

TROOP 975



Livermore, California

Scout Guide

Twin Valley District
San Francisco Bay Area Council

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Welcome to Troop 975

INTRODUCTION

This Scout Guide will give you information on Scouting, how Troop 975 operates and what you can expect in your first year of Scouting. In the back of this binder is a Parent Guide with information about the Troop for your parents.

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 975

In Boy Scouts you will find many differences from your Cub Scouting days. Scouts do fewer crafts than Cubs. The Troop has a lot more outdoor activities, like camping, hiking, skiing, canoeing, and high adventure outings.

In Cub Scouting, the adults planned and ran most of the meetings and activities. In Boy Scouting, the Scouts learn and do most of these things themselves. The goal of Troop 975 is to help you develop your leadership and planning skills.

The Scouts choose our activities. Adults Leaders are here to help organize outings and make reservations, but the Scouts are responsible for planning menus, setting up and breaking down camp, cooking, cleaning and scheduling.

Scouts also plan the troop meetings and do most of the skills instruction. You will learn knots, first-aid, map and compass and other skills from the older Scouts. As you become an experienced Scout who has mastered basic Scout skills, you will find yourself teaching younger Scouts who come after you. As you grow, you will also take on leadership duties, perhaps by becoming an Assistant Patrol Leader, a Patrol Leader, and perhaps in a few years, the Senior Patrol Leader.

Boy Scouts learn a lot about taking care of themselves, organization, emergency procedures, self-reliance in the outdoors, self-confidence, and leadership. A big part of your Scouting Adventure is learning to work as part of the Scouting team.

WHAT'S NEXT

Now that you're a Scout, you're also a part of a Patrol. Jump right in. Your patrol will decide on a Patrol Name, start working on a Patrol Flag, and a Patrol Yell, and you are now a part of that process. Learn your Patrol Leader's name and be sure you have his phone number. He is the first person to call when you don't understand something, and he will be helping you work on the requirements of your Tenderfoot Badge.

You should have a Boy Scout Handbook. It is full of information about Scouting and Scout skills. It is also where you will learn about the requirements for rank advancement and get those requirements signed off. Start with the section on Tenderfoot. Read it and be sure you understand the requirements. Now is the time to start working on them. There will be opportunities to work on these skills at Troop meetings and at the next Troop campout.

TROOP ORGANIZATION

Troop 975 belongs to the Twin Valley District of the San Francisco Bay Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. Our Troop was founded in 1971, and is chartered to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The Odd Fellows is a Livermore community service group.

Meeting Times – The Troop meets every Tuesday from 7:00 - 8:30 in the multipurpose room at Joe Michell Elementary School, 1001 Elaine Ave. We do not have regular weekly meetings during summer months, spring break and over the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Troop Parent Committee – Parents meet once a month so that everyone can keep up with Troop activities. The Parent Committee also publishes the newsletter, manages Troop money, fund raising activities, permits for outings, records, Troop equipment and other things. This lets the Scoutmaster concentrate on working with the Scouts instead of worrying about running the business of the Troop.

Adult Leadership - The Scoutmaster is the adult leader of the troop. He is supported by the Assistant Scoutmasters.

Boy Leadership – Troop 975 is what is called a boy-run troop. All troop meetings and activities are planned and done by the Scouts. Adults help organize, make reservations, oversee safety and drive, but the Scouts are responsible for planning activities, menus, setting up camp, cleaning and scheduling.

Twice a year the Scouts elect a Senior Patrol Leader, two Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders and Patrol Leaders. These are the senior elected leaders of the troop. Some other general troop offices are elected or appointed by the SPL, including Librarian, Scribe, Historian, Quartermaster, Chaplain's Aide and Bugler. Once you have earned First Class you can talk to the Senior Patrol Leader about holding one these offices.

Patrols - The Patrol Method is one of the basic ideas of Boy Scouting. The troop is organized into patrols of 8 to 10 Scouts each that work as a unit on campouts, in skills instruction and in competition. Patrol members choose a Patrol Leader who is responsible for overseeing (not doing) all the necessary plans for each outing, like menus, food, tents, and drivers. The Scouts elect an Assistant Patrol Leader, who serves as Patrol Leader in the PL's absence. Once you have earned Second Class you might want to run for Assistant Patrol Leader and begin to take more responsibility for your Patrol.

