

# PARENT HANDBOOK

Boy Scouts of America  
Troop 2 Santa Monica, CA

*Last Modified  
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## TROOP 2 - Santa Monica, CA PARENT HANDBOOK

### Dear Parents,

Welcome to Troop 2. I'm delighted that your son has decided to join us. You will find that Troop 2 Scouts are active and enthusiastic campers, swimmers, canoeists, and hikers. These and other Scouting activities can involve you and other members of your family in many ways.

There are questions you'll have as your son makes his way through his first year in the troop. We hope this booklet will answer your concerns and questions, but please feel free to call me or any parent in the troop as needed. I encourage you to become personally involved in the troop, not only because this will motivate your son, but because you'll have a lot of fun and get to know some wonderful people. The Troop's success over the years has been directly related to the quality of parental involvement in our sons' lives, and we certainly welcome you to the family.

Troop 2 was founded in 1947 and since then has had only two Scoutmasters. As a result, we have many great traditions and bonds that extend back over the years. We have grown to be one of the largest troops in America, and nearly 300 of our Scouts have achieved our highest honor, the rank of Eagle Scout.

One Troop tradition is community service. Each year we engage in such service activities as cleaning up after the Franklin School Halloween Carnival and entertaining at convalescent hospitals during the holidays. There are specific service requirements for most of the Scout ranks, as well as ongoing Eagle projects that directly benefit our community. Of course, we are always prepared to help in the event of a disaster or other need, and our Scouts have done so on several occasions.

Another of our traditions is an opportunity for travel and adventure. We camp one weekend each month as well as two weeks each summer. We enjoy a three-day ski trip each February. In recent years our summer trips have taken us backpacking in the Colorado Rockies, canoeing in New York's Adirondack Park, trekking through slot canyons in Zion National Park, and paddling war canoes around Catalina Island. We have seen nature's wonders.

A third tradition is preparedness. Our Scouts quickly become expert in first aid, swimming, and other emergency skills. These activities culminate in a citywide disaster drill dubbed "Bloody Monday", organized every other year. In addition, the Scouts learn the skills needed for adventure in the outdoors. We encourage physical fitness so they can enjoy these adventures. Through work

on merit badges, Scouts have an opportunity to pursue their own interests and learn new skills. Each Scout learns to work with other Scouts both as a follower, a team member, and later in leadership roles. Older boys become the mentors of younger boys, sharing their knowledge and experience. Finally, every Scout has interactions with many friendly adults who serve as instructors, guides, and role models.

Through all these experiences, our guiding ethic is the Scout Oath and Scout Law. We actively promote a commitment to the values described in the Oath and Law. We expect our Scouts to treat one another with respect, to be honest, to be kind. In all these ways, we hope to prepare them for responsible citizenship in our community and the world. We believe that we are making a difference.

**Steve Marcy, Scoutmaster**

**WEBSITE:** For additional information on most topics discussed in these pages, as well as the current calendar of events and other information, please refer to the Troop 2 website: <http://troop2bsa.org>.

## THE FIRST FEW MONTHS

**Troop 1 1/2** When a boy wants to join Troop 2, he first becomes a member of Troop 1 1/2. This is a training group led by Assistant Scoutmaster, [Bob Gunter](#). The boys learn basic Scout and troop skills, including the history of the Troop, the Scout laws, the purpose of Scouting, the meaning of the Scout ranks and awards, basic knots, and common forms of courtesy to the U.S. flag. During the first half hour of each troop meeting, they join in activities with the rest of the Troop. No uniform is required, and the boys do not participate in campouts or other troop activities. In Troop 1 1/2, parent and Scout support and information is provided by Assistant Scoutmaster [Sandy Andrews](#). When a boy has completed the requirements for 1 1/2, he makes an appointment for a Scoutmaster Conference with Dr. Marcy. A Scoutmaster Conference is a one-on-one meeting with the Scoutmaster. Upon satisfactory completion of the conference, he is an official member of Troop 2 and joins the Recruit Patrol. Depending on the Scout's interest, Troop 1 1/2 can be completed in a few weeks or as much time as the Scout needs. Once completed, the Scout can start wearing the uniform and Troop 2's red and white neckerchief.

