

# ***Welcome to Troop 99***



## ***A Guide For Families***

***Chartered by VFW Post 2481  
McKinleyville, CA***

***Pacific Rivers District  
Crater Lake Council  
Boy Scouts of America***

***Troop Website: [troop99.yolasite.com](http://troop99.yolasite.com)***

# Purpose of the Boy Scouts of America

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts Of America to provide an effective program designed to instill within the youth desirable qualities of character, to train them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to help develop their personal fitness, providing this country with citizens who:

1. Are physically, mentally and emotionally fit.
2. Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidence in such qualities as initiative, courage and resourcefulness.
3. Have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts.
4. Have the desire and skills to help others.
5. Understand the principles of the American social, economic, and government systems.
6. Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
7. 7 Have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
8. Are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society and in other forums of the world.

## Boy Scouts of America Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law.

### ***The Scout Oath or Promise***

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 is:***

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

### ***Scout Motto***

Be Prepared

### ***Scout Slogan***

Do a Good Turn Daily

## Aims and Methods of the Boy Scout Program

### ***Aims***

Scouting works toward three aims. One is growth in *moral strength and character*. We may define this as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, his outlook.

A second aim is *participating citizenship*. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society he lives, to the government that presides over that society.

A third aim of Scouting is *development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness*. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and emotions (self control, courage and self-respect).

The methods are designed to accomplish these aims.

### ***Methods***

***Advancement-*** Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to over come them through

the advancement process. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. More is discussed about Advancement later in this guide.

**Adult Association-** Boys learn from the examples set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage in a young man's development.

**Personal Growth-** As Scouts plan their activity, and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The good turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do good turns for others.

**Ideals-** The Ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them, he has some control over what he becomes.

**Patrols-** The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating in citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected leaders.

**Outdoors-** Scouting is designed to take place in the outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here where the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive. More is discussed about the outdoor program later in this guide.

**Leadership Development-** Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

**Uniform-** The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force of good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood youth who believe in the same ideals. More is discussed about the uniform later in this guide.

## Troop Organization

Troop 99 is a boy-run troop. Leadership is one of the methods of Scouting. Every boy will have an opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership. The meetings are planned and carried out by the Patrol Leaders' Council. The Patrol Leader assigns all duties for patrol activities. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps the boy accept the leadership of others and helps him to grow into a more responsible adult. The Troop organization chart below outlines the complete organization of the Troop. The following is an outline of the duties of the key leaders within the Troop:

### **Charter Organization:**

Troop 99 is chartered by Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2481, McKinleyville, CA.

### **Troop Committee:**

The Troop Committee is the troop's board of directors and has the following responsibilities:

- Ensure that quality adult leaders are recruited and trained.
- Holds an annual planning meeting that maps out the Troop activities for the following year.
- Supports leaders in carrying out the program.
- Supports the Scoutmaster in working with individual boys and problems that may affect the Troop.
- Is responsible for the finances of the Troop.
- Committee positions include: committee chairman, treasurer, secretary, outdoor program coordinator, advancement chair, chaplain, training chair, equipment manager, webmaster and charter representative.

Persons to fill these positions are elected by the committee. There is no limit to the term of these positions.

**Committee Meetings** – The Committee meets regularly (monthly) to discuss Troop business scheduled by the Committee Chair who provides an agenda. The ten committee position holders are eligible to vote on Troop business when a quorum exists. A quorum shall exist when five of the ten position holders are present.

The meetings are open to all parents and registered members of the Troop. The committee also holds an Annual Planning Meeting (usually in August) where it plots out the Troop's activities for the following year.

### ***Scoutmaster:***

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of the troop. The Scoutmaster and his or her assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. The general responsibilities of the Scoutmaster include:

- Train and guide boy leaders.
- Work with other adult leaders to bring Scouting to boys.
- Use the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting.
- Meet regularly with the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) for training and planning Troop activities.
- Troop discipline with help from Assistant Scoutmasters. (See discipline covered later in the document).

