



Troop 3 Parent Guide

Alameda Council

This guide is intended to give Scout parents an understanding of what boys can expect from their scouting experience, what is expected of the boys, and the key role parents play in maintaining a successful troop.

Meetings

Regular troop meetings are held every Tuesday night from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at either Earhart School, Bay Farm School, or other location.

In addition, there is usually one camping trip or special activity scheduled each month. These events can be found in the troop calendar.

Courts of Honor are special meetings held a few times a year in place of a regular meeting. At these meetings, Scouts are presented with their rank advancements and merit badges. The entire family is encouraged to attend the Courts of Honor.

Uniforms

The Boy Scout Uniform is a key part of the scouting experience. Troop 3's uniform consists of the official Scout short sleeve shirt, red shoulder loops, long Scout pants, and Scout belt. The dark blue scout neckerchief is the official troop neckerchief.

Troop 3 has adopted a relaxed uniform policy for regular meetings, only requiring the Scout shirt to be worn, tucked in.

The full uniform is to be worn at ALL other scouting activities, including Courts of Honor, **Camporee, Webelos Woods**, camp outs, hikes, and special events including summer camp unless otherwise advised by the Scoutmaster.

While long Scout pants are preferred, some boys wear Scout shorts at warmer events. With shorts, Scouts are also required to wear Scout socks.

Scout Handbook

All boys are required to have the Boy Scout Handbook. The handbook is a valuable guide for many aspects of scouting. Scouts should bring their handbook, a small notebook and pen to **all** meetings and camping trips to record their accomplishments.

Patrols

After becoming members of the troop, each boy is assigned to a patrol. Patrols range in size from 6 to 10 boys. Patrol leaders are elected by the patrol members and positions are noted to provide leadership opportunities for all boys.

Patrols work as a unit in preparing for and attending troop events. For campouts, each patrol is responsible for a "patrol box" containing shared supplies such as a stove, pots, pans, utensils and other non-perishables. As a patrol, they plan their own menus, an assigned boy for each patrol will buy the food, and collect money from the other members. The cost of the meals for the campouts is shared equally among the members of the patrol. While on the campouts,



each patrol will cook their own meals, wash and clean their

cooking utensils and any pots and pans used.

Adult leaders accompanying the troop on camping events act as a separate patrol, while providing guidance to the scouts.

Parents are requested to help with driving the scouts to and from these campouts.

Parent Involvement

While the Scouting program prepares boys for leadership and independence, parent involvement at all levels is needed to provide the opportunities for Scouts to excel.

In addition to providing the needed supplies for scouting activities, parents:

- must complete the exercises in the pamphlet *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse* found in the front of Scout Handbook
- should review their son's progress recorded in their handbook and provide help and encouragement when appropriate
- **must** help with troop activities. Everyone is busy, but the troop will not function without parent participation, whether it is becoming a scoutmaster, driving, planning or making phone calls.



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Troop Committee

All parents are members of the troop committee and are strongly encouraged to attend the monthly meetings generally on the 2nd Monday of each month, 7:30 P.M., at Earhart School in the multi-purpose room or unless otherwise notified of a different time and place. This is how parents help guide the troop and stay informed of troop activities. Active, involved parents add to the quality of your Scout's experience

Rank and Advancement

Process

A cornerstone of the scouting program is the advancement in rank, leading to Eagle scout. Advancement is earned through individual achievements, the attainment of merit badges, community service and leadership in the troop.

Many requirements are done during troop activities, while some are done independently. There are four basic steps in Boy Scout advancement that apply to all six ranks:

Learning - A Scout learns skills by taking an active, hands-on part in troop and patrol meetings and outdoor programs.

Testing - When a Scout masters a skill, his achievement is recorded by his leaders.

Review - When a Scout completes all requirements for advancement, he meets with the Scoutmaster to ensure that all rank requirements have been met. If they have, the Scout next meets with a Board of Review, composed of three to six members of the Troop Committee. The Committee interviews the Scout, giving him the opportunity to talk about what work he has done and what he has learned. The interview is not a test, but is designed to encourage the Scout to progress further.

