

TROOP 386, Carmichael, California
Parents Guide

Parent's Guide



www.troop-386-gec.org

Pony Express District of the Golden Empire Council

**TROOP 386, Carmichael, California
Parents Guide**

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Welcome to Troop 386!

By becoming a parent of a Boy Scout, you are setting your son out on the grand adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him. Scouting provides timeless values which builds leaders of tomorrow. Each Scout Troop has its own personality and Troop 386 is no different. Troop 386 takes pride in the Scouting spirit and wears the uniform proudly. Troop 386 is a Full Uniform Troop.

History & Traditions

Troop 386 was formed in the late 1960s and since then has turned out over 60 Eagle Scouts: The first being in 1969. There have been 12 Scoutmasters with four former Scoutmasters still active in the Troop as Assistant Scoutmasters or Committee Members. We have one Assistant Scoutmaster who has been with the troop for over 25 years and several others who have earned their Eagle with Troop 386: The first being in 1981. We also have one of our original Scoutmasters, who has been registered as a Scout for over 60 years.

Chartered Organization (Sponsor)

Every BSA Troop is sponsored by an organization. The Chartered Organization for Troop 386 is the Carmichael Elks Lodge. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and insures that there is adequate, trained leadership and a meeting place.

Two Deep Leadership

Two registered adult leaders, or one adult leader and a Scout parent, both of whom must be at least 21 years of age, must be present at all troop meetings, trips and outings. This is a BSA requirement and is not flexible. If proper supervision is not available the event, whatever it may be, is cancelled.

Becoming a Scout in Troop 386

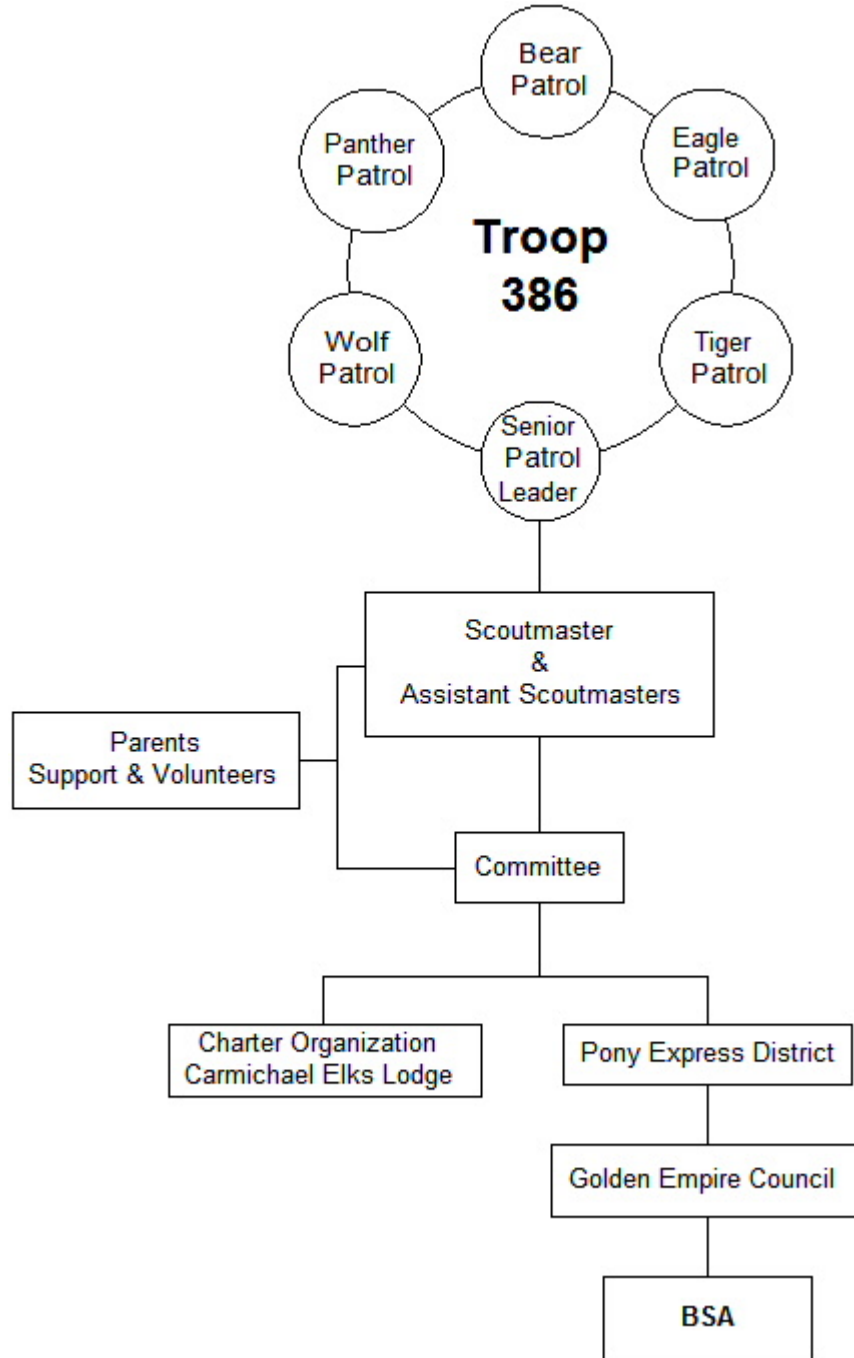
To become a Scout in Troop 386 the following items are required:

