

Appendix C: Aims of Scouting



Character Development

Scouting works toward three aims. One is growth in moral strength and character. We may define this as the young person's definition of his or her personal qualities, values, and outlook.

Citizenship Training

A second aim is participatory citizenship. Used broadly, citizenship means the youths' relationships to others. They come to learn of their obligations to other people, to the society they live in, and to the government that presides over that society.

Physical and Mental Fitness

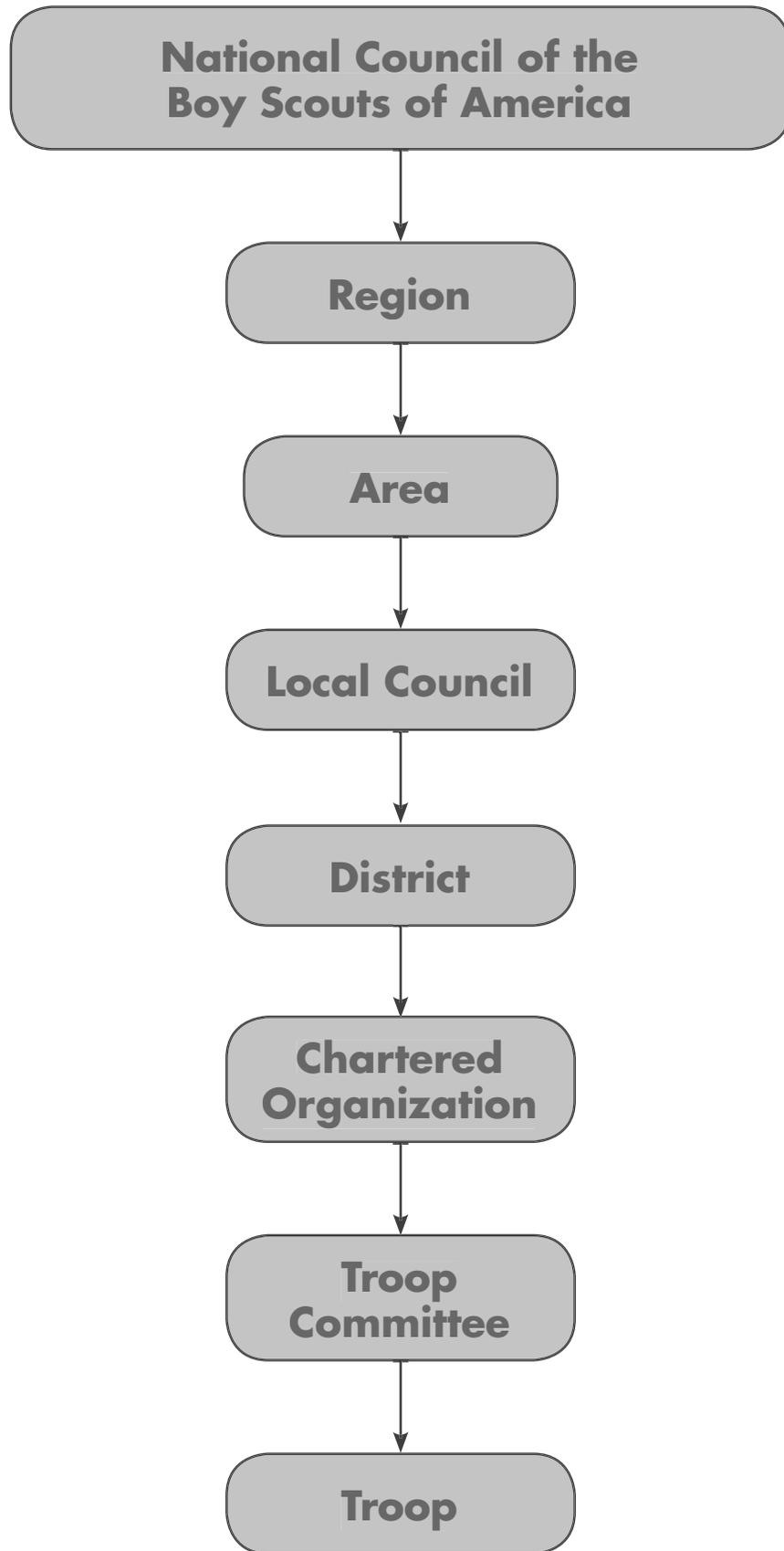
The third aim of Scouting is development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

Leadership Development

The fourth aim of Scouting is the development of leadership. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations, which helps each youth accept the leadership roles of others and guides them toward better citizenship.



