

WELCOME TO SCOUTS BSA!

MID-AMERICA COUNCIL | WWW.MAC-BSA.ORG

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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.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A "SCOUT"?



The definition of a Scout is "an individual with the special training, abilities and the will to lead troops to perform reconnaissance missions and to create routes for others to follow". Since 1910, Scouts in the BSA have been known as the experts in the outdoors, as having great leadership skills, and as people ready and willing to help others always.

Some things have changed since 1910 for Scouts in the BSA, though. Scouts no longer learn to stop a runaway horse, or fend off an attacking dog. But many things are the same: great camping opportunities, sports, creating things with your hands, becoming trained in first aid, CPR and lifesaving skills.

Although these things have remained the same, the skill levels have increased. Swimming now includes scuba diving. Riding horseback is still available, but so are riding ATVs and personal watercraft. Creating structures by lashing together poles with rope, is still possible, but so is welding, metal working and blacksmithing. Video gaming and even game design are skills to be learned. Want to test yourself beyond the typical camping skills? Try our wilderness survival programs.

With over 135 different skills to try out, you will need to master 21 to earn the coveted rank of Eagle Scout. The rank of Eagle Scout is so prestigious, it is known the world over. Only 4% of all Scouts achieve this rank. It is used on applications to gain acceptance to colleges and universities, and military academies. Adults include this accomplishment on resumes when seeking a career, and every branch of the United States military will promote an Eagle Scout one rank, just for achieving this recognition.



Scouting is not just an activity to have experiences, but a place for youth to acquire leadership skills. Times may have changed since 1910, but to be a Scout is still recognized as being among the best, and always ready to be a leader for others.

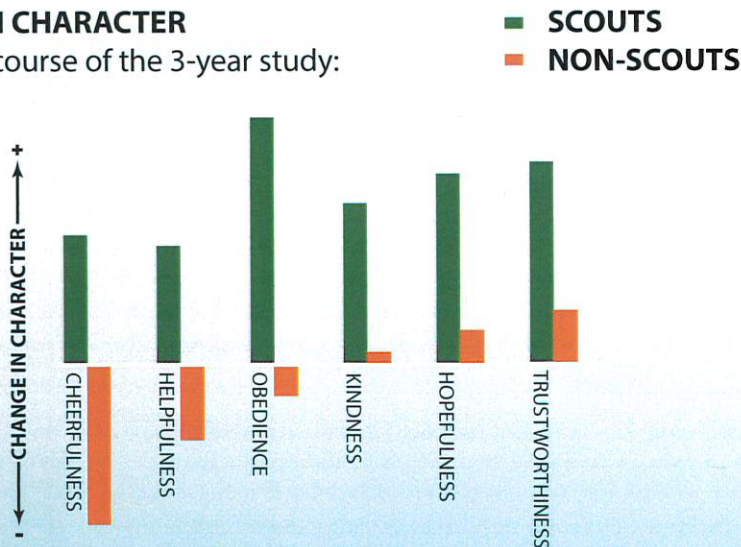


DOES SCOUTING WORK?

Scouting was put to the test over the course of three years, when a research team from Tufts University worked with the Boy Scouts of America to measure the character attributes of both Scouts and non-Scouts. The project, which was funded by the John Templeton Foundation and led by Dr. Richard M. Lerner, surveyed over 2,000 youth in and out of Scouting under age 12 using both interviews and survey data. In the beginning, there were no significant differences in character attributes between the two groups. By the end, however, the differences were striking in six key areas:

CHANGE IN CHARACTER

during the course of the 3-year study:



KEY FINDINGS:

- ✦ The more time kids spend in Scouting, the better the outcome in character development.
- ✦ Those who attend meetings regularly report higher outcomes virtually across the board when compared to Scouts with lower attendance.
- ✦ Scouts are more likely to embrace positive social values than non-Scouts.
- ✦ Scouts who are more engaged in the program report higher outcomes in nearly every category.

With fun and discovery at every turn, Scouting makes the most of right now. But what's more, it builds positive character and provides young people a foundation they can stand on to embrace opportunity, overcome obstacles, and make new discoveries.

SCOUTING WORKS.



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START HERE

WHAT IS SCOUTS BSA?

The Scouting program has three aims or purposes that shape the program: **character development, citizenship training, and physical and mental fitness.** Youth who have completed Cub Scouts or are at least 10 years old and have completed the 5th grade can join Scouts BSA.

The activities involved are age appropriate and reinforced with recognition and ceremonies. Most importantly, youth have fun while gaining these character-building assets.

Each rank advancement is signified by its own unique patch.



WHAT IS A TROOP?

