



**BOY SCOUT
TROOP 11**

**SCOUT AND PARENT QUICK START GUIDE
A Guide to Scouting with Troop 11**

Chartered by Alyn Butler American Legion Post 169

Continuously serving Roseville since 1924

September 2022

Welcome!

We extend a warm welcome to both you and your child as new members of the Troop 11 family. This handbook was compiled and written to help you understand

Scouting in general and to inform you about how our Troop operates. Your understanding of the Troop's mission, procedures, and activities will enrich your own experience and will go a long way in ensuring a meaningful and productive experience for your Scout.

Troop 11 is a Scout run, Leader mentored and Parent supported Troop. Your Scout's success and that of the Troop depends on your engagement and support.

**Yours in Scouting
All of us at Troop 11**

History of Scouting

The Scouting movement was started in England in the early 1900s by Lord Robert Baden-Powell, a retired British Army general famous for his leadership during the Boer War in South Africa. Scouting brought together skills that Baden-Powell had developed as a Scout and his years of experience in training soldiers. The movement came to America in 1912 when an American businessman, Mr. William Boyce learned about Scouting during a trip to England and fashioned a similar program upon his return to the United States. Scouting today continues to embody the same principles of integrity, and service to God, country and others that were the cornerstones of the program set forth by Lord Baden-Powell.

Every Scout takes the following oath and is expected to live its principles in their daily life:

"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."

Additionally, each Scout is expected to follow the 12 points of the Scout Law: "A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent."

The opening chapters of the Scout Handbook serve as an excellent introduction to the Scout program and are a must read for any new Scout family. Additionally, Troop 11 maintains a website with information applicable to both new and seasoned Scouts. We highly recommend that everyone take the time to surf through the site. A monthly newsletter is also sent out with a calendar of events and updates. Following are a few highlights of the Scouts and Troop 11 program to get you started:

Webelos to Scouts Transition Program Differences:

It is important to note that Scouts is not a continuation of the Cub Scout program, but a program with a major shift in emphasis. Specifically, Cub Scouts is a parent-led program, and Scouts is a Scout-led program. Scouts are mentored by the leaders and the Troop is supported by Troop families. The following table breaks down some of the specific differences:

Topic	Cub Scout	Scout
Meetings	Two monthly Den meetings and one monthly Pack meeting	Weekly Troop meetings, at least one monthly campout/outing
Meetings Planned By	Adult leaders (Den Leader, Cubmaster, etc...)	Patrol Leader's Council (Senior Patrol Leader, Asst. Senior Patrol Leaders, Patrol Leaders, etc...)
Meetings Conducted By	Cubmaster (Pack meetings) Den Leader (Den meetings)	Senior Patrol Leader, supported by adult leaders – Senior Patrol Leader is elected by the Troop.
Organization	Scouts broken up into Dens based on grade.	New Scouts are oriented as a group. After a few months, new Scouts are integrated into the current patrols.
Scouts Led By	Den Leader (adult)	Patrol Leader (Scout elected by Scout's patrol)
Campouts/Outings	Planned and coordinated by adults. Adult partner required with each Scout. Meals planned and prepared by adults.	Activities chosen by Patrol Leader's Council; planning overseen by committee. At least two adults required for each outing. Typically meals are planned and prepared by each Patrol.
Advancement	Adult (Akaela) works with the Scout and signs off on the advancement.	Scout plans own advancement with support from adult leaders and parents. Achievements signed off by peers. Participates in a Scoutmaster conference and Board of Review.

In Cub Scouts, the Cubmaster is like the “Master of Ceremonies” and is the focal point for Pack meetings. In Scouts, the Scoutmaster is an “advisor” or “coach” who works with the junior leaders to help them plan and run the program. This is an important distinction to understand, since the Scout-led Troop meeting sometimes looks unplanned and/or chaotic, but is really the result of the Scouts trying some new things, learning, and making mistakes.

The New Scout

When a Scout joins the Troop, the Scout is placed in a Patrol. Each patrol is led by a Patrol Leader (a Scout). An adult from the Troop is assigned to each patrol and functions as a parent contact for the patrol.

