

Welcome to



Troop 154
Boy Scouts of America
Durham, New Hampshire

Guide For New Families

2002

Purpose of The Boy Scouts Of America

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts Of America to provide an effective program designed to instill within the youth desirable qualities of character, to train them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to help develop their personal fitness, which will provide this country with citizens who:

1. Are physically, mentally and emotionally fit.
2. Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage and resourcefulness.
3. Have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts.
4. Have the desire and skills to help others.
5. Understand the principles of the American social, economic, and government systems.
6. Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
7. Have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
8. Are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society and in other forums of the world.

Boy Scouts of America Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts Of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law.

The Scout Oath and Promise

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

The Scout is:

Trustworthy
Loyal
Helpful
Friendly
Courteous
Kind
Obedient
Cheerful
Thrifty
Brave
Clean
Reverent

Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily

Aims and Methods of the Boy Scout Program

Aims:

Boy Scouting works toward three aims. One is growth in **moral strength and character**. We may define this as the what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, his outlook.

A second aim is **participating citizenship**. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society he lives in, and to the government that presides over that society.

A third aim of Boy Scouting is **development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness**. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and emotions (self control, courage and self-respect).

The methods are designed to accomplish these aims.

Methods:

Advancement - Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to over come them through the advancement process. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. More is discussed about Advancement later in this guide.

Adult Association - Boys learn from the examples set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage in a young man's development.

Personal Growth - As Scouts plan their activity, and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The good turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do good turns for others.

Ideals - The Ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them, he has some control over what he becomes.

Patrols - The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating in citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected leaders.

Outdoors - Boy Scouting is designed to take place in the outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here where the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive. More is discussed about the outdoor program later in this guide.

Leadership Development - Boy Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Uniform - The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force of good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood youth who believe in the same ideals. More is discussed about the uniform later in this guide.

Since 1910, these principles have been taught in an atmosphere of recreation and fun which allows young people to develop self confidence, leadership and moral character. More and more, men trained as Scouts are taking their places in today's world as responsible adult leaders. Men who earned badges as Scouts, sit on the Supreme Court and in the chambers of Congress. Others hold important offices in our government, business and industry. The long list of famous scouts includes:

President John F. Kennedy, Boy Scout	Neil A. Armstrong, Eagle Scout – First person to set foot on the Moon
President Gerald Ford, Eagle Scout	Steven Spielberg, Eagle Scout
J. Willard Marriott, Jr. , Eagle Scout – President of Marriott Corporation	William C. Devries, M.D., Eagle Scout – Transplanted first Artificial Heart
Sam M. Walton, Eagle Scout – Chariman/CEO of Wal-Mart	Barber B. Conable, Jr., Eagle Scout – President of the World Bank

Unlike Cub Scouting, which many of you are familiar with, Boy Scouting is a youth-led organization. The boys learn how to organize and lead the Troop and how to take notes at meetings to take home for planning activities. After training, and with supervision from the adult leaders, the boys run the show.

The boys in the Troop will be working towards their 1st Class rank and then on towards the Eagle rank. As they travel on their trail to Eagle, they will not only learn how to lead a team to a goal, but they will actually lead teams of scouts in a number of situations. Many Eagle Scouts put their accomplishments on their resumes and find they are often considered in obtaining acceptance into college or the work force.

Boy Scouting also provides for growth of moral strength and character, teaches citizenship, and enhances the development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness. **This is all done in the spirit of fun and adventure.**

Organization

Troop 154 is a participating member of the Abnaki District of the Daniel Webster Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop's organization consists of a Chartered Organization, a Troop Committee, the Troop, and the Troop's Parents. Troop 154 is the oldest continuously chartered Boy Scout Troop in the District.

Chartered Organization (Sponsor):

Every Troop belongs to an organization. The Chartered Organization for Troop 154 is the Community Church of Durham. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and insures that there is adequate trained leadership and a place to meet. A Chartered Organization Representative acts as a liaison between the Troop and the Church and participates in Troop activities.

Troop Committee:

The Troop Committee functions as an administrative and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of the non-program issues surrounding the Troop and assists the Scoutmaster at meetings when needed. Examples include: newsletters, fund raising activities, membership drives and Pack coordination, activity permits and coordination, advancement records, procurement, and maintenance of Troop equipment. The committee meets monthly during the school year. These meetings are usually scheduled on the first Tuesday after the District Roundtable meetings, which are the second Thursday of the month. The meetings are open and attendance is encouraged by all parents and other interested adults. Long term and short term planning for troop activities and trips are discussed as well as financial decisions made at these meetings.

