

TROOP 465



Welcome to Troop 465!

WELCOME to scouting in Troop 465! Many of you may be familiar with Scouting from your experience as a youth or your son's Cub Scout involvement. Some of you will be joining Scouting for the first time. There's a lot of jargon, as in any large organization, and this document will help you to make sense of it, learn about scouting and hopefully find the answers to most of your questions. Let us know if you still have questions!

Troop 465 is a member of the Golden Empire Council, which covers a large part of northern California. The Council is divided into Districts and our Troop is within the El Dorado District, which covers Folsom and El Dorado County west of Echo Summit. The Council headquarters is located at 251 Commerce Circle in Sacramento, CA (916-929-1417) and is where you will find the Scout Shop (separate phone number 916-949-1800) that has all of the official Boy Scouts of America (BSA) items you will need to purchase for your son. Another source is the BSA online catalog accessible at www.scoutstuff.org.

All BSA Troops must have a chartering organization that sponsors them. The Chartered Organization for Troop 465 is the El Dorado Hills Rotary Club. They provide us support, equipment, fundraising opportunities and approve our adult leadership. They "own" the troop. Without a chartered organization, a troop cannot exist. The Rotary Club provides a representative (Chartered Representative) to act as liaison between the Troop and the organization. In addition, we currently enjoy a wonderful relationship with St. Stephen's Lutheran Church where most of our meetings are held.

Scouting is much more than just a wholesome and enjoyable activity. Active Scouts develop initiative, leadership, self-reliance, and self-confidence. Scouting helps boys become good citizens of strong character, who will be leaders and achievers in the adult world.

Meetings and Outings

Troop Meetings: Troop 465 meets on the 1st Sunday of each month, throughout the entire year, at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. Troop meetings start at 7:00pm and end at about 8:00. At the meetings, we plan and train for the monthly activities, work on advancements and merit badges and typically hold some form of activity. Parents are always welcome at our meetings. On the 3rd Sunday of each month, a Patrol will plan an "activity or event" for the 2nd Troop meeting. The date of this is flexible to depending on the activity.

The **Patrol Leader's Council (PLC)**, the youth leadership of the troop) meets on the 1st Sunday of the month. The **Troop Committee** (adult leadership of the troop) also meets on the 1st Sunday of the month at 6pm. The **Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster meetings (ASM)** is held quarterly or as needed.

Each **Patrol** meets independently of the Troop per its own schedule.

The Troop also has special meetings throughout the year where parents are specifically invited to attend. In May and November the Troop calendar is discussed at the PLC meeting. Input from interested parents is welcome. In May, part of a Troop meeting will usually be devoted to summer camp details for families of boys that are signed up to go to camp. A Holiday potluck for the whole family generally takes place around the holidays.

Three or four times a year we meet in special "**Courts of Honor.**" These formal ceremonies recognize each Scout's leadership, advancement, and other significant accomplishments in front of his family and peers. Some Courts of Honor are preceded by snacks and we may ask families to bring a dessert/snack to share after the formal ceremony. You will be advised what is needed prior to the event and where the event will be held.

Who can join?

Troop 465 welcomes any interested boy of Scout age (either between 11 and 18 years old OR have completed the Fifth Grade OR have earned the Arrow of Light and be at least 10 years old, whichever occurs first). A boy does NOT have to graduate from Cub Scouts or Webelos to become a Boy Scout. We recommend that you visit some other Troops in the area so you can be sure that Troop 465 is the best Troop for you.

Registration – New Scouts

Scouts typically join the Troop when they bridge over from their Cub Scout program. This is not a requirement, since boys often join without having previously participated in Cub Scouts. Registration requires filling out a Scouting Application and paying the annual registration fee. The fee is prorated depending upon the month you register (more information to follow on fees).

