

# ADULT APPLICATION

This application is also available in Spanish. Esta solicitud también está disponible en español.

## MISSION

The mission of Scouting 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.

Your participation in Scouting America can help youth become better citizens.

Adult leaders serve as important role models for youth in Scouting America and this application aids the chartered organization in selecting qualified adult volunteer leaders.

## YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING

All adult applicants are required to take this training in order to complete the adult application process. Go to [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org) to create an account and take the training online, or contact your local council for classroom training. Include a copy of your completion certificate with this application.

## CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK\*

In order to complete the adult application process, you will need to review the different disclosures that have been separately provided to you. The separate authorization form must be signed and returned when you submit your application.

## EXCERPT FROM THE DECLARATION OF RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLE

*Scouting 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 from the Declaration of Religious Principle and the Bylaws of Scouting America shall be entitled to register.*

All adult leaders agree to comply with the Scouter Code of Conduct.  
<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/guidelines-policies/>

\*The three different background check forms must be torn off and each separately given to the applicant.



SKU 661087



7 30176 31049 7  
524-501 2025 Printing

03/2025

## **Leader Requirements**

Scouting America is open to all who meet the requirements, and leaders are selected based on individual merit. Adult leaders must possess the moral, educational, and emotional qualities that Scouting America deems necessary for positive leadership to youth. They must also:

- Abide by the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and Scouter Code of Conduct. The Scouter Code of Conduct can be found at [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/bsa-scouter-code-of-conduct/](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/bsa-scouter-code-of-conduct/).
- Subscribe to the precepts of the Declaration of Religious Principle.
- Reside within the USA or a U.S. territory, or be a U.S. citizen residing outside the USA.
- Be 21 years of age or older for primary leadership positions.
- Be 18 years of age or older for assistant leadership positions.
- Complete Youth Protection training (YPT) before application is processed and renew training as required by going to [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org) and creating an account.
- Review the disclosure information related to Scouting America's background check process and complete and sign a Background Check Authorization form.
- Take leader position-specific training at [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org). Classroom training may also be available through your local council.

**It is the philosophy of Scouting to welcome all eligible adults, regardless of gender, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, or gender identification, who are willing to accept Scouting's values and meet any other requirements of membership.**

## **APPROVAL REQUIRED—UNIT ADULTS**

The chartered organization representative is approved by the head of the chartered organization. All other adult leader applications must be accepted and approved by the head of the chartered organization or the chartered organization representative.

**Scout executive or designee** must approve any adults who answer "yes" to any Additional Information question.

## **APPROVAL REQUIRED—COUNCIL and DISTRICT ADULTS**

**Scout executive or designee** must accept and approve all council and district adults.

**Scout executive or designee** must approve any adults who answer "yes" to any Additional Information question.

**The adult leader application process will not be complete until Youth Protection training has been completed and a criminal background check has been obtained.**

**Health information.** You should inform your unit leadership of any condition that might limit your participation. Before participating in activities with your unit, please fill out the Annual Health and Medical Record, No. 680-001, found on [www.scouting.org/forms](http://www.scouting.org/forms) and provide it to your unit leadership.

**Scout Life.** Registered adults get a special \$15 rate. For a subscription to a magazine that helps children grow in the Scouting program, just fill in the *Scout Life* circle on the application and pay the subscription price.

## **THE ANNUAL NATIONAL REGISTRATION FEE IS NONREFUNDABLE.**

### **Scouting America Privacy Policy**

Scouting America protects the confidentiality of the names and personal information of those who are affiliated with the organization. No commercial or unauthorized use is made of the names, addresses, and other confidential information. Scouting America and its affinity groups may use registration information to notify registrants of benefit opportunities.

**For general questions, contact your Scouting America local council or visit [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) for current policies.**

## **What Is the Scouting America Program?**

The Scouting America program is outlined in the official publications of Scouting America. Activities that are not in these publications are not a part of the Scouting program. Leaders must not allow youth members or program participants to engage in any unauthorized or prohibited activities.

## **Training for New Leaders**

Scouting America is committed to your success as a volunteer while serving young people. To help you be successful, there are training materials designed for you. Training resources are available through your local council and at [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org).

## **What Makes a Trained Leader?**

You are considered a trained leader when you have completed leader position-specific training for your position and have current Youth Protection training.

