

What Is Boy Scouting?



The Beginning of Scouting

Scouting, as known to millions of youth and adults, evolved during the early 1900s through the efforts of several men dedicated to bettering youth. These pioneers of the program conceived outdoor activities that developed skills in young boys and gave them a sense of enjoyment, fellowship, and a code of conduct for everyday living.

In this country and abroad at the turn of the century, it was thought that children needed certain kinds of education that the schools couldn't or didn't provide. This led to the formation of a variety of youth groups, many with the word "Scout" in their names. For example, Ernest Thompson Seton, an American naturalist, artist, writer, and lecturer, originated a group called the Woodcraft Indians and in 1902 wrote a guidebook for boys in his organization called the Birch Bark Roll. Meanwhile in Britain, Robert Baden-Powell, after returning to his country a hero following military service in Africa, found boys reading the manual he had written for his regiment on stalking and survival in the wild. Gathering ideas from Seton, America's Daniel Carter Beard, and other Scoutcraft experts, Baden-Powell rewrote his manual as a nonmilitary skill book, which he titled *Scouting for Boys*. The book rapidly gained a wide readership in England and soon became popular in the United States.

In 1907, when Baden-Powell held the first campout for Scouts on Brownsea Island off the coast of England, troops were spontaneously springing up in America. William D. Boyce, a Chicago publisher, incorporated the Boy Scouts of America in 1910 after meeting with Baden-Powell. (Boyce was inspired to meet with the British founder by an unknown Scout who led him out of a dense London fog and refused to take a tip for doing a Good Turn.) Immediately after its incorporation, the BSA was assisted by officers of the YMCA in organizing a task force to help community organizations start and maintain a high-quality Scouting program. Those efforts climaxed in the organization of the nation's first Scout camp at Lake George, New York, directed by Ernest Thompson Seton. Beard, who had established another youth group, the Sons of Daniel Boone (which he later merged with the BSA), provided assistance. Also on hand for this historic event was James E. West, a lawyer and an advocate of children's rights, who later would become the first professional Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America. Seton became the first volunteer national Chief Scout, and Beard, the first national Scout Commissioner.

Purpose of the BSA

The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated to provide a program for community organizations that offers effective character, citizenship, and personal fitness training for youth. The Scouting program is based on the principle that learning can be fun. Troop 701 will offer him a unique learning experience. Every Scouting activity and the manner in which it is organized and conducted, has a purpose behind it – to help develop character, fitness, citizenship, and leadership.

Specifically, the BSA endeavors to develop 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 values based on religious concepts; have the desire and skills to help others; understand the principles of the American social, economic, and governmental systems; are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand our nation's role in the world; have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people; and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to American society.

Aims and Methods of the Scouting Program

The Scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "Aims of Scouting." The three aims of Scouting represent the long-term goals we have for all of the boys and form the basis for our program. Boy Scouting works towards three aims:

Build character – developing the Scout's personal qualities, values, and outlook; honesty, courage, integrity, self-discipline, self-confidence, and self-respect.

Foster citizenship – training the Scout for his duties, obligations, privileges, and responsibilities as a citizen and member of his community.

Develop fitness – helping the Scout to develop physically, mentally, morally, and emotionally.

The methods by which the aims are achieved are listed below in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each.

Ideals. The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the [Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan](#). The Boy 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 and who he becomes.

Patrols. The patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where members can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through elected representatives.



Outdoor Programs. Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. In the outdoors the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for the beauty of the world around us. The outdoors is the laboratory in which Boy Scouts learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

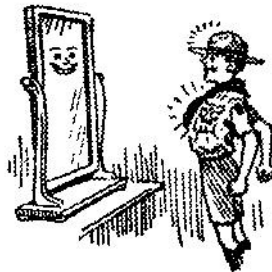
Advancement. Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence.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

Associations With Adults. Boys learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. Scout leaders can be positive role models for the members of the troop. In many cases a Scoutmaster who is willing to listen to boys, encourage them, and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives.

Personal Growth. As Boy Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is as successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Boy Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.



