

# Scouting Facts: USA



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An American businessman named William D Boyce got lost in the London fog in 1909. It was thanks to the good turn of an unknown Scout that Boyce found his way and then decided to do what he could to get Scouting started in the United States. The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated in 1910 and was recognised as a founder member of the World Scout Conference in 1922.



America was host to the 12th World Scout Jamboree in 1967. This was held at Farragut State Park in Idaho, and was attended, by 1200 Scouts from 105 countries.

The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America is to provide boys and young adults with an effective educational programme designed to build desirable qualities of character, to train them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness. The programme is divided into three sections: Tiger Cubs and Cub Scouts aged 7-10 years; Scouts and Varsity Scouts aged 11-17 years and Explorers (including women) aged 15-20 years.

Cub Scouting is family orientated. Tiger Cubs follow an unstructured programme with an adult family member. When joining, the Cub Scout first becomes a Bobcat, and he then moves through the Wolf and Bear sections. When he reaches the age of 10 years, the Cub Scout becomes a Webelos. This section exists to provide a link between the Cub Scout and Scout sections.

The highest award that can be earned is the Eagle Scout. To achieve this., a Scout must fulfil requirements in Leadership, service and outdoor skills. Although there are many options in these areas certain specific skills are needed to pass through the different award levels, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star Scout, Life Scout and finally Eagle Scout. For the three highest ranks a

Scout must earn merit badges which are awards for special skills. There are approximately 118 merit badges and 21 must be passed to qualify Eagle Scout. Varsity Scouts for Boys 14-17 emphasises advanced outdoor adventure, sports activities and advancement to Eagle Rank.

The Explorer section is open to young men and women and offers opportunities to explore adult roles and vocations with the assistance of business and community organisations. For example, in speciality posts Explorers can get first hand experience in such careers as medicine at hospitals, law enforcement at Police Stations and broadcasting at Radio and TV studios. This is balanced with outdoor, social and service activities.

Some events are designed to benefit the members and at the same time to provide involvement useful

## **The Scout Association**

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to the community. An example of this is project SOAR (Save Our American Resources), emphasising energy

Education and conservation; promotion of organ donation programme and drug abuse prevention.

**Motto:**

Be Prepared.

**Promise:**

On my honour I will do my best  
to do my duty to God and my country  
to obey the Scout Law  
to help other people at all times  
to keep myself physically strong  
mentally awake and morally straight.

**Law:**

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave and reverent.

**Uniform:**

The uniform for the Cub Scouts consists of a blue shirt, blue trousers or shorts, a blue and gold scarf and a baseball style cap.

The Scout uniform is a khaki shirt and trousers, troop scarf and a choice of hats.

Through the United States Foundation for International Scouting, support is given to special Scout projects in other countries. Scouting for the handicapped, community development in the less

developed countries and support for the World Scout Bureau.

General information about the United States of America may be obtained from:

United States of America Embassy

Information Service

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W1