

TROOP 679



Welcome to Troop 679!

WELCOME to scouting in Troop 679! Many of you may be familiar with Scouting from your experience as a youth or your son's Cub Scout involvement. Some of you will be joining Scouting for the first time. There's a lot of jargon, as in any large organization, and this document will help you to make sense of it, learn about scouting and hopefully find the answers to most of your questions. Let us know if you still have questions!

Troop 679 is a member of the San Diego-Imperial Council, which covers San Diego and Imperial Counties. The Council is divided into Districts and our Troop is within the Pacific Crest District, which covers Julian, Ramona, and the Mataguay Scout Reservation. The Council headquarters is located on the northern edge of Balboa Park (1207 Upas Street) and is where you will find the Scout Shop that has all of the official Boy Scouts of America (BSA) items you will need to purchase for your scout.

All BSA Troops must have a chartering organization that adopts the Scouting Program as their youth program. Troop 679 is chartered by the San Diego Country Estates Association.

You are welcome to visit our activities. If you are interested in joining our Troop family, be sure to sign up as early as possible, because we have a limited number of openings each year. The first-time annual registration is \$100 to cover January – December general fees, BSA registration, Boy Scout Handbook, a Troop T-shirt, neckerchief, slide, shoulder loops and a Boy's Life subscription. After the first year, the annual registration is only \$77.00. Each outing may have additional costs associated with it.

Scouting is much more than just a wholesome and enjoyable activity. Active Scouts develop initiative, leadership, self-reliance, and self-confidence. Scouting helps boys become good citizens of strong character, who will be leaders and achievers in the adult world.

Meetings and Outings

Troop 679 meets Tuesday evenings, throughout the entire year, at the Weiss House (Recreation Center), Ramona Oaks Park in the San Diego Country Estates (on Pappas Road). Troop/patrol meetings start at 6:30pm and end at about 8:00. At the meetings, we plan and train for the monthly activities, work on advancements and merit badges and typically hold some form of activity. Parents are always welcome at our meetings.

The Troop also has special meetings throughout the year where parents are specifically invited to attend.

Three times a year we meet in special "Courts of Honor". These formal ceremonies recognize each Scout's leadership, advancement, and other significant accomplishments in front of his family and peers. Some Courts of Honor are preceded by a family potluck supper or we may ask families to bring a dessert to share after the formal ceremony. You will be advised what is needed prior to the event and where the event will be held.

We also have special meetings for all Scouts and parents to go over the Troop calendar when it is established in January, an update to the calendar and/or new parent night in April, and Summer Camp Info night in early summer.

While the Boy Scout program is designed primarily for the Scouts, most of our day outings and some of our overnight trips are open for family involvement. Since neither the Troop nor the Boy Scouts of America can assume responsibility for non-Scouts, we require that all non-Scout children be under direct parental supervision at all times. Please note also that we do not allow pets or guns on outings (both of which are often forbidden by the places we camp).

The Troop Committee meets typically at 7 PM on the first Tuesday of the month at the Recreation Center at Ramona Oaks Park. Contact the Committee Chairman for more information. All parents are encouraged to attend.

Who can join?

Troop 679 welcomes any interested boy of Scout age (either between 11 and 18 years old OR have completed the Fifth Grade OR have earned the Arrow of Light, whichever occurs first). A boy does NOT have to graduate from Cub Scouts or Webelos to become a Boy Scout. Visit some other Troops so you can be sure that Troop 679 is the best Troop for you.

Registration – New Scouts

Scouts typically join the Troop when they bridge over from their Cub Scout program. This is not a requirement, since boys often join without having previously participated in Cub Scouts. Registration requires filling out a Scouting Application (included in the New Scout packet) and paying the annual registration fee. The fee is prorated depending upon the month you register (More information to follow on fees). An optional subscription fee for Boys Life magazine is also indicated on the form.

You will also be asked to provide drivers' license and vehicle insurance information required by the BSA in the event that you or your spouse volunteers to drive to an activity. There is also a medical consent form required for every Scout and a Medical form to be filled out by you and your son's physician.

