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WELCOME TO TROOP 832

We are very pleased that your son has chosen to join Troop 832. We are proud of our Troop, its program, the youth and the well-trained adult leaders.

Troop 832 is a camping/ outdoor-oriented troop. Along with the weekly Troop meetings (7:30 p.m. Tuesday evenings at Valle Verde Elementary School and during summer months, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday evenings at the Woodlands Cabana Club), the troop plans and participates in at least one outing per month. Most of these are camping outings. Boys should be prepared to participate in as many of these as possible since it is an important part of their scouting experience with Troop 832.

PURPOSE OF THIS BOOKLET

Each Boy Scout troop develops its own procedures for dealing with the day-to-day running of the troop. This booklet will help you and your new scout to understand how this troop functions. It explains important procedures about advancement that your son will need to know in order to receive the appropriate recognition for his achievements in Troop 832.

The information you find in this booklet is not in the *Boy Scout Handbook*. It is important to keep this booklet as a handy reference. In the following pages, you will find answers to many of the questions that arise in the first year. If you cannot find the answer here or the *Handbook*, your son should ask his Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader or one of the Scoutmasters.

Another purpose to this booklet is to help you understand the many new Scouting terms and acronyms that will suddenly become a part of your son's scouting experience. A glossary is on page 13.

PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America—incorporated on February 8, 1910, and chartered by Congress in 1916—is to provide an educational program for boys and young adults to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness.

Troop 832 is a boy led troop which looks to develop in the scouts leadership abilities, self-reliance, and a sense of responsibility. To do this, boys plan and run troop meetings, plan the yearly calendar, lead their patrols and plan and execute outings.

Because this is a learning experience, new parents and scouts should not expect "perfection" in troop meetings. Boys learn not only from their successes but also from their mistakes.

The boy-run troop concept is different from the Cub Scout Program which relies on adult participation and leadership. In Boy Scouts, the *boys* are responsible for their scouting activities. Parents should encourage and support their scouts but allow the scouts to do it for themselves. This is may be a difficult transition for new parents, but is worth the effort as you begin to see their growth in such qualities as responsibility, leadership, self-discipline and commitment.

JOINING TROOP 832

When you indicate that your son wishes to join Troop 832, you will receive a *Registration Packet* which includes an application and medical forms. Fill out the appropriate papers and return these to the Scoutmaster along with the appropriate fee. Your fee depends on the time of year you join the Troop. Annual dues of \$85.00 are collected in November. Our membership year runs from Jan. 1 to Dec 31.

Membership Fee Schedule

MONTH	A	B
January	\$85.00	\$85.00
February	\$78.92	\$85.00
March	\$71.83	\$81.83
April	\$64.75	\$73.75
May	\$57.67	\$65.67
June	\$50.58	\$57.58
July	\$43.50	\$49.50
August	\$36.42	\$41.42
September	\$29.33	\$33.33
October	\$22.25	\$25.25
November	\$100.17	\$102.17
December	\$93.08	\$94.08

Column A: These fees are for boys who are currently registered as Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts. *Fees for November and December are for 14 and 13 months respectively.*

Column B: These fees are for boys who are **not** currently registered in a Boy Scouts of America (BSA) program such as Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts. The additional fee is to cover the additional National BSA fee.

SCOUT PARTICIPATION

It is very important that boys attend troop meetings and outings. Outings help younger scouts practice scout skills and meet rank advancement requirements. It also helps to develop teamwork and scout spirit.

Troop meetings are important as a time to communicate about and plan upcoming events. Each meeting has a program that includes skills instruction as well as a game. There is patrol time during meetings to allow patrols to plan for meetings, events and outings.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Parents may be involved with the troop in a number of ways. The immediate need during the year is providing transportation to and from outings. This is a required parent responsibility in Troop 832 and each family will provide transportation at least once during each calendar year. The troop cannot offer a full calendar of events if there is no means of transport.

Parents are also encouraged to take on-line Fast Start training at <http://www.bsamdsc.org/faststarttrn.php>; read the *Boy Scout Handbook*; and this booklet to become familiar with the BSA program and the requirements needed for boys to advance in rank. This knowledge will allow you to encourage and guide your son as he begins his scouting experience. When a Scout knows the questions to ask at Troop meetings and outings it can really help him progress.

