



**5TH GRADE**

**ARROW OF  
LIGHT SCOUT  
HANDBOOK**

# ARROW OF LIGHT

**THIS BOOK BELONGS TO**



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



Q: What do you get  
when you cross  
a giraffe  
and an  
Arrow of  
Light  
Scout?

A: Someone  
everybody  
looks up to.

Impress your friends and family with the best jokes. Laugh at the funniest comics. Be inspired by the heroes of Scouts in Action. And learn how to get the most out of Scouting. All in

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## WELCOME TO THE ARROW OF LIGHT ADVENTURE TRAIL

The purpose of the Arrow of Light Adventure trail is to prepare you to join a Scouts BSA troop. As you're having fun, you'll complete a group of activities called **Adventures**. After completing each Adventure, you'll receive an Adventure pin that is worn on special ribbons called the Adventure Colors that attach to the right sleeve of your Cub Scout uniform shirt. You may complete as many Adventures as you like, but to earn the Arrow of Light badge of rank, you must complete all six required Adventures and at least two elective Adventures. When you complete the Arrow of Light and you are at least 10 years old, you can join a Scouts BSA troop and start on your Scouts BSA journey.



## CUB SCOUT PARENT GUIDE

(This section is for your parent or legal guardian.)

Your child will get the most out of their Arrow of Light experience when you take an active part. The Arrow of Light is designed to prepare your child to join a Scouts BSA troop. This means you will interact with both the Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA programs. Cub Scouting is led by volunteer parents just like you. They come together to plan Cub Scout activities, meetings, and special events. For many, this is a great way to get to know the other families in the community. Chances are, you have a lot in common. Your children may attend the same school and may even have the same teachers. You may shop at the same grocery store, play at the same park, or even live within walking distance from each other.





## GETTING STARTED AS A CUB SCOUT PARENT

1. ***Find out who your contact person is for Cub Scouting.*** The contact person may have a specific title like **den leader** or **Cubmaster**, or they just may be an active parent. This is the person whom you can contact to ask questions as you are getting started.
2. ***Confirm the details of the den meetings,*** pack meetings, and other activities. Add them to your personal and family calendars.
3. ***Plug into the communication channel*** that your pack and your den use. Each Cub Scout pack has different ways they communicate with parents; some have multiple ways. It may be as simple as a text message group, a communications app, or a social media page. Make sure that the contact information you give to the Cub Scout pack is accurate.
4. ***Download the free Scouting app*** from the Apple App Store® and Google Play™ store. The Scouting app gives parents an easy way to stay connected with their Cub Scout's progress and official records.
5. ***Read the remainder of this chapter,*** Cub Scout Parent Guide and the Essential Cub Scout Family Activities chapter.

## **WHAT IS THE ARROW OF LIGHT?**

Cub Scouting is BSA's program for youth in kindergarten through fifth grade. BSA's mission 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 the Scout Law. This is accomplished through Scouting's aims — what we want to teach — and methods — how we teach.

The four aims of Scouting are: character, leadership, personal fitness, and citizenship.

The seven methods of Cub Scouting are: living the ideals, belonging to a den, advancement, family involvement, activities, serving the neighborhood, and the uniform.

Your child wanted to join and will stay in Scouting because it's fun. Scouting has been described as "a game with a purpose." The activities in Scouting serve a purpose deeper than just having fun, though. Activities are designed to meet the mission of the BSA.

As an Arrow of Light Scout, your child will be transitioning into Scouts BSA. Scouts BSA has the same aims as Cub Scouting, the same Scout Oath, and the same Scout Law. The methods, or how the program is delivered, are different.

The eight methods of Scouts BSA are: the ideals, patrols, outdoor programs, advancement, adult association, personal growth, leadership development, and the uniform.

For over 100 years, Scouts BSA has helped create generations of leaders and outstanding citizens by allowing boys and girls to explore their interests, serve their communities, and discover their talents through youth-led activities like hiking, camping, and volunteering.





## **PREPARING FOR SCOUTS BSA**

Scouts BSA is led by the youth in the troop. Adult leaders provide supervision, guidance, and coaching. When you visit a Scouts BSA troop, you will find that it's different from Cub Scouting. Get to know the adult leaders of the Scouts BSA troop, and don't be afraid to ask questions. You will find that being a parent of a Scout in Scouts BSA is different. Just as your child is growing up and seeking greater independence at home, they are also expected to do things on their own in Scouts BSA.

At first it may be hard to watch your child struggle when they are trying to figure things out. Adult leaders in Scouts BSA are trained in specific methods that are safe and allow for your child to become resilient, to develop their character, and to problem-solve. They cannot solve problems if they are always presented with the solutions.

## HOW SCOUTING IS ORGANIZED

Later in this book, we describe how Cub Scouting is organized in a way your Arrow of Light Scout can best understand. As an adult, we want you to have a deeper understanding of the BSA.