Key committee positions include the following: Troop Committee Chair; Treasurer; Campout Coordinator; Advancement Chair; Eagle Activities Coordinator; and Secretary. Other activities which may require a chairperson include: Summer Camp Coordinator, Popcorn Chair; Leader Training Coordinator; etc.

Troop 154:

Troop Meetings:

Troop 154 will hold meetings weekly. Meetings are currently held every Wednesday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Community Church of Durham multipurpose room. Changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as early as possible for proper planning. Troop 154 normally does not meet during school vacation weeks and during the summer.

Patrols and Patrol Leaders:

The Troop is a group made up of several patrols. Each patrol usually consists of a Patrol Leader and no less than 4 Scouts and no more than 10 Scouts. The boys in a patrol elect their patrol leader who then appoints the assistant patrol leader. The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is an elected position. The SPL selects his Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Elections of the SPL and Patrol Leaders are normally held in the Spring and Fall each year.

Troop 154 is a boy-run troop. Leadership is one of the methods of Scouting. Every boy will have an opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership. The meetings are planned and carried out by the Patrol Leaders' Council. The patrol leader assigns all duties for patrol activities. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps the boy accept the leadership of others and helps him to grow into a more responsible adult. The troop organization chart on the following page outlines the complete organization of the troop. The following is an outline of the duties of the key leaders within the troop:

Scoutmaster:

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of the troop. The Scoutmaster and his or her assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. The general responsibilities of the Scoutmaster include:

- Train and guide boy leaders.
- Work with other adult leaders to bring Scouting principles to the boys.
- Insure that at least two adults are present at the meeting at all times.
- Use the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting.

Assistant Scoutmasters:

Assistant Scoutmasters are recruited by the Scoutmaster and approved by the troop committee to assist the Scoutmaster in the operation of the troop. Assistant Scoutmasters are assigned program tasks by the Scoutmaster and provide guidance to the boy leadership. He or she also provides the required two deep leadership (two adult leaders present at every Boy Scout activity).

Senior Patrol Leader:

The senior patrol leader (SPL) is the top boy leader in the troop. He leads the Patrol Leaders' Council meetings and, in consultation with the Scoutmaster, appoints other junior leaders and assigns specific responsibilities as needed.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader:

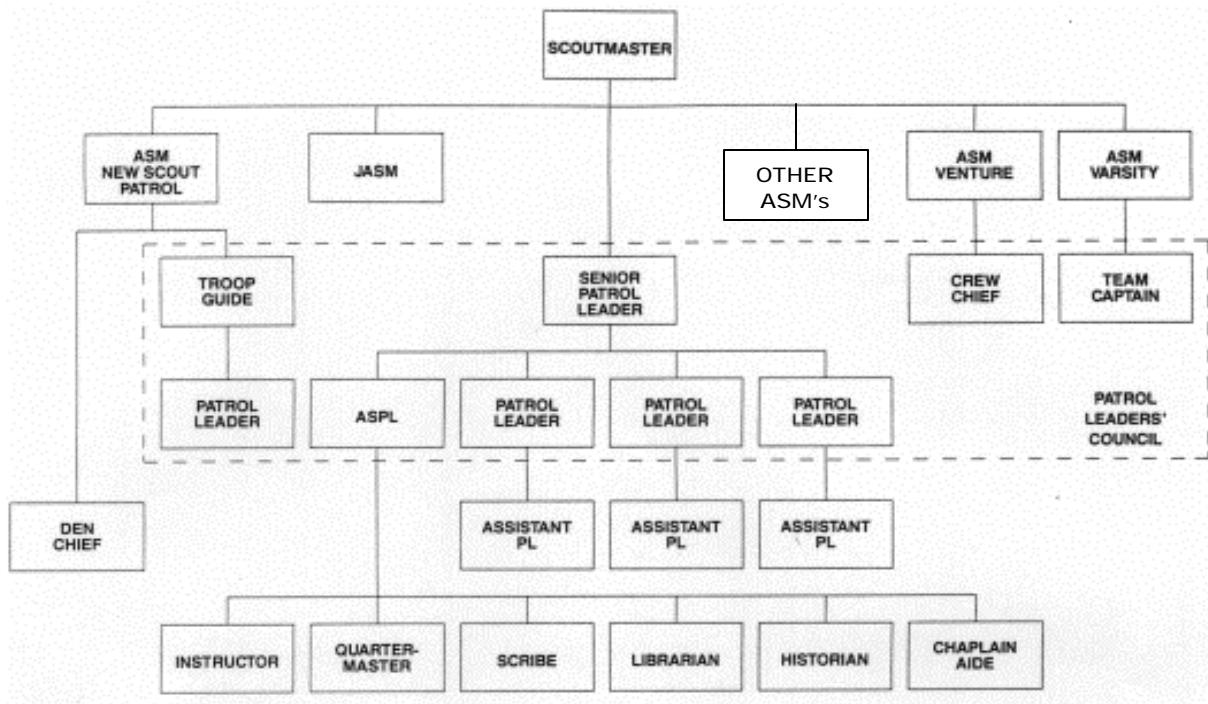
The assistant senior patrol leader (ASPL) fills in for the SPL in his absence. He is also responsible for training and giving direction to the quartermaster, scribe, historian, librarian and instructors.

