



Old North State Council

Arrow of Light to Scout Transition

**Guidebook for Parent
& Scout**

Section I – General Information

Introduction

One of the most important events as a Cub Scout completes their time in a Cub Scout Pack is their transition from Arrow of Light into Scouts. To aid in this process, the ONSC District has developed a “Arrow of Light to Scouts” Transition Resource for Parents & Scouts. This guide is intended to address topics that may be of interest to both Arrow of Light and their Parents, to provide you with insight into the workings of Scout Troops, the Scout Patrol method and to give you the tools you need to help select the best Troop for your family.

What is the Arrow of Light to Scout Transition?

During their last year in the Cub Scout Pack your Scout has been busy completing their Arrow of Light Requirements (see Section II) and has now begun to prepare for crossing over into Scouts. This occurs prior to March 1 of their 5th grade year. During their time as an Arrow of Light Scout your Scout should attend several Scout events and visit with a variety of Troops in order to assist in their Troop selection. You can think of the movement from Pack to Troop as your Scouts graduation into Scouts.

Who is Really Responsible for Transitioning the Scout?

Many parents feel that it is the responsibility of the Arrow of Light Den leader to guide their Scout through their transition into Scouts. Parents may feel that the Den Leaders know more about this process than they do or that they have a very limited opportunity to participate in this process. Nothing could be further from the truth. The best and most successful transitions to Scouts occur when the Scout, Den Leadership and Parents are all involved in the Troop selection process. This guide should help you with the tools you need to make this process successful.

The Arrow of Light to Scout Transition Plan

The goal of a successful transition plan is one in which both Den Leaders and parents have access to information that will help them to create a transition plan, along with their Scouts, Pack and Troop leadership with the intended end goal of a successful move into a Scout Troop. Many Arrow of Lights, and their parents, navigate this process smoothly and need very little help but, with a little additional information, this can be a great experience for all involved.

Crossover / Bridging

Crossover / Bridging is a special ceremony where the Troop you have selected recognizes the Arrow of Light Scouts transition from Cub Scouting into Scouting. This is often done during a special Pack meeting where members of the Troop are invited to ceremonially welcome the Arrow of Light into their Troop.

One important thing to know is that you do not have to wait for your bridging ceremony to start attending Troop meetings. As soon as you have decided on a Troop and have earned your Arrow of Light, you may start attending Troop meetings. Waiting for the crossover ceremony can result in missing time with your new Troop, information about summer camp and even a missed camping opportunity.

Section II – Arrow of Light Requirements

Note: always check [Scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org) for the most current rank requirements



To earn the Arrow of Light badge of rank a Cub Scout must earn the six required Adventures and at least two elective Adventures. The required Adventures are based on the aims of Scouting: character & leadership, personal fitness, and citizenship, and the areas of importance: the outdoors, safety, family & reverence. The required Adventures for Arrow of Light have requirements that prepare Cub Scouts for Scouts BSA. Below are the links to the requirements for the Arrow of Light required Adventures.

[BOBCAT – \(CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP\)](#) – Bobcat is designed to be the first required Adventure earned; it does not have to be the first Adventure earned. Within the requirements, Cub Scouts learn about Scouts BSA by creating a patrol, learning the Scouts BSA handshake and salute, and visiting a Scouts BSA Troop. This visit to the Scouts BSA Troop should be done as soon as possible to allow Cub Scouts and their parents to become familiar with Scouts BSA and ideally the troop they will join.

[OUTDOOR ADVENTURER – \(OUTDOORS\)](#) – Arrow of Light Scouts are introduced to the Scout Outdoor Essentials. They are required to go camping, this can be as a den or with a Scouts BSA Troop.

[PERSONAL FITNESS](#) – This is the first Adventure in Cub Scouting where Scouts are required to track their progress. Tracking progress for personal fitness and other activities is common in the Scouts BSA advancement program.

[CITIZENSHIP](#) – This Adventure Arrow of Light Scouts learn how to plan a service project using the SAFE checklist and start to track their service hours. Tracking service hours is a common requirement in the Scouts BSA advancement program.

[FIRST AID](#) – Based on feedback from Scouts BSA leaders there was a strong desire for new Scouts who are joining a Scouts BSA troop to have first aid skills. In addition to first-aid Arrow of Light Scouts learn about personal safety awareness.