Think of the BSA as an upside-down pyramid. At the base of the pyramid — the smallest part — is the national organization of the BSA. It is designed to support the sections above it. The **National Council** of the BSA is led by a volunteer group called the National Executive Committee along with the chief executive officer, or the **Chief Scout Executive**. Additional volunteers and staff members make up the National Council, which includes departments such as Scout shops, program development, information technology, and safety.



The next part of the pyramid is your local council, a geographic territory that the National Council has granted permission to deliver Scouting programs within that area. The local council is also led by a volunteer group and a council executive committee, along with a chief executive officer called the **Scout executive**.

On the left sleeve of the Cub Scout uniform is a patch that identifies your local council.

Some councils create geographic areas called **districts**. Districts are designed to provide service and support to local Scouting programs in the designated area. A district committee made up of volunteers does this work and is often supported by a staff member called a **district executive**.



At the top of the pyramid — the largest part — are the local Scouting programs. Local councils partner with community organizations, called chartered organizations, to deliver Scouting

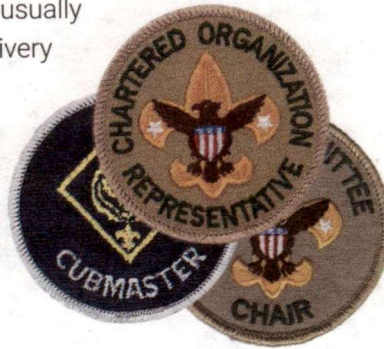


programs. Chartered organizations have an annual agreement with the local council to sponsor one or more Scouting programs.

If a chartered organization wants to have a Cub Scout program, it organizes what is called a Cub Scout **pack**. Packs are organized to best serve the families to whom the chartered organization is looking to deliver the program. Often, this is a school, neighborhood, or community. Your Cub Scout pack is identified with a number. On the Cub Scout uniform, there is a place to put your pack number on the left sleeve under the council patch.

The **chartered organization representative** is just that, the person designated to represent the organization that has an agreement with the local council to deliver the Scouting program. The chartered organization approves all those who volunteer to be leaders in the pack, usually parents of Cub Scouts. Each pack has a pack committee made up of leaders and parents led by the **pack committee chair**. This volunteer, usually a parent, organizes the adults to plan and deliver the Cub Scouting program.

The **Cubmaster** is a volunteer, usually a parent, who coordinates the delivery of the program to the youth of all ages at the pack level, with the help of **assistant Cubmaster(s)** and other parents. In a Scouts BSA troop, the **Scoutmaster** is a volunteer, usually a parent, who works with the troop's youth leadership to deliver the program.



A Cub Scout pack is made up of small groups called **dens** though Arrow of Light Scouts form small groups called **Arrow of Light patrols** to prepare them for Scouts BSA. How dens are formed is up to the pack. Packs ultimately form dens and patrols in a way that best serves the families in the pack. While dens may be co-ed, Arrow of Light patrols are single-gender to prepare

Arrow of Light Scouts to join the single-gender programs of Scouts BSA.

Dens and Arrow of Light patrols are led by a volunteer **den leader** and **assistant den leader**, usually a parent. The den leader coordinates meetings and activities centered around Cub Scout **Adventures**. Adventures are made up of a group of activities. When the required activities for each Adventure are completed, the Cub Scout receives an Adventure pin that attaches to a group of ribbons called the **Adventure Colors**, worn on the uniform.

A Scouts BSA troop creates small groups called **patrols**. How patrols are formed is up to the youth in the troop. A troop may form a patrol of all new Scouts, or they may place new Scouts into existing patrols. Patrols are led by a youth who is elected by the other members of the patrol; this position is called the **patrol leader**. How patrol leaders are elected and how often elections are conducted is determined by the youth in the troop.

**Advancement** refers to the progress your Cub Scout is making toward their badge of rank. Cub Scouts work only on the badge of rank associated with their grade level. For fifth grade, this is the **Arrow of Light** badge of rank. Your Scout earns their Arrow of Light badge of rank by completing the six required Adventures and two elective Adventures. Scouts may not work on a badge of rank for an earlier grade level.

In Scouts BSA, advancement no longer progresses by grade. Instead, each Scout works at their own pace with support from youth leaders and adult volunteers. Advancement in Scouts BSA is progressive, meaning your Scout must earn ranks in the proper order, each building on what was learned before. In Scouts BSA, parents may not sign off or approve requirements.

**Your Arrow of Light Scout may not work on any requirements for Scouts BSA, the Scout badge of rank, or merit badges until they have joined a Scouts BSA troop.**



The **crossover ceremony** is a special ceremony the Cub Scout pack plans with the Scouts BSA troops that the Arrow of Light Scouts are joining. The program is designed for this to happen in January, February, or March. This time period allows for you and your child to become familiar with the leadership and membership of the Scouts BSA troop and to fully participate in preparing for Scouts BSA summer camp.