**Recruit Patrol** As a member of the Recruit Patrol, a Scout is invited to participate in all troop activities including campouts. Recruits work on earning the Tenderfoot rank by participating in a series of instructional modules. Each Recruit will learn camping and cooking skills, basic first aid, more advanced rope skills, and how to navigate using map and compass. In addition, the Scout will discuss the Scout Oath and Law in greater depth. When all his requirements are complete, the Scout schedules a Scoutmaster conference. The Scoutmaster then assigns him to a patrol. Participating in a patrol will give him membership in a small team and is highly anticipated by new Scouts. The Scout must complete a Board of Review to earn Tenderfoot rank.

## SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

*Boy Scout Handbook:* Purchase upon joining Troop 1 1/2.

*Boy Scout Requirements (optional book):* Overview of merit badge requirements. Be sure to obtain the current volume or compare against a current volume. You can find more information about requirements for badges at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org).

*Merit Badge Booklets:* Each merit badge has a BSA booklet that provides essentially all the information and direction for a Scout to complete the badge. They can be purchased individually at Scout shops or borrowed at no cost from the Troop Librarian. It is always best to check the date of Merit Badge booklets to be sure you have the latest requirements.

*Uniform:* Purchase upon joining Recruit Patrol. Do not purchase the numeral "2" as it is awarded by the troop. The troop provides a free neckerchief to each Scout when he completes Troop 1 1/2. Additional or replacement neckerchiefs are available from the troop at a cost of \$10.

*Camping Gear:* Various items of camping gear will be required. Lists are provided and often gear can be borrowed from other troop families. **In Recruits, tents are provided for the Scouts.** With advance arrangements, tents and other equipment can be shared. Further information can be found on our [Equipment](#) or [Campout](#) page. When in a Patrol, the Patrol Leader is helpful in arranging sharing of equipment.

## TROOP ADVANCEMENT SEQUENCE

**Troop 1 1/2:** Learn about Scouting and Troop 2 traditions. If you have questions, contact Assistant Scoutmaster [Sandy Andrews](#).

**Recruit Patrol:** Continue to learn basic Scouting skills while working towards the Tenderfoot rank and go on a campout. If you have questions, contact [Marcia Sauters](#).

**Patrol member:** Attend all activities as a member of a patrol. While in a patrol, Scouts will work individually, with a patrol, or with other Scouts on 2nd Class, 1st Class, and Star ranks.

**Patrol Leader:** Scouts in 9th and 10th grades who are at least 1st Class are eligible to be elected as one of our patrol leaders. Patrol leaders organize patrol meetings, lead patrols at meetings and campouts, and arrange food for patrol members on a campout.

**Staff in Training & Senior Staff** (10th, 11th, 12th grades): Under guidance of the Scoutmaster, plan and supervise troop meetings and campout activities.

## REQUIREMENTS AND DESCRIPTION OF TERMS

Refer to BSA Rank Requirements in Troop 2 for advancement policies and requirements. Check with the appropriate [Advancement Leader](#) for the most current information, see the [Advancement](#) page of this website.

### EARNING A MERIT BADGE

1. Obtain the current merit badge pamphlet from Scout shop or Troop Librarian.
2. Identify a [Merit Badge Counselor](#) and call for an appointment **before starting**.
3. Complete all the requirements of the particular merit badge you are working on.
4. Have the counselor sign a blue card when all work is complete. Bring blue card to the Board of Review.
5. Attend a Board of Review with all items/papers required as listed in the merit badge book as well as the signed blue card. (Scouts should save all "applicant record" portions of blue cards recording badges earned; these will be required to earn Eagle rank.)

### SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCE

Scoutmaster Conferences are required for each rank advancement. They are scheduled with Dr. Marcy and are conducted in a one-on-one interview. The first conference for Troop 1 1/2 will be in person, but the remaining conferences are usually conducted over the telephone. The Scout should plan on making this appointment in advance. Boards of Review for the rank being earned cannot be conducted until this conference is completed.