An older Scout may be assigned to new Scouts as a "Patrol Guide" to help the new Scouts feel welcome and adjust to the Troop and its activities.

With the assistance of the Patrol Leader and Patrol Guide, new Scouts quickly make friends and become familiar with Scouting and the Troop.

It is particularly important for new Scouts to attend all regular Troop meetings and as many camping trips and outings as possible so that they quickly get a solid understanding of the breadth of the Scouting experience, their own role in the Troop, and the value of working on advancement.

The New Parent

We want our new parents to feel at home with the Troop from the very beginning. In fellowship, we provide our Scouts with the best that Scouting has to offer.

You are cordially invited to participate either as an adult leader or as an active parent. We welcome you and your ideas.

Many events are planned for the specific purpose of encouraging new parents to meet adult leaders and other parents in the Troop. Please attend as many of these gatherings as you can.

A Troop the size of Troop 11 depends on active adults in a variety of leadership and support roles. It is the Troop's expectation that every parent will assist in some way during the course of the Scouting year. Elsewhere in this handbook appears a roster of volunteer roles which parents can fill to make our program successful for all its families.

Scout Leadership and the Patrol Method

The Troop is run by the Scouts themselves under the guidance and mentoring of adult leaders. One of the underlying principles of the early Scouting program that still remains today is the "Patrol Method". Scouts work better together when divided into small groups of 5-10 – each patrol develops its own identity and has activities of its own apart from the Troop as a whole. A "New Scout Patrol" is formed from new Scouts crossing over from Webelos or just joining Scouts. This allows them to focus on basic Scouting skills. Each patrol is headed up by a Troop Guide who serves as their Patrol Leader for the first few months they are in the Troop. This helps the new Scouts learn about the program and to understand what a Patrol Leader does before having to take that role on themselves. Patrols work together to plan and cook meals at most campouts, compete together at some outings, and work together for service projects and fundraisers. A "Patrol Leaders' Council" consisting of the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Patrol Leaders meets monthly to plan Troop activities.

The Patrol Leader

The patrol leader is responsible for seeing that many things are done. The position of patrol leader, therefore, is a leadership opportunity for Scouts with their peers.



The Senior Patrol Leader (often referred to as the "SPL")

The Senior Patrol Leader is usually an older Scout who holds the rank of Star or higher and who is elected by the Scouts to serve a one-year term. The Senior Patrol Leader, with the assistance of the patrol leaders and members of the senior patrol, plans and leads all activities at the Scout level. The Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmasters are advisors to the patrol leader's council. The Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leaders for each patrol are elected by the Troop twice a year.

Patrol Leaders' Council (often referred to as the “PLC”)

The council consists of the senior patrol leader, members of the senior patrol, and the patrol leaders. The council meets monthly to plan upcoming Troop meetings and camping trips as well as other Troop activities. At present, the Patrol Leaders' Council meets on the first Sunday of each month at 7 p.m.



The Patrol Advisor

Patrols may be assigned a patrol advisor who is a registered assistant Scoutmaster trained to function as an effective adult leader. The patrol advisor does not run the patrol but serves as a resource person for the patrol leader and members of the patrol. The advisor consults with the Scouts on any Scouting topic. The patrol advisor also keeps parents of Scouts in the patrol fully informed about what is going on, what activity deadlines are nearing, and other necessary information.

Troop Meetings

The Troop meets each Wednesday from 7:00 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. in the lower hall at the Veterans Hall at Royer Park in Roseville.

Troop meetings concentrate on skill development, patrol involvement, competition, games, and fun activities. The Patrol Leaders' Council plans each meeting around a specific theme. All patrols are responsible for setting up and taking down the Hall.

At 8:15 p.m., the Troop concludes its meetings with “circle time” where Scouts and their parents can get updated on upcoming events and other matters. This short gathering provides parents with an opportunity to hear and obtain clarifications about Troop activities and issues.

