

= Scout (Scouting) =

A Scout (in some countries a Boy Scout , Girl Scout or Pathfinder) is a boy or a girl , usually 10 (AS in Australia) ? 18 years of age , participating in the worldwide Scouting movement . Because of the large age and development span , many Scouting associations have split this age group into a junior and a senior section . Scouts are organized into troops averaging 20 ? 30 Scouts under the guidance of one or more Scout Leaders . Troops subdivide into patrols of about six Scouts and engage in outdoor and special interest activities . Troops may affiliate with local , national , and international organizations . Some national Scouting associations have special interest programs such as Air Scouts , Sea Scouts , outdoor high adventure , Scouting bands , and rider Scouts . Some troops , especially in Europe , have been co @-@ educational since the 1970s , allowing boys and girls to work together as Scouts .

= = Foundation = =

Robert Baden @-@ Powell founded the Boy Scouts as an organization in 1908 , a few months after the first Scout encampment at Brownsea Island Scout camp in 1907 . Baden @-@ Powell got the idea from his experiences with the British Army in South Africa . To advance his ideas , Baden @-@ Powell wrote Scouting for Boys for boy readership , which describes the Scout method of outdoor activities aiming at developing character , citizenship , and personal fitness qualities among youth . Many boys joined Scouting activities , resulting in the movement growing rapidly to become the world 's largest youth organization .

The Scout program is designed to develop youths who have a high degree of self @-@ reliance , initiative , courage , helpfulness , integrity , sportsmanship , and resourcefulness . Scouts should be helpful ; understand their society , heritage , and culture ; have respect for the rights of others ; and be positive leader @-@ citizens .

Over time , the Scout program has been reviewed and updated in many of the countries where it is run , and special interest programs developed such as Air Scouts , Sea Scouts , outdoor high adventure , Scouting bands , and rider Scouts , but the same core values and principles as Baden @-@ Powell originally envisaged still apply .

= = = Age groups and sections = = =

Originally , the Scout program was aimed at 11- to 16 @-@ year @-@ old boys . However , the younger brothers of Scouts started to attend Troop meetings , and so the Wolf Cub section was started . It was also evident that young girls wanted to participate in similar activities , but the Edwardian values at the time would not allow young boys and girls to " rough and tumble " together , causing the Guide Movement to be created .

While most Scouts may join a troop after finishing Cub Scouts , this is not required . As Scouts get older , they often seek more challenging and diverse activities . He may later join another affiliated program for older children , such as Exploring , Venturing , or Rovering .

= = Activities = =

A Scout learns the cornerstones of the Scout method , Scout Promise , and Scout Law . These are designed to instill character , citizenship , personal fitness , and leadership in boys through a structured program of outdoor activities . Common ways to implement the Scout method include spending time together in small groups with shared experiences , rituals , and activities , as well as emphasizing good citizenship and decision @-@ making that are age @-@ level appropriate . Cultivating a love and appreciation of the outdoors and outdoor activities are key elements . Primary activities include camping , woodcraft , first aid , aquatics , hiking , backpacking , and sports .

Scouts are known throughout the world for performing acts of public good and sometimes acts of heroism . For example , a Scout foiled a 2008 assassination attempt on Maldives ' President

Maumoon Abdul Gayoom by " grabbing an attacker 's knife as the man leapt from a crowd and lunged at the leader " . The Scout , Ibrahim Jaisham , a male member of the co @-@ educational The Scout Association of Maldives , sustained minor injuries during the intervention .

= = = Fellowship = = =

Camping most often occurs on a unit level , such as in the troop , but there are periodic camporees and jamborees . Camporees are events where units from a local area camp together for a weekend . These often occur a couple times a year and usually have a theme , such as pioneering . Jamborees are large events on a national or international level held every four years where thousands of Scouts camp together for one to two weeks . Activities at these events include games , Scoutcraft competitions , patch trading , aquatics , woodcarving , archery , and rifle and shotgun shooting .

For many Scouts , the highlight of the year is spending at least a week in the summer as part of an outdoor activity . This can be a long event such as camping , hiking , sailing , canoeing , or kayaking with the unit or a summer camp operated on a council , state , or provincial level . Scouts attending a summer camp , generally one week during the summer , work on merit badges , advancement , and perfecting Scoutcraft skills . Some summer camps operate specialty programs , such as sailing , backpacking , canoeing and whitewater , caving , and fishing .

= = = Personal progression = = =

A large part , compared to younger and older sections , of the activities are related to personal progression . All Scouting organizations have an advancement program , whereby the Scout learns Scoutcraft , community service , leadership , and explores areas of interest to him . This Badge system or Personal Progressive Scheme is based on two complementary elements :

Proficiency (Merit) badges , which are intended to encourage the Scout to learn a subject which could be his work or hobby , so cover many different types of activities , not always related to Scouting .

Class badges or Progress system , which symbolize increasingly difficult levels or successive stages .

Most Scouting associations have a highest badge that require mastering Scoutcraft , leadership , and performing community service . Only a small percentage of Scouts attain them .

= = Unit affiliation = =

= = = Troop = = =

The troop is the fundamental unit of the Scouts . This is the group a Scout joins and via which he participates in Scouting activities , such as camping , backpacking , and canoeing . The troop leadership , youth and adult , organizes and provides support for these activities . It may include as few as a half @-@ dozen Scouts , or as many as seventy or more . Troops usually meet weekly .

= = = Patrol = = =

Each troop is divided into patrols of around five to ten Scouts . A patrol 's independence from the troop varies among troops and between activities . For instance , a troop typically holds ordinary meetings as a unit . Patrols ' autonomy becomes more visible at campouts , where each patrol may set up its own area for cooking and camping . However , on a high adventure trip which only a small part of the troop attends , divisions between patrols may disappear entirely . Patrols may hold meetings and even excursions separately from the rest of the troop , but this is more common in some troops than in others . Each patrol has a Patrol Leader (PL) and Patrol Second (PS) , or

Assistant Patrol Leader (APL) . Some troops mix older and younger Scouts in the same patrols , so that the older Scouts can teach the younger ones more effectively , other troops group Scouts by age , so that the members of one patrol have more in common .

== Group ==

In most countries a local organisation , a " Scout Group " , combines different sections together into a single body . Scout Groups can consist of any number of sections of the different Age Groups in Scouting and Guiding . Scout Groups can be single sex or have boys and girls in separate and / or co-ed sections depending on the group and the national organization . In some countries , the different sections are independent of each other , although they might be sponsored or chartered by the same organisation , such as a church .

== Uniforms ==

The Scout uniform is a specific characteristic of Scouting , and is worn at most events . The original uniform , which has created a familiar image in the public eye and had a very military appearance , consisted of a khaki button up shirt , shorts , and a broad brimmed campaign hat .

Uniforms have become much more functional and colorful since the beginning and are now frequently blue , orange , red , or green , and shorts are replaced by long trousers in areas where the culture calls for modesty , and in colder weather . T-shirts and other more casual wear have also replaced the more formal button up uniforms in many Scouting regions .

To show the unity of all Scouts , the World Membership Badge (World Crest) or another badge with a fleur-de-lis is a part of all uniforms . Neckerchiefs and Woggles (slides) are still quite common , but some Scouting associations do not use them . Patches for leadership positions , ranks , special achievements , patrol- animals , colors or names , troop- or group- numbers or names , and country or regional affiliation are standard .