**Frequently Assked Questions**

The goal of this document is to provide quick and effective answers to common questions that may be asked a community or recruitment events.

**What is Scouting America?**

Scouting America, formerly known as [Boy Scouts of America](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=a56679814246b468&rlz=1C1ONGR_enUS1106US1106&q=Boy+Scouts+of+America&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiI1enJrY2OAxWdOTQIHXyBIAMQxccNegQIIhAB&mstk=AUtExfDzbvSuyIP1KyxxfpkqP4d2SPcmS6VDKIjDvl6zG2dwj6HxLWA_PLg1wcu8hcBs5ggs7TNJ1_IUHIaJfW-3s0DMYIaOmuQOf_tr0n0kv-qc3b7OT_dmVfjuCRnVNl4LGJTSYq5U09fOJid7lNOvT75OsSZSt5nNZiKY4YI0jPyzhLFkLzv8pyXDd_gsgT1K0n7N&csui=3), is a volunteer run youth program focused on character development and values-based leadership training for young people in the United States. It provides a wide range of activities and experiences designed to help youth develop into responsible, engaged citizens.

**How old (or young) can a youth be to join Scouting?**

The Scouting experience is divided into five programs according to age and activities.

All programs for Boys and Girls.

Cub Scouts (Packs)- Kindergarten through 5th grade

Scouts BSA (Troops)- 6th grade through 17 years old

Venturing (Crews)- 14 through 20 years old

Sea Scouts (Ships)- 14 through 20 years old

Exploring (Posts)- 14 through 20 years old

**Who facilitates Events/Meeting?**

Scouting America is a Volunteer run organization. Almost all of the people who run meetings and events are volunteers. Each volunteer goes through a background check, registration, Safe Gaurding Youth Training, and position specific training.

**Is there training?**

Yes! There is madatroy Safe Guarding Youth Training for all adults, this is a free online training covering safety standard and barriers to abuse to keep our program as a safe as possible for everyone. There is also training for all leadership positions and

**How often do Cub Scouts or Scouts BSA meet?**

Cub Scouts- Typically, Cub Scouts meet in their dens once each week, and a pack meeting is held for all Cub Scouts and their families once a month.

Beyond that, Dens and Packs may do additional activities and special events!

Scouts BSA- Most Troops meet once a week and have an activity outside a meeting once a month.

Every unit will vary some.

**What supplies and equipment are needed to participate in Scouting?**

Typically, each Scout will need a uniform and a handbook. Additional supplies and equipment may be needed for certain activities such as camping trips or field days. It is okay to get this over time! Units do not expect you to have everything right off the bat!

**Uniform?**

There are uniforms, shirts, pants, and patches for each participant. These can be purchased at the Scout Shop in Tacoma or Olympia or online. We also have a preowned (“experienced”) Uniform exchange called Fred’s Closet at amp Thunderbird. These uniforms are as is and free.

**How to Register**

Youth- Go to BeAScout.org, search your zipcode, and select the unit you would like to join. Fill out all of the information and pay the yearly registration fee.

Adults- Go to BeAScout.org, search your zipcode, and select the unit you would like to join. Fill out all of the information and pay the yearly registration fee. Adults will need to complete the Safe Guarding Youth training (70ish minutes long), be approved by the unit, and have their background check come back before they become official members. This process usually takes two weeks.

**What is the cost?**

The cost for a 12 month registration is $125 for a youth and $95 for an adult (2025 pricing). This can be paid online through [BeaScout.org](http://beascout.org), by credit card, cash or check at the Pacific Harbors Scout office, or by credit card over the phone with Pacific Harbors Council.

If the cost is a concern for your family we have financial assistance available! Please contact the Pacific Harbors Council. (Do Not Pay Online if you are requesting assistance)

**Have other questions or need anything?**

Reach out the Pacific Harbors Council at 253-682-2217 or phc@scouting.org.