You will also be asked to provide drivers' license and vehicle insurance information required by the BSA in the event that you or your spouse volunteers to drive to an activity. Finally, we ask that you fill out an Annual Permission Form and Talent Release for your boy as well as any parent that may be participating in an outing during the coming year. This insures that we have proper permission to render medical care if something happens say during a troop meeting when a parent is not present or on an outing when the original outing permission form is misplaced.

Our troop website contains a wealth of information and all the forms you will need (with the exception of the application itself).

Please visit: <http://www.troop465edh.org> for:

- Troop apparel order form
- Updated Calendar – the most up to date calendar is always available online
- Annual Youth and Adult General Permission Forms
- Individual and Family Talent Release Forms
- Vehicle/Driver information form this is the form to include your driver's license and car insurance information
- Outings registration forms
- And a whole lot more...

Troop 465 Uniform

The next step is obtaining the official uniform. Just as a sports uniform identifies a boy with a team, the Scout uniform identifies a boy with the largest voluntary youth movement in the world. The Scout uniform tends to diminish the importance of a person's financial, social, and ethnic background, while clearly showing each individual's scouting accomplishments.

Class A Uniform: Troop 465 requires members to wear a full and correct uniform; consisting of the following official BSA parts (the Troop purchases and formally presents the CAPITALIZED items):

- Scout shirt (short sleeves preferred)
- Scout trousers or Scout shorts
- Scout belt & Scout buckle
- TROOP 465 NECKERCHIEF with SLIDE
- TROOP CAP
- Scout socks
- Merit badge sash (on formal occasions)
- Scout Handbook



The shirt needs the following insignia:

- Green Shoulder Loops
- BADGE OF RANK & Arrow of Light (if earned) below left pocket
- Golden Empire Council shoulder patch & khaki and green "465" on left sleeve (the 465 patch is available as single numbers from the scout shop or as an all in one patch from the troop store)
- American flag (comes on the shirt), Patrol Emblem, & CURRENT-YEAR QUALITY UNIT PATCH on right sleeve.
- World Scout Crest (above left pocket about 3 inches below shoulder seam)

The Scout Handbook has full-sized sewing templates on the inside front and back covers to indicate proper placement of most of the patches. Not shown is the Quality Unit patch (sew on the right sleeve 4 inches below the shoulder seam just below the patrol medallion).

Sources for Scout supplies are the River City Scout Shop located next door to the Council Office at 251 Commerce Circle in Sacramento, CA (916-929-1417) and the BSA online catalog accessible at www.scoutstuff.org.

A full new uniform costs about \$125. The Troop and the District also have some used items available. Ask a leader for assistance with obtaining used uniforms. Please help our future Scouts by donating your son's outgrown uniform parts to the Troop. Thanks.

Class B or field Uniform: At various activities, Scouts may be directed to wear the Class B uniform which consists of the Troop 465 T-shirt (available from the troop), T465 sweatshirt, Scout shorts/pants, belt, cap, and Scout socks. These are generally specified when scouts are going to get dirty on campouts, outings, or while performing service.

Scouts typically wear full Class A uniform at all meetings, when traveling to and from campouts, to most day outings, and to any activities where we will be in the public eye.

Troop Organization

The key unit within the Troop is the patrol. In our Troop, patrols are created when the boys join the Troop; resulting in patrols of like-aged scouts. There are pluses and minuses to this method—the boys like the arrangement because they get to be with friends, but on the other hand, they don't benefit from as much interaction with more experienced scouts. A patrol is generally 6 to 10 scouts.

When scouts first enter the Troop, depending on the number of new scouts, they are organized into one of the two following: unnamed **New Scout Patrols (NSPs)**. An older scout, called a **Troop Guide**, is traditionally assigned to each NSP and acts as their youth mentor for the first 6 months or so. In this period, the NSPs will pick a patrol name, work on early rank advancements and learn the ropes; or assimilated into an existing Patrol where the older scouts will work with the new Scouts and act as their mentors. Each patrol elects a new **Patrol Leader** from its members, including the NSPs. Troop elections are held every September and March. When a Scout enters the Troop without a group of other new Scouts, he is assigned to an existing age appropriate patrol.