The troop communicates to the Scouts and their families through various methods. For instance, the Troop has a website (www.Troop832.com), which includes the annually outing calendar and trip permission slips. A Troop e-Group transmits meeting and outing updates to all who have an email address. A "circle-up" is called at the end of each Troop meeting and announcements of upcoming events, including opportunities for service projects are made. Parents are welcome to listen to these announcements (only uniformed Scouts and Scouters join the circle.) Please take the time to review the website, sign-up for email, and listen in on "circle-up". These are all a great source of timely information regarding Troop activities.

The Troop Committee is made up of uniformed and non-uniformed adults. The Troop Committee provides administrative support to the troop. Participation in the Troop Committee is the best way any parent can stay informed and active in the Troop. All parents are welcome at every Troop Committee meeting. If you are interested in a committee position, please contact the Troop Committee Chair.

One of the most important functions that non-uniformed committee members perform is to sit on Boards of Review. There is no quicker way to learn about troop activities, advancement requirements, and the scouting program than serving in this way.

TROOP LEADERSHIP

Boy Leaders

An elected Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) leads the boy led Troop. This young man not only exhibits leadership within the Troop positions he holds but has also attended the Council-run National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT), a one-week course focused on learning and practicing leadership skills. The SPL chooses two Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL) to assist him in leading the Troop. Together these three young men lead a Patrol Leaders Council (PLC).

The Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) is a meeting of the senior boy leadership, Patrol Leaders (or their Assistant Patrol Leader) and others in positions of leadership as requested by the SPL. The PLC decides which patrol or person is responsible for upcoming meetings, plans what topics to cover, organizes outings and holds an annual planning conference.

Adult Leaders

The role of the adult leader is to provide a safe environment for scouting activities, help manage the administrative needs of the Troop, and act as a resource in scouting skills like backpacking, fire safety, cooking and camping basics. Leaders also provide the required adult supervision at all troop events, serve administrative functions such as reserving camp sites, coordinating summer camp, and completing the BSA paper work required by both the Council and the national organization. A leader can be uniformed or non-uniformed and is generally a member of the Troop Committee. Training and recognition is available for all leaders.

Uniformed Leaders

The Scoutmaster (SM) and Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM)'s primary role is to train boy leaders. They act as a guide or mentor to the Troop's boy leaders. The Troop program is an important part of leadership growth for all boys in the Troop and so the Scoutmaster attends the Patrol Leaders Council. They also provide advice and encouragement to all scouts in the troop through formal (Scoutmaster's Conference) or informal (on outings and at Troop meetings) discussion. Uniformed leaders are also members of the Troop Committee and cannot participate in a Boards of Review.

