



## Session Three

### The Uniform

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#### Time Allowed

10 minutes

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#### Teaching Objectives

- Emphasize the role of the uniform as one of the eight methods of Scouting.
  - Discuss issues of importance concerning when, how, and where the uniform should be worn.
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#### Materials Needed

- *The Scoutmaster Handbook*, No. 33009
  - *The Boy Scout/Varsity Scout Uniform Inspection Sheet*, No. 34283
  - PowerPoint slides or overheads from CD, if desired
  - Flipchart or other means of writing discussion notes
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#### Recommended Facility Layout

Session meeting area. Each participant should have a comfortable place to sit, take notes, and organize written materials. That setting most often consists of tables, each accommodating six to eight participants forming a patrol, and enough chairs for all participants.

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#### Delivery Method

- Instructor-led discussion
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## Presentation Procedure

Ask participants to describe a complete Scout uniform. List their suggestions on a flipchart or chalkboard. The parts of a field uniform are these:

- BSA long-sleeve or short-sleeve shirt
- BSA trousers (long) or shorts
- BSA socks or knee socks
- BSA twill or mesh cap or campaign hat (troop option)
- BSA web belt and buckle
- BSA neckerchief (troop option)

The parts of the activity uniform are these:

- BSA T-shirt or activity shirt (designed by the troop or a Scout camp)
- BSA shorts
- BSA socks or knee socks
- BSA belt and buckle
- BSA cap, expedition hat, or campaign hat

Ask participants to suggest reasons that the uniform is important to Scouting. List their ideas on a flipchart or chalkboard. Use them to conduct a discussion about the uniform that includes the following points:

- Wearing the uniform promotes comradeship, loyalty to one's patrol and troop, and public recognition of membership in the Boy Scouts of America.
- A boy is not required to have a uniform to be a Boy Scout. However, troop leaders should set a good example by wearing the complete uniform themselves and by encouraging each Scout to acquire and wear a uniform.
- Scouts may take on projects or find part-time jobs so that they can have the satisfaction of purchasing uniforms with their own money.
- In many troops, Scouts donate "experienced" uniforms they've outgrown to a uniform bank that in turn will lend uniform parts to troop members who need them.
- New uniforms may be purchased from official Scouting distributors located in selected retail stores, from Boy Scouts of America Scout Shops, and from the BSA supply division catalog.

### ***When to Wear the Uniform***

- Boy Scouts and Scout leaders proudly wear the full uniform for all ceremonial activities including boards of review, courts of honor, patriotic events, parades, and special occasions at troop meetings and summer camp.
- During physically active outdoor events and more informal troop meetings, Scouts may wear the activity uniform—troop or camp T-shirts with Scout pants or shorts.
- Scouts participating in conservation projects, other service work, or backcountry camping may wear work pants or jeans with their troop or camp T-shirts.

### ***When Not to Wear the Uniform***

- Do not wear the uniform while selling a commercial product or service, even for Scout money-raising purposes.
- Do not wear the uniform in situations that might mistakenly imply an endorsement by the BSA of a product, service, political candidate, or philosophy. Scouts and Scouters are encouraged to take part in political matters as private individuals but not while wearing the uniform.
- Do not wear the uniform while engaged in any activity that could dishonor or discredit the Boy Scouts of America, the uniform, or the person wearing it.

### ***Summary***

The Boy Scout uniform has long served as an expression of a Scout's friendliness to all other Scouts regardless of who they are or where they are from. The uniform represents Scouting's spirit of equality and democracy, and identifies a boy as a brother to every other Scout.

While the uniform is one of the eight methods of Scouting, attention to it should be kept in perspective. Ultimately, the boy inside the uniform, rather than the uniform itself, is what is important. The uniform is of value to the extent that it encourages boys to grow as Scouts, leaders, and young men.

For more on the uniform, participants can refer to *The Scoutmaster Handbook*, Chapter 15, "The Uniform and Insignia," and to the *Boy Scout/Varsity Scout Uniform Inspection Sheet*.

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