Patrol Leaders:

The patrol leaders (PL) are responsible for giving leadership to the members of their patrols. They are their representation on the patrol leaders' council. The PL is also responsible for holding monthly patrol meetings outside of the regular troop meetings as needed.

Assistant Patrol Leaders:

Assistant patrol leaders help the PL run the patrol and fill in for him in his absence.



Troop Parents:

The role of parents within Troop 154 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

1. Read their Scout's Handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting. Parents should attend all ceremonies and learn more about how the Troop functions.
2. Take an active part in the Scouting Program by becoming a Registered Adult and assisting the Troop by becoming Registered Merit Badge Counselors in their areas of interest and skill.
3. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
4. Show support to both the individual scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
5. Assist, as requested, in all Troop Fund-raisers and other such activities. Volunteer to participate on the Troop Committee or chair certain activities as needed.
6. Be aware of the troop program and annual calendar. Visit the web site for additional information at www.troop154bsa.com
7. Be responsible for insuring the scouts arrive and are picked up from Troop activities at the scheduled times. Volunteer to transport boys to activities and/or participate at campouts or other events.

Scout Uniform

Scouts in uniform are conscious of their rank and make a greater effort to advance. Only the uniform provides a place for display of badges - important symbols of achievement. Scouts have more fun, stay longer, feel greater pride in advancement.

How the uniform can help a boy:

It is not the purpose of the Scout uniform to hide the differences between the boys or make them feel that they are all the same.

But there is one way in which all Scouts are alike. Whenever a Scout sees another person in a Scout uniform he knows he is like that person because both have committed themselves principles of the Scout Oath and Law. The Scout Oath and Law bind all Scouts of the world together in a common purpose.

By wearing the uniform, Scouts give each other strength and support.

Beyond accenting the common bond between Scouts, by wearing the uniform Scouts are declaring their faith and commitment to some important beliefs that bind them to all people. It is a way of making visible their belief in God, their loyalty to our country and their commitment to helping other people who need them.

How the uniform can help the troop:

1. When smartly worn, the uniform can help build good troop spirit.
2. By investing in a uniform, a Scout and his parents are really making a kind of a commitment to take Scouting seriously.
3. The uniform makes the troop visible as a force for good in the community.
4. When properly worn on the correct occasions, it can attract new members.
5. Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive, youth image in the neighborhood, thus helping to counteract the negative feeling some adults have about youth.

The troop uniform:

Scouts will wear their uniforms at all campouts or camporees where official openings and closings are held. Notices will be given at scout meetings before each event. Scouts are expected to be in uniform at all meetings. The following is the official uniform of Troop 154:

Provided by the boy:

Shirt (official tan w/red shoulder tabs)
Flag, Council and Troop 154 patches
Belt (official khaki web belt)
Stockings (official khaki) – Optional but encouraged
Pants/Shorts (official olive green) – Optional but encouraged
(Pants are required for Eagle candidates)

Provided by the troop:

Neckerchief
Neckerchief slide
Hat (ball cap style)
Rank badge and badges of office

When inside the Church buildings, boys may only wear the official Boy Scout Hat. All other hats are not permitted to be worn since they are not part of the official uniform.

Official placement of insignia may be found on the inside front and back cover of the Scout Handbook or on the Troop 154 web page.

Advancement

Advancement is the process by which youth members progress through the ranks in the Scouting program by the gradual mastery of Scouting skills. Ranks are simply a means to an end, not an end in themselves. Everything boys do to advance and earn these ranks, from the day they join until the day they leave the program, should be designed to help boys have an exciting and meaningful experience.

