



Typical Cub Scout to Boy Scout Transition process

The Cub Scout to Boy Scout transition is an easy one. Still, there are many questions to ask.. So I did :)

Recently I sat down with Assistant Boy Scout leader and former Cub Scout Den Master Ciro Milazzo to talk about the transition Scouts and parents make after the Cub Scouts.

Below I asked some straight forward questions. Thanks again, Ciro!

Where and how to join the Boy Scouts

The best way to join is to come to a Troop meeting. We meet at the Trinity Church social hall every Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 8:45 pm. Call Scoutmaster Pete Halper for more information. Visit the Troops web site at <http://www.bstroop618.org>

Where can I obtain a Boy Scout application

To transfer from a Cub Pack into the Troop you will need to fill out a new application, similar to the one you filled out to sign your son up for Cub Scouts. See Scoutmaster Pete for the application.

What are my costs (startup, annual, per event)

Webelos who are already registered with the Cub Pack can transfer their membership for the remainder of the calendar year with just a \$1.00 transfer fee to BSA.

The Troop collects \$50 from each Scout at recharter time in December every year. About 1/2 of the \$50 goes towards registering the Boys with the National BSA Organization, which pays for program development, insurance, Boys Life magazine, etc. The other 1/2 is kept within the Troop to pay for activities, camping supplies, etc.

There are some moderate additional costs during the year. Sometimes we need to collect money for our camp sites, typically in the range of \$5 to \$10 per Scout. For the camp outs the Scouts plan their own meals and purchase the food together. They split the cost, and always keep it under \$10 per boy.

What does the Boy Scout yearly activities calendar look like?

A typical year's activities look like this

*September: Attend the MBAC Mountain Man Rendezvous weekend where we re-enact the activities of 1840's fur trappers.

*October: Backpacking at Castle Rock State Park. This is a fairly low key trip to introduce our new Scouts to backpacking.

*November: Bike trip to Sunset Beach. Scouts bike to the park (20 -25

miles) while the camping gear is transported by truck. We camp overnight, and ride back the next day. In November we hold our Fall Court of Honor to present merit badges, rank advancements and other awards that have been earned since the preceding spring.

*December: No outing this month, but at a couple fun service projects.

*January: A camping trip, weather permitting.

*February: A snow trip for Scouts and their families.

*March: Car camping at the Pinnacles, with an exciting day hike to eat lunch at the peaks.

*April: Another backpacking trip. Big Basin to the Sea is a favorite.

*May: Council Camporee if there is one, or an alternate trip if there is no Camporee that year.

*June: Spring Court of Honor to present merit badges, rank advancements and other awards that have been earned since the preceding fall.

*Mid summer: One week of summer camp at MBAC's Camp Pico Blanco or another BSA Council run Scout camp.

Please generalize the time commitment to being a Boy Scout

*Scouts attend a weekly meeting every Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 8:45 pm.

*The Troop goes on one weekend outing each month (except Dec.) from Sept. to June. These are usually a camping or backpacking trip with a Saturday night sleep over. Once or twice a year we may have a two night (Friday and Saturday) outing.

*About once a month we have a half day Sat. or Sun. "field trip" for a community service project or for merit badge advancement.

*Every summer the Troop has a one week trip to a BSA summer camp for fun and for program advancement. Many merit badges are earned by members of the troop at summer camp. This summer Troop 618 will go to camp Chawanakee at Shaver Lake in the Sierras during the week of July 26 - Aug 1.

Parents are encouraged to give as much time and support as they can to help the Troop go, but as a minimum parents are asked to attend a parent meeting held on the first Tuesday of every month at the same time as the Troop meeting, and to help with driving on the occasional outing. There are many other opportunities to help, including participating in the camping outings and/or being a merit badge counselor.

Uniform cost?

The uniform is the same tan shirt as the Webelos wear. If your Webelos has not outgrown his shirt he can wear it as a Boy Scout. If he is now ready for a larger size the shirts are about \$45.00 new. Our Troop uses a dark green neckerchief. The Troop will provide the first neckerchief, but if your Scout loses his you may have to buy another one for about \$6.00.

What are the age groups?

Scouts can enter the Troop at the end of the 5th grade, or earlier if they have earned the Arrow of Light award in the Cub Scouts. The Boy Scout program runs until the Scout's 18th Birthday. The Troop is split up into Patrols, with a mix of ages within each Patrol. The older Scouts teach the younger Scouts the skills they have learned, and the younger Scouts learn the skills and leadership that they will use when they are older and it's their turn to take over as Patrol leaders.

Can you give a general summary of your troop?

Our Troop subscribes whole heartedly to the Boy Scout credo, "Boy Planned, Boy Led". The senior Scouts in the Troop consult with the younger Scouts,

and then meet on the first Monday of each month to decide what Tuesday meeting activities to do, outings to go on, service projects to perform, merit badges to earn as a Troop, etc. With assistance from the parents and Scoutmasters, they then run the program. Parents provide support and guidance, but the boys run the show. In all of our meetings, outings and projects we encourage the Scouts to observe and live the Scout Oath and Law, and at the same time we have a heck of a lot of fun which keeps them coming back for more.

Santa Cruz Cub Scouts, Pack 618

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As of May 5th, 2009, Pete Halper can be reached at (831)426-1933
Troop 618's web site is <http://www.bstroop618.org/>