### ***Assistant Scoutmasters:***

Assistant Scoutmasters are recruited by the Scoutmaster and approved by the Troop Committee to assist the Scoutmaster in the operation of the Troop. Assistant Scoutmasters are assigned program tasks by the Scoutmaster and provide guidance to the boy leadership. He or she also provides the required two-deep leadership (two adult leaders present at every Boy Scout activity).

### ***Senior Patrol Leader (SPL):***

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is the top boy leader elected by the troop. He leads the patrol leaders' council and, in consultation with the Scoutmaster, appoints other junior leaders and assigns specific responsibilities as needed.

### ***Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL):***

The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) fills in for the SPL in his absence and is appointed by the SPL. He is also responsible for training and giving direction to the quartermaster, scribe, historian, librarian and instructors.

### ***Patrol Leaders Council (PLC):***

The PLC is made up of the SPL, ASPL and Patrol Leaders. They hold monthly meetings with the Scoutmaster to plan activities of the Troop.

### ***Patrol Leaders (PL):***

The patrol leaders are responsible for giving leadership to the members of their patrols and are elected by their patrol. They are their representation on the Patrol Leaders Council. The PL is also responsible for holding monthly patrol meetings outside of the regular troop meetings.

### ***Assistant Patrol Leaders (APL):***

Assistant patrol leaders help the PL run the patrol and fill in for him in his absence and are PL appointed.

### ***Parent Responsibilities***

The Troop cannot function without the active participation of every parent. The Troop encourages every parent to volunteer to serve as a leader, committee member or to help with other Troop projects. The Scoutmaster or any Committee member can suggest ways to contribute. The parent is also responsible to get their scout to and from all events or make arrangements for that to happen and to sign a permission slip before each outing. The Troop uses Troop Kit (<http://www.troopkit.com>) to post information about upcoming outings and the parents are asked to login and indicate whether or not they or their scout will be attending. Each parent and scout will be assigned an access code to be able to login to Troop Kit. Once a member of Troop Kit, you will receive an email each time information about an event is posted that requires your response.

### ***Scout Responsibilities and Discipline***

Every scout is required to live by the Scout Oath and Law at all times when wearing the Scout Uniform or in attendance at Troop outing or event. Troop 99 will not tolerate with regard to the following:

- The use of foul or vulgar language, sexual innuendo, calling people names or other disparaging remarks.
- The use of matches or flammable chemicals for other than their intended purpose.

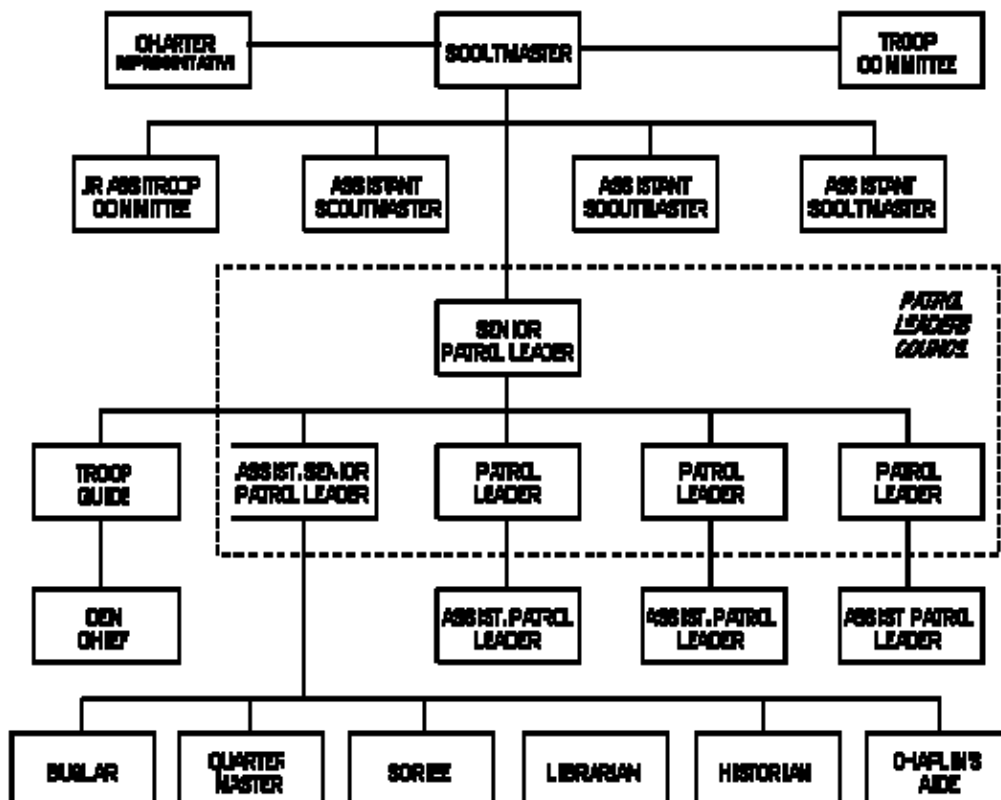
- Bullying, hazing or any action that could result in injury to a scout or anyone else.

