

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

TROOP 939

WELCOME



IDEALS



PATROL METHOD



UNIFORM



OUTDOORS



LEADERSHIP



ADVANCEMENT



ADULT ASSOCIATION



PERSONAL GROWTH

81
years

1923

2004

LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA

939

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America

Welcome to Boy Scouts of America! You have chosen to join the largest club for boys in the world. You will be going on hikes, sleeping in tents, cooking in the out-of-doors and doing many things others only read about. You will learn new skills, make new friends and, most importantly, have fun while achieving the “aims and methods of the Scouting program.” As a brand new Scout, you probably have many questions about how you begin. Here are some answers to many of your questions. On the back page, you will find phone numbers of some people in our troop that can help answer your questions.

The Promise

Scouting promises you the great outdoors.

Scouting promises you friendship.

Scouting promises you opportunities to work toward the Eagle Scout rank.

Scouting promises you tools to help you make the most of your family, your community, and your nation.

Scouting promises you experiences and duties that will help you mature into a strong, wise adult.

Troop 939

Troop 939’s #1 goal is to deliver the promise of Scouting to you, and any other boy who wishes it.

Troop 939 is sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore, California. Membership in the church is not required and boys of any faith are welcome. The Church provides the troop a place to meet, and is ultimately responsible for the Troop. Troop 939 is part of Boy Scouts of America, which designs the program, provides training for leaders, writes the Boy Scout Handbook, and gives the Troop the support it needs to run a quality program.

Troop 939 is in the Twin Valley District. This includes Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore, and Sunol. Twin Valley is a district of the San Francisco Bay Area Council, which covers the San Francisco Bay Area. The local Scout office is in San Leandro. Our Troop meets year round on every Monday night at the First Presbyterian Church, at 2020 Fifth Street, from 7:30PM to 9:00PM. We currently have about 30 registered Scouts. Each Scout is expected to attend wearing his Class A uniform. Again, you will find a list of useful phone numbers and web pages on the back page.

The Aims and Methods of Scouting

The objectives and aims of Troop 939 parallel the “aims and methods of the Scouting program” set forth by the Boy Scouts of America. As with most organizations, the BSA has a purpose or mission statement that outlines who and what they are as an organization. The Boy Scouts mission Statement is as follows:

“The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated to provide a program for community organizations that offers effective character, citizenship, and personal fitness training for youth. Specifically, the BSA endeavors to develop American citizens who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit; have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness; have personal values based on religious concepts; have the

desire and skills to help others; understand the principles of the American social, economic, and governmental systems; are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand our nation's role in the world; have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people; and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to the American society."

The aims of the Scouting program are to build **Character**, foster **Citizenship**, and develop **Fitness**. These aims are achieved through a series of Scouting methods that consist of **Ideals, Patrol Method, Outdoors, Advancement, Personal Growth, Adult Association, Leadership Development, and Uniform**.

The **Ideals** of Scouting are found in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto (Be Prepared), and Slogan (Do a Good Turn Daily). All Scouts are expected to live by these ideals. A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent. The Boy Scout Oath states:

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.

One of the most important concepts to understand about Scouting is that it is a program run by the Scouts. Each Scout is a member of a Patrol. Activities that the Scouts do are all decided by the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC). The PLC is like the executive board of a company, they make all the decisions. They decide what topics should be covered at the meetings, what campouts they want to attend each month, where they want to camp, and what skills or topics they want to cover. The **Patrol Method** develops leadership and teamwork abilities in a small group setting before it is applied on a larger Troop setting. Depending on the number of new Scouts, we may form a new Scout patrol with an older Scout assigned to guide the new Scouts.

The **Outdoors** is the key setting where the aims and methods are achieved. Weekend camping establishes self-reliance as the Scouts learn to work together and survive on their own. Troop 939 participates in some exciting outings, including: backpacking, hiking, camping, snow camping, snow skiing, whitewater rafting, exploring caverns, and many others. In addition to day hikes, Troop 939 goes on an overnight outing just about every month of the year. Many of these outings are accessible by car or a short hike. For example, each fall we camp at Yosemite and perform service for the National Park Service. However, Troop 939 prefers backpacking outings and maintains a significant amount of backpacking and camping equipment. A new Scout will need their own backpack, sleeping bag, and entry-level hiking boots. Often, these are obtained from older Scouts who outgrow them. Troop 939's packing list is available on our web site: www.troop939.org. The backpack provides an excellent place to store Scouting gear.

A parent-signed permission slip is required for attendance on any Scout outing. A copy of Troop 939's permission slip will always be available at www.troop939.org. Parents please note that The Boy Scouts of America requires that two adults be present at all times. Please do not leave your son until you are certain that two adults from the troop are present. The meeting or outing will be cancelled in the event that only one adult

is willing to stay!

Each year Troop 939 attends a Boy Scout summer camp at Wente Scout Reservation, outside of Willits California. Camp is one week long. We try to attend the third session, which is the week after 4th of July. The cost of summer camp for 2004 was \$225.00 per Scout. Summer camp is a great opportunity to earn rank advancements, earn merit badges, participate in high adventure activities, and have a great time.