Recognition - After certification by the Board of Review, the Scout is awarded his new badge of rank at the next Court of Honor.

The First Year

The rank of **Scout** comes first. It requires that boys know Scouting basics like the Scout Law and Oath. Parents must complete the registration forms and complete the exercises in the pamphlet *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse and Drug*

Abuse. The information is found on pages 3-13 of the pamphlet in the front of the Boy scout handbook.

The next 3 ranks in Boy Scouting are **Tenderfoot**, **Second Class**, and **First Class**. The requirements are found in the Handbook. Boys are encouraged to earn these ranks by the end of the first summer camp but there are no deadlines. They are largely hands on requirements and progress through three levels of challenge. They can work on the requirements for all 3 at the same time but must earn the ranks in sequence.

The requirements are designed progressively so that, when a Scout reaches **First Class** rank, he will be a good outdoorsman; physically fit; active in his patrol and troop; informed and active as a citizen; and showing Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath and Law in his daily life.

Merit Badges

Merit badges are awarded to Scouts for fulfilling requirements in specific fields of interest. There are more than a hundred merit badges in subject areas including careers, sports, hobbies, and Scouting skills.

Merit badge counselors have expertise in the chosen subject and have registered with and been trained by the council. Scouts work with a counselor who guides the Scout and verifies that the work has been completed as required.

To work on a Merit Badge, a Scout must first obtain a "Blue Card" from the Scoutmaster, locate a qualified counselor for the badge, and return the completed "Blue Card" to the Scoutmaster after completing the badge requirements with the counselor.

Any registered Scout, regardless of rank, may work on any merit badge and receive the award when he earns it.

Twelve merit badges are specifically required for the rank of **Eagle**. These are listed in the Handbook.





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To the Top

The ranks of **Star** and **Life** require that Scouts continue to take on a leadership role in troop activities. Participation in service projects is also required.

The **Eagle** rank is the highest and requires completion of a total of 21 merit badges including the specified twelve.

Additionally, **Eagle** candidates must plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project (called the Eagle Project) helpful to any religious institution, school, or community.



Scout Supplies

Uniforms, other scouting supplies and the Scout Handbook are available from a number of sources including:

Alameda Council Office
1714 Everett Street, Alameda, CA 94501
510- 522-2772

East Bay Scout Shop
1001 Davis Street, San Leandro, CA 94517
510-614-2400

Boy Scout Catalog 800-323-0732

Other Activities

Important Council Events

All Scouts are strongly encouraged to participate in these four events each year:

- Summer Camp
- Camporee
- Scouting for Food
- Webelos Woods



Summer Camp

Each summer, Troop 3 participates in a week of camp sponsored by the council and attended by many other troops in the Council. The troop develops an individualized camp program to take full advantage of camp facilities, services, and staff.

Boys attending camp work on specific goals to achieve rank or earn merit badges, in addition to having fun. Troop 3 provides adult leadership for the week of resident camp.

Camporee

This is an annual weekend activity held in the Spring and sponsored by the Alameda Council in which the troops of the council gather to put their scouting talents to use and compete with the other troops for awards.

Scouting for Food

This annual service activity occurs on a Saturday each fall just before Thanksgiving, Scouts from all over Alameda work to gather food donations for the local food bank. This program has been a great success and is one way for Scouts to practice good citizenship and earn service hours for rank advancement and school requirements.

Webelos Woods

This annual event held in the Autumn is a one-night campout intended to provide a taste of Boy Scouting for 1st and 2nd year Webelos (Cub Scouts). Each troop sponsors one or more events in which Webelos participate.

Registration and Dues

Troop 3's annual registration fee is collected each year from each Scout and is due by November 15. This fee covers the annual Boy Scout registration fee (which includes insurance and a subscription to *Boy's Life* magazine), with the remainder used to offset Troop expenses for equipment, badges and some events.

