

THE AIMS AND METHODS OF BOY SCOUTING

AIMS

Boy scouting works toward three AIMS. One is growth in *moral strength and character*. We can define this as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, his outlook.

A second AIM is *participating citizenship*. Used broadly, citizenship means the scouts relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society he lives in, to the government that presides over that society.

The third AIM of scouting is *development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness*. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

The methods are designed to accomplish these AIMS. Thus it is important that every leader be aware of and dedicated to utilizing the Methods of Boy Scouting in Troop 85. Other methods are good, but they may bring different results – results quite different than we as a Troop are seeking.

METHODS

IDEALS

The ideals of scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan. The scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high and as he reaches for them, he has some control over what he becomes.

PATROLS

The Patrol method gives scouts an experience in group living and participating in citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

OUTDOORS

Boy scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with a purpose.

Being close to nature, helps scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and mankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

ADVANCEMENT

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles, and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. The scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement process help a boy grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

ADULT ASSOCIATION

Boys learn from the example set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage of a young man's development.

PERSONAL GROWTH

As scouts plan their activities, and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. There is probably no device so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn.

The religious emblem program is also a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent conferences with his Scoutmaster help each scout to determine his growth toward scouting's AIMS.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Boy scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him toward the citizenship AIM of scouting.

UNIFORM

The uniform makes the scout Troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each scout's commitment to the AIMS and purposes of scouting. The uniform gives the scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals

The uniform is practical attire for scout activities, and provides a way for scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

FOR EVERY 100 BOYS THAT JOIN A SCOUT TROOP

- Twelve will have their first contact with a church or synagogue
- Five will earn their religious emblem of faith
- One will enter the clergy
- Eighteen will develop hobbies that will last through their adult life
- Eight will enter a career that was learned through the merit badge system
- One will use his boy scout skills to save a life
- One will use his boy scout skills to save his own life
- Seventeen will become scouting volunteers
- Two will become Eagle Scouts

THE SCOUT OATH OR PROMISE

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	OBEDIENT
LOYAL	CHEERFUL
HELPFUL	THRIFTY
FRIENDLY	BRAVE
COURTEOUS	CLEAN
KIND	REVERENT

SCOUT MOTTO

BE PREPARED

SCOUT SLOGAN

DO A GOOD TURN DAILY