



Arrow of Light Scouting Adventure



Purpose of the Adventure: Introduction to how Scouts BSA patrols and troops work.

Takeaways for the Scout:

- Opportunity to visit scout troops
- See how the troop runs with Scout Led program
- See how the patrol methods works in real format
- Continued education on knots, Scout rank and pocketknife safety

Complete the following Requirements:

1. Prepare yourself to join a troop by completing at least a-c below:
 - A. Repeat from memory the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan. In your own words, explain their meanings to your den leader, parent, or guardian.
 - B. Explain what Scout spirit is. Describe for your den leader, parent, or guardian some ways you have shown Scout spirit by conducting yourself according to the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan.
 - C. Give the Scout sign, salute, and handshake. Explain when to use each.
 - D. Describe the First Class Scout badge and tell what each part stands for. Explain the significance of the First Class Scout badge.
 - E. Repeat from memory the Pledge of Allegiance. In your own words, explain its meaning
2. Visit a troop meeting with your parent or guardian and, if possible, with your den members and leaders. After the meeting, do the following:
 - A. Describe how the Scouts in the troop provide its leadership.
 - B. Describe the four steps of Scout advancement.
 - C. Describe ranks in Scouting and how they are earned.
 - D. Describe what merit badges are and how they are earned.
3. Practice the patrol method in your den for one month by doing the following:
 - A. Explain the patrol method. Describe the types of patrols that might be part of a troop.
 - B. Hold an election to choose the patrol leader.

- C. Develop a patrol name and emblem (if your den does not already have one), as well as a patrol flag and yell. Explain how a patrol name, emblem, flag, and yell create patrol spirit.
 - D. As a patrol, make plans to participate in a troop's campout or other outdoor activity.
4. With your Webelos den leader, parent, or guardian, participate in a troop's campout or other outdoor activity. Use the patrol method while on the outing.
5. Do the following:
 - A. Show how to tie a square knot, two half hitches, and a taut-line hitch. Explain how each knot is used.
 - B. Show the proper care of a rope by learning how to whip and fuse the ends of different kinds of rope.
6. Demonstrate your knowledge of the pocketknife safety rules and the pocketknife pledge. If you have not already done so, earn your [Whittling Chip](#) card.

Requirement 1a. Repeat from memory the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan. In your own words, explain their meanings to your den leader, parent, or guardian.

Examples of the meaning could be: Oath & Law are my guidelines for living a moral & ethical life. If my actions do not live up to the oath & law, then I should not do it. Be Prepared could be, always have a plan and be ready for the unexpected. Do a Good Turn Daily, could be, without being told or asked, do something helpful for someone else, not expecting any phrase. Good deeds are contagious so let's spread this around.

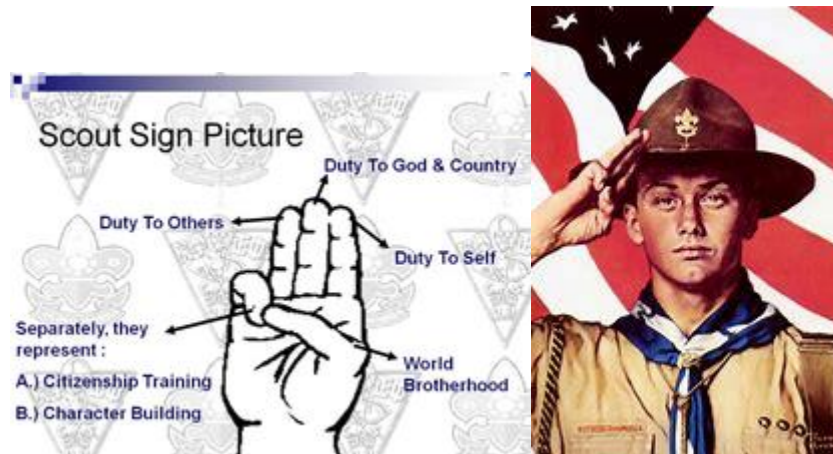
Requirement 1b. Explain what Scout spirit is. Describe for your den leader, parent, or guardian some ways you have shown Scout spirit by conducting yourself according to the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan.

Examples of spirit might be, showing that you are improving yourself by following the oath, law, motto and slogan. Always genuinely helping and cheering others for their accomplishments and not worrying about your own.

Requirement 1c. Give the Scout sign, salute, and handshake. Explain when to use each.

The Scout Sign and Salute are three fingers with pinky touching thumb. The sign is held at a 90 degree angle with elbow at shoulder height. Salute is same elbow at shoulder height with hand to brim of hat or temple of head.

Handshake is with the left hand. The sign should be used for Oath & Law and any pledge. Salute is for the US Flag (can be for other countries as well) and addressing respect to other scouts and leaders in uniform. The handshake is for greeting scouts and scouters only.



Requirement 1d. Describe the First Class Scout badge and tell what each part stands for. Explain the significance of the First Class Scout badge.