A **Patrol Leadership Council (PLC)** is made up of scouts that lead the Troop, and includes the **Patrol Leaders**. The leader of the PLC is the **Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)** who is elected by the whole Troop along with 2 Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL) at a Troop election. The SPL, with the approval of the **Scoutmaster**, appoints the rest of the PLC, including the **Quartermaster, Librarian, Scribe**, and so on. The PLC meets once a month (on the 4th Monday of the month) with the Scoutmaster to plan each month's activities.

Troop Meetings are run by the SPL and his assistants based on agendas formed with the PLC and the Scoutmaster. The meetings are designed to be Scout led with support from the Scoutmaster and his assistants. There is a theme for each month that determines the types of activities the Troop and the Patrols will be working on.

Roles for Adults — Adults play a crucial role in running the Troop, although the emphasis is on letting the boys lead. The primary adult leader of any Scout Troop is the Scoutmaster (SM), who is responsible for leading the boys in executing the Boy Scout Program.

The Scoutmaster depends on two groups of adults for help: the **Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM)** and the **Troop Committee**. The ASM's are more typically involved with the boys at meetings and on activities, while the Troop Committee manages and administers key functions within the Troop, such as finances, equipment purchase and maintenance, and registration. Parents are expected to register with the BSA and participate in either capacity as an ASM or Committee member. Registered adults can become merit badge counselors, and can be listed on the required Boy Scout Tour Permit as either a leader or assistant for any troop activity. All activities require a minimum of 2 adult leaders (referred to as two-deep leadership).

Ranks & Merit Badges - How Scouts Advance

Boy Scout advancement is much more challenging and difficult than Cub Scout or Webelos advancement, and it requires much individual effort and initiative. It also emphasizes leadership and service as much as badges and skills. The Boy Scout program is based on rank advancement. The definitive guide for all rank related information is the Boy Scout Handbook that every Scout is required to have and advancement requirements for all Scout ranks are shown starting on page 432. To advance, a Scout must be active, must do his best to live by the Scout Oath and Law, practice leadership, give service to others, learn Scout skills (mostly in the outdoors), and earn merit badges (primarily from adult counselors).

New Scouts come in without any rank and work with their **Troop Guide**, as a Patrol, to achieve the entry level rank of Scout. The next three ranks are geared towards learning general Scouting skills and consist of **Tenderfoot**, **Second Class** and **First Class**. Requirements for Tenderfoot through First Class can be signed off by the SM or ASM's (**not by the parents!**). The Boy Scout Handbook has all of the information and requirements needed to achieve these advancements. Scouts should bring their Scout Handbook to all meetings and to outings where rank requirements are likely to be taught, tested, and signed off (in their Handbook). BSA recommends that boys reach the First Class rank within 12-18 months, although there are no time limits for any rank advancement.

Once a Scout has all requirements signed off in his Handbook for a given rank advancement, he should contact the Scoutmaster to arrange a Scoutmaster Conference (parents do not do this, it is the Scout's responsibility!). The Scoutmaster will review the Scout's skills and knowledge and discuss the Scout's progress and goals. The Scout will then meet with members of the Troop Committee or other parents at a Board of Review to discuss the Scout's overall experience within the Troop. The Board of Review is a great time to give feedback or suggestions on how the Troop may better meet the Scout's needs or interests. Finally, the Scout will receive their new rank badge at a Court of Honor.

Merit badges are focused on learning skills in specific areas of interest. There are over 120 merit badges that can be earned! Merit badges are not required for Tenderfoot through First Class, but many scouts may earn a few at Summer Camp or at a patrol activity. For the remaining ranks of **Star**, **Life** and **Eagle**, earning merit badges is mandatory. To reach Eagle, there are specific required merit badges, and each rank above First Class requires the Scout to earn several of these. See the Handbook for details.

