

TROOP 59

Upcoming Meetings

Troop Meeting: Wed.,
December 10th at 7:30

Advancement Night: Wed,
December 17th at 7:30

Upcoming Events

Angel Island Campout:
December 13th-14th

**Catalina Camp Early Bird
Deposit Due:** December 31st

House of Air: January 3rd

Ski Trip: January 16th-19th

CODE RED: January 31st

LEAD: January 31st: Adult
Training. An amazing event!

Court of Honor (COH):
February 11th Dinner included.

Volunteers Needed for COH Committee

The troop needs a few
volunteers to help Sonya
Angelone plan the Feb. 11
Court of Honor.

This is when the troop hosts a
dinner for scouts and their
families with potluck desserts.
Sonya's email is
sonya.angelone@comcast.net



New Newsletter and Website Improvements

Welcome to our first new newsletter for Troop 59. We hope you find it informative and inspirational. If you have something you would like to include in the newsletter please email Nancy (nancy@mann.com) or Sophie (skurnik@comcast.net) by the first Thursday of the month.

Website updates have been made with more on the way. The Troop Homepage has been updated (troop59bsa.org). Look for a whole new website in 2015. Of course, we'll let you know when it is live!

Summer Camp News!

It's not too early to be thinking about summer camp. Troop 59 will be attending two different summer camps in July, 2015.

July 5-11 we will attend Camp Emerald Bay on Catalina Island – a traditional summer camp for scouts of all ages, with an exceptional waterfront offering motor boating, sailing, kayaking, scuba and more. Emerald Bay also offers several high adventure options for scouts who are 14 and older or who have graduated 8th grade. >>

Love A Good Blog?

Beth Bailey-Gates also recommended the following blog to follow:
blog.scoutingmagazine.com

New Merit Badges in 2015

Signs, Signals and Codes: The Signs, Signals, and Codes merit badge will cover Morse code, ASL, Braille, signaling, trail markings, and other nonverbal communications.

Animation: Computer or traditional animation tasks that will test a Scout's creativity, artistic skills, and storytelling abilities.

T59 Meeting Schedule

FOR ALL SCOUTS

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

Advancement Nights are the 3rd & 5th Wednesdays at 7:30pm at Masonic Lodge

OTHER MEETINGS

Patrol Leader Meetings are the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays at 7pm.
 Location: Ned Farnkopf's home

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

Be sure to get your reservation in to Mr. Cameron Mason (masonplumbing@comcast.net) and pay the \$100 (non-refundable) reservation fee by December 31.

BSA Fieldbook Wins Award: A Perfect Holiday Gift

The nonprofit National Outdoor Book Awards Foundation just announced that the Fieldbook: Scouting's Manual of Basic and Advanced Skills for Outdoor Adventure, has won its Work of Significance Award. The Fieldbook is only the third book to win this rare honor.



What is the Fieldbook? In short, it's a compendium of outdoor knowledge oriented to young people. A short list of topics include planning trips, preparing menus, outdoor cooking, backcountry hygiene, navigation, leave no trace camping, first aid, survival, and observing and caring for the natural world. It also covers techniques of specific sports including backpacking, mountain travel, ski touring, snowshoeing, canoeing, kayaking, rafting and caving.

Stop by the Scout store in San Rafael or order it on Amazon. It would make a great gift for a scout!

LEAD: Adult Leader Training

Mount Diablo Silver Council offers a day of training on Saturday, January 31 at Diablo Valley College. Adults in the Troop are encouraged to attend this fun day of training.

L.E.A.D. (Leadership, Education And Discovery) offers a full schedule of classes from Team-building games, knots and lashings, Eagle Scout planning to activity planning classes for cycling, canoeing, backpacking, hiking, sailing, geocaching, fishing and more. Sign up for L.E.A.D. and get excited about what scouts (and scouters) can do for adventure!

Besides the training classes, they offer a HAM Cram class to help both scouts and adults earn their Ham Radio License in one day.

