



April, 2007
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Troop 805
Danville, CA 94526
USA

Troop Tidings

Sycamore Elementary School Service Project

By Glen Aikin



On Saturday March 31st our troop installed a stepping stone path across the lawn between the Library and the Kindergarten rooms.

Mission Peak Day Hike



On Saturday 3/1/07 Mr. Screechfield led the troop on a day hike to the top of Mission Peak.

Participation Expectations

By Rand Mahoney

For the new scouts, the transition into Boy Scouts can seem a lot different and much busier. In Cub Scouts there may have been 3 (1 pack and 2 den) meetings and one activity in a month. In Boy Scouts we

typically have a troop meeting every week (except the last Tuesday of the month when we have PLC) and 2-3 activities per month. At the same time, scouts live a busy life with many sports, school, church, and family activities.

For scouting to be successful it is important the scouts have fun and not feel overwhelmed. The key is balance. Some troops require scouts to attend 2 meetings a month and participation in 2 major events every six months to remain "active". Troop 805 does not have specific requirement for remaining active. It is important for scouts to participate in most but not necessarily all activities. Some meetings and activities are important such as ones for preparation for Camporee and Camporee itself. These events really benefit by having all members in the patrol participate since it is a friendly competition between patrols. Other events such as summer camp for the younger scouts help them immensely obtain needed scout skills. Scouts that attend meetings regularly learn new skills and advance in rank -- feeling a sense of pride and accomplishment. With other scouting events or meetings it's "O.K." to miss some if other personal activities require it. It is also "O.K." to come late to a meeting, if for example a scout has sports activity just before the meeting.

Scouting is a wonderful learning environment that teaches the scout important life skills of balancing activities, having fun, and not "sweating the small stuff"!

SPL and PL Election

Our SPL and PL elections are scheduled for May 8, 2007.



The job descriptions for these positions and the other leadership roles can be found on the Troop Website at:

<http://www.troop805.org/Resources/jltjobs.html>

If you are interested in running for the SPL position please see the Scoutmaster.

This Month's Activities Theme: Cooking

Outings

Flags – Kiwanis Lunch

When: Thursday 4/12 - 12:00 noon
What: A special flag ceremony for our charter Kiwanis
Where: Round Hill Country Club, Alamo
Adult in Charge: Mr. Screechfield

Hike and Cooking

When: Saturday 4/21
What: A hike on the Sycamore Valley Regional Open Space Reserve with cooking afterwards.
Adult in Charge: Mr. Aikin

Camporee Cooking Prep.

When: Wednesday 4/23 @ 6:30 pm
Where: Mrs. Oki's Home
Adult in Charge: Mrs. Oki

Camporee Pack and Uniform Check

When: Wednesday 4/25 @ 6:30 pm
Where: Mrs. Oki's Home
Adult in Charge: Mrs. Oki

Camporee

When: Friday 4/27 – 4/29
Where: Rancho Los Mochos Scout Camp, Livermore, CA
Adult in Charge: Mrs. Oki

Meetings

April 3rd Troop Meeting

Where: Troop meeting - Sycamore School
Address: 2200 Holbrook Drive Danville, California 94506
When: 7:15pm-8:30pm
Opening: Panthers
Activity: Getting ready for Camporee. Work on knots and lashings and discuss cooking prep-work.
NOTE: **At 6:30 before the meeting there will be a mandatory informational meeting on Camporee.**

Patrol Corners: Yes – finish patrol flags and discuss food for camporee

Game: Knot game – each patrol has to tie four knots, relay race

Closing: Pine Trees

April 10th

No Meeting Spring Break

April 17th Court of Honor

When: Tuesday, 4/17 – 6:30-8:00pm
Where: Sycamore MPR
Note: Bring a potluck.

April 24th PLC

Summer Camp – Medicals, etc.

By Susan Oki

As you are all aware, Summer Camp this year will be at the Southern Sierra Council's Camp Kern, Lakeshore CA.

July 29 – August 4, 2007

Camp Kern, Lakeshore CA.

Our reservations are set and now we need to get the final paperwork handle for our scout's attendance.

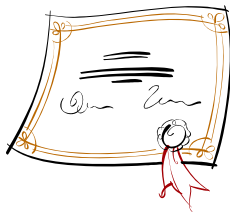
Each attendee will need:

- ❖ A current Class 1 and 2 medical forms; <http://www.scouting.org/forms/34414.pdf>

The Class 1 has to be signed each year by the parent and the Class 2 requires the scout have a medical examination within the last 36 months and needs to be signed by your sons doctor. For more details on the requirements see the form itself.