What can you do to help your son take full advantage of the Boy Scout Advancement method? Make sure your son attends Troop meetings, campouts, activities and summer camp! Offer encouragement and support. Know what your son needs for his next rank. Be active in scouting with him, and strongly encourage him to attend as many Scout activities as possible, because only active Scouts advance. Scouts should also maintain a notebook to keep track of their achievements. A three ring binder works best, with sections for note taking, holding merit badge and rank advancement cards, patches from treks, a log of all of their Scouting activities, newsletters, calendar, and other related information. Encourage your Scout to keep a Scouting diary – they'll find this very rewarding.

Merit Badge Procedure:

1. Get a "Blue Card" from the Scoutmaster, fill it out for the specific badge, and have the SM sign it. The SM will also assist the scout in obtaining the name and contact information of a Merit Badge Counselor for the badge he has chosen to work on.
2. Find and meet with a counselor before working on the badge (This is the boy's responsibility to set up; **NOT the parents'**). Obtain the merit badge book from the Troop Librarian – and read it! Work with the counselor to complete the requirements for the badge.
3. Upon completion, have the counselor sign your blue card. He or she will keep one portion. Return the remaining two sections to the SM. You will get your badge and your section of the blue card at the next Court of Honor.

Keeping Informed - How to Communicate With the Troop

Announcements of pending activities are always made at Troop meetings. Scouts should take notes in their notebooks that they should bring to each meeting (along with their Handbook). If you don't attend the meetings with your Scout, make sure to ask them about upcoming activities and help them to schedule those into your family calendar.

The Troop Calendar is another important resource for parents and Scouts. It is crafted by the PLC and includes meetings, activities, outings and anything else we are planning to do during the year. However, changes arise as the year progresses, so check the web site often for updates!

Finally, there is the Troop website located at <http://www.troop465edh.org> . The website contains a variety of useful information including the troop calendar, online outing registration, photos, useful scouting links and various forms most importantly, permission forms for upcoming outings. Permission slips are required for all the Troop activities.

The troop also maintains a troop email distribution list which is a KEY form of communication of all types within the troop. All families should enroll at least one email address.

Fees, Fundraisers, Donations and Finances

Annual Fees

We collect registration fees annually and activity/campout fees, if required, at a designated time prior to the activity/campout. Scouts are encouraged to earn the fees by working, participating in Troop fundraisers, and/or performing chores at home. Those who need to handle fees by a payment schedule may discuss arrangements with the Committee Chairman and pay over several months.

The current annual registration fee for a Scout is \$55.00. \$24.00 goes to the BSA, and \$34.00 to the Troop which includes earned rank insignia and merit badges, some other recognitions. Scouts may also subscribe to Boy's Life for an additional \$12.00 fee. Additional fees that are collected during the year depend upon what your Scout participates in and may include approximately \$350 for summer camp and various fees for other events.

Adult fees are \$24 for the year and include BSA registration and *Scouting* magazine. Adults participating in activities/campouts/summer camp may have fees associated with these events as well.

Campout Food/Activity Fees

The Troop collects an outing fee in advance, facilitated through the online outing registration and generally using scout account debit, from each scout to offset any campground site costs, reservation fees, travel costs and food expense. The outing fee is non-refundable in order to gain the scouts commitment for participation, and so the Troop can arrange adequate transportation for the activity. Some activities, such as whitewater rafting or skiing, will have additional costs. The average cost for food is budgeted as \$4 for breakfast, \$4 for lunch and \$5 for dinner per scout per day. Each patrol plans their own menus for the weekend and appoints a grubmaster to do the necessary shopping for food and supplies. Food expense will be reimbursed to the grub master up to the budgeted amount.

Fundraisers

The Troop participates in two main fundraisers per year with additional fundraisers whenever we can get someone to coordinate one. The Troop sells Camp Cards in the spring as part of the council wide fundraiser for Boy Scouts. A portion of the money earned by sales of Camp Card is directed back to the Scout. The money that comes back to the Scout is deposited into the Scout's Scout Account and these funds are available to fund any scout related activity. Our second large fundraiser is participation in an annual Christmas tree pickup and recycling project usually the first Saturday after New Year's.