**Scouts BSA summer camp** is a weeklong camping experience conducted by a local BSA council. Scouts BSA troops often plan what summer camp they are attending a year in advance. The camp your Scouts BSA troop decides to attend may be local or in another state. Payments are often required for each Scout to attend. Troops may provide fundraising opportunities for Scouts. **As soon as possible, ask about your Scouts BSA troop's plan for summer camp and what you can do to prepare physically and financially.**

For an adult to attend a **Scouts BSA camping** activity, they are required to register in a fully-paid position as a volunteer with the Scouts BSA troop and complete Youth Protection training. The purpose of Scouts BSA camping is different from Cub Scout camping. Scouts BSA camping is focused on youth developing their skills and leadership. This is done using the **patrol method**. In addition to completing Youth Protection training, adults on Scouts BSA campouts need to be familiar with the patrol method and understand their role during the campout. While registered volunteers are often parents, their role in Scouts BSA is to provide supervision and guidance to the entire troop's youth. Adults sleep in separate tents than the youth, who set up their campsites by patrols.

## ESSENTIAL CUB SCOUT FAMILY ACTIVITIES

The Cub Scout program is designed for you to share adventures together. Be active, have fun, and enjoy the moments you have together. As an adult, you will also make new friends and have opportunities to try new things.

Cub Scouting is a holistic program; the positive impact works best when incorporated into your home. One way to do this is to be familiar with the Scout Oath and the Scout Law and look for ways to recognize your Cub Scout when they are following these values.



## **ADVENTURE REQUIREMENTS TO DO AT HOME**

Most Adventure requirements will be completed with your Arrow of Light patrol or pack, but the following requirements are designed to be done at home. Let your den leader know when you have completed them with your Scout.

### **BOBCAT**

Requirement 7 — 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."

### **PERSONAL FITNESS**

Requirement 4 — Review your BSA Annual Health and Medical Record with your parent or legal guardian. Discuss your ability to participate in pack and patrol activities.

### **DUTY TO GOD**

Your den leader may ask that you complete all requirements for this Adventure at home. See the requirements on page 133.



## THE ARROW OF LIGHT

The Arrow of Light is a symbol that shows a Cub Scout's willingness and preparedness to join a Scouts BSA troop and a commitment to live by the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. The arrow on the Arrow of Light badge of rank represents being true, an arrow that is straight and flies where it is aimed. A Scout aims to live by the Scout Oath and the Scout Law and stays true to



them. The seven rays from the arrow represent the seven days of the week and are a reminder that a Scout lives by the Scout Oath and the Scout Law all the time, not just during Scout meetings. When a Scout is true and lives by the Scout Oath and the Scout Law, they are a light of hope and inspiration to others.



When you join a Scouts BSA troop, you'll continue to wear the Arrow of Light as a symbol of your commitment to living by the Scout Oath and the Scout Law every day. If you continue as an adult leader in Scouting, you may wear the Arrow of Light as a square knot with a yellow border with one red string and one green string to form the knot.

## YOUR CUB SCOUT PACK

You and your family are part of a Cub Scout pack. A pack is made up of several families that are part of Cub Scouting in your community. A pack includes Cub Scouts who are in kindergarten through fifth grade. Packs will get together for activities, meetings, and outings. The adult leader of the pack is called the **Cubmaster**. To make Cub Scouting more fun, packs form small groups called dens.





## YOUR ARROW OF LIGHT PATROL

To prepare you for Scouts BSA, instead of forming a den like the other Cub Scouts in your pack, you'll form a patrol. Your patrol must be a single-gender group to prepare you for joining a Scouts BSA troop.



Your patrol is your group where you make new friends and earn Adventures as you work toward earning your Arrow of Light badge of rank. Each Arrow of Light patrol is a little different. In the Bobcat Adventure you will learn more about patrols. Most of your activities will be with your patrol, and you'll also start to know a local Scouts BSA troop. The adult leader of the Arrow of Light patrol is called the **den leader**.



## YOUR SCOUTS BSA TROOP

When you join Scouts BSA, you will become part of a Scouts BSA troop. A troop is made up of Scouts in your community who are as young as 10 and under 18 years old. The troop will plan and conduct campouts, activities, and meetings. Patrols are formed to give youth leadership opportunities and experience. The lead adult volunteer, selected to guide and advise the troop's youth leadership, is called the **Scoutmaster** and is assisted by other adult volunteers called **assistant Scoutmasters**. The youth leader of a troop is called the **senior patrol leader**. A troop forms small groups called patrols to make planning and conducting Scouting activities easier and to give you opportunities to practice leadership.



