



PARENT GUIDE

Boy Scout Troop 95 is sponsored by Westminster Presbyterian Church, which is chartered by BSA. The Church appoints an individual known as the chartered organization representative to work with our Troop. This individual is a member of the Troop Committee. The Troop is led by Boy Scouts who are elected to leadership positions by their fellow troop members twice a year. Adult participation is required to guide and support the activities planned by the Boy Scout leadership. Our Troop is a part of the San Joaquin District of the Sequoia Council, BSA which includes: Fresno, Clovis, Auberry, Tollhouse, Shaver Lake, Friant, Calwa, Big Creek, Sanger, Easton and Pinedale. The San Joaquin District is managed by a Senior Scout Executive, who is a full-time professional.

Scout Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Code: Included with this Parent Guide is our Troop's Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Code. Each new scout and a parent will need to sign that they have received, read and agree to abide by the Troop 95 Code of Conduct and all of its enforcement provisions in the Immediate Disciplinary Action Plan of the Troop 95 Guidebook.

Communication and Key Contacts: Upon joining you will receive a copy of our current Organization Chart. It will show which scouts are currently in leadership positions and contact information for our adult leadership as well. Each scout is issued a copy of the Troop roster, with contact information for all scouts and parents. For Troop information, we have a website at scoutlander.com (Adult ran) and Troop95.org (Scout ran). Once you have signed the Internet Authorization Form (provided in this packet) and turned it into the Troop Secretary, you will receive log-in details. This website has a great deal of information available, and also sends automated reminders for Troop events. You may also receive Troop email reminders from our Scoutmaster and other Committee members.

Two-Deep Leadership & Youth Protection: BSA policy states that two registered adult leaders, or one registered leader and a parent of a participating Scout or other adult, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required for all trips and outings. There are a few instances, such as patrol activities, when the presence of adult leaders is not required and adult leadership may be limited to training and guidance of the patrol leadership. With the proper training, guidance, and approval by the troop leaders, the patrol can conduct day hikes and service projects. Appropriate adult leadership must be present for all overnight Scouting activities; coed overnight activities-even those including parent and child-require male and female leaders, both of whom must be 21 years of age or older, and one of whom must be a registered member of the BSA. BSA policy also states that one-on-one contact between adults and youth members is not permitted. In situations that require personal conferences, such as a Scoutmaster's conference, the meeting is to be conducted in view of other adults and youths.

All adult members of the Troop Committee are required to complete **Youth Protection Training** online at my.scouting.org. This will familiarize you with the BSA Youth Protection policies. Once completed please print out the copy of your completion certificate to turn in to the Troop secretary.

Troop Meetings: Meetings are conducted each Tuesday evening from 7 pm until 8:30 pm in the Calvin Room of Westminster Presbyterian Church, located at 50 E. Santa Ana Avenue, Fresno, California. Troop meeting agendas are set by the Scout's PLC (Patrol Leaders Council). The PLC meets once a month, generally on the first Monday of the month. Only scouts currently in leadership positions need to attend. Changes to the normal Tuesday night meeting schedule are announced and publicized in advance. For each Troop meeting, Scouts should come prepared to actively and constructively participate in the meeting, learn and have fun!

Parent Participation: Parents are expected and encouraged to participate! This means attending outings and Troop Committee meetings. All parents are a part of our Troop Committee, which generally meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Parents are encouraged to register as Merit Badge Counselors in fields where they have expertise or experience, or interest. Troop parents supply transportation for each Scout activity. The Troop's Outing Coordinator submits a Tour Plan to Sequoia Council when required (based on the outing destination), which secures BSA liability insurance for all outing participants. Troop parents must conform to the outing Tour Plan, without deviation, or the insurance coverage could be voided. New scout parents should provide their vehicle information to the Outing Coordinator to have in the Troop's records in the event the family provides transportation for an outing. Troop planning and leadership comes from Scouts, but only with active parent support.

