



# **Scouts BSA Troop 65**

## **Scout Rank Guidebook**



# SCOUT RANK REQUIREMENTS



All requirements for the Scout rank must be completed as a member of a troop. If you have already completed these requirements as part of the Webelos Scouting Adventure, simply demonstrate your knowledge or skills to your Scoutmaster or other designated leader after joining the troop.

✓		LEADER INITIAL & DATE
1a.	Repeat from memory the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan. In your own words, explain their meaning.	
1b.	Explain what Scout spirit is. Describe some ways you have shown Scout spirit by practicing the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan.	
1c.	Demonstrate the Boy Scout sign, salute, and handshake. Explain when they should be used.	
1d.	Describe the First Class Scout badge and tell what each part stands for. Explain the significance of the First Class Scout badge.	
1e.	Repeat from memory the Outdoor Code. In your own words, explain what the Outdoor Code means to you.	
1f.	Repeat from memory the Pledge of Allegiance. In your own words, explain its meaning.	
2.	After attending at least one Boy Scout troop meeting, do the following:	
2a.	Describe how the Scouts in the troop provide its leadership.	
2b.	Describe the four steps of Boy Scout advancement.	
2c.	Describe what the Boy Scout ranks are and how they are earned.	
2d.	Describe what merit badges are and how they are earned.	
3a.	Explain the patrol method. Describe the types of patrols that are used in your troop.	
3b.	Become familiar with your patrol name, emblem, flag, and yell. Explain how these items create patrol spirit.	
4a.	Show how to tie a square knot, two half-hitches, and a taut-line hitch. Explain how each knot is used.	
4b.	Show the proper care of a rope by learning how to whip and fuse the ends of different kinds of rope.	
5.	Demonstrate your knowledge of pocketknife safety.	
6.	With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet <i>How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide</i> and earn the Cyber Chip Award for your grade. <sup>1</sup>	
7.	Since joining the troop and while working on the Scout rank, participate in a Scoutmaster conference.	

**Notes:** For Varsity Scouts working on Boy Scout requirements, replace "troop" with "team" and "Scoutmaster" with "Varsity Scout Coach."

The requirements for the Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks may be worked on simultaneously; however, these ranks must be earned in sequence.

<sup>1</sup>If your family does not have Internet access at home AND you do not have ready Internet access at school or another public place or via a mobile device, the Cyber Chip portion of this requirement may be waived by your Scoutmaster in consultation with your parent or guardian.

Alternative requirements for the Scout rank are available for Scouts with physical or mental disabilities if they meet the criteria listed in the Boy Scout Requirements book.

**NOTE:** Scout Handbooks are in process of being rewritten. Substitute 'Scout' for 'Boy Scout'

# 1a. Repeat from memory the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan. In your own words, explain their meaning.

Every Scout for a hundred years has pledged to guide his thoughts and actions according to the Scout Oath, Scout Law, motto, and slogan, and the Outdoor Code. Now it is your turn.

## Scout Oath or Promise

*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.*

## What the Scout Oath or Promise Means

Before you agree to the Scout Oath or Promise, you must know what it means.

### 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 you are on your own.

### I will do my best . . .

Do all you can to live by the Scout Oath, even when you are faced with difficult challenges.

### 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.

***To help other people at all times; . . .***

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 without waiting to be 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.

***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 beliefs. Values you practice as a Scout will help you shape a life of virtue and self-reliance.



*Scouting's adventures will help you fulfill the last part of the Oath—staying strong and fit.*



## Scout Law

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

### What the Scout Law Means

The Scout Law will show you how to live as a youth and as an adult.

*A Scout is trustworthy.* A Scout tells the truth. A Scout is honest, and keeps their promises. People can depend on a Scout.

*A Scout is loyal.* A Scout is loyal to those to whom loyalty is due.

*A Scout is helpful.* A Scout cares about other people. He helps others without expecting payment or reward. He fulfills his duties to his family by helping at home.

*A Scout is friendly.* A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He offers his friendship to people of all races, religions, and nations, and respects them even if their beliefs and customs are different from his own.

*A Scout is courteous.* A Scout is polite to people of all ages and positions. He understands that using good manners makes it easier for people to get along.

*A Scout is kind.* A Scout treats others as he wants to be treated. He knows there is strength in being gentle. He does not harm or kill any living thing without good reason.







A *Scout is obedient*. A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he seeks to have them changed in an orderly way.

A *Scout is cheerful*. A Scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way and tries his best to make others happy, too.

A *Scout is thrifty*. A Scout works to pay his way and to help others. He saves for the future. He protects and conserves natural resources. He is careful in his use of time and property.

