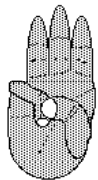


Troop 199 Introduction



Dear Parents,

Hi, I'm Henry Allen, Scoutmaster of **Troop 199**, and we hope that the attached information will help you and your son decide if Scouting

with **Troop 199** is for him. Boy Scouting is principally for the boy but your interest in scouting and in his growth is critical to his overall advancement and success in Scouting. We need your contributions to help build a strong tie between your family and the Troop. Your participation in the Troop will help assure this.

What is Boy Scouts?

Boy Scouts is a world-wide organization. In the United States, the Boy Scouts of America strives to develop boys into responsible young men through a program of outdoor activities, such as hiking, camping, swimming and backpacking.

This is coupled with establishing a sense of responsibility towards his community and the people around him. Scouts are set up in patrols and the patrols are formed into Troops.

Selecting a Troop:

Each boy is unique, as is each Troop. No one troop will ever meet the needs of all the boys. I encourage you to take a look at several Troops before you settle on a specific Troop.

The choice of Troops should be your son's. He is the one that will be living with the decision more than will the parent. He is the one who will be making new friends and who will be going on the outings. He is what Scouting is for. We have made up a checklist (attached) for the Scout to use in selecting his Troop.



The Scoutmaster's Background:

I have been a Scoutmaster in the Council for over 25 years now. In addition, I have been an Assistant Scoutmaster at the 1989 National Scout Jamboree and 1995 and 1999 World Scout Jamboree and was the Scoutmaster of the Troop from the Newark/Fremont area for the 2007 World Jamboree in England, celebrating 100 years of Scouting. (Jamborees are gatherings of about 30,000 Scouts.).

I also have served for the last 20 years on the Council's Youth Leadership Training Course (Brownsea-NYLT) and was the Course Director in 1997, 1998 and 2002. I hold the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver Award.

My strength and enthusiasm is in building Troops. I enjoy the smaller Troops. My ideal target is a smaller Troop of 15 to 25 active Scouts and I want to keep the size of **Troop 199** in that range. My intention is to remain Scoutmaster of **Troop 199** for several years. I believe that Scouting is boy-run operation, assisted and guided by interested adults.

I also believe that each Scout who wants to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout can do that. My expectation is that this lofty goal will take him until he is in his mid-teens. I do not expect and, in fact, do not

encourage Scouts trying to achieve Eagle in the minimum possible time.

I am assisted by several active parents who attend the meetings as well as drive and guide on outings. Our parents are all active and supportive of the Troop, helping out on trips, at meetings, and on fundraisers.

The Scoutmaster's Expectation for the Scouts

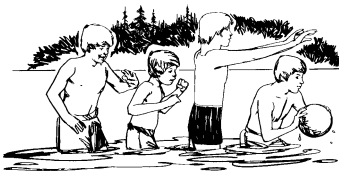
Scouting is built on the code of conduct called out in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. A copy of both is attached. I believe in those ideals. I expect each boy to demonstrate those ideals, not only when he is Scouting but also in his everyday life. I expect that each Scout should treat his fellow Scout as a friend.

Scouting should be done enthusiastically. A boy, who does not camp with his Troop at least 12 days a year, is not experiencing Scouting to its fullest. He is, in addition, doing a disservice to his fellow Scouts, who depend on him as part of their patrol.

Some larger Troops do operate effectively with only 1/3 to 1/2 of the Scouts showing up for outings. However, the other boys and the leaders cannot plan and execute the program when outing attendance is low or unpredictable due to the boys' other obligations.

The Scoutmaster's expectations:

- Scouts will do their best to follow the Scout Oath and Law.
- Scouts have a duty to Family, God, and school. These all come before Scouting.
- Scouts will go on the majority of the outings. This measure of commitment will be used in reviewing qualifications for advancement. Further, the inactive scouts may be dropped in favor of other boys who want to maintain that activity level.



- Scouts will show up in uniforms (see below) to ALL Troop functions, unless directed by the Scoutmaster.
- Scouts are responsible for arranging on-time transportation to and from the Troop events.

What the Scouts can expect from the Scoutmaster

- He will encourage an active outing program with monthly outings.
- He will work with both the younger Scouts on their advancement and the older Scouts on their leadership requirements.
- He will look out for all Scouts, for their health and their safety, and will provide a safe environment for Scouts to grow.
- He will listen to their concerns and will be fair with them.
- He will encourage an active outdoors program..
- He will work to assure that any Scout that wants to do a Scouting activity has a chance to do that.
- He will be a model of the Scout Oath and Law.

