

As you and your son have moved along the Scouting trail there have been changes, or growth, in both your son and the scouting program.

If your son was a Tiger Scout you went along the trail with him as his Tiger Cub Partner. You attended the den meetings, Go See Its and helped him with advancement.

Then comes Wolf and Bear. You are still Akela, though maybe you don't attend every meeting or outing. You sign off on the activities your son completes at home and the Den leader signs off on activities done at den meetings and den outings. Look back at all that was completed as a Tiger, Wolf and Bear. Look how your son has grown, not only in stature, but also in independence.

As a Webelos Scout, your son is preparing to become a Boy Scout. Webelos is a transitional program shifting the emphasis from home based to group centered activities. The Arrow of Light is a stepping stone to learning about Boy Scouting. The Webelos Activity Badges are similar to Boy Scout Merit Badges. They also are a stepping stone to learning. Learning, Fun and Adventure.

Websites

The following websites are good places to get started learning about Boy Scouts. Also check out your local council website.

<http://www.scouting.org/> (Main BSA website)

<http://www.usscouts.org/>

<http://olc.scouting.org/> (online leader training)

<http://www.meritbadge.org/>

<http://www.macscouter.com/>

<http://www.scoutorama.com/>

<http://www.inquiry.net/>

Arrow of Light (edited for brevity)

1. Age requirement.
2. Show knowledge of Boy Scout requirements: Repeat from memory and explain the Scout Oath and Law. Give and explain the Motto, Slogan, Sign, Salute and Handshake. Describe the First Class Badge. Tell how the Boy Scout uniform is different from a Webelos uniform. Tie a square knot.
3. Earn five more activity badges in addition to those earned for the Webelos Badge.
4. Visit one Boy Scout troop meeting and one Boy Scout outdoor activity.
5. Participate in a Webelos overnight campout or day hike.
6. Arrange to visit with a Boy Scout troop you might like to join with your parent/guardian. Have a conference with a Scoutmaster.
7. Complete the Honesty Character Connection.

Coming to the end of the Cub Scout trail.....

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.

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.

....and arriving at the beginning of the Boy Scout trail.

Scout (edited for brevity)

1. Meet age requirements
2. Complete a Boy Scout application.
3. Find a troop near your home.
4. Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Demonstrate Scout Sign, Salute and handshake.
6. Demonstrate tying a square knot.
7. Understand and agree to live by the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, Slogan and the Outdoor Code.
8. Describe the Scout badge.
9. Complete the pamphlet exercises-"How to protect your child from abuse: a parent's guide.
10. Participate in a Scoutmaster conference.

Cub Scout Oath

I, 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 grow.
The Cub Scout gives goodwill.

Cub Scout motto

Do your best

Webelos to Boy Scouts

FAQs

Boy 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.

Boy Scout Law

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

Boy Scout motto

Be prepared



Boy Scout slogan

Do a good turn daily

What does ‘Boy Led Troop’ mean?

A boy led troop is one in which the leadership is carried out by boys. Boys do the planning for meetings and outings. Boys run the meetings and are in charge of the outings. Adults are in the background providing advice, supervision, training and transportation.

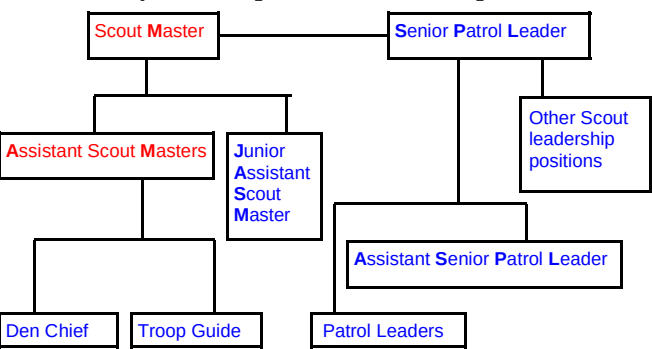
What is the difference between a Den and a Patrol?

A Den is a group of 6 to 8 boys who are led by an adult Leader. A Patrol is a group of 6 to 8 boys within a Troop who are led by their Patrol Leader; one of the boys of that Patrol.

