

Boy Scout Aims and Methods

AIMS

- ✳ Growth in moral strength and character
- ✳ Participating citizenship
- ✳ Development in physical, mental, and emotional fitness

Boy Scouting works towards three aims. One is growth in *moral strength and character*. We may define this as what the boy is himself; his personal qualities, his values, his outlook.

A second is *participating citizenship*. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn obligations to other people, to the society he lives in, and to the government that presides over that society.

A third aim of Boy Scouting is *development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness*. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

The methods are designed to accomplish these aims. Thus it is important that you know and use the methods of Boy Scouting. Other methods are good, but they may bring different results -- results quite different than we are seeking.

METHODS

- ✳ Advancement
 - ◆ Self-reliance-ability to help others-challenge
- ✳ Ideals
 - ◆ Oath - Law - Motto - Slogan
- ✳ Patrols
 - ◆ Peer groups-elected representation-activities
- ✳ Outdoors
 - ◆ All outdoor programs

- ✿ Adult Association
 - ◆ Image-role model-example
- ✿ Personal Growth
 - ◆ Good Turn-service projects-religious emblems
- ✿ Leadership Development
 - ◆ Leadership skills and practice-citizenship
- ✿ Uniform
 - ◆ Commitment to aims-identity

Advancement

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a boy grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others.

Ideals

The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, motto, and slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them he has some control over what he becomes.

Patrols

The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they easily can relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

Outdoors

Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose.

Being close to nature helps Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and mankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Adult Association

Boys learn from the examples set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage of a young man's development.

Personal Growth

As Scouts plan their activities, and progress towards their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. There probably is no device so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn.

The religious emblems program is also a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Scout to determine growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development

Boy Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Uniform

The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals.

The uniform is practical attire for Scout activities, and provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

Scout Oath or Promise

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
Reverent

Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily

Outdoor Code

As an American,
I will do my best to-

Be clean in my outdoor manners,
Be careful with fire,
Be considerate in the outdoors,
and
Be conservation-minded.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

A Predilection for Success

As a compass keeps a hiker going in the right direction, Scouting's values put young people on the right path. For over 90 years, Scouting has provided an "internal compass" guiding millions of young people throughout their lives.

For every 100 boys who join a Boy Scout troop:

- ✿ Twelve will have their first contact with a church or synagogue.
- ✿ Five will earn their religious emblem.
- ✿ Three will enter the clergy or a religious vocation.
- ✿ Eighteen will develop hobbies that will last through their adult life.
- ✿ Eight will enter a career that was learned through the merit badge system.
- ✿ One will use his Scout skills to save the life of another.
- ✿ Two will use their Scout skills to save their own life.
- ✿ Twentyone will become adult Scouting volunteers.
- ✿ Three will become Eagle Scouts.