Appendix D: Organization of Scouting



Scoutmaster Position-Specific Training

Appendix E: Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities

AGE-APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR SCOUTING ACTIVITIES Age- and rank-appropriate guidelines have been developed based on many factors. When planning activities outside of program materials or handbooks, ask this question: Is the activity appropriate for the age and for Scouting? Not every activity needs to be conducted.	 LIONS (WITH ADULT PARTNER)	 TIGERS (WITH ADULT PARTNER)	 WOLF/BEAR SCOUTS	 WEBELOS SCOUTS	 SCOUTS	 OLDER SCOUTS, SEA SCOUTS, VENTURERS <small>("Older Scouts" are age 13 and have completed eighth grade or 14 years old and up.)</small>
OUTDOOR SKILLS						
Hunting						Venturers Only
Mountaineering/Scrambling/Cross-Country Travel						✓
Search and Rescue Missions						✓
Search and Rescue Practice					✓	✓
Fueled Devices <small>(Stoves and lanterns)</small>					✓	✓
Hiking—Multiple Day					✓	✓
Mountain Boards					✓	✓
Orienteering					✓	✓
Wilderness Survival Training				Castaway Elective	✓	✓
Camporees				Day Visit Only	✓	✓
Fire Building				✓	✓	✓
Pioneering				✓	✓	✓
Cooking Outdoors			Bear Necessities Requirement	✓	✓	✓
Horseback Riding			✓	✓	✓	✓
Map and Compass		Map Only	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pioneering Towers <small>(Check requirements for height restrictions.)</small>		Council/District Events Only		✓	✓	✓
Rope Bridges <small>(Check requirements for height restrictions.)</small>		Council/District Events Only		✓	✓	✓
Conservation Projects	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fishing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hiking—Day	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TOOLS <small>(See handbook requirements, merit badge pamphlets, and Age Guidelines for Tool Use, No. 680-028, for additional limits.)</small>						
Power Tools—Chain Saws, Log Splitters, Wood Chippers, Power Saws				Adult Use Only		
Power Tools						See Age Guidelines for Tool Use
Axes					✓	✓
Bow Saws				✓	✓	✓
Pocketknife			Bear Only	✓	✓	✓
Hand Tools	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TREKKING <small>(See Trek Safely, 430-125.)</small>						
Horse Treks						✓
Backpacking—Overnight, Backcountry					✓	✓
Bike Treks—Multiple Overnights					✓	✓
Ski Touring—Multiple Days and Nights Carrying Gear					✓	✓
Day Hikes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SHOOTING <small>(See shooting sports guides at www.scouting.org. Note: Shooting at each other is prohibited.)</small>						
Centerfire/Large-Bore Rifles						Venturers and Sea Scouts
Pistols						Venturers and Sea Scouts
Pistol Safety and Marksmanship Programs						Council-Run Program
Specialty Programs—Cowboy Action Shooting						✓
.22 Rifle					✓	✓
Archery—Field					✓	✓
Muzzleloaders					✓	✓
Shotguns					✓	✓
Specialty Programs—Airsoft					✓	✓
Specialty Programs—Chalkball					✓	✓
Air Rifle <small>(pellet guns)</small>				Webelos Resident Camp Only	✓	✓
BB Guns				Council/District Outdoor Programs Only	✓	✓
Archery—Target, Action <small>(moving targets)</small>		Council/District Outdoor Programs Only			✓	✓
Slingshots/Wrist Rockets		Council/District Outdoor Programs Only			✓	✓
Catapults/Trebuchets						Projectiles must be soft and small (no larger than a tennis ball).