Troop 59 Events and Services

◆ Scouting For Food was a huge success!

This year's Scouting for Food exceeded last years totals by almost 25%. A great job was done by the boys who distributed flyers and picked up the food. Special thanks to Denise Miller who organized the drive and all the parents who drove.

◆ Fall Fundraising Report

18 scouts earned \$11,000 through greens sales this year with \$1,000 of that going directly to the troop. Seven scouts earned \$3,000 through emergency backpack sales. Don't forget scouts can sell backpacks year round – they make great gifts for family, friends and employees. Thanks to John Russo and Denise Miller for overseeing the fundraising opportunities.

◆ Fun at Country Club Bowl

An evening of fun was had by all at the last Scout Bowling Event before Thanksgiving. It was a great opportunity to connect with Webelos as well as fellow scout friends. Thank you Ryan Suckle for heading up this annual activity.

◆ Eagle Scout Projects

There have been lots of eagle projects this fall. Here are pictures from four of the projects by Connor, Hunter, PJ, Justin and Andrew.



Leave No Trace Trainer Opportunity

Scouts who are 14 and older by May, 2015 and registered adults are eligible to sign up for the 16 hour Leave No Trace Trainer training May 16-17 at Briones State Park. The training is being offered by the Mount Diablo Silverado Council.

Leave No Trace Trainer is one of the recognized positions of leadership for rank advancement, including Eagle. Even if you don't need this position for leadership, this is great training for all scouts.

Check out the Mount Diablo Silverado Council website or contact Mrs. Bailey-Gates for more info. Check their website at <http://www.bsa-mdsc.org/training/adult/leader-education-and-discovery-lead> to register. You can see the list of classes offered at <http://www.bsa-mdsc.org/sites/default/files/LEAD2015-SCHEDULE%20BY%20COLLEGE%2011-7-14.pdf>

Philmont 12 Day Expedition 2016 Secured!

If you heard about Philmont from the Scouts and Leaders who went this past summer, then you know how AWESOME it is. It's not too early to be thinking and planning for this event. 2016 Philmont youth participants must be 14 years of age on date of arrival OR have completed the eighth grade and be at least 13 prior to participation. Be sure to let Ned Farnkopf know if you are interested or have questions. Here is a picture from last year!



Camping Awards

Troop 59 has its own **Honor Camping Award** to recognize and award Scouts who achieve significant milestones in camping. The primary purpose of this award is to provide incentive to Scouts to be active participants on our camping outings and to honor the most dedicated campers in the Troop – will that be you?

There are four tiers and corresponding belts awarded: *40 nights (grey)*; *80 nights (brown)*; *120 nights (red)* and *150 nights (black)*. After reaching each milestone, the Scout is awarded the appropriate Honor Camper webbed belt.

National Outdoor Award

The BSA offers the National Outdoor Award Badges for Camping, Hiking, Aquatics, Riding, and Adventure To earn the National Outdoor Award for Camping, scouts must:

Camping: 1). Earn the First Class rank. 2). Earn the Camping merit badge. 3). Earn two of the following three merit badges: Cooking, First Aid, Pioneering. 4). Complete 25 days and nights of camping—including six >>

consecutive days (five nights) of resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America—including nights camped as part of requirements 1 through 3 above.

A gold device may be earned for each additional 25 nights of camping. A silver device is earned for each additional 100 nights of camping. The Scout may wear any combination of devices totaling his current number of nights camping.

The National Outdoor Award also includes badges for Hiking, Aquatics, Riding and Adventure. You can learn more about those requirements at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/Youth/Awards/NOA.aspx>

Troop Photo Album

Troop 59 has a Flickr account where you can find photos from most outings and activities. You can view the photo albums at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/76944700@N04/sets>. If you want to copy a photo, contact Beth Bailey-Gates to get the user ID and password. You're also invited to upload your photos from events and activities.

