

Like millions of Scouts over the last century, you will learn leadership not by sitting in a class or reading a book but by actually being a leader! Along the way, you will have both successes and failures, and you will learn from each experience. You will also learn from the examples (good and bad) that you see in other leaders and from the coaching of the adult leaders in your troop.

LEADERSHIP IN YOUR PATROL AND TROOP

Some of your fellow Scouts wear leadership patches on the sleeves of their uniform shirts. Your patrol leader wears one with two green bars. The senior patrol leader's patch has three bars. There are patches identifying all the positions of responsibility in the troop. Adult leaders—Scouters—also have special patches. The leadership positions and the specific responsibilities of each are described in the Awards and Advancement chapter of this handbook.



Troop badges of office are worn on the left uniform sleeve.



Being a good leader is a skill that can be learned only by doing. Troop leadership positions will give you the opportunity to speak in front of a group, guide discussions, make decisions, and encourage others toward greater achievements.

Electing Troop Leadership

Each troop sets its own age, rank, and other qualification standards for its positions of responsibility. The patrol leaders and senior patrol leader serve from one troop election to the next, usually for six to 12 months. In most troops, voting is done by secret ballot, and all the Scouts in the troop are eligible to vote. With the advice of the Scoutmaster, the senior patrol leader appoints the other positions of leadership within the troop (although some troops elect some of those positions).

You can step forward to become a leader of your patrol. You can even take on some of the leadership responsibilities for your whole troop. You will find it challenging and fun, and it will provide you with a great learning experience. Along the way, you will discover the satisfaction of seeing how your leadership efforts allow your patrol and troop to succeed.

But leadership is not just about earning a patch. What really matters is how Scouts and Scouters show leadership by sharing knowledge and offering guidance and encouragement to others.

Scouting's Adult Leaders

All around you in your troop are adult leaders. They include your Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmasters, of course, but also members of the troop committee and parents who volunteer to help with certain activities. A good way to learn leadership skills is to watch these adults at work. How do they get Scouts to follow their lead? What do they do that you would like to copy?



As you become a leader in the troop, you will work side by side with the troop's adult leaders. Be sure to ask for guidance as you learn and practice new leadership skills.

CHARACTER

A wise person once said that character is what you do when nobody is looking. If you find money in the street, do you pocket it or turn it in? If you're home alone after school, do you visit questionable websites or finish your homework? If classmates are picking on an unpopular kid, do you join in or take a stand for what is right?

Character also relates to how you make decisions, especially when the right path to follow is not clear. Common sense, ethics, wisdom, and good judgment help you make good choices and allow you to do your best with what you know. The skills you have can prepare you for what lies ahead. Self-leadership will help you develop a vision of what is right and the steps for getting there. The Scout Oath and Scout Law will provide guidance along the way.

GOOD JUDGMENT IN CHOOSING FRIENDS

Your friends are among the most important people in your life. You enjoy being with them and going places together. They understand you. You depend on one another for support through good times and bad.



Choose friends whose values you share and admire. Be open to those who are not just like everyone else you know. Differences in race, culture, and language may keep some people at a distance, but those differences can also

Good friends can be with you for many years to come.

be doorways for you to expand your understanding of other people and of the world. Disabilities might seem to be barriers to friendship, too, but look beyond what seems to separate you. You might be surprised to discover how much you have in common with others and how much you can share with one another.

PEER PRESSURE

At some point while you are growing up, you will probably discover that friends or acquaintances are doing something you know is wrong. They might be using tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs or engaging in sexual activity. They might be cheating on tests, stealing, or being unkind to others. They may want you to join them, even though you believe what they are doing is not right. When you refuse, they might say that they'll stop being friends with you.

Real friends will not ask you to do anything that could put you at risk. If those who say they are your friends are smoking, drinking, using drugs, watching pornography, using profanity, or doing anything else that is unwise, you don't have to go along with them. You might need to look for new friends who are interested in healthier activities. Real friends are those who make sure that you wear a life jacket on a float trip, that you come in out of the thunderstorm, and that you associate with people you can trust. Don't worry; they are out there. Be true to your values, and you will find others who share them.

