

SHOULDER EPAULETS AND LOOPS

SHOULDER SEAM

Left sleeve, position 1  
Left sleeve, position 2a  
Left sleeve, position 2



# GUIDE TO AWARDS AND INSIGNIA



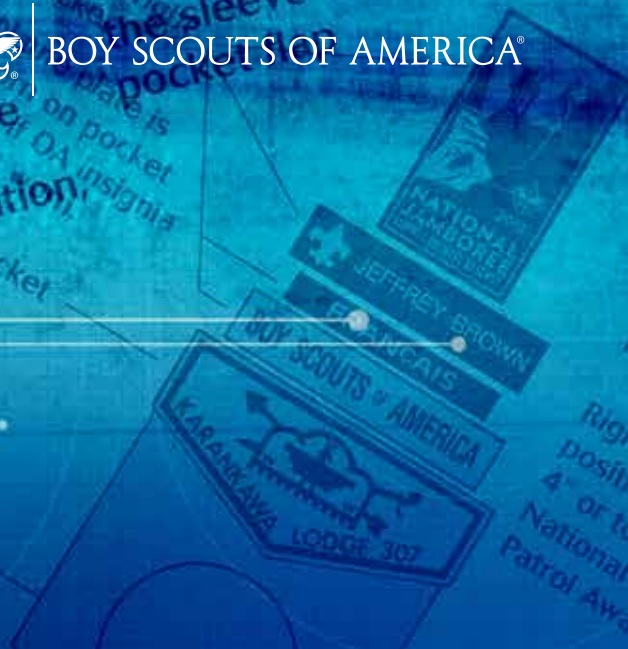
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

