

Troop **484**

Hart Elementary School
Bakersfield, California

Family Guide

2011-2012



Boy Scouts of America

Troop 484
Hart Elementary School
Bakersfield, California
www.troop484.com

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Aims & Methods of Scouting

Aims of Scouting

Character Development
Citizenship Training
Mental Fitness
Physical Fitness
Moral Integrity
Leadership Skills

Boy Scout Methods

The Ideals
Patrol Organization
Rank Advancement
Adult Association
Personal Growth
Practical Skills Training
Outdoor Adventures
Service to Others

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to provide for boys (11–18 years old) an effective program designed to:

- build desirable qualities of character;
- train them in the responsibilities of participatory citizenship;
- develop in them personal fitness; and
- promote the growth of strong young men.

When the program is done well, these boys will demonstrate:

- ❖ Physical, emotional, and mental fitness.
- ❖ A high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness.
- ❖ Moral values firmly based on respect for the Divine Creator and all other people.
- ❖ The desire and skills to help others.
- ❖ Understanding of the principles of the American social, economic, and governmental system.
- ❖ Knowledge about and pride in their American heritage, an understanding of America's exceptional nature, and its role on the world stage.
- ❖ A keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
- ❖ Preparation to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society.

The Boy Scouts of America accomplishes this purpose by making its program available in partnership with committed parents, encouraging schools, complicit religious institutions, supportive civic organizations, participating governmental groups, and many others.

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Contact Information

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>
Committee Chairman		
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Merit Badges		
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Committee Members, at Large		
Danny Mossman		
Adam Lang		
Dale Julander	djulander@bak.rr.com	661-664-1805
Josh Rogers		
Special Coordinators		
Camping Organizer		
Charter Coordinators	Kurt Koehler, Julee Freeman, Jerry McAbee	
Pack Liaisons (177, 400, 484, etc.)		
District Commissioner		
Lee Siegel		
Council Executives		
Danny Tucker	dtucker@bsamail.org	661-325-9036
John Wagner	jwagner@bsamail.org	661-325-9036
Chartered Organization Rep.		
Principal, Hart School		

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Parent Information

Program: Scouting encourages self-improvement through physical and mental development serving God, country, and others. The boys are divided into patrols consisting of 6–8 boys each. The program is determined by the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC). The PLC determines monthly themes and plans each meeting under the guidance of the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster, in turn, implements guidance set out by the Troop Committee. Most meetings consist of an opening, some skill training, patrol activities, a game, some inspirational words from the Scoutmaster, and a closing. Because it is a boy-led program, the meetings may not always be congruent with an adult's perspective of the model of efficiency.

Activities: Weekly meetings are generally held on MONDAY nights from 7:15 – 8:30 PM at the Hart Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room. During the summer months when school is not in session, meetings will be most often held at Pin Oak Park (near White Lane and Campus Park Drive). Other Activities include:

- Monthly Outdoor Adventures
- Summer Camp
- Service Projects
- High Adventure Trips

Patrols: New Scouts may be grouped in the same patrol or may be scattered amongst existing patrols, pending the structure of the Troop at the time. They will always have access to the Troop Guide, following his guidance as needed until the rank of First Class is achieved. Patrols size is targeted at 6–8 boys and will have an adult leader associated with them.

Uniforms: Scout Shirts – Class “A”, brown, traditional shirt required at Uniform inspections, Eagle Courts, Courts of Honor, and all Outdoor Adventures.

Neckerchief and Slide – These will be provided by the Troop. The slide is the troop's hand-crafted woggle. These are worn at Uniform inspections, Eagle Courts, and Courts of Honor.

Troop T-Shirt – This is the Class “B” red shirt that the Troop provides, at minimal fee, for the Scouts. Perfect for those occasions where uniforms are handy, but the Class “A” would be not appropriate, such at service projects and in-camp days on outings.

Uniform Inspections are conducted on the first Monday of each month while the Troop is meeting at Hart School (thus not conducted during the summer).

Advancement: Ranks are as follows: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. Troop 484 has an excellent record of helping those boys inspired to achieve Eagle attain the rank.

The Troop has many advancement opportunities – but it is up to the Scout to take advantage of them. Parents should periodically review progress; Scouts who advance in rank are more likely to stay in the program longer.

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Parent Information (continued)

Courts of Honor: Honor Courts are conducted three times each year. Generally one is done in January, one in May, and one in September. Parents and family members are encouraged to attend and show support for the Scout's efforts. Each family is also encouraged to bring a dessert item to share with the others in the Troop.

