

## **BOY SCOUT TROOP 874**

### **TROOP POLICIES**

The fundamental aim of Troop 874 is to train and guide boys and young men into becoming responsible citizens and tomorrow's leaders. To this end, we will adhere to the policies of the BSA and further adopt the following policies:

#### **PARENT PARTICIPATION**

1. Historically, adult leadership and the success of Troop 874 has been dependent on the participation of the parents of enrolled Scouts. **All parents are members of the troop committee.** As an outgrowth of this fact, all parents of enrolled scouts are expected to participate in any of the following capacities:
  - a. Serve in one of the adult leader or Troop Committee positions or projects.
  - b. Attend a minimum of three monthly Troop Committee meetings.
  - c. Parent participation in troop outings:
    - i. Provide transportation for at least one outing each year.
    - ii. The ratio will be one adult per eight Scouts, but never less than 2 adults per outing. When special hazards are present (i.e., snow trip, canoe trip, etc.), the ratio will be one adult per five scouts. Parents are encouraged to participate in at least one outing per year. Adults supervising scouts on scouting activities will not be reimbursed. *Exceptions* will be discussed at a Committee meeting and approved by 2/3 vote of those present. Any complimentary fees will be used by the trek leader. If more than one \*pass\* is available, it will be given to the next in-charge as designated by the trek leader. All others will be divided among the leaders attending.
  - d. Serve as a merit badge counselor.
  - e. Serve as a member on a Board of Review.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

1. The scout year for troop activity and planning purposes shall run from January 1 to December 31. Troop 874 is chartered by the Trailblazing Parents Organization and under the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council Meridian District by calendar year beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>. Generally, troop or patrol meetings will be held weekly throughout the year.
2. Dues for operating the treasury of Troop 874 and enrollment fees will be set annually by the treasurer working with members of the Troop Committee appointed by the Chairman, said meeting to be completed prior to November 1<sup>st</sup>. Dues are to be posted by letter notice by the Treasurer and payable as of November 15<sup>th</sup> and late after December 31<sup>st</sup>. Dues are for the January 1 to December 31 calendar year. Proration of annual dues will be made for a Scout who joins during the year.

DUES COVER:

- a. Troop re-charter fees and enrollment fees.
- b. All advancement recognition (pins, badges, skill awards, 50-miler patches, etc.).
- c. Troop Equipment
- d. Cost of newsletters, flyers, directories, postage, official forms, copying services, etc.
- e. Medical insurance covering official troop outings and meetings.
- f. Boys Life.

Note: DUES DO NOT COVER SOME EXPENSES, i.e., SUMMER CAMP, FOOD USED ON OUTINGS, TRANSPORTATION, ETC.

3. Scouts are encouraged to participate in troop fund raising activities to augment the troop treasury. These approved fundraisers will serve as a learning experience and promote scout spirit. Throughout the year, the Committee may allocate portions of fundraising monies to individual scouts for use in scouting activities.

Troop Funds cover:

- a. Special events such as refreshments and incidentals for Courts of Honor. A stipend is set aside for parents of Eagle Scouts hosting Eagle Courts of Honor. This may not cover the entire cost of the Court of Honor but is intended to help the families of the Eagle Scout.
  - b. Start up costs for fundraisers.
  - c. Troop Equipment.
  - d. Camp Scholarships.
  - e. All other costs as approved *in advance* by the Troop Committee. However, the Scoutmaster has a fifty dollar purchase authority for special items to cover situations that cannot be delayed to the next scheduled meeting of the Troop Committee.
4. Each Patrol receives Patrol Equipment for use on campouts. The Patrol is responsible for stocking, cleaning and maintaining the box for future use. Troop equipment will be inspected and inventoried at least annually by the patrol quartermasters in conjunction with the parent committee quartermaster. Any patrol damaging or losing items will be expected to repair or replace the troop property.
  5. Scouts should plan to attend weekly meetings on a regular basis. Occasionally, situations arise when a scout must miss several meetings. Please contact the scout master to apprise him of the situation. Regular scout meetings start at 7 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. *Scouts are to be picked up by 8:45 p.m.*
  6. The troop has available for guidance, books such as the Scoutmaster's Handbook. In addition, monthly Round Tables are scheduled by the Council as special training sessions for adult and boy leadership. The troop shall utilize the standard handbooks and each year shall set as a goal that key adult and boy leaders complete the basic training requirements as recommended by the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council. Scouts are urged to attend Brownsea or other training courses.
  7. The National Boy Scout Program is for boys who have completed the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, or are 11 years old, or completed the Arrow of Light, but younger than 18 years of age. Upon reaching his 18<sup>th</sup>

birthday, a scout can only participate in this Troop in one of the adult leader categories. For designation as a uniformed adult leader, the scout must be appointed by the Scoutmaster and approved by the Committee, and he must then register with the BSA. The privilege of serving as an adult leader may be revoked at any time by the Scoutmaster should the individual fail to serve in a positive, constructive manner. This action may be appealed to the Troop Committee.