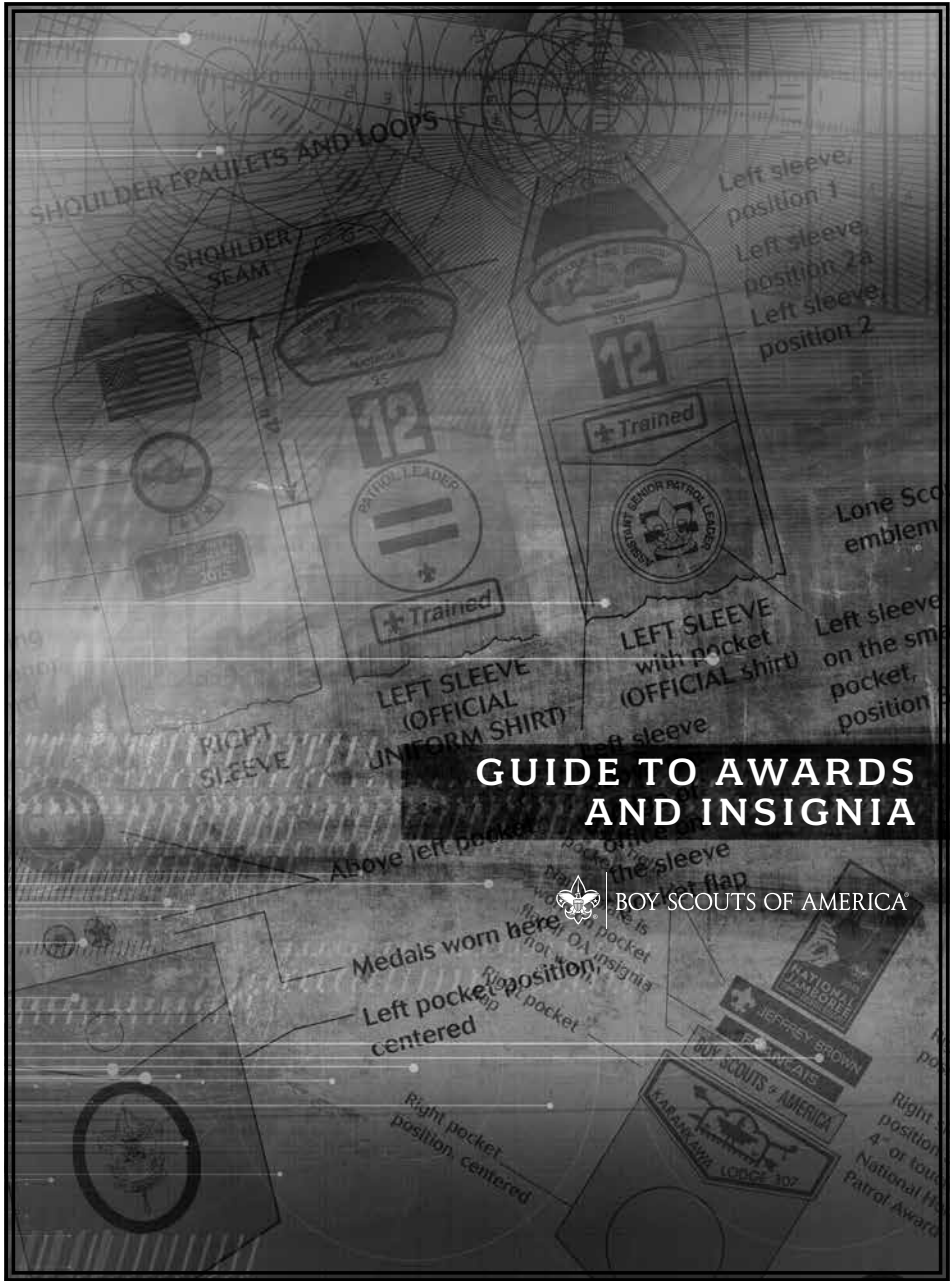
Above left pocket  
Right sleeve

Medals worn here  
Right pocket

Left pocket position centered

Right pocket position, centered





# GUIDE TO AWARDS AND INSIGNIA

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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# 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, 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, Boy Scouts, Varsity 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 Program Impact 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, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Venturer, or adult Scouter. All Sea Scout uniforms are designed to be tucked in except youth dress whites and youth dress blues. 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.



# EXCERPTS FROM THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

The name of the Corporation is Boy Scouts of America. For convenience, in the Rules and Regulations the word “Corporation” is sometimes used instead of the official name.

## Policies

### Article IX, Section 2

#### Participation in Public Functions

**Clause 2.** The officers and leaders of the Boy Scouts of America shall, when practicable, cooperate in connection with civic or other public gatherings of a nonpartisan and nonpolitical character in a way which gives youth members an opportunity to render service in harmony with their training instead of merely taking part in parades or making a show of themselves in their uniforms.

## Insignia, Uniforms, and Badges

### Article X, Section 4

#### General

**Clause 1.** The badges and other official insignia and the uniforms of the Boy Scouts of America shall be made available only to, and used only by, registered youth members or officials and other members who have satisfactorily complied with the requirements prescribed by the Corporation.

#### Official Uniforms

**Clause 2.** The official uniforms authorized as evidence of official relationship to the Boy Scouts of America shall be those approved by action of the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America from time to time, as illustrated and correctly described in the handbooks, catalogs, and other official publications of the Boy Scouts of America.

#### Protection of Uniforms

**Clause 3.** Restricted Sale and Use. The sale and use of the appropriate uniform as specified shall be restricted to members of the Boy Scouts of America who are registered and in good standing, according to the records of the organization. It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Boy Scouts of America and especially of all commissioned officers and chartered councils to cooperate with the Corporation in preventing the use of the official uniforms by those who are not members of the organization in good standing.

**Clause 4.** Prohibition of Alteration or Imitation.

(a) No alteration of, or additions to, the official uniforms, as described in the official publications, or the rules and regulations covering the wearing of the uniform and the proper combinations thereof on official occasions, may be authorized by any Scouting official or local council or any local executive board or committee, except the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America after consideration by Council Operations.

(b) Imitation of United States Army, Navy, or Marine Corps uniforms is prohibited, in accordance with the provisions of the organization’s Congressional Charter.

#### Distribution of Uniforms

**Clause 5.** The official uniforms and parts thereof shall be issued only as authorized by the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America and sold either directly by the national office—through responsible local merchants designated as local Scouting distributors—or through designated local councils. Local



Scouting distributors may be appointed and licensed and the licenses revoked only by the national office, but chartered local councils may make recommendations for such actions.

### **Use of Uniforms**

**Clause 6.** The official uniforms are intended primarily for use in connection with Scouting activities as defined by the National Executive Board, and their use may be approved by the local council executive board for council events or activities under conditions consistent with the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America.

