

Legion Scholarship Programs

The American Legion Life Insurance Committee provides annually for a national scholarship to honor The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year. The winner is eligible to receive a \$10,000 scholarship to be awarded over a four-year period. Three additional scholarships of \$2,500 each are also awarded.

Eligibility

The nominee must be a registered, active member of a Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, or Venturing crew chartered to an American Legion post or Auxiliary unit, or a Sons of The American Legion squadron, or be a registered, active member of a duly chartered Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, or Venturing crew and the son or grandson of a Legionnaire or Auxiliary member.

The nominee must also have received the Eagle Scout Award; be an active member of his religious institution and have received the appropriate Boy Scout religious emblem; have demonstrated practical citizenship in church, school, Scouting, and community; have reached his 15th birthday; and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection.

For more information on the selection process and a nomination application, visit [www.legion.org/scouting](http://www.legion.org/scouting); write The American Legion, National Americanism and Children and Youth Division, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206; email [scouting@legion.org](mailto:scouting@legion.org); or call 317-630-1249.

For more information about The American Legion, visit [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).



Resolution No. 57 in Support of the Boy Scouts of America

WHEREAS, The Boy Scouts of America is an organization that was incorporated in 1910 and recognized by federal charter in 1916 to provide an educational program for boys and young men to build character, train in the responsibilities of participatory citizenship, and develop personal fitness; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion voiced its support of the Boy Scouts of America at its first national convention in 1919, thereby making it the first recognized national youth activity of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The Boy Scouts of America teaches the core values of duty to God and country, personal honor, respect for the beliefs of others, volunteerism, and interdependence with the environment, principles which are conducive to good character, citizenship, and health; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion encourages its posts to continue their support for Scouting as a primary part of their service to God and country, their community, their state, and their nation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has served as a chartering partner and strongly expressed its steadfast support and endorsement of the Boy Scouts of America since 1919; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion currently charts over 2,500 Scouting units, which serve approximately 68,000 young people; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 17-18, 2012, that The American Legion encourages posts, districts, and departments to cooperate with the Boy Scouts of America in their effort to inform The American Legion at all levels of the merits of Scouting by allowing Boy Scout officials to attend post, district, and department meetings to explain the Scouting experience; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That all levels of The American Legion are encouraged to support and endorse the Scouting movement by cooperating with the Boy Scouts of America in continuing to provide a program to assist our young people develop skills and maintain values that help ensure our nation's future.**



The American Legion Scouting Award

The American Legion Square Knot Award is designed to recognize American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion members who are actively involved in the Scouting program. Its purpose is to recognize dedication and work by the member to assist in furthering the Scouting program in The American Legion. For more information, visit [www.legion.org/scouting](http://www.legion.org/scouting); write The American Legion, National Americanism and Children and Youth Division, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206; email [scouting@legion.org](mailto:scouting@legion.org); or call 317-630-1249.



Organizing a Unit

- Post leadership is informed about Scouting.
- Post executive committee adopts Scouting and post Scouting chairman is appointed.
- Post Scouting chairman appoints organizing committee of parents and interested post members.
- Orientation session is held with post members and parents of youth.
- Organizing committee selects unit leaders and committee members.
- Leaders are trained in program planning (Fast Start).
- Program is planned for at least six months.
- Youth are recruited.
- Unit meetings begin.
- Unit is installed and charter is presented at regular post meeting.



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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, Texas 75015-2079  
<http://www.scouting.org>

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# Mission Statement of the Boy Scouts of America

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America 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.

## The Boy Scouts of America and The American Legion: Building Character Through Scouting

In cooperation with organizations like The American Legion, Scouting offers a way for you and other dedicated volunteers of your post and community to bring fun, adventure, and leadership skills to young people. Scouting provides effective character building, citizenship training, and personal fitness opportunities for youth.

During its first national convention in 1919, The American Legion voted to support the Scouting movement, and posts began immediately sponsoring Scouting units. In 1922, the Americanism Commission incorporated Scouting into its activities, which brought organized guidance to the Legion's Scouting efforts.

Today, approximately 2,500 American Legion posts, Auxiliary units, and Sons of The American Legion (SAL) squadrons charter Scouting units that serve more than 68,000 young men and women.



