



## Things Troop 680 Parents Need to Know

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### **Mission**

Troop 680 emphasizes Fun, Leadership, and Teamwork. We have Fun at great outings. We generally have two per month and they range from advanced backpacks such as "The Sierra Trek", to day hikes, bike rides, canoe trips, and backpacking in the local mountains or desert. We emphasize Leadership though intensive training followed by broad responsibility. Our ideal is to have Scouts manage all Troop functions autonomously. The adult leadership is the coaching staff, offering guidance, encouragement, and security. Teamwork is developed through competitive team building and as a necessary adjunct to encouraging all ability and age ranges on most of our high adventure outings.



## Scouting Organization

### Scout

Scout – The Scout is the basic unit of Scouting. A Scout typically registers with a Troop, but may change Troops at any time and carries all their rank, recognition, service hours, and income with them when they transfer.

Mentor – Upon joining 680 each Scout is assigned a Mentor from their patrol. The Mentor will be of at least First Class rank and their job will be to assist the Scout in acclimating to the Troop. This includes helping them with advancement, activities, and outings.

Patrol – The Patrol is the scout’s “family”. Patrols plan together, camp together, eat together, and generally take care of their own. Patrols plan the meetings and outings in rotation.

Patrol Leader – The Patrol Leader organizes the patrol’s activities and runs their meetings. The Patrol Leader is a member of the Troop Leadership Council (TLC) and as such helps plan the Troop’s calendar and division of responsibilities amongst the Patrols.

Assistant Patrol Leader – The Assistant Patrol Leader fills in for the Patrol Leader as required.

### Troop

Troop leadership is elected twice a year, in June and February, and takes over in September and March, respectively. The Senior Patrol Leader is elected by the Troop and the Patrol Leaders are elected by each Patrol. All other Scout leaders are appointed by their respective leader.

Troop Leadership Council (TLC) - The Troop Leader Council consists of all the Scout Patrol and Senior Patrol leaders plus Staff positions plus the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters. The TLC is supposed to generate the outings schedule and provide Scout leaders for each outing. They also track progress toward the outing.

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) – The SPL runs the troop, plain and simple. He runs the TLC meetings and the Troop meetings. He’s in charge of the yearly planning conference that decides what the Troop will be doing in its meetings and what outings it will undertake in the coming year.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) – There are typically more than one ASPL. They fill in for the SPL as required, but more importantly, they partition and support the SPL’s workload. Typical ASPL functions will be “Head of meeting programs”, “Mentor lead”, “Advancement”, and the like.

Historian – The Historian is tasked with generating and maintaining records of Troop meetings and outings. They also, if capable, generate slide shows for Court of Honors and other celebratory occasions.

Scribe – The Scribe is the Troop secretary, taking the minutes of TLC meetings, and tracking attendance. The Scribe also tracks the Patrol points, which determines the best patrol at each Court of Honor.

Quartermaster – The Quartermaster has an easy job in Troop 680. They track and loan the minimal amount of equipment Troop 680 maintains for Camporees, Summer Camps, and for advancement and training.

Librarian – The Librarian maintains and loans Troop 680’s extensive library of merit badge pamphlets and reference material. The library is housed within the cabinetry of the Choir room and is therefore available at every Troop meeting.



## Adult

**Scoutmaster** – The Scoutmaster is in charge of the Scouting “Program”. He is responsible for the well being of the kids and sets the tone of the program by his example. He leads the “coaching staff” in charge of teaching leadership, responsibility, and behavior. He also leads the “Old Goat” patrol, which consists of all Assistant Scoutmasters and other adults that directly interact with the boys. The Scoutmaster also does all Scoutmaster Conferences for ranks Star through Eagle and councils all Eagle Scouts.

**Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM)** – There are a fleet of ASMs that support the Scoutmaster not only as replacements but also in very specific capacities. There are ASM expert in backpacking, canoeing, white water rafting, bicycling, Order of the Arrow, and a variety of other capacities. ASMs also do all Scoutmaster Conferences for the Scout through First Class ranks.