It is at the discretion of the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters to determine if a violation of these policies has occurred. Violation will result in the following, in order of severity or recurrence:

1. A verbal reprimand.
2. A conference with a scoutmaster in order to work out the problem and set a course of better behavior.
3. Notification of the Committee and a conference between parents, scout and scoutmaster to discuss the problem.
4. The Scout is sent home from the activity (including summer camp). If this occurs the parent/guardian will be required to make arrangements to take custody of the Scout (pick him up and take him home) at no cost to the Troop.
5. A Board of Review to discuss the issue and set a course for better behavior.
6. The Scout is suspended from the Troop. Should this happen, the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair shall work with the parents with the goal to bring the youth back into Scouting.

Disciplinary actions will be dealt with in strict confidence and the Scout's parents will be fully informed of the issue. Together, the Troop Committee, Scoutmaster and parents will work toward a solution that is in the best interest of the Troop.

## Troop 99 Organization



## Scout Uniform

Scouts in uniform are conscious of their rank and make a greater effort to advance. Only the uniform provides a place for display of badges - important symbols of achievement. Scouts have more fun, stay longer, and feel greater pride in advancement.

### ***How the uniform can help a boy:***

It is not the purpose of the Scout uniform to hide the differences between the boys or make them feel that they are all the same.

But there is one way in which all Scouts are alike. Whenever a Scout sees another person in a Scout uniform he knows he is like that person because both have committed themselves principles of the Scout Oath and Law. The Scout Oath and Law bind all Scouts of the world together in a common purpose.

By wearing the uniform, Scouts give each other strength and support.

Beyond accenting the common bond between Scouts, by wearing the uniform Scouts are declaring their faith and commitment to some important beliefs that bind them to all people. It is a way of making visible their belief in God, their loyalty to our country and their commitment to helping other people who need them.

### ***How the uniform can help the Troop:***

1. When smartly worn, the uniform can help build good troop spirit.
2. By investing in a uniform, a Scout and his parents are really making a kind of a commitment to take Scouting seriously.
3. The uniform makes the Troop visible as a force for good in the community.
4. When properly worn on the correct occasions, it can attract new members.
5. Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive, youth image in the neighborhood, thus helping to counteract the negative feeling some adults have about youth.

### ***The Troop uniform:***

The following is the official uniform of Troop 99 is:

#### ***Provided by the boy:***

Hat (ball cap style)  
Shirt (official tan w/forest green shoulder tabs)  
Belt (official khaki web belt)  
Pants/Shorts (official forest green)  
Uniform socks  
Registration and Handbook  
Neckerchief slide

#### ***Provided by the Troop:***

Neckerchief  
Rank badge and badges of office  
Flag, Council and Troop 99 patches

The Troop usually has some used uniform shirts that boys have outgrown and donated to the Troop. These are available to any scout who might need one.

