Pack 202

Troop 808

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Welcome to Scouting

Pack 202's History

We founded Pack 202 in 2018 when girls were first introduced to the Cub Scout Program. The goal was to provide an inclusive Scouting experience for the children in our units. At the time, no other Packs in the area were ready to accept girls, hence the foundation of our Pack.

That first year we had eight scouts, who were all friends and family of mine. We continued to grow through the COVID-19 years by offering an engaging online program and offering families plans that they could execute upon themselves in the outdoors during the pandemic.

As of 2025, we are now up to 25 Cubs ranging from Kindergarten to 5th grade. We still recruit mostly word-of-mouth, so if you like what you see, please invite friends with kids to join us (especially girls so that we can keep the ratio close to 50/50)!

We're proud of our Pack and what they accomplish each year. Almost every scout has earned their rank advancements each year, and a vast majority continue on in scouting for many years to come. 12 of the 18 scouts from 2019 were still in our Pack and Troop four years later in 2024! Cass Bergmeier and Archer Yorg became our first Eagle Scouts in 2024, and we have five other Scouts who should reach Scouting's highest rank within a year!



Troop 808's History

Like Pack 202, Troop 808 was founded as there wasn't a strong co-ed program in the area during the first few years that girls were introduced into Scouts BSA (previously called Boy Scouts). We started the Troop in 2021, just as COVID restrictions were loosening with only four kids.

Our first event ever was Summer Camp at Wente Scout Reservation, a camp in Mendocino County. We had such a great time there on their large lake swimming, kayaking, sailing, and fishing that we decided to make Wente our annual Summer Camp.

As of 2025, we have grown from 4 to 36 girls and boys from 6th to 12th grade. Four scouts have obtained Eagle and we have many more following closely have finished or are finishing their Eagle Scout ranks. Becoming an Eagle Scout requires intense dedication and provides the scout with amazing leadership abilities. Unsurprisingly, universities, the military, and companies look highly on Eagle Scout applicants.



Adventure is out there!

What makes our Pack and Troop memorable? The events and outings!

We host a major weekend activity almost every month of the year. These activities are often overnight in nature. These adventures usually include five campouts a year, museum overnights, snow sledding & ski trips, kayaking, and river rafting.

We often will also have a weekend day activity once a month. These adventures include hikes, geocaching (scavenger hunts with GPS devices), orienteering (map & compass), theme park visits, arcade conventions, escape rooms, and more.

What makes our Pack and Troop special?

There are so many great Cub Scout Packs, Scouts BSA Troops, and Girl Scout Troops in the area. We differentiate ourselves in the following ways:

- We provide fun for the whole family. Girls and boys can join from K-12. Families are encouraged to attend events together. Even children younger than 5 can participate in our activities!
- Most Cub Scout Packs throw one to two campouts a year. We host six campouts a year and explore campsites both near and far. Some of our more memorable camps have included Salt Point on the Sonoma Coast and Mt. Lassen National Park.
- A majority of our events are run with both the Pack and the Troop. This makes it much easier on parents with kids spanning elementary, middle school, and high school (like me). On campouts, the Troop takes one half of camp, and the youth leaders run their own program. The Pack takes the other half of the program, which is led by adult leaders such as the Cubmaster and Den Leaders.
- We offer a seamless transition from Cubs to Scouts BSA. In February of their fifth-grade year, Cubs transition from the Pack to the Troop.
- Our scouts are advancement oriented. A vast majority earn their rank advancements each year.
- Our Pack and Troop both meet on Mondays at Foothill Middle School, with the Pack meeting from 5:30 to 7pm (2nd and 4th Mondays) and the Troop meeting from 7:15 to 8:45pm. These back-to-back meetings allow our older scouts to work with our younger scouts on occasion during the transition time and run games and activities for them. This also allows the younger scouts to look up to the older scouts and be more excited about joining the Troop when they reach mid fifth-grade.

We’re glad to have you join our Scouting family!

Your kids will build amazing friendships, experience the outdoors, become well-rounded citizens, and learn valuable leadership skills during their time in Scouting.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask.

Yours in Scouting,

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General Information

Roster

The current roster of scouts can be found on Google Drive and is specific to the school year. Use the roster to contact families in your scout's Den or Patrol.

Current Roster

Email Communications

The Pack (K-5th) and Troop (6-12th) use a service called groups.io to send group emails. There's also an amazing portal where you can see all the historic messages in case you lost an email or can't find it!

Expert Tip: I highly suggest not using the daily digests. Sorry for the spam, but on the day of an event, you may miss an important detail if you have messages delivered as daily digest instead of individual messages.