Funds:

Annual Dues: \$60.00 collected each Fall in November. This includes council registration, *Boy's Life* subscription, and some Troop expenses. Any dues not submitted by the end of November will be assessed a penalty of \$5.00 each week thereafter.

Campouts: \$10-\$20 each, in general. This includes camping fees and food costs. Food is planned by the Scouts in patrol groups and scroungers assigned to obtain it. Those costs, included above, are then distributed among participants. Some special activities will cost more and will be announced and discussed accordingly.

Summer Camp: Variable, \$300-\$600. Depending upon the camp chosen; this will cover all fees for the week in camp.

Fund-Raisers: Typical activities include Scout Popcorn Sales (kickoff in September), Troop Yard Sale, and Troop Watermelon Sales.

ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO TROOP 484

It is the Troop Committee's position that no boy should be denied the Scouting experience for financial reasons. Camp scholarships are often available and will be handled in a discreet manner.

Other Meetings:

PLC Meetings: These are generally held once/month near the middle of each month. These are used to plan the next month's activities. This year, these may be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at Hart Elementary School.

Troop Committee Meetings: These are generally held on the last Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM often at the Police Substation, Buena Vista and Deerpark Road. These will usually be well-publicized, since the date, time, and location are always subject to change.

Parent Participation: To maintain the quality of the program, each family is encouraged to participate in its support. Merit badge counselor, fundraising leader, Boards of Review, Troop Committee Member, and other Troop Committee Positions are just some of the choices for participation. The Troop has targeted recruiting in August and September, but volunteers may step up at any time.

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Troop Philosophy

The Troop Committee for Troop 484 has adopted the following as an outline of philosophical principles to guide the goals, plans, and activities of the Troop. This document is intended to be subject to constant review and scrutiny and is not “permanent” by any means.

Religious. Scouts will be encouraged to learn about the available religious awards in Scouting and to work toward earning those awards. The Chaplain, Chaplain’s Aide, and Troop Leaders can be consulted for access to the necessary information about these awards.

Service. Scouts will be encouraged to learn about the needs of his family, school, church, and community and to respond to those needs by voluntary and enthusiastic service. Service has always been one of the hallmarks of Boy Scouting and we believe it is especially important for our Troop and Scout advancement.

Outdoor. In line with Scouting’s Outdoor Code, we believe that Scouts should learn the lasting value of our natural heritage. Their appreciation of the outdoors will be emphasized through well-planned outdoor and camping activities. Scouts will be taught to treat the outdoors with reverence, to practice good conservation, and to be considerate of public and private property.

Discipline. Firm, fair, and predictable Troop discipline is needed to assure each Scout his full right to enjoy Scouting activities and advance. Discipline ensures respect for one’s neighbor and surroundings. The Scout Law will provide the framework for Troop discipline. It will be the responsibility of the Troop and the right of each Scout and his family to know in advance what is expected from all Scout and Adults in the Troop.

Adult Responsibilities. Troop discipline is supported by Boy Scouts “*Guide to Safe Scouting*” and is also formally presented by “*Youth Protection Training*”. The former is required reading for all Scout Adult Leaders and the latter is required by all Adults who will accompany Scouts on Outings. The objectives of both are to train adults in how to provide a safe environment for Scouting and to be able to recognize, avoid, and report abuse. Adults who cannot receive and incorporate the training appropriate to their position in the Troop will be asked to do so or forego that participation.

Scout Responsibilities. Aggressive and disrespectful actions towards others as well as inappropriate and illegal behavior are unacceptable.

Behavior: Inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to: hazing, insubordination, general mischief, cursing, ridiculing, initiation activities, or demeaning activities of any kind.

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Illicit Activity: This includes use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs along with the unauthorized use of firearms. It also includes any other actions normally considered illegal under local Penal Code (e.g. theft, arson, driving without a license, etc.).

No Scout, nor Adult, may possess or consume alcoholic beverages at any time during a Scouting activity. Violators will be dismissed from the activity. Further actions will be considered, and likely prescribed, by the Troop Committee.

Tobacco products are not consistent with the Scout Law and promise. No Scout may possess or use tobacco products at any time on any Scouting Activity. Adults who smoke or chew must do so completely away from the Scouts. Violators will be dismissed from the activity. Further actions will be considered, and likely prescribed, by the Troop Committee.

