

A guide for those who present or support the Lone Scout program

# LONE SCOUT

Friend and Counselor Guidebook



Prepared. For Life.®

# A WORD ABOUT YOUTH PROTECTION

Child abuse is a serious problem in our society. Experts have deemed it a public health crisis, and unfortunately, it can occur anywhere, even in Scouting. Youth safety is of paramount importance to Scouting. For that reason, the BSA continues to create barriers to abuse beyond what have previously existed in Scouting.

The Boy Scouts of America places the greatest importance on providing the most secure environment possible for our youth members. To maintain such an environment, the BSA has developed a leadership selection process and numerous procedural and youth protection policies. Parents and leaders are provided with numerous online, facilitator-led training opportunities and print resources for the Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, and Venturing programs.

To find out more about the Youth Protection policies of the Boy Scouts of America and how to help Scouting keep your family safe, see the *Parent's Guide* in any of the Cub Scouting or Scouts BSA handbooks, or go to [www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/](http://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/).

You'll find Youth Protection mentioned throughout the *Lone Scout Friend and Counselor Guidebook*, but see especially Safety and Youth Protection on pages 20–21.

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# INTRODUCTION

Since its early years, the BSA has recognized the importance of providing an opportunity for youth who, without Lone Scouting, would otherwise be unable to benefit from Scouting. This guidebook is intended as a resource for the Lone Scout “friend and counselor,” and for other Scout leaders as they present or support the Boy Scouts of America’s Lone Scouting program. This supplemental resource must be used in conjunction with the other BSA literature that establishes how the Cub Scouting and Scouts BSA programs are implemented. The greatest value will come in helping leaders understand how BSA programs may be adapted in those situations where just one Scout is to be involved—those cases where ongoing participation with a den and pack, or a troop and patrol, are impractical.



Lord Baden-Powell



Ernest Thompson Seton



Daniel Carter Beard



William D. Boyce



James E. West

## THE HISTORY OF SCOUTING AND LONE SCOUTING

You may already know part of the story: In 1909, while in London, Chicago publisher William Boyce lost his way in a fog. A British Boy Scout guided him to his destination, but then when a grateful Boyce offered the Scout a tip, the boy refused it. Impressed by the boy’s spirit, Boyce asked about Scouting. The youth gave him directions to Scout headquarters and the office of Lord Baden-Powell, the famous British general who had founded the program in Great Britain.

An inspired William Boyce returned to the United States. With the help of Ernest Thompson Seton, William Carter Beard, James E. West, and others, he founded the Boy Scouts of America in 1910.

Five years later in 1915, Boyce incorporated the Lone Scouts of America. It, too, was inspired by a similar British program formed out of a concern that Scouting must also be available to those living in isolated circumstances. The LSA then merged with the BSA on March 1, 1924.

## ABOUT THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Since the organization was founded in 1910, millions of youth have answered “Yes” to Scouting. They have laced up their hiking boots and set off on great adventures in the outdoors. They have served their families, their communities, and our nation. The values of Scouting have encouraged them to do their best with their abilities and have given them a foundation for success throughout their lives.

Parents and adults familiar with Scouting realize that its programs help youth grow into responsible adults; that personal growth is

the primary goal. The four aims of Scouting—character development, citizenship training, leadership, and mental and physical fitness—work toward the goal of personal growth, utilizing the program and activities of Scouting as vehicles for a host of learning experiences.

Youth, on the other hand, join Scouting for fun and adventure. They want to be challenged and learn, too. As we recognize this and stimulate their imagination, and then reward them for their accomplishments, we can retain them to maximize the impact of the aims.

## WHY LONE SCOUTS?

Not all youth are able to join a traditional Cub Scout pack or Scout troop. They may reside in remote areas of the country, live overseas, or be in a place where it just isn't safe for them to attend traditional unit meetings. Lone Scouting may be the answer for these youth.

With the entire Cub Scouting and Scouts BSA programs open to them, they may, under the watchful eye of a Lone Scout friend and counselor, strive for the Eagle Scout rank, just as any other Scout. Advancement

in Lone Scouting provides flexibility when requirements call for participation with a den, pack, patrol, or troop, and opportunities abound for a strong bond between a Scout and counselor.

## WHEN IS LONE SCOUTING THE RIGHT CHOICE?

Because regular interaction between youth and leaders in the BSA's traditional programs has many advantages, we must keep in mind that Lone Scouting is not intended for youth who are able to safely attend meetings of traditional Cub Scout packs or Scout troops. Traditional units, if available, have the best potential to provide a quality Scouting program. Youth in circumstances such as those listed to the right, however, may find that Lone Scouting is the best option. With the right adult friend and counselor, Scouting's aims and mission can be well met.

Youth in the following or similar circumstances may find Lone Scouting is the best option.

- Home-schooled where parents do not want them in a youth group
- U.S. citizens living abroad
- Exchange students away from the United States
- Disability or communicable illness that prevents meeting attendance
- Rural communities far from a unit
- Conflicts with a job, night school, or boarding school
- Families who frequently travel or live on a boat, etc.
- Living arrangements with parents in different communities
- Environments where getting to meetings may put the Scout in danger

## LEARNING MORE ABOUT LONE SCOUTING

Those interested in Lone Scouting should turn to their local BSA council for assistance. Local councils serve all areas of the United States. Each maintains a service center or office, and is responsible for the Scouting programs within its territory. Council service centers can be located by entering a zip code into a search tool at [www.scouting.org/discover/local-council-locator](http://www.scouting.org/discover/local-council-locator), or by searching for "Boy Scouts of

America" online or in a telephone directory. One also may call or write the BSA National Council at:

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

Youth and adults who live outside the United States may learn more about Lone Scouting by emailing the BSA's Member Care Center at

[myscouting@scouting.org](mailto:myscouting@scouting.org) or 972-580-2489. Depending where Lone Scouts are situated, they are served from the Far East Council in Japan, the Transatlantic Council in Belgium, or a local council within the United States. See "Getting Registered" in the next chapter for information on eligibility to become a Lone Scout.

# THIS IS LONE SCOUTING

Lone Scouting is simple. It is about a Scout and the Scout's "friend and counselor." Even though activities may not take place with other youth in a pack or troop, the same Scouting literature is put to use that can bring about a small-scale program and accomplish the same aims in place for any other Scout. The Lone Scout and the counselor each has a role to play. Both must be registered members of the BSA, and they must abide by its policies and procedures, most of which exist to ensure safety and consistency. Though the two of them do not have the company of other Scouts, they don't need to feel alone. Resources and support are available that can help maintain a connection with the rest of the world of Scouting.



## THE SCOUT AND THE FRIEND AND COUNSELOR

*A good Lone Scout friend and counselor establishes an open atmosphere by listening and follows the Scout Law in working with the Scout.*

A Lone Scout can experience certain advantages. For example, their Scouting activities can be done almost entirely at or near home, with the personal attention of an adult counselor. Youth who live in rural areas have the outdoors close at hand where much of Scouting takes place, and those who live overseas have another set of unique choices. Each Lone Scout can progress at their own pace, building upon their own interests and abilities.

