

## **Guide to new scout parents**

### **How is the troop set up? What is a patrol? What are the leadership roles?**

The troop is boy led and parent supported. As the scouts move through their ranks, they develop leadership skills to help the younger scouts to accomplish their goals. The parents support the scouts by providing guidance and assist with the higher levels of organization and management (making reservations, accounting, managing medical forms, etc.). Parents also participate by being merit badge counselors, assisting with Board of Review, driving to events, and attending events/camping trips.

The scouts are divided into patrols which include older and younger scouts. There is a patrol leader and assistant patrol leader. Within the patrol, the scouts will learn skills, share responsibilities, and take on leadership roles.

There are elected and appointed leadership roles. The scout leadership is called the Green Bar and is made up of the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Scribe.

Other leadership roles include Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders, Quartermaster, Scribe, Librarian, Historian, Webmaster, Chaplain aide, Instructor, OA Troop Representative, Bugler, Outdoor Ethics Guide. Not all positions will be filled every year.

### **What happens at a typical troop meeting?**

The scout leaders make the agenda which usually includes reviewing prior events, preparing for upcoming events and a recreational activity. Troop 4 meets on Tuesdays from 6:45 PM until 8:15 PM

### **What is a complete uniform?**

The Class A uniform is worn during meetings, court of honor and when the scouts are traveling. This includes a short-sleeved Scout shirt with patches, shoulder loops, Scout shorts or long pants, Scout belt, neckerchief, slide, Troop 4 hat and Scout socks. The uniform can be purchased at the scout store at 4000 Modoc Rd or online at [www.scoutshop.org](http://www.scoutshop.org)

The Class B uniform is the Troop 4 red t-shirt and sweatshirt which is provided by the troop.

### **What is a merit badge?**

A merit badge is an educational goal which teaches the scout about something new. There are some required for rank advancement and others which are optional. Merit badges are required to advance to Star, Life and Eagle.

There are 135 merit badges to choose from. Many times, the troop will start a merit badge and invite scouts to participate. A scout can also pursue any badge of personal interest.

A total of 21 merit badges must be earned for the Eagle Scout rank, including these 14 merit badges: (a) First Aid, (b) Citizenship in the Community, (c) Citizenship in the Nation, (d) Citizenship in Society, (e) Citizenship in the World, (f) Communication, (g) Cooking, (h) Personal Fitness, (i) Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving, (j) Environmental Science OR Sustainability, (k) Personal Management, (l) Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling, (m) Camping, and (n) Family Life

### **How does my scout choose a merit badge?**

Step 1. The scout will choose a merit badge and notify the Scoutmaster of their interest. If they are unsure of options, they can discuss them with their Patrol Leader.

Step 2. The scout will ask the Scoutmaster permission to do the merit badge. The Scoutmaster will help the scout identify a counselor. The counselor may be part of the troop or associated with another troop in the community.

Step 3. After a counselor has agreed to assist, the scout will obtain the merit badge book from the scout library, online or from the Council store.

Step 4. The counselor and scout arrange a meeting to discuss the requirements (with parental oversight due to Youth Protection Policies)

Step 5. The scout fulfills the requirements under the guidance of the counselor. The counselor or scout will request a blue card from the Scoutmaster. The counselor will sign off that the merit badge is complete. The merit badge information will get logged in Troopmaster.

### **How does my scout move up in rank?**

The ranks are Scout, Tenderfoot, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Star, Life and Eagle. The back of the Scout Handbook has the details regarding the requirements to advance to the next level of rank. Some of the requirements are easy and can be accomplished in a day. Others need a certain skill or time to fulfill (up to 6 months).

### **Who can sign off requirements?**

**Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class** - First Class Scouts and above

**Star & Life** - Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster and Scoutmaster

**Eagle and Eagle Palms**- Scoutmaster

As defined in Parent Committee Meeting on 3/10/2020, and communicated prior to that.

