

Parent's Guide to Scouting





WHAT IS SCOUTING?



Scouts BSA Troops serve young men and women who are in 6th through 12 grades (or 11 through 17 years of age). Scouts, with the support of their patrol mates, leaders, and chartered organizations work together to achieve the purposes of the BSA:

- ☐ Character Development
- ☐ Spiritual Growth
- ☐ Good Citizenship
- ☐ Sportsmanship
- ☐ Family Understanding
- ☐ Respectful Relationships
- ☐ Personal Achievements
- ☐ Friendly Service
- ☐ Fun and Adventure

What is the purpose of Scouts?

For more than 100 years the Scouting America has provided high quality, fun and educational programs. Scouts BSA emphasizes a year-round program designed to help youth develop outdoor skills, self-confidence, and ethics through youth planned activities with increased attention to service, community engagement, and leadership.

The other Scouting America run programs are Cub Scouts, Venturing, Sea Scouts, and Exploring. Since 2018 the program expanded to include young women in Scouts BSA. However, scouting has had co-ed programs in the form of Venturing and Exploring for 30 years.

Your Child's Safety: Our Top Priority

Scouting America's number one priority is the safety and protection of your child while involved in any Scouting activity. For this reason, we work closely with our chartered organizations to help recruit the best possible leaders for their units. We take great pride in the quality of our adult leadership and in our application review process. Each registered adult leader goes through an extensive background check and is required to take Youth Protection Training courses every two years.

As a major youth-serving organization, Scouting America has a unique opportunity to help protect the youth of our nation. In addition to helping families address the problem of child abuse, Scouting America has adopted a comprehensive set of policies and procedures designed to ensure that Scouting continues to be safe for all participants. It is a national leader among youth-serving agencies in addressing the potential threat that child abuse poses to young people.

For more information visit
<https://www.scouting.org/training/safeguarding-youth/>



As a parent you want your child to grow up to be self-reliant, dependable and caring. Scouting has these same goals. For more than 100 years we have been helping youth be prepared for life through fun and educational activities designed to assist parents in strengthening character, citizenship, and physical and mental fitness in youth. But the youth don't join Scouting to build character. They join because it is filled with fun adventures!

The Troop

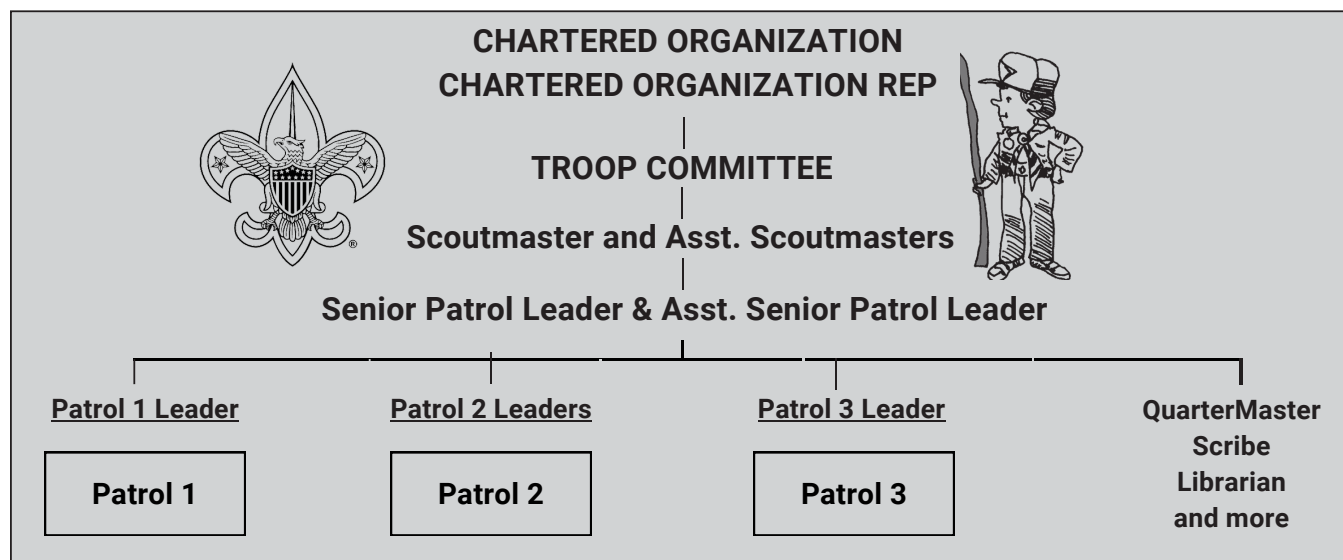
A Scouts BSA troop is comprised of all the youth and adults registered with that unit. The youth leaders work together to plan program activities in the areas of Outdoors, Fitness, Citizenship, Leadership, Service, and of course FUN! The troop holds weekly meetings but weekly attendance is not mandatory.

