



TROOP 849 AN ADVENTURE ORIENTED EXPERIENCE

[Page 1: The Trail Ahead, What to Expect / Page 2 & 3: Starting with Troop 849, About T849 & Activities / Page 4: Costs and Adult Participation]

Purpose: To describe the transition to Boy Scouting from Webelos, and introduce Troop 849, its focus, objectives and requirements to parents of Second Year Webelos Scouts.

THE TRAIL AHEAD IN BOY SCOUTING

The Boy Scout program promotes youth leadership, character, rank advancement, participation in meaningful outdoor activities, and service to the community. In Boy Scouts, the experience transforms from the adult led activities of Cub Scouting to the youth led program of Scouting and troops are organized around a youth leadership structure.

Rank advancement includes three phases. The first phase, the ranks from Scout to First Class ranks, focuses on developing and honing scouting skills. The second phase, the Star and Life ranks, focuses on leadership, participation, scouting skills, and gaining knowledge through merit badges. The last phase, Eagle, focuses on leadership, service, and self-determination, and is the highest rank a scout can attain. In all ranks, living the principles of scouting is held in the highest regard.

For parents, your support of your son and the Troop is very important if he is to complete this trail. One major difference from Cub Scouting is that parents are not permitted to sign off advancement items in their son's Scout Handbook. Likewise, siblings are not permitted to sign their brother's Scout Handbook. The Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, Patrol Coordinators, Troop Instructors, or Troop Guides may sign the Handbook when a scout has met a requirement. A second major difference from Cub Scouting is that a parent is no longer required to accompany the scout on Troop activities, hikes, summer camps, etc. Parents are always welcome to participate in these activities, especially as drivers and leaders. The third difference is that Boy Scouting is youth-led, in contrast to Cub Scouting, which is led by the Den Leaders and Cubmaster. Scouts are encouraged to show leadership and self-reliance.

WHAT TO EXPECT FOR - WEBELOS

The months prior to Bridging

- The Webelo Scout and parent(s) will be invited to attend Troop 849's annual Rocket Hike, an activity that will fulfill the Boy Scout-oriented outdoor activity Arrow of Light requirement. This is an overnight car camping outing. On Saturday, scouts from the Troop presenting various parts of the Troop's Activities. On Sunday morning the Troop will move to an area where we will be launching model rockets.
- Understanding the Boy Scouting program. The Boy Scouts provides fun activities and a framework for your son to develop through an outdoor focused program.
- Besides attending a Troop 849 meeting, your Webelo Scout should attend one or more Boy Scout meetings held by different troops to understand the different troop sizes and program emphasis. When you and your Webelo make the selection, we encourage joining the troop that best fits your son's interests and your family needs.

If Joining Troop 849

- Representatives of the Troop will participate in your son's bridging ceremony to welcome him into the troop. Your Den Leader or Troop representative will give instructions regarding the Boy Scout membership application and payment to the Troop. These two items are normally required prior to or at the Webelos Bridging ceremony
- At least one parent from each family must attend the New Scout Parent Orientation meeting, which is held in March. Even if your scout bridges after March and plans to join out Troop, parents must attend this meeting.
- Your son will need a Boy Scout uniform; in most cases this is the same as the Webelos (Khaki) uniform. Your Webelos Scout will receive a Troop neckerchief as part of the bridging ceremony and troop numerals are provided by the Troop. Other uniform details will be further discussed at the New Scout Parents Orientation Meeting.
- Prior to bridging if your son is joining Troop 849, your scout will have the opportunity to sign up for Summer Camp. Details and sign-up will be available early in the year. If he will attend, a deposit will be required to hold a spot.

NEW SCOUTS - STARTING OUT WITH TROOP 849

- Your scout will initially become a member of the Dolphin patrol. This is a new patrol that will serve to transition the new scouts (and their parents) into the Troop. The Dolphin patrol will attend meetings as designated by the Dolphin Patrol Coordinator. He will be assigned to a patrol within a short period of time.
- Your scout should begin attending the meetings Tuesdays at 7:30 PM and meet the Scoutmaster and youth leaders.
- It is advisable to wait until the Troop's Backpacking Equipment Orientation is held in the spring before purchasing backpacking equipment. New parents must attend this orientation to ensure that your son acquires the correct gear for his safety and the troop's safety on backpack hikes.
- Encourage your scout to become active in the Troop, to work on advancement, and to start participating in the Troop's activities.
- Obtain, fill out and sign a yellow *Medical Authorization* form. This form must be carried by your son on all outings. It will be needed in the event of a medical emergency for medical care. We require a signed form to be in your son's possession on every outing, since parent attendance is not required for a scout to participate in an outing.
- If your scout is attending summer camp, he must attend two overnight activities prior to summer camp.