TROOP ADULT ORGANIZATION

Committee Chairman

Uniformed Leaders: Scoutmaster and
Assistant Scoutmasters

Secretary

Treasurer

Advancement Coordinator

Communication Coordinator

Friends of Scouting Coordinator

Hospitality Coordinator

Merit Badge Coordinator

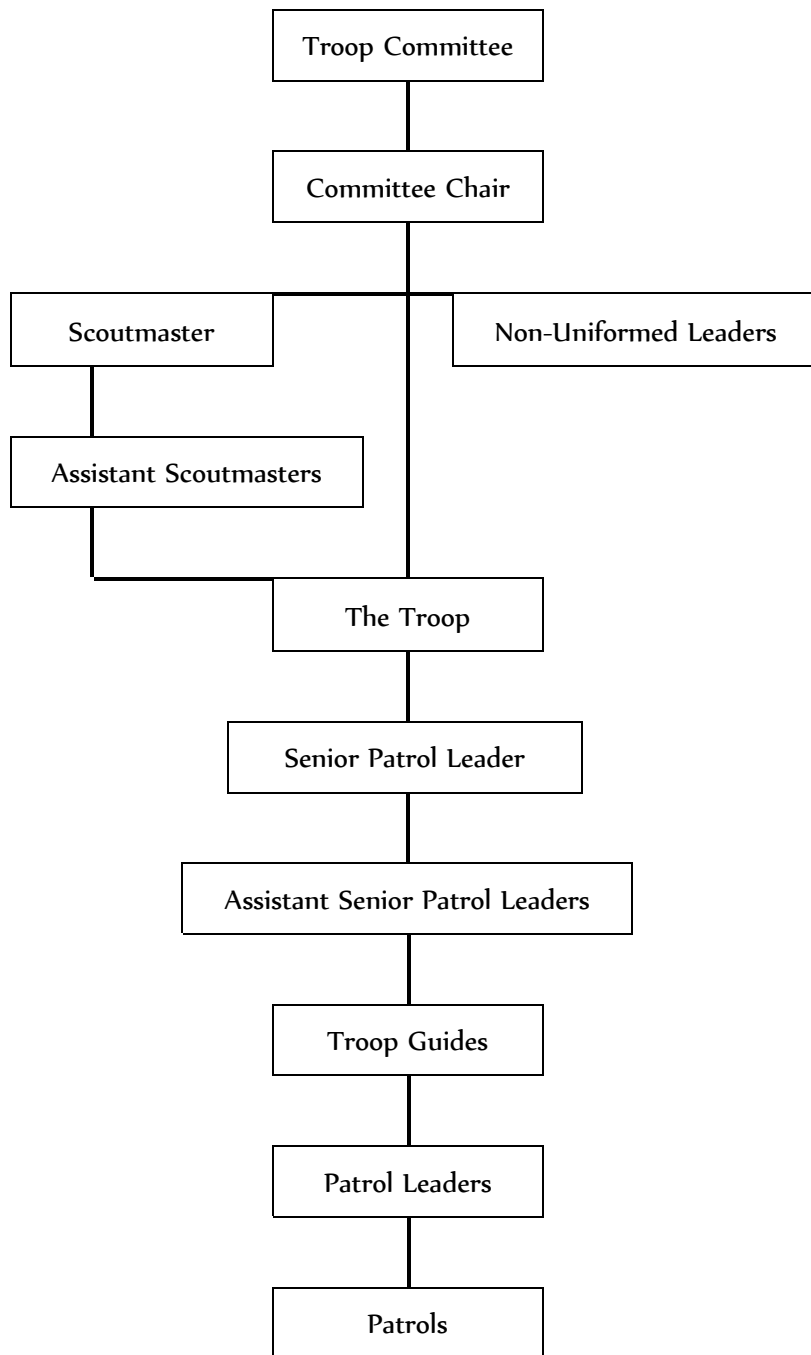
Membership/ Re-chartering Coordinator

Outing Coordinator

Popcorn Coordinator

Transportation Coordinator

Troop 832 Organization Chart



UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

Uniform

When a boy joins the Troop, he is given a Troop scarf and t-shirt.

Since this is a time of growth for most boys the Troop and the Iron Horse District have a uniform closet, donated uniform items in good condition that are available for little or no cost. Please contact an adult leader for more information. Scouts need to provide the following field uniform items:

Field Uniform

Boy Scout shirt and the following insignia:	Scout pants (long or short; activity or dress) Scout belt (when sizing the belt ask about brass on brass)
Mt. Diablo Silverado Council Patch Troop Numbers (832) Red Epaulets	Scout socks (Scout socks are required for short scout pants) Hiking boots
World Brotherhood of Scouting patch Patrol patch (check w/ Patrol Leader)	Troop Scarf and a neckerchief slide
The Troop will provide all rank patches. This includes the first patch, SCOUT, which he will earn shortly after joining the Troop.	

Activity Uniform

- Troop or Boy Scout t-shirt
- Scout Pants
- Scout socks (if wearing shorts) and hiking boots or athletic shoes

Equipment

Troop Rules for Backpacking: place all gear, food, clothing, all items, in your backpack. *Bungee cords* will not be used *at any time* to fasten gear to the outside of the pack. Do not attempt to bring tackle boxes for fishing, it only adds weight and takes up valuable space. The *Boy Scout Handbook*, *Fishing Merit Badge* pamphlet and the *Scout Fieldbook* provide instruction on how to fish and what gear to bring while backpacking.