Advancement creates a challenge to all Scouts by providing them with a series of obstacles to overcome. Furthermore, it provides a rewarded sense of accomplishment for the Scouts hard work and determination. As a new Scout, your first challenge is to advance from Scout to the rank of First Class, through Tenderfoot and Second Class. One of the things Scouting is best known for is earning Merit Badges. A merit badge is an invitation to explore an exciting subject, and to be rewarded for learning that subject. There are no merit badge requirements for the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class or First Class. Once you have obtained First Class, you will need to earn merit badges in order to advance to the ranks of Star, Life & Eagle. There are more than 100 merit badges available for you to earn. Troop 939 has a Merit Badge policy (see www.troop939.org), which involves consultation with the Scoutmaster before any work on a Merit Badge is begun. The ranks of Star, Life and ultimately Eagle require demonstration of Leadership and Service.

Personal Growth is developed as Scouts provide service, advance, and develop a plan for the Scouting years. Our service projects include the community at large, our sponsoring organization, and Scouting itself, for example at Camp Rancho Los Mochos, our local Boy Scout Camp on Mines road and as Den Chiefs for local Cub Scout Packs. We serve during the Rodeo Parade and perform the opening flag ceremony for Livermore's celebration of our nation's birth. All these activities provide an opportunity for the Scouts to grow as individuals and members of their community and religious organizations.

Adult Association provides role models for the Scouts to observe and also creates a setting where adults and boys work together to achieve common goals and have fun while doing so. Every family is expected to help out, either by serving as Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Committee Member, Merit Badge Counselor, and as a driver for outings. You will find that if you participate as a family, your boy will get a lot more out of the Scouting program, and will progress a lot further. Behind every successful Scout, is a supportive family.

Leadership Development is formed as each Scout assumes a Junior Leader position. The development starts with patrol positions on a smaller level, and fully develops as Scouts assume Troop Junior Leader positions that are essential to the operation of the entire Troop. These Junior Leader positions include: Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Patrol Leader, Scribe, Quartermaster, Historian, Librarian, Chaplain Aide, and Den Chief. The Troop Guides are especially important, for they guide the new Scouts into the Troop. Remember, your sons as leaders, run the Troop.

Finally, the **Uniform** gives Scouts an identity. The Boy Scout Uniform has long

served as an expression of a Scout's friendliness to all other Scouts regardless of who they are or where they're from. The uniform represents Scouting's spirit of equality and democracy, and identifies a boy as a brother to every other Scout. Wearing the uniform promotes comradeship, loyalty to one's Patrol and Troop, and public recognition of membership in the Boy Scouts of America. Troop 939 always wears Class A uniforms when traveling to and from outings.

The Class A or "Field" uniform: The complete uniform includes a BSA tan shirt, with patches, neckerchief & slide, olive BSA pants or shorts, with BSA web belt, BSA olive socks with a red stripe on top. A good place to find uniform materials is at Dom's Outdoor Outfitters, in Livermore, and at the Boy Scout Office, located at 1001 Davis Street, in San Leandro. The BSA office is open Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Saturdays also and the phone number is (800) 231-7963.

The Class B or "Activity" uniform: consists of the Troop 939 T-shirt. It may be worn with olive pants or shorts. This is the uniform most frequently worn on outings, to protect the more expensive class A. See the Troop Quartermaster for purchase of the Class B uniform shirt.

Troop 939 maintains a "Scout Closet." If you have Scout clothing that no longer fits, please donate it to the Troop. If you are in need of uniform clothing items and cannot afford them, please see the Troop Scoutmaster.

Youth Protection

Please read over with your parents the Youth Protection guidelines in the front section of your Boy Scout Handbook. The important point to know is that no adult leader will ever ask you to go with him/her alone. Conferences are always in view of others. On camp-outs, you may not share a tent with an adult unless it is your parent. The Scoutmasters and Junior Leaders will not tolerate any harassment, shoving, hitting, or disrespectful treatment of any other person. You are expected to help maintain a safe haven by monitoring your own behavior.

Finance and Fundraisers

Troop 939 is a completely self-sufficient Troop that supports itself through fundraisers and Troop dues. The fundraisers include, among others, selling Christmas wreaths and helping at the Rodeo Parade. As January 1, 2005, the Troop annual dues fee was \$50.00 per Scout. First year dues are prorated, based on the month that a new Scout joins the troop. Dues are used to pay the troop's operating costs such as each Scout's first neckerchief and Scout book, Boy's Life magazine, advancement awards, the purchase of camping equipment and re-chartering fees. Troop 939 maintains a campership fund to help all Scouts experience our outings and summer camp. Please see the Troop Scoutmaster for more details. Under no circumstances should a family be priced out of Scouting!

One of the goals of the Scouting Program is teaching Scouts how to earn their way through personal management. Troop 939 organizes fundraisers throughout the year. 50% of all fundraising proceeds go into the individual Scout's "Scout Buck" account and 50% into the Troop's operating fund. Scout Bucks can be used to pay for outings, summer camp, troop dues, camping equipment, etc. Many Scouts use their Scout Bucks for major trips such as Philmont. A uniform inspection is performed at each Troop meeting and \$1.00 in Scout Bucks is awarded to each Scout who presents himself in complete Class A uniform, with Boy Scout Handbook, pencil, paper and compass.