

A Note to Mom and Dad

While you may have strong feelings about what Troop your son should join for your own reasons, please remember this will be your son's second home for the rest of their pre-adult lives.

You can best support them by aiding their selection, but ultimately letting them decided on where they are most comfortable and where they feel most at home.

If, after your son has started with his new Troop and feels the Troop or Scouts is not a good fit, we strongly encourage you to go back to the other units your son was interested in and find a Troop your son can call home.

Most importantly, please be an active supporter of your son's Troop. Boy Scouts may be boy led, but it does require the commitment and involvement of the parents to make it a successful program.

The Aims of Scouting

Character
Citizenship
Fitness

Methods of Scouting

Patrol Method
Ideals of Scouting
Outdoor Program
Advancement
Association with Adults
Personal Growth
Leadership Development
Uniform

The 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.

The Scout Law

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

Troop 941's Chartered Organization is the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 and meets on Monday Evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 PM at Pleasanton Evangelical Free Church.

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Troop 941



A WEBELOS' Guide to Troop Selection



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
TROOP 941 – PLEASANTON, CA

Unit Selection Process

Selecting a Troop to bridge to is a big step in a scouting career. As a Cub Scout, the adults have been responsible for providing your scouting experience.

In Boy Scouts, the Troop will be led by the other boys in the troop, and eventually you, the new scouts! The adults should be there to support the youth leadership and manage health and safety.

Scouts will spend a lot of time with the boys in their patrol and troop (including weekends camping, weeklong camps or on extended treks) and the adults they interact with will likely NOT be the scouts' parents. For this reason, it is very important that the scout makes the final decision as to what troop they feel most at home in.

Steps for Troop Selection

1. Do your homework

Look at unit websites, talk to other scouting families and scouters'. Obtain the contact information for prospective units in your area

2. Visit prospective units

Contact the Scoutmaster for the units you are interested in and arrange for a visit. Be sure the time you visit is exemplary of a "regular" activity rather than a special "dog and pony" show to entice new scouts. The scout should spend their time participating in the program while parents spend time with the adults learning about the program. Do your best to learn about the Troop's activities, interests, schedules and culture and decide if it is a good fit for you.

The good news is, Troops come in lots of flavors and there is one out there that is just right for you. Keep in mind, the best Troop for you may not be the Troop your Pack is affiliated with or the Troop that is best for some of your friends in the Pack or your siblings.

3. Attend additional activities and outings of the top units

Based on your initial visit, try to narrow your choices to two or three top choices. Visit these units several more times to get a better feel for their culture. If possible, join them on an outing or activity.

Questions for Prospective Units

What activities does the troop do?

- Camping
- Hiking
- High Adventure
- Summer Program
- Skills Instruction
- Community Service
- Fundraisers
- Religious Participation

How are new boys incorporated?

- Is there a "new boy" program?
- Are there "new boy" patrols?
- Are there Troop Guides?
- Is there an Eagle Trail program to aid advancement to 1st Class?

How is the troop supported by the adults?

- Trained and active corps of Assistant Scout Masters (ASMs)?
- Trained and active Troop Committee?
- Participation of parents at large?

Success of the program?

- Is the troop really "Boy Led?"
- What is the retention rate?
- What is the advancement rate?
- What percentage of the boys earn eagle?
- What is the participation of older boys and Eagles?

Commitment

- When are the meetings & activities?
- Where are the meetings & activities?
- Who is the chartered organization?
- Is there a religious affiliation with the unit?
- How are dues and troop finances handled?
- What is expected of both youth and parent participation?
- What personal equipment is required and what is provided by the troop?

General Feelings

- Did you feel welcome?
- Were you encouraged to join?
- Does the Troop accomplish the Aims of Scouting?
- Are all the Methods of Scouting incorporated effectively?

Final Steps

When you have made your final selection, let your Cubmaster and the Scoutmaster of the troop you have selected know of your choice. Be sure to let the Scoutmaster know when your Pack's bridging ceremony is so they can arrange for troop representatives to welcome you to your new home the night of your bridging.