Patrols

A patrol is a group of 6-10 youth who work together to progress through the scouting ranks, merit badges and activities. Patrols meet during the weekly troop meetings and have their own leadership represented in the Troop officers council called the Patrol Leaders Council. This group works together to plan the troop's activities and make sure the scouts are upholding the aims and methods of scouting.

The Troop is managed by the Committee Who:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ☐ Selects leadership | ☐ Manages troop finances | ☐ Helps train leaders |
| ☐ Finds meeting places | ☐ Orders badges and awards | ☐ Recognizes leaders |
| ☐ Performs record keeping | ☐ Maintains troop equipment | |



All of the youth leaders in the troop get together once a month to plan the details of each month's meeting programs and coordinate youth leadership for the upcoming outings.

Each Troop is Owned by a Chartered Organization Which:

- Could be a parent-school organization, religious organization, service club, or other organization interested in youth.
- Approves leadership, helps secure a meeting place, keeps the pack within the organization's and BSA's guidelines and policies.
- Selects a chartered organization representative (a liaison between the pack and its chartered organization).

The Advancement Plan

The biggest reward of scouting comes from the fun you will have and the skills you will learn. But you can also receive more concrete recognition of your accomplishments, including rank awards and merit badges.

Ranks

In scouting there are seven ranks.

Scout Rank

Covers basic information you need to know to be a good scouts such as the Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan

Tenderfoot Second Class First Class

These ranks cover skills in camping, hiking, cooking, first aid, nature, fitness, aquatics, citizenship and leadership. According to the handbook, it will likely take a year to 18 months to work through these ranks.

The following ranks will focus more on community service, leadership, and merit badges. Each will take longer to complete than previous ranks.

Star

Requirements include being an active First Class Scout for 4 months, earning 6 merit badges (4 from the required Eagle list), participate in 6 hours of community service, and serve in a position of responsibility in the troop for 4 months.

Life

Requirements include earning an additional 5 merit badges (including 3 required for Eagle), 6 hours of community service, and 3 hours of conservation in addition to being active as a Star Scout and serving a position of responsibility in the troop for 6 months.

Eagle

This is Scouting's highest rank and requires:

- Earning 21 merit badges
- Serving in a position of responsibility for 6 months
- Being active as a Life scout in the troop for 6 months,
- Completing an Eagle scout community project according to the BSA guidelines.

Merit Badges

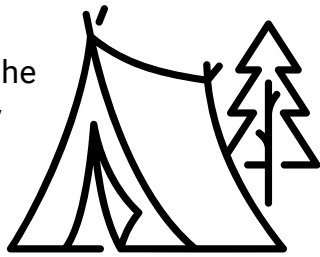
Merit badges are awarded to Scouts who put special emphasis on learning specific topics. There are 135 merit badges to choose from covering topics from camping and first aid to robotics and game design.



What Do They Do In Scouts?

Camp!

This is probably the number 1 activity people think of when they think of scouting.



Many troops hold 6 or more campouts every year. This time to unplug is one of the many things scouts (and parents) love about Scouting.

Fundraising

With Council run fundraisers such as popcorn and candy bars, as well as troop managed events such as dinners and flag sales, there are plenty of opportunities for Scouts to earn money to fund their adventures! Incentives include Amazon gift cards, Council bucks, and camp scholarships!

The money they earn also helps reduce the cost of scouting to the family and helps support the programs of our Council. By setting and working towards individual and Council goals, Scouts learn responsibility and team work.



Courts of Honor

Several times a year, troops hold a special ceremony to recognize the scouts' hard work and achievements in the previous months/year. Families are invited to watch as the scouts conduct the ceremony, observe reverence for scouting, receive their merit badges, and be installed in their newly elected roles as troop leaders.

Youth Leadership

The adults are there for safety and guidance but our scouts are the troop leaders. Through this method, they get to have ownership of the program while learning valuable lessons in leading their peers. Some of the roles they fulfill include Senior and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol leaders, Scribe, Quartermaster, Librarian, Historian, and more!

Community Service!

One of the core tenets of our program is citizenship. There are 3 Eagle required merit badges that focus on a citizen's role in the community, nation, and world.



Units strive to provide service opportunities for the scouts including food drives, river clean ups, camp trail work days, and of course performing as color guard in parades.

More Outdoor Adventures

Scouts take part in many outdoor activities, but it's not all just camping. Some of our favorite outings and meetings are hiking, fishing, canoeing, campfires and more! Many of these we do during our weekly meetings in the summer for a wide range of fun!