### BOARD OF REVIEW

After completing the requirements for a rank or merit badge, a Troop 2 Scout is required to participate in a Board of Review in [full Scout uniform](#). He is interviewed by two troop parents on the skills he has learned. Boards of Review are scheduled generally the week before each Court of Honor. Ranks, merit badges and special awards are presented at the Court of Honor. Note: Scoutmaster Conferences for rank advancement must be completed prior to the Board of Review. While Scouts are expected to be prepared for all badges, Eagle badges are examined very carefully by an Assistant Scoutmaster to ensure that each requirement is fully completed. (There are 11 required Eagle badges.)

### COURT OF HONOR

This is a ceremony where Scouts are presented with earned ranks, badges and awards. Courts are held in October, January and June. If Eagle ranks are being presented, Courts include dinner. Family members and friends are always welcome and are encouraged to wear red, the Troop color, to show spirit and earn patrol points for their son or friend's patrol. Every patrol competes for Honor Patrol, and nearly every activity is scored on a [points](#) basis. The winner is announced at each Court of Honor.

## UNIFORM

The [official uniform](#) requires a short-sleeved Scout shirt, Western Los Angeles County Council patch, shoulder loops, Scout shorts or long pants, Scout belt, neckerchief slide (purchased or handmade), Scout socks, the Troop red and white neckerchief, and shoes or hiking boots. The troop neckerchief should be worn only after the Scout has completed Troop 1 1/2. Dress uniforms are required at every Court of Honor. Once the Scout has earned Star rank, the sash displaying earned badges and awards is to be worn as part of the dress uniform.

**Patch Placement** -- For proper placement of badges on the uniform, refer to [Shirt Front](#) page [Shoulder](#) page, and [Sash](#) in the Scout handbook.

**Full uniform** consists of the Scout shirt, neckerchief, belt and shorts (or jeans during colder weather.) The full uniform also includes notepaper, pencil or pen, and a band-aid. Full uniform is required for all Monday Troop meetings, Boards of Review and when traveling with the Troop. It is strongly suggested that all clothing items be marked with the Scout's name. The troop operates a Uniform Exchange program that provides used uniforms at no charge. Donations of outgrown or unneeded uniform items are gratefully accepted.

## CAMPOUTS

Campouts are organized one weekend per month during the Troop year, with the exception of December and February. Scouts and all interested parents meet at 7:00 a.m. on the Lincoln Middle School basketball courts, and the Scouts are returned to their homes on Sunday afternoon. Volunteer drivers are always needed. The patrol leader organizes food for the entire patrol, and the costs are shared equally. Scouts are responsible for bringing their own equipment or arranging to share equipment. Recruit Scouts are assigned to patrols for the camp. In December, patrol leaders are responsible for arranging a patrol campout with one overnight. Points are awarded for participation. A ski trip in February is scheduled in lieu of a monthly campout. (See [Campout](#) page of this website for more information.)

## TROOP 2 SPECIAL AWARDS ([see examples here](#))

**Camp Spirit** - Scout completes requirements for service and participation at summer camp. The requirements are listed at camp. This award is required for Star Rank, an additional one for Life Rank, and a total of three for Eagle rank.

**Century Belt** - Scout hikes 100 miles, camps 100 nights or combines hiking miles and nights for a total of 100. Each individual hike must be at least two miles, all camping and hiking must be done on Troop activities, and camping nights must be spent in the open or in a tent pitched by the Scout. Also counted are up to ten nights spent at summer camp. Scouts are responsible for maintaining a log of miles and nights. Once completed, the log should be presented to the Scoutmaster for review. A log form is attached to the back of this handbook.

**Den Chief** - Scout undertakes the responsibility of serving as a Den Chief to a Cub Scout den. This is considered a leadership position for the rank of Star.

**Den Chief Cord** - Scout completes a year of responsible leadership and service to a Cub Scout den.

**Gold Paddle** - Scout paddles at least halfway around Catalina Island as a member of a war canoe crew. (See Silver Paddle below.)

**Honor Patrol** - Scout is a member of the patrol that earns the most points in Troop competitions either at a summer camp or for a semester during the regular year. Patrol leaders keep the Honor Patrol banner until the next award.