### **How long does it take to get through ranks?**

A scout can take as little or long as they choose. Most scouts can move up to First class in 1-2 years. The higher ranks take about a year each. A scout must complete their Eagle requirements by the time they turn 18.

### **How does my scout become an Eagle scout?**

Many scouts have the ambition to become an Eagle scout. It takes 4-6 years to accomplish this. A scout who stays focused and organized should be able to become an Eagle scout by the time they are 18 years old. It requires merit badges, leadership roles and a final project. The Scout master and other scout leadership will help support the scout to meet this goal.

### **What is an Eagle Project?**

An Eagle project is completed as a Life Scout. The scout uses the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook to plan, develop and give leadership to others in a service project. This service project would

benefit a religious institution, school, or community. It must be approved before the project can begin. Examples of projects include constructing park benches, constructing a playground, refurbishing a room at a church/school, planting grass for erosion control, or distributing emergency medical kits.

### **What is Board of Review (BOR)?**

When a Scout has completed requirements for a rank, they will sit before a committee of adult leaders and discuss the requirements they have achieved. It will then be decided if they have successfully completed the requirements and can begin working on the next rank.

### **What is a Scoutmaster Conference?**

The Scoutmaster conference allows the Scoutmaster to review:

- a Scout's growth in his understanding of Scouting's ideals
- how the Scout applies these ideals in his daily life and in the troop
- the requirements of the Scout's next rank so that he can be properly encouraged

### **What is Troopmaster?**

- Troopmaster keeps track of each scout's rank and merit badge status. Parents have access to their scout's troopmaster and will receive a log in when the scout joins the troop. Troopmaster lists the scout's rank, accomplished merit badges and outstanding items for merit badges.

### **What is Court of Honor?**

The Court of Honor is a ceremony celebrating everything that each scout has accomplished since the last Court of Honor, including merit badges and class rank. It is held twice a year and parents and family members are encouraged to attend.

### **What is Order of the Arrow?**

Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society. Scouts are invited to join when they have experienced 15 nights of Scout camping within the 2 years immediately prior to the election. The 15 nights of camping must include one long trip of at least 5 days and 10 other nights of camping which are at most 3 days in length. After their induction, called an Ordeal, a special sash is worn by Arrowmen during formal ceremonies.

### **What are the initial and annual forms/requirements?**

#### **START UP REQUIREMENTS**

1. Applications
  - a. A youth application for the scout is required when he joins the troop.
  - b. A parent application is required if the parent will participate in helping the scouts. We prefer every parent to fill out an application so they can be involved when opportunities arise.
2. Health Forms for ALL scouts and ALL registered adults
  - a. Part A: Informed Consent, Release Agreement and Authorization
  - b. Part B: General information and Health History
  - c. Part C: Pre-Participation Physical (signed by a physician) FOR ANY CAMP OR EVENT >72 HOURS

3. Initial Registration Dues for scouts and adults
4. California Youth Protection for Registered adults
  - a. Registered adults need to complete AB 506 Youth Protection and Mandated Reporter Training and Fingerprinting. This is a California law starting in 2022 requiring that all adults who work with children complete this ONE TIME requirement including fingerprinting.
  - b. To comply with this requirement, go to <https://www.lpcsbsa.org> and click CA Mandated Training and Live Scan Guidelines. There are 3 parts:
    - i. Compliance Part 1 (Background Check) which is accomplished by clicking on Los Padres, typing your email and proceeding through the questions to arrange fingerprinting. You can choose Lori's Mobile Notary or Livescan Santa Barbara. There is a \$41 fee. It takes less than 10 minutes.
    - ii. Compliance Part 2 (Training): Click "Get Started on Training" and complete the 2 hour video course
    - iii. Compliance Part 3 (Upload Certificate): Click "Upload Your Training Certificate"
5. Boy Scout YPT (Youth Protection Training) for registered adults
  - a. Go to <https://My.Scouting.org> and create an account. You'll receive an email notification with your account information, including a member ID/reference number.
  - b. From the My.Scouting.org portal, click Menu then My Dashboard from the menu list. The My Training page displays to take Youth Protection training (2 hour video course)
  - c. Upon completion, you may print a training certificate to submit with a volunteer application. Your training will automatically be updated in our system and associated with the member ID/reference number issued when you created the account.