ABOUT TROOP 849

TROOP OBJECTIVES

Our Troop objectives are:

- **Provide a safe and fun program**
- **Provide a quality Scouting program, with the main focus on backpacking and other outdoor activities**
- **Develop boys into young adults that understand and live by the principles of Scouting**
- **Teach the boys scout skills that will serve them and their community**
- **Encourage parents to actively participate in Troop governance, activities, fundraising, mentoring and advancement activities.**

Troop 849 has focused on backpacking and outdoor activities since it was founded in the mid-1950s. Currently, the Troop has between 50 and 100 registered scouts ranging from sixth graders to scouts approaching their eighteenth birthday. Many of our scouts continue participation in the Troop after their eighteenth birthday as adult volunteers.

The regular Troop meetings are at 7:30 PM, Tuesday nights, at the Manhattan Beach Scout House next to Joslyn Center. We publish a calendar of meetings and activities that is available on our website at www.troop849.org. In addition to the calendar, the website contains checklists, reference information, and useful tips. The website is a great resource for scouts and parents.

The scouts are organized into patrols of about 8 scouts with a mix of age. Each patrol elects a Patrol Leader (PL) and Assistant Patrol leader (APL) that form the backbone of the Troop's youth leadership corps. The patrols are the foundation of the Troop organization, with most activities based upon participation by patrol. Each patrol has at least one adult Patrol Coordinator as an advisor.

The Troop is fortunate to have an experienced Scoutmaster and many Assistant Scoutmasters. The Scoutmaster is responsible for the Scout program that is led by the youth leadership. Twice a year, the Troop elects a Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) who in turn chooses his Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL). The Troop adult leadership is based on the Troop Committee who provides the structure for the program and is the vehicle for new parent participation and feedback. In order to focus the program on the scouts, the Scoutmaster should not be considered the focal point for parental concerns.

Troop 849 is not affiliated with any religious or civic organization. The Troop's sponsoring organization is Manhattan Beach Parents for Scouting. This organization is made up of parents of Troop 849 scouts for the purpose of sponsoring the Troop. The Troop Committee meets once a month to plan and review the activities of the Troop and to establish Troop policies. All parents are encouraged to attend Troop Committee meetings at least once.

EXPECTATIONS

It is essential that Troop 849 scouts show the Scout spirit and live by the Scout Oath and Law.

Other than the above, participation and contribution are the primary expectations. Participation in the Troop is expected of both scouts and their parents. Each year, the scout is expected to go on at least one overnight backpack trip, two other overnight trips, and to perform at least twelve service hours with the Troop. These activities fulfill rank requirements. Each scout is expected to advance at least one rank every twelve months.

Scouts are required to wear the appropriate uniform. For troop meetings, scouts are required to wear their scout shirts and neckerchief. At other activities, the leaders will specify the requirement.

The Troop expects our scouts to display the appropriate behavior. Inappropriate behavior may result in the scout receiving warnings, being sent home, requiring a parent at each activity, or ultimately being asked to leave the troop.

TYPICAL TROOP ACTIVITY CALENDAR

The Troop has at least one outdoor activity each month. This is a typical year's activity.

<u>January/February</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <i>Rocket Hike</i>■ <i>Winter Snow Backpacking</i>■ <i>Cross-Country Skiing</i>	<u>July/August</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <i>Long Term overnight training hikes</i>■ <i>Introductory overnight hikes</i>■ <i>Summer Camp</i>■ <i>Long Term Hikes</i>
<u>March/April</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <i>Rock Climbing Hike</i>■ <i>Court of Honor</i>■ <i>Spring Break Hikes</i>■ <i>Spring Camporee</i>	<u>September/October</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <i>Surf/Beach Hike</i>■ <i>Rock Climbing</i>■ <i>Desert Hike</i>■ <i>Court of Honor</i>■ <i>Home Town Fair Fundraising</i>
<u>May/June</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <i>Long Term overnight training hikes</i>■ <i>Introductory overnight hikes</i>■ <i>Deep Sea Fishing</i>	<u>November</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <i>Mountain Bike Hike</i>■ <i>MB Veteran's Day Ceremony</i>■ <i>Night Hike</i>

In addition to the above, the Troop will add activities as opportunities and leaders arise. In every month, the Troop participates in Service and Community Project as follows:

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Our Troop performs community service in two primarily ways.