BULLYING AND HAZING

People of character treat others well, including those who are younger, smaller, or less able than themselves. Lead by setting a good example. Respect others and help them succeed. If you know someone is being hazed or bullied (either in the real world or online), stand up for what is right by defending that person. Don't be a silent bystander; be prepared to stand up and support those who are bullied.



Sometimes it might seem easy to respond to someone's poor behavior with angry words or physical force, but there are always better ways to handle difficult situations. When dealing with peer pressure, bullying, hazing, and other challenges, use the Scout Oath and Scout Law as reliable guides for making good decisions. If you need help, seek support and assistance from your Scout leader, parent, or other trusted adult.



ADVANCEMENT: CITIZENSHIP

Being a citizen starts at home, with participation in family activities and good stewardship of your personal and family resources. It extends into your local community, where you are expected to give back where you can, and into your nation, where you should exercise your rights as an American citizen to help the country run smoothly. Good citizenship even applies on the world stage, where your role as an American fits into the great melting pot of world politics and humanitarianism. Along your trail to Eagle, you will explore all those things and more.



SCOUT Repeat from memory the Pledge of Allegiance, and in your own words, explain its meaning.



TENDERFOOT Demonstrate how to display, raise, lower, and fold the U.S. flag. Participate in a service project that benefits others, and tell how that relates to the Scout slogan and Scout motto.



SECOND CLASS Participate in a flag ceremony, and explain what respect is due the flag of the United States. Decide on an amount of money you would like to earn, then develop a plan to do so that includes what you ultimately will do with the money. Compare costs for an item you want at three or more locations to determine the best place to purchase it. Participate in a service project that benefits others, and tell how that relates to the Scout Oath.



FIRST CLASS Discuss with a community leader the constitutional rights and obligations of a U.S. citizen. Investigate an environmental issue that affects your community, and share what you learn with your patrol or troop, including what can be done to address the concern. On an outing, note the trash you produce, then decide how you can reduce, reuse, or repurpose on the next trip. Participate in a service project that benefits others, and tell how that relates to the Scout Law.



EAGLE The Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in Society, and Citizenship in the World merit badges are all required for the Eagle Scout rank, as are the Personal Management and Family Life merit badges, which cover a different kind of citizenship. As the final step on your journey to Eagle, you will create, coordinate, and carry out a service project of your own.

*Citizenship in
the Community*

*Citizenship in
the Nation*

*Citizenship in
Society*

*Citizenship in
the World*



When you repeat the Scout Oath, you pledge on your honor to do your duty to your country. Likewise, when you repeat the Scout Law, you are called to be loyal, helpful, obedient, and brave. All these traits are characteristics of a good citizen.

So what exactly *is* a good citizen? And can you be one at your age?

As a Scout, you're too young to vote, serve in the military, or run for elected office. You probably don't earn enough money to owe much in taxes, so you aren't able to pay for the government services you receive, such as public education, access to parks, and police protection. At your age, many of the rights and responsibilities of adult citizens are out of your reach.

Yet you can learn to be a good citizen now, and you can become an even better citizen when you grow up. Scouting is a laboratory of citizenship. Scouts demonstrate good citizenship through community service projects and practice democracy within their troops by electing leaders and working as a team.



Showing respect to the American flag is a sign of true citizenship.

THE AMERICAN FLAG

The flag of the United States is much more than just a red, white, and blue cloth. As the symbol of America, it stands for the past, present, and future of our country. It represents our people, our land, and our many ways of life.

Honoring the flag offers all of us a time to think about what it means to be Americans and to pledge ourselves to making our country the best it can be. Perhaps you recite the Pledge of Allegiance each day at your school. Before sporting events and at other public gatherings, you might stand, remove your cap, and put your hand over your heart for the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner," the national anthem. Your Scout troop might open its meetings with a flag ceremony. At Scout camp, you can join with others to raise the flag each morning and to retire it in the evening.

