



FOR PARENTS OF SCOUTS AND OTHER INTERESTED ADULTS  
PRESENTED BY NATIONAL PARENT INITIATIVE AND SCOUTPARENTS

SCOUTING

ORIENTATION GUIDE



# IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Scout Name

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Den/Patrol/Crew

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Den Leader Name

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Phone/Email /

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Pack/Troop/Team/Crew

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Pack/Troop/Team/Crew Leader Name

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Phone/Email /

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Chartered Organization

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District

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Local Council

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Unit *ScoutParents* Coordinator

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Phone/Email /

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Other Contacts

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**S**coutParents is an element of the National Parent Initiative designed to help you make the most of your child's Scouting experience and encourage you to be a volunteer. "Parents" include not only a child's biological parents, but also guardians, extended family and other adult Scouting partners who care for youth involved in Scouting.

The mission and vision of *ScoutParents* call for educating parents to fully understand and appreciate all Scouting offers their family: the timeless values, character development, citizenship training and many other benefits to a child's life. Scouting is unique in its dedication to building the body, mind and spirit of each of its members. Scouting makes great parents, too!

Any youth-centered activity takes a commitment from parents to work. We hope you'll make Scouting a high priority for you and your child and take advantage of the many programs of Scouting. Your investment will be rewarded with an experience that is unmatched in the difference it can make in your child's life, as well as your own.

Whether you're brand new to Scouting or beginning your next level, we look forward to your participation, determination and passion as a *ScoutParent* or other dedicated Scouting volunteer.

### ***ScoutParents:***

*A ScoutParent is a parent or adult mentor of a Scout who is involved with other volunteers to help provide the best quality program experience to all youth in every unit.*

*A ScoutParent leads their family in obtaining the values, benefits, experiences, and rewards from their family's Scouting participation and the sharing of these with others.*

*A ScoutParent enjoys participating with their Scout and inspires their child to persevere in Scouting with their tenure, activity participation, and achievement.*

*ScoutParents help enhance youth and parent-mentor enthusiasm, recruitment, retention, commitment, and the passionate **Family FUN of Scouting!***

*ScoutParents help to "Make It SO!"*

# YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY: OUR TOP PRIORITY

**T**he safety and protection of your child while involved in any Scouting activity is the unit leader's number one priority. For this reason, we work closely with our chartered organizations to help recruit the best possible leaders for their units. The BSA also has created extensive safety and youth protection policies and procedures in two publications: *The Guide to Safe Scouting*, which establishes age-appropriate guidelines for all Scouting activities, and *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*, an educational exercise and requirement for all Scouts and their parents included in the youth handbooks.

The Boy Scouts of America takes great pride in the quality of our adult leadership and in our applicant review process. The adult application requests background information that is checked by the unit committee and/or the chartered organization before an applicant for unit leadership is accepted. While screening techniques cannot identify every potential "red flag," we can reduce the risk of accepting an undesirable candidate by learning all we can about the applicant for a leadership position—his or her experience with children, why he or she wants to be a Scout leader and what discipline techniques he or she might use.

## General Criteria for Assessing Age-Appropriate Activities

- ✓ The group-based activity matches the training and experience of participants. The group has the ability to successfully complete the activity.
- ✓ The activity complies with the policies and procedures in *The Guide to Safe Scouting*.
- ✓ The activity supports Scouting values.
- ✓ The activity adds to the life experiences, knowledge or abilities of participants.
- ✓ The unit or group receives training appropriate to the activity.

The Boy Scouts of America is the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training. Scouting is unique because it allows entry at any age, from 7 years on up, and at any skill level in a child's development. Scouting also has longevity. It is common for several members of the same family, even generations, to follow each other into Scouting. And it's not unusual to find Scouts who have made a 10- to 12-year commitment to Scouting.

Scouting's vision and promise will continue to:

- Offer young people responsible fun and adventure;
- Instill in young people lifetime values and develop in them ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law;
- Train young people in citizenship, service and leadership; and
- Serve America's communities and families with its quality, values-based program.



