

Demonstrate Scout Spirit

Time Available

10 minutes.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand what is meant by Scout Spirit
- Better use the “Demonstrate Scout Spirit” requirement

Suggested Presenter(s)

- District Advancement Chair
- Chaplain Aide
- Roundtable Commissioner

Presentation Method

Discussion

BSA Reference Materials

- [2015 Boy Scout Requirement Change FAQ](#)
- Scout BSA Handbook
- Scouting Magazine: [New Cub Scout and Boy Scout requirements explore duty to God](#)

Presentation Content

“*Scout Spirit*” is simple in concept: Live by the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life. Meaning honor your God by whatever name you choose, and your country, extend your helping hand to others, and steadfastly improve yourself in body, mind, and principles. But it’s simultaneously vague, because it doesn’t say “do this…” or “do that…” Our founder, Baden-Powell, put it even more simply, and possibly more obscurely, too: “We’re not about *being* good; we’re about *doing* good.”

In the Boy Scouts of America, A Scout’s demonstration of *Scout Spirit* is discussed at the

Scoutmaster Conference and can be a part of the Board of Review when advancing to a new rank.

Definition of *Scout Spirit*

- It is an ideal attitude that Scouts should strive to display, based on the [Scout Oath and Law](#). The Law emphasizes positive personal virtues, while the Scout Oath stresses duty.
- *Scout Spirit* applies to how a Scout lives and conducts their daily life, both in and out of Scouting.
- A new element of *Scout Spirit* (“Tell how you have done your Duty to God …”), is alongside the elements of “living the Scout Oath and Scout Law”

Discussing *Scout Spirit*

- The troop leader is there to listen to the Scout as the Scout tells how they, the Scout, believe they have done

their duty – that is the requirement. The telling of *Scout Spirit* might be a very brief statement, written or spoken, depending on the Scout.

- *Scout Spirit* is displayed by being a role model. By living the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan.
- *Scout Spirit* is an opportunity for the Scout to have a self-reflection about belief and reverence. The requirement does not indicate that a discussion or a two-way conversation should take place.
- The Scout is to tell the leader how they believe they have done their Duty to God as defined by both the Scout and their family. Nothing more is required for the Duty to God portion of *Scout Spirit*.
- *Scout Spirit* is not based on how many Scouting events or outings a Scout attends, but rather by how the Scout helps bring out the best in others, as a reflection of their own character and attitude.
- *Scout Spirit* changes based upon where the Scout is in their development of understanding such matters, as well as the Scout matures.

Demonstrate *Scout Spirit* by

- telling the truth
- sticking up for kids that are being picked on
- helping out the teacher
- letting everyone play
- saying please and thank you
- helping someone
- playing fair
- not whining or complaining
- asking your friends not use bad language
- listening to music that doesn't promote hate and violence

Even though the *Scout Spirit* requirement looks the same for each rank, they are different. A Scout is continuously developing the understanding of *Scout Spirit*. As one advances in age and rank, a Scouts maturity evolves as well.