

THE OUTDOOR CODE

The outdoors is a focus of Cub Scouting. For more than 70 years, the Outdoor Code has been a guide for Scouts in the outdoors. Remember to do your best by showing respect for the outdoors and by learning and upholding the Outdoor Code.

As an American, I will do my best to:

- **Be clean in my outdoor manners.**

A Cub Scout takes care of the outdoors and keeps the outdoors clean. A Cub Scout knows that putting marks on buildings, trees, or natural objects causes permanent damage.

- **Be careful with fire.**

A Cub Scout may enjoy a campfire only with adult leaders. A Cub Scout knows not to play with matches and lighters.

- **Be considerate in the outdoors.**

A Cub Scout shares our outdoor places and treats everything on the land and in the water with respect.

- **Be conservation-minded.**

A Cub Scout works to restore the health of the land so others may enjoy, live, and learn from it as a part of the Web of Life.



LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES FOR KIDS

As a Cub Scout, you'll learn to use the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids to help you take care of the outdoors.



1. KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Be Prepared! Don't forget clothes that protect you from cold, heat, and rain.
- Use maps to show you where you'll be going so you won't get lost.
- Learn about the area you visit. Read books and talk to people before you go. The more you know, the more fun you'll have.

2. CHOOSE THE RIGHT PATH

- Stay on the main trail to protect nature, and don't wander off by yourself.
- Steer clear of flowers or small trees. Once hurt, they may not grow back.
- Use existing camp areas and camp at least 100 big steps from roads, trails, and water.

3. TRASH YOUR TRASH

- Pack it in, pack it out. Put litter, even crumbs, in trash cans or carry it home.
- Use bathrooms or outhouses when available. If you have to “go,” act like a cat and bury poop in a small hole 4-8 inches deep and 100 big steps from water.
- Place your toilet paper in a plastic bag and put the bag in a garbage can back home.
- Keep water clean. Do not put soap, food, or poop in lakes or streams.

4. LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

- Leave plants, rocks, and historical items as you find them so the next person can enjoy them. Treat living plants with respect. Hacking or peeling plants can kill them.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Don't dig trenches or build structures in your campsite.

5. BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

- Use a camp stove for cooking. It's easier to cook on and clean up than a fire.
- Be sure it's OK to build a campfire in the area you're visiting. Use an existing fire ring to protect the ground from heat. Keep your fire small. Remember, campfires aren't for trash or food.
- Do not snap branches off live, dead, or downed trees. Instead, collect loose sticks from the ground.
- Burn all wood to ash, and be sure that the fire is completely out and cold before you leave.

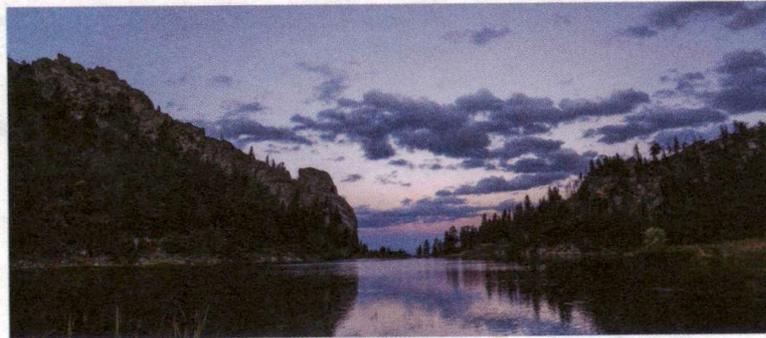
6. RESPECT WILDLIFE

- Observe animals from a distance and never approach, feed, or follow them. Human food is unhealthy for all animals, and feeding them starts bad habits.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing your meals and trash.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.

7. BE KIND TO OTHERS

- Make sure the fun you have in the outdoors does not bother anyone else. Remember that other visitors are there to enjoy the outdoors.
- Listen to nature. Avoid making loud noises or yelling. You will see more animals if you are quiet.

