



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Golden Empire Council

Capital City District

Troop 136 Parent Handbook

www.troop136.com

Revised Date: 1/8/2017

Welcome to Troop 136

About Troop 136 Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America and the Sacramento Zoo, home of Boy Scout Troop 136, also known as the Zoo Troop. The Sacramento Zoological Society is our sponsor and charter organization. It provides a meeting place for our troop as well as special and unique opportunities to perform community service for the Zoo and the community through its operations and special events.

By becoming a parent of a Boy Scout, you and your son will be entering into the grand adventure of which is “scouting”. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will share with him.

You may be asking, “What is scouting all about? How do we join the Troop? What does scouting cost? What will I be expected to do?” These and other questions are answered in this handbook, which is designed to help you understand the basics of the Troop 136 Scouting Program. Reading the Parent Handbook will acquaint you and your new scout with information and rules on how our troop operates.

Question? Please contact the Scoutmaster or Parent Committee Chair with any questions or comments you might have.

Our Approach to Scouting Tighten your boot laces! Grab your paddle! Pack your backpack! Let the adventure begin!

Our troop is dedicated to delivering the mission of the Boy Scouts of America through a strong outdoor program. With troop meetings, once-a-month campouts, long-term summer camps, and the patrol method, scouts grow in leadership, character and citizenship. We welcome you to the adventure of Troop 136.

Our goal is to provide an atmosphere for growth in which a scout may develop into a young adult who is a mature responsible citizen. Our objective first and foremost is to have FUN, while we LEARN and GROW together. The troop strives to instill a desire for excellence and presents each scout with opportunities to:

- Develop new interests and learn new skills
- Learn the fundamental elements of teamwork
- Have new experiences
- Take responsibility for his conduct, his appearance, and for his own achievements
- Be helpful and to do his best
- Develop self-esteem
- Prepare for new and greater challenges
- Handle the responsibilities he has to God, to country, to others and himself
- Keep himself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight

**What is Scouting
All About?**

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

- Are physically, mentally and emotionally fit.
- Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage and resourcefulness.
- Have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts.
- Have the desire and skills to help others.
- Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
- Have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
- Are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society.

**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, 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, Scout Law, Scout Motto, Scout Slogan and Outdoor Code are all items that each scout is required to memorize and learn to live by. These may also be found in the Scout Handbook which each scout will need to have.

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.

Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Scout Motto

Be prepared.

Scout Slogan

Do a good turn daily.

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, and be conservation minded.

Joining Troop 136

Joining the Troop

We invite parents and boys to visit troop meetings and ask questions prior to committing to join the troop. A boy joining may be:

- a new candidate entering Scouting with limited or no scouting or cub scout experience;
- crossing over as a Webelos from a Cub Scout Pack; or
- a transferring Boy Scout.

A boy may visit our troop meetings as many times as he wishes without joining. However, he must join the troop to participate in special activities and camping trips. Troop 136 requires that there be at least one registered adult per family.

Age requirement

A boy must be 11 years old, or one who has completed the fifth grade, or earned the Arrow of Light Award as a Cub Scout and is at least 10 years old, but is not yet 18 years old.

Attend meetings prior to joining

To become a member of Troop 136, you and your son must meet certain attendance requirements:

- As a prospective scout parent, attend one parent committee meeting
- As a prospective scout, attend three troop meetings.

Complete and submit required forms

You must also complete and submit various forms. If you have any questions, our Recruitment Chair is available to assist you in the completion of these forms.

- BSA Youth Application Form
- BSA Adult Application Form
- Troop 136 Scout Consent Form including personal vehicle information. All vehicles must be covered by a public liability and property damage liability insurance policy if you plan on transporting scouts or equipment.
- Troop 136 Sacramento Zoo Rules of Behavior Forms signed by parent and scout
- Troop 136 Parent Volunteer Assignments Form
- BSA Annual Health and Medical Record

Our troop's expectation is that your completed forms are your commitment to help provide a quality program for your scout. An outstanding aspect of our troop is the quantity and quality of our adult volunteers!

All forms required above can be found on the "Resource" page of our website.

Schedule meeting With Scoutmaster Parents of new scouts must meet with the Scoutmaster (or Assistant Scoutmaster for the New Scout Patrol) for a parent orientation to Troop 136.

Fees Currently BSA National requires a \$24 fee per scout per year. In addition our troop requires a \$50 fee per scout per year to cover costs of the troop. Scouts bridging or transferring from other units and have already paid the BSA National fee need only pay a \$1 transfer fee. And additional \$12 is due if you would like to have your scout receive a subscription to Boy Life magazine. This magazine can be a very entertaining and informative tool for your son's scouting experience.