\$50.00 per Scout for the scouting year January 1 through December 31. (\$25 for Eagle Scouts)
\$50.00 for year 2009 registered Scouts transferring from another unit (Webelos included) Camping / event fees:

A small fee is charged to each scout attending camping events to offset camp fees. **In addition, the food costs associated with each camping trip is shared equally among each patrol.**



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Calendar 2008/2009

Troop Meetings - Tuesdays 7:30 P.M.
Earhart School/Bay Farm School
(except school holidays)

October 7,14,21,28	April 14,21,28
November 4,18,25	May 5,12,19,26
December 2,9,16	June 2,9
January 13,20,27	July 8,15,22,29
February 3,10,17,24	August – Summer Camp
March 3,10,17,24,31	September

- Summer meetings location to be announced
- Alternative location:
 Buena Vista United Methodist Church
 2311 Buena Vista Avenue (near Park St)

Green Bar Meetings – Generally the second Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 P.M.
 (before the regular troop meeting)

Boards of Review
 September 23 & 30 / January 20 & 27 / May 19 & 26

Courts of Honor
 October 7 / February 3 / June 2

Special Events:

Scouting for Food (Keith Dong)	November 8 & 15
Pinewood Derby Cutout (Mel Lum)	December 2 & 9
Alameda Food Bank (Myra Lim)	December 23

Photography class (Martin Fong)	February
Guest speaker (USCG?)	March
Baseball game	June
Golf Tournament	June
White Water Rafting / Kayaking (Beth Pao)	June
Exploratorium (Beth Pao)	July
Relay for Life	July 27 - 28
A's Game	TBA

Camping:

Webelos Woods (Jon Ishibashi)	October 10 - 11
Ski Trip	January
Winter Camp	February
Hawk Ridge (Liz Russell)	March 13 -14
Big Basin (Mel Lum)	April
Camporee (Jon Ishibashi)	May 15 - 17
Backpacking (Mel Lum)	June
Eagle Camp	April 13 – 18, June 22 - 27
Summer Camp – Catalina (Jon)	August 16 - 22

Troop Committee Meetings - 7:30 P.M
Generally the second Monday of each month at Earhart School unless otherwise notified.

October 13	April 13
November 10	May 11
December 15*	June 8
January 12	July
February 9	August – No Meeting
March 9	September

* date moved due to holiday/school closure

Troop Leaders

Troop Committee Chairman
 Neal Adams

Scoutmaster
 Steve Teixeira

Assistant Scoutmasters

Kurtis Fong
 Martin Fong
 Bob Gay
 Michael Hinton
 Jon Ishibashi
 Colman Jung
 Aziz Khatri
 Samir Khatri
 Mel Lim
 Steve Hughson

Eagle Coach
 Colman Jung
 Aziz Khatri

Troop Committee Coordinators

Advancement	Jon Ishibashi
Treasurer	Colman Jung
FOS	Michael Gee
Popcorn Sale	Liz Russell
Scouting for Food	Keith Dong
Summer Camp	Jon Ishibashi
Recruitment	Martin Fong
Camporee	Jon Ishibashi
Registration	Rody Leow
Webmaster	Bill Bridge



Troop 3 Supplement

Weekly Meetings

Regular troop meetings are held every Tuesday night from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at either Earhart School (Packet Landing and Robert Davey Jr. Drive) or Bay Farm School.

Monthly Greenbar Meetings

Regular monthly meetings for patrol leaders and assistant patrol leaders only. The agenda is to go over activities for the up coming month. The meetings are held at either Earhart School or Bay Farm School every second Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise decided. The meetings start at 6:30, before the regular weekly troop meeting begins.

Merit Badge Procedures

Before any merit badge can be started, a "Blue Card" must be filled out and signed by Steve Teixeira. The Blue Card serves as a log and progress report for fulfilling the requirements of the merit badge. Before a merit badge can be award at the next Court of Honor, the Blue Card must be fully completely and signed off by both the scoutmaster and counselor and turned in to the scoutmaster before the Board of Review. The Board of Review is usually conducted 1 to 2 weeks before the Court of Honor.