ON MY HONOR I WILL DO MY BEST TO

# SCOUTING WITH YOUR CHILD



## Scouting Provides Lifelong Benefits

Scouting gives youth the opportunity to try new things, be of service to others, build self-confidence and reinforce ethical standards. These opportunities not only help them when they are young, but carry forward into their adult lives. What children learn in their formative years is instrumental in shaping their character as adults—and building strong character takes time. Don't expect it to happen in just a few days, a few months or even a year!

Scouting builds character by teaching confidence and self-reliance and promoting positive role models as your child grows and develops. Through planned advancement, Scouts are always in a learning environment, increasing their capacity for goal-setting, choice-making and accomplishment.

Scouting is educational, and Scouts are more often involved in after-school activities such as sports, visual arts or hobbies than youth who have never been in Scouts. Scouts are more likely to graduate from high school. This is especially true of youth who have been Scouts for five years or longer.



DO MY DUTY TO GOD AND MY COUNTRY

# SCOUTING WITH YOUR CHILD

## Scouting Brings Families Together

Scouting is unique in that it offers families a variety of experiences not found in other activities. In Cub Scouts, the adult partner is more involved in den meetings and most activities are designed for family involvement. Den meetings last about an hour and activities for recognition can be completed at home.

Qualified family members can volunteer for leader positions in your Scouting group or can get involved in other ways, such as becoming a counselor to teach the requirements for a merit badge. The joy of volunteering is not only in helping others, but also in seeing your child learning, growing and HAVING FUN!

There's a lot to celebrate in Scouting. Merit badges, rank advancement and other awards are presented throughout the year at unit meetings and special events like the Blue and Gold Banquet (Cub Scouts) and Court of Honor (Boy Scouts). These make for memorable family events and great photo opportunities. When a rank advancement is presented to a Scout his parents are also recognized, since the success is often the result of a family effort.



# SCOUTING WITH YOUR CHILD

## Scouting Benefits Everyone

Part of being a Scout is a duty to help others in need—and Scouts are expected to do a good turn for someone else every day. A Good Turn is an act of kindness for which the Scout has no expectation of reward other than the personal feeling of accomplishment achieved through helping others.

## Volunteers Learn, Too

Volunteers take time to ensure the success of Scouting in their communities. Ninety-six percent of them say they would recommend volunteering for the BSA to other adults. Eighty-three percent have participated in at least one training opportunity to help them learn the goals of the program and skills needed to provide an effective, safe and fun program to youth.





## SCOUTING WITH YOUR CHILD

### The Parent's Role in Scouting

As a parent, you're a primary role model for your child. Scouting provides a time-tested structure that helps bond parent/child development through group and individual activities, recognition and advancement. Children need your guidance along their Scouting path, not to do the work *for* them, but *with* them.

Adult role models in Scouting provide an ideal learning experience for all youth. Every adult volunteer has something valuable to offer. On a typical weekend campout, a Scout might work with an adult volunteer who teaches the fishing merit badge, with a Scout mom teaching orienteering, go on a 5-mile hike with another adult leader and end the day learning how to clean and cook fresh fish from his dad.

As your child progresses through the Scouting ranks, your involvement and interaction will change. Cub Scouting requires much closer supervision and guidance on an individual project and activity level as you "do your best." As young boys learn to interact with others, the parent is constant—someone safe to return to—as they learn and grow in their world.

As boys become young men in Boy Scouting, they learn more through experiences and group activities, developing subject knowledge and leadership skills. In this type of learning, your son may be less dependent on your direct involvement, but still require your support and approval. These experiences and group activities give the parent an ideal opportunity to observe and coach, providing reassurance and advice. These are the moments that make a *ScoutParent* especially proud.

Venturing is led by young men and women with guidance by adult advisors. Adult mentors support the youth leadership within the crew.

# SCOUTING WITH YOUR CHILD

## Scouting: Your Partner in Parenting

When you join the Boy Scouts of America, Scouting is an extension of your family: it follows your values, it sees to the overall care and well-being of your child and it's always there for you.

