

Troop 278 - Ahwatukee

Our Glossary of Scouting Terms

In all organizations, acronyms and unfamiliar terms are used that can be confusing for 'outsiders'...

Your son may return from a scouting activity and seem to be speaking a foreign language or you may see unfamiliar terms or acronyms used in the Troop newsletters, calendar or flyers. We hope this glossary of terms can help unravel the meanings for you...

If you find terminology or acronyms we are missing please let us know and we will add them in.

A

Advancement Coordinator - Elected Troop Committee Officer responsible for maintaining the troops rank advancement, merit badge and camping nights/service hour records. The Advancement Coordinator usually also coordinates the troop's Court of Honor ceremonies.

Advancement Day – a District sponsored half day event held for all troops in the district to allow completion of many of the requirements & sign-offs to earn 1-2 merit badges in a half day session. Scouts will usually need to complete some requirements in advance.

Advisor - A mature person, man or woman 21 years or older, who is appointed to lead a Venturing Post or is appointed to act as a chaperone to Scouts during a high adventure activity (e.g. Philmont Scout Ranch Trek)

Alpha Phi Omega (APO) - A college service organization made up primarily of former and current members of BSA.

APL - Assistant Patrol Leader

Arrow of Light - The highest rank in U.S. Cub Scouting. It's the only Cub Scout rank that a Scout can wear on his Scout uniform.

ASM - Assistant Scoutmaster

ASPL - Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

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B

B-P - Short for Lord Baden-Powell.

Baden-Powell, Lord Robert - (1857-1940) Founder of the world-wide Scout Movement. As a British officer, he was sent to South Africa to defend Mafeking. To help teach the poorly prepared troops under his command how to live in the out-of-doors, he made up games he called "Stunts for Scouting." When he returned he wrote them into a book called Aids to Scouting that found their way into boy's hands. Thus started the Scout movement.

Be Prepared - The Boy Scout Motto. When B-P was asked, "Be prepared for what?" He said "Why, for any old thing." One of the distinctive features of the scout movement introduced by B-P.

BOR / Board of Review - One of the steps needed for advancement, where a boy scout is questioned, but not re-examined, by a group of parents usually connected with the scout's own troop.

Board of Review Coordinator - Elected Troop Committee Officer responsible for the coordination of the Troop's BOR sessions and adult training for adult BOR participants.

Boy Scout - A registered male member of a nationally recognized Scout Program. In America, he is a registered member, who is 11 or has earned the Arrow of Light Award, or has completed the fifth grade, but not yet eighteen years of age. Also see SCOUT.

Boy Scouts of America - A national organization chartered by Congress to teach boys to become good citizens. Founded and incorporated on February 8, 1910.

Boy Scout Ranks (in order of increasing rank) - Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, Eagle, Eagle Palms: Bronze, Gold, Silver

Boys' Life Magazine - Official magazine, published monthly for all scouts belonging to the Boy Scouts of America. Began in 1912 by Joseph Lane as a part of a reading program for boys.

Bridging - A ceremony where Webelos Cub Scouts cross a ceremonial bridge to signify their transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. This is normally done at a Cub Scout Pack Meeting with Boy Scouts from the Webelos' new troop participating. This is NOT a graduation ceremony from Cub Scouts, it is rather an induction ceremony into Boy Scouts.

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Brownsea - In order to test his theory on Boy Scouting, B-P selected twenty-one boys from every economic level to camp for one week on Brownsea Island off the southern coast of England in July, 1907. In this first scouting experiment B-P tried his ideas of scouting aims and methods. Now BSA calls a youth training "[Brownsea](#)" in honor of this event.

BSA - Short for the Boy Scouts of America.

Bugler – an appointed Boy Scout leadership position – plays the bugle for ceremonies – e.g. opening & closing of meetings

C

Camp Fire - An evening activity where scouts gather for relaxation, fun, and song. There may be an actual fire, or not.

Camporee - A demonstration of camping by troops and patrols in which they camp for one or more days and nights.

Chaplain – Elected Troop Committee Officer who acts as a non-denominational religious leader for the troop. Supports religious observances at campout and troop meetings as appropriate directly or via the troop's Chaplains Aids

Chaplain's Aid – an appointed Boy Scout leadership position - works with the troop chaplain to support religious programs within the troop. There are religious training requirements to be eligible.

Charter - Written permission given by a youth program or governing body to a sponsoring institution to form, organize and maintain a unit of the movement.

Chartered Organization - An entity chartered by a national scout organization to operate a unit of the movement.