**The Committee** – The Committee operates as the “Board of Directors” for the Troop. They handle finances as well as many of the more bureaucratic aspects of Troop maintenance. Responsibilities ebb and flow between the Committee and the Scoutmaster / ASMs depending on capabilities, but generally the Committee operates in support of the Scoutmaster’s desires.

**Committee Chair** – The Chair organizes and runs Committee meetings and staffs the Committee.

**Outings** – The Outings chair is responsible for the Scout’s outings program. Now preferably the Scouts would plan and run their own outings, but experience has shown that adult intervention greatly facilitates long term planning and execution, mostly because the Troop staff turns over every six months. Therefore the Outings chair seeks and describes a “menu” of outings to help the Scouts plan their year, outings suited to the Scout’s abilities, the Troop’s adult population, and the Troop’s finances. Thereafter the Outings chair seeks suitable adult leaders for each outing and ensures that long term planning in the form of reservations and permits takes place. The Outings Chair also keeps the outings folders, by which Scouts subscribe to each outing. These are colorful paper folders laid out at the entrance to the Scout meetings.

**Advancement** – The Advancements Chair primarily maintains the Troop’s database using the TroopMaster software package. Therefore all completed merit badge cards go to Advancements and Scouts should go to her to schedule Scoutmaster’s Conferences and Board’s of Review. It is intended that this chair take a greater part in actually supporting the Scout’s advancement activities but this has yet to take place. The Advancements Chair can be found at the entry table most Troop meetings.

**Treasurer** – The Treasurer manages the Troop’s money using savings and checking accounts and Quicken software.

**Training** – The Training Chair has dual functions. For adults the Training Chair identifies available training opportunities and encourages adult attendance, since trained adults are necessary for the outdoor program. For the Scouts the Training Chair helps the Scoutmaster plan and run leadership training as well as training associated with advancement.

**Membership** – The Membership Chair publicizes the Troop and solicits Scouts wherever they may be found. He works closely with area Cub Packs to publicize 680, entice their Webelos and parents, and help them with their crossover ceremonies. He also solicits Scouts at area schools, churches and other youth gathering spots.

**Secretary/Publicity** – The secretary takes and distributes the minutes of the Committee meetings. They also, via their subcommittee, manage the web site, and handle all publicity for the Troop, including Eagle announcements, outing announcements, and accolades.



## Supervisory

The Sponsors – Every Scout Troop is sponsored by a non-profit community organization. The sponsor for Troop 680 is Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church (RBCPC). RBCPC supports 680 through the extensive use of their facility. Troop 680, in turn, supports many of RBCPC’s service projects.

The District – Troop 680 is a member of the Black Mountain District, the next level of Scout organization. The District provides training, gathering, advancement, and recruitment opportunities for the Scouts and Troop. They can be found at <http://blackmountain.sdicsa.org/>.

Unit Commissioner – The Unit Commissioner acts as the liaison between the Troop and the District.

The Council – Black Mountain District is a member of the San Diego – Imperial Council. The Council is the primary agency for regional Scouting program development. They have a significant budget and staff and maintain not only administrative facilities, but also substantial Scout camping and training facilities. In San Diego SDIC maintains Balboa, Mataguay, and the Youth Aquatic Center in Mission Bay. They can be found at <http://www.sdicsa.org/>.

BSA – The National organization sets policy and provides on-line training. They also run the quadrennial National Jamboree. They can be found at <http://www.scouting.org/>.

## **High Adventure**

Outdoor adventure is the fundamental purpose of Scouting. Making Eagle is the apotheosis, but earning Eagle requires substantial participation in an outdoor program. Baden-Powell said “A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room.” Troop 680 has an extensive outdoor program that differentiates itself from other Troop as being “High Adventure.” What this means, from a practical standpoint, is that we rarely, if ever, car-camp. We are always moving, whether it’s by foot, bike, or vessel, our outings nearly always involve travel. Since high-adventure is the norm, we are then able to interleave truly adventurous outings without much additional effort. In the past the Troop has gone to Alaska, the boundary waters of Minnesota, throughout the Sierra, bicycled the California Coast, and many other adventures. In the future we plan to hike Mount Whitney, thru-hike the John Muir Trail, and even climb Mt. Rainier.

