

The Aims and Methods of Scouting

Setting:

- ❑ A single lighted candle is placed on a table in front of the moderator representing the Spirit of Scouting.
- ❑ One red, one white, and one blue candle are lit to represent the three parts of the Scout Oath.
- ❑ Rank symbols are placed on low tables.
- ❑ An unlit candle is placed in front of each symbol.
- ❑ Lights are dimmed.
- ❑ After the narrative for each rank is read, a Scout with that rank crosses the stage and lights the candle for his rank.

Participants:

- ❑ Narrator (Special guest or Troop Committee Chairman)
- ❑ Leader 1 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Leader 2 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Leader 3 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Leader 4 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Leader 5 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Leader 6 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Leader 7 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Leader 8 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Leader 9 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Leader 10 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Leader 11 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Scoutmaster

- ❑ Scout 1 - New Scout
- ❑ Scout 2 - Tenderfoot Scout
- ❑ Scout 3 - Star Scout
- ❑ Scout 4 - 2nd Class Scout
- ❑ Scout 5 - 1st Class Scout
- ❑ Scout 6 - Star Scout
- ❑ Scout 7 - Tenderfoot Scout
- ❑ Scout 8 - 1st Class Scout
- ❑ Scout 9 - Life Scout
- ❑ Scout 10 - 2nd Class Scout
- ❑ Scout 11 - Eagle Scout

- ❑ Eagle Candidate(s) and parents

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Ceremony

Narrator: The founder of Scouting, Lord Robert Baden-Powell, once wrote: “There is only one test by which the Scoutmaster can judge the success—or otherwise—of his work, and that is whether the boys he turns out are better citizens for the training he has given them. It is not enough that they are smart on parade, or good campers, or proficient signalers, etc.—these are merely steps. The point for him to note is: do they attain the aim? Are they really happy, healthy, helpful citizens?”

Since its beginnings nearly a hundred years ago, the Boy Scouts of America has focused its energies on three aims: fostering participatory citizenship, growth in moral strength and character, and the development of physical and mental fitness. **(Raise right hand in Scout Sign)** In fact, the three raised fingers of the Scout Sign represent the three parts of the Scout Oath: citizenship, character and fitness.

Leader 1: There are many facets of citizenship training in Scouting, including learning about our history, our rights and duties as Americans, showing proper respect for our flag, and participating in democracy within the troop.

Scout 1: Every year at summer camp, we elect our new patrol leaders and a senior patrol leader for the coming year. Before the election, they even give campaign speeches. I was a little skeptical when they promised to make KP go faster—but I did learn that my vote counts!

Leader 2: The values boys learn in Scouting reinforce what they learn at home, in church and in school. What’s so impressive is that these values last a lifetime too. Many men will tell you the Scout Oath and Law have provided them with a moral compass they have followed their entire lives.

Scout 2: Scouting has taught me that service to others is fun. When I work on troop service projects, I get to help other people. That makes my community a better place to live.

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Leader 3: Through their years in Scouting, boys grow into young men. Their participation in physical activities helps them develop physically, mentally, morally, and emotionally.

Scout 3: When I went on my first backpacking trip, it was hard. There were times when I didn't think I could make it—but I did! Since then, I've gotten the confidence to try bigger and tougher challenges, like climbing a 14,000 foot peak in Colorado this past summer. Standing at the summit, I felt like I could conquer anything I ever wanted to try.

Narrator: To achieve these three aims, Scouting uses several tried-and-true methods. These methods are employed continuously throughout the program, whether at troop meetings, campouts, high-adventure trips or community service projects.

Leader 4: The first method is Scouting's ideals, which are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Scout Law, motto and slogan. The goals are high, and as a scout reaches for them, he has control over what he becomes. "Show Scout Spirit", a requirement for each rank advancement, means living up to those ideals.

Scout 4: The Scout Oath and Law help me do the right thing, even when I might not want to do it, like helping my parents around the house or being kind to someone I don't really like. Also, the first time I went to a November camp without any gloves helped me learn the value of being prepared.

Leader 5: Using the patrol method, boys learn how to work as a team, each one pulling his own weight and contributing to the needs of the group. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it.

Scout 5: When I was in Cub Scouts, the adults did everything for us. I was surprised to learn that in Boy Scouts we get to do it all ourselves. In my patrol, for instance, we share the cooking and the cleaning up, as well as competing with other patrols to see who's the best!

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Leader 6: The outdoors program in Scouting provides most boys with new experiences they don't get anywhere else, as well as kindling a sense of stewardship for the land and waters of our nation. It is in the outdoors that the skills and activities practiced at the troop meetings come alive with a purpose.

Scout 6: When we go backpacking and camping, we always leave our site cleaner than when we found it. We use Leave No Trace techniques to minimize the impact on the land. That way, the people who come after us will find it just as nice as we did.

Leader 7: The advancement program not only teaches boys new skills, but it also builds confidence, teaches them how to set goals, and provides opportunities to interact with their leaders. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him grow self-confidence.

Scout 7: My first patrol leader taught me how to set up my tent the right way. Other guys in the troop taught me the proper way to handle a knife and ax and I learned CPR from one of the moms who is a nurse.

Leader 8: Speaking of parents, adult association is a method that gives Scouts role models for their behavior, not just in the troop but elsewhere in life as well.

Scout 8: Each time I have a Scoutmaster conference, or a board of review for my next rank, or go to a merit badge counselor, I get to know an adult leader a little bit better. The cool thing is that they also want to know about me—what I like, why I think certain things, and what I want to do when I get older.

Leader 9: The Scout uniform is a method that encourages a sense of belonging and accomplishment. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. Wearing it in public tells the community "This kid is okay."

Scout 9: When I see the whole troop in uniform, it really makes me feel like I'm part of a movement that's much bigger than me. I also like showing off some of my accomplishments, like wearing my rank badge and the Gettysburg patch on my shirt.

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Leader 10: Scouting is a youth-led program, so its members get practical, hands-on experience developing leadership skills, under the guidance and direction of older Scouts and the adult leaders.

Scout 10: Since joining the troop, I've seen how other guys have gotten positions of responsibility and have become leaders. I never thought of myself as a leader before, but now I want to become one too.

Leader 11: Every boy is different. Not all of them will make Eagle, but through our efforts as leaders, we can positively influence each boy's personal growth and help him develop his talents to their fullest potential. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting.

Scout 11: Some of my friends used to make fun of me for becoming a Scout, but now that they've heard of all the things I've learned and the places I've gone, they're a little jealous that they didn't join.

Scoutmaster: Ideals... patrols... outdoors... advancement... adult association... uniform... leadership development... personal growth... these are the methods we use to develop citizenship... character... and fitness in our youth.

Now, as the Eagle Scout Award is pinned onto the uniforms of the young men we honor today, we can successfully report to Lord Baden-Powell, the Chief Scout of the World, that yes, indeed, we have heeded his recommendations, used his methods and achieved the aims.