Effective the 2013 charter year, new and returning scout costs will include a \$50 fee that is refundable after the scout completes his annual four-hour fundraising requirement (see next paragraph).

Fundraising Hours Requirement The troop conducts various fundraiser's each year to, in part, fund its operating budget. Each scout is required to perform a minimum of four hours of fundraising annually by April 30. Scouts who work more than four hours will earn Troop 136 Scout Bucks that can be applied to the cost Troop activities.

Community Service Hours Requirements In order to attend summer camp, it is Troop 136 policy that each scout must annually perform a minimum of five hours of community service by May 15. Incoming Webelos must perform two hours of community service by May 15.

Uniform Whenever a Scout sees another person in a **Scout Uniform**, he knows he is like that person because both have committed themselves to the 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. It helps them to feel like part of the team.

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. The uniform shows camaraderie within the troop.
2. By investing in a uniform, a scout and his parents are making a commitment to take scouting seriously.
3. The uniform makes the troop visible in the community.
4. Scouts in uniform create a strong and positive image of youth.

2 types of uniforms There are two types of uniforms. The Field or “Class A” uniform and the Activity or “Class B” uniform. We strongly suggest that all clothing be labeled with your scout's name and "Troop 136".

Class A (Field) Uniform Each scout is required to have and wear his Class A uniform within a reasonable amount of time after joining the Troop. The River City Scout Shop, 251 Commerce Circle, Sacramento, CA 95815, 916-929-1417, carries all necessary items. The scout uniform must be worn at all troop activities and events unless otherwise specified.

The Troop’s Scout Exchange Occasionally, the troop will announce the availability of a bank of "experienced" uniform items available to parents. Parents can get uniform items from this bank at no cost. However, we ask that you donate your "experienced" uniform items back to the bank whenever possible. Let's help save each other some money!

What is required? The following is the official Class A uniform of Troop 136:

Provided by the Scout	Provided by the Troop
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tan scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches ● Golden Empire Council patch ● U.S. flag patch ● Olive green shoulder loops ● Troop number patches 1, 3 and 6 (sold individually) ● Patrol emblem ● Boy scout hat (optional) ● Neckerchief slide ● Olive scout web belt and buckle (optional) ● Olive pants ● Olive boy scout socks (optional) ● Athletic shoes or hiking boots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Troop 136 neckerchief ● Rank and merit badges ● Badges of office

Class B (Activity) Uniform Each scout is required, as instructed by Troop leadership, to wear his Activity or “Class B” uniform when activities may cause damage to the field uniform. The following is the official Class B uniform for Troop 136, all provided by the scout:

- Troop 136 red or beige T-shirt
- Athletic shoes or hiking boots
- Pants or shorts

Placement of Insignia (Patches) The official placement of uniform insignia and merit badge sashes may be found [here](#). Merit badges may be worn in any order that the scout chooses, and not necessarily in alphabetical nor "required-non required" order. Begin the first row of three merit badges four inches from the top of the sash. Sewing the merit badges on will work better than using "badge bond" (silicon caulk). Most scouts choose to wear merit badges in the order in which they have earned them. The merit badge sash is worn over the right shoulder. Please note that the Order of the Arrow (OA) sash is only worn at OA functions, not at regular troop meetings except OA election night.

When to wear Uniforms Uniforms are required at all meetings and trips. Merit badge sashes are required at formal occasions such as a Courts of Honor, Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review.

Scout Handbook Every Scout will need to purchase a Scout Handbook. Scouts should bring their handbooks to all meetings and events. With parent encouragement scouts should be comfortable with approaching Scout Leaders to have their books signed off as rank requirements are completed. As Scouts progress through the ranks previous rank signatures and dates will be reviewed. Scout Leaders are not allowed to sign off their own scout's handbook.

Meetings

Troop Meetings Troop meetings are held the second and fourth Sundays year-round at the Sacramento Zoo, except for conflicting holiday weekends, or BSA or Golden Empire Council event dates (e.g., summer camp, camporee, etc.).

Meetings begin at 3:00 PM and end at 5:00 PM. However, the troop asks that all scout be at the zoo 15 min early so we can enter the zoo at 3:00 PM as a unit. If a Troop meeting is unexpectedly canceled, an email notice will be sent with as much advance notice as possible. From time to time specific meetings may be held in alternate locations. (E.g., game day in the park, troop picnic, Courts of Honor, etc.). Advanced notice of these meetings will be sent out via the troop email list and placed on the troop website.