How much responsibility do the boys have?

The main responsibility for each boy is himself. Wearing his uniform to meetings. Taking care of his gear before, during and after outings. Doing a good job taking care of oneself could lead to leadership positions within the troop.

What kind of leadership is there in the troop?



The **Scoutmaster (SM)** (adult position) advises the **Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)** (boy position). The **SPL** is in charge of the troop meetings and the **Patrol Leaders Council**. There are many leadership positions within a troop for the boys. Other positions include Quartermaster, Chaplain’s Aide, Bugler, Librarian and Historian.

How much parent involvement is required at this level?

Keep in mind that Boy Scout troops are supposed to be boy led. This question needs to be defined by each troop. Troops need adults to be Scoutmasters, troop committee members, merit badge counselors, and even someone to transport boys and equipment on outings. We, as adults, provide a support system and cheerleading squad.

What is Rank?

Rank is a collection of skills, such as cooking, orienteering, knots and first aid. The requirements for each rank are more difficult than the prior rank. The ranks in Boy Scouting are Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle. Doing the requirements for ‘rank’ prepares boys to become better campers, hikers, better Scouts and most important of all; better citizens.

What are Merit Badges?

Merit Badges are “an invitation to explore an exciting subject. By earning Merit Badges Scouts gain career skills, social skills, physical skills and they may even begin new and healthful hobbies that are kept for a lifetime.” ¹

What does my son need to do to earn a Merit Badge?

After deciding on a badge, your son needs to obtain a Merit Badge application and the name of a qualified counselor. Required activities are outlined in each merit badge pamphlet. Requirements are signed off by MB counselors.

Should my son get started on merit badges right away?

Your son may begin working on activities for rank and **Merit Badges (MBs)** as soon as he is a registered Boy Scout. He can continue earning **MBs** until his 18th birthday. Any Boy Scout can work on any badge without regard to his current rank.

When should I expect my son to earn Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, etc.?

Boys move along the trail at their own pace. Active Scouts will earn 1st Class within a year of joining, some take 18 months. Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class requirements may be worked on simultaneously, however each rank must be earned in sequence.

Can I sign off my son’s requirements?

Generally no. The Scoutmaster of a troop decides who, other than himself, may sign off on rank. Often it is only the SM and ASM, sometimes it will be boys who are in the upper ranks. To sign off on Merit Badges you must be a registered Merit Badge counselor for that specific Merit Badge.

¹ chapter 7 “The Boy Scout Handbook” 1998 printing.
² page 12 “The Boy Scout Handbook”

How important is a uniform?

“By dressing alike, Scouts show they are equals.” ² Boys will act like Scouts and will be recognized as helpful and courteous when in uniform.

What kinds of trips do Boy Scouts take?

Camping, hiking, Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, winter survival, summer camp, rock climbing, sailing, horseback riding, snorkeling, scuba diving, bicycling to name just a few. The types of activities depend on the choices each patrol/troop makes and the skill levels of the boys in the troop.

How much camping equipment does my son need?

This is a good question to ask when you visit Boy Scout troops. Types of equipment depend on the outings the troop takes. Most troops have extra equipment that boys can borrow. As your son grows, he may find equipment that he prefers.

Can/Should I attend campouts with my son?

Again, this is something that differs among troops. Camping with his troop is where your son may build self confidence, self esteem and independence.

Should I pack for my son’s campout?

No, If he packs his own duffle bag or back pack he will know where everything is. He will also learn some valuable lessons on what is necessary to bring and what is best left home.

Should I plan my son’s meals for these campouts?

Meal planning is done by each patrol during troop meetings. The planning and preparation is overseen by the Patrol Leaders, **SM** and **ASMs**.

Who teaches them about food preparation and cooking skills?

The boys learn many skills, including cooking, from each other, older boys, and adult leaders. They work on these skills while doing activities for rank and Merit Badges.

Should I be doing anything with him at home to help out with this?

Sure. Let him plan and prepare a meal for the family. Have him be responsible for the clean up after the meal. Make sure he understands the health and safety rules of food preparation.