

A FAMILY'S GUIDE TO SCOUTING

What Every Parent Should Know



ADVENTURE

Hands-on experiences
that build confidence.



CHARACTER

Values and leadership
that last a lifetime.



BELONGING

A place where every
child can thrive.

SCOUTING COMPLEMENTS EVERY PASSION – AND BUILDS CHARACTER TOO

Whether your child dreams of being an athlete, actor, engineer, or entrepreneur, Scouting prepares them for the road ahead – by shaping who they are, not just what they do.



Prepared for Life



NFL running back David Montgomery is a proud Eagle Scout. Scouting helped him learn responsibility, discipline, and leadership on and off the field. "Scouting taught me how to be accountable – to myself, my team, and my community."



For Athletes

Discipline, teamwork, and stamina that carry over to the field and court.



For Artists and Performers

Confidence, communication, creativity, presentations, and public speaking.



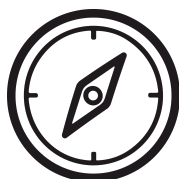
For High Achievers

Time management, problem solving, commitment, and long-term goal setting.



For Busy Families

Flexible scheduling that fits alongside other activities – not in place of them.



Scouting stands out by combining the best parts of youth programs – leadership, service, outdoor adventure, STEM, and character building – into one experience. While sports, arts, and clubs focus on a single skill, Scouting develops the whole person through hands-on challenges and youth-led activities that build confidence and responsibility.



With flexible scheduling and year-round engagement, Scouting complements – not compete with – other passions. Many Scouts are also athletes, performers, and scholars – Scouting simply helps them grow stronger in every role they take on.

HOW SCOUTING COMPARES

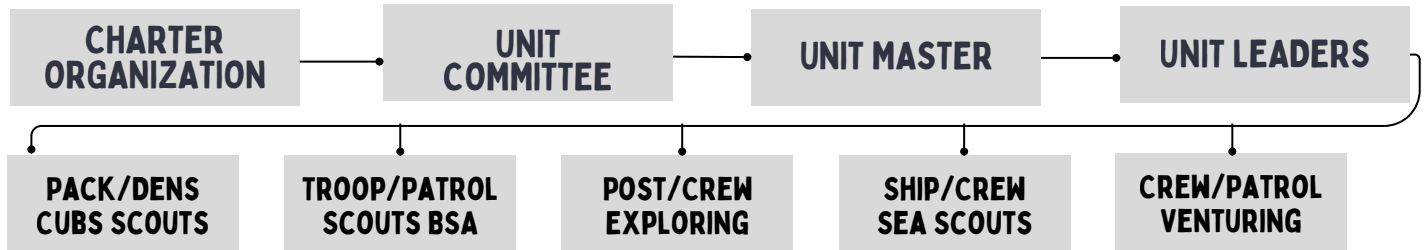
	SCOUTING	YOUTH SPORTS	DRAMA THEATER	KARATE LESSONS
EST MONTHLY COST	\$20-\$40	\$50+	\$80+	\$60+
LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	No	Somewhat	Somewhat
PARENT INVOLVEMENT	yes	somewhat	no	somewhat
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT	yes	Somewhat	somewhat	somewhat
YEAR ROUND	yes	no	no	somewhat

*Estimated monthly cost for Scouting includes national fees and basic unit costs. Additional unit-specific fees may vary.

WHAT IS SCOUTING?

Scouting helps young people build confidence, character, leadership, and life skills through outdoor adventure, service, and personal achievement. Guided by the motto “Be Prepared,” Scouting gives youth a place to learn, grow, lead, and discover what they are capable of.

HOW SCOUTING IS ORGANIZED



OUR PROGRAMS

CUB SCOUTS (GRADES K-5)

Cub Scouts is a fun, family-oriented program where kids explore the outdoors, play games, and earn awards.

SCOUTS BSA (AGES 11-17)

Scouts BSA offers youth-led adventure, leadership, and growth. Scouts plan hikes, service projects, and more!

SEA SCOUTS (AGES 14-20)

Sea Scouts is a water-based program where teens learn boating, sailing, and maritime skills.