Keep all food in a separate, waterproof stuff bag to prevent your pack from absorbing food odors. Bear canisters will be used for all back country treks. Bears, raccoons and other animals will carry away or eat ANYTHING that smells like food!

No flames, stoves or other fuel burning devices in tents at any time or for any reason!!!!

In order for a scout to use a backpacking stove that uses fuel other than wood or charcoal on an outing, he must be 13 years of age, have earned 1st Class, and have passed the Troop *stove test*. This test has both a written and a practical demonstration component.

Scout Equipment List

(This is a general list, please see Personal Gear & Equipment List for more information.)

Sleeping Bag and Pad	Sunglasses *	Extra Socks
Ground Cloth	Toilet Kit: Biodegradable Soap; Wash Cloth and Towel;	Cooking Needs:
Tent	Toothbrush	Personal Cook Kit can include: pot, pan, cup, fork, spoon, bowl or plate.
Water Bottle *	Insect Repellent (not Aerosol)	Food (each scout carries his share) *
Flashlight *	Toilet tissue (mountain money- always have it)	Charcoal: (ea. scout to carry his share)
Whistle *	Clothing	Fire Starter Sticks
Compass *	Warm Clothing appropriate for altitude, time of year and weather (hooded sweatshirt, thermal underwear, jacket, and fleece) *	Matches
As Necessary Topo Map *	Rain Poncho (garbage bag works)*	Camera (optional)
Pocket Knife *		Fishing Gear (optional, when appropriate)
First Aid Kit *		
Rope		
Hat *		

* One of the ten essentials

Patrol Equipment List

1 grill	Collapsible Water Jug	Trash Bag
1 garden trowel	Patrol Cook Kit	

ADVANCEMENT

Rank Advancement

The Scout Patch, the first patch that a boy receives, is not considered a rank advancement and is earned by completing the joining requirements found on page 4 of the *Boy Scout Handbook*. A new scout must demonstrate to a Troop Guide that he understands each of the joining requirements. The Troop Guide will initial each requirement as it is completed.

Once all of these joining requirements have been signed-off, the new scout should make an appointment with the Scoutmaster for a Scoutmaster conference. Each boy is encouraged to complete the joining requirements as quickly as possible after joining the troop.

Requirements for the first three ranks (Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, and 1st Class) are found *Boy Scout Handbook* (pp. 32-33; 64-65; and 112-113) and the Scout may work on them simultaneously. As each

requirement is completed, a Troop Guide should sign-off on the requirement. The Troop Guide should write the complete date (month, day, and year) in the book and initial it. Scouts should make sure this is done each time a Troop Guide signs-off a requirement. Remember, this is *the scout's* rank advancement.

Always bring your Boy Scout Handbook to Troop meetings and on outings. There will be opportunities to complete advancement requirements.

Scouts will receive the patch that shows his new rank at the next Court of Honor. Each patch is given to him with a card showing the rank, date earned, and signed by two adult leaders. **THESE CARDS MUST BE KEPT.** Any scout applying for the Eagle rank must be able to produce all of his rank advancement cards.

Scoutmaster Conference

After a scout has completed all requirements for a rank, he needs to let the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster know that he is ready for his Scoutmaster Conference. The Scoutmaster or ASM will request an advancement record from the Advancement Coordinator and schedule a conference. Always allow enough time for the Scoutmaster to get the necessary papers from the Advancement Coordinator.

Boys who are seeking a conference for the rank of Star, Life or Eagle must meet with the Scoutmaster not an Assistant Scoutmaster.

The Scout and the Scoutmaster will discuss the new skills he has learned, how these are important in the scouting program and his life, and what his next goals are in scouting.

The Scout must always be properly uniformed and have his Boy Scout Handbook with him for a Scoutmaster Conference.

Advancement Coordinator

The Advancement Coordinator maintains all of the advancement records for the Troop and obtains all of the awards that are presented at the Troop's Courts of Honor held throughout the year.

In order for work to be recognized, the Scout must let the Advancement Coordinator know that the work has been completed. He or She will attend troop meetings at least once a month so the scouts can present their Boy Scout Handbooks and have their completed requirements recorded.

