



# Glossary of common Scout terms

As in any organization, acronyms and unfamiliar terms are often used that can be confusing. Does your son return from a scouting activity and seem to be speaking a foreign language? Do you note some strange words on a flyer or calendar?

This glossary is an effort to help define some of the more frequently used terms. If someone uses a term you are not familiar with simply ask them to explain it (we too all had to learn it somewhere), or sneak a glance at this glossary if you're bashful about asking.

**Activity Uniform:** Is the official term for what is usually referred to as the Class B Uniform. The activity uniform is a more relaxed uniform intended for campouts, hikes, outings and most troop meetings. For Troop 173 the Activity Uniform is the troop t-shirt and scout pants.

**Adult Patrol:** When the troop goes camping, all of 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 Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) meets to plan the next year's activities with the guidance of the Scoutmaster (SM). This plan is then presented to the Troop Committee for approval to make sure the plan meets Boy Scouts of America (BSA) guidelines and that necessary resources can be provided. This normally occurs in the spring to plan the next school year's activities.

**APL:** See Patrol Leader (PL)

**ASM:** See Scoutmaster(SM)

**ASPL:** See Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)

**Assistant Patrol Leader (APL):** See Patrol Leader (PL)

**Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM):** See Scoutmaster(SM)

**Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL):** See Senior Patrol Leader (SPL).

**Baden-Powell:** Lord Baden-Powell was the founder of the scouting movement.

**Be Prepared:** The motto of Boy Scouting.

**Blue Card:** In order to work with a Merit Badge Counselor the Scout must first obtain a Blue Card from the Scoutmaster (SM). Blue Cards are the record of Merit Badge progress and 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 holders work well for storing Blue Cards.

**Board of Review (BOR):** As a requirement for each rank advancement a Scout must appear individually before a group of three to six adults (usually members of Troop Committee) to ensure that the Scout has met the requirements for that rank. By policy the Scoutmaster (SM) and Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM) cannot sit on a Board of Review (BOR). A Board of Review (BOR) takes place after a Scoutmaster Conference (SMC) for Rank Advancement, when a Scout requests it or if the Troop Committee feels the Scout needs it. Eagle Board of Reviews are conducted at the district level.

Boy Scout Ranks (in order of increasing rank)

Tenderfoot

Second Class

First Class

Star

Life

Eagle

Eagle Palms: Bronze, Gold, Silver

**BOR:** See Board of Review

**Bridging:** A ceremony where Webelos Cub Scouts cross a ceremonial bridge to signify their transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. This is normally done at a Cub Scout Pack Meeting with Boy Scouts from the Webelos Scout's new troop participating. This is NOT a graduation ceremony from Cub Scouts, it is rather an induction ceremony into Boy Scouts.

**BSA:** Initials that stand for the Boy Scouts of America

**BSA Lifeguard:** A 3-year certification awarded to Scouts or Scouters who meet prescribed requirements in aquatic skills.

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

**Camporee:** Campout attended by several troops within the district. Usually there are various competitions between the patrols attending.

**Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE):** Boy Scouts of America (BSA) activity involving heights, trust and team building.

**Chaplain:** 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 Chaplain Aide, a youth leader.

**Chartered Organization:** The organization that is officially chartered by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to carry out the scouting program. The main liaison between the charter organization and the troop is the Chartered Organization Representative (COR). A Chartered Organization could be a church, school, PTA/PTO, civic club or a business.

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

**Class A Uniform:** *See Field Uniform*

**Class B Uniform:** *See Activity Uniform*

**COH:** *See Court of Honor*

**Commissioner:** Adult volunteers working at the district or council level. Unit commissioners are assigned to units and should be a friendly resource to the unit leaders.

**Committee Chairperson:** A registered adult 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 Boy Scouts of America (BSA) guidelines.

**COPE:** *See Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience*

**COR:** *See Chartered Organization Representative*

**Council:** A group of Districts make up a Council.

**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 term for a social gathering with refreshments after a meeting or activity. Often an evening activity at camp before taps.

