meetings & events.

 Youth are required to be in an appropriate uniform at each meeting.

Such behavior as fighting or hitting, profanity or abusive language, or use of illegal

substances will not be tolerated and may result in the expulsion of the boy from participation in the Trail Life program.

These three areas fall under the umbrella of “exhibiting Youth Spirit,” a requirement for future rank advancement. If a boy fails to exhibit this Youth Spirit -- that is, he consistently misses meetings, he fails to wear an appropriate uniform, or he consistently has behavior problems -- then his future rank advancement could be deferred by the Troopmaster. Older youth are expected to set a good example for younger boys in what they say, how they act, and the respect they give God and others.

# Reverence for God

Faith is an important part of Trail Life USA, Troop 942. The religious views expressed during the meetings and outings will be consistent with those of Calvary Baptist Church and the Statement of Faith and Values which every Leader in Trail Life USA subscribes to:

*“We believe that there is one Triune God – Father, Jesus Christ His one and only Son, and the Holy Spirit – Creator of the universe and eternally existent. We believe the Holy Scriptures (Old and New Testaments) to be the inspired and authoritative Word of God. We believe each person is created in His image for the purpose of communing with and worshipping God. We believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit who enables us to live a Godly life. We believe that each individual is called to love the Lord their God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength; and to love their neighbors as themselves. We believe that each individual is called to live a life of purity, service, stewardship and integrity.”*



# What Does It Cost to Join?

The Enrollment fee for joining Trail Life USA, Troop 942 is $32 for national dues and $100 for our local Troop dues. Those who join after January each year will have their fees prorated on a quarterly basis.

Troop 942 uses the money to help pay for recognition, activities, and other operational expenses. There are no weekly or monthly dues. National dues will be paid directly to Trail Life USA as part of the online registration. Checks for local Troop should be made out to Trail Life USA, Troop 942 and should accompany the Troop Registration form.

# Are There Other Costs?

Troop 942 participates in at least one outdoor activity per month. Generally, the Troop covers most of the costs for these trips. However, there are some costs that families may need to pay on a per-trip basis. For example, when we go white-water rafting, the troop will pay the camping expenses, but youth/families will pay fees charged by the outfitter.

Other expenses your son can anticipate include the cost of uniforms, personal equipment, and supplies such as food on camping trips.

One final note about costs: there is scholarship money available for those who need it. If you require assistance, please see Troopmaster Alan Casey. Your request will be kept strictly confidential. We will do our best to assure that all boys can participate irrespective of finances.

# How Do I Pay for It?

How you choose to pay these costs is, of course, up to you. But we at Troop 942 encourage the youth to take some responsibility. They can do this by taking on part-time jobs, doing errands, or using their allowances. They can also participate in a Troop fundraiser. Youth can usually generate sufficient funds to pay for most of the costs associated with membership.

Fundraisers are typically held in the fall, and you will be hearing more about it later.



# Questions About Trail Life USA

## What distinguishes the Trail Life USA from Boy Scouts?

Calvary Baptist Church has had a long history chartering both Pack 942 and Troop 942 with BSA and the program had much merit and has impacted countless numbers of boys positively for life. Many elements of the new program will operate similarly to Boy Scouts, but the main differences will be:

*It will operate on principles and values that reflect a Christian worldview and all leadership will adhere to a consistent Statement of Christian Faith and Values.*

*It will promote and affirm Biblical moral standards as opposed to secular standards which promote moral neutrality.*

## What ages are admitted?

Trail Life USA has programs for youth from kindergarten to College. Woodlands Trail is designed for boys from Kindergarten through 5th grade. Navigators is designed for middle- school boys from 6th grade through 8th grade. Adventurers is designed for high school aged boys from 9th through 12th grade. The Guidon program is designed for youth after age 18 through age 25.

## What distinguishes the operation of Trail Life USA in the various age groups?

1. Adult Leaders conduct all meetings for the Woodlands Trail groups. It is designed to be a discipleship experience with a parent’s involvement, although boys may be involved without parental involvement. Camping for this age group is limited to 3-4 times per year.

In Navigators and Adventurers, boys, with some adult (other than a boy’s parents) leader involvement and supervision, conduct all meetings and events. Camping is an integral part of these Groups. Adventurer groups may plan additional separate trips that are

high-adventure and more rigorous.

1. The events for boys in Woodlands Trail are family oriented. Adults plan, coordinate and lead most activities, which often lend themselves to full family participation.

Events for Navigators and Adventurers are run by the boys. Boys plan all activities (with adult guidance) and most activities do not involve full family participation.

1. For the Woodlands Trail boys, advancement is done mainly in groups with the adult leaders determining the timing and the course of the boy’s advancement.

