



Troop 759 FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

Membership

1. Who can join Troop 759?

To join Scouts, a boy must be 11, a 5th grade graduate or 10 and has earned the Arrow of Light in Cub Scouts. A boy can continue as a youth member until age 18.

2. How does membership work?

You join Scouts for a 12-month period. Our Troop Charter runs January – December...so new members are joining from the time they join through December. BSA & Troop dues will be pro-rated.

3. What does it cost to join? New Scout fees annual fees are approximately:

Registration (BSA, Prorated)	\$15.00
Insurance	0.00 (waived for 2010)
Boy's Life (Optional/Prorated)	12.00
Troop 759 orange Class-B T-Shirt	10.00
Troop 759 Patch	2.50
Troop Dues (Prorated at \$5.84 per month)	<u>70.00</u>
Total	\$104.50

Adult Registration (BSA, Prorated)	\$15.00
Insurance	<u>0.00</u> (waived for 2010)
(Bi-monthly Scouter magazine is included) Total	\$10.00

4. What uniform is required?

The Scout Khaki shirt, clean, neat pants (preferably green Scout type pants), official Boy Scout Hat, official Boy Scout belt, clean, neat shoes, socks (preferably Scout socks), green (not Venture green) shoulder loops (epaulets), our Western Los Angeles County Council Shoulder Patch, Troop 759 numerals, and the purple World Brotherhood of Scouting patch. After receiving your first merit badge, you will need a merit badge sash. Additional "Class B" T-shirts are available for \$10.00, S-XL and \$12.00 for XXL. Not part of the uniform – but required is the current Boy Scout Handbook.

5. How about special Troop 759 uniform parts?

Our "Class B" uniform consists of an Orange Troop T-Shirt, Scout hat, and Scout belt. During our meetings at Totem Pole Ranch, Scouts can wear any t-shirt that has to do with Scouting.

6. When do you wear the uniform?
Wear the "Class A" to all Troop meetings, boards of review, Scoutmaster conference, meetings with a merit badge counselor, traveling to and from any Scout camp, and all Courts of Honor. Wear your uniform when traveling to and from all outings *unless* the outing leader says the uniform is not necessary.
7. What medical forms are necessary? Do you have to have a physical to be a Boy Scout? You do not have to complete a physical immediately, but you will have to have a physical before going on an extended outing such as Summer Camp, a visit to the Philmont National Scout Ranch or a National or World Jamboree. Parents will need to complete a medical release form which the Scout must present before leaving on *any* outing.

Troop Structure

8. Who runs the Troop?
The Boy Scouts of America promotes a boy-run organization. We at Troop 759 follow that principal. Troop meetings are led by the Senior Patrol Leader, a boy elected by the Troop members. The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), serves for a term of 6 months. He is assisted by an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s), Guide, and Patrol Leaders. This group forms the Patrol Leader Council (PLC), which meets regularly to plan troop activities. The adult leadership of the Troop exists to advise and assist the boys with the activities they plan.
9. How is the Troop structured?
The Troop is divided into Patrols ... currently there are 3 Patrols, each with 6-10 Scouts
10. When are the meetings?
The Troop meets every Thursday, at 6:45pm, at Ocotillo Elementary School. Meetings run 90 minutes. During the summer, we meet at Totem Pole Ranch. Troop meetings exist to help the boys learn new skills and learn about future Outings. In addition, each Patrol can schedule additional meetings to work on Scouting skills and advancement.
11. Who are some of the adult Leaders that I need to know?
Scoutmaster: Doug Clark
Assistant Scoutmaster: George Curtin
(New Scout Transitions)
Assistant Scoutmaster Jon Madden
Assistant Scoutmaster Doug Price
Assistant Scoutmaster Jay Schrenk
Assistant Scoutmaster Kyle Tatum
Advancement Chair: Ann Curtin / Mary Kacy-Svoboda
Treasurer: Mark Moise
Committee Chair: Anthony Provenza
Outings Chair: Jeffery Schaefer / Drew Hartenstein
Secretary: Jennifer Cupp

Advancement

12. How does advancement work? What are the ranks?

Scout: The first badge a boy earns. New Scouts should be able to earn Scout within a month.

Tenderfoot/2nd Class/1st Class: *Scouts can work on Tenderfoot, 2nd and 1st Class simultaneously.* It's possible to earn all 3 in about a year. ASMs or the Scoutmaster can sign off the requirements (parents, although the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster(s), are not allowed to sign their own son(s) book(s).

Star: Requires 5 merit badges, Troop service and volunteer work. Cannot be earned until 4 months after you earn 1st Class.

