

BPSA ROVER INVESTITURE



This abbreviated version of the *Rover Handbook* is intended for use by B-P Service Association, US, members at Brownsea Training Camps (BTCs). This manual may be photocopied for these purposes. Issued by order of the Baden-Powell Service Association (BPSA), US Headquarters Council.

BTC Rover Investiture Edition – Dec. 2013

Group, Crew, & Community Information To be filled in by the Rover.

Name _____

Address & Phone # _____

State/District _____

Date of Birth _____

Group _____

Crew _____

Date of Joining _____

Passed Tenderfoot Tests/Received as a Rover Squire _____

Date of Vigil _____

Date of Investiture as a Rover Knight _____

Completed Practical Training _____

Quest _____

Earned Progress Thong _____

EMERGENCY ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS.

Nearest Doctors & Phone #s _____

(Fill in two or three names in case one is out.)

Nearest Hospital & Phone # _____

Nearest Pharmacy & Phone # _____

Nearest Ambulance Station & Phone # _____

Nearest Police Station & Phone # _____

Nearest Fire Station & Phone # _____

Crew Advisor/Rover Scout Leader's Name, Address, & Phone # _____

Rover Mate's Name, Address, & Phone # _____

Introduction

The Baden-Powell Service Association (BPSA) was formed in 2006 as an independent and traditional-style Scouting Association. It perpetuates the principles and practices of Scouting laid down by Robert Baden-Powell in 1907, which had been developed and refined in Boy Scout Associations around the world for over 100 years. These principles are so fundamentally sound and the practices so adaptable that Traditional Scouting continues to grow and can never be dated or unsuited to any community. Our aim is to promote good citizenship and wholesome physical, mental, and moral development, as well as training in habits of observation, discipline, self-reliance, loyalty, and useful skills.

BPSA is independent of, and not affiliated with, either the Boy Scouts of America or the Girls Scouts of the USA. We are members of the World Federation of Independent Scouts (WFIS) and, as such, are not in competition with other American Scouting Associations; we are only their brothers and sisters. We are affiliated with the Baden-Powell Scouts' Association of the UK.

The training scheme devised by Baden-Powell is based on using the natural desires of young people as a guide to the activities that will attract and hold them. The appeal of true Scouting has always been to that element of the outdoorsman, pioneer, and explorer, which is part of our nature, and is at its most evident in youth. Hence the significance of the opening sequence of BP's "Explanation of Scouting" in *Scouting for Boys*:

"By the term 'Scouting' is meant the work and attributes of backwoodsmen, explorers and frontiersmen."

Scouting is an outdoor movement and that is part of its character. To whatever degree conditions may, at time, force us indoors—such as weather, darkness, or town-life—we must regard this as second-best necessity and never as a satisfactory substitute for the real thing.

BPSA believes that everyone deserves a chance to participate in the movement that Baden-Powell started, and, with that, we have crafted our policy of inclusion:

BPSA Scouting offers a choice for those with curiosity, energy, and independence of spirit. We are committed to providing an appropriate alternative and community-oriented Scouting experience. BPSA welcomes everyone. Our mission is to provide a positive learning environment within the context of democratic participation and social justice. We foster the development of Scouts in an environment of mutual respect and cooperation.

This book is published with the objective of providing Rovers full instruction on the tests they will be required to pass on their way to First Class proficiency and investiture as a Rover Knight, as well as achievements they may continue to work on after having achieved that title.

As it is not possible to pass all the tests in one day, and as it is sometimes difficult to remember what tests each individual has passed, a page is provided at the end of each section where each test can be recorded and signed when passed.

Good Scouting to You!

Welcome, New Rovers!

To become a Rover, you must be at least 18 years of age and either be recommended by your Scoutmaster as a Pathfinder who is trying to live up to the Scout obligations, including the doing of good turns, or, if not previously a Scout, you must be willing to learn the basic principles of Scouting by passing the Tenderfoot tests, pursuing the open-air life, and accepting the way of life set forth in the Scout Promise and Law.

Your first tasks will be to learn and understand the Scout Law and Promise. You must also know the significance of the Scout Motto. You should also consider reading and studying *Scouting for Boys* and *Rovering to Success* by Lord Baden-Powell. These books are the foundation of the Scouting movement and the Rover program and can be downloaded for free from our website, BPSA-US.org, on the Members > Resources page. Then, either on your own, with your Crew, or at a Brownsea Training Camp, you can move on to complete the Tenderfoot requirements, if you have not previously completed them, and be received as a Rover Squire.

After your reception as a Rover Squire, you will be able to wear the full Rover uniform. Our uniform has great significance; it shows that you belong to the largest brotherhood of outdoorsmanship and service in the world. All members wear this uniform regardless of gender, religion, socio-economic status, ethnic background, or nationality. It is also a constant reminder that you have committed yourself, on your honor, to the ideals of Scouting.

Once you have become a Rover Squire, you may begin working your way towards the title of Rover Knight with the assistance of one or two Rover Scout Guides (RSGs). An RSG is simply a more senior Rover Scout who assists and advises the Rover Squire during the time he or she spends working towards the completion of the Rover Knight requirements.

The Rovers belonging to a specific Scouting group are known as a Crew or Rover section. For certain activities, the Rover Crew may be broken into one or more patrols of four to eight members each, with one member serving as Rover Mate, or leader, for each patrol. The overall Crew or Rover Section leader, typically a more senior Scouter, is referred to as a Crew Advisor or Rover Scout Leader (RSL).

Rovering is intended to be “a brotherhood of open air and service.” Originally, Rovering was intended to serve as the final stage in Scouting for those that came up through Wolf Cubbing and Scouts. When a Scout reached age 18, he or she would transition from their Scout Troop to a Rover Crew of young adults. A Rover Scout could then further their training in citizenship by learning new skills to help them focus on a meaningful career while at the same time rendering service to the community.

In a practical sense, Rovers get to do a lot of the same activities as younger Scouts including camping, hiking, and practicing outdoor skills. They also render service to their communities through projects designed by the Rovers themselves. Some Rovers may become Scouters and help organize younger Scouts in Rafts, Packs, or Troops, while others join simply to be a Scout, and that's fine, too.

Rovering can be an open invitation for you to start your own personal journey as a Scout. Rovering by its very nature is a self-directed exploration of both yourself and the world around you. Rovering can really be whatever you choose to make of it.

SERVICE

Just as the motto of Scouts across the world is “Be Prepared,” the motto of Rovers everywhere is, simply, “Service.” At the age at which one qualifies to join a Rover section, the Scout is entering adulthood and beginning a journey to make their way in the world. One of the important things to consider at this point in your life—indeed, at any point during adulthood—is how your life is best spent in service to others. What skills or abilities do you have? What does it take to be a “good citizen”? What can you do to make your home, your community, your country, your world a better place? What kinds of things, as an adult, will you stand up for and support? What can you do to be the best person you can be? What can you contribute back?

Scouting is a lifelong pursuit that provides a program of learning and self-improvement that gives Scouts the tools and abilities to answer these questions. Through lessons in woodcraft, self-reliance, leadership, fitness, and character development, Scouting’s goal has always been to build better citizens. At the level of the Rover section, Scouts need to start to seriously consider what kinds of long-term contributions they can make to the world around them.

Your service, as a citizen, can take many different forms. In fact, as a Rover, you are encouraged to explore many different paths and perhaps find several causes that hold a special meaning for you. Whether it is supporting a specific charitable cause, an environmental or conservation effort, helping to restore or beautify a local landmark, or even contributing to the future of Scouting by volunteering to lead a group as a Scouter, there are many worthwhile causes that could greatly benefit from your time and effort. One of the most rewarding things about volunteering is, not only does your selected cause(s) benefit from your personal contributions, but your personal happiness will increase by seeing the results that your efforts make. As Lord Baden-Powell once said:

*“Happiness is not mere pleasure nor the outcome of wealth.
It is the result of active work rather than the passive enjoyment of pleasure.
Your success depends on your own individual effort in the voyage of life.”*



THE ROVER UNIFORM

A Rover wears their uniform as follows, with the appropriate badges as described below and in the 1938 UK Boy Scout Association *Policy, Organisation and Rules (PO&R)*; see our Program Resources page on BPSA-US.org).

Shirt – Olive or Forest Green (preferred) with two patch pockets (buttoned), and shoulder straps for epaulets. Blue, khaki, or gray shirts are also acceptable. Bright metal buttons must not be worn. Long sleeves are preferred (sleeves should be rolled up) but short sleeves may be worn in warmer weather.