The American flag commands a certain amount of respect. While you are wearing your Scout uniform, greet the flag with a Scout salute. In fact, you should face the flag and salute whenever you see the flag being hoisted or lowered, when you pass it or it passes you, and during the playing of the national anthem. Give the Scout salute as you recite the Pledge of Allegiance, too. Greet the flag when you are not in uniform by removing your hat, if you are wearing one, and placing your right hand over your heart.

The Star-Spangled Banner

During the War of 1812, a British fleet attacked Fort McHenry near Baltimore, Maryland. A young man named Francis Scott Key watched as the bombardment lasted through the night. He did not know if the American fortress could withstand the assault.

When the smoke cleared the next morning, Key saw the United States flag—the star-spangled banner—still flying over the fort. He wrote down the feelings he'd had during the night and about his trust in America's future in a poem he called "Defence of Fort McHenry." Soon the words

were being sung throughout the country. Francis Scott Key had written the lyrics to the song that has become known as "The Star-Spangled Banner."



O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?



The Pledge of Allegiance

Feeling that patriotism was declining and that "the time was ripe for a reawakening of simple Americanism," Baptist minister Francis Bellamy composed the Pledge of Allegiance in 1892. The pledge first appeared that September in the children's magazine *The Youth's Companion* in celebration of the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the New World.

In 1942, the U.S. Congress formally adopted the pledge, and it now opens countless school days, legislative sessions, and, of course, Scout meetings across the country. The wording of the pledge has been changed four times, most recently in 1954, when the words "under God" were added.

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Service and the Scout Oath and Scout Law

When you participate in service projects, you live out your promise to help other people at all times (part of the Scout Oath) and to be helpful (part of the Scout Law). Can you think of how service projects might relate to other parts of the Scout Oath and Scout Law, like duty to God and country?



DEHYDRATION

Water is necessary for nearly every bodily function, including producing heat and staying cool. Moisture can be lost through breathing, sweating, digestion, and urination. A person giving off more water than they are taking in will become dehydrated. When this happens, the body might have a difficult time regulating core temperature.

Hypothermia, heat exhaustion, and heatstroke can all be worsened by dehydration. Signals of dehydration might include:

- Increased to severe thirst
- Dark urine or decreased urine production
- Tiredness or weakness
- Dry skin and lips, decreased sweating
- Nausea, fainting, loss of appetite
- Headache, body aches, muscle cramps
- Confusion, dizziness

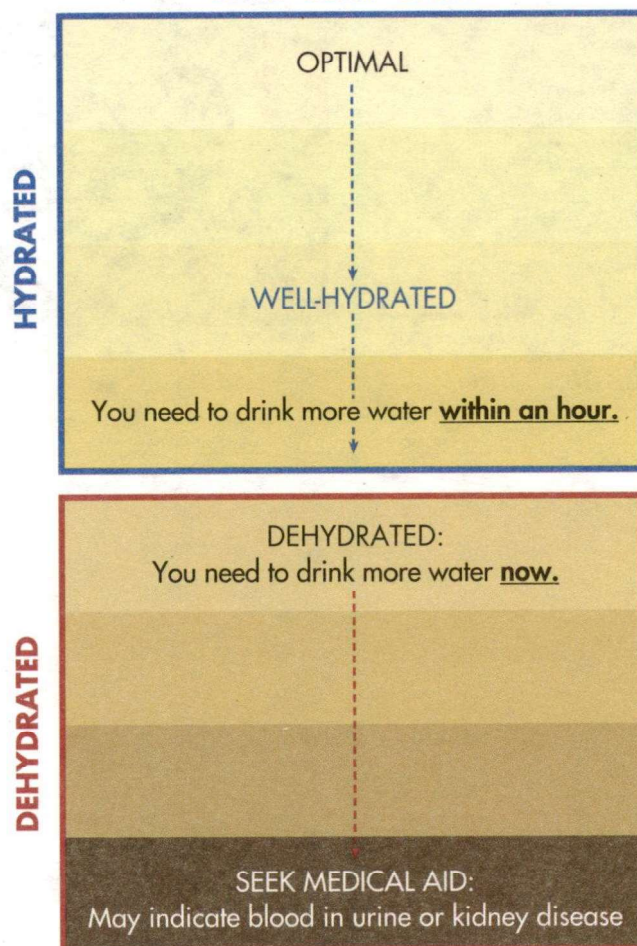
Protect yourself from dehydration by drinking plenty of fluids before you feel thirsty; waiting until you are thirsty to drink is waiting too long. Avoid caffeine because it can cause greater dehydration. Take in enough fluids so that your urine stays colorless. This is easy to remember to do on hot days, but it is just as important in cold weather when you might not feel like drinking.

