



## George Henderson Biography

Born in September of 1895, George Henderson grew up in Glasgow, Scotland. As a soldier in the British Royal Army, he served in World War I as a medic. George migrated to Elk Grove in 1924. Due to immigration quotas, his wife Mary, daughter Elizabeth (Bessie Stumbo), and sons James and Andrew were delayed another two years. Their daughter Lillian, was born in Elk Grove in 1928.

George became a United States citizen in the early 1930's. Soon after arriving, he reorganized and established Elk Grove's first Boy Scout troop open to all boys in Elk Grove. Prior to his involvement, only boys belonging to one of Elk Grove's local churches could join the troop. George helped construct the original log cabin deemed the "Scout House" in Elk Grove Park. He served as a Commissioner for the Golden Empire Council, Delta District and a troop committee member for the Elk Grove troop. He instructed first aid training classes for the Boy Scouts and served as a scout leader for more than 50 years. He also helped launch Elk Grove's Girl Scout organization and served as a merit badge councilor.

In addition to his work with the scouts, George was an entrepreneur who operated his own painting and wallpaper business. He was an active member of several community organizations including the Elk Grove Men's Choir, the Masons, Elk Grove Odd Fellows, and the Elk Grove Business Men's Association (now the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce). George was recognized several times over for his work with local youth. He was honored as Elk Grove's Citizen of the Year in 1958. He also received several honors by the Boy Scout Council including their most prestigious awards, the Silver Bear and Silver Beaver Awards. George remained a dedicated family man and maintained strong ties with the scouts until his death in 1973.

*The information within this document was created at the time of park dedication and may not be current.*