The Advancement Coordinator asks that each scout write his last name in permanent ink on the white page ends of the closed book so that it appears on the side of the book for easy identification.

A scout may request a progress report from the Advancement Coordinator. They will provide the scout with a computerized print out or emailed file. This is a good way to see if the advancement record is accurate and up-to-date. Call the Advancement Coordinator at least 24 hours in advance of needing the report. If a scout feels that there is an error on his record, he should call the Advancement Coordinator. **Parents must let the scout do this himself.**

Merit Badges

Merit badges are part of the requirements for the top three ranks in scouting (Star, Life, and Eagle). There are 21 merit badges needed for the Eagle Rank. Twelve of these are specified as required for Eagle rank, a list can be found on pages 188-189 in the Boy Scout Handbook.

The Boy Scout program offers more than 120 merit badges. Merit badges are designed to teach boys new skills, allow for investigation of possible careers, develop leadership skills, learn to cope with emergencies, and teach communication and management skills. Adults are needed to act as Merit Badge Counselors, please check the packet for additional information.

Scouts can work on merit badges at any time during their scouting career they do not need to wait until they are working on the Star Rank.

Before a boy begins a merit badge, he must obtain a *blue card* from the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster. The uniformed leader will sign the card and assign a merit badge counselor to you. If a boy wishes to work with a particular merit badge counselor, he may do so only if that person is currently registered with the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council for that merit badge.

Blue cards come in three (3) sections. The card is left together until all merit badge work is complete. The counselor will sign it and keep their portion when you have finished all merit badge work. The scout then takes the last two sections to a uniformed leader who will sign them. The blue card will be forwarded to the Advancement Coordinator to be recorded and the scout will be given his part of the card at the next Court of Honor along with the merit badge.

A scout needs a booklet for each merit badge. It contains all of the information needed to complete the merit badge. He may check it out from the Troop Library, the county library or may purchase one the Scout Store in Pleasant Hill. Boys should read the booklet before the first appointment with his merit badge counselor. Merit badge requirements are revised from time to time to keep the skills current. Because of this, it is important to have the most current requirements. Merit badge worksheets are available for printing or download at <http://www.usscouts.org/mb/wkbks/list.html> Check with your merit badge counselor before you start the merit badge.

SCOUTS MUST KEEP THEIR SECTION OF THE *BLUE CARD* FOR THE REMAINDER OF THEIR SCOUTING CAREER. It is proof that you earned this merit badge. It is very important that your records are in order when you apply for Eagle. You may also need them if you transfer to another troop. (Remember to keep your rank advancement cards also.)

Boards of Review

A Board of Review is the last step for all rank advancement. The Board is made up of Troop Committee members and parents (no uniformed leaders) for ranks Tenderfoot to Life; a District Board of Review is convened for the rank of Eagle Scout. The purpose of a Board is to review a scout's progress toward higher ranks. Boards of Review are held once or twice before each Court of Honor, generally during the weekly troop meeting. A scout may also request a Board of Review at any time. The date of the Board of Review is the date that the rank is awarded.

If a scout has periodically had his advancement requirements recorded by the Advancement Coordinator, they will know that the scout is ready for a Board of Review, especially if the Scoutmaster requests a printout for a conference. It is very important for scouts to have their completed work routinely recorded.

Boys must appear at a Board of Review in proper field uniform with their *Boy Scout Handbook*. They should be prepared to discuss the skills and knowledge they have learned as well as their scouting goals.

Courts of Honor

These events recognize and honor the accomplishments of scouts and adults in our Troop. This is where rank advancements patches are awarded and merit badges and other awards are presented.

These are family evenings. All Troop 832 families are encouraged to come and celebrate the achievement of our scouts at the three Courts of Honor held during the year.

Record Keeping

Each boy should keep an accurate record of his Scouting life. This includes all outings and special events he attends, ranks and merit badges he has earned, and service projects in which he participates.

A three ring binder is suggested for scout records such as the Troop roster, yearly calendar, newsletters, advancement printouts, and *blue cards*. *Blue cards* fit perfectly into plastic baseball card holders.