EXPLORING (AGES 10-20)

Exploring connects youth with mentors in real careers like law, healthcare, or public safety.

VENTURING (AGES 14-20)

Venturing is a coed program focused on leadership, teamwork, and high adventure.

CUB SCOUT

GRADES K–5



WHAT IS CUB SCOUTS?

Cub Scouts is a program for boys and girls in kindergarten through 5th grade. Kids build character, learn life skills, and have fun through hands-on activities—with parents involved every step of the way. Each group, called a den, is made up of kids in the same grade.

WHY JOIN CUB SCOUTS?

Cub Scouts is fun with a purpose—it helps children grow in confidence, make friends, and learn values like honesty and respect in a safe, welcoming environment.

WHAT WILL MY CHILD DO?

Cub Scouts go camping, play games, build things, explore nature, and earn patches as they learn new skills. It's a program designed for the whole family to enjoy together.

HOW OFTEN DO THEY MEET?

Dens typically meet once a week or twice a month, depending on what works best for the families involved.

WHO RUNS THE PROGRAM?

Parents and guardians lead the program together. Don't worry—Scouting provides training, resources, and support to help you every step of the way.

SCOUTS BSA

GRADES 6-12



WHAT IS SCOUTS BSA?

Scouts BSA is for middle and high school youth. It's where boys and girls learn outdoor skills, take on leadership roles, and grow into responsible, confident young adults.

WHAT WILL MY CHILD DO?

They'll go camping, hiking, canoeing, and earn merit badges in topics like first aid, cooking, or robotics. Many Scouts aim to earn the prestigious Eagle Scout award.

WHY JOIN SCOUTS BSA?

This program helps kids become independent, capable, and community-minded—and the skills they gain are useful for life, college, and future careers.

HOW OFTEN DO THEY MEET?

Troops usually meet once a week, with extra activities like campouts, service projects, or hikes scheduled throughout the year.

WHO RUNS THE PROGRAM?

The Scouts plan and lead the program themselves, with support and guidance from trained adult leaders. It's about learning by doing.

SEA SCOUTS

AGES 14–20



WHAT IS SEA SCOUTS?

Sea Scouts is a program for teens who love being on the water. It teaches boating skills, teamwork, and leadership through fun, real-world experiences.

WHAT WILL MY TEEN DO?

They'll do water-based activities like sailing, kayaking, paddleboarding, and even SCUBA diving. They can also earn certifications in water safety and lifesaving.

HOW OFTEN DO THEY MEET?

Most Sea Scout "ships" meet once a week or every other week, often near marinas or waterfronts.

WHY JOIN SEA SCOUTS?

It's a unique way for teens to build real skills, explore careers on the water, and grow into strong, confident leaders.

WHO RUNS THE PROGRAM?

Youth lead the ship, with trained adult volunteers helping guide them. Many ships are sponsored by groups like the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or local community organizations.

VENTURING

AGES 14–20



WHAT IS VENTURING?

Venturing is a program for teens who want to try new adventures, meet new friends, and build leadership skills. It's completely youth-led, with a focus on teamwork and fun.

WHAT WILL MY TEEN DO?

They'll choose activities they enjoy—like kayaking, community service, building robots, or planning trips—and develop important life skills along the way.

HOW OFTEN DO THEY MEET?

Most Venturing crews meet once or twice a month, depending on the activity they've chosen.

WHY JOIN VENTURING?

Venturing gives teens the freedom to lead, grow, and have fun in a way that prepares them for the future.

WHO RUNS THE PROGRAM?

Teens plan everything, with support from adult advisors. Groups are usually sponsored by schools, churches, or community organizations.

EXPLORING

AGES 14–20



WHAT IS EXPLORING?

Exploring is a career-focused program that connects young people with real-world professionals to help them discover and explore future careers.

WHAT WILL MY TEEN DO?

They'll go behind the scenes in places like police stations, hospitals, fire departments, and tech companies to learn how different jobs work.

HOW OFTEN DO THEY MEET?

Exploring groups meet once or twice a month during the school year, usually after school or in the evening.

