

TROOP NEWS

News and Information for Troop 59 Scouts, Parents and Leaders

Upcoming Meetings

Troop Meetings:

Wednesdays, March 18 & 25th
@ 7:30pm

Advancement Night:

Wednesday, April 1st @
7:30pm

Upcoming Events

Conservation Project/Bike

Races/BBQ
March 27-29th @ Camp
Tamarancho. Families are
invited to the BBQ.

Camporee

April 24-26th @ Camp
Tamarancho.

Ziplining

May 2nd @ Sonoma Canopy
Tours. \$79 for scouts \$109 for
adults

Adult Training

April 25-26 @ Camp
Tamarancho

NYLT

June 21-27th @ Camp
Tamarancho. Must be 13yrs or
older and First Class rank or
above.

What's New?

We've got some changes in motion with the program that we want to let you know about. Troop 59's adult program leadership has been reviewing the current program and has recommended enacting the following changes, which have been adopted by incoming SPL, Liam Birmingham. Some of them are bigger, some are smaller; but the purpose of these changes are the following.



- Deliver a program that engages and retains new and existing Scouts
- Provide regularly scheduled Troop meetings and campouts that foster Patrol and Troop Spirit
- Provide maximum development and leadership opportunity for the Scouts through greater emphasis on the Patrol Method

Troop Meeting Schedule

Beginning this month, March, the troop will meet every Wednesday from 7:30-8:30pm. The first Wednesday of the month will be Advancement night, with activities scheduled by the scouts. Second, third, and fourth Wednesdays will be Troop meetings. The rare fifth Wednesday will be open as 'SPL's Choice', and may include activities such as another Troop meeting, bowling, game night, ice cream social, night hike, and more.

PLC Meeting Schedule

The PLC will reduce the number of planning meetings to one per month, at which they will plan the entire month's meetings, and

Training

Adult Training - April 25-26

Parents are encouraged to sign up for Adult Leader Training (Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster Training and Intro to Outdoor Leader Skills at Tamarancho. Check the Marin Council website for more information.

Youth Training - June 21-27

Scouts 13 and older and at least First Class rank are encouraged to sign up for National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) at Tamarancho. The course will be run by Troop 59's James Barton with several other T59 scouts and adults helping as staff. Check the Marin Council website for more details.

T59 Meeting Schedule

FOR ALL SCOUTS

Regular Troop Meetings are the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Wednesdays at 7:30pm at Masonic Lodge

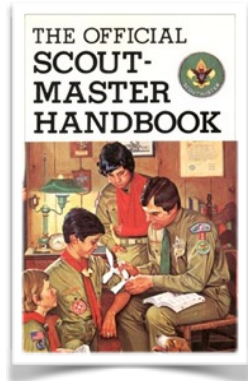
Advancement Nights are the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm at Masonic Lodge

Adult Committee Meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 7pm. **All adults are welcome and encouraged to attend.**

the group will also hold a quick (10 min) *Start, Stop, Continue* evaluation at the end of each Troop meeting. This will allow Patrols to use their individual meetings, and Troop meeting Patrol Corners, to plan their participation. Another benefit, is that a monthly theme may be created, allowing for deeper instruction in key areas. PLCs will follow the last meeting of the month

Troop Meeting Structure

The SPL and PLC will do their best to follow the traditional Troop meeting agenda, which provides opportunities for Patrols to be assigned specific roles and responsibilities over the course of the month. Meetings will minimize 'announcements', and provide time for Patrol Corners and games.



Monthly Troop Campouts

Annual calendar planning will strive to include a monthly Troop-wide campout, for which Scouts will be encourage to participate with their standard Patrols. Group planning, delegation, and participation via the Patrol Method offers great opportunity leadership development, teamwork, and Patrol Spirit. Upcoming examples of this type of event are the March 27 Tamarancho Campout/BBQ/Conservation Project/Bike Ride, and the April Troop Camporee. In the event that a Patrol has few participants, they may be combined with another group.