AGE-APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

Age- and rank-appropriate guidelines have been developed based on many factors. When planning activities outside of program materials or handbooks, ask this question: Is the activity appropriate for the age and for Scouting? Not every activity needs to be conducted.



LIONS
(WITH ADULT PARTNER)



TIGERS
(WITH ADULT PARTNER)



WOLF/BEAR SCOUTS



WEBELOS SCOUTS



SCOUTS



OLDER SCOUTS, SEA SCOUTS, VENTURERS

(*Older Scouts* are age 13 and have completed eighth grade or 14 years old and up.)



VEHICLES

Driving	Drivers must be currently licensed and at least 18 years of age.					
Snowmobiles						Venturers Only
All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV)						Approved Council Use Only; No Unit Use
Personal Watercraft (PWC)						Approved Council Use Only; No Unit Use
BMX Biking			✓	✓	✓	✓
Mountain Biking			✓	✓	✓	✓
Bike—Day Trip	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



COPE AND CLIMBING (See Climb on Safely training and Belay On, No. 430-500.)

Caving (other than simple novice activities)						✓
Lead Climbing						✓
Snow and Ice Climbing						✓
Belaying					✓	✓
Rock Climbing					✓	✓
Amusements—Aerial Adventure Parks					✓	✓
Amusements—Canopy Tours					✓	✓
Amusements—Zip Lines					✓	✓
Rappelling				✓	✓	✓
COPE	Age-Appropriate Initiative Games				✓	✓
Bouldering	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Climbing (age-appropriate man-made facility)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



AQUATICS (See handbooks, Safe Swim Defense, and Safety Afloat for restrictions based on skills, such as swimming ability, rather than age.)

Aerial Towed Activities (kitesurfing, parasails)	Not Authorized					
Cliff Jumping, High Dives	Not Authorized					
Triathlon: Swim Races in Open Water						Sanctioned Events
Paddle Sports: Youth Operated on Class III or Above Whitewater						✓
Personal Water Craft (PWC)						Approved Council Programs Only
Paddle Sports: Whitewater With Professional Guide on Board					✓	✓
Paddle Sports: Youth Operated on Class I or II Whitewater					✓	✓
Motorboats: Youth Operated (check state regulations)					✓	✓
Overnight Cruise on Live-Aboard Vessel					✓	✓
Sailboats and Sailboards: Youth Operated					✓	✓
Snorkeling in Open Water					✓	✓
Scuba (See www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss02/#h.)					✓	✓
Surfing					✓	✓
Towed Activities (waterskiing, knee boarding, floats)					✓	✓
Tubing (floating in gently flowing water)			✓	✓	✓	✓
Paddle Sports: Youth Operated on Calm or Gently Flowing Water	Passengers Only		Paddle Sports Include Canoes, Kayaks, Pedal Boats, Rafts, Rowboats, SUP			
Commercial Marine Transport (ferries, excursion ships)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Day Rides on Large Private Craft With Trained Adult Operator	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swimming	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Snorkeling in Confined Water	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Parks, Slides, and Floating Attractions	Appropriate Age Varies by Feature					



AIRCRAFT (Complete and follow Flying Plan Checklist, No. 680-672.)

Soaring (Orientation flights only)			✓	✓	✓	✓
Hot-Air Balloons (See Tether Guidelines and FAQs at www.scouting.org.)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Orientation Flight	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Appendix F: The Scoutmaster Conference

The Purpose of the Scoutmaster Conference

According to the BSA charter, the purpose of Scouting is to develop in youth the ability to do things for themselves and for others; to train them in outdoor skills; and to teach patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues. We use the methods of Scouting—including advancement, the outdoors, and adult association—to accomplish these goals. The Scoutmaster conference allows the Scoutmaster to review these benchmarks:

- The Scout's growth in their understanding of Scouting's ideals
- How the Scout applies these ideals in daily life and in the troop
- The requirements of the next rank so that the Scout can be properly encouraged

Why does the Scoutmaster engage in this one-on-one review? The relationship between a Scout and the Scoutmaster is important for the troop's health and for the Scout's success. The Scoutmaster must watch the troop's dynamics to see who is showing leadership, who is holding back, who is shy, who is working with the younger Scouts, who is skilled in outdoor activities, etc. Further, the Scoutmaster must watch each Scout to determine whether the individual Scout is advancing, having fun, and seems eager or uneasy.