- Application form along with the appropriate registration fees
- Class 1 Medical form which includes emergency contact and insurance information.
- Scout Information sheet (contains parent/guardian information, phone & email address).
- Full Class A Field uniform (see uniforms later in this document).

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The Organization

The Troop is at the top of the organization. Every other aspect of the organization supports the Troop. Troop 386 is a participating member of the Pony Express District of the Golden Empire Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop's organization consists of the Troop, a Chartered Organization, a Troop Committee and the Troop's Parents.



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The Troop

Troop 386 is a boy run troop, meaning the youth plan and run all activities. The Scouting program is a living breathing reflection of what our sons will encounter as adults. We want our sons to learn the skills needed to be successful in life at whatever they choose to do. The events (meetings, camping trips, summer camp, and day activities) are all 100% boy planned and run and are used as a means to teach and practice teamwork, leadership, socialization, problem solving, goal setting, and personal responsibility. There is not another program like it for our sons that incorporates all of life's skills in a way that they can learn, practice, safely fail, and have the support and opportunity to try again. When we do it for them or bail them out, the lesson is lost. The adults are there only to ensure BSA safety policies and guidelines are adhered to and lead by example. As leaders, it is our job to see that the sometimes expected or even planned failures never put our son's in a dangerous situation, and that they always learn something from the experience. It is also our responsibility to see they have the opportunity for success. One small success leads to greater successes in the future. You can witness the results of our methods at the Scout meetings and on our camping trips.

The Troop has the following chain of command when minor issues or questions arise:

1. Scouts go to their Patrol Leader.
2. Patrol Leaders go to the Senior Patrol Leader or one of his Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders.
3. The Senior Patrol Leader goes to the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster.
4. The Scoutmaster reports to the Committee and Charter Organization.

Patrols

Troop 386 follows the "Patrol Method" of Scouting as follows:

- The Troop is made of Boy Scout patrols which work collectively and independently to make the Troop function.
- Each Patrol consists of a Patrol Leader and six to ten Scouts. Patrols in Troop 386 are made up of Scouts of different ages as opposed to some troops whose patrols are made up of Scouts the same age. We find this method works better at spreading the experience and knowledge of the older Scouts equally between all patrols allowing patrols to compete with each other on equal ground.
- The boys in a patrol elect their Patrol Leader who in turn appoints an Assistant Patrol Leader and other various assistants.

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- The Patrol Leaders, with a Senior Patrol Leader as their head, form the Patrol Leaders' Council, which plan the activities and run the Troop meetings.
- New Scouts are placed, together, in a, temporary, "New Scout Patrol", until they reach the rank of Tenderfoot (1 to 2 months). After reaching Tenderfoot they are assigned to one of the permanent patrols. Older Scouts with prior Patrol Leader experience act as New Scout Patrol Leaders for the one or two months the New Scout Patrol is needed.