If someone shows signs of becoming dehydrated, encourage them to drink fluids and rest. When the weather is hot, get the person to a shaded place or into an air-conditioned vehicle or building. In cold weather, be sure they are wearing enough dry clothing. Help the person reach the shelter of a tent and sleeping bag or a warm building. Keep checking their condition, and be ready to provide further first-aid treatment.

THE HEAT INDEX

The heat index—a combination of temperature and relative humidity—is a good indicator of how hot it really feels outside. As the heat index rises, you should drink more water and do fewer physically demanding activities. You should also monitor the color of your urine, which is a good way to check how well-hydrated you are.

Urine Color Chart *



*This color chart is not for clinical use.

ADVANCEMENT: OUTDOOR ETHICS

Taking care of the land is not just a responsibility for Scouts; it is a responsibility for everyone. Understanding how practicing outdoor ethics can have a positive effect on our planet is a big factor in doing your part as a Scout and as an inhabitant of Earth. As you travel the trail to Eagle, you will delve deep into the principles of outdoor ethics that the BSA has recognized, including the following.



SCOUT Repeat from memory and describe in your own words the Outdoor Code.



TENDERFOOT Tell how you practiced the Outdoor Code on a campout or outing.



SECOND CLASS Explain the principles of Leave No Trace and tell how you practiced them at a different campout.



FIRST CLASS Explain the principles of Tread Lightly! and tell how you practiced them at a third campout or outing.



EAGLE Earning either the Environmental Science or the Sustainability merit badge is a requirement to achieve the Eagle Scout rank. Both will teach you how to respect the land and help save it for future users.



THE OUTDOOR CODE

To define outdoor ethics a little better, the BSA created the Outdoor Code. That was back in 1948, when Americans were beginning to venture farther and farther into the wilderness—not to find new places to settle but to enjoy their natural environment.



Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to—

Be clean in my outdoor manners.

Be careful with fire.

Be considerate in the outdoors.

Be conservation-minded.

DECODING THE OUTDOOR CODE

The Outdoor Code is something you should memorize, just as you have memorized the Scout Oath. More importantly, you should commit to memory its principles so you can play a role in preserving America's great outdoor heritage.

As an American, I will do my best. *I have a duty as an American and a Scout to care for the environment to the best of my ability.* As more and more people use outdoor areas, Scouts should set a good example of how to care for the land.

Be clean in my outdoor manners. *I will treat the outdoors as a heritage. I will take care of it for myself and others. I will keep my trash out of lakes, streams, fields, woods, and roadways.* Make a habit of packing out any garbage you create or come across during your travels in the outdoors, and protect waterways by camping at least 200 feet (75 steps) away from the shore. Each of these small steps can add up to really reduce our impact on the environment.

Be careful with fire. *I will prevent wildfire. I will build my fires only when and where they are permitted and appropriate. When I have finished using a fire, I will make sure it is cold out. I will leave a clean fire ring or remove all evidence of my fire.* Be sure that you understand how to use campfires and camp stoves well before setting out on a trip. Follow all safety precautions to the letter.

Be considerate in the outdoors. *I will treat the land and other land users with respect. I will follow the principles of outdoor ethics for all outdoor activities.* Being considerate in the outdoors includes such things as keeping your voice down on the trail, avoiding brightly colored clothing, staying on established trails, and crossing private land only with permission.



Be conservation-minded. *I will learn about and practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, wildlife, and energy. I will urge others to do the same.* Keep conservation in mind all the time, and you will make decisions that are good for the environment. Sharing information is one of the best ways to learn, so discuss with your fellow Scouts how conservation guides your decisions.

