


Welcome to “Adventures in Boy Scouting”! We meet to present a boy’s adventure with limitless possibilities and friendships that will last a lifetime. I am _____ and it’s my pleasure to share our program with your family and tell you why your son definitely has got to become a Boy Scout.


This presentation is an overview of the companion booklet with the same name, that we have developed to acquaint you with the Boy Scouting program. When we’re done, it’s our hope that most of your questions will be answered and you’ll be ready to entrust your son to an organization with over 100 years of rich history and tradition. As a parent, your sense of pride will shine as you watch your son grow from boyhood to manhood. The adventure begins with small journeys and culminates in astonishing leadership as well as community and national service.



Tonight's Overview

We will be discussing:

- Why join Boy Scouting?
- Boy Scouts is a youth-led program
- Your role
- Organization & Program
- Activities & Advancement
- Costs & Safety



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When you walk away from this presentation you can expect to know more about what your son will get out of Scouting ...



When your son joins our troop, he crosses a threshold and immediately starts to develop a growing sense of confidence. He will find in Scouting limitless adventures of the mind and body. In the Scouting program he becomes a member of a greater world of youth leaders. The BSA provides your son with virtually endless opportunities for self-education and cooperative relationships. The truly unique feature of Scouting is that it is a youth-led program that teaches by example, skill development, and democratic principles.

**THIS IS WHERE THE ADVENTURES BEGIN...
YOUR INTRODUCTION TO SCOUTING**

THE SCOUT'S BASIC PRECEPTS ARE ENCOMPASSED

IN THE:

- Scout Oath**
- Scout Law**
- Scout Motto**
- Scout Slogan**
- Outdoor Code**



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We believe that the Scout Oath and Law set the stage for true citizenship and provides a backbone and strength to our nation. When you hear the words of these recited, you will understand and take pride in this principled and wholesome way of life – for Scouting truly becomes a way of life by instilling strong values in each boy. Scouting honors the home, school, and religious organizations as the origins of our youths' values. Scouting's goal is to nurture and extend these values by emphasizing the Scout Oath and Law.

**IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT FOR YOUR SON?
QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK HIM...**



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

"Are you ready to become an expert in a large range of skills?"



We all want the best for our children. That you are even here shows that you are a wise parent and want the best for your son, and this is what Scouting provides – the best. It is truly remarkable – your son’s sense of eagerness, personal responsibility, skill, and stature will develop before your very eyes. There are many paths in this adventure that your son will learn to follow with both skill and character.

**IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT FOR YOUR SON?
QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK HIM...**

"Would you like to develop lifelong friendships?"



"Do you want to strengthen your religious beliefs
and your concern for the environment?"



In addition, the friendships your son will acquire along the way will become lifelong treasures. Memories will become the source of joy and laughter. There are many paths to success and Scouting encourages each boy to grow in his faith and understand his place in the universe. Scouting is grounded in God and country. The beauty of the natural world is the stage upon which each Scout treks and the treasures of the earth are carried in the heart of every Scout.

BOY SCOUTS IS A "YOUTH-LED" PROGRAM

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.**



Boy Scouting is a “youth-led” program. One of the most difficult *adult* adjustments in moving from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts, or for those *new* to Scouting -- is allowing the boy leaders to take ownership for the Boy Scout troop. While adults are responsible for safety and youth mentoring, the boys must be allowed to develop leadership skill by using them, and, sometimes by messing them up. They will learn as much by mistakes as by successes. Adult leaders are trained that their role is to create a safe environment within which the Scouts can learn, grow, explore, play, and take on responsibilities. We want the youth leadership to lead, but we don’t want them to be overwhelmed – so we are there when they need us.

PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' ROLE



Your Role

- Help your son succeed
- Be supportive
- Provide encouragement





Volunteer Leadership

- Consider serving as Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster(s), committee chairperson, troop committee members, and chartered organization representative
- To become a Scouting volunteer is one of the finest decisions you'll ever make.



Training is Available

- Tools are available to help you succeed
- Training is both online and "live"
- Learn all about cooperation and teamwork

