Troop 110 Parent Handbook

2013-2014

Boy Scouts of America Troop 110

Mission Peak District

San Francisco Bay Area Council

Fremont - Newark - South Hayward - Union City

Troop 110 Parent Handbook

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I. WELCOME..... 3

II. A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO SCOUTING..... 4
1. HISTORY..... 4
2. SCOUT OATH AND LAW..... 5
3. AIMS AND METHODS..... 5

III. TROOP 110 MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS..... 6
1. YOUTH 7
2. ADULT 7

IV. TROOP 110 ORGANIZATION..... 7
1. TROOP..... 7
2. YOUTH 8
3. ADULTS..... 8
4. MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE 8

V. UNIFORM..... 9
1. PURPOSE..... 9
2. CLASS "A" AND FULL UNIFORM..... 10
3. CLASS "B"..... 10
4. UNIFORM CLOSET 10

VI. OUTDOOR PROGRAM..... 10
1. CAMPING..... 10
2. GUIDELINES..... 11
3. FAMILY PARTICIPATION 12

VII. EQUIPMENT 12
1. TROOP EQUIPMENT 12
2. PERSONAL EQUIPMENT..... 13
3. LOCAL SUPPLIERS..... 13

VIII. ADVANCEMENT..... 14
1. PURPOSE..... 14
2. STAGES 14
3. PATROLS 14
4. MERIT BADGES..... 14
5. SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCES..... 15
6. BOARDS OF REVIEW..... 15
7. COURTS OF HONOR 15

IX. FINANCES..... 15
1. DUES AND DONATIONS..... 16
2. FUNDRAISING 16
3. SCOUT ACCOUNT "MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING"..... 16

X. YOUTH PROTECTION..... 17

XI. IN CONCLUSION..... 17

XII. APPENDIX A – SOME GUIDELINES FOR ADULT PARTICIPATION 18

Troop 110 Parent Handbook

2013-2014

I. Welcome

On behalf of the Boy Scouts of America, welcome to Troop 110, the pride of Fremont, Newark, Union City and South Hayward. We are delighted you and your son have decided to join us. You will find the Scouts of Troop 110 are enthusiastic campers, hikers, swimmers and cooks, and there are many ways in which you and your family can participate as well, as we follow them on the trail to Eagle.

The purpose of this Handbook is to introduce you to the aims and methods of Boy Scouting, in order to encourage your involvement in the Troop program. Your active interest is crucial to your son's success, particularly during his first year in Scouting, and to the success of the Troop. We also hope to answer the most common questions about the Troop, its organization and our expectations for the Scouts, and to help you find a place for yourself in the Troop, should you choose to do so.

Troop 110 was started in 1985 as Troop 102 with 5 registered Scouts; Wayne Barnes was the first Scoutmaster. Wayne and his wife, Carol, remain active in the Troop and in Mission Peak District. The unit was chartered as Troop 110 to the Contempo Homeowners Association of Union City in 1986; another small Troop, unit 177, merged with us in 1989.

Our succession of illustrious Scoutmasters includes David Drake (1990), Tom Hepler (1992), Martin Smith (1994), Dana Smith (1996), Bill Westcott (1999), Mike Magno (2002), Bruce Chan (2004), John Gillen (2008), and Shawn Smith (2011) many of whom remain members of Troop 110,continuing a tradition of active involvement in Scouting.

In recent years, Troop 110 has wholeheartedly embraced the Digital Age. Our Troop newsletter is distributed via electronic mail to all members, or on paper by special arrangement with the editor. On our Troop website you will always find the latest information on the Troop calendar, as well as pictures, stories, Patrol and leader rosters and email addresses. If there is something you want to know about the Troop, visit www.bsatroop110.org to find it.

Troop 110 is an eclectic Troop, with interests ranging from adventurous to cerebral to culinary. Memorable events include three whitewater canoe trips on the Klamath River, backpacking and snow camping in the Sierras camping on Alcatraz, and countless other campouts, during which our adult leadership has established a growing reputation for fine wilderness dining. Our annual community service activities have included Scouting for Food, Memorial Day flag decoration at Golden Gate National Cemetery and Thanksgiving meal delivery for the Newark League of Volunteers. In 2009 Troop 110 participated in a local conservation project and earned a very special award, the Unit Hornaday Award. Many of our Scouts excel in school and extracurricular activities, while perfecting their Scouting skills; many have graduated from high school with honors and gone on to college careers while maintaining their membership in the Troop.