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



Uniform. The uniform makes the Boy 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 Boy Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Boy Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Boy Scout activities and provides a way for Boy Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.



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.

Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal,
helpful, friendly, courteous, kind,
obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave,
clean, and reverent.

Scout Motto

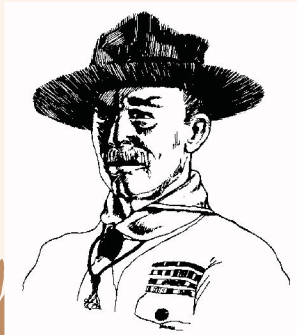
Be Prepared

Scout Slogan

Do a good turn Daily

Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to
Be clean in my outdoor manners,
Be careful with fire,
Be considerate in the outdoors, and
Be conservation-minded.



Lord Baden-Powell – Founder of Scouting

Troop 701 – Troop History

Troop 701 has been operating since September 24, 1979, and is one of two Boy Scout troops in Strongsville, Ohio. The troop is sponsored by the Strongsville Rotary Club and holds its weekly meetings at Chapman Elementary School on Drake Road. The Quarrylands District has described Troop 701 as “one of the strongest, largest, and best troops in the district. which covers most of the west and southwest suburbs of Cleveland..” Since 1979 we have had only three Scoutmasters. Our current Scoutmaster is Don Young, who has been with the troop since 1992.

Boy Leader Program

A key principle of the scouting program is the emphasis on boy leadership. Scouts are put in patrols, which are groups of 8 - 10 scouts ranging in age from 10 1/2 to 14 years old. The patrol is lead by an older, more experienced scout, who is the Patrol Leader. The Patrol Leaders are elected by the membership at summer camp in early August. The Senior Patrol Leader is the scout who is responsible for planning and conducting the troop activities.

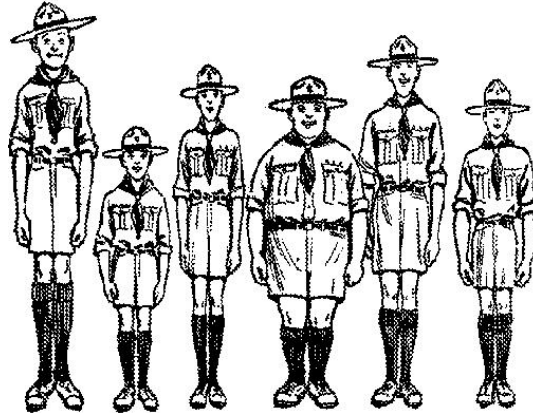
Each year at Summer Camp, the Scouts vote to fill these important positions. After being elected to one of these positions, the Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader choose an assistant(s) to help him. Several other older scouts in staff positions assist him, and together they provide most of the planning, organization and leadership of the troop. These include Quartermasters who maintain and distribute troop gear such as tents, cooking equipment, and food.

The Chaplain Aide is responsible for the invocation at Court of Honors and for a small non-denominational service at camp. Instructors are used in the training of both new and older Scouts in various Scoutcraft areas, both at the weekly meetings and campouts.

In order for the program to have continuity and meaning, it is important the boys attend the weekly meeting on Tuesday nights and attend all of the camps. Weekly meetings are from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. The exception to this is the meeting, which immediately follows a camping weekend. This meeting is an advancement night and lasts from 7:00 PM TO 7:45 PM. Full Scout uniform is required for all regular meetings. Advancement nights are casual.

Each member is required to have a full uniform. A full uniform is a Scout shirt and Scout Pants. Scout shorts are permitted, but they must be worn with Scout socks. Uniforms can be purchased from the Scout Store located in the Council Service Center at E22nd & Woodland Avenue. We maintain a uniform exchange within the troop. Uniforms in the exchange are free of charge to our members. Since boys grow so quickly, donating to and issuing uniforms from the exchange makes sense. We do not require neckerchiefs to be worn except for Courts of Honor.

