



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
COLUMBIA MONTOUR COUNCIL

Scouts BSA

*A guidebook for parents/guardians to
Cub Scout crossovers and new Scouts*



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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

National recruiting website

BeAScout.org

Spring 2019





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THE SCOUT'S BASIC PRECEPTS

All Scouts learn not only to recite these words, but to understand what they mean, and to understand the value of making these Scouting ideals part of their everyday lives.

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, Obedient, Loyal,
Cheerful, Helpful, Thrifty, Friendly, Brave,
Courteous, Clean, Kind, and Reverent.

Scout Motto:

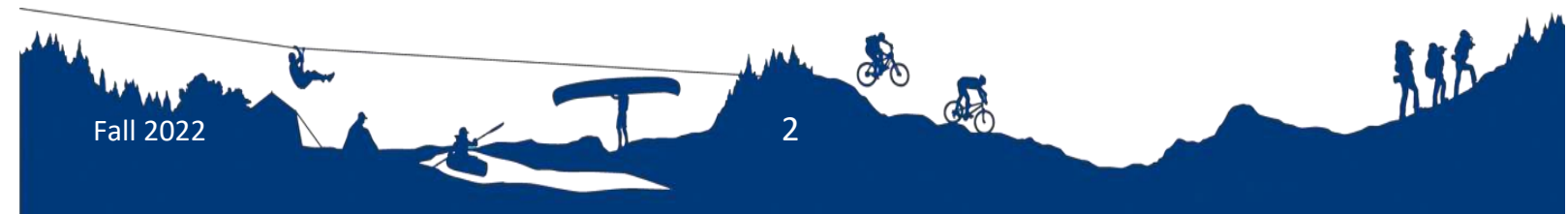
Be Prepared.

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.



IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT FOR YOUR CHILD? QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK HIM OR HER



“Are you eager to make the most of yourself and succeed in the best ways possible?”

“Would you like to develop lifelong friendships?”

“Are you ready to become an expert hiker and camper, to learn new academic and career-readiness skills, to explore the natural world, to develop authentic leadership and sportsmanship, and to meet challenges with good judgment and skill?”

“Do you want to understand your duties to your religious beliefs and your responsibilities in caring for the environment?”

THIS IS WHERE THE ADVENTURES BEGIN...

YOUR INTRODUCTION TO SCOUTING

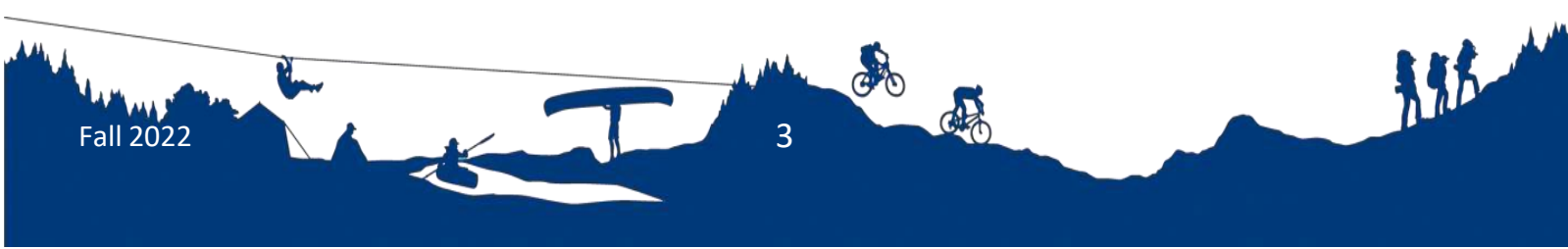
You want your son or daughter to grow into a man or woman of worth: self-reliant, responsible, happy, and successful, with solid grounding in citizenship, service, and faith. Scouting is here to help you achieve those goals: our goals are yours. Since 1910, the BSA—through its more than 300 local councils—has partnered with chartered organizations in our communities to weave lifetime values into educational, fun activities designed to appeal to young people. Our proven programs are specifically designed to assist parents in strengthening their child’s character, developing responsible citizens, and imparting practices of physical and mental fitness. These values give your child the foundation to make ethical decisions throughout their life and give them the competence, confidence, and self-reliance they will need to be tomorrow’s leader in their family, town, nation, and world.

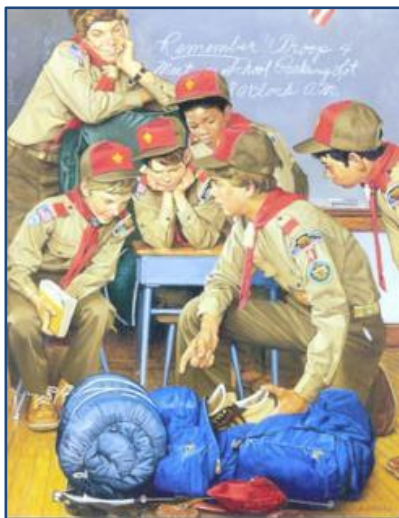
Scouting is a well-established program rich with tradition. Scouts today enjoy many of the same activities that Scouts enjoyed when Robert Baden-Powell first created the program over a century ago. The Scouting program has three aims: character development, citizenship training, and physical and mental fitness. 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 Law.



A boy or girl immediately learns that their fellow Scouts are trying to live by a unique set of rules—rules that stress trustworthiness, loyalty, honesty, and reverence. The Scout also learns the skills of Scouting—how to handle an axe, build a fire, cook a meal, pack a pack, and pitch a tent. The Scout Oath and Law become their guides to life. The Scout motto is “Be Prepared”. This means the Scout will be prepared to take care of themselves and to help other people. The Scout slogan is “Do A Good Turn Daily”. This helps the Scout learn to be of service to others.