These functions are not easily performed if a Scoutmaster delegates a Scoutmaster conference to assistants. In a youth-led troop, the Scoutmaster does not assert their authority, but guides and counsels every Scout so that the troop can function well and serve the purposes of Scouting. The Scoutmaster conference is one of the primary ways the Scoutmaster does this.

In large troops, delegating this function may be necessary, especially when large numbers of Webelos Scouts are joining the troop. In these cases, an experienced assistant Scoutmaster can fill in to conduct the Scoutmaster conference. Remember, however, that this first Scoutmaster conference is vital to the new Scout's development. Even in a large troop, a Scoutmaster should not delegate a conference with any candidate for Star, Life, and Eagle.

When and Where to Hold a Scoutmaster Conference

The Scoutmaster conference should be held in a quiet place that is conducive to give and take between the Scout and Scoutmaster. There should be no possibility for embarrassing the Scout. Remember that the BSA Youth Protection policy requires that one-on-one sessions between a youth and an adult be visible and accessible by other people.

Some possible meeting places include a quiet corner of the Scout meeting hall during a troop meeting or, in a larger troop, a hallway outside the troop meeting area. At a campout, on a hike, or at summer camp are good times for a Scoutmaster conference as long as the Scout and Scoutmaster remain visible to the other adults and Scouts. An ideal place for a Scout's first Scoutmaster conference might be at the Scout's home, where the Scout may be more comfortable and better able to express hopes and desires.

Because the conference is designed to provide direct give and take between Scout and Scoutmaster, both for the Scout's good and for the good of the troop, a Scoutmaster conference can take place any time, especially when a Scoutmaster senses that a Scout needs a conference or if the Scout asks for one. Of course, each rank advancement requires that a Scout have a formal Scoutmaster conference.

Types of Scoutmaster Conferences

A Scoutmaster conference is simply a chance to talk to a Scout about how the Scout is doing, how the Scout feels about the troop and their role in it, how the Scout is advancing, and how the Scout is striving to live up to Scouting's ideals. Consequently, a Scoutmaster conference can take place anytime and for any reason. Some reasons to have a Scoutmaster conference may include:

- A Scout's lack of advancement
- A perceived trouble between the Scout and others in the troop
- A certain event at the last campout or troop meeting

The required Scoutmaster conferences for advancement should not be perceived any differently than any other conference. Making a Scoutmaster conference an advancement requirement affords every Scout at least one opportunity at each rank level to meet with the Scoutmaster in this personal way. Each rank involves progressively greater mastery of Scouting skills and advancing leadership growth. Therefore, the advancement Scoutmaster conferences should reflect the Scout's increasing maturity.

Another issue to be considered at the Scoutmaster conference is the concept of Scout spirit, which is part of the advancement process.

How to Hold a Scoutmaster Conference

The Scoutmaster conference is neither an interrogation nor a retesting of a Scout's competence. It should be an informal conversation between Scout and Scoutmaster either toward a certain goal or as a requirement for advancement. In either case, open-ended questions are good to prompt the Scout's comments. Encourage the Scout to come to conclusions on their own; don't simply tell the Scout what you think.

A conference unrelated to advancement may be due to a problem either with the Scout or with the troop. In these cases, you will be counseling the Scout, helping the Scout form conclusions about the problem at hand. In a good conference you may listen more than you speak.

