

# Exploring The History of Scouts BSA

It's pretty easy to find articles and videos about the beginning of the World Scouting Movement and its "uncle" Lieutenant General Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell – Baden Powell or "BP" (Be Prepared) for short. It's a little more challenging to get to brass tax about the origins of scouting in the United States.

Scouting.org explained:

Stop me if you've heard this– and if you haven't, you must have joined Scouting very recently. It's the story of the Unknown Scout who guided Chicago publisher William D. Boyce through a pea-soup fog in 1909 in London–and that led him to the office of Robert S.S. Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting. There Boyce picked up a trunkload of literature about the young movement for British boys, leading him to incorporate the Boy Scouts of America on Feb. 8, 1910, soon after returning to the United States.

But despite the made-for-Hollywood story, the rest of the tale isn't as well known, as Scouting.org added, "W. D. Boyce is a shadowy figure among Scouting's pioneers."

"This is due largely to the fact that he did not take a hands-on approach to Scouting as did the founder, Baden-Powell, in England and, in the United States, Chief Scout Ernest Thompson Seton, National Scout Commissioner Daniel Carter Beard, and Chief Scout Executive James E. West.

"Boyce did his thing and left the details to others."

But what are those details? Or, how did we get here from there?

Well, two different Scouters produced videos to help show us the way.

Check these out:

History of the Founding of the Boy Scouts of America: Did You Know?

How Did Scouting Start in America?

---

# The BSA Uniform: Always In Style

*From Army hand-me-downs to Oscar de la Renta, the Boy Scout uniform is, itself, a story...*

As you put on your Scout uniform, did you ever catch yourself wondering, how did we get here?

After all, it's one of the most iconic ensembles on earth. No matter where you're from, everyone can picture a Boy Scout.

A neckerchief, olive green, and khaki – top it with a hat (and knee-high socks); even parodies like Russell's "Wilderness Explorers" in Pixar's *Up* and Sam Shakuski's Khaki Scouts in *Moonrise Kingdom* can't escape the ubiquitous nature of the classic Boy Scout (or Cub Scout) getup.

That's part of what makes those films so great. No matter the color, on and off-screen, a Boy Scout uniform tells the viewer a lot of information, even before anyone speaks.

For example, we're laughing because Russell goes to great lengths (and heights) to earn an important merit badge. We believe Sam can do anything because of his Scout uniform (and

seemingly magic backpack).

Meanwhile, and perhaps most importantly, Life Scout Henry Jones Jr. wearing a Boy Scout uniform in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* tells you all you need to know about Indy's character (and gives clues as to why Dr. Jones wears durable adventures gear and a wide brim hat as he gets older).

What's unique about the BSA uniform, with an over 111-year history, remains its utilitarian construction. Its durability. And its ability to tell a story for the wearer.

Over the last few months, Stan "Scouter Stan" Richards has posted three vlogs explaining the importance of the Scout Uniform and how it evolved over more than a century.

Scout Uniform Through History

The Square Knot on the Uniform Tells A Story

What is That on Your Uniform?

And speaking of Oscar de la Renta, *Scouting Wire* did a whole breakdown of the designer's work for BSA.

"We felt the uniform should meet several criteria," de la Renta told *Scouting Magazine* in 1980. "It should be equitable for strenuous activity; it should be made from an easy-care fabric, and at the same time the wearer should still look like a Scout."

---

## Mayflower Council YouTube: What is Cub Scouts?

*New video explains the Scouts BSA program designed for kids in K – 5th grade...*

For those of us who grew up in Scouting wearing a blue and gold uniform, the question seems – well – unnecessary?

However, it's important to understand that a whole new generation of children is coming to Scouts BSA.

Many families were not fortunate enough to live near a pack. Or, perhaps, someone in the family tried the program and, for whatever reason, it didn't stick. Meanwhile, girls joining Cub Scouts remains a relatively new facet of the program. Maybe there was even a financial component to the decision to skip Scouting.

The reasons are myriad. So, it's important for everyone to check out Cub Scouting with fresh eyes and with a notion to expand the program to more children than ever.

Perhaps you, the reader, come to contemporary Cub Scouting with lots of questions, even though you might have once been a Webelos (We'll be loyal Scouts...) Scout.

