



Where and when does Troop 682 meet? Troop 682 meets most Monday nights at Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 16275 Pomerado Road. The Monday after camping is usually reserved for the Troop Committee (parents) and Patrol Leader's Council aka PLC (youth leadership).

How big is Troop 682? Troop 682 currently has about 45 Scouts in four Patrols. Their ages range from 6th grade all the way to 12th grade – a lot of our Scouts stay active in the troop until they age out at 18.

Where are the Scouts from? Troop 682 has Scouts from all over including North and South Poway, Sabre Springs, Rancho Bernardo, Carmel Mountain Ranch, and Rancho Penasquitos. Schools include: Pomerado, Midland, Creekside, Painted Rock, Chapparal, Saint Michael's, Twin Peaks, Meadowbrook, Bernardo Heights, Oak Valley, Poway HS, Rancho Bernardo HS, Mount Carmel HS, Westview HS, The Bishop's School, Saint Augustine's, and more. **But when they are together, they are all from Troop 682!**

What kind of activities does Troop 682 do? Troop 682 prides itself on doing just about everything. We have a camping trip and a day hike every month. Sometimes a simple car-camp trip is great fun, but we also just had 11 Scouts camp on top of Mount San Gorgonio, at 11,503' the highest peak in Southern California. Sometimes we even go further – in 2015 we went to Oregon for summer camp, and we have also traveled to Tucson, and to Philmont in New Mexico.

What is the cost? Troop 682 charges \$12 dues per month. This covers registration, awards and patches, troop gear, and the first \$200 of each monthly camping trip. Other costs could include Summer camp (usually about \$400 for a whole week) and special activities (for example, night kayaking to see the Sea World fireworks was \$15).

How can I track my son's progress? Is there a lot of paperwork? Troop 682 uses TroopWebHost.com for administration and communication. This lets you easily check the balance in your Scout's account, sign him up for trips and activities, and manage permission forms. It also lets both you and your Scout track his advancements and contact the rest of his Patrol or Troop.

Is there any fundraising? Troop 682's major fundraiser each year is collecting Christmas trees for recycling. Each year we collect about 500 trees in Sabre Springs and 4S Ranch. We have several smaller optional fundraisers each year which can help individual Scouts defray expenses for summer camp or special trips.

Will my son earn Eagle with Troop 682? Any Scout with some initiative and perseverance can earn Eagle. We have had six Eagles in the last year, and expect another three before the end of 2016. But Troop 682 is not an "Eagle mill" - we don't push or drag our boys to Eagle; we give them the support they need to achieve it themselves. Some of our Eagles are quite young, while others are days before their 18th birthday: not every boy has the maturity to finish Eagle at age 15, which is why it's good that our Scouts stick with Scouting.

What about Merit Badges? The Boy Scout Merit Badge program allows Scouts to learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers. Merit Badges can be earned several ways: Boys who attend Summer Camp (highly recommended!) usually earn 3 or 4 Merit Badges during the week. Sometimes, the Troop will have a speaker at a Troop Meeting to introduce a Merit Badge. Boys who are interested in completing that Merit Badge can then arrange with the speaker to complete the Merit Badge. The Troop will occasionally sponsor a Merit Badge class or classes (typically over the summer period). Finally, the preferred method is for a boy to take the initiative to contact a Merit Badge counselor who is qualified for a Badge he is interested in. Besides the Troop parents who are Counselors, the Scoutmaster can provide a list of Counselors from outside the Troop.

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You say that Troop 682 is “Boy Led”. What does that mean? In Troop 682, the boys choose their activities and camp locations; plan and run the meetings; set up camp; plan their menus, buy their food, and cook for themselves; navigate and lead on hikes; and are as close to self sufficient as possible. Boy-led Scouting gives boys a chance to learn by experience, and to succeed (and often fail!) in a safe environment. Boys are naturally energetic and you will definitely notice this in a truly boy-led troop. The role of the adult leaders is of course to ensure safety, but also to mentor, to lead by example, and to guide the youth leadership to find their own answers. Troop 682 also supports our youth leaders by providing scholarships to NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training).

Does Troop 682 use the Patrol Method, and why is that important? Lord Baden Powell, Scouting's founder, said *“The patrol system is not one method in which Scouting for boys can be carried on. It is the only method.”* Scouts in Troop 682 do nearly everything by Patrol – camping, cooking, tenting, competitions. We have four Patrols, each with its unique personality. Even today, BSA recommends the patrol method because it “allows Scouts to interact in a small group outside the larger troop context, working together as a team and sharing the responsibility of making their patrol a success. A patrol takes pride in its identity, and the members strive to make their patrol the best it can be.”

How are new Scouts integrated into the Troop? For their first six months, Scouts are assigned to a New Scout Patrol. An older Scout called the Troop Guide teaches them how to camp and cook and helps them work towards First Class rank. After the six months, each boy is drafted into whichever regular patrol best fits his personality.

What about service? Scouts from Troop 682 participate in projects at St Bartholomew's, local schools, food banks, parks and trails, and even internationally.

Can Scouting fit into my son's other activities? We recognize that boys today have a lot of activities – sports, music, church, and (ugh) homework. We do not impose any minimum participation requirements. We do encourage boys to attend as often as possible, and of course the more they attend the faster they can advance and the more fun they'll have. We have Scouts in soccer, football, baseball, water polo, volleyball, and marching band.

What gear will my son need? Not much: a sleeping bag and pad, a plate and utensils, hiking boots, at least two one-liter water bottles, and a daypack. He'll share a tent with a friend, so not every Scout needs a tent right away (and the Troop has a few). As he gets older he will want his own tent and a backpack. Troop 682 has a gear trailer to bring the Troop's camping gear like stoves, pots and pans, tables, water jugs, ropes and poles, etc.

Can parents get involved? Absolutely! YPT-trained parents can always camp with the adult leaders. We always need help behind the scenes with advancements, finances and the like. We also really appreciate help towing the Troop trailer if you have a truck or SUV. The boys always welcome adult suggestions for new adventures, too!

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about Troop 682? Troop 682 consistently achieves the Gold Unit level in BSA's Journey to Excellence. Less than 10% of troops earn this level. Two Scouts from Troop 682 currently work at BSA summer camps – one at Camp Fiesta Island and one at Camp Whitsett in the southern Sierras.

How can my son and I find out more? We strongly encourage you to visit one or more of our Monday meetings. (Let us know in advance so you don't show up when we are off-site!) We will also be having several Webelos Open Houses this fall. Troop 682 maintains an excellent website at Troop682.com where you can see our plans for the next year, read the Scoutmaster's Corner and articles about our recent activities and link to literally thousands of pictures on Flickr. If you have any questions please feel free to email us at BSATroop682@gmail.com .