

TROOP 447

HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America and Troop 447. We are part of the Pioneer Express District in the Golden Empire Council. Our sponsor, or Chartered Organization, is Natomas Youth Association.

By becoming a parent of a Boy Scout you are starting your son out on the great adventure of scouting. This is an important and rewarding endeavor that you will share with him.

Troop 447 is non-denominational and welcomes all boys ages 11 to 17 to scouting. A boy needs no prior experience to become a Boy Scout. Troop 447 has five main goals for our Boy Scouts:

- Growth in moral strength and character
- Participate in citizenship
- Development of physical, moral, and emotional fitness
- Be comfortable in and appreciate outdoor activities
- Leadership

Our program will help make your son a better person and give him the fundamental tools to be successful in whatever path he chooses in life. These skills are learned by Scouts, working together and doing things themselves.

Last, but not least, our goal is to have fun. We have prepared this parent's handbook to answer many of your questions. The following pages describe the organization of our troop and how it functions. We hope this helps you and your Scout.

All websites that you may find helpful are on the last page.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: Where do we drop-off and pick-up for campouts?

Answer: For dropping off we usually meet in the Walmart parking lot near Starbucks (Natomas Marketplace 3511 Truxel Rd.) unless specified differently. **Picking up is always at the shed located on the corner of Northview and Bridgeford at the Natomas Baptist Church (2813 Northview Drive)**

Question: Can my son's scout account from cub scouts transfer to boy scouts?

Answer: Yes, we keep a scout account for each scout. If you came from a Pack you may have bridged over with some money. Your scout can add to this account by participating in fundraisers. Please contact the treasurer from your pack and the treasurer from the troop to arrange the transfer of funds.

Question: How fast will my Scout advance and how involved should I be in his advancement?

Answer: Scouts are encouraged to learn skills and to achieve rank advancements at their own pace, not simply because they have been pushed to do so. If you previously participated in Cub Scouts, for most Scouts this will be a very different process as in Cub Scouts a boy's rank changed regardless of their progress. A key benefit of Boy Scouts is a boy learning that he has to take responsibility for his success. When this occurs, the Scouting movement has achieved its first aim - to build character.

Though many older Scouts aren't rushing through rank because they enjoy the Scouting experience, younger Scouts often get discouraged if not advancing in rank. We suggest that you encourage your new Scout to achieve First Class rank at approximately their first anniversary in the troop. When a Scout does this, he stays in Scouting! For older Scouts, be concerned about stagnation if your Scout remains at the same rank for more than a year.

Question: When will my son be recognized for his achievements?

Answer: Generally, Scouts are awarded rank advancements and merit badges at a Court of Honor which occur four times a year. All members and families are invited to attend.

Question: What if my son loses his scout handbook?

Answer: All rank advancement must be recorded in your Scout handbook, so don't wait too long to get a new one; however, don't panic over lost work. All work done toward ranks for which boys have already had a scoutmaster conference and Board of Review will have been saved on the troop database. The merit badge a scout has earned is recorded in the troop database as well. **Scouts should make copies or digital images of their signed off pages in the back of their books (i.e. community service, nights of camping, rank requirements, etc.)**

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Every Scout and adult leader must fill out an official Boy Scouts of America application (with online Youth Protection Training for Adults) to join the Troop. In addition, each Scout and registered adult leader* must have on file a current **Medical Form**. (See attached A of Forms) Due to the nature of activities the troop participates in, all three sections of the medical form (Parts A, B and C) need to be completed by June 1st of every year. The medical information on the form will be kept in strict confidence. It lets the Troop leadership know about any medical situations that the Scout or adult may have (asthma, allergies, medical restrictions, etc.) and, in the event of an emergency, gives permission for a doctor to treat a Scout (or adult) if a parent cannot be reached. Please be truthful and thorough when completing the medical form. In addition, a copy of a current health insurance card (both front and back) must be on file with the troop.

**Adult leaders must have a medical form on file in order to participate in any outdoor troop activity.*

TRAINING

For many reasons, including training, it is best to register yourself as a member of the troop when you register your scout. Many training courses are available online, such as Youth Protection, Safety Afloat, Safe Swim Defense, and This is Scouting. Anyone can log on and take these courses at any time at my.scouting.org.

You do have to create an account, which will ask for your BSA number. If you don't have your number yet (these are assigned by the council with your adult registration), just proceed without one, and you can link your record with your training later when you get your number.

COMMUNICATION

Troop 447 primarily communicates via scoutlander (emails, calendar, roster). It is critical that we have the adult's email in the system for this reason, and for this reason we encouraged Scouts to have their own email account for the use of Scoutlander. You will receive reminders regarding events and weekly meetings. **We ask that scouts communicate via Scoutlander whenever possible. If they email outside of Scoutlander they must include an adult leader or parent.**

In addition, the Troop uses the Remind system to send text messages "on the fly". This system is primarily used when we are gathering or returning from an event where logging in to the Scoutlander website would be impractical for the adult leader "on the go".

Finally, the Troop makes use of Facebook (closed group) and Shutterfly to share pictures and achievements of various members of the troop.

TROOP STRUCTURE

Troop 447 meets Monday evenings from 6:45-8:15 at Leroy Greene Academy (2950 W. River Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833). The troop meets year round with a few exceptions for holidays. Troop 447 has a Court of Honor (COH) every three months (February, May, August, November). During the summer Troop 447 meets at Orchard Park (324 Unity Point Ave., Sacramento, CA 95833) which is next to Leroy Greene Academy. Scouts are required to attend each meeting in Class A uniform.