® THE SHAPE: The three-point design of the top half is like the north point of an old sailor's compass. This shows that a Scout is able to point the right way in life as truly as the compass points it in the field.

THREE POINTS: The three points of the trefoil are like the three fingers used in the Scout sign. They stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath: duty to God & country; duty to others; duty to yourself.

EAGLE & SHIELD: The eagle and shield, national emblem of the US, stand for freedom and a Scouter's readiness to defend that freedom.

TWO STARS: The two stars stand for truth and knowledge of the Scouting movement. They guide you by night and suggest a Scout's outdoor life

SCROLL: The scroll is turned up at the ends to remind us of the corners of a Scout's mouth raised in a smile as he does his duty. The Scout motto is printed across the scroll.

KNOT: The knot attached to the bottom of the scroll represents the Scout slogan, Do a Good Turn Daily. Learn to Tie the Knot

Requirement 1e. Repeat from memory the Pledge of Allegiance. In your own words, explain its meaning

Example of meaning might be:

I Pledge Allegiance: I promise to be faithful and true (promise my loyalty)

the Flag: to the emblem that stands for and represents

of the United States: all 50 states and territories, each of them individual, and individually states represented on the flag

of American: yet formed into a union of one nation

and to the Republic: and I also pledge my loyalty to the government that is itself a Republic, a form of government where the people are sovereign.

for which it stands: this government also being represented by the Flag to which I promise loyalty.

one Nation under God: The 50 individual states are united as a single Republic under the Divine providence of God.

Indivisible: and cannot be separated

with Liberty: The people of this Nation being afforded the freedom to pursue "life, liberty and happiness".

and Justice: And each person entitled to be treated justly, fairly and according to proper law and principle.

for All: These principles afforded to every loyal American regardless of race, religion, creed, or any other criteria.

Requirement 2a: Describe how the Scouts in the troop provide its leadership.

You should notice that most of the adults in the troop stand in the back and observe other than the Scoutmaster. The Scouts lead the troop meetings and activities by hierarchy of rank and are elected by the scouts in the troop

Requirement 2b: Describe the four steps of Scout advancement.

Step 1: The Scout learns. They learn Scouting skills by taking an active, hands-on part in troop and patrol meetings and outdoor programs. This learning, as we said above, is the natural outcome of their regular Scouting activities — their “on-the-job” training.

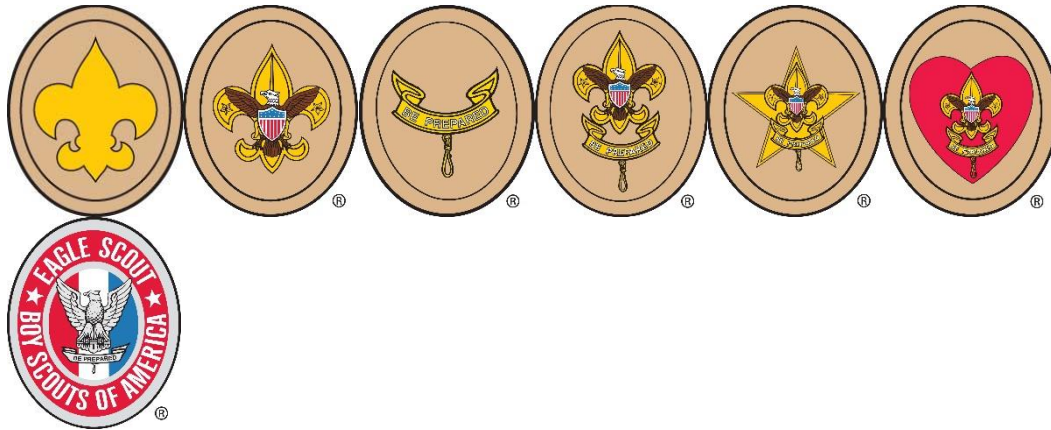
Step 2: The Scout is tested. When their leaders see that the Scout has mastered a given skill and satisfied a given requirement, they tell them so — and record the achievement.

Step 3: The Scout is reviewed. When a Scout completes all requirements for a rank, they appear before a “board of review” composed of members of the troop committee. Their purpose is not to retest the Scout, but to make sure the Scout has met all the requirements, to chat with the Scout about how they feel they are getting along with the troop and its program, and of course to encourage them to keep advancing.

Step 4: The Scout is recognized. When a Scout is certified by the Board of Review, they are awarded the new badge of rank as soon as possible, normally in a ceremony at the next troop meeting. The Scout should be recognized again at the troop’s next court of honor.

Requirement 2c: Describe ranks in Scouting and how they are earned.

There are seven ranks in Scouts BSA that are to be earned sequentially no matter what age a youth joins the program. Requirements for the Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks may be worked on simultaneously; however, these ranks must be earned in sequence. Star, Life and Eagle are Merit Badge driven with Eagle having required badges.



Requirement 2d: Describe what merit badges are and how they are earned.