The Scouts, Scoutmaster and Outings Chair at their annual planning conference design an outings and events program for the year (July 1 thru June 30). This calendar of events is then approved by Troop Committee. The scouts are then responsible for organizing the outing using the resources of adult advisors and senior scouts. We strive to be a boy-lead Troop.

We try to keep outings planned at least two years out, with major outings planned five years out. Once a year the TLC has a planning conference to decide when and where to go for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year out, as well as to consider any very long lead items.

Types of outings:

- Day hikes
- Backpacking & trekking
- Snow camping
- “Technical” climbing
- Day bike rides
- Overnight bike rides or “treks”



- Day canoe trips
- Overnight canoe trips or “treks”
- Summer Camps
- Camporees
- Family camps
- Service outings
- Anything else anybody’s willing to lead.

### Attending an Outing

At every meeting the Outings Chair sets out colored paper folders faced by sign-up sheets for all outings in their planning stages. *It is very important for you to come in with your new Scout and peruse the folders and review with them outings to signup.* Scouts sign up for outings voluntarily, though we certainly encourage everyone to attend every outing. Once signed up the Scout will be placed on the mailing list for that event and will receive information from the planning Patrol. The folders sometimes contain handouts with pertinent information, including maps, directions, and most importantly, permission slips. The permission slips should be completed and returned to the folder as soon as the Scout knows they want to attend. These days most information is transmitted electronically. *If you do not wish to receive electronic communications you must tell the outing leader so they can accommodate you.*

Scouts should then inform their Patrol Leader and mentor of their plan to attend any outing so they can be assisted, if necessary. Typically there will be at least one or more outing specific meetings and new scouts should plan on having their gear ready at least two weeks prior to departure so they can go over it with their Patrol Leader or Mentor.

Outings typically debark the lower RBCPC parking lot, where Scouts, adults, and their transportation assemble prior to departure. Scouts and adult leaders are required to be in uniform for insurance purposes, either full or activity, and Scouts must have provided a signed permission slip. (Scouts must always travel in uniform or class B t-shirt.) All participants are organized in a circle, briefed, and counted. (Generally everybody gets counted before entering any transportation at any stop.) If not organized already, Scouts and adults are allocated to vehicles and the vehicles are packed. (Usually vehicles are individually packed to keep equipment with Scouts and their adults. The Troop doesn’t have a trailer or any other “mass transit”.) Vehicles seldom car-pool, rather making use of provided directions and other technology for getting to the day’s destination. (Many make use of Internet map resources such as Mapquest or Google for directions and maps.)

Upon arrival at the destination equipment gets distributed, checked; packed; and loaded. Everybody is counted; the day’s plan is rehearsed; organization is rehearsed; and all debark. Scouts run the outing, with a designated leader and assistant- often the organizing Patrol Leader. Attending adults continue their role as leadership coaches, guiding to the Scout leaders as seems profitable, and otherwise interfering minimally in decision making. That is not to say adults can’t participate, but if they do so they do so as Scouts, and not supervisors. Of course the adults are ultimately responsible for safety, but direct interference should only happen in the most egregious cases. Otherwise, a quiet word to the Scout leadership should suffice.

Upon return everyone is accounted for and Scouts and adults form a circle for “Thorns and Roses”. Each participant voices their least favorite experience, (a “thorn”,) their favorite experience, (the “rose”,) and a “bud”, which is something they hope to improve upon. Equipment is then packed and vehicles loaded. Scouts generally return in the vehicle they traveled in, unless extra, non-participating drivers are used. On return the Scouts are generally taken to their house, unless other arrangements have been made.



