

Troop 50

Scout/Parent Handbook

May 28, 2005 Rev.

An electronic version of this document is available on our website:

www.bsatroop50.us

(Note: This is a new website name)

Troop 50 Scout/Parent Handbook

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Troop 50

Important Information

Troop Meeting Date/Time:

Each Friday of the month from 7:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Meeting Place:

Village Christian Schools
Auditorium

Parent Meeting Date/Time:

Last Monday of each month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Village Christian High School Teacher's Lounge

Annual Scout Fees*:

\$35 per Scout, \$12 per registered adult. A portion of this fee is paid by Troop 50 to the Boy Scouts of America to cover registration and one year's subscription to Boys Life. The balance of this fee assists with the purchase of equipment and supplies for the Troop. The scout will receive an annual membership card from Boy Scouts of America, Verdugo Hills Council.

Quarterly Scout Dues*:

\$20 per scout per quarter. These dues are used for awards, merit badges, and other advancement related activities for the scouts. These dues are to be paid by the scout to his patrol scribe at each Court of Honor.

Troop Homepage:

Our homepage, www.bsatroop50.us contains many useful information such as the calendar, advancement requirements, latest news and links. We also post photos from our many outings.

*Fees subject to change.

Forward

This handbook is intended to give a quick overview of the Scouting program in general and Troop 50 in particular. It is not a substitute for reading the Boy Scout Handbook. Each Scout and his family should read the entire book in order to completely understand the Scout program. People who are not involved in Scouting even read the Boy Scout Handbook. It is filled with interesting and useful information for anyone interested in the outdoors, citizenship, or nature. After the Bible, the Boy Scout Handbook is the largest selling book in the world. Take the time to get to know and understand yours.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY - GOALS

Boy Scouting works toward three goals:

1. The first goal is growth in moral strength and character. We may define this as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, his outlook.
2. A second goal is participating citizenship. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligation to other people, to the society he lives in, and to the government that presides over that society.
3. A third goal of Boy Scouting is development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

Troop 50 strives to accomplish these goals. We feel it is important to use the methods of Boy Scouting. Other methods are good but they may bring different results than we are seeking.

Troop 50 is a "Boy Run" Troop. As such, Scouts learn to plan their own activities, be actively involved in their own advancement, and serve their community, developing a well- rounded young man and reinforcing the goals and principals of Scouting.

STRUCTURE OF BOY SCOUTS

Now that you have become a member of Boy Scouts of America, you should understand how the organization you have joined works. The Boys Scouts of America, at the national level, defines the Scout program and provide materials and other resources to conduct the Scout program at the local level.

The Verdugo Hills Council is our local source for Scout materials, training, and support. Village Christian Schools is granted a charter each year through the Verdugo Hills Council that gives them the right to provide Scouting for youth in this area.

A troop is made up of Patrols. Each Patrol is made up of between four and eight boys (depending on enrollment) and whenever possible activities are conducted by Patrol. The troop meets on Friday evenings in the Auditorium at Village Christian Schools in Sun Valley. The purpose for the Troop meetings each week, beside having fun, is to provide the training required for upcoming outings and skills instruction to help the boys work towards rank advancement or merit badges.

In Boy Scouts the boys plan, schedule, and run the program. The adults are here to insure safety and to act as advisors and counselors. The adult leadership of Troop 50, like most of Scouting, is made up of volunteers. We all believe in Scouting and do our best to help the boys to provide a quality program.

TROOP STRUCTURE

Patrol Method

The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and practicing citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

A Boy Scout Troop is made up of patrols lead by the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). He is aided by the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL). The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster(s) help oversee the Troop meetings. The SPL and ASPL are elected by the Scouts in the Troop. Each patrol also elects a Patrol Leader (PL). The PL is responsible for the activities of his patrol, including keeping them informed of all Troop activities. Each patrol should decide on a patrol name, and build a unique patrol flag reflecting the patrol name. Other leadership positions a Scout may hold are: Troop Scribe, Historian, Quartermaster, Librarian, Chaplain's Aide, and Bugler. He may also decide to work with a Cub Scout Pack as a Den Chief. The SPL, ASPL, Scribe, and Patrol leaders meet once a month to plan the Troop meetings and campouts.

New Scout Patrol

If you are just entering Boy Scouts, you will be placed in a new scout patrol. You will elect a Patrol Leader who will serve for two months allowing each boy a chance to learn the job. The Troop has a New Scout Assistant Scoutmaster and a Troop Guide who are there just for you. They will help you get to First Class so you can either join an existing patrol or form a new one.