In that (arrow of) light, the Mayflower Council presents the following video, designed to take the guesswork out of the equation and give new and old families alike an understanding of what so many of us know so well:

"Cub Scouts is a game with a purpose."

Of course, if Cub Scouts is already part of your child's world, be sure to forward this story along to a friend or family member whose kids might just be ready to put on the blue and gold.

And if you need more info on Cub Scouts, click this link.

What is Cub Scouts

---

# Halloween Recruiting Ideas

With Halloween just around the corner, here are some great recruitment ideas for your Cub Scout or pack to use to recruit new Cub Scouts and families to join the Scouting program. These can be great ways to reach those families who missed your Join Scouting Day, want to be part of Scouting, but simply don't know how or who to call. Let's help them join the fun and adventure of Cub Scouting!

- **Trunk or Treat:** If your chartering organization or local civic organization is hosting a Trunk or Treat, ask if your Scout unit can participate. Adults can wear their Scout uniforms and distribute not only candy, but also joining information.
  - **Pack Costume Meeting:** Make your last meeting before Halloween a costume meeting. Scouts can invite their friends to attend, show off their costumes, and really display the fun and excitement of Scouting to potential members.
  - **Trick or Treat (out with kids):** When you walk around your neighborhood with your children, wear your uniform. Have some joining information handouts with you to give to other parents you meet.
  - **Trick or Treat (at home):** Stick a unit business card, flyer, or join Scouting sticker in kids' candy bags (along with some candy too, of course). Place Scouting yard signs in your yard, since families will be walking by and admiring everyone's decorations.
  - **Halloween Peer to Peer Recruitment Cards:** These Halloween Bilingual Peer to Peer Cards can be printed to hand out during Trick or Treat in your community.
-

# What is a Unit Key 3?

## Unit Key 3

Behind every great Scouting unit is a committed Key 3. These are the three top adult individuals within each pack, troop, crew, or ship. Each member of the Key 3 needs to understand his or her role and feel empowered to serve.

**The Unit Key 3 is a critical component to the success of the unit. The unit Key 3 consists of:**

- **Committee Chair** – The top volunteer in the unit is the Committee Chair. They are responsible for ensuring enough qualified adult volunteers are in place to provide the program. They lead the unit committee meetings.
- **Unit Leader** – The leader of the unit meeting is the unit leader (Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor, Skipper) and is responsible for developing and delivering the “program.”
- **Chartered Organization Representative (COR)** – This person appoints the unit committee chair and approves all adult leaders. They provide resources from the chartered organization.

The Key 3 addresses unit challenges, checks on Journey to Excellence status, and adjusts program and administrative elements to ensure unit progress toward Journey to Excellence.

# Role of the Unit Key 3

- **This group meets frequently** to discuss the unit, its challenges, coming events, and progress toward completing their action plan and Journey to Excellence goals.
- **Ensures that a monthly program and unit budget plan are in place and on track.** These items are critical for unit success. Encourage long-range planning for a positive experience for all.
- **Support systems that will ensure a well-organized unit are:** the monthly Unit Key 3 meeting, monthly committee and leader meetings, and regular parent meetings.
- **Encourages a unit-wide communication system.** Communication takes many forms: newsletter, phone tree, email, website, app. Whatever fits the unit.
- **Encourages training of all registered adults in the unit.** Encourages them to take This Is Scouting and Leader Specific Training for their position prior to their first meeting. Vigorously enforces Youth Protection Training. Makes sure the adult leaders are aware of training opportunities. Through the district commissioner, enlists the help of the training team to bring adult leader training to the unit if necessary.
- **Helps unit leaders get additional training as needed.** Through the unit and district commissioners, requests progressive specialty training as needed. Topics might include recruiting youth members, information on Friends of Scouting, advancement, etc. While it is the responsibility of the district committee, it may be necessary to conduct sections of this training at the unit level.
- **Encourages participation in district activities.** Encourages attendance at roundtable, district activities, and camping opportunities. Keeps the district and council calendars in mind when helping the

Unit Key 3 schedule unit meetings and events.