Walk your scout into every Boy Scout event (troop meetings, patrol meetings, outings...) they attend and stay until 2 deep leadership is present. You are ALWAYS welcome to stay for the meetings. **Please pick up promptly from the troop meeting at 8:15.** Arriving at 8:00 and coming in to hear the adult announcements is highly encouraged.

Boy Scout troops are organized using the patrol method. Each patrol consists of 4 to 8 scouts with one scout elected as a patrol leader and one as an assistant patrol leader. Each Patrol will consist of Scouts of different ranks. Patrol leaders learn how to manage troop activities by working under the direction of a Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL).

At troop meetings, Scouts are expected to arrive **on time, in uniform**, with their Scout handbooks, as they work on advancement. We are all expected to conduct ourselves as guests of the LGA and leave it in the same condition and order as it was when we arrived.

At the meetings, Scouts:

- Gather for the opening ceremony, hear announcements of upcoming events, make plans by patrol for upcoming activities, and plan for upcoming outings. Sometimes there is a special program planned with a guest speaker or visitors.
- Work on rank advancements, including merit badges, either in class or individually with older scouts or a merit badge counselor.
- Gather for the closing ceremony where the scouts sing

Scout Vesper

Tune: "O Tannenbaum"

Softly falls the light of day,
While our campfire fades away.
Silently each scout should ask:
"Have I done my daily task?
Have I kept my honor bright?
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?
Have I done and have I dared
In everything to be prepared.?"
Listen Lord, oh listen Lord,
As I whisper soft and low,
Bless my Mom and bless my Dad,
There is something they should know.
I have kept my honor bright.
The Oath and Law has been my guide.
Mom and Dad, this you should know,
Deep in my heart I love you so.

It is our hope that meetings will be fun and productive. Some of this is dependent on the boy-led nature of the meeting as well as the Scouts' level of participation and behavior during a meeting.

PATROL LEADERS COUNCIL (PLC)

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL), Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders, Quartermaster, Troop Guides, Scribe, and other Senior Scouts, make up the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC). The PLC meets once a month, or as directed by the SPL. Its purpose is to plan monthly meetings, trips, outings, and discuss issues that may be arising in the Troop. The PLC is the real leadership organization within the Troop and is where the real decisions that guide the Troop come from.

The SPL, ASPL, Troop Guides and Patrol Leaders are the members of the PLC that may vote on issues. The other members are non-voting members. A member of the PLC must make at least 2 of 3 meetings on a rolling basis or risk losing his leadership position. The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters and various Troop Committee members provide appropriate support to the PLC.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

In order for a Scout to advance in rank, Boy Scout policy requires him to be active in the troop. Although specific attendance requirements are not required for advancement, Troop 447 encourages scouts to participate in at least 50% of the Troop meetings and events, and 50% of the Troop outdoor activities unless other arrangements are made with the Senior Patrol Leader and/or Scoutmaster. If a scout is unable to participate at this level, the SPL or Scoutmaster may ask the Scout to a conference to discuss the scout's participation. Troop events are important to the Scout's development.

COURT OF HONOR

Troop 447 has a Court of Honor every three months. It is held during the regular meeting time and is when the boys are recognized for ranking up, receive merit badges and other patches. There is food, fun, skits and information to share. Traditionally our Troop has a COH in February (welcoming new scouts), May (gearing up for summer camp), August (biggest one of the year after summer camp) and November (our troop's anniversary is celebrated usually at Camp Pollock located at 1501 Northgate Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95815)

UNIFORM

The **Class A** uniform is worn to all Scout meetings, whenever we travel, on Scout Sunday, for flag ceremonies, and for Courts of Honor. The Class A Uniform consists of a scout shirt, neckerchief/slide, khakis, scout belt, hat, and closed toed shoes. Sashes are only worn at Courts of Honor, Scout Sunday, and Eagle Scout ceremonies. Insignia placement can be found online.

The **Class B** uniform is worn to summer scout meetings, at summer camp (except to dinner), while on campouts and during sporting activities. The Class B Uniform is a scout t-shirt or sweatshirt. Each boy gets one Class B shirt when joining.

EXPECTATIONS OF A SCOUT PARENT

Each young man and his family are important members of our troop. Active, involved parents and family members are vital to a Scout's advancement and level of interest. Please have your scout represented at each **parent meeting**. These are held at the same time as the boys' meeting usually on the first Monday of the month.

The parent of a Scout should:

- Enjoy the Boy Scout experience alongside your son!
- Provide the necessary uniform, equipment and transportation for your Scout so that he is properly clothed and equipped to participate in troop and patrol activities.
- **Walk your scout into every Boy Scout event (troop meetings, patrol meetings, outings...) they attend and stay until 2 deep leadership is present.** You are ALWAYS welcome to stay for the meetings.
- Provide encouragement to your Scout and help him set and abide by priorities, which will help further his Scouting experience. The success and enjoyment of the Boy Scout increases as the Scout's participation increases. Allow time to review, study and practice his rank requirements.
- Provide never-ending encouragement to your Scout in his advancement, service and commitment to the Scout Oath and Laws.
- Provide Information to the Scoutmaster or one of the Assistant Scout Masters regarding problems or concerns you or your Scout may have (medical conditions, learning disabilities, medications etc.).
- Allow your Scout to "learn by doing". He will make mistakes when trying to accomplish tasks on his own, but this builds character! Remember, there are many older boy and adult leaders present to ensure that new Scouts and their patrols don't do anything that jeopardizes safety or other basic requirements.
- Encourage your Scout to attend summer camp! Experience proves that new Scouts are much more likely to stay in Scouting, enjoy Scouting more, and advance more quickly by attending summer camp.
- Help your son to find the time to study his advancement requirements, and if possible, test your son on those requirements so that he is more comfortable when reviewed by the troop leadership. In accordance with Boy Scout policy, parents are not authorized to sign-off Boy Scout requirements for their son.
- Attend and/or support Courts of Honor, campouts, fundraisers and other Troop 447 activities as your time allows. We welcome your participation for both the Troop's and your son's benefit.
- As a parent, participate in the troop's activity based on your own family and work situation and demands. We expect each family to help the troop to the extent possible. Adult leadership opportunities include: Assistant Scoutmaster positions, troop management positions and troop committee participation etc.

We welcome the participation of all parents and guardians in our program in all areas, meetings, departments, training, merit badge counseling and camping. Some levels of participation require registration as an adult leader and BSA training. The support and involvement of parents and family members in Troop 447 are what has made the Troop so successful throughout the years. As a parent, you will have to decide how active you can be based on your family situation and its demands, but there are always positions available in which the troop needs help. Many positions honestly will require only a few hours of your time. Experience has shown that parental involvement, either in a leadership or a support role, has a direct bearing on the motivation a Scout has and the accomplishments he achieves.

ADVANCEMENT - THE BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK

Both Scouts and parents should become familiar with the contents of the Official Boy Scout Handbook, as it will provide answers to many questions. Descriptions of the requirements for each Scout rank are covered in the book. (See attached B of Forms) **Your scout should bring his book with him to meetings and he should ask a scout (not an adult) at least two ranks above him to demonstrate a skill and get a requirement signed off.** (Exception to this is merit badges) **The camping and community service will be signed off by an adult leader who attended the activity.** Encourage your son to take his handbook to all campouts and weekly meetings. Over time this book will become a valuable record of your sons achievements. It should be brought to every weekly meeting. Encourage your Scout to take good care of his book as they have to last a long time, and the records of achievement they contain are critical to each Scout's personal advancement through the ranks. The purchase of a protective cover is recommended and writing the last name along the pages to be read from the side is also a good idea. (The Troop 447 Advancement Chair will record your Scout's achievements in a database after he has earned each rank.)

The first rank your scout will earn is Scout. The next three ranks (Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class) must be obtained in sequence, but may be worked on simultaneously. A detailed list of requirements is in the Official Boy Scout Handbook. Scouts should make a goal of achieving the First Class rank by the end of their first year in Scouting. During the first year scouts will learn basic skills but also learn to work together which is often more essential than rank advancement. Summer camp is an excellent opportunity to quickly move through the first three ranks. Scouting 101 (March campout) will get a Scout through 50-60% of the requirements for the ranks. Your scout should record all rank advancement activities in the back of his scout handbook. Merit Badges: No merit badges are required to reach First Class Rank, so it is not necessary to focus on merit badges during the first year of scouting, but scouts can earn any merit badge they want to earn at any time during their scouting career.

WHAT EVERY SCOUT NEEDS TO KNOW

Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to -
Be clean in my outdoor manners. Be careful with fire. Be considerate in the outdoors.
Be conservation minded.

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 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.

The Scout Vespers

Softly falls the light of day,
While our campfire fades away.
Silently each scout should ask:
“Have I done my daily task?
Have I kept my honor bright?
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?
Have I done and have I dared
In everything to be prepared.?”

Listen Lord, oh listen Lord,
As i whisper soft and low,
Bless my Mom and bless my Dad,
There is something they should know,
I have kept my honor bright.
The Oath and Law has been by guide.
Mom and Dad, this you should know,
Deep in my heart I love you so.

Scout Slogan

Do a good turn daily.

SCOUT ACCOUNTS

Troop 447 keeps scout accounts that can be used for costs associated with Boy Scouts. Scout accounts accumulate based on fundraising or contributions made to your scout. It's a great way to have your scout earn their summer camp experiences. Our fundraiser are selling camp cards in March/April and selling wreaths during the month of October. More information will be available as the fundraiser happens. If you were in Cub Scouts your scout may have money that can be transferred over to his Boy Scout account. Please contact the treasurer at your Pack and the Troop to make arrangements.

FUNDRAISING

The Troop requires funds to purchase equipment, help subsidize activities etc. The dues collected do not support the troop for the whole year. The Troop raises funds through one fundraiser which is selling wreaths. There is an expectation that all Scouts, as members of the Troop, will participate in the Troop's main fundraiser. There may be times that the Troop may have a special fundraiser that is just for the benefit of the individual Scout, such as selling camp cards.

CAMPOUTS

In order to attend troop overnights and summer camp we need your scout's **medical forms**, parts A & B (summer camp requires C also) on file with us and updated by June 1st of every year.

Paperwork and payment for outings is always due by the Monday before the outing. Turning paperwork and money in is the responsibility of the parent. Please do not rely on your scout to turn this in.