New Parents

Shortly after your son joins the Troop you will be asked to attend a new parents meeting. This is your chance to learn how the troop runs and what you can expect from it. All parents are expected to contribute 40 hours of volunteer time to Troop activities throughout the year. Attending camping events, fund raising events, adult training, parents meetings and instructing scouts are some examples of ways to earn those hours.

Troop Meeting

Troop meetings are held once a week on Friday evenings from 7:15 to 9:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at Village Christian Schools. If a scout has any issues to discuss with the Scoutmaster (such as arranging for a Scoutmaster Conference, etc.), then the scout should arrive at the meeting by 6:45 p.m. to take care of personal issues prior to the meeting. A typical Troop meeting will open with a flag ceremony and possibly an additional ceremonial opening by one of the Patrols. The Senior Patrol Leader may make some necessary announcements and there might be an outside speaker to teach a new skill for an upcoming event. This is usually followed by a time called "Patrol Corners" that has been set aside for each Patrol to individually work on whatever that Patrol needs to get done. It may be helping a new Scout better understand a skill he needs for rank advancement or they might work on a skit for an upcoming campfire. After Patrol Corners, there is usually a game or competition of some kind. After the game, everyone quiets down for "The Scoutmaster's Minute." This is the Scoutmaster's chance to congratulate the Troop for something they have accomplished, leave the Scouts with an inspirational message or just say something he thinks is important for them to think about until the next meeting. After the Scoutmaster's Minute one of the Patrols will do a closing for the meeting.

UNIFORM

Troop 50 requires a complete uniform. There are several different "classes" of uniforms based on the activity.

Class A Uniform

The Class A uniform includes the official BSA khaki short-sleeved shirt with patches and insignia properly placed, official green BSA pants, official green BSA web belt, red Troop 50 scarf, official green BSA socks, and official BSA green and red hat. Please refer to the Boy Scout Handbook for more information on uniform items and placement of insignia. The official Scout uniform may be purchased at any of the local Boy Scout Council stores.

Class B Uniform

The Class B Uniform includes the Troop 50 maroon T-shirt (available through the Troop), official green BSA pants, official green BSA web belt, red, official green BSA socks, and official BSA green and red hat.

Class C Uniform

The Class C uniform is the Troop 50 BSA maroon T-shirt (available through the Troop). This is to be worn with jean shorts or pants as designated for the outing/event.

The Boy Scout uniform is one way to tell everyone you are a Boy Scout. It is a reflection of you and your pride in being a part of Scouting. Please be sure that you and your uniforms are ALWAYS neat and clean.

There are no official Scout shoes. Usually clean athletic shoes or boots are acceptable. Hats that are not official Scout or Troop issue hats are never to be worn to Scout functions. If you are uncertain if any item of clothing is okay, ask the Senior Patrol Leader or any adult leader.

Unless otherwise instructed, Class A Uniform is mandatory in attending all Scout functions, including the transportation getting to and from an outing location.

BEHAVIOR POLICIES

Conduct

When you became a Scout you had to learn the Scout Oath, Promise, Motto, and Law. They will be strictly adhered to at all Scout functions. Bullying, hazing, and failing to help your team of fellow Scouts move forward will not be tolerated. We want everyone in Scouting to show their best side at all times. We try to keep Scouting on a higher level; things that may be acceptable outside of Scouting may not be acceptable at Scout functions. For example, swearing will never be tolerated. The standards apply to everyone in Scouting, adults as well as Scouts.

As a Scout you are not required to always agree with your fellow Scouts but you are expected to work out differences in a mature way. This learning to work out conflicts in a mature way is one of the important lessons you will learn while you are in Scouts, if you are having a problem that you cannot seem to find a solution for, your Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, and any of the adult leaders will be happy to help you find the correct way.

The Boys Scouts of America prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the Boys Scouts of America, or at any activity involving young members.

Adult leaders should support the attitude that young adults are better off without tobacco and should not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth participants.

Discipline

The first time a Scout needs to be counseled for unacceptable behavior, the incident will be considered closed after the Scoutmaster successfully counsels the Scout.

If a second counseling is required, the Scout will be required to go home and write a letter of apology and explain how he has learned to not repeat the same unacceptable behavior before he can attend any more Scout functions. This letter must also be signed by the parents.

If there is a third infraction, the Scout and his parents must meet with the Scoutmaster and at least one other adult leader. During this meeting, the Scout and his parents must convince the Scoutmaster and the second adult leader that the unacceptable behavior will change before the boy can return to Scouting.