Whatever you and your family expect to gain from the Scouting program, we are confident you will find many opportunities for achievement and adventure – and fun! – with the Scouts, Scouters and families of Troop 110. We look forward to your participation, we welcome your involvement, and we thank you for your interest and your support.

The Troop 110 Committee

II. A Brief Introduction to Scouting

Troop 110 Parent Handbook

2013-2014

Boy Scouts of America
Mission Statement

"It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law."

The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America is to provide an educational program for boys and young adults to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness. Boy Scouting had its origins in England and grew out of the military experiences of a British Army officer, Robert S.S. Baden-Powell.

1. History

In India in 1897, Baden-Powell was given his first command and, with it, the opportunity to use his own training ideas. He had his men train in small groups, made their training hard but enjoyable, and gave them increasing responsibilities. Baden-Powell wrote these ideas down in a small manual entitled "Aids to Scouting," which he intended for military use only.

Much to his astonishment, his Aids to Scouting was immensely popular with English boys- but it had been written to prepare men for war! What he wanted was a manual to prepare boys for peace. In the summer of 1907, Robert Baden- Powell took 22 boys from farm and city to Brownsea Island, off the southern coast of England, and Boy Scouting, as we know it, was born.

Brownsea was a rousing success in both boys' and Baden-Powell's eyes. The secret of that success was the Patrol Method, of which Baden-Powell said, "Each patrol leader was given full responsibility for the behavior of his patrol at all times, in camp and in the field. Responsibility, discipline and competitive rivalry were thus at once established, and a good standard of development was ensured throughout the camp." The Patrol Method is still the heart and soul of Boy Scouting and is the core around which all the activities of the Troop revolve. In 1908, Baden-Powell wrote his first handbook: "Scouting for Boys."

The following year, while passing through London, a Chicago publisher named William D. Boyce encountered a Boy Scout who refused a tip for doing Boyce a good turn. Intrigued by the behavior of this "Unknown Scout," Boyce sought out Baden-Powell to learn from him all he could about Boy Scouting. William Boyce thus brought the ideals and methods of Scouting back with him to the United States, and on February 8, 1910, incorporated the Boy Scouts of America. The United States Congress officially chartered the BSA in 1916.

2. Scout Oath and Law

Troop 110 Parent Handbook

2013-2014

The Scout Oath Or Promise:	**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.**
The Scout Law:	**A Scout is Trustworthy Loyal Helpful Friendly Courteous Kind Obedient Cheerful Thrifty Brave Clean Reverent**
Scout Motto:	**Be Prepared**
Scout Slogan:	**Do a Good Turn Daily**
Outdoor Code:	**As an American, I will do my best to Be clean in my outdoor manners, Be careful with fire, Be considerate in the outdoors, and Be conservation-minded.**

3. Aims and Methods

The Boy Scout program works toward three aims. One is growth in moral strength and the **character** of the Scouts themselves, their personal qualities, their values and their outlook. A second aim is participatory **citizenship**, or the Scouts' relationships to others, as they learn of their obligations to other people, to the society in which they live, and to the government that presides over that society.

The third aim of the Boy Scout program is development of physical, mental and emotional **fitness**, as the boys learn the importance of a well-tuned and healthy body, clear reasoning, critical thinking, self control, courage and self respect. The eight methods of Scouting are the building blocks with which these aims are developed.

Ideals: The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, motto and slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually

tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them, he has some control over what he becomes.

Patrols: The patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in group living and participatory citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to each other and help determine Troop activities through their elected representatives.

Outdoor Program: Boy Scouting is designed to take place in the outdoors, where the Scouts can share responsibilities, learn to live with each other, and put the skills and activities practiced at Troop meetings to practical use. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for the divine handiwork and mankind's place in it, and it provides the laboratory for Boy Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Advancement: The advancement program provides a series of surmountable obstacles and the steps to overcome them. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace through each challenge. He is rewarded for each achievement, thus gaining self-confidence, as well as knowledge in a variety of areas through his work on certain skills and merit badges.

Adult Association: Boys learn from the examples set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage in a young man's development.

Personal Growth: As Boy Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. In addition, frequent conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Boy Scout to measure his progress.

Leadership Development: The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding these concepts helps a boy to accept the leadership of others and to practice good citizenship.

Uniform: The uniform makes the Boy Scout Troop visible as a force of good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Boy Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Boy Scout identity in world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals, and it allows him to display the badges of his accomplishments.

III. Troop 110 Membership Requirements

Troop 110 Parent Handbook

2013-2014

Troop 110 welcomes parents and Scouts from all walks of life. We are committed to the ideals of diversity, equity and quality as core values of the Scouting program.