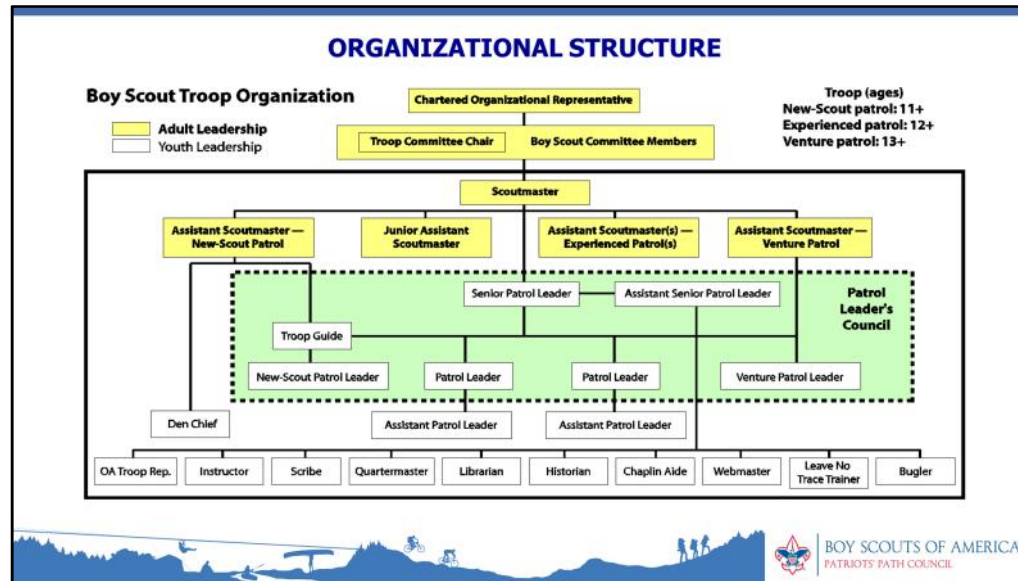


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So even though Boy Scouting is a youth-led program, there are plenty of roles you can volunteer for, and ways you can participate. First and foremost, though - just be a caring, encouraging, and supportive parent!

You should also know that being an example can make a big difference in your son's enthusiasm for Boy Scouts. While it may not be obvious, it will make an impression when he sees you actively involved in the troop as a registered leader or just helping as much as you are able in volunteering to assist with unit activities. So, if you might be inclined to take on a more active role, parents are **the** primary source of leaders in the Scouting program! There are two ways you can get involved in your son's Troop: either as the Scoutmaster or an assistant Scoutmaster, or as a member of the Troop Committee -- which is a group of adults who maintain and supports the troop behind the scenes.

Many of the training courses you'd need to take for any of these roles can be done online, and some are live training courses conducted by your District and Council. You'll learn more about these from your son's Troop Committee Chair when you sign up as a BSA volunteer.



NOTE: You may wish to customize the below text to reflect how your unit is organized.

This next slide looks a LOT more intimidating than it actually is. Simply put - this org chart is a representation of a typical Boy Scout troop. It isn't perfect, it doesn't include everything, and not every troop will be structured exactly this way. This is just meant to give you an idea of how everything works together.




Your son will not just be a member of our troop, but he'll also be a member of one of our patrols that makes up the troop. The most important thing for you to take away from this image is the fact that the youth leadership positions—the Patrol Leaders Council—is at the center of the organization. Remember, the troop is “youth-led” – this is the heart of the Boy Scout program.

Beyond that basic structure, there are many additional support and leadership positions within a troop that the Scouts can volunteer for or be voted into. Some are shown here at the bottom of the slide. And at the top of the slide, in yellow, you can see the adult leadership, and how they all interact with each other and the Scouts.

THE BOY SCOUTING PROGRAM

The Scouting program has three aims: character development, citizenship training, and physical and mental fitness. What makes Boy Scouting unique is that it has **eight methods** it uses to achieve those aims.

1. **IDEALS** - *The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan.*
2. **PATROL METHOD** - *Patrols are small groups of Scouts who camp, play, and learn together.*
3. **OUTDOOR PROGRAMS** - *Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors.*
4. **ADVANCEMENT** - *Scouts learn progressively more difficult skills and take on greater responsibilities.*
5. **ASSOCIATIONS WITH ADULTS** - *Boys learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves.*
6. **PERSONAL GROWTH** - *Boys develop and mature as they work toward and achieve their goals.*
7. **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** - *Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills.*
8. **UNIFORM** - *It is a symbol of who we are and what we do.*

OK. So you now know a little bit about who we are and how we are structured. Let's begin to talk about what we do and how we do it.

The Scouting program focuses on three aims: character development, citizenship training, and physical and mental fitness. What makes our program so unique are the eight methods that define Scouting and that are used to achieve those aims.

Your son will grow and show his true character by living his life by the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Being youth-led provides Scouts with many opportunities to practice and hone true leadership skills within patrols, where they will be responsible for their own planning, problem solving, and teamwork. **It will be *their* job to select activities that *they* choose and work with adult leaders to achieve the goals *they* set.**

As stated in the Oath, a Scout is Physically Strong, Mentally Awake, and Morally Straight. Our Scouts stay strong by spending most of their time outdoors and if they are indoors, they will more than likely be doing laundry. Whether it is hiking, camping, biking, trekking, or community service, a Scout is always challenging themselves both mentally and physically.

