

PARENT'S GUIDE

*Helpful information for parents of
Boy Scouts in Troop 116*



Boy Scouts of America

Troop 116

Monroe County, Tennessee

Serving Scouts in Tellico Plains & Coker Creek

Unaka District

Great Smoky Mountain Council

Revision 1.7 July, 2008

FORWARD

The BSA Troop 116 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 Cherokee Christian Children's Ranch (Triple C Ranch) adoption community for their ongoing support of the Troop 116 Scouting Program. We also want to thank those local businesses and organizations who have become our strategic partners to help train tomorrow's leaders. 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 116. 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.

On our troop website, you'll find "Webelos Transition" information in the "New Scout" section. Take time to review the Webelos Transition brochure as you consider where you want your son to serve in scouting.

(Troop 116 has modified this document with permission)

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide will help answer questions that many parents have when their son joins a Boy Scout troop. The primary purpose of this guide is to address issues that are focused around your son's membership in Troop 116. *This publication is not an official handbook of the Boy Scouts of America.* We hope you find this resource helpful, and we welcome your suggestions.

ABOUT BSA TROOP 116

Background

BSA Troop 116 was launched in March 2008 as an extension of the Cherokee Christian Children's Ranch (Triple C Ranch) and the need within the Coker Creek community. Our chartered organization, Triple C Ranch, retains the official charter for the troop and serves as the governing body of the organization. We are active boy-led, boy-run troop!



Quotes from Baden-Powell

"If a boy can do it, an adult should not."

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. 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 116 meets year-round in the Dining Hall (our 'Scout Hut') of the Smoky Mountain Christian Camp in Coker Creek. Troop meetings are held every Tuesday except for the Tuesday after a monthly campout or outing. Troop meetings begin at 7:00 pm and conclude at 8:30 pm. Directions can be found on the troop website. Changes in meeting schedules are communicated to troop members in advance and by email or via the monthly *Fleur de Lis* newsletter.

The Troop 116 Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meets the first Tuesday 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 Tuesday 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 (<http://www.troop116.info>) contains most permanent information about the troop such as calendar, forms, packing lists, and a list of leader contacts. Our blog site gives you a chance to provide feedback at <http://www.troop116.blogspot.com> Troop 116 also maintains a Google Group at <http://groups.google.com/group/bsatroop116> to archive our announcements. A

weekly email is sent to the Google Group which summarizes the announcements of the week. In order to receive these emails, you must join the Google Group. Please contact the Communications Coordinator to join. Anyone can also send an email to the entire troop through the Google Group by emailing bsatrop116@googlegroups.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.

Annual Dues

Troop 116 does not charge weekly or monthly dues. Instead, we charge a flat fee each year (in January) to pay for Scout registration, insurance, a Boys' Life subscription, and advancement badges/patches. Our annual troop budget is based on the dues received. Dues may increase in the future if the troop Finance Committee sees a need.

- § Registration and Insurance are paid to National BSA through our Council office.
- § 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 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 adult leaders.
 - Troop Goal: allow adults to join without having to pay the \$11 council registration fees
- § Scouts who are new to the troop have additional payments for materials being provided.

The Troop 116 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 Council deadline, a returning scout will not be reinstated in the troop and will have to reapply.

Returning Scout Dues	
Registration	\$ 10.00
Insurance	\$ 1.00
awards	\$ 6.00
operations	\$ TBD
Boy's Life	\$ 12.00
TOTAL	\$ 29.00

New Scout Dues Already Registered	
Registration	\$ 1.00
Insurance	\$ 1.00
awards	\$ 9.00
operations	\$ TBD
red loops	\$ 2.00
116 numbers	\$ 3.00
First Year Scout Guide	\$ 4.00
Parent's Guide	\$ 1.00
TOTAL	\$ 21.00

New Scout Dues <u>Not Registered</u>	
Registration	\$ 10.00
Insurance	\$ 1.00
awards*	\$ 9.00
operations	\$ TBD
Red Loops	\$ 2.00
First Year Scout Guide	\$ 4.00
Parent's Guide	\$ 1.00
Boy's Life	\$ 12.00
TOTAL	\$ 39.00

The following will be available for purchase:

Troop will try to keep these in stock	
116 unit numbers	\$ 3.00
BSA Scout Handbook	\$ 9.00
Council Patch	\$ 4.50
Class B T-shirt	\$ 10.00
Name Tag	\$ 5.00

- § rank advancement patches are free in our Council as long as we remain 100% Boys Life to encourage the boys to read
- § Troop 116 will hold regular fundraiser to help scouts raise funds for events, and to cover troop operating & capital funding.

