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# Welcome to Troop 1

Thank you for coming to our Open House

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## OVERVIEW

**WHAT:** Troop 1 is built around the core tenets of Scouting:

1. **Get outdoors:** We plan monthly overnight and day-long hikes, outings, and service projects in the wider Bay Area
2. **Youth leadership:** Youth actively shape all aspects of their Scouting experience in a safe, positive environment, with adults in a supporting role
3. **Scout law and values:** Scouting fosters respect for others, curiosity, resilience, personal integrity, a love of the outdoors, physical fitness, leadership skills -- and builds friendships for life!

**WHO:** We welcome youth of all genders ages 11-17 from the local community. You do not have to live or attend school in Piedmont to join Troop 1. Scouts age 10 and in 5th grade may also join Troop 1 and participate in 2026 summer camp as Troop 1 Scouts.

**WHEN:** We meet weekly on Tuesdays from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Kettlewell Room at the Piedmont Community Church.

**Weekend outings** (offered during the school year) typically start on Saturday mornings and end by Sunday lunchtime. Scouts work with adults to plan a calendar of varied weekend outings such as hiking, biking, surfing, kayaking, skiing, and rock climbing.

Our weeklong **annual summer camp** (Sunday morning through Saturday morning) is held at a dedicated Scouts BSA location within 2 to 4 hours drive from Piedmont. We also organize a long-distance (40+ miles) **summer hiking trip**. Older Scouts (ages 14+) can also participate in Piedmont Council-run **high adventure trips** during the summer.

**Service projects** are integral to Scouting and we volunteer with a range of local organizations, including the Alameda County Community Food Bank, the National Park Service, and the Piedmont Beautification Foundation.

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Find us online at <https://www.troop1piedmont.org>

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## HOW IS SCOUTS BSA DIFFERENT FROM CUB SCOUTING?

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### **Related but separate programs**

Scouting and Cub Scouting are dynamic and enriching youth programs that share a common foundation but cater to different age groups and provide unique experiences tailored to the developmental stages of their participants.

Both programs are part of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and support the holistic development of youth, preparing them to become responsible, engaged, and well-rounded individuals. In both, young people engage in a wide range of activities, from camping and hiking to learning practical life skills.

Experiences and skills gained in Cub Scouting will support youth moving on to Scouts, but the two programs are separate – all youth begin their Scouting journey at the same rank and Cub Scouting is not a prerequisite to joining a Scout troop.

### **Outdoor activities and leadership**

Scouting builds on the foundational life skills introduced in Cub Scouts and is designed for older youth, typically aged 11 to 17. The Scouting program emphasizes outdoor adventures, leadership development, and community service and aims to foster independence, self-reliance, and a sense of responsibility among its participants, preparing them for the challenges of adolescence and adulthood.

### **Youth-led**

The stepped rank advancement system in Scouts provides the scaffolding for youth at all ages to learn and grow at their own pace. The ranks (in ascending order) are: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, Eagle.

Unlike Cub Scouts, Scouting is primarily youth-led and Scouts are actively involved in planning and decision making. Examples are weekly troop meeting activities, monthly campout trip meals, and seasonal youth leader elections.

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## HOW DO PARENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE TROOP?

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Scouting is designed to be youth-led, and involvement of adults is meant to facilitate the learning and growth of youth as they take on leadership roles, plan and execute activities, and navigate the challenges and adventures of the Scouting program.

As adults in Troop 1, we have experienced firsthand the rewards of witnessing our children grow in confidence, skills, and maturity as a direct result of the Scouting program. With this in mind, in Troop 1 we ensure there are **opportunities for all adults** with a wide range of time commitment expectations!

### PRIMARY VOLUNTEER ROLES

*Share your skills, knowledge, and/or time on a regular basis and/or at specific times*

#### **Scoutmaster**

Adult leader responsible for the overall guidance of the troop. Provides mentorship, guidance, and oversight to the youth leaders of the troop and is the most involved volunteer position in Scouting. Typically serves for multiple years.

#### **Assistant Scoutmasters**

Support the Scoutmaster in their duties and assist in leading the troop at meetings and during outings. *The ASM role requires BSA-specific training open to all interested adults that can be taken online or at weekend in-person courses offered periodically by Piedmont and other councils.*

#### **Committee members**

A small group of adults that supports specific troop activities and programs such as outdoor activities, finance, fundraising, and rank advancement. In Troop 1 we recognize the importance of integrating experience and new voices and know that troop committees function optimally with a combination of parents of junior and senior scouts. Committees are structured to provide mentorship and mutual support among adults as their Scouts advance through the troop. The Committee Chair supports all committee members and the Scoutmaster.