Scouts

Advancement

The Boy Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a Scout climbs at his own pace. As he acquires these skills he moves up through a series of ranks, for which he is awarded badges. The higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks -- and the more rewarding. As soon as new Scouts join the troop they begin working on their advancement toward Eagle Scout. Ranks in Scouting are as follows:

- Scout
- Tenderfoot
- Second Class Scout
- First Class Scout
- Star
- Life
- Eagle

Advancement from Scout rank to First Class Scout is mostly dependent on the Scouts attendance and participation in the troop. If a new Scout attends and participates in all of the Troop outings for one year they should have easily achieved all of the requirements needed to reach the rank of First Class Scout.

Once a Scout has reached the rank of First Class Scout, advancement becomes more dependent on a combination of leadership, completion of merit badges and service hours. However, attendance and participation in the Troop are still very important... In order for a Scout to accumulate leadership time he must first be elected by his brother Scouts... It is hard for a Scout who is never around to get votes. Once elected, Scouts must attend meetings and outings in order to fulfill their leadership obligations and responsibilities. The Troop also provides a number of opportunities for Scouts to complete various merit badges and earn service hours at meetings and outings through the year.

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Merit Badges

The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a Scout's areas of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. Merit badges are earned by a Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor. The requirements to reach the Star rank through Eagle all require the completion of a specific number of Eagle required and elective merit badges. There are a total of 21 merit badges required to reach the rank of Eagle Scout with 12 of the 21 being specific Eagle required merit badges. Summer camp not only offers each Scout a week of fun and excitement but also offers the opportunity for Scouts to earn as many as 5 or 6 merit badges in as little as five days.

Leadership

In order for Scouts to advance to Star, Life and Eagle they must be elected to and serve time in a leadership position. Leadership positions include Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Scribe, Troop Quartermaster and Troop Historian. Several other leadership positions may be created, at the discretion and approval of the Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster.

Boards of Review

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he appears before a board of review composed of members of the Troop committee. The purpose of the review is not an examination. Rather it is to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals; to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement, to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program, and to encourage him to keep working towards advancement. A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a boy about his lack of progress toward advancement.

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Meetings and Outings

Troop Meetings

Time: Every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Location: Carmichael Elks Lodge

Attendees: All Scouts, Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters.

Meetings are always open to visiting parents but their attendance is not required or expected.

Uniform: Uniform of the season is required

- Summer: Following Memorial Day weekend till Labor Day weekend Scouts meet outside, in the backyard of the Elks Lodge. The required uniform during this period is "Class B" Activity uniform (Scout pants, Scout belt, Scout socks and any Scout tee-shirt).
- Winter: Following Labor Day weekend till Memorial Day weekend Scouts meet in one of the rooms inside the Elks Lodge. The required uniform during this period is FULL "Class A" Field uniform (Scout shirt (tucked in), Scout neckerchief, Scout pants, Scout belt and Scout socks).
- Closed toed shoes are always required for ALL Scouting events.

The Senior Patrol Leader begins the meeting promptly at 7:00 by calling the Troop together for opening flags. Scouts arriving after flags have begun will be asked to wait until after flags have completed before taking their place with the Troop, as to not interrupt the Pledge of Allegiance. Following opening flags is roll-call & uniform inspection which is followed by the evening program. The Senior Patrol Leader will execute the plan for the evening which can include rank advancement, merit badge activities, listening to a guest speaker, having Patrol break-out sessions and games.

Adult leaders are present to monitor activities and advise the Senior Patrol Leader when his attention is needed.

At 8:00 the Senior Patrol Leader will call the Troop to closing Flags which is followed by a Troop circle, including adult leaders, where Scouts and leaders have a chance to make any announcements to the Troop. The Scoutmaster will have a final minute to address the Troop followed by the Senior Patrol Leader dismissing the Troop about 8:15. There may also be a mini PLC, with the youth leadership immediately following the Troop meeting which may last 5 to 10 minutes.