We also have a Venture patrol, which you can join once you are fourteen and have earned the rank of Star. In addition to regular Troop activities, the Venture patrol participates in high adventure outings. Venture patrol Scouts serve as Troop Guides, acting as advisors to regular patrols.

TROOP ACTIVITIES

Calendar - You can look at the Troop calendar on the website at www.troop975.org. This will let you and your parents know what is coming up.

Planning - Troop Activities are planned by the Patrol Leader's Council, made up of the Senior Patrol Leader, the Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders and the Patrol Leaders. They meet once a month to work out the details of activities.

Camping trips are scheduled almost every month. Often, our campouts will have a theme, which will relate to things you have been working on at Troop meetings, like building pioneering projects after learning how to lash, tie knots and make rope.

Outings - There are several outings that we engage in almost every year, including:

- Spring Camporee with all the troops in Twin Valley District
- Summer Camp, a week at Camp Royaneh in July
- Snow Camp, a troop trip to the Sierras after winter skills instruction
- Ski Trip, each spring on an teacher work day
- Summer high adventure trip to Philmont, Boundary Waters, etc.
- Wente family camp each Memorial Day weekend
- Sunset Beach a perennial favorite weekend campout each September

Many other outings are planned for the year, including shooting sports weekends, interesting tours and Rim of the Bay hikes which go up each of the highest peaks in the Bay Area. We try to vary the hiking schedule from year to year so that you can earn patches for all of the Rim hikes in a 3-year period. Your family is invited on some of the less strenuous hikes.

Camping - Each Scout is expected to provide his own personal equipment on campouts. A checklist of equipment you will need is included in this guide. Our winter activities always include a winter awareness seminar, special weather training, and inspections to insure that you have adequate clothing and sleeping bags for snow camping.

Service - Service to the community is an important part of Scouting. We join the Scouting for Food drive in November and other projects throughout the year benefiting schools, churches and the community. Each Scout working on his Eagle Badge will organize a major service project; you will be asked to help out on those projects.

Fund Raising - The troop participates in several fundraising activities like cleaning up the stands at the Livermore Rodeo, Christmas tree recycling, and Troop garage sales. These activities raise money for the Troop, and allow you to earn money for your Scout Account.

Scout Accounts - The Troop keeps a record of your participation in fund raisers, and a portion of the money raised goes into your Scout Account. You can use the money in your account to pay for outings, summer camp, dues, uniforms and equipment. Your parents are kept up to date on your account at the monthly Parent Committee meetings.

ADVANCEMENT

Before you can begin working on rank advancement you must first become a Scout. You will do this simply by meeting the age requirement, recite the Pledge of Allegiance, demonstrate the Scout Sign, Salute and Handshake, demonstrate tying the square knot, understand and agree to live by the Scout Oath and Law, describe the scout badge and have a Scoutmaster conference. The Scoutmaster conference is a meeting between you and the Scoutmaster to let him be sure that you are ready to advance.

The Ranks are Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle.

Here is the process you follow to earn a new rank.

A Scout Learns – You will learn from the Troop leadership, your Patrol Leader and other scouts, from your Scout Handbook, and from trying and doing things in meetings and on outings. Remember, it is your responsibility to ask questions and seek help when you need it.

A Scout is Tested – When you want to complete a requirement you must demonstrate to a leader that you have mastered a scout skill. A leader can be the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Troop Guides, an Assistant Scoutmaster, or even the Scoutmaster. Upon successfully demonstrating the scout skill you will need to have the leader sign that requirement in your book. You should bring your handbook to every meeting and outing. **It is your responsibility to get requirements signed off in your handbook.**

A Scout is Reviewed – Once you have completed all of the requirements for any rank from Tenderfoot through Life your progress will be reviewed by a Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster at a Scoutmaster Conference. After that you will be required to present yourself to at a Board of Review made up of parents in the troop. This is not a test. It is an opportunity to let parents see that you are advancing and to talk to you about how you are doing in the troop.

A Scout is Recognized – Once you complete your Board of Review you will be recognized within two weeks by receiving your new rank badge at a troop meeting. Later you will be recognized again at a Troop Court of Honor which is held two to three times a year. The Court of Honor is attended by parents and family. You will also receive any merit badges earned and other awards during the Court of Honor.

Merit Badges – Once you are at work on your Tenderfoot Badge you may begin working on merit badges. You may work on merit badges by yourself, at camp or in merit badge classes offered by the troop.