If a fourth incident occurs, the boy will be asked to leave the Troop. If an infraction is severe enough, the Committee has the right to treat the infraction as if it was a third or fourth infraction. The number of incidents and consequences for them cited above refer to any one year.

ADVANCEMENT

The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high and as he reaches for them he has some control over what he becomes. Show "Scout Spirit," a requirement for each rank advancement, means living up to these ideals.

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and, by participating in the Troop program, progresses as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a boy grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others. The steps necessary for advancement are **1) meeting the requirement for the rank, 2) testing by a senior scout, 3) a Scoutmaster Conference, and 4) a Board of Review.** These four steps are explained below.

Meeting the Requirements for Rank Advancement

All requirements for advancement are tracked using the Boy Scout Handbook. As requirements are met, they are approved, initialed and dated by a senior patrol or an adult leader in the Handbook. The information is then maintained by the Advancement Chair. The Scout **MUST** bring his Boy Scout Handbook and a notebook to all meetings and activities in order for requirements to be initialed and dated. Advancement cards, received upon completion of requirements for rank and for merit badges, should be kept in a Personal Scout Notebook (see page 14). These can be used to recreate a record of advancement.

Advancement requirements are explained in detail in the Boy Scout Handbook. For many requirements you need to prove participating in past events or outings. For example, for Second Class Rank advancement, one of the requirements reads, "since joining the Troop has participated in five separate Troop/Patrol activities (other than Troop meetings), two of which included camping overnight." You will need to tell your leader what you did to get signed off on this requirement. For this reason we suggest you keep your own record of your participation in all Scout activities and keep them in the Scout Notebook.

For all rank advancements you are required to show "Scout Spirit," which is defined as living by the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your every day life.

You may work on any requirement in any order. As an example, you can be signed off on a First Class requirement even if you have not yet earned your Tenderfoot rank. You can work on merit badges at the same time you are working towards rank advancement.

Scouts start by earning the Scout rank. The requirements can be found in the Boy Scout Handbook. These skills must be demonstrated to the Scoutmaster (SM) or Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM) who will then initial and date the Scout's handbook. The initials or signature and date are required for the badge to be awarded. Many new Scouts who have earned the Arrow of Light as a Webelos Cub Scout can complete these requirements within

the first few meetings.

The ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Scout require skills learned at campouts, hikes, Troop meetings, and service projects. Please ensure all service hours are approved by the SM and are documented if not done as a Troop activity. The SM or ASM will initial and date requirements as they are completed.

Testing by a Senior Scout

Before you participate in a Scoutmaster Conference, you must be tested by a senior scout. After you have met all of the advancement requirements per the Scout Handbook, you must notify the Scoutmaster, who will then arrange for a senior scout to test you. This test will cover all of the Scout knowledge and skills you have obtained since you joined the Scout program to make sure that you are ready to advance to the next rank.

Scoutmaster Conference

Once you pass the Senior Scout Testing, you will need to make an appointment with the Scoutmaster to schedule a Scoutmaster's Conference. This is a chance for you and your Scoutmaster to get better acquainted with one another. It is a chance for the Scoutmaster to see how the program might be enhanced to better meet your needs. It is also a chance for him to answer any questions and address any concerns you might have about the program. Your Scoutmaster is here for you. You may request a Scoutmaster's Conference to talk things over at any time. You must be in FULL Scout uniform and bring your Scout handbook and Personal Scout Notebook.

Board of Review

The Board of Review is made up of adult leaders in the Troop who are interested in making the most of your Scouting career. The Board will make sure you have successfully completed all of the requirements for your rank advancement. They will take the time to get to know you and answer any questions or concerns you may have. They will try to find ways you can get more out of Scouting. The Board of Review is scheduled regularly but you must make an appointment with the Advancement Chair for your Board of Review. You must be in FULL Scout uniform and bring your Scout handbook and Personal Scout Notebook.

MERIT BADGES

Merit badges are a part of Scouting for two reasons. First they encourage a Scout to increase his skill in something he likes to do. Second, they challenge a Scout to try out new activities that may result in fresh interests or hobbies. Pursuing a merit badge could even start a Scout on a career.

Before you can earn a merit badge, you need to decide which one you are interested in. There is a list of all merit badges in the Boy Scout Handbook.

Work on a merit badge may be done at Troop meetings, in a group outside meetings, on an individual basis, or at summer camp. All badges require a Merit Badge Counselor.