Life: Requires 10 merit badges; can't be earned until 6 months after you earn Star.

Eagle: The highest rank in Scouting. Nationally, less than 4% of all Scouts earn the rank of eagle. In Troop 759, 14% of our active Scouts attain the rank of Eagle.

Ranks are presented when earned and then formally recognized at the next Court of Honor, which the Troop holds 4 times a year. Parents should always attend Courts of Honor to see their boys are formally recognized for the awards they have earned. Eagle Courts of Honor are often held separately from a Troop Court of Honor.

13. How do you earn merit badges?

The boy should begin working on merit badges as soon as possible. Some badges require a great deal of work and research; some can be completed in a day. Some badges are specifically required to earn the rank of Eagle (such as First Aid, Swimming and Environmental Science). All badges are earned by meeting with a merit badge counselor, who will advise the Scout on what he must do to complete the badge. A great resource is www.meritbadge.com, or our website www.troop759.info.

14. How do you begin to work on a merit badge?

See the Scoutmaster or any Assistant Scoutmaster to get a blank, signed "BLUE CARD". They will also advise the Scout on which merit badge counselor they might want to work with on the badge. When the requirements are done, the Scout receives approval from the merit badge counselor, who signs the blue card. This blue card is then presented to the Advancement Chairperson. NOTE: if a blue card is lost, it cannot be replaced. Boys must be responsible with their blue cards!

15. Where are the advancement requirements?

Requirements for all of the ranks are in the Boy Scout Handbook. Requirements for all of the merit badges can be found in each of the individual merit badge books, or in the most recent summary of all requirements, called 2010 Boy Scout Requirements. A great web site that lists all Scout requirements is, www.usscouts.org.

16. Do I have to buy all the merit badge books?

No, the Troop does keep a lending Library of merit badge books and worksheets. If you decide to purchase some or all of the merit badge books for your Scout to use, please donate them to the Troop library when your family is done with the merit badge book. The Troop web site, www.troop759.info, maintains merit badge worksheets in pdf format.

17. What's a Totin' Chit?
A Scout cannot carry a knife or use an axe until they pass the requirements for a Totin' Chit. See the Scoutmaster\Assistant Scoutmaster to pass this necessary test. Requirements are in the Knife & Axe safety section of the Boy Scout Handbook.

What's a Fireman Chit?

A Scout cannot carry matches or start a fire until they pass the requirements for the Fireman's Chit. Requirements are in the Boy Scout Handbook, in the Outdoors section. See the Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster.

18. This is overwhelming! What do I do?
Support your boy(s). **When he doesn't know what to do, he needs to talk to his Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader or Senior Patrol Leader.** He can always talk to one of the Scoutmasters, of course. The important thing, though, is that *he needs to ask questions.* New Scouts and new parents are always encouraged to direct any questions to the Scoutmaster or George Curtin, the Assistant Scoutmaster in charge of the transition of new Scouts into the Troop. Reach him at george.curtin@troop759.info.
19. Are there other ways to stay informed?
A parents' meeting is held during each month's first Troop meeting. Parents are invited to attend the Committee meetings, which are held the first Wednesday of each the month. Up to the minute news can be found on the Troop's web site, www.troop759.info.

Outings

20. When are Troop outings?
The Troop calendar is updated whenever necessary; it is planned a year in advance. Dates do occasionally change, but the calendar does not change much except in cases of weather. A current Troop calendar and Activity List is kept on the Troop web site.
21. How do Scouts sign up for an outing?
The Outing Leaders generally announce their outings a few weeks in advance, and the Outing Chairperson has the sign-up list at the meetings. Sign-ups vary by outing... some may have sign-ups literally months in advance, but most have sign-ups a few weeks in advance. Scouts must attend the Two meetings in advance of the outing to receive final details. Scouts not at the meeting immediately before the outing may be dropped from the roster. If a Scout signs up for an outing and deposits are made in their name, then deductions will be made from the Scout's camping fund whether they attend the outing or not.