## **My.Scouting.org – Accomplish A Wide Variety of Things**

You can use My.Scouting.org for a wide variety of things. Parents can use it to transfer their Scout from one unit to another (how-to PDF), such as when a Webelos moves from a pack to a troop. Adult leaders can use it to take position-specific training. The Key 3 can use it to accept online applications and must use it to complete the annual rechartering of their unit.

In addition to these functions, this portal provides all adults access to their personal account data, a place to update contact information, and...yes, the ability to complete YPT. Make sure your My.Scouting.org profile contains your BSA member ID number; that way, your training record will automatically update when you finish an online course. BSA member ID numbers do not transfer from one council to another, but you can include both in your profile if you have IDs from multiple councils.

When setting up a My.Scouting.org account, be sure to link it to your Mayflower Council BSA member ID number. Forgot your ID number, your username or your password? Not sure if you have a member ID number or a My.Scouting.org account? Contact the Membership & Unit Service Team ([membership@mayflowerbsa.org](mailto:membership@mayflowerbsa.org)) before you create a new account– we can check to see if you have a member ID number, provide your username, and reset your password.

In the “BSA Web Links” section of My.Scouting.org (under “Menu”), you’ll also find links to Internet Advancement, the National Safety Council Defensive Driving Course, and Service Hours Reporting. Unit leaders have access to their unit roster and other information designed to help in managing the unit.



One last note: depending on the leadership position for which you are registered, you may not see every tool that someone else has available on their dashboard. So, it's important that when your unit recharter at the end of each year, they accurately record your leadership position.

If you have trouble logging in to My.Scouting.org, contact Office Manager Lisa Olson for assistance.

## Scoutbook

Scoutbook is an advancement tracking tool. From the first knot tied to final hours of service performed, the Scouting experience is a journey like none other. And Scoutbook is your go-to tool to ensure not a moment is missed – tracking advancement, milestone achievements and all the fun along the way. It also has messaging, help forums, service, hiking, camping tracking and calendaring features.

### **Important Reminders for Scoutbook:**

- Adding or transferring a scout or adult to your unit's Scoutbook account does not register them with your unit and doesn't mean they have a valid membership. All Scouts and adult leaders must complete an application, either online or submit a paper (or PDF version) of the application. This is true whether a person is new to Scouting, changing from one pack, troop or crew to another, or even changing adult leader positions.
- Once an application is processed, the individual should appear in your unit's Scoutbook in approximately 24-48 hours. Wait for this sync to occur, instead of manually adding anyone.
- Scoutbook doesn't allow duplicate emails, so the same email address can't be used for two accounts.
- Your Scoutbook login is the same as your My.Scouting.org login. If you aren't sure if you have a login, you can't remember your login, need a password reset or you're

getting an error, contact Office Manager Lisa Olson.

- Scoutbook Guide: [help.scoutbook.scouting.org](https://help.scoutbook.scouting.org)
- Scouting Forums: [discussions.scouting.org](https://discussions.scouting.org)

---

# New to Scouts BSA? Get the Quick Start Guide!

If you're new to Scouts BSA, we've created a digital "10 Essentials Quick Start Guide" for you. These are 10 easy steps with videos, links, etc. to get you and your Scout started on your incredible journey with us! (Unit leaders: please add a link to the guide in your "Be a Scout" welcome message to new members. Feedback is always welcome too!)

Get the Scouts BSA 10 Essentials Quick Start Guide

---

# BSA Incident Reporting Requirements

Incident Reporting will be a highly monitored reporting area in the Scout post-bankrupt operating environment. We need to ensure that all Scout leaders understand what Incident Reporting is and why it is important that all incidents are accurately and timely reported. Scouting strongly encourages units to report any incident so risk management can ensure any unsafe conditions are addressed and safety measures are put in

place. We may also recommend training that may need to be created or enhanced to ensure safety and for insurance purposes. The Incident Report landing page link below, will explain why reporting is so important and the links to the appropriate report.

[Incident Reporting Landing Page](#)

[Incident Reporting Requirements](#)

[Near Miss Reporting Tool](#)

[Incident Reporting Tool](#)

[Youth Protection/Membership Infraction Reporting Tool](#)

Please share this information with other unit leaders and assistants so they are aware of the reporting requirements.