## YOUR SCOUTS BSA PATROL

A patrol is a small team of normally six to eight Scouts who learn skills together, share responsibilities, and take on leadership roles. A Scouts BSA troop is made up of several patrols. Each patrol elects a member to serve as their patrol leader. The patrol leader represents the patrol at the patrol leader's council, where they and the senior patrol leader meet regularly to plan campouts, meetings, and other activities with the guidance of the adult Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmasters.





## YOUR ARROW OF LIGHT AND SCOUTS BSA SCOUTING ADULT LEADERS

You will see adults in Cub Scouting and Scouts BSA; some you'll be able to recognize right away because they are wearing a uniform. Other adults may be part of the Cub Scout pack or Scouts BSA troop but do not wear a uniform. As a Scout, always be respectful to adults in your Cub Scout pack and Scouts BSA troop.

**At no time is any adult, other than your parent or legal guardian, to be alone with you.**





## YOUR ARROW OF LIGHT AND SCOUTS BSA UNIFORM

Wearing your uniform shows everyone that you're a Scout. Think of it as being part of one of the largest teams in America. Wear your uniform to pack meetings, patrol meetings, and special activities when you're with other Scouts. There are times when you're going to get dirty in Scouts; for those times, it's OK to wear a Scout T-shirt.

To prepare you for Scouts BSA, the Arrow of Light uniform includes the tan Scouts BSA shirt, green Scout bottoms (shorts, pants, or skort), a green Scout belt, and green Scout socks. There is no Arrow of Light hat or neckerchief; instead, your Arrow of Light patrol will decide if you want to have a hat and/or a neckerchief as part of your uniform.



As an Arrow of Light Scout, you also get to wear Adventure Colors, a group of yellow, green, and red ribbons attached to a metal clasp. As you earn your Arrow of Light Adventure pins, you'll attach them to the Adventure Colors. There is no order or specific color as to where you place the Adventure pins. The Adventures Colors go on your right sleeve.



The pictures below show you where to put badges of rank and patches on your tan Scouts BSA shirt. You might receive a patch for attending a special event like a campout or for selling popcorn. These are examples of “temporary insignia” and should be worn centered on the right pocket. Sometimes these patches come with a button loop so you can hang your patch from your pocket button.





## THE ARROW OF LIGHT ADVENTURE TRAIL

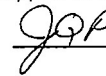
The Cub Scout activities that you do with your patrol, pack, or family are called Adventures. Each Adventure has a number of things you do to complete that Adventure, called requirements. You'll have fun completing the requirements with the help of your patrol, pack, and family.

When you complete a requirement for an Adventure, have your den leader confirm that you did your best by initialing the requirement in your handbook like in the sample below.

### REQUIREMENTS

1. Get to know the members of your den.

Approved by



When you complete an Adventure, you'll receive a special pin to place on your Adventure Colors. It's fun to earn as many Adventures as you can.

Most of the Adventures you do will be with your patrol. Your Cub Scout pack may also plan some activities that will help you earn an Adventure. You can complete requirements for Adventures at home with your family, but your den leader approves the completion of the requirement(s).

If you complete an Adventure, or a requirement for an Adventure outside of your patrol meeting, inform your den leader. Your den leader must approve all Adventure requirements, after which you'll be recognized for earning them.

To earn your Arrow of Light badge of rank, you must complete the six required Adventures and at least two elective Adventures.

that appear in this book. There are 16 elective Adventures to choose from.

Once you and your patrol complete your Arrow of Light badge of rank, your pack, with the assistance of the Scouts BSA troop you join, should conduct a crossover ceremony for you and your fellow Arrow of Light Scouts. This special event will highlight your experiences in Cub Scouting, recognize your accomplishments, and celebrate you joining a Scouts BSA troop.

## REQUIRED ADVENTURES

Every Cub Scout Adventure Trail starts with the required Bobcat Adventure. All Arrow of Light Scouts earn the Bobcat Adventure.

**Must complete each of the six required Adventures**



**Bobcat**  
(Character & Leadership)



**Outdoor Adventure**  
(Outdoors)



**Personal Fitness**  
(Personal Fitness)



**Citizenship**  
(Citizenship)



**First Aid**  
(Personal Safety Awareness)



**Duty to God**  
(Family & Reverence)

## ELECTIVE ADVENTURES

There are 16 Arrow of Light elective Adventures.  
You can earn as many electives as you want, but  
you do need at least two in addition to the six required  
Adventures to earn your Arrow of Light badge of rank.

**Must complete at least two elective Adventures**



Champions  
for Nature



Cycling



Engineer



Estimations



Fishing



High Tech  
Outdoors



Into the Wild



Into the  
Woods



Knife Safety



Paddle Craft



Race Time



Summertime  
Fun



Swimming



Archery\*



BBs\*



Slingshot\*

### Special Elective Adventures

\* These Arrow of Light elective Adventures can be earned only at an event sponsored by the local council or district.