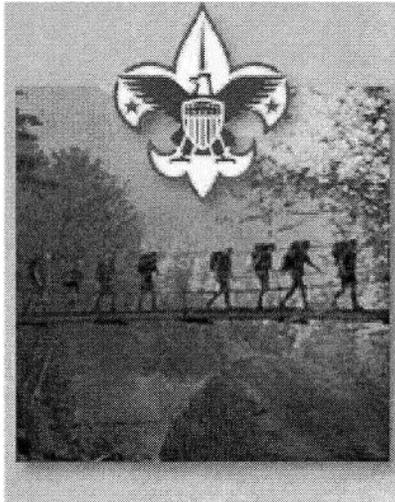


Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America

Welcome to the Adventure of Boy Scouting



Purpose:

- Inform parents and boys about the Boy Scout program and the new experiences that await them
- To assist parents and Webeios Scouts in a successful transition from Cub Scouting to Boy Scouting



What You Should Do Now To Get Started ...

- Carefully review this booklet so you know what Boy Scouting is all about and how you and your son can get the most out of it.
- Purchase a Boy Scout Handbook now and begin attending the Boy Scout Troop meeting in your area.
- Mark troop meetings and campouts on your calendar.
- Fill out the troop resource survey and turn it in to the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair of the troop you son will be joining.
- Consider becoming a member of the troop committee and helping with some part of the program.



Top Ten Reasons Why Boys Like Scouting

1. Hanging Out
2. Extreme Adventure
3. Water Fun
4. Summer Camp
5. Getting Outside
6. Sports
7. Games
8. Cool Gear
9. Building Stuff
10. Great Grub

Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America

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www.northernstarsbsa.org
www.scoutzone.org
www.goscouting.com



Your Son, Boy Scouting, and You

As a parent, you want your son to grow up to be a person of worth, a self-reliant, dependable, and caring individual. Scouting has these same goals in mind for him. Since 1910, we've been weaving lifetime values into fun and educational activities designed to assist parents in strengthening character, developing good citizenship, enhancing physical fitness, and building self-esteem and ethical values of youth.

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to provide for youth an effective program designed to build desirable qualities of character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develop in them personal fitness; thus, to help in the development of American citizens who:

- ◇ Are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit.
- ◇ Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness.
- ◇ Have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts.
- ◇ Have the desire and the skills to help others.
- ◇ Understand the principles of American social, economic, and governmental system.
- ◇ Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
- ◇ Have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people.

The Boy Scouts of America accomplishes this purpose by making its program available in cooperation with existing groups having compatible goals, including religious, educational, civic, fraternal, business, labor organizations.

In a society where your son is often taught that winning is everything. Boy Scouting teaches him to "do his best" and be helpful to others as expressed in the Boy Scout Oath. These values help your son make good decisions throughout his lifetime and give him confidence as he becomes an adult leader of tomorrow.

With all the negative influences in today's society, Scouting provides your son with a positive peer group and a program that is fun and adventurous and helps him to "be prepared" to shape his own future.

Troop Operations - In Boy Scouting, most troops aim to train their boys for leadership. Each troop has a Senior Patrol Leader, elected by all the boys in the troop, who with his Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders takes the helm for leadership within the troop. You should see evidence of "boys leading boys".

Troop Activities - Ask to see a copy of their yearly program calendar. You'll want to see how often they camp out or take day trips. The outdoor program recommends 9-12 campouts per year, including summer camp. Do they camp in the winter?

Troop Meetings - The Boy Scout program is intended to strengthen character and leadership. A troop is often described as "boy run". During your visit you may see varying degrees of youth leadership that may sometimes appear a little chaotic or disorganized, but in reality is a learning process in action. Key things to be on the lookout for: is the meeting upbeat? Are the boys kept busy? Do they show respect to the flag ceremony, to the program, to the adults, to each other? Most of all, are the boys having fun?

Uniforms - Most troops require full uniform for all meetings and for events or activities. Other troops require only the uniform shirt. Others have designated uniform meeting days while others choose to wear the activity (red polo) shirt. Ask if there is a uniform "bank" of "experienced/used uniforms.

Summer Camp Opportunities - Summer camp is typically one week in length, and offers a tremendous opportunity for Scouts to experience the fun and excitement of camping while affording the chance to achieve rank advancements and merit badges. Some troops have a tradition of returning to the same camp every year, while others rotate between Scout Camps in nearby councils.

Advancement Program - Some troops use the Advancement and merit Badge program as the cornerstone of their program, while others feel it is secondary to activities and events.

