



## **Welcome to Troop 682!**

Troop 682 is composed of 50 boys (approximately 40-45 active, ranging from 11 years old to nearly 18) mostly from the Poway, Sabre Springs, and Rancho Bernardo areas and we fall within the Black Mountain District of the San Diego Imperial Council. Our Troop's Chartering Organization is St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, where most meetings are held. Troop 682 prides itself on striving to be "boy-led", where the Scouts do the majority of planning and conduct meetings and outings, with Adult Leaders present to mentor and provide minimal assistance when needed.



*"A boy on joining wants to begin Scouting right away."*  
- Lord Robert Baden-Powell

## **Costs**

The Troop maintains an account for each Scout, from which camping costs (e.g. camping fees, summer camp payments), travel costs (to/from camps), dues (currently \$10 per month), and any other special costs are deducted on an as-needed basis. Certain fundraisers result in deposits to a Scout's account based on participation. Statements are e-mailed periodically, and the account balance can be checked at any time online. It is suggested that parents try to keep at least \$50 in each Scout's account at all times. Grubbing (food for campouts) is NOT deducted from the Scout account; each Scout is responsible for bringing those fees (normally \$15 for a typical Friday-Sunday campout) to the Troop meeting before a campout.

## **Meetings**

Troop 682 meets every **Monday evening, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** at St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church (16275 Pomerado Road), except for most school holidays and Mondays immediately after a regular Troop camping trip (with occasional variations). A normal meeting consists of an opening flag ceremony, announcements, 1-2 activities (including planning for upcoming outings), patrol time, Scoutmaster's Minute, and a closing flag ceremony.

Mondays after camping trips are usually reserved for the Troop Committee (parents) and Patrol Leaders' Council (Scouts) meetings.



Twice a year (normally early Fall and late Spring), the Troop holds a Court of Honor in lieu of a regular meeting. At the Court of Honor, boys are recognized for any rank advancement, merit badges, and other awards earned during the previous six months. Scouts may "rank up" and wear a new rank at any time!

## ***Troop Organization***

The Troop is led by the Senior Patrol Leader, elected by all Scouts in the Troop. The Troop is then divided into patrols, of which there are currently four. Each patrol is made up of 8-12 Scouts led by a Patrol Leader, with as many age groups as possible represented. Patrols develop an individual identity, with a special Patrol patch, flag, and yell. Patrols sit and work together at Troop meetings, and camp/eat together during campouts. Patrols may also have Patrol meetings separate from Troop meetings.

## ***Troop Leadership***

All members of the Troop 682 Scout Leadership are elected semi-annually by the Scouts in the troop. New leaders meet after election to help develop goals for the Troop and plan activities for the next year (reviewing the upcoming six months and creating a plan for the following six months). Additionally, each month the Patrol Leaders' Council reviews the prior month's activities and refines the plan for the following month. Members of the Patrol Leaders' Council are the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, all Patrol Leaders, all Troop Guides, and the Scribe.

In addition to its Scoutmaster, Troop 682 has at least 1-2 Assistant Scoutmasters assigned to each Patrol. Additional Assistant Scoutmasters assist with Recruiting, Fundraising, and Logistics. Troop 682 is fortunate to have significant participation from all parents during Troop Committee meetings, which leads to strong oversight of program implementation.

## ***New Scouts***



"Can't Wait," 1972, Norman Rockwell

When a boy joins the Troop during the spring, he is initially assigned to a "New Scout" Patrol. Each New Scout Patrol consists of 8-10 new Scouts and is led by a Troop Guide, an older Scout (1<sup>st</sup> Class Scout or above) who is responsible for teaching the boys how the Troop works, how to camp with the Troop, and the skills needed to earn (at a minimum) the Tenderfoot rank. After approximately six months (normally when school resumes), the boys become part of a regular Patrol. For Scouts joining outside the Spring Webelos – Boy Scout transition period, they are incorporated into the existing Patrol structure and led by a Patrol Leader (1<sup>st</sup> Class Scout or above). The goal is to have all new Scouts who join Troop 682 achieve the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Class by the end of their first year in Scouting.

## ***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 (e.g. fundraising, trip planning, etc)
- Attending camping and other trips – all parents are welcome
- 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
- Being a Merit Badge Counselor in subjects of your expertise or interest
- Becoming an Assistant Scoutmaster



## **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):



- Scout uniform shirt with appropriate patches (see diagrams below)
- 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 to outings and campouts, during the day at summer camp and to meetings during summer vacation:

- BSA or Troop T-shirt (Scouts create a new design as supplies run out)
- Dark colored pants or shorts, Scout belt/buckle
- Scout hat. Recommended but not mandatory – no other hat allowed at meetings. For camping, a hat is required.

