

GLOSSARY OF SCOUTING TERMS

activities and civic service committee. The council or district committee responsible for planning, promoting and operating activities.

advanced training. In-depth training for experienced adult leaders, such as Wood Badge.

advancement. The process by which a Boy Scout meets certain requirements and earns recognition.

Alpha Phi Omega (APO). A coeducational service fraternity organized in many colleges and universities. It was founded on the principles of the Scout Oath and Law.

Aquatics Instructor, BSA. A five-year certification awarded to an adult who satisfactorily completes the aquatics section at a BSA National Camping School.

area director. A professional Scouter on a regional staff who relates to and works with an area president in giving direct service to local councils.

area president. The ranking elected volunteer officer in an area who heads the area committee.

Arrowhead Honor. A recognition given to commissioners who have completed specific training projects.

Arrow of Light Award. Highest rank in Cub Scouting. The only Cub Scout badge that may be worn on the Boy Scout uniform.

assistant district commissioner (ADC). A Scouter who helps the district commissioner.

assistant patrol leader (APL). A Boy Scout in the patrol appointed by the patrol leader to help him and to take his place in his absence.

assistant Scoutmaster (ASM). A commissioned volunteer Scouter, 18 or older, who helps the Scoutmaster by working with the troop and with a new-Scout patrol, Varsity Scout team, or Venture patrol.

assistant senior patrol leader (ASPL). A troop youth leader, usually in larger troops, who helps the senior patrol leader with details of his role.

Baden-Powell, Robert Stephenson Smyth. Founder of the worldwide Scouting movement. Known as Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, Chief Scout of the World, and B-P.

Be Prepared. The motto of Boy Scouting.

board of review. A review held to determine if a Boy Scout has satisfactorily completed rank requirements.

Boy Scout. A registered youth member of a Boy Scout troop or one registered as a Lone Scout. Must have completed the fifth grade and be 11 years old, or have earned the Arrow of Light Award but not yet be 18 years old.

Boy Scouts of America (BSA). A nationwide organization founded February 8, 1910, and chartered by the U.S. Congress June 15, 1916.

Boys' Life magazine. The magazine for all boys, published by the Boy Scouts of America.

Bronze Palm. An Eagle Scout may receive this recognition by earning five additional merit badges and completing certain other requirements.

Brotherhood membership. The second and final induction phase of membership in the Order of the Arrow.

BSA Lifeguard. A three-year certification awarded to Boy Scouts who meet prescribed requirements in aquatics skills.

BSA Mission Statement. *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 Law.*

buddy system. One part of the Safe Swim Defense plan. Swimmers of like ability are paired, check in and out of the water together, and stay within 10 feet of each other during a swim. The buddy system is also used in other Scouting activities for safety reasons.

budget plan. A method used by a troop to develop thrift habits. A yearly budget is established and weekly dues are agreed upon.

bugler. An appointed youth position in a Boy Scout troop.

camping director. The Scouter responsible for development of the year-round camping program of the council.

camporee. A district or council troop activity to demonstrate the techniques of living in camp.

campsite. A troop or patrol outdoor home for an overnight or long-term camp.

captain. The youth leader of a Varsity Scout team.

Center for Professional Development (CPD). The training center for all professional Scouters. Located 15 miles west of the national office.

charter. The Boy Scouts of America was granted a federal charter in 1916 to provide a program of character development, citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness for all boys. The BSA issues charters annually to approved community organizations to operate Scouting units.

chartered organization. A religious, civic, fraternal, educational, or other community organization that has applied for and received a charter to operate a Scouting unit.

chartered organization representative (COR). A manager of Scouting in a chartered organization who also represents the organization in the local council and district.

charter presentation. A formal ceremony at which the charter, Scouter commissions, and membership certificates are presented to organization authorities and members of the unit.

charter renewal. An annual meeting attended by the chartered organization representative, head of the chartered organization, troop leaders, and unit commissioner for the purpose of completing the charter application and making plans for the charter presentation.

Chief Scout Executive (CSE). The top-ranking professional Scouter of the Boy Scouts of America.

Coach. The adult leader of a Varsity Scout team.

cocaptain. An assistant youth leader of a Varsity Scout team.

commissioner. A volunteer Scouter who works with troops to help them succeed. In addition to the council commissioner, there are district commissioners, assistant district commissioners, roundtable commissioners, and unit commissioners.

council. An administrative body chartered to be responsible for Scouting in a designated geographic territory.

council president. The elected volunteer Scouter who heads the council and chairs the executive board.

council service center. The business center for the local administration of Scouting.

court of honor. A recognition ceremony for those who have met the requirements of any one of the Boy Scout ranks, merit badges, or other awards.

den chief. A Boy Scout or Varsity Scout who helps direct the activities of a Cub Scout den.

density. Percentage of the total available youth who are members.

director of field service (DFS). A professional Scouter who supervises two or more field directors in a council.