***Official placement of insignia may be found on the inside front and back cover of the Scout Handbook and on the troop's web site forms list.***

## **Advancement**

Advancement is the process by which youth members progress through the ranks in the Scouting program by the gradual mastery of Scouting skills. Ranks are simply a means to an end, not an end in itself. Everything boys do to advance and earn these ranks, from the day they join until the day they leave the program, should be designed to help boys have an exciting and meaningful experience. An "active scout" for advancement purposes, above 1<sup>st</sup> Class, shall attend 50% of all outings and meetings which would include community service projects. If there are reasons that a scout cannot meet these requirements he may petition the Troop Committee for an exemption.

**Troop 99 supports the BSA goal of having every new scout advance to first class within one year.**

### ***Boy Scout advancement, a four-step process:***

#### ***1. The Boy Scout learns.***

A Scout learns by doing. As he learns, he grows in ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and the Troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others. In this way, he begins to develop leadership.

#### ***2. The Boy Scout is tested.***

His Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, a troop Committee member or a troop member, may test a Scout on requirements. The Scoutmaster maintains a list of those qualified to test and pass candidates.

### **3. The Boy Scout is reviewed.**

After a Scout has completed all requirements for a rank he will have a Scoutmaster conference and a Board of Review. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Palms, members of the troop committee conduct the review. Members of the district advancement committee conduct the Eagle board of review.

### **4. The Boy Scout is recognized.**

When the Board of Review has certified a boy's advancement, he deserves to receive recognition as soon as possible. This should be done at a ceremony at the next troop meeting. The certificate for his next rank will be presented to him at the next Troop Court of Honor.

## **Court of Honor**

As stated above, when a Scout advances, he should be recognized as soon as possible - preferably at the next unit meeting. He is recognized a second time at a public ceremony called a Court of Honor.

The main purposes of the Court of Honor are to finish formal recognition for achievement and to provide incentive for other Scouts to advance.

Troop 99 has formal Courts of Honor three times a year in September, December and June. All families are asked to attend and guests are certainly welcome. Every boy who advances deserves to be recognized in front of his family. The court of honor is the boy's special night.

## **Outdoors Program**

Scouting is effective whenever we take advantage of its truth: The place where Scouting works best is also the place that boys want the most; the outdoors. There are a number of good reasons why the outdoors program is so special; here are the four that are especially noteworthy:

1. The outdoors is the best place for learning outdoor skills. How could it be otherwise? A Scout who tried to boil a potato on the gymnasium floor would be in hot water for sure - not to mention the boy who tried learning to swim by reading a book.
2. The outdoors is a great place for learning something about living with others. When Scouts walk on the same trail, cook and eat together, and share triumphs and troubles together, they are going to find out some important things about, say, patience, respect for other points of view, doing their full share, making a friend more easily, and saying no without losing one. Skills like these are among the "personal growth" skills we want from every Scout. The outdoors is where they grow up best.
3. On the trail or in camp, the boy's leaders will be challenged by the real thing - getting their patrols fed and sheltered, keeping them warm and safe, solving the problems they can solve, and knowing how to get help for those they can't. It's a time when leadership skills can deepen, patrols grow closer, and the troop grows stronger.
4. The outdoors is also a place where a Scout can get closer to the natural world around him - the land, the forests and their wildlife, the lakes and rivers, the mountains and the seas. Here, in the outdoors, he will learn of the "land ethic" - the understanding and respect for the environment we all share, and he will develop an active concern for its health and a willingness to work to keep it healthy.

### **Troop 99 and the Outdoors Program:**

Troop 99 has a very active outdoor program and all boys are encouraged to participate. Our program includes monthly weekend campouts, annual long-term summer camp (1 week), day hikes and other outdoor activities. All outings may only be attended by registered scouts or adults. This is done for liability reasons. The annual ski trip is considered a family event and non-registered family members may attend this event. Exception to this rule can be made for potential Scouts on a case by case basis. A potential scout shall complete an application and have signed permission from a parent or guardian.