A Lone Scout friend and counselor plays a critical role in delivering the fun and adventure of Scouting. At the same time, the approach must align with the age and readiness level of the Scout. This is because Scouting helps youth by encouraging them to learn for themselves. Baden-Powell,

Scouting's founder, said, "An adult should never do for a boy what he can do for himself." This is not easy, but youth learn best by doing as much as possible using their own personal resources with the adults on the sidelines playing roles such as coach or cheerleader. This is something to work toward as a Lone Scout grows in age and maturity. All Scouts need a climate in which to solve problems and learn things for themselves.

The Scouts must hold up their end of the relationship as well. In a traditional pack or troop, the youth members, through their actions and words, often encourage one another to remain active participants and advance in rank. In a Lone Scout setting, it's up to the Scout and the counselor to do this for each other, and this mutual support should be discussed at the outset.

If either the Scout or the counselor begins to drift or lose interest, the other should be there with encouragement and thoughts about active program.

## LONE SCOUT FRIEND AND COUNSELOR SELECTION

Every Lone Scout in Cub Scouting or Scouts BSA must have a friend and counselor. The Lone Scout friend and counselor must be at least 21 years of age and meet the adult membership requirements of the Boy Scouts of America. These can be found in the Boy Scouts of America Adult Application. It is preferable for the friend and counselor to be one of the Scout's own parents, but this individual also could be the Scout's minister, teacher, neighbor, a friend of the family, an interested Scouting volunteer, and so forth. If not a parent, the counselor must be approved by the Scout's parent or guardian. Every friend and counselor must take BSA Youth Protection training—even parents registered in the position.

A council may approve one friend and counselor to work with more than one Lone Scout, but only if it is not possible or practical to organize a traditional pack or troop. Remember, the pack and troop are the preferred delivery systems for Cub Scouting and Scouts BSA. Lone Scouting is not to be a "work around" when it is possible to organize a pack or a troop.

Leaders in Scouting must possess the moral, educational, and emotional qualities that the BSA deems necessary for providing positive leadership to youth. The Scout Oath and the Scout Law become words to live by in building the strong relationship that should exist between the Lone Scout and counselor.

## GETTING REGISTERED

A youth may become a Lone Cub Scout at age 6, or in the year prior to first grade. A youth may become a Lone Scout at 11 years old, or if they are at least age 10 and have either completed the fifth grade or earned the Arrow of Light. The Lone Scout may then remain a Scout until age 18. A Boy Scouts of America Youth Application must be submitted with an annual membership fee for any youth who wants to join as a Lone Cub Scout or Lone Scout. The application must be signed by the parent or guardian in the space provided.

Since no Cubmaster or Scoutmaster is involved, the Lone Scout friend and counselor signs as the unit leader. The application should be read carefully. It provides important information about how the Scouting program is organized and supported, about the joining requirements and program, and about BSA Youth Protection policies.

The friend and counselor must submit the Boy Scouts of America Adult Application and pay an annual fee. The application form outlines the qualifications for serving as a

Local councils must process the Lone Scout and the adult friend and counselor applications at the same time, so it is important both are submitted together. Counselors should be sure to read and sign the “Disclosure/Authorization Form” that is part of the adult application and submit the form with the application.

leader, explains the requirement for Youth Protection training, and authorizes the BSA to conduct the required background check. Since there is neither a unit committee nor a chartered organization to provide additional approvals, the friend and counselor signs the application as the applicant and submits it to the local council for approval by the Scout executive or designee.

The registration period for both the Lone Scout and the friend and counselor is the same as that for your council’s district and council adult volunteers—usually the calendar year. Each year, to continue participating, the Lone Scout and counselor must re-register with the local council.

With registration, the counselor receives *Scouting*, the magazine for all adult Scouters. Lone Scouts have the opportunity to subscribe to *Scout Life* at half the nonmember cost. *Scout Life* is an important part of the Scouting program—especially for Lone Scouts. They should all be subscribers.

Should any youth or adult member—whether involved in Lone Scouting or not—leave one council’s territory and move into another council, the registration for both the Lone Scout and the friend and counselor must be transferred.

The former council should be contacted for assistance with transferring earned advancement. The new council will handle transferring the registration.

## ABOUT RESPONSIBILITIES

The relationship between a Lone Scout and counselor is a two-way street. When both learn and accept their responsibilities, the result can be tremendously rewarding. The Scout, of course, must understand the need to take age-appropriate initiative, and must be immersed in the Scout handbook for their program and age group.

The counselor helps the Lone Scout get the most out of Scouting in much the same way pack and troop leaders help their Scouts. This support includes setting a positive example. It also means getting to know the Scout well enough to continuously challenge the Scout to reach further and to achieve as much as possible—with just the right level of assistance, guidance, and recognition.

Parents who are counselors to their own children may experience the reward of getting to know their children in a different way, from another perspective.

## THE KEYS TO THE PROGRAM: LITERATURE FOR LEADERS

Just as the Scout must be immersed in the appropriate youth handbook, the friend and counselor must become familiar with the leaders' literature. It has been clearly established that Scouting volunteers in any capacity who delve into the literature are the ones who present the best programs and have the most active and successful units. The following represents a good reading and reference list. Additional resources can be found at the end of this guidebook.

- *Cub Scout Leader Book*, No. 33221. The primary reference for any Cub Scouting leader

- Den leader guides for planning meetings with Lion (No. 39003), Tiger (No. 37002), Wolf (No. 37004), Bear (No. 37001), and Webelos Scouts (No. 37003).
- *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book*, No. 33832. A source for a variety of ideas that may interest Cub Scouts
- *Troop Leader Guidebook*, volumes 1 (No. 33009) and 2 (No. 33010). Primary references for adult leaders in Scouts BSA

Note that these and other BSA literature, uniforms, supplies, and even gifts may be ordered at [www.scoutshop.org](http://www.scoutshop.org).

## WHAT THE LONE SCOUT MIGHT DO

In reading the leaders' literature, the Lone Scout friend and counselor will learn the BSA programs work best when the Scout takes as much initiative as possible. The Scout's initiative doesn't mean the leader simply sits back and watches. It does mean that the leader provides an atmosphere that keeps youth motivated. We all need encouragement and recognition; we all benefit from discussions with mentors who ask us questions that get us thinking. Youth are no different. A counselor will be on the right track when the Scout is doing some of the following:

- Reading the youth handbook and pointing out advancement requirements to fulfill
- Setting goals to meet requirements for projects or advancement
- Asking the friend and counselor for a meeting or a specific activity, or for help in a requirement
- Taking the initiative, taking responsibility, and providing leadership
- Becoming a Scouting ambassador

Of course, there are many other definitions of success. The key for the counselor is to establish a positive, motivating atmosphere and to provide just the right level of encouragement and recognition.

## THE KEYS TO THE PROGRAM: LITERATURE FOR YOUTH

Your Lone Cub Scout works with the age- or grade-appropriate handbook listed below:

- *Lion Handbook*, No. 210-823 (part of the Cub Scout Lion Kit)
- *Tiger Handbook*, No. 34713: for youth who have completed kindergarten or are 7 years old.
- *Wolf Handbook*, No. 33450: for youth who have completed first grade or are 8 years old.
- *Bear Handbook*, No. 33451: for youth who have completed second grade or are 9 years old.
- *Webelos Handbook*, No. 33452: for youth who have completed third grade or are 10 years old.
- Lone Scouts from ages 11 through 18 in the Scouts BSA program use the *Scouts BSA Handbook for Boys*, No. 34622 or the *Scouts BSA Handbook for Girls*, No. 39006.