Class A – Uniform – This is the full Scout uniform - minus the neckerchief (includes shirt, belt, shorts& socks or pants & dark shoes). This is the normal attire for a regular scout meeting.

Class A+ - Uniform – this is the full scout uniform including neckerchief and optionally can include a merit badge sash or OA sash if applicable. This uniform is worn for all COH, BOR and formal troop ceremony events.

Class B – Uniform – The is the informal troop uniform consisting of yellow troop logo T-shirt and any suitable other clothing for the planned event. Class B is often used for troop outdoor events, service projects and other activities where Class-A uniform would be impractical/uncomfortable

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Commissioner - A volunteer Scouter who is the quality control person for the program at the unit, district, or council level.

Committee Chair(person) - A registered adult appointed by the Charter Organization to chair the Troop Committee. Presides at Troop Committee meetings. Works closely with the Charter Organization Rep (COR) and Scoutmaster (SM) to ensure the scouting program meets BSA guidelines.

COPE - Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience. (Boy Scout activity involving heights, trust and team building).

Council - A unit responsible for a number of districts in the same geographical area. It organizes training courses, summer camps, and other events as needed. It is responsible for membership, advancement, and records for its units and members. (For us" Grand Canyon Council – covering much of Arizona)

COH / Court of Honor - A public ceremony at which a scout is awarded the rank or badges he has earned.

Crew - The working group within Venturing Posts of BSA, like a den or patrol, also used to describe groups attending high adventure camps.

D

Den Chief – an appointed Boy Scout leadership position - leads Cub Scouts in their den activities and helps the Den Leader.

Distinguished Eagle Award - Presented to Eagle Scouts who has distinguished themselves in a career of public life at least 25 years after earning their rank. Some who have earned it are; President Gerald Ford, Apollo astronaut Neil Armstrong and Astronaut James Lovell Jr..

District - A geographical entity within a local council, that meets monthly to over see the operation of local units. (for us: Salt River District representing part of the Phoenix Metro area)

District Executive - A professional Scouter responsible for district (or districts) within a local council.

E

Eagle Scout - The highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America. The scout has earned 21 Merit badges, planned and conducted a service project, has learn to

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be equipped to take care of others, has lived the scout ideals and has essentially learned to take care of himself.

Eagle Scout Project Fundraiser – a fundraiser coordinated by a prospective Eagle scout to earn money to fund his Eagle Scout Project. All funds go directly to the scout to apply to the project and scouts who help earn Service Hours to apply towards upper rank requirements

Eagle Scout Project – An Eagle Scout project is a project selected and planned by the scout to benefit a local church or the community. The prospective Eagle Scout plans, organizes and manages others to complete his project according to his plans. Other scouts support him and earn Service Hours through their participation. Development of the project plan, project completion and a write-up of the project outcomes is one requirement to earn the Eagle Scout rank

Election – Youth Leadership Elections - Elections are held twice yearly for the youth leadership positions of Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader for each patrol. Other Troop youth leadership positions are assigned by the SPL with Scoutmaster support & guidance based on candidates interest & qualifications. Assistant Patrol Leader roles in each patrol are assigned by the new Patrol Leader based on interest & qualifications.

Election – Troop Committee Elections - Elections are held annually at the April committee meeting for all committee officer positions. Candidates must be registered adults (or willing to become registered adults) and are selected by majority voting of all registered adults attending. Officers can be reelected to the same or different roles but can hold only one role at a time.

Equipment Coordinator - Elected Troop Committee Officer who supports the Troop Quartermaster to manage the distribution, acquisition, maintenance and retirement of troop owned equipment (e.g. camping etc supplies).

F

Fast Start - A video training tape for U.S. assistant Scout Leaders.

Fast Start Campout – the first camping trip offered to new scouts with a program focused on early rank advancement through tenderfoot and an exposure to troop camping.

Field Signals- Signals that a scout leader makes with his arms and hands to form formations and request order from his unit without using his voice. Most common one in Boy Scouting is the Scout Sign when used to request quiet or attention in a meeting room.

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First Class Scout - The third rank in the Boy Scout program of the Boy Scouts of America

Fleur-de-lis - Lily or iris flower; the shape of the Scout Badge.

FOS / Friends of Scouting - annual fund raiser for the council. The council does not get any share of your registration fee and is grateful for your donation.

Fundraising Coordinator - Elected Troop Committee Officer who supports the treasurer by planning and coordinating the troop annual program of fundraising activities. The coordinator signs up leaders to run individual events and recruits volunteer helpers for support across troop events.