The Cost of Scouting - Fees vary from troop to troop. Most troops have an annual fee, which covers membership and basic materials, including badges and awards. It usually does not include uniform, camping fees, meals, travel, or other activity fees.

Ways You Can Help - Troops require lots of adult support. There are many different levels of troop involvement, from leadership roles, to serving on the Troop Committee, to helping with campouts, fundraisers, driving to events, etc. Successful Scouts and successful troops have parents who can make time to be involved.

Parents in the Scouting Program

As a parent of a **Tiger Cub**, you met with other parent/son groups once a month for a fun activity.



As a parent of a **Cub Scout**, you helped your son complete den projects in his Wolf and Bear books and attended monthly pack meetings. Maybe you were a group leader at Cub Scout day camp or attended a resident camp with your son.

As a parent of a **Webelos Scout**, you may have helped present an activity badge at your son's den meeting. Outings with Boy Scout troops introduced you and your son to longer camping experiences.



As a parent of a new **Boy Scout** you can give encouragement to him as he learns new skills with other Scouts and leaders. You can help on campouts and fundraisers. You will be invited to attend Courts of Honor three or four times a year where awards are presented.

As a parent of a boy growing in the Scout program you can help as a troop leader, merit badge counselor, or member of the troop committee, and as a continued source of encouragement for your son.

www.northernstarbsa.org

Choosing a Boy Scout Troop

The choice of a troop is a personal decision. Perhaps the most important thing to remember is that Boy Scouting was founded with the goal of being "fun, with a purpose", and the fun should be clearly visible in today's Scouting programs.

The Webelos Arrow of Light requires your son to visit at least one Boy Scout Troop, attend an outdoor event with a troop, and complete an application to join. Some families have found it beneficial to visit more than one troop. Every troop has its own traditions, activities, and level of adventure. You need to find one that is right for your son.

Contacting a Local Troop - Troop contact information is available on the council website at www.northernstarbsa.org or call either service center. You may choose any troop in your area. *The troops do have one request for you* - please call one of the contact persons before visiting the troop. Calling ahead will assure that you don't miss the troop should they be meeting off-site.

During your visit, there are things to ask and observe. There is no "single" or "correct" way to operate a troop, but you will want a troop that you and your son will feel comfortable with.

Things to Consider When Visiting a Troop

Troop Size - While troops will vary in size, there should be a cadre of Leadership appropriate to the number of boys in the troop. Ask how many patrols are in the troop.

Age Range of Scouts - Younger Scouts traditionally work on their Rank Requirements so they can advance through the Tenderfoot, Second and First Class Ranks. Much of their attention in meetings and on campouts is devoted to their basic Scout skills for these requirements. As the Scouts get into their teens, it is necessary to challenge them in order to hold their interest. Scouting has established "High Adventure" programs for Scouts who are 13 years of age or older. They may begin high level canoeing, rock climbing, or sailing.

Trained Leaders - This is a very important part of your consideration of a troop. Trained leaders should know BSA policies on programs, safety, and youth protection.

The Aims and Methods of Boy Scouting

AIMS

Boy Scouting works toward three aims. One is growth in moral strength and character. We may define this as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, and his outlook.

A second aim is participating citizenship. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn his obligations to other people, to the society he lives in, to the government that presides over that society.

A third aim of Boy Scouting is development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness. Fitness includes the body (well tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

The methods are designed to accomplish these aims. Thus it is important that you know and use the methods of Boy Scouting. Other methods are good, but they may bring different results - results quite different than we are seeking.



METHODS

Ideals - The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, motto, and slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them he has some control over what he becomes.

Patrols - The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in-group living and participating citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they easily can relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

Outdoors - Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose.

Being close to nature helps Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and mankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resource.

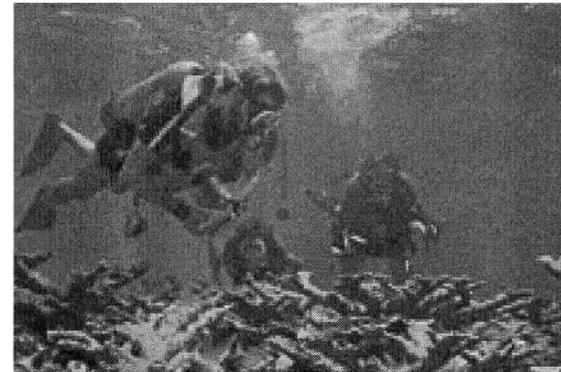
Your Life as a Scout

Today you are a boy. Before long you will become a man. It is important to America and to yourself that you become a citizen of fine character, physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Boy Scouting will help you become that kind of citizen. But also, Scouting will give you fellowship and fun.

