



Boy Scouts of America Troop 18 San Marcos, TX Welcomes You!

Troop 18 is a boy-led, adult-mentored Troop that provides the opportunity for boys to develop leadership, character, independence, and to make ethical choices through the vehicle of surmountable challenges provided by stimulating outdoor activities. Our program runs year round with outings planned for every month of the year.

Baden-Powell said, “The Patrol Method is not *a way* to operate a Boy Scout Troop; *it is the only way*.” Our Troop is built around the Patrol Method, with three regular patrols and one ‘new scout’ patrol. In the ‘new scout’ patrol, Scouts learn teamwork and basic skills.

Advancement opportunities are provided through Troop activities. Scouts set their own goals and each advances at a pace that is comfortable for him.

Troop 18 Scouts elect their youth leaders tri-annually. The youth leadership designs an annual program calendar and meets monthly at the Patrol Leaders’ Council to determine details of the next month’s activities. Adult volunteers largely consist of Scoutmaster staff and Troop Committee members. Their function is to support the boys.

Parent To-Do Checklist

1. Fill out [Scout application](#). Give it to the Troop 18 Membership/Med Forms Coordinator.
2. Pay a one-time **registration fee** which covers registration, Boys Life magazine, Scout handbook, neckerchief & slide, and Troop numerals.
3. Annual **dues** are due in September. For new scouts crossing over into the Troop in March, the dues will be pro-rated for the remainder of the troop year. Please make checks payable to BSA Troop 18. Give them to the Troop Treasurer.
4. Scout **Physical**: The *Part A and B health history, parental/guardian informed consent and hold harmless/release agreement, and talent release statement* form (680-001) is due to Membership/Med Forms Coordinator immediately. If your scout will be attending summer camp or any campouts longer than 72 hours, he must have part C of the form filled out by a licensed health care provider. A new form must be updated annually for each participant.
5. Sometimes, Troop 18 needs parent to help transport scouts to various functions. We ask that everyone please complete the **Vehicle Insurance Information** form and submit to Membership/Med Forms Coordinator immediately.

6. Sign up scout for **summer camp**. See Scoutmaster for details.

7. Purchase **Scout Handbook** (given to boys that crossover) and **Class A uniform**, consisting of:

- Official shirt with council insignia. Green shoulder loops and Troop 18 numerals will be provided by the troop.
- Olive Green or Khaki pants or shorts (Official BSA are available but not required)
- Neckerchief (green with tan embroidered emblem) and slide (provided by troop)
- Official scout belt
- Closed-toed shoes

8. Order **Class B t-shirt** (available for parents and scouts). As Summer Camp approaches, the Troop will provide an opportunity for you to order these.

9. Have your scout take **swimming test** for participation in aquatic activities. Renew annually. This test is offered at the beginning of summer camp, but the Troop also schedules swim tests locally. Attend the Parent Meetings for details.

How to Support Your Scout

- Be sure your son attends Troop and patrol meetings, in uniform, with his handbook.
- Encourage advancement and participation.
- Review your son's progress through the first three ranks (Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, and 1st Class).
- Join us on some outings - make sure you've completed an Adult Leader Application, a background check, and YPT.
- Get involved - fill out a Troop Resource Survey and come to Committee Meetings and Parent Meetings.

Roles for Parents and Other Adults

We encourage all parents to join Scouting and become active in the Troop as a Troop Committee member or as an Assistant Scoutmaster. **All parents are encouraged to join the Troop Parent Committee.** The Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters are selected and approved by the Troop Committee and the Chartering Organization.

A. Requirements for all adult leaders:

All adult leaders including Troop Committee members, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, merit badge counselors, and those attending outdoor, day camp, or overnight activities with the Troop, must have filled out a BSA Adult Leader Application, applied for a background check, received approval from the chartered organization, and must have completed BSA Youth Protection Training.

B. Troop Parent Committee: *"Many hands make light work"*

All parents are encouraged to join the Troop Parent Committee. The Troop Committee meetings are open to all parents. The Troop Parent Committee's primary responsibilities are supporting the Scoutmaster in delivering a quality Troop program and handling Troop administration. Some specifics:

The Troop parent Committee...

- * Works on behalf of the Chartered Organization and within the organization's policies.
- * Ensures that quality adult leadership is recruited and trained,
- * Serve as Merit Badge Counselors
- * Is responsible for finances, adequate funds, and disbursements in line with the approved budget plan.
- * Supports the Scoutmaster in working with individual boys.
- * Serves on Boards of Review and Courts of Honor.
- * Serves as a volunteer position. Refer to Handout: Plugging-in to the Troop

C. Scoutmaster Team:

The scoutmaster team are the uniformed leaders that interact directly with the boys and includes the Scoutmaster (SM) and the Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM). The Scoutmaster is an adult leader who trains and guides the youth leaders in carrying out the scout program. The Assistant Scoutmasters report to the Scoutmaster and provide the required two-deep leadership standards set by the Boy Scouts of America.