Troop Mission Statement:

Every person or group needs a goal. We teach scouts to set goals for themselves as soon as they join Scouts. Thus, it is appropriate for the Troop have a lofty goal. It is:

Troop 199 will be the best sub-25 boy Troop in the San Francisco Bay Area Council. We will accomplish this by following the Scout Oath and Law and through a vigorous outdoor program including hiking, camping, backpacking and aquatics. This will be coupled with active, high-level participation of the Scouts and leaders, aided by an interested and involved group of parents.

Troop 199's Background:

Troop 199 is a 25 year old Troop. It is a Troop with a fine past, which has seen a number of changes over the years.

Troop 199, A mid-size Troop:

A mid-size troop, such as Troop 199, has a number of advantages over the larger ones.

- ❖ The smaller size means that the Troop can mobilize and move more quickly, thus creating a more fast-pace program.
- ❖ It offers each Scout a chance to know all of the Scouts within the Troop.
- ❖ It usually means that the individual Scout does not get lost in the mob.
- ❖ It means that the voice of each Scout is heard a little better in determining the Troop Program.

However, the smaller Troop is more dependent on adults helping out because it still needs and requires at least two-deep adult leadership for all functions. The loss of one or two adults may mean an outing has to be canceled due to the lack of adult participation.

Meeting Times and Place: Wednesday - 7:30

Troop 199 meets on Wednesday nights at St. Joseph Church School.

We meet from 7:30 PM to 8:45 PM. We continue to meet during the summer but not necessarily every week.

We try to start and end on time. Because the boy should learn to schedule his time as part of the Scouting program, we do request that the Scout arranges his transportation to arrive before 7:30.

Troop Organization:

The Scouts are formed into Patrols. When a boy joins the Troop, he will be assigned to a Patrol. We try to keep friends together, where possible. This all depends on the number of new Scouts as well as how full the current Patrols are. Each Patrol has a Patrol Leader who is elected by the other Scouts in his patrol.



The Scout should direct questions about advancement and outings to his Patrol Leader. The Patrol Leader is your boy's leader. Having your son work through the boy leaders develops the other boys' leadership skills. Eventually your son will need to understand this when he becomes a leader. Parents are welcome to call me or one of the other adult leaders of the Troop if they have any questions.

If a boy has a concern or problem that he wants to discuss with me, he is always welcome to call me at any time. *Please emphasize this point with him.*

Outings:

The Troop has monthly outings that are one to two days each. The Scout is expected to work as a member of his Patrol, learn to hike, buy food for the outings, cook, and camp. Also, along the way he will have opportunities for swimming, canoeing, skiing, riflery and many other adventures. Most Scouts will tell you that the best part of Scouting is on the OUTINGS.

As adult leaders, we try to use the outings to foster teamwork, provide the Scout with opportunities for advancement, and allow him to develop in mental, moral, and physical fitness. We will encourage him to push himself a little beyond his expectation of himself in Scouting.

Equipment:

In general, most boys already have the basic starting supplies. A sleeping bag, a dish, knife, fork, and spoon, some clothing, rain gear, a warm jacket and he's ready, mostly. Including food, a Scout should take between 20-25% of his weight on an outing. The Troop and some Scouts have tents so he does not need a tent just for Scouting.

Details about equipment can be found in the Scout Handbook (see below). Please *talk to an experienced Scout leader before buying new equipment*; it may save you a lot in money and frustration, and may maintain your son's enthusiasm for Scouting longer.

Advancement:

A key aspect in Scouting is the advancement program; the program is set up to allow the Boy to advance by completing achievable goals. He,

with our encouragement, has set these goals for himself. The goal setting is often the first time that the Boy has had an opportunity to complete a task that he has chosen for himself. The guide to advancement is the new Scout Handbook (published after Nov 98).

During the year, certain outings may be restricted to boys who have shown effort in advancement. We have Court of Honors every 3 to 5 months to recognize the Scouts' work. Your interest in your son is shown by your attendance at these meetings. Please do attend.

Newsletters and Communications:

We do provide a calendar of events, which we post on the website (www.t199.org) in September. We try to follow this schedule as much as possible. However, each month, there are one or more additional e-mails to the Troop. We maintain both the website and a Yahoo group (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/T199_9/). To subscribe to the group, e-mail T199-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Announcements on changes in plans may be made at the meeting. Scouts are expected to relay this information home. Please ask your son when he gets home if there were any special news. Some of this information will relate to special preparations needed for outings, for instance. Monthly, a newsletter is e-mailed with revised outing and meeting information.

GETTING STARTED:

Age Requirement:

A boy, who is 11 years old, or who is 10 and 1/2 and is completing the 5th grade, qualifies for entry as a Scout. A Webelos Scout who has earned his Arrow of Light Award also is qualified.