Through all of these fundraisers, it is possible for Scouts to be completely self-funded for their Scouting activities! As a parent, you can help your Scout by supporting their fundraisers at your place of employment.

Finally, National BSA offers a charitable means of supporting Scouting through the Friends of Scouting program. You can donate cash, in-kind gifts, or property to Scouting. You can also help Scouting through direct designation via your employer sponsored United Way or Combined Federal Campaign program (designate #6122).

Donations

The Troop accepts donations of equipment, uniforms, money and **especially time**. Camping equipment is tough to maintain and many items are consumables that need to be stocked regularly. Instead of bombarding families with fundraisers, we ask that parents consider the Troop when updating camping/kitchen equipment at home or before holding that garage sale. Chances are good the Troop needs something you don't want anymore so please check with us often! Equipment needs refurbishing and repair regularly as well. Parents and Scouts are expected to volunteer time to help with their upkeep.

Equipment

There is no need to rush out and fully equip your son. Starting with a minimum of gear allows him time to determine the extent of his commitment to scouting and to learn for himself from his patrol what equipment is most suitable for lightweight, low-impact camping. Please seek the advice of the Scoutmaster or one of the ASMs about major purchases. In addition, the Hiking and Camping sections of the Scout Handbook contain guidance on clothing and equipment for a weekend camp. ***Troop 465 does not allow glass containers, non-folding (sheath) knives, candles, butane lighters, ipods, or electronic games at Troop events.***

Getting Involved

YOU are the single most important factor that will determine how successful your son will be in scouting! **If you want your son to reap the benefits scouting offers, you need to join scouting with your son, either as a uniformed leader or as an active member of the Troop committee.** Scouts whose parents were actively involved attended more than twice the number of activities and attained more than twice the rank of Scouts with less-involved parents (and 90% of our Eagle Scouts have come from the 40% of our parents who have been most active). For these reasons, parent involvement is strongly encouraged with enrollment (see Parent Jobs later).

Being an involved parent takes time and effort, but it's also rewarding and FUN! One of the reasons our Troop is so successful is because of the dedication of so many of our parents. There is something to do that matches the talents of anyone, and your involvement is vital to your son as well as to our other Scouts.

Current BSA policy requires all adults who have contact with the Scouts to register with the BSA and complete **Youth Protection Training** (available online at www.myscouting.org). That is why we encourage all parents to be registered. The fee for parent volunteers is \$15 for the year and is covered by the troop. Additional training to clarify job responsibilities is available locally several times a year and throughout the year within the Council.

Parent Jobs:

By now, you've caught a glimpse of the ways you can help out. With the natural turnover of boys as they progress through the program, the Troop is always in need of fresh adult leadership to replace the loss of experienced leaders. No assistance will be turned down!

The **Troop Committee** and **Assistant Scoutmasters** are the two primary ways of helping out within the Troop and to experience scouting with your sons. The Committee meets once a month on the fourth Monday of the month at Rolling Hills Church starting at 7pm. See the lists below for positions. Some members wear several hats and the Committee can always use more help.

We also welcome parents who would like to take leadership for a specific activity, for example, coordinating Camp Card sales, organizing a camping trip, leading a hike, or helping with transportation to an outing.

It takes the active involvement of every family to make our Troop successful. And there is a job to suit your special talents and your available time. It's challenging, it's fun, and your son will reap the rewards of your involvement. **Thanks on behalf of all our Scouts.**

- Scoutmaster
- Assistant Scoutmaster
- Campout Leader
- Activity Leader
- Summer Camp Leader
- Merit Badge Counselor
- Committee Chairman
- Treasurer
- Camping Committee
- Advancement Director
- Secretary
- Equipment Committee
- Chartered Representative
- Committee Members
- Fundraising Coordinators

Adult Training

Don't feel that you can't participate because you don't know how Scouting works or you weren't a Scout yourself. There are numerous training opportunities offered either free or at nominal cost by the Council, to give you the skills you need.