A boy in the Navigator ranks will have a big part in determining his advancement and a boy in the Adventurer program will have almost total control over his own advancement, which he will do mostly on an individual basis with the help of senior youth and many different adults.

## How does advancement work?

All ranks and merit badges previously attained within Boy Scouts are transferable. Rank advancement in Trail Life USA will operate much like the Scouting program with both required and elective Trail Badges, service time, leadership requirements and a Board of review.

Beginning in January 2014, new Trail Life USA ranks will be assigned based on a BSA Transfer Module Worksheet and a transition to new rank requirements will be computed and assigned.

## What can a boy expect in Trail Life USA, Troop 942?

Woodlands Trail program: Boys will be assigned to grade-level groups (Foxes, Hawks, and Mountain Lions), and will learn about God’s creation and engage in adult-led outdoor activities intended to reinforce the knowledge of it. The youth will advance in groups and will have many opportunities for individual recognition while having a lot of fun!

Navigators program: Older boys are placed in a “Patrol” of 6 to 10 boys (every effort is made to keep a boy with other boys he knows or is comfortable with). These patrols will be guided by experienced youth leaders (and supervised by trained adults) and are rotated regularly to facilitate camaraderie and learning between the boys. The primary focus for new Navigator members will be to learn basic camping, outdoor and survival skills. This helps to develop self- reliance and self-esteem. Youth are encouraged to participate in as many weekend campouts as possible since different skills are emphasized on each outing. Attending weekend campouts before long-term summer camp events is helpful because the youth then feels comfortable with his skills and abilities before going away for an extended time period. Experience has shown that boys who do not get involved with camping right away generally drop out within the first few months. Boys who camp regularly tend to advance quicker and stay with the program longer.

Adventurer program: High school aged young men group themselves into patrols of 6-10 boys. Patrols and leadership positions are rotated regularly to provide opportunities to build leadership skills in all members. The young men participate in advanced skills training, plan their own activities as well as give leadership over many Navigator program activities and skills training.

They progress through 3 major awards (Journey, Horizon, and Freedom awards) and control both the path and pace to achieve them.

## Can a boy be active in sports as well as Trail Life USA?

Trail Life USA does not seek to compete with sports or other extracurricular activities and, in fact, experience has shown that successful youth are often those with a variety of activities and interests. We encourage all youth to be active in church, music, sports, school, other organizations and other activities. We understand, however that a boy may not be able to participate in every planned event. The boy can learn to be a good steward of his time and energy with his involvements. As in any endeavor he will get back what he puts into it.

## How can parents become involved with their son in Trail Life USA, Troop 942?

Adults are encouraged to participate in Troop 942. There is always a need for adults, as trained Registered Leaders to work directly with the boys, as Registered Adults who support and provide additional leadership roles, and as committee members who help facilitate Troop operations such as running fundraisers, making phone calls, coordinating outings, arranging transportation, or other tasks. There is no job too small and even the busiest person can help take the load off another person in some way. Adults also serve an important function as Skills Training Counselors, working with youth to complete the requirements for a skill. We would love to know skill resources available to the Troop in parents skills and abilities.

There is no requirement for parents to become involved with Troop 942 as a condition of joining, however, experience has shown that parents who are actively involved have youth who stay with the program, learn more, advance faster, and are better members than those whose parents are not involved.

## In Summary. . . . . .

Trail Life USA, Troop 942 is a ministry, a program, and a group that is committed to helping boys develop to their fullest potential, learn values, learn leadership skills, build character, and be involved with a peer group which is wholesome, committed, active, and most importantly God-honoring. Left alone, boys from Kindergarten to age 25 will find plenty to do if there doesn’t seem to be anything presented to them. These involvements may or may not meet with your approval. We are committed to providing wholesome, God-honoring, & character-building activities.

We believe Traill Life USA is an excellent program and Troop 942 will continue a long heritage of discipling boys into worthy men. Encourage your son to become involved and consider becoming involved yourself.



#  What’s Going On?

Troop 942 will provide information on upcoming activities through:

 Weekly Meetings: The most up-to-date information about trips and other events often is announced at meetings. It is not unusual for details of a trip to change at the last minute, so it is important for members to be at the meetings to obtain the latest information. Fliers about outings are distributed at Troop meetings a week or two before the event. Sign –ups will be available at that time as well.

 Trail Life Connect: As part of your enrollment in the program, you will have access to, and receive information from, Traillifeconnect.com. This is an online Program Management System that controls membership and advancement information for the Troop. Trail Life Connect also has the Troop’s activity calendar. You will receive regular emails from Trail Life Connect for events and other group communications. Parents are encouraged to give access to these systems to their sons for viewing capability only. This can give you son some responsibility for keep up with advancement and troop activities. The main access will only be granted to parents, who will remain responsible to manage the information from the Troop within their household.