[DUTY TO GOD \(FAMILY & REVERENCE\)](#) – To prepare Arrow of Light Scouts for a board of review they are asked in this Adventure to verbalize how they incorporate the value of duty to God into their lives.

Section III – Troop Organization

The Patrol Method

In 1888, Lord Baden Powell wrote, “The formation of the youth into Patrols of from six to eight and training them as separate units each under its own responsible leader is the key to a good Troop.”

Patrols

Patrols are the building blocks of Scouting. As a member of a patrol, youth plan together, learn together, and work together to turn exciting plans into action. Patrols are such an important part of Scouting that a part of each Troop meeting is generally set aside for the patrol to run its own smaller meeting. Every patrol has a name and every Scout in the patrol wears a patch on their right sleeve with their patrol’s emblem. Each patrol can also have a flag that they carry at Troop meetings and at campouts. Every patrol has a yell, too. A Yell is a cheer used by Scouting and other groups to show their enthusiasm and group spirit at various meetings.

New Scout Patrol

Some Troops utilize New Scout Patrols. The New Scout Patrol is a group of youth who have just become Scouts. They are assisted by a Troop guide – an older, experienced Scout who can mentor them in the methods of their new Troop and of Scouting. Members of a New Scout Patrol choose their patrol leader, plan what they want to do, and take part in outings and Troop meetings just like all of the other patrols. Because they are comprised of Scouts in the same age range, they also have the opportunity to work on rank requirements and to learn the basic skills they need in order to enjoy hiking, camping, and other Scout adventures.

Patrol Leader

Your patrol will elect one of its members to serve as its patrol leader. The patrol leader is the youth in charge of the patrol at Troop meetings and during outdoor adventures. The patrol leader represents the patrol on the patrol leaders’ council. While there is only one patrol leader, every member of a patrol shares the duties of leadership.

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is the youth leader of the Troop and is elected by all of the Scouts in the Troop. With guidance from the Scoutmaster, they are in charge of Troop meetings and the patrol leaders’ council. They do all they can to see that the patrols succeed.

Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC)

The activities of your Troop are planned by the patrol leaders' council (PLC) made up of the elected patrol leaders, senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, the Scoutmaster and other Troop leaders. The PLC discusses future meetings and outings for the whole Troop. Your patrol leader's responsibility is to share the ideas from your patrol with the PLC and to report back on any decisions made by the PLC to your patrol.

Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster is the primary youth facing adult leader of a Troop. They are responsible for advancement, training, and mentoring Scouts as well as meeting with individual Scouts as they work toward advancement (Scoutmaster Conference) They also manage the assignments of the various assistant Scoutmasters.

Meetings

Most Troops meet weekly throughout the year including summer. In most units there are also monthly outdoor activities such as campouts, hikes and service projects.

Section IV – How to Visit a Troop

Who to Call

Many Troops designate one person to be their primary contact for arranging visits. This could be the Scoutmaster, a membership chair, an Assistant Scoutmaster or another adult committee member.

You can find information about many Troops on www.beascout.org through a zip code search.

When to Visit

While Troops will welcome your visit at any time, it is best to call to ensure that your AOLs have the best possible experience and that the Troops meeting that evening is at their standard meeting location. A visit during a planning session for an event the AOL is not attending or during a Merit badge clinic for a badge they have not started does not make for a fun visit.

Many Troops hold an event where they gear their program for that day or night specifically to visiting AOLs. While these are definitely great events and worth attending you should be aware of two things. 1) These events may not be held when you want to visit the Troop and 2) During a special event, you don't get to see how the Troop normally functions.

If you visit a Troop during an event and enjoy meeting them, make sure to visit the Troop at one of their regular meetings as well.

If a Troop looks interesting visit them more than once. Visit as many Troops as you can.

NOTE:

A Troop decision is not always a FINAL decision. Most times a Scout finds their forever Troop and is happy to stay there however, sometimes Scout and Troop dynamics change and there are always other Troops to consider.

Section V – Deciding on a Troop

Every Troop has its own personality and the goal of a successful AOL to Scout transition is to find a Troop that will be comfortable for each Scout and that they will grow with for the next few years. Some of the factors that give each Troop its individual characteristics are outlined below.

