

Troop 966 Torrance, CA



Live ♦ Learn ♦ Experience

Troop 966 Philosophy

A goal of the Boy Scouts of America is to help boys develop into honorable men. Troop 966 embraces the purposes and methods of the Boy Scouts of America for developing desirable qualities of character, citizenship, personal fitness and leadership in youth.

Empowering boys to be leaders is the core of Scouting. The adult leaders of Troop 966 provide scouts with training and guidance, then progressively transfer increasing levels of responsibilities to the youth so they may obtain realistic leadership experience. Scouts learn by doing, and what they do is lead their patrols and their troop. The boys themselves develop a troop's program, then take responsibility for figuring out how they will achieve their goals. The Scouting program allows boys to practice good citizenship by living and working among others in a troop with rules based on the common good.

People get the most out of life when they are mentally and physically fit, to the best of their individual ability. Much of Scouting is designed to take place in the outdoors, in settings where boys can find real adventure. The active, outdoor program of Troop 966 is a key component of leadership development, providing the scouts with challenging goals requiring group cooperation for success.

Troop Meeting Place

♦ 2nd through 4th-5th Monday, 7:15 to 8:45 at El Retiro Park (Year round). The first Monday of each month is dedicated for the Youth Leaders to plan the upcoming month's Troop Agenda.



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Leadership Support

◆ Our Scouts have the support and backing from our adult volunteer leaders who have specific training in the areas of leadership, backpacking, bicycling, desert camping, hiking, orienteering, rock climbing, snow camping and a passion to share the Scouting experience. Many of these leaders are Eagle Scouts themselves.

Troop Activities

The Scouts choose the activities that they will participate in for the upcoming year. The Troop holds at least one camping activity each month and the activities include backpacking, biking, canoeing, Camporees, car camping, river rafting, rock climbing, service projects, snow trips and more. In many of the activities there are several levels offered to allow the scout to select the activity that best meets his ability, e.g. a weekend backpacking trip may offer trips of introductory, intermediate and advanced levels of difficulty. These activities are designed to allow the scouts to learn new skills, to apply these skills, to foster teamwork and create unity within the Troop.

Troop Meetings

◆ Scout uniform required (Shirt, Pants, Socks, Belt, Neckerchief and Slide)
◆ Meeting Agenda is typically as follows: Call to Order. Flag Ceremony. Uniform Inspection. Instructional Activity and Rank Advancement. Recognition of Advancements and Achievements. Reports of recent events and upcoming activities. Scoutmaster's Minute. Flag Retirement. Meeting adjourned.

◆ Each month one Patrol hosts a theme to help strengthen scouting skills, build character and self confidence. Each member of the Patrol hosting the meeting prepares and instructs the other Scouts via multiple stations at the evening's meeting. The last meeting of the month is usually in the form of a competition that allows the scouts to apply the skills they have learned in the previous month's meetings. Each patrol earns points for participation throughout the month and the Patrol with the most points will be recognized and awarded a prize.

Advancement

◆ Adult advisors assist in keeping the scouts on track toward advancement. In addition, our scout-run Troop affords the scouts an opportunity to mentor and challenge each other in meeting advancement goals. Scouts are recognized at Troop meetings for their advancements and achievements.

◆ Merit Badges are traditionally earned outside of the Troop meetings, ie. at individual Merit Badge Days, Cabrillo Scout Youth Center and at the summer camps.

◆ Eagle Scouts: Our emphasis is not on making Eagle Scouts, rather for all scouts to Live, Learn and Experience the Scouting adventure. By reinforcing skills learned and experiencing new skills, the result is scouts achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. To date, the Troop has advanced 86 scouts to the rank of Eagle with 6 of them in 2012.

◆ Tracking of each scout's progress is maintained on Troppmaster software which provides an accurate record of all advancement and service projects. This record is beneficial in later years when applying for college.



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Troop Structure

- ◆ The Scoutmaster with Assistant Scoutmasters work with the Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader in organizing the meetings
- ◆ The Senior Patrol Leader runs the Troop meetings
- ◆ The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader assists the Senior Patrol Leader
- ◆ The Patrol Leaders are responsible for maintaining order at the Patrol level
- ◆ Patrol Members are scouts varying in rank and usually there are 8 - 10 scouts in a Patrol

New Scout Integration

- ◆ Incoming scouts are grouped together for their first 8 to 12 months. This allows the scouts entering the program to learn the Troop method and the Adult leadership to assist with the advancement of the scouts toward the rank of First Class. By the end of their first year, the scouts are incorporated into existing Patrols with other scouts of varying rank to further their opportunities for Advancement, Leadership and Mentoring.

Equipment

- ◆ For all outings the Troop provides prep/cooking gear, shelter (tents) and specific gear for Rock Climbing. Trained leadership is provided for all outings.
- ◆ The scouts are required to provide their own personal equipment including: The 10 essentials, sleeping bag, ground pads, backpacks and proper clothing.

Parental Involvement

- ◆ YES, YES, YES, YES and YES!!!! Parent volunteers are the key to our scout's successful scouting experience. If Scouting matters to you, it will matter to your scout. Parental support at any level makes a better Troop and creates a closer bond with you and your son. We welcome your participation.

Costs

- ◆ Annual dues \$84.00, campouts avg. \$35.00, summer camps avg. \$375.00+.
- ◆ Troop 966 has no official fund raisers, but we do support a local organization by selling pancake breakfast tickets. Scouts that participate are credited money for each ticket sold, which is applied toward summer camps or other Troop Activities.