A *Scout is brave*. A Scout faces danger even if he is afraid.



A *Scout is clean*. A Scout keeps his body and mind fit. He chooses friends who also live by high standards. He avoids profanity and pornography. He helps keep his home and community clean.

A *Scout is reverent*. A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

## What the Scout Motto Means

*Be Prepared.* That's the Scout motto.

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

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

Training in Scoutcraft, woodcraft, and campcraft will help you live up to the Scout motto. You will be prepared if someone is hurt, because you know first aid. 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 await him.



Be prepared for life—to live happily and without regret, knowing that you have done your best. Being prepared financially is a particularly important skill you can practice by saving at least half of what you earn.

## What the Scout Slogan Means

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.

Some Good Turns are big—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 child cross a busy street, going to the store for an elderly neighbor, cutting back weeds blocking a sign, or doing something special for a brother or sister.

*Keep a Good Turn coin like this in your pocket to help you remember the Scout slogan.*



*From recycling to helping conserve America's natural resources, opportunities for Good Turns are everywhere.*

## 1b. Explain what Scout spirit is. Describe some ways you have shown Scout spirit by practicing the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan.

You show Scout spirit by making the Scout Oath, Scout Law, motto, and slogan part of your life. Many of the requirements for Scout ranks can be measured by other people. When you set out to swim 25 yards for the Second Class swimming requirement, anyone can see that you have covered the distance.

How well you live the Scout Oath and Scout Law can be judged by you and by others. You know when you are being kind and when you are helpful and a good friend. You know when you are trustworthy and reverent. You know how you act when no one is around to see what you do.

Do your best to live each day by the Scout Oath and Scout Law. You may look back on some of your decisions and wish you had acted differently, but you can learn from those moments and promise yourself to do better in the future.

As you use the Scout Oath and Scout Law for guidance, don't be surprised when others recognize those values in you and respect you for it. When a non-Scout tells you that you are behaving like a Boy Scout, that's a good sign that you have Scout spirit. Set high standards for yourself and strive to reach them. Ask nothing less of yourself, and no one can ask anything more of you.



“You prove that you have caught this spirit by the way you help in patrol, troop, home, school, church or synagogue, and community and your habits of caring for your own things and protecting the properties of others.”

—*Boy Scout Handbook*, 6th ed., 1959

The Scout Oath and Scout Law are not meant just to be recited at troop meetings, and they are not to be obeyed just while you are wearing a Scout uniform. The spirit of Scouting is always important—at home, at school, and in your community.

The standards set by the Scout Oath and Scout Law are very high. Strive to reach them every day, and you will find that they become as natural for you to live by as they are for you to say.



## 1c. Demonstrate the Scout Sign, Salute, and Handshake.

### Explain when they should be used.

Scouts greet one another and show they are members of the BSA with the Scout sign, salute, and handshake.



#### Scout Sign

Make the Scout sign by covering the nail of the little finger of your right hand with your right thumb, then raising your right arm with your elbow at a right angle and holding the three middle fingers of your hand upward.

The three fingers stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath:

- ▶ Duty to God and country
- ▶ Duty to others
- ▶ Duty to yourself

Your thumb and little finger touch to represent the bond uniting Scouts throughout the world.

Give the Scout sign each time you say the Scout Oath and Scout Law. When a Scout or Scouter raises the Scout sign, all Scouts should make the sign, too, and come to silent attention.



#### Scout Salute

Form the Scout sign with your right hand, then finish the salute by bringing that hand up, palm down, until your forefinger touches the brim of your hat or the tip of your right eyebrow.

The Scout salute is a form of greeting that also shows respect. Use it to salute the flag of the United States of America. You may also salute other Scouts and Scout leaders.

#### Scout Handshake

Extend your left hand to another Scout and firmly grasp his left hand. Made with the hand nearest your heart, the Scout handshake signifies friendship.



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

The Scout badge is shaped like the north point on an old compass. The design is also known as a trefoil (a flower with three leaves) or a fleur-de-lis (the French name for an iris flower). It is the basic shape of the badges worn by Scouts in other countries, too.

The two stars symbolize Scouting's ideals of truth and knowledge. As guides in the night sky for finding the way, stars also suggest a Scout's outdoor adventures.

The eagle with a shield, an emblem of the United States of America, represents freedom and a Scout's readiness to defend that freedom.

The scroll with the Scout motto is turned up at the ends to show that a Scout smiles as he does his duty.

The knot below the scroll is a reminder to do a Good Turn daily.

The shape of the Scout badge signifies a Scout's ability to point the right way in life just as a compass does in the wilderness. The three points of the trefoil, like the three raised fingers of the Scout sign, represent the three parts of the Scout Oath—duty to God and country, duty to others, and duty to yourself.