The New Scout packet includes other information and forms to complete your registration process. In addition to this Booklet, the packet includes:

- Web site and by-law access information – You will receive the web address of the Troop as well as the current login and password to access the Troop by-laws and leader contact information online. The web site has a newsletter, photos, calendar, forms, equipment information, and lots more!
- Current Leader and Scout Contact Information/Phone Tree – Who to call for answers.
- T-Shirt Size Request/ additional shirt order form– this is simply a form to indicate the size your son will need for his Troop T-shirt. You may use the form to order additional T-shirts from the Troop as well.
- Updated Calendar – the most up to date calendar is always available online.
- Latest Newsletter – The newsletter is also always available online.
- Data Form – this is the form to include your email address, your driver's license and car insurance information on. It is stored in the Troop's database.
- Email request – If you wish to receive email from the Troop, you will be placed on the newsletter and/or committee email list.

- Scout Application – To register your son with the Troop.
- Leader Application – To register yourself or your spouse to be a leader or committee member in the Troop.
- Physical Form – Required for activities and summer camp. Return to the Scoutmaster. The physical is good for 3 years.
- Summer Camp Info – For reference.
- Driving Safety Policy – Sign and return to the Scoutmaster.
- Blank Troop Permission Slip – A permission slip is required for all activities. Blanks are available online and this one is provided to make you aware of what they are. Usually, a permission slip is handed out to the Scouts at Troop meetings for upcoming activities.
- Other information sheets – Please take time to review the other information provided in the packet.
- Indoctrination Checklist – The Troop will remove this from your packet to track your son's indoctrination into the Troop.

Troop 679 Uniform

The next step is obtaining the official uniform. Just as a sports uniform identifies a boy with a team, the Scout uniform identifies a boy with the largest voluntary youth movement in the world. The Scout uniform tends to diminish the importance of a person's financial, social, and ethnic background, while clearly showing each individual's scouting accomplishments.

Troop 679 requires members to wear a full and correct uniform; consisting of the following official BSA parts (the Troop purchases and formally presents the CAPITALIZED items):

- C Scout shirt (short sleeves preferred)
- C Scout pants or Scout shorts (optional, but recommended – similarly colored [olive] shorts/pants are also acceptable and blue jeans are acceptable as a last resort).
- C Scout belt & Scout buckle
- C TROOP 679 NECKERCHIEF with SLIDE
- C Scout cap
- C Scout red-topped mid-calf socks
- C Merit badge sash (on formal occasions)
- C SCOUT HANDBOOK

The shirt needs the following insignia:

- C RED SHOULDER LOOPS
- C BADGE OF RANK & Arrow of Light (if earned) on left pocket
- C San Diego-Imperial Council shoulder patch, & "679" numbers on left sleeve
- C American flag (comes on the shirt), PATROL MEDALLION, & CURRENT-YEAR QUALITY UNIT PATCH on right sleeve.
- C World Scout Crest (above left pocket about 3 inches below shoulder seam)

The Scout Handbook has full-sized sewing templates on the inside front and back covers to indicate proper placement of most of the patches. Not shown is the Quality Unit patch (sew on the right sleeve 4 inches below the shoulder seam just below the patrol medallion).

At various activities, Scouts may be directed to wear the activity uniform: the Troop 679 T-shirt (issued to all new Scouts), Scout shorts/pants, belt, cap, and red-topped Scout socks (mid-calf or ankle, NOT the knee socks).

Sources for Scout supplies are the San Diego-Imperial Council service center in San Diego (1207 Upas Street, 619-294-3806), and Sport Chalet (Mission Valley, San Diego).

A full new uniform costs about \$95. The Troop and the District also have some used items available. Ask a leader for assistance with obtaining used uniforms. Please help our future Scouts by donating your son's outgrown uniform parts to the Troop. Thanks.

Scouts typically wear full uniform at all meetings, when traveling to and from campouts, to most day outings, and to any activities where we will be in the public eye.

