

Boy Scouts of America Information for Parents

A parent or guardian must certify that he or she has read this information sheet for all applicants under 18 years of age.
(Venturing and Sea Scout members: It is important that you share this with your parents.)

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America!

Your child is joining more than 4 million members of the Boy Scouts of America. Please take the time to review this material and reflect upon its importance. Visit www.scoutparents.org.

The BSA and the Chartered Organization

The Boy Scouts of America makes Scouting available to our nation's youth by chartering community organizations to operate Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, Varsity Scout teams, Venturing crews, and Sea Scout ships.

The chartered organization must provide an adequate and safe meeting place and capable adult leadership, and must adhere to the principles and policies of the BSA. The BSA local council provides unit leader training, program ideas, camping facilities, literature, professional guidance for volunteer leaders, and liability insurance protection.

Scouting's Volunteers and You

Scouting's adult volunteers provide leadership at the unit, district, council, and national levels. Many are parents of Scouts; many entered Scouting as youth members. Each chartered organization establishes a unit committee, which operates its Scouting unit, selects leadership, and provides support for a quality program. Unit committees depend on parents for membership and assistance.

Youth Protection Begins With You™. Child abuse is a serious problem in our society, and unfortunately, it can occur anywhere, even in Scouting. Youth safety is of paramount importance to Scouting. For that reason, the BSA continues to create barriers to abuse beyond what have previously existed in Scouting.

The Boy Scouts of America places the greatest importance on providing the most secure environment possible for our youth members. To maintain such an environment, the BSA has developed numerous procedural and leadership selection policies, and provides parents and leaders with numerous online and print resources for the Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venturing programs.

All Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Venturing, and Sea Scout parents should review *How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide* booklet in the Cub Scout and Boy Scout handbooks or at www.scouting.org/training/youthprotection.

Become a ScoutParent

A ScoutParent must be at least 21 years old and be a parent or adult mentor of a Scout. The ScoutParent enthusiastically participates with their Scout and also helps volunteer leaders provide the best quality program experience to all youth in every unit. Visit www.scoutparents.org.

Note: If the parent is not serving as a ScoutParent, the parental signature on the application indicates approval of the ScoutParent, and also if the ScoutParent does not live at the same address as the Scout, a separate adult application is required.

The respective unit committee selects the Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Varsity Scout Coach, Venturing Advisor, or Sea Scout Skipper, subject to approval of the head of the chartered organization or the chartered organization representative and of the BSA. The unit leader must be a good role model because our children's values and lives will be influenced by that leader. You need to know your child's unit leader and be involved in the unit committee's activities so you can evaluate and help direct that influence.

Scouting uses a fun program to promote character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness for every member. You can help by encouraging perfect attendance, assisting with your child's advancement, attending meetings for parents, assisting with transportation, and assisting when called upon by the unit leader.

Program Policies

Chartered organizations agree to use the Scouting program in accordance with their own policies as well as those of the BSA. The program is flexible, but major departures from BSA methods and policies are not permitted. As a parent, you should be aware that

- Leadership is restricted to qualified adults who subscribe to the precepts of the Declaration of Religious Principle, the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, and the BSA Standards of Leadership.
- Citizenship activities are encouraged, but partisan political activities are prohibited.
- Military training and drills are prohibited. Marksmanship and elementary drill for ceremonies are permitted.
- The Boy Scouts of America recognizes the importance of religious faith and duty; it leaves sectarian religious instruction to the member's religious leaders and family.
- Members who do not belong to a unit's religious chartered organization shall not be required to participate in its religious activities.

Youth Protection Policies

- Two registered adult leaders or one registered adult leader and a parent of a participant, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required on all trips and outings. If trips and outings are coeducational, leaders of both genders must be present.
- One-on-one activities between youth members and adult leaders are never permitted. Even personal Scout conferences must be conducted in plain view of others.
- Corporal punishment, hazing and bullying are not permitted in Scouting. Only constructive discipline is acceptable. Parents and unit leaders must work together to solve discipline problems.
- New leaders are required to take Youth Protection training within 30 days of registering, and Youth Protection training must be taken every two years.
- We encourage all parents to be involved with their Scout. There are no "secret" organizations in Scouting and all Scouting activities are open to parental visitation.
- If you suspect that a child has been abused, immediately contact the local authorities and the Scout executive.

Excerpt from the Declaration of Religious Principle

The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God and, therefore, recognizes the religious element in the training of the member, but it is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward that religious training. Its policy is that the home and organization or group with which the member is connected shall give definite attention to religious life. Only persons willing to subscribe to these precepts of the Declaration of Religious Principle and to the Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America shall be entitled to certificates of membership.

Policy of Nondiscrimination

Youth membership in the Boy Scouts of America is open to all boys and young adults who meet the joining requirements. Membership in Scouting, advancement, and achievement of leadership in Scouting units are open to all youth without regard to race or ethnic background and are based entirely upon individual merit.

Ethnic background information. The BSA receives inquiries from various agencies regarding racial composition. Please fill in the appropriate circle on the application to indicate ethnic background.

Thank You

The Boy Scouts of America appreciates you taking time to become familiar with Scouting. We feel that an informed parent is a strong ally in delivering the Scouting program. Help us keep the unit program in accord with Scouting principles. Alert the unit committee, chartered organization representative, and head of the chartered organization to any major deviations. Please do your fair share to support a quality unit program.



This form is read by machine. Please print the numbers and letters as shown on the sample application.

YOUTH MEMBERSHIP

Unit type: (Fill in the circle.) Cub Scout Pack Boy Scout Troop Varsity Scout Team Venturing Crew Sea Scout Ship Lone Cub Scout Lone Boy Scout

For pack registration select one: Tiger Cub Cub Scout Webelos Scout

Mark here if new to Scouting. Former Scout Former Venturer Former Sea Scout Arrow of Light earned

Unit No.:

If applicant has an unexpired membership certificate, registration may be accomplished in this unit by paying \$1 for processing the transfer. Mark and attach certificate. It will be returned by the council.

Transfer application Transfer from council number: Unit type: Pack Troop Team Crew Ship Unit No.:

Enter membership number from unexpired certificate:

Name and address information (Please print one letter in each space—press hard, you are making a copy.)

First name (No initials or nicknames) Middle name Last name Suffix

Country Mailing address City State Zip code

Home phone - - Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) / / Grade

Ethnic background: Black/African American Native American Alaska Native Asian Caucasian/White Hispanic/Latino Pacific Islander Other

School

Gender: Male Female **Boys' Life subscription**

Parent/guardian information Mark here if address is same as above. I agree to be an active ScoutParent. Mark here if you are the Tiger Cub adult partner.

Mark here if the adult partner/ScoutParent is not living at the same address; complete and attach an adult application.

Select relationship: Parent Guardian Grandparent Other (specify)

First name (No initials or nicknames) Middle name Last name Suffix

Country Mailing address City State Zip code

Home phone - - Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) / / Occupation Employer Gender: M F

Business phone - - Ext. X Previous Scouting experience Cell phone - -

Parent/guardian email address

Signature of unit leader (or designee) Date

2002 Registration fee \$. Boys' Life fee \$.

I have read the attached information for parents and approve the application. I affirm that I have or will review "How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide."

Signature of parent/guardian (required if applicant is under 18 years of age)

Signature of Venturer

LOCAL COUNCIL COPY

Retain on file for three years. 524-406



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UNIT COPY

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