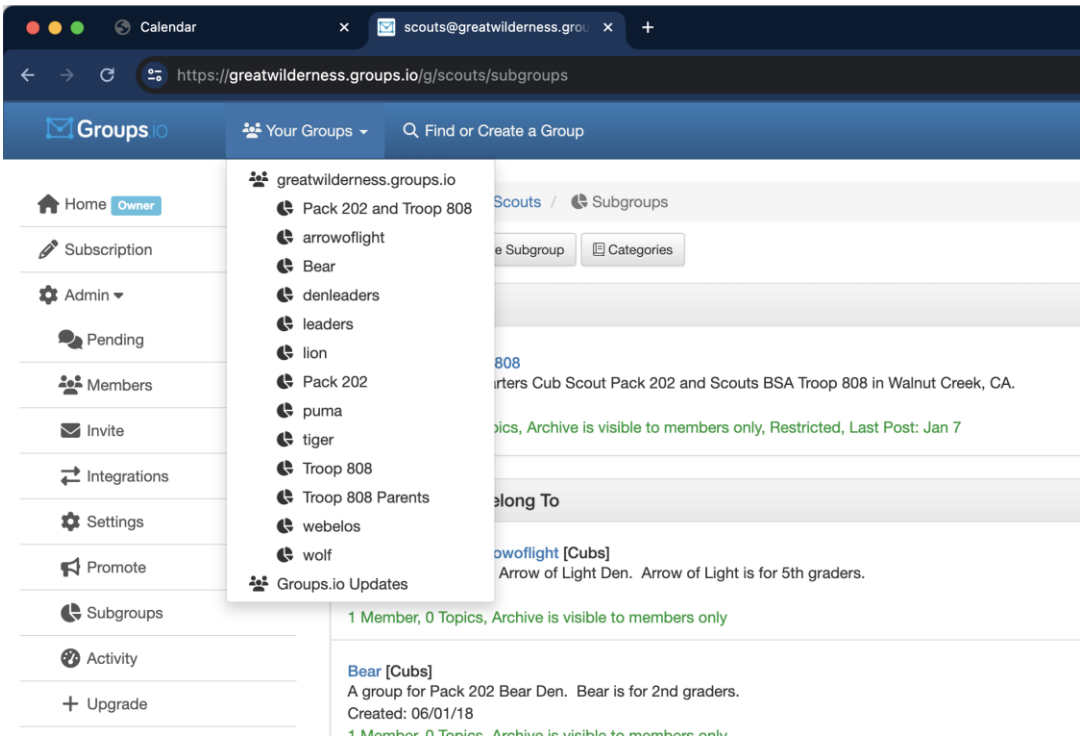
Note: Sending or replying to these emails will go to the whole group. Click "Reply to Sender" at the bottom of the email if your response isn't useful to the overall group.

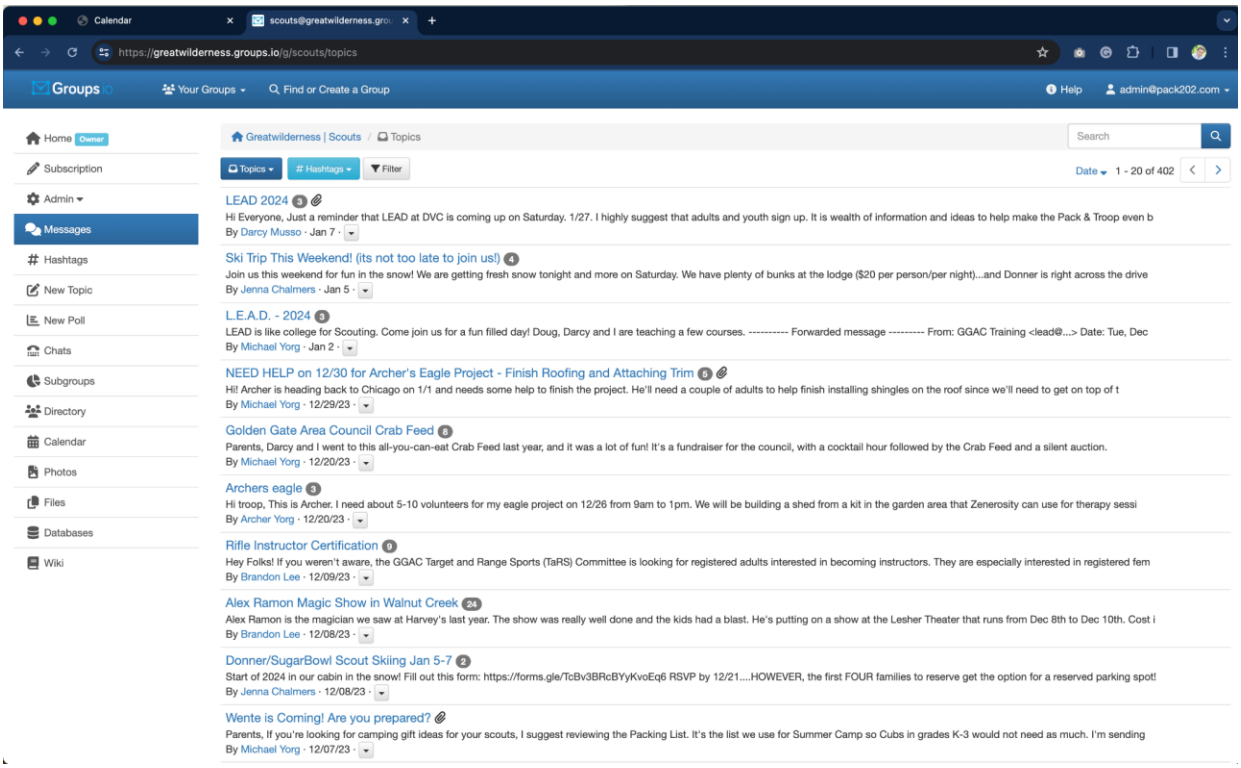
Groups.io Links:

You receive all messages sent to this group.