BSA OUTDOOR ETHICS

In the early 1990s, the U.S. Forest Service formalized its no-trace policy as the principles of Leave No Trace. Today, the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics helps educate the public through extensive conservation and outreach programs. Scouting is proud to be a partner in this ongoing effort.

More recently, Scouting has also embraced the principles of Tread Lightly!, which were developed by the U.S. Forest Service to guide a wider array of outdoor activities. Today, BSA Outdoor Ethics encompasses Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly!, and the Outdoor Code, which is just as important today as it was back in 1948.

Sustainability and the Summit

The Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia is a good example of how campers and the environment can coexist. The 10,600-acre camp was built on reclaimed mine land, and 10% of the land has been set aside as a nature preserve to trap carbon and protect the headwaters of the nearby New River.



Shower houses at the Summit are built of locally harvested lumber.

Two years before the Summit opened in 2013, 1,400 Order of the Arrow members came together to remove invasive species and build the Arrowhead Trail at the adjacent New River Gorge National River. Through the OA Summit Experience, Arrowmen continue to do similar trail work each summer.

Summit
BECHTEL RESERVE

LEAVE NO TRACE

Scouting's adventures cover a wide range of activities, from spending weekends at public campgrounds and BSA council camps to backpacking many miles through forests, deserts, and mountains.

Think about Leave No Trace wherever you hike, camp, or do any other outdoor activity, and do your best to follow its principles. Make them a guide for how you conduct yourself in the outdoors.

The Principles of Leave No Trace

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you will visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups when possible. Consider splitting larger groups into smaller groups.
- Repackage food to minimize waste.
- Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns, or flagging.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses, and snow.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.
- In popular areas:
 - Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
 - Walk single-file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
 - Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.
- In pristine areas:
 - Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.
 - Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.



Leave What You Find

- Preserve the past: Examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants, and other natural objects as you find them.
 - Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures or furniture, or dig trenches.



Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Use only sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.



American bison

The member-driven Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics teaches people how to enjoy the outdoors responsibly. This copyrighted information has been reprinted with permission from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics: www.LNT.org.

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

Leave No Trace begins before you ever leave home. By planning ahead, you can minimize your impact on the environment while still having a great time.

Be sure you understand the principles of Leave No Trace, including specific practices that apply to your destination. (What works in a public campground doesn't necessarily work in a subalpine wilderness area.) Find out from land managers if there are limits on group size and if permission is required to enter a backcountry area. Land managers also might suggest ways you can lessen your impact, such as staying in certain places or avoiding certain times of the year.

Consider what gear and supplies you will need to take to help reduce your impact. You might need a trowel to dig catholes, a plastic bag for packing out trash, a lightweight stove for cooking, and a fine screen to strain food particles from dishwater.

TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES

Durable surfaces are areas that will not be damaged by your footsteps, bicycles, or tents. A trail is a good example of a durable surface. The soil of most trails has become so compacted that little can grow there. By staying on existing trails, you protect the surrounding landscape and the plants and animals that live there.

What if the trail ahead is muddy? Wade right in! When you use the edge of a trail or go around a muddy or rutted stretch, you widen the trail unnecessarily. And never take shortcuts, especially on hillsides. These almost always lead to damage from erosion.



Always use established campsites when they are available. If there are no designated camping areas, make your camp on sand, gravel, rock, compacted soil, dry grasses, or snow. All of these are durable surfaces.

In more remote areas, it may be more appropriate to practice dispersed camping, if allowed. Select a durable surface (rock, soil, drier grass) that shows no signs of prior camping, vary your traffic pattern around the site, cook only with stoves (no campfires), and stay only one night in the same location.

Pitch your tents well away from streams and lakes, which will allow animals to reach the water and will lessen your impact on shorelines. Pick a campsite that is big enough for your group, or split up and camp in separate sites. Keep your tents and cooking area near the center of your site to protect surrounding soil and vegetation. Be careful as you walk around your campsite so that you don't trample plant communities, pack down the soil, and form unwanted pathways.



Use good judgment if you are thinking about playing Capture the Flag or other wide games that are popular with many troops. Dry fields with tough vegetation could be perfect, while a damp meadow might be too fragile.