Meeting Time and Place

When looking at Troops you do not need to limit yourself to those in the same town. Unlike Cub Scout Packs, whose membership is often based out of a single elementary school or local church, Troops often have members that come from a wider geographical area. Though you may not want to pick a Troop far from your home, though some Scouts do. Your ultimate goal is to find a Troop that really meets the needs and goals of your family and your Scout. Do not be afraid of an extra 15 - 20 minute drive if it might lead to a more successful time in Scouts. The one factor where you need to determine your level of flexibility in advance is what day of the week suits the needs of your family. While distance can be negotiable, if a Troop meets on a day you know will cause conflicts you probably need to look for another Troop.

Size of the Troop

Large and small Troops can come with their own sets of pros and cons.

With more Scouts and more adult support, large Troops often have a more varied list of activities, a more flexible budget and the ability to subdivide events. The flip side of this equation is that large Troops often have more competition for leadership positions and new Scouts can sometimes feel overlooked. They can also be overwhelming for a Scout with special needs. Some larger Troops choose to utilize a New Scout Patrol and assign a Troop Guide to oversee their progress.

Small Troops have the ability to develop a closer bond among their Scouts. They can provide a supportive environment for Scouts that may have a challenging time in a larger troop. They also provide a regular rotation of leadership roles as there is less competition for those roles. A counterpoint is that smaller Troops may sometimes have trouble bringing certain activities to fruition due to a smaller number of youth and fewer active adult leaders.

Try to decide what size Troop fits the needs of your Scout and your family. When you visit a Troop, you

can ask questions about not only the current state of a Troop but also what size they plan to be. It is not uncommon to decide that you want to be in a small Troop, find a Troop you want to join, and then discover that 30 other Scouts have decided to join at the same time.

Age Distribution of Scouts

When visiting a Troop, look to see how many older Scouts are present. Older Scouts help to provide experienced youth leadership to a Troop. Find out what opportunities the Troop provides for the older Scouts to keep them interested in Scouting. This is important because before long you are going to be one of those older Scouts and may want to do more than just basic camping.

Chartering Organization

The Chartering Organization is the group that owns a Troop. Every Troop has a Chartering Organization. Find out what the Chartering Organization does to support and interact with the Troop (e.g. leadership, funding, or events) The relationship with the Chartering Organization may also guide certain opportunities the Troop participates in or service they provide. For example, a church based charter may help its Scouts earn the Religious Emblem whereas a Troop chartered by a VFW or American Legion Post may be more focused on service to Veterans.

Camping (how, when, where, what type?)

All Troops camp. Find out how often they camp, whether they only camp locally or if they travel to remote campsites. Find out what types of camping they do. Some may do special yearly events such as a beach campout or a canoeing expedition. If they do a lot of hiking, you may want to plan on getting better boots. Find out what the cost of a camping trip is to your Scout and how the Troop handles transportation. Ask about what summer camps they attend and when and where they are planning to go to this year. Also ask what fundraisers the Scouts in the Troop do to earn money for these activities.

Troop Specialties

Many Troops develop programs and activities that they may do more often, or with more proficiency, than other Troops. These could be such things as hiking, canoeing, rock climbing, scuba or spelunking. If you find a Troop whose specialty matches your own interests that is certainly a connection to weigh heavily.

Journey to Excellence

Scouting's Journey to Excellence is the BSA's Unit performance recognition program. This program was designed to provide a metric by which we measure the performance of the units, districts, and councils in the BSA. A Gold level unit is one who meets or exceeds the metrics recommended for the management of a successful Scouting program. Check with the Troop on their Journey to Excellence ranking.

Troop Selection Checklist

Use the worksheet below to record information you gather on the Troops you visit. This can help you in evaluating the relative merits of each Troop as they match your Scout's and your family's interests. Additional spaces are provided for family specific requirements and comments.