Remember – you'll enjoy nature even more by caring for your special place.



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BOBCAT

CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP



SNAPSHOT OF ADVENTURE



The Bobcat Adventure will get you and your patrol off to a great start. In this Adventure, you'll learn about things like the Scout slogan and the patrol method. And you'll visit a Scouts BSA troop.

REQUIREMENTS

Approved by _____

1. Demonstrate the patrol method by choosing a patrol name and electing a patrol leader. Discuss the benefits of using the patrol method. _____
2. Get to know the members of your patrol. _____
3. Recite the Scout Oath and the Scout Law with your patrol. _____
4. With your patrol, create a code of conduct. _____
5. Demonstrate the Scouts BSA sign, Scouts BSA salute, and Scouts BSA handshake. Show how each is used. _____
6. Learn the Scouts BSA slogan and motto. _____
7. With your patrol, or with your parent or legal guardian, visit a Scouts BSA troop. _____
8. At home with your parent or legal guardian, do the activities in the booklet "How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide." _____



- Required Adventure
- Scan for this Adventure page

REQUIREMENT 1

Demonstrate the patrol method by choosing a patrol name and electing a patrol leader. Discuss the benefits of using the patrol method.



Your patrol is the basic team you'll work with in a Scouts BSA troop. Your patrol will work together, cook together, camp and hike together, and celebrate successes together.

Your patrol will select its own name, make its own flag, come up with its own yell, and elect its own leader. In a Scouts BSA troop the patrol leader represents the patrol to a group called the patrol leaders' council. The council is the group that plans the troop meetings and outings. If your patrol wants to learn about geocaching, for example, your patrol leader will take that idea to

the patrol leaders' council, which will vote on it. Your patrol can also plan its own activities. Sometimes, these will be part of a bigger troop outing, like a day hike during a weekend campout.

A well-functioning patrol is what makes a Scout troop work.

PATROL SPIRIT

Patrol spirit is the glue that holds the patrol together and keeps it going. Your patrol will develop spirit as you enjoy experiences together. Your name, flag, and yell help give your patrol a unique identity.

- ▶ Patrol name — Every patrol needs a good name, one that really describes what the patrol is all about. If your members like to swim, you might become the Sharks. If you're all into science fiction, you might become the Alien Patrol.
- ▶ Patrol flag — Your flag is your trademark. It shows your patrol name, emblem, Scouts BSA troop number, and the names of your members. As you win competitions, you can hang ribbons from it as reminders of your accomplishments.
- ▶ Patrol yell — Your yell lets other patrols know you've arrived. It should be short and fun and reflect your patrol's goals. Some patrols also have a patrol song. It's easy to make one up if you use a melody that everyone already knows.

Arrow of Light Patrol Leader

As an Arrow of Light patrol leader, you assist the den leader during patrol meetings and other activities. Your den leader is still in charge, and at no time is the Arrow of Light patrol leader to be given responsibility over other youth. Your den leader will decide how the patrol leader will be elected.

The den leader decides what the Arrow of Light patrol leader will help with, and that may change for each meeting. Here are some examples of things that an Arrow of Light patrol leader may be asked to do:

- ▶ Arrive early to help set up the meeting.
- ▶ Welcome everyone when they arrive at the patrol meeting.
- ▶ Lead the patrol in reciting the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.
- ▶ Carry the United States flag during the opening.
- ▶ Pick a game for the patrol to play.
- ▶ Help hand out supplies for an activity.
- ▶ Stay after the meeting to help clean up.

If you're elected to be the Arrow of Light patrol leader, do your best to set an example for the other Scouts by acting by the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. This is the greatest responsibility of an Arrow of Light patrol leader. This is called leadership by example. One way you can do this is to be friendly to everyone in the patrol and offer to help another Scout who may need it.

REQUIREMENT 2

Get to know the members of your patrol.

Getting to know others is one way to live by the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. When you get to know other people, you're being friendly. It is also a way to practice being courteous, kind, cheerful, and even brave.