When working as an individual with a Merit Badge Counselor, another person **MUST** be present to protect the Scout and the Counselor. This can be another Scout, a parent, friend, or sibling.

An Application for Merit Badge (blue card) must be obtained from the Scoutmaster, personal information completed, and a Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster signature included prior to working on the merit badge. The blue card is presented to the Merit Badge Counselor at the first meeting. Upon completion of the requirement, the counselor initials and dates each one. When all requirements have been finished, the counselor will sign and date the card and return it to the Scout. The card should then be given to the Advancement Chair at the next meeting. It is a Troop 50 requirement that the scout also finishes reading the Merit Badge Book before he is awarded the badge. Once the book is read, notify the Advancement Chair who will then process the blue card and obtain the merit badge. The Scout's portion of the blue card and the badge will be presented before or at the next Court of Honor.

MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS

There is no registration fee to register as a Merit Badge Counselor. All that is needed is a good knowledge of the subject and a completed application. Merit Badge Counselors work with Scouts individually or in groups to teach skills and give knowledge in a specific area. After completing the requirements for a particular merit badge, the Scout receives a badge which is worn on his Merit Badge Sash, and a card which should be retained as proof of completion of the requirements and placed in the Personal Scout Notebook.

COURT OF HONOR

The Court of Honor is a formal ceremony where all advancements are recognized and merit badges are awarded. The Court of Honor is a way for your efforts in Scouting to be recognized in front of all of your fellow Scouts and parents. The Court of Honor is scheduled approximately every three months (check your Troop calendar). You should always be in a complete, clean, and pressed uniform for the Court of Honor. A Court of Honor usually follows a pot-luck dinner where each Patrol is assigned food items to bring in. Family members are encouraged to attend.

PERSONAL SCOUT NOTEBOOK

The leadership of Troop 50 requires that each Scout keeps a record of his own Scout activities and a Personal Scout Notebook is a good way to do this. This Notebook must be created and maintained by the scout, without help from his parents or other adults. You may choose to keep your Personal Scout Notebook at home in a safe place. Take a separate notebook to all Scout functions to write down anything you need to know (i.e. your responsibilities on an upcoming trek) and transfer any important notes to your Personal Scout Notebook at home.

Your Personal Scout Notebook should include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Troop roster
2. Patrol roster
3. Troop calendar
4. Outing Log (sample included)
5. Achievement Log (sample included)
6. Leadership Log (sample included)
7. Copies of all your advancements (copy pages of your Boy Scout Handbook advancement pages as they are signed off)
8. Your portion of the blue cards for merit badges earned.

Other recommended items for the Notebook are:

1. Photos of outings
2. Flyers and brochures of outings
3. Past Court of Honor programs
4. Memorabilia from outings

The Scout Notebook is an important reference to show at the Board of Review at each rank advancement. It is particularly important at the Eagle Board of Review where many of the Review members are meeting you for the first time. Make sure to include everything to show off your accomplishments!

GOING ON AN OUTING

Check your Troop calendar and pay attention at Troop meetings to find out what events are scheduled. At least two weeks in advance of every outing there will be a trek sheet and a sign up sheet at the Troop meeting. Trek sheets provide all of the information you will need to know for any trip (special clothes, training required, equipment, planned activities, schedule, money). Make sure you have completed any training that may be required for this outing. Sign up as early as possible on the sign up sheet and pay the required fee to the trek leader. Outing fees cover the actual cost of the outing (permits, transportation, patches, and awards relating to the outing) and to cover expendable items used on most outings (i.e. fuel, etc). Additional money will be collected at the Patrol level for meals.

Meet with your Patrol to plan meals, sleeping arrangements, etc., and assume responsibility for your share of the Patrol tasks. Go through the advancement requirements in your Boy Scout Handbook and see if you will be able to fulfill any of them during this outing. If you find things that you want to do towards rank advancement, be sure to tell your Patrol Leader and the trek leader so your advancement can be planned for.

Meals are usually planned "patrol style". This means each patrol is responsible for deciding on a menu for the entire outing. The patrol will then select a scout to be in charge of purchasing food for the entire patrol. The cost will be reimbursed after the outing by the Troop Treasurer.

Pack your own gear for each outing and make sure to have your "10 essentials." Show up on time when it is time to leave and plan on having a great time.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCOUTS AND ADULTS

Successful people can somehow seem different from the crowd. Part of what may set them apart is self confidence. Scouting provides an exceptional opportunity for building self confidence. In Scouting you will help your patrol plan for an outing and work with others to overcome problems. You will have the chance to lead others and even to join with others to plan and run this Troop's Program.