1. Youth

Troop 110 is open to all boys who are between 11 and 18 years of age, **or** have completed the fifth grade, **or** have earned their Cub Scout Arrow of Light. Prospective members must complete the BSA Scout application and pay any applicable Troop fees. All members agree to hold true to the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Outdoor Code and Troop 110 Bylaws.

2. Adult

Adult membership is open to all community members in good standing, aged 21 years or older, who are parents of youth members, **or** members of the chartered organization, **or** other community members interested in serving the youth of Troop 110. Prospective members must complete the BSA Scout application and pay any applicable Troop fees. Registered adult members may participate as either Committee members or as uniformed leaders, provided they meet the basic training requirements for their positions.

The success of Troop 110 is dependent on the parents of Scouts whether or not they are Registered Members. Parents and/or Registered members are expected to assist in Troop outings, events, and fundraising activities whenever possible. Registered members are also encouraged to serve in Troop Leadership positions and/or as Merit Badge counselors in the areas of their expertise or familiarity.

IV. Troop 110 Organization

Troop 110 is chartered to the Contempo Homeowners Association, which provides us with a place to meet. The Contempo clubhouse is located at 32500 Meteor Drive in Union City.

1. Troop

One of Troop 110's greatest assets is the exceptional Troop Committee, which is charged with ensuring that a good, solid Scouting program is taking place within the Troop. While it is generally made up of parents of boys in the Troop, many members are parents of past Scouts who have received from the Scouting movement the ideals and leadership tools they need to face today's demanding society. These moms and dads know first-hand the many benefits that their sons have received from Scouting and from Troop 110's exceptional program. They think so highly of the Troop and Scouting that they devote a great deal of time and effort to help the current Scouts advance and develop. The committee benefits greatly from this diversity of cultures, backgrounds and genders.

The Chairperson presides over all committee meetings and oversees a team of support leaders that include a treasurer, recording secretary and chairs for other Troop functions

such as Fundraising, Activities and Advancement. All parents of registered Scouts who agree to abide by the Troop 110 Bylaws and all registered adults are voting members of the committee, but only registered adults may serve as committee officers.

2. Youth

Troop 110 is a boy-run troop, since leadership is one of the methods of Scouting. The Scouts are organized into Patrols according to guidelines set by the Scoutmaster.

Each patrol functions as a team on campouts or other Troop activities, with an elected Patrol Leader who then selects his assistants according to the Troop 110 Bylaws. All duties for Patrol activities are assigned by the Patrol Leader, as understanding the concepts of leadership helps the boy accept the leadership of others and helps him to grow into a more responsible adult. Each Patrol Leader is a member of the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC).

The Troop meetings are planned and carried out by the PLC, which is run with the support of the Scoutmaster by the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). The SPL and his Assistants are elected annually by the member Scouts, within guidelines set by the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters of the Troop. The SPL may then appoint Scouts to fill other Troop positions, including Scribe, Librarian, Historian, Guide, Quartermaster, Bugler, Chaplain's Aide, Instructor, and other roles as designated by the Scoutmaster.

The Patrol Leaders Council meets regularly as scheduling permits, to plan weekly meetings and special events. The PLC also participates in a planning conference to make recommendations for the year's calendar of events, which the Scoutmaster will present to the Troop Committee for support and approval.

3. Adults

The adult leadership of Troop 110 consists of the Scoutmaster and one or more trained Assistant Scoutmasters. While the emphasis is on boy planning, the adult leaders play a very important role in Boy Scouting. They provide the opportunity, the advice and the guidance. Probably the most difficult job of the disciplined leader is to accept the responsibility of allowing the boys to make mistakes in a controlled environment. In preparation for this task, a vast majority of our adult leaders have completed Troop Leader Basic Training and some have taken further advanced training. This has involved a considerable time commitment on their part, as they believe the Scouts deserve a quality program with qualified leaders.

In addition to the program leadership of the Scoutmaster and assistants and the support leadership of the committee, there is a role for all Troop parents. Whether registered or not, all parents should complete BSA Youth Protection training, a 2-hour video course run by the District and scheduled at the convenience of the Troop or available to registered members online at the Council website (http://www.sfbac.org). Many of the basic courses are also now available online, each taking about 30-45 minutes to

complete. Parents are also strongly encouraged to read their Scout's Handbook and understand the aims and methods of Scouting, in order to follow their Scout's progress and offer encouragement or a push when needed.

4. Meetings and Attendance

The Patrol Leaders Council meets at the Contempo Clubhouse on the first Wednesday of every month, from 7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Attendance is mandatory for the senior Troop leadership, including all Patrol Leaders. Assistant Patrol Leaders are also encouraged to participate.

