

Boy Scouts of America Troop 726

State of the Troop - February 2008

As we celebrate the 98th anniversary of scouting in America, we salute the countless volunteers who have donated their time and energy to share the ideals of Scouting with our young people.

Scouting has a lot to offer young people: leadership skills, character education, a sense of responsibility, learning, fun and so much more. But at its most basic level, Scouting is about time.

For at least a couple hours a week, Scouts have the undivided attention of caring adults. During that time, adults help children learn the difference between right and wrong, and teach them to make better choices in life. This is mentoring at its best. Here at Troop 726 we have 23 registered adult leaders, ready, willing and able to assist each scout in their journey down the scouting trail. The time our volunteer leaders contribute really adds up. In fact we think, it's only a couple hours a week, but on average our scout master spends at least 10 hours per week. Troop 726 commends these volunteers and appreciates their hard work and dedication to the youth in our community.

In 2007, we saw many changes to the committee side of our troop. Our long time committee chair resigned to move on to other scouting adventures. We filled the committee chair position, installed a new treasurer, new membership coordinator, an outdoor coordinator and a chaplain. Since then, we have regrouped, grown, and moved forward.

A big accomplishment for the year 2007, was acquiring a 40-foot storage container for the troop equipment. This has always been a dream and goal of Troop 726, and thanks to Mr. Perrault, we saw this goal come true. Having a central location for our troop equipment has been a real asset.

Troop 726 is a diverse group of scouts; we come from Castro Valley, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, and Lafayette. Today, have 29 registered scouts:

- 2 Scouts
- 4 Tenderfoot Scouts
- 3 2nd Class Scouts
- 6 1st Class Scouts
- 6 Star Scouts
- 7 Life Scouts
- 1 Eagle Scout

Our Eagle Scout earned a Silver Palm this past year, which is the third in a series. Palms represent additional advancement for a scout who stayed active in the troop. This is above and beyond the eagle rank. This shows dedication to scouting and our program. This Silver Palm recognition was the first in the history of Troop 726. Three of our life scouts have began the final phase of their journey to Eagle with a visit to the Eagle Rank Coordinator and preparation for their eagle project. While two new scouts have eagerly accepted the scout oath to began the trail.

We had 24 youth scout attend Summer Camp 2007. As a troop, we:

- earned 103 merit badges,
- went on 54 outings,
- spent 509 nights camping,
- hiked 394 miles,
- spent 491 hours doing service projects.

A very busy year!

Over the past few months we have had many Webelo scouts visit, not just once but multiple meeting or events. We look forward to having some of them join us.

Benjamin Franklin said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." For decades, scouting has helped save young people from the dangers of drugs, gang violence, hopelessness, vandalism, and more. With each outing, each hike, each service project, our youngsters gained the personal values, self-confidence, leadership talent and life skills needed to help them grow into strong young adults. Have faith in the program – it is an ounce of prevention.

Respectfully Submitted
Phyllis Lozano
Troop 726 Committee Chair