TROOP GUIDE

Troop Guides help younger scouts advance by:

- *teaching scout skills to younger scouts;
- *giving presentations at troop meetings;
- *being a bridge between the SPL and scouts and their patrols;
- *being active during patrol meetings;
- *setting the example at campouts and meetings;
- *knowing the needs and characteristics of scouts;
- *and, participating in activities at meetings and events.

To become a Troop Guide, a scout must earn Star, attend 75% of troop meetings, attend 50% of other troop events, and completed Troop Leader Training. Troop Guide is a leadership position and the scout remains in that position for at least one year.

GLOSSARY

APL: Assistant Patrol Leader

ASM: Assistant Scoutmaster

ASPL: Assistant Senior Patrol Leader; assists the SPL in his leadership of the troop

Baden Powell NYLT: Advanced scout leadership training program; required for all boys who wish to assume a senior leadership role in the troop; same as Brownsea & John Muir NYLT

Brownsea: Advanced scout leadership training program; required for all boys who wish to assume a senior leadership role in the troop; same as Baden Powell and John Muir NYLT

BSA: Boy Scouts of America

Climb on Safely: Adult training necessary to lead climbing outings. <http://www.bsa-mdsc.org/conttrn.php>

Fast Start: Training for all new Boy Scout parents, <http://www.bsa-mdsc.org/faststarttrn.php>. Please see the Troop Committee Chair if you are unable to take the online course.

FOS: Friends of Scouting; yearly fund raising campaign to support local council operations

High Adventure Team (HAT) Training: Training for adults and older youth. Includes a Core course as well as individual modules for practical training for backpacking, snow camping, paddle sports, climbing instructor awareness, and cycling.

John Muir NYLT: Advanced scout leadership training program; required for all boys who wish to assume a senior leadership role in the troop; same as Brownsea and Baden Powell NYLT

NAYLE: National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience, held at Philmont Scout Ranch. Open to all scouts who have completed NYLT.

New Leader Essentials: Basic BSA adult training program; required of all uniformed leaders

NYLT: National Youth Leadership Training; program that replaced JLTC in 2005.

OA: Order of the Arrow; an honorary camping and service organization related to scouting; boys are elected by the troop.

PL: Patrol Leader (scout leadership position)

PLC: Patrol Leaders Council; the leadership council for the troop made up of the SPL, ASPLs, patrol leaders and Troop Guides and other boy leaders as requested. This group plans the yearly calendar and other activities for the troop.

Position Specific Training: BSA adult training program for specific position, i.e., Scoutmaster, Asst. Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, or Committee Member

Safe Swim Defense: Adult Training necessary for the Troop to participate in outings that include swimming or water activities. <http://www.bsa-mdsc.org/conttrn.php>

Safety Afloat: Adult Training necessary for the Troop to participate in outings that include boats, canoes, kayaks, etc. <http://www.bsa-mdsc.org/conttrn.php>

SCOUTER: Any registered adult leader, uniformed or non-uniformed

SM: Scoutmaster

SPL: Senior Patrol Leader; elected boy leader of the troop. He plans and runs all troop meetings, PLC's outings and activities.

TG: Troop Guide; a scout leadership position. Troop Guides sign off requirements for younger scouts.

Trained leader: <http://www.bsa-mdsc.org/adtoverview.php> A leader that has completed the requirements as set forth by the National organization of the Boy Scouts of America. These are the minimum requirements necessary for working with youth in a boy scout Troop.

Troop TLT: Troop Leader Training; required of scouts who have a leadership position

University of Scouting: Adult training held once a year. At University of Scouting, there are fun and exciting classes that cover all aspects of Scouting; from hands-on classes designed to teach you Scoutcraft and outdoor skills, to administrative courses helping you to streamline your unit.

WOODBADGE for the 21st Century: Adult leadership training for all adults; highly recommended for all Troop leaders both uniformed and non-uniformed.

Youth Protection Training: Online training is available at <http://www.bsa-mdsc.org/youthprotection.php>. Please contact the Troop Committee Chair if you are unable to take the training online.

NOTES