D. Merit Badge Counselor:

Merit badge counselors are needed for many areas. We need for all parents to sign up using the enclosed Merit badge counselor form. If you are going to be a merit badge counselor in addition to any other position, then you must fill out a separate Adult Leader Application for each position.

Adult Leader Training *"Every boy deserves a trained leader."*

The more you know about scouting, the more rewarding your scouting experience will be and the more rewarding the scouts' experiences will be. All parents are encouraged to take Fast Start, New Leader Essentials, and Youth Protection Training. These courses are common to all adult leader positions, so you need not wait to see what specific roles you will play before taking them.

Youth Protection Training (YPT) is mandatory for any adult who will be interacting with the boy scouts. This includes Troop Committee members, the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, merit badge counselors, and those attending outdoor activities with the Troop. Print all training completion and deliver to the Troop's Training Coordinator.

Troop committee members can earn the "Trained" patch (encouraged, but not mandatory) by completing the following courses (available on-line anytime at <http://olc.scouting.org/>):

- * Fast Start
- * BSA Youth Protection Training (Mandatory)
- * This is Scouting

- * Troop Committee Challenge

Scoutmaster (SM) and Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM) can earn the "Trained" patch by completing the following training, *all of which is required for the position*:

- * Fast Start Training - available online at <http://olc.scouting.org/>
- * BSA Youth Protection Training
- * This is Scouting - available online at <http://olc.scouting.org/>
- * SM/ASM LST - Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leadership Training
- * IOLS - Introduction to Outdoor Leader Training

Other Training

First Aid, Wilderness First Aid, Weather Awareness, CPR, Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat, Climb-on Safety, Climbing instructor, and BSA lifeguard training are available from the Capitol Area Council (CAC). Adults trained in one or more of these areas are required for each outdoor outing. The type of training required varies with the type of outing. We need plenty of parents with a variety of training so that the Troop will not be limited in the frequency and types of activities it can enjoy.

Instructions for registering for training can be found at http://www.bsacac.org/training/adult_basic

There you can also see complete schedules, course descriptions, and locations. This site has the course registration form for district courses. Complete the form and send it to the appropriate contact for the course.

Remember to report all training completion to the Troop 18 Training Coordinator.

Plugging-in to the Troop

Every Troop is a dynamic organization that reflects the leadership provided by the youth leaders, the chartering organization, and supportive parents.

Fill at least one of the following positions:

- * Scoutmaster
- * Assistant Scoutmaster
- * Equipment Coordinator
- * Merit Badge Counselor
- * Committee Chairman
- * Secretary
- * Treasurer
- * Advancement Coordinator
- * Membership/Medical Forms Coordinator
- * Training Coordinator/Record keeper
- * New Scout Parent Unit Coordinator
- * Boards of Review
- * Chaplain
- * Outdoor/Activities Committee
- * Summer Camp Coordinator
- * High Adventure Committee
- * Fundraising Committee and Subcommittees

- * Popcorn Chair
- * Friends of Scouting Coordinator
- * Uniform Exchange/Closet
- * Class B T-Shirts
- * Scouting for Food Coordinator
- * Hospitality/Court of Honor Coordinator
- * Historian
- * District Roundtable Representative (Rotates)

Troop 18 Information

<https://www.troop18sanmarcos.com/>

Check out Troop 18 San Marcos on [Facebook](#)

Council **Capitol Area Council**
 District - **Sacred Springs District**
 Chartered Organization **First United Methodist Church, San Marcos**
 Chartered Organization Rep. **Reverend Jarrell V. Sharp**
 Scout Master **Abe Combest**
 Committee Chairman **Eric Brown**
 Email: **troop18.sanmarcos@gmail.com**
 Scout Meetings **Monday 6:45 – 8:00 PM @**
FUMC, Activity Center

Round Table: Meeting of scout leaders within the Sacred Springs District
 Time: 7:00 PM, 2nd Thursday of every month

Drop off / Pick up Policy

Parents are expected to drop off and pick up their Scouts in a timely fashion. ***Parents should escort scouts to the door, not just drop off at the curb. Occasionally, a troop meeting will occur at another location and you do not want to leave your scout at an unattended building with no way to contact anyone.***