With all the negative influences in today’s society, Scouting provides your son or daughter with a positive peer group and a program that is fun, adventurous and helps them to “be prepared” to shape their own future in a positive manner.





SCOUTS BSA IS A "YOUTH-LED" PROGRAM

Scouts BSA builds competence, self-esteem, self-reliance, and self-respect, as well as respect for others, our country's laws and institutions, and our environment, through a blend of learning-by-doing, peer-to-peer teaching, exciting outdoor experiences, cheerful service to others, and leadership development.

The Scouts BSA program encourages Scouts to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to lead in some way, whether as part of a team, as the leader of their patrol, or as the senior patrol leader (SPL) of the troop. Leadership development is an integral component of the youth-led troop.

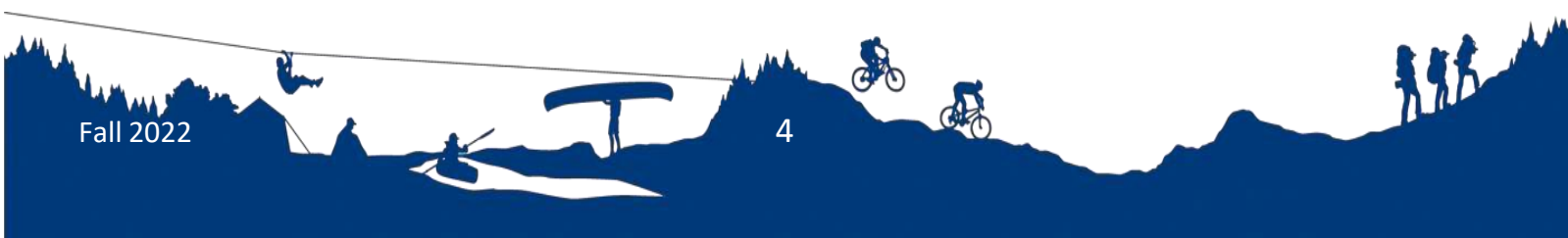
How Scouts BSA works is specifically meant to be different than how Cub Scouting works—in fact, it is different from the way most other youth activities are run, where the adults decide what to do and the youth do it. In Cub Scouting the goal is to have fun activities and generate achievements under close adult supervision. In Scouts BSA, the Scouts themselves decide upon, design, implement, and run their own fun activities and achievements. The role of the adults is not the destination, but the journey. That is, our responsibility as adults is to support the “process” of Scouting.

What is important for us is:

- **Not who would make the best patrol leader, but that the Scouts elect one.**
- **Not the food on the campout, but that the Scouts cooked it.**
- **Not a sharp-looking flag ceremony, but that the Scouts put it together.**
- **Not that Johnny learns first aid, but that Billy teaches him.**
- **Not that we cover everything on the meeting agenda, but that the senior patrol leader is in charge.**

Scouts BSA's aims of developing character, citizenship, and fitness in youth are achieved through several core Methods of Scouting. One of those methods is “association with adults.” Being mentored by adults prepares Scouts as they transition from childhood to adulthood. Adults understand that their role is to create a safe place where Scouts can learn, grow, explore, play, and take on responsibilities—and fail, and get up and try again. If you were involved with Cub Scouting, this is a very different role that can take some time getting used to. Each spring the youth-led patrol leaders council (PLC) works with the Scouts in the troop to develop an annual program plan for the following year. The senior patrol leader (SPL) and the Scoutmaster then present the plan to the troop committee to ask for input and support.

Every month, the PLC develops and implements plans for upcoming meetings and activities. The Scoutmaster and SPL also provide updates to the troop committee during their monthly meetings to review plans on how the committee can best support the troop. We want the youth leadership to lead, but we don't want them to be overwhelmed. Leading a troop is a lot of responsibility for the teenage senior patrol leader (SPL) and assistant patrol leaders (ASPL).



PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' ROLE



YOUR ROLE

You may be wondering—or even a little nervous—about what your role is in Scouts BSA. Well, your first role in Scouting is simply to continue what you are doing: be a parent! Help your Scout succeed. Be supportive. You're here because you see value in the Scouting program.

There may be times when your children don't want to go to the weekly meeting or seem to be losing interest in advancement and doing their best in Scouting. That's when they need a parent's encouragement.

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

Beyond that, you need to know that Scouting is a worldwide movement that operates primarily through volunteer leadership. In fact, without volunteers like yourself, there would simply be no Scouting- anywhere! Naturally, parents are a primary source of leaders in the Scouting program. Parents can support their children's Scout BSA troop in two different ways: as a uniformed member of their troop's adult volunteer corps, or as a troop committee member. To become a Scouting volunteer is one of the finest decisions you'll ever make.

Unit volunteers are themselves an example of Scouting's principle of service to others. They volunteer not only to serve Scouting, but also to serve their children and their friends, and to have the chance to be a positive influence on the youth of the community. In your troop, the Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster(s), committee chairperson, troop committee members, and chartered organization representative all work with the troop's parents to provide a good environment and program for the Scouts they serve.