A Scouts BSA troop is comprised of several patrols. The adult leader of the troop is called a Scoutmaster. A Scouts BSA troop is either all male youth or all female youth.

WHAT IS A PATROL?

A patrol is a group of 6-10 youth of similar age, development and interests who work together within the troop. Patrol meetings or activities usually take place 2-3 times each month. A patrol may have a rank advancement, activity badge, or merit badge that they are working towards as a group.

THE HANDBOOK

Every Scouts BSA Handbook is full of activities for rank advancement, working with tools, learning and playing sports, academics, science, nature, outdoor skills, and more. As your child completes the activities in their book, the scoutmaster will "sign off" that the skill was completed.

SCOUTS | LOOKING AHEAD

Scouting is a progression of activities and challenges. Youth will have the opportunity to enjoy robotics, SCUBA diving, rifle and shotgun shooting sports, computer science, and welding. Scout camps feature ATVs and personal watercraft.

WHAT DOES A TROOP DO?

LEARNING BY DOING IS THE HALLMARK OF SCOUTS BSA

Scouts plan and carry out activities with thoughtful guidance from their Scoutmaster and other adult leaders. Good youth leadership, communication, and teamwork enable them to achieve goals they have set for themselves, their patrol, and their troop.

COURT OF HONOR

The purpose of the Court of Honor is to recognize those Scouts who have advanced in rank, or earned merit badges and activity patches. Troops often hold Courts of Honor several times a year to recognize Scouts by formally presenting awards and badges earned at different stages in the year, such as following a troop's visit to summer camp.

YOU DON'T NEED A TITLE TO HELP OUT!

Scouting is a volunteer organization. There are places and ways for every adult to help out. You will feel the pride in seeing your Scout earn their recognition, and you will feel the same pride when helping out with their patrol and troop. Together, you are building memories that will last a lifetime.

Easy ways to help out, but not be in charge:

- Bring snacks
- Bring a grill
- Make phone calls
- Make spreadsheets
- Track rosters
- Provide transportation
- Pick up items at the Scout Shop
- Manage money
- Set up for a ceremony
- Drop off stuff at the council office



WHAT DOES A PATROL DO?

PATROLS ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF TROOPS.

Scouting uses the patrol method to teach skills and values. Scouts elect their own patrol leader and they learn quickly that by working together and sharing duties, the patrol can accomplish far more than any of its members could do alone. They gain confidence by serving in positions of patrol leadership. All patrol members enjoy the friendship, sense of belonging, and achievements of the patrol and of each of its members.

OTHER INTERESTS? THAT'S OKAY!

If your child has a penchant for sports, science, or other extracurricular activities, they can also do Scouts BSA! Just keep your Scoutmaster informed as to the days of conflict with other activities, and they will understand. What takes place in a patrol or troop meeting can often be made up at another time.

RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS PROGRAMS

For Scouts and families who wish to participate, the Boy Scouts of America offers Religious Emblems Programs for nearly every faith. These programs are administered by various religious organizations and are approved by the Boy Scouts of America. Once the programs are completed, the Scout or adult leader who has completed the program are allowed to wear the recognition of their accomplishment on the official uniform.



THE DISTRICT

HERE TO SERVE

A Scouting District is a geographic area which has volunteers and at least one Scouting Executive to support the Cub Scout packs, Scouts BSA troops and Venturing crews in the district. Each district has its own name, and may have as many as 60 Scouting units and activities to support.

ROUNDTABLE

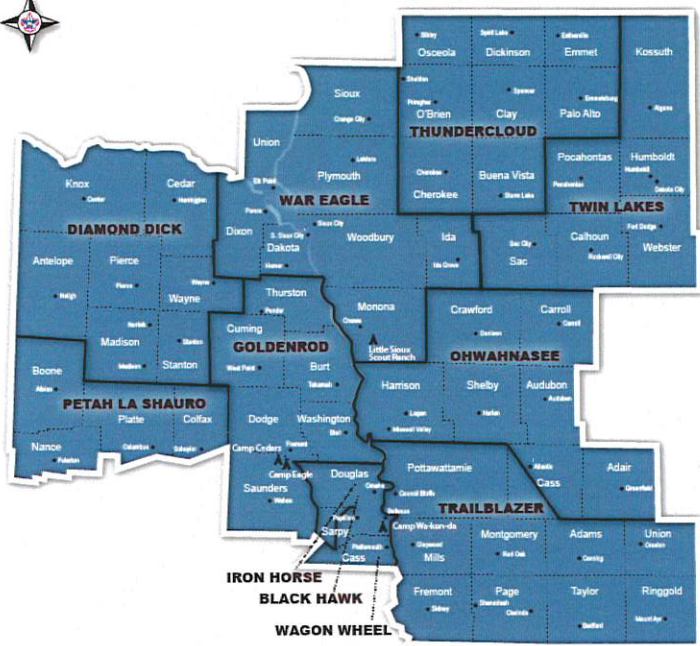
A gathering of volunteer leaders and parents once a month, where those who attend will receive important information, find out about upcoming events and activities, and socialize with their peers. This is a great opportunity for adults to share ideas, challenges, and learn from one another.

