

**Boy Scouts of America**  
**California Inland Empire Council**  
**Troop 270**  
[www.riversidescouts.com](http://www.riversidescouts.com)



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## **Troop 270 invites boys of all ages to join Boy Scouts!**

The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America is to teach responsibility, leadership and citizenship, as well as to have fun. Many of the activities are planned around nature and the outdoors. Joining the Boy Scouts is an exciting adventure for newcomers and a rite of passage for boys who were Cub Scouts when they were in elementary school.

Boys may join a Boy Scout Troop at age 11.

For boys under 11, Cub Scouts is a great adventure.

Troop 270 meets at a dedicated "Scout house", located behind the First United Methodist Church, 4845 Brockton Avenue, each Monday evening at 7:00 PM.

Feel free to visit us and ask for more information!

Troop 270 Contact information:

Website: [www.riversidescouts.com](http://www.riversidescouts.com)

Email: [scoutmaster@riversidescouts.com](mailto:scoutmaster@riversidescouts.com)

To find a Boy Scout or Cub Scout troop, or other BSA information:  
California Inland Empire Council: [www.bsa-ciec.org](http://www.bsa-ciec.org)

# Troop 270 Information Packet

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Troop 270 (the “Troop”) and First United Methodist Church, our sponsoring organization for approximately the past 14 years, would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Boy Scouting. Whether you are just visiting or have already decided to join our troop, we hope to make your introduction to the Boy Scouts of America an enjoyable one. Below is information about Troop 270 that you will find helpful.

Troop 270 has approximately 30 boys from the Riverside area ranging in rank from New Scout to Eagle Scout. Since 1987 there have been 23 Eagle scouts from our ranks. This year we have added 3 new Eagles.

Troop 270 is under the leadership of Doug Moore, Scoutmaster and Don Herweck, Committee Chair, and a dedicated group of Assistant Scoutmasters, Committee Members and parents. Although the Troop is essentially a “boy-run” organization, the success of the Troop depends greatly upon the generosity and support of parents like you. *Please consider becoming involved – it’s a wonderful way to share in your boy’s growth.*

Troop information is shared and disseminated by flyers, email, and through the Troop’s website.

## Troop Philosophy

The Troop provides scouts with opportunities, guidance, and a safe non-threatening environment in which each scout can grow and develop to his optimum degree as a young man. Perfection is **NOT** the goal – doing your best and learning from your mistakes is.

Scouts learn to become responsible for themselves and others through learning common-sense skills, the importance of teamwork, participating in outdoor activities, and assuming roles of leadership and responsibility. We encourage our Scouts to attend Junior Leader Training, and have a scholarship program which often is able to fully fund the week-long training sessions offered each year by our Council.

The basic unit of the Troop is the Patrol. Patrols consist of a small groups scouts (usually 8 at most) who are responsible to one another for carrying on basic camping duties, needs, and functioning as a team during other Troop activities. However, due to the size of our Troop, monthly activities are usually made up of various members of the entire Troop, and temporary Patrols are created for each event, especially camping.

At the overall troop level, Scouts plan the specifics of Troop Meetings, Activities, and the monthly campout at their Patrol Leaders Council Meetings (“PLC Meeting”) A representative from each Patrol (usually the Patrol Leader or Assistant Patrol Leader) represents his Patrol at the “PLC”. The Scoutmaster provides guidance to the meeting.

When new boys join the troop they are initially placed in a patrol with other newer and younger scouts.. A troop Guide (an older, more experienced Scout) provides guidance and assistance to the younger Scouts. The Troops’ Guides act under the supervision of an Adult Assistant Scoutmaster and the Senior Patrol Leader.. The goal is to have new Scouts advance through Scout and Tenderfoot ranks within the first three months and have the Second Class rank

achieved by or at Summer Camp. Many of the First Class requirements will also be accomplished by this time enabling new Scouts to become First Class rank within one year of starting active membership in the Troop.