Each youth handbook contains a treasure trove of Scouting information that will take a Scout through the ranks all the way to Eagle Scout. A Lone Scout should be presented the appropriate handbook immediately upon joining. The best way to obtain the youth handbooks, the leaders' literature, uniforms, equipment, and a host of other Scouting items and supplies is to visit your local council Scout shop or go to [www.scoutshop.org](http://www.scoutshop.org).



Publication numbers listed herein were current at time of release but are subject to change. Note that the publications may be ordered through [www.scoutshop.org](http://www.scoutshop.org) using either a number or a publication title.

## WHAT THE LONE SCOUT FRIEND AND COUNSELOR CAN DO

Besides reading the leaders' literature, there are countless methods the Lone Scout friend and counselor might use to build the right atmosphere and offer assistance to the Scout:

- Following the Lone Scout plan, establish a calendar and structure for meetings and activities. See "Meetings and Activities" in the next chapter.
- Assist the Scout in arranging transportation. See "Safety and Youth Protection" in this guidebook.
- When financial resources are needed, provide them as you can, but also consult the leaders' literature for information on earning

money, budgeting, and other finance issues in Scouting.

- Administer the BSA advancement program according to the *Guide to Advancement*, No. 33088. The guide can be downloaded at [www.scouting.org/advancement](http://www.scouting.org/advancement).
- Help the Scout discover and take advantage of resources.

Youth and adult leaders in Scouting can use to their advantage countless resources. Aside from the leaders' literature and the youth handbooks, the Lone Scout and the counselor can work together and also separately to find those tools that will be most helpful to them.

You should also learn about any local district or council activities you can attend in your vicinity. Internet searches are valuable as well in identifying opportunities, such as local organizations that could benefit from service projects, places to go hiking or swimming, or other resources that may facilitate rank advancement. Lone Scouts living outside the United States and near American embassies or consulates, or an American overseas school, may find excellent resources there for meeting the requirements for the citizenship merit badges, or opportunities to help conduct flag ceremonies, and so forth.

## DISTRICT AND COUNCIL SUPPORT

The Boy Scouts of America serves youth members through local councils, which are separately incorporated and serve all BSA members across the country and overseas. Visit [www.scouting.org/discover/local-council-locator](http://www.scouting.org/discover/local-council-locator) to locate a council's main office. You will also find its address, phone, and in most cases, its website there. Note that the Far East Council in Okinawa, Japan, serves Asia and the Pacific; and the Transatlantic Council, headquartered in Belgium, serves Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Other locations around the world are served through local councils within the United States.

Councils are led by a "key 3," made up of a salaried executive director called a Scout executive, a volunteer council president who presides over a governing executive board, and a volunteer council commissioner responsible for providing service to Scouting units. Councils

are divided into districts, most of which are led by a separate key 3 made up of a salaried district executive, a volunteer district chair who presides over a district committee, and a volunteer district commissioner.

A Lone Scout friend and counselor has the responsibility to communicate with, and act as liaison between, the Lone Scout and the council and district. It is a good idea to visit the council service center and meet with the district executive. He or she can provide introductions to the volunteers who would be best able to answer questions and help with resources. Note that many district executives work out of their homes, and may be willing to meet at a restaurant or other suitable location. It is a good idea to call or email to make an appointment!

Once registered, the Lone Scout friend and counselor should begin to receive various

mailings or electronic messages from the local council along with the council newsletter or e-letter. As the messages and mailings arrive, be on the lookout for various activities and events that might be available. Many Lone Scouts and their counselors live in places where, with a little travel, many supplemental opportunities exist. In many cases, the newsletter is distributed electronically. The district executive can provide more information about the newsletter, and also help with registration, literature, training, camp opportunities, and other resources. If the council and district have websites, the counselor should visit them regularly.

# IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING

Adult leader training in Scouting is not only important, it can make the difference between a long-term experience with a Lone Scout and one that is short-lived and lacking in purpose. Every Lone Scout friend and counselor should give the gift of participation in training. Both the Scout and the counselor will benefit when training is a priority.

First, Youth Protection training is required, and must be retaken every two years to maintain registration. This can be done online at [My.Scouting.org](http://My.Scouting.org). A “My.Scouting” login is required, but anyone may create a user account and view the courses. To receive credit for this training, registered members of the BSA simply provide their member number. Youth Protection training is designed to help keep Scouts safe from abuse and to protect leaders from false accusations. Participants in the training will learn the BSA’s Youth Protection guidelines, the signs of abuse, and how to report suspected abuse.

Once Youth Protection training has been completed, a number of program-oriented training courses can help a friend and counselor deliver the best possible program. Some of the sessions orient new leaders, and others provide training specific to the various volunteer positions. Cub Scouting friend and counselors will find Den Leader Specific training most helpful, while counselors in Scouts BSA will benefit most from Scoutmaster-Specific training. Counselors can learn more about these opportunities by going to [www.scouting.org/training/adult](http://www.scouting.org/training/adult). There is also a link on that page that will take you to the My.Scouting login.

Though much BSA training is available online, if at all possible, counselors should attend instructor-led training in person. The district executive or someone at the local council service center may be able to help find courses. You may also find sessions listed in the local council calendar, usually available on the council’s website. It has been established that leaders who participate in “live” training are more successful at presenting Scouting than those who do not. However, it is understood that many involved in Lone Scouting must make do with the online experience.

Most districts also hold a monthly “roundtable” meeting that a friend and counselor may find helpful if attendance is possible. Roundtables can be a good place to get program ideas, meet other Scouting leaders, and learn about current events and best practices. Check the council calendar for dates, times, and locations.

Those living in a foreign country should look for training possibilities within the national Scout organization of the host country. Many Scout organizations have training programs that both facilitate and enhance the BSA online training opportunities. More importantly, however, these experiences bring into focus the unique characteristics of Scouting within the host country and provide a useful network with local leaders. Be sure to check with the local Scout organization to confirm that BSA members can participate.



# THE PROGRAM:

## RESOURCES, MEETINGS, AND ACTIVITIES

The Boy Scouts of America has been a driving force for youth development for more than 100 years. Over the decades, a wealth of history, tradition, and innovation have provided the program's recipe for success. Each meeting, activity, event, or camping experience—whether local, national, or international—can play a role in building lifelong memories. Lone Scouts may not be able to access or utilize all the opportunities, but with a friend and counselor determined to excel, there are many possibilities.

## BSA PROGRAM RESOURCES

As touched upon earlier, there is no shortage of resources for presenting Scouting programs. The importance of consulting leaders' literature, youth handbooks, and the other resources listed at the back of this guidebook cannot be overstated.

## MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Yes, meetings. Even a parent serving as the friend and counselor will want to set aside a regular time for Scouting activities and for working on advancement requirements. At least once per week is best. Meetings can be in a home, but as often as possible, Lone Scouts and counselors should go out and "do." Visit new places, experience something different, get outdoors! Do what you can to avoid the kind of classroom setting that youth see every day. Remember that the best Scouting programs are those where the Scout does something fun that just happens to involve rank advancement.