Your Arrow of Light patrol may have Scouts who you know from last year, there may be some new Scouts, or you may be new to Scouting. These are all good reasons why one of the first things you should do is get to know everyone in your patrol. If you have a new Scout join your patrol later on, you and everyone in the patrol should make sure to make them feel welcome and get to know them, too.



If you don't know someone in your patrol, here are some things you can do to get to know them:

Introduce yourself. "Hi, my name is _____. What is your name?"

Ask them, "What are some things that you like to do?"

Tell them about the things you like to do.

Some people are shy. They may find it hard to interact with others and tend to stay away from the group. Be respectful of that, being friendly and inclusive with that person as best as you can. You may find that they may eventually decide to join you.

Remember a Scout is friendly and kind. Next thing you know, you may have a new friend.

REQUIREMENT 3

**Recite the Scout Oath and the Scout Law
with your patrol.**

Scouts learn an amazing number of things about camping, nature, first aid, and more. Some of the most important things are on the next few pages. The Scout Oath and the Scout Law will guide your steps long after you hang up your hiking boots.

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.



On my honor ... Honor is the core of who you are — your honesty, your integrity, your reputation, the ways you treat others, and how you act when no one is looking. By giving your word at the outset of the Scout Oath, you are promising to be guided by its ideals.

I will do my best ... Do all you can to live by the Scout Oath, even when you are faced with difficult challenges. Measure your achievements against your own high standards, and don't be influenced by peer pressure or what other people do.

To do my duty ... Duty is what others expect of you, but more importantly, it is what you expect of yourself.

to God ... Your family and religious leaders teach you about God and the ways you can serve. You can do your duty to God by following the wisdom of those teachings and by defending the rights of others to practice their own beliefs.

and my country ... Help the United States continue to be a strong and fair nation by learning about our system of government and your responsibilities as a citizen. When you do all you can for your family and community, you are serving your country. Making the most of your opportunities will help shape our nation's future.

and to obey the Scout Law; ... In your thoughts, words, and deeds, the 12 points of the Scout Law will lead you toward doing the right thing throughout your life. When you obey the Scout Law, other people will respect you for the way you live, and you will respect yourself.

To help other people at all times; ... Your cheerful smile and helping hand will ease the burden of many who need assistance. By helping out whenever you can, you are making the world better. "At all times" is a reminder to help even when it is difficult and even if you haven't been asked.

To keep myself physically strong, ... Taking care of your body prepares you for a lifetime of great adventures. You can build your body's strength and endurance by eating nutritious foods, getting enough sleep, and being active. You should also avoid tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, and anything else that might harm your health.

mentally awake, ... Develop your mind both in and outside of the classroom. Be curious about everything around you, and never stop learning. Work hard to make the most of your abilities. With an inquiring attitude and the willingness to ask questions, you can learn much about the world around you and your role in it.

and morally straight. Your relationships with others should be honest and open. Respect and defend the rights of all people. Be clean in your speech and actions and faithful in your religious duties. Values you practice as a Scout will help you shape a life of virtue and self-reliance.

THE SCOUT LAW

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

The Meaning of the Scout Law

The Scout Law has 12 points. Each is a goal for every Scout. A Cub Scout agrees to live by the Scout Law every day, not just when they are at a Cub Scout meeting. It's not always easy to do, but a Cub Scout always does their best.

A Scout is trustworthy. A Scout tells the truth. A Scout is honest and keeps promises. People can depend on a Scout. Trustworthiness will help you make and maintain good friendships. As you demonstrate that you are trustworthy, you are showing your character — the person you are on the inside. If your judgment fails and you make a mistake, your good character will be what helps you quickly admit it and make good on any damage. Adults and your peers alike will know that they can rely on you to do your best in every situation. Living in this way also means that you can trust yourself.