Listen carefully to what the Scout is saying, then listen to what the Scout is not saying. Skilled counselors often respond to comments by others by simply smiling or giving encouraging sounds like "uh-huh" or "OK." Ask the Scout to repeat what they are saying a different way to get an entirely different take on the situation. Confirm your understanding of what the Scout is saying by summarizing, but try not to put the Scout in a corner.

If there is a solution to the problem, try to allow the Scout to come up with it. Perhaps they cannot formulate a solution, but could choose from among several you can think of. In all events, try to have the Scout draw the conclusions. If a solution cannot be found, agree to meet in the future to see if circumstances have changed or if the Scout has found an answer to the problem.

In the advancement conference, you will assess the Scout's readiness for their board of review and their progress since the last Scoutmaster conference. This should not be a time of retesting competence in Scouting skills; someone has already attested to that. The Scout must have completed all of the requirements for rank before the conference can take place.

It is appropriate to review the Scout's achievements and to discuss them without retesting. Of course, this may be the time for you to check the Scout's advancement record for the appropriate signatures.

You can and should ask how the Scout felt about certain accomplishments and how they felt about their participation on a service project. Ask a Scout about their leadership position and whether the Scout believes it was successful. You can discuss any problems with an eye toward solving them.

Always end a Scoutmaster conference with praise for the positive aspects of the Scout's character, their skill level, and their accomplishments.

The following outline discusses the general nature of specific advancement conferences. Checklists of sample questions have been developed for each of the specific ranks (they can be found in Appendix H), but the Scout's *Scouts BSA Handbook* and your troop's advancement chart provide the skeleton for questions. Following are guidelines for the specific conferences.

The First Scoutmaster Conference: An Introduction

This first Scoutmaster conference allows the Scoutmaster and the Scout to size each other up, to get to know each other, and to encourage the openness that is so important between the Scout and Scoutmaster.

This conference provides an opportunity for the Scoutmaster to explain a bit about the Scouting program, about the troop and its traditions, and about how Scouting differs from Cub Scouting. A Scout probably will not know the Scoutmaster, nor will the Scoutmaster likely know the Scout, and this is a good chance for both to learn about each other.

In some ways, the joining conference is one of the most important meetings of a Scouting career because it will set the tone of the relationship between the Scout and Scoutmaster. It should be informal; it should be friendly; and from the standpoint of the Scout, it should be encouraging and supportive.

Be sure to prepare some possible questions you could ask the Scout as well as some key points to explain.

The Scoutmaster Conferences for Tenderfoot Through First Class

The Tenderfoot through First Class Scoutmaster conferences are ways of getting to know the Scout better, to review progress in achievements, and to discuss how the Scout felt about the various steps taken on the Scouting trail, including individual achievements. This should not be a time of retesting but rather a time to reflect on the skills learned and how the Scout has absorbed the ideals of Scouting.

Questions here naturally will deal with a certain campout, for example, or the difficult time the Scout had with knots, but it also may deal with how the Scout is getting along with certain other Scouts or how the Scout exhibits Scouting ideals outside the troop.

Other aspects of the conference should never take a back seat. This is the time to ask how the Scout feels about the troop's program, whether they feel they are learning anything, and whether they are having fun.

Prepare some possible questions you could ask the Scout as well as some key points to explain.

The Scoutmaster Conferences for Star and Life

The Star and Life conferences will be a bit longer than previous ones. The Scout will have acquired many more skills and will evidence more maturity. Leadership will be one of the significant topics to be discussed. Each of these ranks involves service projects, and you should ask how the Scout felt about the projects.

As a Scoutmaster, you may be evaluating how a Scout has done in leadership positions, but this is not the time to say that a Scout was a poor leader. If that is the case or was the case, it should have been the subject of a Scoutmaster conference long before the advancement conference. Leadership skills should be reviewed as they are exhibited, not held over to a Scoutmaster conference where the Scout is flunked for failing to meet expectations.

On the other hand, it may be that a Scout will conclude that they need to work on certain aspects of leadership before they achieve the next rank, and you should be supportive of this concept.

As before, you will be evaluating their Scout spirit. Remember that at these ages the Scout will change fundamentally much more quickly than you might imagine, and the Scoutmaster conference can be an opportunity for you to reevaluate the candidate.

