



# Troop 242 New Scout and Parent Guide

Scoutmaster, Sara Upton

Welcome to the adventure of Scouting with Boy Scout Troop 242! This guide will help you learn about Boy Scouting and how Troop 242 works.

## About Boy Scouting:

The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated on February 8, 1910 and chartered by the US Congress in 1916 to provide a program for community organizations that offers effective character, citizenship, and personal fitness training for youth.

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. The vision statement of the Boy Scouts of America says: The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

Essentially the BSA endeavors to develop American citizens who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit; have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness; have personal values based on religious concepts; have the desire and skills to help others; understand the principles of American social, economic, and governmental systems; are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand our nation's role in the world; have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people; and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to American society.

## Famous Scouts

- Neil Armstrong—astronaut, first man on moon, Eagle Scout
- Henry "Hank" Aaron—baseball legend, Scout
- Robert M. Gates—former Director of Central Intelligence (CIA) and Secretary of Defense, Eagle Scout
- Mike Rowe—star of "Dirty Jobs with Mike Rowe" on the Discovery Channel, Eagle Scout, featured speaker at 2010 National Jamboree
- Walter Cronkite—former journalist, TV commentator, Eagle Scout
- Michael Bloomberg—former New York City mayor, Eagle Scout
- Several U.S. presidents—Gerald R. Ford, Jimmy Carter, John F. Kennedy, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama
- Harrison Ford—actor, Boy Scout

## **Alumni**

- 207** U.S. astronauts were involved in Scouting (57.4 percent of astronauts). **39** are Eagle Scouts
- 11 of the 12** astronauts who walked on the Moon were Scouts; 2 are Eagle Scouts including Neil Armstrong, first man to walk on the Moon.
- 150 members of the 115th Congress (28%) participated in Scouting as a youth and/or adult leader. 33 are Eagle Scouts.

## **Advancements and Awards**

- The Eagle Scout rank is earned by only 4 percent of Boy Scouts each year. (Source: National Eagle Scout Association)
- The first Eagle badge was awarded in 1912.
- There are 135 merit badges available to earn an Eagle Scout ranking. A Scout must complete 21 to earn his Eagle Scout Award.
- The following merit badges have been earned most frequently since 1910:
  - First Aid: 6,900,983
  - Swimming: 6,242,264
  - Camping: 4,608,447
  - Cooking: 4,238,453
  - Citizenship in the Community: 3,410,028

## **The Scout Oath:**

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

## **The Scout Law:**

A Scout is **Trustworthy**.

A Scout tells the truth. He is honest, and he keeps his promises. People can depend on him.

A Scout is **Loyal**.

A Scout is true to his family, friends, Scout leaders, school, and nation.

A Scout is **Helpful**.

A Scout cares about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting payment or reward.

A Scout is **Friendly**.

A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He offers his friendship to people of all races and nations, and respects them even if their beliefs and customs are different from his own.

A Scout is **Courteous**.

A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows that using good manners makes it easier for people to get along.

A Scout is **Kind**.

A Scout knows there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. Without good reason, he does not harm or kill any living thing.

A Scout is **Obedient**.

A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobeying them.

A Scout is **Cheerful**.

A Scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

A Scout is **Thrifty**.

A Scout works to pay his own way and to help others. He saves for the future. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

A Scout is **Brave**.

A Scout can face danger although he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at him or threaten him.

A Scout is **Clean**.

A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He chooses the company of those who live by high standards. He helps keep his home and community clean.

A Scout is **Reverent**.

A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

## **The Scout Motto:**

Be Prepared

## **How Boy Scouting Differs from Cub Scouting:**

You may be surprised how different Boy Scouting is from Cub Scouting. But then boys of Scout age are very different from boys of Cub age. Here are some key contrasts:

-The Cub Scout program is family-centered. Adults plan all activities and most activities lend themselves to full family participation.

-In the Boy Scout program, boys plan their activities (with adult help and guidance). Scouts plan, prepare, pack, and designate jobs in their camp and function as patrol groups under their own elected boy leadership.

-The Cub Scout program consists primarily of indoor activities. Cub Scout campouts require Cubs to sleep in a tent with their parent(s).

-Boy Scout outings are primarily conducted outdoors, with camping at the heart of the program. Boy Scouts pitch and share Troop tents with other Boy Scouts. Outings have a minimum of two-deep adult leadership who provide oversight and supervision but who pitch and sleep in their own tents.

-In Cub Scouts, boys generally advance through the Dens by school year whether they have fully completed the requirements or not.