WHY JOIN EXLPORING?

Exploring helps teens gain career skills, build confidence, and get a head start on their future, all while having fun with peers who share similar interests.

WHO RUNS THE PROGRAM?

Local businesses or agencies lead the program, providing hands-on learning and mentorship for youth.

LEARN THE SCOUT WAY

Start with the words every Scout learns first: the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and Scout motto.

The 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.”

The Scout Law

A Scout is

- Trustworthy
- Loyal
- Helpful
- Friendly
- Courteous
- Kind
- Obedient
- Cheerful
- Thrifty
- Brave
- Clean
- and Reverent.

Learn & say the Scout Motto:

“BE PREPARED”

SCOUTS FIRST Helpline

SAFEGUARDING YOUTH

In an emergency or when complying with mandatory reporting, call 911 or your local authorities immediately. Then, report the incident to your council.

Report Concerns About Youth Safety

If you suspect a youth has been harmed or their safety is at risk—including violations of youth protection policies—contact your local council right away.

If you cannot reach your Scout Executive or local Council, report directly to Scouts First via:

 Anonymously Call or Text:
844-SCOUTS1

 Email: ScoutsFirst@Scouting.org

Scan to Message Anonymously!
(Via Real Response)



Your vigilance helps protect our Scouts. Thank you for taking action!



WHAT DOES A YEAR OF SCOUTING COST?

*SCOUT SHOP LOCATIONS & HOURS OF OPERATION CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 12

YEARLY FEE

The annual \$118 Scouting fee covers a year of exciting adventures, valuable programs, and essential resources.

This investment supports youth development, leadership, and community involvement.

OTHER COSTS

Some activities like campouts, special trips, or overnight events may have extra costs.

These vary based on the activity.

Your Scout leaders will share details.

HANDBOOK

Each Scout uses a specific handbook for their age.

Handbooks cost about \$24 and are used all year.

They include required and optional activities, and also track each Scout's progress and achievements.

UNIFORM

The uniform is an important part of Scouting—it shows teamwork and belonging.

Uniform costs typically range from \$50–\$100+,

Your unit leaders can help you with what to buy and where to get it.

SCOUT LIFE MAGAZINE

This optional \$15/year magazine is full of fun!

It features Scouting stories, sports, science, history, hobbies, jokes, comics, and more—for both Scouts and adults.

ADULT LEADER FEE

The \$86 annual fee for adult volunteers helps cover insurance and other costs.

In some cases, the group your child joins may be able to cover this fee for you

PAY SCOUTING COSTS WITH POPCORN!

Most of your Scout's Scouting costs can be financed by participating in the annual popcorn sale. [Learn more about selling popcorn by speaking with your unit leader!](#)



SAVE UP TO 20%

ON YOUR CHILD'S SCOUT UNIFORM

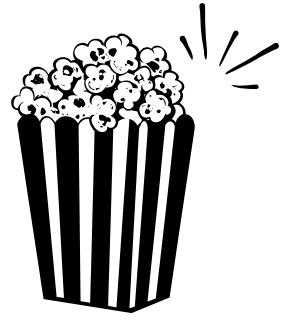
The more you buy, the more you save

SELECTION AND QUANTITIES MAY VARY! SEE STORE FOR DETAILS.

MOST YOUTH ACTIVITIES COST \$50–\$100+ PER MONTH. SCOUTING AVERAGES \$20–\$40—AND BUILDS FAR MORE THAN A SINGLE SKILL.

FUND YOUR ADVENTURE

WITH *Popcorn*



POPCORN WITH A PURPOSE

Did you know your child can pay their own way through our program—and even earn rewards—just by selling popcorn? It's an easy and fun way for kids to learn responsibility, build confidence, and set goals, all while raising money for their adventures. From camping trips to weekend events, popcorn sales help cover the cost so families aren't stuck footing the whole bill.