Criteria to be Considered	Your Preference	Troop#	Troop#	Troop#
Meeting day and times				
Meeting place				
Troop size (small, med, large)				
Chartering Organization				
Age and rank distribution of Scouts				
Rank Advancement Emphasis				
Summer Camp plans				
Frequency of campouts				
Visibly Youth Led Troop and Patrols				
Outdoor Activities (high adventure, etc.).				
Service Projects				
Eagle Scouts Advancement Support				
Level of Parental Participation				
Friends of your Scouts in Unit				
Trained leaders				
Personality of Troop				
Journey to Excellence ranking				

Section VI – Scout Advancement (terms and methods)



Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class

All requirements for Scout ranks must be completed while registered as a member of a Troop. The requirements for the Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First-Class ranks may be worked on simultaneously; however, these ranks must be earned in sequence.

The Scout rank is the Scout equivalent of the Bobcat Badge earned at the beginning of the Cub Scout journey. At the completion of the Scout rank a new Scout will have learned the basic tenets of the Scouting program as well as gaining a basic understanding of how his new Troop functions.

The ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class are designed to teach the camping, first aid, and safety skills needed to actively participate in the Scouting program. Though sometimes referred to as a first-year program, there is no time requirement in which these advancements must be completed. The Scout program is self-paced by each Scout with guidance from their Troop leadership. Some Scouts can and will do all of these requirements in less than a year and some will take longer. Unlike Cub Scouts, there are no age or grade level determined advancements.

Handbook

The Scout handbook is their ultimate Scouting resource. It explains all rank requirements and provides detailed information on a multitude of Scouting topics. Most importantly it is the place where all rank requirements are signed off. Most Scoutmasters expect this book to be with the Scout at all Troop meetings and campouts.

Scoutmaster Conference

One requirement that Scouts have for rank advancement that does not have a parallel in Cub Scouting is the Scoutmaster conference. When you complete the requirements for a rank, you will need to schedule a Scoutmaster Conference. At this meeting, the Scoutmaster will review the requirements you undertook to complete your current rank and will talk with you to make sure that you have accomplished them. They will then help you to set your goals for your next advancement. They should also have you share your ideas about the Troop. (e.g. how you feel about the Troop, what you would like the Troop to do more of, problems you see occurring, etc.).

Board of Review

All rank advancements, with the exception of Scout, require a Board of Review. A Board of Review is a meeting between the advancing Scout and a series of committee members in the Troop. The members of a Board of Review can be any adult in the Troop with the exception of the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters. The purpose of the Board of Review is not to retest the skills a Scout has learned, but to see what the Scout's spirit is and how the Troop is helping the Scout meet their Scout objectives.

Court of Honor

The Scout program works on the premise of immediate recognition. When a Scout completes a rank advancement, they will usually be given the badge that night or at the next Troop meeting. About four times a year, the Troop will hold a special meeting called a Court of Honor. The Court of Honor is a formal ceremony to recognize you and your fellow Scouts for rank advancement and all other Scouting achievements earned that quarter. This event is held with an audience of family, friends, chartered organization officials, and Troop leaders.

Merit Badges

A merit badge is an opportunity to explore a new or interesting subject. There are more than a hundred merit badges to choose from. Some merit badges encourage you to increase your skill in subjects you already like, while others challenge you to learn about new subjects. Many merit badges are designed to help you increase your ability to be of service to others, to take part in outdoor adventures, to better understand the environment, and to a valuable role in your family and community. Earning merit badges can even lead you toward a lifelong hobby or set you on the way to a rewarding career. There are both Eagle required, and elective merit badges each scout will need to complete in order to pursue the ranks of Star, Life and Eagle.

The requirements for each merit badge appear in the current BSA merit badge pamphlet for that award.

Some important facts to know about merit badges:

1. Any Scout, regardless of rank, can earn merit badges.
2. There are over a hundred merit badges, there are fifteen special ones (see the Scout Handbook) that must be earned in order to become an Eagle Scout. These are referred to as Eagle Required Badges and have a silver edge instead of a green one.

The Path to Eagle

Once a Scout has reached First Class and learned the basic skills of Scouting, he is ready for the tougher challenge of becoming an Eagle Scout. The Path to Eagle has three ranks, Star Scout, Life Scout, and Eagle Scout. The requirements for advancement consist of earning merit badges, doing service projects to help the community, showing that you can lead other Scouts as a patrol leader or some other leadership position, and demonstrating to others that you have Scout spirit.

Other Awards

There are two other Scout awards that are usually of interest to first year Scouts: The Totin' Chip and the Firem'n Chit.