Scouting is also flexible and accommodates the need to balance the work and life requirements of a busy family. It's easy to plan for meetings and activities, and if something unexpected comes up, just let your leader know—it's expected in the lifestyles we lead today.

Another Scouting benefit is that you and your child can work on achievements at your own pace. For example, if your child is in a spring soccer league and has to miss several meetings and activities, he still can complete and sign off on Scout activities to work toward the next level.

Plus, the skills and values your child learns through Scouting can be applied in any non-Scouting activity he participates in. You and your child work on bringing the positive influence that Scouting reinforces into everything he does. This can be an especially valuable defense to the peer pressure all youth experience when growing up as your child builds character.

It's important to remember that Scouting is not an either/or choice you have to make for your child. It works *with* you to let you manage your time and other activities, and, like a family, will always be there when you return.



# SCOUTING WITH YOUR CHILD

## Choosing a Pack or Troop or Team or Crew (Unit)

If you're new to Scouting, you need to know that **you** select the unit you and your child would like to join—it isn't selected for you or based on where you live. In choosing a unit, what's most important is that you feel it's the right place for you.

It's easy to find a Scout unit to join. You already may be familiar with units in your area—through friends, your church or events in the media. You can also check your telephone directory for Boy Scouts of America. Or, you can go to the Boy Scouts of America Web site at [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org), and find the link "Sign Up for Scouting."

Once you've identified possible units to join, it's a good idea to contact the unit leader and ask to attend a unit meeting to observe and meet the members. Scouting is very open and welcomes new members.

You also may be interested in starting a Scout unit. If so, you'll find all the information you need at [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) under the link "Start a Unit." Or, if you live in a remote area where there is no pack or troop, you can still take part in Scouting by becoming a Lone Scout. You can find more information on the Lone Scout Plan, at [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) > Site Map > Fact Sheets > What is the Lone Scout Plan? or by contacting your local council or the national office at:

Boy Scouts of America  
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079  
972-580-2000



## **Moving Away From Your Unit**

Moving away from your Scout unit is as easy as joining one. When you know the details of your move, ask for a *Youth Member Transfer Form* from your unit leader. The unit leader will approve the transfer form and provide your child's complete Scouting record, including their advancement and awards information.

To locate a new unit before or after your move, see **Choosing a Pack or Troop (Unit)**.

## **Losing Interest in Scouting**

Scouting activities are planned to appeal to a broad range of interests while meeting the goals of the program. Despite this, there are many reasons why youth say they lose interest in Scouting: "It's no fun" or "It's boring" or "It's too hard." There may be a conflict of personality with others in the unit or a Scout might feel their unit is too competitive. Whatever the reason given, there are as many good reasons for staying in Scouting.

Certainly, real problems do occur, and if your child does not feel safe in this environment this needs to be addressed. But, if their interest simply begins to wane, it's important to remember that you and your child are on a path in Scouting together and any road to achievement and reward will have its ups and downs.

As a parent, you have great influence over making Scouting a successful experience for your child—especially in Cub Scouting—but you're not in Scouting alone. If you sense your child is beginning to lose interest, have open discussions to find out his likes and dislikes about Scouting. Talk with the unit leader and other parents to see what they've experienced in this situation. Your situation may be isolated or you may find that it's time to review the unit's program and give it a boost. Whatever the outcome, it's no coincidence that the units that deliver the best programs are those that get the most support from parents working together.

# THE SCOUT OATH AND LAW

**T**he mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling the values of the Scout Oath and Law for Boy Scouts and the Cub Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack for Cub Scouts.

## The 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 awake, and morally straight.

## The Scout Law

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

## The Cub Scout Promise

I, (name), promise to do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country,  
To help other people, and  
To obey the Law of the Pack.

## The Law of the Pack

The Cub Scout follows Akela.  
The Cub Scout helps the pack go.  
The pack helps the Cub Scout grow.  
The Cub Scout gives goodwill.