View/Reply Online (#1251) | Reply To Group | Reply To Sender | Mute This Topic | New Topic
Your Subscription | Contact Group Owner | Unsubscribe [mikeyorg@gmail.com]

scouts@greatwilderness.groups.io = "Pack 202 and Troop 808"
pack202@greatwilderness.groups.io = "Pack 202"
troop808@greatwilderness.groups.io = "Troop 808"
troop808-parents@greatwilderness.groups.io = "Troop 808 Parents"





WhatsApp Communications

We use WhatsApp for up-to-the-minute conversations regarding the troop and pack. This is extremely helpful when coordinating where to meet on campouts or other important details.

Join WhatsApp via this link!

Calendar

We do many activities together so both the Pack and Troop calendars are on the same Google Calendar which you can access at:
Google Calendar

Camping

Since most campouts are for the Pack and Troop, it's important to divide the campsites effectively so that the Troop can do their activities and the Pack can do theirs. If you arrive at the campsite prior to others, please remember this and make sure you set up your tent on one side or the other and let those coming after know which side is which.

The Troop should have at least one picnic table per patrol, please one for the adult patrol. This adds up to 5. The Pack can take the remaining tables. Families in the Pack will need to share space at the picnic tables as we often have few tables than families.

Pack 202

Attendance Policy

Scouting is a year-round activity, but attendance is not required at all meetings and outings. This gives your kids the opportunity to participate in other sports and activities as needed. That said, your kids will have a lot more fun in scouting if they attend a good amount of meetings. Please remember the following attendance requirements for the Pack:

1. Each scout should try to make at least 30% of all outings during the year and a majority of meetings between August and February. We do a majority of our advancements during that time at meetings.
2. Scouting is about the outdoors. Each scout should make a minimum of two campouts.
3. We suggest not overcommitting your scouts to year-round sports. It's difficult to juggle scouting with sports if the scout does not have a season where they can make scouting their primary activity.

Dens

A Cub Scout Pack is organized into Dens, each representing a specific grade. A Den is led by an adult called a Den Leader. Our Pack does most everything at Pack Meetings, so the responsibilities of a Den Leader are mostly in helping wrangle the scouts at meetings and outings. The Cubmaster will also occasionally ask the Den Leaders to help out with an activity or badge.

Grade	**Den**
Before Kindergarten	Pumas (younger siblings. Unofficial program.)
Kindergarten	Lions
1st Grade	Tigers
2nd Grade	Wolves
3rd Grade	Bears
4th Grade	Webelos
5th Grade	Arrow of Lights

Pack Meetings

Pack Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 5:30pm to 7pm at Foothill Middle School in Walnut Creek.

During summers, the meetings are held at local parks.

Meetings are given in a hybrid format with a Zoom and in-person component. We highly encourage scouts to attend in person to have fun and build comradery. That said, the Cubmaster's kids are in Chicago half the time, so he'll keep running Zoom sessions for the foreseeable future.

The first 30 minutes are an optional game or craft. We highly encourage scouts to participate in these, as they are a good chance to socialize and release energy.

Each meeting has a theme that reflects the adventures to be earned by scouts during that meeting. Examples of this are camping, hiking, canoeing, first aid, etc.

Videos are recorded and can be watched later by scouts who could not attend the meeting in order to work on their rank advancements.

Mondays from 5:30 to 7pm
In Person: Foothill Middle School
By Zoom

Den Meetings

Den Meetings (aka scouts within one or two years of the same age) meet on the other Mondays. The meetings can be at Foothill but can also be at the Den Leader's house or another location. Please speak with the Den Leader to figure out the location and specific times. The purpose of the Den Meetings is to complete advancement on adventures and to have fun with kids of the same age!

Role of Adults

Parents play an active role in the Pack. They may participate in overnight trips without being registered as adult leaders.

That said, California requires that any adult volunteer who volunteers more than 16 hours a month or 32 hours a year complete both AB-506 Mandated Reporter Training and FBI Live Scan. Please complete these two requirements prior to your first overnight trip.

Note: Two adults must be present at all Scouting activities, including Den Meetings. The only exception is carpooling where other scouts can be in your car with you if you are also driving your own child.

Adult Leaders

We are always looking for more adults to help lead the Pack! Here are a variety of roles that you could help out with:

Assistant Cubmaster

Helps plan and run Pack meetings and outings with the Cubmaster. Executes Pack meetings and outings in the absence of the Cubmaster.

Den Leader

Leads a group of 8-10 scouts of the same grade throughout the school year. The goal of the Den Leader is to remind scouts and parents to attend regularly and to work with the scouts on the rank advancement requirements.

Den Leaders will have occasional meetings with their Dens to work on advancements that cannot be done during the general Pack meetings.

Assistant Den Leader

Helps plan and run Den meetings and activities with the Den Leader. Executes Den meetings and activities in the absence of the Cubmaster.