Additional resources can be found on [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) at the following sites:

- [www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/adult-leader-training](http://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/adult-leader-training)
- [www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts](http://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts)
- [www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/resources](http://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/resources)
- <https://podcast.scouting.org>
- [www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/program-planning-tools](http://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/program-planning-tools)

Note: The above is just a sample. See "Helpful Links, Online Periodicals, and Social Networking Resources" at the end of this guidebook for more links. Many more resources can also be found at [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org).

The counselor and Scout should work together to develop annual, monthly, and weekly plans that are exciting for the Scout. The leaders' literature, paired with the training described earlier, will help in meeting and program planning appropriate to each Lone Scout. From the beginning, counselors should do as much as possible to involve the youth in the planning. In Cub Scouting, the counselor will do more in this regard, but discussions with the youth about the possibilities and options will help the counselor understand when and how the Cub Scout can take on a more active role.

In the Scouts BSA program, the Scout should assume more of the planning

responsibilities. The younger Scouts in this program may still need some prompting and assistance, but be careful not to underestimate their ability to do things on their own, and be aware that their abilities will increase as they age. Across the BSA, Scouts continue to surprise their leaders with what they can plan and develop on their own with just a little guidance.

The end result of the program planning exercise should be a year's calendar of meetings, outings, and various other activities. Setting up a Lone Scout's calendar this far in advance will be helpful in working around vacations, job schedules, and other possible conflicts.

## CONNECTING WITH OTHER LONE SCOUTS

One common theme in internet safety for Lone Scouts lies in their knowledge that a friend and counselor is monitoring what they do.

The interaction between youth who attend pack or troop meetings is important in achieving the aims of Scouting. The friendships they form, the help they give one another, and the team approach to getting things done all serve as strong contributors to character

development. Lone Scouts don't have the same opportunity for interaction, so it is helpful if the friend and counselor can encourage and facilitate some connections with other Scouts—Lone Scouts or not—in other places across the country or around the world.

### CONNECTING ONLINE

Many connections between Scouts will be online. Text messages, email, internet video calls, social media, and more are all possibilities. There are even Lone Scouts who have set up their own websites. To protect our Scouts when they are online, the BSA has established a set of guidelines. These may be accessed at [scoutingwire.org/marketing-and-membership-hub/social-media/social-media-guidelines](http://scoutingwire.org/marketing-and-membership-hub/social-media/social-media-guidelines). All Scouts, including Lone Scouts, are required to earn the age- or grade-specific Cyber Chip, which teaches internet safety from the youth's perspective. The Cyber Chip can be accessed at [www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/cyber-chip](http://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/cyber-chip).

### JAMBOREE-ON-THE-AIR

A few Lone Scouts have also connected via ham radio, and participate in the Scouting program "Jamboree-on-the-Air." JOTA is held annually in the third weekend in October and features Scouts from all over the world speaking to one another by means of amateur (ham) radio. "Jamboree-on-the-Internet," or JOTI, is held the same weekend as JOTA. More can be learned at [www.scouting.org/jota](http://www.scouting.org/jota) and [www.scouting.org/joti](http://www.scouting.org/joti).

### VISITING OTHER SCOUTS IN ACTION

A Lone Scout is not part of a pack or troop, but might be able to visit a Scouting unit from time to time. There may be units in a nearby town or military base, and visiting them can significantly expand programming options for the Scout. If a Scout and family are traveling, they can contact the local councils along the route and plan to check in on a pack or troop while they're away.

It also may be possible to invite a troop, pack, or den to visit your community. The attraction for them might be a nearby national or state park or other special place to camp. By extending an invitation, a Lone Scout and the friend and counselor may provide a valuable service as hosts.

### ORGANIZING A PACK OR TROOP

Lone Scouts will sometimes invite friends to join in their Scouting experiences. They may or may not be Scouts. If it turns out there are at least four others who would like to become Scouts, it might be feasible to organize a traditional pack or troop. Other parents may be willing to help provide assistance or resources, and it may be possible to find a local meeting place that can accommodate the group. If forming a pack or troop has potential, then one of the parents should contact the council service center and speak with the local district executive, who can assist in the process.

## COUNCIL AND DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Not all Lone Scouts will be able to take advantage of local district and council activities. There are definite advantages to joining in summer camp experiences, or attending merit badge fairs, camporees, Cub Scout family camp, or other activities. If such opportunities are available and convenient, Lone Scouts should take part.

## RESIDENT CAMP AND DAY CAMP

The long-term resident camp—a full week of Scouting activity—can be the high point of a Lone Scout's year. Camp is usually attended in the summer and involves an inspiring outdoor environment, a trained staff, and Scoutcraft equipment and supplies, such as canoes, row boats, and leatherworking tools. Rank advancement and merit badge opportunities abound, and programs such as swimming, rifle shooting, and nature and ecology study are offered. Cub Scout resident camp and day camp generally last less than a week, and are geared to Cub Scout themes and age-appropriate activities. Often, a parent or guardian—or a Lone Scout friend and counselor—must attend with the Cub Scout. Visit your local council's website to learn more about what is offered and how to register for a camp experience.

Many camps will form a provisional pack or troop for each resident camp session. These units include youth who are unable to attend the experience with their home units. Lone Scouts may join such a provisional unit or make arrangements to attend as a guest of a traditional pack or troop that is scheduled for the camp. The district executive or others at the council service center may be able to help locate such a unit.

## COUNCIL OR DISTRICT SHORT-TERM OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES

One can find a number of short-term outdoor experiences on the same council calendar that a friend and counselor consults to take advantage of training, roundtables, and long-term camp opportunities. "Camporees," "Webelorees," "Klondike Derbies," first-aid meets, various sorts of family campouts, and more, can be found listed in the calendar. Usually held over weekends, the events might include dozens of packs or troops working together on projects, competing, learning, and enjoying quality Scouting time. If Lone Scouts and their counselors are in close enough proximity to be involved, counselors should consult the district executive or others at the council service center to find packs or troops attending that would welcome the company of a Lone Scout guest.



### Safety Rule of Four

No fewer than four individuals (always with a minimum of two adults) can go on any backcountry expedition or campout. If an accident occurs, one person stays with the injured party and two go for help. Additional adult leadership requirements must reflect an awareness of such factors as size and skill level of the group, anticipated environmental conditions, and overall degree of challenge. Note that a friend and counselor and a Lone Scout who are parent and child may camp alone together in settings where medical services are readily available, such that neither the Lone Scout nor the counselor need be left alone in the event of an accident.

## CAMPING

The BSA's roots are in the outdoors. Even though STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) activities and other innovative programs have become popular, Scouting still revolves largely around camping and outdoor experiences. The campfire, the stars at night, the wildlife, and braving the elements, for example, can provide a special level of inspiration; and skills put to use while camping may be long remembered.

When planning any overnight outdoor experience, always consult the leaders' literature, the youth handbook, the *Fieldbook*, and the *Guide to Safe Scouting* for information about camping under the auspices of the BSA. Counselors should also participate in the outdoor skills or leadership training appropriate to their program (see [www.scouting.org/training/adult](http://www.scouting.org/training/adult)).

## NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

If you are looking for more experiences than the local district and council have to offer, cross some boundaries, and consider another level of adventure.

Check with your local council for information on organized contingents or opportunities for individual participation.



## INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Lone Scouts and their counselors—especially those residing outside of the United States—may have the opportunity to participate in events of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. The organization’s website, [www.scout.org](http://www.scout.org), is worth visiting. The page about world events may be the most interesting; visit [www.scout.org/worldevents](http://www.scout.org/worldevents). A Lone Scout and counselor who live overseas may also contact their district executive to investigate the possibility of arrangements to occasionally join in the activities of local Scouting units as guests, or to attend a world jamboree as part of the BSA’s contingent.

Another important resource for Lone Scouting in foreign countries may be the national Scout organization in the host country where the Lone Scout and counselor are situated. While few of these organizations have the professional support of the BSA, many have well-developed programs that can serve to enhance the Lone Scout experience. Participation with local Scouting groups can also facilitate international connections that lead to lifelong friendships and a greater understanding of other cultures. Imagine camping with a local Scout group or being part of a host country’s national jamboree! These kinds of opportunities can make for truly unique Scouting experiences.

## NATIONAL HIGH-ADVENTURE BASES

The thrill of the BSA high-adventure base runs far and wide across America. From the aquatic adventures of the Florida Sea Base, to the canoeing or winter camping challenges at Northern Tier, the backpacking expeditions at Philmont Scout Ranch, to the adventure sports programs at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve, these adventures help shape Scouts and their futures. More detail on what each base offers can be found at [www.scouting.org/high-adventure-bases](http://www.scouting.org/high-adventure-bases).

## NATIONAL JAMBOREES

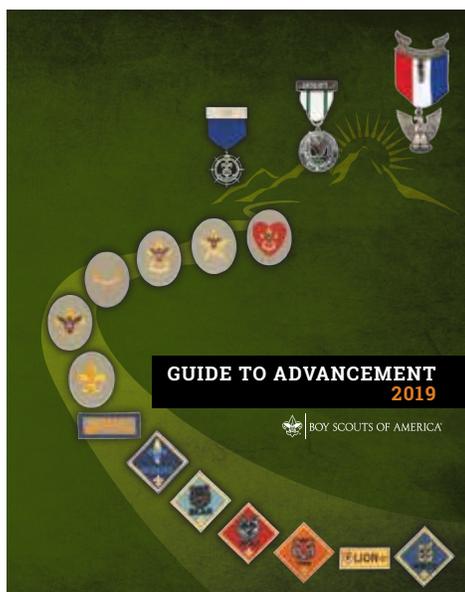
A national Scout jamboree is a gathering of thousands of Scouts from across the country and even the world. It features physical challenge events, zip lines, whitewater rafting, shooting sports, climbing and rappelling, merit badge opportunities, special displays and exhibits, arena shows, and many other exciting experiences. Held every four years at the BSA Summit Bechtel Reserve, the jamboree is a highlight experience for every Scout and leader who attends. Check with the council service center or monitor [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) for news about joining a contingent.

Becoming involved with a local Scout unit in a foreign country also provides an opportunity for a Lone Scout to complete requirements as they are written. It should be noted, however, that programs of other Scout associations will most likely be different from those of the BSA, with the exception that they share the beliefs and standards set forth by our common founder, Lord Baden-Powell.

In developed countries, contact with a national Scouting organization may be as simple as an internet search. In other nations, the process may be more difficult, requiring some research and direct contact. The International Department at the BSA national office may be able to help, however, by providing an International Letter of Introduction. The letter is available to registered members upon the recommendation of their local council. It identifies the bearer as an official member of a recognized national association of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. To obtain an official International Letter of Introduction, please fill out the application found at [www.scouting.org/international/applications](http://www.scouting.org/international/applications). It must be sent first to your local council service center for approval, and then sent to the International Department at the BSA national office.

# ADVANCEMENT

When considering what to do about advancement, the first thing a Lone Scout friend and counselor should do is obtain a copy of the *Guide to Advancement*. It is the official BSA source on advancement policies and procedures. It can be downloaded from [www.scouting.org/advancement](http://www.scouting.org/advancement). The guide clearly explains how the advancement program is structured, how it works, and which procedures are mandated and which are recommended or optional.



## WHAT IS ADVANCEMENT?

Scouting advancement is at the heart of the program for any youth member in the BSA. It is the process by which they progress from rank to rank. It is simply a means to an end, not an end in itself. It is one of several Scouting methods designed to help carry out the aims and mission of the Boy Scouts of America. See the aims and mission at the end of this guide.

Everything done for advancement is intended to educate or expand horizons. Experiential learning is the key: Exciting and meaningful activities are offered, and education happens. Learning comes from doing, and retention of that learning comes from application in practical situations. The BSA builds retention through repeated use of skills and knowledge. For example, Scouts play games that feature skills they've learned, they teach others, and they practice skills in "real-life" scenarios.

Scouting skills are important, of course, but not so important as the primary goal of personal growth, which is achieved through participating in the program. The concern

is for total, well-rounded development. Age-appropriate, surmountable hurdles are placed before members; as they face these challenges, they learn about themselves and gain confidence. Thus, learning Scouting skills becomes a vehicle for personal growth. For example, learning how to tie a knot, plan a menu, swim, or administer first aid may turn out to be critical in one's life, but they are secondary to the goal of personal growth that comes through the process of the learning and testing.

Success is achieved when we fulfill the BSA mission statement and when we accomplish the aims of Scouting: character development, citizenship training, leadership, and mental and physical fitness. We know we are on the right track when we see youth accepting responsibility, demonstrating self-reliance, and caring for themselves and others; when they learn to weave Scouting ideals into their lives; and when we can see they will be positive contributors to American society.

## POLICY ON UNAUTHORIZED CHANGES TO ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

Although Lone Scouts have a level of flexibility in some advancement requirements, Lone Scouts and their counselors must understand and accept this policy:

**No council, committee, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to, or subtract from, advancement requirements. There are limited exceptions relating only to youth**

**members with special needs. For details see the *Guide to Advancement*, section 10, "Advancement for Members With Special Needs."**

For more information on this policy as it pertains to Lone Scouts, see "Limited Flexibility in Requirements for Lone Scouts" later in this chapter.

# ADMINISTERING THE ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

The *Guide to Advancement*, the leaders' literature, and BSA training must be the primary sources for the Lone Scout friend and counselor to learn how to administer the advancement program. In addition, a number of helpful educational presentations can be accessed at [www.scouting.org/advancement](http://www.scouting.org/advancement). The following, however, provides a summary of the friend and counselor's key duties:

- Presenting activities that will result in learning skills and knowledge required for advancement
- Coordinating approval of alternative requirements as permitted in the *Guide to Advancement*
- Approving the Scout's successful completion of requirements
- Arranging for a board of review for each rank in Scouts BSA
- Recognizing the Scout with the appropriate badges in timely and meaningful ceremonies
- Keeping accurate records of the Scout's advancement
- Reporting advancement to the council service center

## ADVANCEMENT IN CUB SCOUTING

"Do your best" represents the performance test in Cub Scouting. Since youth of Cub Scout age may have different developmental timetables, when a friend and counselor sees that this has happened—the Lone Cub Scout has done their very best—then regardless of the requirements for any rank or award, it is enough; accomplishment is noted. It is important to note, however, that Lone Scouts must begin with the requirements as they are written. These can be found in the youth handbooks. Note that since Lone Cub Scouts do not participate with a pack, some flexibility is allowed. (See later in this chapter, "Limited Flexibility in Requirements for Lone Scouts.")