**Honor Scout Award** - Scout below patrol leader who, by vote of the Troop, best exemplifies living by the Scout Oath and Law.

**Icicle Camper** - Scout camps in wet, freezing conditions, sufficient to produce an icicle. He must stay warm and dry himself, and have all equipment needed to cook and sleep comfortably despite these conditions.

**Invisible Man** - An award earned each day during one week of summer camp by one older and one younger Scout, for a clean, complete uniform at dinner. The recognition allows the Scout on the following day to cut in line, stand during line-up and receive other privileges due an "invisible" person.

**Keith Monroe Leadership Award** - Scout voted most valuable staff member by staff.

**Keith Monroe Scholarship** - Graduating senior who, by vote of the Assistant Scoutmasters, has made the greatest contribution during his years in the Troop.

**Perfect Attendance Medal** - A Scout attends all troop activities and events for a year.

**Perfect Attendance Pin** - Scout attends every troop meeting for a full year without missing for illness, injury or any reason.

**Recruiter Strip** - Scout brings a friend into the Troop, with the friend completing Troop 1 1/2 and earning a Scout badge.

**Scout Spirit Award** - Scout below staff level who, by vote of the Troop, best demonstrates Scout spirit in word and deed.

**Service Stars** - Scout receives a star for each complete year of troop participation, beginning with the Court of Honor at which he receives the Scout badge.

**Silver Paddle** - Scout paddles completely around Catalina Island as a member of a war canoe crew.

**Silver Skull Award** - Scout writes a paper for a school class on a subject related to Scouting and receives an "A" for the paper.

**Steve Marcy High Adventure Award** - Awarded to an alumnus Scout or parent for continuing service to the troop. The winner is invited to attend a future summer camp at no expense.

**Storm Camper** - Scout camps during a rainstorm, keeping all essential gear dry. He must stay warm and dry himself, and have all equipment needed to cook and sleep comfortably despite the storm.

**Tobias Slide** - Scout who is voted most outstanding first year camper at summer camp.

**100% Camper** - Scout attends every camp for a year including summer camp and patrol camp.

## PARENT SUPPORT

### Parents' Committee

All parents become members of this committee when a son joins the troop. Meetings are on the Wednesday before every campout at 7:00 p.m. at RAND Corporation, 1776 Main Street, Santa Monica. The upcoming campout, finances, summer camp, Eagle projects, troop policies and other business are discussed. You are encouraged to attend and learn more about the troop. These meetings are often critical in disseminating information and making decisions. ([Parents' Committee](#))

### Mothers' Club

The Mothers' Club provides support to the troop in the form of fund-raisers, food, and any other assistance needed. Meetings are held generally once a month. For mothers new to Troop 2, Mothers' Club is an excellent introduction and orientation to the "culture" of the Troop. For mothers of continuing Scouts, it is a good place to share information, practical tips and experiences. All mothers are warmly welcomed. ([Mother's Club](#))

### Uniform Exchange Program/Scarves

Used uniform items are available by contacting the parent in charge of the program. Families are encouraged to donate outgrown or unneeded uniforms for other families, which are made available to any interested Scout at no cost. Troop neckerchiefs are available for \$10.00. (They can be purchased only after the Scout has completed Troop 1 1/2.) **Names should be placed in indelible ink in all clothing items.** Purchasing an extra neckerchief is suggested. The name of the parent currently in charge of Uniform Exchange can be found on the [Parents Committee](#) page.

### Troop Librarian

One Scout each year is selected as the Troop Librarian, which qualifies as a position of leadership for Star rank. This Scout maintains a library of merit badge booklets for loan to any interested Scouts. Scouts are obligated to return the booklets upon completion of the badge. To determine who the current Librarian is check the [Merit Badges Counselor](#) page of the website.

## FUNDRAISERS

**Aluminum can recycling** - Scouts turn in clean, crushed cans on the [first Monday of each month](#). Scouts earn recycling money, which is distributed at summer camp, and also earn patrol points.

**Christmas Tree Lot** - A major fund-raiser, our tree lot on Montana is run by the Scouts under supervision of parent volunteers. Scouts who contribute at least twenty hours receive a \$100 discount on the next ski trip or summer camp.