A Scout is loyal. A Scout is loyal to those to whom loyalty is due. Loyalty can be shown everywhere: at home, in your Scouts BSA troop and patrol, among your classmates at school. You can also express loyalty to the United States when you respect the flag and the government. Give real meaning to your loyalty by helping to improve your community, state, and nation.



A Scout is helpful. A Scout cares about other people. A Scout helps others without expecting payment or reward. A Scout fulfills duties to the family by helping at home. Scouts want the best for everyone and act to make that happen. While a Scout might work for pay, a Scout does not expect to receive money for being helpful. A Good Turn that is done in the hope of getting a tip or a favor is not a Good Turn at all.

A Scout is friendly. A Scout is a friend to all other Scouts. A Scout offers friendship to people of all races, religions, and nations, and a Scout respects them even if their beliefs and customs are different. If you are willing to be a good friend, you will find friendship reflected back to you. Friends also are able to celebrate their differences, realizing that real friends can respect the ideas, interests, and talents that make each person special.

A Scout is courteous. A Scout is polite to people of all ages and positions. A Scout understands that using good manners makes it easier for people to get along. Being courteous shows that you are aware of the feelings of others. The habits of courtesy that you practice as a Scout will stay with you throughout your life.

A Scout is kind. Scouts treat others as they want others to treat them. A Scout knows there is strength in being gentle. A Scout does not harm or kill any living thing without good reason. Kindness is a sign of true strength. To be kind, you must look beyond yourself and try to understand the needs of others. Take time to listen to people and imagine being in their place. Extending kindness to those around you and having compassion for all people is a powerful agent of change to a more peaceful world.

A Scout is obedient. A Scout follows the rules of the family, school, and troop. Scouts obey the laws of their communities and countries. If a Scout thinks these rules and laws are unfair, then change is sought in an orderly way. Many times, rules are put in place to keep you safe, to help you learn, or simply to create order. Being obedient when an authority such as your parents, teachers, or government imposes rules is your way of helping them achieve success. Trust your beliefs and obey your conscience, though, if you are told to do something that you know is wrong.

A Scout is cheerful. A Scout looks for the bright side of life. A Scout cheerfully does assigned tasks and tries to make others happy, too. You know that you cannot always have your way, but a cheerful attitude can make the time seem to pass more quickly and can even turn a task you dislike into a lot of fun. You have a choice whether to enjoy life's experiences and challenges. It is always easier and much more enjoyable to decide from the start to be cheerful whenever you can.

A Scout is thrifty. Scouts work to pay their own way and to help others. Scouts save for the future. A Scout protects and conserves natural resources and is careful in the use of time, money, and property. Paying your own way with money you have earned gives you independence and pride. Even if you have only a few dollars, you have enough to save a bit for the future and even to share a bit with others — although what you share doesn't have to be in cash. Volunteering your time and talent can be just as valuable as donating money.

A Scout is brave. A Scout faces danger even when afraid. A Scout does the right thing even when doing the wrong thing or doing nothing would be easier. Bravery doesn't have to mean saving someone's life at risk to your own. While that is definitely brave, you are also being brave when you speak up to stop someone from being bullied or when you do what is right in spite of what others say. You are brave when you speak the truth and when you admit a mistake and apologize for it. And you show true courage when you defend the rights of others.

A Scout is clean. Scouts keep their bodies and minds fit. A Scout chooses friends who also live by high standards. Scouts avoid profanity and pornography. A Scout helps keep the home and community clean. A Scout knows there is no kindness or honor in tasteless behavior, such as using profanity or ethnic slurs, or in making fun of someone who is different from themselves. A Scout avoids that kind of behavior in words and deeds. Scouts keep their character clean by carefully monitoring what is viewed on television and the internet or read in books and magazines.

A Scout is reverent. A Scout is reverent toward God. A Scout is faithful in fulfilling religious duties. A Scout respects the beliefs of others. Wonders all around us remind us of our faith in God, and we show our reverence by living our lives according to the ideals of our beliefs. You will encounter people expressing their reverence in many ways. It is your duty to respect and defend their rights to their religious beliefs even when they differ from your own.

