



Boy Scouts of America

Troop 633

Evangelical Covenant Church
4680 Alamo Street
Simi Valley, California 93063



February, 2005

Dear New Parents,

Welcome to Troop 633.

We would like to thank you for selecting our Troop and hope that your son will enjoy and grow with us as he learns the many skills and traditions that are part of the Boy Scout Movement.

Our troop is in the Simoroaks District of the Ventura County Council. Our District includes the cities of Simi Valley, Moorpark, Thousand Oaks, and Newbury Park.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and inform you of some of the policies and practices of our Troop.

Charter Organization:	Evangelical Covenant Church of Simi Valley	
Charter Organization Representative:	John Chinn	
Committee Chairperson:	Scott Stewart	
Scoutmaster:	George Kurata	
Secretary:	Lori Cook	
Treasurers:	Karen Martinelli Lisa van Essen	
Advancement	Eileen Pratt	
Camping	Debbie Post	
Membership	Lori Anne Dario	
Trading Post		

TROOP MEETINGS

Troop meetings are held every Monday evening from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM in the Church Fellowship Hall. We usually skip meetings only on major holidays. We continue to meet on minor holidays and throughout the summer. Announcements are made at the Troop meetings as well as in our Troop Newsletter about the weeks when there will be no meeting. We try very

hard to end our meetings on schedule and ask that you be prompt in picking up your son after the meetings.

Every three months we have a Court of Honor when the boys receive awards and recognition for rank advancement and merit badges. These are held in place of the regular meeting. This is a family affair and we urge you and your family to attend these events to support your son. It is customary for the entire family to come forward with a Scout when he advances to a new and higher rank. Courts of Honor are held in the main Church Worship Center, which is large enough to accommodate the entire Troop and their families.

Troop Campouts / Outings

A campout for the entire troop is scheduled for the third weekend of nearly every month. We strongly encourage your son to attend these activities in order for him to learn and practice the skills that are part of the Scouting program. The campouts are an opportunity for him to advance in rank and earn merit badges in a wide variety of areas. We go camping even when it rains, unless safety issues such as poor road conditions force us to cancel. Transportation and campsite fees are paid for by the Troop dues, however, food expenses are not. For the months of April, August, and September, the scheduled campout may occur on a different weekend. Special District and Council events are scheduled during April and May. These typically do not fall on the third Saturday of the month. During the month of September a family campout is scheduled.



LONG TERM CAMP

Each summer there are opportunities for the boys to attend a Scout Camp. During the past few years we have traveled to Camp Three Falls (operated by the Ventura County Council), as well as to camps in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the Big Sur area, San Diego, and Catalina Island. These campouts have included special activities such as boating, horseback riding, and river rafting.

Because we are a large Troop we are fortunate to be able to schedule several long term campouts each summer. We strongly encourage your son to attend at least one of these campouts. There is no requirement to attend more than one. Having multiple long terms allows us to take every boy to a long term camp, but in smaller groups, and still accommodate your family's own vacation plans.

TROOP FEES

Several different types of fees are collected by the Troop. These are divided into Initiation Fees, Troop Dues, Camping Meal Fees, Long Term Fees.

Initiation Fees

Initiation fees are paid only once when your son first registers. The Troop will pay the registration fee and Boys' Life subscription fee for additional years at re-chartering time at the end of each calendar year. These recurring fees are funded by the Troop Dues.

New Boys (not currently registered in Scouting)

Registration Fee and Accident Insurance	\$ 10.50
Boys' Life	9.00
Troop Hat	10.00
Troop Neckerchief and Slide	12.00
Total	\$ 41.50

Transfer from another Troop or Pack

Transfer Fee	\$ 1.00
Troop Hat	10.00
Troop Neckerchief and Slide	12.00
Total	\$ 23.00

A fee for Boys' Life will be added only if your son does not have a current subscription

Boys' Life	\$ 9.00
Total with Boys' Life	\$ 30.00

Optional Items

Troop T-shirt	\$ 8.00
Troop Sweatshirt	\$15.00
633 Numbers	\$2.00

You may purchase additional hats, neckerchiefs, T-shirts, or other Scout related items from the Troop Trading Post. Adult size T-shirts and sweatshirts are also available.

TROOP DUES

Troop dues are \$2.00 per week. We recommend that your son earn the money for his dues whenever possible. Dues are collected at each regular meeting by the Patrol Leader during a period referred to as the Patrol Corner. The Dues are used for awards, annual re-registration, Boys' Life subscription renewal, and for transportation and camping fees for the monthly outings.