- Each month, the troop volunteers to work at the Church of the Brethren in Redondo Beach serving and assisting the disadvantaged in the area. This Neighbor to Neighbor program is a great way to introduce scouts to volunteerism and broaden their experiences.
- Most months, an Eagle candidate leads his Eagle Service Projects and recruits volunteers from the Troop to perform the work. This is an important part of our Troop program as each Eagle candidate must complete a service project demonstrating his organization, planning and leadership skills prior to consideration for Eagle Rank. Many of our candidates perform their projects for the Forest Service by leading volunteers to upgrade trails or campgrounds.

Working at Neighbor to Neighbor, or on service projects are the primary ways that scouts earn the service hours necessary for rank advancement.

COURT OF HONOR

Merit Badges, Ranks, and other special awards are recognized at a Court of Honor. There are normally two Courts each year (one in the spring, the other in the fall). Check the calendar for the exact dates. Courts of Honor are important family events, and all family members are welcome. Courts are planned as a social event for the entire family to recognize the Scout for his work. The scouts wear full class A uniforms to Courts of Honor.

In addition to the spring and Fall Courts of Honor, special Eagle Courts of Honor are held to recognize the scouts who attain the rank of Eagle.

THE COSTS

Annual dues for renewing scouts are \$60 for the family's oldest scout and \$30 for each additional scout, payable in November. A year's subscription to *Boy's Life* can be purchased for an additional \$12 when you pay your dues. Troop activity tee shirts, worn at many Troop activities, are available from the Troop.

It is our objective is to have each Troop activity be primarily self-supporting.

- Weekend hikes usually cost from \$10-30, which covers transportation (gas), campsite, food expenses, and amortization of high cost equipment. These fees are collected before departure or after expenses are tallied.
- Summer Camp fees are set by each camp and the Troop cost to support. The camp usually imposes a set payment schedule on the Troop which sets the pre-payment schedule for participants. The cost for summer camp is approximately \$500 for the week.
- Long-term Hike costs are about \$100 to 150 for a week.
- The adult leader, based on his/her estimate of trip costs or actual costs, sets the cost of each activity.

The Troop has tents and backpacks available for use by the scouts. Equipment that is used by the group such as cooking gear, rock climbing and car camping equipment is provided by the troop. Your scout will need to have some basic equipment, such as a sleeping bag, in order to participate in the hikes. Other equipment will be discussed at the Troop's Backpacking Equipment Orientation for parents, held in the spring. All the initial personal backpacking equipment that your son will need can cost \$200 to \$500 if bought new.

FUNDRAISING

The annual dues cover the expenses of registering the scouts and the Troop with BSA, as well as insurance, with a little left over to cover the Troop's operating expenses. Shortfalls in operating expenses for activities, patches, awards and equipment must be funded from other sources. The Troop currently raises funds in two ways:

Old Hometown Fair Booth - Each year the Troop sells hotdogs or hamburgers or other items from a booth staffed by the scouts and their parents. Participation in this event is mandatory for each family.

Friends of Troop 849 - This is a Section 501(c)(3) organization set up to collect donations for the troop from parents and others to provide new and replacement equipment and to fund other worthwhile things.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

The parents in the Troop are expected to provide what the scouts cannot do themselves (such as driving, trip planning, adult supervision, etc.). BSA regulations require a minimum of two adults on BSA activities. Our Troop guideline is that a minimum of three adults be on our activities.

In addition to the above, we require trained adults to participate in all activities. Some of the training available for adults includes: youth protection, first aid, Scoutmaster, CPR, and Backpack Leader. The Backpack Leader training is very important to our troop and is given only once per year, in February. We encourage Webelos parents to consider taking this training to deepen our group of trained adults.

Parents are encouraged to assist at Troop meetings by serving on boards of review, and by helping the Quartermaster and Scoutmaster. In addition to participation at meetings, the Troop needs adults to be Patrol Coordinators, organize the Hometown Fair Booth, organize Eagle Courts, lead Special Events, and to lead Troop activities.

We encourage parents to work the Eagle service projects to support our Eagle candidates and to see our Eagle candidates in action.

Parents are encouraged to attend Troop Committee meetings. The Troop Committee establishes Troop policies, reviews the activities of Eagle candidates, deals with issues affecting the Troop, and plans the Troop calendar. Parents should join the Troop as a registered adult. It costs only \$10 per year to register as an adult.

The strength of the Troop is our strong adult support; we have many that give their time and energy even after their sons have graduated from the Troop. Parents, in support of these volunteers, please find something that you can do, and do it!

To receive important information and notices about the Troop activities, please put yourself on the mailing list by accessing the website, troop849.org, clicking on mailing list under the header, and following the instructions under **"* How to Subscribe"**.