The Troop Public Website: [www.traillife942.com](http://www.traillife942.com/) as well as Trail Life USA, Troop 942 Facebook page.



# What Can I Expect?

As a youth joins Trail Life USA, Troop 942, he is assigned to a patrol and begins his Trail Life as a Trailman. If he is in the Woodlands Trail program (Kindergarten through 5th grade), he will be assigned to one of 3 groups: Foxes (K-1st grade), Hawks (2nd-3rd grades), Mountain Lions (4th- 5th grades). The Woodland Trails program is led by the Trail Ranger. The curriculum is designed to be completed in 2 year cycles and will repeat every 2 years. The curriculum uses age appropriate activities intended to promote the transfer of ‘*knowledge’*. The patrol will stay together all years in Woodland Trails.

The large group of boys who graduate from the Woodlands Trail program early in May or June each year will stay together for the first few months to create one or more new patrols in the Navigator program (grades 6-8). Each of these patrols will be assigned a Patrol Leader from the pool of older Trailmen in the Adventurer or Navigator program. Boys who join later in the year, or did not come through the Woodlands Trail program, will be assigned either to a new patrol or to one of the other existing patrols, depending on their age and/or grade. The Adult Leader for the Navigator program is the Trailmaster. The curriculum is intended to promote ‘*understanding’* of what they know.

The new members will stay together for about 6-9 months to help them adjust to the Navigator program. Perhaps as early as fall, and definitely no later than the beginning of the next year, new members will be assigned to the other Patrols where grades and experience levels vary. Some of the new members may also assume patrol leadership roles at this time depending on rank advancement.

A reasonable goal for a new member in the Navigator program is to reach the Able Trailman rank, and assume some leadership responsibilities, by the end of his first year and the rank of Ready Trailman by the end of the 8th grade. Troop 942 will provide all the opportunities possible to help each boy achieve this goal, but the boy must work hard to get there. We realize that not every boy moves at the same pace, and if a youth hasn’t earned Able Trailman rank by the end of his first year, that is not a problem. Just keep plugging along, and stay plugged in. Just being a part of Troop 942 is fun.

New members will soon learn that they are no longer in a children’s organization, where an adult plans all the meetings and is responsible for each boy’s advancement. Now, boys and some adult leaders will teach many of the requirements either in a group setting or one-on-one. If a youth misses these sessions, it is his responsibility to see that he gets the training he needs.

*Note: Some training will be led by an adult. For example, a doctor may help lead instruction in first aid, or a police officer may talk to the troop about drug awareness*.

Trail Life USA requires that a youth be signed-off by an adult leader on all skills training and rank advancement. However, no adult leader can sign-off on his own son’s work.

The training, camping trips, leadership skills, and all recognition/advancement are intended to be a fun and rewarding but appropriately challenging experience for the boys.

When a young man moves into the high school years he will move up to the Adventurer program which is intended to be more challenging and the boys are encouraged to assume even more control of their activities as well as advancement. The leader of the Adventurer program is called the Advisor and serves in that capacity to develop *‘wisdom’* which is the correct application of knowledge and understanding. The boys have 4 years to transition, as Trailmen, through the ‘Journey’, ‘Horizon’, and eventually ‘Freedom’ awards. The Freedom award is the highest rank achievement and involves opportunities for service on both a national and international basis. The Adventurer program represents a significant amount of work and a commitment to applying the skills he has learned for the benefit of others.

Lastly, the Trail Life progresses to the Guidon program, for ages 18-25, which is intended for youth, in a coed setting, to move past high school and into *‘life’*.



**Esprit de corps**

Esprit de corps is a French word for “Spirit of the Body” and it is pronounced as “espree de core”, In Trail Life esprit de corps is a feeling of pride, fellowship, and common loyalty shared by a Trailman for his troop. Demonstrating esprit de corps is a requirement for advancement. A boy shows esprit de corps exhibiting the core values of Trail Life USA (Purity, Service, Stewardship, & Integrity) in Troop 942 functions and his everyday life. When a boy is up for advancement or recognition and appears before the Board of Review, he gives an oral testimony about his behavior at home, at school and around friends.

We also measure esprit de corps at Troop 942 functions in the areas of attendance, uniform and behavior. A boy shows esprit de corps in his patrol and the Troop as a whole by attending meetings in uniform, and by being of good behavior. Failure to meet the requirements (detailed below) can result in advancement or recognition being deferred.

The purpose of measuring esprit de corps isn’t to punish the boys, but to encourage them to attend meetings and outings, to proudly wear their uniforms, and to be on their best behavior. Parents are asked to support the Troop 942 leadership in this effort, and to encourage their sons to be good demonstrators of esprit de corps. Troop 942 may periodically conduct competitions among the patrols to encourage better attendance and wearing the full uniform.

