

# **BSA TROOP 201**

*Proudly Sponsored by: Magnolia Park United Methodist Church, Burbank, CA*

## **Parent's Guide**

Iron Eyes Cody District  
Verdugo Hills Council

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America! Being a parent of a Boy Scout, you are setting your son out on the grand adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him.

What is it all about? What will you be expected to do? What does it cost? We have prepared this booklet to answer these questions.

The following pages describe the organization of a Troop and the advancement pattern that each boy will follow. Reading this will help you understand how your boy can progress through the ranks with your help. It will help you understand how you can help and what the various adult volunteers are doing to help the Troop.

### WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

There are three aims to scouting:

- Aim I -- To build character
- Aim II -- To foster citizenship
- Aim III -- To develop fitness

These three aims are the bedrock of the American Scouting movement. They represent the long-term outcomes we want for every boy.

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 over their lifetime in achieving their full potential.

The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Boy Scout Oath and Law.

SCOUT LAW	SCOUT OATH
<i>A Scout is:</i> Trustworthy Loyal Helpful Friendly Courteous Kind Obedient Cheerful Thrifty Brave Clean Reverent	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.

Since 1910, these principles have been taught in an atmosphere of recreation and fun, which allows young people to develop self-confidence, leadership and moral character. More and more men, trained as Scouts, are taking their places in today's world as responsible adult leaders. Men, who earned badges as Scouts, sit on the Supreme Court and in the chambers of Congress. Others hold important offices in our government, business and industry. Most of the members of Congress were Scouts, as well as most of the astronauts who have walked on the moon. The long list of famous scouts includes:

President John F. Kennedy	Boy Scout	Neil A. Armstrong, 1 <sup>st</sup> person to set foot on the moon	Eagle Scout
President Gerald Ford	Eagle Scout	Steven Spielberg	Eagle Scout
J. Willard Marriott, Jr. President of Marriott Corporation	Eagle Scout	William C. Devries, MD Transplanted first Artificial heart	Eagle Scout
Sam M. Walton Chairman/CEO, Wal-Mart	Eagle Scout	Barber B. Conable, Jr. President, World Bank	Eagle Scout

The Boys Scouts of America is the largest youth oriented organization in the United States. More than 4 million boys and leaders are currently registered in the Boy Scouts of America.

Unlike Cub Scouts, which many of you are familiar with, Boy Scouting is a youth-lead organization. The boys learn how to organize and lead the Troop. After training, and with supervision from the adult leaders, the boys run the show.

The boys in the Troop will be working towards their 1<sup>st</sup> class and then Eagle ranks. As they travel on their trail to Eagle they will not only learn how to lead a team to a goal, but they will actually lead teams of scouts in a number of situations. Many Eagle Scouts put their accomplishments on their resumes and find they are often considered in obtaining acceptance into college or the work force.

Boy Scouting also provides for growth of moral strength and character, teaches citizenship and enhances the development of physical, mental and emotional fitness. This is all done in the spirit of fun and adventure.

Please take a few minutes to read Chapter 1 of your son's *Boy Scout Handbook*.

## **ORGANIZATION**

Troop 201 is a participating member of the Iron Eyes Cody District of the Verdugo Hills Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop's organization consists of a Chartered Organization, a Troop Committee, the Troop, and the Troop's Parents.

### **Chartered Organization (Sponsor)**

Every Troop belongs to an organization. The Chartered Organization for Troop 201 is the Magnolia Park United Methodist Church. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and ensures that there is adequate, trained leadership. The Chartered Organization Representative acts as a liaison between the Troop and the MPUMC.

### **Troop Committee**

The Troop Committee functions as an administration and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of both program and non-program issues regarding the Troop. For example: website, Troop funds, fund raising activities, recruitment drives, tour plans, activity consent forms and coordination, advancements records, procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment.

The Committee meets on a specific Wednesday of each month during the scouts' meeting. The meetings are open and attendance is encouraged by all parents and other interested adults.

### **Troop 201      \*\*\*See the final pages of this guide for "The Patrol Method"**

#### **Troop Meetings**

Troop 201 holds meetings weekly. Meetings are held every Wednesday, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as early as possible to allow for proper planning.

