

Troop 319

Parent Guide

Welcome to Troop 319! This guide will provide answers to many of the questions that you are bound to have as a new member of our troop. If at any time you find that you have a question that isn't answered in these pages, or cannot be found on the Troop's website at www.bsatroop319.com, please do not hesitate to ask any of the Parent Committee members or the Scoutmaster... any troop member will be happy to help you find an answer.

We invite you to join our monthly Parent Committee Meetings (PCM) as often as your schedule will allow and hope that you will consider volunteering to assist with troop activities. Attending Parent Committee Meetings is an excellent way to stay informed about troop activities, and it is your best forum for suggesting activities and campouts of interest to you and your scout.

In addition to attending Parent Committee Meetings, you can stay informed about the troop in the following ways:

- **Attend weekly Troop meetings.**
In particular, be on hand at the beginning and end of the meeting when parent and scout announcements are always made.
- **Visit the Troop's website at www.bsatroop319.com.**
Events are posted on the *Calendar* page, and useful information and trip details can be found throughout the site.
- **Review the latest edition of the Troop Newsletter.**
Copies are available at meetings, or you can view the current or past issues on 319's website.
- **Watch for e-mails from Troop leaders... *then open and read these messages.***
Announcements, updates and reminders are regularly sent via e-mail.
- **Ask questions.**
If you or your scout are unsure about troop activities, policies, rank advancement, etc., please do not hesitate to ask for help.

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Troop Meeting Schedule

Troop Meetings	Every Monday night 7:00-8:30 St Andrew's Church
Patrol Leader's Council (PLC)	3rd Monday of the month 6:15-7:00 St Andrew's Church
Parent Committee Meeting (PCM)	4th Tuesday of the month 7:00-8:30
Mission District Round Table <i>(open to all interested leaders and parents)</i>	2nd Thursday of the month 7:00-8:30 LDS Stake Center 4195 Camino Del Rio S, San Diego 92108

See the Troop web page for all meeting, outing and event dates, important announcements, and suggested links:

www.bsatroop319.com

Parent Commitment

We need you and hope that you can be an involved and contributing member of Troop 319! Involved parents are as important to scouting as the scouts themselves, and parental support is a critical part of providing a well-rounded scouting experience for your son. Becoming an active, trained leader may not be for you, but you can still be a vital part of your son's boy scout troop. ***Please fill out the parent survey in this packet and return it to us at your earliest opportunity.*** Your responses will help the Parent Committee Chair identify parent resources that will help create interesting, enriching and enjoyable programs/outings for our boys.

Beyond those parents who become adult leaders, we also need parents who are willing to help out at meetings, become part of the parent committee, help drive on outings, help with fundraisers, sign up as merit badge counselors, etc. Two trained leaders are needed on every outing, and we have a minimum of 12 outings a year (usually a lot more!). The more trained leaders we do have, the lighter the load will be for each leader.

While Boy Scouts and Troop 319 emphasize the patrol method and the importance of a boy led/boy run troop, it is important to realize that we as parents must provide guidance for our boys to become successful men. Parent participation is vital to this process and it is most often the boys whose parents are involved in their scouting experience who go on to become Eagle Scouts. None of the parents in this troop are experts on scouting, but every parent has something they can offer!

All campouts and events are announced at Troop meetings and are posted on the Troop website. Notifications and updates are also sent to parents through troop email. It is important that you monitor these sources frequently in order to stay current with troop information.

Scout Commitment

The Boy Scout experience is very different from Cub Scouting! Each Boy Scout is responsible for his own achievements and advancement. Incoming scouts are placed in a new Scout Patrol where they will receive guidance and instructions from older scouts and parent mentors, and each scout will advance at his own pace. The Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks are all geared to teach boys skills that they will need to succeed. Each level of achievement provides training in things like *what to bring on an outing, knife and fire safety, cooking, knots & lashings, using a map and compass*, etc. Scouts “learn by doing” during this process.

As the requirements for each rank are completed, the scout will need to ask the scoutmaster for a conference to review his completed achievements, after which he will attend a Board of Review with adult troop members, for which you may be asked to participate for boys other than your own scout.

The three main objectives of the Board of Review are:

1. Determine if the boy has had a positive and effective experience in the troop.
2. Make sure that all advancement standards have been met.
3. Encourage further progress.

A scout’s advancement is partially based on his attendance at meetings, campouts, and events, as well as his behavior. A scout should be active in the troop, though we recognize the fact that scouts are often involved in other activities, such as sports, school programs, and church activities. We realize that some scouts may not be able to attend every meeting or go on all campouts and ask only that you inform Troop leadership about conflicting outside activities and attempt to attend scout activities as frequently as your schedule allows.

In order to advance, all scouts must meet behavioral standards established by the Troop (see the behavior guidelines in this packet). Simply stated, we expect every scout to follow the Scout Law and be *Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent*.

It is very important that a scout pay attention at meetings and not distract other scouts. At every meeting, announcements will be made and sign up sheets posted for upcoming campouts, activities, events, and merit badge opportunities. It is each scout’s responsibility to sign up for those activities for which he is interested and available to participate.