The higher ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle are achieved at a more individualized self-initiated pace. Attaining higher ranks entails earning merit badges, doing service work and/or projects for the community, and serving in roles of responsibility and leadership to the Troop and in service to younger scouts.

## **Membership**

Membership in Troop 270 is open to all boys between the ages of 11 through 17 or beginning with those Cub Scouts having earned the Arrow of Light, and terminates on the boys' 18th birthday. (Scouts may continue membership as an Adult after they reach the 18 year milestone.) BSA applications are available upon request.

## **Meetings**

Troop meetings are held at the Scout House from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

The Troop meetings include Patrol break-out sessions. Traditionally, the individual Patrols do not meet separately, but are able to do that as a Patrol, providing that BSA guidelines are followed.

Troop meetings generally consist of the following:

- Opening ceremony, including pledge of allegiance, Scout Oath, Scout Law and Outdoor Code recital. This is sometimes held in the fire pit area, and a flag is raised.
- General announcements by the Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster.
- Advancement and skills session (varies by week to week, and may include preparation for upcoming outings)
- Scoutmaster conferences, Boards of Review for advancements
- Merit Badge Counselors may meet with Scouts at this time, or prior to the meeting
- Patrol break-out
- Troop game
- Announcements, discussion of events and Closing. At this time, Scouts may make announcements to the Troop.

Courts of Honor meetings are held 3 to 4 times per year, at which Scouts are presented with advancements earned. These events are typically potluck dinners, and all family members of Scouts are invited. Occasionally the Court of Honor will incorporate a special Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony.

Committee Meetings and Patrol Leader Conferences are held approximately 6 times each year. These are planning meetings for Troop activities.

Patrol Leader Conference meetings are led by the Senior Patrol Leader, with guidance from the Scoutmaster. The Scouts plan the Troop's activities for the upcoming months.

Committee meetings are led by the Committee Chairman, and are attended by Committee Members, Assistant Scoutmasters and parents. The Scoutmaster joins this meeting after concluding the PLC. The meeting is held for the purpose of any and all matters concerning the administration of the Troop, including finances, planning, and general discussion.

Planning meetings are held each September or October for planning the Troop's outings for the upcoming year.

## Uniforms

Scouts are expected to be in a Class "A" uniform at all general and Court of Honor meetings. This consists of a regulation Scout Shirt and neckerchief, Scout pants and belt, and Scout socks if shorts are worn. Class "A" uniforms are also required when representing the Troop at certain functions, such as flag ceremonies, during commutes to and from Troop events, such as weekend camping trips and Summer Camp, and at certain times during summer camp.

At less formal times, a Troop T-shirt (Class "B" uniform) can be worn. Uniforms are expected to be tucked-in and presentable. When traveling as a Troop (ie; to/from campouts or other events) class "A" uniforms are required.

A uniform bank is available at the Scout House. Please feel free to look for anything you need, but also remember to add items to the bank with anything that is not needed or that doesn't fit.

## Activities

A concerted effort is made to schedule one outdoor camping activity each month with the exception of December.

For Troop camping activities, the Troop has a fully stocked trailer, which was donated by Tom Gebelin, our former Scoutmaster. Troop camping is generally "car camping" in style, using Patrol Boxes. Patrols, or the Troop, may choose to schedule backpacking trips, although this has not been done very much over the past few years through Troop 270.

Weekend camping trips are usually organized by dividing the Scouts into Patrols, and the adults comprise their own patrol. Dutch ovens are available for use by Patrols or adults, and Troop tents are provided for the Scouts.

The following are some examples of the activities we have done (note that High Adventure activities are limited to First Class and above and ages 14 and older):

- Boundary Waters High Adventure Canoe Trip, Minnesota & Canada
- One Week Summer Camp every year
- Eagle Service Projects
- Long weekend trips to Death Valley NP
- Long weekend trips to Joshua Tree NP
- Mt. Palomar, Big Bear area, Shooting sports campout, fishing trip campout, bicycle camping, including a ride to the beach

The schedule for upcoming activities is maintained on the Troop's calendar, which is posted on the Troop's website.

*Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend all Troop activities.* Drivers to and from events are frequently needed as well as someone to haul the Troop Trailer. Drivers will be requested to provide their automobile insurance information.

## **Service Projects**

Troop 270 participates in two regular community service projects:

- Mt. Rubidoux Trail Lighting and trail cleanup, each Easter
- Adams Street cleanup, through the City of Riverside's Adopt-a-Street program

The Troop also has and will assist with other community service projects, as the need arises and as time allows.

## **Cost of Scouting**

Annual BSA dues, including subscription to Boys Life, is approximately \$25.00.

Monthly Troop dues are \$5.00 per Scout, with a discount if payment is made for the entire year in January.

Dues do not include activity fees for weekend camping trips and food that usually run \$25-30, and more for certain events. Permission slips and money are collected prior to events. In addition, the cost of Summer Camp is usually around \$400, with higher costs for high adventure camps and camps that have high transportation costs, such as those on Catalina Island.

A medical examination is needed for Summer Camp participants.

## **Annual Fund Raiser**

The Troop has an annual Fourth of July event, and offers popcorn sales. A Scrip program is in development, and fundraising for the 2012 high adventure camp (Sea Base) is intended.

## **Summary and Contact Information**

Troop 270 is a quality Troop with many years of tradition for which we are truly proud. We are really worth your consideration.

If you have any further questions or if you should want any crossover ceremony assistance, please contact the Scoutmaster.

Troop 270 Contact information:

**Website:**     [www.riversidescouts.com](http://www.riversidescouts.com)

**Email:**       [scoutmaster@riversidescouts.com](mailto:scoutmaster@riversidescouts.com)

# General Boy Scout Information

A lot of information is available on the internet, including the Troop 270 website [www.riversidescouts.com](http://www.riversidescouts.com). The following information is provided for easy reference:

## Troop Positions

### The Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of the troop. The Scoutmaster and his assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. The importance of the Scoutmaster's job is reflected in the fact that the quality of his guidance will affect every youth and adult involved in the troop.

The Scoutmaster can be male or female, but must be at least 21 years old. The Scoutmaster is appointed by the head of the chartered organization. The Scoutmaster's duties include:

#### General

- Train and guide boy leaders.
- Work with other responsible adults to bring Scouting to boys.
- Use the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting.

#### Meetings

- Meet regularly with the patrol leaders' council for training and coordination in planning troop activities.
- Attend all troop meetings or, when necessary, arrange for a qualified adult substitute.
- Attend troop committee meetings.

#### Guidance

- Conduct Scoutmaster conferences for all rank advancements.
- Provide a systematic recruiting plan for new members and see that they are promptly registered.
- Delegate responsibility to other adults and groups (assistants, troop committee) so that they have a real part in troop operations.
- Supervise troop elections for the Order of the Arrow.

#### Activities

- Make it possible for each Scout to experience at least 10 days and nights of camping each year.
- Participate in council and district events.
- Build a strong program by using proven methods presented in Scouting literature.
- Conduct all activities under qualified leadership, safe conditions, and the policies of the chartered organization and the Boy Scouts of America.

As you see, the Scoutmaster has many responsibilities.

## Assistant Scoutmasters

To fulfill his obligation to the troop, the Scoutmaster, with the assistance of the troop committee, recruits assistant Scoutmasters to help operate the troop. Each assistant Scoutmaster is assigned specific program duties and reports to the Scoutmaster. They also provide the required two-deep leadership standards set by the Boy Scouts of America (there must be at least two adults present at any Boy Scout activity). An assistant Scoutmaster may be 18 years old, but at least one in each troop should be 21 or older, so he or she can serve in the Scoutmaster's absence.

A troop should recruit as many assistant Scoutmasters as possible. It has been found that many successful troops have three or more.

## Youth Protection Training

YPT ensures boys involved in scouting are kept safe. At least one adult on every Scout outing must be Youth Protection Trained.

Before being involved with boys, **EVERY** adult should complete Youth Protection training, and all registered adult volunteers must complete it and fully understand the Youth Protection policies of the BSA..