Committee members communicate as needed over email and at regular troop meetings. Separate meetings are arranged among members and troop leadership as needed and are typically online and no more than once every 1-2 months.

We always welcome new parent voices and ongoing support in our troop committees:

- Outdoor
- Advancement
- Finance/Fundraising
- Summer Camp
- Welcoming

## **Merit Badge Counselors**

Adults who guide small groups of Scouts pursuing specific merit badges and help them acquire new skills and knowledge. MBCs are mentors and guides rather than instructors.

Merit badges are a **key component of the rank advancement system in Scouting** and help Scouts learn about specific topics in a structured yet flexible way – Scouts can choose topics they are interested in and complete badges at their own pace. Badges help Scouts develop and sustain curiosity and an interest in learning. They also emphasize core tenets of Scouting such as outdoor skills, environmental stewardship, and community engagement.

MBCs commit to familiarizing themselves with the list of requirements for their chosen badge(s) and to **attending three scheduled (regular) troop meetings held over a three-month period**. Beyond this, the MBC role can be as involved or as limited (within the three-meeting requirement) as you like, and we encourage adults to attend the MBC meetings in pairs if that makes the commitment easier!

## **Outdoor enthusiasts**

Adults who attend campouts, hiking trips, and other activities to ensure safety and provide guidance on outdoor skills.

## **Event coordinators**

A small group of adults that **makes sure troop events run smoothly**. Share the responsibilities of reserving space for troop events; coordinate food and drink sign-ups; and check, maintain, and purchase (with troop funds) troop event catering supplies.

## **SECONDARY VOLUNTEER ROLES**

*Support the troop on an occasional and/or flexible basis*

### **Boards of Review members**

Adults who attend special troop meetings where individual Scouts take the final steps in advancing to the next Scouting rank. BoRs are held three times a year. Small groups of 2-3 adults and an individual Scout meet for 5-15 minutes to discuss the Scout's reflections on what they have learned within a given rank.

### **Drivers**

Adults are often needed to drive Scouts, other adults, and equipment to and from outings, events, and service projects.

### **Eagle Scout Counselors**

Adults who offer guidance and mentoring to senior Scouts working on their Eagle Scout projects (a requirement for the highest rank in Scouting).

### **Advancement support**

Adults who help the Advancement Chair by regularly updating the troop's database of Scout advancement records.

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## HOW DOES SCOUTING KEEP YOUTH SAFE?

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Scouts are expected to use the **buddy system**, where they have another Scout with them at all times during activities. This system promotes teamwork and ensures that no one is alone or isolated.

Scouts BSA has a **two-deep adult leadership** policy that requires at least two registered adult leaders at all scouting activities and meetings. A single adult may never be alone with a single scout. Additionally, all meetings with female youth attending require an adult female leader in attendance.

All adults participating in troop activities also register as adult leaders with the Piedmont Council by completing a free, self-paced, online **youth protection training** (YPT) and a state of California-mandated LiveScan fingerprinting and background check that can be completed at the Council office. YPT covers important topics such as recognizing and preventing child abuse, creating safe environments, and understanding BSA's policies and guidelines.

### **Outdoor safety**

Camps and outdoor activities have specific safety guidelines, including guidelines for fire, water, and appropriate use of tools and equipment. All Scouts handling fire or knives must complete "Firem'n Chit" and "Totin' Chip" safety training.

Scouts participating in water activities must meet the safety requirements of the BSA swim test.

*Read more about Safe Scouting guidelines here:*  
<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/toc/>

### **Merit Badge Counselors**

Prior to meeting with Scouts, all MBCs complete a brief, free, self-paced online training accessed through the Scouts BSA portal that covers MBC responsibilities and expectations.

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## HOW MUCH DOES SCOUTING COST?

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### Troop 1 annual dues

- \$100 per youth, payable at the start of the school year. Please pay by Sept. 1.
- Troop fees cover recurring expenses such as annual registration fees; camping gear and patrol cooking equipment; facility and site rentals; advancement and troop honor patches, badges, pins, and awards. Dues cover troop expenses and National organization fees only; no dues pay for Piedmont Council budget.
- Troop fees are payable directly to "Troop 1 Piedmont" by check or Zelle.

### Piedmont Council BSA annual membership fees

- For those new to Scouts, the first year of Piedmont Council BSA membership is paid whenever you register. In subsequent years, membership fees are due on your registration anniversary and payable directly to Piedmont Council.
- Annual Council Membership is \$85 per child.
- Annual Council Membership is \$65 per adult, payable at your initial registration. Adult membership in subsequent years is paid by the troop.
- Council Membership fees cover National (Boys Scouts of America) insurance and Piedmont Council administrative functions.
- Optional: \$15 annual subscription to Scouts Life magazine.