Tenderfoot Badge – Granted by the Association on the recommendation of the Rover Scout Leader, must be worn by all grades of Scouts in uniform on the center of the left-hand pocket of the shirt (*this is also referred to as the BPSA Association badge*). See illustration on the following page for optional placement of Tenderfoot Badge for female Rovers.

Hat – Four dents campaign hat in Sudan (brown) or Khaki (green), flat brim, leather band around crown, with strap or lace. A beret, green or red, is also permitted with appropriate metal pin or patch on front.

Group Necker – A 36" square piece of cloth of the colors chosen by your Scout group, worn loosely knotted at the throat or with a group ring or woggle (other than the Gilwell Woggle pattern, unless earned) instead of the knot. The neckerchief is worn over the collar.

Shorts/Pants – Blue, khaki, olive, or gray in color and of a comfortable outdoor/cargo style. Female sections/patrols may opt to wear a traditional kilt, as long as all are of the same design, color, and pattern.

Belt – Brown leather or web.

Stockings – Any plain color (green preferred), worn turned down below the knee with a green tabbed garter for Rover Squires or red tabbed garter for Rover Knights showing on the outside.

Shoulder Knot – Braid or ribbon approximately six inches long, 1/2 inch wide, worn on the left shoulder. Rover Squires who have passed the Tenderfoot tests wear a shoulder knot of green (typically the outer strip, representing Pathfinders) and yellow (typically the inner strip, representing Timberwolves). Invested Rover Knights wear a red, green, and yellow shoulder knot.

Boots or Shoes – Brown or black.

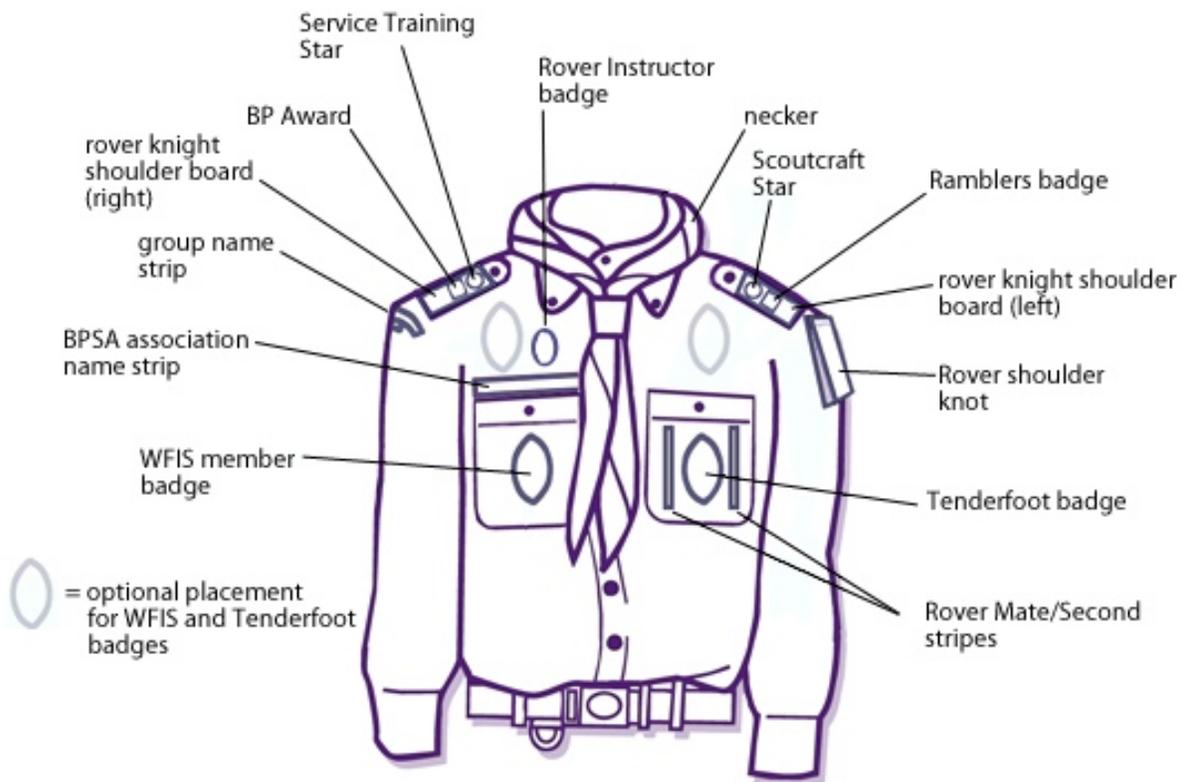
Group Name Strip – A badge indicating the Scout group; worn on the right shoulder—or on both—according to the custom of the group.

Stars, Badges, and Awards – Rover accolades are intended to be worn in specific positions on the Rover Scout shirt. The location for each is detailed under the description for each individual award. If the Rover earned the Tenderfoot badge, Bushman's Thong (right shoulder and pocket), or George Washington's Scout (left sleeve) award as a Pathfinder, those awards may be carried

over to the Rover uniform as well. Rover Scout epaulettes are worn only by Rover Knights (hence the requirement for shoulder straps).

US Flag or other US Emblem – Worn over the left breast pocket only during international activities.

Staff – Every Scout should be equipped with a natural wood staff, marked in feet and inches (and/or centimeters and meters), to be carried on all appropriate occasions. Rovers may alternately carry a thumbstick.

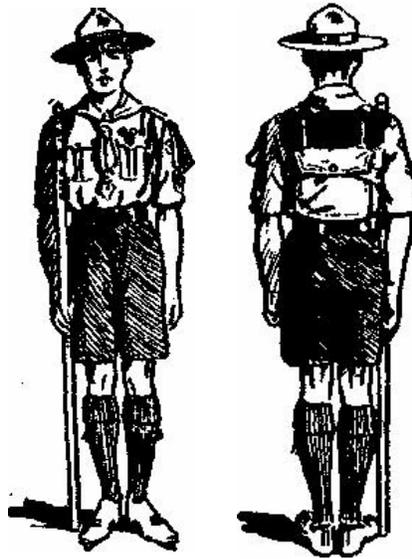


Rover Uniform Patch Guide

The above is the correct Scout uniform and, with the exception of authorized badges and decorations and the articles mentioned below, nothing must be added to it. The correct Scout uniform must be worn in public. Unauthorized badges, fancy decorations and personal adornments must not be displayed. Scouts in camp may, at the discretion of the Rover Scout Leader, wear any clothing they desire, but whenever they appear in public outside the camp limits, they must be properly attired.

GSM, SM, and ASM shoulder knots (not shown in the above illustration) should be worn on the right shoulder, opposite the Rover shoulder knot, pinned directly below the right shoulder epaulette/shoulder board, so that it hangs down over the group name strip. Members of BPSA HQ also wear their purple commissioner's knot in this location.

OPTIONAL UNIFORM ARTICLES



The following may also be worn:

- **Association Name Strip** – Reading “B-P Service Association,” worn above and touching the top of the right shirt pocket.
- **“Scouting For All” Square Knot** – worn centered above and touching the top of the left shirt pocket, under the US Flag or other US emblem if it is worn.
- **Overcoat, Mackintosh, or Jacket** – Loud patterns are not permitted. When not worn, this should be carried in the most convenient way (preferably on top of the rucksack) and in a uniform manner amongst the group insofar as possible.
- **Haversack, Rucksack, or Backpack** – On appropriate occasions; worn on the back and not at the side.
- **Lanyard** – Used to carry a whistle or knife.
- **Knife** – Carried on the belt or neck lanyard.
- **Hand Axe** – May be carried on the belt but only on appropriate occasions.
- **Length of Cord** – Carried on the belt.

RECOMMENDED READING

Lord Robert Baden-Powell began the Scouting movement with a series of serialized articles he referred to as “Camp Fire Yarns,” in which he described his experiences with the Mafeking Cadet Corps during the second Boer War. In these articles, he passed along many of the skills that have become synonymous with Scouting. In 1908, these articles were compiled and published in book form as *Scouting for Boys*, sometimes with the subtitle “A Handbook for Instruction in Good Citizenship” appearing on the cover. This collected volume went on to take its place in the top five bestselling books of the twentieth century.

A little over a decade later, Lord Baden-Powell authored *Rovering to Success*, originally subtitled “A Book of Life-Sport for Young Men,” but later changed to “A Guide for Young Manhood.” This book was aimed at an older audience than *Scouting for Boys* and consisted of advice that Baden-Powell wanted to pass down to young men who were just entering adulthood. This book served as the earliest Rover Handbook.