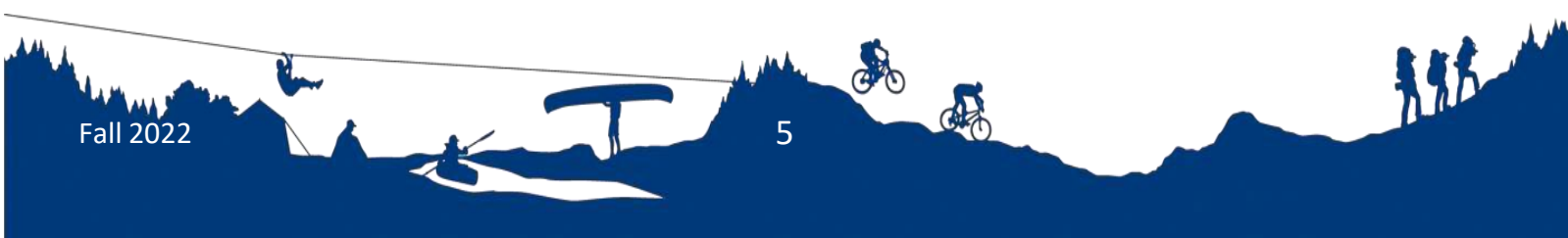


TRAINING AVAILABLE

For every position in Scouting—both youth and adult—there are guidelines and tools available to show the way to success. Registered positions with the BSA and our local council offer specific training designed to give you what you need to be successful. Much of it can be done on-line at my.scouting.org on your own schedule, at your own pace. Other training opportunities are provided in person by Columbia

Montour Council and are delivered by experienced Scout leaders. This training will give you a full understanding of the Scouts BSA program and provide you with many aids and resources to help you in troop operations. The trainings are inspiring, fun, informative, and most of all—allow for bonding with fellow Scouting volunteers from the areas served by our council. You'll learn more about these from the troop committee chair when you sign up as a BSA volunteer (more information will be provided later in this booklet).

But maybe the best of all aspects here is that, through Scouts BSA, you'll be working side-by-side in a spirit with other like-minded people.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

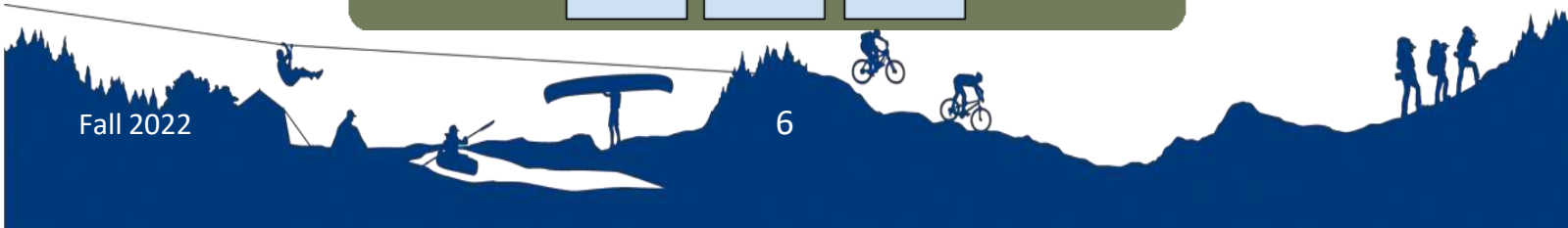
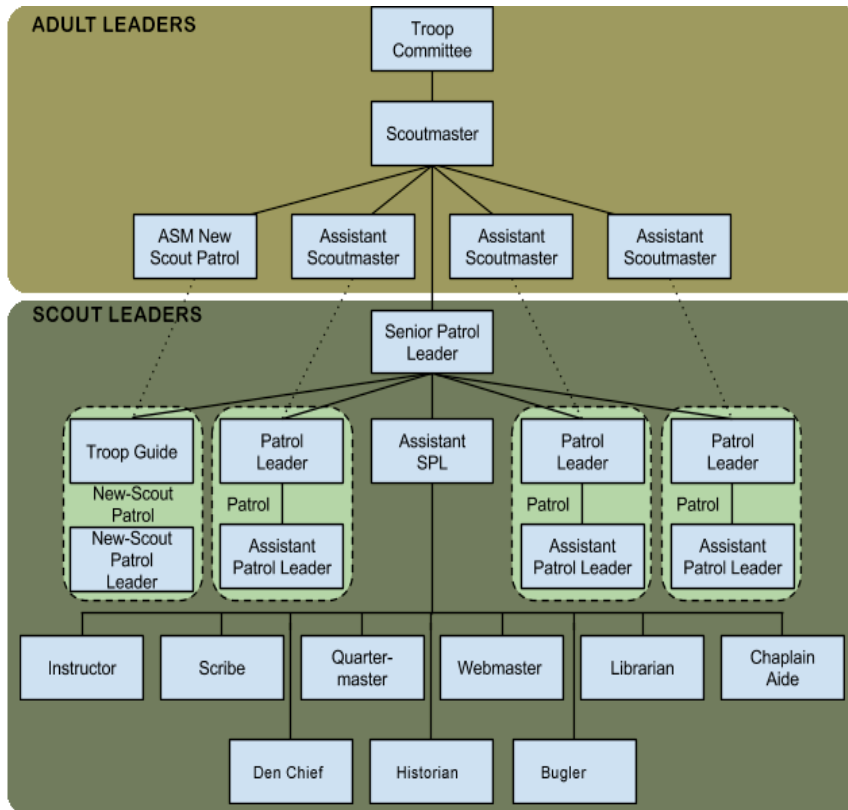


YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER WILL BE A MEMBER OF A PATROL

- Patrols are the basic unit of a troop, similar to the dens in Cub Scouts.
- Patrols are typically made up of 4 to 8 Scouts.
- Patrols are led by a patrol leader (and assistant patrol leaders).
- Patrols typically meet 1-2 times a month separate from the troop, or separately during a troop meeting.
- Patrol members work on individual advancement and team-building skills.