**Den Chief:** A Boy Scout who helps a Den Leader direct the activities of a Cub Scout den.

**District:** A subdivision of a Council. The Westchester-Putnam Council has five districts. Troop 173 is part of the Manitoga District

**Dutch Oven:** A large cast iron covered pot used to bake and cook in over a wood or charcoal fire.

**Fast Start Training:** This online training is a quick orientation for new leaders.

**Field Uniform:** Is the official term for what is usually referred to as the Class A Uniform. The field uniform is the complete, formal uniform worn for Court of Honors (COH), parades and special occasions. A Scout may always wear the Field Uniform

**Firem'n Chit:** A certification given to Scouts who know and understand fire safety rules.

**FOS:** *See Friends of Scouting*

**Friends of Scouting (FOS):** Friends of Scouting is an annual fund raiser for the council. The council does not get any share of your registration fee and is grateful for your donation.

**Good Turn:** "Do a Good Turn Daily" is the Scout slogan. A good turn is something you do without being asked or expected to do it and for which you expect no reward.

**Grubmaster:** The Scout responsible for developing the food shopping list and securing the food needed by his patrol for an outing/campout. The Grubmaster isn't necessarily the Cook for the meals but may participate in the food preparation.

**Guide to Safe Scouting:** This booklet is the Bible when it comes to safety related issues in scouting. Those items in BOLD print are rules that MUST be followed. Everything else in the booklet are recommendations that should be followed. Troop leaders frequently consult this to see if planned activities are being done safely and within prescribed BSA policy.

**Jamboree:** Scout meeting or camp out on a grand scale. There are district, regional, national and international 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.

**JASM:** *See Junior Assistant Scoutmaster*

**JLT:** *See Junior Leader Training*

**JOTA:** *See Jamboree On The Air*

**Junior Assistant Scoutmaster (JASM):** A youth between 16 and 18, who has already held major leadership positions within the troop, appointed by the Scoutmaster (SM) to help in guiding the troop and youth leaders.

**Junior Leader Training (JLT):** A training class taught by the senior youth leaders for newly elected and appointed youth leaders generally in the fall.

**Klondike Derby:** A winter/snow oriented competition organized by the District or Council with team building games and activities.

**Leadership:** To advance in the more senior ranks a Scout must hold a leadership position for a set period of time. The rank requirements in the Boy Scout Handbook (as revised) list the leadership positions that qualify.

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

**LNT:** *See Leave No Trace*

**Merit Badge Sash:** As Scouts earn Merit Badges they are sewn on a Merit Badge Sash (available at the Scout Shop). The Merit Badge Sash is normally worn only for formal occasions such as a Court of Honor (COH).

**National Eagle Scout Association (NESA):** Open to membership to any youth or adult who attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

**NESA:** *See National Eagle Scout Association*

**New Leader Essentials (NLE):** An introductory training session that highlights the values, aims, history, funding, and methods of Scouting.

**NLE:** *See New Leader Essentials*

**OA:** *See Order of the Arrow (OA)*

**OA Ordeal:** The initiation ceremony experience for new OA members generally involving personal introspection, service to improve camp or trail and ceremonies based on Indian legend or lore.

**Order of the Arrow (OA):** A national brotherhood of Scout honor campers of the Boy Scouts of America. Members are elected by their peers after meeting basic requirements of camping knowledge and experience. Scouts and Scouters can be elected to the OA. The OA motto of "Cheerful Service" indicates their purpose. They are often found improving scout camps, running council events, and providing service to the scouting community.

**Palms, Eagle:** After a Scout reaches the rank of Eagle, they can earn a Palm for every 5 additional Merit Badges they complete. A Scout 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 five merit badges, the Gold Palm 10, and the Silver Palm 15. For example a Scout with 20 additional Merit Badges would wear a Silver and a Bronze Palm.

**Patrol:** The Patrol is the basic unit within a troop. It's 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 Patrol Leader (PL).

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

**Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC):** Made up of the youth leadership of the troop. The PLC 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 his parent. The Permission Slip also provides details about uniform, departure time, food, etc. Many troops post Permission Slips on their web sites. It is the Scout's responsibility to make sure they have the appropriate Permission Slip signed and turned in by the due date noted on the Permission Slip.

**Personal Floatation Device (PFD):** Otherwise known as a life vest. Those used in scouting must be U.S. Coast Guard approved.

