



# Getting Started in Troop 439!



## Welcome to Troop 439

Starting out in Boy Scouts can be an overwhelming experience, whether you are joining our troop from Cub Scouts or if you are new to Boy Scouts.

### Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts

Although Webelos provides a good transition to boy scouts, there are a few changes with boy scouts that you should be aware of:

- Cub Scouts is family/leader led, boy scouts is boy led, it is recommended that the parents do not attend Troop meetings unless they are an adult leader
- Dens translate to Patrols
- Pack translates to Troop
- Den Meetings are now Troop Meetings with Patrol Time
- There is no equivalent to a Pack Meeting, although there are two “Court of Honors” (Apr & Nov) per year where the scout formally receives their achievements and begins any appointed leadership position.
- Den Meetings were leader led, Troop Meetings are boy led
- Den Leaders translate to Assistant Scoutmasters
- CubMaster translates to Scoutmaster
- Boy scouts advance by Rank and not by year like Cub Scouts

Visit our web site at [www.bsatroop439.com](http://www.bsatroop439.com) to get the latest calendar and other information

### Ranks

With Cubs Scouts the ranks progressed by year:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Tiger	Wolf	Bear	Webelos	Webelos II

With Boy Scouts, their rank progression is based on the Scouts ability to complete the requirements. We try and encourage the boys to get to First Class within 12-18 months and attend summer camp to have the best chance of becoming an Eagle Scout.

Here is a hypothetical timeline, although no two scouts are the same, and the only time constraint with Boy Scouts is Age 18.

Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Age 16	Age 17
Scout Tenderfoot Second Class First Class	Star	Life	Eagle <i>Move to venture crew</i>	Eagle Palms Until Age 18		



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# Troop 439

## Tablet Analysis and Recommendation



### Meetings

- We meet every Monday at the Desert View Bible Church on Carefree Hwy from 7pm to 8pm – 8:30pm
- Parents are encouraged to leave the boys at the meeting and come back and collect them once the meeting ends.
- We continue to meet throughout the summer, although the meetings are less formal
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month is a Merit Badge Meeting. Several of the Adult leaders also run merit badges, and this meeting is used for scouts to start/continue a merit badge. If a scout is not participating in a Merit Badge, he can use the meeting as a regular troop meeting.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month is a PLC meeting (Patrol Leaders Council) This is a special meeting used by the Scout leaders for planning, ideas and other leadership tasks. Scouts who are not leaders can also attend and observe the meeting
- Where a 5<sup>th</sup> Monday happens, this will be a Patrol meeting organized and run by each patrol, this will not be held at Desert View Bible Church
- All meetings require **Class A** uniforms (Tan shirt, neckerchief, green pants or shorts, BSA socks if wearing shorts)

### Campouts

There is one campout per month, except for the summer where June thru August is reserved for Summer Camps

There is a fixed fee of \$15 per scout for Transportation (payable to driver in advance)

Food for the campout is either provided by the individual scout or the Patrol as a group, the cost is determined by the individual or the Patrol.

Boys must always travel in Class A uniforms – no exceptions

NO ELECTRONICS – except for Cameras. Phones with Cameras are discouraged as Cameras. Scoutmasters have phones for emergencies and calling home.

IMPORTANT: In the back of the scout handbook there is a “Camping Log” section. This should be completed for every campout as it is required for the scout to use towards the Camping merit Badge (Eagle required).

If your scout has a medical condition, allergy or other special case, please let the scoutmasters know well ahead of any campout so that they can be appropriately prepared.



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There are three types/styles of Campouts done by the troop:

1. Backpacking
2. Truck
3. Backpacking style Truck

### *Backpacking*

The troop drives all the scouts to an appropriate drop off point, and the scouts will backpack with all of their gear and food to the camp site.

### *Truck*

The troop drives all the scouts to the camp site with the troop trailer and the scouts will use the troop provided equipment to camp with (Tents and Kitchens)

### *Backpacking style Truck*

The troop drives all the scouts to the camp site, but the scouts must bring all of their gear and food to the camp site (No troop trailer).

### **Summer Camps**

The troop decides at the end of the year which summer camps will be attended by the Troop on the following year. There are two Arizona summer camps - Geronimo (Payson area) and Raymond (Flagstaff area). Once camp is chosen each year and offered to the scouts. Cost is around \$350. The scouts have the opportunity to earn many merit badges, progress through ranks, and obtain valuable scouting experience.

It is strongly encouraged that all new scouts attend Summer Camp during their first year.

There are other Summer Camps available that are either on a per scout basis or have restricted availability:

Lake Pleasant Summer Day Camp – Open to all scouts, book individually, no overnight camping, the scout returns home after each day, available every year

Emerald Bay – Catalina Island, California – The troop generally runs this every 2 or 3 years and has age/rank restrictions and requires Scoutmaster approval to attend

High Adventure Camps (Philmont, SeaBase, etc) - The troop generally runs this every 2 or 3 years and has age/rank restrictions and requires Scoutmaster approval to attend.



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### Day 1 – How do I get started, what now?

The first thing your Scout should do is look at his Boy Scout Handbook and work towards earning his first rank – **Scout**. If your scout has come from Webelos, this should be an easy exercise and can be achieved in just two or three meetings.

Attend every troop meeting and ask the older scouts for advice on what to do next, ask the scoutmasters for advice on what to do next, have fun!

Have your scout attend the first campout. The first campout can be daunting for both the scout and parents! Don't worry, the leaders take exceptional care of the new scouts, and they often get to work on many of their boy scout requirements while on this campout. Please note that only Adults allowed to attend campouts are registered boy scout leaders.

Get involved in a merit badge, something that interests the scout. There are opportunities within the troop or through the Council. Sign-up for the Grand Canyon Council monthly newsletter and you will see many opportunities for merit badges, most only costing \$5.

Make sure you are on the Troop E-mail mailing list, most of the communication is done this way outside of the troop meetings.

**If your Scout is having any issues at all, please have your Scout first talk to the SPL (Senior Patrol Leader) and then if not resolved, talk to any Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster is there to help out all scouts, and we will do everything we can to resolve any issues.**





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## Basic Equipment for Truck Campouts

You may have already been given some information about what equipment your scout will need for campouts, during one of the initial meetings. If you have not had this information yet, here is a basic list of essentials to get your scout started on the first truck campout:

**Water** - Hydration Pack (e.g. CamelBak) and Reusable Water bottle – filled with Water

**Food** – either individually purchased or Patrol purchased as a group. It is critical that the correct food is taken (see later section about food)

Truck Campout Essentials	Truck Campout recommendations
✓ Water and Food (See above)	○ Sleeping Pad
✓ Pocketknife (Whittling Chip req.)	○ Pillow
✓ First aid Kit	○ Towel
✓ Extra Clothing	○ Boy Scout Handbook
✓ Rain gear (if conditions require it)	○ Nylon Cord / Paracord
✓ Flashlight or headlight	○ Pen/Pencil/Notebook
✓ Matches and firestarter (Hot Spark)	○ Trowel for catholes
✓ Sun Protection	○ Activity based equipment (e.g. Swimsuit, hiking boots, etc)
✓ Sleeping Bag	○ Map and Compass
✓ Toiletries (Toothbrush, soap, deodorant, brush, toilet paper, etc)	○ Whistle
✓ Mess Kit	○ Watch

Please note that Backpacking trips and Snow Camp require much more equipment than what is shown above, the troop provides lists of items required for successful backpacking and Snow camping.





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### Food

Food is essential for your scout to have the correct nutrition during the campouts, as often these are physically demanding and require the correct type of food.

Your scout will learn the correct food choices as part of their requirements for the Second Class Rank, prior to that they will be guided by their Troop Guide (Assigned Patrol leader)

For Backpacking/Individual food choices:

Food Do's	Food Dont's
✓ Instant Oatmeal	✗ Candy
✓ Dried Cereal	✗ Pop Tarts
✓ Cup-a-Soups	✗ Soda
✓ Backpacking meals (Mountain House)	✗ Sunny D
✓ Instant Mash Potato	✗ Unprepared meat, especially chicken, turkey, pork*
✓ Fruit and Real Fruit Juice	✗ Food that takes a long time to cook*
✓ Vegetables	✗ High Fat, low nutrition foods
✓ Beef Jerky	
✓ Nuts or Trail Mix (Avoid too much chocolate)	
✓ Bagels	
✓ Granola Bars and or Protein Bars	
✓ Ramen Noodles (Limit these due to Sodium)	
✓ Crackers such as Triscuits	
✓ Peanut Butter packets	
✓ Rice or Pasta	
✓ Hot Chocolate	
✓ Pancakes	
✓ Cheese Strings or Baby Bell individuals	

\* These can be appropriate for Patrol based food on Truck Campouts