## 1e. Repeat from memory the Outdoor Code.

In your own words, explain what the Outdoor Code means to you.



### 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,*

*and*

*Be conservation-minded.*

### What the Outdoor Code Means

The Outdoor Code reminds Scouts of the importance of caring for the environment. Its ideals take on special meaning whenever you are camping, hiking, and taking part in other outdoor events.

Being clean in your manners, careful with fire, and considerate means you can enjoy the outdoors in ways that do the environment no harm. For example, using the principles of Leave No Trace, you can hike and camp in an area without leaving any signs that you were there.

Being conservation-minded encourages the protection and thoughtful use of natural resources. You also can do your part in service projects that improve the condition of wildlife, water, air, forests, and the land itself.

Wisdom you gain about the outdoors through your Scouting experiences can direct your actions wherever you are, whatever you do, and at every stage of your life. Your commitment to the Outdoor Code will make a positive difference in the quality of the environment today and for generations to come.

## 1f. Repeat from memory the Pledge of Allegiance.

### In your own words, explain its meaning.

The pledge of allegiance is recited on many occasions where Americans honor their flag.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

*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.*

#### **What the Pledge Means**

*I pledge allegiance . . . you promise to be loyal*

*to the Flag . . . to the symbol of your country*

*of the United States of America, . . . a nation of 50 states and several territories,  
each with certain rights of its own*

*and to the Republic . . . a country where the people elect representatives from  
among themselves to make laws for everyone*

*for which it stands, . . . the flag represents the values of our form of government,  
in which everyone is equal under the law*

*one Nation under God, . . . a country formed under God whose people are free to  
believe as they wish*

*indivisible, . . . the nation cannot be split into parts*

*with liberty and justice . . . with freedom and a system of law*

*for all. . . for every person in the nation, regardless of their differences*



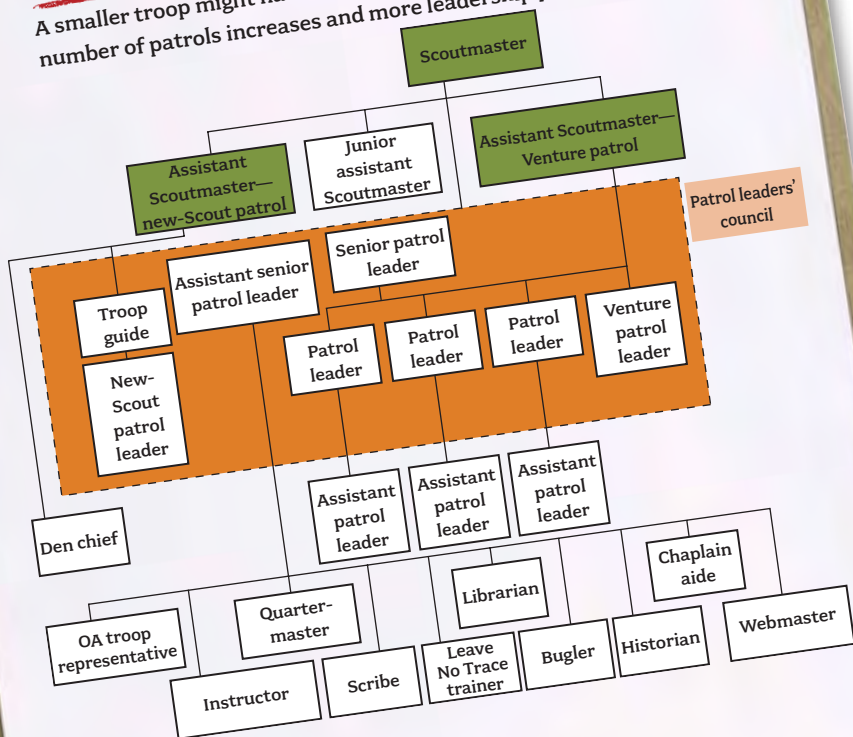


## 2a. Describe how the Scouts in the troop provide its leadership.

The chart that follows shows how a large Scout troop is organized. Your troop might be big like this one, or quite a bit smaller. It might have a long history or could be brand new. Leaders might have years of experience or could be learning their roles as they go. Whatever your troop is like, you can proudly wear its number on the sleeve of your uniform and know that everyone is working along with you to make the troop a success.

### Your Boy Scout Troop

A smaller troop might have fewer patrols. As more boys join, the number of patrols increases and more leadership positions are filled.