The Troop Uniform: The Boy Scout uniform is suitable for most activities and is worn by both Boy Scouts and Boy Scout Adult Leaders. The Troop Class A uniform consists of the official BSA shirt (long or short sleeve) with green epaulets, a neckerchief and BSA slide, BSA belt, BSA pants or shorts (or similarly looking to help reduce cost to the family if needed, example: Dickies Green Moss Carpenter Pants \$25, eBay also has wide selection of Uniforms at greatly reduced prices), BSA socks and shoes. The Scout shirt must display patches and awards in accordance with the diagrams on the inside cover of the Scout handbook, or refer to the "Uniform Inspection Sheet" included in this packet. The Class A uniform is worn to all regular Tuesday night meetings, unless announced in advance. The Class A uniform is also required when traveling to and from each outing. Any exceptions will be announced prior to the outing. While on outings, the boys may wear other clothing. We encourage them to wear the Troop 95 Class B t-shirts which are available to purchase for all family members. Other Scout-related t-shirts are also acceptable. All uniform accessories can be purchased at the Scout Shop in Fresno on North Tamera Avenue, just south of Fig Garden Drive. The address is 6005 North Tamera Avenue, Fresno, Ca. Their phone number is 559-436-1339. Uniform and accessories may also be purchased on line at www.scoutstuff.org, also deals can be found locally on Craigslist, OfferUp and eBay.

What to Expect: Besides the weekly troop meetings, the troop has at least one activity, usually a campout, each month. Activities are planned by the Patrol Leader Council. Annual planning for the year occurs at a special meeting in October. The Scouts “propose an outings calendar at this meeting, but Parents may participate and offer their input. The calendar is subject to final approval by the Scoutmaster. The Troop attends a long-term summer camp for one week each summer where individual scouts can elect to attend. Troop 95 attends summer camp at Camp Chawanakee, located at Shaver Lake. The troop also participates in various service projects, church events at Westminster Presbyterian and community activities each year. Troop 95 has provided over 20 years of support to Christmas Tree Lane and the Knights of Columbus Food Drive held in December. They have a semi-annual cleanup scheduled with our Charter, Westminster Presbyterian Church and various scout-led Eagle projects.

Fund Raisers: The Troop offers opportunities for scouts and their families to raise money for the scout’s expenses, such as summer camp, troop dues or other troop expenses. We have 2 annual fundraisers each year: Council sponsored popcorn sales and Virginia Nuts. These fundraisers are both individual and Troop participation with store front sales. These sales allow the Scout to learn how to interact with the public and learn skills that will help them in the future. Please feel free to suggest a fundraising opportunity!

Expenses: BSA registration fees are \$33 per year for each youth/adult membership. There is an optional subscription to Boy’s Life Magazine for \$12 per year. Troop dues are \$100 per year (per family). This amount can be broken into several payments throughout the year with prior arrangements with the Treasurer. If the Troop dues are a financial hardship that could preclude a boy from participating, limited scholarships may be available. Please consult the Scoutmaster for further information. Summer camp costs is currently \$355 per scout; \$205 per adult leader. If there are two or more brothers, there is a discount of \$25. Camperships are available to families that need financial help; please see the Sequoia council website for additional information on Camperships (www.seqbsa.org). The Troop pays for camping fees on most monthly campouts. All overnight outings will require scouts and parents to contribute “grub money” for meals. **This amount varies from \$10-\$20 for most outings. Scouts and parents rotate the duty of “grub master” for outings, which involves purchasing food for patrols.** Scouts are to pay the Grubber from their patrol \$10 the Tuesday before the outing. A Permission slip must be filled out for travel to the outing. From some outings, there may be additional costs for event tickets, entrance fees or other fees associated with the outing. Scouts must provide their own uniforms. However, if the purchase of a uniform presents a financial hardship, please see the Scoutmaster. The Troop has a small supply of hand-me-down uniforms. A family is not required to purchase the full uniform at once; it can be purchased a piece at a time to help spread the cost over time. A scout will need to purchase The Boy Scout Handbook soon after signing up with the Troop.

The Troop Committee: The Troop Committee’s primary responsibilities are supporting the Scoutmaster in delivering a quality troop program, and handling troop administration. Committee members are adults registered with the Sequoia Council, BSA. Scout parents fill committee positions. The committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.

Committee positions include: Committee Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Advancement Coordinator, Outing Coordinator, Chartered Organization Representative, Quartermaster and Committee Members. Committee Members administer various, unspecified Troop needs, as they arise. Parents are asked to volunteer to be OUTING SPONSORS for specific outings, assisting the Outing Coordinator. Other committee duties include managing Troop assets, approving and supporting activities, supervising fund raisers, and conducting Boards of Review for Scout rank advancements. All troop adult leaders are registered with the Council. This provides an opportunity for the National Scouting Organization to verify prospective leaders' qualifications and provides liability insurance for the Troop. You can help! Just ask any committee member, the Scoutmaster, or an assistant Scoutmaster how to get involved.