G

Gilwell Training Center - An international Scout Training Center in England founded by Lord Baden-Powell. Woodbadge Training was started here, and where ever one is held world wide, it's honorary called "Gilwell."

Good Turn - An act of service to someone else without expecting a reward or praise. It is the main part of the scout slogan, "Do a good turn Daily," which is one of the distinctive features of the scout movement introduced by B-P.

H

Handshake - The scout handshake is made with the left hand, the hand nearest the heart. Known as the hand of friendship. Whether in uniform or not, all scouts and guides world wide use it as a form of greeting.

HAT - High Adventure Training - Training classes to prepare adults and older youth leaders to plan, lead, and supervise High Adventure Activities such as backpacking, white water, rappelling, wilderness first aid, etc.

Hiking Staff, Hiking stave - A walking tool used for outdoor travel.

Hornaday Award - An award given to Boy Scouts or Scouters who have devoted their life to conservation and the preservation of wildlife.

I

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International Conference - A conference for leaders involved World Scouting. Held every two years to maintain the high standards of Scouting, and exchange methods and techniques.

Interpreter strip - A badge that scouts or Scouters can wear who are proficient in more than one language, including the sign language for the deaf.

J

Jamboree - A big world or national camping event which brings together Scouts from every corner of the world or nation. Each is held every four years.

Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) - Scouting and ham radio join forces to make many international contacts through the "air" waves. Traditionally the 3rd weekend in October.

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster (JASM) - An appointed older youth, who may still be working on rank, that aids the scoutmaster as an assistant.

JLT – Junior Leader Training – Team training for Boy Scouts in leadership skills. Useful training for Scouts taking on Youth Leadership roles in the troop. Learn communication and leadership principles in a team setting with practical experiences.

K

Kim's Game - A game requiring a keen eye and memory. Played by first studying twenty or so articles on a tray, then retiring to make a list of what's on the tray. From Rudyard Kipling's story Kim.

Klondike Derby - A winter/snow oriented camporee. Overnight camping experience in the snow with team building games and activities.

Kudu Horn - A long spiral horn from an African deer like animal, made into a wind instrument. First used on Brownsea Island to call the patrols together, its use is now traditional.

L

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Learning for Life - A BSA program that is classroom and worksite based. This new program helps youth of both genders to successfully handle the problems of life.

Leadership - To advance in the more senior ranks a scout must hold a leadership position for a set period of time. The rank requirements in the Boy Scout Handbook (as revised) lists the leadership positions that qualify.

Life Saving Awards - A committee call the National Court of Honor, awards the following awards for saving or attempting to save a life; Honor Medal, Medal of Merit, Medal for Heroism, and the Honor Medal with Crossed Palms.

Life Scout - The fifth rank in the BSA.

M

Membership Coordinator - Elected Troop Committee Officer who supports the transition of new Scouts from Cub Scout Dens and manages the annual re-chartering re-registration process.

Merit Badge - An award for U.S. boy scouts for completing requirements in one of approx 120 career and hobby fields.

Merit Badge Counselor - An adult expert in the field of a merit badge that helps a scout complete the badge.

Merit Badge Coordinator - Elected Troop Committee Officer who maintains a list of merit badge counselors to support scouts pursuing merit badges. Recruits and trains new merit badge counselors and supports troop participation in district Advancement Days.

N

National Council - The corporate entity of the BSA, that has been given rights by a national governing body to administer the Scout program.

National Office - 1325 W. Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, Texas, 75015.

National Eagle Scout Association (NESAs) - An association for Scouts and former Scouts who have earned the Eagle Award.

Neckerchief- A bandana that is smartly worn around the neck of a scout, which is secured by a neckerchief slide. One of the distinctive features of the scout movement introduced by B-P.

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O

Order of the Arrow (OA) - BSA's national brotherhood of honor campers which promotes Scouting's outdoor programs. Found in 1915, by E. Urner Goodman. To be eligible for membership, a scout must prove his camping and scouting ability and be elected by his fellow troop members.

OA Ordeal - The initiation ceremony experience for new OA members generally involving personal introspection, service to improve camp or trail and ceremonies based on Indian legend or lore.

Outdoor Coordinator – Elected Troop Committee Officer responsible for coordinating the troops program of outdoor events. The Coordinator signs up leaders for outdoor events and helps them plan & organize the events according to scout & troop guidelines.