## 2b. Describe the four steps of Boy Scout advancement.



### Boy Scout Advancement

#### The Four Steps to Boy Scout Advancement

There are four basic steps in Boy Scout advancement, and they apply to all six ranks:

**Step 1 -- The Scout learns.** He learns 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 his regular Scouting activities -- his 'on-the-job' training.

**Step 2 -- The Scout is tested.** When his leaders see that he has mastered a given skill and satisfied a given requirement, they tell him so -- and record his achievement.

**Step 3 -- The Scout is reviewed.** When a Scout completes all requirements for a rank, he appears before a 'Board of Review' composed of members of the Troop Committee. Their purpose is not to retest him, but to make sure he has met all the requirements, to chat with him about how he feels he's getting along with the troop and its program, and of course to encourage him to keep advancing.

**Step 4 -- The Scout is recognized.** When a Scout is certified by the Board of Review, he is awarded his new badge of rank as soon as possible, normally in a ceremony at the next troop meeting. He should be recognized again at the troop's next Court of Honor.

## 2d. Describe what the Boy Scout ranks are and how they are earned.

### REACHING YOUR GOALS

The world is full of exciting opportunities. By forming a vision of what you want to do and where you want to be, you'll be well on your way to achieving a goal.

Scouting's trail to Eagle is a good example of how self-leadership can help you make great things happen. Seeing yourself as an Eagle Scout begins to make earning Scouting's highest rank a real possibility for you. By committing yourself to becoming an Eagle, you can figure out the steps to get from where you are now to where you want to be.

There are dozens of requirements to fulfill to become an Eagle Scout. Of course, you aren't going to be able to complete them all at once. You can begin with the requirements for Tenderfoot and take them on one at a time.

You'll need to manage your time, stay motivated by the progress you are making, and ask for help when you need it. You will find plenty of satisfaction in your Scouting experiences along the trail to Eagle. You'll also know that you really are advancing toward that vision of success you've set for yourself. One day you'll be standing before your troop at a court of honor receiving your Eagle Scout medal.



Scout



Tenderfoot



Second Class



First Class



Star



Life



Eagle

The steps to earn the Eagle Scout Award are the requirements for each of Scouting's ranks.



You wouldn't take a hike without a map, so don't start off on the wrong foot on your trail to Eagle. You can find all the current rank requirements at [www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards.aspx).



## Boards of Review



Once you complete all the requirements to advance one rank and have participated in a Scoutmaster conference, your Scoutmaster will arrange a board of review for you. The review board usually is made up of members of the troop committee. The purpose of the review is to give you the opportunity to talk about how you are getting along in the troop, and to review the rank requirements to ensure that they have been met.

You can use the same method to move toward any goal you want to reach. Break down a big challenge into small steps, then complete them one at a time.



*Eagle Scout Award*

## Short-Term and Long-Term Goals

Some goals—short-term goals—can be reached quickly. For example, suppose you are leading a game at a troop meeting. You might take the following steps:

1. Read about games in a book or on the Internet.
2. Choose a game for the troop.
3. Gather any materials that you will need.
4. Get everyone together and explain the rules.

Bigger goals—long-term goals—may require weeks, months, or even years to reach. Do you dream of being an airline pilot? A marine biologist? A guitarist? A basketball player? All these goals require considerable time to learn to do well, but this doesn't mean you can't achieve them. Follow the same plan you would with a short-term goal. Figure out the steps leading toward what you want to do. Stick with your plan, taking it step by step, and you will reach your goal.

Sometimes the hardest part of accomplishing something is just getting started. Ask people how you can achieve something that interests you. Their suggestions will help you see the pathway to follow. Open a book and start reading, and you'll find that the ideas will begin to flow. Stand at a trailhead with your pack on your shoulders, and take that first step. Nothing can hold you back.



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



You can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers as you earn merit badges. There are more than 135 merit badges, and any Boy Scout or Varsity Scout, or any qualified Venturer or Sea Scout may earn any of these at any time.

**Pick a Subject.** Talk to your unit leader about your interests. Read the requirements of the merit badges you think might interest you, and pick one to earn. Your leader will give you the name of a person from a list of counselors. These individuals have special knowledge in their merit badge subjects and are interested in helping you.

**Scout Buddy System.** You must have another person with you at each meeting with the merit badge counselor. This person can be another Scout, your parents or guardian, a brother or sister, a relative, or a friend.

**Call the Merit Badge Counselor.** Get a signed Application for Merit Badge, (blue card), from your unit leader. Get in touch with the merit badge counselor and explain that you want to earn the badge. The counselor may ask to meet you to explain what is expected and to start helping you meet the requirements. You should also discuss work you have already started or possibly completed.