22. Can adults go on outings? How about moms?
Drivers are also always needed. The Outing Leader sets any requirements or pre-requisites for boys or adults to participate in the outing. (BSA rules states that an unregistered adult can only go on 2 outings per year, excluding "Family Camps"). Moms and dads are welcome to register with the Boy Scouts.
23. Can Scouts go on every outing?
No. Some events (such as long-term Backpacking) have pre-requisite requirements, such as shorter training hikes and mini long-terms. Some outings are for Venture Scouts – those over 14 years of age. Some events are physically difficult for younger Scouts. You can't do everything!
24. What is a camping fund?
Each family has a camping fund.... When we do fund raisers, the boy keeps the money they earned in their camping fund. This fund is then used to pay for outings that they go on. Fees vary for different outings. Summer camp may cost \$300.00-\$350.00. A typical backpack may cost \$15.00/day. Some special events, such as skiing or sailing on the Pacific in a tall ship are relatively expensive... \$75.00-\$125.00, for the weekend, perhaps. See the Outing Chairperson for details.
25. Each summer Troop 759 attends at least 1 summer camp. These week-long camping experiences build some great memories for Scouts, and provide an opportunity for boys to complete many requirements. Some Scouts may earn 5 merit badges in a single week – and come home with enough stories to last the rest of the summer. These week-long backpacks are great experiences for slightly older, experienced Scouts. A minimum age of 12 with at least 2 training hikes including a mini long-term is required to go on a long-term backpack.
26. What is an Orange Card?
Each Scout fills out and keeps two copies of their Orange Card, which is their release from their adult guardian to go on Troop outings, and receive medical treatment as necessary. The Scout always has one copy of the Orange Card with them on all outings. The second copy is given to the driver that gets them to and from the outing. Orange Cards will be laminated.

Equipment

27. Are there equipment recommendations?
Sure. Ask any Scout or Scouter; they'll tell you what they think. Of course, they may not agree with another Scout or Scouter you ask... Seriously, though, go to experienced Scouters or Scouts and they'll be happy to help you. The staff at Sports Chalet is eager to help people purchase gear and is generally very knowledgeable about Scout needs.

28. What should boys bring to meetings?
Always bring their Boy Scout Handbook and 3 ring binder for taking notes. *Flyers are not distributed for most events.* Boys are expected to keep track of where to meet for outings, so they must take notes. Other items needed for meetings like a compass or personal first aid kit, will be told to the Scouts in the previous meeting.
29. What equipment do I need to buy?
If your boy is going camping and backpacking... and in Troop 759 they will!... then you will need to get them basic equipment. It is possible to rent or borrow many pieces of equipment, though, until you decide what you want to buy. Sports Chalet rents most necessary equipment, including tents, backpacks and sleeping bags. Used equipment can also be purchased, sometimes at a great discount. Presently Troop 759 maintains some equipment for Scouts/Scouters to use. A list of required / suggested equipment is in the Troop 759 Guidelines handout.

Fund Raising

30. What to you do to earn money?
The Troop has several fund raising events every year. Including popcorn sales, (September-October) and Christmas Mistletoe (December). Any money earned goes into the family camping fund – if you have 2 or more sons in the Troop; they'll share a camping fund.
31. Does Troop 759 offer any financial assistance?
Yes! Troop 759 can provide “camperships”, to Scouts, Committee approval required. Additionally, the Counsel sometimes has camperships available. All the Scout needs to do is ask the Scoutmaster.

Order of the Arrow

32. What is the Order of the Arrow?
This honor society for older Boy Scouts is known for appearing in Indian costume at many Scouting events. To become a member of the Order of the Arrow, a Scout must be First Class and elected by the non-OA members of the Troop.

Volunteers

33. What can adults do to help Troop 759?
Many, many things! Merit Badge counselors are needed for the 100+ merit badges covering practically every interest area a young man might have. All adults are invited to be Committee members or apply to become an Assistant Scoutmaster... training (called Boy Scout Leader Training) is offered locally during the year and within 45 miles of the Antelope Valley.

34. Can I drive to outings?
Please! See the Outing Chairperson or an Assistant Scoutmaster for the details... but briefly, you'll need to complete a form that details your vehicle and insurance. Only insured, 25-year old drivers are allowed to be responsible for and transport the young men in Troop 759.

Training

35. Troop 759 Leaders comply with BSA training standards. Many of our Leaders participate in additional advanced BSA training.

Resources

36. Where is our main office?
Our District office has a Scout Shop with the most complete selection of Scouting uniforms, resources and tools.

42402 10th Street West, Suite G - Lancaster, CA. 93534

Service Center is open Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Service Manager is available from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with lunch between 11:30 and 12:00.