**PFD:** *See Personal Floatation Device*

**Philmont:** A high adventure Boy Scout camp located in the northeast corner of New Mexico.

**PL:** *See Patrol Leader*

**PLC:** *See Patrol Leaders' Council*

**Quartermaster:** The Quartermaster is responsible for keeping an inventory of equipment and works to maintain the equipment's good condition. There are two types of Quartermaster, Patrol and Troop. The Patrol Quartermaster works with the Troop Quartermaster to ensure equipment is ready and in good working order for his patrol's needs. The Troop Quartermaster works with all the Patrol Quartermasters to help them fulfill their duties and is responsible for ALL the troop equipment (including Patrol equipment).

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

**Roundtable:** Monthly meeting for leaders to exchange ideas, fellowship, and, a few announcements that is run by the district.

**Safe Swim Defense:** An eight-step plan for conducting swimming activities in a safe manner.

**Safety Afloat:** Guidelines for safe troop activities utilizing water craft.

**Safety Circle:** A safety zone around someone using a pocket knife, hatchet, ax, or other sharp tool. Basically it is an arm's length plus the length of the tool in all directions. No one should be in another person's Safety Circle when a sharp tool is in use. Be sure to check the Safety Circle when your knife is closed. The Safety Circle is euphemistically referred to as the *Blood Circle* by some.

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

**Scouter:** Any registered adult leader.

**Scouting for Food National Good Turn:** Every year, Scouts collect food for the fight against hunger. The food is turned over to local food banks for distribution to needy families. Scouting for Food is a national "Good Turn" of the Boy Scouts of America.

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

**Scoutmaster Conference (SMC):** A formal meeting that takes place at a Troop meeting or activity between a Scout and the Scoutmaster (SM), or a person the Scoutmaster (SM) designates, to review a Scout's progress. A Scoutmaster Conference (SMC) takes place at advancement time prior to a Board of Review (BOR), when a Scout requests it or if the Scoutmaster (SM) feels the Scout needs it.

**Scoutmaster Specific Training:** The basic Adult Leader Training. Although this is sometimes called Scoutmaster Fundamentals, this is an excellent training program for any adult wanting to become more involved in the Boy Scout program, or who just wants to learn more about how the program works.

**Scouts Own:** Non-denominational religious observance of reflection usually conducted on campouts. The Scouts Own allows each Scout the opportunity to obey the twelfth point of the Scout Law in his own way. Let your troop leaders know if you do not want your son to participate in this activity, as we wish to respect every family's religious beliefs.

**Seabase:** A high adventure Scout camp located in the Florida Keys.

**Senior Patrol Leader (SPL):** The senior most elected youth leader of the troop. The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is in charge of the troop at all functions and activities. There are one or more Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL) to help him in running the troop.

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

**Silver Beaver:** A recognition given to Scouters by the National Court of Honor for distinguished service to youth within the council.

**Taps:** Taps is a famous musical piece, sounded by the U.S. military during flag ceremonies and funerals, generally on bugle or trumpet. The tune is also sometimes known as "Butterfield's Lullaby", or by the lyrics of its second verse, "Day is Done". At Scout Camp it refers to the time all campers are called for Lights Out, or bedtime.

**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 appointed by the Scoutmaster (SM). Any time a Scout is observed doing something unsafe with a sharp tool, a corner is cut off his Totin' Chip card. When all four corners are gone, the card is taken away and must be re-earned.

**Tour Permit:** A document that must be filed with the council office before any official scouting activity can take place. Special permits are required for travel out-of-state or over 500 miles.

**Troop Committee:** The committee of registered adults that provide oversight, assistance, and guidance to the Scoutmaster (SM) in carrying out the scouting program within the troop. The Troop Committee is responsible to provide the necessary resources requested by the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) and Scoutmaster (SM) that are required to carry out the scouting program. All registered adults are part of the Troop Committee, key members include; the Committee Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Outdoor/Activities Coordinator, Advancement Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, Equipment Coordinator and Fund Raising Coordinator.

**Two Deep Leadership:** A Boy Scout Policy mandating that 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.

**Wood Badge:** Advanced Training for Boy Scout adult leaders. Any adult who has taken Basic Leader Training can attend this advanced training course to expand his/her knowledge of the scouting program and be of more help to the troop.

**Youth Protection Training:** A 30-minute interactive video presentation and training program that is offered online. The program provides valuable information on how to recognize child abuse, how to set up safe guards, and how to report suspected abuse. All registered adults are required to take Youth Protection Training every two years.