List some possible questions you could ask the Scout as well as some key points to explain.

The Scoutmaster Conference for Eagle

If you have watched from the date the Scout joined the troop, you may know this Scout well by this time. The Scout should be congratulated on all that has been accomplished thus far.

This is an occasion to review the Scout's Eagle service project, but not an occasion to criticize it. After all, you, as Scoutmaster, have already approved the project concept, and both the troop committee and the head of the agency for whom the project was accomplished have determined that it was satisfactorily completed. Rather, you should review the project with the Scout so that they will feel comfortable explaining it to their Eagle board of review.

You will be counseling a very accomplished young adult, one who has an experience with the troop that is inherently different from yours. It is wise to understand what the Scout perceives as the strengths and shortcomings of the troop.

You also can ask whether the Scout has a sense of being prepared for their Eagle board of review. Of course, Scout spirit is a part of this discussion. The Eagle candidate's spirit should be such that they are an example to other Scouts.

Prepare some possible questions you could ask the Scout as well as some key points to explain.

The Scoutmaster Conference for Eagle Palms

Like the Eagle Scoutmaster conference, the Eagle Palm conference is an opportunity for you to learn. Listen carefully to what the Scout says.

By now you will have a strong relationship with the Scout and will be able to discuss their goals and how the goals may have changed. You should encourage the Scout to remain connected to the troop as much as they feel able to be. You should not be discouraged if a high school student has less time to devote to Scouting alone. Though this Scout's activity level with the troop may have decreased, you should be able to tell if a Scout is living up to the ideals of Scouting outside the troop as well as inside it. Again, always conclude these conferences with words of encouragement. Eagle Palm conferences are opportunities for you to have a give-and-take discussion with the very best in Scouting. Enjoy them.

Prepare some possible questions you could ask the Scout as well as some key points to explain.

The Scoutmaster Conference and the Healthy Troop

This discussion so far should give you an appreciation for ways the Scoutmaster conference can contribute to a healthy troop. This conference is the ideal place to encourage leadership, to check on problems that may be developing, to head off future problems, and to make sure the Scout is on track to accomplish the goals and methods of Scouting.

There should never be a heavy-handed approach to a conference; this meeting is not the time for disciplining a wayward Scout. Rather, it should be thought of as a way to make it easier for a Scout to do the things that contribute to the troop's health. Perhaps a Scout can be encouraged to work with younger Scouts or to let other Scouts perform their roles in the troop without badgering.

The Scoutmaster Conference and the Healthy Scout

Most importantly, the Scoutmaster conference should be a way of encouraging the individual Scout. The Scoutmaster conference is the most personal method in Scouting for assessing the needs and desires of a Scout; for encouraging and supporting the Scout; for learning of their fears and hopes; for helping them see themselves in the greater context of Scouting; and for encouraging their personal growth, both in skills and in living up to the ideals of Scouting.

The BSA is a values-based organization with a goal of developing in young people and adults a life of service to God and country, to others, and to self. Scouting continually strives to accomplish this goal by holding up the Scout Law as a guide for personal conduct in all contexts. Our world can be a better place if we succeed in this process.

Appendix G: Sample Scoutmaster Conference Questions

The Scoutmaster Conference for Joining and Scout

- What did you like about Cub Scouting?
- What do you think you will like about being in the troop?
- Do you have any siblings?
- What are your interests outside of Scouting?
- Why did you join our troop?
- Do you have any questions about Scouting or the troop?
- What do the Scout Oath and the Scout Law mean to you?

You should explain:

- The advancement process, including who will be approving and recording their progress
- The purpose and timing of Scoutmaster conferences
- How the youth-led troop works and their advancing role in it
- The patrol method and the new-Scout patrol

Make sure you give the Scout handshake, and see that the Scout can demonstrate the sign and salute—and knows when it is appropriate to use them.