- Parent Guides on youth protection are printed in the front of Cub Scout and Boy Scout handbooks. They are available online at [www.boyscouttrail.com](http://www.boyscouttrail.com).
- This training is also offered at the monthly "Roundtable" events, at Summer Camps, and at the Counsel headquarters.

## Troop Committee

The Troop Committee is the Troop's board of directors and supports the troop program. But you ask, "What does the troop committee do?" The troop committee does the following:

- Ensures that quality adult leadership is recruited and trained. In case the Scoutmaster is absent, a qualified assistant Scoutmaster is assigned. If the Scoutmaster is unable to serve, a replacement is recruited.
- Provides adequate meeting facilities
- Advises the Scoutmaster on policies relating to Boy Scouting and the chartered organization
- Carries out the policies and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America
- Supports leaders in carrying out the program
- Is responsible for finances, adequate funds, and disbursements in line with the approved budget plan
- Obtains, maintains, and properly cares for troop property
- Provides adequate camping and outdoor program (minimum 10 days and nights per year)
- Serves on boards of review and courts of honor.
- Supports the Scoutmaster in working with individual boys and problems that may affect the overall troop program.
- Provides for the special needs and assistance some boys may require.
- Helps with the Friends of Scouting campaign.
- Assists the Scoutmaster with handling boy behavior problems.

## **Duties of the Chairperson**

- Organize the committee to see that all functions are delegated, coordinated, and completed.
- Maintain a close relationship with the chartered organizations representative and the Scoutmaster.
- Interpret national and local policies to the troop.
- Call, preside over, and promote attendance at monthly troop committee meetings and any special meetings that may be called.
- Ensure troop representation at monthly roundtables.
- Secure top-notch , trained individuals for camp leadership.
- Arrange for charter review and recharter annually.
- Plan the charter presentation.

## **Duties of the Secretary**

- Keep minutes of meetings and send out committee meeting notices.
- Report the minutes of the previous meeting.

## **Duties of the Treasurer**

- Handle all troop funds. Pay bills on the recommendation of the Scoutmaster and authorization of the troop committee
- Maintain checking and savings accounts
- Train and supervise the troop scribe in record keeping.
- Keep adequate records in the Troop/Team Record Book.
- Supervise the camp savings plan.
- Lead in the preparation of the annual troop budget.
- Report to the troop at each meeting
- Keep adequate records of expenses

## **Duties of Committee Members**

- Attend and participate in monthly Committee meetings.
- Conduct Boards of Review for advancement of Scouts through Life Rank.
- Conduct mock boards of review for Eagle rank candidates.
- Provide general assistance to the Troop and the Scoutmaster, as required.
- Volunteer and carry out duties related to special assignments.
- Committee Members may take the lead on camping trips, day outings, fundraising activities, maintenance and construction tasks, and other activities, especially in accordance with the skills of the individual member.

# Patrols

The Scout troop is made up of patrols. A patrol is a grouping of six to eight boys who work together. Each patrol elects its own boy leader, called a patrol leader.

**Venture patrols** are made up of boys who are age 13 and older who want more challenging high-adventure experiences.

**Varsity teams** are made up of boys who are age 13 and older who want team sport activities.

Both Varsity and Venture Scouting activities may include the participation of girls, but the young women may not register as crew or team members. When girls participate in Venture and Varsity activities, a woman 21 years of age or older must be present along with the adult male leader.

## The Troop's Youth Leaders

The troop is actually run by its boy leaders. With the guidance of the Scoutmaster and his assistants, they plan the program, conduct troop meetings, and provide leadership among their peers.