As a friend and counselor learns about advancement, it will be clear that every Lone Cub Scout begins with the Bobcat rank. Its introductory lessons on Cub Scouting will be helpful to both the youth and the counselor. When the Lone Cub Scout completes a requirement, the counselor takes on the role of the den leader and approves the requirement by signing the Scout's handbook in the space provided. When all requirements have been completed for a given rank, the

advancement must be reported to the local council, and then the badge obtained and presented.

To present the badge, plan a ceremony involving family members, neighbors, and friends. This presentation should be done as soon as possible after the requirements have been fulfilled. If it will be a while before it can be scheduled, presenting the badge in a less formal setting is appropriate; it can be "re-presented" at a special ceremony later.

It is best to report advancement electronically. To learn how to do this, contact your council service center.

## ADVANCEMENT IN SCOUTS BSA

Unlike in Cub Scouting, advancement in Scouts BSA must adhere to the requirements as they are written. Since Lone Scouts are not in troops, however, some flexibility is allowed. (See "Limited Flexibility in Requirements for Lone Scouts" later in this

chapter.) Advancement in Scouts BSA is a straightforward matter when the four steps outlined below are observed and integrated into the program that the Lone Scout and counselor have devised.

### STEP 1. THE SCOUT LEARNS.

With learning, a Scout grows in the ability to help plan and conduct activities related to what has been learned. As knowledge and skill are developed, the Scout may teach others; in this way, the Scout learns and develops leadership.

## STEP 2. THE SCOUT IS TESTED.

The Lone Scout friend and counselor usually is the one who tests the Lone Scout once learning has taken place. The counselor, however, may authorize others to conduct testing as well, as long as those designated have an understanding of the basics of Scouting, and especially the statement on unauthorized changes to the advancement program. These might include a teacher, a religious leader, a trusted friend, camp counselor, or if practical, another Scout or leader. Merit badge counselors teach and test Scouts on requirements for merit badges.

## STEP 3. THE SCOUT IS REVIEWED.

Before a board of review is conducted, the friend and counselor and the Lone Scout have a Scoutmaster's conference. How this is done is covered in the leaders' literature and in the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 4.2.3.5, "Unit Leader (Scoutmaster) Conference." The conference should be a forum for discussing topics such as ambitions and life purpose, goals for future achievement, and also for obtaining feedback on meetings and activities that have been held.

After completing all the requirements for a rank, the Scout meets with a board of review. An Eagle Scout board of review must be held in accordance with National Council and local council procedures.

The friend and counselor may contact the district executive or the district or council advancement chair to arrange for a board of review or to obtain guidance on how one should be organized for Tenderfoot; Second

After the Scout is tested and recognized, a well organized Lone Scouting program will help the Scout practice these new skills in different settings and methods: at meetings, through various activities and outings, by teaching others and leading projects, and so forth. These activities reinforce learning, show how Scout skills and knowledge are applied, and build confidence. Repetition is the key; this is how retention is achieved. The Scout fulfills a requirement and then is placed in a situation where the skills are put to work.

Class, First Class, Star, and Life ranks. It may be possible for committee members of a Scout troop to conduct it, or it may be necessary to bring together members of the community and train them on holding one.

The board is composed of at least three adults—other than the friend and counselor—who know the Scout and are acquainted with the Scout's conduct and accomplishments outside of Scouting. They may be church members, teachers, business leaders, neighbors, or family friends. Neither of the youth's parents should serve on a board of review unless it is not possible to find a sufficient number of other adults who meet the criteria.

To learn more about boards of review, consult section 8 in the *Guide to Advancement*. It explains important policies and procedures that can have a significant effect on the results. For example, board of review members must agree unanimously on decisions to approve a Scout, and the review is not to be a retest or examination based

on the requirements a Scout has already fulfilled. Nor is it a challenge of the Scout's knowledge. In most cases it should, instead, be a celebration of accomplishment. The guide also explains what must take place if a Scout is rejected by a board of review.

## STEP 4. THE SCOUT IS RECOGNIZED.

When the board of review has approved the advancement, the Scout deserves recognition as soon as possible. This should be done at an appropriate court of honor ceremony involving family members, neighbors, and friends. If it will be a while before this can be scheduled, it is appropriate to present the badge in a less formal setting, and then "re-present" it at the special ceremony. Information and ideas about courts of honor can be found in the leaders' literature. In some cases, the ceremony could be held as part of some other community event, such as a school assembly, a family reunion, or a civic event.

# THE MERIT BADGE PROGRAM

There is more to merit badges than simply providing opportunities to learn skills.

There is more to them than an introduction to lifetime hobbies, or the inspiration to pursue a career—though these invaluable results occur regularly. The uncomplicated process—beginning with a discussion between the Lone Scout friend and counselor and culminating in advancement and recognition—provides several learning experiences. It gives the Scout the confidence achieved through overcoming obstacles. Social skills improve. Self-reliance develops. Examples are set and followed, and fields of study and interest are explored beyond the limits of the school classroom.

## ABOUT THE “BLUE CARD”

Consult section 7 in the *Guide to Advancement* to learn how the merit badge program works. Note that the Application for Merit Badge “blue card” plays a significant role, and that the Lone Scout friend and counselor signs the card in those places designated for the unit leader.

## MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS

Scouts earn merit badges by working with adult merit badge counselors. These volunteers must be men or women of good character, age 18 or older, and be recognized as having the skills and education in the subjects they cover. It is important, too, that they have good rapport with Scout-age youth. Merit badge counselors must register with the BSA as merit badge counselors, take Youth Protection training, and they must be approved by the council advancement committee for the badges they counsel. Note that certain merit badges require special qualifications or certifications for either the merit badge counselor or the supervisor of certain activities that may be involved. See the *Guide to Advancement* for the details.

Lone Scout friend and counselors should consult with their district executive to obtain a list of approved merit badge counselors. In the Lone Scouting program, it may be necessary for the friend and counselor to recruit local teachers, hobbyists, business leaders, or members of special interest clubs or organizations to become counselors. The friend and counselor may also serve as a merit badge counselor in subjects for which they are qualified. This will be especially important where Lone Scouts reside in remote areas. Though in-person visits with merit badge counselors are preferred, it may be necessary in some situations for Lone Scouts to work with counselors through the internet, over the phone, or through postal correspondence.

## THE BUDDY SYSTEM

Unless the merit badge counselor is the Lone Scout’s parent, there must be no one-on-one meetings between them. Because the Boy Scouts of America does not permit a youth member to work alone with an adult, the Scout must have a buddy present at each session: a friend, parent, guardian, sibling, or other relative—or if possible, another Scout working on the same badge.

In every case, merit badge counselors must be registered with the BSA, take Youth Protection training, and receive approval from the council advancement committee.

## LIMITED FLEXIBILITY IN REQUIREMENTS FOR LONE SCOUTS

Because Lone Scouts are not registered with units, we can exercise some responsible flexibility with advancement. This is not to say anything goes, however. Requirements for ranks, merit badges, or any other advancement-related awards that can be met by one Scout working with the friend and counselor must be fulfilled as written. In some instances, family members, neighbors, or friends can be used in place of a den, pack, or troop to increase the number of requirements that can be met as stated.

If a merit badge requirement calls for the involvement of a den leader, Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, or unit leader, those roles may be translated to mean the Lone Scout friend and counselor.

