



Boy Scout Joining Requirements

(Scout Badge)

These requirements were revised effective on May 15, 2004.

Note that the Scout badge is **NOT** considered a "Rank" by BSA. The Charter and Bylaws in Article X, Section 1, Clause 6, states

"Ranks. There shall be the following ranks in Boy Scouting: Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The requirements shall be those authorized by the Executive Board and set forth in official Scouting publications. Eagle Palms may also be awarded on the basis of requirements authorized by the Executive Board and set forth in official Scouting publications."

1. Meet age requirements: Be a boy who has completed the fifth grade and be at least 10 years old, or be 11 years old, or have earned the Arrow of Light Award and be at least 10 years old, and be under 18 years old.
2. Complete a Boy Scout application and health history signed by your parent or guardian.
3. Find a Scout troop near your home. **(To find a troop, contact your local Boy Scout Council. The Council name, address and phone number can be found on [BSA's Council Locator Page](#).)**
4. Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Demonstrate the Scout sign, salute, and handshake.
6. Demonstrate tying the square knot (a joining knot).
7. Understand and agree to live by the **Scout Oath or Promise**, **Law**, **motto**, and **slogan**, and the **Outdoor Code**.
8. Describe the Scout badge.
9. Complete the Pamphlet Exercises. With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet "*How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*".
10. Participate in a Scoutmaster conference. Turn in your Boy Scout application and health history form signed by your parent or guardian, then participate in a Scoutmaster conference.