The Troop 110 Committee meets at the Contempo Clubhouse on the first Wednesday of every month, from 7:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., just after the PLC. The attendance of parents and adult members is critical to the success of the Troop's program.

Regular Troop meetings are held at the Contempo Clubhouse every second Wednesday night during the school season from 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The clubhouse is also reserved beginning at 7:15 p.m. on the third and fourth Wednesdays, for patrol meetings, boards of review and other advancement sessions, as scheduled.

Regular attendance at Troop meetings is extremely important, as it is here that many Scout skills are taught and plans are made for the monthly activities. If a boy attends only the camp-outs and not the weekly Troop meetings, he will be ill prepared, as he will not have been part of the planning. He also will not have been of much help to his patrol in preparing for the camp-out. Similarly, if a boy attends only the Troop meetings and not the field events, he may find the meetings boring because he doesn't see the final event that the Troop meetings are leading up to. He will also miss the opportunity to put into practice the skills that he is learning at the meetings. Besides, camp-outs are fun!!

With certain exceptions, there are no regularly scheduled meetings during vacations or on holidays within the school year. If school is cancelled, for example due to inclement winter weather, there will typically be no Scout meeting. A Patrol Leaders' "phone tree" will be used if it is necessary to cancel or reschedule a meeting.

During the summer break, our Troop program continues, with regular weekly meetings, occasional outings, and the main focus of our summertime activities, a weeklong troop summer camp. Individual Patrols are encouraged to plan Patrol outings of their own if no Troop activities are scheduled.

V. Uniform

Scouts are expected to be in uniform for all Troop meetings, Council events, training events and field trips (unless specifically told otherwise). We realize that the expense of a uniform can be a burden to some families, and we therefore encourage Scouts who

have outgrown their uniforms or who have left the Troop to donate the uniforms to the Troop. Any Scout who needs a uniform should visit the "uniform closet" to see if we have one in his size.

1. Purpose

The wearing of the Boy Scout Uniform is an important part of Scouting in Troop 110. It encourages a sense of identity, fosters a feeling of belonging, and promotes the ideal of equality in the brotherhood of Scouting. The uniform by itself cannot make a good Scout or a good Troop, but its use has been proven to improve both the Scout and the Troop because it is a visible symbol of Scouting and unity

2. Class "A" and Full Uniform

The Class "A" uniform consists of a Scout shirt, tucked in and with all insignia properly attached, Scout cap or Troop 110 cap, Troop neckerchief and slide, Scout pants or shorts, belt, hiking boots, dress shoes or any other type of closed toe shoes, membership card, and the Boy Scout Handbook. Scout socks are also required if shorts are worn. Class "A" uniform is to be worn at all Troop meetings, District and Council events, and when traveling to and from campouts and field trips, unless otherwise directed by the senior Patrol leadership or Scoutmaster. The Class "B" tee shirt shall be worn underneath the Class "A" uniform shirt at all troop meetings so that the Class "A" uniform shirt may be removed during any game time where it might be destroyed.

The Full Uniform consists of the Class "A" uniform and Merit Badge sash. The Full Uniform is required for all Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review, and Courts of Honor, and it will be encouraged by the Scoutmaster or senior Patrol leadership for certain public events and parades.

3. Class "B"

The Class "B" uniform consists of a Troop 110 T-shirt worn with Scout cap or Troop cap. The Class "B" uniform is required and shall be worn at camp-outs, at summer camp and on certain designated Troop events, when the Class "A" uniform shirt is not required. The Class "B" uniform is not to be worn as the exterior shirt when traveling to any Scouting event or at any Troop meeting unless authorized by the Scoutmaster. Depending on the financial situation of the troop the troop may offer to pay a percentage of the cost for the Class "B" tee shirt for any scout that is unable to purchase one.

4. Uniform Closet

Troop 110 maintains a "uniform closet" of Scout clothing that has been donated by boys who have advanced out of the Troop or otherwise outgrown them. All Scouts are encouraged to recycle their surplus clothing by contributing to the "uniform closet." No Scout should be made to feel ashamed to ask about this Troop service.

Troop 110 Parent Handbook

2013-2014

VI. Outdoor Program

The outdoor program is designed to reinforce the Scouting and leadership skills practiced at Troop meetings and on the advancement trail. The Troop generally schedules an outdoor event, either a hike or campout, every month at the annual planning conference. Reservations, transportation and other logistical arrangements are typically made by the Troop Activities Chair or other adult volunteer, since they are beyond the resources of the youth leadership. Money due for these events, covering the cost of food, transportation (see below) and campground reservations, should be paid promptly to the Troop treasurer, in order to assure participation in future events.