Some wording issues are simple and do not require council approval. For example, a Lone Scout may fulfill a position of responsibility by serving in a school, place of worship, or club, for example. This alternative position must have the same function in the Scout's life:

that of taking or accepting responsibility or giving leadership; only the setting differs.

Where meeting requirements as written is not possible, a Lone Scout friend and counselor may suggest equal or very similar alternative requirements. These must have council advancement committee preapproval. Dissimilar requirements should be allowed only in extreme circumstances or when they cannot be met without extreme hazard or hardship.

## PROCESSING THE EAGLE SCOUT APPLICATION



After completing the Eagle Scout requirements, a Lone Scout works with the district or council advancement committee according to local practices. The Eagle Scout Rank Application is reviewed and processed according to section 9 in the *Guide to Advancement*. The steps include verification at the local council, scheduling and conducting a board of review, and submitting the application to the National Council.

Since a Lone Scout is not affiliated with a unit, the local council processor must send the

application to the advancement administrator in the National Design and Development Department for processing. Since there is no unit committee for a Lone Scout, the unit committee chair signature line on the Eagle Scout application is left blank. No unit committee approval is required for the Eagle Scout service project proposal. The Lone Scout friend and counselor conducts the unit leader conference and signs as the unit leader on the Eagle Scout Rank Application and in the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*.

# UNIFORMING AND INSIGNIA

As one of the stated methods for achieving the BSA aims and mission, the Scout uniform is an essential part of any Scouting experience. This method may be *especially* important for the Lone Scout. Without the constant reminder of the other youth in a pack or troop, the uniform can serve to keep the Lone Scout focused on Scouting. It should be a source of pride, as well, for it provides a way to display accomplishments in the advancement program. The uniform, thus, becomes a highly visible way to measure and recognize the Lone Scout's achievement.

The Scout wears the same uniform and neckerchief as other youth in the same Cub Scouting or Scouts BSA rank. All Lone Scouts wear the Lone Scout emblem, No. 621122, on the left sleeve in the place of the troop number, below the council shoulder patch. The uniform is appropriate for any Scouting meeting, activity, or ceremony. It is especially appropriate when a Lone Scout is involved in a community Good Turn or other public event. Wearing it, however, is not a requirement. There may be some settings, such as in some foreign countries, where discretion suggests wearing the uniform is not a good idea.

Did you know? All councils have a council shoulder patch. Contact your local council service center to obtain one.

## RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS

To encourage members to grow in their faith, religious groups have developed a number of religious emblems programs. The BSA has approved of these programs and allows the emblems to be worn on the uniform. Most religious emblems for Cub Scouts consist of a

bar pin and pendant. For youth in Scouts BSA, most of the emblems consist of a bar pin, ribbon, and pendant. Additional information on religious emblems is available in the leaders' literature, the youth handbooks, and from P.R.A.Y. ([www.praypub.org](http://www.praypub.org)).

## OTHER PROGRAMS AND PATCHES

There are many other Scouting programs in which Lone Scouts may receive patches or even medals for participation or achievement. They can be found in the *Guide to Awards and Insignia*. Examples include the Emergency Preparedness Award, William T. Hornaday Award (emphasizing conservation), the Interpreter Strip (foreign language proficiency), Historic Trails Award,

a number of aquatics achievements, and more. Commendations also can be awarded to Scouts who save a life or show heroism in some other way. The *Guide to Awards and Insignia* can be found at [www.scouting.org/resources/info-center/insignia-guide](http://www.scouting.org/resources/info-center/insignia-guide). The Awards Central webpage is also a helpful resource: [www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central](http://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central).



Lone Scout patch, worn in place of the unit number

Uniforms, official equipment, and most insignia can be purchased or ordered from a council Scout shop or from [www.scoutshop.org](http://www.scoutshop.org). For the nearest Scout shop contact your council service center. For more information about the uniforms and insignia of the BSA, including badge placement, see the *Guide to Awards and Insignia*, No. 33066.

# SAFETY AND YOUTH PROTECTION

The Boy Scouts of America has an outstanding safety record for a reason. The physical and emotional well-being of our Scouts and leaders is not just something to think about every now and then, but something that must receive constant attention. To safeguard Scouting participants from hazards and to protect our youth from those who may do physical or emotional harm, BSA publishes the *Guide to Safe Scouting* and a number of resources on Youth Protection.

## GUIDE TO SAFE SCOUTING

The *Guide to Safe Scouting* resides online at [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss). Its purpose is to prepare youth and adult members of the Boy Scouts of America—including those involved in Lone Scouting—to conduct Scouting activities in a safe and prudent manner. The policies and guidelines have been established to protect members from known hazards identified through more than 100 years of experience. Limitations on certain activities should be viewed not as stumbling blocks, but rather as stepping-stones toward safe and enjoyable adventures. A Lone Scout friend and counselor should become familiar not only with the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, but should also be aware of state or local government regulations that supersede those of the Boy Scouts of America.

## WHAT IS COVERED IN THE GUIDE TO SAFE SCOUTING?

Below are a few of the topics from the *Guide to Safe Scouting* that could be important to a Lone Scout friend and counselor:

- Youth Protection
- Leadership requirements for trips and outings
- Internet safety
- Aquatics safety with required Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat
- Age guidelines for Cub Scout and Scouts BSA camping and activities
- Chemical fuels and equipment use

- Activity guidelines from “The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety”
- Climbing and rappelling
- Bike safety
- Insurance
- Transportation
- Winter activities
- Incident reporting

Be sure to review the entire manual, however, for information on these and other topics.

## YOUTH PROTECTION IN THE BSA

The Youth Protection program, developed by the BSA to uncover and prevent child abuse, has served for decades as a model for other organizations. True youth protection can be achieved only through the focused commitment of everyone in Scouting. The *Guide to Safe Scouting* provides an overview of Youth Protection requirements, and additional information and resources on the subject can be found at [www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection](http://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection). The page also includes a link to Youth Protection training, which is required for every Lone Scout friend and counselor upon registration and then every two years thereafter.

Go to [My.Scouting.org](http://My.Scouting.org) to take the online training, and establish an account using the member number you received when you registered for

BSA membership. If you take the training online before you have obtained a member number, be sure to return to [My.Scouting](http://My.Scouting) and enter your number for training credit. If you cannot take the training online, you will need to work with your BSA local council to participate in an instructor-led session. For more information, refer to the back of the BSA Adult Application, No. 524-501.

Youth Protection training must be taken every two years, regardless of position. If a volunteer does not meet the BSA’s Youth Protection training requirement at the time of reregistration, the volunteer will not be reregistered.

The BSA encourages all adults, including all parents, to take the BSA’s Youth Protection training.

## MANDATORY REPORTING PROCEDURES

All persons involved in Scouting must report to authorities any good-faith suspicion or belief that any child has been physically or sexually abused; physically or emotionally neglected; exposed to any form of violence or threat; or exposed to any form of sexual exploitation, including possession, manufacture, or distribution of child pornography, online solicitation, enticement, or showing of obscene material. **No one involved in Scouting is permitted to abdicate this reporting responsibility to any other person.**

## SCOUTING'S BARRIERS TO ABUSE

The BSA has adopted a set of policies for the safety and well-being of its members. Below is a summary of the list:

- Two-deep adult leadership is required for all trips, outings, and activities.
- One-on-one contact between adults and youth is prohibited.
- Separate accommodations for adults and Scouts are required. No youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than that youth's own parent or guardian. If two Scouts share a tent, they must be no more than two years apart in age.
- Adults must respect the privacy of youth in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers; and intrude *only* to the extent that health and safety require.
- Inappropriate use of cameras, imaging, or digital devices is prohibited.
- Hazing and bullying—including verbal, physical, and cyber bullying—are prohibited.
- Discipline should be constructive and reflect Scouting's values. Corporal punishment is not permitted.
- Proper clothing for activities is required.