---

## **Webelos to Scout Transition**

Webelos prepares Scouts for the change from Cub Scouting to Scouts BSA. While Webelos are members of a Cub Scout pack, they become more involved in planning their own activities and performance approval begins to move from parents to unit leaders.

The two-year Webelos experience is a time of transition from Cub Scouting to crossing the bridge to membership in a Scouts BSA troop. Webelos and their families should be familiar and comfortable with the youth and adult leaders of the Scouts BSA troop, their role in the troop and troop activities, and feel excited about beginning this new adventure. The passage from a pack to a troop should be smooth, with no time lost in between. The crossover ceremony should clearly signify the

transition to a new level of Scouting.

The key factor to a good Webelos transition is the ongoing working relationship of the leaders of a Cub Scout pack and a Scouts BSA troop. Ideally, a community organization would have both a pack and a troop with leaders who work together to help move Webelos Scouts into a Scouts BSA troop, the same way schools move students from elementary school to middle school.

By planning and coordinating their efforts, the pack and troop can help make the Webelos-to-Scout transition seamless and give all Webelos a chance to experience the fun and excitement of joining a Scouts BSA troop.

---

## **Cub Scouts The 3 R's: Recruit, Recruit & Retain**

Of the six programs the BSA offers, typically over 50% of registered youth are in the Cub Scout program. Annually, we recruit more first graders to be Tigers than any other age group across all programs. In 2020, many units were unable or chose not to recruit in their communities. As a result, youth membership in the BSA plummeted.

It is time for a reset this fall, so everyone is being asked to focus on membership recruitment. As critical as that effort will be, data tells us that in a typical year we have had a problem with keeping them in the program. Voice of the Scout surveys have told us that families leave because of a poor den experience.

Dens are where the action happens, it's where we conduct

activities in the form of the Adventure program. Den leaders are well meaning adults who volunteered to guide a bunch of kids through a series of activities to reach the goal of completing an Adventure. Our volunteer den leaders like to have a playbook from which to draw and know what to do when holding a den meeting. They want to know what they should be doing with the youth and how to get it done. Our den leaders are not child development experts, they are parents and adults who volunteer. At the beginning of each program year, our den leaders and Cub Scouts are both stepping into the great unknown.

Advancement is how we deliver our program and measure the outcome, but advancement is not the end goal: it is a method for running a den meeting. Advancement should not define the activities to be completed; activities should lead to advancement. Cub Scouts do not have the developmental understanding of why they must complete certain requirements to "advance." They came to the meeting to have a good time and do something fun. Typically, that's all the Cub Scout cares about.

On the way home from a den meeting, Cub Scouts should be able to tell their families that they had FUN. They should be able to describe the meeting with glee and excitement and a need to return. If a Cub Scout looks out the car window and says, "That was boring," chances are he or she will not be back to the next den meeting or register for another program year.

Our challenge is to be sure den leaders are aware of the many resources available to help our leaders provide the best program possible; each and every meeting. Let's re-set and focus on member experiences that shine and provide great fun and adventures.

BSA resources available to provide the best Cub Scout experience for new membership – youth and adult.

Cub Scouting  
Cub Chat Live!  
Den Leader Resources  
Adult Leader Training

---

# **#backtoschoolbacktoscouting Photo Contest**

## **Share the Scouting Adventure With Your Friends**

### **Share Your Scouting Photos In Our #backtoschoolbacktoscouting Contest – Ends September 30!**

The Scouts create amazing adventures. Sharing the memories you make with your Scout on your social media account is one of the most powerful ways to increase parent involvement and encourage others to join. The Mayflower Council, Boy Scouts of America has created the hashtag **#backtoschoolbacktoscouting** to use with your photos of your Scouting adventures on these social media accounts to spread the word about how fun Scouting is!

**Help us share the Scouting story** by sharing your Scout's great adventures with us and with others. Simply take a moment to share a photo or something exciting you did in Scouts on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram through Sept. 30th with the

hashtag **#backtoschoolbacktoscouting**. Sharing your photos will qualify you to win special prizes such as Amazon gift cards!