# The Requirements:

Attendance

Boys are expected to attend all functions; however, we do realize that there are circumstances – i.e., sickness, schedule conflicts, too much homework, etc. – that may make attendance difficult. But if a boy is missing more meetings than he is attending, then arguably he is not demonstrating esprit de corps. Therefore, if a Trailman misses more than 4 meetings in a 3-month period or more than 50 percent of Troop 942 outings during the time he is actively working toward advancement, his advancement or recognition will be deferred one month. During this time of deferment, the boy must have exemplary attendance.

Patrol Leaders will keep attendance records, and will post them in the office at the James Sechrist Center. A record of the boy’s attendance will be made available to the Troopmaster and other leadership when he is seeking advancement or recognition.

Uniform

A Trailman is expected to wear his uniform at every meeting and on every trip, unless told otherwise. There are 3 uniforms each Trailman will have: the Trail Life T-shirt, the Trail Life Travel polo shirt, and the Formal uniform (fall 2014). Each uniform will have its own application and the boys will be notified which uniform is expected for specific events. We believe this is a realistic expectation as boys who participate on sports teams are not allowed to play in games if they are not in the team uniform. However, we do realize that there may be circumstances that make it impossible for the boy to be in proper uniform. In such cases, he can receive in advance a “pardon” from the Troopmaster, Trailmaster, Advisor, or First Officer, but should be encouraged to make every effort to be in uniform the next time. It is preferred that a boy attend a meeting without uniform, but with an approved excuse, than not attend at all.

Unexcused infractions will result in the rank advancement being deferred two weeks per infraction. During this “deferment” period, the boy must show exemplary Trail Spirit by wearing his uniform at every Troop 942 function. Further infractions during this period will result in further delays of his rank advancement. Patrol Leaders will keep records of who is in proper uniform, and will post these records in the office at the James Sechrist Center. These records will be made available to the Troopmaster and members of the Board of Review when the boy is seeking rank advancement.

A Trailman is expected to dress neatly. Warnings will be issued for sloppy dress, i.e., shirttail hanging out. If a boy fails to improve his dress after one warning, a second warning will be issued. If the boy still refuses to improve his dress, his rank advancement will be delayed two weeks.

Furthermore, a boy may be expected to be in uniform when performing community service unless the service precludes it or mandates a different attire. For example, if a boy participates in the church’s Community Serve, he is expected to be in uniform, if appropriate to the activity , or the church sponsored t-shirt provided for the activity. Failure to wear the uniform in such instances will result in the boy not receiving credit for the service. Obviously, a boy will not be penalized for not wearing his uniform while performing community service if the uniform isn’t required.

Behavior

A boy is expected to be well-behaved at all functions. There are 4 main character traits of all Trailmen in Trail Life USA. A boy is expected to exhibit behavior consistent with these traits (Purity, Service, Stewardship, & Integrity).

A boy should not be disruptive & should be quiet when others are talking. He should obey youth and adult leaders. Talking out of turn and being disrespectful to authority have been the most common infractions in our group in the past. In these instances, the person in authority who is the object of such infractions should issue a warning to the boy. A boy who repeatedly ignores these warnings and disobeys those in authority is not demonstrating Trail Spirit. He will be confronted, using the Biblical procedure: One-on-one confrontation, two-on-one confrontation and group confrontation.

Example: If a Patrol Leader is having a problem with a disruptive and disobedient boy, he should confront him one-on-one and privately. If the boy continues to misbehave, the Patrol Leader should take the boy to the Senior Patrol Leader. If this fails to resolve the problem the Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader should take the boy to the Trailmaster or Advisor, and if not resolved then to the Troopmaster.

Serious behavior problems such as hitting and fighting, making threats, damaging personal property or stealing cannot be tolerated and can result in the boy being removed from the group temporarily or permanently. Serious behavioral problems may require a meeting with the boy’s parents.

Youth will not keep a record of the behavior of other boys. That responsibility will fall on a Registered leader(s), who will keep records of infractions in personnel files in the office.

A boy who consistently has behavioral problems during the time he is working toward rank advancement will have that advancement or recognition deferred one month or longer, at the discretion of the Troopmaster. During the “deferment” period, the boy must be on his best behavior or advancement could be delayed even longer.

Character Traits of Calvary Outdoors

Purity – A boy whose actions are consistent with being pure of heart, mind, word and deed

Service – A boy whose actions are consistent with becoming a responsible part of their community and the world through selfless acts, which contribute to the welfare of others.

Stewardship – A boy who uses his God-given time, talents and money wisely. Integrity – A boy whose actions are consistent with doing what is right,

regardless of the cost.