Scout Uniform

The uniform makes the Scout Troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Wearing the uniform is an action that

shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform identifies each Scout and adult leader as a member of the world's largest youth group -- just as a baseball uniform identifies members of a baseball team. The uniform serves as practical attire to be worn during selected Scout activities, and it provides a vehicle for the display of badges and awards earned by Scouts.

There are two uniforms: Field Uniform and Activity Uniform. The Field Uniform (occasionally referred to Class A) is the shirt, pants, belt, socks (if wearing shorts) neckerchief and hat. The Activity Uniform (occasionally referred to as Class B) is the t-shirt, pants, and socks (if wearing shorts).

Each Scout is required to have a complete "class A" uniform and to wear it during Troop meetings, while travelling to and from camping sites, official Scout activities and on other occasions.

Uniform Purchase

The Troop maintains a "Uniform Closet." Before you purchase a new uniform, first take a look at the uniforms here to see if there is a fit. You may be able to purchase shirts, pants, or shorts at significant savings. If you prefer a new uniform, they are available at the Council Shop or can be purchased online at: <https://www.scoutshop.org/uniforms-and-apparel>.

The Scout Shop is located at:

251 Commerce Circle, Sacramento CA 95815

Telephone (916) 649-1800

Fax (916) 649-1177

Hours of Operation:

Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday 10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Shipping Available – call store for details

Neckerchiefs, Troop 11 Hat, Epaulets, Troop Number Patch and Class B Shirt are provided to all Scouts by the Troop and are given soon after a new Scout joins the Troop at the first meeting or the Blue & Gold Dinner.

Equipment

Please consult one of the adult leaders before purchasing camping equipment such as sleeping bags. We can advise you about the type of equipment you will need and other features to look for in camping gear. Likewise, we may be able to give you information on where to get the best price. The last page of this handbook as a Recommended Camping Equipment List and Guidelines. If the Scout goes backpacking, we recommend renting from REI or borrowing one for the short term until the Scout grows and decides if backpacking is something he wishes to pursue, and then an investment in a good-quality backpack may be made.



Troop Committee

The Scoutmaster and assistants provide adult leadership for the Troop and help the Scouts to select, organize, and conduct their activities. Additionally, the Troop has a Troop Committee – a sort of “board of directors” that approves, oversees, and helps conduct the Troop's Scouting program. All parents of Scouts are invited to join the Troop Committee, and we highly recommend that a parent of each Scout attend the monthly committee meetings which are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Our Troop is sponsored by the American Legion Post 169. The American Legion Post provides us with a place to meet and other assistance as needed. Our liaison to the American Legion Post is the Chartered Organization Representative. Finally, there is an extensive Scout organization above the Troop level made up of both volunteer and professional Scouters who help conduct the Scouting program.

Troop Structure

Scoutmaster (SM) – Adult Leader

Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM) – Adult Leaders

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) & Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) - Scouts that are elected by Troop

Patrol Leader (PL) - Scout that is elected by Patrol

Troop Facebook Page

The Troop has a Facebook page that is accessible by invitation only. Please look for Troop 11 – Roseville, California and ask to join. It contains pictures of recent trips, throwback photos and information on events. The only people who may view the page are invited guests who are immediate family members of the Scouts.

Communication

Communication is a Top Down and Bottom Up style, meaning the message to the Scouts is often filtered down the leadership tree from the Scoutmaster to the Senior Patrol Leader to Patrol Leaders then to the Scouts. Often the message is communicated via email and a phone tree where your Scout will receive a call from the Patrol Leader. If a Scout has questions, we encourage the Scout to ask their Patrol Leader, who then will ask up the chain of command.

Outdoor Activities

Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at Troop meetings come alive with purpose and Scouts achieve advancement skills. The outdoors is the laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources. The destination of each trip, the cost to Scouts, suggested clothing/equipment, and other useful information are all announced well in advance. For every activity there is a sign-up sheet. The sign-up sheet is usually available 2-4 weeks in advance. Sometimes there are limited slots that are available. There is often a deadline date where changes (additions/subtractions) can no longer be made and refunds cannot be given. Scouts are required to register for each trip and pay any fees ahead of time. If a Scout commits to a trip and any costs are expended based upon that commitment, the Scout is responsible for paying those costs whether they attend the event or not. In addition to camping trips, a number of day trips are scheduled during the year.