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Patrol Leader Council (PLC) Meetings

Time: Monthly - 2nd Friday of each month (usually) - 7:00 to 8:30 (May be followed by a movie or game)

Location: Currently at the Eluwak Lodge (Behind Frith & Bradshaw Jewelers / On California, just south of Fair Oaks Blvd.)

Attendees: All Youth Leadership w/binder required, Scoutmaster and at-least one other ASM. Non-youth leadership Scouts are also welcome.

Uniform: No uniform required

Requirements: None

Monthly Outings

Time: See Checklist/Permission slip

Location: See Checklist/Permission slip

Attendees: All Scouts, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Drivers and approved guests.

Uniform: See Checklist/Permission slip

Requirements: Signed permission slip and items indicated on the checklist.

Three fourths of Scouting is "outing" and Troop 386 loves outings. Once a year the Scouts brainstorm to generate a list of outings they would like to do. They then vote to determine the outings for the upcoming year. The youth typically choose to camp every month of the year.

Special Months include:

February: District Klondike (Snow camping trip)

March: The Troop dedicates this trip to helping our new Scouts, who bridged from Cub Scouts in February, in reaching the rank of Tenderfoot.

April: District Camporee

May: This is a 3 day weekend outing over Memorial Day.

June: Usually this has been an intro to backpacking camping trip.

July: Overnight campout at the Elks Lodge and Carmichael 4th of July Parade.

The first meeting following an outing a combo "Checklist/Permission slip" is handed out for the next outing. Checklist/Permission slips are also posted on our Troop website for downloading at, www.troop-386-gec.org.

Permission slip

In order for any Scouts to attend any weekend outing they must return the completed permission slip (lower portion), signed by a parent/guardian, to the Event Leader for that event. Permission slips are generally due 2 weeks in advance of the event so arrangements for transportation can be made. The upper half of the Checklist/Permission slip is to remain with the Scout for parent

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and Scout reference on what to pack for the outing. Other useful information on the permission form includes: Departure & Return location and time, all costs and money needed for the event, (Cost for a weekend camping trip is usually \$15.00 to \$17.00 which is for food. This is due in cash only and given to the Scout's Patrol leader... No checks please! The youth can't cash checks!), the name of the Event Leader is located at the top of each Checklist/Permission slip, along with their phone number where questions, regarding that event, should be directed. Occasionally a trip will have an additional expense, horseback riding, rock climbing, deep-sea fishing, etc. All costs for the event will be listed on the checklist/permission slip.

Checklist and Packing

A checklist is carefully created for each outing by the Senior Patrol Leader, Event Coordinator and the Scoutmaster. The checklist is specific to the outing and needs to be used by each Scout when packing... Packing for Spring or Fall camping in Sacramento is much different than packing for a camping trip to Lake Tahoe or Yosemite. Be Prepared! Use the checklist!

Things not on the checklist list, especially candy, should not be packed. The Troop often camps in bear country and a bear can smell a candy bar as well as you can smell your neighbors charcoal grill whenever they light it up. Other items not allowed on outings are cell phones, any type of electronic entertainment devices (games, toys, portable DVD/music players...), any games of a gambling nature (playing cards), any non-Scout or non-mess kit knives and any clothing/caps containing inappropriate advertisements and/or logos. Unauthorized items will be confiscated by the Scout Leaders and returned to the parent/guardian upon return from the outing.

Packing is something the Scout needs to learn to do and not something the parent does for him.

A good way to have your Scout pack is to have them lay everything marked on the checklist on their bed. Then check the items on the list to make sure they are all on the bed... If not, hand the list back to the Scout and walk away, telling them to let you know when everything on the list is on the bed. Once everything is on the bed then you can give them the ok to pack everything.

Departure and Arrival from Troop Outings

A departure time and returning time will be included on each event checklist/permission slip.