YOUR SCOUT WILL BE A MEMBER OF A TROOP

- Troops are single-gender, not co-ed.
- Troops are made up of a number of patrols.
- Troops are typically organized according to the below chart.
- Troops typically meet weekly and have special occasions such as courts of honor where the Scouts are recognized for their achievements.
- Troop meetings are run by the senior patrol leader (with the guidance and support of the Scoutmaster).
- The senior patrol leader is assisted in various troop functions by other youth leaders, including assistant senior patrol leader, patrol leaders, assistant patrol leaders, troop guides, quartermaster, scribe, librarian, historian, & bugler.
- The troop will participate in—and run—outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, swimming, lifesaving, boating, canoeing, rowing, sailing, water skiing, archery, athletics, sports, fishing, gardening, geology, and wilderness survival.
- The troop will also participate in—and run—a large number of academic, career-readiness, and skill-based programs such as first aid, computers, presentation skills, leadership, team building, and so many more ...



MANY TROOP FUNCTIONS ARE OVERSEEN BY THE ADULT VOLUNTEERS

- The troop committee is made up of adult volunteers who accomplish many of the administrative tasks of the Scouting program for the troop. Typically, the committee members and other troop leaders are parents or guardians of Scouts in the troop, or members of the chartered organization.
- The troop committee typically meets once a month in support of the troop's operations and leadership.
- The troop committee is led by the committee chair, who in turn works in concert with the Scoutmaster.
- The troop committee selects adult leaders, performs record keeping, manages troop finances, orders and delivers advancement badges, maintains troop equipment, helps train leaders and recognizes leaders.
- Members of the troop committee participate in the rank advancement process – called a board of review – by reviewing and encouraging the Scouts before they advance.
- The Scoutmaster reports to the committee on the program and activities of the troop.



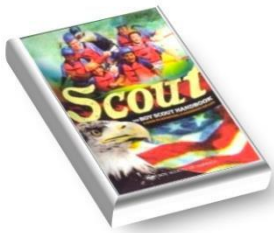
THE TROOP IS SPONSORED BY THE CHARTERED ORGANIZATION

- Leaders of the chartered organization have made the commitment to adopt the program concepts and values of the Boy Scouts of America as an integral part of their outreach to the youth of the community.
- Chartered organizations include schools, parent-school organizations, religious organizations, service clubs, and other groups interested in youth.
- The chartered organization identifies and “signs off” on adult leaders, provides a meeting place, and operates troops within the guidelines and policies of both the chartered organization and the Boy Scouts of America.
- The chartered organization typically designates a representative who serves as a liaison between the troop and the organization.



All activities, gatherings, and meetings are carried out under the guidance of at least two-deep, BSA trained adult leadership. Female troops always have at least one registered female Scouts BSA leader, age 21 or older,

THE SCOUTS BSA PROGRAM



The Scouting program has three aims: character development, citizenship training, and physical and mental fitness. What makes Scouts BSA unique is that it has eight methods it uses to achieve those aims. These eight methods, described below, define Scouts BSA and set it apart from other programs.

IDEALS—The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. Scouts measure themselves against these ideals and continually try to improve.

PATROL METHOD—Patrols are small groups of Scouts who camp together, cook together, play together, and learn together. Patrols are where Scouts learn citizenship at the most basic level. They also take on responsibilities within the patrol and learn teamwork and leadership. Patrols elect their own leaders, and through these patrol leaders, Scouts have a voice in deciding what activities the troop will put on its calendar.

OUTDOOR PROGRAMS—Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. We camp. We hike. We get dirty. We have fun!! There's no way around it. Our program is largely built around outdoor activities. So, expect to have more laundry after a campout and to hear some interesting stories about wild things. For more details, look on the next page.

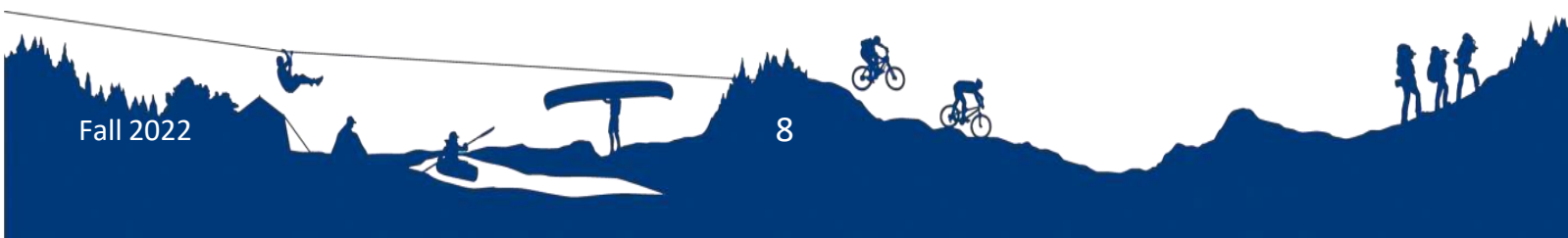
ADVANCEMENT—Scouting has a system of ranks in which Scouts learn progressively more difficult skills and take on progressively greater responsibilities. The highest of these ranks is Eagle Scout. While becoming an Eagle Scout is an important achievement that your Scout can be proud of for life, it is not what the Scouting program is all about. Advancement is probably the most visible of the Scouting methods, and the easiest to understand, but it is only one of eight methods. We strongly encourage advancement, but we never force it—advancement is the Scouts' choice, and they set their own pace. We don't do "lock-step" advancement—many great Scouts, and great people, never became Eagle Scouts.