Also, don't forget each scout will need a **full Class "A" uniform** when attending Summer Camp. The Troop has some used extras if you are interested. We can arrange to have them brought to a Troop meeting for any interested families; let the Troop QM know if you are looking for uniform parts.

April Court of Honor



Date: April 17th
Time: 6:30 – 9:00 pm

The Court of Honor is the Troop's opportunity to celebrate the

achievements of all its membership. Rank advancement, acknowledgements on participation, and special awards are highlighted.

ALL family members are welcome to attend the event and share in the celebration. The Troop holds a Court of Honor every three months – April, July, October, and January. Some events are handled as pot lucks with each family bringing a food dish to share, and at others the scouts make a food selection and the

food is purchased and a nominal charge per person is made.

The April Court of Honor will be a **POT LUCK SUPPER**, each Patrol will get their food assignment at the April 3rd Troop meeting.

Scout Advancement Cycle

By Susan Oki

Scout advancement is geared to be age appropriate and gets more involved as the scout moves up the ranks.



The lower ranks: *Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, and 1st Class.*

The scout works with his peers and the older scouts in the Troop to learn skills. When the scout feels ready to be "signed off" on a skill or task he contacts a scout of STAR Rank and above and is tested. On successfully completing of a rank the scout schedules a Scoutmaster Conference appointment; 7-days advance notice is requested by the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster or a designated Assistant Scoutmaster will test the scout's skills as defined for the rank. Ultimately following the successful completion of a Scoutmaster Conference the scout is ready to schedule a Board of Review. Again a 7-day advance notice is desired. The Board of Review is where the parent committee representatives have an opportunity to chat with the scouts to see how he feels things are going in the Troop – no further skills assessment is made at the Board.

Some skills require multiple attempts to complete. It will sometime take a scout MORE THAN ONE attempts to pass the review by an older scout and/or the Scoutmaster conference.

The upper ranks: *Star, Life and Eagle.*

The scout now focuses on merit badges, service projects and leadership with the high the rank the more effort is required.

Through the completion of merit badges he is exposed to different people in the community by working to complete merit badges with adults both inside and outside

of the Troop. To initiate work on a merit badge the scout contacts the Scoutmaster to discuss a merit badge he'd like to work on and seek the Scoutmaster approval. If the Scoutmaster believes the scout can handle the work involved he provides the scout with a signed "Blue Card" and a list of the Merit Badge Councilors for the badge in questions. A buddy or a parent must accompany the scout at each session with the Merit Badge Councilor – many times a Patrol will work on a badge together.

A scout shows leadership by nominating himself for a leadership position at the Troops twice yearly elections. By fulfilling the duties of his positions he is signed off by the SPL and Scoutmaster.

The final aspect of the upper ranks is service to others. The scout notifies the Scoutmaster of a service project he'd like to participate in to ensure it is acceptable as a BSA service item; BSA guidelines for a project need to be met to have the service work included for the rank advancement. The scout tracks his hours in his handbook and should consider getting a short letter of participation when it's not a Troop activity.

See the attached chart on page 4 for a graphical representation.

2007 Meridian Camporee

By Susan Oki

What is Camporee you ask, "A Camporee is many things? It is camping fun for boys,



the thumping of hundreds of feet on the way to an evening campfire, the air-splitting shouts of scouts giving their Patrol and Troop cheers. It's the patter of rain

on many tents at night. It's the ripple of windblown flags in the morning sun. It's catching the idea of teamwork in a patrol. It's the challenge of competition and it's a tradition as old as Scouting."

Whether you are a new scout or have been in scouting for a few years Camporee is for

you. Older scouts can even participate on staff ... see Mr. Screechfield for details.

The Meridian District Camporee is scheduled this year for Friday, April 27 through Sunday, April 29 at Rancho Los Mochos Scout Camp – Livermore, Ca.

Join your fellow patrol members for a fun filled weekend. It's not too late to sign up.

Please see the permission slip on the Troop website at:

<http://troop805.org/forms/2007-04-27%20Camporee.pdf>

Hike and Cooking

By Mr. Aikin

The Frozen Foxes are sponsoring the final outing before Camporee on April 21st at



9:30 AM. We will be going on a Cooking Hike right here in our own Sycamore Valley Regional Open Space Reserve. It will be a short ½ day, 2.2 mile trek across the Short Ridge Trail above

Sycamore Sports Park.