Troop Organization

The key unit within the Troop is the patrol. In our Troop, patrols are created when the boys join the Troop; resulting in patrols of like-aged scouts. There are pluses and minuses to this method—the boys like the arrangement because they get to be with friends, but on the other hand, they don't benefit from as much interaction with more experienced scouts. A patrol is generally 6 to 10 scouts.

When scouts first enter the Troop, they are organized into unnamed New Scout Patrols (NSP). An older scout, called a Troop Guide, is traditionally assigned to each NSP and acts as their Patrol Leader for the first 6 months or so. In this period, the NSP will pick a patrol name, work on early rank advancements and learn the ropes. At the next Troop election, each patrol elects a new Patrol Leader from its members, including the NSP. Troop elections are held every October and April. When a Scout enters the Troop without a group of other new Scouts, they are assigned to an existing age appropriate patrol.

A Patrol Leadership Council (PLC) is made up of scouts that lead the Troop, and includes the Patrol Leaders. The leader of the PLC is the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) who is elected by all the whole Troop at a Troop election. The SPL, with the approval of the Scoutmaster, appoints the rest of the PLC, including an Assistant SPL (ASPL), Quartermaster, Librarian, Scribe, and so on. The PLC meets once a month with the Scoutmaster to plan each month's activities.

Troop Meetings are run by the SPL and his assistants based on agendas formed with the PLC and the Scoutmaster. The meetings are designed to be Scout led with support from the Scoutmaster and his assistants. There is a theme for each month that determines the types of activities the Troop and the Patrols will be working on.

Roles for Adults — Adults play a crucial role in running the Troop, although the emphasis is on letting the boys lead. The primary adult leader of any Scout Troop is the Scoutmaster (SM), who is responsible for leading the boys in executing the Boy Scout Program.

The Scoutmaster depends on two groups of adults for help: the Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM) and the Troop Committee. The ASM's are more typically involved with the boys at meetings and on activities, while the Troop Committee manages and administers key functions within the Troop, such as finances, equipment purchase and maintenance, registration, and Scoutmaster selection. Parents are encouraged to register with the BSA and participate in either capacity as an ASM or Committee member. Registered adults can become merit badge counselors, and can be listed on the required Boy Scout Tour Permit as either a leader or assistant for any troop activity. All activities require a minimum of 2 adult leaders.

Ranks & Merit Badges - How Scouts Advance

Boy Scout advancement is much more challenging and difficult than Cub Scout or Webelos advancement, and it requires much individual effort and initiative. It also emphasizes leadership and service as much as badges and skills. The Boy Scout program is based on rank advancement. The definitive guide for all rank related information is the Boy Scout Handbook that every Scout is required to have and advancement requirements for all Scout ranks are shown starting on page 438. To advance, a Scout must be active, must do his best to live by the Scout Law and Oath, practice leadership, give service to others, learn Scout skills (mostly in the outdoors), and earn merit badges (primarily from adult counselors).

New Scouts come in without any rank and work with their Troop Guide, as a Patrol, to achieve the entry level rank of Scout. This should happen within the first few months of joining. The first three ranks are geared towards learning general Scouting skills and consist of Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class. Requirements for Tenderfoot through First Class can be signed off by any Scout of First Class rank or higher, or by the SM or ASM's (not by the parents!) The Boy Scout Handbook has all of the information and requirements needed to achieve these advancements. Scouts should bring their Scout Handbook to all meetings and to outings where rank requirements are likely to be taught, tested, and signed off (in their Handbook). BSA recommends that boys reach the First Class rank within 12-18 months, although there are no time limits for any rank advancement.

Once a Scout has all requirements signed off in his Handbook for a given rank advancement, he will contact the Scoutmaster to arrange a Scoutmaster Conference (parents do not do this, it is the Scout's responsibility!). The Scoutmaster will review the Scout's skills and knowledge and discuss the Scout's progress and goals. The Scout will then meet with members of the Troop Committee or other parents at a

Board of Review to discuss the Scout's overall experience within the Troop. The Board of Review is a great time to give feedback or suggestions on how the Troop may better meet the Scout's needs or interests. Finally, the Scout will receive their new rank badge at a Court of Honor.

