

Be Prepared



It's more than a motto, it's a way of life. Being prepared means having the ability to deal with the many tough challenges life presents—that's what Scouting is all about. Through its time-tested program, Scouting provides young people with opportunities to mentor to their peers, build character, and enrich their faith. These activities build stronger family bonds and help youth reach their full potential by instilling values that last a lifetime.

One of the strengths of the Scouting program is the unique relationship between religious and community organizations, parents, and leaders. Working together, they are able to focus the necessary resources and leadership on the single task of serving youth. The result is children, families, and communities that are stronger and better prepared for the future.

I am Prepared



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Cub Scouts

I PROMISE TO DO MY
BEST TO DO MY DUTY
TO GOD AND MY
COUNTRY, TO HELP
OTHER PEOPLE, AND
TO OBEY THE LAW
OF THE PACK.



Cub Scouting is a year-round program uniquely designed to meet the needs of young boys and their parents. The program offers fun and challenging activities that promote character development and physical fitness.

Service projects, ceremonies, games, and other activities guide boys through the core values and give them a sense of personal achievement. Through positive peer group interaction and parental guidance, boys also learn honesty, bravery, and respect.

Family involvement is an essential part of Cub Scouting, and parents are encouraged to play an active role in the program. Through interaction between parents, leaders, and friends, boys learn citizenship, compassion, and courage. This family- and community-centered approach to learning means that Cub Scouting is truly time well spent.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q What are the requirements to join Cub Scouts?

Tiger Cubs (first grade or age 7), Cub Scouts (second or third grade, or age 8 or 9), Webelos Scouts (fourth or fifth grade, or age 10).

Q What does Cub Scouting offer my son?

Cub Scouting uses specific methods to achieve Scouting's aims of helping boys build character, train in the responsibilities of citizenship, and develop personal fitness.

Q How does Cub Scouting develop character and values?

Character is part of everything a Cub Scout does. Character development lessons can be found in every aspect of the Cub Scout experience. In an effort to make character development an integral part of Cub Scouting, the 12 core values are integrated throughout the boys' handbooks and advancement program.

The core values are:

- Citizenship
- Compassion
- Cooperation
- Courage
- Faith
- Health and Fitness
- Honesty
- Perseverance
- Positive Attitude
- Resourcefulness
- Respect
- Responsibility

Q What are the responsibilities of a parent?

- Provide help and support for the den and pack.
- Work with your son on advancement projects and activities.
- Attend pack meetings with your son and present his advancement awards to him at the pack meeting.
- Attend and assist with den outings.
- Attend Cub Scout family campouts with your son.

Q Do Cub Scouts go camping?

Yes, but they ease into it, beginning with what we call "soft camping." They may go camping with a parent, or even their entire family.

Q How much is it going to cost?

The national registration fee to join Cub Scouts is \$10 per year. *Boys' Life* magazine, the official publication of the Boy Scouts of America, is \$9 per year. Other costs include uniforms, insignia, and handbooks. Youth members participate in fund-raising projects and pay dues to cover the cost of the events, activities, and equipment. This teaches boys to earn their own way and teaches the value of money.

Boy Scouts

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.



Most people associate Boy Scouting

with outdoor adventure—and with good reason. Scouting is an outdoor program designed to develop character, citizenship, and fitness. With the Scout Oath and Law as a guide, Scouting helps a boy develop into a well-rounded young man.

Through the advancement program, a Scout can progress in rank through achievements, gaining additional knowledge and responsibilities. Earning merit badges provides opportunities for Scouts to be introduced to a lifelong hobby or a rewarding career.

In Boy Scouting, youth take responsibility for the activities of the troop. By planning and organizing activities, they develop teamwork and learn to lead as well as follow. Through the support of parents and religious and neighborhood organizations, Scouts develop an awareness and appreciation of their role in their community.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q What makes Boy Scouts different from other youth organizations?

The Scouting program has a lot of unique features; the most unique is that Scout troops are boy-led and boy-run. Adults train youth members to assume leadership positions, and boys are allowed to plan the program and carry it out.

Q Can a boy be a Scout and still be active in sports and other activities?

Scouts are encouraged to be active in their community, and many do. Athletic programs are seasonal, but Scouting is year-round. The values youth learn in Scouting may help them excel in other activities.

Q Why would a parent want their son to be in Boy Scouts?

Parents want their sons to be in an organization that teaches values. The Boy Scouts of America is a values-based organization that has its own code of conduct: the Scout Oath, Law, motto, and slogan.

Q Do you have to have been a Cub Scout to become a Boy Scout?

No. Any boy between the ages of 11 and 17 may be eligible to join the Boy Scouts.

Q Isn't Scouting just about tying knots and camping?

Scouting was chartered by Congress as an educational organization. Every year, Scouts earn over 1 million merit badges; every merit badge is an educational experience. Currently, there are 120 different merit badges.