### **What to bring on a campout:**

◇ Sleeping bag  
◇ Foam Pad  
◇ Sweater

◇ Mess Kit  
◇ Cup  
◇ Soap

◇ Sewing Kit  
◇ Flashlight  
◇ Scout Knife

#### **Do Not Bring**

- Fixed Blade Knives
- Snack Food



- |              |              |                      |                    |
|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| ◇ Rain gear  | ◇ Toothbrush | ◇ Watch              | • Electronic Games |
| ◇ Clothes    | ◇ Toothpaste | ◇ Personal ID        | • Firearms         |
| ◇ Canteen    | ◇ Comb       | ◇ Notebook           |                    |
| ◇ Silverware | ◇ Washcloth  | ◇ Pen / Pencil       |                    |
| ◇ Compass    | ◇ Towel      | ◇ Boy Scout Handbook |                    |

## Cost of Scouting

**Recharter fees** - \$15 for registration (Scout and Scouter) \$12 for Boy's Life, due November each year.

**Outing Fees** – Troop 99 tries to have at least one activity each month. Each activity has a \$5 fee for each Scout attending and may have additional costs for things such as food, camping fees, ski trip fees and summer camp fees.

Each Scout is given the opportunity to earn money to cover these fees and any money that they earn is held by the troop in an account for them. The main money making activities are firewood and popcorn sales. Scouts can earn enough in these two activities to cover most of their scouting expenses for the year. They can also use the money they earn to purchase camping gear or other equipment that they may need. The Troop earns a share of these sales as well which covers general Troop expenses. 75% of monies raised goes to the scout's account and 25% goes to the Troop. There are also other opportunities to earn money by doing such things as selling pizza cards.

Summer camp is usually the most expensive outing. For those Scouts that have a financial need, camperships (scholarships) are usually available. It is Troop 99's philosophy that the Scout needs to earn at least half of the money for these outings before receiving financial help.

## Youth Protection

### ***Program Summary***

Child abuse is a major problem affecting our society. Each year more than 2 million cases of suspected child abuse are reported. This means that 1 percent of American children are experiencing physical abuse, 1 percent are experiencing sexual abuse, and 2 to 5 percent are experiencing emotional maltreatment or some form of neglect. Because of the significance of this social problem, The Boy Scouts of America has declared child abuse as one of the "unacceptable" to receive special attention by those involved in the Scouting program.

The BSA has developed a five-point plan to combat child abuse and to improve the environment in which young people live. The key elements of this strategy include the following points:

- Educating Scouting volunteers, parents and Scouts themselves to aid in the detection and prevention of child abuse.
- Establishing leader-selection procedures to prevent individuals with a history of child abuse from entering the BSA leadership ranks.
- Establishing policies that minimize the opportunities for child abuse to occur in the program of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Encouraging Scouts to report improper behavior in order to identify offenders quickly.
- Swiftly removing and reporting alleged offenders.

### ***Parents guide***

The Boy Scouts of America has developed materials for use in the Scouting program that provide essential information to members and their families. A detachable booklet in the front of The Boy Scout Handbook, "How to Protect Your Child from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse: A Parents Guide," provides information to help families to increase self-protection skills.

### ***Troop 99 and the Youth Protection Program***

Troop 99 is committed to following all guidelines of the Youth Protection Program. Any suspected offenses of the Youth Protection Program must be reported to the Committee Chairman, the Scoutmaster or the Council Executive. All incidents reported to the Committee Chairman or the Scoutmaster will be reported to the Council Executive. All reports are taken seriously and appropriate action is taken to ensure the safety of the youth.

**All registered adult leaders must have current Youth Protection Training and provide a copy of their certification to the Troop Training Chair.**