## Why Scouting?

By working together, The American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America:

- **Increase The American Legion's visibility in the community.** Having the Scouting program identified with The American Legion helps to solidify The American Legion as a credible and viable part of the community. This gives The American Legion a way to provide valuable experiences to young people in the neighborhood through service, including Scouting for Food, the Good Turn for America service initiative, Eagle Scout service projects, and cleanup efforts.
- **Promote a shared vision and provide opportunities for community organizations to use BSA facilities,** which gives American Legion officers and staff an opportunity to share in leadership and team-building programs. Affiliated organizations have access to council camps, conference centers, and training facilities. Benefits include housing, dining, and instruction in team building, set in majestic outdoor environments such as the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia, Florida National High Adventure Sea Base, and Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.
- **Provide a major source of manpower in accomplishing The American Legion's community service projects.** The BSA has a strong heritage—established over more than 100 years—of providing service to the community, and incorporates a service mission in its rank advancement program.
- **Greatly increase the potential for boosting The American Legion's membership through stepped-up exposure of the organization's ideals and mission to parents and participating youth.** Scouting is intergenerational—older generations and youth often become isolated from parents and grandparents. Scouting provides an opportunity for adults to become merit badge counselors, mentors, leaders, or committee members.
- **Provide multimedia resources to organizations through the BSA website, as well as through access to the BSA's educational materials.**



## Cub Scouting

**Purpose**  
The Boy Scouts of America created Cub Scouting in 1930 to help advance the character development and spiritual growth of young boys. This central mission of Cub Scouting might be even more important to boys growing up today than it was for the first Cub Scouts more than 80 years ago. Cub Scouting is for boys who are in the first grade through fifth grade (or are 7 through 10 years old).

**Program**  
Local Cub Scouting activities involve the parents, adult leaders, and friends of Cub Scouts in home-centered programs that teach life skills, habits, values, and attitudes consistent with the interests of their church and community. Millions of boys and their families participate in Cub Scouting.

**Methods**  
Cub Scouting encourages each boy to strive for his personal best, a lesson that will help him achieve success not only as he enters Boy Scouting but also throughout his adult life. Cub Scout activities encourage character development, physical coordination, family unity, and enthusiasm for learning. Cub Scouting helps boys develop a sense of teamwork, achievement, self-confidence, and respect for others. Learning to master new skills helps the Cub Scout realize his own abilities and discover that his can-do attitude is the first sign of success in any endeavor. In fact, that's the Cub Scout motto: "Do Your Best."

## Boy Scouting

**Purpose**  
Boy Scouting encourages boys to develop physical, mental, and emotional fitness, and to adopt and live by meaningful personal standards as a cornerstone for success in life. These values include the basic principles in the Scout Oath and Law. Boy Scouting is for boys and young men not yet 18 years old, and who are at least 11, or have completed the fifth grade and are at least 10 years old, or who have earned the Arrow of Light Award in Cub Scouting and are at least 10 years old.

**Program**  
Boy Scouts learn to develop personal strengths by example and through hands-on experience. Activities include fitness and leadership training, wilderness adventures, and merit badge incentives for boys mastering hobby and career skills. Scouting encourages boys to expand and test their personal initiative, courage, and resourcefulness.

**Methods**  
Boy Scouts learn some of life's more serious lessons while having fun. Boys learn about important values, such as helping yourself by helping others, and honoring the basic rights of others. Boy Scouting's active learning experiences include hiking, camping, and other outdoor expeditions; competitive individual and team sports activities; and community or religious service projects. Many Boy Scouts first practice basic leadership, self-government, and citizenship skills during regular troop campouts and meetings.

## Venturing

Venturing is an effective young-adult coed program designed to improve character, citizenship, and fitness. In addition, Venturers exercise leadership, social, outdoor, and community service endeavors. Venturing provides a variety of challenging activities to teach young people ages 14 (or 13 if they have completed eighth grade) through 20 the real-world meaning of values, ethical decision making, and life skills. Venturing teaches leadership and problem-solving skills to help youths mature into confident, successful adults. Venturing crews organize around a special vocation or interest of the youth members. Specialties include outdoors, sports, arts/hobbies, youth ministry, and Sea Scouting.