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- **Departing:** Each parent/guardian should make every effort to have their Scout at the departure location 15 to 20 minutes prior to the departure time (Location and time is found at the top of each outing checklist/permission slip) so “the Troop” can depart at the specified time. Prior to departure all permission slips need to be verified, equipment & food need to be loaded into vehicles, Scouts need to be accounted for and assigned seats/vehicles. Scouts arriving late delay the departure time for the entire Troop.

Also, NEVER drop off your son at an event and drive away without making contact with one of the adult leaders first. Plans can change at the last minute. We need this opportunity to share the latest information before we all go in different directions.

- **Returning:** When returning from weekend outings all Scouts need to remain at the Elks Lodge until all drivers have returned and all Scout equipment has been unloaded and stowed away. In many cases the Troop returns from an outing before or after the posted time on the checklist. When this happens, drivers usually have each Scout, riding with them, call their parents 15 to 20 minutes prior to arriving at the Elks Lodge so they can be there to pick them up.

Parents should make every effort to be at the Elks Lodge to pick their Scout up as soon as the Troop returns from an outing. At least two Scout leaders must remain at the Elks Lodge until the last Scout has been picked up... Please be considerate of those Scout Leaders who have volunteered their weekend and are anxious to get home for a little down time or take care of weekend chores before going back to work on Monday morning.

District Round Table

Time: Monthly - Currently the 2nd Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30.
Location: LDS Church on the corner of Garfield & Locust (1 block from Elks Lodge).
Attendees: Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters and Committee Members.
Uniform: “Class A” Field uniform is highly recommended
Requirements: None

Order Of The Arrow (OA) Meetings

Time: Monthly - Currently the 2nd Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30.
Location: LDS Church on the corner of Walnut & Locust (1 block from Elks Lodge).
Attendees: OA members
Uniform: “Class A” Field uniform with OA sash
Requirements: OA Membership

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Junior Leader Training (JLT)

Time: Bi-Annually - Following Troop elections - Usually Friday evening until Saturday mid-morning. Bring a sleeping bag. The JLT takes the place of that month's PLC.

Location: Eluwak Lodge (Behind Frith & Bradshaw Jewelers / On California, just south of Fair Oaks Blvd.)

Attendees: All Youth Leadership, Scoutmaster and at-least one other ASM.

Uniform: "Class B" Activity uniform unless notified otherwise.

Requirements: Sleeping bag

Re-Charter

Time: Annually – Due in November

Location: N/A

Involves: All registered Scouts, Adult Leaders and Committee Members.

Each year all Scouts and adult leaders must register as Scouts in the Golden Empire Council. Registering provides insurance coverage. Scouts who are not registered can not advance or attend the monthly outings.

Service Projects

In addition to weekly meetings and monthly camp activities; Troop 386 Scouts develop a sense of citizenship and strengthen their community by participating in special Service Projects throughout the year. Scouts are also encouraged to assist their brother Scouts who are working on their Eagle projects. Scouts can accumulate service hours for advancement by working on Service Projects and helping on Eagle projects.

Courts of Honor

Troop 386 conducts a Court of Honor once each quarter to recognize Scout advancements and awards. The Court of Honor is a public ceremony, and is a chance for the Scouts to be recognized for their achievements. Families and all other interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

Summer Activities

- **Summer Camp:**

Time: Typically July (Sun to Sat). A flyer is usually handed out in March with dates.

Location: Changes each year. Look for flyer each March.

Attendees: All Scouts and registered leaders

Uniform: Both "Class A" Field and "Class B" Activity uniforms are required.

Requirements: Class 1 & 2 Medical Forms and an Emergency Medical Treatment Authorization.

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Scouts can attend a week-long camp. Troop 386 attends a different camp each year, in order to keep the experience new. While younger Scouts work on completing their requirements for the rank of First Class and a few Merit Badges, Older Scouts (usually age 14-up) may embark on High Adventure activities offered by the camp. All Scouts attending summer camp must have a full Class "A" and full Class "B" uniforms. Scouts must be in a Class A uniform to eat breakfast and dinner. Do not bring any non-Scout clothing other than a swimsuit, jacket and Zany Day garb to summer camp. Several forms are also required for attending summer camp such as a Class 2 medical form (requires Doctor's signature and is good for 3 years) and several release forms.