Due to their importance to the Scouting movement, these two books are required reading for any member who wishes to work their way towards becoming a Rover Knight and will help provide a better understanding of the origins and aims of the Rover program itself.

Electronic versions of both of these books are available for download from the BPSA’s website under Member Resources.



TENDERFOOT TESTS

It should be noted that a Rover may not wear the Tenderfoot badge until he or she has passed the Tenderfoot tests and made the Scout Promise. The tests are as follows:

Note: *The original work, Scouting for Boys, is required reading for ALL Rovers. Specific sections/pages will be referenced where applicable with each requirement. The original book is available for download from the BPSA-US website for free: BPSA-US.org*

1. Know the Scout Law, Promise, and Motto; and understand their meanings.

The Scout Law

(1) **A SCOUT'S HONOR IS TO BE TRUSTED.** If a Scouter says to a Scout, "I trust you on your honor to do this," the Scout is bound to carry out the order, to the very best of their ability and to let nothing interfere with doing so.

(2) **A SCOUT IS LOYAL** to their country, Scouters, parents, employers, and to those under them. A Scout is also loyal to themselves. Loyalty is also earned through trust, not just in yourself but through others as well.

(3) **A SCOUT'S DUTY IS TO BE USEFUL AND TO HELP OTHERS.** And they are to do their duty before anything else, even though they give up their own pleasure, or comfort, or safety to do it. When in difficulty to know which of two things to do, a Scout must ask themselves, "Which is my duty?"—that is, "Which is best for other people?"—and do that one. They must be prepared at any time to save life, or to help injured persons and they *must try their best to do at least one good turn* for somebody every day.

(4) **A SCOUT IS A FRIEND TO ALL AND A BROTHER OR SISTER TO EVERY OTHER SCOUT, NO MATTER TO WHAT COUNTRY, CLASS OR CREED THE OTHER MAY BELONG.** Thus, if a Scout meets another Scout, even although a stranger, they must speak to them, and help them in any way that they can, either to carry out the duty he or she is then doing, or by giving them food, or, as far as possible, anything that they may be in want of. A Scout must never be a SNOB. A snob is one who looks down upon another because they are poorer, or who is poor and resents another because they are rich. A Scout accepts the other person as they find them, and makes the best of them.

"Kim," the Boy Scout, was called by the Indians "Little friend of all the world," and that is the name that every Scout should earn for themselves.

(5) **A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS.** That is, they are polite to all—but especially to the elderly, those with handicaps, learning disabilities, etc. And they must not take any reward for being helpful or courteous.

(6) **A SCOUT IS A FRIEND TO ANIMALS.** Scouts should save them as far as possible from pain, and should not kill any animal unnecessarily. Killing an animal for food, or an animal which is harmful, is allowable.

(7) **A SCOUT OBEYS ORDERS** of their parents, Rover Mate, or Rover Scout Leader without question. Even if the Scout gets an order they do not like, they must do as soldiers and sailors do, and carry it out all the same *because it is their duty*; and after they have done it they can come and state any reasons against it; but they must carry out the order at once. That is discipline. Keep in mind, though, that a Scout's duty to God or their conscience and country come first, and therefore a Scout should never obey an unethical or illegal order.

(8) **A SCOUT SMILES AND WHISTLES** under all difficulties. When a Scout gets an order they should obey it cheerily and readily, not in a slow, hang-dog sort of way.

Scouts never grouse at hardships, nor whine at each other, nor grumble when put out, but go on whistling and smiling.

When you just miss a tram, or someone treads on your favorite corn—not that a Scout ought to have such things as corns—or under any annoying circumstances, you should force yourself to smile at once, and then whistle a tune, and you will be all right.

In the past, the punishment for swearing or using bad language is for each offense a mug of cold water to be poured down the offender's sleeve by the other Scouts. It was the punishment invented by the old British Scout, Captain John Smith, three hundred years ago.

(9) **A SCOUT IS THRIFTY.** That is, they save every penny they can and put it into the bank, so that they may have money to keep themselves when out of work, and thus not become a burden to others; or that they may have money to give away to others when they need it.

(10) **A SCOUT IS CLEAN IN THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED.** That is, they look down upon a silly youth who talks dirt, and they do not let themselves give way to temptation, either to talk it, or to think, or to do anything dirty. A Scout is pure and clean-minded.

Remembering the Scout Law

It is perhaps rather difficult to remember the different heads of the law. The following is easily learned and is a good way of memorizing the headings:

Trusty, loyal and helpful,
Brotherly, courteous, kind,
Obedient, smiling and thrifty,
Pure as the rustling wind.

The Scout's Promise

The Scout's Promise is as follows:

“On my honor, I promise that I will do my best
To do my duty to God¹ and my country,
To help other people at all times,
To obey the Scout Law.”

This is the original promise as devised by Baden-Powell and used by Traditional Scouting associations around the world. The BPSA also allows for replacing the word “God” in the promise with the words “my conscience” for those Scouts and adults who are secular and might not hold to a religious creed (see footnote).

According to tradition, Baden-Powell wrote an alternate oath called the “Outlander’s Promise” for Scouts who could not, for reasons of conscience, recognize a duty to a King (the norm in the UK), for individuals or members of religions that do not worship a deity (such as Buddhism, Taoism, and others), and for members of orthodox religions that do not use the name of God in secular settings. Any Scout, patrol, section, or group in the BPSA may make the traditional Outlander’s Scout Promise as an alternate oath.

The **Outlander’s Scout Promise** is as follows:

“On my honor, I promise that I will do my best
To render service to my country,
To help other people at all times,
To obey the Scout Law.”

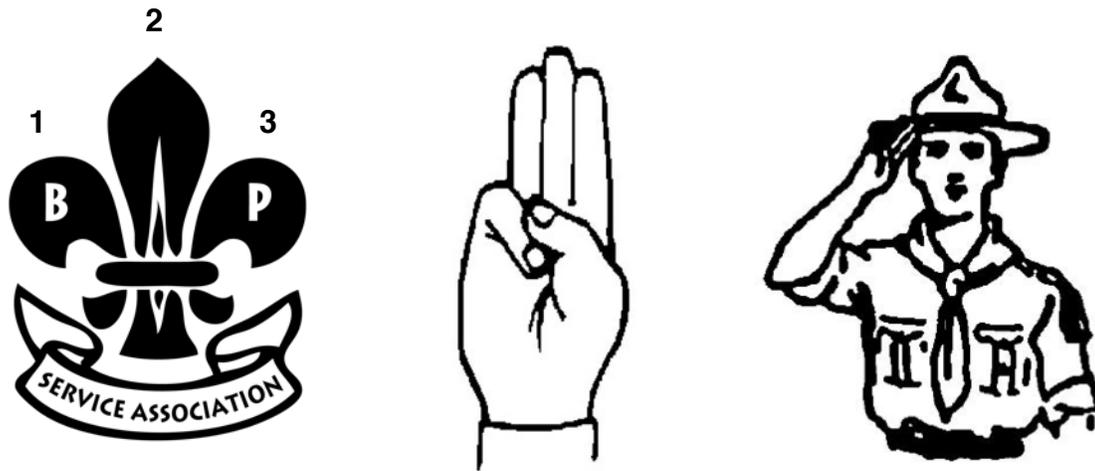
The Scout's Motto

“BE PREPARED”

If suddenly faced by an accident or call for help, instead of being confused and afraid, a Scout is expected, because of their training, to do something to help. And when some of the everyday things of life go wrong—as they do now and then for everyone—a Scout does not “lie down” and whine “What’s the use!” A Scout faces up to the problem with their best brains and courage. A Scout is always “Prepared.”

¹ Rovers may substitute the words “my conscience” in place of “to God”, or another agreed upon phrase determined through discussions with their leader. The Outlander’s Promise is another alternative.