- Sign-up for outing via scoutlander
- Medical A & B forms (See attached A of Forms)
- Activity Consent form signed by scout and guardian. (See attached C of Forms)
- \$20.00 for the event fee on most campouts. You can pay with your son's scout account; using the "Cash" app on your phone; check; cash; or online with a credit card (fee applies) See Scoutlander for links regarding the electronic methods
- \$10.00 (cash only) for food which gets paid to the patrol cook.
- Equipment needed is listed in the Scout handbook. They should **ALWAYS** have the "essentials" in their backpacks. Anything other than that (i.e. snow equipments, fishing gear, backpacking gear) would be announced prior to campout. Often the SPL will call for a backpack inspection prior to a campout for a scout under 1st Class rank.
- Less is better when packing. They must be able to carry all of their gear at one time on their back. A mile hike into a camping spot is not unusual.
- **All Gear** needs to have your scout's name on it.
- Patrol and troop gear is usually pre-packed into the trailer the **Wednesday or Thursday evening before a campout**. The more hands the better. Many patrols will appoint a "quartermaster" who is in charge of the gear and packing or finding other to pack the trailer.
- **We always need adults to help transport and chaperone campouts.** Adults cook and camp apart from the boys, as their own patrol. Troop 447 reimburses gas for traveling. (Fill up prior to trip and after trip and turn in both receipts to the Troop Treasurer).
- Often boys will need to bring a sack dinner and \$10.00 for lunch on the way home. Please look for the drop off time - this does vary per each campout.

- For dropping off we usually meet in the Walmart parking lot near Starbucks (Natomas Marketplace 3511 Truxel Rd.). **The troop will wait a maximum of 10 minutes after the drop off time before leaving if they have not heard from you.** If you are running late you MUST call. **Picking up is usually at the shed located on the corner of Northview and Bridgeford at the Natomas Baptist Church (2813 Northview Drive).** You will receive a text message via the Remind App approximately an hour before the scouts return. Return times can vary and change last minute. **Please be courteous to our chaperones and drivers and be waiting to pick up your son.**

Summer Camp is where a Scout will earn most of the MBs they will receive. Troop 447 usually attends a different summer camp each year. Just remember summer camp is for fun, not just earning merit badges. The scouts will want to schedule some free time too.

Once a MB is started, a Scout can take as long as he wants to finish it. It is the Scouts responsibility to keep his blue card. If lost before it is recorded it will have to be redone.

WHAT GEAR TO PACK FOR CAMPOUTS

Young boys bridging into Boy Scouts (and their parents) are sometimes overwhelmed with what Boy Scouts is all about. One of the major differences from Cubs is the amount of outdoor activities that occur in most Troops. But what do they need to purchase, or more importantly, what DON'T they need to purchase? I know that all Troops are different, but here is some information that we provide to our parents in Troop 447.

Gear Choices and Options

The right gear may mean the difference between a scout enjoying an outing and having a miserable time; and in extreme cases, may prevent a cold and/or wet outing from becoming a safety concern. Although buying camping gear can become very expensive, the idea of spending hundreds of dollars on gear for growing boys does not make a lot of sense. Let's talk about basic gear options and also we will discuss what is not needed (i.e, what is provided by the troop). Also remember, these discussions are not meant to be requirements, we will not turn away any scout for a camping trip because he doesn't have something mentioned below. The only time we would have concern with the Scouts equipment, which may result in a scout being turned away, is when we venture out into extreme conditions (hot, cold, wet) and they don't pack properly (from a safety standpoint). Remember, Scouting is set up to provide the boys a safe place to fail (and therefore learn). Being outside in extreme weather without the right equipment may not be a safe place to fail.

Please remember one phrase: **"Cotton is Rotten"**. When cotton gets wet, either from the elements or from sweat, it literally sucks the heat from your body.

CAR CAMPING.

What do the boys need for this type of trip? The big 3 are sleeping bag, sleeping pad, and clothes.

1. **Sleeping Bag** – Nothing is worse when camping than not being warm when you are sleeping. I know the boys have sleeping bags that they have been taking to sleepovers for years, but those bags have three major problems in the scouting world. First, they are not warm enough for sleeping outside if the temperature drops below 50 degrees. Second, they are huge. Even rolled up, they are as big as 2 basketballs, and third, they are COTTON. When they get wet (and they will), they will not dry out and will suck the heat out of you. A down or synthetic mummy sleeping bag rated at 20 to 25 oF is a great investment for Scouts. It will come with a stuff sack that will size reduce the bag for transport. The great thing about this item is that they will not outgrow it. Sleeping bags like the ones described here can be purchased for less than \$50.00.

2. **Sleeping Pad** – No, not an inflatable mattress that needs power to blow up. A camping pad can be closed cell foam, self inflating, or one that needs to be manually blown up. In all cases they are small and light. Why do you need a pad? Good question. Besides comfort, a sleeping pad provides an insulating layer between you and the cold ground. Sleeping directly on the cold ground will pull the heat right out of you and your sleeping bag. Think of sitting directly on the metal bleachers during a football game. Once again, with this item, the boys will not outgrow it. Sleeping pads can cost as little as \$15.00.

3. **Clothes** – Obviously clothes cover a lot of specific items and are weather and temperature dependent. The purpose of this discussion is to provide a few general rules and options. Let's start with the most important thing, "COTTON IS ROTTEN". Does that mean that a cotton T-Shirt is a health hazard and can never be worn, NO. But let's talk about simple options that are not cotton t-shirts, cotton sweatshirts, jeans, and white sweat socks. Instead, think about wool and synthetic fabrics.