- **50 Mile Backpacking Trek:**

Time: Usually Aug. (1 Week) each year. Announcements and flyers are made

Location: Changes each year

Attendees: Venture age Scouts and registered adult leaders. Guest may be allowed at the discretion of the Event Leader and if space permits.

Uniform: No uniform required. Proper back-country clothing and gear are required for this event.

Requirements: Class 3 medical form, About 5 training hikes, Approval of the Scoutmaster and Event Leader and the appropriate and approved hiking clothing & gear.

Attendance

As parents, Troop 386 leaders understand a Scout's school work is the top priority and homework comes before Scouting. We also understand boys want to play football, baseball, basketball, soccer, be in the school band and participate in other activities, outside of Scouting. Boys, just like adults, place different priorities on what are important to them and they make choices based their priorities. Advancement in Scouting, however, requires attendance and participation. We would like for all of our Scouts to become Eagle Scouts, however, it is up to the individual boy to make their own decision as to what is important to them. As parents, we can only hope they make the right decisions that will benefit them most in the long term.

Costs

The annual registration fee is a nominal fee paid each fall to officially enroll the Scout in the local Troop and the national Boy Scouts of America (BSA) organization. Other costs through the course of Scouting include dues and fees for special activities.

Annual Registration Fee - \$35

The annual membership fee for each Scout in Troop 386 is applied by the Troop toward:

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- National BSA membership (\$10)
- Insurance (\$1.00)
- Troop membership costs, including badges, awards, troop-supplied materials, equipment, adult leadership training and other operating expenses incurred by the Troop. (\$24)

Monthly Dues: \$10

Dues are collected and tracked by the Troop Scribe. Dues help pay for a number of items including camp sites and patrol box supplies. It is each Scouts responsibility to check with the Scribe each month to ensure he is not behind on his dues. There are several duties available for Scouts to earn money to go into their "Scout Account". Scouts can use money from their Scout Account to pay for dues and other Scouting fees.

In order to keep Scouts from becoming too far behind in their dues, Troop 386 has established a policy whereas once a Scout becomes \$30 (3 months) behind in his dues he will no longer be allowed to attend the monthly campouts or advance until his dues are paid up.

Fees for Outings / Activities - varies

Campouts and other activities may have fees associated with them. Here are some approximate costs of special events in a typical year.

Costs for Monthly weekend Outings

- **Meals:** \$15-\$17 is collected for meals on most campouts. Each Patrol plans their menus, shops for their food and cooks their meals as a patrol. Each patrol leader collects \$15-\$17 (see event checklist for exact amount) from each person in his patrol who is going on the event. The patrol then meets at a grocery store, usually the Thursday before the outing, and shops for the food. Food is only purchased for Scouts who have paid.
- **Other Fees:** On some outings the Troop may go horseback riding, fishing, rock climbing or ride a train or ferry. In these cases any additional costs will be included on the event checklist.
- **Camporee & Klondike** - District-wide weekend events, \$15-\$25

Costs for Summer Camp (Summer Camp runs from Sunday to Saturday)

- **Summer Camp** ranges from \$225 to \$325, depending on the camp. The Scouts choose a different camp each year. The cost for Summer Camp is split into two payments. The first, usually, being due around the end of March and the second, usually, due around the end of May. These due dates may change from year to year as some camps offer Troops a discount for early payment.

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- **Trading Post** - Scouts usually take an additional \$20 to \$40 for trading post spending money.
- **Merit Badges (Optional)** - Certain merit badges, offered at Summer Camp, require kits be purchased by the Scouts. Scouts will be notified of any merit badge costs prior to leaving for camp. Summer camp offers the opportunity for Scouts to earn as many as 5 or 6 merit badges in as little as five days.
- **Rifle Range (Optional)** – Scouts wishing to shoot fire arms on the rifle range must purchase tickets for ammunition used. Scouts will be made aware of any costs for the rifle range.

Boys Life magazine subscription – This great magazine is included in the registration.