Direct Service Council. The national office center through which U.S. citizens in other parts of the world retain membership and affiliation with the Boy Scouts of America.

Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. A recognition bestowed upon a man who received the Eagle Scout Award 25 or more years ago and has made an unusual contribution to his community.

Distinguished Service Award. Presented to Order of the Arrow members who have rendered outstanding service to the Order on a section, area, regional, or national basis.

distribution center. The warehouse from which BSA equipment, literature, uniforms, and other supplies are dispensed. Located in Charlotte, North Carolina.

district. A geographic administrative unit within a council.

District Award of Merit. A recognition for Scouters who give noteworthy service to youth at the district level.

district committee. A group of key volunteer Scouters who, through the chartered organization, work to ensure the success of the units.

district committee chairman. The executive officer of the district committee.

district executive. A professional Scouter who works under the direction of the council Scout executive to support the units and act as an adviser to the volunteer leaders in the district.

Eagle Scout. The highest rank for Scouts.

Eagle Scout Award. The highest recognition for Scouts.

Eagletter. A periodical published for members of the National Eagle Scout Association.

executive board. The National Executive Board is the governing body of the Boy Scouts of America. There is an executive board in each council which is the policy-making body at the local level.

field director (FD). A professional Scouter who is responsible for three or more district executives.

Fifty-Miler Award. A recognition given to Scouts who have taken part in a wilderness trip of at least 50 consecutive miles over at least five consecutive days, and fulfill requirements for group service projects on the trip.

Firem'n Chit. A recognition given to Scouts who know and understand fire safety rules.

First Class rank. The rank above Second Class and below Star in Boy Scout advancement.

Friends of Scouting (FOS). An annual opportunity for Scouters and interested people in the community to be identified with the local council through their financial support and influence in the expansion of the council program. Enrollees are known as "Friends."

Gilwell Park. The training center of the British Scout Association and the original homesite of Wood Badge training. Located in Epping Forest, England.

God and Country program series. A series of religious emblems presented to Scouts of the Protestant faiths.

Gold Palm. An Eagle Scout who holds the Bronze Palm may receive this recognition by earning five additional merit badges and completing certain other requirements.

Good Turn. A single act of service to others. A distinctive feature of Scouting is its emphasis on service to others. The Good Turn habit is one that all Scouts endeavor to acquire.

Heroism Award. A lifesaving award presented to a registered youth member or adult leader who has demonstrated heroism and skill in saving or attempting to save life at minimum risk to self.

high adventure. Refers to National Council or local council high-adventure activities or programs for older Scouts. Most of the programs are listed in the publication *Passport to High Adventure*.

Historic Trails Award. An award that may be earned by members of a troop for hiking a trail listed in *Nationally Approved Historic Trails* and completing a project related to the trail.

Honor Medal. A lifesaving award presented to Scouts and Scouters who have shown heroism, resourcefulness, and skill in saving or attempting to save life at great risk of their own. May be presented with crossed palms in cases of exceptional skill or resourcefulness and extreme risk to self. Presented by the National Court of Honor.

Hornaday Awards. William T. Hornaday Awards are given to Scouts, units, and Scouters for distinguished service in conservation.

instructor. A person who can instruct others on parts of the Scouting program.

investiture. A ceremony placing the responsibilities of an office or a rank upon an individual.

jamboree. A term chosen by Baden-Powell to describe the first international gathering of Scouts camping together in London in 1920. The term is restricted to indicate a national or world jamboree.

junior assistant Scoutmaster (JASM). An appointed office open to Scouts 16 years of age and older. There is no limit to the number of junior assistant Scoutmasters a troop may have.

Key 3. (1) The council Key 3: the council president, council commissioner, and Scout executive; (2) the district Key 3: the district chairman, district commissioner, and district executive.

Klondike derby. A competitive event conducted by patrols to demonstrate proficiency in Scouting skills, traditionally conducted in the winter.

Leave No Trace. A commonsense set of guidelines that allows Scouts to camp, hike, and take part in related outdoor activities in ways that are environmentally sound and considerate to others using the same areas. A Leave No Trace Awareness Award is available to Scouts who fulfill certain requirements.

Life Scout rank. The rank above Star and below Eagle Scout in Boy Scout advancement.

lodge. A local council Order of the Arrow group chartered annually by the National Council.

Lone Scout. A Boy Scout who, unable to join a troop because of unusual conditions, follows the program as an individual under the leadership of a Lone Scout friend and counselor.

long-term camping. A camping experience consisting of five or more consecutive days and nights in the outdoors.