#### **Adult Leadership**

Two registered, trained adult leaders, or one trained adult leader and a Scout parent, both of whom must be at least 21 years of age, are required for all Troop 201 meetings, trips or outings. Our leaders are BSA trained. All registered adult members must be trained in Youth Protection and their leader position.

#### **Patrols and Patrol Leaders**

The Troop is a group made up of several patrols. Each Patrol usually consists of a Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leaders and between four and eight Scouts. The boys in a patrol elect their patrol leader who in turn appoints the assistant patrol leader(s).

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is an elected position. The SPL selects his Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s). The Patrol Leaders, with the Senior Patrol Leader as their head, form the Patrol Leaders' Council, which plans the activities and runs the Troop meetings.

Elections for Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leaders and other elected positions are held twice each year.

\*\*\*Read the final pages of this guide for an explanation of the patrol method to take the mystery out of how our troop operates. Our troop is boy-led.

#### **Outings**

Troop 201 has regular "patrol campouts." That is, scouts and trained leaders go camping in their formed patrols. Our troop also has at least two family camps each year where all family members are welcome to attend. Some of our outings are backpack treks. Every meeting is preparation for an outing either through planning menus and duty rosters or learning necessary skills.

## **Troop Parents**

The role of parents within Troop 201 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should:

1. Read their Scout's handbook and understands the purpose and methods of Scouting. Parents should take an informal Boy Scout Fast Start training online. Parents should understand the Troop's Bylaws and Policies.
2. Actively follow their Scout's progress and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
3. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Court of Honors.
4. Assist, as requested in all Troop fundraisers 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.
6. Each parent is responsible for the donation of at least 40 hours of service to the Troop.

## **ADVANCEMENT**

There are many definitions of advancement, but the Scouting definition might well be, simply, "the art of meeting a challenge." For that is exactly what the Boy Scout advancement program asks the boys to do. The Boy Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a Scout climbs at his own pace. As he acquires these skills he moves up through a series of ranks, for which he is awarded badges: Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks – and the more rewarding.

Achievements include:

- Learning skills that qualify for Scouting's more rugged and exciting outdoor challenges.
- Developing body and mind growing self-confidence, and helping younger Scouts climb the advancement ladder.
- Discovering how it feels to go further – in so many ways – than he ever thought he could.

We don't look at advancement as a goal, but as a natural outcome of a planned, quality Troop program.

The four steps of advancement are:

- The Boy Scout Learns.
- The Boy Scout is Tested.
- The Boy Scout is Reviewed.
- The Boy Scout is Recognized.

## **Advancement Through First Class**



From the time the Scout enters the Troop through the time he earns advancement 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 themselves 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. The goal of this Troop is for the Scout to achieve the rank of First Class within his first year in the Troop. This is a sign that the Scout has mastered the fundamentals of scouting and can begin to start the long process of learning to lead others, refining the learned skills and learning additional skills.

## **Advancement from First Class to Eagle**



From the achievement of First Class through Eagle, the Scout will be demonstrating leadership, performing service projects, earning merit badges and using the skills learned while achieving the rank of First Class. The next ranks he will earn are Star and Life. These ranks are harder for the older Scouts. 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 fuller meaning for the Scout and their understanding of them is much greater. The final steps towards Eagle are filled with leadership experiences.

Details for advancement are contained in the Boy Scout Handbook, which every Scout should obtain as soon as possible after joining the Troop. Take a look at Chapter 1. This short chapter has an advancement summary through First Class.

## **Merit Badges**

The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a Scout's areas of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. Merit badges are earned by a Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor. The Scout is required to contact the counselor to arrange for times and places to meet with the counselor. The Scout completes the work and is signed off by the merit badge the counselor using a "blue card" which is obtained from the Scoutmaster. Upon completion, the blue card receives final sign-offs and is turned into the Rank Advancement Chair. Merit badges earned will be presented to the Scout during the Troop's quarterly Court of Honor.

## **Boards of Review**

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he appears before a Board of Review composed of members of the Troop Committee. The purpose of the review is not an examination of skills via testing. Rather, it is to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting ideas via the Scout's career; 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 boy about his lack of progress toward advancement.