Merit badges are focused on learning skills in specific areas of interest. There are over 120 merit badges that can be earned! Merit badges are not required for Tenderfoot through First Class, but many scouts may earn a few at Summer Camp or at a patrol activity. For the remaining ranks of Star, Life and Eagle, earning merit badges is mandatory. To reach Eagle, there are specific required merit badges, and each rank above First Class requires the Scout to earn several of these. See the Handbook for details.

What can you do to help your son take full advantage of the Boy Scout Advancement method? Make sure your son attends Troop meetings, campouts, activities and summer camp! Offer encouragement and support. Know what your son needs for his next rank. Be active in scouting with him, and strongly encourage him to attend as many Scout activities as possible, because only active Scouts advance. Scouts should also maintain a notebook to keep track of their achievements. A three ring binder works best, with sections for note taking, holding merit badge and rank advancement cards, patches from treks, a log of all of their Scouting activities, newsletters, calendar, and other related information. Encourage your Scout to keep a Scouting diary – they'll find this very rewarding.

Merit Badge Procedure:

1. Get a "Blue Card" from the Scoutmaster, fill it out for the specific badge, and have the Scoutmaster sign it. Get the name of a counselor if you don't already know.
2. Find and meet with a counselor before working on the badge. Obtain the merit badge book from the Troop Librarian – and read it! Work with the counselor to complete the requirements for the badge.
3. Upon completion, have the counselor sign your blue card. They will keep one portion. Return the remaining two sections (completely filled out), to the Registrar. You will get your badge and your section of the blue card at the next Court of Honor.

Keeping Informed - How to Communicate With the Troop

Announcements of pending activities are always made at Troop meetings. Scouts should take notes in their notebooks that they should bring to each meeting (along with their Handbook). If you don't attend the meetings with your Scout, make sure to ask them about upcoming activities and help them to schedule those into your family calendar.

The primary source of Troop activities is our newsletter located online and available through an email distribution.

The Troop Calendar is another important resource for parents and Scouts. It is crafted by the PLC and includes meetings, activities, service projects, training opportunities, and anything else we are planning to do during the year. However, changes arise as the year progresses, so check the web site often for updates! The calendar is reviewed in detail at the Troop Calendar Planning Night in January.

Finally, there is the Troop website located at <http://www.troop679.org>. The website contains the current calendar of events, a breakdown of the Troop's patrols, adult and youth leadership, adult leader contact information, committee schedule, committee meeting minutes, Eagle Scout information, a photo album, equipment information, the Troop permission slip and other forms as well as many useful BSA related links. The newsletter details essential information about Troop activities, volunteer help needed and deadlines. Make sure you and your Scout son visit the web site and read the newsletter regularly so you won't miss out on any activity. The newsletter, calendar, and permission slips are available in PDF format as are other forms. Permission slips are required for all the Troop activities. Please return these to the Scoutmaster no later than the deadline specified for the activity (this is how Scouts sign up for outings).

As a registered leader or committee member, adults will also receive *Scouting Magazine*, the Council's newsletter *The Beaver Log*, and our District's newsletter *The Pacific Crest*.

To contact someone in the Troop with a question or concern, use the contact sheet and phone tree provided in the New Scout packet. In general, any of the following methods of contact work well:

- C Telephone —Call the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman and leave a message
- C Attend Meetings (Troop or committee)
- C Internet E-mail (scoutmaster@troop679.org, committee@troop679.org) —E-mail forms/information via the Internet. The Troop committee utilizes email heavily to communicate between meetings and parents desiring to receive the newsletter via email can request to be placed on the newsletter email group by emailing the webmaster for the Troop at webmaster@Troop679.org.

- C Troop 679 Home Page (www.troop679.org) —Calendar, newsletter, equipment list, and lots more (updated often). Leader contact list is password protected. Ask the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman for the login and password. You can email the webmaster from the site.