Merit badges give scouts the opportunity to investigate around different areas of knowledge and skills. The merit badge program plays a major role in the scouting advancement program and participation can begin as soon as a scout registers with a troop. The only limitations are their ambition and availability of adult merit badge counselors to offer instruction.

Requirement 3a, Explain the patrol method. Describe the types of patrols that might be part of a troop.

MIXED AGE PATROLS: Historically, patrols were made up of Scouts of all ages and ranks. This approach offers several advantages:

Each patrol always has members who need to learn Scouting skills and members who are able to teach those skills.

Each patrol always has experienced leaders and members who need leadership experience.

Patrols thus are evenly matched for games and skill competitions.

All members don't "age out" at the same time.

SAME AGE PATROLS

New-Scout patrols

As the name implies, a new-Scout patrol serves Scouts who have just joined the troop. The patrol elects its own leader, just like other patrols, but usually for a shorter term—perhaps one month instead of six months. An older Scout called a troop guide works with the Scouts to help them get acclimated to Scouting

and to reach the rank of First Class. Backing up the troop guide is an assistant Scoutmaster whose main responsibility is to work with new Scouts.

Scouts typically remain in a new-Scout patrol for their first year in the troop or until they reach First Class rank (whichever comes first), although the transition happens sooner in some troops. At that point, members can either choose which regular patrol they want to join or opt to stay together as a regular patrol.

In some troops, Scouts join a patrol together and stay together throughout their time in the troop.

2. Regular patrols

Members of a regular or traditional patrol have similar interests and abilities. They enjoy spending time together and may well be friends outside of Scouting. Ideally, they have chosen to be in the same patrol.

The only time a Scout should be assigned to a patrol is when he first joins the troop.

Traditional patrols typically serve Scouts who have reached First Class rank or completed the seventh grade. However, a new Scout should join a traditional patrol if there are not enough newcomers to form a new-Scout patrol or if he was invited to join the troop by an older buddy.

Many troops assign an assistant Scoutmaster—called a patrol advisor—to each patrol. The patrol advisor advises and supports the patrol leader but does not take over his responsibilities in any way.

3. Older-Scout patrols

Not to be confused with Venturing crews, older-Scout patrols serve older Scouts who want to pursue more challenging high-adventure outings and sports activities while remaining in the troop. These Scouts often have a been-there-done-that attitude, so their patrol activities offer them new challenges while keeping them involved in troop leadership. You might think of the older-Scout patrol as a safety valve; it lets older Scouts blow off steam and then willingly re-engage with the troop.

An assistant Scoutmaster is assigned to the older-Scout patrol to help the members turn their outing ideas into action. He or she works to ensure that patrol activities complement, rather than conflict with, troop activities and may also guide the members along the trail to Eagle Scout rank.

Requirement 3b: Hold an election to choose the patrol leader.

The patrol members vote for the Patrol Leader and Asst Patrol Leader and should hold the title for 3-4 months, divide the scouts by months left before bridging and you have an approximate number of months each Scout should hold the rank.

Requirement 3c: Develop a patrol name and emblem (if your den does not already have one), as well as a patrol flag and yell. Explain how a patrol name, emblem, flag, and yell create patrol spirit.

A patrol name and emblem are links toward becoming Scouts BSA. Webelos and AOL's can wear the patrol patch on the uniform (below the American flag on the right sleeve). The patrol flag and yell further strengthen the patrol bond and spirit of unity.

Requirement 3d: As a patrol, make plans to participate in a troop's campout or other outdoor activity.

Make the plans to visit a troop in person or virtually or participate in a troop's activity. Find out when, where, what you'll be doing and who to contact.

Requirement 4: With your Webelos den leader, parent, or guardian, participate in a troop's campout or other outdoor activity. Use the patrol method while on the outing.

Carry out the plan from 3d

Requirement 5a: Show how to tie a square knot, two half hitches, and a taut-line hitch. Explain how each knot is used.

A square knot is used to tie two pieces of rope together, two half hitches are used to cinch down on a object that you are pulling or secured to and a taut-line can be used to snug and hold tent lines or flag pole lines. Practice tying these knots, you will need them continuously in scouting and life. See page 178 & 179 in Webelo book

Requirement 5b: Show the proper care of a rope by learning how to whip and fuse the ends of different kinds of rope.

Synthetic ropes can be burned (fused) or taped at the ends. Natural fiber ropes can't be fused but taped or whipped with string. See page 180 in the Webelos book

Requirement 6: Demonstrate your knowledge of the pocketknife safety rules and the pocketknife pledge. If you have not already done so, earn your Whittling Chip card.

The first rule of knife handling is when exchanging the knife, say "thank you" to accept it and do not release it until you hear them say "thank you." Commit to the pocketknife pledge. See pages 182 and 183 in Webelos book

Additional information can be found at the following sites or publications

Scouts BSA Handbook

<https://boyscouttrail.com/webelos/arrow-of-light-scouting-adventure.php>

<http://www.usscouts.org/advance/cubscout/aol-core.asp>

<https://troopleader.scouting.org/the-patrol/>

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/09/05/patrol-method/>