8. Adult leaders 18-21 years of age may drive to outings but cannot carry any passengers. They must also have had their license for 6 months, have no moving violations and no record of accidents, and must have an adult (over 21) driver in the car.
9. BSA requires drivers to maintain the minimum insurance coverage of their state.

### **ADVANCEMENT**

1. Earned advancements whether merit badges or rank will be awarded at the earliest troop meeting following completion of requirements. The date of tenure for any advancement officially begins with the date all requirements have been met as testified to the signature of the Scoutmaster or Board of Review members. Certification cards and pins (including parent recognition) will be awarded at the subsequent Court of Honor.

Each scout shall be responsible for good advancement record keeping. "My Trail to Eagle" section in the Boy Scout Handbook must be presented to post each new merit badge and rank change. This advancement data will often prove invaluable at Eagle rank application or Scout transfer to another troop.

2. A scout must show Scout spirit in attaining each rank. He shows such spirit through his cooperation with fellow Scouts in all activities whether in work assignments or in recreation. He voluntarily, cheerfully, and actively participates in troop and patrol functions, for this is the basis for individual as well as troop success.

### **CONDUCT**

1. The conduct of a scout is based on his living up to the Scout Oath and Scout Law on a daily basis. These principles are the cornerstone of Scouting and should be taken seriously.
2. Lack of Scout Spirit has in the past been the cause for delay in rank attainment. Scouts violating Scouting principles or in any way endangering the health or safety of himself or the troop, will receive disciplinary actions. Such misconduct will be dealt with by the Scoutmaster in a way he deems appropriate. Some violations may result in sending Scouts home from activities, or in suspending them from activities.
3. In the event of suspension from activities, a committee shall convene as soon as possible to determine the duration of suspension. This committee is to be chaired by the Troop Committee Chairperson or designee, an additional Troop Committee Member appointed by the Troop Committee Chairperson, another adult present at the time of the incident (selected by the Scoutmaster), and the parent(s) of the Scout involved in the suspension.

4. The Troop *strongly supports* the National Organization's Policies on Drug and Alcohol use asset forth in the Handbook. Any Scout or adult using a controlled substance will be subject to disciplinary action as set forth in these policies.

### **OUTDOOR PROGRAM**

1. **The outings program is the heart of the troop program.** Troop 874 will have a diverse outing program with exposure to a large variety of outdoor activities. Parent involvement in some of the outings is encouraged and should be planned. The intent is to have at least one schedule outing per month. This outing schedule is to be planned by the Patrol Leadership Council (PLC) and approved by the Troop Committee. Summer outings are scheduled. Patrol outings are encouraged. Each scout attending an outing must have a permission slip signed and delivered to the Scoutmaster on time. Scouts without adequate footgear, raingear, clothing, etc. may be excluded from the outing. Scouts will not leave an encampment area without permission of the adult leader in charge. The guiding principle of behavior by Scouts at outings shall be the Outdoor Code.
2. Costs of outings are the responsibility of the scout and his family. Permission slips and payment are due at the time specified for the outing. It is encouraged that scouts contribute a percentage (agreed upon by the family) of the costs incurred for his outings.

### **BSA POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES**

1. Uniform: \*The boy's "uniform, with badges to show his awards, gives him pride in his appearance. It helps him feel that he belongs, that he is truly a member of a great world brotherhood. The uniform puts all Scouts on the same level." In Troop 874, full uniforms for Scouts and adult Scout leaders are required at all Boards of Review, at Courts of Honor, and while traveling to and from activities. The full uniform – Class A uniform – is defined as: Scout shirt and pants, neckerchief and slide, socks and hat. A Class B uniform is the Troop T-shirt and is generally worn to meetings in the summer or other times designated by the Scoutmaster.
2. Religion: \*The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no boy can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing his obligation to God ... The recognition of God as the ruling and leading power in the universe and the grateful acknowledgment of His favors and blessings are necessary to the best type of citizenship and our wholesome precepts in the education of the growing boy... The Boy Scouts of America therefore recognizes the religious element in the training of the boy, but it is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude towards that religious training. Its policy is that the home and the organization or institution with which the Scout is connected shall give definite attention to his religious life ..." In Troop 874, the inclusion of appropriate non-sectarian religious ceremonies are encouraged and planned for each weekend outing.
3. The filling of adult leadership positions, i.e., Scoutmaster and Troop Committee Chairperson, will follow National BSA guidelines.

### **REVISION OF TROOP POLICIES**

1. The policies may be in need of revision. Prior to such policy changes, notification shall be given to all troop members and parents. To this end, the troop Committee shall act, passing new policies as appropriate by two-thirds vote of committee members present after written notice of these policies has been sent to all Committee Members. The Official record of all troop policies shall be maintained by the Troop Committee Chairman.

Policies adopted at the January 28, 1993 Troop Committee Meeting.