2. Know the Scout salute and handshake and their importance.



The three fingers held up (like *the three points of the Scout's badge*) remind the Scout of the three promises in the Scout's Promise:

1. Duty to God² and country.
2. Help others.
3. Obey the Scout Law.

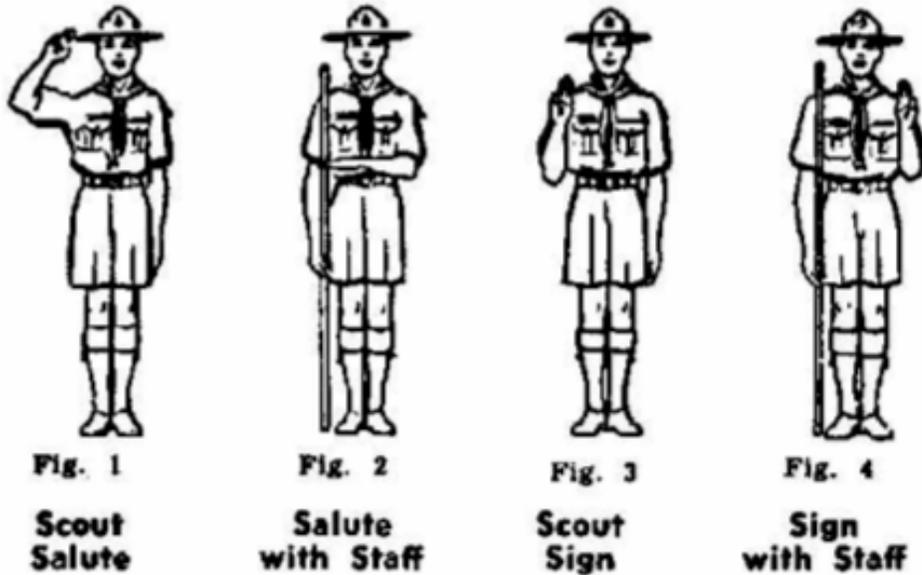
The first to salute should be the first to see the other Scout irrespective of rank. Scouts will always salute as a token of respect, at the hoisting of the American Flag; at the playing of the National Anthem; to the uncased National Colors, to Scout flags other than patrol flags when carried ceremonially, and to all funerals.

On these occasions, if the Scouts are acting under orders, they obey the orders of the Scouter in charge as regards saluting or standing to the alert. If a Scout is not acting under orders, he or she should salute independently.

The hand salute is only used when a Scout is not carrying their staff, and is always made with the right hand.

² See footnote #1, this goes without saying for other references.

Saluting when carrying a staff is done by bringing the left arm smartly across the body in a horizontal position, the fingers showing the Scout sign just touching the staff. (Fig. 2 in below picture)



When in uniform, a Scout salutes whether they are wearing a hat or not, with one exception, namely, in church when all Scouts must stand at the alert instead of saluting.

The Scout sign is given by raising the right hand level with the shoulder, palm to the front and fingers, but the Scouts carrying staves use left hand.

The Scout Left-Handshake

The grandson of an Ashanti Chief who fought against Lord Baden-Powell told this story of the origin of the Scout Left-Handshake. When the Chief surrendered to BP, the latter proffered his right hand as a token of friendship. The Ashanti Chief, however, insisted on shaking with the left hand, explaining, “the bravest of the brave shake hands with the left hand, as in order to do so, they must throw away their greatest protection: their shield.” Thus, Scouts shake hands with the left hand as proof of their good faith and true friendliness.

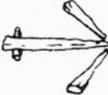
3. Be able to make and know the meanings of the woodcraft signs.

Ref. Scouting for Boys - Camp Fire Yarn 4.

Scout signs can be made on the ground or wall, etc., close to the right-hand side of the road, but should never be used where they will damage or disfigure the place.

At night, sticks with a wisp of grass around them, or stones, should be laid in similar forms, so that they can be felt.

Practice these and others which can be made with stones, leaves, sticks, or knotted tufts of grass.

Trail Signs			
straight ahead	turn right	turn left	do not go this way
Rocks 			
Pebbles 			
Sticks 			
Long Grass 			
Number of paces in direction indicated 	I have gone home. 		

Woodcraft also means the learning of wild animals by following their foot-tracks and creeping up on them so you can watch them. You only shoot them if you are in need of food; or if they are harmful. No Scout kills animals merely for sport. As a matter of fact, by watching wild animals, one comes to like them too well to shoot them.

Woodcraft includes, besides the ability to discover tracks and other small signs, the ability to read their meaning—at what pace an animal was going, whether undisturbed or alarmed, and so on. In the same way you read the footprints of men, women, and children as well as horses, dogs, cattle of different kinds and sizes, etc. In the woods or bush you come to know that someone or something is moving when you see birds suddenly fly.

4. Know the composition and history of, and how to fly and fold, the American Flag.

On January 1, 1776, the Continental Army was reorganized in accordance with a Congressional resolution which placed American forces under George Washington's control. On that New Year's Day, the Continental Army was laying siege to Boston, which had been taken over by the British Army. Washington ordered the Grand Union flag, also known as the Continental Colors, hoisted above his base at Prospect Hill. It had 13 alternating red and white stripes and the British Union Jack in the upper left-hand corner (the canton).

In May of 1776, Betsy Ross reported that she had sewn the first American flag. It contained the familiar 13 stripes, with 13 white stars arranged in a circle in a field of blue on the upper left canton.

On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act: "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."

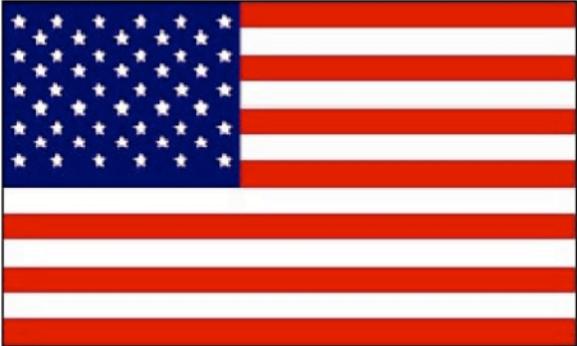
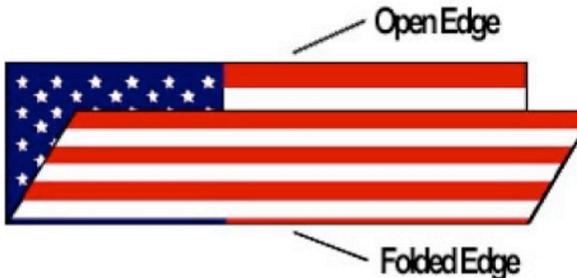
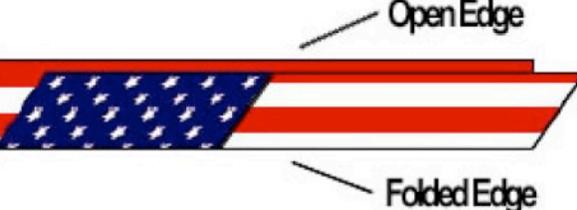
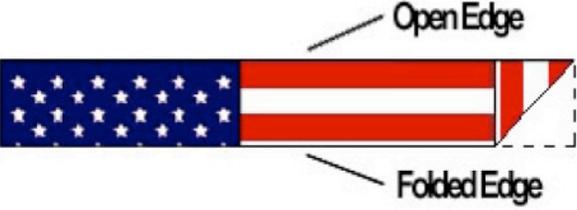
Between 1777 and 1960, Congress passed several acts that changed the shape, design, and arrangement of the flag and allowed for additional stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new state.

- Act of January 13, 1794 - provided for 15 stripes and 15 stars after May 1795 due to the admittance of Vermont and Kentucky to the Union.
- Act of April 4, 1818 - provided for 13 stripes and one star for each state, to be added to the flag on the 4th of July following the admission of each new state, signed by President Monroe.
- Executive Order of President Taft dated June 24, 1912 - established proportions of the flag and provided for arrangement of the stars in six horizontal rows of eight each, a single point of each star to be upward.
- Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated January 3, 1959 - provided for the arrangement of the stars in seven rows of seven stars each, staggered horizontally and vertically.
- Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated August 21, 1959 - provided for the arrangement of the stars in nine rows of stars staggered horizontally and eleven rows of stars staggered vertically.

Today, the flag consists of thirteen horizontal stripes, seven red alternating with 6 white. The stripes represent the original 13 colonies; the stars represent the 50 states of the Union. The colors of the flag are symbolic as well: Red symbolizes Hardiness and Valor, White symbolizes Purity and Innocence, and Blue represents Vigilance, Perseverance, and Justice.

