

## The Aims of Scouting

1. **Character** Development: growth in moral strength and ethical behavior.
2. Physical, mental, and emotional **fitness**.
3. **Leadership** development and experience.
4. **Skills** acquisition and development.
5. **Identity**: being part of a group; contributing to a worthy cause; fellowship.
6. Participation **Citizenship**: world, country, town, community, and service to others.

## Mission of the Westchester-Putnam Council

The mission of the Westchester-Putnam Council, Boy Scouts of America to deliver the highest-quality, values-based youth program of character development and leadership training, based upon the precepts embodied in the Scout Oath and Law, and to prepare our young people to make ethical decisions in order to reach their full potential and to better serve their family, community and country.

## The Ideals of Scouting

### Vision

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.

### 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.

### Scout Law

A Scout is Trustworthy,  
Loyal, Helpful, Friendly  
Courteous, Kind, Obedient  
Cheerful, Thrifty,  
Brave, Clean, Reverent

### Scout Motto

Be Prepared

### Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily



**Westchester-Putnam Council, BSA**  
41 Saw Mill River Road  
Hawthorne, NY 10532  
(914) 773-1135  
[www.wpcbsa.org](http://www.wpcbsa.org)  
[wpc.service@scouting.org](mailto:wpc.service@scouting.org)

## Why Scouting?



## How the Scouting Program Benefits Your Children & Family



**Westchester-Putnam Council**  
**Boy Scouts of America**  
*Serving the Communities of*  
*Westchester and Putnam Counties*

# THE METHODS OF SCOUTING AND HOW THEY WORK

**Living the Ideals:** The ideals of Scouting are embodied in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan. The Scout conducts himself with these in mind and continually seeks to improve by act and example.

**Patrols:** The patrol method, embodied in Cub Scout Dens, Scout Patrols, Venturing Crews, Sea Scout Ships, and Explorer Posts, gives Scouts the experience of group affiliation and team participation. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches Scouts its acceptance. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where they can learn to relate, share and contribute.

**Outdoor Programs:** Scouting is designed to participate in the outdoors. It is in this setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. It is here that the skills and activities practiced in meetings come alive with purpose. The outdoors is the setting for learning of ecology, conservation and the management of resources. Being close to nature helps Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and mankind's place in it.



**Advancement:** Scouting provides a series of challenges and steps in succeeding through skill and rank advancement. The Scout manages their own progress with supportive guidance as they meet each challenge. The Scout is recognized and awarded for their achievements which helps them gain self-confidence. Advancement helps the Scout develop self-reliance and the ability to help others.

**Adult Association:** Scouts learn from the example set by watching and participating with adults. Association with adults of high character can serve as positive role models and can make a profound difference in their lives.

**Personal Growth:** As Scouts plan their activities and progress towards their goals, they achieve personal growth. Participation in a values-based program encourages and enhances personal development and builds and enhances positive character strengths for life.

**Service to Others:** The Good Turn concept is a major component of personal growth, where Scouts participate as active community members contributing to programs and ideals larger than themselves. They develop empathy for others, social skills and an altruistic orientation to life.

**Skill Development:** Undertaking individual and group projects and programs help introduce Scouts to practical and life skills and help develop competency and expertise in a wide variety of areas. Examples abound in Scouting through the Merit Badge program and group projects such as Eagle Scout projects and Unit activities.

**Leadership Development:** Scouting encourages youth to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout, at all age and program levels, has the opportunity to participate in shared and individual leadership roles. Understanding the concepts and best practices of leadership helps guide the Scout towards character development and participating citizenship.

**Uniform:** The uniform enables the Scout to serve as a visible example and force of good and creates a positive image of youth in the community. It helps reinforce the Scout's commitment to the aims and ideals of Scouting and provides the Scout with identity with a world brotherhood of youth and adults sharing the same high ideals.

