


The Aims of Scouting

Troop 616




The goal of Boy Scouts is to help boys develop into honorable men. Every Scouting activity moves toward these three aims: Building Character – Fostering Citizenship – Developing Mental, Morale and Physical Fitness.

Character Development

 You are yourself, your personal qualities, your values, and your outlook. Character is the fundamental basis for all of your personality traits. Your beliefs and actions relating to morals, ethics, respect and all other traits stem from your character's basic tenets. Here are some signs to look for:

- Confidence in yourself, but not conceited.
- Honest with yourself and others.
- Personal appearance shows you respect yourself.
- Developed special skills and interests to enhance your competence and confidence.
- Show you can take care of yourself, especially in emergencies.
- Plan and use logic to meet unfamiliar situations.
- Responsible to commitments you make to yourself and others, even in difficult situations.
- Believe in your religion and practice it in your daily life.
- Respect other's beliefs when they are different from your own.


Citizenship

 You learn your obligations to other people, to the society you live in and to the government that presides over our society. Scouting allows you to practice good citizenship by living and working among others in a troop with rules based on the common good (collective interdependence). Through Scouting, you can experience citizenship "from the inside out". Each Scout is further encouraged to:

- Learn about and take pride in your national heritage.
- Develop an understanding of the social, economic, and governmental systems of which you are a part.
- Understand and use leadership skills to lead a group to a successful outcome.
- Be of service to others.
- Have knowledge of and respect for other cultures and social groups.

- Be aware of community organizations and their functions.
- Appreciate the environment and seek to protect it.
- Wisely use the property belonging to yourself and others.
- Resist the pressure to smoke, and use drugs or alcohol.

Fitness

 Scouts get the most out of life when they are physically, mentally, morally and emotionally fit.

Physical Fitness:

- Your physical fitness is shown by strength, muscle tone, coordination and endurance.
- Develop good health habits. Eat properly, clean and groom yourself, exercise daily and get enough sleep.

Mental Fitness:

- Be alert (mentally awake!).
- Give and receive information properly and accurately.
- Use good judgment, thinking logically, and make sound decisions.
- Solve problems creatively, using a questioning approach.

Moral Fitness:

- Have courage in what you believe.
- Don't let others divert you from doing what you believe is right in any situation.
- Respect the rights of others.
- Show compassion for others' feelings.

Emotional Fitness:

- Adapt easily to new or challenging situations.
- Through self-discipline, show mastery over your actions and behaviors.
- Respect yourself.
- Display constructive and enthusiastic attitudes.

The accomplishment of these three Aims of Scouting takes time. No single hike, meeting or campout can improve your character, citizenship and fitness all at once. It will take time an effort on your part. All Scouting activities are based on these Aims and give you many opportunities to grow and develop in each of these areas.

Scouting's Eight Methods

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The purpose of a Boy Scout troop is to provide opportunities for boys to grow as they strive to achieve the Aims of Scouting. The way we attain the "Aims" is by using the "Eight Methods". Although all eight methods might not be used at each and every scout activity, they are clearly present in any successful Scouting program. They are all of equal importance.

Ideals

The Ideals are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan. A Scout measures himself against these ideals, and as he reaches for them, he has some control over what he becomes. Conduct is measured against them. The Ideals are a proven code for living.

Patrol Method

The Patrol System differentiates Scouting from other organizations. When properly applied, it brings success.

"The formation of the boys into Patrols of from six to eight and training them as separate units under its own responsible leader is the key to a good troop. The patrol is the unit of Scouting always, whether for work or for play, for discipline or for duty." – *Lord Baden-Powell*

The Outdoors

The Boy Scout program takes place outdoors, and most boys join a troop expecting outdoor adventures. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with a purpose. Being close to nature helps Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and mankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Rank Advancement

Scouting provides a system of education that allows boys to learn while they are having fun. The advancement method provides Scouts with a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence and the ability to help others.

Adult Association

Boys learn from the example of the adult leaders. In his quest for manhood, every boy needs contact with men he can copy. Boys tend to copy whatever models are available to them. The Scoutmaster and his assistants provide good examples of what a man should be like.