-Boy Scouts are essentially responsible for their own advancements. They complete rank requirements and merit badges on an individual basis, with the assistance of older scouts and adult volunteer leaders.

-What happens to a Boy Scout? For every 100 boys who join Boy Scouting, records indicate that:

- RARELY will one be brought before the juvenile court system
- 5 will become Eagle Scouts
- 17 will become future Scout volunteers
- 12 will have their first contact with a church
- 1 will enter the clergy
- 5 will earn their church award
- 18 will develop a hobby that will last through their adult life
- 8 will enter a vocation that was learned through the merit badge system
- 1 will use his Scouting skills to save his own life
- 1 will use his Scouting skills to save the life of another person

### **How Your Son Will Benefit From Participation in Troop 242:**

Troop 242 is a very active troop. We meet year-round and strive to have an outdoor activity every month of the year; these activities are fun but also give boys the opportunity to develop essential outdoor, self-reliance, and leadership skills. We also attend a week-long summer camp each year which provides a terrific immersion in the Scouting experience and opportunities to complete rank requirements towards First Class rank as well as multiple merit badges for beyond First Class rank; all Scouts should make a sincere effort to attend this important event each year. Further, every 4 years a National Boy Scout Jamboree is held at The Bechtel Summit, the Boy Scouts of America's newest high-adventure base in West Virginia. Our Council organizes a trip to attend each Jamboree which includes several days of touring historical locations on the east coast. Participation in a National Jamboree trip is certain to be a highlight of a Boy Scout's career and will provide him with a treasure chest of experiences and memories that will last his lifetime.

Scouting is much more than just a wholesome and enjoyable activity. Active scouts develop initiative, leadership, self-reliance, and self-confidence. Scouting helps boys become good citizens of strong character who will become leaders and achievers as adults. **We strongly encourage parents to be actively involved with their son in Scouting, since scouts with involved parents reap the greatest benefits from Scouting.** The best way to get involved is to become a registered adult volunteer leader. All that's required is to complete a form and take an online Youth Protection training course which takes about an hour.

### **What about my son's other extra-curricular activities? :**

We understand that youth today are often involved in multiple extra-curricular activities. Since Boy Scouting is a year-round activity, we are accepting of youth whose focus during a portion of the year may be on other activities such as sports, drama, etc. as long as Scouts and parents understand that time away from Boy Scouting may mean a slower advancement rate (see Advancement section below).

### **Troop Chartered Organizations:**

Boy Scout Troops must have at least one organization to serve as its Chartered Organization. This entity is responsible for maintaining the Troop's chartered status with the local Council, for arranging for a meeting location for the Troop, and for recruiting a Scoutmaster for the Troop. Troop 242 is truly blessed to have the **Basalt Lions Club** and the **Aspen Elks Lodge #224** as its Chartered Organizations. Both organizations actively support the Troop with a physical presence by appointed representatives and with substantial financial assistance.

### **Troop Organization Chart:**

An organization chart for the Troop is attached to provide a visual reference to the Troop's structural hierarchy.

### **Troop Meeting Place & Time:**

Troop 242 conducts meetings and stores its gear in a space on the back side of the former El Jebel Community Center building at 275 El Jebel Road. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 7:00pm. The meeting on the first Tuesday of each month is a planning meeting for the Patrol Leaders' Council (youth officers) and the Troop Committee (adult leaders & parents) however all youth and adults are welcome.

During the school year, Scouts are expected to wear a "Class A" uniform shirt to Troop meetings. During the summer, Scouts are allowed to wear a "Class B" t-shirt with Scout-themed information printed on it to Troop meetings.

### **Troop Web Site:**

The Troop has a web site. The address is [www.troop242.org](http://www.troop242.org). Content includes a calendar of events and photos from outings.

### **Scout Accounts and Costs of Scouting:**

Out of pocket costs of Scouting with Troop 242 vary depending on participation in outings and Troop fundraisers. Each Scout receives a "Scout Account" to which monthly dues of \$17 are charged along with annual BSA registration costs of approximately \$45, and pro-rata costs of Troop outings (outing costs include food, camping or event registration costs, and fuel - adult volunteer drivers are reimbursed for their actual fuel costs. New Scouts also need to obtain a "Class A" official uniform shirt (they're long-lasting, cost approximately \$40, and can be most easily obtained from the Council's Scout Shop in Grand Junction, phone 970-243-0346. They can also be purchased at various online locations including the BSA national web site at [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org) and eBay). The Troop will provide new Scouts with a neckerchief and slider, as well as all patches required for placement on the official uniform shirt.