Fees, Fundraisers, Donations and Finances

Annual Fees

We collect registration fees annually and activity/campout fees, if required, at a designated time prior to the activity/campout. Scouts are encouraged to earn the fees by working, participating in Troop fundraisers, and/or performing chores at home. Those who need to handle fees by a payment schedule may discuss arrangements with the Committee Chairman and pay over several months.

The current annual registration fee for a *new* Scout is \$100, which includes a *Boy Scout Handbook*, Troop neckerchief, slide, red shoulder loops, a Troop T-shirt, earned rank insignia and merit badges, other recognition, BSA registration, and *Boys Life* magazine. After the Scout's first year, the registration fee is currently \$77.00 which includes the earned rank insignia and merit badges costs as well as the BSA registration and *Boys Life* subscription. Additional fees that are collected during the year depend upon what your Scout participates in and may include approximately \$250 for summer camp and various fees for other events.

Adult fees are \$10 for the year and include BSA registration and *Scouting* magazine. Adults participating in activities/campouts/summer camp may have fees associated with these events as well.

Campout Food/Activity Fees

The Troop collects a fixed \$5 camping fee in advance from each scout to offset any campground site costs or reservation fees. The camping fee is non-refundable in order to gain the scouts commitment for participation, and so the Troop can arrange adequate transportation for the activity. This fee excludes any food costs. Some activities, such as whitewater rafting or skiing, will have additional costs. The average cost for food is usually \$8 to \$12 per scout for a weekend of camping. Each patrol plans their own menus for the weekend and appoints a grubmaster to do the necessary shopping for food and supplies. Sign-up sheets will indicate the expected cost of events that must be paid in advance by the date listed on the sign-up sheet. All other Troop finances are raised through fundraisers, and the money earned is managed by the Troop Committee to pay for equipment and other Troop expenses.

Fundraisers

The Troop participates in four main fundraisers per year with additional fundraisers whenever we can get someone to coordinate one. The Troop sells popcorn in the fall as part of the district wide fundraiser for Boy Scouts. We sponsor the annual Friends of Scouting fundraiser for the district and sell tickets for the annual Scout Fair held in spring. Finally, we run a dunk tank at the San Diego Country Estates Fourth of July Picnic held at Ramona Oaks Park.

The primary fundraising activity is the Fall Popcorn Sales program which is a national fundraising program similar to Girl Scout cookies. A portion of the money earned by sales of these products is directed back to the Troop and some also comes back to the Scout. The money that comes back to the Scout is held by the Troop in individual Scout Accounts for each Scout. Scouts can use this money for troop activities such as summer camp.

The next fundraiser is the sale of Scout Fair tickets, held every spring. Like popcorn sales, some of the proceeds come back to the Troop and some goes into the Scout Account. The Scout Fair is a one-day event that highlights Scouting within our Council and is held at Qualcomm Stadium in April.

The Troop also has one other regular fundraiser that benefits us directly. We run a dunk tank booth at the July 4th San Diego Country Estates Picnic. The committee is open to ideas for more fundraisers as long as we can find a coordinator!

Through all of these fundraisers, it is possible for Scouts to be completely self-funded via their Scouting activities! As a parent, you can help your Scout by supporting their fundraisers at your place of employment.

Finally, National BSA offers a charitable means of supporting Scouting through the Friends of Scouting program. You can donate cash, in-kind gifts, or property to Scouting. You can also help Scouting through direct designation via your employer sponsored United Way or Combined Federal Campaign program (designate #6122).

Donations

The Troop accepts donations of equipment, uniforms, money and especially time. Camping equipment is tough to maintain and many items are consumables that need to be stocked regularly. Instead of bombarding families with fundraisers, we ask that parents consider the Troop when updating camping/kitchen equipment at home or before holding that garage sale. Chances are good the Troop needs something you don't want anymore so please check with us often! Equipment needs refurbishing and repair regularly as well. Parents and Scouts are expected to volunteer time to help with their upkeep.

