

PARENT HANDBOOK

Boy Scouts of America
Troop 2 Santa Monica, CA

*Last Modified
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TROOP 2 - Santa Monica, CA PARENT HANDBOOK

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Troop 2. I'm delighted that your son has decided to join us. You will find that Troop 2 Scouts are active and enthusiastic campers, swimmers, canoeists, and hikers. These and other Scouting activities can involve you and other members of your family in many ways.

There are questions you'll have as your son makes his way through his first year in the troop. We hope this booklet will answer your concerns and questions, but please feel free to call or email me or any parent in the troop as needed. I encourage you to become personally involved in the troop, not only because this will motivate your son, but because you'll have a lot of fun and get to know some wonderful people. The Troop's success over the years has been directly related to the quality of parental involvement in our sons' lives, and we welcome you to the family.

Troop 2 was founded in 1947 and since then has had only two Scoutmasters. As a result, we have many great traditions and bonds that extend back over the years. We have grown to be one of the largest troops in America, and more than 350 of our Scouts have achieved our highest honor, the rank of Eagle Scout.

One Troop tradition is community service. Each year we engage in such service activities as cleaning up after the Franklin School Halloween Carnival and entertaining at convalescent hospitals during the holidays. There are specific service requirements for most of the Scout ranks, as well as ongoing Eagle projects that directly benefit our community. Of course, we are always prepared to help in the event of a disaster or other need, and our Scouts have done so on several occasions.

Another of our traditions is an opportunity for travel and adventure. We camp one weekend each month as well as two weeks each summer. We enjoy a three-day ski trip each February. In recent years our summer trips have taken us backpacking in Oregon and in California's Trinity Alps, canoeing in New York's Adirondack Park, climbing Mt. Shasta, trekking through slot canyons in Zion National Park, and paddling war canoes around Catalina Island. We have seen nature's wonders.

A third tradition is preparedness. Our Scouts quickly become expert in first aid, swimming, and other emergency skills. These activities culminate in a citywide disaster drill that we call "Bloody Monday", organized every other year. In addition, the Scouts learn the skills needed for adventure in the outdoors. We encourage physical fitness so they can better enjoy them. Through work on merit badges, Scouts have an opportunity to pursue their own interests and learn new skills. Each

Scout learns to work with other Scouts both as a follower, a team member, and later in leadership roles. Older boys become the mentors of younger boys, sharing their knowledge and experience. Finally, every Scout has interactions with many friendly adults who serve as instructors, guides, and role models.

Through all these experiences, our guiding ethic is the Scout Oath and Scout Law. We actively promote a commitment to the values described in the Oath and Law. We expect our Scouts to treat one another with respect, to be honest, to be kind. In all these ways, we hope to prepare them for responsible citizenship in our community and the world. We believe that we are making a difference.

Steve Marcy, Ph.D., Scoutmaster

WEBSITE: For additional information on most topics discussed in these pages, as well as the current calendar of events and other information, please refer to the Troop 2 website:
<http://troop2bsa.org>.

THE FIRST FEW MONTHS

Troop 1 1/2 When a boy wants to join Troop 2, he first becomes a member of Troop 1 1/2. This is a training group led by Assistant Scoutmaster, [Bob Gunter](#). The boys learn basic Scout and troop skills, including the history of the Troop, the Scout laws, the purpose of Scouting, the meaning of the Scout ranks and awards, basic knots, and common forms of courtesy to the U.S. flag. During the first half hour of each troop meeting, they join in activities with the rest of the troop. No uniform is required, and the boys do not participate in campouts or other troop activities. In Troop 1 1/2, parent and Scout support and information is provided by Assistant Scoutmaster Jessica Chuang. When a boy has completed the requirements for 1 1/2, he makes an appointment for a Scoutmaster Conference, a one-on-one meeting with Dr. Marcy. Upon satisfactory completion of the conference, he is an official member of Troop 2 and joins the Recruit Patrol. Depending on the Scout's diligence, Troop 1 1/2 can be completed in a few weeks or as much time as the Scout needs. Once completed, the Scout can start wearing the uniform and Troop 2's red and white neckerchief.

Recruit Patrol As a member of the Recruit Patrol, a Scout is invited to participate in all troop activities as a member of a troop patrol. Each patrol is a team of 5-8 Scouts who work (and play) together at troop meetings and campouts as they advance to the Tenderfoot rank. Each Recruit will learn camping and cooking skills, basic first aid, more advanced rope skills, and how to navigate using map and compass. In addition, the Scout will discuss the Scout Oath and Law in greater depth. When all his requirements are complete, the Scout schedules a Scoutmaster conference. Finally, he must complete a Board of Review to earn Tenderfoot rank.

SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

Boy Scout Handbook: Purchase upon joining Troop 1 1/2.

Boy Scout Requirements (optional book): Overview of merit badge requirements. Be sure to obtain the current volume or compare against a current volume. You can find more information about requirements for badges at meritbadge.org.

Merit Badge Booklets: For each merit badge, BSA publishes a booklet that provides most of the information needed for a Scout to complete the badge. They can be purchased individually at Scout shops or borrowed at no cost from the Troop Librarian. Check the date of Merit Badge booklets (or online) to be sure you have the latest requirements.

Uniform: Purchase upon joining Recruit Patrol. Do not purchase the numeral "2" as it is awarded by the troop when the Scout achieves Tenderfoot rank. The troop provides a free neckerchief to each Scout when he completes Troop 1 1/2. Additional or replacement neckerchiefs are available from the troop at a cost of \$10.

Camping Gear: Various items of camping gear will be required. Lists are provided and often gear can be borrowed from other troop families. With advance arrangements, tents and other equipment can be shared. Further information can be found on our [Equipment](#) or [Campout](#) page. When in a Patrol, the Patrol Leader is helpful in arranging equipment sharing.

TROOP LEADERSHIP SEQUENCE

Scouts progress from being team members to team leaders and ultimately leaders of teams.

Troop 1 1/2: Learn about Scouting and Troop 2 traditions. If you have questions, contact Assistant Scoutmaster Jessica Cheung.

Recruit Patrol: Continue to learn basic Scouting skills while working towards the Tenderfoot rank and go on a campout.

Patrol member: Attend all activities as a member of a patrol. While in a patrol, Scouts work individually, with a patrol, or with other Scouts on rank requirements.

Patrol Leader: Scouts in 9th and 10th grades who have earned at least 1st Class rank are eligible to be elected as one of our patrol leaders. Patrol leaders organize patrol meetings and lead patrols through the activities at meetings and campouts.

Staff in Training & Senior Staff: Scouts who have served as Patrol Leader, or Scouts who are in 11th grade and have earned at least 1st Class rank, are eligible to be a part of our Staff in Training. After at least 6 months of service, they can be elected to be a part of our Senior Staff. This group meets monthly and, under guidance of the Scoutmaster, plans and supervises troop meetings and campout activities. (A Scout who reaches 11th grade without completing 1st Class rank will no longer be eligible for troop membership.)

ADVANCEMENT AND AWARDS

For BSA Rank Requirements, please refer to the troop website: <http://troop2bsa.org>. > Advancement > Rank Advancement. Check with the appropriate rank advisor for the most current information.

EARNING A MERIT BADGE

1. Obtain the current merit badge pamphlet from Scout shop or Troop Librarian.
2. Identify a [Merit Badge Counselor](#) and call for an appointment **before starting**.
3. Complete all the requirements of the particular merit badge you are working on.
4. Have the counselor sign a blue card when all work is complete. Bring the blue card to the Board of Review.
5. Attend a Board of Review with the blue card plus all items/papers prepared for the badge. (Scouts should save the "applicant record" portion of each blue card; these will be required to earn Eagle rank.)

SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCE

A Scoutmaster Conference is required for each rank advancement. They are scheduled with Dr. Marcy and are conducted in a one-on-one interview. The first conference for Troop 1 1/2 will be in person, but the remaining conferences are usually conducted over the phone. The Scout should plan on making this appointment in advance. Boards of Review for the rank being earned cannot be conducted until this conference is completed.

BOARD OF REVIEW

After completing the requirements for a rank or merit badge, a Troop 2 Scout is required to participate in a Board of Review in [full Scout uniform](#). He is interviewed by two or more troop parents on the skills he has learned. Boards of Review are generally scheduled the week before each Court of Honor. Ranks, merit badges and special awards are presented at the Court of Honor.

COURT OF HONOR

This is a ceremony where Scouts are presented with earned ranks, badges and awards. Courts are held in October, January and June. If Eagle ranks are being presented, Courts include dinner. Family members and friends are always welcome and are encouraged to wear red, the Troop color, to show spirit and earn patrol points for their son or friend's patrol. Every patrol competes for Honor Patrol, and nearly every activity is scored on a [points](#) basis. The winner is announced at each Court of Honor.

BSA AND TROOP 2 SPECIAL AWARDS

(see [examples here](#))

Camp Spirit - Scout completes requirements for service and participation at summer camp. The requirements are listed at camp. As an indicator of Scout spirit, this award must be earned at least once for Star Rank, at least twice for Life rank, and at least three times for Eagle rank.

Century Belt - Scout hikes 100 miles, camps 100 nights or combines hiking miles and nights for a total of 100. Each individual hike must be at least two miles, all camping and hiking must be done on Troop activities, and camping nights must be spent in the open or in a tent pitched by the Scout. Also counted are up to ten nights spent at summer camp. Scouts are responsible for maintaining a log of miles and nights. Once completed, the log should be presented to the Scoutmaster for review.

Den Chief - Scout undertakes the responsibility of serving as a Den Chief to a Cub Scout den. This is considered a leadership position for the rank of Star.

Den Chief Cord - Scout completes a year of responsible leadership and service to a Cub Scout den.

Gold Paddle - Scout paddles at least halfway around Catalina Island as a member of a war canoe crew. (See Silver Paddle below.)

Honor Patrol - Scout is a member of the patrol that earns the most points in Troop competitions either at a summer camp or for a semester during the regular year. Patrol leaders keep the Honor Patrol banner until the next award.

Honor Scout Award - Given at the June Court of Honor, the Scout below patrol leader who, by vote of the Troop, best exemplifies living by the Scout Oath and Law over the past year.

Icicle Camper - Scout camps in wet, freezing conditions, sufficient to produce an icicle. He must stay warm and dry himself and have all equipment needed to cook and sleep comfortably despite these conditions.

Invisible Man - An award earned each day during one week of summer camp by one older and one younger Scout, for a clean, complete uniform at dinner. The recognition allows the Scout on the following day to cut in line, stand during line-ups and receive other privileges due an "invisible" person.

Keith Monroe Leadership Award - Scout voted most valuable staff member by staff.

Keith Monroe Scholarship - Graduating senior who, by vote of the Assistant Scoutmasters, has made the greatest contribution during his years in the Troop.

Perfect Attendance Medal - Scout attends all troop activities and events for a year.

Perfect Attendance Pin - Scout attends every troop meeting for a full year without missing for illness, injury or any other reason.

100% Camper - Scout attends every camp for a year including summer camp and patrol camp.

Recruiter Strip - Scout brings a friend into the Troop, with the friend completing Troop 1 1/2 and earning the rank of Scout.

Scout Spirit Award - Given at the June Court of Honor, the Scout below staff level who, by vote of the Troop, best demonstrates Scout spirit in word and deed over the past year.

Service Stars - Scout receives a star for each complete year of troop participation, beginning with the Court of Honor at which he receives the Scout badge.

Silver Paddle - Scout paddles completely around Catalina Island as a member of a war canoe crew.

Silver Skull Award - Scout writes a paper for a school class on a subject related to Scouting and receives an "A" for the paper.

Steve Marcy High Adventure Award - Awarded to an alumnus Scout or parent for continuing service to the troop. The winner is invited to attend a future summer camp at no expense.

Storm Camper - Scout camps during a rainstorm, keeping all essential gear dry. He must stay warm and dry himself and have all equipment needed to cook and sleep comfortably despite the storm.

Tobias Slide - Scout who is voted most outstanding first year camper at summer camp.

UNIFORM

The **official uniform** requires a short-sleeved Scout shirt, Western Los Angeles County Council patch, shoulder loops, Scout shorts or long pants, Scout belt, neckerchief slide (purchased or handmade), the Troop red and white neckerchief, Scout socks and shoes or hiking boots. The troop neckerchief should be worn only after the Scout has completed Troop 1 1/2. Dress uniforms are required at every Court of Honor. Once the Scout has earned Star rank, the sash displaying earned badges and awards is to be worn as part of the dress uniform.

Patch Placement -- For proper placement of badges on the uniform, refer to [Shirt Front](#) page [Shoulder](#) page, and [Sash](#) in the Scout handbook.

Full uniform consists of the Scout shirt, neckerchief, neckerchief slide, belt and Scout shorts or long pants. The full uniform also includes notepaper, pencil or pen, and a band-aid. Full uniform is required for all troop meetings, Boards of Review and when traveling with the Troop. It is strongly suggested that all clothing items be marked with the Scout's name. The troop operates a Uniform Exchange program that provides used uniforms at no charge. Donations of outgrown or unneeded uniform items are gratefully accepted.

CAMPOUTS

Campouts are organized one weekend per month during the Troop year, with the exception of December and February. Scouts and all interested parents meet at 7:00 a.m. on the Lincoln Middle School basketball courts, and the Scouts are returned to their homes on Sunday afternoon. Volunteer drivers are always needed, and parents are asked not to leave until we know there are enough drivers. The patrol leader organizes food for the patrol, and the costs are shared equally. Scouts are responsible for bringing their own equipment or arranging to share equipment. In October, patrol leaders are responsible for arranging a patrol campout with one overnight. Points are awarded for participation. In February, a ski/snowboard trip is scheduled in lieu of a monthly campout. (See [Campout](#) page for more information.)