We encourage trained adults to attend these outings (space provided), but remember to leave the Mom or Dad hat behind. You can interact with your Scout, but allow the Scout to experience the outing and the patrol method with the Troop; the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster can help clarify your role as an adult on the outing.

Transportation for Camping Trips

Each Troop 11 family may be asked to drive on at least two short trips (or one long trip) per year. Sign-ups are taken on an as needed basis at Troop meetings and via email. Your cooperation in this regard allows the Troop to provide safe and economical travel to and from its destinations.

The Troop provides drivers with detailed maps which are distributed before each trip to assist adults in locating the camps.

Summer Camp

Our annual summer camp is a fun-filled activity planned for a seven-to-10-day period -- typically during July.

The cost of the summer trip is modest and is partially defrayed by proceeds from fundraising events.

It is strongly recommended that every Scout attend summer camp. **It is one of the most important activities of the Scout year.** Summer camp is an ideal place where many of the First Class and Eagle required merit badges can be earned or started.

Cost of Scouting

When a new Scout joins the Troop, a fee is paid (currently up to \$277) to cover the cost of the Troop neckerchief and Troop 11 bucket hat which the Scout will receive, the first year registration fees, and a one-year optional subscription to Scout's Life magazine. This is a one-time fee for each new (or transferring) Scout. Subsequent years' registration fees can be paid through the Troop using money individual Scouts have collected through various fund-raising efforts.

The Troop allows the Scouts to raise their own money for events and registration costs through a year 'round program of fundraising events and activities.

Youth Protection and Safety

BSA has an extensive set of guidelines concerning safety in the Scouting program and Scouting has an excellent safety record. Also, youth protection guidelines

require that at least two adults must be present at all Scouting activities and under no circumstances will an adult be left one on one with a Scout who is not their Scout. Likewise, Scouts participating in activities where they will be meeting with an adult (e.g. merit badge counselor) must bring a buddy along or the activity cannot take place.

Fundraising

Scouting is made affordable through the Troop's fundraising efforts. The cost of camping trips as well as summer camp is partially paid by the Troop from its fundraising proceeds.

The Troop has purchased all necessary Troop equipment such as tents, tarps, stoves, and lanterns. Again, fundraising efforts make this possible.

Fundraising requires Scout and parent support -- and participation. The Troop relies on the following fundraisers:

- See's Candy (Seasonal if requested)
- Christmas Tree Pick-Up
- Camp Cards
- Popcorn
- Pancake Breakfast (December)
- E-Waste (on-going and voluntary)

For some of the fundraisers, money is "credited" to each Scout for their Scout accounts, in other fundraisers, the money raised goes to the Troop general fund to defray the costs associated with equipment, advancements and the like. We expect each family to support the fundraising efforts of the Troop since the funds support all members through subsidies and Troop operation expenses.

Court of Honor

The court of honor ceremony is held two to three times per year to officially recognize and present to each Scout the badges or ranks the Scout has earned. All Troop families are invited to attend the ceremony -- and, in fact, excellent adult attendance goes a long way in making these evenings special for the Scouts.



Service Projects

To earn certain badges of rank, a Scout is required to work on or perform a service project. If your Scout is working on such a project, please know that it has been reviewed and approved in advance by the Troop committee after a thorough investigation. It is a policy of the Troop that service projects receive appropriate supervision.