ASSOCIATIONS WITH ADULTS—Children 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 or one of the troop parents who is willing to listen to youth, encourage them, and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives. Adult association is also part of what we call a youth-led troop. Adults in the troop understand that children often learn more when they do something wrong, and it is the adult's role to help them work through these difficulties, learn from them, and to do a better job the next time.

PERSONAL GROWTH—As Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. Probably no device is as successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. Young people develop and mature as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. The religious emblems program is also a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with the Scoutmaster help each Scout to determine his or her goals and progress toward Scouting's aims.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT—The Scouts BSA program encourages youth to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to lead in some way, whether as part of a team, or as the leader of his or her patrol or as the senior patrol leader of the troop. Leadership development is another component of the youth-led troop.

UNIFORM—Like sports teams, the branches of the military, and even close working corporate teams, Scouts wear a uniform. We expect our Scouts to wear the uniform when they are doing Scouting, and to wear it properly. It is a symbol of who we are and what we do. Uniforms also provide a special way for Scouts to display awards earned.



SCOUTS BSA OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

What are typical Scout outdoor activities? For younger Scouts, less-rugged activities are more appropriate as they begin to acquire outdoor knowledge and skills. Older and more experienced Scouts will participate in more demanding 'high adventure' activities. Scouting activities may include the following:



Day hikes—Shorter hikes (3 to 10 miles) in terrain without a lot of elevation gain or loss.

Service projects—Day-long projects that may be related to conservation, food collection, building shelter, or healthy living activities.

Patrol activities—A Scout patrol may hike or camp with other patrols in the unit or, with the permission of their Scoutmaster and parents or guardians, may hike or camp on their own.

Weekend overnights—Troops that plan and carry out outings once a month attract and retain youth at a much higher level than those that have fewer outings during the year.



Camporees—Councils and districts plan camporees and other outings during the year that give Scouts an opportunity to test their knowledge and skills in competitive events with other troops and patrols.

Summer camp—Summer camp is what many Scouts enjoy most. Camp programs provide numerous opportunities for Scouts to earn merit badges along their advancement trail. Resident camp includes at least five nights and six days of fun outdoor activities.

Jamborees—Every four years, the Boy Scouts of America hosts a national Scout jamboree. More than 40,000 Scouts and leaders from across the country participate in this 10-day event filled with the most popular and highest quality outdoor activities Scouts enjoy. To participate, a Scout must be at least 12 years of age by July 1st of the jamboree year and be a First Class Scout.

Council high adventure—A high-adventure experience includes at least five nights and six days of trekking in wilderness and other rugged, remote locations. Trekking may include backpacking, canoeing, mountain biking, horse packing, mountain climbing, ski touring, rafting, kayaking, or a host of other outdoor adventures. Participants must be at least 13 years old by January 1st of the year they participate.

National high adventure—The BSA operates national high-adventure bases and programs. With two locations in the Florida Keys, the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base offers a variety of aquatic and boating programs. The Northern Tier National High Adventure Program, based in northern Minnesota with two satellite bases in Canada, provides a variety of canoe treks and programs. Philmont Scout Ranch in the mountains of New Mexico provides excellent backpacking treks. The Summit in the wilds of West Virginia, is an adventure center for anyone who loves the outdoors. Age requirements for these programs vary, but most programs are rugged and designed for older Scouts.



Unit high adventure—The highest level of challenge for a troop or team is to plan and carry out its own high-adventure experience. These activities for more experienced Scouts are planned and implemented by youth members with coaching from their adult leaders.

THE SCOUTS BSA ADVANCEMENT TRAIL TO EAGLE



Scout

Scouting Basics – The Scout rank covers the basic information youth need to know to be good Scouts. New Scouts should earn it soon after joining a troop. Requirements include knowledge of the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan, as well as the Outdoor Code, structure of the troop, patrol method and advancement and basic knowledge of knots, ropes, and knife safety. Scouts joining the troop must also earn the CyberCHIP Award for their grade level.



Tenderfoot

Safety, fitness and high adventure preparedness – The Tenderfoot Scout shows and packs camping gear, camps overnight with the troop in a tent he or she helps pitch, ties more complicated knots, participates in a flag ceremony, helps prepare meals and can describe safe hiking and trail rules. By now, the Scout can demonstrate basic first aid skills and has shown improvement in personal physical fitness benchmarks.



Second Class

Camping – The Second Class Scout demonstrates compass work and basic orienteering and map reading on a 5 mile hike. He or she must demonstrate basic fire building, axe sharpening and use and prepare a meal for their patrol. Safe swimming, more advanced first aid, and identification of dangerous wildlife is also required. The Scout is introduced to service projects; an essential component of Scouting with this rank.



First Class

Independence and self-sufficiency – The First Class Scout demonstrates that they can now fend for themselves in the outdoors. They demonstrate how to correctly identify direction and location without a compass. Their cooking skills are put to the test as he plans and executes a full day's menu using safe food handling and a hot stove. By now, they're a productive member of the troop since they've participated in at least 10 troop activities, held at least one position of authority and has attempted to recruit new youth. As well, the First Class Scout has met with elected officials or other civic leaders.



Star

Service – The Star Scout transitions into a new role in the troop. They now lead, not just learn. The emphasis on their development is driven by leadership to their troop and service to their community. Requirements include earning additional community service hours and focusing on a variety of subjects in sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers.