## **Youth Protection Begins With You™**

Child abuse is a serious problem in our society, and unfortunately, it can occur anywhere, even in Scouting. For that reason, Scouting America continues to create barriers to abuse beyond what have previously existed in Scouting.

Scouting America is committed to providing a safe environment for young people. All adult leaders must complete Youth Protection training as part of the registration process and renew their training as required. It is highly recommended that parents who participate in Scouting activities complete YPT. To learn more about Scouting America's Youth Protection resources, go to [www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/](http://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/).

## **Mandatory Reporting**

All persons involved in Scouting must immediately report to local authorities any good-faith suspicion or belief that any child is or has been physically or sexually abused; physically or emotionally neglected; exposed to any form of violence or threat; or exposed to any form of sexual exploitation including the possession, manufacture, or distribution of child pornography, online solicitation, enticement, or showing of obscene material. No person may abdicate this reporting responsibility to any other person.

Additionally, any **known or suspected abuse or behavior that might put a youth at risk** must also be reported to the local Scout executive or the Scouts First Helpline (1-844-SCOUTS1 or 1-844-726-8871) if your Scout executive or local council cannot be reached.

## **Youth Protection Policies**

- Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including meetings. There must be a registered female adult leader over 21 in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader over 21 must be present for any activity involving female youth.
- One-on-one contact between adult leaders and youth members is prohibited both inside and outside of Scouting.

These and other key Youth Protection policies are addressed in the training and at [www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/](http://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/).

To learn about Scouting America's other health and safety policies, please review the online version of the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, the Scouter Code of Conduct, and the SAFE Checklist, which are available at [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/).

## **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.



***Tear off the following pages and provide to applicant separately.***

## **BACKGROUND CHECK DISCLOSURE**

A consumer report is a background check in which information (which may include, but is not limited to, criminal background, driving background, character, general reputation, personal characteristics, and mode of living) about you is gathered and communicated by a consumer reporting agency (“CRA”) to Scouting America and/or its subsidiaries, affiliates, other related entities, and/or successors (the “Company”).

The Company may obtain a consumer report on you to be used for employment purposes (in your case, this means for the purpose of evaluating you as a new or existing volunteer).

The consumer reporting agency is **Sterling**, a First Advantage company, with its principal office located at 6150 Oak Tree Boulevard - Suite 490, Independence, OH 44131

Sterling's website is: <https://www.sterlingcheck.com/>

Sterling's Data Privacy practices can be found here: <https://privacy.sterlingcheck.com/>

## **DISPUTES**

The candidate may dispute the accuracy or completeness of a consumer report. To initiate a dispute, you are encouraged to call Sterling at 1-888-889-5248. You may also reach out to us via email regarding disputed information on your background check at [dispute.resolution@sterlingcheck.com](mailto:dispute.resolution@sterlingcheck.com). In general, a CRA has up to 30 days to resolve a dispute, although Sterling generally handles disputes more quickly than this. You will be notified via email of the resolution.

## **HOW TO GET A COPY OF YOUR BACKGROUND CHECK REPORT**

If Sterling has prepared a consumer report or investigative consumer report in your name — as per the FACT (Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions) Act — you are entitled to a free copy of the completed report during each 12-month period. To receive a free copy of the report(s) in your file, please complete our [online contact form](#).

**CALIFORNIA**  
**STATE LAW DISCLOSURES**  
**(Non-Credit)**

Under California law, an “investigative consumer report” is a consumer report in which information on a consumer’s character, general reputation, personal characteristics, or mode of living is obtained through any means. Scouting America and/or its subsidiaries, affiliates, other related entities, and/or successors (the “Company”) may obtain an investigative consumer report (which may include information described above) from an investigative consumer reporting agency (“ICRA”) on you in connection with your status as a volunteer (i.e., for employment purposes under California law). The nature and scope of this investigation includes your character, general reputation, personal characteristics, or mode of living information, including criminal history and driving record.

The ICRA preparing the investigative consumer report and conducting the investigation will be First Advantage, P.O. Box 105292, Atlanta, GA 30348, 800-845-6004. Information regarding First Advantage’s privacy practices can be found at <https://fadv.com/privacy-policy/>.

