

## **Troop 460: Mission, Vision and More**

Troop 460 wholeheartedly shares the mission and vision of the Boy Scouts of America:

*The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.*

### **Scout Oath**

*On my honor I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country  
and to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times;  
To keep myself physically strong,  
mentally awake, and morally straight.*

### **Scout Law**

*A Scout is:*  
*Trustworthy Obedient*  
*Loyal Cheerful*  
*Helpful Thrifty*  
*Friendly Brave*  
*Courteous Clean*  
*Kind Reverent*

*The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.*

Every troop, while sharing the mission and vision of the BSA, has its own unique flavor and focus. Troop 460's focus is leadership, outdoor skills, kindness, service, responsibility and family. We do lots of backpacking, bicycling, car camping and other activities, all selected by the scouts. Our troop contributes to fun memories for scout families for a lifetime!

## **Calendar**

Troop meetings- Mondays 7pm, all year long except holidays

Troop committee- Every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 7pm

Outings-typically the third weekend of every month

Courts of honor- 3 times a year

Fundraisers/Community Service- 4<sup>th</sup> July, Christmas tree sales, rummage sale.

## **Patrol Method**

Troop 460 strives to be a scout-led troop. That means that the senior patrol leader (SPL) and his scout leadership (assistant SPL and patrol leaders), run the meetings, select and plan all outings, and are responsible for monitoring scout conduct, all under the watchful and mentoring eyes of the assistant scoutmasters and other parents. When scouts or parents have questions about troop meetings, activities or outings, they are encouraged to have their boys first talk to their patrol leader or SPL, before asking a scoutmaster or the committee chair.

## **Troop Meetings**

The basic structure of troop meetings includes announcements/discussion about upcoming events, skill base, and a game, all as a troop. Scouts break into their patrols for advancement activities and meal/gear planning for outings. Scouts also meet with troop merit badge counselors during the advancement portion of each meeting. It is helpful to arrange these meetings ahead of time to ensure that the merit badge counselor is available and prepared.

Scouts do not need to wear their uniforms to every meeting; just patrol leader committee meetings if they have an elected role in the troop and courts of honor. Courts of honor occur 3

times a year and are occasions to recognize scout advancement. They also include patrol skits, potluck dinners and flag retirements.

### **Troop outings**

The scouts pick outings for the whole year. Each outing will have a scout and an adult leader to plan logistics, keep a list of scouts who want to go, and share information during meetings and via email. Weekend trips begin on Friday evenings and end Sunday around noon. Each trip needs at least 2 adults as well as enough drivers to transport people and gear. Scouts will take turns being grubmaster for their patrol. The grubmaster is responsible for purchasing patrol food for a trip and getting paid back by the other scouts. Trip or patrol leaders are responsible for cleaning dishes/gear and ensuring damaged or used up (fuel, etc) gear is fixed or replaced.

### **Advancement and how to use the scout book**

Scouts advance at their own pace, although some activities take place as a group. Scouts can work on advancement at home or during troop meetings. Requirements for each rank are in the back of the scout book. Each requirement needs to be signed off when completed by a scoutmaster or scouts with the rank of "Star" or above. When a scout completes the requirements for a rank, he requests a "Scoutmaster Conference". When that's done, he requests a "Board of Review" from the Committee Chair. The scout needs to get a rank advancement certifying form from the advancement chair and get it signed by the scoutmaster and the committee chair before giving it back to the advancement chair. When a scout achieves a new rank, he is recognized promptly and then receives formal recognition and his rank patch at the next court of honor (there are 3 each year).

Scouts can work on merit badges of their choosing individually or as a group. BSA has more than 100 merit badges to choose from, 13 of which are required if the scout wants to achieve his eagle rank. When a scout decides to work on a merit badge, he needs to get a "blue card" from the troop advancement chair or the scoutmaster. The scout needs to find a merit badge counselor (MBC) to help him with the merit badge and sign off on the requirements. Our troop website has a list of everyone in the troop who is an MBC as well as a list of all MBCs in the District- scouts are not required to work with merit badge counselors from their own troop. Blue cards are important records and should be kept in a safe place- 3 ring binders with trading card sleeves work well.

### **Costs**

BSA National Dues- \$24 for scouts and registered adults, due in November

Troop Dues- \$50 for each scout, due in February

Uniform- a shirt and neckerchief are required; scout pants or shorts and belt are recommended.

Outings- cost of food, gas and some park entry or other event fees. The troop has a lot of equipment to use on outings. Personal gear may need to be purchased such as a backpack or boots, but some outgrown/donated gear can be found in the scout shed.

### **Parent roles and volunteering**

The troop can't run without parents and every parent has something to contribute! Be ready to volunteer or be asked/pleaded/cajoled into helping. We will do our level best to respect the amount of time you have to contribute. Roles include:

- Scoutmasters (always needed!!)
- Merit badge counselors
- Committee members
- Drivers
- Patrol coaches
- Trip leaders
- Fundraising
- Membership/recharter coordinator
- Advancement chair
- Summer camp coordinator
- Secretary
- Webmaster
- Committee chair

### **What it takes to join the troop**

BSA youth application and \$1 transfer fee for cub scouts

BSA adult application for some of the adult roles, above

Signed troop permission slip

Driver information

Youth protection training certificate

**Still have questions?** Ask anyone in the troop, or feel free to call Scoutmaster Scott at [keltyno@placerville.net](mailto:keltyno@placerville.net) or Committee Chair Sandra at [smcginni@blm.gov](mailto:smcginni@blm.gov). Also be sure to check out our troop website which has a ton of great information and links: [http://troop\\_460.tripod.com](http://troop_460.tripod.com) or search on the keywords “troop 460 in pleasant valley ca”.

### **Attachments**

Calendar

Rosters