PARENT SUPPORT

PARENTS' COMMITTEE

All parents become members of this committee when a son joins the troop. Meetings are on the Wednesday before every campout at 7:00 p.m. at RAND Corporation, 1776 Main Street, Santa Monica or other designated location. The upcoming campout, finances, summer camp, Eagle projects, troop policies and other business are discussed. You are encouraged to attend and learn more about the troop. These meetings are often critical in disseminating information and making decisions. ([Parents' Committee](#))

MOTHERS' CLUB

The Mothers' Club provides support to the troop in the form of fund-raisers, food, and any other assistance needed. Meetings are held generally once a month. For mothers new to Troop 2, Mothers' Club is an excellent introduction and orientation to the "culture" of the troop. For mothers of continuing Scouts, it is a good place to share information, practical tips and experiences. All mothers are warmly welcomed. ([Mother's Club](#))

UNIFORM EXCHANGE / NECKERCHIEFS

Families are encouraged to donate outgrown or unneeded uniforms for other families, which are made available to any interested Scout at no cost through the Mothers' Club. Troop neckerchiefs are available for \$10.00. (They can be purchased only after the Scout has completed Troop 1 1/2.)
Names should be written in indelible ink in all clothing items.

FUNDRAISERS

Aluminum can recycling - Scouts turn in clean, crushed cans on the [first Monday of each month](#). Scouts earn recycling money, which is distributed at summer camp, and also earn patrol points.

Christmas Tree Lot - A major fundraiser, our tree lot is run by the Scouts under supervision of parent volunteers. Scouts who contribute at least twenty hours receive a \$100 discount on the next ski trip or summer camp.

Parents Auction Dinner - A popular social evening in the spring in which donated items are auctioned.

WHERE TO OBTAIN SCOUT AND CAMPING SUPPLIES

Scout Shop - West LA: 10131 National Boulevard, Los Angeles. Tu-F 10-6. Sat 10-3. Handbooks, uniforms, Scout supplies. 310-839-7514

Scout Shop - Van Nuys: 16525 Sherman Way, Unit C-8, Around the back. Look for the American flag at Hayvenhurst. M-F 8:30-5:30, Sat 9-4. Handbooks, uniforms, Scout supplies. 818-781-1296

Scout Shop - Downtown: Los Angeles near Alvarado and Temple at 2333 Scout Way, Los Angeles 90026. M-F 8:30-5, Sat 10-3. Handbooks, uniforms, Scout supplies, merit badge booklets, camping equipment. 213-413-4400 or 0575

A16 - West L.A.: 11161 W. Pico Bl. Camping equipment rentals. Sales of camping equipment, ski gear, and hiking boots. 310-473-4574

REI - Santa Monica: 402 Santa Monica Blvd. Camping & ski gear. 310-538-2429

Big 5 - Santa Monica: 3121 Wilshire Bl. Santa Monica, Camping gear. 310-458-4370

Items can also be ordered online.

CALENDAR

Weekly

Monday Troop meetings. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Lincoln Middle School.

Saturday Canoeing Merit Badge instruction. To be announced but usually on Saturday mornings, Spring only, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., Mother's Beach, Marina del Rey during even numbered years only.

Swimming Merit Badge instruction. To be announced. Generally offered every other year in 6-session blocks.

Monthly

Patrol meetings. Time and place arranged by patrol leader.

Parents' Committee meetings. Every Wednesday before the weekend campout, 7:00 p.m., RAND Corporation, 1776 Main Street, Santa Monica or at another location to be announced.

Mothers' Club meetings. Generally once a month at Lincoln Middle School, 7:15 p.m.

Troop campouts. Each month except October (patrol camps) and February (ski/snowboard trip).

Annually

Family Camp. Memorial Day weekend. All family members, including siblings, and friends are invited to attend Family Camp. This is an outstanding opportunity to socialize with other troop families and watch Scouts participate in canoe regattas, races, campfires and other troop activities. It is a high point of the year and fun for all.

Ski/Snowboard Trip. Every year on Presidents' Weekend for Scouts and any parents who wish to attend. Free lessons are provided for beginning Scouts.

Summer Camp. Usually the last week in July and first week in August, one week at a BSA Scout camp and one week of high adventure. Scouts who join in the spring are eligible to attend the week at camp. All others may attend for one or two weeks. (Scouts may not attend the high adventure week only.)