Scouts undertaking service projects typically recruit help from their fellow Scouts who can use their participation in many cases toward advancement

Rank Advancement

Scouting provides a series of personal growth opportunities and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Scout plans their advancement and progresses at their own pace as each challenge is met. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps the Scout gain self-confidence and grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others. Upon completing the joining requirements, a Scout becomes a "Scout" and begins their advancement trail. Basic "Scoutcraft" (e.g. camping, first aid, nature) skills are emphasized in the first three ranks: Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. While Scouts can simultaneously work on the requirements for each rank, the actual ranks must be earned in order. Each requires demonstration of certain skills, completion of a number of service hours, and Troop activities. Upon completion of the requirements, each Scout will have a Scoutmaster Conference to review the Scout's readiness to advance, and a "Board of Review" – presenting themselves before a board of committee members for final approval. After achieving First Class rank, advancement requirements are based primarily on "Merit Badges", service hours, and successful participation in Troop leadership positions. Merit Badges require completion of certain requirements related to a skill, hobby, or avocation (e.g. Camping, Coin Collecting, Cooking, Aviation, etc.). A Scout has to demonstrate completion of the requirements to a "merit badge counselor" – an adult specifically designated to help with a particular merit badge. A list of current Troop 11 merit badge counselors can be obtained from the Troop Advancement Coordinator. Detailed information about merit badges can be found at the website usScouts.org, a link to this website can be found on the Troop 11 Website. Prior to beginning a new merit badge the Scout must ask the

Scoutmaster's permission to begin the badge and obtain a 'blue card,' the document that records the Scout's progress in completing the merit badge. Scouts should seek an adult leader's guidance and familiarize himself with these procedures *before* beginning work on a merit badge – to do otherwise could result in a Scout's effort not being recognized for fulfilling merit badge requirements.

Advancement

As the Scout completes activities and achievements, the Scout fills out the Scout book and gets it signed off by a Scout who has already achieved the rank of First Class or if the Scout working on the advancement is already a First Class Scout, a higher ranking Scout. All activities and achievements need to be entered into the Red Binder by the Scout. When the Scout is ready to obtain the rank, the Scout should get a copy of the Advancements Check List. This list provides the Scout with a process to follow to schedule a Scoutmaster conference with the Scoutmaster. When the Scoutmaster conference is completed, the Scout then schedules a Board of Review with the Advancement Coordinator.

Red Binder

The Red Advancement Binder is where the Scouts record their advancements. This Binder is maintained by the Advancement Coordinator and is available by seeking out the Advancement Coordinator at the meeting. If the Scout does not enter the advancements in the Red Binder the Advancement chair cannot award the advancement. In addition the reports made by the Advancement Coordinator to the Troop will not be accurate if the Scouts do not record their progress in a timely manner.

Scoutmaster Conference

The second to last task in receiving rank advancement is to meet with the Scoutmaster. The purpose of this meeting is to assess whether the Scout has completed the tasks and requirement, get an understanding of how it went, and if he has any questions or concerns.

Board of Review

The Board of Review is the last task in receiving the rank advancement. The Scout schedules this with the advancement chair. Boards of Review are conducted during Troop meetings. The board consists of 3-4 committee members. The purpose of the review is to not test the Scout, but to engage the Scout in a discussion – like a mini job interview. The Scout should be wearing the full Field Uniform, including the hat.

Merit Badge Counseling

When a Scout wishes to earn a merit badge, the Scout must first meet with an adult counselor. Counselors are recruited and identified for each badge offered by the BSA. The Troop maintains a directory of these adults. In no case shall a Scout meet with a merit badge counselor alone. Each Scout should have a buddy or parent with them, or should meet in a public place.

The requirements for each of the over 100 badges available are contained in a merit badge booklet bearing the badge title. These booklets may be purchased at the Scout Shop at Scout Headquarters. The Troop also maintains a library of merit badge booklets, which Scouts may borrow.

Personal Growth

As Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Scouts grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. No device is so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with the Scoutmaster help each Scout to determine their growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development

Every Scout has the opportunity, and is encouraged to learn, practice, and participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the

concepts of leadership helps a Scout accept the leadership role of others and guides the Scout toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Safety

Troop 11 adult leaders have been trained and are experienced in providing a safe environment for all activities. Exceptional care is always taken to ensure the safety of everyone. The Troop also pays for each assistant Scoutmaster to have a federal and state criminal background check completed. This is done both for the safety of the Scouts, parents, and leaders.