*\* Akela was the leader of a wolf pack in the tale, "Mowgli's Brothers", from Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book*, and part of the Wolf Cub Scouts' training.*

Scouting truly is a melting pot. Scouts come from all walks of life, all types of family units, faiths, and racial and ethnic groups. The BSA respects the rights of people and groups who hold values that differ from those encompassed in the Scout Oath and Law, and aims to allow youth to live and learn as children and enjoy Scouting without immersing them in the politics of the day.



The purpose of the Scout uniform is twofold: By dressing alike, Scouts show they are equals. The uniform is also a sign to others that the Scout is a person who can be trusted. While the attire changes at each level of Scouting, a complete official uniform includes:

- the Scout long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirt;
- Scout pants or shorts;
- Scout belt and buckle;
- Scout socks or knee socks; and
- a neckerchief and cap.



A neckerchief and cap or campaign hat are optional. The full uniform should be worn for all ceremonial and indoor activities, such as pack or troop meetings and Courts of Honor, and during special outdoor occasions, such as Scout shows, flag ceremonies and special times at summer camp. It should also be worn when travelling to and from such events. For outdoor activities, Scouts may wear pack or troop T-shirts with the Scout pants or shorts.

For **Venturing**, the recommended uniform is the spruce green Venturing shirt with green epaulette tabs and gray backpacking-style shorts or gray casual slacks. However, the uniform is the choice of the crew. Sea Scouts may wear the Sea Scout uniform.

## How to wear a neckerchief

1. Roll your neckerchief until it is about six inches from the tip.
2. Place the neckerchief smoothly around your neck either over or under your collar, depending on the custom of your unit.
3. Hold the ends of the neckerchief together and place through a slide up to the top shirt button.



# HOW SCOUTING WORKS

Scouting is a large national organization, but efficient at delivering support and resources at every level to make sure individual members can contribute and be recognized for their contribution. Let's look at how your child fits into the big picture:

## SCOUTING'S STRUCTURE



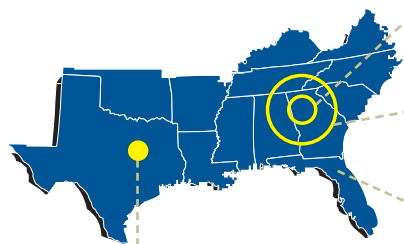
Your child is part of a group of 5 to 8 scouts:  
**Den** (Cub Scouts),  
**Patrol** (Boy Scouts),  
**Team** (Varsity Scouts), or  
**Crew** (Venturing)



Several of these smaller groups make up a **unit**, which is called a:  
**Pack** (Cub Scouts),  
**Troop** (Boy Scouts),  
**Team** (Varsity Scouts), or  
**Crew/Ship** (Venturing)



Each unit is chartered to an organization—typically a religious, civic, educational or other community-based organization.



Several **units** make up a **district**, which is governed by one of more than 300 **local councils**.

**Local councils**, each with a local volunteer executive board, are organized into an **administrative area**.

Five to 8 **administrative areas** make up each of four **regions** in the U.S.: Northeast, Southern, Central and Western—each with its own service center, regional directors and staff.

The **National Council** is directed by the National Executive Board and administered by the Chief Scout Executive and a staff of professional Scouters at the national office, headquartered in Irving, Texas.

# WHO PAYS FOR SCOUTING?

Financial support for Scouting comes from a variety of sources:

**Individual members** pay weekly or monthly dues to support their own unit and participate in unit fund-raisers. Members are also responsible for buying their own uniforms, handbooks and personal equipment, like backpacks, camping gear, etc.

**Units (Pack, Troop, Team or Crew)** collect the dues and raise funds through various money-earning projects to cover expenses and pay for supplies like camping equipment, registration fees, uniform insignia and program materials.

**Chartered Organizations** provide a meeting place and adult volunteer leadership for their BSA units, and approve unit money-earning projects before the launch of the project.

**Local Councils**—local non-profit corporations chartered by the National Council receive funds from an annual Friends of Scouting campaign, the United Way, foundation grants, trust funds, bequests, individual gifts and investment income. These funds provide for service by a professional staff, training, organization of new Scouting units, maintenance of council camps and their programs, and operation of the local council service center.