The steps in working on and earning a merit badge are as follows:

1. You must request permission to work on a Merit Badge from the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster will give you a Blue Card which will let you and your merit

badge counselor track your progress on the badge. The Scoutmaster will also give you the name and number of merit badge counselors for the badge you're working on.

2. Next you contact the merit badge counselor and arrange for a time and place to meet with the counselor to work on the requirements of the merit badge.
3. You continue to work on requirements with your counselor or by yourself, staying in touch your counselor as you progress.
4. As complete the requirements of the Merit Badge the counselor will sign them off on your Blue Card.
5. Last, you will take the Blue Card back to the Scoutmaster for his signature.
6. The Scoutmaster will get the badge for you and present it to you at the next Court of Honor. You will receive a part of the Blue Card when you earn a merit badge. You should put it in the card page included in this binder so that you will not lose them.

Newsletter - The Parent Committee Secretary sends out a newsletter every month. The newsletter is also posted on the troop website. It's good for you and your parents to read the newsletter each month.

Website – Our website is at www.troop975.org. Through the website you can view the newsletter, the troop calendar, special announcements, and forms, such as medical forms, permission slips and others that you and your parents might need.

Information for outings along with permission slips are typically distributed in advance at Scout meetings and will also be available via the Website.

eMail – Troop Information will usually distributed via email. If for some reason you are not receiving email from the troop please contact the Committee Chair to verify that we have your correct email.

UNIFORM

You should wear your uniform to all Troop Meetings. The Scout uniform helps to achieve the objectives of Scouting. The uniform by itself can not make a good Scout or a good Troop, but its use has been proven to improve both the Scout and the Troop because it is a visible symbol of Scouting and unity. Each Scout should have and wear the following "Class A" uniform items:

- Tan Scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches (San Francisco Bay Area Council patch, World Brotherhood of Scouting patch and red shoulder loops)
- Troop numbers 9 7 5
- A red BSA neckerchief is given to all new Scouts by the Troop. When a Scout achieves the rank of Tenderfoot he is given a blue troop neckerchief.
- White Woggle slide (Given to all new Scouts by the Troop)
- Olive Scout pants or shorts.
- Olive and red Boy Scout Socks.

- Troop 975 Hat (available from the Troop store)
- Olive Scout belt and buckle.
- Troop 975 Slide (Recommended - available from the Troop Store)
- Troop 975 T-Shirt (Recommended - available from the Troop Store)

Full “Class A” uniform is required for events such as Summer Camp, Camporee, Scout-O-Rama and other events where the troop is presenting itself in public.

During troop meetings Scouts may wear a modified “Class A” uniform with:

- BSA neckerchief and slide of Scout’s choice
- Jeans
- Scout cap or hat

For activities where the uniform might be damaged, such as service projects, hiking, and camping, Scouts may wear a "Class B" Uniform consisting of:

- Troop 975 T-Shirt (available from the Troop Store)
- Blue Jeans or Scout shorts
- Scout cap or hat

If you have questions about the uniform, don’t hesitate to ask your Patrol Leader.

TROOP STORE

The Troop Store sells troop neckerchiefs, slides, hats and Class B T-Shirts.

Price List

A. Troop Neckerchief	\$5.00
B. Troop Slide	\$5.00
C. Troop Hat	\$10.00
D. Troop T-Shirt	\$10.00

Package Deal -Troop Hat and 2 Troop T-Shirts \$25.00



RECORD KEEPING

You should bring your Boy Scout Handbook to every troop meeting and outing. Your Scout Book is your record of your advancement, and is full of information that can help you learn Scouting skills. Most of your requirements and information needed to advance are right in your Scout Book. It is your responsibility to bring your book to meetings and not lose your book. It is a good idea to make periodic copies of your rank check off pages on a regular basis in case your book does get lost.

Along with your Handbook we have provided in your binder one page of baseball cardholders. You should have a separate pages for your rank advancement, another for merit badges and other awards. It is not a bad idea to add another page to include your Cub Scout Awards.

In these holders you should place your advancement cards awarded to you at the Court of Honors, your Blue Cards, and Rank Badges not currently being worn on the uniform.

We have also included a Scout Activity Record sheet. Track all your outings, service hours, training hours and other activities on this sheet. You will need to keep track of your camping nights, service project hours, hiking and boating miles as well as your training record.

If you have any questions please call your Patrol Leader, the Senior Patrol Leader or the Scoutmaster.