Patrol Meetings Patrols can meet anytime during the month. The actual meeting day, time and place is set by each patrol.

Parent Committee meetings The Parent Committee serves as the troop's board of directors and supports the troop's program. The committee works closely with the Scoutmaster on all matters that deal with policy, chartering, finances, membership, troop property, and special needs and/or assistance. The committee meets regularly on the second Sunday of the month while the troop meeting is in progress. Juggling family activities and schedules can be challenging, but the troop expects attendance at committee meetings by at least half of the families of every patrol.

Communications Troop emails are the main method by which the Troop communicates. You can subscribe to the troop's distribution list to receive emails by going to the main page of the troop website.

Each Scout should bring a small note pad and pen to each troop meeting to take notes on "end of meeting" announcements.

Calendar The Troop calendar can be viewed [here](#).

Scholarship Fund Troop 136 provides scholarships to aid any Scouts that need financial help with any facet of being a Scout (uniform, trip fees, etc.). Parents or Scouts needing financial assistance with trip fees, uniform, etc., should contact the Scoutmaster. All requests and disbursements are kept strictly confidential.

Individuals may donate to the Troop 136 Scholarship Fund at any time.

How Troop 136 Works

Structural Overview

Adult Leaders The adult leaders are the Scoutmaster and his assistants and the troop Parent Committee. All are unpaid volunteers; most are the parents of boys in the troop.

Boy Scout Patrols Within the troop, a scout will be assigned to a patrol – typically a group of six to 10 boys. His patrol will be his team for games and contests, his closest buddies in camp, and his teachers as he works on advancement. Each Patrol will consist of scouts ranging from ages 11 to 15. When a scout joins a patrol he will be guided by older scouts in his patrol. As a scout progress he will slowly transform to acting as a leader and educator in his patrol. At the patrol level scouts will also be guided by various Assistant Scoutmaster volunteers.

The Troop has a Older Scout Patrol known as a Senior Patrol. This patrol is comprised of scouts that are ages 16–17. Most often the leadership of the troop originates from the Senior Patrol.

Troop Meetings Troop meetings are planned and conducted by boy leaders under the coaching and guidance of the Scoutmaster and his/her assistants. This is part of the plan to help the scout grow, make decisions, and take an active part in making the troop program successful.

A typical troop meeting follows a 90 to 120 minute program that may include a brief patrol meeting for advancement progress or planning a future event; a game or two; working on outdoor skills, first aid, fitness, citizenship, or some other aspect of scouting; or planning ceremonies highlighting scouting's ideals.

At troop meetings, and working on his own, the scout will have a chance to earn many rank advancement badges and awards. He will quickly earn his "scout" badge after learning the basics of scouting. After that, he will work on the advanced scouting ranks and any of more than 100 merit badges. As he earns these awards and badges, he will progress from Tenderfoot through Second and First Class ranks into the more difficult requirements for the Star and Life Scout ranks. Finally, he may earn the most distinctive rank of all – the Eagle Scout Award.

Outdoor Program Every month the troop plans a special event as part of its Outdoor Program. It may be a weekend campout (typically the third weekend of the month), a visit to some location of special interest, or a troop service project. Scouts are encouraged to participate in these events and to prepare for them on their own as much as possible. Information is posted on our website on a regular basis.

Troop Organization The sections that follow explain some of the guidelines and rules as they pertain to "How Our Troop Works."

Boy-Run Troop Troop 136 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.

Patrol Leaders' Council The meetings are planned and carried out by the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) which is lead by the Senior Patrol Leader. All duties for patrol activities at meetings and events are decided by PLC. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps the scout accept the leadership of others and helps him to grow into a more responsible adult. The troop organization chart outlines the complete organization of the troop.

Leaders in Uniform The following is an outline of the duties of the key leaders within the troop:

Scoutmaster The Scoutmaster (SM) is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of the troop. The Scoutmaster and 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.

Assistant Scoutmasters Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM's) are recruited by the Scoutmaster to assist the Scoutmaster in the operation of the troop. ASM's are assigned program tasks by the Scoutmaster and provide guidance to the boy leadership. They also provide the required two deep leadership (two adult leaders present at every boy scout activity). Assistant Scoutmasters are normally associated with a specific patrol and will provide guidance to that patrol.