Second Chances

We want to give boys every opportunity to correct their mistakes; therefore, there is nothing in this policy that prevents the Troopmaster, or other adult leader, based on his own judgment or the recommendations of other adult leaders, from using discretion in reducing a boy’s penalty.

Final Words

The Troopmaster or his designee will be responsible for monitoring attendance and uniform records, and will keep abreast of behavior problems. He will meet with and encourage those boys who are in jeopardy of having their advancements delayed.

Parents should take an active responsibility in encouraging and developing Esprit de corps with their son(s). New members will be made aware of this policy in orientation. The Troopmaster and First Officer will discuss Esprit de corps with Troop 942 members periodically at regular meetings; no less than twice annually. Adult leaders will assess the Esprit de corps on a routine basis, making improvements where necessary.

# Esprit de corps Summary

Objective

Encourage boys to attend meetings and outings, to wear the uniform, and to be on best behavior.

Methods

Hold contests between Patrols, with prizes going to winner.

Defer advancement and recognition for boys who miss most meetings and outings, who fail to wear the uniform and who are having trouble with proper behavior.

Requirements:

Attendance

Miss no more than 4 meetings in a 3-month period. Miss no more than half of Troop 942 outings.

Failure to meet these requirements will result in 1-month deferment in advancement or recognition.

Patrol Leaders will keep attendance records.

Records will be made available at time of a Troopmaster’s Conference or Board of Review.

Uniform

Wearing the uniform is expected at all meetings and outings (unless told otherwise). Approved pardons must be approved in advance by either the Troopmaster, Trailmaster, Advisor, or First Officer.

Each infraction will result in a 2-week deferment in advancement. Patrol Leaders will keep Uniform records.

Records will be made available at time of Troopmaster’s Conference or Board or Review.

Behavior

Boys should behave consistent with the 4 character traits of Trail Life USA. Boys should be respectful of authority.

Boys should not be disruptive. Warnings will be issued for first two infractions.

After three infractions, person in authority will confront the boy one-on-one. If this fails to resolve the problem, other people in authority may need to be included.

Consistent behavior problems can result in advancement or recognition deferment by one month or longer, at the discretion of the Troopmaster.

Adults, not youth, will record behavior problems.

Reprieves

A boy can have his deferment period shortened or even eliminated by:

a) having exemplary attendance; b) wearing his uniform at every function; or c) being of exemplary behavior overall.

Troopmaster, or his designee, will determine if reprieve is warranted.



# Policies for Adult Leaders

**Behavior:** Adult leaders are expected to behave in a Christ-like manner at all times. Remember, our youth are watching ... and listening. Additionally, Adult Leaders should model the 4 character traits of Trail Life USA (Purity, Service, Stewardship, & Integrity).

**Smoking:** Trail Life USA, Troop 942 forbids adult leaders from smoking in the presence of youth and strongly discourages the practice in any form and at any time.

**Alcohol and Controlled Substances:** Trail Life USA, Troop 942 forbids adult leaders from consuming alcohol or controlled substances in the presence of youth in any event or function. and strongly discourages the practice in any form as inconsistent with the goals of Trail Life USA, Troop 942.

**Training:** All adult leaders are expected to be trained. Included are youth protection training (mandatory) and job-specific training. Other training may also be required, as mandated by Trail Life USA and/or Calvary Baptist Church.

**Background Checks:** Both Trail Life USA & Calvary Baptist Church require background checks and will perform checks on all leaders as a safety precaution both for the boy and the reputation of the institutions involved.

**Discipline:** Generally, the Troopmaster is responsible for administering any required discipline. In his absence, The Trailmaster, and/or Advisor can administer discipline. Two-deep leadership is always required. Discipline should be handled privately with a parent or guardian present if possible. At no time should an adult embarrass a youth in front of his peers. Additionally, adults are not allowed to touch youths unless it is to protect a youth from a harmful situation.

**Uniform:** Adult leaders are expected to be in uniform at Troop 942 functions.

**Attendance:** Adult leaders who conduct Troop functions are expected to attend Troop 942 meetings. Adults who hold the positions of Troopmaster, Trailmaster, Advisor, Treasurer, secretary, Quartermaster, Advancement Chairman, Outdoors Chairman, Chaplain, Advancement Coordinator(s) and other assistant leader(s) are expected to attend Troop 942 committee meetings. All other adult leaders and parents are invited to attend.

**Drivers:** Any adult leader who drives his vehicle on a Troop 942 camping trip or other function will be reimbursed for gasoline used only if he was asked by the Troop to transport youth or other adults. A receipt should be presented to the Troop 942 treasurer.