Troop Organization



From the Boy's Perspective

A key principle of the Scouting program is the emphasis on boy leadership. Scouts are put in a patrol (group of 6 – 10 Scouts) that is led by an older, more experienced Scout (the Patrol Leader). At meetings and camps, activities are planned around the idea of patrol participation. Much of the planning, organization and leadership of the troop is provided by the older Scouts. It is up to the scout leaders to not only plan the activities, both camping and troop meetings, but to also execute those plans.

Participation in all Scouting events is at the discretion of the individual Scout. However, to have the most positive experience both in learning and advancement, a goal of 95 – 100% participation in Scouting events is strongly recommended. If a Scout has a conflict with an event the Scout should advise their patrol leader and an adult leader. Many times arrangements can be made to accommodate late arrival to camps due to athletic or other outside commitments. Many of our Scouts actively participate in school athletics, youth groups, and marching band, while still having time for family and social obligations.

Time is an equal opportunity employer. Each scout has exactly the same number of hours and minutes each day. Rich people cannot buy more time. Scientists cannot invent new minutes. And you cannot save time to spend on another day. Even so, time is amazingly fair and forgiving. No matter how much time you have wasted in the past, you still have an entire tomorrow waiting for you. Success depends on using your time wisely - by planning and setting priorities in your life. Time is worth more than money, and by killing time and not using it wisely, you are killing your own chances for success!

The Parent's Role in a Successful Troop

We want and need parents to support our program in a variety of ways. All of our meetings and camps are always open for parents to visit and observe. We do discourage parents from attending meeting and camps on a regular basis until your son becomes acclimated to the troop. Experience has taught us that parents tend to be overly protective of their sons and the boys tend to be more reluctant to join in if their parents are present. It is important that your son begins to develop independence and that you also begin to learn to let go. We offer an excellent opportunity for both things to happen in a controlled, supervised atmosphere. Watching your son(s) grow and mature into fine young men is the reward that keeps leaders in Scouting.

Once a scout achieves one of the leadership positions such as Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, or one of the many staff positions, there will be additional responsibilities and ways that parents can contribute to the troop. Remember that being a Patrol Leader is probably the toughest job in Scouting! Remember that these are boys leading the activities - things might not always run as smoothly as they would like - but they will learn from the experience

Your son will be expected to set an positive example by properly wearing his Scout uniform to every meeting. Periodically, your son will host patrol meetings in your home. Each week, your son may be responsible for communicating the information regarding the upcoming meeting or campout to his fellow scouts. You may find yourself scheduling family outings and vacations around campouts, High Adventure trips, or other troop activities.

You may find yourself driving boys to camp more often. It will seem like your son is constantly busy doing things for the troop, like working on Eagle Projects, other service to the community, preparing for an upcoming campout or meeting, or helping another scout. Your son will need your understanding and support to help him over any rough spots

At a minimum, we require that parents help the troop by volunteering to volunteer to drive either to or from camps twice a year. You are free to volunteer more frequently if you desire. In addition, we have a Troop Committee, which meets several times a year to assist the leaders in running the troop. Parent volunteers can serve in any of the following roles: Committee Chairmen, Fund Raising, Advancement, Transportation, Treasurer, Secretary, Eagle Court of Honor, Food Purchasing, Refreshments.





Parent's role in the Advancement Process

The first role a parent can play is to encourage their sons to advance at their own rate in the scouting program. Every boy requires motivation from time to time. Remember, Scouting unlike school does not require a boy to advance. Scouts usually enjoy the program better if you let them advance at their own rate. Do offer to expose them to helpful resources that can help them to reach their own goals. The second role a parent can play is to help with advancement nights (usually the first meeting after a camping trip) by either teaching a skill or checking the boys' understanding of the scout skill so the boy will receive credit for knowing the Scout skill in question. We have materials developed for parents to use in these endeavors. Ask your Scoutmaster or one of the assistants to help. The only stipulation is that a parent cannot approve or sign off for their-own child.

It is important that every parent remember that Troop 701 is a volunteer organization. Nobody gets paid for the time and effort devoted to the program of the troop. It is important that each parent contribute their assistance and talents in the following areas: advancement, camping, refreshments, fund raising, secretarial or some other area such as hall monitor or putting on a special program utilizing your contacts or professional skills.