Rank Advancement

As discussed above, Pack Meetings is where we do much of our rank advancement for the year. Most advancements take one or two meetings to complete, followed by a short amount of homework that the scout does with their parent.

It is highly suggested that the parents work with the scout on their homework prior to the next Pack Meeting. That way, the scout can be awarded the badge at the next meeting with their peers who have earned the badges.

Scoutbook.com is used to track advancement. Please login with the same credentials you used to register your scout, and dig into the advancements section. You can ask your Den Leader or Cubmaster if you have any questions on this. We also usually hold a yearly training session on Scoutbook. Note that parents are responsible for marking their children off on their badges on Scoutbook.

Each Den works on a Rank of the same name during the year. For example, a Wolf Den will have Wolf Scouts work on their Wolf Rank. In general, there are six required badges a year called adventures along with one or more optional badges.

The following document lists all slide decks used to teach Rank Advancements at the Pack Meetings and includes video links from prior years.
All Cub Scout Requirements

Adventure Belt Loops

These are earned in grades K to 5. The awards are metal belt loops that go on the scout belt. These are awarded at Pack Meetings after the scout has completed the adventure with their parent. There are six required adventures and two electives that each cub must complete in order to complete their rank for the year.



Rank

When the six required and two elective adventure are completed then the scout has earned their rank badge. The rank is the same as the Den they have been in for the year listed above.



Blue and Gold Picnic

We hold an annual award ceremony towards the end of the school year called the Blue and Gold Picnic. This is where the ranks are awarded, and the Scouts progress from one Den to the next.

Arrow of Light Bridging Ceremony and Transition to Scouts BSA

When 5th graders complete their Arrow of Light, then they are ready to join the Scouts BSA Troop. The goal is to complete this process by February so that the 5th graders have had a chance to go on a few campouts with the Troop prior to heading to Summer Camp in June.

Traditionally, this ceremony should occur at the Blue and Gold Picnic but we often have it a bit later in the year. The Arrow of Light scouts may have already transitioned to Scouts BSA by the time this ceremony has occurred.

Note that once the AOLs have transitioned to Scouts BSA they will stop participating at the Pack Meetings and will move up to the Troop Meetings held a bit later each night.

Packing for Campouts

The following list is useful if you haven't camped before. You may not need everything but a scout's motto is "be prepared!"

Contact the Cubmaster if you have not camped before. He can give guidance.

Camping gear can be expensive. Cheaper options include renting at REI or Sportsbasement. You can also buy decent cheap gear at Walmart.

Pack 202 Packing List

Uniforms

There is only a full Class A uniform in our Pack at the moment. In the future we may offer a Class B T-shirt. There are three styles of uniform depending on the grade.

You can buy these at:
Option 1: Pleasant Hill Scout Shop (BSA)
Option 2: Scout Shop (online)

Lion Uniform (Kindergarten)

Lions wear a t-shirt instead of the classic blue Cub Scout buttoned shirt.

1. Official Lion t-shirt
2. Blue scout shorts, skorts or pants
3. Blue scout belt
4. Lion Hat (optional but the kids love them. Mark with name)
5. Neckerchief & Slide (optional)



Tiger (1st Grade), Wolf (2nd Grade) & Bear (3rd Grade) Uniforms

The classic blue Cub Scout uniform.

1. Blue scout shirt
2. Blue scout shorts, skorts, or pants
3. Blue scout belt
4. Neckerchief and slide based on grade
5. Hat based on grade (optional but the kids love them! Mark with name)







Webelos (4th Grade) Uniform

The classic blue Cub Scout uniform.

1. Blue scout shirt (but if a scout outgrows the blue shirt then buy a tan shirt)
2. Blue scout shorts, skorts, or pants
3. Blue scout belt
4. Webelos neckerchief and slide
5. Webelos hat based on grade



Arrow of Light (5th Grade) Uniform

The classic tan scout uniform. Uniform is exactly the same for both grades.

1. Tan scout shirt
2. Olive green scout shorts, skorts, or pants
3. Olive green scout belt
4. Webelos neckerchief and slide
5. Webelos hat based on grade



Troop 808

Attendance Policy

Scouting is a year-round activity but attendance is not required at all meetings and outings. This gives your kids the opportunity to participate in other sports and activities as needed. That said, your kids will have a lot more fun in scouting if they attend a good amount of meetings. Please keep in mind the following attendance requirements for the Pack:

1. Each scout should try to make a minimum of 50% of all outings and meetings during the year (June to June). This is critical in Scouts BSA since the youth lead the activities. Having low attendance will lower their ability to lead effectively. Scouts cannot be considered "active in their troop" for rank advancement without making the 50% threshold.
2. Scouting is about the outdoors. Each scout should make a minimum of three weekend campouts.
3. Imagine summer camp to be like a big sports tournament for the year. As such, **summer camp is a mandatory activity for Troop 808** and is always planned to start the Sunday after Father's Day. For 2026, it will be from June 28 to July 4. We make this mandatory so that scouts can work on leadership skills, earn a ton of merit badges, and build lifelong friendships.