**At the first meeting,** you and your merit badge counselor will review and may start working on the requirements. In some cases, you may share the work you have already started or completed.

**Unless otherwise specified,** work on a requirement can be started at any time. Ask your counselor to help you learn the things you need to know or do. You should read the merit badge pamphlet on the subject. Many troops, schools, and public libraries have them.

**Show Your Stuff.** When you are ready, call the counselor again to make an appointment. When you go, take along the things you have made to meet the requirements. If they are too big to move, take pictures or have an adult tell in writing what you have done. The counselor will test you on each requirement to make sure you know your stuff and have done or can do the things required.

**Get the Badge.** When the counselor is satisfied you have met each requirement, he or she will sign your application. Give the signed application to your unit leader so your merit badge emblem can be secured for you.

**Requirements.** You are expected to meet the requirements as they are stated—no more and no less. You must do exactly what is stated in the requirements. If it says “show or demonstrate,” that is what you must do. Just telling about it isn’t enough. The same thing holds true for such words as “make,” “list,” “in the field,” and “collect,” “identify,” and “label.”

### 3a. Explain the patrol method.

Describe the types of patrols that are used in your troop.

## YOUR PATROL

The Scout troop you join will be made up of patrols. Your patrol will be a team of young men who make things happen. You will learn together, make plans, and turn your ideas into action. Together, your patrol can achieve much more than each of you would on your own.

A patrol of six to eight Scouts is the right size for many outdoor adventures. A few tents will shelter everyone on camping trips, and a couple of backpacking stoves are enough for cooking patrol meals.

Patrols are so important to Scouting that most troop meetings include time for each patrol to meet by itself. Other patrol meetings might take place at a special patrol site or in the home of one of its members.

Everyone in your patrol will have skills and knowledge to share. You can teach one another what you know. Hikes and campouts give your patrol a chance to put its knowledge to good use. As friends, you can look out for one another. Friendship, fun, and adventure—that's what a Scout patrol is all about.

“A good Patrol is a gang of good friends, standing shoulder to shoulder whatever comes. ‘All for One—One for All’—that’s the spirit of a Scout Patrol.”

—*Handbook for Patrol Leaders*, 1950





*In 1907, Robert Baden-Powell hosted Scouting's first camp on Brownsea Island off the coast of England. The boys were divided into four patrols—the Ravens, Wolves, Curlews, and Bulls.*

## Kinds of Patrols

A Scout troop can have three kinds of patrols:

**New-Scout Patrols**—The new-Scout patrol is made up of guys who have just become Scouts. An experienced Scout, called a troop guide, helps show the way. An assistant Scoutmaster assigned to the patrol gives it added support.

Members of a new-Scout patrol choose their patrol leader and plan what they want to do. They take part in troop meetings and activities. As they learn hiking and camping skills, they also will start completing requirements for the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks.

**Regular Patrols**—Scouts who hold the rank of First Class or higher can be members of regular patrols. Older Scouts who have not yet reached First Class also may join a troop's regular patrols and continue to complete the First Class requirements.

**Leadership Corps**—Some troops have a Leadership Corps for older Scouts who are eager to set out on rugged, high-adventure activities. Being part of the Leadership Corps gives older Scouts the opportunity to stay active in their troops. They also may use their knowledge to enrich the Scouting experience for themselves and for other troop members.

### 3b. Become familiar with your patrol name, emblem, flag, and yell. Explain how these items create patrol spirit.

#### Your Patrol's Name, Flag, and Emblem

Your patrol can also choose a name for itself. You might name your patrol after an animal, as the Brownsea Island Scouts did. Through the years, many patrols have named themselves for trees (the Pine Tree Patrol) or people (the Baden-Powell Patrol, perhaps, or the Daniel Boone Patrol). You can do that, too, or you might want to be known by a name special to members of your patrol—the Mechanics Patrol, for example, or the Superstars, the Brainiacs, or something else that says something about who you all are.



Each patrol can make a flag to carry at troop meetings and on campouts. A patrol also has an emblem that members wear on the right sleeves of their uniform shirts.