As a Boy Scout you will...

- Have lots of FUN with friends.
- Be a member of a patrol that gathers weekly with other patrols at a troop meeting.
- Learn Scoutcraft skills that will benefit you as you grow. In time, you will develop skills of leadership as well.
- Grow into responsible manhood, learning to be of service to others.
- Become an outdoorsman. Your life as a Scout will make you strong and self-reliant.



Boy Scout Activities

Day hikes	Summer camp
Service projects	Jamborees
Patrol activities	Council high adventure
Weekend overnights	National high adventure
Camporees	Unit high adventure

Advancement - Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a boy grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others.

Active Scout participation and advancement go together. To advance, a Scout must take part in all the activities of the patrol and troop.

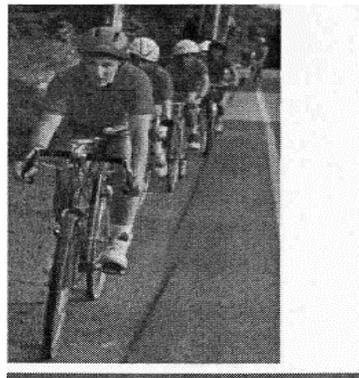
Adult Association - Boys learn from the examples set by their adult leaders. Troop leaders may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage of a young man's development.

Personal Growth - As Scouts plan their activity, and progress towards their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. There probably is no device so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn.

Leadership Development - Boy Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Uniform - The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth that believe in the same ideals.

The uniform is practical attire for Scout activities, and provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.



Scouting is a Way of Life

The *Scout Oath* and the *Scout Law* are your guides to citizenship. They tell you what is expected of a Scout.

Scout Oath

On My Honor...As a Scout, you count your honor one of the most valuable possessions.

...I Will Do My Best..No person who has accomplished anything worthwhile did this by doing his second best...or his third or fourth best. He gave the very best that was in his best thoughts, his best work.

...To Do My Duty to God and My Country...The kind of man you will be depends on your ability to know your duty and to do your utmost to live up to your obligations.

...And To Obey the Scout Law..That law fits you as a boy. It will fit you just as well when you become a man—for a real man is everything the Scout Law stands for.

...To Help Other People at All Times...It is not enough to have willingness to help other people—you need to have the ability as well. You develop this ability as you advance in Scouting and learn how to act in an emergency.

...To Keep Myself Physically Strong, Mentally Awake, and Morally Straight...You owe it to yourself, your country, and your God to develop your body, to train you mind, to strive to be a boy and a man of high character.

Scout Law

A Scout is:	Trustworthy	Obedient
	Loyal	Cheerful
	Helpful	Thrifty
	Friendly	Brave
	Courteous	Clean
	Kind	Reverent

How Boy Scouting Works

Scout Patrol

A patrol is a team of 6 to 8 boys who work towards the same goal. In the patrol, you learn what fun it is to plan exciting things such as hiking and camping, with some of your best friends.

To have a good Scout patrol you have to elect a patrol leader who is responsible to:

- Plan and lead patrol meetings and activities.
- Keep patrol members informed.
- Assign each patrol member a job and supervise them.
- Represent the patrol at all patrol leader council meetings.
- Prepare the patrol to take part in all troop activities.
- Develop patrol spirit.
- Work with other troop leaders to make the troop run well.
- Set a good example.
- Wear the uniform correctly
- Live by the Scout Oath & Law.

Scout Troop

The patrol does not stand alone. It is part of the troop. Most troops are made up of 3 or 4 patrols. A troop builds memories that last a lifetime; troop songs around a campfire, father and son campouts, and courts of honor. The Boy Scout troop runs primarily by the Scoutmaster and youth leaders called the Patrol Leaders Council.

Troop Leaders

Scoutmaster: a friend to whom the boys turn to for advice and a coach for the patrol leaders.

Assistant Scoutmaster: Helps the Scoutmaster and takes charge of the troop when needed.

Senior Patrol Leader: Helps all the patrol with their program and runs the troop meeting.

Troop Committee

A group of people usually parents who are responsible for the troop's welfare. The committee meets once a month and helps the Scoutmaster and youth leaders carry out their program.

Chartering Organization

The troop is owned by a chartered organization.

Chartered organizations include schools, parent associations, religious organizations, service clubs, and other groups interested in youth.

The chartered organization approves leaders, provides a meeting place, and operates troops within the guidelines and policies of the chartered organization and the Boy Scouts of America. The chartered organization selects a chartered organization representative who serves as a liaison between the troop and organization.