We suggest not overcommitting your scouts to year-round sports. It's difficult to juggle scouting with sports if the scout does not have a season where they can make scouting their primary activity.

Who Packs for Campouts?

The scouts should pack for themselves for campouts. We suggest that parents double check the scout for the first outing or two but then try to have them own it going forward. Scouts learn a lot by forgetting valuable items at home. It's also easier for them to find what they're looking for if they packed their own bag! The suggested packing lists are below.

Troop 808 Packing List
Troop 808 Packing List - Wente (Summer Camp)

Parents Attending Campouts

Step 1: Register

Scouts BSA requires that all adults participating join the organization as paid adult leaders. If you wished to join you would need to register as a Unit Scouter Reserve or Committee Member, and pay the roughly $130 annual fee.

Register Here - Choose Boy or Girl Signup, then Adult

- Note: If you are already registered with another Pack, Troop or Unit, sign in before completing the registration and you won't be double charged.
- By default we register all Adults as "Unit Scouter Reserve" as it does not require additional training to be taken. It's a good role if you plan to just attend overnights occasionally. Talk to us first if you'd like a different role.

Step 2: Complete mandatory Youth Protection steps

There are three mandatory Youth Protection Steps:
1. Take Scouting's Youth Protection Training (YPT) - about 60 minutes online
2. Take California's AB-506 Mandated Reporter Training - about 60 minutes online
3. Have fingerprints taken at a Live Scan location - about $50 - one time fee

See this link to complete these steps.

Youth Leadership

It's easy for parents to mistakenly take over and do things for the scouts. In Scouts BSA, the youth are responsible for planning, executing and evaluating their meetings and outings. If a scout comes up to you as a parent and asks you a question, the best response is: "Have you asked your Patrol Leader?" This is the youth leader responsible for their patrol. If the Patrol Leader doesn't know then they should go to the Senior Patrol Leader

Senior Patrol Leader

The troop is led by a youth member called the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). This position is elected each year during Summer Camp. The term for the role is 12 months. Our Troop requires that the scout be a minimum of Star rank. The SPL is responsible for the planning, execution and evaluation of all troop meetings and outings. He or she delegates these responsibilities to other youth leaders in the troop.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

The SPL chooses one or more Assistants (ASPLs) to help in the planning and running of Troop Meetings and Outings.

Patrol Leader

Each patrol of 5 to 8 scouts elects a Patrol Leader (PL) at Summer Camp. The term for the role is 6 months and Patrol Leaders should be active a vast majority of the time during their tenure in the role. The PL's job is two fold: they are to represent their patrol at planning meetings called Patrol Leader's Councils and they are to help by owning specific responsibilities as delegated by the SPL (such as flags, activity execution, training, etc). The Patrol Leader gets to appoint an Assistant Patrol Leader to lead in his or her absence.

Troop Guide

An older scout who is assigned to a younger scout patrol to help that patrol advance in rank and to help the Patrol Leader lead via counseling.

Webmaster

Responsible for the Troop Website and Social Media platforms

Historian

Responsible for taking photos at events. Builds slide decks for Court of Honors. Provides pictures to the Webmaster for inclusion on the website.

Quartermaster

Responsible for maintaining and keeping an inventory of Troop gear and Patrol boxes. Patrol boxes are kitchen gear dedicated to a specific patrol.

Patrol Method

Patrols in Troop 808 comprise of scouts of roughly the same age. We currently have five patrols representing 36 scouts. The patrols range in size from 5 to 8 scouts.

The Patrol Leader leads each patrol during meetings and outings and helps the SPL complete tasks on their behalf.

Patrols should have “Scout Spirit” aka positive enthusiasm. Each patrol should have a creative name and make their own patrol flag. Each patrol should also have their own yell, which is a short “go team go!” style chant.

Patrols compete against one another in various team building activities at troop meetings and outings. These competitions can be helpful in building scout skills such as knots and lashings.

Troop Meetings

Troop Meetings are held every Monday from 7:15pm to 8:45pm at Foothill Middle School’s Multi-use Room in Walnut Creek. The room is the big building with three doors facing the parking lot.

We highly encourage scouts to attend regularly in person to have fun and build comradery. Those who attend are much more likely to advance and stay happy and active in the program

Each meeting has a theme that reflects the adventures to be earned by scouts during that meeting. Meetings usually comprise a game followed by a Trail to First Class rank advancement theme. Examples of this are camping, hiking, canoeing, first aid, etc.

In the winter months, we often hold Eagle-required merit badge sessions in lieu of Troop Meetings to help scouts work on Star to Eagle advancement.

In Person: Foothill Middle School

Virtual Troop Meetings

Some Troop Members reside out of the area. As such, we run virtual troop meetings to help these scouts rank up. Usually, these meetings happen while the Yorg kids are in Chicago, every Wednesday, from 4:30pm - 6:00pm. One ASPL acts as SPL for these meetings and usually covers the topics covered in the prior Troop Meeting.

These are good catch-up meetings if your scout was unable to make the Monday meeting.

By Zoom

Role of Adults

Adults in the Troop help guide the youth leaders while allowing the youth leaders to lead the other youth in the Troop. It is important to note that youth lead at a much slower pace than an adult may be accustomed to. Adults who volunteer need to maintain patience while providing a safe environment for youth leaders to potentially fail and learn from mistakes.