1. Camping

Common Sense and "Be Prepared" should be the guiding principles used when the boys are packing for camp-outs. They don't need a great deal of equipment, especially when first starting out. Plastic cutlery and dishes or items found around the house may be used until the Scout has had time to earn his own equipment. We do recommend, however, that each Scout obtain, as soon as possible, a good quality sleeping bag (until this is possible, please contact the Scoutmaster if you need to borrow one, especially for cold-weather camping). Also, since the Troop hikes in to many of its campsites, a backpack is recommended for the Scout to carry his belongings.

The adult Troop leadership is always available to assist with the selection of equipment within the Scout's budget. The boys should do their own packing, and it is suggested that they pack at least one day prior to leaving on the camp-out. This serves a double purpose: it avoids the last-minute rush (which is usually when you get roped into doing the packing for them), and it also allows time to purchase any forgotten items.

Rain gear, flashlight, mess kit, personal hygiene items, Boy Scout Handbook, pen, notebook and an extra set of footwear are always required items. It is suggested that the boys establish a checklist of items generally needed. There is one such checklist in their Boy Scout Handbook. If a boy is unsure of whether or not to bring something, he should call his Patrol Leader. The field events are an integral part of the Boy Scout program, and we would like to see all boys go on all events. If financial considerations pose a problem, please see one of the adult leaders of the Troop.

2. Guidelines

Radios, cassette/CD or IPOD/MP3 players are not permitted when on camping trips or at summer camp – these will be confiscated by the adult leader in charge and stored for the duration of the event.

Scouts may bring their personal music systems with ear- or headphones, or other

electronic devices or games, for use when traveling, with the permission of the driver, or during free time, at the discretion of the Scoutmaster.

Transportation to and from activities will be provided by parent car pools unless otherwise arranged. Therefore, it is important that all parents provide their vehicle information (year, make, model and license) and details of insurance coverage to the Committee Chair and Scoutmaster, for registration with the Council office. For round trip distances over 25 miles, figured from the Contempo Clubhouse parking lot, parent drivers should be compensated at a mileage rate of _ of the GSA / IRS currently published reimbursement rate per mile. The adult leader responsible for planning, and leading, any troop activity over 25 miles shall be responsible for the calculation of this extra travel expense, and collecting this extra expense from both the participating scouts and non-driving adults, so that the drivers may be properly reimbursed.

Each field activity will require a permission slip to be signed by the Scout's parent or legal guardian. Permission slips should include home and work numbers, as well as other contact numbers or individuals for the entire duration of the outing. For summer camp, permission slips and payments must be received in accordance with the payment schedule defined by the camp and Summer Camp Coordinator.

Yearly updated medical forms are required by BSA for all Scouts and adults attending outings. Parents must inform the adults in charge of an outing of any special situations and medication required for their Scout. Non-disclosure may result in the adult leader contacting the parents to pick up their son or to require the parents to attend the activity to handle their son's special needs.

All Scouts are expected to conduct themselves on outings in a manner consistent with the Scout Oath and Law. Scouting is not the place for the use of foul language, bullying, fighting, disrespect or disregard for the instructions of the Troop leaders or any other behavior inconsistent with the Scout Oath and Law.

The Troop leadership needs to think of the safety and well being of the entire Troop. Therefore, it is at their sole discretion that any Scout may be asked to leave a Troop meeting or camp-out. If this decision is made, it is the responsibility of the parents to provide transportation.

In the unlikely event that any Scout is consistently not conducting himself in a Scout-like manner, the Troop leadership may make the decision to ask him to leave the Troop permanently. Before this decision would be made final, a review would be set up with the Troop Committee, the Scout and the parents.

3. Family Participation

While it is important for the Scouts to have opportunities away from their parents to practice and develop their Scouting and leadership skills, family participation in appropriate settings is an integral part of a successful Troop Program. Troop 110 will

routinely schedule one or two “family camping” events each year, in order to allow parents and siblings to experience the methods of Scouting first hand.

Family members are generally welcome on all Troop hikes, unless otherwise determined by the Scoutmaster or event coordinator. They will earn the same commemorative patches awarded the Scouts, with the exception of official BSA insignia or advancements.

Whenever Scouts are camping as Patrols, even on designated family events, it is important for parents and others to maintain their distance at times, however, and allow their Scouts to practice their skills and learn from their mistakes. At the end of the day they will always make you proud!