## **Camping and Activities**

Our Scouts do everything from car camping to backpacking, at locations from the beach, to the mountains, to the desert. Programs include hiking, fishing, canoeing, white water rafting, first aid, cooking, rock climbing, beach sports, snow play, shooting sports and more. Other activities can include attending sports events (e.g., Storm or Padres baseball), overnights on the Midway, and whatever else might interest the Scouts. The Troop has a diverse and well rounded program that all the Scouts in the Troop can enjoy!

Each summer the Troop attends a week-long summer camp at an official BSA staffed camp. In recent years, Summer Camp has been in June soon after school ends. Recent choices have included Camp Emerald Bay on Catalina Island; Lost Valley Scout Ranch in Warner Springs; and Camp Chawanakee in the Sierra Nevada. During the Fall, the Troop chooses the following summer's camp location – upon joining, be sure to sign up as soon as possible, summer camp fees are normally due during the late winter/early spring timeframe.



As Scouts get older (completion of 8<sup>th</sup> grade or 14 years of age), they are eligible for high adventure programs. Troop 682 was fortunate to send a crew of four Scouts to Philmont Scout Ranch, the pinnacle of the Boy Scouts of America's High Adventure program, in 2012. Based on the tremendous experience the Scouts and adults had while there, we plan to continue providing high adventure opportunities in the future! During any given year the Troop also plans 2-3 overnight backpacking trips. When there is sufficient interest, the Troop may also plan an extended backpacking trip of 4-5 nights with at least one at high altitude.

## **Advancement**

When a Scout has completed all of the requirements for a rank, the Scout must schedule a Scoutmaster conference with the Scoutmaster, and a Board of Review by contacting the Troop Advancements Chair. The Board of Review normally consists of three adults from the Troop who will ask the Scout a series of questions regarding their current rank, Scouting, and their plans for the future. The Troop offers help for advancements through:

- The March New Scout camping trip, where the older boys assist the younger boys with most of the requirements for the Tenderfoot rank.
- Troop Meetings and events, where the Scout Skills requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class are often covered
- Tracking each boy's progress and reminders in advance of each Court of Honor.

## Merit Badges

The Boy Scout Merit Badge program allows Scouts to learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers. There are more than 100 merit badges - any Boy Scout may earn any merit badge at any time. Merit Badges can be earned several ways:

- Boys who attend Summer Camp usually earn between 3 and 5 Merit Badges during the week.
- The Troop will occasionally sponsor a Merit Badge class or classes (typically over the summer period). Recent examples have been Communications and Personal Fitness.
- On occasion, the Troop will have a speaker at a Troop Meeting to introduce a Merit Badge. Boys who are interested in completing that Merit Badge can then arrange with the speaker to complete the Merit Badge.
- Finally, and perhaps most importantly, a boy can take the initiative to contact a Merit Badge counselor who is qualified for a Badge he is interested in. Besides the Troop parents who are Counselors, a list of Counselors is available on the Council website [www.sdicsa.org](http://www.sdicsa.org)

## Eagle Scouts

Troop 682 is fortunate to have many Eagle Scouts among its alumni – each has their name permanently placed on the Troop's Trailer. We have 2 recent Eagle Scout awardees and 4-5 more Life Scouts who are working on their final requirements for this prestigious achievement.

## Fundraising

The Troop runs fundraisers throughout each year. The Troop's 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. Flyers are normally put together by Scouts and parents at the last meeting in November, and then distributed before Christmas to homes in the area. Collection occurs just after the New Year's. All Troop Scouts are expected to contribute assistance to the fundraiser.

The proceeds from all other fundraisers go directly to each individual Scout's account, minimizing direct contributions from parents and helping to pay for summer camp, dues, and other expenses. Past fundraisers of this type have included greenery sales, holiday wrapping site sales, See's Candy, Interstate Batteries, San Diego Union Tribune subscriptions, and Scout Fair coupon books. For individual fundraisers, there is no pressure to participate – however, the more a Scout sells, the more money goes to his account.



## Service Opportunities



The Scouts participate in a range of service projects each year. In recent years these included 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 over 50 pounds of trash!); trail maintenance at Lake Dixon, maintenance at Creekside Elementary, and building a new fence at Mataguay. Opportunities for service projects are announced periodically when they become available.