In general, the adults should provide feedback before an activity occurs, usually during planning meetings. Then, the adults should allow the youth leaders to run the activity with limited interaction. Finally, the adults should help hold a reflection with the youth leaders on what worked and what could be improved upon. Imagine it similar to being the coach for a Football team, where the youth quarterback needs to execute each play without the coach on the field. The coach then has time between plays to review how things went and provide suggestions.

Camping Requirements

Any adult participating more than 16 hours a month or 32 hours a year must formally register as an adult volunteer. The cost is roughly $120 yearly, along with a one-time Live Scan fee of about $50, depending on location.

Don’t wait too long to signup as an adult volunteer as you will not be able to participate in campouts until you have!

Adult Leader Roles

Assistant Scoutmaster (Patrol)

The role would be to check in with the parents to ensure that the scouts are attending regularly, ensuring that the scouts are making progress on advancement, and coaching the Patrol Leader and Troop Guide to lead their patrols effectively. This would usually be done just prior to a patrol breakout during meetings, followed by a quick reflection with the patrol leader to talk about how it went and what could be done better next time.

Assistant Scoutmaster (Camping Coordinator)

Ensures that we know when the earliest registration is for all campouts on our calendar and works with adults assigned to lead specific campouts to book on time.

Researches new camping locations to be reviewed during the Troop Annual Planning Meeting with the idea that we do not repeat locations more than once every other year.

Assistant Scoutmaster (Hiking Coordinator)

- Researches fresh hiking locations so that we don't repeat too often.
- Learns about Council hiking awards and how to integrate them into the program.
- Helps blend geocaching into the hiking program, when appropriate
- Considers rank advancement and merit badge requirements when helping coordinate the hiking program for the year.
- Makes suggestions to the PLC on what to plan and who needs what requirements.

Assistant Scoutmaster (High Adventure)

The role is to help push the Troop in more adventurous outings, often designed for scouts who are 13+ in age in order to give them a challenge that keeps them motivated in scouting and tests their resilience.

High Adventure in Troop 808 is currently comprised of paddling sports and backpacking. 2023/24 has been focused on paddling sports such as canoeing, kayaking and rafting, culminating in a 3 night 20-mile canoe trip down the Eel River. 2024/25 will likely be a backpacking year, culminating in a 50-mile backpacking trip.

Assistant Scoutmaster (Trail to First Class)

This ASM assists the Patrol ASMs in insuring that new scout patrols are actively working on advancement. The goal should be to get all scouts up to first class within 18 months of joining.

Keeping the All Scouts BSA Requirements spreadsheet up to date by exporting from Scoutbook is critical and the resulting spreadsheet should be reviewed in the monthly Scouter Meetings.

Assistant Scoutmaster (Life to Eagle)

Eagle has dramatically different requirements than the other ranks. This coach will work with the Life Scouts on a timeline to complete these requirements and checkin regularly with them to promote progress. This includes checking on remaining merit badges, Eagle project planning and execution, and considering the scouts' 18th birthdays.

Rank Advancement

There are seven ranks in Scouts BSA:

1. Scout
2. Tenderfoot
3. Second Class
4. First Class
5. Star
6. Life
7. Eagle

All Scouts BSA Requirements

A scout in Scouts BSA must complete every requirement in the previous rank before earning the next rank.

Unlike Cubs, a scout in Scouts BSA cannot have a parent sign off their requirements for them. Only a scout (or Assistant Scoutmaster) authorized by the SPL and Scoutmaster can sign off rank advancements.

Trail to First Class

This refers to the first four rank advancements and focuses on building basic outdoor skills and team building.

Boy Scouts of America (BSA) suggests that all scouts earn First Class within 12 to 18 months of joining a troop. Scouts who do so are much more likely to stay interested in Scouting long term and hence are much more likely to earn Eagle.

Requirements for these ranks are covered both at Troop Meetings and campouts. We suggest that scouts **DO NOT** sign up for rank advancements at Summer Camp. We want the scouts to earn fun merit badges at Scout Camp and not repeat what we're already covering at Troop Meetings and weekend campouts.

Star to Eagle

The focus changes in rank advancements from Star to Eagle. Scouts going through these ranks are more mature and take on active leadership roles in the Troop. Having a leadership role actually becomes required to gain rank.

Merit Badges also become required to advance. Six are required for Star, five more for Life, and ten more for Eagle.

Finally, service to others becomes increasingly important. Four hours of service are required for Star, and six hours for life. Eagle requires that the scout plan, budget and execute a big service project for a non-profit organization. The project needs to be approved by our Scouting District (aka Lamorinda/Walnut Creek/Pleasant Hill).

Eagle Scout

Fewer than 4% of Scouts who join the Scouting program earn the Eagle rank. Scouts who complete Eagle show resilience, follow-through, the ability to set short—and long-term goals, expertise in outdoor skills, and leadership skills and opportunities that are uncommon in youth organizations.