CAMPOREES

A camporee is many things—camping fun for youth, the thumping of hundreds of feet on the way to an evening campfire, and the blue smoke from fires cooking stew or ham and eggs. It's the patter of rain on many tents at night. It's the ripple of wind-blown flags in the morning sun. It's catching the idea of team work in a patrol. It's learning to carry out an order to help the team succeed. A camporee can be a perfect showplace for the Scouting program and, therefore, go far beyond just being a gathering of youth. Camporees are held on a council or district basis. They may be held at any time of the year. Camporee programs may include contests and demonstrations of outdoor Scouting skills as well as campfires, games, and field events. These activities can show Scouting at its best.



THE DISTRICT



TRAINING

Districts will also conduct a variety of trainings for those who are parents or volunteer leaders. Trainings could include: working through advancement, staging recognitions and ceremonies, outdoor skills, working with youth, etc. Online training is also available at your convenience through **My.Scouting.org**.

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

The Mid-America Council provides year-round programs and opportunities to nearly 50,000 young people annually. In order to accomplish that, we rely on over 15,000 volunteers! To provide quality program, service and support to our youth and to our volunteers, we have 83 full time paid staff and 40 part time staff members. These staff members may have a specialty in camping and program, unit support, training or fundraising, etc., but all stand ready to help when asked. We also have nearly 600 seasonal employees to help us run camping programs – year round! If you need help, visit our web site for contact information. Help is only a phone call or an e-mail away!

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THE COUNCIL

WHAT DOES MID-AMERICA COUNCIL DO?

The Mid-America Council continues the BSA tradition of instilling timeless values of character, citizenship and leadership in each young man and woman who enters the Scouting program through educational based skills and activities. Chartered in 1916, Mid-America now covers 58 counties in Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota. Our council has a professional and support staff working together to support all of our Scouting programs including two camp properties, a council wide Investment in Character fundraiser and large scale activities featuring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs and a variety of training opportunities and partnerships with other organizations.

STEM IN SCOUTING | NOVA AND SUPERNOVA

The NOVA Awards program incorporates learning with activities and exposure to science, technology, engineering and mathematics for Scouts. The requirements and activities for earning these awards stimulate interest in STEM-related fields and shows how STEM topics apply to the world around them. Mentors help bring this engaging, contemporary, and fun program to life for youth members.

PARTNERSHIPS

Mid-America Council works with other organizations and businesses to offer specially discounted Scout events!



THE COUNCIL

FUNDRAISING

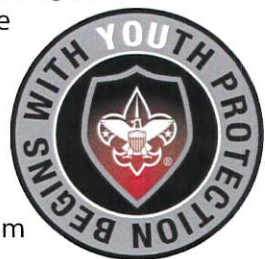
Weekend Campouts, Summer camp, and badges cost money.

The council-sponsored popcorn sales, held each fall, will teach salesmanship, goal setting, adult interaction, public speaking, budgeting, and more. Youth can “earn their own way” to camp or other Scouting activities. The Council also offers a Camp Card program each spring with re-usable coupon offers tailored to nine regions throughout our Council. The purpose is to alleviate financial stress from families and units so that more youth can go to camp and receive the unparalleled experiences that Scout camp is known for.

Fundraisers give your unit more money to spend on programming while reducing out of pocket expenses for parents. No child is ever turned away due to lack of money. All youth can participate in Scouting no matter what their family’s financial situation. Just ask your Scoutmaster about financial assistance options available.

GET THE SKILLS TO LEAD

Common sense tells us training is important, and research shows the importance of trained leaders. A trained leader is knowledgeable and more confident in the role being performed, and those traits will be picked up by the people around them. Trained leaders exhibit a knowledge and confidence that is picked up by the people around them. Trained leaders impact the quality of programs, leader tenure, youth tenure, safety and a whole lot more. A trained leader is better prepared to make the Scouting program - serving our youth -all that it can be!



UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING

University of Scouting is leader training at its best! Events are designed to provide program ideas, resources and FUN for all Scouting volunteers! It is an opportunity to network and learn with hundreds of other parents and leaders - regardless of experience. Planned so that leaders may return year after year, participants earn degrees in their chosen fields and keep current on all Scouting has to offer the youth in our communities.