When a Scout demonstrates safety awareness and proficiency with Scout appropriate knives and woodsman tools (knife, axe, saw) he may be granted his Totin' Chip. Until a Scout has earned his Totin' Chit, he is not allowed to carry any of these items. If a Scout is found handling wood tools incorrectly his Totin' Chip may be revoked.

To Earn their Firem'n Chit as Scout has demonstrated knowledge of fire safety rules related to building, maintaining, and putting out camp and cooking fires. Until a Scout has earned his Firem'n Chit, he is not allowed to carry matches or start Troop fires.

Section VII – Glossary of some common Scout terms

The BSA, like many organizations, often uses acronyms or other terms that can be confusing to new Youth Scouts or their parents. Does your son return from Scouting activities and seem to be speaking a foreign language? Do you note some strange words on a flyer or a Troop calendar?

This glossary is an effort to help define some of the more frequently used terms. If someone uses a term you do not recognize simply ask them to explain. (we all had to learn it too)

Adult Patrol: When the Troop goes camping, the adults form their own patrol for meal planning, shopping, cooking, eating, and sleeping. The adults try and set a good example of how a patrol should operate.

Annual Planning Meeting: The PLC (see below) meets to plan the next year's calendar of activities with guidance from the Scoutmaster. This plan is then presented to the Troop Committee (see below) for approval and to make sure the plan meets BSA guidelines. The adult committee then ensures that necessary resources can be provided. This normally occurs in the late spring so the Troop can plan next year's activities.

APL - Asst. Patrol Leader: See Patrol Leader below.

ASM - Asst. Scoutmaster: See Scoutmaster below.

ASPL - Asst. Senior Patrol Leader: See Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) Troops often have more than one ASPL.

Powell: Lord Baden Powell was the founder of the Scouting movement.

Be Prepared: The motto of Scouting.

Blue Card: In order to work with a Merit Badge Counselor, the Scout must first obtain a Blue Card from the Scoutmaster. Blue Cards are literal blue card-stock cards and are the record of Merit Badge progress. They are turned in to receive the Merit Badge after all the requirements have been met and the counselor has signed off the card. The Scout should keep his copy of the blue card until after he has reached the Rank of Eagle. The plastic baseball trading card sheets work well for storing completed Blue Cards.

Board of Review - BOR: As one of the requirements for each rank advancement, a Scout must appear before a group of three to six adults (members of the Troop Committee) to ensure that they have satisfied the requirements for that rank. By policy, the Scoutmaster and Asst Scoutmasters cannot sit on a BOR. A Board of Review takes place after a Scoutmaster Conference (see below for Rank Advancement, or when a Scout requests one or if the Troop Committee feels the Scout needs one.

Scout Ranks (in order of increasing rank):

Scout
Tenderfoot
Second Class
First Class
Star
Life
Eagle
Eagle Palms: Bronze, Gold, Silver

Bridging: A ceremony where AOLs cross a ceremonial bridge to signify their transition from Cub Scouts to Troop Scouts. This is normally done at a Cub Scout Pack Meeting with Scouts from AOL's new Troop participating. This is an induction ceremony into a Scout Troop.

Buddy System: Whenever a Scout needs to go somewhere at camp, on a hike, to a Merit Badge Class, etc. it is always done in groups of at least two. A Scout always takes a "buddy" Scout with him. This is also used as part of the "Safe Swim Defense" program.

Camporee: A campout attended by several Troops within a district. Usually there are various competitions between the patrols attending.

Chaplain: An adult member of the Troop Committee who provides guidance to Scouts related to observance of the 12th point of the Scout Law - A Scout is Reverent. This adult works with the Chaplains Aide, a youth leader

Chartering Organization: The organization, often a church, school, business or civic service organization, which is officially chartered by Scouting America to carry out the Scouting program. The main liaison between the chartering organization and the Scout Unit is the Chartered Organization Representative (COR).

Field or Activity Uniform (Class A or B): Different types of activities require different uniforms. A Field or Class A is the official Scout uniform; An activity or Class B uniform is a Scouting or Troop specific polo shirt or T-shirt often worn for camping or other activities.