CAMPING MEAL FEES

The cost of meals for the monthly camping trip is not included in the weekly dues. The boys have been encouraged to keep these costs down to \$8.00 per person. The Patrol Leaders collect these fees from each boy who will be attending the weekend campout.

LONG TERM CAMPING FEES

The costs for the week Long Term Camps have ranged from \$200 to \$360 during the past few years. Actual costs depend on the particular camp that we are attending and the types of activities selected by the boys. Estimated costs are usually announced in January or February and payments may be spread out from January through May. Long Term fees may be reduced significantly by participating in the Troop's fund raising activities. We have a strong desire to see that every boy is able to attend the Long Term Camp. Please do not hesitate to speak to the Scoutmaster, Committee Chairman, or Troop Treasurer if you need some financial assistance or

arrangement in order for your son to attend. We also have a policy of giving discounts to families with multiple boys in the Troop.

OTHER COSTS

There are other costs that you should be aware of that are not payable to the Troop. These include such things as your son's Scout uniform, Scout Handbook, and camping equipment. Each boy is expected to wear his Scout uniform to all Troop meetings and to many of our functions. Uniforms may be purchased at Lewis Sporting Goods Store, just east of the intersection of Cochran Ave and Tapo St. Along with the uniform shirt, you will need to purchase a Ventura County Council patch. We have a supply of troop numerals, "633", on a single patch rather than 3 separate numbers. These can be purchased at our Troop Trading Post at any regular Troop meeting.

The Boy Scout Handbook is another required item, and is also available at Lewis Sporting Goods. The Handbook is the main source of information for your son on the skills and other instruction that are part of the Scouting program. It is also your son's **primary advancement record** through the First Class rank.

Your son will also need some camping equipment for the monthly campouts. A sleeping bag, eating utensils (i.e., mess kit), sturdy shoes or boots, and appropriate clothing are a must. Other items such as a sleeping pad, backpacks and tents are desirable. The troop has a limited supply of backpacks that may be borrowed until your son obtains his own. Most of the boys share a tent on the campouts and the Troop has tents that they may borrow. Please contact the Scoutmaster if you need to borrow this equipment.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Your participation as a parent is needed. It requires a great deal of effort to produce a quality program that is both enjoyable and educational for your son. At least one parent should plan to join the troop's Parent Committee and help us organize events and set troop policy.



PARENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Parent Committee meetings are held on the third Monday of each month during the regular Troop meeting. The Parent Committee meets in the Church's main Worship Center. Adult training for committee members is available through the District and Council.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

There is a \$12 annual registration fee for all adults who participate in the Troop's Parent Committee. The fee is prorated if you join in midyear. If you are transferring from another unit, then the fee is only \$1.00. During the annual re-registration, you may co-register in multiple units (i.e.: Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack) and only pay one fee.

ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER POSITIONS

We would be pleased to have you join us as an assistant scoutmaster, especially if you have some previous scouting experience. Assistant Scoutmasters work closely with the boys. For a group of new Scouts it is extremely important for us to have parent as an Assistant Scoutmaster who can guide them through their first year.

FUNDRAISERS

The Troop holds several fundraisers each year. Some fundraisers are adult participation only events and others are scout participation events. Proceeds of our fundraisers are used to reduce the cost of individual participation in Long Term Camping trips. Your participation in the fund raising event **will directly reduce your cost** to send your son to a long term summer camp.

We have two “easy” and “freebie” fundraisers that we hope you will participate in:

1. Albertson’s Community Partners Card



If you or any of your friends or family members shop at Albertson’s Supermarket, you can get an Albertson’s Community Partners Card from the Troop. Just hand the cashier your card when you check out and Albertson’s will donate 2% of your purchase total amount to the Troop.

2. eScrip

If you shop at Vons or use an ATM card or credit card, you just need to register your card with eScrip and a percentage of your total purchase amount will be donated to the Troop.



See our membership Chair for an Albertson’s card or for the forms for eScrip. You can also register for eScrip online by going to their web site, www.escrip.com Just click on SIGNUP and enter our Group name: Troop 633.

Our major fundraising activity is the Boy Scout Popcorn Sale in the fall. Several boys have been able to pay for all of their summer camp fees from the proceeds of their efforts to sell popcorn. Other fund raising projects will be proposed at committee meetings as necessary.

As a parent, your participation in the Parent Committee is needed to help guide and direct our program. JOIN TODAY!

We hope that you and your son will enjoy Scouting and look forward to your participation. If you have any questions or comments about our Troop, please contact any of the committee persons or adult leaders listed at the beginning of this letter.