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

Patrol Leader The Patrol Leader (PL) is responsible for giving leadership to the members of their patrol. They are their representation on the Patrol Leaders' Council. The PL is also responsible for holding regularly scheduled patrol meetings outside of the regular troop meetings.

Assistant Patrol Leaders Assistant Patrol Leaders help the Patrol Leader run the patrol and fill in for him in his absence.

Troop Parents The role of parents within Troop 136 is to be supportive of the troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere scouts need to learn and excel. Parents who choose to take an active part in their son's scouting endeavors will find that he stays in longer and gets more out of the program. Parents should at a minimum try to:

1. Read their scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of scouting. Parents can also view online the Boy Scout Fast Start video tape to familiarize themselves with the basics of Scouting.

Troop Parents
Continued

2. Actively follow their scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement and a gentle "push" when needed.
3. Show support to both the individual scout and troop by attending all Courts of Honor and the troop by attending Parent Committee meetings.
4. Assist, as requested, in all Troop fund-raisers and other such activities. All such assistance lowers the cost of the program we offer to the Scouts and, therefore, lowers each family's cash outlay for their Scout(s).
5. Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar. Most troop activities are updated on the website (www.troop136.com) on a regular basis.

Parent Committee As mentioned earlier the Parent Committee acts as a Board of Directors for the troop. The Committee Chair leads with the Vice Chair filling in as needed. A full list of Parent Committee positions can be found on the troop website in the "Resource" section.

Rank Advancement

Advancement Overview Advancement is the process by which scouts progress through the ranks in the scouting program by the gradual mastery of scouting skills. Boy Scout advancement is 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 skills, he is asked to teach others. In this way, he begins to develop leadership.

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

A scout may be tested on requirements by his Senior Patrol Leader, Instructor, Troop Guide, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster or a troop committee member. 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 has a Board of Review. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Palms, the review is conducted by registered adult members of the troop. The Eagle Board of Review is conducted by members of the district advancement committee.

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

When the Board of Review has certified a scout's advancement, he deserves to receive recognition. His patch and certificate for his next rank will be presented to him at the next troop Court of Honor.

Boy Scout Ranks Ranks are simply a means to an end, not an end in themselves. The higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks -- and the more rewarding. Everything scouts do to advance and earn these ranks, from the day they join until the day they leave the program, is designed to help them have an exciting and meaningful experience. More specific information about each rank can be found in the Scout Handbook.

Scout The first rank earned is Scout. The joining requirements require the boy to learn the basics of Boy Scouts, like the oath, law, slogan, etc. One requirement is to work with his parents through an abuse prevention exercise contained in the front of the Boy Scout Handbook. Once the boy completes these requirements, he participates in a Scoutmaster conference. The Scoutmaster reviews the boy's

Scout Continued progress, makes sure the boy knows the basics, and discusses what the boy would like to do in Scouting.

**Tenderfoot
Second Class &
First Class** The next three ranks concentrate on outdoor, first aid, citizenship, swimming, and patrol skills. The requirements for these three ranks can be earned in any order, i.e., a scout could complete the cooking requirements for First Class rank before he earns the Tenderfoot or Second Class ranks. However, the ranks must be earned in order. Troop 136's activities are oriented to giving the boys opportunities to complete these requirements. Summer camps typically offer a full program for these ranks. There are some requirements that the parent can assist the boy in earning: physical fitness (Tenderfoot); swimming (Second and First Class); visit with civic leader (First Class); and drug awareness program (Second Class)

Star and Life The next two ranks require the scout to participate in troop activities, be in a leadership position, perform service hours and earn merit badges.

Eagle The highest rank in Boy Scouts is Eagle. The requirements are the most demanding and specific. The Eagle Advisor works directly with each Life Scout to help him understand these requirements. After being in a leadership position, earning a total of 21 merit badges, participating in troop activities, and completing an Eagle Service Project, the scout will complete an Eagle Application and have a Scoutmaster's Conference. The application is then sent to the Council Office and if approved an Eagle Board of Review will then be conducted by members of the district, leaders of the Parent Committee and members of the community at large.

What Parents See

**Advancement
Through First Class** From the time the scout enters the troop through the time he earns and advances to First Class, he is learning basic scouting skills to enable him to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, and perform other tasks in the outdoors and to work as a member of a team. With those first steps the scout begins to build himself physically, mentally and morally.

He will start to live the Scout Oath and Law. Soon he will learn the symbolism inherent in the scout badge; he will learn that there are three points of the trefoil which stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath: Duty to God and Country, Duty to Other People, and Duty to Yourself.