Keep Soap Away From Open Water

Any soap, even the biodegradable kind, can leave residue that might harm fish, plants, and other organisms in streams and lakes. Choose soap that is designed to be kind to the environment, then dispose of soapy water at least 200 feet (75 steps) away from bodies of water.



Disposing of Dishwater. Strain food bits out of your dishwater and put them in your trash. Carry dishwater and rinse water away from your camp and at least 200 feet (75 steps) from any streams or lakes. Give the water a good fling to spread it over a wide area or pour it into a rocky area or under organic litter. Grease and very oily water should be packed out. For long-term camping, follow the rules of the local land manager.

BIODEGRADABILITY

Something is biodegradable if it can be broken down by microorganisms within a reasonable amount of time. Here's how long some substances take to biodegrade.

- Paper towel, 2 to 4 weeks
- Orange or banana peel, 2 to 5 weeks
- Apple core, 2 months
- Cardboard box, 2 months
- Wool sock, 1 to 5 years
- Wax-coated paper milk carton, 3 months
- Plastic bag, 10 to 20 years
- Tin can, 50 years
- Aluminum can, 80 to 200 years
- Soft plastic water bottle, 450 years
- Fishing line, 600 years

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

Among the joys of being outdoors is finding evidence of the natural world and of our past. Resist the temptation to collect antlers, petrified wood, unusual rocks, alpine flowers, and other natural souvenirs. Removing almost anything can change an environment in ways that might have a negative effect on wildlife and plant communities.

Leave a place in as good a condition as you found it by removing everything that you bring into an area. Don't leave structures or furniture at a campsite, and don't dig trenches. "Pack it in, pack it out" is good advice when it comes to food wrappers, cans, paper, and whatever else you have carried to camp or along a trail.



Rather than carry home natural souvenirs, take photos or make sketches or pencil rubbings. If you find something significant, mark the location on your map and report the find to local land management.

MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

Many Scouts use stoves rather than campfires on all their camping trips. Without a wood fire at the center of their camp, they often find that they are more aware of their surroundings and of the night sky. Stoves are clean, quick to heat water and cook food, and easy to light in any weather. Best of all, they leave no marks on the land.



Campfires have their place, too. A fire can warm you, dry your clothes, and provide a focal point for gathering with friends. Bright flames can lift your spirits on a rainy morning. At night, glowing embers can stir your imagination.

A good Scout knows how to build a fire, especially in an emergency, but knows there are often reasons not to light one.

- Campfires can char the ground, blacken rocks, and sterilize soil. Vegetation might have a hard time growing where a fire has been.
- Fires consume branches, bark, and other organic material that would have provided shelter and food for animals and plants.
- Campfires must be closely watched and carefully extinguished to prevent them from spreading to surrounding grasses, brush, and trees.

Find out ahead of time if the area where you plan to camp permits the use of fires. If you build one, use an existing fire ring or raised platform and use only dead or downed wood that you can break by hand. Burn only wood (no trash). If possible, allow the fire to burn completely to ash so no charred wood or coals are left. After the ashes are completely cool, scatter them over a wide area.



RESPECT WILDLIFE

Travel quietly and give animals enough space that you don't disturb them. Avoid nesting sites, feeding areas, and other places critical to wildlife. Chasing or picking up wild animals causes them stress and can affect their ability to survive.

Plan your trips so that you can protect your food from wildlife. This is especially important when you are sharing the woods with bears. Bears that find food in campsites might come back for more, and that can be dangerous for both the animals and the campers. Keep your camp clean and hang your food and other smellables from trees or store it in bear-proof containers.



Virginia opossum

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS



Scouts are not the only people who enjoy outdoor adventures. Be considerate of everyone you meet along the way. If you can, select campsites away from those of other campers. Trees, bushes, and the shape of the terrain can screen your camp from trails and neighboring campsites. Tents with muted colors that blend into the background will reduce the visual impact of your camp.

Leave portable music players at home and hold down noise in your troop and patrol. Keeping noise to a minimum will make it easier to appreciate the outdoors, and you will be less likely to disturb wildlife and other backcountry users.

> 8 HIKING

