

Troop 776 Introductory Packet

NEWSLETTER

www.BSATroop776.ORG

2008

Headlines



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MEETINGS

Troop 776 meets Monday evenings at St. Johns Catholic Church, located at 1001 Encinitas Boulevard. Meetings start at 7:00 pm and end between 8:00 and 8:30 pm, depending on the meeting.

The troop keeps a continually updated calendar, which is available at meetings as well as on the 776 website. (www.bsatroop776.org)

The following is a list of specific meeting types and when they meet:

Troop meetings:

Troop meetings for ALL Scouts are held the 1st and 3rd Mondays.

Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meeting:

The PLC meets the 4th Monday of each month. The PLC consists of the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL), Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders, and all other youth leaders. Scouts discuss and organize upcoming events, as well as participate in Junior Leadership Training.

Scoutmasters meeting:

The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters and the Committee Chair meet the 4th Monday of each month before the PLC meeting. They discuss troop issues and help facilitate decisions the youth leadership has made.

Committee meeting:

The Troop Committee, made up of parent leadership, meets once a month. They work to help support the troop program.

Parents meeting:

Once a month ALL parents meet to discuss the progress of the troop. It is imperative that parents attend in order to keep abreast of troop activities and events. These meetings also give parents an opportunity to get involved and help support the troop.

It is mandatory that each family help with at least one activity a year. Parent support and involvement is THE key to a successful troop!

REGISTRATION AND 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 10-11 and 18. All new Scouts must register by filling out a Scouting Application and paying troop dues of \$75, which covers registration, Boys Life magazine, awards, etc.

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

Scouts must purchase:

The official short sleeved khaki Scout shirt
Belt and buckle
Neckerchief slide
Appropriate Scout patches (the Scout Shop will be able to help with this)
Boy Scout Handbook
Boy Scout hat (optional)

The Troop Provides:

Troop Neckerchief for new Scouts.

The Troop has available for purchase:

Class B Troop T-shirt to be worn on informal scouting occasions. (Strongly encouraged)

Troop Sweatshirt (optional)

Pants / Shorts:

Scouts may wear either official Scout pants or shorts, or an appropriate green colored equivalent

TROOP ORGANIZATION

Troop 776 is a boy-led troop headed by an elected Senior Patrol Leader. When boys join the troop, they become part of a same-aged Patrol. 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 12-18 months.

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 positions of responsibility.

The key boy leaders of the troop make up the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC).

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

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: Assistant Scoutmasters, Troop Committee, and our great PARENTS!

The Assistant Scoutmasters focus on 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 just an INVOLVED participant!

RANKS AND MERIT BADGES

The Boy Scout program is based on rank advancement. The requirements for each rank are outlined in the *Boy Scout Handbook*.

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* 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 rank advancement:

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 then by the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster at a "Scoutmaster Conference." This conference is set up by the **SCOUT** (not the parent) when all requirements for that 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 receive their new badge at a troop meeting and be recognized at a quarterly "Court of Honor."

Merit badges are focused on learning skills in specific areas of interest. There are over 100 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, newsletters, calendars, 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 Scout Handbook.

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). Ask your Scout to inform you of what happened at the meeting so that you can plug it into the family calendar.

2. Troop 776 Calendar.

The troop calendar is put together at the beginning of the year and includes all meetings and outings. Changes do happen, so make sure you always have the most updated calendar.

3. The newsletter.

Troop Trails 776 is put out by e-mail by our Scoutmaster and includes write-ups describing upcoming events, past events, administrative information and a message from the Scoutmaster. Copies are also available at the meetings and on the troop website.

4. Troop Website.

The troop has a website:

www.bsatroop776.org.

The newsletter and calendar are available on the website, along with medical forms, permission slips, etc.

5. PARENT MEETING!

The parents only meet 3 times 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

Troop 776 has a very active outdoor program. Activities include:

- Overnight camping trips
- Rock climbing
- Backpacking & hiking
- Canoeing
- Ski & board trips
- Snow camping
- Rocket launches
- Snorkeling
- Swimming
- And summer camps!

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 St. Johns every year, as well as community activities involving food drives. Scouts are also encouraged to help with Eagle projects, which require a lot of time and hard work.

FUNDRAISING

Future fundraising events for Troop 776 will be set up to help Scouts pay for part of their outings and activities. A portion of the money earned will be directed back to the Troop and the remainder will go to the scout. Scouts may use their money in their accounts to pay for summer camp or other scout related activities.

GET INVOLVED!

The Troop is constantly evolving and welcomes (and needs) fresh leaders. 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 like coordinating a fundraiser, helping with an outing by putting together a flyer, or finding service projects.

Committee Positions:

Committee Chairperson
Treasurer
Secretary
Advancement Coordinator
Fundraiser Coordinator
Backpack Coordinator
Service Project Coord.
Webmaster

Don't feel that you can't participate because you don't know how Scouting works or you weren't a Scout yourself. 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 on-line course that covers how to spot child abuse and how to report it within the BSA organization.

Troop 776 **REQUIRES** that **ALL** adults who fill leadership positions dealing directly with our boys **MUST** be youth protection trained. Training is good for two years and must be renewed. The Scout council offers both classroom and on-line youth protection training.

New Leader Essentials: New leader essentials provides the initial training for adults leaders. In the 90 minute course, leaders learn about the objectives of the Scouting Program, how youth leadership works, the role of adults in the troop and program, and other great info.

Advanced Training:

There are advanced trainings also available through our Scout council at nominal costs. Visit the “Training” link on the council website for more information on:

- *Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training*
- *Intro to Outdoor Skills*
- *High Adventure Leader Trek Training (HALTT)*
- *First Aid / CPR*

CHARTER ORGANIZATION

St. Johns Catholic Church
1001 Encinitas Blvd.
Encinitas, Ca 92024

WEBSITES

www.bsatroop776.org
www.sdicbsa.org



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.

The Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful,
friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful,
thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Contact numbers

Scoutmaster:
Chuck Perry
(760) 633-3885
scoutmaster@bsatroop776.org

Committee Chair:
Karen Haubrich
(760) 632-1758
chairperson@bsatroop776.org

Council Headquarters:
(619) 298-6121