### **ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS**

1. Annual Dues for scouts and adults paid in November
2. Health Forms for ALL Scouts and Registered Adults
  - a. Part A: Informed Consent, Release Agreement and Authorization
  - b. Part B: General information and Health History
  - c. Part C: Pre-Participation Physical (signed by a physician) FOR ALL CAMPING OR EVENTS >72 HRS
3. Boy Scout YPT for registered adults (website says every 2 years, but our council requires annually)
  - a. Go to <https://My.Scouting.org> and click My Training and Retake course

### **When/how does my scout sign up for summer camp?**

The troop typically participates in 1 high adventure camp (age restrictions) and 1-2 other summer camps. The camps are optional. The dates of the camps are usually determined 6 months to a year prior to the camp. An email is sent by the Summer Camp Coordinator around February to determine who is interested in the camps. All camps need adult leaders to participate for 2 deep leadership. Some camps will need additional parents to drive the scouts. Most of the camps have merit badges available to work on. The scout can select which merit badges they want to accomplish. Please note that some have pre-requisites and others will not be fully completed during the camp and will need a local merit badge counselor to complete. Camp is a great way to learn skills, earn merit badges and have fun. The cost of camp is paid by the scout. Fundraising money from selling popcorn can be used towards camp.

### **How can I prepare my scout for his first backpacking trip?**

Scouts will need a pack, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, water, food, clothing, and emergency supplies. If they do not have anything, they should notify the scoutmaster to see what things can be borrowed from the troop or others. A scout will need good hiking boots that have already been broken in (don't wear new boots on a long hike with a pack). The warmth of the gear and amount of food will be determined by the length of trip and time of year. The older scouts will help the younger scouts decide what to pack. There is always a pack check prior to the trip where all supplies are removed from the pack and reviewed with older scouts. Some trips involve long multi-day hikes. In these cases, a training schedule will be provided to help scouts prepare and many times scouts will meet for training. The scoutmaster will advise if a trip is too advanced for young scouts.

### **What is Camporee?**

Camporee is like a scout Olympics which is held in April. Approximately 500 scouts from the Los Padres Council (Carpinteria to San Luis Obispo) meet at Rancho Allegre to compete in different challenges. The troops are scored for their success in the challenges. They are also scored for their uniforms and camp set up. Awards are given at the end of the weekend. It is a fantastic weekend for the scouts to work as a team and accomplish rank requirements.

### **What is the Totin' chip? Firem'n chit? Cyperchip?**

Totin' chip is a one-time educational activity which takes 1-2 hours and allows a scout to use sharp edged objects such as knives and axes for the duration of their scouting time. If the scout misuses their privileges, a corner is torn off the card. If all four corners are removed, the card is revoked and the scout needs to repeat the requirements.

Firem'n chit is a one-time educational activity which takes 1-2 hours and allows a scout to use fire during scout events. If the scout misuses their privileges, a corner is torn off the card. If all four corners are removed, the card is revoked and the scout needs to repeat the requirements.

Cyperchip is an annual requirement and provides education on safe online practices.

### **How can parents get involved?**

The troop and your scout can use your support in many ways. The troop needs every parent to be involved. Just like sports and school activities, the troop cannot run without parent support.

- Newer parents can help by chaperoning and participating in events, camping trips, hikes and bikes. They can also participate by driving scouts to events, assisting with recruitment activities and helping at the monthly Food Distribution.
- Experienced parents often feel more comfortable helping to organize backpacking trips and taking on leadership roles such as bookkeeping, secretary, assistant troop leader, activities director, popcorn kernel, and summer camp coordinator.
- Your individual scout can use your support in helping them organize their time to accomplish their rank and merit badge requirements. You don't need to know all the details of their requirements but making sure they set aside time and make goals.