Under California Civil Code section 1786.22, you are entitled to a visual inspection of files maintained on you by an ICRA, as follows:

- (1) In person, if you appear in person and furnish proper identification, during normal business hours and on reasonable notice. A copy of your file shall also be available to you for a fee not to exceed the actual costs of duplication services provided;
- (2) By certified mail, if you make a written request, with proper identification, for copies to be sent to a specified addressee. An ICRA complying with requests for certified mailings under California Civil Code section 1786.22 shall not be liable for disclosures to third parties caused by mishandling of mail after such mailings leave the ICRA;
- (3) A summary of all information contained in your files and required to be provided by the California Civil Code section 1786.10 shall be provided to you by telephone, if you have made a written request, with proper identification for telephone disclosure, and the toll charges, if any, for the telephone call are prepaid by you or charged directly to you.

“Proper Identification” as used above, means information generally deemed sufficient to identify you, which includes documents such as a valid driver’s license, social security number, military identification card, and credit cards. Only if you cannot identify yourself with such information may the ICRA require additional information concerning your employment and personal or family history in order to verify your identity.

The ICRA will provide trained personnel to explain any information furnished to you pursuant to California Civil Code section 1786.10 and will provide a written explanation of any coded information contained in files maintained on you. This written explanation will be provided whenever a file is provided to you for visual inspection under California Civil Code section 1786.22.

You may be accompanied by one other person of your choosing, who must furnish reasonable identification. An ICRA may require you to furnish a written statement granting permission to the ICRA to discuss your file in such person’s presence.

## **ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURES & BACKGROUND CHECK AUTHORIZATION**

### **Additional Disclosures**

*The state disclosures below are included because state law requires them to be provided in writing. Some of the below rights, notices, or information also may apply to individuals from, applying to, or volunteering in states not listed below. There may be additional requirements, options, or provisions applicable to you and you may have additional rights under applicable law that are not required to be disclosed to you in writing.*

**Minnesota:** You have the right to request a complete and accurate disclosure of the nature and scope of any consumer report from First Advantage, P.O. Box 105292, Atlanta, GA 30348, 800-845-6004.

**New York:** Scouting America and/or its subsidiaries, affiliates, other related entities, and/or successors (the “Company”) may request or utilize subsequent consumer reports (other than investigative consumer reports) on you throughout your volunteer relationship with the Company. Upon request, you will be informed whether or not a consumer report was requested, and if such report was requested, informed of the name and address of the CRA that furnished the report. Your written request should be made to Scouting America, Membership Standards Team S201, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079. You may also contact the Company by email at MembershipStandards@scouting.org

### **AUTHORIZATION**

(Please print)

Name: First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix \_\_\_\_\_

List any other names used (nickname, maiden/married last names): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Type and Number: \_\_\_\_\_

To the extent permitted by applicable law, I hereby consent to and authorize Scouting America and/or its subsidiaries, affiliates, other related entities, and/or successors (the “Company”) to procure consumer report(s) (as defined by federal law) and/or investigative consumer report(s) (as defined by applicable California state law), which in my case means criminal background check(s)/driving record(s), on my background from a consumer reporting agency (“CRA”) or from an investigative consumer reporting agency (“ICRA”), as described in the **Background Check Disclosure** and the **California State Law Disclosures (Non-Credit)** (each of which I have received separately from the Company), as well as these **Additional Disclosures & Background Check Authorization**. This authorization applies only to criminal checks/driving records and does not allow the Company to obtain credit checks. I have reviewed and understand the information, statements, and notices in the **Background Check Disclosure** and the **California State Law Disclosures (Non-Credit)**, as well as these **Additional Disclosures & Background Check Authorization**. My authorization remains valid throughout my volunteer relationship with the Company, such that, to the extent permitted by applicable law, I agree the Company can procure additional consumer report(s), which in my case means criminal background check(s)/driving record(s), during my volunteer relationship without providing additional disclosures or obtaining additional authorizations. Except as otherwise prohibited by applicable law, I consent to and authorize the Company to share this information with the Company’s local councils and/or chartered organizations for business reasons (e.g., to place me in certain positions, work sites, etc.). I understand that, if I am selected for a volunteer position, a consumer report will have been conducted on me.

**For California, Minnesota, or Oklahoma individuals:** If you would like to receive from the CRA, the ICRA, or the Company (as applicable) a copy of the report that the Company may procure, please check this box.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_