

# OFFICIAL POLICY

The Boy Scouts of America has always been a uniformed body. Its uniforms help to create a sense of belonging. They symbolize character development, leadership, citizenship training, and personal fitness. Wearing a uniform gives youth and adult members a sense of identification and commitment.

**Personal equality.** The uniform represents a democratic idea of equality, bringing people of different racial, economic, religious, national, ethnic, political, and geographic backgrounds together in the Scouting tradition.

**Identification.** The uniform identifies youth and adult members of the Boy Scouts of America, visible as a force for good in the community. When properly and smartly worn, the uniform can build good unit spirit. When worn on the correct occasions, it can attract new members.

**Achievement.** The uniform shows the wearer's activity, responsibility, and achievement. What each youth or adult member has accomplished with program opportunities can be recognized by the insignia worn on the uniform.

**Personal commitment.** The uniform is a constant reminder to all Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturers, Sea Scouts, and adults of their commitment to the ideals and purpose of the Boy Scouts of America. The uniform is a way of making visible members' commitment to a belief in God, loyalty to country, and helping others at all times.

While wearing the uniform is not mandatory, it is highly encouraged. The leaders of Scouting—both volunteer and professional—promote the wearing of the correct complete uniform on all suitable occasions.

**The Rules and Regulations and policy.** The following pages contain our uniform policy as taken from the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America. The chapters contain applications of the regulations to each program area. Neither the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America, the policy, nor the program applications may be added to or changed in any way unless approved by the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America through its Pilots and Program Development Department.

Effective Oct. 1, 2013, the official stance on the Boy Scouts of America's uniform policy is that shirts and blouses are to be worn tucked in, regardless of whether the wearer is a Cub Scout, Scout, Sea Scout, Venturer, or adult Scouter. In the past, guidelines have simply stated the uniform wearer should be neat in appearance. Neatness includes tucking in the shirt or blouse. This update will appear in related resources, such as the uniform inspection sheets, as they are revised and printed.