Boys' Life is a monthly magazine popular with Scouts, and filled with ideas for activities and outings. Subscriptions are optional and are processed with the annual registration.

Uniform

Troop 386 is a "Full Uniform Troop". Each Scout is required to have a full Class "A" uniform and a Class "B" uniform.

"Class A" Field Uniform items include:

- Scout shirt (Khaki / tan) with insignias and patches.
 - World Scouting emblem (purple round patch)
 - Council shoulder patch
 - 386 numbers
 - 40 year patch
- Scout belt
- Scout pants / shorts
- Scout socks
- Troop neckerchief (provided by Troop)
- Neckerchief slide (can be purchased or made by Scout)

"Class B" Activity Uniform items include:

- Any Scout tee-shirt (a red Troop tee-shirt is provided each year).
- Scout belt
- Scout pants / shorts
- Scout socks

The following required items are provided by the Troop and do not need to be purchased by the Scout/parent:

- Boy Scout Handbook (Issued during Cub Scout Bridging Ceremony)

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- Red epilates / shoulder loops (Issued during Cub Scout Bridging Ceremony)
- Troop neckerchief (Issued upon completing Tenderfoot rank)
- Troop hat (Issued following the Scouts first outing)
- Troop "Red Hot & Rollin" tee-shirt (Issued each year prior to summer camp)
- Troop Leadership patch (Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, Historian...)
- Patrol patch

Troop 386 has a clothes locker where shirts, pants and other items may be purchased at a small fee depending on availability. See the Scoutmaster or one of the Assistant Scoutmasters.

Scholarships

Troop 386 is committed to seeing each Scout in the troop has the opportunity to participate in every outing. In cases where a Scout may not have the money to attend an outing or summer camp, scholarships are available. Please see the Scoutmaster regarding scholarships. All requests for scholarships are treated confidentially.

Fundraising

Additional funds are raised by the boys through various fundraising activities. The Troop usually has one or two fundraising projects a year. Fund-raisers are designed so that once the Troop budget is met, additional funds raised by your son will be put into his individual account to defray Scouting costs and purchase additional and new equipment such as tents and canoes/kayaks.

Scout Behavior

Ensuring the safety and welfare each Scout in Troop 386 is the first priority of the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Committee Members and Charter Organization.

The Boy Scouts of America is a values-based youth development organization that helps young people learn positive attributes of character, citizenship, and personal fitness. The BSA has the expectation that all participants in the Scouting program will relate to each other in accord with the principles embodied in the Scout Oath and Law.

One of the developmental tasks of childhood is to learn appropriate behavior. Children are not born with an innate sense of propriety and they need guidance and direction. The example set by positive adult role models is a powerful tool for shaping behavior and a tool that is stressed in Scouting.

Misbehavior by a single youth member in a Scouting unit may constitute a threat to the safety of the individual who misbehaves as well as to the safety of other unit members. Such misbehavior constitutes an unreasonable burden on a Scout unit and cannot be ignored.

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All members of the Boy Scouts of America are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Law. Physical violence, hazing, bullying, theft, verbal insults, and drugs and alcohol have no place in the Scouting program and may result in the revocation of a Scout's membership in the unit.

If confronted by threats of violence or other forms of bullying from other youth members, Scouts should seek help from their unit leaders or parents.

Aside from infractions against other members of the Troop, Scouts will also be subject to disciplinary action and/or reimbursement for willful destruction of any Troop, Private or Public property.

Parents

Troop Parents

The role of parents within Troop 386 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

1. Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting, the Scout Oath and the Scout Laws.
2. Talk to their Scout about their Scouting experience and pass any comments/concerns (positive and negative) on to the adult leadership.
3. Ask their Scout about announcements made at the end of each meeting.
4. Actively follow their Scout's progress and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
5. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
6. Keep Troop Leadership advised of any special needs or medical conditions of your Scout so necessary attention can be given to ensure they have a positive and enjoyable Scouting experience.
7. Be aware of the Troop Events Calendar.
8. Assist in Troop fund-raisers and other such activities.
9. Consider serving in one of the many support roles available for supporting the Troop.