## **Courts of Honor**

Troop 201 will conduct a Court of Honor once a quarter. The Court of Honor recognizes all Scout appointments, elections, awards, and advancement since the last Court of Honor. Adult recognition may be presented prior to the opening of the Troop Court of Honor. It is the responsibility of the Troop's Patrol Leader Council to plan and conduct the Troop Court of Honor. The Troop Committee will support the Courts of Honor as requested.

The Court of Honor is a public ceremony, and is a chance for the Scouts to be publicly recognized for their achievements. Parents, family and all other interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

### **Rechartering and Fees**

The process of rechartering is the annual collection of registration fees for the Scouts and Leaders. The Troop also makes a formal visit to the Chartering Organization to renew their commitment for the coming year. The process of rechartering the Troop must be completed by the first of December of each calendar year.

### **Annual Registration Fees**

How much does it cost? As little as possible, but nothing worthwhile is free. The annual fee for each Scout in Troop 201 is determined by the Troop Committee and includes:

Dues paid once a year to alleviate weekly collections. Adults are strongly encouraged to join the Troop as Members of the Committee, for approximately \$24.00 annually.

- \$ 24.00 For national BSA membership
- \$0.00 insurance (included in the registration fee of National BSA)
- Approx \$ 30.00 For Troop membership (pays for badges, awards, and other expenses incurred by the Troop as a whole)
- \$ 12.00 For *Boys Life* magazine (optional), but really enjoyable, and gives the Scout ideas for activities and outings. A good buy.)

### **Fees for Outings/Activities**

Individual activities have fees associated with them determined by the expenses such as: Transportation, gas, campsite fees, food, wood, water.

### **Fundraising**

The boys through various fundraising activities raise additional funds. The Troop plans to do one or more minor or major fundraising projects a year. Our fundraisers will be designed so that once the Troop's budget is met; additional funds raised by your son will be put into his individual account to defray scouting costs. Details on this year's fundraisers will be available at future Troop meetings.

## **Friends of Scouting**

Each year, the Council operates its Friends of Scouting (F.O.S.) campaign to raise money for the Council operations. The Council is responsible for maintaining the Council camps, the Council Camporees, as well as other Council activities, local BSA administration and local advertising. Contributions are voluntary, but the Troop has a good record of support for this activity. As years go by, F.O.S. is becoming a critical source of BSA funding, especially in our small council.

## **UNIFORM**

The Scout uniform helps to achieve the objectives of Scouting. The uniform by itself cannot make a good Scout or a good Troop, but its use has been proven to improve both the Scout and the Troop because it is a visible symbol of Scouting and unity. Each Scout is required to have and wear, within a reasonable amount of time after joining the Troop, the following uniform items:

### Field or "Class A" Uniform

- Khaki official scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches (Verdugo Hills Council strip, troop numbers, World Crest patch and patrol emblem obtained from the council trading post)
- Green shoulder loops (obtained from Troop when bridging or post)
- Troop 201 neckerchief (obtained from Troop when bridging or post)
- Neckerchief slide (obtained from Troop when bridging or post)
- Olive green official BSA Scout pants or shorts
- Official Boy Scout socks, for wearing with shorts (knee highs) and/or with pants (crew)
- Official Boy Scout hat
- Official Scout web belt and buckle
- Hiking shoes and/or boots. Socks are required.

Activity or Class "B" uniform (worn, as instructed by Troop leadership, when activities may cause damage to the field uniform).

- Troop 201 T-Shirt (obtain from Troop 201)
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots. Socks are required.
- Official Scout pants or shorts
- Official Boy Scout socks, for wearing with shorts or pants

Uniforms and insignia are worn a certain way. The Troop leaders and staff at the Scout shops will be able to answer any questions you might have on where to put what badge or patch. There are guides for badge placement inside the cover of the Handbook.