### **What are the Youth Protection Policies?**

The Boy Scouts of America take safety of the scouts seriously. Proper supervision is required at all scouting events including:

- Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including meetings.
- All adults accompanying a Scouting unit overnight must be registered as an adult volunteer or adult program participant.
- One-on-one contact between adult leaders and youth members is prohibited both inside and outside of Scouting
  - Personal conferences must be conducted with the knowledge and in view of other adults and/or youth
  - Private online communication (texts, phone calls, email) must include another registered leader or parent.
  - Communication on social media must include another registered leader or parent
- Sleeping Accommodations
  - Separate tenting must be provided for male and female adults, spouses may share tents
  - Youth sharing tents must be no more than 2 years apart in age
  - Parents may not share a tent with their child
  - When possible, separate cabins or lodging should be provided for male and female adults
  - If adults and youth of the same gender occupy single-room accommodations, there must be a minimum of 2 adults (YTP trained) and 4 youth
  - Physical separation by other means, including temporary barriers or space should be used if no other arrangements are possible
- Bathroom Accommodations
  - Separate shower and latrine facilities should be provided for male and female adults as well as male and female youth. If separate facilities are not possible, then separate times should be scheduled and posted
  - Adults and youth must respect each other's privacy when changing clothes and showering
  - Cameras and smartphone should not be used in areas of privacy
- Communication
  - The buddy system should be used
  - All bullying and harassment are prohibited
  - Inappropriate public displays of affection are prohibited
  - Appropriate attire is required for all activities, including swimming
  - All persons participating in Scouting are mandated reporters of child abuse to local law enforcement and child protective services. Helpline 1-844-SCOUTS1

### **What is the popcorn fundraiser?**

Selling popcorn is our main fundraiser which occurs in the fall. The popcorn is expensive (\$10-\$40) per bag, but 70% comes back to the scouting program. The local council gets 30%, the troop gets 20% and the scout gets 20% towards their camp account. Essentially it is a bag of popcorn with a built-in donation. The boys earn prizes for the amount of popcorn they sell and the troop has prizes for top sellers. Scouts can sell in several ways:

- a. Door to door: Scouts sell by taking orders and collecting payment and later distributing popcorn (arrives before Thanksgiving).
- b. Show and sell: Our troop has traditionally sold at Lazy Acres, Gelsons and Vons. Scouts greet the shoppers, show the products, and then sell the products or obtain a donation. The amount sold is divided among all the scouts who participated.
- c. Wagon Show and sell: Similar to the store show and sell, but the scouts take the product to neighbors, family and friends. They sell the product in hand.
- d. Online sales: Scouts can create a personal website with a sales link and the product is mailed directly to the purchaser.

### **What are the 2 recruitment events?**

We host a Halloween event in the fall and a group bike in the spring for the local cub scout troops. These events are boy led and parent supported. The Halloween event includes pumpkin carving, costume contest, dinner and root beer floats. The bike ride includes a group bike from Hope Ranch Annex to Goleta Beach followed by dinner. The scouts decide the details of the event, but parents are needed to help assist and support the scouts.

### **Does Troop 4 do community service?**

Troop 4 participates in Good Shepherd's Food Bank Distribution on the first Saturday of every month from 7:45 AM- 10:45 AM. This is an excellent way for the scouts to get community service hours for rank advancement and high school graduation requirements. Good Shepherd Church permits us to use their facilities for meetings and storage because of our support of this program.

Food for Scouting is an annual food drive. Scouts leave empty bags in the neighborhoods and then return on a future date to collect the food and bring it to the food bank.

### **Is there a conservation project?**

Troop 4 helps to maintain Winchester Park II as a conservation Project. Additionally, the troop does occasional beach clean ups or park/forest maintenance as the opportunity arises.

### **Who do I contact if I have a question?**

We encourage the scouts to contact their patrol leader if they have any questions. Parents can contact any of the committee members with questions. Please reach out. We encourage parents to get involved to make the scouting experience great for their child.