### Financial assistance

We are committed to ensuring Scouting is available to everyone and that financial considerations do not prevent any Scout's participation in Troop 1. Families seeking financial aid for uniforms, fees, or trip expenses are encouraged to submit a confidential request to the Troop Committee Chair with a brief explanation of the assistance required. All information will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

### Friends of Scouting

The Piedmont Council is one of the smallest (and oldest) councils in the country, and we are lucky to have a continuous history of robust yet nimble organization with strong roots in the local community. Friends of Scouting (FOS) is an annual fundraising campaign that asks active Scouting families and community members to contribute financially to support the Piedmont Council. **Our goal is always 100% family participation rather than a dollar amount.**

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## WHAT DO I NEED FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES?

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### Camping gear

Scouting aims to be accessible to youth regardless of financial circumstances. You are welcome to use your own tent on outings, but tents are also provided by troop as needed. Annual dues also cover all outdoor equipment shared by the troop, including stoves, gas, and cooking equipment.

Scouts should have their own mess kit, backpack, and sleeping bag. A sleeping mat is recommended.

### Personal mess kit basics

- Made of light, durable material such as metal or plastic
- Bowl and/or plate
- Eating utensils – fork, spoon, knife
- Mug that can hold hot liquids
- Water bottle (with attached lid is recommended)
- Something to carry everything in so you can find your mess kit easily in your backpack
- Write your name on everything!

### Outdoor clothing

For almost every activity in Scouting you can be resourceful and comfortable wearing simple outdoor clothing. Find clothes and gear at local stores such as Sports Basement, REI, the North Face Outlet, Dicks Sporting Goods, and Big 5 Sporting Goods. All of these stores will also have mess kit items. Also, some Scout Shops sell mess kit sets.

**Shoes:** For short hikes and overnight trips, sturdy shoes with flexible soles and some degree of grip work well. (Fixed soled shoes such as Converse or Vans are less ideal.)

**Jacket:** Check the weather; if it's going to rain, bring a waterproof jacket that is comfortable to wear with a pack.

You can find a link to the Scouts BSA outing packing list recommendations [on our website](#).

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## WHAT IS THE SCOUT UNIFORM AND WHERE CAN I GET IT?

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The Scouts BSA uniform consists of a distinctive set of clothing that symbolizes unity, equality, and the shared values of the Scouting community. It is worn at troop meetings and at official events and activities.

You can buy the basic uniform at the Piedmont Council office, at McCaulou's department store in Montclair, or at other Scouts BSA Council shops around the Bay Area. The Piedmont Council office also keeps a box of gently used, donated uniforms. Sometimes you can find uniforms at the Marking Room at Dress Best for Less, 2501 Harrison St., Oakland. ([Contact DBFL directly](#) with any questions about inventory.)

Some parts of the uniform are specific to our troop or council and aren't available outside Piedmont.

- The "1" shoulder patch and the Piedmont Council pocket patch are only available at the Piedmont Council office
- The Troop 1 Class B t-shirt is only available through the troop
- Troop 1 gives all new Scouts their own own purple and white Troop neckerchief

## THE SCOUT UNIFORM

### Class A shirt

An official Scouts BSA tan shirt with button-front closure. Typically Scouts choose a short-sleeved shirt but a long-sleeved option is also available. The Scouts BSA emblem, the Piedmont council shoulder patch, a Troop 1 number, and several other Scouts BSA patches are part of the uniform. You (or your Scout!) will need to sew or adhere them on. Olive green shoulder loops are also part of the uniform.

### Class B t-shirt

A burgundy cotton t-shirt with the Troop 1 insignia. Order on the [Troop 1 website](#).

## **Pants and/or shorts**

Official uniform pants or shorts in olive green come in polyester blend and cotton twill; for youth we suggest poly blend (stocked at Piedmont Council and other Scout Shops) for wearability and weight. Some pants have zip-off bottoms and convert into shorts.

## **Belt**

A web belt with a buckle featuring the BSA logo is a part of the uniform.

## **Neckerchief and slide**

The neckerchief is a large square of fabric in a color and design specific to each troop. Scouts twist two ends to make a triangle that sits below their collar, with the front ends secured around the front with a slide or neckerchief holder.

Scout shops sell a basic range of metal and leather slides, but many Scouts also make their own. (Metalworked and leather stamped slides are a popular merit badge project at summer camp!)

## **Socks**

Olive green socks in an official BSA color are worn with the uniform. Socks are typically available in ankle, crew, and knee-high lengths. We recommend multiple pairs!

## **Hat**

The Troop 1 uniform does *not* include an official cap or hat. Scouts may wear a generic Scouts BSA cap or hat for outings when they are in Class B uniform or may bring their own (any decoration or lettering should be consistent with Scouting values).