Commissioner: Adult volunteers who work at the district or council level as a resource to scouting units. Unit commissioners are assigned to units and should be a friendly resource to the unit leaders on topics where a unit may need support.

Committee Chairperson: A registered adult leader appointed by the Chartered Organization to chair the Troop Committee. This person presides at Troop Committee meetings and works closely with the Chartered Organization Representative (COR) and Scoutmaster (SM) to ensure the Scouting program meets BSA guidelines. They also facilitate Board of Review sessions by coordinating adult committee support.

Chartered Organization Representative (COR): A person assigned by the chartering organization to be the liaison between the Troop and the chartering organization.

Council: A Scout Council is a large group of scouting units in a particular geographic area. A group of Districts make up a Council. We are the National Capital Area Council. (NCAC)

Court of Honor – COH: An awards ceremony, usually held quarterly, at which Scouts are recognized for their rank advancements, merit badges earned, and other awards.

Cracker Barrel: A Scout term for a social gathering with refreshments after a meeting or an activity. Often an evening activity at campouts before taps.

Council Shoulder Patch (CSP): The large, curved patch works on the left shoulder of the Field uniform shirt which designates the Council in which the Scout is registered.

Den Chief: A Leadership role in which a Scout who helps a Cub Scout Den Leader directs the activities of a Cub Scout den.

District: A subdivision of a council.

Fire'n' Chit: A certification earned by Scouts upon completion of training in BSA fire safety regulations.

Friends of Scouting (FOS): Friends of Scouting is the annual fundraising campaign for the local council. The council does not get any share of your annual registration fee and is grateful for your donation in support of local scouting.

Good Turn: "Do a Good Turn Daily" is the Scout slogan. A good turn is a good deed done without being asked or expected to for which you expect no reward.

Guide to Safe Scouting: This guidebook is the final resource when it comes to safety issues in Scouting. Those items in **BOLD** print are rules that **MUST** be followed. Everything else in the booklet is recommendations that should be followed. Troop leaders frequently consult this guide to ensure all planned activities are being done safely and within prescribed BSA parameters.

Introduction to Leadership Skills Training (ILST): A training course for Scouts with leadership roles to teach them about the expectations and responsibilities of Troop leadership.

Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS): A required training course for Scoutmasters and youth facing leaders to teach them the fundamentals of outdoor and Scout leadership. This course requires an overnight campout.

Jamboree: A Scout meeting or campout on a large scale. There are regional, national and international Scouting jamborees.

Jamboree On the Air (JOTA): Scouting and ham radio join forces to make many international contacts through the "air" waves. Traditionally the 3rd weekend in October.

Jamboree On the Internet (JOTI): Scouting and the internet join forces to make many international contacts through the digital media. Traditionally the 3rd weekend in October in tandem with JOTA (see above)

Junior Asst. Scoutmaster (JASM): A youth between 16 and 18 who has shown outstanding leadership skills within the Troop. This position is appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader with the approval of the Scoutmaster. The JASM follows the guidance of the SM in providing support to the youth leaders of the Troop. Upon turning 18 a JASM is eligible to become an Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM).

Klondike Derby: A winter themed camporee. Overnight camping experience in the snow with team building games and activities.

Leadership Positions: To advance to the ranks of Star, Life and Eagle a Scout must hold a leadership position for a set period of time. The rank requirements in the Scout Handbook list the leadership positions that qualify for this requirement.

Leave No Trace (LNT): A set of guidelines that set the standards for outdoor activities that are environmentally sound and considerate to others using the same area.

Merit Badge Sash: As Scouts earn Merit Badges they are sewn onto a Merit Badge Sash. This is the only accepted method of wearing Merit Badges. The Merit Badge Sash is worn diagonally from the right shoulder to the left hip and is worn for formal occasions such as a Courts of Honor, other awards ceremonies and Boards of review.

National Eagle Scout Association (NESA). A national membership organization open to any youth or adult who attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

Order of the Arrow (OA): A national brotherhood of Scout honor campers within Scouting America. Members are elected by their peers after meeting basic requirements of camping knowledge and experience. The OA motto of "Cheerful Service" indicates their purpose of providing service to the Scouting community.

OA Ordeal: The initiation ceremony experience for new OA members involving personal introspection, a service project, and ceremonies based on Indian legend or lore.