- Bad Choice – Cotton T-Shirt.
- Better Choice – Any t-shirt that is made of wool or polyester. Those under armour shirts that they have for soccer are great for camping. Looking for non name brand t-shirts like this will be less expensive.
- Bad Choice – Sweatshirts
- Better Choice – Fleece pullover. Fleece is 100% polyester, will keep you warm when wet, and will dry faster than cotton. Fleece pullovers or jackets are available for less than \$30.
- Bad Choice – Jeans
- Better Choice – Scout pants. They are polyester, have extra pockets and you already own them.
- Bad Choice – Cotton socks
- Better Choice – Scout socks are a polyester/wool blend. Look around for socks that are not the white cotton socks.

Other – Gloves, hat, and a raincoat are must haves. For the gloves and hat, think fleece again. A cheap, light rain coat coupled with the fleece pullover will keep them warm under most conditions that we would be out in. Remember, layering is the key to staying warm in all conditions.

Besides the 3 listed above, what else do the boys need?

1. Pocket knife
2. flashlight- Make sure the flashlight is simple and durable (LED instead of bulb) and uses AA or AAA batteries (have them bring spares)
3. water bottle - We like water bottles over camelbak because they are easier to fill and know when they are near empty.
4. Mess Kit - Make sure the mess kit has a cup and fork.
5. Shoes – I know that shoes are expensive, and the idea of buying more shoes for growing boys seems crazy, but shoes are important. When camping or hiking, sneakers are not the best choice. They get wet and their bottoms are not designed for walking in the woods. On the other hand, hiking boots are not really needed either, unless you are carrying a heavy pack and the extra ankle support is nice. In the middle are hiking shoes. These are basically sneaker shaped shoes that have a more aggressive tread on the bottom. The other nice thing about having this type of shoes is that you don't have to worry about his school sneakers getting ruined on a scout trip. But remember, they must fit well and be comfortable. Also, a breaking in period may be needed; hiking a long distance in new shoes is not fun.

Next let's talk about what the boys **DON'T NEED** (i.e., what the troop provides). Cooking equipment and tents are the big items. Stoves are provided by the troop. We don't want the boys bringing their own because it may result in safety issues. The troop has tents for the boys to use, although some of the older boys do bring their own tents, we would like to encourage the younger boys to use troop tents for two reasons. First, if they need help setting up the tent, the other boys know

how to set up the troop tents. Second, we are not sure how your personal tent will perform in the rain. We have been on camping trips when a personal tent did not perform well in the rain and the boy was miserable.

Finally, what to pack all of this stuff in? I use a 20 gallon Rubbermaid container. It is light, waterproof, I can label it with my name, and can everything I need for the weekend in it.

The next “level” of camping I would like to talk about is where the boys are actually carrying their equipment (and the troops) from place to place, i.e.

BACKPACKING.

All of the discussion above about sleeping bags, pads, and clothes still applies, however a new piece of equipment needs to be added to the list,

1. Backpack. Backpacks come in two main types, internal and external frames. Most today are internal frames. There are many, many backpack manufactures and pricing options and the boys will outgrow packs as they get older. Good quality backpacks cost as little as \$60.

HIGH ADVENTURE.

Backpacking high adventure trips and preparation for these trips involve long repeated hikes where the boys are carrying all of the needed equipment and food on their backs. The pinnacle backpacking trip of this magnitude is the 12 day trek at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. These trips can cover between 50 and 120 miles of hiking where the boys carry all of their own gear. Troop 447 usually does not do this type of camping.

References

1. www.scoutdirect.com – Site for quality entry level camping equipment. Their current sale has a sleeping bag, pad, and backpack for \$95.00.
2. www.campmor.com – General camping online superstore.
3. www.llbean.com – Lots of clothing and camping options.
4. www.rei.com – Company that has entry level and high end camping equipment.
5. www.hudsontrail.com – Similar to REI.
6. www.cabelas.com – Huge hunting/fishing store. Sells a lot of camping equipment and clothing.
7. www.dickssportinggoods.com – Local store with camping equipment. Good shoe inventory.
8. www.kohls.com – Shoes and clothing cheap.
9. www.walmart.com – Wal-Mart has a great camping section. Great for flashlights, rain coats, shoes, fleece, and smaller stuff. Stay away from sleeping bags.

All of these websites are great for searching for inexpensive equipment. Go to the camping sites and request catalogs.

One final request about camping gear. Whatever configuration and camping gear the boys end up taking on a trip, **PLEASE DO NOT PACK THE GEAR FOR THEM!!!** If they didn't pack the gear before they left, they will not be able to pack it up Sunday morning to come home. Help them pack, encourage (or require) them to pack all of the right things, but let them do it. We want the boys to be independent when they are with us, please help them be independent when packing.

ASSISTING THE PATROL SHOPPER

Most campouts, the boys will form cooking patrols of 4-8 Scouts, and they will plan a menu and create a grocery list with estimated costs (see attached Form A). Each patrol leader will assign a **shopper/cook**. When possible, younger boys (under 1st class) will be assigned this duty with and

older scout in their patrol. They will get the money and menu planner/shopping list from the Patrol Leader the Monday prior to the campout. They will need to meet to shop, pack food in box and cooler, and be in charge of preparing all meals during the campout. Boys are to do the shopping with parental supervision. Let the boys do their own shopping. Help with price comparisons and deciding where to shop (Super Walmart or Foods Co. is a great option). The scout should not deter from the planned menu they took away from the meeting. The scout will not be reimbursed for overspending. (See attached D of Forms)

Before arriving at the Walmart Parking Lot for the campout, the Scout should place the refrigerated items in a cooler and pack the other food items in sturdy box or other container.