The U.S. flag should be folded in a military fold and put away when not in use. The procedure for folding the flag:

Correct Method of Folding the United States Flag

Start		
Step 1		Fold the lower striped section of the flag over the blue field.
Step 2		Folded edge is then folded over to meet the open edge.
Step 3		A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.
Step 4		Outer point is then turned inward parallel with the open edge to form a second triangle.
Step 5		Triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in the triangular shape with only the blue field visible.
Completed		

There are many different guidelines on how to properly fly the United States flag in different situations (known as the United States Flag Code). Those listed below are only a sampling:

The flag may be flown upside down as a sign of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.

The flag may be flown at half-mast in times of national mourning. On Memorial Day, the last Monday in May, it is supposed to be flown at half-mast only until noon. When raised to the half-mast position, the flag should first be raised to the top of the pole and held there for a moment before being brought down to half-mast. When lowering a flag from half-mast, it should also be raised to the top of the pole for a moment and then lowered.

Only the President, governors, and the Mayor of the District of Columbia can order the U.S. flag lowered to half-staff. The President is authorized to half-staff the U.S. flag by proclamation upon the death of principal figures of the U.S. government and the governor of a state, territory, or possession, as well as in the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries. A state governor may order the U.S. flag to half-staff upon the death of a present or former official of the government of the state, or the death of a member of the Armed Forces from that state who dies while serving on active duty.

When placed upon a stage facing an audience or carried in a parade, the flag should always be on the observer's left (speaker's or carrier's right).

When displayed over the middle of a street, the flag should be suspended vertically with the blue field (union) to the north over an east and west street or to the east over a north and south street.

When flown on the same halyard as other flags, the U.S. flag should be at the top and all other flags below it.

When flown from a building, either on a pole or on a rope, the union should be displayed furthest from the building.

If accompanied by other U.S. government flags (such as state, county, or city), the United States flag should be held slightly higher than the others.

The flag should be displayed only between sunrise and sunset, although the Flag Code permits night time display "when a patriotic effect is desired." Similarly, the flag should be displayed only when the weather is fair, except when an all-weather flag is displayed.

The flag is saluted as it is hoisted and lowered. The salute is held until the flag is unsnapped from the halyard or through the last note of music, whichever is longer.

Contrary to urban legend, the Flag Code does not state that a flag that touches the ground should be burned. Instead, it is considered disrespectful to the flag and the flag in question should be moved in such a manner so that it is not touching the ground.

5. Know certain uses of the Scout Staff.

The Scout staff is a necessary part of the Scout's equipment and the uses to which it can be put are many. The following are some of the different ways in which the staff can be used, together with many others.

1. Beating out bush and grass fires.
2. Improvising a stretcher.
3. Scaling walls.
4. Keeping back a crowd.
5. Making patrol tents and tepees.
6. Making a tripod (three staves) to hang a pot over a fire.
7. Measuring heights and distances.

6. Tie the following knots: reef knot, sheet bend, clove hitch, bowline, round turn & two-half hitches, and sheepshank, and understand their respective uses.

One of the skills expected of every Scout is deftness in tying knots; and knot-tying is of almost constant use in the outdoors, on farms, in stores, and various other contexts. There have been occasions when the saving of a life depended on the ability of someone to tie a knot quickly and securely.

The knots should always be made with rope, not with string. String is apt to slip around and alter the shape of the knot, but the knots, if properly tied with rope, will never slip. The Tenderfoot should also be shown the practical uses of the knots.

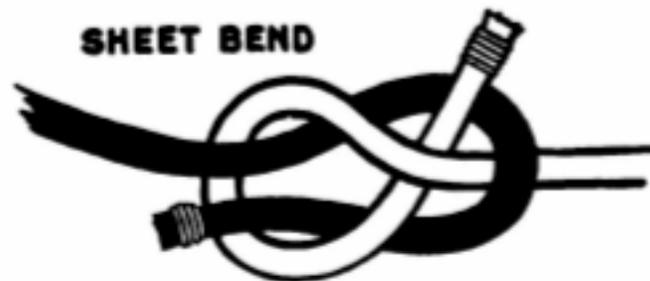
For instance, it is not sufficient merely to be able to tie the "bowline." The Tenderfoot should be shown how to tie the loop around themselves and around another Scout.

- Before tying any knot, you must know some of the terms used in knot-tying:
- "Running End" – the end of the rope that moves when tying a knot or hitch
- "Standing Part" – the end that doesn't move
- A "loop" is made by running the end of a rope over itself to form a circle.
- A "bight" is a horseshoe-shaped "U" made by bending the end of a rope back along itself.

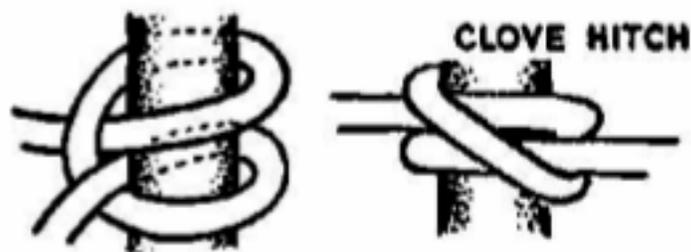
REEF KNOT – This is the simplest of all knots (also called a Square Knot), and is always used when a common tie is required. It is used for joining two pieces of string or chord of equal thickness, but not recommended for joining ropes. It is neat and is always used to fasten the ends of bandages.



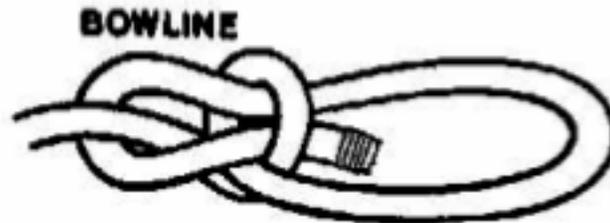
COMMON BEND OR SHEET BEND – Used to join two ropes of equal (and unequal) thickness. More secure than a Square Knot for joining two cords or ropes of the same thickness. For joining larger ropes, the Carrick Bend is preferable.



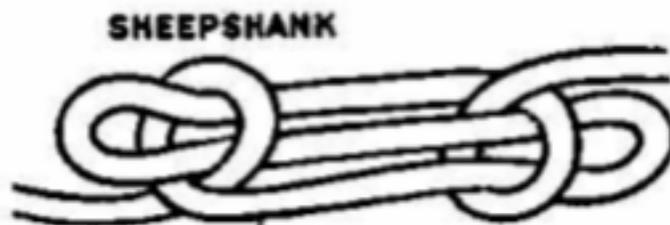
CLOVE HITCH – This is really a jamming form of two half-hitches. Its formation is shown below. The clove hitch is used in pioneering to start and finish most lashings.



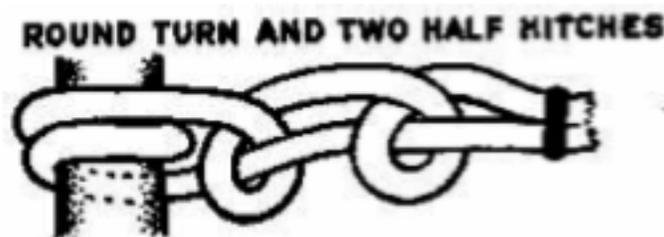
BOWLINE – This knot is used for making a loop that cannot slip. First, make a loop towards you in the standing part. Bring up the free end through the loop, pass it behind the standing part, and then down through the loop again. Its name originated from the fact that sailors frequently used this knot when mooring ships.



SHEEPSHANK – It is usually inadvisable to cut a rope to shorten it. This knot is for shortening a rope without cutting it, and for strengthening a weak part of a rope. Follow the illustration and you can readily master it.



ROUND TURN AND TWO HALF HITCHES – This hitch may be used for securing a rope to a post or ring. If the knot is to be used for any considerable length of time, the end should be seized as in the illustration. This is the best knot for securing a towrope to a disabled automobile or for similar purposes.



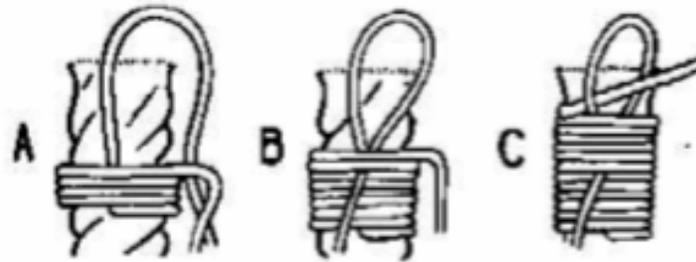
It will be seen that as the ends are brought together, it really amounts to two turns. It is important to note that the two half hitches should be made exactly similar; that is, if the running end passes first over and then under the standing part in the first half hitch, it should do the same in the second. In fact, they form a clove hitch.