Palms, Eagle: After a Scout reaches the rank of Eagle, they can earn a Palm for every 5 additional Merit Badges they complete. You may wear only the proper combination of Palms for the number of merit badges you earned beyond the 21 required for the rank of Eagle. The Bronze Palm represents 5 additional merit badges, the Gold Palm 10, and the Silver Palm 15. A Scout with 20 additional Merit Badges would wear 1 Silver and 1 Bronze Palm.

Patrol: The Patrol is the basic unit within a Troop. Made up of 6-10 Scouts who camp, cook, and eat together. They work as a team at various activities and events. They elect their own leader.

Patrol Equipment: The Patrol Equipment consists of tents, stoves, lanterns, and cooking equipment. The Patrol is responsible for the storage and upkeep of this equipment. This equipment is stored and transported in Patrol Boxes which need to be cleaned after each outing.

Patrol Leader (PL): The elected youth leader for the patrol. An Assistant Patrol Leader can be elected or appointed by the PL to help in running the patrol.

Patrol Leaders Council (PLC): A leadership group of the elected youth leadership of the Troop. They meet once a month to plan the following month's activities and annually to plan the upcoming year.

Permission Slip: In order to go on any outing, the Scout must have a permission slip signed by their parents. It is the Scout's responsibility to make sure they have the appropriate permission slip signed and turned in by the due date noted by the event coordinator.

Recharter: The annual process of re-registering the Troop, Scouts, and Scouters. Each unit designates leaders to collect the information and present the updated paperwork to the council.

Roundtable: A monthly meeting run by the district for leaders to exchange ideas, fellowship, and a few announcements.

Safety Circle: A safety zone around someone using a pocketknife, hatchet, ax, or other sharp tool. Approximately an arm-length plus the length of the tool being used in all directions. No one should be in another person's Safety Circle when a sharp tool is in use.

Scouter: Any registered adult leader.

Scoutmaster (SM): Adult leader who trains and guides the youth leaders in carrying out the Scouting program. One or more Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM) help the Scoutmaster and are often assigned specific roles and duties.

Scoutmaster Conference: A formal meeting that takes place between a Scout and the Scoutmaster, or his designee, to review a Scout's progress. A Scoutmaster Conference takes place at advancement time prior to a Board of Review, when a Scout requests it or if the Scoutmaster feels the Scout needs it.

Scoutmaster Specific Training: Scoutmaster Specific training is a fundamentals course for youth facing Unit leadership. This must be completed in combination with IOLS to be considered a fully trained Scoutmaster.

Scouting for Food: Every year, during the first two weekends in November Scouts collect food for the fight against hunger. The food is turned over to local food banks for distribution to needy families.

Scouts Own: Non-denominational religious observance of reflection usually conducted on campouts. Let your Troop leaders know if you do not want your child to participate in this activity, as we wish to respect every family's religious belief.

Scout Spirit: The way a Scout tries to live up to the Scout Oath, Law, Slogan, and motto in their everyday life.

Service Star: A pin worn over the left shirt pocket of the uniform to denote the number of years of Scouting service.

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL): The senior most elected youth leader of the Troop. The SPL is in charge of the Troop at all functions and activities. He appoints one or more assistants (ASPL) to assist him with running the Troop.

Totin' Chip: A certification that enables the bearer to use knives, axes, and saws. It must be earned by the Scout through educational and hands on safety sessions led by an adult leader or older Scout.

Troop Committee: A committee of registered adults that provide oversight, assistance, and guidance to the Scoutmaster in carrying out the Scouting program within the Troop. Key members include the Committee Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Outdoor/Activities Coordinator, Advancement Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, Adult Quartermaster, and Fund-Raising Coordinator.

Two Deep: Two Deep Leadership is a Scout Policy. A minimum of two adults must always be present with any youth. One of these adults must be 21 years old. This is part of the BSA Youth Protection Guidelines.

Woodbadge: Advanced Training for Scout adult leaders. Any adult who has completed the basic leader trainings for their position can attend this advanced training course to expand their understanding of the Scouting program and be of more help to the Troop.

Youth Protection Training (YPT): A training required for all leaders that provides valuable information on how to recognize child abuse and bullying, reduce risks to youth, set up safeguards, and report suspected abuse.