



## TROOP 849 AN ADVENTURE ORIENTED EXPERIENCE

**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, service to the community and having fun. In Boy Scouting, the Cub Scout experience transforms from adult-led activities to a youth-led program.

Rank advancement in Boy Scouting has three phases. The first phase, the Scout to First Class, focuses on learning, developing and honing scouting skills. The second phase, the ranks of Star and Life, focuses on learning and practicing leadership skills and gaining knowledge through merit badges. The last phase, the rank of 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, as expressed in the Boy Scout Oath and Law, 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. So is your understanding of how Boy Scouting differs from Cub Scouting:

- § Unlike Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting is a year-round program, with a busy summer of hiking and other outdoor activities.
- § In Boy Scouting, a parent is no longer required to accompany the scout on Troop activities (hikes, summer camps, etc.) Dads and moms are always welcome to participate in these activities and are strongly encouraged to drive, lead hikes, become Patrol Coordinators and assist in the Troop. See Parent Participation section below.
- § In contrast to Cub Scouting, which is led by Den Leaders and the Cubmaster, Boy Scouting is youth-led, Scouts are encouraged to show leadership and self-reliance. The role of adults is as mentors and facilitators.
- § Advancement in Boy Scouting focuses on skills mastery more so than in Cub Scouting. Only Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, Patrol Coordinators, Troop Instructors, or Troop Guides may sign off advancement items in a scout's book.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

#### The months prior to Bridging

- n The Webelos Scout and parent(s) will be invited to sign-up for Troop 849's annual Rocket Hike. This is an overnight car camping trip to Red Rock State Park north of Mojave that starts on Saturday. On Sunday morning, after breakfast and breaking camp, the Troop moves to a dry lakebed to launch model rockets. This overnighter is a good introduction to the Troop for both scout and parent, and fulfills the Webelos Arrow of Light Requirement to participate in a Boy Scout-oriented outdoor activity.
- n With your Webelos scout, discuss joining the Boy Scouts. Find out the type of activities that he would like to participate in as a scout. The South Bay has a number of troops to select from; each has a different focus. Manhattan Beach Troop 849 has an outdoors and backpacking program.
- n With your Webelos Scout, attend one or more Boy Scout meetings held by different troops. We encourage your son to attend a Troop 849 meeting to get a feel for our program. Join the troop that best fits your son's interests.

#### If Joining Troop 849

- n Fill out a Boy Scout membership application completely and a check as instructed by your den leader or representative of Troop 849. These two items are required to be given to the Scoutmaster at your Webelos Bridging ceremony where Troop 849 will welcome your Webelos as a member of our Troop. We encourage you to fill out a parent registration form at the same time.
- n At least one parent from each family must attend the New Scout Parent Orientation meeting, which is held in early May. Please see the New Scout Schedule or Troop calendar for date and location.
- n 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 will be provided by the Troop at his first meeting. Other uniform details will be further discussed at the New Scout Parents Orientation Meeting.

- n As of January, we begin to take sign ups for Summer Camp. If your scout will attend, a deposit will be required to hold a spot. We strongly encourage new Scouts to attend Summer Camp to promote their interest in Scouting.

### **NEW SCOUTS - STARTING OUT WITH TROOP 849**

- n 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.
- n Your scout should regularly attend the meetings Tuesdays at 7:30 PM at the Scout House and meet the Scoutmaster and youth leaders.
- n It is advisable to wait until the Troop's Backpacking Equipment Orientation is held 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.
- n Encourage your scout to become active in the Troop, to work on advancement, and to start participating in the Troop's activities.
- n 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.
- n If your scout is attending summer camp, he must attend two overnight activities prior to summer camp.

### **TROOP 849**

Troop 849 has focused on backpacking and outdoor activities since it was founded in the mid-1950s. Currently, the Troop is one of the largest in the LA area with 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 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 in the Scout House, or on our website at [www.troop849.org](http://www.troop849.org). The website contains a lot of useful information for old and new alike. 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. We believe that the patrols with a mix of ages and ranks provide the scouts with leadership opportunities and positive role models for the younger scouts. 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 which provides the structure for the program and is the vehicle for parent feedback. The Scoutmaster is not the focal point for parental issues with the Troop program.

The Troop 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 the parents of Troop 849 scouts for the purpose of sponsoring the Troop. The Troop Committee of Manhattan Beach Parent for Scouting 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.

### **TROOP OBJECTIVES**

The Troop has following objectives:

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

## 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 CALENDAR

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

<u>January</u> n Rocket Hike n Winter Snow Backpacking	<u>February</u> n Cross-Country Skiing
<u>March</u> n Rock Climbing Hike n Court of Honor	<u>April</u> n Spring Break Hikes n Spring Camporee
<u>May</u> n First Hike Weekend n Deep Sea Fishing	<u>June</u> n Two Backpack Hike Weekends
<u>July</u> n Two Backpack Hike Weekends. n Summer Camp #1	<u>August</u> n Summer Camp #2 n Two Long Term Hikes
<u>September</u> n A Mystery Trip n Court of Honor	<u>October</u> n Home Town Fair n Canoeing on the Colorado River
<u>November</u> n Mountain Bike Hike n Veteran's Day Ceremony	<u>December</u> n Night Hike n Service Activity

In recent years, the Troop has also been involved in many other activities, including

- National Boy Scout Jamboree in Virginia
- Snow Skiing and Snowboarding Trip
- Hiking at the Philmont Scout Ranch in NM
- Ten Commandments Hike

## SERVICE AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS

In addition to the Outdoor Activities, the Troop participates in Service to the Community. Our Troop performs community service primarily through Neighbor to Neighbor, a local meals program for the needy, and through the Eagle Service Projects led by our Eagle candidates. Each Eagle candidate must complete a service project demonstrating his organization, planning and leadership skills prior to consideration for Eagle Rank. Work on service projects is the primary way that scouts earn the service hours necessary for rank advancement.

## COURTS 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. There are no weekly dues. A year's subscription to *Boy's Life* can be purchased for an additional \$10 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 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 vary from camp to camp. The camp usually imposes a set payment schedule. The cost for summer camp is usually \$250 to \$500, depending on which camp is attended.
- Long-term Hike costs are about \$100 to 150 for the week.
- The adult leader, based on his/her estimate of trip costs, sets the cost of each activity.

The Troop has tents, cooking gear, rock climbing and car camping equipment available for use by the scouts. A few backpacks are also available. 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 an 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 a minimum of three adults 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, CPR, Backpack Leader, Boy Scout Leader Basic Training, and Intro to Outdoor Leader Skills. 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.

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

Parents are also 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. The Committee meets on the last Thursday of each month, at 7:30 PM, at American Martyrs. All adults are welcome.

We ask that at least one parent join the Troop/BSA as an adult, as we do need adults on our activities. It costs only \$10 per year to register as an adult. We recommend that you register with the Troop to drive scouts to activities; registration is required to work with the boys.

The strength of the Troop is our strong adult leadership; many 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](http://troop849.org), clicking on mailing list under the header, and following the instructions under

\* **How to Subscribe** .