7. Know how to whip the end of a rope.

All ropes, before being used, should have the ends finished off in some way to prevent them from coming unraveled. Some nylon and synthetic ropes can be “singed” or burned at the ends to fuse them instead of whipping. You can use dental floss or very small twine to whip the ends of ropes.

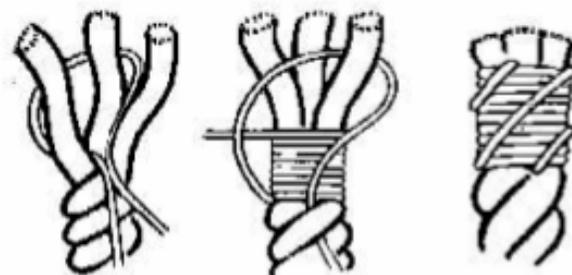
Common Whipping

This is one of the simplest. Lay the twine in a loop on the rope with the loop going beyond the end. Hold this down with the left thumb. Then, wind the twine tightly around the rope towards the end (A). Do not go over the free end of the loop. After six or seven turns, bring the free end of the loop and bind it down (B). When a few more turns are finished, slip the free end of the main twine through the loop (C) and then pull steadily in the direction of the main rope until it is securely within the whipping. The length of the whipping is from 1/2 inch to 1 inch according to the thickness of the rope.



Sailmaker's Whipping

This is for laid rope only. Unlay two or three inches of the rope. Put a loop of twine around the middle strand. Relay the rope. Wind the long end of twine around and around, working towards the end of the rope. When the whipping is long enough, slip the loop back over the end of the strand it goes around and pull steadily and firmly on the short, unused end. Then bring the end up so that it serves the third strand. Tie off the end with a Reef Knot in between the strands on top; the knot will then be hidden. This makes a very neat whipping if done carefully. Keep everything tight.



Tenderfoot Requirements

Requirement	Completed
Know the Scout Law, Promise, and Motto, and understand their meanings.	Examiner _____ Date _____
Know the Scout salute, handshake, and their importance.	Examiner _____ Date _____
Be able to make and know the meaning of the woodcraft trail signs.	Examiner _____ Date _____
Know the composition and history of, and how to fly and fold, the American flag.	Examiner _____ Date _____
Know certain uses of the Scout staff.	Examiner _____ Date _____
Tie the following knots: reef knot, sheet bend, clove hitch, bowline, round turn & two-half hitches, sheepshank; and understand their respective uses.	Examiner _____ Date _____
Know how to whip the end of a rope.	Examiner _____ Date _____

** Examiner should initial and date each requirement as completed.*

Date Awarded Tenderfoot: _____

Note: *The Tenderfoot requirements may be completed as activities with your Scout group, on your own as a Lone Rover Scout, or by attending a BPSA Brownsea Training Camp (BTC). See Brownsea Training and History in the Appendices for more information and check our website at BPSA-US.org for upcoming Brownsea Training Camp dates and locations.*

RECEPTION OF A ROVER SQUIRE

The following is an example of a ceremony for a Rover applicant to be received as a Rover Squire (entering the Probationary Stage of their Rover career) upon completion of the Tenderfoot tests, provided they did not already complete these tests as a Pathfinder.

The Crew or Group is formed in a horseshoe formation, with the Rover Scout Leader (RSL) and Assistant Rover Scout Leader(s) in the gap.

The Rover applicant, with their Rover Mate and/or RSG, stands just inside the circle, opposite the RSL. The Assistant Rover Scout Leader holds the staff and hat of the Rover applicant. When ordered to come forward by the RSL, the Rover Mate or RSG brings the Rover applicant to the center. The RSL then asks: **“Do you know what your honor is?”**

The Rover applicant replies: **“Yes. It means that I can be trusted to be truthful and honest.”** (Or words to that effect.)

RSL: **“Do you know the Scout Law?”**

Rover applicant: **“Yes.”**

RSL: **“Can I trust you, on your honor,**

- 1. To do your duty to God³, and your country?**
- 2. To help other people at all times?**
- 3. To obey the Scout Law?”**

Note: *The Rover being invested may make the Outlander Scout Promise if desired (see pg. 15).*

The Rover applicant then makes the Scout Sign, as does the rest of the group, while he or she says:

“On my honor, I promise that I will do my best, to do my duty to God³ and my country, to help other people at all times, and to obey the Scout Law.”

When making this promise, the Rover will stand, holding their hand raised level with their shoulder, palm to the front, thumb resting on the nail of the little finger and the other three fingers upright, pointing upwards. Scouts carrying staves in their right hands use the left hand.

This is called “THE Scout SIGN,” and is given at the making of the promise or re-affirming. When the hand is raised to the forehead, it is the “Salute.”

RSL: **“I trust you, on your honor, to keep this promise. You are now one of the great brotherhood of Scouts.”**

³ Rovers may substitute the words “conscience” in place of “God” in the promise.

The Assistant Rover Scout Leader then puts on their hat and gives them their staff. The RSL shakes hands with them using the left hand.

The new Rover Squire faces about and salutes the group.

The group salutes.

The RSL gives the word, **“To your patrol, quick, march.”**

The group shoulders their staves, and the new Rover Squire and their Rover Mate or RSG march back to their patrol.

The Rover Squire may now wear the Tenderfoot badge on the left breast pocket of their shirt as well as a yellow and green shoulder knot on their left shoulder.

At this point, the Rover Squire may proceed to work on the requirements for becoming a Rover Knight, taking them in the most suitable order, and getting them signed off in the spaces at the end of the Rover Knight section as passed.

Rover Squire Requirements

Requirement	Completed
Must be at least 18 years of age.	Examiner _____ Date _____
Either be recommended by your Scoutmaster as a Pathfinder who is trying to act up to the Scout obligations, including the doing of good turns, or if not previously a Scout, you must be willing to learn practical Scouting, pursue the open-air life, and accept the way of life set forth in the Scout Promise and Law.	Examiner _____ Date _____
Successfully complete the Tenderfoot requirements (above) or have the Group Scoutmaster verify satisfactory service and proficiency as a Pathfinder in these tests.	Examiner _____ Date _____
Accepted and approved by the Group Scoutmaster, Crew, and Rover Scout Leader.	Examiner _____ Date _____

** Examiner should initial and date each requirement as completed.*

Date Received as a Rover Squire: _____

Rovers as Scouters

One of the ways a Rover can live the Rover motto of “Service” is by introducing others to the game of Scouting. In addition to being a Scout in their own right, a Rover who is at least 25 years old (as young as 20 in some cases) can also serve as a Scouter (adult leader) and help organize or run their own section or group.

In deciding to serve as a Scouter and start your own group, you need not abandon your own career as a Rover Scout, but your duties as a Scouter must now come first.

The first thing you want to do is see if there is already a group in your area. Information on finding a local BPSA group in your area, as well as starting a new one if none currently exists, can be found on our website at BPSA-US.org. If you do end up looking to start a new group, you will want to find at least one other like-minded adult who also has an interest in Scouting, maybe someone who was a member of a Scouting group in their youth. With at least two adults, your group can have what is known as Two-Deep Leadership, which is the foundation of the youth protection policies used by many different Scout groups.

A regular meeting place is also a must. Fortunately, many schools, churches, libraries, fraternal organizations, and community centers have rooms available for non-profit community organizations, such as Scout groups, that can be regularly scheduled and reserved well in advance, usually for no cost.

There are many resources available to those wishing to start a local BPSA group, with plenty of good advice that has been tried and tested over the past century of the Scouting movement’s history. This appendix is by no means intended to serve as a complete guide to starting and running your own group, but is instead intended to provide the interested Rover with resources on some of the basics they should be familiar with.

Traditional Scouting pulls from many areas and resources. The first and foremost resource, of course, is the specific *Policy, Organization, & Rules* document that a particular association adopts or creates. For the BPSA, we have adopted, as a baseline, the 1938 *Policy, Organisation and Rules* of the Boy Scouts Association, UK, which was the last official *PO&R* for the Scouting program that Lord Baden-Powell had a hand in crafting. From that basis, we have adapted our own handbooks for each section, allowing for changes, where needed, to account for modern safety practices and cultural and social differences. We also have our own association bylaws, which help to define our organization. Using the BPSA bylaws, the 1938 *PO&R*, and our handbooks for each of the sections, a new Scout group should have access to everything they need to get going after registration.