P

Palms, Eagle - After a scout reaches the rank of Eagle, they can earn a Palm for every 5 additional Merit Badges they complete. You may wear only the proper combination of Palms for the number of merit badges you earned beyond the 21 required for the rank of Eagle. The Bronze Palm represents five merit badges, the Gold Palm 10, and the Silver Palm 15. For example a scout with 20 additional Merit Badges would wear a Silver and a Bronze Palm.

Patrol - Subdivision of a Boy Scout troop, usually with five to ten members. It meets together for activities and elects its own boy leaders.

Patrol Leader – A Boy Scout leadership position elected by each patrol to lead the patrol.

PLC / Patrol Leaders Council - Made up of the youth leadership of the troop. They meet once a month to plan the following months activities and annually to plan the upcoming year.

Philmont Scout Ranch - It's 137,000 acres of wild country gifted to BSA by Waite Phillips. Later he gave 91,000 acres more so that the scouts could have the best backpacking, horseback riding, mountain climbing, and other outdoor adventures around. There are more than 10 base camps, and fourteen trail camps that individuals or troops can enjoy. Training courses are held for Scouters, both volunteers and professionals. Families are welcome along for a businessman's holiday.

Pow Wow- A one-day training conference, held annually, for Cub Scout leaders.

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President-elect - The top elected volunteer of the Boy Scouts of America.

Q

Quartermaster - an appointed Boy Scout leadership position – manages the distribution, acquisition, maintenance and retirement of troop owned equipment (e.g. camping etc).

R

Rank - In scouting, individual levels earned by testing scoutcraft skills & knowledge, community service & merit badge accomplishment.

Recharter - Annual process of re-registering the troop, scouts and scouters. Each unit designates leaders to collect the information and present updated paperwork to the council.

Region- one of the geographical administrative units of a national program. (for us: Western Region)

Registration- All individuals of the movement must be listed in an entry in a register of members. Registered member must fill out a registration form and will receive a registration card.

Religious Awards- To aid a Scout in his duty to God, churches and synagogues have developed awards for the Scouts of their faith. These are not Scout awards or metals but may be worn on the Scout uniform, along with a special Knot patch issued by BSA. Some of them are; "Ad Altare Dei" for the Catholic Faith, "Ner Tamid" for the Jewish, "Pro Deo et Patria" for the Lutheran, "God and Country" for the Protestant, and the Mormon's have their "Faith in God," and "On my Honor Awards."

Roundtable - A program-planning and morale-building meeting of adult leaders, usually held monthly on a district level.

S

Scout - The word means one who listens, from the French word "to listen." B-P said that the term Scout means "the work and attributes of Backwoodsmen, explorers, seaman, airmen, pioneers, and frontiersman." So with a scheme to

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make his new program with character building appeal to boys (and girls), he gave it a name to draw them. "Scout" is now synonymous with his program.

Scout Badge- The design of the Scout Badge is the north sign on the mariner's compass. It is used by all scouts, with only slight changes. Called by many names, the Fleur-de-lis, trefoil, or arrowhead shape was one of the distinctive features of the world scout movement introduced by B-P. It means that a Scout can point the right way in life as truly as a compass can in the field.

Scoutcraft - pursuing scout training to proficiency

Scouter (Scout Leader)- a registered member of a scout group, who is 18 years-of-age or older, who serves as a leader for the movement.

Scout Executive- A full-time professional director of a local council.

Scouting - The activities of the scout program.

Scouting for Food - National Good Turn: Every year, Scouts collect food for the fight against hunger. Bags for canned food are distributed on a Saturday in November and then collected the following Saturday. The food is turned over to local food banks for distribution to needy families. This is a national "Good Turn" of the Boy Scouts of America. Food distribution centers rely on this huge influx of food right before the Thanksgiving holidays.

Scoutmaster - The registered adult leader of a Boy Scout Troop. This volunteer is the key man in a Boy Scout Troop.

Scoutmaster Conference - A formal meeting that takes place at a Troop meeting or activity between a Scout and the Scoutmaster, or a person he designates, to review a scout's progress. A Scoutmaster Conference takes place at advancement time before a Board of Review, when a Scout requests it or if the Scoutmaster feels the Scout needs it.

Scout Motto- "BE PREPARED".

Scout Oath and Law - Two of the codes of conduct expected of a Scout.

Scout-O-Rama - A fair like activity where Scouts demonstrate their skills and scoutcraft for the general public.

Scout Participation - Needed for rank in BSA, it means a scout attends scout meetings, wears his uniform correctly, and shows Scout spirit.