Medal of Merit. An award presented to Scouts who put into practice the skills and ideals of Scouting through some great act of service; need not involve a rescue or risk to self.

membership inventory. Part of the charter renewal process when the activity of a unit during the past year is reviewed; usually held along with a uniform inspection.

merit badge. A recognition given to a Scout for completing the requirements for the badge.

merit badge counselor. A registered adult volunteer who is expert in a merit badge field, has the ability to work effectively with Scouts, and certifies that requirements are met.

Mile Swim, BSA. A recognition given to Scouts to encourage their development of physical fitness and stamina through swimming.

National Camping Award. A recognition awarded to a Boy Scout troop or Varsity Scout team for completing a certain number of days and nights of camping on either an annual or a cumulative basis. The award also recognizes cumulative achievement in number of campouts by individual Scouts and Scouters.

National Camping School. A training experience for key summer camp staff of council camps.

National Council. The corporate membership chartered by the United States Congress to operate the program of the Boy Scouts of America; made up of all elected members of the National Executive Board, members of regional executive committees, elected local council representatives, elected members at large, and elected (nonvoting) honorary members.

National Court of Honor. A committee of the BSA that is responsible for administering lifesaving awards, meritorious action awards, and distinguished service awards.

National Eagle Scout Association (NESA). This group provides an opportunity for all Eagle Scouts to retain identification with Scouting through service to the local council in which they live.

national office. The administrative offices of the Boy Scouts of America. Address is 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079. Phone number is 972-580-2000. Web page address is <http://www.scouting.org>.

Often improperly referred to as “home office.”

national Order of the Arrow conference. A biennial conference designed to improve program and leadership skills of all Arrowmen.

National President’s Scoutmaster Award of Merit.

Awarded by the National Eagle Scout Association to Scoutmasters who make a significant contribution to boys’ achievement of the Eagle Scout rank.

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). A six-day training course for youth leaders conducted at the council level.

National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE). A weeklong training experience conducted at Philmont Scout Ranch using the skills taught at National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT).

new-Scout conference. The Scoutmaster meets with each new Scout in the troop to get acquainted, discuss Scouting, and welcome the boy into the troop. Held as soon as possible after the boy joins.

Okpik. The winter camping program offered by the Northern Tier National High Adventure Program.

Ordeal membership. The induction phase of membership in the Order of the Arrow.

Order of the Arrow (OA). Scouting’s national honor society, the members of which have been chosen by their peers for their Scouting spirit and camping ability.

orienteering. A cross-country race to reach a destination and certain checkpoints along the way with the use of a map and compass.

patrol. A group of five to eight boys who belong to a troop and work together in and out of troop meetings. There are usually several patrols in one troop.

patrol leader (PL). The youth leader of the patrol, elected by its members.

patrol leaders’ council (PLC). Each patrol leader, representing his patrol, meets with the other patrol leaders and the senior patrol leader to plan their troop program. The Scoutmaster acts as an adviser.

Paul Bunyan Woodsman. A recognition given to a Scout who safely demonstrates skill with a long-handled ax.

Pedro. The long-eared, four-footed mailburro of the “Hitchin’ Rack” column in *Boys’ Life* magazine.

Philmont Scout Ranch. National high-adventure base covering over 137,000 acres in northern New Mexico. Includes a center for volunteer training. Address is Cimarron, NM 87714.

professional. A registered, full-time employee of the Boy Scouts of America who has successfully completed formal training at the Center for Professional Development.

Quality Unit Award. Recognition given each charter year to troops that commit to and meet specified national standards pertaining to leader training, service, advancement, camping, and membership growth.

rank. There are six ranks for Boy Scouts: Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle Scout.

region. One of four large geographical administrative units of the BSA: Central Region, Southern Region, Western Region, and Northeast Region.

registration. The payment of an annual registration fee; one of the requirements for membership in the Boy Scouts of America.

roundtable. A monthly program-planning and morale-building meeting for adult leaders.

roundup. A program to stimulate member-to-nonmember invitation to join a Scout troop.

Safe Swim Defense. A plan with eight defenses for safe swimming.

Safety Afloat. Guidelines for safe troop activity afloat in craft less than 26 feet long.

School Night for Scouting. A one-night event in a neighborhood school, church, or other community center where boys and parents gather to hear and see how Scouting operates and how they can join.

Scouter. A registered adult member of the BSA who serves in a volunteer or professional capacity.

Scouter's Key. Recognition given to a troop leader or commissioner for completing training, tenure, and performance requirements.

Scouter's Training Award. A recognition for adults who hold positions other than that of Scoutmaster or commissioner, who are trained, and who give service to Scouting.

Scout executive (SE). The professional staff leader and secretary of a local council.

Scouting Anniversary Week. The week, beginning on Sunday, that includes February 8, Scouting Anniversary Day.

Scouting distributor. A firm licensed by the national BSA Supply Division to stock and sell official Scouting merchandise.