**Clause 7. Use Abroad.** Members of the Boy Scouts of America, whose address of registration is within the United States, shall not wear the official uniforms nor any official Scouting badges and insignia outside the limits of the United States except when carrying international letters of introduction issued by the Corporation or as members of groups traveling with tour permits issued by the Corporation.

### **Protection and Use of Badges and Insignia**

**Clause 8.** All badges and insignia of the Boy Scouts of America shall be used exclusively by members of the Boy Scouts of America, registered and in good standing according to the records at the national office, who qualify in accordance with the provisions herein set forth or as may be authorized by the Executive Board from time to time and published in the official handbooks by the Corporation.

**Clause 9.** All badges and insignia shall remain the property of the Boy Scouts of America subject to recall for cause by the Corporation or its duly authorized representative.

### **Alteration of Badges and Insignia**

**Clause 10.** No alteration of, or additions to, the official badges and insignia or in the rules and regulations governing their use or their location upon the uniform may be authorized by any Scouting official, local council, local executive board, or committee except the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America and committees specifically authorized thereof. Proprietary backing is to be used on all official BSA patches and emblems. Products without appropriate backing are considered illegal.

### **Special Local Badges and Insignia**

**Clause 11.** Local councils are authorized to adopt special badges and insignia as awards for particular purposes in harmony with national policies and to permit their use upon the official uniform in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Corporation, but such awards must be approved as to purpose and design by the Corporation in advance.

### **Authorization**

**Clause 12.** The national office shall have the sole right to authorize the use of insignia, words, phrases, designation marks, pictorial representation, and descriptive remarks relating to the program of the Corporation on commercial products, promotional efforts, and/or sale and distribution to members of the Boy Scouts of America and/or the general public.

The use of same by local councils shall be only as authorized and approved by the national office.

# SPECIAL REGULATIONS

## Awards From Other Scouting Associations

Scouters occasionally receive awards from Scouting associations of other nations, and it is important that they know how these awards should be worn. This does not include jamboree patches. Following are the regulations for wearing such awards:

1. They are always worn when visiting the country whose Scouting association presented the award or when attending a meeting or function attended by Scouters from that country.
2. Medals awarded by other associations are worn above the left breast pocket.

## Badges of Other Organizations

The general rule is that badges awarded by organizations other than the Boy Scouts of America may not be worn on an official uniform. This includes military medals and service ribbons.

There are, however, notable exceptions. Among them are religious emblems and those special badges approved by local councils in conjunction with the national memorandums of understanding and partnerships.

The Boy Scouts of America recognizes the religious emblems programs that belong to each faith group. Anyone (youth or adult) who, as a member of another youth agency (e.g., Girl Scouts of the USA, Camp Fire USA, a Sunday school class, etc.), has earned the religious emblem of their faith is eligible to wear the approved religious emblem on their respective uniform.

Individuals would also be eligible to wear the religious square knot, without any device. Female Venturers and Sea Scouts who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award may wear the badge on their Venturing uniform shirt's left pocket flap.

## Patch Trading

Boy Scouts and Venturers attending jamborees may trade among themselves articles and novelties of a local or regional nature. The trading of such items as badges of office, rank, distinguished service, training, performance, achievement, and distinction, however, is a violation of Article X of the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America, forbidding the holding of these badges by any but the members who have complied with the requirements for them.

## Headgear Regulations

Official headgear may be worn while the unit or individual is participating in an indoor formal ceremony or service duty, except in religious institutions where custom forbids. Typical indoor activities of this type are flag ceremonies, inspections, orderly duty, or ushering service. In any informal indoor activity where no official ceremony is involved, the headgear is removed as when in street clothes. The Scouter dress uniform is always worn without headgear.

Pins may be worn on the jamboree hat but only while at the jamboree, and Webelos adventure pins may be worn on the Webelos cap (see pages 20–21). The large standard First Class metal pin, No. 17, has been reinstated as an option to the cloth First Class rank badge. The large pin may also be worn only by boys on the front of the campaign hat, No. 501 (64–76), sizes 6 1/2 to 7 3/4, and the expedition hat, No. 637 (91–94), sizes 6 1/8 to 7 5/8. Adults may wear the adult universal hat pin, No. 50150, on the campaign hat and the expedition hat. No other pins may be worn on official headgear of the BSA.