VII. Equipment

As a result of several years of aggressive fundraising, Troop 110 has been able to purchase a great deal of the equipment necessary for its program. Guidelines for responsible use of Troop equipment are spelled out in the Troop 110 Bylaws.

1. Troop Equipment

All Troop Equipment is stored and maintained by an Assistant Scoutmaster who has agreed to function as the Troop’s Quartermaster. It is available for any Troop, District, Council or National event by making arrangements in advance with the Quartermaster.

Enough 2- and 3-man tents are available for all Troop 110 scouts and these can usually be checked out, along with ground cloths, from the troop quartermaster by any responsible Scout. Adult leaders should plan on providing their own tent for all troop outings. Occasionally extra tents are available for registered adults and they may be checked out on an individual trip-by-trip basis.

The Troop maintains equipment boxes for checkout to Patrols, containing essential campsite equipment, including propane stove and lantern, grill, pots, pans and utensils for cooking, and various other odds and ends that have been added by the Quartermasters.

Consumables such as seasonings, cooking spray and propane are the responsibility of the Patrol members to provide, and should be considered a part of menu planning. Every Scout who takes possession of Troop equipment is responsible for its care and for returning it to the Troop Quartermaster in the same, or better, condition than it was borrowed.

2. Personal Equipment

Each Scout is responsible for providing his own personal gear, starting with the “10 essentials” listed in the Boy Scout Handbook. It is suggested that a Scout develop a checklist for hiking, camping and winter activities that he can use to ensure that he is

always properly equipped.
At a minimum, his personal gear should include:

- Appropriate seasonal clothing, in layers
- A good quality sleeping bag
- Water bottle or canteen
- Mess kit
- Cutlery
- Drinking cup
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Backpack or duffle bag
- Sleeping pad
- Rain gear
- Toilet kit
- First aid kit
- Notebook, pen and pencil

Scouts may possess a folding knife with a blade less than 3” provided the Scout has earned and is in possession of his Totin’ Chip. Scouts may possess matches after earning their Firem'n Chit.

3. Local Suppliers

Local Suppliers: For uniforms, insignia, Scout literature and other Scouting supplies:

East Bay Scout Shop
1001 Davis Street
San Leandro, CA
(510) 633-2005

Or, on-line at the official Boy Scouts of America website at: ***www.scoutstuff.org***

Local Suppliers: For camping equipment, hiking gear, and other outdoor clothing and supplies:

Any Mountain
43485 Boscell Road
Fremont, CA
(510) 498-8510

Big 5 Sporting Goods
3820 Mowry Ave
Fremont, CA
(510) 794-0494

Doms Outdoor Outfitters
1870 1st Street
Livermore, CA
(925) 447-9629

Troop 110 Parent Handbook

2013-2014

REI
43962 Fremont Boulevard
Fremont, CA
(510) 651-0305

Sports Authority
31200 Courthouse Drive
Union City, CA
(510) 491-0473

Sunrise Mountain Sports
2455 Railroad Avenue
Livermore, CA
(925) 447-8330

VIII. Advancement

Advancement is the process by which Scouts advance through ranks or Merit Badge requirements by mastering and demonstrating the required skills. It is the means to a larger end, and each Scout meets and masters each challenge at his own pace.

1. Purpose

The purpose of advancement, one of the key methods of the Scouting program, is to allow each Scout to progress through the ranks at his own pace, to train him to accept and master skills of increasing difficulty and importance, and to reward him for his achievements.

2. Stages

There are four stages in the advancement process, each one an integral part of the whole.

First, the Scout learns, and much of his **learning** comes from his fellow Scouts. The Troop program also helps, with many activities directed toward the skills he needs. Every hike, campout or other activity can teach an important skill. A Scout learns to pitch a tent by pitching one, to use a compass by finding directions and to cook a meal by having to prepare and eat it with his Patrol.

Second, the Scout is tested, and the kind of **testing** is determined by the specific skill. Verbal testing may be sufficient in some cases, while some Merit Badges also require written work. Many Scout skills, however, must be demonstrated by doing.
Next, the Scout is reviewed. The purpose of this **review** is to ensure that all the requirements have been met and that the learned skill has been retained. The review process often includes a check of the Scout's attitude and practice of the ideals of Scouting in addition to his mastery of skills.

Finally, the Scout is recognized. **Recognition** usually involves the formal presentation of a badge or other token or insignia, often in ceremony before the entire Troop.

3. Patrols

The Patrol method is at the heart of the Scouting program. Each Scout joins a team that provides him with an opportunity to learn how to lead and to accept the leadership of

others. Within the outdoor program, the Patrols are also a setting in which Scouting skills are practiced and mastered.