We are excited about these changes to our program, but recognize that change is not always easy to enact, or adapt to. Please feel free to reach out with any questions and/or feedback.

YIS, Mr. Pearce

Scout Manager Software

By now all of you should have received an invite (or in some cases a 'password reset') email, providing your user name for Scout Manager. Our goal is to utilize Scout Manager as our single source of information for contact information, rank status and advancement, financial information, email distribution lists and

event management. Ideally this will allow us to consolidate several sets of redundant information that were being stored in Troop Master, Troop Ledger, and our email hosting service into a single cloud based service.

By allowing everyone access to their own information it should be much easier to keep the information accurate and up to date. In the case of invitations to events and activities it will allow us to track responses and attendees in the same place we track dollars associated with those events. This means that you will no longer be receiving Evites for Troop 59 activities, instead you will receive an email (typically from: Scout in Charge using Scout Manager) with the details of the event and a link to RSVP. We realize that as with every new system there may be some bumps along the way so please be patient as we work through this implementation. We would love to hear your feedback along the way, so please feel free to email me at emiller58@comcast.net with your thoughts.



Now that all Scout Account balances are up to date and easily viewed online, we will be asking that everyone check their scout account on a monthly basis and keep a positive balance in their account. In addition we will be sending out an email at the end of each month that reflects your Scout account balance. We are asking everyone to start by assuring their scout's account has at least \$150 and making certain it never falls below \$50. With the exception of Summer Camp payments, this will likely mean the accounts will only need to be 'topped off' once a quarter.

To refresh your account please send a check to : Tom Tuhtan, 239 Via Lerida, Greenbrae, CA 94904

We will continue to announce the cost for each activity and charge that amount to the account of participating scouts. This approach means we will no longer be collecting money on an event by event basis. It also means we will no longer utilize DoubleKnot, which has proven to be quite expensive with service fees up to 8%.

Hopefully these changes will allow us to spend more time Scouting and less time keeping track of it. Thank you for your support.

Summer Camp News

Camp Emerald Bay

Troop 59 is taking scouts to Camp Emerald Bay on Catalina Island July 5-11. Camp Emerald Bay is considered one of the premier Boy Scout Camps in the nation and offers a beautiful waterfront with all the accompanying merit badges and activities you would expect. They also offer the traditional summer camp activities and merit badges, too.



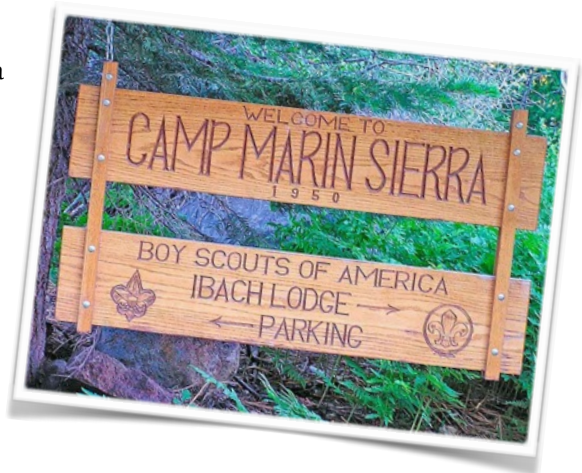
There is still room for scouts who are interested. Check out their [website](#) for more information about their program. Cost of camp is \$674 per scout with an estimated \$200 additional fee for air travel expenses.

Camp Emerald Bay also offers high adventure programs for scouts 14 and older. Called their “Rugged” programs, they offer weeklong Scuba, canoeing and mountain biking adventures. Scouts who complete the Rugged Canoeing and Rugged Explorers (mountain biking) will earn their 50 miler award. Costs are higher for these programs so be sure to check the Emerald Bay website for more details.

Camp Marin Sierra

The Troop is spending the week of July 19-25 at Marin Sierra in our traditional campsite, Pioneer. The theme at Marin Sierra this summer is “Unlocking the Mysteries of Scouting: Putting the Pieces Together for an Incredible Summer.” You don’t have to be Sherlock Holmes to know you’ll earn interesting merit badges and have fun at camp!