What Will Scouting Cost Me?

Scouting America registration is \$85 annually. This covers the scout's registration with the national office. Troops may request dues annually to cover the handbook (\$25), activity t-shirt, and awards the scout will receive in their scouting year. Fundraising efforts like the ones held in the fall and spring, reduce the out-of-pocket expenses. Other activities, such as camps and outings may have separate costs. Scouts try to plan these according to a strict budget so that everyone can plan appropriately.

Uniforms are roughly \$75 to start out. They can last several years depending on how fast your scout grows. We recommend buying a short sleeve uniform shirt to wear year round with additional layers as needed. Uniforms may be purchased at the local scout shop or online at www.scoutstuff.org. Used ones may be available at thrift shops or online. A limited number of donated shirts are available locally if finances are a concern. ***Scouting is open to all, financial hardship should never prohibit a youth from participating. If financial assistance is needed, please reach out to you unit/council.***

Uniform Checklist:

Scout Uniform shirt

- Tan Field Shirt

Scouts BSA Slide

Red Neckerchief

- Red with white print

• Patches and Insignia:

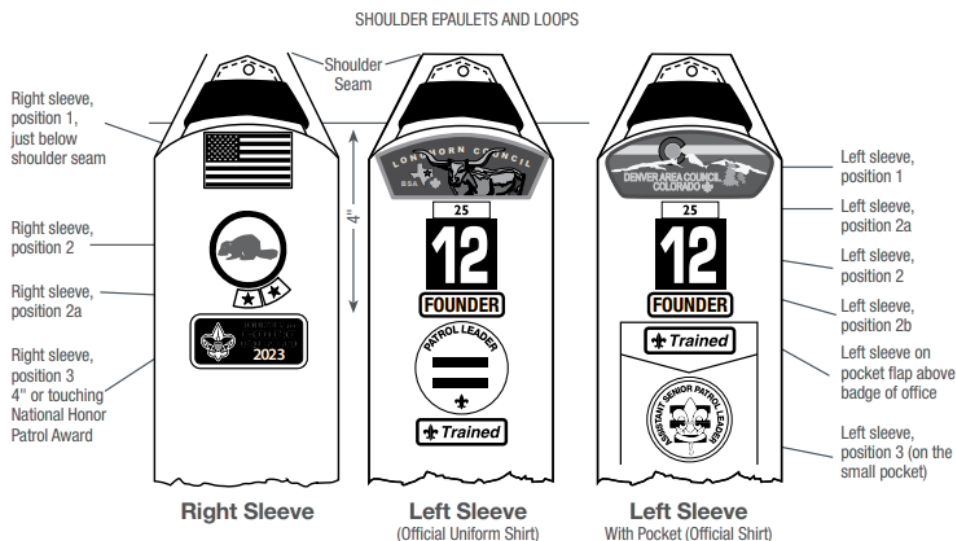
- Council Strip
- Troop Numerals
- World Scouting Crest
- Patrol Patch
- Troop Officer Patch

(when applicable)

• *Good to have by First Class*

- Scout Pants
- Belt
- Scout Socks

SCOUTS BSA INSIGNIA



Check our local scout shop for your scouting needs!

Robeson Scout Shop

3301 Farber Dr,
Champaign IL, 61822
217-356-7291
M-F 9 am - 5 pm

A Scout Is...

SCOUT OATH

On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the scout law, to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally fit, and morally straight.

The Scout Oath has three main clauses which are good for Scouts to remember and understand that the oath is meant to cover all parts of their life:

- DUTY TO GOD AND COUNTRY
- DUTY TO OTHER PEOPLE
- DUTY TO SELF

SCOUT LAW

A Scout is...

**TRUSTWORTHY
LOYAL
HELPFUL
FRIENDLY
COURTEOUS
KIND
OBEDIENT
CHEERFUL
THRIFTY
BRAVE
CLEAN
REVERENT**

The 12 points of the law need little explanation. These guidelines will help lead a Scout to make wise choices in their life

The Oath and the Law are not just words in the handbook. Together the troop recites these at each meeting, and does their best to live by them in everyday life.

SCOUT MOTTO

BE PREPARED.

Scouts face plenty of decisions in their life. The skills learned in Scouting help them live up to the Scout Motto. By remembering the Scout motto, Scouts will prepare themselves to become productive citizens and strong leaders and to bring joy to other people.

SCOUT SLOGAN

DO A GOOD TURN DAILY

Doing a good turn daily means doing something to help others each day without expecting anything in return. It is more than simple good manners, it is a special act of kindness.

Questions?

Please visit

<https://prairielandsbsa.org/>

