



Welcome & Thank You

**“We must change boys from a ‘what can I get’ to a ‘what can I give’ attitude.”
— Sir Robert Baden-Powell**

Welcome to the Adopt-a-School project and congratulations on your unit pledging your commitment to this powerful avenue of service. Thank you for being a pioneer in this endeavor which embodies the original Good Turn philosophy. You’ve chosen an experience for your unit that will provide a lasting bond between individual Scouts and their immediate community, between Scouting and the community as a whole, and between the Scouts themselves.

When the boys provide their service to a school they feel connected to, they’re able to bond Scout pride with school pride, thereby strengthening the commitment to both. By its design this project establishes loyalty by building upon itself.

At the end of the first year, when the Scouts have completed the four required projects, they gain a true sense of membership and accomplishment which always enhances retention. We pledge our support in ensuring your success. Please forward any questions or concerns about the project to the PA Dutch Adopt-a-School team by contacting us at Richard.Garipoli@scouting.org.

Yours in Scouting,

Adopt-a-School Project Team

Join the PA Dutch Adopt-A-School Program

Promoting Scouting and recruiting young people through our schools is getting harder. With more schools opting for “electronic only” recruitment fliers and some prohibiting all fliers, we need to find ways to “connect” more closely with our local schools.

Adopt-A-School Can Help!

Most of our units already “give back” to their schools in some manner, but this program helps bring Scouting Units face-to-face with principals and PTO/PTA members to work together to select projects or services that will benefit their school.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

- Scouting units are asked to adopt one school and pledge to do four service projects or volunteer to help at four school events for that school over a one-year period.
- Units that aren’t chartered by a school are asked to adopt a nearby school or one that you may already be drawing Scouts from or they might be able to in the future.
- Units work directly with the principal of their chosen school to determine the type of projects that need to be done. Examples: Grounds beautification, help during school festivals/activities or clean-up after an event, book drives, food drives, “Green” effort coordinator, “Giving Tree” coordinator, literacy programs, building improvement projects.

HOW DO I SIGN-UP MY UNIT?

- Units complete a pledge form with their school principal. A copy goes to the Pennsylvania Dutch Council (email to Richard.Garipoli@scouting.org or fax 717-394-7776).
- The unit registers their Adopt-a-school Program online at <http://goo.gl/forms/Yelsa9iK0C>.
- As projects are completed, units update the information on the website and can send photos, comments and their success stories to Richard.Garipoli@scouting.org.

HOW DO WE GET OUR PATCHES?

- After completing the program, units will receive an Adopt-A-School program patch.
- Information has to be submitted to the PA Dutch Council through <http://goo.gl/forms/Yelsa9iK0C>

WHAT OTHER BENEFITS ARE THERE?

- Service Hours COUNT toward Journey to Excellence but must be entered on www.scouting.org.
- Your unit’s work can be featured in the Pennsylvania Dutch Council Scouter Focus Newsletter and website! Just send a short write-up and pictures to Richard.Garipoli@scouting.org.
- You can send the same write-up to the local newspaper (online or print) and get good publicity for your unit! Questions? Contact Rich Garipoli at 717-553-4201 or Richard.Garipoli@scouting.org.

FAQ Sheet

What is the time commitment for the unit?

We request a year's commitment, but our hope is to build strong, sustained relationships with these schools.

How much time (weekly or monthly) is the unit expected to give?

Your pledge would be to complete one project per quarter, but if you would like to do more, it would be encouraged and supported.

What commitment is expected from the school?

We expect the school representatives to be cooperative in identifying their needs and in helping to outline the projects that will best satisfy those needs.

What do we expect the Scouts to be doing? Cleaning around the school? Doing construction projects? Working events?

Please make sure that all projects are age-appropriate and follow the *Guide to Safe Scouting*. Types of projects may include: grounds beautification, building improvements, Teacher appreciation, helpers during festivals, book drive coordinators, clean-up after school events, food drive coordinators.

Who do you expect to make the initial contact?

It may be the Unit Leader or a parent from the unit, but we recommend that your contact person be the person who has the strongest connection to a local school. If you are looking for assistance you can always reach out to your District Executive or your Unit Commissioner.

Who do we need to speak to first? Principal? Teachers? PTA?

We would encourage you to contact the principal first, then involve teachers and the PTA on an as-needed basis.

Can the unit opt out of the commitment if it's not working for them? Can the school opt out?

Yes, but we hope both parties will do everything possible to honor the one-year pledge.

What if a school is not interested in being adopted?

There are many ways to approach this situation, please contact the Adopt-a-School Team at Richard.Garipoli@scouting.org or 717-394-4063 so that we may assist you in building a successful relationship with your school.

How do I deal with unions? Who speaks to them?

Before you officially meet with school officials, we recommend you call them and identify which union representatives might also need to be included in your initial meeting. Then sit down with all concerned to decide the school's needs and how Scouts can be of assistance.