

Welcome to Troop 689!

(A Guide to What NEW Parents need to know)

Troop Meetings are held on **Wednesdays 7:00-8:30pm** at St Peter Claver Church (corner of Cochran & Stow) Simi Valley, CA. St Peter Claver is our chartered organization which provides us a meeting place and allows us the opportunity to serve the community. Your son should always have his Boy Scout Handbook and be properly dressed for the troop meetings.

Committee Meetings are held **monthly**, scheduled to accommodate the availability of the most committee members. The committee is there to provide the support that the boys need to accomplish their scouting goals. The Senior Patrol Leader attends the meeting to express any needs of the Troop and to be the voice of the boys. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Uniforms (Field vs Activity) – The Field Uniform (Class A) consists of the official Boy Scout Shirt with all appropriate patches sewn in place, official Boy Scout pants or shorts, Neckerchief, Slide, and Socks. The Activity Uniform (Class B) consists of an official Troop 689 T-shirt. Unless specified otherwise, Field uniform (Class A) is to be worn to all meetings during the school year, all community service projects and when we travel to and from camping outings. Activity uniform (Class B) is to be worn to all meetings during the summer break and any other occasions where the leadership determines this to be the appropriate dress. On most occasions, BSA shirts acquired at Summer camp(s) are acceptable as a Class B activity uniform.

Dues - During Patrol Meetings, the Patrol Leader collects dues in the amount of **\$5** from each scout at the **beginning of each calendar month**. Dues are used for maintaining the troop (i.e. replenishing cooking utensils, stoves, charcoal, dish soap, paper towels, etc)

Campership Fund (Camp Fund) - Each scout has a Camp Fund consisting of funds he earns during fundraising events. When he has enough funds within his Camp Fund, he may use those funds to cover the cost of an Outing or to cover his dues for the month.

Fundraisers - The first Sunday of each month, our Troop has a Donut Fundraiser at the church where the boys had out donuts to parishioners and accept donations when

offered. Donations are split between the participating boys and added to their camp funds. The boys may sign up for one of 3 available work shifts on the Wednesday prior to "Donut Sunday". We expect parents of participating boys to assist with the activity. One of the parents assigned to the first shift is responsible for purchasing and picking up the donuts in the morning. The other parent assigned to first shift is responsible to assist the boys in setting up (table, banner, coffee, juice, water, etc). The parents at the last shift will be responsible to assist the boys with tearing down and neatly putting items back into the kitchen.

Trails End Popcorn Fundraiser is a yearly event (September/October) for all Boy Scout troops. In addition to their individual sales, they are asked to sign up for two shifts of store front sales.

During the holiday season we participate in Wreath Fundraisers by taking orders from friends, family, co-workers, and church. We have also done a Candy Fundraiser, Ink Cartridge Recycling, Rummage Sale, Restaurant Fundraisers, and are looking for more ideas from you!

Service Projects – Troop 689 tries to plan a monthly activity for the boys to give back to their community. Some examples follow. For the Troops is a non-profit organization that collects items for our soldiers overseas and utilizes our help in packing the boxes, writing letters to the soldiers and collecting items to send. Scouting for Food is an event held twice a year whereby the boys provide a grocery bag with a flyer at each door in a neighborhood explaining the need to replenish local food banks and requesting non-perishable goods. A day or two later the scouts return to the same neighborhood to collect the items to turn in to the council. Ronald Reagan Library has several opportunities throughout the year to utilize the help of the Boy Scouts in running a booth, providing a flag ceremony, or assisting with directions of visitors. As our older boys work towards planning their Eagle projects, the scouts are given the opportunity to be a part of their projects.

We are always looking for new and interesting community service ideas so please bring your ideas to the committee!

Leadership – Leadership is a big part of the scouting experience. Our Troop is "boy run." The boys plan everything, from the camping trips (location, menu planning, duty roster) to weekly meetings (consisting of a pre-opening game/activity, opening flag ceremony, skill instruction, patrol breakout meetings, activity, and closing) and everything in between.

Patrol Leader Counsel (PLC) - The current leadership consisting of the SPL (Senior Patrol Leader), Assistant SPL, Patrol Leaders, and the Scoutmaster meet monthly to discuss the agenda of the weekly meetings.

Yearly Planning - The PLC meets in August¹ each year to create the schedule of activities for the coming year. All scouts have the opportunity to share with their Patrol Leader any ideas for Outings to ensure they are considered in the yearly planning meeting.