Scouts typically achieve the rank of First Class at the end of their second year in the Troop. This is a sign that the scout has mastered the fundamentals of scouting and can begin the long process of learning to lead others, refining the learned skills and learning additional skills.

Advancement from First Class to Eagle

Later ranks such as Star, Life and Eagle are earned by serving in a leadership capacity, demonstrating leadership, performing service projects, earning merit badges, and using the skills learned while achieving the rank of First Class. These ranks are harder to obtain, but are also more interesting for the older scout. Upon completion of all the requirements for Star and Life, the scout will be eligible to work for Eagle.

The original principals, the Scout Oath and Law now have a fuller meaning for the scout and his understanding of them is much greater. The final steps towards Eagle are filled with leadership experiences.

Parents and other adults are encouraged to help, but it is not the troop's or the parents' obligation to ensure progress. Ultimately, it will be the Scouts responsibility for his own advancement as he learns the skills that will carry him on into adulthood. For those new Scouts who are bridging Webelos, this will be quite a change for you. For more information on scout advancement, refer to the Boy Scout Handbook.

Advancement Job Functions

Advancement is the Scout's responsibility

Each Scout:

- Knows what requirements are needed for next rank.
- Sets personal goals for advancement.
- Asks for instruction and testing when needed.
- Looks beyond and works on rank advancement requirements.

Advancement Responsibilities Of the leaders

Patrol Leader:

- Knows the ranks of the scouts in his patrol.
- Helps scouts in his patrol set personal goals for advancement.
- On campouts, tries to make camping assignments based on need for rank.
- Asks Senior Patrol Leader and Instructor for instruction at meetings and on campouts, based on needs of the patrol.
- Makes sure that scouts in patrol get credit in their scout book for requirements they pass off.

Troop Instructor:

- Instructs scouting skills as needed within the troop or patrols, at meetings and on campouts.
- Prepares well in advance for each teaching assignment.
- Helps younger scouts set personal goals for advancement.
- Assists the Patrol Leader as needed or requested.
- Sets a good example.

**Advancement
Responsibilities
Continued**

Parents:

- Help your son understand rank advancement and to "look forward" (scouts can work on requirements for upcoming ranks).
- Are encouraged to help teach skills that they know to the scouts; help scouts review as needed (Parents cannot pass-off requirements for their son).

Merit Badges

The goal of the merit badge program is to provide an avenue for lifelong hobbies and possible job interests. Although some merit badges are required, there are others that are electives. Each Scout can earn merit badges in subjects that are of interest to him. This should be the start of a very exciting trail of fun, achievement, adventure and knowledge. The scout can start the process of earning a merit badge by contacting the Scoutmaster. Information about Merit Badges are provided in the Scout Handbook.

Specific merit badge procedures can be found on the Troop website on the "Resource" page.

**Scoutmaster
Conference**

Each of the six ranks in scouting contains the requirement "Participate in a Scoutmaster Conference". The purpose of the conference is to develop trust and understanding over time.

A Scoutmaster Conference is a one-on-one discussion with the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster designated by the Scoutmaster. It is an opportunity for scouts to learn more about the Scoutmaster and his expectations, bring up any concerns, and discuss anything not understood about the scouting program. The Scoutmaster and scout will also talk about goal setting and achievement. The conference is normally held each time a scout completes the requirements for rank advancement.

The conference also helps the Scoutmaster to get to know each scout better by giving him a clearer idea of what individual scouts can contribute to their patrol and to the troop. The conference assists the Scoutmaster in discovering what the troop can do to bring a quality program to all scouts.

The conference is also an opportunity for a Scoutmaster to discuss the Scout's activity in the troop and his understanding and practice of the ideals of scouting. Together they can set goals for future advancements. Occasionally, a scout may be called into a Scoutmaster conference in order to evaluate his participation or as a counseling tool for a variety of other reasons.

Board of Review

Purpose When a scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he is eligible to appear before a Board of Review (see Troop website for Board of Review procedures) composed of members of the troop committee. The purpose of the review is not an examination. Rather it is to determine the scout's attitude and acceptance of scouting's ideals; to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement; to discuss the scout's experiences in the troop and the troop's program, and to encourage him to keep working towards advancement. A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a scout about his lack of progress toward advancement.