Scouting magazine. The official magazine for all Scouters. It helps interpret the program, stimulate action, and strengthen a desire to serve.

Scouting movement. An idea started by Lord Baden-Powell, based on the conviction that boys can live up to a code of conduct and can develop themselves physically, mentally, and spiritually through a program of activities and advancement challenges in association with other boys under the leadership of adults.

Scoutmaster. The commissioned volunteer leader, 21 or older, of a Boy Scout troop; appointed by the chartered organization.

Scoutmaster conference. A distinctive feature of the troop advancement plan in which a Scoutmaster helps a Scout accept responsibility for his own growth toward each rank.

Scoutmaster's Minute. A part of the closing ceremony of a troop meeting or campfire in which the Scoutmaster uses a brief story to inspire Scoutlike conduct.

scribe. An appointed officer in the troop or patrol who keeps the troop or patrol records.

Second Class rank. The rank above Tenderfoot in Boy Scout advancement.

senior patrol leader (SPL). The elected boy leader who runs the troop meetings and the patrol leaders' council meetings, with the guidance of the Scoutmaster.

service patrol. The name given to a patrol that has accepted an extra work assignment for the good of the troop.

service star. An insignia worn over the left shirt pocket of the uniform to denote number of years of service.

Silver Antelope Award. A recognition given by the National Court of Honor to a Scouter for distinguished service to youth within the region.

Silver Beaver Award. A recognition given by the National Court of Honor for distinguished service to youth within the council.

Silver Buffalo Award. A recognition given by the National Court of Honor for distinguished service to youth on a national level.

Silver Palm. An Eagle Scout who holds the Gold Palm may receive this recognition by earning five additional merit badges and completing certain other requirements.

Snorkeling, BSA. A recognition given to Scouts to encourage the development of aquatics skills that promote fitness and recreation.

squad. A Varsity Scout team subdivision that consists of four to eight members.

Star rank. The rank above First Class and below Life in Boy Scout advancement.

Supply Division. The arm of the Boy Scouts of America that supplies official uniforms, equipment, and literature to the field.

swimmer test. A specific set of tests to ascertain a minimum level of swimming ability required for deep-water swimming.

team. The unit that conducts Varsity Scouting for the chartered organization.

Tenderfoot rank. The first rank in the Boy Scout advancement program.

tenure. A term used to describe the length of service and membership in Scouting.

Totin' Chip. A recognition given to Scouts who subscribe to the Outdoor Code and understand and can demonstrate the proper handling, care, and use of woods tools.

tour permit. Permit designed to assist troops in planning safe, healthful, and enjoyable trips and to ensure that proper procedures will be followed in case of emergency.

training course. A series of training experiences designed to help a leader understand his or her position.

troop. The unit that conducts Boy Scouting for the chartered organization.

troop committee. The committee appointed by the chartered organization to administer the affairs of the troop.

troop instructor. An older troop member proficient both in a Scouting skill and in the ability to teach that skill to others.

uniform. Distinctive clothing worn by Scouts and Scouters.

unit. Term used to designate any one of the following: patrol, troop, squad, or team.

Varsity Scout. A registered youth member of a Varsity Scout team who is at least 14 but not yet 18 years of age.

Venture patrol. An optional older-boy patrol (ages 13 through 17) within a Scout troop.

Venturing. A stand-alone program of the BSA for young men and women ages 14 through 20 who have completed the eighth grade and who subscribe to the Venturing Oath and Code.

Venturing crew. The unit that conducts Venturing for the chartered organization; its members are called Venturers.

veteran. A recognition status accorded to members of Scouting who have served five years or more. Troops can also achieve veteran status and may display veteran insignia on their flag.

Vigil Honor. A recognition for distinguished service in the Order of the Arrow.

volunteer. A registered individual who donates service, time, and/or funds to support the program of the Boy Scouts of America.

Webelos den chief. An older Scout who has been appointed to help direct the activities of a Webelos den.

Webelos-to-Scout plan. The preparation and passage of a boy from Cub Scouting to Boy Scouting.

whole Scouting family. When an organization is chartered to operate a Cub Scout pack, a Boy Scout troop, a Varsity Scout team, and a Venturing crew.

Wilderness Use Policy. An official plan that outlines the size limit, skill level, and conduct of any Scouting group going into backcountry or wilderness areas.

World Conservation Award. An award emphasizing the importance of our natural resources and our interdependence with other countries in fulfilling our mutual needs.

World Friendship Fund. The means by which Scouts and Scouters in the United States can provide material and equipment to help Scouts and Scouting around the world.

World Scout Bureau. The secretariat that carries out the instructions of the World Scout Conference and the World Scout Committee. The head office is in Geneva, Switzerland.

World Scout Crest. An international award earned by participating in a meaningful international Scouting experience. May be obtained through the local council.