Q What is the significance of the Eagle Scout Award?

The Eagle Scout Award is the highest rank a boy can achieve in Scouting. A boy who has earned the Eagle badge will have all of the fundamental outdoor skills and be proficient in camping, hiking, cooking, and first aid. He will have earned at least 21 merit badges that symbolize knowledge and achievement. He will also have held leadership positions and participated in numerous community service projects, one of which he personally planned and directed. More important, the lessons of discipline, character, and service learned in earning this highest honor last a lifetime.

Venturing

AS A VENTURER, I PROMISE
TO DO MY DUTY TO GOD
AND HELP STRENGTHEN
AMERICA, TO HELP OTHERS,
AND TO SEEK TRUTH,
FAIRNESS, AND ADVENTURE
IN OUR WORLD.



Venturing is a program for young men and young women ages 14 through 20. Venturing is one of the fastest growing programs in the Boy Scouts of America.

The purpose of Venturing is to provide experiences to help young people mature and become responsible and caring adults. Young people in Venturing learn leadership skills and participate in challenging outdoor activities.

Venturing focuses resources that help a community organization provide wholesome, flexible, well-rounded, challenging activities, tailor-made for teenage youth. Those resources include access to Boy Scout camping properties, a recognition program, youth protection training, and specific program helps for a variety of outdoor disciplines.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q Does joining Venturing require previous Scouting background?

Any young person ages 14 to 20 can join Venturing. No previous Scouting background is required.

Q Is a uniform required?

A uniform is not required in Venturing. Many Venturing crews create their own T-shirt or other way of identifying themselves with the group.

Q Does a male Venturer working on his Boy Scout advancement have to be registered as a Boy Scout?

No, he can register only as a Venturer, if preferred.

Q Can crews be all male, all female, or coed?

Yes, it is up to the chartered organization. However, one of the aspects of Venturing that makes it popular with young people is that it is coed.

Q Can a girl in the Venturing program earn Boy Scout advancement, such as merit badges and the Eagle Scout Award?

No. Girls are able to earn only Venturing advancement.

Q Why would a parent want a son or daughter to join Venturing?

A recent survey concluded that 96 percent of Venturers made new friends, 93 percent had opportunities to go places and do things they had never experienced, 91 percent were encouraged to share ideas and opinions, and 89 percent said Venturing activities helped develop more self-confidence.

Your Organization Benefits

- Your organization is providing service to the community by offering a time-tested, high-quality youth program.
- Your organization is fulfilling its mission and has strengthened community outreach.
- Your organization has greater potential for increasing and strengthening its membership by developing more responsible young adults in the community.

Chartered Organizations

The Boy Scouts of America is an educational resource. It charters churches, schools, community organizations, and other groups to use Scouting as a part of their service to their own members, as well as the community at large. Every pack, troop, or crew belongs to an organization with interests similar to those of the BSA.

By making a commitment to operate a Scouting unit, you will help enrich the lives of youth and make a difference in the kind of adults they will become. Your organization will provide an opportunity for youth to adopt and live by meaningful personal standards and have them as a cornerstone for success in life. Youth in Scouting develop into leaders who have integrity, are responsible, and show reverence to their God and respect for their country.

Today's children are tomorrow's leaders. Show the community that your organization is committed to building a better tomorrow through the youth of today.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q What does Scouting offer religious and community organizations?

Scouting provides a fun and exciting avenue for organizations to serve their own youth and families, and also to reach others in the community. For many groups, it provides a way to strengthen bonds with its members while sharing values with young people.

Q What is expected of a chartered organization when it chooses to offer Scouting?

When an organization decides to offer Scouting, it is issued a charter by the local council. Under the charter, the organization agrees to provide adequate meeting facilities and quality leadership for the unit, and to appoint a chartered organization representative to coordinate all unit operations within the organization.

Q How much time will this require of the chartered organization?

The Boy Scouts of America encourages all chartered organizations to be involved in the activities of the unit and to incorporate the activities of the unit into the life of the organization. Like many things, what a chartered organization gets out of Scouting depends on how much time it invests.

Q Does the chartered organization have a voice in the pack, troop, or crew?

The pack, troop, or crew is owned by the chartered organization, and the unit committee is the board of directors. An organization approves and selects the adult leadership, provides the meeting place, and determines how the program will be administered to meet its specific aims and purposes.

Q What kind of support does the Boy Scouts of America provide?

The BSA has developed a wide variety of support literature, materials, and adult leader training courses to help chartered organizations, adult leaders, youth members, and parents carry out the Scouting program. Local BSA councils provide leadership, management, and overall direction to organizations using the Scouting program.

Q Can a chartered organization sponsor a Cub Scout pack and not a Boy Scout troop or Venturing crew?

The Scouting program offers something for youth of almost all ages. By providing Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Venturing, the organization offers programs for all its youth. It is possible to start with Cub Scouting and to grow the Scouting program from that point on.