4. Merit Badges

The goals of the Merit Badge program are to expand the Scout's horizon of interests and to encourage the Scout, with the Scoutmaster's approval, to work with qualified adults on subjects of his choosing. The Scout assumes responsibility for contacting a registered Merit Badge counselor and for setting a schedule by which the requirements are to be met, tested and reviewed. All scouts meeting with a Merit Badge Counselor must always adhere to the **Scout "Buddy System".** Scouts *must have another person with them at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.* This person can be another Scout, a parent or guardian, a brother or sister, or another friend or relative.

Merit Badge counselor and for setting a schedule by which the requirements are to be met, tested and reviewed.

All registered adult members of Troop 110 are encouraged to become Merit Badge counselors for any of their areas of interest. For Eagle-required badges, a parent should not act as his/her child's counselor unless working with a group of 3 or more Scouts.

5. Scoutmaster Conferences

The Scoutmaster Conference is the "fifth stage" of the process for rank advancement. As the Scout progresses through Boy Scout and Tenderfoot, through 1st Class and 2nd Class, then on to Star and Life on the Trail to Eagle, he is required to schedule a formal meeting with the Scoutmaster. The purpose of this meeting, which takes place with the Scout in Full Uniform, is to encourage the Scout to set goals for himself in line with his own interests and abilities. At each conference, the Scoutmaster can help him evaluate his progress in light of his current goals and help him to set new goals, if appropriate.

6. Boards of Review

The final requirement for Boy Scout rank advancement is a formal Board of Review composed of adult Troop members assembled by the Scoutmaster. This Board of Review is made up of at least three and not more than six members of the Troop committee. One member serves as chairman, usually the committee member responsible for advancement. Unit leaders, assistant unit leaders, relatives, or guardians may not serve as members of a Scout's Board of Review. The Scout is expected to appear before the Board of Review in Full Uniform. The Board of Review is not an examination, although it is expected that the review board will ensure that the requirements for advancement have been met. It is an opportunity to assess the Scout's progress and attitude, and to help the Scout realize or realign his goals and ambitions. It allows the Scout to express himself as well, on his own experiences in the Troop, in school and in Scouting.

Boards of Review may also be convened in order to counsel a Scout who is having difficulties with advancement or other aspects of the Troop or its program.

7. Courts of Honor

On completion of rank advancement or Merit Badge requirements, it is most desirable to recognize a Scout immediately, preferably at the next Troop meeting. He will also be recognized a second time, at a formal Troop Court of Honor. Troop 110 holds its Honor Courts quarterly, usually in March, June, September and December. The events are planned by the Patrol Leaders Council, and often include a potluck dinner, dessert social or barbeque.

The Court of Honor provides a formal conclusion to the recognition process and an incentive for the Scouts to progress. All families are encouraged to show their support for the Troop and their Scouts by attending. Every Scout who advances or otherwise demonstrates exemplary Scouting Spirit deserves to be recognized in front of his family.

IX. Finances

The Troop needs money for various expenses throughout the Scouting year. These include charter renewal and re-registration, replacement and replenishing of Troop equipment, purchase of literature and training aids for adult leaders and purchase of awards (merit badges and badges of rank) for Courts of Honor. This money comes from three sources: dues, donations and fundraising events.

1. Dues and Donations

The Troop charges dues at the rate of **$85.00** per year, payable no later than the last Wednesday in November. Each Scout is encouraged to earn his own money for dues. These dues cover the cost of BSA registration and Boy's Life subscription, advancement awards and other related troop expenses.

We occasionally receive small donations from various organizations that are committed to helping programs that serve the youth of the area. These are infrequent, however, so while we are grateful for them, we cannot plan for them in our annual budget.

2. Fundraising

Troop 110 has tried various methods of fund-raising - a necessary task that few enjoy. The Troop Committee must approve all fundraising activities, which must follow the guidelines set by the BSA, but they always require parental support.

We are currently partnering with the Union City Lions Club, and all Troop 110 parents are encouraged to participate in their annual summer fundraising activities. One of the more difficult aspects of leader development is teaching the Scouts to follow through on their commitments. When this behavior is modeled by parents and other adults, its

importance becomes clearer and more relevant to the Scouts. Otherwise, someone else has to take up the slack and, all too often, the lion's share of the fund-raising is done by the few.

Many other opportunities are provided during the year in which the Scouts can participate along with their parents. While income from the Lions Club fundraising goes directly into the Troop general fund, these other programs allow the Scouts to help pay their own way by setting aside Troop income on their behalf in individual "Scout Accounts" for their use within the Troop program.