Finances

The Troop has a treasurer to manage the finances of the Troop. The Scouts each have their own accounts with the Treasurer and parents are encouraged to set up an account at home or in a bank for their Scout to build up money to be spent on scouting.

Equipment

There is no need to rush out and fully equip your son. Starting with a minimum of gear allows him time to determine the extent of his commitment to scouting and to learn for himself from his patrol what equipment is most suitable for lightweight, low-impact camping. Please seek the advice of the Scoutmaster about major purchases. The sections on pages 28-29 and 51-54 of the Scout Handbook contain guidance on clothing and equipment for a weekend camp. The checklist is also provided in the New Scout Packet and is available online at the Troop website. **Troop 679 does not allow glass containers, non-folding (sheath) knives, candles, butane lighters, radios/iPods, or electronic games at Troop events.**

Getting Involved

YOU are the single most important factor that will determine how successful your son will be in scouting! Since 1993, over 100 Scouts have been part of Troop 679, and their experience demonstrates decisively: **if you want your son to reap the benefits scouting offers, you need to join scouting with your son, either as a uniformed leader or as an active member of the Troop committee.** Scouts whose parents were actively involved attended more than twice the number of activities and attained more than twice the rank of Scouts with less-involved parents (and 90% of our Eagle Scouts have come from the 40% of our parents who have been most active). For these reasons, parent involvement is strongly encouraged with enrollment (see Parent Jobs later).

Being an involved parent takes time and effort, but it's also rewarding and FUN! One of the reasons our Troop is so successful is because of the dedication of so many of our parents. There is something to do that matches the talents of anyone, and your involvement is vital to your son as well as to our other Scouts.

Current BSA policy requires all adults who have contact with the Scouts to register with the BSA. That is why we encourage all parents to be registered. The fee for parents is only \$10 for the year and is paid for by the Troop. Training is provided by the Council.

Parent Jobs:

By now, you've caught a glimpse of the ways you can help out. With the natural turnover of boys as they progress through the program, the Troop is *always* in need of fresh adult leadership to replace the loss of experienced leaders. No assistance will be turned down!

The Troop Committee and Assistant Scoutmasters are the two primary ways of helping out within the Troop and to experience scouting with your sons. The Committee meets once a month on the last Monday of the month at the San Vicente Inn or at the Committee Chairman's home. See the lists below for positions. Some members wear several hats and the Committee can always use more help.

We also welcome parents who would like to take leadership for a specific activity, for example, coordinating Popcorn or Scout Fair sales, organizing a camping trip, or making arrangements for a Court of Honor.

It takes the active involvement of every family to make our active Troop successful. And there is a job to suit your special talents and your available time. It's challenging, it's fun, and your son will reap the rewards of your involvement. **Thanks on behalf of all our Scouts.**

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| C Scoutmaster | C Activities Director |
| C Assistant Scoutmaster | C Advancement Director |
| C Board of Review Member | C Secretary |
| C Campout Leader | C Property Supervisor |
| C Activity Leader | C Merit Badge Coordinator |
| C Summer Camp Leader | C Transportation Coordinator |
| C Merit Badge Counselor | C Chartered Representative |
| C Committee Chairman | C Committee Members |
| C Treasurer | C Fundraising Coordinators |

Other types of support: Ongoing needs for the Troop that do not require any special training or commitment.

- C Sewing
- C Copying/Printing
- C Other special projects
- C Drivers
- C Donations
- C Equipment Repair

Adult Training

Don't feel that you can't participate because you don't know how Scouting works or you weren't a Scout yourself. There are numerous training opportunities offered either free or at nominal cost by the Council, to give you the skills you need.

Youth Protection Guidelines (YPG): A sixty-minute video course that covers how to spot such things as child abuse and how to report it within the BSA organization. It is also now offered online! At least one leader who is listed on a trek tour permit must have this training. YPG training is recommended for every adult in Scouting and is good for three years.