For example, skinny-dipping or revealing bathing suits is not appropriate.

- Youth and adults are responsible to act according to Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- The policy of two-deep leadership extends into cyberspace. Another adult leader should be copied on any electronic communication between an adult and a youth member.

Lone Scout friend and counselors can find the complete list with accompanying detail at [www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection](http://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection). For more information, refer to the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, contact your local council, or email [youth.protection@scouting.org](mailto:youth.protection@scouting.org).

## DIGITAL PRIVACY

A key ingredient for a safe and healthy Scouting experience is the respect for privacy. Advances in technology, however, are enabling some forms of social interaction that are dangerous, offensive, abusive, and illegal.

Sending or texting sexually explicit photographs or videos electronically, also called "sexting," is prohibited, and can lead to severe legal consequences for the sender and the receiver. The Lone Scout and the friend and counselor should discuss the appropriate use of cell

phones and address cyber-safety education through the Cyber Chip program, which can be found at [www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/cyber-chip](http://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/cyber-chip).

## THE THREE R'S OF YOUTH PROTECTION

The three R's convey a simple message for the personal awareness of our youth members:

- Recognize situations that place a child at risk of being molested, how child molesters operate, and that anyone could be a molester.
- Resist unwanted and inappropriate attention. Resistance will stop most molestation attempts.
- Report attempted or actual molestation to a parent or other trusted adult. Reporting prevents further abuse and helps to protect other children. Let the Scout know they will not be blamed for what occurred.

If a Lone Scout friend and counselor thinks that any of the BSA's Youth Protection policies have been violated, he or she must notify the local council Scout executive or designee so appropriate action can be taken for the safety of our Scouts.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Visit [www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection](http://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection) to find these additional resources:

- "A Time to Tell": Troop Meeting Guide
- Youth Protection training facilitator's guides
- Youth Protection Champions
- "It Happened to Me": Cub Scout Meeting Guide

# RESOURCES

Though a Lone Scout and counselor could implement a Scouting program on their own, several resources and support materials can aid in achieving the primary goal of a Scout's personal growth.

## IMPORTANT LEADERS' LITERATURE

<i>Cub Scout Leader Book</i> .....	33221
<i>Lion Den Leader Guide</i> .....	39003
<i>Tiger Den Leader Guide</i> .....	37002
<i>Wolf Den Leader Guide</i> .....	37004
<i>Bear Den Leader Guide</i> .....	37001
<i>Webelos Den Leader Guide</i> .....	37003
<i>Troop Leader Guidebook, Volume 1</i> .....	30009
<i>Troop Leader Guidebook, Volume 2</i> .....	30010
<i>Troop Committee Guidebook</i> .....	34505

## YOUTH HANDBOOKS

<i>Lion Handbook</i> (part of the Cub Scout Lion Kit).....	No. 210-823
<i>Tiger Handbook</i> .....	34713
<i>Wolf Handbook</i> .....	33450
<i>Bear Handbook</i> .....	33451
<i>Webelos Handbook</i> .....	33452
<i>Scouts BSA Handbook for Boys</i> .....	34622
<i>Scouts BSA Handbook for Girls</i> .....	39006
<i>Fieldbook</i> .....	34006
<i>Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook</i> .....	Online only at <a href="http://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/eagle-workbook-procedures">www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/eagle-workbook-procedures</a>

## OTHER SCOUTING LITERATURE AND RESOURCES

<i>Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs</i> .....	33212
<i>Cub Scout Leader How-To Book</i> .....	33832
Application for Alternative Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges.....	Online only at <a href="http://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/eaglealt">www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/eaglealt</a>
Application for Merit Badge ("blue card").....	34124
Scouts BSA Requirements book (current year).....	33216
<i>Guide to Advancement</i> .....	33088
<i>Guide to Awards and Insignia</i> .....	33066
Eagle Scout Rank Application.....	Online only at <a href="https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-728_WB_Fillable.pdf">https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-728_WB_Fillable.pdf</a>
<i>A Guide for Merit Badge Counseling</i> .....	512-065

# HELPFUL LINKS, ONLINE PERIODICALS, AND SOCIAL NETWORKING RESOURCES\*

## Find the local council that serves your area.

- <http://www.scouting.org/discover/local-council-locator>

Create a login to take Youth Protection and other training

- <https://my.scouting.org>

The *Guide to Safe Scouting*

- [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss)

## Youth Protection Program

- [www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection](http://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection)

## Other Helpful Resources

- [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety)
- [www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs](http://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs)
- <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/ahmr>
- [www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/advancement-news](http://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/advancement-news)  
To subscribe to *Advancement News*, send your name, council, and email address to [advancement.team@scouting.org](mailto:advancement.team@scouting.org).
- [www.scouting.org/training/training-updates](http://www.scouting.org/training/training-updates)
- [www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/resources](http://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/resources)

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## Educational presentations on various aspects of BSA advancement

- <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org> (Bryan on Scouting)
- [www.facebook.com/pages/Boy-Scouts-of-America/113441755297](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Boy-Scouts-of-America/113441755297)
- <https://twitter.com/boyscouts>
- [www.scoutshop.org](http://www.scoutshop.org)
- [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)
- [www.scouting.org/advancement](http://www.scouting.org/advancement)
- [www.scouting.org/training/adult](http://www.scouting.org/training/adult)
- [www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/den-meeting-resources](http://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/den-meeting-resources)
- <https://beascout.scouting.org>
- [www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/youth/older-boy-adventure](http://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/youth/older-boy-adventure)
- <https://podcast.scouting.org>
- [www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/program-planning-tools](http://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/program-planning-tools)
- [scoutingwire.org/marketing-and-membership-hub/social-media/social-media-guidelines](http://scoutingwire.org/marketing-and-membership-hub/social-media/social-media-guidelines)
- [www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/cyber-chip](http://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/cyber-chip)
- [www.scouting.org/jota](http://www.scouting.org/jota)
- [www.scouting.org/joti](http://www.scouting.org/joti)
- [www.scouting.org/outdooradventures](http://www.scouting.org/outdooradventures)
- [www.scout.org](http://www.scout.org)
- [www.scout.org/worldevents](http://www.scout.org/worldevents)
- [www.scouting.org/international/applications](http://www.scouting.org/international/applications)

\*References and links listed here are official resources of the BSA or the World Organization of the Scout Movement. Many other websites may be helpful in presenting Scouting programs, but please note that some are unofficial and unauthorized by the BSA. Their content may or may not represent correct or appropriate interpretations of BSA policies and procedures, and the sites may or may not be up to date.



## BSA Mission Statement

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

## The Aims of Scouting

Every Scouting activity moves young people toward four basic aims: character development, citizenship training, leadership, and mental and physical fitness.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®