Illegal Drugs are not allowed by anyone at any Scouting Activity. *Prescription drugs are only allowed if their authorization is clearly documented.* Adult violators will be turned over to the appropriate police authority. Police action in the case of Scout violators will be at the discretion of the Adult Leader in charge of the Activity. Violators will be dismissed from the activity. Further actions will be considered, and likely prescribed, by the Troop Committee.

Firearms can be a part of many Scouting Activities; however, their use in an event must be monitored by Adult Leaders. Unmonitored Firearms are not to be a part of any Scouting Activity. Similarly, other unmonitored "weapons" such as bows/arrows, hunting knives, and other devices which the Adult Leader in charge of the activity deems to fall into this category are not allowed. Violators will be dismissed from the activity. Further actions will be considered, and likely prescribed, by the Troop Committee.

Penalties. All actions involving the behavior above will be reported to the Troop Committee. All actions involving illicit activity will be also expediently reported to the Boy Scout Council Office.

Other than dismissal from the activity, penalties also within the purview of the Troop Committee include essays, letters of apology, service time, restitution, probation, suspension, and expulsion.

Grievance. Scouts and Adults are encouraged to discuss questions, concerns, or actions about discipline. A Scout or Adult with a concern is encouraged to bring the matter to the attention of the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or Troop Committee Chairman. Any of these Adults can offer suggestions or speak to the parties involved. If discussion with a resolution is needed, the Troop Committee Chairman will bring the matter before the Troop Committee. If needed, some facilitation from the Council Office may be sought.

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Family. Our Troop encourages family involvement in Troop activities along with family awareness of Troop goals, purposes, and plans. The family will be encouraged to participate as fully as it can. Parents will be kept informed of all Troop activities, will have each Scout's individual needs appreciated, and will have the Scout's advancement and accomplishments recognized promptly. Conversely, the family will be expected to deliver and pick up the Scout at the proper time for Troop events, to attend Courts of Honor, to volunteer when possible, to encourage advancement, and to express pride in and appreciation for the accomplishments and activities of Scouts.

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Activity and Camping Program

Scouting is three parts OUTING and as such, camping is the backbone of Troop 484's program. Typically an outdoor activity is conducted monthly. Weekend campouts may be the highlight to a monthly troop theme selected by the Patrol Leaders Council, focus on particular outdoor skills, or be a part of a district or council-wide event. Attached at the end of this document is the projected program for 2010-2011.

In addition, activities such as High Adventure trips for older Scouts (canoe trips, Philmont, Jamboree, etc.), various service projects, and organized merit badge classes are held.

In general, every event will require a Permission Slip signed by at least one parent prior to departure. Details indicating departure and return times, fees, etc., are noted in the Permission Slip for the event.

Any parent who would like to arrange day trips may suggest such to the Troop Committee or the Scoutmaster. Of course, the invitation to plan and coordinate the outing will be nearly immediately extended.

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Rank Advancement Procedures

The procedure for attaining advancement will generally follow this outline.

1. Read the requirements for the next rank found in your *Scout Handbook*. It is good to review the Scout's advancement periodically to make sure he is getting credit for work that he has done.
2. Scouts should bring their handbooks to all meetings and campouts and have one of the adult Leaders (or Troop Guide, if allowed by adult Leader) test the Scout on skills learned as they are achieved. The person who tests the skill will initial the proper place in the book. In general, the Scout's parent should not sign off on skills.
3. When all requirements are completed, the Scout requests a Scoutmaster's conference (if possible, please do so by e-mail even after an in-person request). At that conference, the Scout's goals and skills will be reviewed one-on-one and any problems can be discussed. Afterwards, the Scoutmaster will initial the Scout's book.
4. The Scout will then request a Board of Review from the Advancement Coordinator. Again, please do so by e-mail even if an in-person request has been made. The Scout should wear a complete Class A uniform to the Board of Review. A group of adults will question the Scout about his experiences, goals, skills, and general Scouting information. After his Board, the Advancement Coordinator will be informed of the Scout's suitability for advancement.

The *Scout Handbook* lists all of the requirement needed for each Scout Rank. As a Scout completes a requirement, it must be signed off in his handbook by a qualified troop member.

Scoutmaster's Conferences are conducted at Troop meetings, as requested, or on the second Tuesday of each month at the "special" meeting. The purpose of the conference is to determine if the Scout meets the rank requirements and is ready for a Board.

Scoutmaster Conferences for Tenderfoot through First Class Rank, are done with the Scoutmaster or any of the Assistant Scoutmasters. Scoutmaster Conferences for Star, Life, and Eagle are *preferentially* done with the Scoutmaster.

