

Scouts BSA Clothing Guidelines



Everyone in Scouts BSA should feel **part of the troop, respected, and safe** during Scouting activities. By following these guidelines, we can help create a positive environment where everyone can enjoy Scouting.

TYPES OF UNIFORMS

Field Uniform—This is the official BSA uniform, and it's encouraged for activities, meetings, and events. It helps show our pride in being a Scout and part of Scouting America.

Activity Uniform—This is a more relaxed option for activities where a full uniform isn't necessary or ideal. Usually, it includes a Scouting America or troop t-shirt that represents Scouting and keeps everyone feeling like part of the group.

Uniforms are an important part of Scouting but they are not mandatory for participation. A Scout cannot be prevented from participation or advancement due to lack of uniform.

GENERAL CLOTHING GUIDELINES

When choosing clothes for any Scouting activity, please follow these guidelines:

Safety First: Choose clothing and footwear that's safe for the activity. For example, we wear clothes that will protect us from the weather, won't get in the way of any equipment, and follow Scouting America safety guidelines for the activities we are participating in.

Respectful Choices: Avoid clothing with words, images, or symbols that could be seen as offensive, including anything political, violent, sexual, or promoting disrespect toward any group.

Religious, Cultural, and Medical Needs: We may wear alternative headgear or clothing for religious, cultural, or medical reasons, if it's safe to do so and doesn't block vision.




SPECIAL GUIDELINES FOR AQUATIC ACTIVITIES

Swimwear should be secure, clean, and designed specifically for swimming. For extra sun protection, we may wear a rash guard or T-shirt as long as it's safe for the activity.

MAKING OUR TROOP'S CLOTHING POLICY

Every troop, with the guidance of their chartering organization, is responsible for creating their own troop's clothing policy that best meets the needs of their families, Scouts, and chartering organization. Each troop's policy should be fair, safe, and respectful for everyone in the troop.

When developing our Troop's policy we should ask ourselves:

-  Does this policy help keep everyone safe?
-  Does this policy work equally for people of all genders, backgrounds, beliefs, and cultures in our Troop?
-  Does this policy allow for personal needs and preferences in our Troop, such as cultural, medical, and religious clothing choices?

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WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE ARE QUESTIONS ABOUT CLOTHING?

Each troop is responsible for enforcing its own clothing policy. Unless a youth is in immediate danger from their clothing, an adult from outside of the troop should never question a youth directly about their clothing.

If there's ever a question about someone's clothing, we follow this process:

Talk to the Scoutmaster First: If there's a concern with someone's clothing, we ask an adult troop leader, such as a Scoutmaster, from that person's troop about the concern. Only if there's a serious safety concern (like an immediate risk of injury) should an adult from outside the unit question a Scout directly about their clothing.

Multi-Troop Events: If we're at a large event, like a camporee or summer camp, event leaders might have additional safety clothing guidelines. For example, they may require jeans for horseback riding. These extra safety guidelines supersede the troop's individual clothing policy. Event leaders will make sure to communicate these additional requirements ahead of time, but non-safety questions about clothing should still go back to troop's adult leadership.

Final Help from Council Leadership: If there are unresolved questions or disagreements between adults over a troop's clothing policy, Council leadership should be consulted to help resolve the safety concern.

We recognize that every troop is different, made up of families from all different faiths, cultures, and life experiences, and that troops are chartered by a wide variety of secular and religious organizations. However, we all share the common values of the Scout Oath and Law. Understandably, troop clothing policies may look different for each troop. Let's ensure when questions arise, our interactions with one another are always friendly, courteous, and kind.