## Equipment & Preparation

The Troop conducts educational meetings for scouts and adults to discuss recommended gear. *Our suggestion is not to rush out to REI and purchase boots, gear, tents, stoves, etc. until you attend this meeting.* On our website at [www.troop680.org](http://www.troop680.org) are gear lists for weekend hikes, treks, canoeing, summer camp, and cycling.

First year Scouts have access to six lightweight sets of packs, sleeping bags, and sleeping pads purchased. Second year Scouts have access on an availability basis. The packs are 1 lb. Gossamer Gear no-frame bags with hip belt. The bags are 2lb 4oz 5' 20F Mountain Hardwear mummy bags. The pads are Thermarest RidgeRest foam pads. A waterproof pack cover is included. All equipment was selected for minimum weight.

## **Scout Advancement**

### Ranks

The Boy Scout ranks are Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The ranks take Scouts through a graduated process of instruction, leadership, and service. Though the core of Scouting is the outdoors, rank advancement is fun, educational, and very gratifying.

### Requirements

The Scout Handbook delineates the requirements a Scout must meet for each rank. Their Handbook is also their advancement record. We highly recommend that each Scout also obtain a current "Requirements" book which describes not only all the rank requirements but all merit badge requirements. Scouts may work on requirements for any rank, with the exception of the Eagle project and specific leadership and tenure requirements. Scouts contact their Patrol Leader and mentor for instruction covering requirements. Once the Scout has mastered the requirement they go to their Patrol Leader, Mentor, or any other Scout First Class and above, demonstrate mastery, and have that Scout initial and date their book. We do not allow parents or siblings to sign-off requirements.

### Merit Badges

Required for Star through Eagle ranks, merit badges may be earned by Scouts of any rank. First the Scout obtains a signed "blue card" from the Scoutmaster. This offers the Scoutmaster the opportunity to know how many merit badges the Scout's working on, and whether they've completed necessary pre-requisites. Armed with a "blue card" the Scout can then obtain the merit badge book either free from the troop Librarian, or buy it from the Scout Trading Post in Balboa Park. The Scout should then read the ENTIRE BOOK before making contact with a merit badge counselor. Troop counselors are available through the Advancement Chair. Others can be procured using the District's convenient on-line search engine on their web site. (<http://www.sdicbsa.org/Advancement/CounselorLookup.php>) Once a counselor has been obtained they should be contacted. They will then guide the Scout through completion. At no time should parents get involved in this process, except to offer encouragement and the like. Completed merit badge "blue cards" are returned to the Advancement Chair who procures the badge for distribution at the Court of Honor. Scouts should note that there is a list of specific Merit Badges required for Eagle rank.

### Scout Spirit Sheet

Once all rank requirements are met the Scout will obtain a Spirit Sheet form either from the Troop web page, or from the Advancement Chair sitting at the desk at the entrance to every troop meeting. The Scout will describe, in writing, how he has fulfilled the elements of the Scout Promise and Law during his tenure in rank. Scout ranks don't have to fill one out. The Spirit sheet is used during the Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review.



## Scoutmaster Conference

The Scout solicits a Scoutmaster Conference from the Advancement Chair, who generally sits at the table at the entrance to the Troop meeting. The Scoutmaster Conference is a meeting with one or two Scoutmasters and is intended to assure completion of the rank requirements. (Meaning – the Scout should KNOW the requirements before the meeting!) Inadequate responses will not terminate the Conference, instead the Scout will be asked to review any weaknesses and only those weaknesses will be reviewed in a later Conference.

## Board of Review (BoR)

After the Scoutmaster signs-off the Conference with the Advancement Chair, the Chair will organize a Board of Review consisting of at least three adults, preferably not Assistant Scoutmasters. The Board is not a review of rank requirements, rather an assessment of how the Scout is feeling about the Troop, the outings, and Scouting in general, as well as their fulfillment of the Scout Oath and Law. The Advancement Chair provides the adults a pamphlet describing the purposes and methods for the review, as well as sample questions. Scouts seldom fail BoRs. The Board reports their results to the Advancement Chair. As with the Conference, any inadequacies are dealt with in a subsequent Review. Please note that Board of Reviews MUST be completed two weeks prior to a Court of Honor to receive recognition then.

