



Overview of the Boy Scouts of America

FACT SHEET

Mission

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Scout Oath

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.

Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful,
friendly, courteous, kind, obedient,
cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and
reverent.

Scouting Anniversary Celebrations

Cub Scout blue and gold banquets, troop red and white dinners, and community window displays are held throughout the month of February as part of the yearly observance of:

- The BSA's birthday, celebrating the incorporation of the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910
- Scout Sabbath, observed the Saturday after February 8
- Scout Sunday, observed the Sunday before February 8

Programs

Cub Scouts

- Motto: Do Your Best
- For boys and girls in kindergarten through fifth grade (or seven through 10 years of age)
- 2018 membership, packs, and leaders:
 - 80,860 Lions (kindergarten)
 - 155,842 Tigers (first grade)
 - 529,654 Cub Scouts (second and third grades)
 - 465,299 Webelos (fourth and fifth grades)
 - 1,231,831 total Cub Scouts
 - 36,769 total Cub Scout packs
 - 236,587 Cub Scout leaders



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Scouts BSA

- Motto: Be Prepared
- Slogan: Do a Good Turn Daily
- For boys and girls who are 11 through 17 years of age, or have earned the Cub Scouts Arrow of Light award and are at least 10 years old, or have completed the fifth grade and are at least 10 years old
- 81.1 percent of all Scouts BSA participated in Cub Scouting at some time.
- 2018 membership, troops, and leaders:
 - 789,379 Scouts BSA
 - 33,072 Scouts BSA troops
 - 361,151 Scouts BSA leaders

Venturing

- For young men and women 14 years of age, or 14 years of age and have completed the eighth grade, through 20 years of age.
- 2018 membership, crews, and leaders:
 - 51,815 Venturers, 46.3 percent of whom were female
 - 4,600 Venturing crews
 - 15,712 Venturing leaders

Order of the Arrow - Scouting's National Honor Society

- The purpose of the Order of the Arrow is to recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their daily lives and promote camping and responsible outdoor adventure, leadership development, and cheerful service to others.
- Order of the Arrow includes more than 136,000 youth and adult members in local councils throughout the United States and its territories.

Exploring

- Exploring exists to teach important life and career skills to young people from all backgrounds through immersive career experiences and mentorship provided by community and business leaders. Together, we equip young people with character, leadership and life skills that can be used both today and in their future careers.
- Exploring serves two different age groups, both coed. The program model is the same for both age groups - hands-on and interactive character and career activities are facilitated by trained business leaders in your local community.



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- Exploring clubs serve middle schoolers, aged 10 - 14, in sixth through eighth grades.
- Exploring posts serve older youth 14 - 20 years old.
- 2018 membership, posts, and leaders:
 - 109,613 Explorers
 - 5,053 Exploring posts
 - 8,762 Exploring Advisors

Outdoor Activities

Cub Scouts

- Day camps: one- to five-day programs with daylight and early evening activities, with no overnight activities
- Resident camps: at least two nights of camping with a developed theme of adventure and excitement held at a council facility under the direction of trained leadership
- Council-organized family camps: overnight camping involving more than one pack; held at a council-approved facility; with the council or district providing staffing, food service, housing, and program
- Pack camping: overnight camping involving more than one family from a single pack, focused on age-appropriate Cub Scout activities, conducted at council-approved locations, and under the direction of BALOO-trained adults
- CubWorld: venues using make-believe themes, such as castles, frontier forts, pirate ships, and more; usually part of a Cub Scout resident or family camp

Scouts BSA and Venturing

- Camporees: camping with other troops, involving competition using Scouting skills and knowledge
- Summer camps: weeklong camps with troops learning outdoor skills
- Scouting shows: gala events demonstrating to the public how Scouting serves youth in the community
- National and world jamborees: camping events held at four-year intervals where Scouts and leaders from the BSA or the World Scouting Association come together

National High-Adventure Bases



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The Boy Scouts of America operates four national high adventure bases that provide outdoor adventure opportunities for older Scouts and Venturers.

Philmont Scout Ranch

(For more information on Philmont, go to www.philmontscoutranch.org.)

Located in northern New Mexico, this high-adventure base offers a variety of rugged activities, including backpacking treks, horseback cavalcades, and training and service programs. Volunteer leaders may attend the Philmont Training Center each summer for a weeklong conference.

- 21,137 Scouts, Venturers, and leaders attended in 2017.

Northern Tier

(For more information on Northern Tier, go to www.ntier.org.)

This high-adventure base, located in Minnesota and Canada, offers wilderness canoe expeditions and cold-weather camping.

- 6,879 Scouts, Venturers, and leaders attended in 2018.

Florida Sea Base

(For more information on Florida Sea Base, go to www.bsaseabase.org.)

Sea Base offers aquatics programs in the Florida Keys, the Bahamas, and the U.S. Virgin Island's (St. Croix and St. Thomas) and the Dry Tortugas. Programs offered include SCUBA, sailing, snorkeling, STEM Eco, and fishing.

- 14,914 Scouts, Venturers, and leaders attended in 2018.

The Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve

(For more information on The Summit, go to www.summitbechtelreserve.org.)

Located in New River Gorge, West Virginia, The Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve is the permanent home of the national Scout jamboree and the site of the 2019 World Scout Jamboree. The Summit provides access to incredible outdoor terrain in the Appalachian Mountains, which provides some of the world's best whitewater rafting, rock climbing, and mountain biking.

- 6933 Scouts, Venturers, and leaders attended in 2018.

Publications

Boys' Life Magazine

Produced monthly for 850,000 subscribers in two demographic editions:

- Younger edition (ages 5 – 11)
- Older edition (ages 12 – 17)



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F A C T S H E E T

Scouting Magazine

Produced five times a year for adults registered in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venturing.

Handbooks

The BSA publishes handbooks for all phases of the Scouting program for use by youth members, adult leaders, and parents.

Merit Badge Pamphlets

There are currently 135 merit badge pamphlets produced by the Boy Scouts of America to assist Scouts in earning merit badges.