The Scoutmaster Conferences for Tenderfoot Through First Class

- Who is your patrol leader, and what do you think of your patrol leader?
- What do you think of the problems you are facing?
- How have you progressed on first aid?
- What are your goals for the next few months, and how do those goals meet advancement requirements?
- What do you think could be done to improve the troop?

You can review what a Scout has learned in achievements so far, and see how the Scout has absorbed the skills. Ask the candidate about the service hours they contributed, how they felt about their efforts, whether the effort was meaningful to them, and how the overall efforts impacted others.

You should explain:

- That a Scout does not always retain a skill simply by doing it for advancement; the Scout must repeat it, and in some cases, teach it, to really have the skill
- The value of planning to achieve their goals
- How setting advancement goals involves looking ahead to see what must be accomplished and in what order
- How to use the merit badge program to explore interests and accomplish advancement

The Scoutmaster Conferences for Star and Life

- What merit badges did you enjoy, and why?
- What merit badges did you get the most out of? How and why?
- How did you feel about your position of responsibility?
- How did you feel about how you exercised that position?
- What did you accomplish in that position?

- Did you experience any frustrations?
- Who do you think is doing a good job in the troop?
- Have you decided what merit badges you will be earning next?
- Have you thought about achieving Eagle?
- Have you thought about a service project for Eagle?

You should explain:

- The progressive nature of providing service to others from Star to Eagle ranks
- The nature of required and non-required merit badges

The Scoutmaster Conference for Eagle

- How did you feel your Eagle service project went?
- Did you run into any rough spots?
- Did you plan enough to get you over the rough spots?
- How did you work with your project beneficiary?
- Was the project beneficiary clear in its goals for you?
- Would you do the project differently now?
- How do you think the troop is doing?
- How do you intend to help the troop after you become an Eagle Scout?
- Do you have any goals for the troop?
- What are your personal goals and ambitions?
- Do you feel you are prepared to become an Eagle Scout?
- Do you believe you have accomplished all you need to in order to become an Eagle Scout?

You should explain:

- That their Scouting career is not over; Eagle Palms, leadership, and adult leadership lie ahead
- That additional opportunities exist through Order of the Arrow, Venturing, and Sea Scouting

The Scoutmaster Conference for Eagle Palms

- How do you plan on contributing to the troop now?
- What are your goals for the troop?
- What are your personal goals?
- How will your Scouting experience help you?
- How do you live the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life and non-Scouting activities?

You might explain:

- Scouting opportunities for older youth
- National Youth Leadership Training
- Leadership in the Order of the Arrow
- Camp staff opportunities
- The Hornaday awards
- Venturing
- What happens when a Scout turns 18
- Potential service as an assistant Scoutmaster
- Remaining active in Scouting in college or when one moves

Appendix J: Participant Course Assessment

The purpose of this course assessment is for the faculty to learn from your evaluation of the training program. We are committed to continually improving the effectiveness of our training and value your feedback.

Please rate the following:

Course Promotion

The information you received about the course content, location, timing, and point of contact.

Very Good Good Needs Improvement Poor

If your rating was Needs Improvement or Poor, please let us know how we could have done more to help you.

Effectiveness of the Faculty

Was the faculty effective at helping you understand the materials and achieve the learning objectives?

Very Good Good Needs Improvement Poor

If your rating was Needs Improvement or Poor, please let us know how we could have done more to help you.

Recommendation

Would you recommend this course to other Scouters?

Yes! Maybe Probably Not No!

Course Content

Did the lessons and training methods modeled provide you the fundamentals of the Scoutmaster's role?

Very Good Good Needs Improvement Poor

If your rating was Needs Improvement or Poor, please let us know how we could have done more to help you.

Facilities

Did the facilities support delivery of the course?

Very Good Good Needs Improvement Poor

If your rating was Needs Improvement or Poor, please let us know how we could have done more to help you.

Overall

Is there anything else you feel we need to know?

Very Good Good Needs Improvement Poor

If your rating was Needs Improvement or Poor, please let us know how we could have done more to help you.

Thank you for taking the time to give us your feedback.

The Training Team