**Reimbursements:** Adult leaders who are in a position of making authorized purchases for Trail Life USA, Troop 942 should present receipts to the Troop Treasurer for reimbursement. No purchase $100 or more should be made without prior approval of the Troop 942 committee.

**Fuel & Fire:** Only adults are allowed to handle fuel. Please do not give a lighter to any youth to start a fire. This is for the protection of all involved and may only be waived under direct supervision by the Troopmaster, Trailmaster, or Advisor.

**Advancement:** A parent or guardian is not allowed to check off work done by his son. If work is completed at home under the guidance of a parent or guardian, then the advancement counselor must consult with the parent or guardian and youth to confirm that the work was completed by him. Involvement by the parent or guardian should be limited to instruction, supervision, and encouragement.

**Medical Checkup:** Adults, like all youth, are required to provide Troop 942 a completed Medical Form before participation in Trail Life USA & Troop 942 activities. The form must be updated annually and is included in this packet. Additional forms available.

**Statement of Faith:** All registered adult leaders must sign a standard Statement of Faith as provided by Trail Life USA and approved by Calvary Baptist Church. Youth may subscribe to any faith but registered leaders must sign the Statement of Faith noted and agree to live consistently with it.



# Recommended Equipment

(Prices shown are approximate retail)

1. **Sleeping Bag:** A good sleeping bag is one of the most important pieces of equipment your youth should own. We have encountered extreme weather conditions on some of our camping trips and the sleeping bag becomes a part of your youth’s protection against hypothermia. I recommend a mummy-style bag as it will be less bulky and will keep your youth warmer than rectangular bags. I also recommend a synthetic fill such as “Polarguard” or “Quallofil” as they will keep your youth warm even if the bag gets wet, as opposed to a down bag which will not. The synthetics will also dry faster if they get wet. The bag should be rated for conditions of 20 degrees or less and have a water-resistant exterior shell. The bag should weigh 3.5 pounds or less and have a stuff sack which allows it to be compacted to approximately 9”x18” for carrying in a backpack.

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| Recommended sleeping bags: | Coleman Exponent Gray Fox 20\* | $ 40 |
|  | Kelty Light Year 3D 25\* | $ 80 |
|  | Kelty Tundra 15 (4 pounds)\* | $ 50 |
|  | Marmot Trestles 15\* | $ 70 |
|  | Mountain Hardware Lamina 20\* | $120 |
|  | Sierra Designs Wild Bill 20\* | $ 70 |
|  | Slumberjack Fissure 20\* | $ 60 |
|  | Slumberjack Kepler 20\* | $ 70 |
|  | The North Face Aleutian 20\* | $ 70 |
|  | REI Polar Pod 20 | $ 79 |
| \* Campmor prices |  |  |

1. **Backpack:** There are two main types of backpacks: internal frame and external frame. I recommend young boys use the external frame pack. The most important things about a backpack are making sure it has enough capacity to carry the youths gear and that it fits him correctly. It is important also not to get the pack too big or the boy will try to carry unnecessary items or the pack will get too bulky. The pack should have well-padded shoulder straps and hip-belt which should be adjustable to fit very snugly around the boy’s waist. It is also important that the pack be fitted by a professional, not the typical sporting- goods store clerk. Be careful buying used packs, as they may not fit correctly.

Recommended backpacks: Outdoor Products Youth Dragonfly\* $ 40

Kelty Yukon\* $ 90

Jansport Scout\* $ 60

Mountainsmith Youth Scout\* $ 50

1. **Sleeping Pad:** A sleeping pad is useful not only for padding and insulation against the cold, hard ground, but also for raising the sleeper above water from a leaking tent or water bottle. A “closed cell foam” pad is less expensive, but not as much cushion.

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| Recommended sleeping pads: | Pack-Lite Closed-cell foam\* | $ 10 |
|  | Ridge Rest Short\* | $ 18 |
|  | Ridge Rest Z-Lite\* | $ 30 |
|  | ThermaRest Self-Inflating\* | $ 40+ |
| \*Campmor prices |  |  |

1. **Eating Kit:** An eating kit can be purchased or made up with things from home. It should consist of: Cup

Bowl (6” or so; make sure it has sides for stews, etc.) Spoon/fork (light weight)

The plastic thermal cups you can pick up at any convenience store for $2 work well (you don’t need the lid).

