

Troop 59 Introductory Packet

www.troop-59.org

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Meetings

Troop 59 meets Wednesday evenings at Elk Grove Parks and Recreation Youth Center.. Meetings start at 7pm and end between 8pm and 8:30pm depending on the meeting. **The troop keeps a continually updated calendar and is available at the meetings as well as on the 59 website.** The following is a list of specific meeting types and when they meet:

1. Troop meeting – Wednesdays at 7pm.

All Scouts meet as patrols.

2. Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) meeting – 2nd Tues. of the month.

The PLC consists of the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL), Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders, and all other elected positions. All Scouts are welcome to attend, and provide input. Scouts meet to discuss and organize upcoming events as well as participate in Junior Leadership Training.

3. Committee meeting – 2nd Tuesday of the month.

The Troop Committee is made up of parent leadership which works to support the troop program.

4. Parents meeting – at least once each year.

These meetings are imperative for parents to attend in order to keep abreast of troop activities and events (Summer Camp). These meeting also give parents the opportunity to get involved and help support the troop.

It is mandatory that you help/drive with two activities a year.

Registration & Uniform

New scouts typically join the troop when bridging over from their Cub Scout program. Boys who are new to Scouting are encouraged to join as well but must be between the ages of 11 and 18. All new Scouts must register by filling out a Scouting Application along with \$34 dollars which covers

registration and part of the annual dues.

All scouts must dress in a Class A uniform for troop meetings which include boards of review, court of honors, flag ceremonies, and outing which do not require physical outdoor activity. During physically active outdoor events and informal activities, Scouts may wear a Class B uniform made of the troop T-shirt along with appropriate shorts or pants.

To purchase at scout shop:
Tan short-sleeved Class A shirt

Scout belt and buckle

Scout tie slide

Scout patches (scout shop will be able to help with this)

Boy Scout Handbook

To purchase from Troop:

Class B T-shirt

Troop sweatshirt (optional)

Supplied by Troop:

Troop neckerchief and hat.

Troop Organization

Troop 59 is a boy-led troop. When boys join the troop, patrols are formed, resulting in like-aged scouts. An older scout, called a Troop Guide, is assigned to each new patrol and acts as both a leader and mentor to the

new group for the first year.



A Boy Scout troop is a small democracy. With the Scoutmaster's direction, the patrols plan the troop's program, and make it a reality. In order for this to happen, a troop relies upon Scouts serving in positions of responsibility. The key boy leaders of the troop make up the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC)

The troop meetings are run by the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and his assistants. The meetings are designed to be Scout led with support from the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters.

The role of adults in our large group is **crucial** to the smooth running of the troop. The Scoutmaster depends on three groups of adults for help: the Assistant Scoutmasters, the Troop Committee, and PARENTS! The Assistant

Scoutmasters are focused with helping with meetings and outings. The Troop Committee manages and administers key functions within the Troop, such as finances, equipment purchase and maintenance, registration, and Scoutmaster selection. PARENTS are encouraged to register with the Boy Scouts of America and participate as an Assistant Scoutmaster, Committee Member, or INVOLVED PARTICIPANT.

Ranks and Merit Badges

The Boy Scout program is based on rank advancement. Each rank's requirements are outlined in the *Boy Scout Handbook* that each Scout is required to have. The ranks of *Scout*, *Tenderfoot*, *Second Class*, and *First Class* encompass basic scouting skills. With the help of their Patrol Guide, new scouts will acquire these skills and can be signed off by any Scout of *First Class* rank or higher. Scouts should bring their *Boy Scout Handbook* to all meetings and outings where rank requirements are likely to be taught, tested, and signed off in their handbook. BSA recommends that boys reach the *First Class* rank within 12-18 months,

although there are not time limits for any rank advancement. The four steps to advancement are as follows:

1. A Scout learns.
2. A Scout is tested. He is tested twice, first by a Senior Scout or Assistant Scoutmaster who signs him off once they feel a particular requirement has been learned, and second, by the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster at a "Scoutmaster Conference" set up by the scout (not the parent) when all requirements for a particular rank has been completed.
3. A Scout is reviewed. The Scout will then meet with members of the Troop Committee at a "Board of Review" to discuss the Scout's overall experience within the Troop.
4. A Scout is recognized. The Scout will be acknowledged and receive their new rank badge at a "Court of Honor".