Boy Scout advancement, a four step process:

1. The Boy Scout learns.

A Scout learns by doing. As he learns, he grows in ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and the troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others. In this way, he begins to develop leadership.

2. The Boy Scout is tested.

A Scout may be tested on requirements by his patrol leader, Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, a troop committee member or a member of his troop. The Scoutmaster maintains a list of those qualified to test and pass candidates.

3. The Boy Scout is reviewed.

After a Scout has completed all requirements for a rank, he has a board of review. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Palms, the review is conducted by members of the troop committee. The Eagle board of review is conducted by members of the district advancement committee.

4. The Boy Scout is recognized.

When the board of review has certified a boy's advancement, he deserves to receive recognition as soon as possible. This is done at a ceremony at the next troop meeting. The certificate for his next rank will be presented to him at the next troop court of honor, however the new rank badge will be presented as soon as possible after earning.

When a boy first enters the Boy Scout Troop, they will be given a red neckerchief and Boy Scout slide. This red neckerchief will be replaced with the official Troop neckerchief when they advance to the Scout Rank. When the Scout earns the Tenderfoot Rank they will be issued an official Troop hat.

Court of Honor

As stated above, when a Scout advances, he should be recognized as soon as possible - preferably at the next unit meeting. He is recognized a second time at a public ceremony called a court of honor. The main purposes of the court of honor are to finish formal recognition for achievement and to provide incentive for other Scouts to advance.

Troop 154 has formal courts of honor three times a year, spaced out during the school year. All families are asked to attend and guests are certainly welcome. Every boy who advances deserves to be recognized in front of his family. The court of honor is the boy's special night.

When a boy earns the rank of Eagle Scout, a special court of honor is held to give that boy special recognition for his accomplishments and is normally held separate from regular troop courts of honor. Parents of the Eagle Scout play an important roll in helping organize the Eagle court of honor. All scouts are encouraged to attend to help honor the new Eagle Scout.

Outdoor Program

Scouting is effective whenever we take advantage of it's truth: The place where Scouting works best is also the place that boys want the most. The outdoors. There are a number of good reasons why the outdoor program is so special. Here are the four especially good reasons:

1. The outdoors is the best place for learning outdoor skills. How could it be otherwise? A Scout who tried to boil a potato on the gymnasium floor would be in hot water for sure - not to mention the boy who tried learning to swim by reading a book.
2. The outdoors is a great place for learning something about living with others. When Scouts walk on the same trail, cook and eat together, and share triumphs and troubles together, they are going to find out some important things about, say, patience, respect for other points of view, doing their full share, making a friend more easily, and saying no without losing one. Skills like these are among the "personal growth" skills we want from every Scout. The outdoors is where they grow up best.
3. On the trail or in camp, the boys in leadership positions will be challenged by the real thing - getting their patrols fed and sheltered, keeping them warm and safe, solving the problems they can solve, and knowing how to get help for those they can't. It's a time when leadership skills can deepen, patrols grow closer, and the troop grows stronger. The boys become more confident in their own leadership abilities and in their own outdoor skills.
4. The outdoors is also a place where a Scout can get closer to the natural world around him - the land, the forests and their wildlife, the lakes and rivers, the mountains and the seas. Here, in the outdoors, he will learn of the "land ethic" - the understanding and respect for the environment we all share, and he will develop an active concern for it's health and a willingness to work to keep it healthy.

Troop 154 and the outdoor program:

Troop 154 has a very active outdoor program and all boys are encouraged to participate. Our program includes monthly weekend campouts, annual long term summer camp (1 week), day hikes and other outdoor activities. Troop 154 tries to camp in all seasons. Winter camping can be fun and rewarding as well as camping during the warmer seasons. Families and non-registered parents of the boys are welcome on monthly campouts, if space allows. However, the troop will still function as a unit.

What to bring on a campout:

◇ Sleeping bag	◇ Mess Kit	◇ Sewing Kit	<u>Do Not Bring</u>
◇ Ground Pad	◇ Cup	◇ Flashlight	• Radios
◇ Sweater	◇ Soap	◇ Scout Knife	• Unapproved beverages
◇ Rain gear	◇ Toothbrush	◇ Watch	• Electronic Games
◇ Clothes	◇ Toothpaste	◇ Personal ID	• Firearms
◇ Canteen	◇ Comb	◇ Notebook	• Sling Shots
◇ Silverware	◇ Washcloth	◇ Pen / Pencil	• Unsheathed knives
◇ Towel	◇ Boy Scout Handbook		

Administration

Rechartering and Fees:

The process of rechartering is the annual collection of registration fees for the Scouts and Leaders. The Troop also makes a formal visit to the Chartering Organization to renew their commitment for the coming year. The process of rechartering the Troop must be completed by the end of December of each calendar year.