FUNDING YOUR FUN

Parents love it because it teaches real-life skills and takes the pressure off their wallets. Kids love it because they get to earn prizes, make friends, and feel proud of what they've accomplished. Whether your child is saving for their next big outing or just getting started, this is a great way to make it all happen—one bag of popcorn at a time. **Scan the QR code to learn more!**



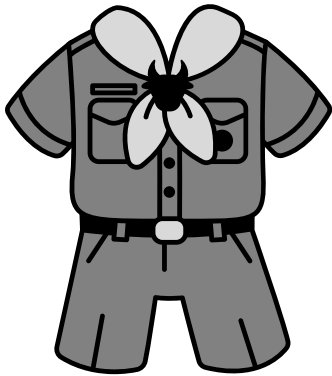
EARN PRIZES LIKE: GIFTS CARDS, UNIVERSAL STUDIO TICKETS, AND MORE!



SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

SCOUT'S UNIFORM & HANDBOOK

The Tampa Scout Shop offers uniforms, advancements, literature, gifts, t-shirts, pinewood derby equipment, and more! If we do not have it in stock, we can order it for you & have it at the store in about a week. We also take over-the-phone orders and are happy to coordinate shipping/pick-up!



Tampa Scout Shop

13228 N. Central Avenue Tampa, FL 33612

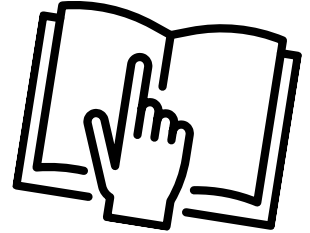
Monday – Friday: 9 AM – 6 PM; Saturday 10 AM – 4 PM

(813) 935-3030

TampaScoutShop@scouting.org

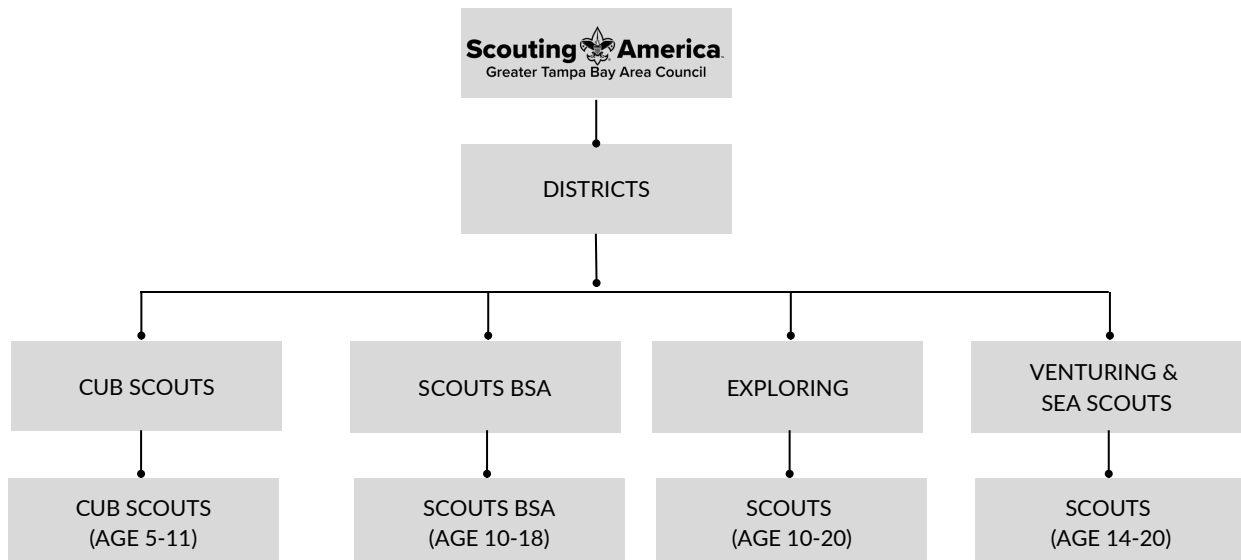
Visit Us Online at:

TampaBayScouting.org/shops/tampa-scout-shop



WHAT IS THE "COUNCIL"?