A well-structured and highly attainable advancement program is strongly encouraged, but never forced; the pride and accomplishment it offers helps your Scout grow into an intelligent and confident member of society.

The Scout uniform is recognized all over the world. It sends a message – that the person wearing it lives by a code of conduct and

service to others. It identifies us as a positive force and doing a good deed daily is a fine creed to follow, regardless of your age or occupation.

WHAT ARE TYPICAL BOY SCOUT OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES?

Day hikes
Service projects
Patrol activities
Weekend overnights
Camporees
Summer camp
Jamborees
Council high adventure
National high adventure
Unit high adventure

Summit
 BECHTEL RESERVE™

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NOTE: You may wish to customize the below text to reflect your unit’s outdoor program activities.

Let me begin by saying that “typical” may or may not apply to Boy Scout activities! Today, Scouting is more than setting up a tent in the woods or a hike along the road. Boys can do a variety of activities not even thought of by previous generations: zip lines, high adventure, winter extreme camping, or doing a community service project. None of these activities can be called typical.

The initial program is geared toward the inexperienced Scout. Service projects, day hikes, and patrol activities are great ways to get your son’s “feet wet” and act as a solid means to test their independence and the ability to work well with others on local and safer, shorter term activities. Weekend overnights, council and district held camporees, and summer camps begin to allow the boys to “up their game”. They experience more challenging outdoor activities where they can earn merit badges, engage in more competitive and skill-based programs to test their knowledge, and help with other advancements.

National Jamborees are held every 4 years by the BSA, and up to 40,000 scouts and leaders from around the country participate in a 10-day event filled with the most popular and highest quality outdoor activities that Scouting has to offer. The BSA also operates a number of breathtaking National High Adventure bases around the country that are geared more towards our older scouts.

As your son grows, he can engage in the more rigorous and physically demanding outdoor activities with the confidence and knowledge he will learn as he progresses through the Scouting program. Ultimately our Scouts can safely choose and plan their own treks and camping trips where they can truly test their limits, safely and well trained to do so.



Boy Scouts — and particularly, the advancement of a young man through the ranks to Eagle — is often likened to a journey; and it is. But the Scouting Path can and will be different things to different boys.

To some young men, it simply means camaraderie, camping, and other fun experiences - and that's ok! Their Scouting Path will still be filled with lessons and memories that your son will always carry with him. But for those who have a *little* more drive... a *little* more ambition... a *little* more vision... willing to work a *little* harder... the Scouting Path of rank advancement is a more challenging journey which ends at a higher peak with a singularly rewarding view. And it's a path that has been defined by over 100 years of experience and tradition.

At the summit of that path is the **EAGLE SCOUT**. Statistically, only four percent of Scouts — that's just four out of every hundred — will attain Eagle. But those young men are recognized world-wide to have achieved something very special - an experience that will have a lasting effect on who they'll be and how they'll conduct themselves as adults. This is an honor that stands out in college recruitment, job application, and even military service - because of the commitment, service, and leadership a Scout has to demonstrate to become an Eagle.

This is what the Scouting Path *can* mean to a willing young man, with a family or guardians willing to support him on his journey! And this is exactly what we want for your son ...

THE BOY SCOUT MERIT BADGE PROGRAM

Choose from among 130 merit badges.



How do Scouts go about earning a merit badge?

- 1. Pick a Subject.**
- 2. Use the Scout Buddy System.**
- 3. Call the Merit Badge Counselor.**
- 4. Unless specified, work for a requirement can be started at any time.**
- 5. Show Your Stuff.**
- 6. Get the Badge.**
- 7. Requirements.**



Whether a young man chooses to apply himself towards rank advancement, or decides to use Scouting simply as a way to learn and experience new things, the merit badge program offers 130 topics that Scouts can explore and earn! They can learn about sports, crafts, sciences, trades and business; and it's not unusual for a Scout's experience in a particular merit badge to lead to a lifelong hobby, or even a future career. From Animal Science and Archery to Robotics, Welding, and Woodworking, there are merit badges that appeal to all ages, interests, and abilities.

And while Scouts are expected to take the initiative to pursue merit badges on their own, they receive guidance and mentorship from volunteers serving as merit badge counselors. All are registered with the BSA and maintain our high standards of training and integrity – and all bring expertise, skill, and education in the subjects they support.

There *are* a few merit badges that have some age restrictions; but generally speaking - any Boy Scout can earn a merit badge at any time, regardless of rank. So whether it's a required badge for Eagle or just something that sounds like a lot of fun, there is plenty to keep every Scout interested and occupied!

THE FINANCIAL INVESTMENT IN YOUR SON
So what does Boy Scouting cost?



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

TROOP DUES
Each troop has its own annual budget, based on its needs and anticipated program.

THE BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK - Your son will need the Boy Scout Handbook.