Annual Registration Fees:

How much does Boy Scouting cost? As little as possible, but nothing worthwhile is free. The annual fee normally for each scout in Troop 154 is \$15.00 depending on the financial status of the troop. The actual costs to recharter are:

- Approx. \$8.00 for national BSA membership
- \$1.00 for insurance
- \$7.80 for Boys Life (paid for by the Troop)
- Approximately \$10.00 for advancement costs

Transfer Fees:

Scouts who transfer into the troop will have their fees for processing the transfer paid for by the Troop. Boys who transfer out of the troop must pay these costs at the receiving Troop location.

Fees for Outings/Activities:

Individual activities may have fees associated with them. If so, the parents will be notified. Costs for the purchase of food for campouts and outings are the responsibility of the boys in each patrol. One member of the Patrol will

purchase the food and will be reimbursed by the other patrol members before or after the campout or activity. Boys who cancel out of a campout after the food has been purchased are still required to pay their share unless another boy replaces him in the list of attendees.

Fundraising:

The Troop raises most of its operating funds through the annual Christmas Tree sales in December. Each scout and family must undertake an obligation to contribute time to transport and sell the trees during this annual activity. This obligation shall be separate and distinct from other fund raising activities. Scouts may choose to participate in other activities such as Popcorn Sales or Hike-a-thon. These funds will go into an Individual Scout Fund account maintained by the Troop for the scout to use in paying for scout trips (Summer Camp, Camporees, etc.) or to purchase scouting equipment. The amount of the funds going into these accounts will be determined by the Troop Committee depending on the financial status of the Troop in the fall. Every effort will be made to provide the majority of the funds to the scouts. Individual scout fund money earned by any scout and not used by the time that scout leaves the Troop shall be returned to the Troop Fund.

Friends of Scouting:

Each year, the Council operates its Friends of Scouting (FOS) campaign to raise money for the Council operations. The Council is responsible for maintaining the Council Camps, the Council Camporees, as well as other Council activities and local BSA administration and advertising. Contributions are voluntary, but the Troop has a good record of support. FOS is becoming a critical source of BSA funding.

Youth Protection

Program Summary

Child abuse is a major problem affecting our society. Each year more than 2 million cases of suspected child abuse are reported. This means that 1 percent of American children are experiencing physical abuse, 1 percent are experiencing sexual abuse, and 2 to 5 percent are experiencing emotional maltreatment or some form of neglect. Because of the significance of this social problem, The Boy Scouts of America has declared child abuse as one of the "unacceptables" to receive special attention by those involved in the Scouting program.

The BSA has developed a five-point plan to combat child abuse and to improve the environment in which young people live. The key elements of this strategy include the following points:

- Educating Scouting volunteers, parents and Scouts themselves to aid in the detection and prevention of child abuse.
- Establishing leader-selection procedures to prevent individuals with a history of child abuse from entering the BSA leadership ranks.
- Establishing policies that minimize the opportunities for child abuse to occur in the program of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Encouraging Scouts to report improper behavior in order to identify offenders quickly.
- Swiftly removing and reporting alleged offenders.

Parents guide

The Boy Scouts of America has developed materials for use in the Scouting program that provide essential information to members and their families. A detachable booklet in the front of The Boy Scout Handbook, "How to Protect Your Child from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse: A Parents Guide," provides information to help families to increase self-protection skills.

Troop 154 and the Youth Protection Program

Troop 154 is committed to following all guidelines of the Youth Protection program. Any suspected offenses of the Youth protection program must be reported to the Committee Chairman, the Scoutmaster or the Council Executive. All incidents reported to the Committee Chairman or the Scoutmaster will be reported to the Council Executive. All reports are taken seriously and appropriate action is taken to ensure the safety of the youth.

The Troop as well as national policy does not allow youth to tent with adults on campouts, except when it is a parent. The Troop also encourage the boys to tent with boys their own or close to their own age. The only exception is winter camping where multiple people per tent is needed for safety reasons.

INQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS

All complaints and/or inquiries shall be directed to the Committee Chairman.

The Guide as set forth above is reviewed by the Troop Committee and changes approved by a majority vote of the Committee.