The Monday meeting after the campout the shopper/cook needs to turn in their receipts, any change, and the list of boys who paid to the treasurer.

CLOTHES CLOSET

If you are looking for hand-me-down items we have a clothes closet for scouts to look through. Please contact out clothes closet coordinator. This is a good source of winter clothing and some uniform parts. Also, if you have anything to donate to the closet - thank you in advance.

MERIT BADGES

There are over 135 Merit Badges (MB) available in Scouting today with more being added each year.

<u>American Business</u>	<u>Family Life</u>	<u>Plant Science</u>
<u>American Cultures</u>	<u>Farm Mechanics</u>	<u>Plumbing</u>
<u>American Heritage</u>	<u>Fingerprinting</u>	<u>Pottery</u>
<u>American Labor</u>	<u>Fire Safety</u>	<u>Programming</u>
<u>Animal Science</u>	<u>First Aid</u>	<u>Public Health</u>
<u>Animation</u>	<u>Fish and Wildlife Mngmt</u>	<u>Public Speaking</u>
<u>Archaeology</u>	<u>Fishing</u>	<u>Pulp and Paper</u>
<u>Archery</u>	<u>Fly Fishing</u>	<u>Radio</u>
<u>Architecture</u>	<u>Forestry</u>	<u>Railroading</u>
<u>Art</u>	<u>Game Design</u>	<u>Reading</u>
<u>Astronomy</u>	<u>Gardening</u>	<u>Reptile and Amphibian Study</u>
<u>Athletics Merit</u>	<u>Genealogy</u>	<u>Rifle Shooting</u>
<u>Automotive Maintenance</u>	<u>Geocaching</u>	<u>Robotics</u>
<u>Aviation</u>	<u>Geology</u>	<u>Rowing</u>
<u>Backpacking</u>	<u>Golf</u>	<u>Safety</u>
<u>Basketry</u>	<u>Graphic Arts</u>	<u>Salesmanship</u>
<u>Bird Study</u>	<u>Hiking</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>
<u>Bugling</u>	<u>Home Repairs</u>	<u>Scouting Heritage</u>
<u>Camping</u>	<u>Horsemanship</u>	<u>Scuba Diving</u>
<u>Canoeing</u>	<u>Indian Lore</u>	<u>Sculpture</u>

<u>Chemistry</u>	<u>Insect Study</u>	<u>Search and Rescue</u>
<u>Chess</u>	<u>Inventing</u>	<u>Shotgun Shooting</u>
<u>Citizenship in the Community</u>	<u>Journalism</u>	<u>Signs, Signals, and Codes</u>
<u>Citizenship in the Nation</u>	<u>Kayaking</u>	<u>Skating</u>
<u>Citizenship in the World</u>	<u>Landscape Architecture</u>	<u>Small-Boat Sailing</u>
<u>Climbing</u>	<u>Law</u>	<u>Snow Sports</u>
<u>Coin Collecting</u>	<u>Leatherwork</u>	<u>Soil and Water Conservation</u>
<u>Collections</u>	<u>Lifesaving</u>	<u>Space Exploration</u>
<u>Communications</u>	<u>Mammal Study</u>	<u>Sports Merit</u>
<u>Composite Materials</u>	<u>Medicine</u>	<u>Stamp Collecting</u>
<u>Cooking</u>	<u>Metalwork</u>	<u>Surveying</u>
<u>Crime Prevention</u>	<u>Mining in Society</u>	<u>Sustainability</u>
<u>Cycling</u>	<u>Model Design and Building</u>	<u>Swimming</u>
<u>Dentistry</u>	<u>Motorboating</u>	<u>Textile</u>
<u>Digital Technology</u>	<u>Moviemaking</u>	<u>Theater</u>
<u>Disabilities Awareness</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Traffic Safety</u>
<u>Dog Care</u>	<u>Nature</u>	<u>Truck Transportation</u>
<u>Drafting</u>	<u>Nuclear Science</u>	<u>Veterinary Medicine</u>
<u>Electricity</u>	<u>Oceanography</u>	<u>Water Sports</u>
<u>Electronics</u>	<u>Orienteering</u>	<u>Weather</u>
<u>Emergency Preparedness</u>	<u>Painting</u>	<u>Welding</u>
<u>Energy</u>	<u>Personal Fitness</u>	<u>Whitewater</u>
<u>Engineering</u>	<u>Personal Management</u>	<u>Wilderness Survival</u>
<u>Entrepreneurship</u>	<u>Pets</u>	<u>Wood Carving</u>
<u>Environmental Science</u>	<u>Photography</u>	<u>Woodwork</u>
<u>Exploration</u>	<u>Pioneering</u>	

To obtain the highest Scouting rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn a minimum of 22 Merit Badges, 13 are required (**Eagle merit badges are in bold**). This means that the Scout must earn these specific MBs, the remaining 9 MBs can be any MBs the Scout wants to earn. To advance from First Class to Star, Scouts are required to start earning MBs. The same is true from Star to Life and Life to Eagle.

That said, a Scout could start earning MBs as soon as they become a registered Boy Scout. Blue Cards are the record of Merit Badge progress and are turned in to receive the MB after all the requirements have been met and the counselor has signed off on the card.