Cub Scout leader headgear is optional. If it is worn, pack leaders wear the olive/red visor cap; den leaders wear the same visored cap as the youth they serve.

## Council Shoulder Emblems

A custom multicolor council shoulder emblem is designed for each council and dramatizes local tradition for all members of the council. All council shoulder emblems shall be of a size and shape as defined by the National Council. The defined size and shape is restricted for council shoulder emblems only. Any insignia that resembles the shape and size of a council shoulder emblem is not permitted.

## District Insignia

Districts are the operational arms of the local council. Individuals are not identified as residents of a district, but of the local council and the Boy Scouts of America. For this reason, district insignia is not authorized for wear on the uniform. Where it seems desirable to identify district participation in council activities, district flags or banners may be authorized. They are described in the “Flags” section of this book.

## Drum and Bugle Corps Uniforms

Boy Scouts or Venturers who are members of bands, drill teams, or drum and bugle corps affiliated with a unit or a local council must wear the official uniform for their registration status. The wearing of special helmets, scarves, gloves, or unofficial leggings, and the carrying of ceremonial guns or swords by members of such organizations using the uniforms of the BSA is in violation of the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America. The musician badge is the only special insignia that may be worn by the members of these organizations. It is worn on the right sleeve, centered just below (½ inch) the patrol medallion. See the “Boy Scout Insignia” section.

## Excess Insignia

With the exception of the Cub Scout badges of rank, members wear only the insignia that show their present status in the movement.

**Members should make every effort to keep their uniforms neat and uncluttered.**

Previously earned badges and insignia—not representing present status—make a fine display on a BSA red patch vest, on a trophy hide or blanket, exhibited in the home of the recipient, or at functions where such a display is invited. Boy Scouts may wear only temporary patches (no badges of rank) on the back of the merit badge sash.

## Jamboree Insignia

Jamboree emblems for Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, or Venturers are worn only by registered jamboree participants and staff and are centered above the Boy Scouts of America strip, the Venturing strip, or the Sea Scout strip. No more than two jamboree patches may be worn on the shirt—one current national jamboree patch above the right pocket and one current world jamboree patch on the right pocket. If the wearer has an interpreter strip above the pocket, merely move the jamboree emblem upward sufficiently to accommodate it.

Council jamboree shoulder patches cannot have pictorial representations or descriptive remarks relating to commercial corporations or commercial products without approval by the national office and authorization to use these representations and remarks by the commercial corporation. The national office has the sole discretion in accepting or declining any use of a pictorial representation or descriptive remark of a commercial corporation or product.

## Jackets and Their Insignia

Multicolored jackets are available for optional wear by youth members and adult leaders. The universal emblem should be worn on the left pocket or, in case of a jacket without chest pockets, in the same area. The Philmont bull emblem is especially designed for the red or

green wool jac-shirt to be sewn on the left side above the pocket.

On all jackets, Philmont Scout Ranch, Philmont Training Center, or high-adventure base emblems may be worn centered on the right pocket or in the same relative position if there is no pocket. The Order of the Arrow has adopted the jac-shirt as its official jacket, and members may wear the 6-inch national Order of the Arrow patch centered on the back.

The large Philmont, NESAs, jamboree, National Camping School, and international participant emblems are approved to be worn on the back of the jacket. Only one such emblem may be worn at a time.

## Badges of Rank Limited to Youth Members

In Scouting, **the advancement program is limited to youth members only.** Adult Scouters should neither seek awards designed for youth members nor wear them on the Scouter uniform except for square knots representing the Arrow of Light rank, Eagle Scout Award, Venturing Summit Award, Quartermaster Award, or religious emblems earned as a youth member.

## Two Badges With the Same Meaning

Cloth badges and embroidered square knots are representative of metal pin-on awards and are designed for the convenience of the wearer. Generally, when a cloth badge or knot is worn, the metal one is not worn.

## Temporary Insignia

Temporary insignia are issued for such events as summer camp, camporees, and Scouting shows. Order of the Arrow regional and national meetings and training activities may also provide such insignia (the Totin' Chip patch is also temporary insignia).