#### Patrol Yell

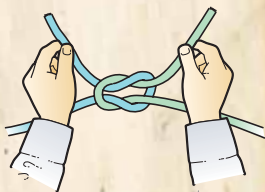
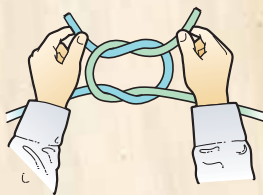
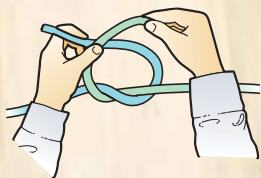
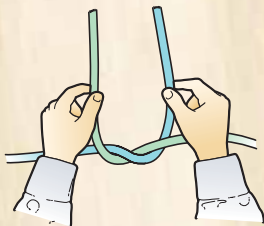
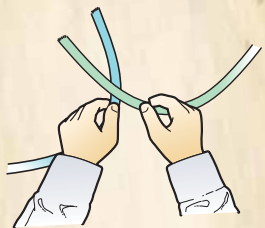
Patrols have yells, too. If your patrol is named for an animal, you can use that animal's sound—the howl of a wolf, for example, or the hoot of an owl. Any patrol might choose an animal's call or decide on some other shout that identifies it. Members can give the patrol yell whenever the patrol does well in a troop competition or reaches an important goal, and even when they're ready to chow down on a camp meal.

#### Patrol Leaders' Council

Your patrol will elect a leader to help the patrol reach its goals. The senior patrol leader, the chief youth leader of the troop, gives guidance, too. The patrol leaders will meet with the senior patrol leader and his assistants at a patrol leaders' council to plan the troop's programs and activities. Your patrol leader will represent the wishes of your patrol as decisions are being made. High on the list of things discussed at patrol leaders' council meetings are upcoming adventures—that often means going camping.



**4a. Show how to tie a square knot, two half-hitches, and a taut-line hitch. Explain how each knot is used.**



### **Square Knot (a Joining Knot)**

The square knot has many uses, from securing packages and the sails of ships to tying the ends of bandages. It is called a joining knot because it joins together two ropes and because it is the knot you learn as you are joining the BSA.

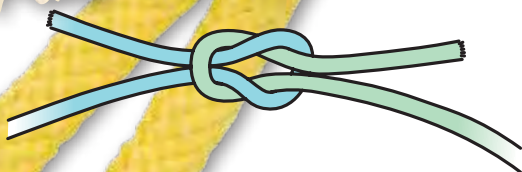
Tying a square knot is as easy as *right over left, left over right*. Here's how:

**Step 1**—Hold a rope end in each hand.

**Step 2**—Pass the right end over and under the rope in your left hand.

**Step 3**—Pass the rope end now in your left hand over and under the one now in your right.

**Step 4**—Pull the knot snug.



## Two Half Hitches

A *hitch* is a knot that ties a rope to something. Friction caused by the wraps of the rope holds the hitch in place.

Two *half hitches* (also called a *double half hitch*) form a loop that can be adjusted to make it smaller or larger.

**Step 1**—Pass the end of the rope around the post.

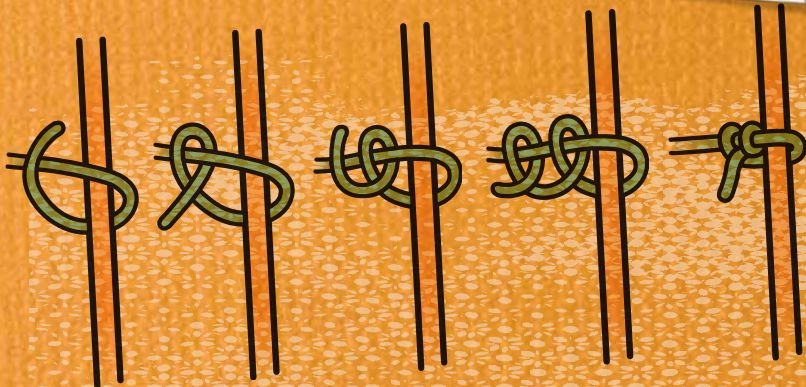
**Step 2**—Bring the end over and under the body of the rope (known as the *standing part*), then back through the loop that has formed. This makes a half hitch.

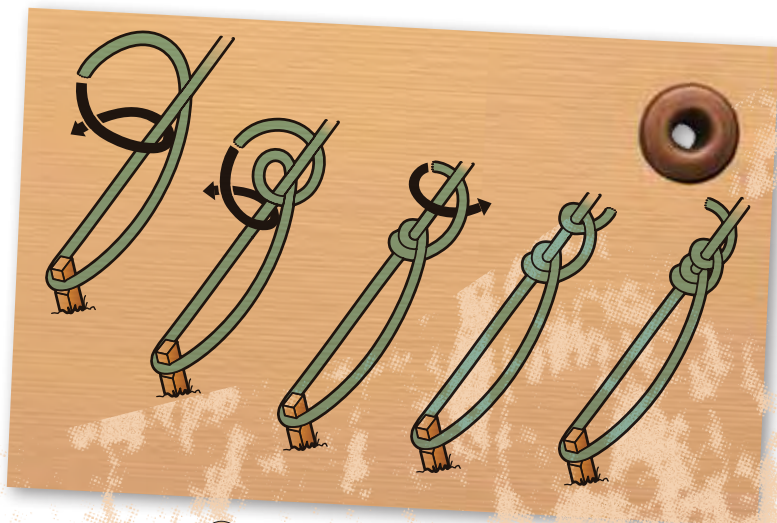
**Step 3**—Take the end around the standing part a second time and tie another half hitch.