Youth Protection Training (YPT): Available online (www.myscouting.org) as a self tutorial course or as a twenty-minute video course that covers how to spot such things as child abuse and how to report it within the BSA organization. At least one leader who is listed on a trek tour permit must have this training. YPT training is required for every registered adult in Scouting and is good for two years.

This is Scouting: This is Scouting is the initial training for adult leaders. In this approximately 30-minute online course (also available at www.myscouting.org), leaders learn about the objectives of the Scouting program and the methods that are used to achieve these objectives. Leaders also gain a basic understanding of youth development, as well as how Scouting is organized and financed, policies related to the program, and resources to help leaders succeed. A Scout leader needs to complete This is Scouting only once.

Fast Start Boy Scouting: Available online at www.myscouting.org and designed to give all new leaders are in Boy Scouting the immediate information that will help them get started. Proper training lays the groundwork for success in their leadership roles. This training will help new leaders understand what is expected and establish effective meeting patterns so that the boys and their families can enjoy a quality program from the start.

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training: This training has three sessions designed to provide leaders with a good working knowledge of Troop operations. The three sessions are: Role of the Scoutmaster in a Boy-Led Troop; The Outdoor Program and the Advancement Program; and Program Planning and Troop Administration. The course may be held in one session or broken into three 3- hour sessions.

Intro to Outdoor Leader Skills: Teaches basic outdoor skills and safety issues to adults. This is a weekend camping experience. Completion of all of the above courses allows an adult leader to wear the "Trained" patch on the left sleeve of their uniform.

Troop Committee Challenge: Available online at www.myscouting.org and designed to give troop committee members an overview of their role in supporting the troop.

High Adventure Training (HAT): Three separate courses that teach the skills and provides resources necessary for adults to lead a backpacking outing, snow camping adventure, or a paddle sport trip. Each course consists of an evening session, a day long Saturday session and a weekend session.

First Aid/CPR: Many of our activities require that at least one adult be trained with a Red Cross approved first aid and CPR program.

www.scouting.org has a wealth of information that is useful for parents and leaders alike. We invite you to explore this site frequently.

Troop 465 Goals

Scouting in Troop 465 means fun and challenges for your son and for you. Scouting is a GAME with a PURPOSE: to develop future leaders of strong character, good citizenship, and personal fitness. Scouting's eight methods make it unique:

- Scouting Ideals (Law, Promise, Motto, Slogan)
- Patrol System
- Advancement
- Adult Role Models
- Outdoor Program
- Leadership Development
- Personal Growth
- Scout Uniform

Scouts tent and eat with other Scouts in a patrol, led by an elected boy patrol leader. Adults tent and eat nearby in a special adult patrol. Boy leaders plan, execute, and evaluate the Troop program, guided by our BSA-trained adult leaders.

Standards of Membership

We expect each of our Scouts to be active, to advance regularly, to wear full Scout uniform, to practice good manners and behavior, and to do his best to live by the Ideals of scouting as expressed in the Scout Promise and Law. The key to successful scouting is the camping and outdoor program, and only active Scouts can reap its full benefits. We expect our Scouts to attend

overnight campouts year round, and to make every effort to attend our vital week at summer camp. We also expect parents to be actively involved with their son in scouting, since Scouts with involved parents reap the greatest benefits from scouting.

Boy Leadership

In Cub Scouts and Webelos, adults provide all the planning and leadership. On the other hand, boys provide the planning and leadership for good Boy Scout Troops and patrols (with adult guidance). This takes some getting used to, especially when we adults think we can run things more efficiently than the boys can. But remember, it takes practice to learn anything, including leadership. Your son will elect his patrol and Troop officers, and later, he will hold some of these offices himself (leadership is a requirement for advancement beyond First Class).



Many thanks to Troop 454, El Dorado Hills, CA for the bulk of this handbook.