

# Troop 65

## New Parent Orientation: Updated February 2011

[www.t65.org](http://www.t65.org)

Joining a new unit can be both exciting and intimidating, especially when it's a large unit like Troop 65. The first months can be a bit overwhelming for the boys and the parents alike. In an effort to make the transition less daunting, we have developed this New Parent Orientation pamphlet. In this pamphlet you will find answers to many of the questions we think you will have as you get started in Boy Scouts with Troop 65. Since we can't possibly address everything that might come up, if you have questions, don't be shy, please ask. Everyone in the Troop has a vested interest in the Troop's success. We all want to help you and your boy be successful in the Troop.

In Troop 65 we keep our boys active and encourage our parents to be involved. It is a fact that boys with parents who are more involved with the Troop tend to go farther in Scouting.

Cub Scouts help prepare our boys to be good citizens.

Boy Scouts help prepare our boys and young men to be good leaders.

Welcome to Troop 65!

### **Organizations and Representatives**

**Long Beach Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, Polaris District:** Our council and district. This information is required for Merit Badge applications (Blue Cards). The District Executive, Marc Bonner, is an Eagle Scout from Troop 65.

**Chartered Organization:** Lakewood Village Community Church (LVCC)

Every Scout unit is operated by an organization granted a charter by the National Council of Boy Scouts of America. LVCC supports Troop 65 in many ways beyond providing us these wonderful facilities. They also assist the Troop in the selection of leaders and provide financial support in the form of Camperships.

**Chartered Organization Representative:** Wayne Sanders [waynes@t65.org](mailto:waynes@t65.org)

Wayne Sanders is a member of LVCC and serves as the liaison between the church and the Troop. Wayne has been a registered adult leader and Assistant Scoutmaster for many years prior to becoming the Chartered Organization Representative. Wayne's son attained the rank of Eagle as a member of Troop 65.

## **Troop Adult Leadership**

**Troop Committee Chairman:** Dave Mitchell [davem@t65.org](mailto:davem@t65.org)

The Troop Committee may be seen as the "board of directors" of a troop and Dave is the Chairman. The Troop Committee helps select quality leaders, develop community projects, plan and assist in fund-raising, maintain records of troop finances and advancement, and much more. The Troop Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month and every parent is encouraged to attend. Dave's son is a Life Scout in the Pirate Patrol.

**Scoutmaster:** Tim Mace [timm@t65.org](mailto:timm@t65.org)

The Scoutmaster works with the boys to prepare them for leadership within the Troop. Tim has been involved in Scouting since the Stone Age beginning with Cub Scouts and on into Boy Scouts. Tim was a den leader and Cubmaster of Pack 23 and his son is a Life Scout in the Diamondback Patrol.

**Outdoor Program Chairman:** Dan Guillory

Scouting is an outdoor program that will help our boys build character, encourage citizenship, and develop their physical, mental, and emotional fitness. As you will see, Troop 65 has an active and diverse program and Dan Guillory is the program chairman. Dan helps coordinate the planning of every outdoor event, working with Troop leaders, individual event chairpersons, and Scouts to work out the details of upcoming activities. Dan's son is a Star Scout in the Diamondback Patrol.

**Advancement Co-Chairmen:** Serbando Duran and Yolanda James [serbandod@t65.org](mailto:serbandod@t65.org)

Serbando and Yolanda keep track of all the boys' rank advancements and merit badges earned. All completed Blue Cards (discussed later) are to be turned in to the Advancement Co-Chairmen. Serbando's son is a Star Scout in the Sabertooth Tiger Patrol. Yolanda's sons are both in the Falcon Patrol; one is a Life Scout and the other is a First Class Scout.

**Troop Quartermaster:** Dave Kahn [davidk@t65.org](mailto:davidk@t65.org)

Dave works with the Troop's Scout Quartermaster to organize, maintain, and replenish Troop supplies. He also coordinates the transportation of camping equipment and required gear to activities. Dave's older son is an Eagle Scout and his younger son is a Life Scout in the Pirate Patrol.

**Treasurer:** Bob McCall [bobm@t65.org](mailto:bobm@t65.org)

Bob's responsibilities include preparing the annual budget and creating monthly reports for the Troop Committee meetings. Bob's son is a First Class Scout in the Falcon Patrol.