**Only one such patch may be worn at a time.** The patch is worn centered on the right pocket and must neither exceed the dimension of the seams of the pocket nor extend higher than the lowest tip of the pocket flap. It may be either sewn or suspended from under the flap attached to the button.

Female leaders wearing either the traditional yellow Cub Scout leader blouse, the optional tan leader blouse, or the Venturing blouse may wear one temporary insignia centered above the Boy Scouts of America or Venturing BSA strip.

**Temporary insignia are not required for correct uniforming.** Consider displaying temporary insignia in ways other than on the uniform. Here are some suggestions:

- Wear it on a BSA red patch vest, campfire robe or blanket, or special neckerchief.
- Display it on a wall plaque, on a trophy hide, or mounted in a frame.
- Make a special neckerchief slide, sectional totem pole, or flagpole insignia for display.
- Avoid shapes and sizes that could too closely resemble a council shoulder emblem.

## Scouting Identification

It is mandatory that all patches and emblems worn on BSA uniforms be obtained from official sources, such as Scout shops and [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org).

Badges of rank, advancement, or position that are manufactured by the Boy Scouts of America as official patches do not require corporate identification. Scouting identification is mandatory not only for patches and emblems but also for T-shirts, caps, and other apparel that commemorate or promote a Scouting event.

This means that all council-approved Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, and Venturing badges also must bear a BSA identification to help protect the BSA brand, and that these BSA cloth badges must be approved by the national office.

## Scouter Dress Uniforms

Scouter dress uniforms are worn with a red, blue, and gold men's tie, 57 inches, No. 14147; men's tie, 61 inches, No. 14146; ladies' scarf, No. 92102, and scarf ring, No. 128; or ladies' bow tie, No. 74145. Dress uniforms are worn with white shirts or blouses. Detachable emblems are worn on the left pocket. Scouter's dress uniform blazer, pant, and skirt available from Scout shops.

## The Neckerchief

**Official neckerchiefs.** Official neckerchiefs are triangular in shape. Tiger neckerchiefs, No. 620616, are orange and blue. Cub Scout neckerchiefs are gold with blue border, No. 802, for boys working in the *Wolf Handbook* and light blue with dark blue border, No. 801, for boys working in the *Bear Handbook*. The universal Cub Scout emblem is displayed in a central position on the downward corner. Cub Scout leaders may wear the blue and gold Cub Scout leader's neckerchief, No. 64070. Webelos Scouts wear the gold, green, and red plaid neckerchief, No. 64077, with the Webelos emblem on the downward corner. A Webelos leader wears a neckerchief, No. 64078, similar to the Webelos Scout neckerchief, except that it has gold embroidered edging and is larger.

A special Lone Scout neckerchief, No. 611209, is gold with the black and red printed insignia of the Lone Scout. It is worn by both Lone Cub Scouts and Lone Boy Scouts.

Boy Scout neckerchiefs are optional. Troops choose their own official neckerchief. All members of a troop wear the same color. The troop decides by vote, and all members abide by the decision. If the neckerchief is not worn, then the shirt is worn with open collar. Boy Scout and Boy Scout leader neckerchiefs may be worn in a variety of plain colors and contrasting borders.

Neckerchiefs available through the Supply Group include the embroidered universal Scouting emblem if permanent press, or printed if not. Local councils may prescribe that the specific official neckerchief be worn by Boy Scouts and Scouters on a council or district basis. When engaged in Scouting activities, members may wear the neckerchief with appropriate nonuniform clothing to identify them as Scouts.

Special neckerchiefs, the same size as the official ones, may be authorized by local councils. Such neckerchiefs may include identification of the chartered organization. The standard designed neckerchief may be personalized with troop number, city, and state. By troop approval, an Eagle Scout may wear an Eagle Scout neckerchief.

**Neckerchief slides.** Several official slides are available from the Supply Group. Boy-made handicraft slides also may be worn.