**Step 4**—Pull it snug.



Use two half hitches to tie a rope around a post.





## Taut-Line Hitch



The taut-line hitch is used to make a line tight, or taut. It's the knot to use for staking out the guy lines of your tent or dining fly.

**Step 1**—Pass the line around a tent stake.

**Step 2**—Bring the end under and over the standing part of the line to form a loop, then twice through the loop.

**Step 3**—Again bring the rope end under, over, and through a loop but this time farther up the standing part.

**Step 4**—Work any slack out of the knot.

**Step 5**—Slide the hitch to tighten or loosen the line.





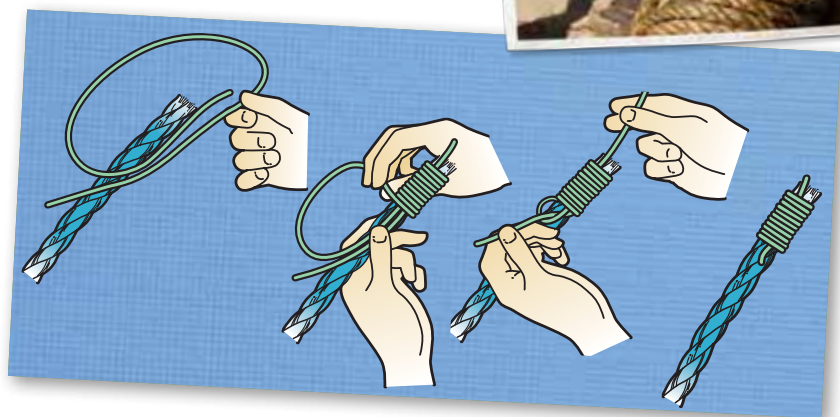
## 4b. Show the proper care of a rope by learning how to whip and fuse the ends of different kinds of rope.

Handling rope and tying knots is a good place to begin exploring the uses of tools for the outdoors. You've already tied the square knot as a step in joining the Boy Scouts of America. Learn half a dozen more knots, and you'll know the right way to tie rope and cord for just about any need.

Rope has been made for centuries by twisting together the stringy fibers of plants such as sisal, manila, and hemp. Many ropes are still made this way. More recent rope-making techniques involve winding and weaving together strands of nylon, plastic, or other modern materials. The twists or weaves at the ends of a rope can sometimes loosen and begin coming apart. For a quick fix, you can wrap the ends with duct tape. However, the permanent way to protect ropes from unraveling is by *whipping* or *fusing*.

### Whipping

To whip the end of a rope, use your pocketknife to cut away any of the rope that has already unraveled. Next, form a loop in a 2-foot-long piece of strong string and lay the loop along one end of the rope. Tightly wrap, or *whip*, the string around the rope, working your way toward the loop formed in the string. When the whipping is at least as wide as the rope is thick, tuck the end of the string through the loop, then pull hard on the free ends to tighten the string and secure the wrapping. Trim away the extra string, then whip the rope's other end.





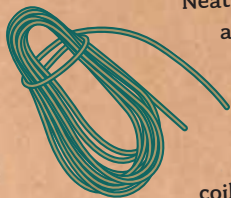


Do not try to fuse ropes made of manila, sisal, hemp, or other natural fibers. They will burn rather than melt.

## Fusing

Fusing is a technique that you can use with rope and cord made of plastic or nylon. This method uses heat to melt (fuse) the fibers, forming a permanent bond that will prevent unraveling. Start by cutting the frayed part of the rope. Then, working in a well-ventilated area, hold the rope end a few inches above a lighted match or candle to fuse the strands together. Do not touch a newly fused rope end until it has cooled—melted rope will be hot and sticky. Remember to fuse both ends of the rope.