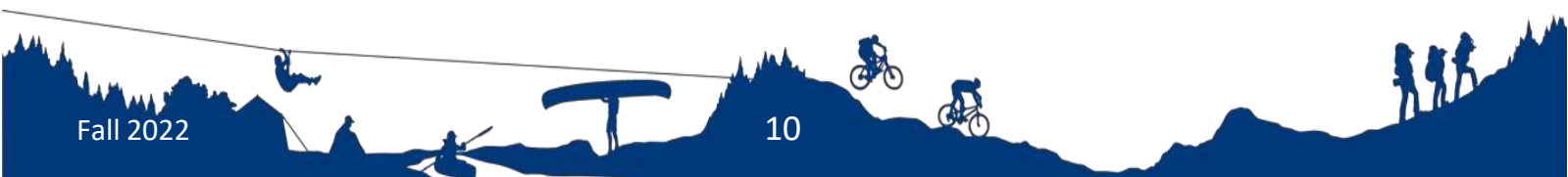
Life

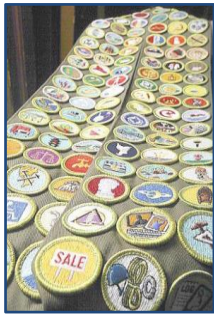
Leadership and Eagle preparedness – The Life Scout leads by example. Their commitment can be summed up by tenure, community service and leadership positions within the troop. It's time for the scout to take a serious look at their path to Eagle Scout and to mentor other scouts in the troop to reach the same goal.

Eagle

The Goal – Eagle Scouts must complete 21 merit badges and a comprehensive and challenging Eagle Scout service project that must pass rigorous standards from BSA and substantially benefit a community or service organization other than the Boy Scouts of America. The project is designed to be a long-lasting tribute to the hard work and legacy of Scouting. Eagle Scouts can go on to earn Eagle Palms beyond the Eagle Scout rank. The Palms demonstrate continued involvement in the Scouting program.

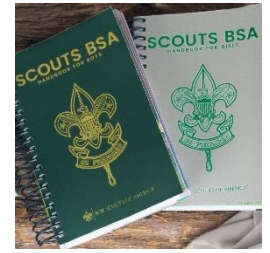
Along the way, Scouts can be elected leader- such as patrol leader or senior patrol leader, or an appointed leader- such as quartermaster, webmaster, historian, assistant senior patrol leader, den chief, & others.





THE SCOUTS BSA MERIT BADGE PROGRAM

Scouts learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers as they choose from among 130 merit badges. Scouts may earn a merit badge at any time – they do not need to have had rank advancement to be eligible.



How do Scouts go about earning a merit badge?

Pick a Subject. Scouts should talk to their unit leaders and fellow Scouts about their interest in earning a merit badge. They should read the requirements of the merit badges they think might interest them. They then choose one to earn. The unit leader will give the Scout a signed merit badge application (the “blue card”) and the name and contact information of a merit badge counselor. These individuals have special knowledge in their merit badge subjects and are interested in helping Scouts.

Use the Scout Buddy System. Scouts must have another person with them at each meeting with the merit badge counselor. This person can be another Scout, a parent or guardian, a brother or sister or other relative, or a friend.

Call the Merit Badge Counselor. Scouts need to get in touch with the merit badge counselor and tell them that they want to earn the merit badge. The counselor may ask to meet the Scout to explain what is expected and to start helping the Scout complete the requirements. Scouts should also discuss work that they have already started or possibly completed.

Unless otherwise specified, work for a requirement can be started at any time. Scouts should ask their counselor to help them learn the things they need to know or do. Scouts should obtain and read the merit badge pamphlet on the subject.

Show Your Stuff. When the Scout is ready, they should call the counselor again to make an appointment. When they go, they should take along the things they have made to meet the requirements. If they are too big to move, they can take pictures or have an adult tell in writing what the Scout has done. The counselor will test the Scout on each requirement to make sure they know their stuff and have done or can do the things required.

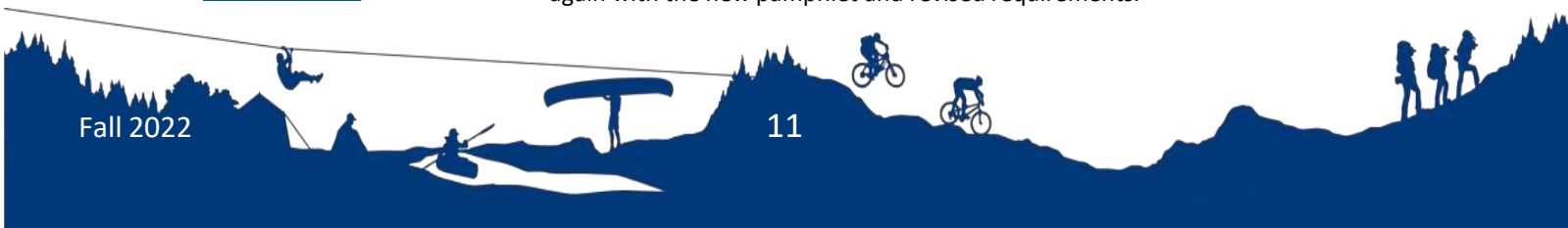


Get the Badge. When the counselor is satisfied that the Scout has met each requirement, they will sign the Scout’s application (the “blue card”). Scouts should then give the signed application to their unit leader so that the merit badge emblem can be secured and awarded to the Scout.