1. **Flashlight:** A small, lightweight, plastic flashlight holding 2-AA batteries works well, particularly on backpacking trips. You don’t need a large D-cell size flashlight. Many boys like to use headlamps.
2. **Hiking Boots**: Good boots are essential for outdoors activities, especially hiking. It is not necessary to spend a lot of money. Look for boots that fit, are comfortable, and offer good ankle support. Hiking boots should be worn with a pair of thick hiking socks and sock liners. They should be fitted with the socks and liners you’ll be wearing while hiking. Boots should be well broken in before the first hike to lessen the chance of blisters. After a boy is 15 or 16 years old and his feet have stopped growing, he can get a better pair if he desires. Sneakers are not acceptable for hiking. If a boy is between youth and adult sizes, try a ”woman’s” boot. They are made and styled the same, but often fit best for pre-teen boys.
3. **Knife:** A small, folding lock-blade knife with a total length of 6” or less is recommended. I like for the knife to be carried in a belt sheath (nylon works well) as the boy is less likely to accidentally carry it to restricted places, like school. Fixed-blade sheath knives are unsafe and not allowed in Troop 942.
4. **Uniform:** A full uniform will be mandatory beginning January 2014. Information on the requirements of a full uniform will be provided. In the interim, a Calvary Outdoors t-shirt is sufficient. At times, a class-B uniform consisting of a Trail Life T-shirt will be allowed. The boys will accumulate class-B t-shirts over time in the program.
5. **Compass:** An inexpensive beginners-type compass is needed. There are several manufacturers.

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| Recommended compass: | Suunto | $10 |
|  | Silva Starter | $ 7 |

1. **Water Bottles:** Your Scout will need two 1-quart bottles. They need to have a screw-type, non-leaking lid such as a Nalgene. Bike-style water bottles don’t work well.
2. **Hiking/ Camping clothing:** The key to staying warm, dry, and comfortable in the outdoors is layering. Layer 1 should wick sweat and moisture away from the skin. Synthetics like polyester, or silk are best choices. Layer 2 is insulation. A variety of good options exist: synthetic fleece, wool, synthetic fibers, and down (more expensive). Layer 3 is for protection against wind and rain (and sleet and snow). A nylon jacket for wind and a waterproof poncho are good choices. Nylon zip-off pants are a good choice for the summer. **IMPORTANT:** Cotton clothing should be avoided. It absorbs moisture and is slow to dry. When wet, it is heavy and offers no insulation. In the event of bad weather, cotton can be dangerous.

## Where to Buy:

Most of the camping gear can be found at local outdoor outfitters.The **Great Outdoor Provision** in Winston-Salem (a little pricey but usually the highest rated equipment), and **REI** at Friendly Shopping Center in Greensboro. You might also be able to find some gear at Academy Sports or Dick’s Sporting Goods (But their sleeping bags are geared more for car camping than backpacking).

Reputable Internet sites:

Campmor [www.campmor.com](http://www.campmor.com/)

Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI) [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com/) (They have stores in Greensboro, Raleigh-

Durham, and Charlotte)

Sierra Trading Post [www.sierratradingpost.com](http://www.sierratradingpost.com/) (Mostly discontinued stock,

highly discontinued. Great if you know what you are looking for)

 Dan Becker <https://www.youtube.com/c/DanBecker> great videos

 to use in researching equipment

 Outdoor Gear Lab <https://www.outdoorgearlab.com/> kind of a

 consumer reports for outdoor gear. The site can

 give you ideas best options out there.

BEFORE you make consider making a purchase contact the Troopmaster or any adult leader who will be glad to answer questions about specific gear.



# Camping Checklist

## Wear when you arrive:

[\_] Hiking Boots

[\_] Appropriate Trail Life USA uniform, Pants, belt, socks [\_] Underwear

[\_] Flashlight in pocket

Cold Weather:

[\_] Gloves

[\_] Jacket or Heavy coat

[\_] Long sleeve shirt (or hoody) under uniform [\_] Hat (covering head and ears)

[\_] Optional: neck gaiter, bandana, neckerchief

[\_] Optional: long/thermal underwear or light sweatpants

Warm Weather:

[\_] Optional: Hat (ball cap or brimmed hat depending on activity)

## Pack Up:

[\_] Pants (1 for each night; long for cold; long or short for warm) [\_] Shirts (1 for each night; long for cold; short for warm)

[\_] Underwear (1 for each night)

[\_] Socks (at least 1 should be hiking; cold= 2 for each night; warm= 1 for each night) [\_] Stocking Cap (even in warm weather - put in bottom of sleeping bag)

[\_] Sleeping Bag

[\_] Sleeping Bag cover (or trash bag) [\_] Sleeping Pad

[\_] Poncho (emergency)

[\_] 2 “1-quart” Water Bottles (with screw-on cap) [\_] Personal First Aid Kit

[\_] Pocket Knife [\_] Compass [\_] Whistle

[\_] Mess Kit (spoon, fork, bowl, cup) [\_] 1-2 Trash Bags

[\_] Toothbrush

[\_] Toothpaste (or mouthwash)

[\_] Wipe clothes (or soap/hand towel if shower is available) [\_] Plastic Trowel

[\_] Toilet Paper (about 30-40 squares)