**Tiger Scout**



**No. 80000**

**Wolf Scout**



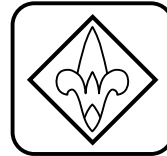
**No. 80001**

**Bear Scout**



**No. 620617**

**Webelos Scout**



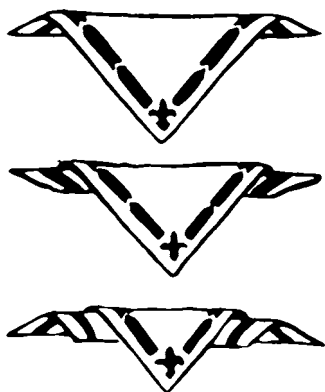
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**Boy Scout**

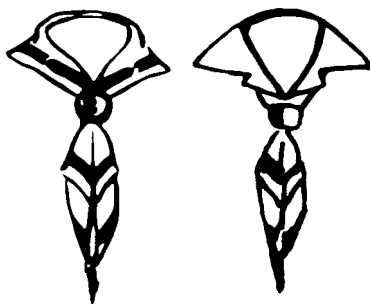


**No. 601**

## How to Wear the Neckerchief



a. Fold long edge over several flat folds to about 6 inches from tip of neckerchief. A tight fold prevents gathering around the neck and is more efficient than rolling or twirling.



b. The unit has a choice of wearing the neckerchief over the collar (with the collar tucked in) or under the collar.



c. Draw neckerchief slide over ends and adjust to fit snugly.

## Shoulder Loops

Colored shoulder loops worn on the shoulder epaulets identify the wearer's current role in Scouting, and must correspond with the badge of office, when one is worn.

Cub Scouting—blue, No. 677

Boy Scouting—forest green, No. 64017

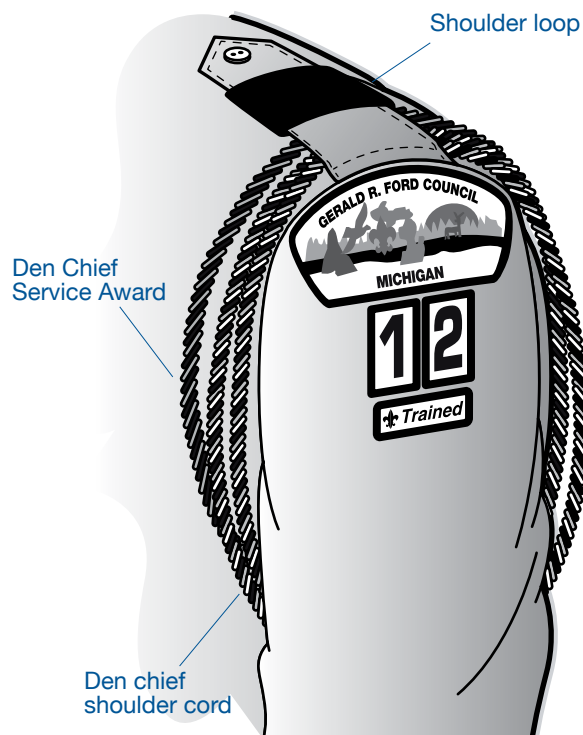
Varsity Scouting—blaze (orange), No. 681

Venturing—green, No. 678

Council and district (including chartered organization representative)—silver, No. 680

National, regional, and area—gold, No. 679

**Custom loops or other colors are not authorized for wear with the BSA uniform.**



## Belts

Cub Scouts wear the official Cub Scout navy blue web belt with metal buckle and Cub Scout emblem. Tigers wear the official Cub Scout navy blue web belt with metal buckle and Tiger emblem. For Webelos Scouts, the official Cub Scout navy blue web belt with metal buckle and Webelos Scout emblem is preferred for wear with either the blue or tan Webelos Scout uniform. Cub Scout adventure loops are worn only on the navy belt. Webelos Scouts also have the option of wearing the official Boy Scout web belt with the metal Boy Scout buckle.

Female adult Cub Scout leaders wearing the blue and gold uniform also wear the official Cub Scout navy blue web belt with metal buckle and Cub Scout or Webelos Scout emblem. Adult leaders wearing the tan uniform wear the official Boy Scout web belt with the metal Boy Scout buckle.

Leather camp, high-adventure base, or Wood Badge belts with official BSA buckles also may be worn with the youth or adult uniform. Venturers may wear a belt of their choice or the black web belt with the black Venturing buckle.