Requirements. Scouts are expected to meet the requirements as they are stated—no more and no less. Scouts must do exactly what is stated in the requirements. If it says, “show or demonstrate,” then that is what the Scout must do. Just telling about it isn’t enough. The same thing holds true for such words as “make,” “list,” “in the field,” and “collect,” “identify,” and “label.”

The requirements found on-line at <http://www.scouting.org/meritbadges.aspx> are the official requirements of the Boy Scouts of America. However, the requirements presented on the webpage may not match those in the *Scouts BSA Handbook* and the merit badge pamphlets, because these publications are updated only when the *Scouts BSA Requirements* book is updated.

If a Scout has already started working on a merit badge when a new edition of the pamphlet is introduced, *the Scout may continue to use the same merit badge pamphlet and fulfill the requirements therein to earn the badge.* Scouts do not need to start all over again with the new pamphlet and revised requirements.



THE FINANCIAL INVESTMENT IN YOUR CHILD

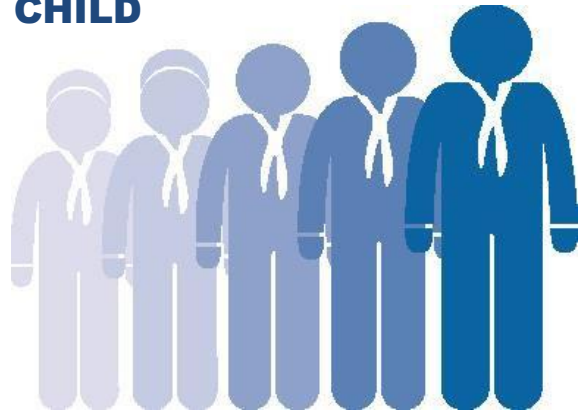
So what does Scouts BSA cost?

BSA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

All registered youth pay annual registration and insurance fees, which go directly to the BSA national office.

The *SCOUTS BSA HANDBOOK*

Your Scout will need the *Scouts BSA Handbook*.



TROOP DUES

Each troop has its own annual budget, based on anticipated trips, activities, campout reservations, awards and advancements, summer camp, patrol equipment needed, summer camping fees, etc. Troops fund their annual budgets in many ways. Often dues are charged to each Scout family to help fund the budget. Additionally, many troops participate in the council-sponsored Trail's End Popcorn Sale, which can offset or eliminate troop dues for Scout families and also help Scouts raise enough money for their summertime camp experience. Your troop leadership will explain in detail how their budget, dues and fundraisers are handled.

THE SCOUT UNIFORM

The Scout uniform has served for over 100 years as an expression of friendliness to all Scouts, regardless of who they are, where they're from, or what their backgrounds may be. The uniform represents Scouting's spirit of equality and democracy.



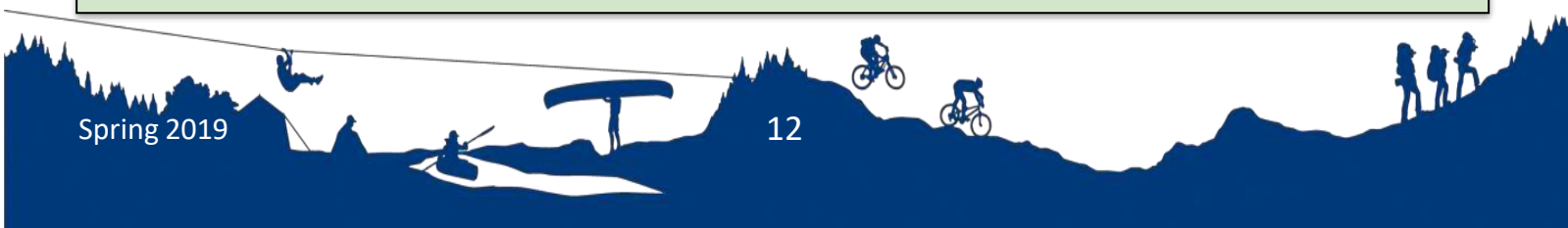
SCOUTS LIFE monthly magazine

This multifaceted magazine is written for Scouts. The mission of *Scouts Life* is to "entertain and educate America's youth and to open their eyes to the joyous world of reading." Since 1911, *Scouts Life* magazine has published more than 1,000 issues, and it has attracted more than 4 million readers! Today *Scouts Life* stands alone as the premier magazine for youth concerned with good reading and good character. Although it's optional, we highly encourage subscriptions. (Many former Scouts still have a library of every issue they received when they were Scouts!)

GEAR

One of the most notable facets of Scouting is the outdoor programs; and in order for your son to safely and successfully participate, he may need some specific clothing or equipment. Although some troops may provide some of the gear that would be used by the scouts as a group (such as tents, stoves, coolers, cookware, etc.), there will be personal items your son will need to make sure he enjoys his experiences. Such items include--but are not limited to--weather-appropriate clothing, hiking boots, sleeping bags, a backpack, a flashlight, etc. Different activities require different gear. Your troop leadership will use their expertise and experience to help both parents and Scouts learn what they need, what to look for, and where to find it at a reasonable cost.

NOTE: In cases of financial difficulty, troops will often work with their chartering organizations to assist any youth in obtaining whatever financial support he needs to allow him to participate fully in the Scouting program. The Columbia Montour Council also has a special assistance program for families in need. See your Scoutmaster to arrange for any support you feel is necessary.





