



Troop 682 ♦ Poway, CA

TROOP 682

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

Poway, CA

GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Welcome to Troop 682! We are pleased that your son has chosen to enjoy Boy Scouting with us. We hope that this material will give you a good introduction to Troop 682, but if you still have questions after reading it, please feel free to talk with any of our parents or adult leaders.

Principles of Boy Scouting

A fundamental distinction between Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting is the increasing responsibility placed on the boys. We feel that holding each Scout individually accountable for his activities and behavior is the best way to foster growth and maturity. Each boy, for example, is responsible for noting the information put out at troop meetings and for ensuring that this information is taken home to his parents. It is also the Scout's responsibility to obtain information from a missed meeting by contacting his Patrol Leader. A binder is issued to each boy that is used to hold Troop activity calendars, parent permission forms, and other notices that are distributed during meetings. It's a good idea to go through this binder with your son to make sure that you stay informed about upcoming events and that all necessary signature forms are returned.

Boy Scouts also take on new leadership responsibilities; running the Troop is done through the Scout youth leadership. With the exception of the Senior Patrol Leader, the youth leaders are elected by their peers and serve in their posts for approximately six months. Regular rotation of leaders ensures that all Scouts have an opportunity to gain experience in dealing with people and group issues. Our goal is to hold monthly meetings of the youth leadership – the Patrol Leader Council (PLC) – with the Scoutmaster to do both short and long term planning of Troop activities. The Scouts have considerable opportunity to influence Troop policies and events.

The Boy Scout Program

The Troop executes the Boy Scout program through weekly meetings, monthly outings, an extended summer camp and service projects.

Meetings provide the opportunity to work on advancement and merit badge requirements in a structured setting. Part of each meeting is used for presenting Scout skills or merit badge training, and time is usually required for planning the monthly camp trip. The Troop typically holds an outdoor activity (e.g., a camping trip, major hike, etc.) each month, as these experiences are the highlight of Scouting for most boys. The week-long summer camp provides an opportunity for intense immersion in scouting activities and Troop integration.

In addition, periodic fundraising events are held to allow boys to earn money for outing expenses; those funds are credited to each boy's Scout Account. Participating in the fundraisers is not mandatory, and some Scouts have created their own programs to fund their Scout Accounts. We

have also developed the tradition of an annual fundraiser to benefit the Troop's general fund (rather than the individual Scout accounts).

Your son will be placed in a focused New Scout patrol for the first year of membership in the Troop. This enhances the Scout-skills training and exposure needed for advancement, and helps the boys of similar age-group form bonds and friendships that will last with them throughout their Scouting experience. There will be one or two older Scouts who serve as Troop Guides for the New Scout patrol, and other older Scouts will assist with and teach the Scout-skills. A year after joining, your Scout graduates out into the permanent Patrols and becomes an "older" Scout.

Mission Statement

Troop 682 has created a Mission Statement to reflect its approach to Boy Scouting, as follows:

Our Mission: To provide an opportunity for our boys to become confident, ethical and self-reliant young men. We will do this by providing an atmosphere that is safe, nurturing and fun, always keeping the tenets of the Boy Scout Oath, Law, Motto, Slogan and Outdoor Code as the foundation of our program.

I. What does my son need the first week?

Scout Handbook

The requirements for advancement are in the scout handbook. Parents please look over the book. (Your being familiar with the information may save your son time in advancing)

Hint: Plastic or nylon cover for handbook (they take this book to all meetings, campouts and summer camp)

Uniform

Troop 682 uses two Scout uniforms. The official **Class "A" uniform** – which is worn at Boy Scout meetings and functions (including breakfast & dinner at summer camp) – includes:

- 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
- Scout hat – recommended but not mandatory – no other hat allowed at meetings. For camping, hat is required. Need not be a BSA hat, but one without other logo is preferred.
- Merit badge sash (not needed right away – worn to display merit badges)

Hints:

- Troop 682 does not require them, but BSA regulation pants or shorts are necessary for earning the Golf or Airplane merit badges only
- If you are buying a new uniform shirt, get it large so they don't outgrow it so quickly
- Class "A" uniform inspection is held on the first meeting of each month.

Scouts wear the **Class "B" uniform** to outings, campouts, during the day at summer camp and other functions deemed appropriate by the Senior Patrol Leader (e.g., events where Scouts might get dirty or during hot weather). The Class "B" uniform consists of:

- Troop T-shirt
- Dark colored pants or shorts
- Scout belt.