Your successful completion of these and other tasks you encounter in Scouting will help you develop a firm belief in yourself, belief that you can accomplish anything you set out to do. This belief is self confidence and it is probably the most important benefit of a well run Scout program.

A well run Scout program does not just happen, it requires trained people, both adults and Scouts. Take advantage of the following opportunities.

TRAINING FOR SCOUTS

Junior Leader Training

Junior Leader Training is conducted by the Scoutmaster soon after each election. It takes a full day and the purpose of the training is to give boys the basic knowledge they need to begin to lead other people. Even if you are not yet a "leader" in the Troop, you should take advantage of Junior Leader Training. Scouting is a team effort and the better you understand how the team is supposed to operate, the more you can contribute to the success of the team. Junior Leader Training can help you get that knowledge.

Cedar Badge

Cedar Badge is put on by our council once a year. Cedar Badge is a one week long course that provides training in leadership using realistic scenarios and role playing. Cedar Badge also sharpens your "Scout skills."

TRAINING FOR ADULTS

Fast Start Video

The Fast Start Video is put out by the National Headquarters of Boy Scouts of America. It provides a good explanation of the Scouting program and how adults fit into the program. New parents are required to watch this video at the new parent conference.

Scoutmastership Fundamentals

Scoutmastership Fundamentals training is put on by our local council. There are three parts to this training. Part one of the training covers the Troop meeting and takes a full Saturday at the council service center in Glendale. The second part covers Troop organization and takes one evening, usually a weekend night, at the council service center. The third section is a weekend overnight, usually at Camp Verdugo Oaks, that focuses on the outdoor side of the Scout program. You will learn how to participate in and administer an effective outdoor program.

High Adventure Awards Program

The High Adventure Awards program is administered through the High Adventure Team (HAT) in our local council. The HAT members provide many training opportunities for interested adults. The first is called Outdoor Awareness and takes one Saturday at the local council. It teaches what to look for in equipment you will use when camping and gives tips for running a successful outing. The course also covers menu planning, preparation, and basic first aid. This course is recommended for all adults who go camping.

The second segment of HAT training is one Saturday and one weekend basic backpack course. Since you will be backpacking, the course covers the skills required to pick a campsite, make camp, and generally makes you more comfortable with the responsibility of taking boys out on a trek.

Additional HAT programs available include winter camping, desert camping, orienteering, and advanced first aid. The HAT members also have a list of outings and activities that award patches for the successful completion of each program. This award program provides a great way to provide a focus for an outing and encourage Scouts to stretch themselves a bit more.

Wood Badge

Wood Badge is an advanced adult leader training. The course is a management by objective based program with the emphasis on Scouting. It requires three weekends over a six week period with two additional meetings in the evening. You must successfully complete a six month independent study to earn your Wood Badge. Your successful completion of this course also earns you college credit.

INTERESTING SCOUT FACTS

For every 100 Scouts...

What happens to a Scout? For every 100 boys who join Scouting, records indicate that:

- 2 will become Eagle Scouts
- 12 will have their first contact with a church
- 5 will earn their church award
- 1 will enter the clergy
- 18 will develop a hobby that will last through their adult life
- 8 will enter a vocation that was learned through the merit badge program
- 17 will become future Scout volunteers
- 1 will use his Scouting skills to save the life of another person
- 1 will use his Scouting skills to save his own life
- Rarely will one be brought before the juvenile court system

Scouting's Alumni Record is equally impressive. A recent nation-wide survey of high schools revealed the following information:

- 89% of senior class presidents were Scouts
- 85% of student council presidents were Scouts
- 80% of junior class presidents were Scouts
- 75% of school publication editors were Scouts
- 71% of football captains were Scouts

Scouts also account for:

- 85% of FBI agents
- 72% of Rhodes Scholars
- 70% of Annapolis graduates
- 68% of West Point graduates
- 64% of Air Force Academy graduates
- 26 of the first 29 astronauts

APPENDIX

Important Forms

- Tenderfoot Physical Fitness Requirement #10
- Second Class Advancement Preparation
- First Class Advancement Preparation
- Star Class Advancement Preparation
- Life Class Advancement Preparation
- Outing Log
- Achievement Log
- Leadership Log

Ten (Scout) Essentials Check-off List

- Pocketknife
- First Aid Kit
- Extra Clothing
- Rain Gear (Poncho)
- Water
- Flashlight
- Trail Food
- Matches/Fire Starter
- Sun Protection
- Map and Compass
- Whistle
- Toilet Paper