**Secretary:** Rebecca Quincey [rebeccaq@t65.org](mailto:rebeccaq@t65.org)

Rebecca takes minutes at committee meetings and distributes them to all adult leaders. Rebecca's son is a Star Scout in the Eagle Patrol.

**Assistant Scoutmasters:** Troop 65 has several trained adult leaders, registered as Assistant Scoutmasters, assigned to the Patrols in advisory roles.

**Registered Adult Leaders:** All adults are encouraged to register with BSA as adult leaders in the troop. You don't have to a specific role to register. See Dave Mitchell for an adult leader application.

**Adult Training:** We encourage adults to take all of the training courses offered by BSA. If you want to contribute to your Troop you should take, as a minimum, Youth Protection Training (YPT) and Hazardous Weather Training. YPT is offered twice a year as a Council-wide activity, or you can take it online. Hazardous Weather Training is available online only. Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster training is a one-day class followed by a comprehensive overnight course that teaches you the same skills that the boys will be learning. Completion of a training sequence entitles you to wear the Troop neckerchief, a "Trained" shoulder patch, and a patch to reflect your position within the Troop.

## **Youth Leadership**

Youth leaders are elected by the boys and serve a six-month term. Positions on the Troop's Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) are as follows:

**Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)**  
**Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)**  
**Patrol Leaders (one for each Patrol)**  
**Quartermaster**  
**Chaplain's Aide**  
**Attendance Scribe**  
**Internet Scribe**  
**Historian**  
**Librarian**  
**Instructor**

## **Patrols**

Patrols are the core of Boy Scouts. Our patrols are composed of boys of different ages and ranks, so the more experienced boys can help the others with their rank advancement and skill development. New boys who join the Troop from Webelos Scouting will be integrated into existing patrols prior to summer camp. We try to accommodate requests for specific patrols and patrol meeting nights. The Pirate and Diamondback Patrols meet on Mondays, the Eagle and Sabertooth Tiger Patrols meet on Wednesdays, and the Falcon Patrol meets Thursdays of patrol weeks. Patrol weeks are the second and fourth week of each month.

## **Nuts and Bolts**

Typical Monthly Calendar

**Week One:** Troop Meeting, Tuesday 7:30 pm at LVCC. All boys get together for distribution of information, demonstration of scout activity, and an interpatrol activity.

Each patrol is responsible for one activity, such as the flag ceremony, demonstration, interpatrol competition, or cleanup. Parents meet upstairs to discuss details of upcoming outings, ask questions about planned events, etc.

**Week Two:** Patrol Meetings. Night and time depends on individual patrol.

Also on Week Two, Adult Leaders and Parents Meeting, upstairs in the Fellowship Hall at LVCC, Tuesdays at 7 pm. All parents are encouraged and expected to attend as many of these meetings as possible.

**Week Three:** Troop Meeting, Tuesday 7:30 pm at LVCC.

**Week Four:** Patrol Meetings, same as week two.

Also on Week Four, Patrol Leaders Council (PLC), Tuesday, 7 pm at LVCC. All youth leaders and the Scoutmaster meet to discuss Troop business. Boards of Review are held at the same time at LVCC. This is where a panel of registered adult leaders meets with boys as part of rank advancement.

**Week Five:** If there is a 5<sup>th</sup> week in the month, it is usually dark.

**Uniform:** We require that all boys be in full Official Boy Scout uniform by summer camp. The Field Uniform (formerly the "Class A" uniform) is a BSA tan shirt (with a purple Troop t-shirt worn underneath), BSA green pants (shorts or trousers), troop neckerchief, Scout socks and belt. The activity uniform (formerly "class B") is a troop t-shirt, Scout pants, socks and belt. The Troop t-shirt can be purchased from the Troop prior to summer camp. The Troop also maintains a uniform exchange, where used t-shirts and other uniform parts are made available at no cost.

**Merit Badge Sash:** The Merit Badge Sash is where the Scout displays emblems of rank and patches for earned merit badges. The sash is worn at Troop meetings, Courts of Honor, Eagle Courts, Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review, and selected other "formal" events. A sash is not worn until the boy has earned at least three merit badges.

**Equipment:** The Troop provides Scouts with tents, lanterns, camp stoves, and similar gear. At a minimum, the boys will need their own sleeping bag and gear bag or backpack. They should also have items like a toiletry kit, flashlight, warm clothes, mess kit, water bottle, and raingear. The boys will learn about the 10 Outdoor Essentials. Lists of required and suggested items are typically provided for each event.