The procedures with the Blue Cards are as follows:

- 1) Obtain a Blue Card from Steve Texeira with his signature on it.
- 2) Buy or obtain the merit badge book.
- 3) Locate and find the appropriate counselor.
- 4) Make an appointment and work with that counselor.
- 5) Complete all merit badge requirements as dictated in the merit badge book.
- 6) The counselor will sign off all requirements completed on the Blue Card.
- 7) After successful completion of all the requirements for that merit badge, the counselor will sign off the appropriate sections of the Blue Card. The counselor will keep for his records one section and return the remaining two back to the scout.
- 8) Present the remaining two sections to Steve Texeira and he will also sign off on the Blue Card. Of the remaining two sections, Steve will keep one and the scout will keep the other for his records.
- 9) The merit badge will be presented at the next Court of Honor.

Flag Ceremony and Cleanup

Each month a patrol is responsible for helping with the flag ceremony and another patrol for clean-up after the meeting. The annual calendar will indicate which patrols are responsible for that month.

Uniform Policy

A scout shirt (tucked in) is required for each weekly troop meeting. A full scout uniform or Class A uniform is required for Court of Honor, Camporee, Summer Camp, Webelos Woods, and any official scout activities. A full scout uniform consists of scout shirt, neckerchief, slide, scout pants or shorts, scout belt, and scout socks. When in doubt, ask the scoutmaster or any assistant scoutmasters.

Camping Trips

A permission slip form will be distributed a few weeks before the event. It must be completed and signed before or on the day of the event. In addition, there is usually a small fee associated with this event and must be received before or on the day we depart. This fee is to help offset costs associated with reserving the campsite.

Also, a scout or scouts from each patrol is responsible for buying the food for his patrol. The cost of the food is divided equally among each patrol attending the camping trip. It is due and payable to the scout who has purchased the food.



Troop 3 Supplement

Each scout is responsible for bringing along the following equipment for each campout:

- 1) Framed Backpack (external recommended)
- 2) Sleeping Bag
- 3) Sleeping Pad
- 4) Mess Kit (plate/bowl/cup/fork/spoon)
- 5) Small First Aid kit
- 6) A change of clothes
- 7) A small roll of toilet paper
- 8) Tooth Brush and tooth paste
- 9) Flashlight
- 10) Scout Uniform (Unless otherwise specified)
- 11) Scout Handbook
- 12) A water canteen

Note: A more detailed listing of camping equipment is located in the scout handbook.

Here are some places where supplies can be purchased:

- Scout Shop (Alameda or San Leandro)
- Sportsmart (San Leandro)
- Big Five (Alameda)
- REI (Berkeley)
- Any Mountain (Berkeley)

*Any Mountain stores offers discounts to Boys Scouts.

A Boys Scout card must be presented in order to receive discounts.

Tents, cooking stoves, and pots and pans will be provided by the troop.

We usually depart from Earhart School late afternoon on Fridays for the campouts. To help facilitate dinner for the boys, we ask that each boy bring their own bag dinner with them. This will help expedite the trip to the campsite.

There is to be no outside food at the campout, except otherwise pre-approved.

There will be no phone contact, unless it's an emergency.

Patrol Equipment

The Troop provides camping equipment for each patrol. It consist of a storage box, stove, lantern, propane hose, propane pole, propane tank, chuck box, Dutch Oven/Griddle set, table, and tents.

Each member of the Patrol is responsible for the care and maintenance of their patrol equipment. The Quartermaster and Assistant Scoutmaster are responsible for supervising their Patrol in its care and use. The troop will pay for any repairs and replacements, but not any losses. The Patrol will replace anything that is lost. Equipment losses are shared with each member of the Patrol.

Transportation

All parents are expected to help and assist in providing transportation to every other event. Summer camp is a weeklong event of the scouts. The troop expects each parent to help with driving, at least one way.

Transportation Secretaries

Transportation Secretaries are responsible for coordinating rides for the scouts in the Patrol they represent. The position of Transportation Secretary is purely voluntary and is usually a parent of their scout for that Patrol. The main priority of this job is to find out which scout in the Patrol will be attending the upcoming event. Next, they will work with the other parents in the Patrol with transportation arrangements to and from the event. This position may also need to work with other Transportation Secretaries from the other Patrols if needed. This voluntary position earns the privilege of not driving if transportation arrangements have been fulfill.