Quick Start

1. Please review with your son the requirements for Scout rank (page 4 in the Scout Handbook). Most of the requirements (i.e. describe the Scout badge, tie a square knot) were covered in Webelos, but a review is a very good idea.
2. Please discuss with your son the material and exercises in the Preventing Abuse pamphlet in the front of the book before the first meeting. The pamphlet should be removed from the handbook

Fees

- Joining fee of \$30 covers registration/transfer, Boys' Life Magazine subscription, one month of Troop dues, the uniform's red tabs and neckerchief, and New Scout binder.
- Thereafter, Dues of \$15 each quarter

II. Meetings

Troop Meetings

Meetings are held every Monday at St. Bartholomew's Church from 7:00PM – 8:30PM. Uniform inspections occur often at the first meeting of each month. Outings are normally held on the third weekend of each month, with the Monday following each outing reserved for the (adult) Troop Committee meeting.

Committee Meetings

The Troop Committee meeting is an opportunity for all adults to gather and discuss the quality of the Boy Scout program in the Troop, suggestions for future activities, administrative issues, and "lessons learned" from past activities. The Senior Patrol Leader also attends Troop Committee meetings to represent the perspective of the boys. All adults are encouraged to attend!

III. Camping / Outings

Rule Number 1:

The Boys Take Care Of Their Own Gear! (packing, checking, carrying and loading)

Rule Number 2:

The boys are required to carry their Ten Essentials on all outings, and have them along whenever we leave camp.

Ten essentials

1. Pocketknife (not to be carried in the pocket until Whittling Chit is earned)
 2. First Aid Kit (not immediately required – the boys will create one at meetings)
 3. Extra Clothing (layering is important)
 4. Rain Gear (even if it is sunny - you never know)
 5. Water Bottle (and don't forget the water!)
 6. Flashlight (and extra batteries)
 7. Trail Food (no junk food please!)
 8. Matches (not to be used except real emergency until Fireman's Chit is earned)
 9. Sun Protection (**sun screen**, hat)
 10. Map and Compass (not immediately required)
- Small day pack (like last years' school backpack) is very useful for carrying water, 1st Aid Kit, etc.
 - Ten essential kit for New Scouts should include at a minimum: Extra Clothing, Rain Gear, Water Bottle, Flashlight (or headlamp), Trail Food and Sun Protection.
 - A pocket knife and matches are a part of the ten essentials and should be included in the ten essentials kit, but no Scout is permitted to carry a knife in his pocket or whittle, or use matches until the Firemans Chit and or Whittling Chit is earned.

Permission Slips

- Required to attend any outing, and must be signed by a parent
- Distributed through e-mail and at meetings well in advance of outings
- Must be returned no later than the meeting before the scheduled outing.
- Contain information about departure times and locations, any special equipment requirements, etc
- Provide a section where adults can volunteer to provide transportation or camp with us
- Important to note information on medications and/or dietary restrictions

Pack (Gear) Inspection

Scouts under the rank of First Class are required to bring their complete packs including their Ten Essentials to the Troop meeting prior to each campout for inspection.

Gear

Tent, sleeping bag rated to 20 degrees (or at least to 32 degrees), **mess kit** (stainless steel will hold up better, make sure there is a cup), **utensils** (once again stainless steel) and a **duffel bag** (or large sport bag).

Hints:

- Put your name on everything!
- A flannel top sheet inside the sleeping bag really increases the warmth and doesn't take up much space

Backpacks

We have a backpacking group. If you are going backpacking, you'll need a backpack—make sure it is the right size—doesn't need to be fancy. Exterior Frame Pack. Most of the New Scouts may be too small at this point—leave the backpack decision until later.

Food / Grubbing

- Scouts cook and eat together in their patrols.
- The Troop trailer has Patrol Boxes with pots, pans, utensils, propane stoves and lanterns
- One Scout per outing serves as Grubmaster (or Grubber) for each Patrol
- Each Scout pays \$15 to the Grubmaster on the Monday *before* campout (If it turns out you can't go, your Scout must call the grub master before he purchases the food to get a refund; otherwise no refund)
- Plan on a sack dinner on Friday night campouts unless there is a prior plan otherwise

Grubmaster

- When shopping, use it as a teaching event. Staying within the \$15 per person limit is not always easy so show comparison shopping, buy generics, etc.
- Scout needs to do the shopping, but parents should help with quantity and other decisions.
- The menu has been planned by the boys as a group; the grub master does not have the authority to substitute his personal wishes. For example, if the group decided on pancakes and sausage, the grub master cannot substitute bacon simply because he does not like sausage.
- Please watch for somewhat balanced meals with some cooking involved; the menu planning process is intended to result in balanced meals
- No more than one soda per boy per campout.
- A camping recipe book is available to borrow upon request.
- Helpful Hint: scoop of mayo in a Tupperware will travel nicely.
- If there is grub money left over, please buy items for the patrol box. (paper towels, foil, dish soap, charcoal etc).
- Grubmaster is to post a list of the meal menus and work schedule on the ice chest, second copy with a Scoutmaster
- Grubmaster washes the towels and returns them to the Patrol Quartermaster at the next meeting

Camping Fees

Reservation fees are often charged by various campgrounds. The fees are divided equally between the boys that attend the campout, and the money is taken out of their Scout Account

Troop Policies

The Troop has a policy that video games, radios, CD players, etc. may be used while driving to and from outings, but must be left in the car. Electronics in the campsite will be confiscated. We are, after all, trying to get a “natural” outdoor experience.