Prior to beginning any merit badge work, the Scout needs to do the following:

1. Get the Scoutmaster's approval by getting the Blue Card and signature by the scoutmaster. Blue Cards are not always required. They are mostly utilized when a Scout wants to start a Merit Badge outside of a formal class setting.
2. A Merit Badge Counselor (MBC) is assigned by the Scoutmaster and then the scout is given the signed Blue Card.

- Once you start a merit badge there is no time limit in completing except a Scout's age; however, be aware Merit Badge Counselors do change, move and drop from the program. If this occurs, your Scout may have to take extra steps to complete the Merit Badge with the new MBC as it is the new MBC who determines that all required steps of the Merit Badge have been completed. There are many different ways Scouts can earn MBs. Because scouts has a two deep policy you should accompany your scout when the meet the MBC. **We highly recommend your scout keep his portion of completed merit badge in a baseball card book holder in a binder.**

TROOP POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Troop Guide Must be First Class or higher rank. Mentors a newly formed patrol of new Scouts. Leads the annual Scouting 101 campout.

Quartermaster The troop's supply boss. Keeps tabs on the troop's equipment.

Scribe The troop's secretary. Keeps minutes of the patrol leaders' council meetings, keeps attendance for campouts and meetings.

Order of the Arrow (OA) Representative Liaison between the local OA lodge and the troop.

Historian Collects photos, news articles and such. This position is all about what the scout does with it.

Librarian Oversees the troop library, which mostly consists of merit badge pamphlets.

Chaplain's Aide Coordinates the troop's religious observances and promotes the religious emblems program.

Den Chief Works with a den of Cub Scouts

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster Must be 16, appointed by the Scoutmaster. Supports the Scoutmaster and senior patrol leader in troop operations.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The role of the Troop Committee is to support the Scoutmaster and the troop leadership in running a successful, safe, and sound program. The committee aids the Scoutmaster in four areas: program planning, advancement, outdoor program and administration. All parents are expected to active members of the committee by attending the monthly parent committee meeting. The intent of the committee is to spread the work of the troop around and not to burden a few adults with such an epic task.

Parents signing off on requirements for their Scout, either for rank advancement or merit badges is strongly discouraged within Troop 447. There are plenty of adult leaders that can sign off on requirements at any Monday meeting. The exception for this is the teaching of a Merit Badge class. If a parent becomes an approved MB counselor and holds a class open to other Scouts, Counselor can sign off on his son if he is in class. The troop needs your talents to help our Scouts advance toward Eagle. There are currently 137 merit badges the boys can earn. Decide which you would like to offer to counsel either as a class or individually, and contact our merit badge coordinator. (See attached E of Forms)

SCOUT/COMMITTEE FLOWCHART

The committee flowchart is available via scoutlander. It is updated every 6 months. The flowchart is helpful to both the parents and the scouts to answer questions you may have. "Who should I ask?" or "Who is in charge of this?" or "How can I help?" (See attached F of Forms)

ADULT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Chartered Organization Representative (COR) The Chartered Organization Representative is the direct contact between the unit and the Chartered Organization. This individual is also the organization's contact with the district committee and the Local Council. The chartered organization representative may become a member of the district committee and is a voting

member of the council. The Chartered Organization Representative appoints the unit committee chair.

Scoutmaster (SM) Selected and recruited by the Committee and Chartered Organization. Chairs program department of the Troop. Mentors Senior Patrol Leader. Proposes annual budget in coordination with Committee Chair and Treasurer.

Executive Assistant Scoutmaster Appointed by SM with approval of COR. Assists SM with organizational duties including overseeing program-oriented committee positions. Ensures that Scouting's best-practices in place in the Troop. Mentors Assistant Senior Patrol leader. Stands in for SM in his/her absence.

New Scout Assistant Scoutmaster Appointed by SM with approval of COR. Runs new Scout and Scouting 101 Program for the Troop, including Mentoring New Scout Patrol, Troop Guide and Den Chiefs. Works with Membership and Recruitment.

Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM) Appointed by SM with approval of COR. Assigned by SM to fill program committee roles. Supervises youth safety at outings and meetings. Provides skill instruction and signs off on advancement requirements.

Chaplain Appointed by SM with consultation with Committee Chair. Promotes Scouting religions programs, including Interfaith Services, Scout Sunday and Religious Emblems. Counsels Scouts and families on interfaith religious matters. Mentors Chaplain's Aide.

Patrol Advisor Appointed by Scoutmaster. An ASM who works directly with a patrol to mentor PLs and ensure that the Patrol method is being incorporated effectively. Acts and resource for Patrol member parents.

Advancement Chair Appointed by SM with consultation with Committee Chair. Tracks youth advancement. Schedules and conducts Boards of Review. Purchases awards and assists SPL in planning Courts of Honor.

Outings Chair Appointed by SM with consultation with Committee Chair. Keeps schedule of annual program, assigns outing coordinators for each event. Follows leadership set by PLC. Ensures that outings are planned according to BSA best practices.

Health/Safety Officer Appointed by SM with consultation with Committee Chair. Maintains Scout medical forms. Ensures that BSA Guide to Safe Scouting is followed on all outings and events. Advises Patrol on proper nutrition.

Troop Committee Chair Recruited and appointed by Chartered Organization with consent of Troop Committee. Recruits committee members, runs monthly committee meeting, and oversees no-program operating committees.

Equipment Chair Appointed by SM with consultation with Committee Chair. Ensures that Troop equipment is adequately maintained and is available for outings. Coordinates transportation of equipment to outings. Mentors Quartermaster.

