



## A “How To” Guide for New Parents and Scouts

**This is a brief summary sheet to introduce you to Troop 680. We’d like to let you know what’s involved in being a member of our Troop.**

**Meetings:** Every Monday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church (RBCPC) Youth / Choir Rooms. You may park in the lower parking lot. During meetings, scouts work on skills, rank advancements, plan for upcoming outings, etc. The schedule is adjusted for holidays and the summer break.

**Dress Code:** For weekly meetings, scouts wear the full uniform (including socks) and bring their Scout Handbook. On outings, scouts travel in the Troop T-shirt (Class B).

**Troop Website:** [www.Troop680.org](http://www.Troop680.org)  
Check the Troop website regularly for information, calendars, gear lists, photos, videos, rosters, forms and other great info. For member-only information, password is required.

**Registration:** When a scout joins the Troop, a BSA registration form and \$70 fee are collected. This is the last registration form or registration fee your son will have to pay while he is a member of Troop 680 – the Troop pays all subsequent re-registration fees for boys. Registered adults also submit a BSA registration form with an annual re-registration fee (\$25 in 2014).

**Outings:** Outings are an essential part of the scouting experience. Troop 680 places an emphasis on “High Adventure” activities like backpacking, rock climbing, and water treks to help develop confidence, leadership and mental and physical skills in our scouts. Please work with your son to prepare for and schedule these fun events. To sign up and get more information, use the outings folders at the front desk every Monday. Adults and siblings are encouraged to participate (please check with the Trek Leader).

**Patrols:** Your scout will join a Patrol and be paired with an older scout who will mentor him. Each patrol is led by a scout-elected as patrol leader.

**Troop Leadership Council:** Troop 680 is a boy led Troop. Adult leaders support, guide and mentor the scouts. The Troop

Leadership Council (TLC) is made up of experienced scouts elected by their peers. The TLC plans weekly programs and outings. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters coach the TLC and ensure appropriate safety and good sense are a part of the program.

**Rank Advancement:** Scouts work on rank requirements individually or with other scouts in the Troop. Experienced scouts designated by the Scoutmaster can sign off on activities for rank through First Class.

When your scout is ready to advance, he will complete a Scout Spirit sheet and a Scoutmaster Conference form (available at [Troop680.org](http://Troop680.org)) and obtain a participation/history report from our Advancement Chair who is usually at the front desk every Monday. After a Scoutmaster Conference (with the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster), the scout requests a board of review from the Advancement Chair.

Scouts must be in full uniform and have their Scout Handbook for all Scoutmaster Conferences and boards of review. It is a good idea for parents to stay for the meeting in which your scout is having his board of review. You may be asked to sit on a board of review for another scout. If your son passes the Board of Review, he immediately moves up in rank and is formally recognized at the next Court of Honor.

Scouts should track advancement in their handbook. Alternately, scouts can view their current rank advancement reports online. They log on to the troop website, then click “Resources” and “TroopMaster Web – Portal” (under “Advancements”). The username is `firstnamelastname` (e.g. `bobsmith`) and the password is `t680`. Scouts can change their password once they log on.

**Merit Badges:** Scouts begin by requesting a blue merit badge card from the Scoutmaster and finding a merit badge counselor. The list of merit badges and counselors are available at [Troop680.org](http://Troop680.org). Once the merit badge is completed, the blue card is signed by the merit badge counselor and Scoutmaster, it is turned in to the Advancement Chair. Scouts should carefully store their copy of all completed

blue cards. A 3-ring notebook with plastic baseball cardholders works well. Merit badges are awarded at the Courts of Honor.

**Courts of Honor:** Courts of Honor (COH) are held three times a year. They begin at 6:15 p.m. in the RBCPC Fellowship Hall located on the main level (park in the upper parking lot and enter through the main lobby or from the courtyard). Details about the theme and any food assignments are emailed about a week before each COH. Please bring your own plates and utensils. If your son has received a rank advancement, you will join him onstage for the formal presentation.

**Fundraising and Recycling:** All of Troop 680’s fundraising is done through our monthly recycling work (Second Saturday of each month).

Scouts are required to participate every month. Scouts may be assigned collection routes or bin duty. Parents are scheduled “bin duty” or “sweeps duty” about 3x per year. Your duty overlaps with that of your scout. Bin duty involves supervising scouts at the main collection point located in the parking lot of Painted Rock Elementary. Bin duty is a great way to meet other Troop 680 parents! The family bin duty and route sweep schedules are available at [Troop680.org](http://Troop680.org), along with many more details about this important program.

Scouts earn credits toward their scout accounts based on recycling material collected and time spent at bin duty. The Troop Committee makes an annual allocation of funds to scout accounts (usually in June). A portion of the funds raised is used for general Troop operating expenses. Scouts are encouraged to use their accounts to pay for outings, summer camp, or camping/outdoor equipment.

**IMPORTANT:** If a scout cannot drive his route or work his assigned bin duty, he must find another scout to cover for him. Those who donate to our Troop expect our scouts to show up every second Saturday—no exceptions.

When dropping off papers, scouts should help unload the car in front of as well as the car behind. This helps keep the line moving.