Conduct and Discipline

Disciplinary problems (rarely encountered) are handled through a Disciplinary Review Board; reviews are a serious but nonconfrontational way for addressing poor behavior. Repeated calls before the Disciplinary Review Board, however, will be referred to the Troop Committee for further action.

Adherence to the Scout Law, Scout Oath, Slogan, and Motto is a fundamental part of the Boy Scout Program and we expect all Scouts to observe these tenets in their daily lives. In keeping with this view, the Troop expects a high standard of individual conduct from each boy during outings. Poor behavior will be dealt with as it occurs, and repeated problems may result in limits to participation on future outings.

IV. Advancement

Requirement Sign-off

One major difference between Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts is that requirement sign-offs are restricted to Assistant Scoutmasters and the Scoutmaster. Other adults and the Troop Guides are also given the sign-off authority on occasion. We encourage you to go over requirements with your son and help with study or practice.

Court of Honor

- Courts of Honor are usually held in March and October. Parents and families come. This is a big deal!
- We attempt to award badges close to the point they are earned (not always successful with this one!). The Court of Honor is the official recognition of the award.

Merit Badges

- The boys will have ample opportunity to earn merit badges. You don't need to rush.
- Blue Cards – keep them safeguarded. They are required to earn Eagle.
- Helpful Hint: A special box or a notebook with baseball card dividers is a good place to keep blue cards and Rank advancement cards.
- They should leave these at home and bring them only if they will be working on the badge.
- The Scout needs to request a blue card from the Scoutmaster before beginning any merit badge.

V. Scout Accounts and Fundraising

Each Scout in Troop 682 has an individual account maintained by the Troop Treasurer (adult Committee member). Monthly dues collections and fundraising profits are deposited to this account and parents and boys may contribute additional money to this account if they desire. These funds are used to defray the costs of the monthly dues transferred to the Troop general fund, outing expenses, and Summer Camp. If a Scout moves or transfers to another Troop, the balance of the Scout account is transferred to the new Troop. If a boy decides to quit the Scouting program, the balance of the individual account is returned to the Scout's parents.

Fundraising

At the moment, we have two yearly fundraisers for the Scout accounts: See's Candy at Easter time, and Holiday greenery (door wreathes, swags, centerpieces) in November. Profits go directly to the Scout Account.

Christmas Tree Recycling Fundraiser

We have an additional fundraiser that benefits the Troop treasury (not individual Scout accounts). Each year in the 4S Ranch and Sabre Springs neighborhoods, we collect Christmas trees for recycling. We ask for a \$10 donation to the Troop. The event takes two days -- the first in mid-December when we distribute flyers door-to-door; and the second is typically the Saturday or Sunday following Christmas when we pick up the trees and deliver them to nearby recycling facilities. Everyone is encouraged to participate, as the proceeds benefit the entire Troop. The proceeds of this fundraiser have enabled us to purchase our Troop trailer, fit the trailer with an outstanding network of welded shelving units, and purchase cooking stoves and other Troop gear.

VI. Parent Participation

For Troop 682 to continue to be so successful, we rely on the participation of adults from each family in any of the following areas:

- Assisting with committee groups (like Fundraising, Hospitality, etc)
- Driving to & from campouts to transport Scouts & gear (even if you do not camp)
- Towing the troop trailer if you have a suitable tow vehicle
- Grubbing for the adults on a campout
- Teaching classes in subjects of your expertise or interest
- Becoming a uniformed leader

In addition, your participation in your son's scouting experience will further his success:

- Ensuring that your son attends meetings, campouts, and other Scout activities
- Ensuring that your son completes required service hours, as projects become available
- Monitoring the instructions put out to the boys by Troop representatives
- Attending the monthly Adult Troop Committee meetings
- Assisting the Troop during outings (e.g., driving Scouts to and from an event, providing adult leadership)
- Being involved with your son in his Scout activities and efforts to earn ranks and merit badges

Committee Meetings

- All parents are welcome and are encouraged to attend.
- This is the best way to know what is being planned.
- You do not need to be a leader or hold a committee position.
- Each family needs one person to register as an adult scout (this person can vote at the committee meetings). Registration fee is \$10 unless you are transferring from your former Cub Scout Pack. To encourage adults to become merit badge counselors, the Troop also has a policy of covering the \$10 fee of any adult who volunteers as a merit badge counselor

Camping

- Parents are always welcome (drivers are needed)
- Parents eat and sleep with the adult patrol