The Greater Tampa Bay Area Council encompasses nine counties in West Florida and serves over 10,000 youth in over 130 Cub Scout packs, 140 Scouts BSA troops, 15 Venturing Crews, 4 Sea Scout Ships, and 20 Exploring Clubs or Posts. The Council Service Center is located at **13228 N. Central Avenue Tampa, FL 33612**. If you have any questions about Scouting or the Scouting Programs, please visit us or give us a call at (813) 872-2691



WHAT DISTRICT DO I LIVE IN?

FORT BROOKE - WEST HILLSBOROUGH | **HEARTLAND** - POLK, HARDEE, HIGHLANDS

CHAUTAUQUA - PINELLAS | **SUNCOAST** - PASCO

TIMUCUA - EAST HILLSBOROUGH | **WITHLACOOCHEE** - HERNANDO, CITRUS, SUMTER

MEETINGS & OUTINGS

We want you and your Scout to be as involved as you can.

DEN/PATROL/CREW

YOUR SCOUT'S SMALL
GROUP WILL MEET 2 OR 3
TIMES A MONTH.

UNIT

ALL GROUPS
GATHER ONCE A
MONTH AS A "UNIT."

OUTINGS

YOUR GROUP & UNIT WILL
WORK TO PLAN, ON
AVERAGE 1 OUTDOOR
ACTIVITY A MONTH.

CONTACTS, TIMES, & LOCATIONS

MY UNIT NAME AND # _____

LEADER:

PHONE:

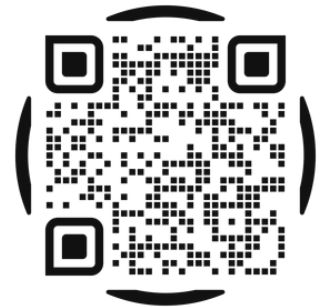
EMAIL:

MEETING TIME:

MEETING DAY:

LOCATION:

If you require any further assistance or have questions, please consult with your unit leadership or contact our Council at 813-872-2691 or visit our website: GTBAC.org



DISTRICT:

STAFF
MEMBER:

NEW SCOUT MUSTS!

FOR MORE DETAILS AND UPDATES ABOUT THESE EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT
OUR WEBSITE OR FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



CUBFEST CAMP DAYS (FREE)

CubFest is a series of single-day adventures held at camps across the council, giving Cub Scouts and their families a chance to enjoy outdoor activities, hands-on fun, and Scouting excitement!



RESIDENT CAMPS

Experience the adventure resident camps held throughout the year, offering older Scouts opportunities for outdoor fun, advancement, and unforgettable memories at camps across our council.



CUB SCOUT CAMPING WEEKENDS

Our Cub Scout family camping weekends, like Spook-O-Ree and Splash-O-Ree, give parents and kids the chance to enjoy themed outdoor adventures together with activities, games, camping, and fun in a safe and beginner-friendly environment.



MERIT BADGE ACADEMY

Merit Badge Academy gives Scouts the opportunity to explore new interests, learn hands-on skills, and work toward "Eagle Scout" by earning merit badges with experienced counselors in a fun and structured environment.



FALL SCOUT NIGHTS

SPECIAL DEALS, BEHIND-THE-SCENES FUN, AND UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES AT SOME OF THE COOLEST EVENTS IN TOWN



SCOUTS AT DAYTONA SPEEDWAY

Join fellow Scouts for a weekend of racing excitement featuring discounted tickets, reserved seating, Scouts-only infield camping, and an official NASCAR Scout patch.



THRESHERS SCOUT SPECTACULAR!!

We take over Baycare Field. Fireworks, games, and an all-you-can-eat buffet make this a Scout night to remember!



SCOUT NIGHT WITH THE ROWDIES

Enjoy an evening of exciting pro soccer—plus a commemorative patch, on-field activities, and experiences for the entire family



SCOUT NIGHT WITH THE LIGHTNING

Get special ticket pricing, exclusive Scout perks, and the chance to experience NHL action up close!





SPOOK-O-REE PIRATE ADVENTURE AWAITS!



**GAMES, FUN & SCOUT SPIRIT
FOR THE WHOLE CREW!**



Join us for a
swashbuckling good
time filled with
spooky surprises,
pirate challenges,
and memories that
will last a lifetime.