**The National Organization** generates income from registration fees, local council service fees, *Scouting* and *Boys' Life* magazine subscriptions, sale of uniforms and equipment, and contributions from individuals. These monies help deliver the BSA program (through four regional service centers and more than 300 local councils) to chartered organizations that use the Scouting program to meet the needs of their youth at the local level.



**T**he Boy Scouts of America is getting ready to celebrate its 100th birthday. Incorporated on February 8, 1910, President William Howard Taft was named honorary president and Theodore Roosevelt became honorary vice president and the first chief Scout citizen.

Here are some of the highlights of Scouting's role in our nation's history, and its incredible growth as America's premier youth organization.

**1907:** In England, **Lord Robert Baden-Powell** releases *Scouting for Boys*, a non-military version of the survival manual he created for his British regiment. He is credited as the founder of Scouting worldwide.



### **The 1910s: Scouting is Born in the U.S.**

- The Boy Scouts of America is incorporated in 1910 by **William D. Boyce**, a Chicago publisher. Boyce was impressed by Baden-Powell's work and wanted to create an American counterpart.

### **The 1920s: A Decade of Firsts**

- The first World Jamboree is held in England and attended by Scouts from 32 countries.

### **The 1930s: Younger Scouts Join In the Fun**

- The Cub Scout program is launched and membership tops 5,000 by year's end.
- In 1935, the Boy Scouts' 25th anniversary year, membership passes the million mark.

## The 1940s: Scouts Serve Their Country

- Scouts pitch in to help with the war effort through activities like collecting aluminum foil and wastepaper and distributing air raid posters.
- By 1945, the Boy Scouts war service included 69 official requests for assistance from the government.



## The 1950s: Scouting's Phenomenal Growth

- On the 40th Anniversary, the U.S. Post Office Department issues the first Boy Scout stamp.
- The Exploring Program for older Scouts is implemented.

## The 1960s: Scouting at 50 Years

- Over 5 million Scouts celebrate Scouting's Golden Jubilee (50th) year and a second Boy Scouts commemorative stamp is issued by the Post Office Department.
- The 500 thousandth Eagle Scout badge is awarded and over 40,000,000 Americans have been registered in Scouting since 1910.

## The 1970s: Scouting at the Bicentennial

- All of Scouting celebrates the nation's bicentennial in 1976. Sea Explorers serve on sailing ships in New York Harbor and Eagle Scouts spend the summer demonstrating Scouting skills on the Mall in Washington, D.C.
- "Operation Reach," Scouting's first program against drug abuse, is launched.
- A celebrity public service advertising campaign debuts, featuring former President and Eagle Scout Gerald R. Ford.

### The 1980s: Scouting Expands

- Cub Scouting celebrates its 50th anniversary and registers its 30 millionth member since its founding in 1930.
- Tiger Cubs BSA, for 7-year old boys, and Varsity Scouting, for 14- to 17-year-old boys, are launched.
- The BSA Scouting for the Handicapped program receives the National Organization on Disability Award for its innovative approaches in serving disabled Scouts.



### The 1990s: A Decade of Outreach

- The BSA puts emphasis on development of Scouting in minority, low-income and rural communities, and begins publishing bilingual literature to serve Spanish-speaking parents and leaders.
- The Venturing program is introduced for 14- to 20-year-old young men and women.

### The 2000s: Scouting in the New Millennium

- The Boy Scouts of America celebrates its 90th anniversary and welcomes its 100 millionth member since 1910.
- Scouts respond to our nation's call for assistance after the terrorist attacks on 9/11 by collecting bottled water, toothbrushes and other necessities for the rescue workers and victims.
- In 2006 *ScoutParents* and the National Parent Initiative is born!



# ADVANCEMENT: THE PATH TO EAGLE SCOUT

Since its inception in 1911, the term “Eagle Scout” has been synonymous with the pinnacle of Scouting. It’s even found its way into the vernacular to mean “a straight-arrow and self-reliant man” (Merriam-Webster Online). More than two million Scouts—only 4% of overall Scout membership—have claimed the rank of Eagle Scout. Yet it’s the overwhelming vision and desire of nearly every Scout. The path to achievement of the Eagle Scout rank includes accomplishing specific requirements at six Boy Scout ranks before being named an Eagle Scout.