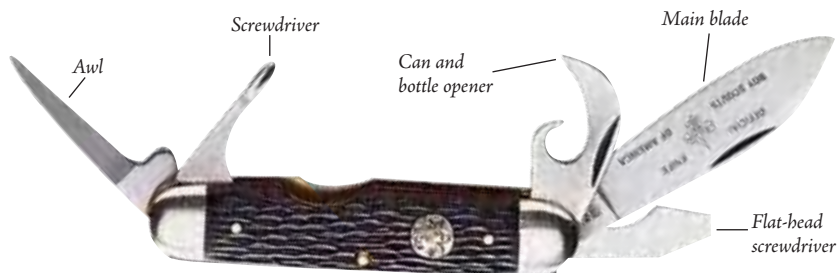
## Coiling a Rope or Cord



Neatly coiling cords and ropes makes them easy to carry and store. It also keeps them from tangling when they are not in use. To coil a cord or rope, hold an end with one hand, and use your other hand to form neat coils in the rope or cord. Wrap the last few feet of the other end of the line around all the coils. Pass a bend of the line through the center of the coils and run the end of the line through the bend. Pull the end to tighten the bend around the coils.



## 5. Demonstrate your knowledge of pocketknife safety



### Pocketknife

A pocketknife truly is a multipurpose tool with hundreds of uses. It can cut a rope, open a can, whittle a tent stake, punch a hole in a belt, or slice a biscuit for breakfast at a campsite. It's also handy for tightening a screw on a pack frame or camp stove, and for making wood shavings to start a fire. A good general-use pocketknife has a can opener, a screw driver, and one or two blades for cutting.

#### Safe Knife Use

- ▶ Always keep a knife's blades closed except when you are using them.
- ▶ Always cut away from yourself, never toward yourself. If the blade slips, you may be injured.
- ▶ Always close the blades before you pass a knife to someone else.
- ▶ Always keep your knife sharp. A sharp blade is easier to control than a dull one.
- ▶ Always obey all regulations about carrying knives in public places, including your school and on airplanes.
- ▶ Never carry a knife with the blade open.
- ▶ Never throw a knife.
- ▶ Never strike a knife with another tool.
- ▶ Never use the point of a cutting blade as a prying tool. The knife might bend or break.

The Boy Scouts of America does not encourage the use of large sheath knives. They can be heavy and awkward to carry and are unnecessary for most camp chores.

- 6. With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet**  
***How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide***  
**and earn the Cyber Chip Award for your grade.**

Downloadable and inside the cover of the *Scout Handbook* is a pamphlet that is part of the BSA's commitment to ensuring the safety of young people wherever they may be. The pamphlet is meant to be shared by a Scout and his parent or guardian.



**Download**  
**How to Protect Your Children From**  
**Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide:**

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/ypt/pdf/46-015.pdf>

- 7. Since joining the troop and while working on the Scout rank, participate in a Scoutmaster conference.**



The last joining requirement instructs you to participate in a Scoutmaster conference. Your Scoutmaster will visit with you after you finish the requirements for each Scout rank.

Every Scoutmaster conference is an opportunity for you to review how you are doing and to begin planning your next steps. You can ask questions, share what you like about being a Scout, and figure out ways to make your Scouting experience even better.



## Cyber Chip (Grades 6-12) requirements

### Grades 6-8

Read and sign the Level II Internet Safety Pledge from NetSmartz. (BSA Cyber Chip green card)  
Write and sign a personalized contract with your parent or guardian that outlines rules for using the computer and mobile devices, including what you can download, what you can post, and consequences for inappropriate use.

Watch the video “Friend or Fake,” along with two additional videos of your choosing, to see how friends can help each other to stay safe online. (<http://www.netsmartz.org/scouting>)

As an individual or with your patrol, use the EDGE method and mini lessons to teach Internet safety rules, behavior, and “netiquette” to your troop or another patrol. You are encouraged to use any additional material and information you have researched. Each member of the patrol must have a role and present part of the lesson. (<http://www.netsmartz.org/scouting> )

Discuss with your unit leader the acceptable standards and practices for using allowed electronic devices, such as phones and games, at your meetings and other Scouting events.

### Grades 9-12

Read and sign the Level II Internet Safety Pledge. (BSA Cyber Chip green card)  
Write and sign a personalized contract with your parent or guardian that outlines rules for using the computer and mobile devices, including what you can download, what you can post, and consequences for inappropriate use.

Discuss with your parents the benefits and potential dangers teenagers might experience when using social media. Give examples of each.

Watch three “Real-Life Story” videos to learn the impact on teens. (<http://www.netsmartz.org/scouting>)

As an individual or patrol, use the EDGE method and the Teen Volunteer Kit to teach Internet safety rules, behavior, and “netiquette” to your troop or another patrol. You are encouraged to use any additional material and information you have researched. Each member of the patrol must have a role and present part of the lesson. (<http://www.netsmartz.org/scouting>)

Discuss with your unit leader the acceptable standards and practices for using allowed electronic devices such as phones and games at your meetings and other Scouting events.