## Receiving rank

The Scout receives their new rank from the SPL during the Troop meeting immediately after their successful Board of Review.

## Court of Honor

The Court of Honor is where Scouts receive recognition for their awards and advancement. It is also an opportunity to showcase recent events as well as disseminate information pertinent to everyone. Court of Honors are scheduled three to four times per year, replacing a Monday meeting or held on a weekend Family Camp. Slide shows and movies of recent events are often shown during the banquet.

Scouts who have advanced prior to two weeks before to the CoH will receive formal acknowledgement, along with their parents, of their rank advancement. After all ranks have been recognized Scout merit badges are listed, but not awarded. (There are usually too many.) Scouts pick up their Merit Badges at a table in back.

Special events often receive time during the CoH for a slide show, or movie, or sometimes more entertaining live Scout shows. As the CoH is the only time all parents and Scouts are assembled, time is made available to anyone who has a need to address the audience.

Once or twice a year special awards are presented for participation and achievement. These run along the lines of most nights camped, miles hiked, that kind of thing, plus categories elected by the Committee, such as Scout of the Year and the like (There are many such awards.)



## Scout Training

### Junior Leader Training

All Troop leadership receives a three hour training session immediately after Troop elections twice a year. Training covers Troop organization, how to plan and run a meeting, how to plan and run a program, and how to plan and run an outing. It is intended, with varying success, to be fun.

### National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)

NYLT is a one week training course put on by Council in the summer. It is highly recommended for any Scout with management aspirations, but is not required.

### National

There are other courses offered on a national level at various BSA training bases around the country. The courses at Philmont are said to rival any corporate management courses found in the US today.

## Adult Leadership Training

There is a lot of adult training available, both on-line and at the Council and District level. I have described desirable training based on your desired participation, but I encourage everyone to participate in as much training as they can, as it can lead to illuminating interests and flexibility in scheduling.

### Sources

Council site for local training - <http://www.sdicsba.org/Training/AdultTrainingOverview.php>

BSA for on-line training - <https://myscouting.scouting.org>

### I Want to Help With Driving and Supervision

1. *Youth Protection Guidelines* – BSA on-line overview of what you can do to protect yourself from accusations of wrong behavior toward Scouts.
2. *This is Scouting* – BSA on-line overview of the Scouting organization.

### I Want to Go On Outings

1. *Understanding Weather* – This BSA on-line overview of weather danger signs and your response. Required of one leader on any outing.
2. *Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills* is available occasionally through Council. It gives the adult many of the skills associated with the Scout's First Class rank.
3. *Scoutmaster / Assistant Scoutmaster training* is available occasionally through Council. It gives a more in-depth understanding of the Troop organization and how to run a boy-led Troop.
4. *Safe Swim Defense* – BSA on-line course describing the very specific requirements BSA imposes every time Scouts swim.
5. *Safety Afloat* – BSA on-line course describing the very specific requirements BSA imposes whenever Scouts use watercraft. Required to go on canoe trips.
6. *First Aid & CPR* – Available through Council and the American Red Cross. The CPR portion must be updated every year or two, depending on where you get your training.

### I Want to Know More About the Committee

1. *Troop Committee Challenge* – On-line at BSA. Explains the various Committee functions.
2. *Staffing the District Committee* – On-line at BSA. Teaches how and where to obtain Committee members.