The Scoutmaster and Assistants: Troop 95 leaders are adults, usually Scout parents. The Troop Committee may nominate candidates for the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster positions for consideration and final election by the Charter Organization. The Scoutmaster is the lead facilitator for all Troop operations. All Troop plans and activities are first approved by the Scoutmaster. Assistant Scoutmasters assist the Scoutmaster during meetings, at camp-outs, with advancement activities, or as otherwise needed. Assistant Scoutmasters often act as Tour Leaders, taking responsibility for one or more of the monthly campouts or activities. The Council sponsors adult leader training classes throughout the year. The Scoutmaster must be trained and Assistant Scoutmasters are also encouraged to attend formal training classes.

Troop Organization: The Troop is divided into patrols. Scouts are assigned to a patrol. A patrol is normally made up of six to eight Scouts. Patrols plan and carry out activities as a unit. A patrol is led by one Scout, the Patrol Leader (PL), who is elected by all the patrol members. The Troop elects a Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). The SPL and Scoutmaster work together to conduct an active Troop program. A copy of the Troop Election Rules is attached. Active participation is required for all scouts both for participation in troop elections and rank advancement. The SPL has a staff to help in Troop operations: one or two assistant senior patrol leaders (ASPL), a Quartermaster, a Historian, Patrol Leaders, Junior Assistant Scoutmasters, a Scout Instructor, a Librarian and a Webmaster and Scout Guides. A Scout's advancement to the rank of Star, Life, and Eagle requires that he serve in one of the above leadership positions and complete pre-approved goals that benefit the troop.

The New Scout: New Scouts usually, but not always, join the Troop from a Cub Scout Webelos Den. The new Scouts are assigned to a Patrol and help elect a Patrol Leader. The Troop Instructor helps provide training and support on their Trail to First Class requirements. New Scout patrols may be organized and initially assigned a Troop Guide who is a Senior Scout, for training and guidance. The new Scouts participate in Troop activities. **The goal of each Scout is to earn the rank of First Class during his first Scouting year.**

Scout Rank Advancement: Boy Scouts advance at their own pace beginning with the Scout Rank and continuing to Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The initial goal for a new Scout is to make First Class rank during his first year. To advance, Scouts must actively participate in weekly Troop meetings, attend campouts, and meet all the

requirements for their next rank advancement. Scouts keep records in their Scout Handbook, as documentation of meeting rank requirements. Parent support and guidance is ESSENTIAL for rank advancement; parents should MONITOR their boy's progress in meeting rank requirements and encourage him to keep working or seek help when needed. The Scout Handbook contains the requirements for each rank advancement. The Scout Handbook should always be brought to each Scout meeting, campout, or activity. Completed requirements for rank advancement are approved/verified by the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster.

Merit Badges: Merit Badges play a key role in Scout Advancements. There are more than one hundred merit badges allowing Scouts to learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers. The Scout can pick a subject and contact a merit badge counselor to arrange a meeting. Merit badges are taught following the two-person rule. There must be two adults to one Scout or two Scouts to one adult when a badge is taught. This follows the BSA Policy of two-deep leadership mentioned above, Merit Badge counselors are always needed; if you have a skill or knowledge to share, please volunteer. A copy to Troop 95's merit badge counselors, along with their contact information, is attached. Merit Badges can also be earned at summer camp and at special events offered throughout the year, such as our local Merit Badge Frenzy. Each rank advancement requires a Scout to demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in his everyday life. A clean disciplinary record is how our Troop interprets this requirement, in particular "trustworthy", "obedient" and "loyal". Each Rank Advancement requires a Scout to participate in a Scoutmaster Conference, which must be scheduled with the Scoutmaster at least one week in advance. Additionally, each Scout must pass a Board of Review conducted by at least three members of the Troop Committee before he can achieve the next rank. It is the Scout's responsibility to contact the Advancement Coordinator to arrange for a Board of Review.