You do not have to go all the way through Cub Scouting to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Being a Cub Scout does provide you with activities and experiences that will support your family.

## The Cub Scout Ranks

Cub Scouts advance through their ranks by age, and work on age-appropriate activities with their adult partner. No matter at what age or grade a boy joins Cub Scouting, he must earn his **Bobcat** badge before advancing to Tiger Cub, Wolf, Bear or Webelos Scout. The “trail” to Bobcat has eight “tracks,” including learning the Cub Scout Promise, handshake, salute and motto.

**Tiger Cub Scout** (First grade or age 7). Tiger Cub advancement is divided between activities boys do at home and activities done in den meetings with their adult partner. Tiger Cub den meetings follow a concept of “search, discover and share,” so you and your Scout will *search* out new activities, *discover* new things and *share* them with others.

The Scout must complete five achievements on the Tiger Cub trail in order to earn the Tiger Cub



## ADVANCEMENT: THE PATH TO EAGLE SCOUT

badge. Each achievement has three activities: one to be completed with the family, one with the den and a “Go See It!” activity, or field trip. As each activity or elective is completed, his adult partner signs off in the Tiger Cub handbook. As boys advance, they are awarded recognition items, presented at a den or pack (multiple dens) meeting. Tiger Cub recognition items are the ***Tiger Cub Immediate Recognition Emblem***, the ***Tiger Cub badge*** and ***Tiger Track beads***. The Tiger Cub program provides opportunities for the Scout to learn and grow while having fun along with you.



**Wolf Cub Scout** (Second grade or age 8). The trail to the rank of Wolf Cub Scout is more challenging with 12 achievements, each with multiple tasks. Achievements include more physical activity in “Feats of Skill,” learning about safety in “Know Your Home and Community” and reacting to various situations in “Making Choices.”

When the Scout completes his first three achievements, he'll be presented with the ***Progress Toward Ranks*** badge to wear on his uniform. A gold bead is awarded to wear on the badge for every three additional achievements. After the fourth gold bead, he earns his Wolf Badge. He may then complete various electives to earn gold and silver arrow points to proudly wear on his uniform shirt. At the Wolf rank, Scouts may also participate in the Cub Scout Academics and Sports program to earn special recognition belt loops and pins by learning about and participating in an academic subject or sport.

# ADVANCEMENT: THE PATH TO EAGLE SCOUT

**Bear Cub Scout** (Third grade or age 9). To earn the rank of Bear Cub Scout, the Scout must complete 12 achievements from a list of 24. The Bear trail achievements are in four categories: God, Country, Family and Self. Achievements include: “Ways We Worship,” “Take Care of Your Planet,” “Family Fun” and “Be a Leader.” When the Scout completes his first three achievements, he earns the **Progress Toward Ranks** (if not earned as a Wolf Scout) badge to wear on his uniform. A red bead is awarded to wear on the badge for every three additional achievements. After the fourth red bead, he earns his Bear Badge. He may then complete various electives to earn gold and silver arrow points to proudly wear on his uniform shirt.

Bear Cub Scouts also have the opportunity to participate in the **Cub Scout Academics and Sports Program**—a supplemental enrichment program that complements the Cub Scout program. Emphasis is on introducing a boy to a sport or academic subject, allowing him to participate in it and encouraging him to do his best. The focus is on learning and skill development—not on winning. The academic subjects and sports activities allow boys to learn new techniques, increase scholarship skills, develop sportsmanship and have fun. Boys participating in the program are recognized with a belt loop for completing the three requirements of each academic subject or sport. For completing additional requirements, the Scout is awarded a pin that can be worn on the Academics and Sports letter, a blue-and-gold “C” that may be sewn onto a sweater or jacket.



