



TROOP 494 Frequently Asked Facts FAQs

When does the troop meet?

The troop meets every Wednesday when school is in session from 7:30-8:30 PM at Kennedy Middle School's Community Room. During the summer, we have an abbreviated schedule and will meet at a local park. Last year, we met at Linda Vista Park in Cupertino.

What do you do at the meetings?

We spend time on planning our outings, learning new skills, passing requirements, receiving troop information and playing a game.

How often does the troop go on outings?

We try to go on an outing at least once a month. During the scoutmaster review, scouts are asked, "What the best thing you like about scouting", almost every scout has replied, "The outings."

How do we hear about the outings?

Outing schedules are listed in the monthly newsletter, at the troop website and at the troop's e-group site. We use email through our e-group site to send reminders about meetings and outings. They're also announced at the troop meetings. Sign-ups for scouts and drivers are done through the e-group database link.

How much do outings cost?

The troop handles the cost for general expenses such as reservations. Cost for food and special activities such as kayaking are handled by the scouts. Some outings such as summer camp and the Klamath River canoe trip are extra expenses paid by the family. For example, summer camp costs \$195 less any credits for Friends of Scouting.

Can parents go on the camping trips?

Parents can go on outings, provided that there is space available and they have permission from the scoutmaster. We try to minimize the number of parents attending to keep the emphasis on a scouting trip.

Parents must camp in a separate area from the scouts and adults handle their own meals. Scouts are not permitted to share tents with any adults. If you see something of concerns, please let your scout leader or adult leader handle the matter, unless it needs to be urgently addressed. We will try to have a family camp outing where all members of the family can join on the camp trip.

How will my son be assigned to a patrol?

New scouts will be assigned to 'new scout' patrol(s). A Troop Guide, an older scout that is assigned by the Scoutmaster, will assist them and provide them with some guidance. We make every effort to assign scouts into patrols with their friends since we find that these friendships keep the scout active in the troop.



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How is advancement done? Who keeps the records?

The Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters are the only ones that can sign off on advancement requirements, unlike Webelos. The detailed advancement records are maintained in the back of the scout's handbook. It's important that the handbook be brought to every meeting and outing. A back-up record should be kept in the parents' binder.

As a scout advances to Star, Life and Eagle, he needs to maintain his records, especially his section of the blue card for his merit badges. Baseball trading card holders are excellent for this purpose.

When does my scout receive his awards?

As soon as your scout earns an award, we make every effort to award it to him at the next meeting. We hold two Courts of Honor each year, in December and in June. We acknowledge the accomplishments of the scouts for the preceding period by giving them the registration cards.

Do you have a timeline for advancement?

No, since not every scout aspires to be an eagle scout. Advancing in rank, however, keeps him involved and is a great learning experience. Advancement to first class emphasizes learning the basic scouting skills. We have a trail to first class program for younger scouts and if they participate in summer camp and regularly attend meetings and outings, they should be capable of earning their first class award within one year.

What is summer camp?

Summer camp is a weeklong Boy Scout camp. Troop 494 generally attends Camp Hi-Sierra, a camp organized and run by the Santa Clara County Council. It is located near Sonora in the high Sierras.

It is strongly recommended that your son attend summer camp as it builds strong bonds with the rest of the troop and provides the best opportunity of the year for him to advance.

The cost is under \$200 and this includes meals. There may be some incidental expenses for food to and from the camp and some merit badges require that the scout purchase supplies (e.g. basketry, leatherwork, etc.)

What is High Ventures?

High Ventures are activities designed to challenge the older scouts in the troop. Typically they are special activities associated with a troop outing.

As an example, during our Black Mountain backpacking trip, the High Venture group took a more challenging route to meet at the campsite. High Venture scouts are typically 14 years of age and at least First Class in rank.



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So what are all the forms that need to be submitted?

It may seem like there are a lot of forms, but there are only five forms that need to be submitted.

- ? Boy Scout Application
- ? Emergency consent form (for emergency medical treatment)
- ? Class 1 & 2 medical form (good for 3 years and necessary for summer camp)
- ? Troop information form (e-mail, address, auto insurance, etc.)
- ? Resource questionnaire

Who sponsors the troop?

Troop 494 is sponsored by the parents of the scouts in our troop and is not affiliated with the school or any other organizations. That's why it's so important that the parents of Troop 494 be involved by volunteering their time and assistance.

What equipment does my son need?

The troop provides basic camping gear such as tents, stoves, tarps and cooking gear (pots/pans). Your scout will need personal gear such as a sleeping bag, backpack, ground mattress, mess kit (bowl, plate, utensils), compass and first aid kit. Equipment lists for outings are available in the scout handbook and in the parents' binder.

What is the fund raiser?

The scouts sell cookie dough each fall to raise extra funds for the troop.

Any other questions?

If you don't see the answers to your questions in the FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions), you can call or e-mail Ed Snyder, Don Pannell, Bob Hodges, Mark Fisher, Ivan Humphreys, Bobby Toda or Meg Crockett for questions or see us at the troop meeting and we also have a Frequently Asked Questions sheet.

Contact List

Name	Position	Phone Number	E-mail Address
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