Before becoming a Star Scout a boy must earn six merit badges, four from the required list, and take part in service projects totally 6 hours. Before becoming a Life Scout a boy must earn five additional merit badges, including three more from the required list, and take part in service projects totaling 6 hours. To earn the rank of Eagle, a Scout must carry out an Eagle Project and earn twenty-one merit badges, twelve of which are required.

Camping: Troop activities may consist of hiking, backpacking, bike riding, or classes, but nothing can compare with an overnight campout. A Scout learns various crafts and skills when camping. Scouts require the proper clothing and equipment for camping. Many activities occur in the mountains where temperatures fall rapidly after sunset. Wool socks and garments are good investments. **Individual camping equipment is up to the individual, but the following is suggested:**

A good three-season sleeping bag, with a pad to sleep on (for winter camping add a wool blanket or polar fleece liner to the sleeping bag) A mess kit with plate, bowl, cup & utensils; water bottle or hydration pack, individual first aid kit (required), flashlight, pocketknife, a poncho or some other type of rain gear (breathable rain gear, though more expensive works best since ponchos can be cumbersome on bike rides or other active events, seasonal clothing (in the

winter add gloves, sweaters, and a coat (wool and synthetic wicking materials work best, cotton, once dampened, can lead to hypothermia and does not dry out), extra socks and a spare pair of shoes or boots, a good pair of hiking boots is preferred for outings, to offer extra protection in the elements. Scouts may want to bring a disposable or inexpensive camera. Expensive camera/video equipment is strongly discouraged.

Some items may not be taken on campouts. Check your scout's pack and ensure these items are left behind: Individual snacks that might attract wild animals into a Scout's tent; electronic items such as iPods and electronic games; firearms; fireworks; long knives. If unsure, consult with an adult Scout leader.

Summer Camp: Summer camp is the highlight of the Troop's camping calendar. This is a long-term camp offering seven days and six nights of camping. Each year the Troop attends summer camp at Camp Chawanakee on Shaver Lake. Summer camp offers something for each Scout: swimming, canoeing, fishing, archery, hiking, crafts, and Scout skills. This is always a great opportunity for advancement, and all Scouts can earn merit badges. In order to participate in water activities and water-based merit badges at Camp Chawanakee, all scouts must take and pass a swim test.

conducted in Shaver Lake. Each scout is graded after the swim test and given a ranking of beginner or non-swimmer, or different rankings. These give different access to water activities at camp. Camp includes a trading post where Scouts can purchase craft and souvenirs. A full list of what to bring to summer camp is provided

*The key to making Scouting fun,
challenging and rewarding is contained in
the expression:
KEEP THE OUTING IN SCOUTING!*

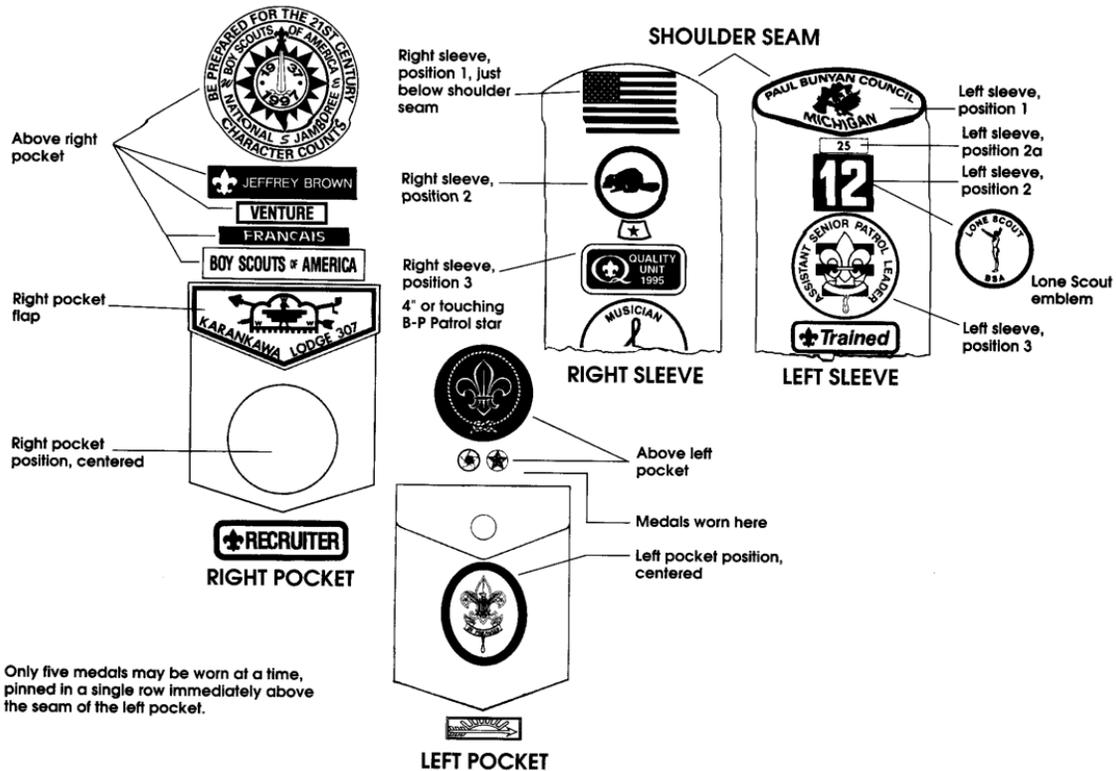
This test is conducted in Shaver Lake. Each scout is graded after the swim test and given a ranking of beginner or non-swimmer, or different rankings. These give different access to water activities at camp. Camp includes a trading post where Scouts can purchase craft and souvenirs. A full list of what to bring to summer camp is provided