Boards of Review

The final requirement for each rank advancement is a Board of Review. This is a meeting between the Scout and a group of three or four adults to discuss Scouting. It is a time to express any concerns, talk about the responsibilities of the Scout to the Troop and the Troop to the Scout, to set goals, and answer any questions. It is a positive experience!

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Earning a Merit Badge

1. The Scout will choose a Badge to work on. To make Eagle, 21 badges (12 required, 9 optional) must be earned. A list of things a Scout must complete for each of the 12 required badges can be found in the back of the *Scout Handbook*. To find out about other badges, Scouts can ask older Scouts what they have earned, read about the badge requirements in an Advancement Guidebook, check out a merit badge book from the Troop Library, or check them out on-line at www.meritbadge.com.
2. The Scout will get permission from the Scoutmaster to work on the badge and will get a signed merit badge card from him before starting the merit badge.
3. The Scout will call a counselor for the badge he wishes to complete. Obtain a counselor's name from any Scout Leader or the Council Office. Call the Counselor and explain who you are and what you want to do, then ask if the counselor has any special requirements you need to fulfill. Discuss your timeline for completing the badge. An initial meeting with the Counselor, before starting the badge, may be in order.
4. The Scout will get the merit badge book and complete the requirements. You can buy the books at the Council Office, check them out of the Troop Library, or buy them online at www.scoutstuff.org. Read the book and accomplish all requirements. Have any parts you complete with someone other than the counselor initialed by that person on the merit badge card. When all are complete, the counselor will sign off on the blue card.
5. The Scout will present the completed card to the Scoutmaster for his final approval.
6. The Scout will turn in the completed and signed merit badge card to the Merit Badge Coordinator for entry into the advancement database.

Keep all rank advancement and merit badge cards in a safe place for your entire Scouting career. These cards are your proof of completion should there be an question when you submit your paperwork for advancement.

Courts of Honor

Courts of Honor are held three times each year and **ALL SCOUTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!** It is important that we recognize the achievements of troop members by supporting this important event. The Courts are generally held in lieu of a Monday night Troop meeting.

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Uniform Information

Our Scouts must be in uniform during all Scouting events and some meetings. They are required to be in appropriate attire (Class "A" or Class "B" uniforms) during much of summer camp. The Scouts should be in Class "A" uniform when leaving and returning on weekend campouts.

CLASS A UNIFORM

When worn: To Scout general meetings on Uniform Inspection Night
To all Courts of Honor
To all Eagle Courts
When leaving for all campouts
When returning from all campouts

Consists of: Tan shirt with patches
Neckerchief and woggle/slide
Scout pants or shorts
Merit Badge sash (Boards of Review and Courts of Honor only)

CLASS B UNIFORM

When worn: On campouts
Summer Scout meetings
Summer Camp
Service Projects
Other events the Scoutmaster deems appropriate

Consists of: Troop 484 Red T-Shirt
T-Shirt bought at Summer Camp or Scout Store
Scout shorts

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Personal Gear List – Campouts

Refer to your *Scout Handbook* for more information on this equipment.

Basic Items for All Campouts

Class “A” Uniform

Raincoat/Poncho

Sleeping bag

Ground pad

Mess Kit

Personal toiletries

Flashlight

Scout Handbook

Change of clothes

Sleep wear

Garbage bag

Spending money

Personal First Aid Kit

Towel

Compass

Water Bottle

Optional

Pocketknife

Camera

Watch

Additional Money

Camera

Watch

SPRING/FALL

Warm Clothes

Sweatshirt (Troop 484)

Long Johns

Raincoat/poncho

Hat/Gloves

WINTER

Jacket

Snow Boots

Extra Clothes

Hat/Gloves

Long Johns

SUMMER

Bug Spray

Sun Screen

SUMMER CAMP

Ground Cloth/Tarp

Clothes for one week

Swimsuit & towel

Merit Badge Books

Notebook, pencil

DO NOT BRING IPODS, LASER PENS, OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES ON ANY CAMPOUT! CELL PHONES ARE INTENDED TO BE USED FOR EMERGENCIES OR TO CONTACT PARENTS FOR PICK-UP UPON RETURN.

Boy Scouts of America – Troop 484
Family Guide Policies and Procedures
(October, 2010)

I have received, read, and agree to abide by the provisions of the Troop 484 Family Guide Policies and Procedures.

Scout Signature

Parent Signature

Scout Name (Print)

Parent Name (Print)

Date

Date

NOTE: A copy of this form with original signatures must be on file with Troop 484 prior to a Scout's participation in any scouting activity.