These basic tools (the BPSA By-Laws, the 1938 *PO&R*, and the handbooks for the various sections) can be downloaded for free from our website at BPSA-US.org. The fundamental safety guidelines for Scout leaders, covering our Code of Ethics, Youth Protection, and Safe Swim

Defense Guidelines, can also be found on this site as can downloadable copies of Lord Baden-Powell's original Scouting handbooks and some advice for new Scouters.

A wide array of other resources regarding Scouting, Scoutcraft, woodcraft, pioneering, the Patrol Method, and other related topics that can be of great use to new Scouters can be obtained from websites such as thedump.Scoutscan.com and Inquiry.net.

Rovers as Lone Scouts

It is possible for a person to join the Baden-Powell Service Association in the US and become a Rover without becoming a member of a local Scout group or Crew. As the program is growing and interest picks up, there are a number of men and women who understand the need for Scouting and want to share that experience, but, for any number of reasons including lack of an organized group in their area, they may not be able to join a local Rover Crew.

The Lone Scout program is a way for those Rovers registered with the Baden-Powell Service Association in the United States to participate in the game of Scouting. All you need to do when you join is register with the BPSA's 1st Lone Scouts group as a Lone Rover. You can work on your requirements on your own or with other local experts or examiners (teachers, trainers, or anyone in the local community qualified to teach or talk on the subjects), as well as with the assistance of other Lone Rovers across the country by connecting with each other through online training and testing methods.

In general, a Lone Rover and their examiner should follow all the requirements laid out in this handbook as closely as possible. In those instances where a requirement is stated as needing to be done with the Rover's patrol or Crew, the examiner may replace that with "family," "trainer," "minister," or any other individual or group with which the Rover has interaction.

With all this in mind, any person wanting to join in the game of Scouting can do so.

As a lone Rover, a Scout is part of the national 1st Lone Scouts group and entitled to wear the solid red neckerchief of that group and the 1st Lone Scouts group name strip on the shoulders of their uniform. If at some later time there is a group in your local area, or enough interest to start a new group, it's simply a matter of chartering the new group and BPSA will change your registration over to the new group name, instead of with the 1st Lone Scouts group.

You may find it challenging to work as a Rover mostly on your own, but it can be very rewarding as well. Remember, Roving is intended to be a lifelong activity, so there is no need to feel rushed or pressured to progress when working alone. For those interested in eventual investiture, opportunities for Brownsea Training are offered at different locations across the country every year. The RSL for the 1st Lone Scouts Rover section can also provide advice and direction on any questions you may have. Enjoy Scouting at whatever level and rate of participation works best for you to sustain your enjoyment of it.

Brownsea Training and History

In 1907, from August 1 through 8, Lord Baden-Powell brought a group of twenty-two boys to Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour in southern England to test out his ideas for what would become *Scouting for Boys*. The activities ran from 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. each day and involved a different theme each day.

August 1: Setup and basics

August 2: Campaigning

August 3: Observation skills

August 4: Woodcraft skills

August 5: Chivalry

August 6: Lifesaving

August 7: Patriotism and citizenship

August 8: Conclusion and pack up

On the morning of August 9, the participants boarded a ferry and left the island. This event eventually became recognized as the origin of the worldwide Scouting movement.

Since that time, Brownsea Island has come under the ownership of the National Trust and Scouts continue to visit and camp on the island to this day.

In honor of this event, many Scouting Associations have adopted the name “Brownsea” for part of their special training programs. The BPSA Brownsea Training is a weekend-long (two nights) camping trip run by Rovers who teach new Pathfinder Scouts and Rover applicants all the necessary skills to pass the Tenderfoot tests and teach them to others. The weekend culminates in an investiture ceremony where the Pathfinders earn their Tenderfoot badges and the Rover applicants are welcomed as Rover Squires.

For those new to Scouting, or for Lone Scouts interested in advancement or investiture, Brownsea Trainings are the best opportunity to complete the Tenderfoot requirements with a knowledgeable instructor in a minimum amount of time. Before attending a Brownsea Training, a Scout should memorize the Scout Oath and Law and become familiar with the Tenderfoot requirements so there are no surprises in what needs to be accomplished.

The purposes of the Brownsea Training Camp (BTC) are to ensure that all Rovers get the same (or very similar) introduction to BPSA-US, to prepare and test them in the Tenderfoot tests, to invest them as Rover Squires, and to give them a good early Roving experience. It is done at a campout to emphasize the outdoor nature of Roving, and because attending a campout shows a level of commitment expected of a Rover Squire. The BTC also shows new Squires that Roving can be done inexpensively—hence the do-it-yourself emphasis—and prepares the new Squires to train others in the future.

Any invested Rover Squire may conduct a BPSA Brownsea Training. For the dates and locations of future BPSA Brownsea Training Camps, be sure to watch the BPSA website at BPSA-US.org and join us at our Base Camp social-networking site. If you are interested in organizing a Brownsea Training Camp in your area, contact the BPSA through the same website for details. The following outline can serve as a basic syllabus for a BTC, intended to be conducted over a single weekend.

MATERIALS

Each attendee should bring as much of a uniform as they have. At a minimum, a long-sleeve button-down green, dark blue, khaki, or gray shirt with pockets will do as a temporary uniform shirt (official Rover shirts are available from the BPSA Quartermaster Store). Each new Squire should also bring a staff and copies of the *Rover Handbook* and *Scouting for Boys*, if possible. The leader should read over the syllabus and have, in addition to standard camping gear, copies of the *Rover Handbook* and *Scouting for Boys* and materials for Scoutcraft projects and training.



Lord Baden-Powell's sketch of the original Brownsea encampment.

FRIDAY EVENING

- Arrive in camp, informal introductions.
- Leader divides attendees into patrols and assigns duties (cooking, cleanup, etc.).
- Set up camp.
- Cook the evening meal, if not eaten beforehand.
- Clean up.
- Campfire. At the campfire, introductions are made and each person tells (briefly) their story—their history in Scouting, why they are interested, etc. The leader then tells the history of Scouting, including BP's story at Mafeking and Brownsea Island, the growth of the Scouting movement, the birth (or rebirth) of Traditional Scouting in the 1960s, the history of the Baden-Powell Service Association, and the characteristics of Traditional Scouting. The history should cover the four branches of BPSA Scouting (Otters, Timberwolves, Pathfinders, and Rovers), and the importance of *Scouting for Boys*, *Rovering to Success*, and the 1938 *PO&R*. Special emphasis should be placed on Rovering, since many of the new Squires may not be familiar with it. The characteristics should include the importance of the Promise and Law, the outdoor nature of the organization, its traditional aspect, its openness to all, its organization and all-volunteer status, and the thrifty do-it-yourself methods employed.
- Wash up and turn in.

SATURDAY

- (New Squire candidates should wear their uniforms, or as much of a uniform as they have.)
- Breakfast in patrols.
- Clean up.
- Discuss uniform. The leader describes the traditional Scout uniform. Emphasize that a traditional uniform can be put together inexpensively.
- Make neckers (optional – Crews/Groups may want to simply present their Squires with neckers). Cut or tear fabric into 36" by 36" unhemmed squares, using brown (for Brownsea) as the color or using the Crew/Group colors. The Squires can wear them for the weekend and then take them home. After washing (there may be some shrinkage) they can be trimmed and then hemmed to be the traditional 32" by 32" necker. Also make simple woggles out of twine, for example. Describe how neckers are associated with a Group, and that no two Groups should have identical neckers, if possible.
- Make Squire shoulder knots. Cut one-foot lengths of green and yellow cloth ribbon for each Squire. Fold with the yellow on the inside and pin with a safety pin. Explain that these will be pinned to their left shoulder during their Squire investiture in the evening but should not be worn until then. Also explain the meaning of the colors: green for Pathfinders, yellow for Timberwolves, and red (which is only on the Rover Knight knot and not on the Rover Squire knot) for Rovers.
- Scoutcraft exercise – making a patrol flag. The emphasis on patrols in Scouting is discussed. New Squires break into their patrols and make a traditional patrol flag. Suggest that the designs be taken from *Scouting for Boys*. A traditional flag can easily be made using a pillowcase, sticky-sided felt, safety pins (to turn the pillowcase into the traditional pennant shape), and cord or twine to tie it to a staff. Leader should emphasize that Rovers should be thrifty and use whatever materials are easily available. Scoutcraft need not be fancy or expensive.
- Optional Scoutcraft exercise – make a St. George's flag. If done, this should be in addition to, rather than instead of, making a patrol flag. A white pillowcase with wide red cloth ribbon glued to it works well. St. George's flags are often used in Rover investiture ceremonies.
- Break/free time.
- Tenderfoot preparation/examination – Promise and Law. Leader examines (and teaches first, if necessary) the new Rover Squires' knowledge of the Promise and Law and leads a discussion on their meaning and importance.
- Tenderfoot preparation/examination – salutes. Leader examines (and teaches first, if necessary) the new Rover Squires' knowledge of the salutes and their importance.
- Tenderfoot preparation/examination – composition, history, and how to fly the American flag. Leader examines (and teaches first, if necessary) the new Rover Squires' knowledge of their country's flag.
- Tenderfoot preparation/examination – staff. Leader examines (and teaches first, if necessary) the new Rover Squires' knowledge of uses of the staff and demonstrates them as well.
- Tenderfoot preparation – trail signs. Leader teaches (or reviews) the new Rover Squires' knowledge of trail signs. These will be tested in a course during the afternoon.
- Prepare for lunch.