We will be learning about different ways to cook, and foods to carry while hiking and backpacking. Our trek will conclude with each patrol preparing their own lunch using supplies they've "packed" on the trail.

Meet in the back of the parking lot above the Post Office on Sheburne Hills Road at 9:30 AM where the supplies will be dispersed between the patrols. We'll need some additional adult assistance to shuttle participants to the trail head at Tuscany Way (across from Woodranch). Then we'll hike back to the picnic area above the Post Office and cook our lunch. Festivities should wrap up between 1:00 – 1:30 PM. Permission slips are due at the Court of Honor on April 17th. So come on out, get some exercise, and see our valley from a different perspective!

Next Month's Preview Theme: Backpacking

Outings

Danville Bike Rodeo

When: Saturday 5/5

What: Service project in support of the Danville Bike Rodeo.

Adult in Charge: Mr. Screechfield

K-Day

When: Sunday 5/6

Adult in Charge: Mr. Oki

Backpacking

When: Saturday 5/19 – Sunday 5/20

Adult in Charge: Mr. Carstenson

Meetings

May 1st Troop Meeting

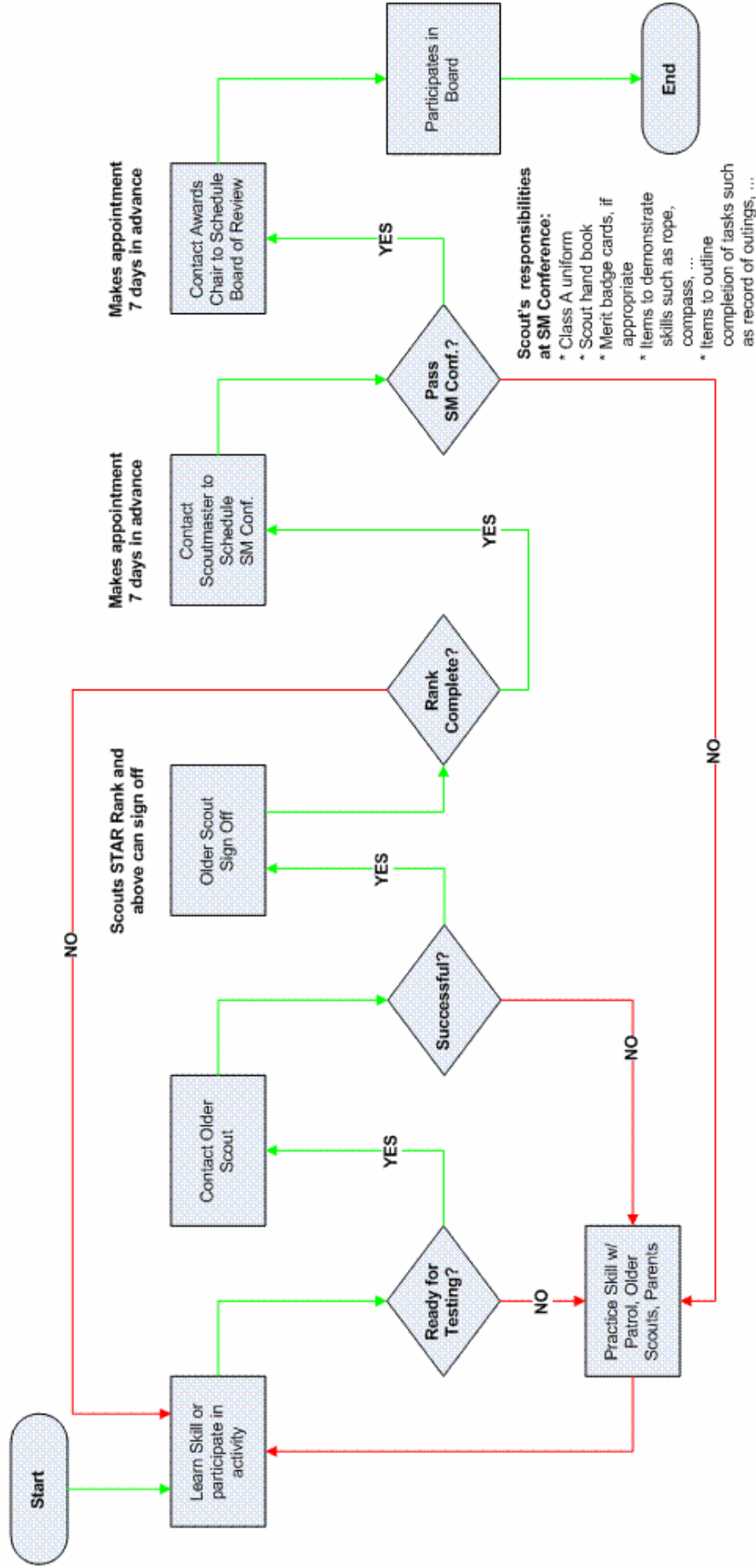
May 8th Troop Meeting SPL/PL Elections

May 15th Troop Meeting, Parent Meeting

May 22nd Troop Meeting

May 29th PLC

Scout Advancement Cycle



Parent Meeting Minutes

By Linda Green

Minutes for March 13, 2007

Attendance:

Alan Carstensen, Ramona Chang, Terry Church, Gloria Domingo, Marlene Foster, Linda Green, Henry Hsieh, Lisa Kanazawa, Rand Mahoney, Don Martin, Scott Marvin, Barbara Miyao, Steve Oki, Susan Oki, Mani Peri, Palmer Raible, Robert Raible, Latha Ramesh, Octavio Ricart, Kevin Rolens, Claire Taniguchi, Eric Wiedenmann, and Richard Yep

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm

1. Approval of the Minutes:
The minutes from February 20, 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved.
2. Financial reports were distributed and discussed
 - a) Question about storage expense was asked and it was suggested that we could store equipment in garages to save on this expense.

It was explained that storing in different garages would cause difficulty in retrieving the equipment for the scout assigned as Quartermaster.

ACTION: Alan Carstensen will price different storage suppliers and ask for possible discount at existing location.

A draft of the 2007 budget will be presented at the next parent meeting on May 16th.

3. General Discussions:
 - a) Parent volunteer opportunities noted in the most recent Troop Tidings were outlined:
 - i) A complete list of opportunities will put together for sign up at the

next Court of Honor.

ACTION: Susan Oki to compile a list of parent opportunities