**Parents Auction Dinner** - A popular social evening in May in which donated items are auctioned.

## WHERE TO OBTAIN SCOUT AND CAMPING SUPPLIES

**Troop 2 Uniform Exchange**, [Sharon Huang](#) - Recycled uniforms at no cost; [Marcia Sauters](#) - Troop 2 neckerchief at \$10.

**Troop 2 Clothing and Equipment Exchange**, [Paula Grifka](#) - Equipment and clothing needed by Scouts and donated by other families who no longer need it (non uniform).

**Scout Shop - West LA:** behind the Dumas Building at 10131 National Boulevard, Los Angeles. 310-839-7514. Tu-F 10-6. Sat 10-3. Uniforms, Handbooks, Scout supplies (items can be ordered).

**Scout Shop - Van Nuys:** 16525 Sherman Way, Unit C-8, Around the back. Look for the American flag at Hayvenhurst. M-F 8:30-5:30, Sat 9-4. Handbooks, uniforms, Scout supplies. 818-781-1296

**Scout Shop - Downtown:** Los Angeles near Alvarado and Temple at 2333 Scout Way, Los Angeles 90026. M-F 8:30-5, Sat 10-3. Handbooks, uniforms, Scout supplies, merit badge booklets, camping equipment. 213-413-4400 or 0575

**Sport Chalet - Marina del Rey:** 13455 Maxella Avenue. Scout uniforms, some Merit Badge and Scout books, camping & ski gear. 310-821-9400. Also in **West Los Angeles:** 11801 W. Olympic Blvd. 310-235-2847

**A16 - West L.A.:** 11161 W. Pico Bl. Camping equipment rentals. Sales of camping, ski gear, and hiking boots. 310-473-4574

**REI - Santa Monica:** 402 Santa Monica Blvd. Camping & ski gear. Very large selection. 310-538-2429

**Big 5 - Santa Monica:** 3121 Wilshire Bl. Santa Monica, Camping gear. 310-458-4370

**Sport Mart - West L.A.:** 1919 S. Sepulveda Bl. Limited selection of outdoor gear. 310-312-9600

## CALENDAR

### Weekly

**Monday Troop meetings.** 7-9 p.m. at Lincoln Middle School.

**Saturday canoe practice.** To be announced but usually on Saturday mornings, Spring only, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., Mother's Beach, Marina del Rey during even numbered years only.

### Monthly

**Patrol meetings.** Time and place arranged by patrol leader.

**Parents' Committee meetings.** Every Wednesday before the weekend campout, 7:00 p.m., RAND Corporation, 1776 Main Street, Santa Monica. Bring your Driver's License for identification.

**Mothers' Club meetings.** Generally once a month at Lincoln Middle School, 7:15 p.m.

**Troop campouts.** Each month except December (patrol camps) and February (ski trip).

### Annually

**Family Camp.** Memorial Day weekend. All family members, including siblings, and friends are invited to attend a family camp. Family Camp is an outstanding opportunity to socialize with other troop families, watch Scouts participate in canoe regattas, races, campfires and other troop activities. It is a high point of the year and fun for all.

**Ski Trip.** Every year on Presidents' Weekend for Scouts and any parents who wish to attend. Free lessons provided for non-skiers (Scouts only.)

**Summer Camp.** Usually the first two week in August, one week at a BSA Scout camp and one week of high adventure. Scouts not yet in a patrol are eligible to attend for the week at camp. All others may attend for one or two weeks. (Scouts may not attend the high adventure week only.)

## BSA RANK REQUIREMENTS

Troop 2 encourages every Scout to advance through the ranks of Scouting. We insist, though, that the Scout truly master the skills for each rank, so that he is prepared for the challenges and adventures that lie ahead. For higher ranks, to satisfy the BSA "Scout spirit" requirement, we expect a strong record of leadership and service. To be sure that requirements have been met, a Troop Board of Review is required for each merit badge or rank. Also, the Troop Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster must review selected merit badges that we deem particularly important, including First Aid, Emergency Preparedness, Swimming, Canoeing, Lifesaving, and Personal Fitness as well as the required Eagle badges. Information on Merit Badge requirements is available in the Boy Scout Handbook, merit badge requirements book, on this website, and [Merit Badge Counselors](#) pages. The official website for the National Council is [www.bsa.Scouting.org](http://www.bsa.Scouting.org).