Medical Forms/Accident Insurance

When you join Troop 11, you are asked to complete a form on behalf of your Scout authorizing our adult leaders to obtain medical treatment for injuries. This form also serves as a permission slip for the Scout to attend the outing. The medical form must be updated before summer camp each year so that we know in advance about any physical restrictions. The form is available online at http://www.Scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_ABC.pdf. Scouts and their parents are expected to respond promptly to Troop requests for such exams. The current BSA policy indicates that a medical evaluation form be filled out yearly.

The Troop maintains an accident insurance policy which covers the cost of any medical bills not covered by any other insurance.

Annual Parent's Meeting

In the spring of each year, the Troop holds a mandatory annual parent's meeting. One parent from each family is expected to attend. At this meeting, the annual Troop program is presented, a discussion of the past year is held, and a presentation regarding the Troop is made.

Any issues, concerns, or questions can be brought forward at this meeting and discussed.

A FEW MORE RULES OF NOTE:

Scouts are not allowed to carry or use knives, hatchets, saws, or other cutting tools until they have received their “Totin’ Chit” card following completion of a hands-on safety course. Additionally, Scouts cannot carry any knife with a blade exceeding four inches or any fixed blade knife. Switchblade knives are also not allowed. Scouts cannot carry matches or build fires until receiving their “Fire Chit” certifying completion of a fire safety course. Troop 11 does not allow the use of any cell phones, electronic games, or music players during any outdoor activity. Also, although Troop 11 allows some flexibility in the wear of the uniform (see the by-laws for rules), we adhere to the BSA guidelines against the wearing of camouflage clothing during BSA activities.

A SCOUT'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

Scouting teaches responsibility. A Scout is expected to take responsibility for their own Scouting career – seeking advancement, learning, and leadership. Adult leaders help guide the Scout, but it is up to the Scout to contribute to their own advancement and Troop leadership. Scouts help their fellow Scouts by being both good leaders and good followers and always follow the 12 points of the Scout Law.

Scout Led does not mean they are on their own. The adult leaders are there to help guide and their parents are there to support and encourage the Scouts. **Do not settle for we did “stuff,” engage them in discussion about what they did and how they are progressing – that will help them be a better Scout.**

SCOUT LEADERS' RESPONSIBILITY:

Scout leaders help the Scouts on their Scouting journey – mentoring, demonstrating, and teaching. Leaders ensure a quality, safe, and enjoyable Scouting experience. Scouts learn from the example set by their adult leaders.

Now that you know a little about us, please ask us questions to learn even more!

Please keep this handbook in a safe place in your home so that you can consult it whenever you have a question -- but, in all cases, if you need information, **please ask!**

Yours in Scouting Troop 11



Recommended Camping Equipment List And Guidelines

Year 'round

Complete uniform	Mess kit (knife, fork spoon, cup, plate & bowl)
Pants	Air mattress or pad
Shirts	Canteen
Underwear	Headlamp with red light
Sweater or sweatshirt	Socks
Windbreaker jacket	Toilet articles – soap, toothbrush, etc.
Daily clothing	Watch
Raingear	Handbook
Shoes	Notebook & pencil
Sneakers	Matches (waterproof)
Compass	Sleeping bag (20-30 degrees)

Refer to Scout Handbook for specifics

Fall/Winter/Spring additions to above

Insulated underwear	Hat (wool for winter)
Coat/parka	Boots
Gloves/mittens	Blanket
Winter sleeping bag	Wool socks
Scarf	

Spring/Summer/Fall additions to above

Summer sleeping bag	Swim trunks
Shorts	Towel
Suntan lotion	Insect repellant

Optional Equipment List/Guidelines

Pillow	Camera
Sunglasses	Day pack
Play balls	Bible/prayer book
Cards	Binoculars
Fishing gear/license	Chapstick
Bottle/can opener	Wallet/money
Shoe or bootlaces	

*A general note when choosing clothing for your Scout, please avoid cotton fabrics. In some situations, cotton can pose a health danger to your Scout.