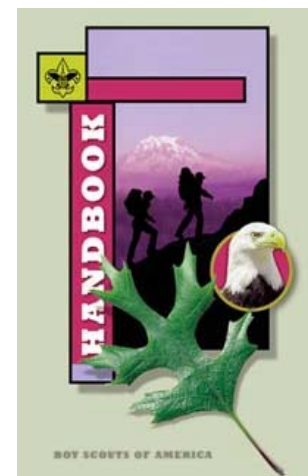


The Scout Handbook:

For the boy to start, he needs a Scout Handbook (see picture below). Both the Santa Clara Council Service Center for Scouts and the San Francisco Bay Area Council Service Center have complete Scout Shops. Merry Mart in Newark also carries Scout supplies.

You and your son need to go over the joining requirements and the pamphlet in the front of the Scout Handbook. This is required of all Scouts.

He and you need to review the Scout Oath and Law. These to be the primary rules of conduct in



The Scout Handbook

this Troop.

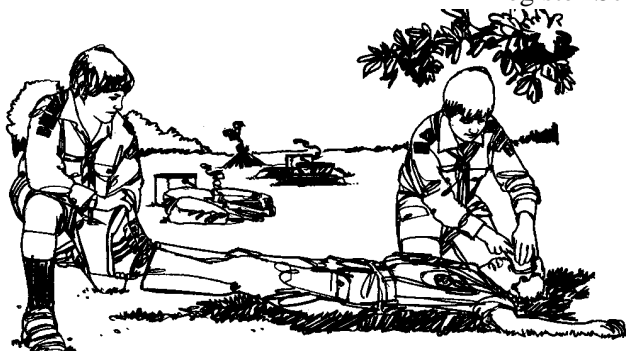
The Uniform:

Each Scout is expected to have a Scout uniform within a month of joining. We provide for this grace period in case Scouting and the Boy do not match. Shirts are

about \$35.00 new as are pants. The Troop hat is a special black T199 hat. The troop also provides a neckerchief.

The official uniform is short-sleeve Scout shirt, Scout pants (long or short), neckerchief, Scout Belt, Scout socks, and Troop hat. The shirt is required. Otherwise, the boy cannot go on the outings. Scout pants are encouraged and those boys with complete uniforms usually are the ones chosen to represent the Troop in public.

All Scouts over the rank of First Class are expected to have a full uniform. Advancement may be delayed if an older Scout does not regularly wear a complete uniform.



The Scout should get a short-sleeve Scout shirt because long-sleeve one is only needed about 2 months out of the year. We expect the Scouts to wear their complete uniforms to all Troop functions and outings unless specifically told by the Scoutmaster that uniforms are inappropriate.

Fees and Registration:

We have five things required to register the boy.

- ❖ First, we must have a completed application.
- ❖ Second, we have to have the fees (described below) paid.
- ❖ Third, we need to have a medical waiver (see [pdf](#) or [doc](#) document) signed.

- ❖ Fourth, we need the Driver's information form (see [pdf](#) or [doc](#) document) filled out.
- ❖ The final forms are an information sheet (see [pdf](#) or [doc](#) document), an acknowledgment of the Scout's and parent's obligations to make the Troop operate

For adult obligations, see [pdf](#) or [doc](#) document. For Scouts, see [pdf](#) or [doc](#) document.

Until all five of these items are taken care of, the Scout cannot go on an outing.

We do have a one-time fee to register Scouts. This is broken down into two parts. The first fee is primarily to defray first year advancement costs and uniform items including Hat, Neckerchief, and T-Shirt. The fee is \$40.00. There is also an annual scout fee of \$60.00. The family fee is prorated based on when a Scout joins. Scouts registering from December to February pay \$60.00; from March to May, the fee is \$45.00; the fee drops to \$30.00 for registration in the period from June to August. Scouts registering between September and November pay \$15.00. The annual family fee is collectable in November for the coming year. Adults who regularly work with Scouts on Outings or as Merit Badge counselors need to be registered. This is a \$10 fee per year.

Note that the Troop does not collect monthly dues. There is a monthly cost of \$10-\$15 to cover food costs for the outing.

On the medical waiver form, please note all medicine that your son takes and any special medical conditions (including ADD, ADHD,

car-sickness, etc.) when you register him. Please include any known or suspected allergies or medical concerns. Please also note any special food restrictions either due to allergic reactions or religious beliefs. Many boys do have special needs. It is easier to try to prevent a problem than have it occur on an outing.

Other Costs:

Our primary costs right now are outing fees. This may change and we may decide on dues as well but we do not foresee this immediately. Outing costs vary from outing to outing. In general, food and camping fees run about \$10-15 per outing. Some outings, such as skiing, will require special fees. The money for food is due on the meeting 2 weeks before the outing; Scouts who have not paid by then do not qualify to go on the outing.

With respect to menus, we, as leaders, try to keep menus simple and inexpensive. Complex meals are almost always a mess to clean-up. Finally, please note that drivers are selected from families whose sons have said that they are going on the outing. On long trips, the Troop reimburses the drivers for the cost of gas.

