

# The Purpose of Boy Scouting - It's Not Just Camping



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The perception of many people is that the purpose of Boy Scouting is to teach outdoor skills. While this is true, Scouting does so much more than that. If the [Boy Scouts of America](#) achieves its aims, youth members will become adults who are active citizens of good character who are physically, mentally and emotionally fit.

## What is the Boy Scouts of America?

Boasting a membership of 2.4 million youth participants, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is a values-based youth development organization. Its 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 Scout Law." Their mission is carried out through one of four programs:

### Cub Scouts

[Cub Scouts](#) is the program for younger boys, those who are in first through fifth grade (or ages 7 to 11). Cub Scout units are called packs.

### Boy Scouts

[Boy Scouts](#) is open to boys ages 11 to 18. Boy Scout units are called troops.

### Venturing

[Venturing](#) is made up of both young men and young women from ages 14 through 21. Venturing units are called crews.

### Sea Scouting

[Sea Scouting](#) is also a co-ed group of young people ages 14 through 21. Sea Scout units are called ships.

## Three Aims of Boy Scouting

The BSA has three aims of Boy Scouting:

- Character development
- Participatory citizenship training
- Personal fitness.

There are eight methods of Boy Scouting (seven for Cub Scouts) to help them achieve these aims. Although the methods vary by program, they are similar.

## Eight Methods of Boy Scouting

1. **Ideals:** The Boy Scouts of America's ideals are defined by the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. You can find them listed below.
2. **Patrol Method:** Patrols are small groups of boys within a troop. The patrol method encourages boys to work together as a team. Patrols elect leaders who work together to plan the troop's activities.
3. **Advancement:** Advancement is the method by which boys move from rank to rank. By completing a series of requirements, also called achievements, Boy Scouts gain self-confidence in their abilities.
4. **Association with Adults:** Young people need adults who encourage them. Scout leaders fill that role. Scout leaders have a positive influence in the lives of the boys by showing them that they care about them.
5. **Outdoors:** In the outdoors, Boy Scouts live and work together in their patrols using the skills they've learned. Experiencing nature has tremendous health benefits for young people, and Scouting gives them the opportunity to do so even if they live in a more urban area.
6. **Uniform:** Wearing a uniform symbolizes a boy's commitment to the aims and ideals of Scouting. It fosters a sense of belonging in the boy.

7. **Personal Growth:** Boys grow as they accomplish each achievement toward advancement. They develop a sense of pride by participating in service projects. They have opportunities to explore new activities and ideas.
8. **Leadership Development:** Boy Scouts are encouraged to develop leadership skills in the safe environment of troop activities. Even if they aren't serving in an elected leader role, Boy Scouts practice leadership by helping younger Scouts.

Whether they are Cub Scouts, Boy Scout, Venturers, or Sea Scouts, each activity that the boys do is working toward one of the three aims of Scouting.

If you're looking for a way to reinforce character, citizenship and personal fitness with your child, consider [joining one of the Boy Scouts of America's programs](#).

Below you'll find the Boy Scouts of America's Oath, Law, Slogan and Motto.

### **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.

### **Scout Law**

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

### **Scout Motto**

Be Prepared.

### **Scout Slogan**

Do a good turn daily.

<http://scouting.about.com/od/BoyScouts/fl/The-Purpose-of-Boy-Scouting-Its-Not-Just-Camping.htm>