# ADVANCEMENT: THE PATH TO EAGLE SCOUT



**Webelos Scouts** (Fourth and fifth grade, or age 10). Webelos (from “**WE**’ll **BE LO**yal Scouts,” pronounced WEE-buh-lows) is a transitional level in Scouting that shifts the emphasis from the home-centered activities of Tiger Cubs, Wolf and Bear Scouts, to more group-centered activities. This stage prepares the Scout for participation in the great adventure of Boy Scouting. Webelos provides boys with a variety of new experiences to help them assume responsibilities and gain maturity, knowledge and skills.



Advancement and recognition are based on earning activity badges to work toward the Webelos badge. Twenty different activities are grouped into five categories: physical skills, mental skills, community, technology and outdoor. After the Webelos badge, the Scout can complete additional activities to earn the Compass Points Emblem and the Arrow of Light award, Cub Scouting’s highest award.

# ADVANCEMENT: THE PATH TO EAGLE SCOUT

## The Boy Scout Ranks

Activities at these levels are based on broader experiences versus the project-type activities of Cub Scouting. The requirements to earn each rank are more challenging than the one before it. When a Boy Scout completes requirements for a rank, he can use the new knowledge on patrol and troop outings, and have the background necessary to achieve more as he sets out to begin the next rank. The basic achievements in the Boy Scouts are recognized with merit badges.

**Tenderfoot.** This is the first rank achieved as a Boy Scout. One key requirement is preparing for and experiencing an overnight camping trip, including pitching a tent and helping cook a meal. Another required activity is to show improvement in physical performance (push-ups, pull-ups, sit-ups, etc.) over a 30-day period. Other requirements at this level include being able to identify poisonous plants and to demonstrate various first aid procedures.

**Second Class Scout.** The Tenderfoot Scout is now ready to explore more of the world and Second Class Badge requirements will help prepare him. Activities include learning how to use a compass and map, more campouts, tool safety and building a campfire. The Scout also begins community service projects, and demonstrates water safety and rescue methods and more advanced first aid procedures.



# ADVANCEMENT: THE PATH TO EAGLE SCOUT



**First Class Scout.** Becoming a First Class Scout prepares the Scout to be more of a leader in his patrol, his troop and in the community. Planning a patrol menu for one campout—including which pans, utensils and other gear will be needed to cook and serve the meals—is a key requirement at this level. So is passing the BSA Swimmer Test—a test of safety as well as knowledge of several swimming strokes and techniques.



**Star Scout.\*** To achieve the rank of Star Scout, a Scout must:

- be active in his troop or patrol for at least 4 months as a First Class Scout;
- earn 6 merit badges (including any 4 from the required list for Eagle);
- complete 6 hours of service work; and
- serve actively for 4 months in a position of responsibility within his troop or team.



**Life Scout.\*** To become a Life Scout, a Scout must:

- be active in his troop or patrol for at least 6 months as a Star Scout;
- must earn at least 5 merit badges (including any 3 from the required list for Eagle);
- complete 6 hours of service work; and
- serve actively for 6 months in a position of responsibility within his troop or team.

# ADVANCEMENT: THE PATH TO EAGLE SCOUT

**Eagle Scout.\*** To reach the highest rank in Scouting, a Scout must:

- be active in his troop or patrol for at least 6 months as a Life Scout;
- must earn a total of 21 merit badges;
- plan, develop and lead others in a service project; and
- serve actively for 6 months in a position of responsibility within his troop or team.

*\*Additional requirements at these levels include demonstrating Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath and Law in everyday life, taking part in a Scoutmaster conference and successfully completing the board of review required at that level. See The Boy Scout Handbook for more information.*

**What's after Eagle?** Scouting doesn't end after becoming an Eagle Scout! In fact, the BSA recognizes achievements beyond the Eagle Scout rank by awarding Eagle Palms representing additional merit badges at Bronze (5 badges), Gold (10 badges) and Silver (15 badges) levels.

**Venturing Awards.** One of the strengths of the Venturing Program is its ability to meet the interests of all Venturers. The Venturing awards program has a purpose to provide a pathway for personal development; encourage Venturers to learn, grow and serve; and recognize the high level of achievement of Venturers who acquire Venturing skills. They include: Bronze, Gold, Silver, Ranger, Quartermaster, Quest and TRUST Awards.





