

Troop 682 Overview

Troop 682 – At a Glance



Welcome to Troop 682!

Thank you for bringing your scout to visit Troop 682. The Troop meets at, and is sponsored by, St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 16275 Pomerado Road. The boys come from all around Poway, Sabre Springs, Rancho Bernardo, and Penasquitos.

It is important for each boy to find a Troop where he will be comfortable and have fun. Not all Troops are the same; we hope this information answers most of your questions about Troop 682, but please contact us if we can provide more information or help in any way.



Meetings

Troop 682 meets **Monday evenings, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**, except for most school holidays and Mondays immediately after a regular Troop camping trip, which are reserved for Committee (parent) and Leadership Corps (boy leader) meetings.

Twice a year, the Troop holds a Court of Honor in place of a regular meeting. At the Court of Honor, boys are recognized for their rank advancements and other awards earned during the previous six months.

Camping trips and other outings

Outdoor activities are a key part of Scouting. Troop 682 has one regular camping trip or outing for all members every month.

The Troop has a diverse and well rounded program. Our boys do everything from car camping to backpacking and high adventure, at locations from the beach, to the mountains, to the desert. Programs include hiking, fishing, mountain biking, canoe-

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ing, white water rafting, backpacking, sailing, first aid, "Iron Chef" cooking competitions, rock climbing, beach sports, snow play, shooting sports and more. Other activities can include attending sports events (e.g., Storm baseball), go carting, overnights on the Midway, and whatever else might interest the boys.

New Scouts

When a boy joins the Troop, he is initially assigned to a "New Scout" Patrol. Each New Scout Patrol is led by a Troop Guide, an older Scout who is responsible for teaching the boys how the Troop works, how to camp with the Troop, and the skills needed to earn the Tenderfoot rank. After six months, the boys become part of a regular Patrol.



Summer Camp

Summer Camp is an important part of the Scouting experience, and all boys should attend if at all possible. Summer camp is a lot of fun and is an easy way to earn Merit Badges and rank advancements. Troop 682 chooses a different camp each year. For example, we have travelled to Camp Chawanakee on Shaver Lake in the Sierras, and to Emerald Bay on Catalina Island. This year Troop 682 attended **Lost Valley** near Warner Springs. First-year Scouts who cannot attend Summer Camp should plan to attend the **Trailblazer Day Camp** at Camp Balboa.

Uniforms

Troop 682 uses two Scout uniforms. The official Class "A" uniform is worn at Boy Scout meetings and functions (including breakfast & dinner at summer camp), and while travelling to and from Scout outings:

- Scout uniform shirt with appropriate patches
- Scout belt and buckle
- Scout neckerchief (provided to new Scouts by the Troop) and slide
- Dark, plain pants or shorts. Official Boy Scout pants preferred but not required.
- Scout hat. Recommended but not mandatory – no other hat allowed at meetings.
- Merit badge sash (not needed right away – worn to display merit badges)

Scouts wear the Class "B" uniform at outings and campouts, during the day at summer camp and to meetings during summer vacation:

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- Troop T-shirt (available at Troop Meetings for a nominal charge)
- Dark colored pants or shorts
- Scout belt.
- Scout hat. Recommended but not mandatory.



Gear and equipment

Troop 682 has a very nice Troop trailer used to transport the Troop equipment to camping trips. It contains the stoves, cooking equipment and other Troop gear.

Each boy needs to provide his own sleeping bag and pad, mess kit (plates, cup, and eating utensils), hiking boots, clothing, and personal hygiene supplies. (A more complete list will be in a Troop 3-ring binder, provided to each new Scout.) Each boy also needs to have access to a 2-3 person tent, which he will share with another boy in his Patrol (his "tent buddy"). Older boys or adult leaders can provide suggestions and sources for good, inexpensive gear.

The Troop owns several tents, which can be loaned if requested in advance. The Troop also owns several backpacks and backpacking stoves which can be loaned out for backpacking trips.

All boys with a rank below First Class must bring their packed gear to the Troop Meeting before each trip, to be inspected by an older Scout.

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Costs

The Troop keeps an account for each boy. Travel costs, dues, and any special trip costs are deducted from this account; fund-raising proceeds are deposited to it (see below). Statements are emailed periodically. It is suggested that parents try to keep at least \$50 in each boy's account at all times.

Food for camping trips is purchased and prepared by the boys, by Patrol. Before each trip, each Patrol plans a menu and appoints a "grubber" to purchase the food. Each boy is expected to bring **\$15 cash** for the grubber to the meeting before each trip. (Note: for backpack trips, each boy provides their own food and stove.)



Troop 682 charges a **\$5 camping "co-pay"** for each trip; the Troop pays the remainder of any campground registration fees. (The "co-pay" is waived if a campground is free, e.g. most backpacking trips.) The Troop portion is funded through **dues of \$7 per month**, and by the Christmas tree collection fundraiser (see below). Summer camp and special trip costs (e.g., white water rafting, overnight on the Midway) are not covered and are paid from each participating Scout's account. Travel costs are assessed based on the current cost of gas, which are then paid to parents who provide transportation. Fundraising



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The Troop runs several fundraisers each year. The primary fundraiser is collecting Christmas trees for recycling. The proceeds from this go to the Troop's account, and are used to pay for Troop expenses, such as camping fees, purchasing awards, and maintaining Troop gear like the trailer, stoves, etc.

The proceeds from all other fundraisers go directly to each individual Scout's account, to help pay for summer camp, dues, and other expenses. Usually the Troop sells wreaths and greenery at Christmas, and recently sold LED flashlights. The more a Scout sells, the more money goes to his account.

Service

The boys participate in a range of service projects each year. Recent projects have included including cleaning out a flower bed at the Church for replanting; helping package donated food for "Friends and Family" to be shipped to Tanzania; a beach clean-up day at Mission Beach (they collected 50 pounds + of trash!); trail maintenance at Lake Dixon, and building a new fence at Mataguay.

Parent Involvement

While Troop 682 is a truly "boy led" troop, parent involvement is still important. The Troop relies on the participation of adults from each family in any of the following areas:

- Assisting with committee groups (like fundraising, trip planning, etc)
- Attending camping and other trips – all parents are welcome
- Driving to & from campouts to transport Scouts & gear
- Towing the troop trailer if you have a suitable tow vehicle
- Grubbing for the adults on a campout
- Being a Merit Badge Counselor in subjects of your expertise or interest
- Becoming an Assistant Scoutmaster

Committee Meetings

All parents are considered part of the Troop Committee. The Troop Committee meets monthly on the Monday after each outing, to discuss what we need to do to support and encourage the boys. This includes administrative issues, suggestions for future activities, fundraising, and "lessons learned" from past activities. All adults are encouraged to attend.

Contact information

Most Troop communications are by email, so please make sure the Troop has an accurate email address.