## Optional/Other:

[\_] Hoody style shirt (cold weather) [\_] Sunglasses

[ ] Chapstick (cold weather) [\_] Sunscreen (warm weather)

[\_] Insect repellent (warm weather) [\_] 1 pair sleeping socks

[\_] 2-3 Ziplock bags

[\_] Sleeping shirt and pants

[\_] Trail Snacks (Mix, nuts, dried fruit, etc) [\_] Journal and pen

[\_] [\_]

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## Notes:

* *Electronic devices are prohibited on trips, unless specifically addressed and allowed by the Troopmaster, Trailmaster, or Advisor for a specific purpose.*
* *The boys will plan and pack all meals and snacks for the trip. It is acceptable for a boy to pack some snack or trail food, in appropriate amounts and of a healthy & appropriate type. Types of suggested trail food will be addressed in planning meetings. Large amounts of candy and other snack foods are discouraged. Parents of boys with special dietary needs should discuss appropriate dietary restrictions with the Troopmaster, Trailmaster, or Advisor.*



**Resource Survey**

At Troop 942, we invite you to share your skills and interests so that the best possible experience for the boys can be developed. In making this survey, the committee wishes to find ways you can enjoy using your talents to help train our youth. Life or Outdoor skills attained from Scouting, or other sources, are applicable even if not listed below.

Name:

Home Phone: Cell Phone:

Business Phone: E-mail:

Street Address:

City: State: Zip:

Occupation: List any Hobbies:

List any Sports you are active in:

Would you be willing to help with Troop Leadership? Would you be willing to help with Troop Committee responsibilities? Please check any areas you are able and willing to help with:

General Activities:

[\_] Camping Activities [\_] Hiking Activities

[\_] Outdoor Activities [\_] Troop Meeting Activities

[\_] Swimming Activities [\_] Bookkeeping & Accounting [\_] Computers Data/ Records [\_] Clerical

[\_] Transportation of Equipment [\_] Transportation of Boys [\_] Equipment Organization/ Maintenance [\_] Boating Activities

[\_] Communications/ Public Relations [\_] Fundraising

[\_]

[\_]

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[\_]

Resources:

[\_] I have a Truck, Trailer, and/or hitch

[\_] I have special training/certifications (first aid, cpr, etc.) [\_] I have a workshop/tools

[\_] I have special equipment and am experienced in their care/use

[\_] I have access to property for events (camping, fishing, boating, hiking, etc) [\_] I have contacts for events/ trips/ activities

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| Advanced Skills: |  |
| [\_] Archery | [\_] Business | [\_] Backpacking | [\_] Canoeing |
| [\_] Conservation | [\_] Cross Country | [\_] Cycling | [\_] Fishing |
| [\_] Kayaking | [\_] Masonry | [\_] Mechanics | [\_] Orienteering |
| [\_] Photo/Video | [\_] Politics | [\_] Rafting | [\_] Rappelling |
| [\_] Sailing Skiing | [\_] Scuba Diving | [\_] Shooting/guns | [\_] Snorkeling |

[\_] Sports: [\_] Survival [\_] Swimming [\_] Woodworking

Activity Interest Areas:

[\_] Art [\_] Architecture [\_] Astronomy [\_] Archery [\_] Aviation [\_] Backpacking [\_] Business [\_] Camping [\_] Canoeing [\_] Chemistry [\_] Cinematography [\_] Cycling [\_] Citizenship [\_] Communication [\_] Cooking [\_] Culture

[\_] Crime Prevention [\_] Emergency Prep [\_] Electricity [\_] Electronics [\_] Engineering [\_] Entrepreneurship [\_] Environment [\_] Family Life [\_] Farming [\_] Fire Safety [\_] First Aid [\_] Fishing

[\_] Forestry [\_] Gardening [\_] Geology [\_] Hiking

[\_] History/Heritage [\_] Horsemanship [\_] Journalism [\_] Landscaping [\_] Law [\_] Leathercraft [\_] Lifesafety [\_] Literature

[\_] Medicine [\_] Metalwork [\_] Motorboats [\_] Music

[\_] Nature [\_] Oceanography [\_] Orienteering [\_] Personal Fitness [\_] Personal Management [\_] Photography [\_] Pioneering [\_] Plant Science [\_] Public Health [\_] Radio [\_] Rifles/Shotguns [\_] Science

[\_] Snow/ice sports [\_] Soil/Water Conservation [\_] Space

[\_] Sports: [\_] Surveying [\_] Swimming

[\_] Textiles [\_] Theater [\_] Traffic Safety [\_] Transportation [\_] Veterinary Sciences [\_] Weather [\_] Wilderness Survival [\_] Wildlife

[\_] Woodwork [\_] Zoology