For information on patch placement see attachment or go to: [www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34283.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34283.pdf). By the time a Scout reaches the First Class rank, he is expected to have a full Class A uniform consisting of an official shirt, scouting neckerchief/slider, pants, belt (some pants styles come with belts), and socks. A BSA hat and merit badge sash are optional. Adult volunteers who go on outings generally are not charged for any costs; an exception is winter hut trips where each person, including adults, is charged for hut registration fees). Troop 242 has an annual Christmas wreath sales fundraiser and a series of annual Scout dinners hosted at the Aspen Elks Lodge, along with additional fundraisers from time to time, which Scouts who participate in earn credits for their Scout Account thus helping to pay their own way through Scouting. Ambitious Scouts have earned upwards of \$400 on wreath sales and as much as \$1,000 on the Scout dinners.

### **Advancement:**

Boy Scout advancement is fun but can also be challenging and at times difficult, requiring significant individual effort and initiative. It also emphasizes leadership and service as much as badges and skills. Achieving First Class rank, which could happen within a year, takes significantly more effort than earning the Webelos Arrow of Light award. The few who earn their Eagle Scout rank (about 4% nationally and currently higher within our Troop) do so only after several years of Boy Scouting and completion of a significant community service project.

Advancement requirements are detailed in the Boy Scout Handbook which is provided by the Troop to all new Scouts. To advance, a Scout must be active in the Troop, learn Scout skills, earn merit badges (although no merit badges are required to obtain the First class rank), do his best to live by the Scout Oath and Scout Law, give service to others, and practice leadership. After completing all requirements for a rank, a Scout has a conference with the Scoutmaster and meets with a Board of Review which is comprised of 3 volunteer adult leaders (but not a parent of the Scout). Upon successful completion of the Board of Review, a Scout has officially earned the rank.

Courts of Honor are held two or three times each year to ceremonially recognize the rank advancements, merit badges, and other achievements earned by Scouts in the Troop. To underscore the significance of the accomplishments, they are typically held at a different location than the Scout cabin. Parents, siblings, and family friends are encouraged to attend. These events are also a good time for Scouts to bring friends who may be interested in Scouting. Courts of Honor are followed by an informal fellowship at which yummy dessert items brought potluck-style by Troop families are shared and enjoyed by all.

Advancement is important for Scouts. It provides a sense of accomplishment for the effort given and helps prepare boys for the "rat race" of the adult world. Parents, you can help your son get the most out of the Scouting experience by being active in Scouting with your son, keeping up with the rank requirements and where your son is at, and providing encouragement for your son to attend as many Troop meetings and outings as possible; typically the boys who are most active in the Troop are the

ones who advance the quickest. Boys who do not advance with their Scouting peers often become discouraged and may eventually drop out of Scouting.

### **Permission Slips for Outings:**

A permission slip signed by a parent or legal guardian is required for Scout participation on all outings. A blank permission slip is attached and can also be obtained from the Troop web site at [www.troop242.org/PermissionSlip.pdf](http://www.troop242.org/PermissionSlip.pdf).

### **Troop Committee:**

It takes much more than a Scoutmaster to make the Troop go. Troop 242 has an active Troop Committee made up of parents and interested volunteers (Assistant Scoutmasters) who fulfill positions of Chartered Organization Representative, Committee Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Advancement Chairman, Uniform Coordinator, Board of Review Coordinator, and Equipment Coordinator. **At least one parent of each Boy Scout in Troop 242 is expected to participate on the Troop Committee and attend its meetings.** The Committee meets quarterly to stay up to date on the Troop's activities and Scout advancements and how to best support them. An initiative of the Troop 242 Troop Committee is to require that **parents of Troop 242 Scouts volunteer at least 10 hours/year per Scout to help make the Troop go.** This time can be given in many ways such as serving on the Troop Committee, going on Troop outings, attending regular Troop meetings, teaching a merit badge, organizing a fundraising activity (can you say car wash/bake sale?), or in numerous other ways. If the 10 hours is not met, at the end of the year \$10 per hour not volunteered will be charged to the Scout's account.

### **Scoutmaster Minute:**

It is tradition for our Troop Courts of Honor to be closed with a Scoutmaster's Minute "words of wisdom." Accordingly, we'd like to close this New Scout and Parent's Guide with these brief words of wisdom adapted from the scouting.org web site: Young boys grow up fast. Give your son a valuable gift by encouraging him to join Scouting today. The time you invest in Scouting with him today will make a difference in the person he becomes tomorrow and for the rest of his life.