Scout Signs - The signs that show you belong to the world brotherhood of Scouting; the Scout sign, the Scout salute and the Scout handclasp.

Scouts Own - Non-denominational religious observance of reflection usually conducted on campouts. Allows each Scout the opportunity to obey the twelfth

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point of the Scout Law in his own way. Please, let us know if you do not want your son to participate in this activity, as we wish to respect every family's religious beliefs.

Scout Slogan - "Do a Good Turn Daily".

Scout Spirit- The way a scout tries to live up to the Scout Oath, Law, Slogan, and motto in his everyday life.

Scout Week- A week that brackets the birth date of scout program. BSA's is observed in February (Feb. 8) each year, with window displays of Scoutcraft and Blue and Gold Banquets for the Cub Scouts.

Scribe - an appointed Boy Scout leadership position - keeper of the patrol or troop records or log.

Second Class Scout - The second rank in BSA

Slide – The device used to secure a neckerchief. Scout can buy slides at the scout shop or at camp or can make one in leatherwork or woodcarving classes or out of other materials. Inventiveness is encouraged

SPL / Senior Patrol Leader – the Troop's top Boy Scout leadership position, elected by the whole troop. His duties include Troop administration, patrol Leaders Council and others assigned to him by the Scoutmaster.

Service Hours – for the ranks of Second Class Scout and above a requirement for community service hours is included. Scouts earn service hours only for approved activities. Fundraising activities for the Troop don't count as service hours – however Eagle Scout fundraisers and Eagle Scout projects do count as service hours along with other Troop organized community service activities.

Seton, Ernest Thompson - (1860-1946) One of the Organizers for the Boy Scouts of America. English born, he immigrated to Canada, then moved to the United States. He was an artist, illustrator, naturalist, and fiction writer. He organized the " Woodcraft Indians" and brought them into the scout movement, but because of a clash of personalities, he left scouting in 1916. He wrote the First U.S. Handbook for Boys.

Star Scout - the fourth rank in BSA.

T

Tenderfoot - The first rank in Boy Scouting.

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Totem - An emblem or design indicating the name or nickname of the patrol, or person. First used by American Indians for a person or clan.

Totin' Chip - A card that enables the bearer to use knives, axes, and saws. It must be earned by the Scout through educational and hands-on safety sessions led by an adult leader or older scout appointed by the scoutmaster. Any time a Scout is observed doing something unsafe with a sharp tool, a corner is cut off his Totin' Chip card. When all four corners are gone, the card is taken away and must be re-earned.

Tour Permit - A document that must be filed with the council office before any official scouting activity can take place. Special permits are required for travel out-of-state, over 500 miles, or for flying activities.

Training Coordinator - Elected Troop Committee Officer who ensures the troop is in compliance with adult & scout training requirements by tracking training records and arranging opportunities for any required training sessions.

Treasurer – Elected Troop Committee Officer who oversees the Troop finances: controlling payments of troop funds and troop receipts. Works with the Scribe on Troop dues and manages the scout account allocations

Troop - The unit that conducts the Boy Scout Program for the chartered organization.

Troop Committee - Adult committee of registered adults that provide oversight, assistance, and guidance to the Scoutmaster in carrying out the scouting program within the troop. The Troop Committee is responsible to provide the necessary resources requested by the PLC and Scoutmaster that are required to carry out the scouting program. The Troop Committee meets each month generally on the 3rd Monday of the month. All registered adults are part of the Troop Committee, key members include the Committee Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Outdoor Chair, Advancement Chair, Membership Chair, Adult Quartermaster, and Fund Raising Chair.

U

Unknown Scout - The unidentified Scout of England who performed the Good Turn which brought Scouting to America.

V

Veteran Scout - A registered Scouter who has been active in BSA, either as a youth or adult, for at least five years.

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W

Winter Awareness Training - A class held on a Saturday in early December at which scouts, and adult leaders, learn about cold weather camping. This course is put on by the OA youth members. In Troop 103 if a scout wishes to attend any winter campout he must attend this one-day training course.

Woodbadge Training - A training course adapted from the famous Gilwell Wood Badge Course by B-P. The badge is two beads on a thong worn around the neck.

World Friendship Fund- Funds administered by BSA to aid Scout associations around the world.

World Scout office-Box 241, 1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland. Tel. (+41 22) 705-1010.

X

There are currently no Scouting Terms that begin with the letter X.

Y

There are currently no Scouting Terms that begin with the letter Y.

Z

There are currently no Scouting Terms that begin with the letter Z.