REQUIREMENT 4

With your patrol, create a code of conduct.



To create a code of conduct, think about how you should act during a patrol meeting and how you expect everyone else to act.

The first step is to have everyone give their ideas on what should be part of the code of conduct. Then find the codes that everyone agrees upon. If you can, make it a list of things you should do instead of a list of things you shouldn't do. It is also best to keep the list short and simple.

To get you started, here are two things you may want to add to your patrol code of conduct:

- ▶ Everyone will do their best to live by the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.
- ▶ We will do our best to make everyone feel welcome in our patrol.

REQUIREMENT 5

Demonstrate the Scouts BSA sign,
Scouts BSA salute, and Scouts BSA handshake.
Show how each is used.



The Scouts BSA Sign

The Scout sign is a universal symbol of Scouting. To make it, hold up the three middle fingers of your right hand, and cover the nail of your little finger with your thumb. Hold your elbow at a right angle. And stand up straight; you are a Scout!

The Scout sign is used to get people's attention. When you see a leader holding up the Scout sign, get quiet and hold up the Scout sign, too. Pretty soon, everybody in the room will do the same.



The Scouts BSA Salute

The Scout salute is used to salute the United States flag when you are in your Scout uniform. You can also use it to salute other Scouts and leaders. To make the salute, form the Scout sign with your right hand, then bring your hand up, palm down, so your forefinger touches the brim of your hat or the tip of your right eyebrow.

We use the Scout salute when the United States flag is being raised or lowered.

We use the Scout salute when the United States flag is passing by, like in a parade.

We use the Scout salute when someone is saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Scouts BSA Handshake

Unlike most people, Scouts shake hands with their left hands. The left hand is closer to the heart, so the

Scout handshake symbolizes friendship. It's a special handshake shared by millions of Scouts around the world. According to a story Scouting's founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell told, some warriors he met in Africa shook hands with their left hands. To do that, they had to put down their shields, thus showing trust in the people they were greeting.



REQUIREMENT 6

Learn the Scouts BSA slogan and motto.

SCOUT MOTTO

Be Prepared. That's the Scout motto.

"Be prepared for what?" someone once asked Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of worldwide Scouting.

"Why, for any old thing," he replied.

The skills you learn in Scouting will help you live up to the Scout motto. Because you know first aid, you will be prepared if someone gets hurt. Because you will have practiced lifesaving skills, you might be able to save a nonswimmer struggling in deep water. Whenever leadership is needed, you will understand what to do.

Baden-Powell wasn't thinking only of being ready for emergencies. His idea was that Scouts should prepare themselves to become productive citizens and strong leaders and to bring joy to other people. He wanted each Scout to be ready in mind and body and to meet with a strong heart whatever challenges lie ahead.

You'll face plenty of decisions in your life. How will you spend your time? Who will your friends be? What will you do after high school? Remembering the Scout motto can help you make those decisions a little more easily.



SCOUT SLOGAN

Do a Good Turn Daily.

The Scout slogan is Do a Good Turn Daily. That means doing something to help others each day without expecting anything in return. It means doing your part to care for your community and the environment, too.

A Good Turn is more than simple good manners. It is a special act of kindness. From recycling to helping conserve America's natural resources, opportunities for Good Turns are everywhere. Some Good Turns are big — providing service after floods or other disasters, rescuing someone from a dangerous situation, recycling community trash, or completing conservation projects with your patrol. Good Turns also can be small, thoughtful acts — helping a disabled person safely cross a busy street, going to the store for an elderly neighbor, cutting back weeds blocking a street sign, or doing something special for a sibling.

REQUIREMENT 7

With your patrol, or with your parent or legal guardian, visit a Scouts BSA troop.