Scouts will be provided with a complete equipment checklist before they attend their first campout. It is each scout’s responsibility to make sure he has everything needed for each campout, including his “E10” (essential safety items taken everywhere we go as scouts), mess kit, water container, and field uniform for travel, as well as his general camping and personal gear.

Another part of advancement is participation in service projects. These projects can be troop projects to help the community, or may be part of another scout’s Eagle Project. All boys are encouraged to participate in service projects, as service hours are tracked for rank advancement.

Financial Commitment

The following is a general breakdown of scouting costs. If there is any kind of financial hardship, please let us know and we will make arrangements as needed. *No scout will ever be left behind.*

- **Enrollment (due upon joining) and Re-charter Fees (due each fall):** The registration or “Re-charter” fee each year is \$30, which will be prorated depending on the month in which you join. This fee covers insurance, Boy’s Life magazine subscription, and basic BSA fees. Registered scouts transferring to Troop 319 do not have to pay this fee, but do need to fill out a new application and complete the transfer section. **We ask that at least one parent from each family become a registered adult in Troop 319.** The adult registration fee is \$15; but if an adult becomes a trained leader, the Troop will pay that adult’s re-charter fee.
- **Troop Dues:** \$75 per scout is due each March for troop dues. Dues are paid upon joining for scouts who join later in the year.
- **Uniform and Handbook:** Your son’s uniform and handbook will cost you around \$80. You will need the following items: Boy Scout shirt, pants, merit badge sash, neckerchief slide, and a Boy Scout Handbook. You will also need the following patches for the uniform shirt: Council patch, a “319” troop number patch, and a World Crest patch. Placement of these patches can be found on the inside cover of the handbook. Troop 319 provides the following items to new scouts: hat, neckerchief, and epaulettes. If these items are lost or damaged there will be a charge for their replacement. For use during campouts and activities, each scout will be given one “activity” shirt, with the option to buy more as needed. These activity shirts will also be worn for Troop meetings during summer break.
- **Camping Equipment:** We have troop-supplied tents that scouts will use for most outings. We also carry patrol boxes with necessary cooking equipment, ice chests, lanterns, etc. Scouts will need to have/bring their own sleeping bag, sleeping pad, a mess kit, flashlight, E10 (essential safety items), and clothing and personal gear that is suitable for each individual trip.

For backpack outings, scouts will need a backpack and may also need a backpacking tent and stove, though we will try and pair new scouts with older scouts who can share certain backpack items. Scouts can purchase backpack equipment when they are ready to start backpacking, though **we suggest that you and your scout talk with the Scoutmaster before purchasing any backpacking equipment.** *New scouts will want to learn vital scout skills attained through rank advancement, and should also participate in a few practice hikes to assess strength and endurance, before purchasing equipment to join a backpack trip.*
- **Campouts:** There may be additional fees for certain campouts throughout the year (Snow Camp, Camporee, Scout Fair, etc.) as well as fees for the cost of food on all campouts. You will be informed of the cost for each individual outing/situation.
- **Troop Fundraising:** It is necessary for the boys to help raise the funds needed to pay for their awards, activities, outings, etc. A share of all fundraising earnings goes straight to the scout’s individual account, which can be used to pay summer camp fees and other scouting costs. Our yearly fundraisers include:
 - **Trail’s End Popcorn (fall)**
 - **Scout Fair Tickets (spring)**
 - **Additional fundraisers as needed**

Troop families are expected to participate in all fundraisers, or they can choose to pay the “buy out” associated with each program.

Financial Commitment (continued)

Optional fundraising programs that parents will be asked to consider participating in for the benefit of the Troop include:

- **Escrip:** Troop 319 is signed up on Escrip! To participate, go to escrip.com and add Troop 319 to your list, or get signed up. This is a safe and easy way to raise funds for our Troop. Our ID # is: 82603
- **Ink Cartridge Recycling:** Troop 319 wants your empty computer ink cartridges! Please bring them to any meeting.
- **Cell Phone Recycling:** Unwanted cell phones can also be turned in to a leader at any meeting. Similar to the ink cartridge program, cell phones will be turned in to a recycler who pays cash to the Troop for each device.
- **Friends of Scouting:** This local council fundraiser is put on yearly to raise the funds needed by the council camps, etc. A representative will visit our spring Court of Honor to tell everyone more about the program and to take donations.

Additional donations are always welcome as they help enrich the scouting experience the Troop provides for boys. If you would like to make a donation, please speak with the Troop Committee Chair who will be glad to assist you.

Attached Forms

Included with this information guide you should find the following forms:

- Youth Application
- Parent Talent Survey
- Troop Permission Slip
- Driver Information for Troop Outings
- Annual Health and Medical Record
- Photograph / Recording Release Form

All forms listed above need to be completed and returned to the Troop Committee Chair as soon as possible.

In addition, you will also find the following troop information sheets:

- Troop Contact List
- Patrol Roster
- Behavioral Guidelines