### TROOP 1 1/2

The Assistant Scoutmaster responsible for Troop 1 1/2 will provide a list of the requirements for the rank of Scout. These requirements involve basic knots, the Scout Oath, Motto, and Slogan, the history and traditions of Troop 2, and other basic Scouting skills. Each skill must be demonstrated twice. When the boy has passed all the requirements, he will meet with the Scoutmaster for a Scoutmaster Conference. It is suggested that extra copies of the list of requirements be made to track progress. If the list is lost, requirements must be repeated. Board of Review is not required.

## **RECRUIT PATROL**

The Scout progresses through a series of six instructional modules that teach the requirements of the Tenderfoot rank. The Scout must satisfactorily complete all six modules. For this rank and all those following, the Scout must complete a Scoutmaster Conference and Troop Board of Review. [Recruits website](#).

## **SECOND CLASS**

To demonstrate mastery of the BSA requirements, the Scout must complete a "Mystery Hike" that reviews the Scout's ability to use map and compass. Totin' Chip is typically earned as the Scout demonstrates his skills with knife, ax, and saw. The Assistant Scoutmaster responsible for this rank will explain all [Second Class requirements](#).

## **FIRST CLASS**

To demonstrate mastery of the BSA requirements, the Scout must complete a "Mystery Camp". The Assistant Scoutmaster responsible for this rank will explain all [First Class requirements](#). For requirement #6 ("Identify or show evidence of at least 10 kinds of native plants found in your community"), the Scout is expected to bring labeled photographs of the plants to his Board of Review.

## **STAR**

BSA requires 4 months of active service while a First Class Scout in a "position of responsibility." Troop 2 accepts for [Star rank](#) any of the leadership positions listed in the BSA requirements such as Troop Librarian, Den Chief, or Assistant Patrol Leader. The Scout must demonstrate positive, responsible leadership in one of these positions. In partial fulfillment of the BSA requirement to "demonstrate Scout spirit," the Scout must earn the camp Spirit Award at any summer camp he attends with the Troop.

## **LIFE**

BSA requires 6 months of active service while a Star Scout in a "position of responsibility." To fulfill this requirement, Troop 2 accepts only Patrol Leader or Leadership Corps (including Staff in Training). The Scout must demonstrate positive, responsible leadership in his position and must have earned a second Camp Spirit award. A more intensive interview will be conducted for this rank at the Court of Honor.

## **EAGLE**

BSA requires 6 months of active service while a Life Scout in a "position of responsibility." To fulfill this requirement, Troop 2 accepts only Patrol Leader or Leadership Corps (including Staff in Training). BSA requirements also include a total of 21 merit badges, which must include eleven specified badges, and an Eagle project that provides a substantial service to a community organization. The Scoutmaster reviews the record of each Scout before the Scout is permitted to begin his Eagle project. An exceptional record of leadership and service is required before permission is granted. A total of three Camp Spirit awards must be earned to complete all requirements.

## **ADVANCEMENT RELATED NOTES:**

### **PATROL LEADER**

To be a Patrol Leader, a Scout must be in 9th grade or higher and have earned First Class rank.

### **LEADERSHIP CORPS**

A Scout is eligible to join the Leadership Corps (as a member of our Staff in Training) upon completion of one year of satisfactory service as a Patrol Leader or upon reaching 11th grade. The Scout must have attained First Class rank. Scoutmaster approval is required and may be denied if there is strong evidence that the Scout will not be a satisfactory member of the Leadership Corps. A Scout who reaches 11th grade without completing First Class rank will no longer be eligible for troop membership.

### **MERIT BADGES**

For each merit badge, the Scout is asked to complete the worksheet at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) and bring it with him to the Board of Review. Look for the "Worksheets" link in the navigation box on the left side of the home page.