Merit badges are focused on learning skills in specific areas of interest. There are over 120 merit badges that can be earned. Merit badges are not required for *Tenderfoot* through *First Class*, but many Scouts may earn them at Summer Camp or at a troop activity. For

Star, Life and Eagle, earning merit badges is mandatory for advancement. To reach *Eagle*, specific merit badges are required. Scouts should maintain a **notebook** to keep track of their achievements. A three ring binder works best, with sections for holding merit badge advancement cards, patches for treks, newsletter, calendar, and other related information. Scouts should also keep track of their service hours and keep a camping log. If not kept in the notebook, service hours and camping log should be kept in their book.

How to Keep Informed

1. Your Scout. Announcements of upcoming activities are always made at Troop meetings. Scouts should take notes in their notebooks that they should bring to each meeting along with their handbook. Ask your Scout to inform you of what happened at the meeting so that you can plug it into the family calendar.
2. Troop 59 Calendar. It is put together at the beginning of the year and encompasses all meetings and outings. Changes do

happen, so make sure you always have the most updated calendar.

3. The newsletter. *Troop 59* is put out by our newsletter coordinator- includes write-ups describing upcoming events, past events, administrative information. Copies are also available at the meetings.

4. A Monthly email with previous Committee Meeting minutes and bulletined reminders.

5. Troop Website. www.troop-59.org The newsletter and calendar are available on the website along with medical forms, permission slips, etc...

6. PARENT MEETING!!! The parents only meet ~1 time a year, so in order to make sure you know what is happening and to find ways to get involved, make sure you attend.





Outdoor Adventure 2010

Troop 59 has a very active outdoor program. Activities include:

Gateway Construction
 Overnight camping trips
 Rock climbing
 Backpacking
 Exploratorium (Day Trip)
 Spelunking
 Hikes
 Canoeing- water sports
 Skiing Trip
 Snow/Cold Weather camping
 Summer Camps – week long camps which will include Royaneh this year.

Service

An important aspect of Scouting involves service projects. These are projects geared toward helping others in our community and all Scouts should participate whenever they can. The Troop helps with fund raising events put on by Elk Grove Lions Club,

our sponsor organization. Food Drives, etc... Scouts are also encouraged to help with Eagle projects, which require assistance from the members of the Troop.

Fundraising

Fundraising events for Troop 59 currently are Pumpkin Patch, Christmas Tree Lot, and Harvest Festival(optional). Parent and scout participation is mandatory and shifts will be set up to help Scouts participate in funding Troop activities. A portion of the money earned by sales of these products/events will be directed back to the Troop and some will come back to the Scout. Scouts may use their money in their accounts to pay for long-term camp, or other related, (committee approved) Scout activities.

Get Involved

The Troop is constantly evolving and welcomes, and needs, fresh leadership. No assistance will be turned down. The Troop Committee and Assistant Scoutmasters are the two primary ways of helping out within the Troop. We also welcome parents who would like to take leadership for a specific activity.

For example, coordinating a fundraiser, help with an outing. Organize a service project, etc...

Committee Positions:

Committee Chairperson
 Treasurer
 Secretary
 Advancement Coordinator
 Troop Roster
 Membership
 Quartermaster
 Round Table Rep.
 Hats & Neckerchiefs
 Newsletter
 Comm. Svcs. Coordinator
 Eagle COH Rep.
 Phone Tree
 Webelos Recruiter
 Summer Camp Coord.
 Special Programs Coord.
 Chaplain
 OA Advisor
 Adult Training Coord.
 Youth Training Coord.
 Historian
 COH Refreshments
 Clothes Closet
 Webmaster

Be Creative, volunteer to do things you enjoy or are good at. Don't feel that you can't participate because you don't know how Scouting works, or you weren't a Scout yourself.



TRAINING

There are numerous training opportunities offered at nominal cost by the Council to give you the skills you need. Listed below is training you can participate in:

Youth Protection Guidelines – A ~sixty minute video course that covers how to spot such things as child abuse and how to report it within the BSA organization. At least one leader who is listed on an outing tour permit must have this training. YPG is recommended for every adult in Scouting and is good for two years.

<http://www.scouting.org/pubs/ypt/ypt.jsp?p=i-00&c=47>

New Leader Essentials

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training

Intro to Outdoor Leader Skills

First Aid/CPR

High Adventure Team Specific Training

Contact Names and Numbers:

Scoutmaster: Nick Garcia

(916) 429-0515

nick.garcia@sbcglobal.net

Committee: John Bernatchy

(916) 689-2498

jbernatchy@water.com



Boy Scout Oath

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.

A Scout is:

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