Parents on Outings

There are two basic rules to keep in mind when parents join the Troop for a weekend campout:

(1) As far as your child is concerned, you are not along as a parent. If your child needs help or guidance, they should first seek help within their patrol, then their patrol leader. If their problem still hasn't been solved, they should seek the help of a

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Scoutmaster or Asst. Scoutmaster. It is important that the boys whose parents are not able to attend the outings don't feel that special treatment is afforded the boys whose parents are able to attend.

(2) If you need it, or want to use it, bring it! Just like the boys, the adults need to be self-sufficient. Unless you want to sleep under the stars, bring your own (reasonably sized) tent. Don't forget a sleeping bag, flashlight, etc. If you'd like to sit down on anything other than the ground, don't forget a folding chair! Usually the food for the adults is purchased by one of the adults going on the trip. You are expected to assist in kitchen duties, and share equally in the cost (usually around \$25-\$30 for the weekend - bring cash! The troop, or one of the adults, will provide a stove, cooking utensils, etc. You are responsible for providing your own mess kit. Lastly, be flexible! Things don't always go as planned, but we always have a great time!

Parent Participation

Even though Troop 386 is a "Boy Run Troop" it takes a lot of support from adults to make things happen and be successful. All parents are encouraged to participate. There are many opportunities at various level of commitment to assist the troop and keep it running strong. Listed below are a number of ways parents can participate.

- **Scoutmaster** – Troop 386 Scoutmasters typically rotate every 2 to 3 years. New Scoutmasters have typically spent several years as an Assistant Scoutmaster. To become a Scoutmaster you must have completed the BSA Youth Protection Training along with Leader Training. This position requires a high level of commitment in time and energy.
- **Assistant Scoutmasters** - One of the greatest strengths of Troop 386 is its pool of experienced and seasoned Assistant Scoutmasters: There are currently four former Scoutmasters registered as Assistant Scoutmasters with Troop 386. Also, four of the currently registered Assistant Scoutmasters achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, as Boy Scouts. This position requires a high level of commitment in time and energy.
- **Troop Committee**
The Troop Committee functions as an administration and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of non-program issues surrounding the Troop. For example: Serve on Boards Of Review, Troop funds, fund raising activities, membership drives and Troop coordination, activity permits and coordination, advancement records, procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment. There are many duties that can be filled by parents as Committee Members who do not have the time required at the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster level.

TROOP 386, Carmichael, California Parents Guide

Troop Support & Volunteers

There is an abundant number of Troop support and volunteer positions that can be arranged to meet any schedule and commitment of time.

Examples are:

- Finding/Arranging Guest Speakers
- Finding/Arranging Field Trips
- Assisting with Fund Raising events
- Drivers
- Chaperones & Leadership for overnight outings
- Advancement Support
- Web site support
- Coordinate / Handle Logistics for Camping Trips
- Procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering to help the Troop please do not hesitate to contact any of the Troop Leaders or Troop Committee Members.

Merit Badge Councilors

All parents of Scouts are encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors for fields they have expertise in. These positions require you meet with Scouts (never alone), at your schedule, to go over and sign off requirements. If interested in learning more about becoming a Merit Badge Councilor, please contact the Scoutmaster.

Finding Answers to Further Questions

- The Boy Scout Handbook
- Guide to Safe Scouting (<http://www.scouting.org/pubs/gss/toc.html>)
- Troop 386 Web site (<http://troop-386-gec.org/>)
- Pony Express District Web site (<http://www.gec-bsa.org/districts/ponyexpress>)
- Golden Empire Council Web site (<http://gec-bsa.org/>)

Scouting Terms:

APL	Assistant Patrol Leader
ASM	Assistant Scoutmaster
ASPL	Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
JLT	Junior Leader Training (Twice per year / Youth Leaders / overnight)
OA	Order of the Arrow
PL	Patrol Leader
PLC	Patrol Leader Conference (Once per month / Youth Leaders)
QM	Quartermaster
SM	Scoutmaster
SPL	Senior Patrol Leader