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 116 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.

Two Basic Uniform Requirements

The *Class A* uniform is the dress uniform of Scouting. 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 Knoxville (<http://www.bsa-gsmc.org/council/scmain.htm>) (800) 222-5142)
- § Chattanooga (423) 892-8323 (6031 Lee Highway - *next to Sam’s Club*).
- § You can also pick up some Scout items at "The Crafter's Closet" in Athens.
- § It's a crafting shop on W Madison Ave in Athens (a couple blocks west of downtown). It's NOT a full-fledged scout store, but they have handbooks and a limited number of uniforms. You'll not likely find any leaders manuals (scoutmaster manual, guide to safe scouting, etc) or other scouting paraphernalia there.
Location: 513 W Madison Ave / Athens, TN / (423) 745-9307
- § We recommend ordering online at <http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsasupply>.
(*Troop 116 will coordinate and order for the entire troop to save shipping costs*)

The *Class B* 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 116 CLASS A UNIFORM

Class A Uniform	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 — Council Patch, World Crest	includes Troop 116 Numerals
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	Green BSA pants
Socks — BSA issue	Do not get the anklet socks. Your ankle will hurt when wearing boots.
Pen and paper	A scout is always prepared to make notes

TROOP 116 CLASS B UNIFORM

Class B Uniform	Notes
Troop 116 T-shirt	Purchased from Troop 116
Scout Pants or Shorts, Belt and Socks	As shown above in <i>Class A</i> uniform section

UNIFORM ASSISTANCE

Scout uniform purchases often cause an unplanned expense that may create a financial burden to some parents. In the future, the troop will setup a *Used Uniform Closet* of “experienced” uniform items. When uniforms are outgrown, please donate them. Future Troop 116 scouts thank you.

RANK ADVANCEMENT AND MERIT BADGES

Rank Advancement

The adult leaders of Troop 116 will work with your son to learn the skills required to advance in the ranks of Scouting. It is your son's responsibility 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 116 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 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 check his handbook and give him a time for his review, possibly the same night. 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 make 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 116 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://www.meritbadge.org>. If your son would like to earn a merit badge with one of the Troop 116 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*.
- 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!

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.

Service Projects

Troop 116 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 116

Our East Tennessee location offers Troop 116 Scouts a wide selection of weekend camping venues to choose from. Monroe County itself has over 400 miles of hiking trails and 4 out the top 5 highest mountains on the Appalachian Trail are in East Tennessee. 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 \$10-\$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 meet in August each year to plan the outings for each year and try to keep to a budget of \$250 for the year's trips. If your son participates in most of the troop fundraisers he can raise most if not all of his money.

For each outing a permission slip is required. The form is available on the website. 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 adult leader who will be present.

Please bring payment and the permission slip to a meeting before the campout. 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 two requirements for a parent to attend an outing are:

1. Complete the online Youth Protection Training available at <https://scoutnet.scouting.org/elearning>
 - a. 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.
2. Go to the troop website and review “It’s a Boy’s Game” (covers Patrol Method concept)

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 116 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 116 Scouts plan menus and cook as patrols. One Scout from each patrol (Grubmaster) 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. We try to keep the food cost to \$5-10 per boy. This is 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 116

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

Adult Patrol

The adults on a camp-out also utilize the patrol method. Their patrol name is the “Rocking Chair Patrol” to remind them to ‘take the back seat’ and “let the boys lead.’ For each outing, there will be an adult leader who will be the campout patrol leader. Other adults will fulfill the roles of quartermaster, grubmaster, etc. just like the boys. We Lead by Example.



Low-Impact Philosophy

Troop 116 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 East Tennessee mountains. Help your son to plan ahead and *Be Prepared*.

New Scouts joining the troop have the option to purchase a starter kit that includes a Troop 116 "Class B" tee shirt, camping equipment, poncho and a Troop 116 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 116 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 116 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.

Spring -	Pancake Breakfast at TelliCafe or Tellico Lodge
May	Coker Creek Village - hot dog stand and troop booth
July 4	Tellico Plains hot dog stand
Sept	Popcorn at Walmart in Madisonville => 2 Saturdays with local pack
Oct -	Coker Creek Autumn Gold Festival - hot dog stand & troop booth

Popcorn Sales

Each fall (usually September) the Great Smoky Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts of America holds its popcorn fundraiser. Troop 116 Scouts are asked to sell popcorn products in support of Troop 116 and the Great Smoky Mountain Council. Currently most of 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 116 might help.