Community Service Chair Appointed by SM with consultation with consultation of Committee Chair. Recommends and coordinates periodic service projects. Follows leadership set by PLC.

Transportation Coordinator Appointed by SM with consultation with consultation of Committee Chair. Maintains data on vehicles and insurance. Recruits parents to drive. Advises committee on fuel reimbursement.

Outings Coordinators One per outing. Selected by Outings Chair with consultation of Scoutmaster. Makes campground reservations, coordinates camp fees, fills out tour plan, communicates with families on all pertinent information.

Membership/Recruitment Appointed by Committee Chair. Maintains lists of current Scouts. Follows up with families of lapsed Scouts. Works with New Scout ASM on Webelos-to-Scout transition. Provides information to school districts and churches about opportunities in Scouting. Coordinates annual recharter.

Scoutparent Coordinator Appointed by committee chair. Welcomes new or prospective families. Distributes and maintains talent surveys. Recruits new families to volunteer positions.

Training Chair Appointed by Committee Chair. Maintains list of Youth Protection Training. Promotes both adults and youth leadership training. Encourages attendance at Roundtable.

Secretary Appointed by Committee Chair Keeps minutes of meetings and maintains correspondence. Mentors Scribe and Historian.

Communications Chair Appointed by Committee Chair. Responsible for internal unit communications, particularly with parents, including technology (emails and website). Mentors Webmaster.

Public Relations Chair Appointed by Committee Chair. Responsible for external unit communication, including traditional and new media. Promotes unit accomplishments and maintains social media like Facebook. Mentors Webmaster and Historian.

Treasurer Appointed by Committee Chair. Maintains all financial records according to best accounting practices. Tracks dues, registration, fundraising and outing funds. Coordinates annual budget updates and financial reports. Forms finance committee to review statements and financial reports.

Fundraising Chair Appointed by Committee Chair. Plans and coordinates fundraising events according to guidelines from BSA and Chartered Organization.

Clothing Coordinator Maintains the inventory of both new (hat, neckerchief, Class B shirts) and used scouting items that have been donated (scout pants, winter clothing, summer clothing, etc.).

TROOP 447 LIBRARY

Troop 447 has a library which has quite a few merit badge books which can be checked out by contacting the troop librarian on Scoutlander. If our troop library does not have a merit badge book you can purchase them at the scout store which costs between \$4 and \$5. After you are done with the book the troop will buy back a book, up to five of each merit badge, at a cost of \$2.50 each.

SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCE AND BOARD OF REVIEW

With each rank from Scout to Eagle, the Scout is required to participate in a conference with the Scoutmaster. This is to ensure that all requirements have been satisfactorily completed. When a scout has completed his requirements it is his responsibility to request a Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review. The Board of Review is conducted by adult scouters and is required for all ranks except the rank of Scout. The Board of Review in the lower ranks may include general questions related to the skills he has learned, but will not be a re-test of those skills. As the Scout advances in rank these questions will be more centered on leadership, citizenship and character. The Scout must present himself to the Board in the complete Class A uniform. This includes shirt, neckerchief, slide, and scout handbook.

YOUTH PROTECTION

Youth Protection training is required for all BSA registered adult volunteers. Youth Protection training must be taken every two years. If a volunteer's Youth Protection training record is not current at the time of recharter, the volunteer will not be re-registered. Two-deep leadership is required on all outings. Two registered adult leaders or one registered leader and a parent of a participant, or other adult, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required on all trips and outings. One-on-one contact between adults and Scouts is prohibited. In situations that require personal conferences, such as a Scoutmaster's conference, the meeting is to be conducted in view of other adults and youths. Separate accommodations for adults and Scouts are required. When camping, no youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than his or her own parent or guardian. Privacy of youth is respected. Any violations of the BSA's Youth Protection policies must immediately be reported to the Scout executive.

WEBSITES

Meeting Place during school year - Leroy Greene Academy (2950 W. River Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833)

Meeting place during summer and when school is not in session - Orchard Park (324 Unity Point Ave., Sacramento, CA 95833). This park is located next to Leroy Greene Academy.

Drop off for campouts - Natomas Marketplace (3511 Truxel Rd.) [Natomas Marketplace](#)
[Natomas Marketplace - Sacramento Shopping](#)

Picking up from campouts - Natomas Baptist Church (2813 Northview Drive) [2813 Northview Dr - Sacramento CA - MapQuest](#)

Youth Protection Training - <http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.asp>

Training my.scouting.org

Communication -

- Scoutlander <http://www.troop447natomas.scoutlander.com>. (emails, calendar, roster...most everything).
- Remind - Provide your phone number to the communications chair to be added
- Shutterfly <https://troop447natomas.shutterfly.com/> (mostly pictures).
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/447Natomas/>.

Signing up for outings -

- Scoutlander <http://www.troop447natomas.scoutlander.com>
- Medical A & B forms
https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-001_ab.pdf
- Activity Consent form signed by scout and guardian.
<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/19-673.pdf>.

Rank requirements

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/524-012_BS_Requirements_WEB.pdf

Merit badge worksheets https://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Merit_Badge_Worksheets

Merit Badge Counselor Application - <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34405.pdf>

Troop 447 flowchart - <http://www.troop447natomas.scoutlander.com>

Troop 447 Library - <http://www.troop447natomas.scoutlander.com>

Layout of uniform - <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Media/InsigniaGuide/06.aspx>