# ADVANCEMENT: THE PATH TO EAGLE SCOUT

## Fly With the Eagles and Other Famous Scouts

**How many names do you recognize?**

**Hank Aaron**, Baseball Hall of Fame member

**Bill Bradley**, Basketball Hall of Fame member (Eagle Scout)

**Jimmy Buffet**, musician

**Bill Clinton**, 42nd U.S. President

**Walter Cronkite**, journalist, anchorman and commentator

**Gerald Ford**, 38th U.S. President (Eagle Scout)

**Harrison Ford**, actor (Life Scout)

**Bill Gates**, founder of Microsoft (Life Scout)

**John Glenn**, astronaut, first man to orbit Earth

**Dan Janssen**, 1994 Olympic speed skating Gold Medalist

**Michael Jordan**, Basketball Hall of Fame member, two-time Olympic basketball Gold Medalist

**John F. Kennedy**, 35th U.S. President, first Scout to become president

**Bill Marriott Jr.**, President of Marriott Corporation

**Branford Marsalis**, Grammy-winning musician (Life Scout)

**Sam Nunn**, U.S. Senator from Georgia

**Ronald Reagan**, 40th U.S. President

**Richard Roundtree**, actor

**Donald Rumsfeld**, former U.S. Secretary of Defense (Eagle Scout)

**Nolan Ryan**, Baseball Hall of Fame member

**Steven Spielberg**, Oscar-winning filmmaker (Eagle Scout)

**George Strait**, country & western singer

**Sam Walton**, founder of Wal-Mart stores (Eagle Scout)

**Steve Fossett**, world explorer (Eagle Scout)

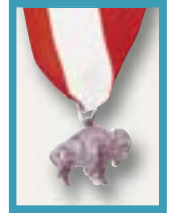
**Robert Gates**, U.S. Secretary of Defense (Eagle Scout)

# ADVANCEMENT: THE PATH TO EAGLE SCOUT



Scouting's reach and presence is everywhere. You might be surprised at just how far and wide:

- The Silver Buffalo Award for distinguished service to youth has been presented to Charles Lindbergh, Norman Rockwell, Walt Disney, Bob Hope, Hank Aaron, Vince Lombardi, Charles M. Schultz and Neil Armstrong.
- Of the 294 U. S. Astronauts, more than 180 were involved in Scouting and 40 were Eagle Scouts.
- In 2004, if every registered member of the Boy Scouts of America were still alive—more than 109 million people—they'd comprise the 11th largest country in the world.
- Nearly 1.2 million volunteers donate an average of 20 hours per month to BSA, totaling 280 million hours of time during the year.
- One out of every three of West Point cadets was involved in Boy Scouting as a youth and 14 percent are Eagle Scouts.
- Nearly one-third of Air Force Academy cadets were involved in Boy Scouting and 14 percent are Eagle Scouts.
- The most often earned merit badges include: First aid, Swimming, Camping, Cooking and Citizenship in the Community.
- If the 109,829,417 merit badges earned through the end of 2005 were lined up end-to-end would make a straight line that would stretch from Chicago to Los Angeles—over 2,500 miles.
- Pinewood Derby cars made since 1954 could form a line stretching from Los Angeles to New York and back—a total of more than 5,500 miles.
- If a Boy Scout attends his weekly patrol and troop meetings, participates in a monthly weekend troop outing, and attends a long-term summer camp with his troop, he will have spent as much time with Scouting in a year as he spends in the classroom.



# CHECKLIST



## *ScoutParents Checklist*

Now that you have taken the opportunity to better understand Scouting, here are a few things you should do to assist you and your child toward a more successful Scouting experience.

- Refer to and complete your “Volunteering Indicator Tool”**
- Complete the “BSA Adult Registration Form”**
- Meet with your Unit *ScoutParents* Coordinator**
- Find the best place to volunteer**
- ENJOY SCOUTING!***



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Enthusiasm!  
Commitment!  
Great Rewards!  
**Make It SO!***



**[www.ScoutParents.org](http://www.ScoutParents.org)**