Phone: number: 661-942-0582

The Scout Shop is open Monday - Friday, 9:30 am to 5:30 pm - Lunch 1:30 - 2:00, Saturday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Phone number: 661-942-7820

Troop 759's site: www.troop759.info

Antelope Valley District site: www.antelopevalley.bsa-la.org

The National BSA site: www.bsa.scouting.org

Merit Badges site www.meritbadge.com

www.eaglescout.org

www.netwoods.com

www.macscouter.com

Boy Scout On-Line training is available at

<http://www.olc.scouting.org>

<http://www.myscouting.org>

Scout Publications:

Guide to Safe Scouting #34416A

Rules and Regulations of the BSA #57-491

Charter and Bylaws of the BSA #57-792

Health and Safety Guide #34415E

Uniform Insignia Guide #33066

The Guide to “Happy Backpacking & Hiking”

This quick informal reference guide is to explain the need for, help you select and find the gear necessary to make your backpacking experience fun and *safe*. And hopefully avoid personal bankruptcy, too.

Backpacking as learned in the Scouting program is not about becoming a macho mountain man; it's about learning self-sufficiency, and being confident in having the knowledge, skills and ability to survive in real life situations. And in having fun and seeing scenery that most people only see pictures of in books.

The “essentials” is an adapted list developed from the Boy Scout 10 essentials list. By essentials is meant the minimum types of items you should have on you to *survive* (think: stay alive!) in a wilderness experience. Each of the essentials *must* be in your backpack / daypack at the time of inspection prior to the outing.

The Personal Equipment Items listed are suggestions you will need (nice to have a sleeping bag on a cold night) or may want at a campout (a light weight folding chair is so welcome at camp after a long hard hike). Any items you take should be in your backpack at time of inspection. With your name and troop number written, scratched, painted, glued, branded or whatever onto *every single item*. Repeat. Every single item!

Get in the habit of keeping your gear in your backpack between trips, don't borrow things out of it, then; except for fresh food, water, and clean clothes, *you're already packed!*

Another note: With the essentials and the required items in your backpack you have a ready made home emergency survival kit in the event of a catastrophe such as an earthquake, major utilities failure, house fire, flood, space alien invasion, etc.

Remember: You have already have many of these item around your house. Save money for buying better quality big items. Special backpacking” toilet paper is not as important as a good backpack and a good warm, lightweight sleeping bag, or a light weight three or four season tent.

Remove unnecessary parts of containers, the more you take, the more weight you will have to carry. Recommended total backpack weight is approximately 20% of your body weight. Take only what you'll use. But, “Be Prepared”.

Essentials (*Always required*) – consists of items “essential” to wilderness survival)

- **Backpack** (to carry everything in, duh!).
- **Rain Poncho** (Extra large trash bag, good idea if covers backpack too).
- **Matches** (waterproof, in a waterproof container, extras a good idea, can make own see Boy Scout Handbook).
- **Flashlight** (w/fresh & extra lamp & batteries) “hey my flashlight doesn't work!”
- **Two 32 oz. water bottles** (filled **before** hike) minimum amount of water to be carried – **EVER**. Even in the winter (think, dehydration bad) if you can easily carry more, do so.
- **Emergency Food** (in addition to any planned meals – consumed *only* if there is an “*actual*” emergency, if this is only a test, and there is no “*actual*” emergency it should still be in your backpack at the end of the trip, unopened.)
- **Long Pants** (sweat pants or nylon running pants okay, lightweight, meant as a backup pair).
- **Jacket** (Warm but lightweight as possible, can be an old jacket, but needs to fit)
- **Personal First Aid Kit** (can be a baggie w/ band-aids, first aid ointment, clean cloth strips & gauze, etc. other stuff you have around the house, look in your Boy Scout handbook for ideas).
- **Clothing** (spare CLEAN shirt, socks, underwear, etc., pack to keep them dry if backpack gets wet, think rain, think “oops I've fallen into the stream with my backpack on”)
- **Toilet Paper** (Very important item! Put in plastic Ziploc type bag, useless if wet! Not much fun either)
- **Chap stick/lip balm** (very important sun, wind) “My cracked lips hurt!”
- **Sun Screen** (small amount in a little plastic bottle, fill from bigger bottle at home) then put in Ziploc baggie.
- **Insect Repellent** (Avon skin so soft lotion works, fill small plastic bottle or plastic jar from bigger container at home, if getting spray find smallest size available).
- **Map** (provided by troop leader)
- **Whistle** (on a lanyard, string, or wristband so that it is accessible while hiking, or exploring, answering nature call, etc. when you don't have your backpack)
- **Hat** – (Scout hat acceptable-additional wide brimmed hat also recommended for sun, rain, snow, etc.)
- **Compass** (on lanyard, string, or ? so that you can wear it in an accessible area-see whistle)
- **Pocket Knife** (must be a folding knife, Leatherman / Gerber recommended but not essential)
- **Trowel** (small lightweight garden type or plastic – see toilet paper)