BOY SCOUT UNIFORM - The uniform represents Scouting's spirit of equality and democracy.

BOYS' LIFE MAGAZINE - This multifaceted magazine is written for boys your son's age.

"GEAR" - One of the most notable facets of Scouting is the outdoor programs; different activities require different gear. Your troop leadership will guide you as to what your Scout will need.





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NOTE: You may wish to customize the below text to reflect how your unit addresses its financial support.

So what are the costs?

The annual fees go towards the operational expenses that keep the BSA organization running at the council and national levels. The insurance covers your son on any Boy Scouting event, from the action-packed high-adventure trips to the slow and steady flag ceremonies.

Our troop collects dues for _____. Our troops also hold fundraisers to _____.

The handbook is the single-greatest resource into your son's time in the troop. It spells out his journey over the next few years. It becomes his log to track his accomplishments and a tool to motivate him to keep going (in addition to his parents' necessary nudges here and there).

As discussed earlier, the uniform sends a message that your son lives by a code of conduct and service to others. As your son grows within the program, his uniform will grow in meaning and pride for him. All pieces of the uniform are available at one of our council's Scout Shops and detailed information can be found in your guidebook. **(OPTIONAL:** Our unit also maintains a store of gently used uniforms. We can't guarantee that every piece and in the correct size is available, but what we do have you are most welcome to.)

The *Boys Life* magazine is a publication by the Boy Scouts of America that has won multiple *Parents' Choice Approved Awards*. It includes articles about Scouts throughout the country and their adventures, their service, their advancement, their fun. Although an optional piece, this magazine offers reading opportunities about your son's new adventure and only costs \$1 a month.

"Gear" is a notable item, for sure. Your Scout will need gear appropriate for the conditions or activity. When the time comes we'll be here to help you and your

son to be prepared to participate safely in every event.

If your family needs to discuss some financial assistance, please see any of our adult leaders privately after the presentation.

PATRIOTS' PATH COUNCIL, BSA
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Patriots' Path'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 our individual Districts:
www.ppbsa.org

Patriots' Path is on FACEBOOK. Follow this link:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Patriots-Path-Council-BSA/118439656462>


Patriots' Path TWEETS. Follow this link:
<http://twitter.com/patriotspath>

BSA's national website is:
www.Scouting.org




We are lucky that our unit is part of the Patriots' Path Council – one of the best councils in the entire northeast. On this slide we see the contact information for our council offices. It is also the location of one of our fantastic Scout Shops – with our other Shop located in Mountainside. The main web site, www.ppbsa.org, is your go-to site for answers on upcoming events, forms, registration, and more. It often links out to the national BSA site (which is also at the bottom here), so you can find answers to most of your questions. The council also puts out timely updates on social media, so we encourage your use of all of these portals.

YOUTH PROTECTION





Now, a specific word about **Youth Protection**. We require ALL of our leaders to be trained in Youth Protection, and to refresh that training at regular intervals.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
Our Scouting leaders are WELL TRAINED! To be a trained Scoutmaster or assistant Scoutmaster also requires Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills and Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Specific Training.



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

We want to assure you that the Boy Scouting program is as safe as it is fun, at all ages. The Boy Scouts of America go to great lengths to ensure that your sons' experiences are protected through ongoing training, rules, and practices which have been established specifically for our Scouts' safety.

A troop's very structure is meant to provide all participants with a clear understanding of their roles. Every adult leader agrees to a background check. All leaders receive training on appropriate interaction and behavior between youth and adults; how to better recognize signs of abuse and what to do; and all adult leaders **MUST** renew this Youth Protection training every 2 years. Rules like the "buddy-system" and "two-deep leadership" are designed to minimize the chances of improper situations arising; and bullying of any kind is not only prohibited, but it is actively discouraged.

BSA's primary goal is to create a safeguarded environment that gives our boys the best opportunity possible to learn, grow, mature, and have fun through everything the Scouting program has to offer. We actively encourage all of our parents to also take the on-line Youth Protection training so that we are all on the same page as to what the rules and expectations are. We take your son's safety very, VERY seriously.



Let me distribute to you your son's registration form, our annual calendar for the coming year, and the contact information you'll need to reach out to us (DISTRIBUTE) ... and with that let me cordially welcome you to Troop XXX. I assure you that joining Boy Scouts will be one of the best decision you and your son will make together. I recognize that this presentation is just a brief overview of the more detailed information you'll be able to find in the *Adventures in Boy Scouting* guidebook. We hope that in the weeks and months to come we can answer your questions as they arise. Let me give you a few minutes to fill out the registration form and I'll walk around and assist you or answer questions as you do so ... Who needs a pen?? 😊

NOTE: Please be sure to customize the troop number on the slide. 😊