

ScoutReach Middle School Programs

The Middle School program offered by the Scoutreach Division is based on the Boy Scout program of the Boy Scouts of America. Scouting is based on life skills education, leadership development, citizenship, and values training. Its unique methods of program presentation are designed to help build youth with strong character who are physically fit and prepared to be good citizens.

Scouting's Values

Scouting is a values-based program with its own code of conduct. The Scout Oath and Law help instill the values of good conduct, respect for others, and honesty. Scouts learn skills that will last a lifetime, including basic outdoor skills, first aid, citizenship skills, leadership skills, and how to get along with others. For almost a century, Scouting has instilled in young men the values and knowledge that they will need to become leaders in their communities and country.

Leadership

Boy Scouts is a boy-led, boy-run organization, but the boys must be trained to be leaders. One of the Scoutmaster's most important responsibilities is to provide the direction, coaching, and training that empowers the boy with the skills he will need to lead his troop.

Scouting's value to young people is clear, but the advantages of Scouting are not limited to boys. Parents and adult volunteers also develop leadership and physical skills with every training experience. Adult training begins with the Fast Start Orientation program, followed by Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills and the new Leader Specific Training.

Further training can include Wood Badge for the 21st Century, which has evolved into the BSA's core leadership skills training course. It focuses on a person's ability to work with and lead groups of youth and adults.

The Outdoors

Scouting provides many opportunities for young men ages 11 through 17 to help plan and participate in rugged outdoor adventures. From day hikes to a camporee and summer camp, the troop plans activities that match the interests and abilities of the Scouts. Older Scouts may participate in high-adventure programs such as rock climbing, rappelling, and whitewater rafting. Younger Scouts may attend summer camp and learn teamwork within their patrol and troop. Summer camp blends fun program with advancement requirements to reinforce skills learned throughout the year. Scouting is **Fun with a Purpose.**

Advancement

The Boy Scouts of America provides recognition for Scout achievements. The advancement program allows Scouts to progress from rank to rank. A fundamental purpose of advancement is the self-confidence a young man acquires from his participation in a troop. Requirements serve as the basis for a Boy Scout's rank advancement. The four steps to advancement are learning, testing, reviewing, and

recognition. Many Scouts have been introduced to a lifelong hobby or rewarding career through the merit badge program. Merit badges help Scouts develop physical skills, social skills, and self-reliance.

Personal Growth

Scout-age boys experience dramatic physical and emotional growth. Scouting offers them opportunities to channel much of that change into productive endeavors and to find the answers to many of their questions. Through service projects and Good Turns, Scouts can discover their place in the community. Many Scouting activities allow boys to associate with others from different backgrounds. The troop provides each Scout with an arena in which to explore, to try out new ideas, and to embark on adventures that sometimes have no design other than to have a good time with good people.

Scouts with Special Needs

The basic premise of Scouting for youth with special needs is that every boy wants to participate fully and be respected like every other member of the troop. While there are, by necessity, troops exclusively composed of Scouts with disabilities; experience has shown that Scouting usually succeeds best when every boy is part of a patrol in a regular troop.

Age of Participants

The Boy Scout Program is designed for boys in grades 6 thru 12.

Number of Participants Necessary

There is no minimum number of participants necessary to provide a Boy Scouting Program in an After School environment; however it is the preferred practice of the Boy Scouts of America to maintain a 10 to 1 ratio of boys to adult leaders within the Boy Scout Program.

Program Cost

There is no cost to the school district or its contracted agencies to deliver an after school scouting program. Boys can participate in weekly meetings and activities free of charge. Occasionally, weekend outings are organized by program leaders which may require a small participation fee (less than \$5.00); however participation in these events is not required and many of these opportunities are also free of charge.

Session Outline

The program outline for the Middle School ScoutReach program is designed to ensure that participants will advance in Boy Scouting and earn the ranks of "Scout", "Tenderfoot", "Second Class", and "First Class". Each of the 3 sessions listed below will correspond to an 8-10 week period during the school year.

Boys that participant regularly in the after school Scouting program will also be given opportunities to participate in weekend camping trips and high-adventure activities throughout the school year; as well as 1 week of Boy Scout Resident Camp at the Bashore Scout Reservation during the Summer.

- ♣ **Session 1:** Fitness, Athletics, and Backpacking Skills
- ♣ **Session 2:** Rope Skills and Camp Craft (wood carving, leatherwork, etc.)
- ♣ **Session 3:** Cooking, Science (and Engineering), and Community Service.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Due to the nature of the Boy Scout Program being centered in the outdoors and designed to instill the values of leadership and physical fitness through the development of outdoor skills; items such as knives, axes, saws, and fire starting devices are necessary tools utilized by the program.

The Scoutreach Division of the BSA is aware that such items are typically not permitted in the school environment; however in order to offer the most comprehensive Scouting program possible, we request that school faculty and administrators permit Scout Leaders to bring these items to after school meetings when necessary, supervise their appropriate use, and collect them from the boys at the conclusion of each meeting for safe removal from school property.

For more information about this program, contact Rich Garipoli, District Executive @ 717- 394-4063, ext. 225.