Who is on the Board? The Board is composed of at least three registered adults. The scout may be asked to repeat the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, etc. The review will include a discussion of the ways in which the Scout sees himself living up to the Scout Ideals in everyday life. The Board will address the Scouts leadership performance and merit badge completion and knowledge, and Scout spirit (attitude toward Scouting). If the Scout demonstrates that he has completed all the requirements, the Board members will sign and date the advancement record in his Boy Scout Handbook. This date is very important because it is the beginning of the time period for advancing to the next rank.

What does the Scout wear? The scout must appear before the Board in full Class A uniform.

Court of Honor Our troop conducts a Court of Honor several times each year. The Court of Honor is a public and formal ceremony, and is a chance for the Scouts to be recognized for their achievements. At this ceremony the scout receives formal recognition for merit badges earned, rank advancements, scout appointments, elections and other special patches and awards earned since the last Court of Honor.

This is a special event and "best dress" is in order as scouts wear the full Class A uniform (see pages 7 and 8). Families, friends, and all other interested individuals are encouraged to attend this very meaningful experience for scouts. You are encouraged to support other scouts by attending even if your scout is not receiving an award. It is the responsibility of the troop's Patrol Leaders' Council to plan and conduct the Court of Honor.

Adult recognition may also be presented during the ceremony.

A special Court of Honor takes place whenever a scout earns the rank of Eagle.

We encourage all scouts and their parents to attend this very important ceremony.

Eagle Court of Honor The highest rank in scouting is the Eagle, attained by less than three percent of boys who enter scouting nationwide. This award represents the culmination of years of dedicated work by the scout, and accordingly is awarded in a special ceremony. This Eagle Court of Honor is separate from the regular Court of Honor. All scouts and parents of Troop 136 are encouraged to attend to help recognize these Scouts who have worked so very hard. The scout and his parents plan and coordinate the ceremony. To support scouts who reach the rank of Eagle, the troop will reimburse the family for a portion of the ceremony costs of the Eagle Court of Honor.

The Outdoor Program

Importance of the Outdoor 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 outdoor program is so special; here are four that are especially good:

- The outdoors is the best place for learning outdoor skills. How could it be otherwise? Can a scout learn to swim by reading a book? No way!
- 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 discover some important things about patience, respect for others' points of view, doing their full share, and making a friend more easily and to say "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.
- On the trail or in camp, adult scout leaders will be charged with real-life challenges such as 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 will grow closer, and the troop grows stronger.
- The outdoors is also a place where a scout can get closer to the natural world around him – the land, the forests and its 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 136's Outdoor Program Troop 136 has a very active outdoor program and all scouts are encouraged to participate. The program includes monthly troop camping trips, patrol outings and camping trips, annual summer camp, high adventure camping trips for older scouts, day hikes and other outdoor activities.

Campouts Campouts provide scouts with several opportunities to work on related advancement requirements. Short backpacking hikes are incorporated into most campouts and while planned for fun, many camping activities advance scouts through rank requirements or Merit Badges. Campouts typically occur the third weekend of every month, year round.

Summer Camp Troop 136 goes to a scout camp each summer for a week. Details are normally announced in Fall. Every scout should plan to attend camp with the troop. Summer camp is the most important outdoor program experience of the entire scouting year. Many activities and merit badges can only be done at a summer camp, e.g., Shooting merit badge. In addition, summer camp is especially important for new scouts and their advancement to first class.

High Adventure Camps Troop 136 typically takes part in a high adventure activity each summer, from BSA sponsored activities at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, Sea Base in the Florida Keys, Canoe Base in Northern Minnesota, Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia, and Catalina Island in Southern California, to special events that are planned by our troop.

Age requirements for high adventure scouting activities vary. For example, National Jamboree requires age 12 and above; others require First Class rank and 14 years of age.

Scout Tenting Troop 136 issues tents to scouts for each campout. Each scout is required to have a tent partner. Exceptions are at the permission of the Scoutmaster. Depending on the event, tent partners may be assigned ahead of time. Sometimes, they are determined at departure. In the event an odd number of scouts in a patrol attend a campout, one scout may be assigned a partner from another patrol. In order to use a troop supplied tent scouts must bring a tarp to place under their tents in order to prolong its life. At the conclusion of an outing each scout is required to take their tent home to clean, dry and air out. The scout should return their tent to the troop at the next troop meeting. If the scout can't attend the next meeting they have the responsibility to make sure a fellow scout returns it for them.