New Leader Essentials: New Leader Essentials is the initial training for adult leaders. In this 90-minute course, leaders learn about the objectives of the Scouting program and the methods that are used to achieve these objectives. Leaders also gain a basic understanding of youth development, as well as how Scouting is organized and financed, policies related to the program, and resources to help leaders succeed. A Scout leader needs to attend New Leader Essentials only once.

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training: This training has three sessions designed to provide leaders with a good working knowledge of Troop operations. The three sessions are: Role of the Scoutmaster in a Boy-Led Troop; The Outdoor Program and the Advancement Program; and Program Planning and Troop Administration. The course may be held in one session or broken into three 3-hour sessions.

Intro to Outdoor Leader Skills: Teaches basic outdoor skills and safety issues to adults. This is a weekend camping experience. Completion of all of the above courses allows an adult leader to wear the "Trained" patch on the left sleeve of their uniform.

High Adventure Leader Trek Training (HALTT): Teaches the skills and provides resources for adults to lead a backpacking outing. This course consists of an evening session, a day long Saturday session and a weekend session.

Water Trek Training: Teaches the skills needed to do boating activities on flat and moving waters.

First Aid/CPR: Many of our activities require that at least one adult be trained with a Red Cross approved first aid and CPR program.

HALTT Specialist Training: These are advanced classes available to HALTT certified leaders to extend their knowledge in areas such as desert backpacking, equipment making, snow camping, rock climbing, and water treks (canoeing, kayaking, etc.)

Troop 679 Goals

Scouting in Troop 679 means fun and challenges for your son and for you. Scouting is a GAME with a PURPOSE: to develop future leaders of strong character, good citizenship, and personal fitness. Scouting's eight methods make it unique:

- C Scouting Ideals (Law, Oath, Motto, Slogan)
- C Patrol Method
- C Advancement
- C Adult Role Models
- C Outdoor Program
- C Leadership Development
- C Personal Growth
- C Scout Uniform

Scouts tent and eat with other Scouts in a patrol, led by an elected boy patrol leader. Adults tent and eat nearby in a special adult patrol. Boy leaders plan, execute, and evaluate the Troop program, guided by our BSA-trained adult leaders.

Sports and Scouting

We don't compete with sports, because our experience shows us that the most successful Scouts are those with a variety of activities and interests. We want all our Scouts to be active in church, music, sports, school, and other activities. However, if sports are your family's top priority, then scouting in our Troop may not be for you.

Standards of Membership

We expect each of our Scouts to be active, to advance regularly, to wear full Scout uniform, to practice good manners and behavior, and to do his best to live by the Ideals of scouting as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law. The Troop may suspend Scouts for poor behavior. Scouts who attend fewer than half the campouts may be denied advancement, and may not be permitted to participate on certain special activities. The key to successful scouting is the camping program, and only active Scouts can reap its full benefits. We expect our Scouts to attend overnight campouts year round, and to make every effort to attend our vital week at summer camp. We also expect parents to be actively involved with their son in scouting, since Scouts with involved parents reap the greatest benefits from scouting.

Boy Leadership

In Cub Scouts and Webelos, adults provide all the planning and leadership. On the other hand, boys provide the planning and leadership for good Boy Scout Troops and patrols (with adult guidance). This takes some getting used to, especially when we adults think we can run things more efficiently than the boys can. But remember, it takes practice to learn anything, including leadership. Your son will elect his patrol and Troop officers, and later, he will hold some of these offices himself (leadership is a requirement for advancement beyond First Class).

Chartered Organization

The San Diego Country Estates Association is the chartered organization that sponsors Troop 679. They provide us meeting space, equipment storage, fundraising opportunities and approve our adult leadership. They "own" the Troop. In support of the organization, the Troop opens the association's board monthly meetings by sending a patrol as a color guard and leads the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Scouts are available to the association for service projects, and the Troop marches as the lead for the annual Fourth of July Parade carrying the Flags and participating in the opening ceremonies. Many Eagle projects have focused on improvements within the association as well. The organization provides a representative (Chartered Representative) to act as a liaison between the Troop and the association.