



Boy Scouts of America
Troop 355
San Marino, California



Dear New Scout and Parents,

Welcome to Troop 355!! We are excited to have you as new members of our Troop!

In this letter, I will provide you information to register with our Troop and to become more familiar with how the Troop works.

Registration

We need the following five items from you to register your son with the Troop. Please submit the documents to:

Winnie Louie
Registrar, Troop 355
1224 Roanoke Road, San Marino, CA 91108

Phone: 626-293-8384
Email: winnieL6@yahoo.com

Your son will not be able to participate in Troop 355 activities, other than Monday night meetings, until these items have been returned to the Registrar.

1. Boy Scout Application: Please complete, sign and date.
2. Scout's Annual BSA Health and Medical Record/Consent Form
Please complete, sign and date. Your son's physician must complete Part C of the form. Please be sure to include a copy of the front and back of your insurance card. Please keep your original and submit the copy.
3. Registration Fee
The Troop's annual \$250 registration fee for 2012 has been prorated to **\$100** for new scouts joining during the year. Please make your check payable to "BSA Troop 355". Regular annual dues will be collected in November. Our dues cover individual Scout registration fees, *Boy's Life* magazine for each family and our annual tax-deductible donation of (typically) \$100 per family. Dues also cover the wide range of troop expenses (recruiting, awards, Scout house maintenance at \$50 per family, etc.) and many, but not all, State and National Park entrance fees. Food costs on outings are shared between the members of the patrol.
4. Contact/Emergency Information Form
Please complete, and provide updates of any changes to your contact information to the Registrar in order for the Troop to always have your most

current information for emergencies or other communications.

5. Adult Volunteers

Troop 355 relies on parent participation. Without a dedicated effort by our parents, Troop 355 cannot operate effectively. As parents, you will be asked at some time to head a committee, coordinate a camping trip, or coordinate another activity (Court of Honor, Service Project, , participate as an adult leader on a camping trip, etc.) With your help, the operation of Troop 355 will be much smoother and your son's experience enhanced. Don't worry, we have "how to do sheets" on all these tasks – you can do it!

The Troop requests at least one parent complete and submit the following:

- A. Adult Volunteer Application
- B. \$10 for registration
- C. BSA Health and Medical Record/Consent Form (this may be submitted later to avoid any delays to your son's registration)

Later this spring we will have a meeting specifically for new Scouts and their parents during which we hope to answer all of your scouting questions. In the meantime here is some information that will be useful:

Troop Meetings

Troop meetings are held every other Monday from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Lacy Park Scout House. Scouts are expected to be in full Class A uniform (neckerchief or bolo, shirt, pants, belt, socks) at these meetings. Merit badge sashes are not required at Troop meetings. Meetings typically include Troop business, skills workshop and teambuilding exercises. Occasionally we have a guest speaker.

Uniform

You should purchase the official Boy Scout uniform from the Smiser Scout House Shop. Scout shorts or pants are acceptable. Merit badge sash, belt, shirt and socks are required. No hat is required. We will provide you Scout with the Troop neckerchief, slide and Troop number patch. Talk to any of the clerks at the Scout shop, they can help you through the details. The Boy Scout Handbook should also be purchased. We suggest that you buy a cover for the Boy Scout Handbook and write the scout's name inside the Handbook, the outside of the cover and along the Handbook edges. Scout Handbooks without names all look the same.

Smiser Scout Shop
340 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Pasadena (626) 351-8815

Troop Calendar

All events for our Scouting year are listed on our calendar located on our website, www.bsatroop-355.org. Please be sure to transfer these dates on to your family's master calendar.

Campouts

Campouts provide an opportunity for Scouts to experience something new, face fresh challenges and try out their new scout skills. Campouts teach Scouts how to work together with other Scouts and their dads away from the usual routine. Sharing those experiences with your dad will help Scouts and dads get through other challenges they may face in the future and will give both of you some great memories.

We want to encourage dads to attend the campouts and outings with their sons, but we understand that from time to time this may not be possible. While the Troop is not a child care service, we will allow a Scout to attend a campout or outing without his dad if the following arrangements are made in advance:

1. Arrange with another adult who will be attending the outing to agree to supervise and be responsible for your Scout.
2. Talk to the adult who is running the outing and let them know who has agreed to be responsible for your Scout and get his approval of the arrangement.

Scouting and Sports

We believe there is room for Scouting and Sports. Most of the boys in our Troop participate in several sports. In fact many of our boys go on to play Varsity Sports in High School. However, it is important to keep both activities in balance. A missed practice here and there and one weekend camp-out should not adversely hurt a boy's or his team's performance. A terrific camping trip, a memorable meeting or earning a rank advancement will be remembered long after a particular sport victory. We hope you will work hard to balance your sports and scouting activities.

Again, we are very excited to have you as part of Troop 355. If you have questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Ron Chase
Troop 355
Scoutmaster 2011 – 2012
626-351-0697