Scout Camping Rules Troop 136 enforces the following rules on all events and outings:

- Personal electronics (cell/smart phones, iPods, laser pointers, etc.) are not permitted during the outing. Phones may be turned over to the driver for safe keeping while on the outing if necessary.
- Every scout is expected to help set-up, maintain and tear down camp.
- Every scout is expected to fulfill their assigned patrol duties.
- Every scout is expected to participate in scheduled activities.
- Scouts will remain at the campsite unless the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters (or other designated trained leaders) grant permission to leave. Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters must be aware of the whereabouts of scouts outside the camp area at all times.
- Stealing or damaging property will not be tolerated.
- No scout or person shall enter a tent without the permission of the person assigned to that tent, and an adult must be present at the time of entrance.
- Scouts, at no time, shall play with the fire.
- Be polite to all present (verbally and otherwise).
- Cursing and name calling will not be tolerated at any time.
- Fighting will not be tolerated for any reason.
- Scouts are expected to observe quiet time.
- All scouts will adhere to the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace policies.

Adult Camping Fathers and mothers (and legal guardians) of scouts are always welcome to attend any and all events including camping trips (except when space is limited). Adults attending a troop campout must have a completed Youth Protection certificate on file with the troop. Non registered adults must be the scout's parents or guardian, and not a non-scout, adult sibling.

Remember scouting is for boys – let them do the work, plan the trip, cook the meals, etc. If you take the lead, they will never learn how to do it themselves. It's alright if scouts don't do something the "right way" or "your way" – they will often learn more by doing it their way. Thus, we try to do everything possible through the youth leaders, but stand ready to support them when necessary. Give the scouts some space. We emphasize the patrol system. The patrol system is fundamental to scouting. Thus, all activities are planned around patrols and each patrol should have its own campsite – slightly apart from the others, but not so far apart that the Scoutmasters cannot keep track of them.

Adult Patrol (Old Grizzly Patrol) Normally, you will camp with other adults in the "adult patrol". Adult leaders and scout parents camp together in their own area and function as a patrol with their

Adult Patrol (Old Grizzly Patrol) Continued own duty roster and camp responsibilities. The adult patrol should serve as a model for the boys and each member should share responsibilities performing duties such as grub master, cook, clean-up, fire builder, etc. Adults are constantly watched by the scouts and their conduct should always be appropriate for scouting activities. Alcohol, tobacco and drugs have no place at any scouting activity and will be grounds for removal as an adult leader. Volunteers are always needed to help shop for and prepare food in the adult area. Parents do not tent with their scouts, nor are they permitted to tent in the scout patrol areas. Exceptions to this are specified and approved prior to any campouts. In an emergency (e.g. a tent has been damaged or lost), an adult may share a tent with his or her own son. An adult may never sleep in a tent with any scout except his or her own son.

Trip Cancellations Troop 136 camps in all types of weather. Trips are rarely canceled. Cancellation of any troop function is at the discretion of the Scoutmaster. Remember the Scout Motto: "Be Prepared". Unnecessary risks are never taken. Safety is the foremost consideration during all outings.

Length of Camping Trip Dates for each campout are typically announced in advance and noted on permission slips on the website. The time of return will normally be communicated to parents at the beginning of the trip. Scouts may need to bring some troop equipment home to clean or "air-out". These items need to be returned at the next troop meeting.

Required Permission Slips Troop 136 permission slips are required through the troop website in order to actually register for a troop sanctioned event. Without agreeing to all sections of the permission slip the system will not let you register. These slips authorize the adult leader-in-charge to seek medical assistance should a scout or parent become injured or ill on the outing. Parents must furnish the troop with telephone numbers and names of individuals to be contacted in the event of an emergency if the parent or guardian is unavailable. Depending on the seriousness of the problem, emergency contacts will be notified.

Camping and Food Costs Each troop camping event stands on its own financially. Camping costs will vary depending on the length of the campout, camping fees, camp supplies and fuel. With the exception of food costs, monies collected are designed to meet expenses for that event. Food costs for campouts are calculated separately within the patrol (see below) and will vary based on the duration of the campout, the method of cooking used and the number of meals to be prepared. Once a commitment to attending an event is made, camping and food costs must be paid and are non-refundable.

Patrol Food Purchases Each patrol plans its own menus and purchases its own food prior to any outdoor activity in which the patrol is participating. Each patrol member shares equally in the expense of the patrol's food purchases with his fellow patrol members. Should a scout have to cancel his participation on an outing after the food has been purchased, he is still required to pay his share of the food that has been purchased. Payment to the patrol's "Grub Master" should be made at least one week in advance of the campout. Any follow up on collecting for the patrol food should be done by the "Grub Master".