WEEKEND CAMPOUT

REGISTER TODAY!

SCOUTINGEVENT.COM/089-102387



SCAN TO REGISTER



ADVENTURE

FRIENDSHIP

FUN

LEADERSHIP

Prepared. For Life.™

THE ROLE OF A SCOUT PARENT

Every parent/guardian plays a very important role with their Scout. You will be working with your Scout on achievements, attending camp outings together, and having fun with your family! Scouting would not be possible without the parent or guardian's involvement.

You will also be asked to serve as a volunteer with in the group where your Scout is a member. Whatever time you are able to invest in Scouting – the result is phenomenal! Kids will not only have fun because of your help but will also grow physically, mentally, and in their relationships with other people.

Please take a moment to look over these roles. Please mark what you would be able to help with.

_____ **GROUP LEADER OR ASSISTANT** (Must have at least two) - Plans, Provides and/or Assists with Programming at Group Meetings with their Scout's Grade Level or Age Group.

_____ **OUTDOOR COMMITTEE** - Camping Events, Camp Promotion, and other Outdoor Activities.

_____ **SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE** - Awards Ceremonies, Service Projects and other Family and Community Focused Activities.

_____ **FINANCE COMMITTEE** - Popcorn Sale, Fundraisers and Operating Budget.

_____ **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** - Registration, Renewal, and Year-Round Recruitment Planning.

_____ **SUPPORT COMMITTEE** - Coordinate Group Meeting Special Guests, Field Trips, and Assist with Other Tasks as Needed.

_____ **ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE** - Record Keeping and Awards Coordination

NAME _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

SCOUT'S NAME _____ SCOUT'S GRADE _____



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SCOUT LEADER

CHECK OUT OUR UNIT LEADER RESOURCES AT TAMPABAYSCOUTING.ORG/RESOURCES/RECRUITMENT-MATERIALS

SCOUTING AMERICA YOUTH MEMBER APPLICATION – Must be completed by the youth's parent or legal guardian

YOUTH INFORMATION

First name (Full legal name) Middle name Last name Suffix Preferred nickname

Country Home address City State Zip code

Phone - - Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) / / Grade

Ethnic background: ☐ Black/African American ☐ Native American ☐ Alaska Native ☐ Male ☐ Female
☐ Caucasian/White ☐ Pacific Islander ☐ Asian ☐ Scout Life subscription ☐
☐ Hispanic/Latino ☐ Other

School Youth email address

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN INFORMATION

☐ Mark here if the Lion or Tiger adult partner is not the parent or legal guardian. Have the adult partner complete and attach an adult application and indicate their relationship below.

Select relationship: ☒ Parent ☐ Legal Guardian

First name (Full legal name) Middle name Last name Suffix Preferred nickname

Country Home address City State Zip code

Primary phone - - Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) / / Occupation Employer Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Alternate phone - - Ext. Previous Scouting experience

I have read the attached information for parents and approve the application. I affirm that I have or will review *How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*.

Parent/legal guardian email address

Signature of parent/legal guardian

To be completed by unit

Signature of unit leader (or designee)

Unit type: ☒ Pack ☒ Troop ☒ Crew ☒ Ship ☐ Lone Cub Scout ☐ Has earned Arrow of Light ☐ Lone Scout

Unit No.: For pack registration select one: ☐ Lion ☐ Tiger ☐ Wolf ☐ Bear ☐ Webeles

Registration fee \$ Council fee \$ Unit No. or district name:

Scout Life fee \$ 15.00 PAID: ☐ Cash ☐ Check No. Credit card ☐

If applicant has unexpired membership certificate, registration may be accomplished at no charge by transferring the registration or multiple registering.

☐ Transfer application ☐ Multiple application ☐ Enter membership number from unexpired certificate:

Council No.: Unit type: ☐ Pack ☐ Troop ☐ Ship

WELCOME TO SCOUTING



13228 N Central ave.
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 872-2691
www.tampabayscouting.org



GTBACBOYSCOUTS



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