Scout Uniform

Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims of Scouting. It makes the Boy Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. The uniform gives the Scout internal identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. And, it is practical attire for activities.

Leadership Training

The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Leadership is action. It is doing things rather than holding a title. Troop and patrol activities allow boys to lead no matter what their positions are in the troop structure.

Personal Growth

As Scouts plan their activity, and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. The religious emblems program is another part of the personal growth method. And conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Scout determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Growth in moral strength and character is an outcome of the Scout program. Personal growth is also a method since a conscious effort is made to see that it happens. As the Scoutmaster guides the troop in planning programs and activities, he helps the boys grow by involving them in service to others and stretching to reach their goals.

First Class Rank Emblem Defined

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Shape

- The Boy Scout badge resembles the North Point on a compass. It points a Scout toward the right way of life.

Design

- It resembles a trefoil – a flower with three leaves. It is also known by the French name fleur-de-lis, which means lily or iris flower. It is the basic shape of the badges used by Scout organizations in other countries too.

Three Points

- These stand for the three parts of the 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.

Eagle & Shield

- Stand for freedom and a Scout’s readiness to defend that freedom.

Stars

- The two stars on the badge symbolize truth and knowledge.

Knot

- Represents the Scout Slogan, “Do a Good Turn Daily”.

Scroll

- Bears the Scout motto, “Be Prepared,” and is turned up as a reminder that a Scout smiles as he does his duty.

Boy Scout Uniform for New Scouts

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The following information outlines the uniform requirements for a New Scout. As your son progresses through his scouting experience, he will earn additional insignia. For a more detailed description of the uniform, view the 'Boy Scout Uniform Inspection Sheet' located on our website: <http://t616.org/news/insigniauniformcentennial.pdf>

Class "A" Uniform

The Class "A" uniform is the official Boy Scout Uniform. It includes pants or shorts, shirt (with patches properly sewn on), belt, socks, identification card, and neckerchief. The Class "A" uniform is required for Troop meetings and at formal Scouting activities.

Our troop also has a Class "B" uniform, which is a red, cotton t-shirt with our Troop's insignia and Boy Scout pants/shorts. Class "B" is worn during certain outings and during the summer meetings. You can purchase this t-shirt when you join the troop. Microfiber t-shirts are also available and optional—the troop orders these once or twice a year.

Shirt & Neckerchief:

An Official long or short-sleeve shirt with green shoulder loops is required and the loops are provided by the troop at your bridging ceremony. Patches should be placed as shown on the insignia guide. The Troop will provide the neckerchief once the Scout reaches the rank of Scout. The Scout should have a neckerchief slide. Most scouts start with the official BSA slide and may make their own in the future, usually during the Woodcarving Merit Badge.

Pants/Shorts: Official pants or shorts; no cuffs.

Belt: Olive-green web with BSA insignia on brass buckle; or leather with BSA buckle or other Scout-related buckle; or black nylon web belt and buckle that accompanies the official switchback pants.

Socks: Official olive-colored socks.

Hat: Optional

Merit Badge Sash: (Not shown) Wear over the shirt once the Scout has earned 3 or more badges.

Proper Placement of Patches & Insignias

Right Sleeve:

- US Flag emblem
- Patrol patch (provided by the Troop unless the patrol elects to make their own custom patch)
- Current year's quality unit patch (provided by the Troop)

Left Sleeve:

- San Diego Imperial Council patch
- 40 Year Anniversary / Troop 616 patch (provided by the Troop)
- Leadership position patch (provided by the Troop)

Right Pocket

- One temporary patch worn on the pocket flap (such as earned at a summer camp)

Left Pocket

- World Crest is centered horizontally over the left pocket (Sew it high enough to leave room for service starts and knots)
- Religious knot (if earned as a Cub Scout, may affix to Boy Scout shirt). Can also be earned as a Boy Scout.
- Rank badge on the pocket (will receive initial Scout badge after first Scoutmaster Conference)
- Arrow of Light below the pocket

Scout Shop

Purchase uniform & handbook at: 1207 Upas Street, San Diego, 92103; 619.294.3806

Hours: MWF 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; TTh 9:00 am – 7:00 pm; Sat. 9:00 am – 3:00 pm; Sun. Closed