The cost of attending Marin Sierra is \$360. Payment must be received by June 1. The early bird price for scouts who make their payment before April 1 is \$330.



What happens if you have a conflict and can’t go with the troop during those weeks? Contact Mrs. Bailey-Gates with the dates you would like to go to Marin Sierra and we will work with Marin Council so you can attend camp with another troop.

Summer Camp Job Opportunities

If you are 14 or older and interested in a summer job, you can apply to work at Cub Scout Camp or Camp Marin Sierra. Check the [Marin Council](#) website to get an application and more details about the jobs available.

Upcoming Events

Conservation Project/Bike Races/Family BBQ – March 27-29

We’re packing in a lot of activities and fun for one weekend! Scouts will spend Friday and Saturday nights at Camp Tamarancho in the Twin Cities campground. On Saturday morning, we will participate in a conservation project, planting trees at Tamarancho. If we can get at least 50% of scouts to participate, the troop can earn a Hornaday Award. Please try to help if you can!!

After the conservation project, parents are invited to join us for a big family BBQ at the Twin Cities campsite. Sophie Kurnik is overseeing the meal and it will be delicious. She needs a few parent volunteers, if you’d like to help. Then, stay to watch the first ever Troop 59 Mountain Dew obstacle course and Dirt Classic bike race! Trophies will be awarded!

Scouts should plan to stay all weekend. We will have a special campfire program for scouts Saturday evening and we'll understand if scouts want to spend some time reliving their glories on the bike course that day.

Troop 59 Camporee – April 24-26

Scouts won't want to miss the annual Troop 59 Camporee which will be held at Camp Tamarancho on April 24-26. It will be a weekend filled with patrol competitions, games and fun, including the scouts' favorite, night-time jail break activity.

Ziplining – May 2

Zippping at Sonoma Canopy Tours. \$79 for scouts \$109 for adults. Scouts who tried the zipline last year loved the experience of zipping among the redwood trees at up to 25 mph. You'll stop at 11 different platforms over the course of several hours. There are very limited spaces for scouts and adults for this one day activity. Be sure to email Beth Bailey-Gates (bethmbg@gmail.com) if you are interested. An invitation will be sent out soon.

ILST Review

by Tristan Pearce On Sunday, February 22, thirteen of our boy leaders participated in ILST at Tamarancho, which stands for Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops. ILST is the official training for boy leaders in scouts. ILST contains three modules, most of which included fun, interactive games that in one way or another related to the module. Module One was about troop organization and included descriptions of leadership roles and responsibilities and was led by Taylor Gumm. In Module One, the attending leaders received their role contracts. Module Two covered the skill sets that help scouts lead, plan, and teach and was led by James Barton. Module Three explained additional leadership tools, including discussions about teams, team ethics, and values of a leader and was led by Peter Jankowski. This training would not have been possible without those leaders and the help from James Rapp and Connor Bailey-Gates. Overall, the training was very fun and interesting and I think everyone who went got something from it.

Troop T-Shirt Design Contest

There's still time to submit your original design for the next Troop 59 T-shirt. Please send all designs and/or questions to Gavin (scoutgkurnik@gmail.com) by 3/18/15.



Klondike

by Jordan Mann

It was cold...so bitterly cold.
And one scout got hypothermia, or so I was told.

It took about an hour to set up my tent.
I'm not sure that was time too well spent

Here is some advice for bringing snowshoes,
test them out first or fun you will lose.

The competitions were fierce, though my socks
were quite wet.
We didn't win too many of them, but there was
no time to fret.

My body was numb from my head to my toes.
Next time I pack, I'll reflect better on what I
chose.

The food was amazing, not what I'd expected.
Freeze-dried pasta tastes good under a tarp
you've erected.

However this Klondike was a story to be told,
one I'll remember until I grow old.