**Boy Scout Handbook:** Obtain as soon as possible. It's full of great information for Scout and Scouter (adults in Scouting) alike. Encourage your boy to actually READ the book. Consider getting the cloth book protector with the Velcro closure.

**Rank Advancement:** Four steps of Boy Scout advancement: A Scout learns, a Scout is tested, a Scout is reviewed, and a Scout is recognized.

Beginning ranks of Boy Scouts: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. The requirements for these ranks provide a Scout with a solid grounding in the skills that will

allow him to take advantage of Scouting adventures. We hope to have all the new Scouts at Tenderfoot before summer camp and Second Class by the end of summer camp. Some boys will even get to First Class by the end of camp. Requirements for these ranks can be worked on concurrently but they must be awarded in order.

**Resume:** Have your boy keep a record of all Scouting activities and advancement. This is known as a Scout Resume. Rank advancement requires a minimum of participation and the resume is how the Scout keeps track of all his activities. An example resume will be provided to give the boy an idea of the recommended format and content.

**Nights Under the Stars:** An award Scouts and Scouters earn in recognition of nights of camping. Keep records in the Scout's resume. First level is 20 nights.

**Parent or Guardian Release Form:** Required for all outdoor activities whether you attend or not. Complete two forms for each event, one for the boy's pocket and one for the adult leader in whose care you leave your boy.

**Annual Health and Medical Record:** Form required for all boys and adults to participate in Troop events. Medical evaluation, to be completed by a physician, is required at least once a year for extended camp, such as summer camp.

**Youth Protection Training:** Not just for leaders. We strongly recommend all adults to get this training, and all registered adults are required to complete the training at least biennially. Youth Protection Training is offered by Council twice a year as part of a Training Safety Day. Training can also be found online at the BSA Online Learning Center.

**Summer Camp:** Outings lasting more than five nights and six days are considered by the Boy Scouts of America to be resident camping experiences. Summer camp is a highlight of a Scout's experience. Scouts often spend more time acquiring knowledge and skills in one week of summer camp than they do in Troop meetings throughout the year. We strongly encourage all new Scouts to attend summer camp their first year in Boy Scouting. We recommend they go other years as well but the first year is particularly important. Camp is where they truly bond with their fellow Scouts.

**Outings:** Most activities will have a sign-up sheet on the wall in the basement at the bottom of the stairs. Please be sure to sign up early, and arrange to pay any related fee as soon as possible, so proper preparations can be made.

**Fees for Outings:** We have small envelopes in the basement for making payments for outings. Place cash or check in envelope and seal. Write information of who and what money is for on outside. Give envelope to event chairperson (preferred) or treasurer. Please pay in advance.

**Merit Badges:** There are over 100 merit badges available for Scouts, running the gamut from Art and Archery to Wilderness Survival and Woodworking. There are 12 merit badges that must be completed to earn the rank of Eagle, commonly referred to as **Eagle Required** merit badges. Each merit badge requires a **Blue Card**. A blue card is used as a

record of the completion of the specific requirements of each merit badge. A blue card must be signed by the Scoutmaster prior to the beginning of the merit badge class. This allows the Scoutmaster to determine, in advance, whether the Scout has the skills, knowledge, or age to successfully complete the class.

**Court of Honor:** Like a Pack meeting without skits! Three times a year the Troop meets to give recognition to boys for rank advancement, merit badges, and patches for events attended.

**Scoutmaster Conference:** The second-to-last step for rank advancement. The Scout meets with the Scoutmaster in a one-on-one "interview." The Scout schedules the conference directly with the Scoutmaster.

**Board of Review:** The last step for rank advancement except for the rank of Scout (no Board of Review is required for Scout rank). Similar to a Scoutmaster conference, during a Board of Review the Scout meets with a panel of registered adults. The adults ask the Scout general questions. Not a test but designed to help the boy build confidence with speaking with a group of adults.

**Recharter:** Every March Troop 65 re-registers Scouts and Scouters with the local and national councils. Fees are \$27 for boys and \$15 for adults. Fees include Boys Life Magazine for the boys and Scouting Magazine for adults. New Scouts who bridged from a pack that recharter in December will not need to pay until March of the following year. If your pack recharter before December or if you are not currently registered, we ask you to pay the \$27 charter fee ASAP.

**Troop Dues:** Annual Dues \$48