CAMPING



Mid-America Council is fortunate to have two camp properties where we offer quality program for youth in the Scouts BSA. For many Scouts, a week long summer camp is the highlight of their year in Scouting. It provides numerous opportunities to earn merit badges along their advancement trail and many other BSA recognitions. A week at Camp Cedars on Covered Wagon Scout Ranch

includes swimming, hiking, fishing, boating, climbing, shooting sports and hanging out around a campfire...and so much more! **Kit Fox** is designed for campers who have not yet completed the First Class rank to work on the core rank requirements for new Scouts. **Operation Eagle**, tailored for Scouts 14 and older, allows participants to tube down the Platte River, mountain bike on Calvin Crest trails, and backpack to Camp Eagle. Our **Trades Program Weeks** provide Scouts age 13 and older the opportunity to earn various trade merit badges by learning from professionals with trips to local unions in Omaha.

You can even continue the camping adventure in the winter! Join us for program filled adventures like our Council Klondike, which offers exciting winter experiences that build character, citizenship, fitness, and family.

Your safety at camp is our top priority. Each of our camps undergo an annual safety and quality analysis as part of a national camp accreditation program. From there we strive to ensure that quality, service and innovation are seen in all of your program, facilities and staff interactions.



Camp Cedars



Covered Wagon Scout Ranch

2911 County Rd. 15
Cedar Bluffs, NE 68015

Camp Eagle



Little Sioux Scout Ranch

32977 Larpenteur Memorial Rd.
Little Sioux, IA 51545



HIGH ADVENTURE

TRI-STATE HIGH ADVENTURE BASE



Canoe the Missouri River from Vermillion, South Dakota to downtown Omaha, Nebraska, landing in 3 states along the way! Covering over 160 miles, Crews receive specialized river canoe training, including water rescue and river navigation, to aid them

on their journey. This expedition takes participants to State Parks and Cities, camping in a mix of urban and rural settings. Along the way scouts will ride horses, climb a 40-foot rock wall, visit historic sites, and maybe even catch a movie. High Adventure with an urban twist!



NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE CAMPS

The Mid-America Council is dedicated to ensuring that every youth has an opportunity to attend a BSA High Adventure Base. Some are provided through a “contingent” experience, which means that the trip is organized through a committee of volunteers in the Mid-America Council and may contain Scouts and adults from all over the council.



Philmont Scout Ranch



Northern Tier



Florida Sea Base



The Summit



SCOUT SHOP LOCATIONS

YOUR COMPLETE ONE-STOP SCOUT SHOPS

Cub Scouting • Scouts, BSA • Venturing

Uniforms • Insignia • Literature
Trophies & Awards • Camping Equipment
Gift Cards • Crafts • And more!

Gottschalk Scout Shop

12401 West Maple Road,
Omaha, NE 68164
P: 402.431.700

Hours

Mon-Thurs: 10am – 7pm
Fri: 10am – 6pm
Sat: 9am – 4pm
Sun: Closed



Sioux City Scout Center

819A Gordon Drive
Sioux City, IA 51101
P: 712-255-8846

Hours

Mon-Fri: 9am-5:30pm
Closed 1pm-2pm
for lunch daily
Sat-Sun: Closed

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CONNECT WITH US

WE'RE ON THE INTERNET

Share your photos! Share your ideas! Watch our videos! Show the world!



WANT TO STAY IN THE KNOW? JOIN IHUB - mac.ihubapp.org

IHUB gives the Mid-America Council a centralized hub that allows our audience to manage communications more effectively. Easy setup of individual channels produces custom content feeds direct to our audience. This hub allows information to reach every person with the right message at the right time, every single time and engage Scouters like never before!

VISIT US ON THE WEB - www.mac-bsa.org

Our easy to navigate website provides information and resources to ensure a positive scouting journey for your child! Our monthly calendar features allows you to filter and sort the activities that fit your needs and interests! This calendar is where you find registration information for the various events happening around Mid-America Council.

WATCH FOR OUR DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Get the latest information monthly, sent directly to your email address. All leaders and members automatically receive this at the email address provided on your application. You can subscribe or update your email address and preferences at any time through our website.

MONTHLY SCOUTING MAGAZINES

Scouting magazine is the official resource for parents and adult leaders. It carries news on Scouting events, articles on aspects of Scouting such as service, outdoor skills and activities, and features about Scouting activities. Scouts BSA also publishes a monthly magazine geared to entertain and educate America's youth and to open their eyes to the joys of reading through a mix of news, nature, sports, history, fiction, science, comics, and Scouting activities from around the world!



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