- Lunch/free time. During lunch, a general discussion of any topic that needs more attention may be held.
- Clean up.
- Tenderfoot preparation/examination – whipping the end of a rope. Leader demonstrates how to whip the end of a rope and verifies that all Squires can do it.
- Tenderfoot preparation – knots. Leader demonstrates and leads discussion on the use of Tenderfoot knots: reef (or square) knot, sheet bend, clove hitch, bowline, round turn and two half hitches, and sheepshank. New Squires practice these knots. Have the Squires help each other – pair those who know the knots well with those who don't. While Squires are practicing knots (and any other Tenderfoot tests that still need work), the leader sets up a trail signs course.
- Tenderfoot examination – signs. One by one, Rovers go through the trail signs course. Upon completion, they should show the leader that they know the Tenderfoot knots and their uses.
- Break/free time. This break also gives the instructor a chance to work individually with any Squires who are having difficulty with certain requirements.
- Discussion on Rovering traditions. Describe St. George, the left handshake, the thumbstick, the kudu horn, wood badge and woggle, and any other symbols or traditions that the Squires may be unfamiliar with.
- Optional woodcraft activity. A small pioneering project, a hike, fire starting, or anything else that leaves the Squires with a good experience. This can be dropped if the group is running behind schedule.
- Dinner preparation.
- Dinner.
- Clean-up.
- Rover Squire Reception. May be done near a campfire. Squires form a horseshoe shape with the leader in the middle of the opening. Each Rover Squire gives the sign and makes the Promise. The leader pins the BPSA-US badge on the Squire's left pocket or gives the badge to the Squire and has the Squire do it themselves. The leader then pins the shoulder knot on the new Squire's left shoulder and congratulates and welcomes them with a left handshake. This process continues until all new Squires have been received as Squires.
- Campfire. Relaxing campfire fellowship with optional singing, story-telling, or skits.
- Wash-up and turn in.

SUNDAY

- Breakfast.
- Clean up.
- Discussion of BPSA's Code of Ethics and Youth Protection Guidelines, including Q&A from attendees.
- Discussion on becoming a Rover. Leader discusses the process for becoming a Rover Knight.
- Scout's Own (completely voluntary). Rovers' spiritual reflections, especially on the Promise and Law.
- Strike camp. Thoroughly clean the campsite. Thank landowner, if applicable.

Differences Between BSA and BPSA Programs (Traditional Scouting)

Some parents and Scouts often have questions about the differences between the Boy Scouts of America Scouting program and the BPSA's Traditional Scouting program. This appendix serves to address some of those differences and help further define what a Traditional Scouting program is all about.

Rank versus Proficiency

In the BSA, the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class through Eagle badges are referred to as “ranks.” In Baden-Powell’s program and Traditional Scouting, these are referred to as “proficiency” badges—specifically “general proficiency” badges. The general proficiency badges show a Scout’s **current proficiency** across a known set of Scouting skills. The idea behind Traditional Scouting is advancement through progressive training in Scoutcraft (i.e., Scouting skills).

Merit badges in the BSA are the equivalent of “Special Proficiency” badges in Traditional Scouting. Special proficiency badges represent specific Scoutcraft or public-service skills that a Scout can train in and learn—e.g., Camper, Pioneer, Map Maker, First Aid, etc.

“Rank,” then, in Traditional Scouting refers to the position of responsibility of the Scout, such as Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Rover Mate, etc. These positions are appointed by the Scoutmaster or Rover Scout Leader to promote patrol, or small unit, efficiency—not to be Scout-elected roles at taking turns in learning leadership.

In Baden-Powell’s program and Traditional Scouting, the general proficiency badges (Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class) represent a Scout’s current proficiency. Unlike the BSA program, Scouts must be able to re-pass the requirements for each of these general proficiency badges in order to continue to wear them. Re-passing or re-testing is an important distinction in Traditional Scouting, focusing on keeping the Scouts current in their skills and abilities. It also lends itself to the theme of being prepared for service, whether in the patrol or in the community.

Venturing versus Roving

The BSA Venturing program and the BPSA Rover program are both co-ed, but have different age limits and different focuses for their programs. BSA’s Venturing program is focused more around high-adventure activities and only allows members through age 20, while BPSA’s traditional Roving program is more focused on citizenship and community service and has no upper limit for membership.

Scouting for Everyone

Scouts can be members of the BPSA starting with the Otters program at age 5 as opposed to the BSA's Tigers which start at age 6. The upper age limit for Scouts in the BSA is 20 through the Venturing program where the BPSA Rovers have no upper age limit.

The BPSA is open to males and females in any of the program divisions, where the BSA only allows female members in its Venturing program, which is only for ages 14 through 20, or as leaders (Scouters).

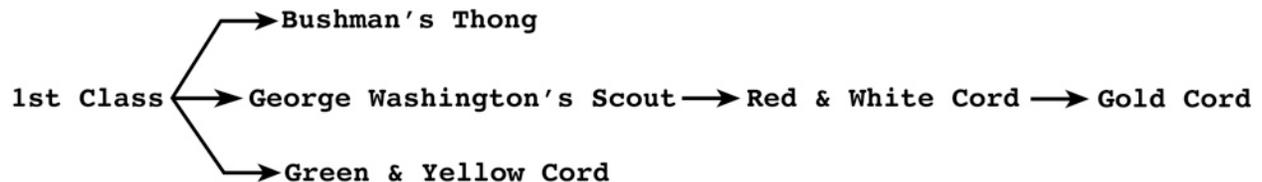
The BPSA believes Scouting should be available to everyone, youth and adult, male and female. Membership for both youth and adults is not conditional based on religious beliefs (or lack thereof), sexual orientation, or gender identification.

Additional Proficiency Badges Beyond First Class

After First Class, the BSA program shifts to an older boy program based on "Merit Badges and Leadership Skills." The BSA badges are earned in the following sequence:

1st Class → Star → Life → Eagle → Eagle Palms

In Baden-Powell's 1938 program and our traditional program in the BPSA, the "Additional Proficiency Badges" are in the following sequence:



In other words, Baden-Powell's Second Class Scouts can begin to "qualify for" (*earn the required "Special Proficiency Badges" toward*), and First Class Scouts can be awarded, the first three "Additional Proficiency Badges" (*George Washington's Scout, Bushman's Thong, and the Green and Yellow Cord*) at the same time.

In common with the BSA's Star, Life, and Eagle badges, the George Washington's Scout and Bushman's Thong involve required badges (*see the "Additional Proficiency Badges" section of this book*).

All George Washington's Scout qualifying badges are "public service" badges. All Bushman's Thong qualifying badges are "Scoutcraft" badges.

On the other hand, the "All-Round Cords" are similar to Eagle Palms in that they represent a Scout's free choice of six "Special Proficiency Badges" each (*five each for BSA Palms*).

Some of the other notable differences in our traditional program from that of the BSA:

1. All of these badges continue to be worn on the Scout Section Uniform (Unlike the BSA where the Star badge replaces the First Class badge, then Life replaces Star, and Eagle replaces Life). However, this requires the Scout to maintain "current proficiency" for these badges, which is tested as often as once a year.
2. All badges represent public service skills OR Scoutcraft skills. There are no schoolwork badges like "Citizenship in the Nation," "Personal Management," etc.
3. There are no Service Project, "Position of Responsibility," or "Scout Spirit" requirements for Pathfinder advancement.
4. There are no Boards of Review required by the Group Auxiliary or Committee.