The final major expense in Scouting is summer camp or long-term outings. Each year we go to a weeklong Scout camp. The current fee is about \$310.00 and the date set for this year is July 19 to July 25. Camperships are always available. If the cost of camp (or other outings) seems too much, see me and we will work something out if the Scout truly wants to go. Summer Camp is not a required part of Scouting but it is a very important part of the program. Note that we typically have about 90% of the Scouts going to summer camp.

The other expense which we encounter about every other year or so is a major "Trek". We had 2 major outings in 2008 – a Grand Canyon backpack over spring break and a White-water Canoe Camp in August. The expenses for these expeditions run about \$250 to \$400. The growth of a Scout in one week on a Trek is often remarkable.



These adventures are meant primarily for Scouts with camping experience and some maturity. Qualifications for treks are announced well in advance.

One other fee relates to equipment and general troop operations. As with any thing, Troop equipment has to be periodically replaced and we do have camping and reservation fees to pay for. We figure that on average, the cost per Scout is about \$100. We ask families to assist in a fundraiser.

How you can help:

We need to set up a meeting to discuss what you want from Scouting and how we can help your son grow. At the same time, we can discuss how you can help the Troop. We are NOT looking for a major contribution of time.

We do have needs for counselors for some Merit Badges, for people to drive for special events (and a few outings), and for fundraiser helpers.

As in any volunteer organization, your help is needed and welcomed. A little help from everybody is more important to a good Scout Troop than a lot of work from one or two.

Parent help is focused through a Troop Committee. The Committee Chairman may be in touch with you to ask your help. If you have a suggestion, need to find out what's planned, want to help, or just have a concern, contact one of us and come participate in your son's Troop.

How to reach the Scoutmaster and others:

Finally, please feel free to call me, to come to meetings, to comment on how to improve the Troop, and to help out. Your offer will not be refused. Scouting and your son's growth in Scouting are important to me. If you need to reach me, my home number is at home (510-490-5720) or my cell-phone *in emergencies* (510-396-9183). You may also reach me by E-mail:

hvallen@comcast.net or
Scouts@T199.org or
T199@comcast.net

If you cannot reach me, please contact Mr. Mike Sorgaard, Troop Committee Chair, can assist you. He can be reached at 510-651-6926 or by e-mail at mikesorgaard@comcast.net.

Again, I hope that this information is helpful. Scouting is important in a boy's development. If I can be of assistance in getting your son involved in Boy Scouts, please do not hesitate to call me and I look forward to your family's involvement in Boy Scouts.

Very truly yours,

Henry Allen
Scoutmaster
Troop 199, Fremont
510-490-5720
hvallen@comcast.net
www.t199.org



Scout Oath and Law

Scout Law:

A Scout is:

- Trustworthy,
- Loyal,
- Helpful,
- Friendly,
- Courteous,
- Kind,
- Obedient,
- Cheerful,
- Thrifty,
- Brave,
- Clean, and
- Reverent

Scout Oath:

On my honor, I will do my best,
to do my duty to God and
Country, and to obey the Scout
Law,

To help other people at all
times,

To keep myself physically
strong, mentally awake, and
morally straight.

Scout Motto:

Be Prepared

Scout Slogan:

Do a good turn daily.



A Checklist for Selecting A Troop

Troop ____ **Troop 199** Troop ____ **My Ideal**

General Observations

Troop Size	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number at this meeting	_____	_____	_____	_____
Meeting Night	_____	_____	_____	_____
Friends in the Troop? (Y/N)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Friends Joining with me? (Y/N)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other Scouts near my age? (Y/N)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Uniform (encouraged or required?)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Good mix of ages? (Y/N)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Good Advancement? (Y/N)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Good Parent involvement? (Y/N)	_____	_____	_____	_____

Troop Meeting

Did I have fun? (Y/N)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Were the Scouts friendly? (Y/N)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Did I learn something? (Y/N)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Do the other Scouts have fun? (Y/N)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Was there good attendance? (Y/N)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Scout Run or Adult Run?	_____	_____	_____	_____
Was the meeting easy to get to? (Y/N)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Did I get a good feeling from the Troop Meeting? (Y/N)	_____	_____	_____	_____

Troop Outings

Number per year	_____	_____	_____	_____
Yearly Calendar? (Y/N)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Does the program look fun? (Y/N)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Summer Camp (Y/N)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other Long-term Outings (Y/N)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Type of Outings				
Car Camping	_____	_____	_____	_____
Away from Car Camping	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mix of both	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number of Evening events per year	_____	_____	_____	_____
Equipment (Scout or Troop supplied?)	_____	_____	_____	_____

Other Things

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

OVERALL RANKING

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------