### Junior Leader Positions

- **Senior patrol leader** - top junior leader in the troop. He leads the patrol leaders' council and, in consultation with the Scoutmaster, appoints other junior leaders and assigns specific responsibilities as needed.
- **Assistant senior patrol leader** - fills in for senior patrol leader in his absence. He is also responsible for training and giving direction to the quartermaster, scribe, troop historian, librarian, and instructors.
- **Troop Historian** - collects and maintains troop memorabilia and information on former troop members.
- **Librarian** - keeps troop books, pamphlets, magazines, audiovisuals, and merit badge counselor list available for use by troop members.
- **Instructor** - teaches one or more advancement skills to troop members.
- **Chaplain Aide** - assists in troop religious services and promotes religious emblems program.
- **Junior assistant Scoutmaster** - a Scout 16 or older who supervises and supports other boy leaders as assigned.
- **Patrol leader** - gives leadership to members of his patrol and represents them on the patrol leaders' council.
- **Assistant patrol leader** - fills in for the patrol leader in his absence.
- **Venture crew chief** - leader of a troop's Venture crew.
- **Varsity team captain** - leader of a troop's Varsity team.
- **Troop guide** - advisor and guide to the new Scout patrol.
- **Den chief** - works with a Cub Scout den as a guide.
- **Quartermaster** - responsible for troop supplies and equipment.
- **Scribe** - the troop secretary.

## The Patrol Leaders' Council

The patrol leaders' council, **not the adult leaders**, is responsible for planning and conducting the troop's activities. The patrol leaders' council is composed of the following voting members: senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, patrol leaders, troop guide, Venture crew chief, Varsity team captain.

The troop's activities are selected and planned at the annual program planning conference. The troop's yearly plan is then submitted to the troop committee for approval. The troop committee either approves the plan or makes alternative suggestions for the patrol leaders' council to consider. At its bi-monthly meetings, the patrol leaders' council organizes and assigns activity responsibilities for the planned events. The troop committee interacts with the patrol leaders' council through the Scoutmaster.

# Merit Badges

## Introduction to Merit Badges (Courtesy of BSA National Council)

You can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers as you earn merit badges. There are more than 100 merit badges. Any Boy Scout may earn any merit badge at any time. You don't need to have had rank advancement to be eligible.

**Pick a Subject.** Talk to your Scoutmaster about your interests. Read the requirements of the merit badges you think might interest you. Pick one to earn. Your Scoutmaster will give you the name of a person from a list of counselors. These counselors have special knowledge in their merit badge subjects and are interested in helping you.

**Scout Buddy System.** *You must have another person with you at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.* This person can be another Scout, your parents or guardian, a brother or sister or other relative, or a friend.

**Call the Counselor.** Get a signed merit badge application from your Scoutmaster. Get in touch with the merit badge counselor and tell him or her that you want to earn the merit badge. The counselor may ask to meet you to explain what is expected of you and to start helping you meet the requirements. You should also discuss work that you have already started or possibly completed.

**Unless otherwise specified, work for a requirement can be started at any time.** Ask your counselor to help you learn the things you need to know or do. You should read the merit badge pamphlet on the subject. Many troops and school or public libraries have them.

**Show Your Stuff.** When you are ready, call the counselor again to make an appointment to meet the requirements. When you go take along the things you have made to meet the requirements. If they are too big to move, take pictures or have an adult tell in writing what you have done. The counselor will ask you to do each requirement to make sure that you know your stuff and have done or can do the things required.

**Get the Badge.** When the counselor is satisfied that you have met each requirement, he or she will sign your application. Give the signed application to your Scoutmaster so that your merit badge emblem can be secured for you.

**Requirements.** You are expected to meet the requirements as they are stated—no more and no less. You are expected to do exactly what is stated in the requirements. If it says "show or demonstrate," that is what you must do. Just telling about it isn't enough. The same thing holds true for such words as "make," "list," "in the field," and "collect," "identify," and "label."

The requirements listed in this publication are the official requirements of the Boy Scouts of America. However, the requirements on the following pages might not match those in the *Boy Scout Handbook* and the merit badge pamphlets, because this publication is updated only on an annual basis.

If a Scout has already started working on a merit badge when a new edition of the pamphlet is introduced, *he should continue to use the same merit badge pamphlet and fulfill the requirements therein to earn the badge.* He need not start all over again with the new pamphlet and possibly revised requirements.