As part of this Adventure, you will visit a Scouts BSA troop meeting. You might even visit the meetings of more than one troop so you can see how they are



different and which one you want to join. The troop you visit may be chartered by the same organization as your Cub Scout pack and may even meet right down the hall from your patrol. If so, you'll see a lot of familiar faces. But you may visit a troop in a different part of town where you don't know anybody. If you're feeling a little nervous, that's normal! Some of the Scouts you will meet were Arrow of Light Scouts not long ago and they felt that way too. They'll be excited to meet you and help you feel comfortable.

Inside a Scouts BSA Troop Meeting

Scouts BSA troop meetings are a lot different from your pack meetings, so you may not know exactly what is going on at first. In fact, you may not even think the Scouts know what is going on. They really do, however. So, what is going on?

Here's what a typical Scouts BSA troop meeting looks like:

First, the senior patrol leader — that's the top elected youth leader — calls the troop to order using the Scout sign. One of the patrols — they are like dens or an Arrow of Light patrol — leads a flag ceremony, and everybody recites the Pledge of Allegiance or the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.

Next, one of the Scouts (or a registered adult volunteer) teaches the group a skill like how to navigate using a compass. After the Scouts practice that skill for a while, they break up into patrols. One patrol might work on advancement requirements, another might decorate its patrol flag, and a third might make plans for an upcoming patrol hike. During this time (and really during the whole meeting), individual Scouts may be working on advancement, doing their troop jobs, or meeting with the Scoutmaster.

After the patrol meetings, everybody comes back together to play a game. This may be a game just for fun, or it may give the Scouts a chance to practice the skill they learned earlier. For example, they might navigate a compass course outside their meeting place.

Finally, the whole troop gets back together for the closing ceremony. The senior patrol leader makes a few announcements. The Scoutmaster gives some words of wisdom — called a Scoutmaster's Minute. The patrol that led the flag ceremony retrieves the colors. And just like that, the meeting's over.

The Scouts run the troop meeting themselves. If things are going well, the only time an adult should say anything during a troop meeting is when the Scoutmaster gives the Scoutmaster's Minute. The same thing is true for hikes, campouts, service



projects, and everything else. Adult leaders are there to supervise, mentor, and coach the Scouts.

The Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmasters train the youth leaders and then stand on the sidelines watching them in action.

Who Runs the Scouts BSA Troop?

You can identify the youth leaders by the badges of office they wear on their left sleeves. Adult volunteer leaders also wear badges of office. When you visit a troop meeting, look for some of these leaders:

Youth Leadership

- ▶ **Senior patrol leader:** leads the troop.
- ▶ **Assistant senior patrol leader:** supports the senior patrol leader.
- ▶ **Troop guide:** helps a patrol of young Scouts, much like a den chief helps a Cub Scout den.
- ▶ **Quartermaster:** takes care of the troop's equipment.
- ▶ **Scribe:** takes care of the troop's records.
- ▶ **Instructor:** teaches skills.
- ▶ **Patrol leader:** leads a patrol.
- ▶ **Assistant patrol leader:** assists the patrol leader.



Adult Leadership

- ▶ **Scoutmaster:** an adult who coaches the senior patrol leader and other youth leaders.
- ▶ **Assistant Scoutmaster:** an adult who supports the Scoutmaster.

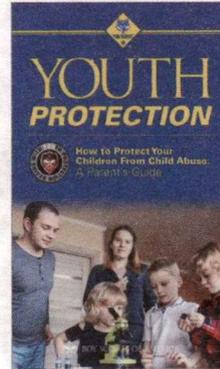


If you get a chance at the troop meeting, ask some youth and adult leaders what they do. Be on the lookout for other badges of office, and find out about those leadership roles, too.

REQUIREMENT 8

At home, with your parent or legal guardian, do the activities in the booklet "How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide."

Your parent(s) or legal guardian must read the booklet that is in front of your handbook. They can also find the online version by scanning this QR code.



CONGRATULATIONS!

**You have completed your first required
Arrow of Light Adventure!**

You may now earn any of the other Arrow of Light Adventures.