### I Want to Lead Outings

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[www.Troop680.org](http://www.Troop680.org)



1. *High Adventure Leadership Trek Training (HALTT)*. See: <http://www.sdicbsa.org/highadventure/train.htm> This course teaches basic backpacking and requires that you participate in a weekend backpacking trip with other adults. It does not espouse ultra-light backpacking so be wary.
2. *Water-Trek* training. See: <http://www.sdicbsa.org/highadventure/train.htm> Note that CPR and ARC first aid training is a pre-requisite. Also that the first half of Water-Trek is the first half of HALTT; therefore it makes sense to do HALTT first. Water-Trek will teach you how to operate a canoe skillfully and safely.
3. *Wilderness First Aid* is highly recommended as it teaches you delayed rescue response using a scenario based training environment.

### Other Great Training

1. *Climb on Safely* is a Council course that does not teach climbing, rather it augments known climbing expertise with BSA safety guidelines.
2. *Wood Badge* is BSA's management training seminar. It runs over at least two weekends and requires a substantial project commitment to complete.

## **Fund Raising & Service**

### Newspapers & Cans

*Newspaper duty is mandatory.*

Our fundraiser is the second Saturday of each month, year round. A recycling bin is dropped off in the Painted Rock elementary school parking lot on Martincoit Road. Most new Scouts begin by doing "bin duty". They help unload the cars. Each Scout is required to help for two hours. A Scout can also have a "route". A route is a designated number of streets or a location that he collects papers and aluminum cans. To increase his collection, the Scout should hand out flyers on his route to let the neighborhood know he will perform this service. A sample flyer is on troop 680's website.

Parents are scheduled to work as bin supervisors or as a sweep about twice per year. A bin supervisor works at the bins for two hours. Your job is to supervise. The older boys usually keep the younger Scouts in order. When you sweep you are given a selected area to drive through to make sure no papers/cans are left behind. You will sweep an area at about 12:00 pm and take about 1 hour. The bin supervisor/sweep adult schedule is posted on Troop 680's website.

### Service Hours

Troop 680 requires four service hours per year. Additional service hours are required for Star and Life ranks. Typically service hours are not a problem because Troop 680 conducts many service projects during the year and typically has a few Eagle scouts requiring help with their Eagle service projects.



Please check the T680 website for more info at [www.Troop680.org](http://www.Troop680.org)

## New Scout Departure List Backpacking

### Gear

- Backpack
- Pack cover or large plastic bag
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad
- 1 Bandanna
- 1 Headlamp

### Hygiene bag

- 1 toothbrush
- 1 mini toothpaste
- 1 mini floss
- 1 comb
- 2 blu sq. / day
- 2 wet wipe / day
- 1 chapstick
- 1 1g zip (food)
- 1 1qt zips (food)
- 1 35g trash

### Liquid bag

- ½ oz. suds
- ¼ oz. Deet
- ½ oz. sunscr.
- ½ oz. hand cleaner

### Survival bag

- 1 knife
- 1 map
- 1 compass
- 1 whistle
- 1 fire starter
- 1 em. blanket
- Matches
- 50' cord
- 1 candle
- 1 mirror

### Scout first aid kit

- 1 first aid kit or:
- 4 alcohol swabs
- 1 tube 2x anti.
- 2 2x2 pads
- 1 3x4 pads
- 6 misc. Band-Aids
- 4 blister pads
- 4 butterfly
- 3 si 2<sup>nd</sup> skin
- 3' duct tape
- 1 tweezers

### Cooking/eating

- 1 bowl
- 1 cup
- 1 utensil

### Clothes worn

- Undies (syn.)
- Merino wool socks
- Light thermal top
- Thin long pants
- Sun hat
- Trail running shoes

### Clothes stored

- 1 undies (syn.)
- 1 pr. socks (merino)
- 1 lt. thermal bottom
- 1 wind shirt
- 1 warm jacket
- 1 warm hat
- 1 bug hat
- 1 warm gloves
- 1 rain jacket
- 1 rain pants

### Food

- 2 one liter water bottles
- Food
- Snacks- 2/day

### Miscellaneous

- 1 sunglasses
- 1 pencil
- 1 pad of paper
- 1 auto towel