each year with registration paperwork. The Troop's treasurer will hand out a packet of necessary forms to be completed for camp, including the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record (parents fill out Parts A & B, and your Scout's physician fills out Part C based on your scout's yearly physical exam), Camp Chawanakee's Authorization and Consent, Troop 95 Permission slip, and Troop 95 summer camp contract to be signed by the parent and scout. Also required is a copy of your scout's medical insurance card. Parents make payments towards camp beginning in January of each year, with a final payment due in May or June.

Courts of Honor: A Court of Honor is held to accord formal recognition for the accomplishments of each Scout. Ceremonies are for all Scouts and their families. Parent attendance at the Court of Honor shows your son that you recognize and appreciate the hard work he's done to earn his ranks and merit badges. Our Troop has a Court of Honor usually each quarter, in March, June, September and December. After each Court of Honor we have a potluck celebration in which we ask all families to bring a potluck dish to share. When a Scout earns the

rank of Eagle, a special Court of Honor is held. Eagle Courts of Honor are planned by the Scout and his family, with some help from the Troop. Attendance is by invitation.

Boy Scout Insignia



Only five medals may be worn at a time, pinned in a single row immediately above the seam of the left pocket.

BOY SCOUT PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION

U.S. flag emblem, cloth, red, white, and blue, No. 00103, Boy Scout and Boy Scout leader, right sleeve, position 1, just below shoulder seam. New uniforms have this emblem already sewn in the correct position.

Lone Scout emblem, cloth, red and black on khaki, No. 00352, Lone Boy Scout, left sleeve, position 2.

Council shoulder emblem, cloth, No. 16xxx (last three digits indicate the council number), Boy Scout and Boy Scout leader, left sleeve, position 1, just below shoulder seam.

Venture strip, cloth, red on tan, No. 00019, above Boy Scouts

of America strip or above interpreter strip.

Veteran unit bars, cloth, Boy Scout and Boy Scout leader, left sleeve, position 2a; 25 years, No. 00133; 50 years, No. 00105; 55 years, No. 00194; 60 years, No. 00195; 65 years, No. 00196; 70 years, No. 00197; 75 years, No. 00107; 80 years, No. 00198.

Unit number, cloth, white on red, Nos. 10400 through 10408 (last digit indicates the unit number for 0 through 8); for unit number 9, order No. 10406, Boy Scout and Boy Scout leader, left sleeve, position 2, touching council shoulder emblem if veteran unit bar is not

worn. Multiple-digit numbers may be special-ordered—2-digit, No. 10409; 3-digit, No. 10410; 4-digit, No. 10411.

Patrol emblem, cloth, 39 different emblems; blank to make your own design, No. 10240; Boy Scout, right sleeve, position 2. See specific emblem for correct number.

Order of the Arrow identification, lodge insignia fits shape of right pocket flap. Order of the Arrow membership emblem, No. 00001, suspended from right pocket button. Appropriate OA honor sash worn over right shoulder—under epaulet of tan shirt—diagonally across chest to left waist. See page 45.