Outings / Camping - Each month we have an outing consisting of a weekend camping trip, a day outing, or a week long summer camp.

Summer Camp - Each year the boys collectively pick a week long summer camp to attend. At summer camp they have the opportunity to concentrate their efforts on a few Merit Badges, plus other activities and programs offered by the camp.

Menu Planning - Before each campout the Patrols meet to plan their meals for the weekend. Once a balanced and nutritious menu is formed, one member from the Patrol is designated to shop for the items and provide them on the day of departure

Duty Roster - Before each campout the Patrols also discuss which members will cook and clean for each meal. It is up to the Patrol Leader and his assistant to ensure the schedule is followed.

Pack Inspection - Before each campout the attendees meet with their items fully packed for an inspection to ensure proper items listed on the Packing List are included in the Scouts pack.

Scoutmaster Conference - Once your son has completed all the requirements for his next rank, he should request a Scoutmaster Conference. This conference is an opportunity for the Scoutmaster and scout to discuss the requirements met for this current rank, as well as talk about his future goals and overall scouting experience.

Boards of Review - Once your son has completed and passed the Scoutmaster Conference, he should request a Board of Review from the Advancement Chair. The Board of Review consists of three adult committee members and allows the committee the opportunity to review the accomplishments, aspirations, and goals of your son in his scouting career, schooling, and leadership goals. It also give the boy an opportunity to experience interaction with the adults in the troop, a key component of the aims of scouting.

Merit Badges - Your son will be eager to earn Merit Badges which will be a required portion of his advancement in the upper scouting ranks. Merit Badge books could be checked out from the troop Library to confirm an interest in a particular field. Once your son has selected a Merit Badge of interest, he should find a buddy, as the Merit Badge counselor must work with two or more boys at a time. Request a "blue card" from your Scoutmaster. Select a Merit Badge counselor from a list of available counselors in your area and make contact with them to set up an initial meeting. The Merit Badge counselor will guide the scout through the process. Once your son has proved his ability to the counselor, the blue card will be signed by the Merit Badge Counselor.

Court of Honor - Every quarter we hold a Court of Honor to acknowledge the hard work of each of the scouts. They are presented with Merit Badges, Rank Advancements, participation patches, service awards, and other recognition, as warranted.

Training - While the boys get most of the fun, there are endless opportunities for the adults, too. **All parents are required to complete Youth Protection Training** which is available on-line at MyScouting.Org. Once on-line, you will see the multitude of courses available to you at the convenience of your home computer. Don't stop there! Check

out the council's site at vccbsa.org and seek out additional training in areas that interest you, and where, once trained, you could offer more assistance to the troop.

Patrols – The “Patrol Method” is a cornerstone of the scouting program in which the troop is broken into smaller groups of 5-8 boys that function together for all troop activities. Each Patrol has its own Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader (new boy patrols will have an older scout assigned as “troop guide” to help them learn the ropes). They are responsible to create a Patrol flag, have a Patrol yell or cheer, wear their Patrol Patch on their uniform, aspire to have good attendance, be properly dressed, and pay their dues each month. The boys will cook, eat, clean up and compete in troop activities as patrols.

Troop Committee – The Committee supports the troop by providing for and managing a troop budget for supplies and other troop expenses, ensuring adult support for all activities and organizing the non-scout run aspects of the troop. Committee positions include Treasurer, Secretary, Recruitment, Advancement, Committee Chair, and registered Parents.

Communication - Important information is sent via a yahoo group. Please share your e-mail address with the Committee Chair to be added to this group. Sign up sheets are placed on a table each week in our meeting hall. They contain the dates of upcoming trips, service projects, and fundraising opportunities. In addition to announcements made at the meetings to your boys, a recap of important reminders are provided at “circle up” time at the end of each meeting.

Troop Organization / Positions

Scoutmaster (*adult leader*)
Assistant Scoutmasters
Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) (*boy leader*)
Assistant SPL
Patrol Leader
Assistant Patrol Leader
Historian
Librarian
Scribe
Quartermaster
Troop Guide
Troop Instructor
Den Chief

Code of Conduct – The scout law states – “A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent”. All scouts are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with these 12 values. Physical abuse, inappropriate language, belittling other scouts, disrespect for troop leaders etc is considered unacceptable. Discipline will be handled as needed in keeping with the policies of the BSA through scoutmaster conferences, committee boards of review, scoutmaster/parent conferences and in extreme cases, suspensions from troop activities.