Financial Aid

No boy should be denied the opportunity to participate in the Scouting Program. The Troop 116 Foundation supports this philosophy by providing financial assistance to help boys join and participate in the troop activities. (*foundation currently under development*) 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 116 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 116 adult leader.

Supporting Troop 116

Troop 116 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 116 February 2008

Scoutmaster Team

Brent Tucker, Scoutmaster 423-261-2595 cherokeescout@gmail.com
Jared Peer, ASM-New Scouts 423-261-2501




Troop Committee


Chairman - Scott Williams 423-261-2904 tennwilliams@aol.com
Member – Frank Reaves 423-261-2501 hfreaves@hotmail.com
Member – Bill Clark 423-261-

Names and contact information of all other leaders may be found on the website:
www.troop116.info under “About 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 \$70 to \$120.</p>
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p>Kelty Youth Yukon (\$90 thru Campmor) Coleman non-profit \$54</p>
Sleeping Bag	<p>The choice of sleeping bag depends on the climate and use of the bag. Troop 116 is a troop that primarily camps in the East Tennessee area, but also may have trips to neighboring parts of North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. 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 116 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. • <i>Weight.</i> Look for 2-5 pound max. [Coleman Cayman X32 \$40 troop price] • The BSA Scout Store now has a \$30 2 lb bag rated at 30 degrees <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>
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>

Equipment	Notes
Flashlight	<p>The basic light source of Troop 116 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 \$10-15. 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>
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 116 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>

Equipment	Notes
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 116 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.
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>

Equipment	Notes
Personal Hygiene Items	<p>Each Scout is responsible for his personal hygiene items. A basic personal hygiene kit for Troop 116 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 116 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><u>New Boy Scouts are not allowed to carry knives of any kind until they have been properly instructed in their use and care.</u> 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 card**, 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.

Coleman Tent Recommendations

1st four tents here are the best troop options or the BSA Eureka \$99 tent

Regular Price	149.99	199.99	199.99	49.99	129.99	99.99
Online Troop price	79.77	115.47	116	33.00	77.83	57.97
Weight	5 lbs 5 oz	6 lbs 10 oz	6 lbs 13 oz	6 lbs 15 oz	4 lbs 10 oz	3 lbs 8 oz
Persons	2	2	2	2	2	1
Name	Tyl X2	Heka X2	Phad X2	Hooligan@2	Avior X2	Avior X1
						
	Integrated groundsheet can be zipped on and off to reduce weight		Tent can be removed and camp only with fly for lower weight		Not free-standing as are all those on the LEFT	same as Avior X2 but for one person

Camping Equipment Retailers and Resources

There are a number of retail stores and discount outlets in the East Tennessee 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. *The Boy Scout Council store in Knoxville has a great Eureka tent for only \$99.*

Retailer	Location
Little River Trading Company	2408 E Lamar Alexander Pkwy Maryville, TN 37804 (865) 681-4141
Campmor	http://www.campmor.com 1-800-CAMPMOR P.O. Box 700D Saddle River, New Jersey 07485-0700
Blue Ridge Mountain Sports	4610 Kingston Pike (865) 588-2638 (Kingston Pike Shopping Center) 11567 Kingston Pike (865) 675-3010 (Village Green Center)
Blue Ridge Mountain Outfitter	Located in historic downtown Blue Ridge, GA at 544 East Main Street, open 7 days a week from 10:30 to 5:30 (706) 258-3232 http://www.blueridgemtnoutfitters.com/
North Georgia Mountain Outfitters	1215 Industrial Blvd in Ellijay, GA! (The old "Cingular" log building on the Cartecay River near Hwy 52, Hwy 76, and Hwy 515) http://www.hikenorthgeorgia.com
Coleman Outlet 	Outlet Stores at: § Tanger Outlet Mall - Commerce, Georgia (706) 335-6969 § 2655 Teaster Lane #32 / Pigeon Forge, TN 37863 (865) 908-3777 § 2270 Two River Blvd. Sevierville, TN 37876 (865) 453-7447 In-Store , show your BSA membership card for a 20% Coleman discount Online HUGE Discount: http://www.coleman.com/nonprofit Code: 90400. No shipping for orders over \$200.