- ii) Jobs that need immediate attention: Eagle Court Liaison, and Summer Camp Coordinator. Other openings are not as critical at this time.
- b) Parent committee responsibilities were discussed. The parent committee duties included:
 - i) Provide financial review/approval on expenditures
 - ii) Assist Troop with program support
 - iii) Handling of administrative duties, not appropriate for delegation to the scouts, for the Troop
 - iv) Reviews/approves Troop Annual plan with scout leadership

4. Approval of Expenditures by Scouts:

- a) Questions were asked regarding the funds approved for merit badge books and the request for walkie talkies.
 - i) The Merit Badge book purchases were approved last meeting and have already been acquired.
 - ii) The details on the Walkie-Talkies were to be discussed at this session but Tim A.'s had a school commitment and could not be here. The expenditure will be reviewed by the Executive Board (Committee Chair, Treasurer, & Scoutmaster) given the next parent meeting does not occur until May and the Walkie-Talkie were specially priced at present.

5. Scoutmaster's Report:

- a) The Troop is doing great and the new scouts seem excited and several have asked for SM conferences for Scout Rank.
- b) Michael G.'s focus at the Patrol Leaders Conference is to help the young scouts achieve rank advancement and to prepare them for their first overnight outing and then Camporee the end of April. Camporee is where Patrols from other Troops have friendly

competition and lots of fun.

Michael is also incorporating the older scouts by giving them a chance at leadership.

- c) Our Troop meeting attendance has been very good by both the older and younger scouts.
- d) On the outing front, we had a very good hike outing with over 50% of the new scouts attending plus 9 adults. Tom V. did a great job as outing SPL with help from Brett S. and Tim A. who alternated as Hike Leader.
- e) Adam H. is working on our Pre-Camporee outing as part of his Youth Leadership Goal and it looks he will have a great weekend planned for March 24/25th. Troop needs some help buying food for the Pre-Camporee weekend.
- f) We will be going through some of our camping equipment to make sure we have what we need for Camporee.

6. Parent Education:

Opened the floor for discussion on topics parents would like to see covered as part of a series of Parent Education sessions. Topics requested included:

- a) Campout preparations – What is needed for an outing?
- b) Scout Advancement?
- c) What are the responsibilities of a Merit Badge Counselors?
- d) Summer Camp Preparations?

The "Campout Preparations" was covered during the session.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm