



# Vietnamese Committee on Scouting

## Santa Clara

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### Introduction to the Vietnamese Committee on Scouting Santa Clara County (VCS - SC)

#### The Time of New Beginning (1987 - 1994)

The idea of establishing a committee such as this had been in the mind of a number of Scout Leaders since 1984 but it was not until 1987 that those ideas finally became a reality and this committee was founded with the acknowledgement from the BSA, Santa Clara County Council.

During the initial stage, there were many limitations with the functionality of this committee in terms of planning and activities due to the fact that there were not many members as yet and that the concept of this committee were new to everyone. Then there were a lot of notable scouting activities in the Vietnamese community which attracted the Viet Scout Leaders and we were on the move.

#### The Time of Development (1995 - Present)

In 1995, all units were well established and growing. Sensing the needs of a new generation, this committee began to increase planned activities that involved different units within the council to have activities together. In moving forward, Leaders representing their units came together to share ideas and plan for the continuing growth of the Scouting movement within this county. They adopted an election procedure to choose a committee chairperson whose task is to represent this committee with outside organizations. These accomplishments may be simple in the beginning but they served as the bedrock principal that helps this committee move forward in the years to come.

Now, Vietnamese Committee on Scouting has a joint of 7 VN Scout Groups (LienDoan) with more than 700 boys, girls and adult leaders to conduct the scouting activities in the VN community in Santa Clara County and we are working well with the local BSA and GSUSA to help our youths growing stronger.



### Introduction to the Lien Doan System

#### Definition:

A Lien Doan is a group of intergrated scouting units, can be in the same or different branch of Scouting from Cubs Scouts to Boy Scouts to Venturer, and can even include units from Girl Scouts.

#### Organizing structure:

The Scout Leader committee of a Lien Doan holds the task of running and carrying out activities of all units within the Lien Doan. The structure of a Lien Doan is depended upon the current needs of its units as a functioning member of a Lien Doan. The Scout Leader committee organize the structure of a Lien Doan using the methods and purpose of Scouting as a guideline to carryout meaningful activities within the units.

#### Roles and Responsibilities:

The basic task of running and coordinating a Lien Doan are depended what its purpose and needs are. From there, Leaders share in the responsibilities of addressing those needs and making sure that unit activities are carried out accordingly. Those responsibilities are varied from time to time according to the current needs of the Lien Doan and its units.

#### Some key roles and tasks within a Lien Doan:

**Lien Doan Chairperson:** is the Leader who will be the key voice in representing the Lien Doan. Coordinate the overall activities within the Lien Doan.

**Assistant Chairperson:** Assist in the various duties of the Chairperson.

**Treasurer:** Record and keep track of all finance activities in the Lien Doan.

**Secretary:** Keep record of activities and update any relevant materials relating to the activities of the Lien Doan.

**Training Coordinator:** Plan, organize, and update training programs from basic leadership skills to advanced programs for new and current Leaders when the need arises.

**Cub Master, Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor, Rover Scout Leader, Girl Scout Leader & Unit Assistants:** Coordinate the overall programs for their respected units.

#### The Benefits of a Lien Doan:

- All units conduct their activities in the same place and time, thus minimizing the number of Leaders needed to conduct the same activities for multiple units than if those units were to meet separately. Parents with children in different Scouting branch and level no longer need to drive to multiple meeting places and time for drop off and pickup.

- Unit leaders can share their experiences and aid each other in multiple activities more easily.

- The transition phase of a Scout from one level to the next is much smoother and without fear of being an outsider (familiar with members from the new units).

- Parents can support the activities of multiple units at the same time without any indifference as to whether or not their son and daughter belong to that unit because their support will go to benefit the Lien Doan as a whole rather than just any individual unit.

#### Conclusion:

Many choices and events take place depends on the individual's familiarity of the situation and term of needs. A Scout Leader's decision to form a Scouting unit based on a Lien Doan system or that of individual units is influenced by addressing the options as to which methods will be most effective to run their units while also offering a high degree of convenience. There is no right or wrong way when choosing either method but it is best to keep in mind of the resources needed to best coordinate the units and what is actually available. Building a successful unit is the best contribution a Leader can make to the Scouting movement and to the future of our youths.