Eagle looks amazing to college admission boards. It also helps increase a scout's starting level in the military. Finally, Eagle is maybe the one item that can be permanently added to a professional resume from their youth. No one would put "Quarterback of their high school football team" but many continue to list Eagle Scout on resumes.

Earning Eagle takes a minimum of 2.5 years, but it's much more common for scouts to spend nearly eight years completing their rank advancements.

We suggest that scouts get most of the way to Eagle before 10th grade begins. Scouts often get busy in their Sophomore and Junior years and high school, and completing their ranks can be difficult after their Freshman year. Many scouts end up slowing down on advancement and ramp back up when they realize Eagle would look good on a college application. Our suggestion is that you work with your scout to complete Eagle by the summer after their Freshman year. It's extremely disappointing to all involved when you have a Life Scout who is 90% done with Eagle who turns 18 prior to being able to complete the requirements. Note that 18 is a hard deadline to earn Eagle Scout.

We also do not suggest that scouts rush through to get their Eagle. Preferably scouts advance at their own pace, with positive reinforcement from youth leadership, scoutmasters, and parents. My experience is that those who earn Eagle had at least one parent behind the scenes reminding the scout to advance. We're not suggesting that parents micromanage their kids' advancements but it's helpful if parents remind their scouts to advance.

Age Suggestion to Target Eagle: 14 to 15 years old. 13-year-olds may not be mature enough to get the most out of their journey to Eagle Scout. 16-17 year-olds get distracted by high school.

Eagle Advancement Process

Eagle is much more involved than the other ranks and requires getting a project approved by the Troop Parents Committee and the District. After, the scout needs to get letters of recommendation. Finally, an Eagle Scout Application needs to be completed and signed off. The process is detailed here:

Eagle Scout Project ProcessV.17.docx

Troop 808 Eagle Scouts

Eagle Scout	Earned In	Project	Beneficiary	Total Hours
Cass Bergmeier	January 2024	New garden and drip system	Zenerosity Equine Therapy	250 hours
Archer Yorg	June 2024	New therapy shed	Zenerosity Equine Therapy	202 hours
Micayla Hughey	May 2025	Feminine Care Kits	African Sisterhood	451 hours
Chris Impinna	June 2025	Designed and constructed a new playhouse	Grace Cooperative Playhouse	276 hours
Tyler Bruton	June 2025	Built and installed four bat boxes.	Borges Ranch	174 hours
Aryan Saggar	November 2025	Installed chain link fence around a protected area of trees. Added a garden around the perimeter of the Temple.	Shantidham Temple	327 hours
Khayyam Stanley	May 2026	Refinishing play structure at a preschool. Adding a new bench and edging for the playground.	Grace Cooperative Playhouse	134 hours

Troop 808 Life Scouts working on Project

Life Scout	Project Complete	Project	Beneficiary	Total Hours
Colin Bergmeier	Yes	4H Fence	Borges Ranch	117 hours
Rosie Yorg	No	Goat Grooming Stations	4H Pleasant Hill	
Ethan Yahud	No	12’ Shed	Shelter, Inc.	

Merit Badges

Likewise, only an approved Merit Badge Counselor (an adult position) may sign off scouts on merit badge requirements.

A scout needs 21 merit badges to earn Eagle, of which 13 must be from a list of “Eagle-required” merit badges. We tend to do these Eagle-required merit badges at Troop Meetings. Getting the other seven is easy since most scouts can earn four or five each year at summer camp.

The Troop encourages each family to designate at least one parent to teach an Eagle-required merit badge. The current list of Merit Badge Councilors is here below.

Troop 808 Merit Badge Counselors

Court of Honor

A Court of Honor celebrates a scout's advancements and awards since the previous Court of Honor. We currently hold one annual Court of Honor, usually in August or September. This is held after summer camp since so many badges are earned at camp. We may move to a twice yearly cadence in the future.

Service Hours

"A Scout is Helpful"

Helping others is a critical part of scouting, and as such service hours are required for most ranks. These can be from a variety of activities including Scouting for Food, conservation projects at camp like brush piles and trail maintenance, to working at a Cub Scout camp.

Scouts can track their service hours on BSA's Internet Advancement:

https://advancements.scouting.org/login

Camping Days

Many advancement and merit badge requirements have a camping component. Camping nights are tracked on the following spreadsheet (as well as Internet advancement, but the Scoutmaster prefers this spreadsheet as it tallies numbers better for advancement).

The big goal here is to have each scout hit 20 nights of camping in order to earn the Camping Merit Badge, an Eagle-required badge. This can only include one long-term camp, such as a summer camp. As such, a scout would need to go to at least one summer camp (six nights) and seven weekend campouts (Friday to Sunday) in order to meet the requirement. The Troop purposefully plans campouts to occur over two nights to allow a scout to finish this requirement in no more than two years.

T808 Activities

Camping

Weekend Trips

The scouts build strong bonds with the other members of their patrols by camping, cooking and tenting together. All scouts tenting together must be within two years of the same age and be of the same gender.

Scouts BSA's policy recently changed on adults who can participate in overnight trips. There is now a requirement that all adults attending overnight trips be registered as leaders with the Troop. This requires youth protection training, California's AB-506 mandated reporter training, and a LiveScan fingerprint and background check. If you are interested in attending overnights with your children then I would suggest starting the process soon and we can add you as committee members. There is an annual fee of $104 per leader.