These opportunities include the fall Popcorn Sale and the Christmas Wreath Sale. Our Fundraising Chair is always open to new ideas, particularly those that allow the Scouts to do the bulk of the work. It is extremely important that all - parents and boys alike - realize that all money raised is spent in support of the Troop and understand the inherent unfairness of that support resting on the shoulders of a few.

3. Scout Account "Memo of Understanding"

Upon joining Troop 110, and annually thereafter at rechartering, parents will be asked to sign a "memo of understanding" with the Troop treasurer. The purpose of this memo is to reaffirm everyone's understanding of the purpose of individual Scout accounts and the importance of prompt reimbursement for expenses incurred by the Troop on behalf of individual Scouts.

This and other related Troop policies are more fully discussed in the Troop 110 Bylaws, which are also available on the Troop website:

www.bsatroop110.org

Troop 110 Parent Handbook

2013-2014

X. Youth Protection

Each year, more than 2 million cases of suspected child abuse are reported in the United States. Due to the significance of this problem, the Boy Scouts of America, as one of the largest youth organizations in the world, has taken a leading position on the protection of children.

Scouting has established a number of guidelines and training programs in order to take appropriate precautions for the protection of youth. This five-point program includes:

- Training adult leaders, parents and Scouts to aid in the detection and prevention of child abuse;
- Improved leader selection processes that will prevent those with a history of child abuse from entering the ranks of BSA leadership;
- Establishing policies such as “two-deep leadership” that minimize the opportunities for abuse to occur within a Troop program;
- Encouraging and empowering the Scouts to identify and report improper behavior and
- Swift reporting and removal of alleged offenders.

Troop 110 fully endorses this program. All committee members, Troop leaders, and parents are required to participate in the Youth Protection Training seminars held regularly during the year. In addition, The Boy Scouts of America has developed materials for use in the Scouting program that provide essential information to members and their families. A detachable booklet in the front of The Boy Scout Handbook, "How to Protect Your Child from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse: A Parents Guide," provides information to help families to increase self-protection skills.

XI. In Conclusion

The Scouts and parents of 110 thank you for your interest in our Troop and your commitment to the ideals of Scouting. Be Prepared to learn, to teach and -- above all -- to have fun. In the words of Sir Robert Baden-Powell, "Scouting is not an abstruse or difficult science: rather it is a jolly game if you take it in the right light."

Troop 110 Parent Handbook

2013-2014

XII. Appendix A – Some Guidelines for Adult Participation

The Troop committee is your primary vehicle for participation in the Troop program. Troop 110 is a *family* Troop that has always encouraged everyone to take part. Whether or not you chose to become an adult member of the BSA, you and your family are usually welcome to come along, except for a few posted "Scouts Only" events. However you decide to participate, though, there are some important guidelines to keep in mind.

1. The Troop 110 program will be conducted in strict accordance with the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, available online at: http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx or from the Scout Shop (BSA #34416E).

2. Troop 110 members use the internet as their primary means of communication. Announcements and meeting notes are distributed to families via email; other information such as calendars, forms and the Troop roster are maintained on the Troop website. If you have an update for anything posted on the web, it is your responsibility to communicate this with the webmaster as soon as possible. If you do not have access to email or to the internet, it is your responsibility to let both the Committee Chair and the Scoutmaster know this. (removing the and the Troop Tribune newsletter)

3. The Troop committee employs a telephone tree for last minute or emergency notifications, along the lines of the methods used by the PLC. Unless otherwise arranged, the branches of this tree are the parents of each Patrol Leader. Therefore, if your son is a Patrol Leader, it is your responsibility to communicate messages from the Troop committee to the other parents in your son's patrol.

4. Group expenses for field activities will be tallied by the Activities Chair or the event coordinator, and divided equally between all adult, youth and family participants. The costs will be deducted from the Scout accounts. If your Scout account is less than zero, it is your responsibility to reimburse the Treasurer immediately. If you incur expenses for an activity, it is your responsibility to inform the responsible coordinator immediately. When finally tallied, expenses will be reimbursed to each eligible adult by the Treasurer or optionally transferred into the Scout accounts.

5. Fundraising is an important activity for the Troop. Fundraisers give the Scouts opportunities to "pay their way" through the program, as well as providing the Troop with money to defray the cost of equipment and supplies not covered by our modest annual dues. Your involvement in these activities is essential, both as an example to the youth we all serve and as a valuable contribution to the quality program we provide. Funds earned for the Scout accounts are divided proportionally among the accounts of the participants, based on the hours worked. Other profits are accumulated in the Troop general fund.