Columbia Montour Council

Columbia Montour Council's WEBSITE contains general information about all aspects of Scouting in our council, as well as forms, online registration for events, and pages devoted to advancement:

columbiamountourbsa.org



Instagram

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

National recruiting website

BeAScout.org

The Scouts BSA troops in your area are members of a larger Scouting family that is called the Columbia Montour Council. The Columbia Montour Council is a nonprofit corporation whose responsibility is to provide the programs of the Boy Scouts of America (including Cub Scouting) to all of the communities in its geographical area. It is the council's responsibility to give Scout troops the tools and resources they need to provide a quality character-building program for your child.

The Columbia Montour Council, BSA supports over 600 youth members and 400 volunteers in Columbia and Montour Counties of Pennsylvania. We help provide outstanding opportunities for today's youth from all backgrounds and communities in our service area, guided by Scouting's core values as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law. Our motivated, energetic, and experienced volunteers and staff are dedicated to delivering Scouting's programs and services, utilizing all of our resources and the latest technologies. Most importantly, youth members and their families come to us for great times and adventures to be cherished for a lifetime.

The Columbia Montour Council provides localized support, training, and programming. In addition to local volunteer support, a local Scouting professional is provided by the Columbia Montour Council to give leadership and guidance to the Scouting volunteers in your community. District volunteers, aided by professional staffers and administrative personnel based at the council's service center in Cedar Knolls, provide unit oversight and support, volunteer training, and special annual and seasonal events for the hundreds of packs, troops, crews, and posts comprising the council.

In addition, the Council helps provide recruitment events so units can serve more youth. The recruitment program is called Home Town Scouting Pride. Scouts and units can work to earn the patch. One way is for scouts to invite their friends to recruitment events and unit activities. The booklet is available from the Council Office and on the Council website under Unit & Membership / Membership Resources.

Green forests... blue waters... soft sand... three-squares a day! Archery, swimming, rappelling, hiking, lifesaving, competition, afternoon nap, Nature Center, rifle range, shotgun shooting, crafts, canoeing, sports, sailing, rowing, lifeguard training, songs, skits, friends, memories, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera. A highlight of any Scout's adventure lies in the great outdoors! To help promote and facilitate that, local camp properties are also provided and maintained by the council for your use. Our camp is Camp Lavigne in Benton, PA.

AS A COUNCIL, WE ARE COMMITTED TO REMAINING FINANCIALLY SOUND, SERVING AS TRUSTWORTHY STEWARDS OF ALL THE ASSETS ENTRUSTED TO US.



YOUTH PROTECTION



Now, a specific word about **Youth Protection**. The Boy Scouts of America has had a very strong program in place for many years to protect our youth from abuse of all kinds. We require ALL of our leaders to be trained in Youth Protection, and to refresh that training at regular intervals. There are key rules we follow that you will hear about, such as two-deep leadership and no one-on-ones. That means that there should never be a situation where a Scout leader is alone with a single Scout. Where a female Scout is present, there must be at least one registered female adult leader, age 21 or older, present as well. All parents are strongly encouraged to take Scouts BSA Youth Protection training, which is available on-line at my.scouting.org under e-training.



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Our Scouting leaders are WELL TRAINED! In addition to Youth Protection training, to be a trained Scoutmaster or assistant Scoutmaster also requires Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills and Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Specific Training as detailed below:

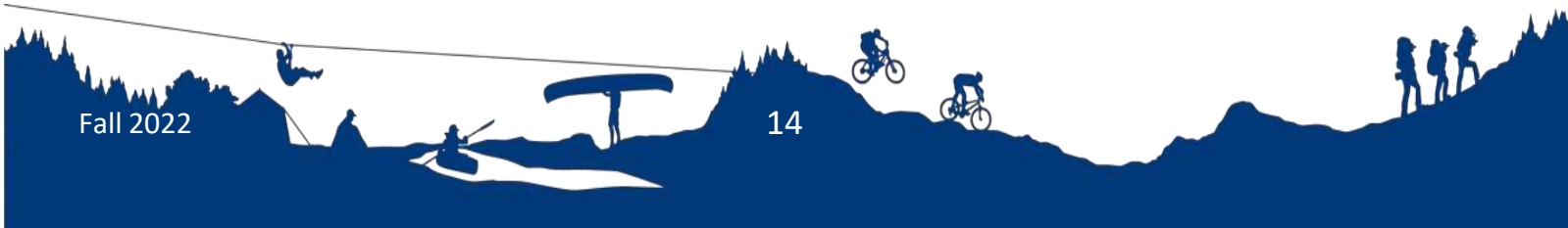


- Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills is a weekend course that offers all the skills necessary to provide for the outdoor portion of the Scouting program. Columbia Montour Council offers this course multiple times each year.
- Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training is completed in one full day or three evenings. This course concentrates on troop operations.

There is also a Fast Start Training which is a good first step for any new volunteer. It is available on-line at myscouting.org.

'This is Scouting' is a two hour training for ALL adult leaders involved in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, or Venturing. New parents might also benefit from this training where you will learn all of the basic facts and policies of the Boy Scouts of America.

And there is much more training available to help you be a better leader. See the Columbia Montour Council website for details on many local training opportunities.



MY TROOP INFORMATION

(Units may wish to substitute their own page here)

I am in the Columbia Montour Council.

Troop number: _____.

Scoutmaster's name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chartered Organization: _____.

Patrol name: _____.

Date/Time of first troop meeting: _____.

Date/Time of first patrol meeting: _____.

This years' planned fundraisers: _____

This years' planned community service: _____

Other:

I can reach the council service center by calling 570-784-2700
www.columbiamountourbsa.org