Summer Camp

Summer Camp is our Troop's one mandatory activity per year. The reason is leadership, team building, intra-troop competition, merit badges, an amazingly fun program, and scout spirit. The level of excitement at scout camp is palpable! Missing summer camp is similar to a child missing a final sports tournament of the season. It's unfair to the scout as well as to the members of the patrol (his or her team in scouting).

Pairs of scouts tent together in pre-setup canvas tents. Scouts must be within two years of the same age and gender to tent together.

Troop 808 Packing List - Wente (Summer Camp)

We go to Wente Scout Reservation in Willits a full week after Father's Day, which happens to be the second week of camp. Camp goes from Sunday to Saturday.

Wente has an amazingly large selection of activities:

1. Mountain Biking
2. Horseback Riding
3. Archery
4. Rifle, Shotgun, and Black Powder Rifles
5. Rock Climbing
6. Sailing
7. Canoeing and Kayaking
8. Stand-up Paddle Boarding
9. Art and Handicrafts
10. Orienteering Scavenger Hunt (Kali-ama Trail)
11. Wilderness Survival
12. STEM and Nature Merit Badges

Some scouts are finishing swim season at this time. Preferably all scouts go up for the full week but if there are conflicts then it is possible to arrive before the program starts at 9am on Monday. Likewise, Scouts can leave on Friday night. These should be considered special circumstances and we ask that scouts attempt to attend during the entirety of the summer camp week.

The cost per scout in 2026 is $789. A deposit of $200 per scout is due around February. The remaining balance. This includes almost everything that the scout will need for the week. We suggest that the scout also come to camp with about $125 for incidentals, optional programs like horseback riding, fast food to and from camp, and snacks.

The best way to have your scout pay for camp is through Popcorn sales in the Fall! As of the 2025 Season, our Council offers a substantial Discount to summer camp if your scout reaches specific sales thresholds. We had twelve scouts meet these thresholds in 2025! The storefront sales, especially early in the sales season, are very lucrative for our scouts.

- $1000 in sales 25% Off
- $1500 in sales 50% Off
- $3000 in sales 100% Off

On top of this, the scouts earn scoutbucks that can be used to pay for the rest of summer camp or other scout related items such as registrations, uniforms, camping fees, etc. Your scout gets to **keep 29.75% of sales** in the form of scoutbucks as of 2025!

Adults are welcome to join us, but it is not required. There are lots of fun activities for adult and there is an air conditioned, quiet space to work remotely if need be. We suggest that parents avoid coming up the first three nights of the scout's first year at summer camp. This gives the scout the opportunity to learn the camp with the help of the youth leaders of the troop and the supervision of the Scoutmasters. Scouts can get homesick and close proximity with parents can actually make matters worse.

Please read the following guide with your Scout each year before choosing classes:Troop 808 Summer Camp Guide

Uniforms

The Troop has two separate uniforms. Many meetings are Class B. All outings are Class A and scouts should be in full uniform on their way to and from events. Summer Camp is Class A at Flags (plus breakfast and dinner) while Class B during the other times.

Class A Uniform

This is the classic tan Scouts BSA uniform with green pants, shorts or skorts. These can be picked up at the Scout Shop in Pleasant Hill, online or at some thrift stores.

Option 1: Pleasant Hill Scout Shop (BSA)
Option 2: Scout Shop (online)

Make sure you pick up the following items:

1. Tan uniform top
2. Olive green cargo pants or shorts (official or generic is fine)
3. Scout Belt (or brown leather belt)
4. Scout Socks (or generic olive green socks)
5. Green Shoulder Loops
6. Troop Neckerchief (see below)
7. Neckerchief Slide
8. Green 808 numerals
9. Council Flap (sold in Pleasant Hill and often sewn on already at that shop)
10. World Brotherhood of Scouting (purple patch)



Zack showing off his full uniform
(minus neckerchief since we didn't have one yet)

Class B Uniform

Class B is comprised of:

1. Troop T-shirt or Hoodie
2. Olive Green Pants, Shorts or Skorts
3. Olive Green Socks



Jaxon, Malia and Rosie in Class B uniforms

Troop Neckerchief

Congrats to Tyler Bruton for the winning design!

Each neckerchief costs $15. Please venmo @Michael-Yorg

A few fun facts about the neckerchief:
1. We added the big dipper and little dipper and they are lined up like they are in the sky. A good way to find true north is to line up the far right two stars in the big dipper and find the end of the handle of the little dipper. That's the star Polaris, which is true north.
2. The arc of the big dipper's handle arcs to Arcturus, the fourth brightest star in the sky and only 36 light years away from us.
3. Tyler thought the dual-colored neckerchiefs looked really cool when he was on staff at Wente. We thought the color combo here looked pretty good and afterwards, I thought it was really appropriate since we were founded as a co-ed Troop.

Note: This is part of our official uniform going forward so anytime we ask for Class A it will need to include the troop neckerchief and a neckerchief slide of your choice. if you lose your neckerchief then you'll need to buy a new one from us.