### **Scout Shops**

There are two Scout shops in the Burbank vicinity where you can purchase scout uniforms and supplies:

#### **Verdugo Hills Council Trading Post**

1325 Grandview Ave.  
Glendale, CA  
(818) 243-6282  
Near Glenoaks Blvd.

#### **Western Los Angeles Council Shop**

16525 Sherman Way, C-8  
Van Nuys, CA  
(818) 785-8700  
Sherman Way @ Havenhurst

### **AND FINALLY**

You are joining a great organization that includes tens of thousands of adult leaders, interested parents, and the BSA professional staff. Scouting is much more than enjoying the outdoors. This Troop teaches leadership skills and community skills. Scouting also shows the boys how they can keep themselves strong and healthy and make the most of school. With hard work and dedication, your son will be able to serve as a leader in the Troop and advance in rank along the trail to Eagle.

Above and beyond anything else said in this package, the boys and us “big kids” are in Scouts to have fun!

### **Our Troop Website is:**

**[www.burbanktroop201.com](http://www.burbanktroop201.com)**

## ***The Patrol Method is the Only Method of Boy Scouting.***

*"The patrol system is not one method in which Scouting for boys can be carried on. It is the only method."*

—Lord Baden-Powell, Scouting's founder

## **The Patrol Method**

What is the patrol method?

The troop's Boy Scouts are grouped together into patrols that work together as a team. They choose their own members, elect their own leadership, and can meet on their own.

### **What is a patrol?**

A patrol is a group of approximately four to eight Boy Scouts who work together. They often are close in age and/or rank. However, when new Scouts bridge, we form a New Scout Patrol, sometimes with older boy leadership to help them make the transition into Boy Scouts.

### **How do we identify a patrol?**

- The patrol picks a name for itself.
- They buy the patch that matches the name.
- They create a flag that has a symbol for their patrol name along with the members' names on it and other decoration.
- They create a yell for their patrol.
- They have their own gear bin, lantern, ice chest.

### **What do patrols do?**

Patrols do most things together:

- They play games at meetings that are team-oriented as a patrol.
- They prepare for campouts as a patrol by planning their menu, duty roster and tent assignments.
- They camp together as a patrol: They pick their site, set up tents, cook and clean up together.
- They go to summer camp together by forming buddies and sharing tents. They have opportunities at summer camp to sign-up for competitions as a patrol.
- The patrol leader represents them at the Patrol Leaders' Council meeting and votes on their behalf.
- Often, during meetings, there is a time for patrols to meet and discuss upcoming events, plan for outings, and prepare for other meetings.
- They can also meet outside of troop's regular meetings.

## **Patrol Leadership**

Patrols can reform every six months, and are expected to elect leadership then as well. After they have chosen their patrol, Scouts can ask their patrol to vote for them to be the leader. The patrol nominates its patrol leader on the night of nominations. Other nominations can be taken the night of elections. The patrol elects its leader by majority vote of those present on the night of elections. The elected Patrol Leader (PL) appoints his assistant (APL(s)), a Scribe and Quartermaster as needed.

The Patrol Leader (PL) represents his patrol on the council that plans meetings and outings. He is in charge of his patrol during meetings, outings and other events. If he is not present, one of his assistants is in charge in his place.

## **Troop Chain of Command**

The chain of command in the troop includes patrols. Information flows from the top down, from the SPL to his ASPLs and the PLs to their patrol members. If a PL will be absent from a PLC meeting, a troop meeting or an outing, he contacts and appoints one of his APLs to take his place and leadership responsibilities. The same is true for Scouts not attending meetings. They should communicate that to their Patrol Leaders. If a Scout is signed up for an event or outing, they need to tell their PL and the leader in charge of it that they won't be attending.

## **Troop Leadership—The Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC)**

As a patrol leader, you are a member of the patrol leaders' council, and you represent your patrol. You should present the ideas and concerns of your patrol and in turn share the decisions of the patrol leaders' council with your patrol members.

The patrol leaders' council is made up of the senior patrol leader, who presides over the meetings; assistant senior patrol leaders, all patrol leaders, troop guides and the Scribe. The PLC plans the yearly troop program, and meets monthly to make the plans for the upcoming meetings and outings.

Just as elections are held twice a year, so is a JLT or Junior Leadership Training by the Scoutmaster. All elected and appointed leaders are expected to attend. Any other Scout who would like a leadership position in the future should attend as well. Leadership training topics change, thus Scouts attending many of these trainings over time will hear different material or some same material in a different format.