Lunch on the way home Often scouts will stop for lunch on their way home from a trip. This should be decided by the members assigned to a driver. If all are in agreement scouts should bring no more than \$10 for this stop

Food Allergies and Dietary Restrictions Please inform your scout's Assistant Scoutmaster and/or the Scoutmaster if you or your scout have food allergies or dietary restrictions.

Transportation for Outings Adult leaders and parents provide transportation to and from campouts. Each patrol is responsible for providing sufficient seats to transport the scouts attending the campout from their patrol. Parents are expected to take their turn at providing transportation. Unless otherwise agreed, a scout will be transported directly to back to the Zoo after a campout. The costs of fuel normally are worked into the cost of the event unless otherwise noted.

Medical Forms Troop 136 requires the Boy Scouts of America Annual Health and Medical Record certified by a licensed health care provider for scouts who attend summer camp or participate in strenuous activities (or other events exceeding 72 continuous hours). This form is to be turned into the troop for its files. Scouts will not be able to go on the normal monthly outings without at least Part A & B on file prior to leaving for the event. The form can be filled in electronically in advance of the medical visit.

Medications during outings Personal medications which require administration during troop campouts or Scouting activities are required to be turned in to the troop's First Aid Coordinator or his ASM prior to departure. The medication along with clear and legible instructions must be placed in a zip lock storage bag labeled with the scout's name.

Troop Supplied Camping Equipment Troop 136 supplies its patrols with certain camping items. Some of these items include propane tanks, a propane tree, a lantern and a stove. It is the responsibility of each scout to take care of equipment used. Troop equipment assigned to a patrol must be returned clean and in good condition. Equipment should be inventoried and inspected at the end of each campout by the patrol's Quartermaster. Sometimes equipment is broken or wears out in the normal course of events. When this happens, the troop will fund replacement of this gear. If, however, any troop equipment is lost or broken due to misuse or carelessness, the person responsible will be held accountable for the replacement or repair cost of the item as determined by the troop's adult Quartermaster. If the person who damaged the equipment cannot be determined, then the patrol as a whole will be held accountable and each patrol member will pay his prorated share of the replacement or repair cost.

Scout Supplied (Personal) Camping Equipment and Supplies Equipment including a pack, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, tent, rain gear, boots and socks, mess kit/eating gear, etc. is the responsibility of the individual scout. New scouts and their parents should review the checklists of recommended equipment for items to be purchased. (This is listed in the Scout Handbook) There are times when strict compliance with the equipment list is essential. For example, proper clothing is mandatory for the winter outings and gear weight limitations are very important on long backpacking trips. In those cases, an equipment check will often be held the meeting before the outing. All personal gear should be clearly marked (preferably with indelible marker) with the scouts name.

Youth Protection Program

Program Summary Child abuse is a major problem affecting our society. Each year more than two million cases of suspected child abuse are reported. This means that one percent of American children are experiencing physical abuse, one percent are experiencing sexual abuse, and two to five 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's" 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.

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.

Parents Guide
Troop 136
Commitment to
Youth Protection Troop 136 is committed to following all guidelines of the Youth Protection Program. All registered adults are required to take the BSA's Youth Protection training. Registered adults include, but are not limited to the Scoutmaster, ASM's, Merit Badge Counselors, and other adult leaders. Any suspected offenses of the Youth Protection Program must be reported to the troop's Committee Chair or the Scoutmaster, or the Golden Empire Council Executive. All incidents reported to the Committee Chair 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 all scouts.

Appendices

[These appendices are being developed and many have already been uploaded to the “Resource” page of our website.]

[Appendix A:](#) Troop Policies

[Appendix B:](#) Youth Leadership Position Descriptions

[Appendix C:](#) Uniformed and Parent Committee Leadership Position Descriptions

[Appendix D:](#) Parent Volunteer Descriptions and Assignments

[Appendix E:](#) Merit Badges

[Appendix F:](#) Board of Review Process

[Appendix G:](#) Camping Gear

[Appendix H:](#) Camping Checklists

[Appendix I:](#) Troop 136 Ten Essentials of Camping

[Appendix J:](#) Sample Weekend Duty Roster

[Appendix K:](#) Sample Patrol Duty Roster

[Appendix L:](#) Troop 136 Eagles Nest

[Appendix M:](#) Patrol Equipment Checklist

[Appendix N:](#) Grub Master Guide

[Appendix O:](#) Patrol Meeting Planning Guide

[Appendix P:](#) Boy Scout Record Keeping Worksheets

[Appendix Q:](#) Guide to Online Resources